

Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2021



Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



Quick Links

['Kirk Session Records on ScotlandPeople'](#) by Tessa Spencer

['Family History at the Mitchell'](#) by Dr Irene O'Brien

[There's Been a Murder - The Mount Stewart Murder of 1866'](#) by Chris Paton

[Beware the Babbet Bapper and Other Cautionary Tales'](#) by Kate Keter

[Scottish Records in The National Archives'](#) by Audrey Collins

['Researching Kincardineshire Ancestors'](#) by Emma Jolly

[DNA Match Lists, Shared Matches & Testing Site Basics'](#) by Michelle Leonard

[Scottish Family History Reading List](#)

[Virtual Family History Fair](#)

Scottish Indexes Conference

20 March 2021

It was a year ago on 20 March 2020 that we emailed our genealogy colleagues and suggested this crazy idea of hosting a free virtual conference! The rest, as they say, is history!

Registration is now open for [Scottish Indexes Conference X](#) and we will have more details to share with you on that very soon.

As always, here are some of the resources and links that we mentioned at the conference. Hope we haven't missed too many!

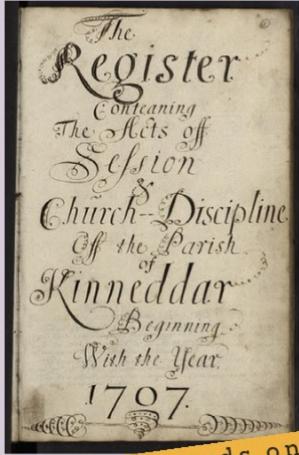
Please feel free to share the PDF with fellow researchers who you think will be interested.

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at www.scottishindexes.com

Kirk Session Records on ScotlandsPeople

By Tessa Spencer



Scottish Indexes
Conference

SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2021

FAMILY

Learn how to trace your
Scottish family tree

**'Kirk Session Records on ScotlandsPeople'
by Tessa Spencer, Head of Outreach and
Learning at the National Records of Scotland**

www.scottishindexes.com

Website: www.nrscotland.gov.uk & www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Twitter: [@NatRecordsScot](https://twitter.com/NatRecordsScot) & [@ScotlandsPeople](https://twitter.com/ScotlandsPeople)

Facebook: [@ScotlandsPeople](https://www.facebook.com/ScotlandsPeople)

It certainly was exciting news to hear that many pre-1855 Kirk Session records are now online and free to browse on www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

Tessa Spencer, Head of Outreach and Learning at the National Records of Scotland joined us to share news about these exciting new additions. I am pleased to let you know that this presentation is available to watch again at <https://www.scottishindexes.com/pastconferences.aspx>

Although these records are not indexed on ScotlandsPeople there are some useful indexes out there. Check with your local family history society as they may have published indexes in their area.

Dumfries and Galloway Council have a free index to the following:

Dumfries Kirk Session and Presbytery Minutes 1687-1838
Dumfries St Michaels Minutes
Dumfries New Kirk [Greyfriars] Minutes 1784-1869
Dumfries Presbytery Minutes 1694-1700
Mouswald Minutes 1640-1659
Troqueer Minutes 1698-1771

www.scottishindexes.com - Helping you trace your Scottish family tree

You can search these on their website (<https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/HistoricalIndexes/>). The index entry will give you a reference such as 'CH2/537/1'. Take the reference and use the ScotlandsPeople Virtual Volumes reference search (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/virtual-volumes/reference-search>) to view the images online. The index also gives you a page number so you can easily find the entry.

You can use similar techniques with records on our website, both in our paternity index and our non OPR pre-1855 birth marriage and death records. <https://www.scottishindexes.com/recordsets.aspx>. Be aware though that the Canonbie Kirk Session records are not yet on ScotlandsPeople.

Andrew Armstong, who joined us for the Q&A has also been indexing some records for Dumfriesshire and Roxburghshire (see www.relativelyscottish.com).

Tessa also prepared a summary of her Q&A session for us:

Are there any Free Church of Scotland kirk session records on ScotlandsPeople?

Answer: not yet, the priority has been the CH2 (quoad omnia kirk sessions, presbyteries and synods), but colleagues should be moving on to upload the CH2 (quoad sacra) kirk sessions, CH3 (other Presbyterian churches, including the Free Church) and CH1 (General Assembly) records later this year.

Will Congregational church kirk session minutes be available?

Answer: no. NRS holds very few congregational church records. Most are held in local authority and university archives.

Are there any plans to make the minor records available?

Answer: There are no concrete plans to make the minor records for statutory registers/OPRs (e.g. midwives' registers and non-church marriage registers) available. It might be possible to add these records to the indexed area of the site (e.g. like with the Other Church Registers). However, it is something that needs to be addressed, along with the overlap between OPRs and kirk session/heritors' records.

Why are kirk session records in Virtual Volumes not indexed?

Answer: They are quite different from the more familiar statutory registers and OPRs which are organised as individual entries. It would take enormous effort and delay to tease out and index the names of all the people, places and subject matter mentioned and the cost would be prohibitive. In many cases it would simply not be possible to index consistently across an entire collection of records

For this reason the records have been made 'free-to-view', because researchers need to do the work of searching to find the information that interests them. It would not be reasonable to charge to view records where the information required may not be present.

What is the cut-off date for the kirk session records on Virtual Volumes?

Answer: It is pre-1900 to be sure to avoid any Data Protection issues by identifying any living individuals.

I want to view the records of xx kirk session. When will they be uploaded to Virtual Volumes?

Answer: Please contact ScotlandsPeople and depending on demand, colleagues will consider when they can add them to the site provided there are no copyright or data protection issues.

How can I view a complete catalogue list of the CH2 and CH3 records?

Answer: Please consult the NRS catalogue: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/catalogue

This guide provides an overview of Church records held by NRS:
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/church-records>

What are we planning to add to Virtual Volumes?

Answer: Colleagues will be regularly adding more court records and other records from NRS collections. You can keep up to date with news and events on ScotlandsPeople Twitter and Facebook and sign up to the newsletters to hear about any significant additions.

Virtual Volumes Image viewer

I spotted a comment in the chat about the double page spread layout of the images on Virtual Volumes and that they are not so easy to view on your home computer in comparison to using Virtual Volumes in the Historical Search Room. This is what the Zoom control is for in the image viewer – you should be able to zoom to a single page and beyond.

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies

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'Understanding Kirk Session Records'
by Emma Maxwell,
Genealogist

safhs.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number SC029006

SAFHS Virtual Conference
17 April 2021

Join Emma #SAFHS2021 for her presentation on Kirk Session records. It's free to register on Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1516164237708/WN_uuT6sl8BRTSA83l0fRj01w

Family History at the Mitchell

by Dr. Irene O'Brien

Website: www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk

Twitter: [@GC_Archives](https://twitter.com/GC_Archives)

Facebook: [GlasgowCityArchives](https://www.facebook.com/GlasgowCityArchives)

The GlasgowFamilyHistory website has many free guides to help you understand the records the Glasgow City Archives hold.

<https://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Explore-Our-Records.aspx>

In person, you can access not only the Glasgow City Archives but also you can use the ScotlandsPeople Hub which gives you the same access to records as you would have in Edinburgh at the ScotlandsPeople Centre. The NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Archives is also accessed at the Mitchell Library. If you have Glaswegian ancestors it's certainly a one-stop-shop.

The big news is that the index to the Poor Law records is coming online and that will revolutionise research for us all.

While we wait for this major release, there are some smaller collections we can search online such as the 'Police Return of Destitute', 'Belgian Refugees', 'Chimney Sweeps Licenses for the Burgh of Glasgow, 1852-1862.', 'Militia Records for Glasgow 1810-1831' and 'Evening Times Roll of Honour'. See

<https://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Online-resources.aspx>

There's Been a Murder - The Mount Stewart Murder of 1866

by Chris Paton

Website: www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk

Twitter: [@GenesBlog](https://twitter.com/GenesBlog)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGENESBlog>



Northern Irish born Chris Paton lives today in Ayrshire, Scotland, where he works as a genealogist through his Scotland's Greatest Story service (www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk). A holder of a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Chris is author of 'Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd edition)', 'Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records' and 'Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records', and also writes a daily genealogy blog, Scottish GENES (<https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>). As well as regularly lecturing on Irish and Scottish subjects, Chris also runs courses for Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd (www.pharostutors.com).

Are you keen to share your research with a wider audience? Hopefully Chris gave you some inspiration on Saturday. You can buy a copy of '[Sharing Your Family History Online](#)' from [Pen & Sword](#).

Who wasn't gripped by Chris' dramatic family story, and perhaps a little jealous that our families are a bit dull in comparison?

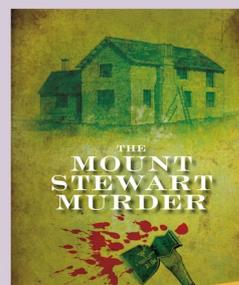
Who did it? That's the burning question. You can dig into this a little more in Chris' book, 'The Mount Stewart Murder' which is published by [The History Press](#).

Chris is one of our most popular speakers. You can see his diary of events here:

<https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/p/diary.html>. As well as presentations on Scottish genealogy, Chris also speaks on Irish genealogy which I know will be of interest to many of you.

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A RE-EXAMINATION
'There's Been a Murder - The
Mount Stewart Murder of
1866' by Chris Paton

www.scottishindexes.com

Beware the Babbet Bapper and Other Cautionary Tales

by Kate Keter

Website: familytreetales.co.uk

Twitter: [@kateketer](https://twitter.com/kateketer)

Facebook: [@kmkgenealogy](https://www.facebook.com/kmkgenealogy)



Kate has been researching family trees for over 30 years and now works as a professional genealogist based in Linlithgow. She has an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographical and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow where she is now a tutor on the Family History Research short courses. Kate is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA).

In her talk, Beware the Babbet Bapper, Kate discussed some of the things that can cause problems for family history researchers - things like secondary sources, name changes, mis-transcriptions – and the need for finding corroborating evidence to resolve the issues that these can throw up.

Scottish Records in The National Archives

by Audrey Collins

Website: nationalarchives.gov.uk

Twitter: [@AudreyCollins23](https://twitter.com/AudreyCollins23)

Facebook: [@TheNationalArchives](https://www.facebook.com/TheNationalArchives)

Audrey has kindly prepared a separate handout which you can download from www.scottishindexes.com.

For blogs by Audrey see: <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/author/acollins/>

Here's a helpful link submitted by an attendee, 'Introduction to reading medieval Latin documents': <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/>

Researching Kincardineshire Ancestors

by Emma Jolly



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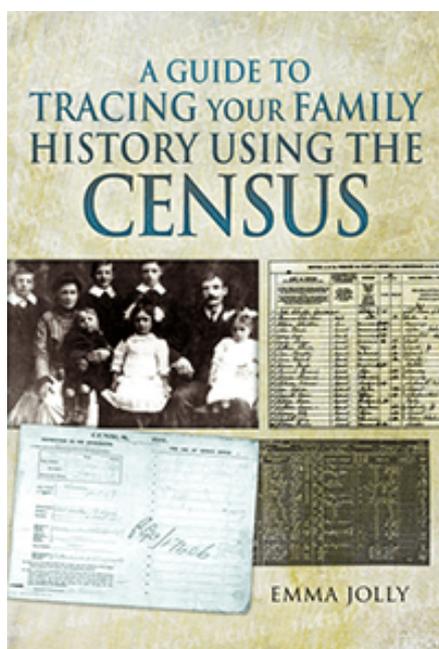
'Researching Kincardineshire
Ancestors' by Emma Jolly

Website: www.emmajolly.co.uk

Twitter: [@emmajolly](https://twitter.com/emmajolly)

Instagram: [@emmaejolly](https://www.instagram.com/emmaejolly)

Emma Jolly MA has been working as a professional genealogist since 2006. She holds two history degrees and the IHGS Higher Certificate. A member of AGRA, she has written five books. Her Jolly family descends from Scotland. On her other surname branches, she has English, Welsh, and Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.



The census is an essential survey of our population, and it is a source of basic information for local and national government and for various organizations dealing with education, housing, health and transport. Providing the researcher with a fascinating insight into who we were in the past, Emma Jolly's new handbook is a useful tool for anyone keen to discover their family history. With detailed, accessible and authoritative coverage, it is full of advice on how to explore and get the most from the records.

Each census from 1841 to 1911 is described in detail, and later censuses are analysed too. The main focus is on the census in England and Wales, but censuses in Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are all examined and the differences explained.

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Emma-Jolly/a/1931

DNA Match Lists, Shared Matches & Testing Site Basics

by Michelle Leonard

Website: www.facebook.com/genesandgenealogy

Twitter: [@GenealogyLass](https://twitter.com/GenealogyLass)

Webinars: <https://familytreewebinars.com/michelleleonard>

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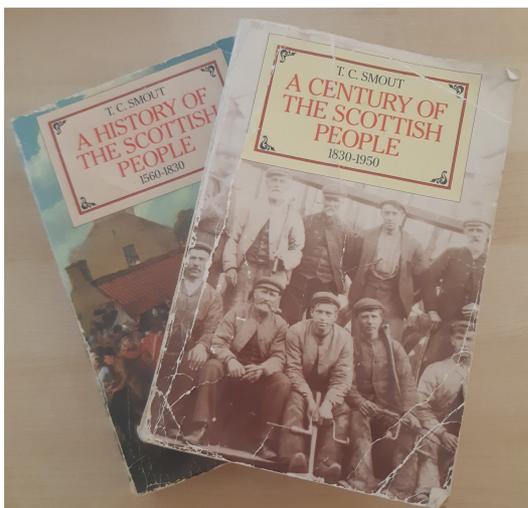
FAMILY

'DNA Match Lists, Shared Matches & Testing Site Basics' by Michelle Leonard

www.scottishindexes.com

Michelle Leonard is a professional genealogist, DNA detective, speaker, author, historian and the official genetic genealogist of #AncestryHour. She runs her own genealogy and DNA consultancy business, Genes & Genealogy, and specialises in unknown parentage and all manner of unknown ancestor mysteries using a combination of DNA expertise and conventional research methods. She also undertakes traditional family history research, living relative tracing, historical and television research, podcasts, tutoring, lecturing, bespoke family history books, webinar, speaking engagements and article, blog and book writing. She is also known for her work on the WW1 Fromelles Genealogy Project, is a regular speaker at major genealogy events and co-authored the book "Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide For Family Historians" published in June 2019. You can find out more about Michelle on her Genes & Genealogy Facebook page and you can follow her on Twitter.

Scottish Family History Reading List



An attendee suggested a reading list which we thought was a great idea. Thanks to our presenters and attendees for suggesting these books. I should add that none of these are sponsored; these are genuine recommendations from fellow researchers. It is also not an extensive list, I am sure we will add more as times goes on. Let's make a start with these:

Paton, Chris (2019) Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors Through Church and State Records: [Pen & Sword](#)

Paton, Chris (2020) Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet: [Pen & Sword](#)

National Records of Scotland (2020) Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: [Birlinn](#)

Simpson, Grant G (1998) Scottish Handwriting 1150-1650. Tuckwell Press.

Wilkinson, Kirsty F. (2020) Finding Your Scottish Ancestors, Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems: [Crowood Press](#)

Bigwood, Rosemary (2006) The Scottish Family Tree Detective. Manchester: Manchester University Press

Brown, Callum G. (1997) Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Gibb, Andrew Dewar (1946) Student's Glossary of Scottish Legal Terms. Edinburgh: W. Green & Son Ltd (Various later editions also)

Smout, T. C. (1998) A History of the Scottish People 1560-1830. London: Fontana Press

Smout, T. C. (1997) A Century of the Scottish People 1830-1950. London: Fontana Press

Steel, D. J. (1970) National Index of Parish Registers Volume XII: Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History. Chichester: Phillimore and Co. Ltd.

Wightman, Andy (2013) The Poor Had No Lawyers – Who Owns Scotland (And How They Got It), New Ed. Edinburgh: Birlinn Ltd.

Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair



View - Lady Margaret's Tower to Glen Creran

Ardchattan Parish Archive

Ardchattan Parish Archive - researching and sharing the built, family, natural and social history of the Parish of Ardchattan from Big Bang to Present day. The area between Loch Etive and Loch Creran : Barcaldine, Benderloch, Connel, Bonawe

Website: <http://ardchattan.wikidot.com>

Facebook: [@ardchattan](https://www.facebook.com/ardchattan)

Email: ardchattan@gmail.com

Enquiries welcome, we are always interested to connect with descendants and anyone interested in our heritage.

Caithness Family Society



Website: www.caithnessfhs.org.uk

Email: <https://caithnessfhs.org.uk/contacts/>

Facebook: [@caithnessfamilyhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/caithnessfamilyhistorysociety)

Caithness Family History Society was formed in September 1999 by a small group of enthusiasts and has already grown to around 250 members worldwide. Our aim is to promote an interest in genealogy and, wherever we can, to help others trace their roots – especially families originating from Caithness.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society



Website: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gwsfhs>

Membership: £15

Membership of the Society includes:

Journal 3 times per year

Use of the Society's Research Centre & Library in Glasgow

Access to unique data sets

Expert research assistance

Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Website - angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk

The Anglo-Scottish FHS was formed in 1982 by members of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society (M&LFHS) to assist in tracing their links back to Scottish origins. We have details of baptisms and communion rolls from Presbyterian churches in Manchester from 1802 to 1970 in our members area. More images are included in the DVD from our online shop. We also have a Scottish Marriage index, giving details of Scots who married overseas. This index is freely available to search. We would also welcome any new information that researchers would care to contribute to the index.

Scottish Genealogy Society



The Scottish Genealogy Society is based in Edinburgh but can help you with your research all over Scotland. Many of these resources are available to members and non-members but membership also comes with a lot of benefits.

Website - <https://www.scotsgenealogy.com/>

Membership - from £20

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ScottishGenealogySociety>

Borders Family History Society



Based in Galashiels, Borders Family History Society is run by volunteers who have researched their own family histories. We are here to help you discover your family stories in the Border counties of Berwickshire, Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire in southern Scotland. Our main project is recording the Monumental Inscriptions for Borders burial places. In partnership with the Scottish Borders Archive, we are indexing Police and Criminal records and Poor Law records. Our research room is at 52 Overhaugh St, Galashiels, Scotland, TD1 1DP.

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BordersFHS>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BordersFHS>

Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society



The Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society covers the three counties of South West Scotland – Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire. We were joined at the conference by Terence Brown, volunteer and council member at the Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society, at our August conference. If you missed it you [can watch it here](#).

Website - www.dgfhs.org.uk

Membership - from £7.50

Orkney Family History Society

Orkney Family History Society was formed in 1997 and is run by a committee of volunteers. They have an office (currently closed) adjacent to the archives department in the Orkney Library in Kirkwall. Their volunteers are working from home currently and are happy to assist with any enquiries by email. They have a membership of around 1,700 from all over the world. For an annual subscription (starting at £10) members are given access to a wealth of transcribed records on the society's website www.orkneyfhs.co.uk.

Volunteers have transcribed all census records for Orkney from 1841-1911, most gravestone inscriptions as well as a growing number of birth, marriage and death registrations. These are all indexed and searchable on the website.

Email: secretary2013@orkneyfhs.co.uk

East Ayrshire Family History Society



East Ayrshire Family History Society
Scottish Charity number SC029629
Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk
Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Lanarkshire Family History Society

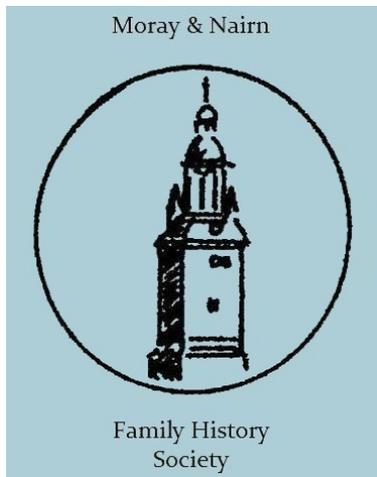


Our Research Centre in Motherwell is currently closed because of Covid 19, we will open again when the situation improves. In the meantime we can still assist you with your Scottish and Irish questions and any 'brickwalls' you have at present. Our Research Coordinator, John Kennedy and his 'team' of researchers can be contacted by E-mail at: research-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

For questions of a military nature you can contact David Anderson by email at: - military-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

One of our members, Clare Wilson, has produced a short Video tour of our Centre and the many facilities we have in the Centre. Including over 1,800 books (Family, Local and Military History) in our Reference Library. The Video can be viewed on YouTube, here is the link: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMQC1kir9LQ&t=0s>

Moray & Nairn Family History Society



Moray & Nairn Family History Society was established in February 2009, for people researching their ancestry in these old counties.

Website - www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

Contact can be made through the website, or by email to: enquiries@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society



Website: www.anesfhs.org.uk

Facebook: [@anesfhs](https://www.facebook.com/anesfhs)

Twitter: [@anesfhs](https://twitter.com/anesfhs)

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society (ANESFHS) covers the old counties of Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire, Banffshire and Moray in Scotland's North-East corner. We also hold records for all of Scotland and wherever else Scots and their descendants can be found.

The Society's research premises in Aberdeen has reopened, containing a huge range of resources, including subscriptions to paid websites, plus journals from other family-history societies worldwide. We stock many publications for sale.

Regular meetings, covering many topics of interest to family historians, are held in Aberdeen, Elgin, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Brisbane, Melbourne and Southern Ontario. Meetings currently take place online, and anyone is welcome to request an invitation.

Fife Family History Society



Website: www.fifefhs.org

Facebook: [@FifeFamilyHistorySociety](https://www.facebook.com/FifeFamilyHistorySociety)

Twitter: [@fifefhs](https://twitter.com/fifefhs)

Fife FHS was established in 1989 and is a charity registered in Scotland. Our members are from all over the World. In normal times we have an Archive Room based in Cupar Library, Fife, where our team of volunteers are available to help people with their Fife family history three days a week.

We have recently revamped our website www.fifefhs.org and as well as an extensive members area including a Record Archive, Journal Archive, Members Forum and free access to the Pre 1855 Fife

Death Index (over 250,000 deaths) we have an online shop www.fifefhs.org/shop/ There are 25 digital publications available to purchase as downloads. These include pre 1855 Baptisms from non establishment churches, Monumental Inscriptions and our Fife Shopkeepers and Traders Directory 1820-1870.

Central Scotland Family History Society



Website: www.csfhs.org.uk

The Central Scotland Family History Society covers the old counties of Clackmannanshire, Stirlingshire and West Perthshire, plus the parishes of Bo'ness and Carriden in West Lothian.

We organise monthly meetings from October to May, held in the Smith Museum in Stirling. Due to Covid-19 we had to postpone our AGM. This will now be held as a virtual meeting in September. As our meeting venue is not opening its lecture theatre until at least 2021, next year's programme of talks has also been suspended.

We produce a Journal twice a year, and since lockdown the committee has introduced a monthly newsletter, 'Share your Story', to keep members feeling connected to the Society. We have a full list of our own publications – see our website for details of price and ordering.

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies



'Asylum Records for
Genealogy'
by Louise Williams,
Archivist, Lothian Health
Services

safhs.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC029006

SAFHS Virtual
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17 April 2021

We have volunteered to help get the #SAFHS conference online for the first time, I hope you can join us in April. It's free to register on Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1516164237708/WN_uuT6sl8BRTSA83l0fRj01w

Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 22 MAY 2021



Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



Registration is now open for our May conference:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7116161620553/WN_phU933bWQ7OulK9qv44QCQ