

# Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish  
family history 

[www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)



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## Scottish Indexes Conference XVI

12 March 2022

I don't know about you, but we felt yesterday was a workout for our brains! Excellent presentations and some great questions that really got us thinking!

It was wonderful to hear from presenters with so much experience and hear about new ways to learn; have you tried 'read me' yet?

We're looking forward to the Scottish Association of Family History Societies' conference on 9 April 2022. Registration is now open: [click here to book](#).

We are living in hope that the NRS will be open more fully over the summer, I keep refreshing their [status page](#)! If we can get in a bit more and clear our backlog of client research then we may not hold a conference until September. You can register here for our conference on [3 September 2022](#). Keep an eye on our website for further announcements.

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)

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SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2022

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**'Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Will? – why Scottish wills and testaments are not that scary and how they can help you with your family history' by Robert Urquhart**

## 'Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Will? – why Scottish wills and testaments are not that scary and how they can help you with your family history'

by Robert Urquhart

Website: [www.abbotshall.net](http://www.abbotshall.net)

Robert Urquhart worked as an archivist for 35 years in local authority archives in the west of Scotland and in Scotland's national archives. During his career he also taught palaeography and training courses about archival sources and practised as a freelance researcher and transcriber. He now runs Abbotshall Palaeography, a transcription and training business and is involved in research projects involving wills and testaments, parish boundaries and the Scottish communities in the Netherlands in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Family historians are sometimes scared off using wills and testaments as a source of information, due to their reputation for being 'difficult': full of legal jargon and hard to understand. Many researchers assume that wills and testaments only concern the wealthiest people and don't contain any extra vital genealogical information. In short: 'my ancestors wouldn't have been likely to have had wills and testaments registered in court, and, even if they did, I wouldn't be able to make head nor tail of what is written in them and they wouldn't help me much anyway'. Robert Urquhart dispelled some of the myths about wills and testaments to show how it is fairly easy to search for a will or testament for a Scottish ancestor. He explained why finding one can really pay off for your genealogical research and gave some practical advice on what things you can do to understand their contents.

Here is a link to Robert's handout on his website:

<https://www.abbotshall.net/wills-and-testaments>

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**'Your Scottish Archives'**  
by John Pelan

## 'Your Scottish Archives'

by John Pelan

Website: [www.scottisharchives.org.uk](http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk)

John Pelan took on the role of Director of the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) in December 2017. John provides organisational leadership for SCA and, working with trustees, staff and stakeholders, develops its strategic direction.

John has worked in the culture and heritage sectors in Scotland for several decades. Prior to joining SCA he was Director of the Scottish Civic Trust and previously held senior positions with the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland including Depute Secretary and Director of Communications. John is passionate about archives and the role they have in fostering a sense of identity and engagement with the past.

John talked about the development of a new resource for archivists and users of archives, Your Scottish Archives. SCA plans to launch the first stage of the project in late 2022.

Your Scottish Archives is a unique project to gather and make available worldwide, through a dynamic online portal, catalogue descriptions from archives across Scotland, including local authority, health, business and community records. The infrastructure for the project is being provided by the SCA, working with Jisc/Archives Hub. It will build capacity amongst archive holders and develop skills, particularly amongst local communities, making an enormous contribution to the wider heritage sector by improving access to Scotland's archives. The portal will also provide useful knowledge, guides and resources for anyone seeking to search and access Scotland's rich documented record.

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'Breach of Promise of Marriage  
Cases' by Kate Keter

## 'Breach of Promise of Marriage Cases'

by Kate Keter

Website: [familytreetales.co.uk](http://familytreetales.co.uk)

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

Twitter: [@kmkgenealogy](https://twitter.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 Genealogy and Family History Research courses. Kate is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA).

The banns have been read, the minister booked, the dress purchased and the cake ordered, but the marriage is called off. What happened next?

The rejected party takes their prospective spouse to court and sues for breach of promise. This talk looked at how these court cases were reported in the newspapers. It looked at how details of their relationship, the contents of their letters and an analysis of his or her character was played out in court and printed in the newspapers for all to see.

It can be difficult for today's reader not to smile at the content of these reports. But what they offer family historians is an insight into the love-lives of our ancestors, how they conducted their relationships, how they prepared for marriage and how they dealt with disappointment when their plans fell through.



## 'Reading Old Scottish Handwriting'

by Rachel Hart

Website: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/special-collections/>

Rachel Hart is Senior Archivist (Keeper of Manuscripts and Muniments) at the University of St Andrews Libraries and Museums. Previously Rachel was an archivist at the University of St Andrews Library (1997-2004), a Freelance Archivist in Aberdeenshire (1994-1998), Assistant Archivist in the Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Aberdeen (1987-1995), and Assistant Archivist for Cumbria Archives Service (1983-1985). Rachel is a Member of the St Andrews Institute of Mediaeval Studies, is a Trustee and Director of the Scottish Council on Archives and Scottish Archives Network and sat on the UK Archives Accreditation panel from 2013-2019. She is a Registered Member of the Society of Archivists. Rachel has taught the Scots Palaeography module for CAIS at the University of Dundee for a number of years and continues to teach both Medieval and Early Modern Palaeography to Masters students at St Andrews.

Reading Old Scottish Handwriting links

[www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk)

[www.scottishhandwriting.com](http://www.scottishhandwriting.com)

<http://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/readme/exhibits/show/readme>

<http://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/readme/exhibits/show/read-me--for-english--renaissa>

<http://openvirtualworlds.org/omeka/exhibits/show/readme/lamontsdiarymarch1667>

<https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/billingsley/>

<https://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item126633.html>

[www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) - Helping you trace your Scottish family tree

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“One wants you at home to think its all heroic & splendid”  
Part 2 of a journey through the Waring of Lennel papers  
- by George MacKenzie

## “One wants you at home to think it’s all heroic & splendid” - Part 2 of a journey through the Waring of Lennel papers’ by George MacKenzie

by George MacKenzie

As well as records created by church and state, private papers can help us uncover our heritage. These come in various forms, from farm rentals to private letters. George MacKenzie, Archivist and former Keeper of the Records of Scotland presented: ‘One wants you at home to think its all heroic & splendid’ - Part 2 of a journey through the Waring of Lennel papers.

George spoke to us last year about the Waring of Lennel collection of private papers in the National Records of Scotland (GD372). Part two took up the story at the outbreak of WWI.

This is just one example of the diverse records that can help us tell our own family story. Careful search archive catalogues for family papers. Here are a few that hold family and estate papers:

National Records of Scotland (NRS) online catalogue:

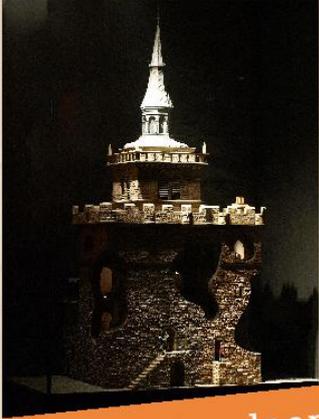
<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/welcome.aspx>

The National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS) online register:

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/welcome.aspx>

Scottish Archive Network catalogue (SCAN): <https://www.scan.org.uk/>

NLS Archives and Manuscript Collections: <https://www.nls.uk/catalogues/manuscripts/>



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**'Using Aberdeen City  
& Aberdeenshire Archives'  
by Phil Astley**

## 'Using Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives'

by Phil Astley

Website: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives>

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives hold several types of records relating to Aberdeen City. The documents range from charters, minutes and accounts, to maps, plans and photographs. Originally, their function was of a practical and administrative nature but many records now constitute a valuable source for the study of all aspects of Aberdeen's history. The archive's Aberdeenshire records date back to the 14th century!

For family history research two of the treasures are the Aberdeenshire Poor relief records and the criminal photographs!

Find out more about the criminal photographs on Phil's Criminal Portraits Blog:  
<https://criminalportraits.blogspot.com/>

The volunteers at the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society have produced an index to surviving Aberdeen Poor Law records 1845-1900 which you can search here on their website: <https://www.anesfhs.org.uk/databank/plindex/plindex.php>



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'Records of the Scottish Poor'  
by Emma Maxwell

## 'Records of the Scottish Poor'

by Emma Maxwell

Website: [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scottishindexes>

Many of our ancestors were on very low wages, living day-to-day with nothing left over to save for hard times or their retirement. There were many causes of poverty and sometimes we may notice our ancestor described as a 'pauper' in a census return or other record. We may also discover that our ancestor died in a poorhouse or they may even have been born there. Emma has prepared a Learning Zone article to accompany the presentation:

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningpoor.aspx>

Scottish Indexes have some indexed to Poor Relief records available, these include parishes from Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire and Wigtownshire.

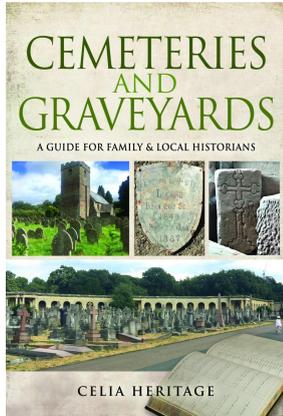
Poor Relief Register Search: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/poorsearch.aspx>

As well as poor relief records you can search a growing number of historical records on [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com). Emma's favourite is Scotland's Criminal Database where you can search over 400,000 Scottish criminal records:

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/ScotlandsCriminalDatabase.aspx>

## Q&A and Submitted links

In addition to our presenters, we were delighted to be joined by some genealogists from around the UK who helped answer your thought-provoking questions. Here are their details.



A graduate of King's College London, Celia Heritage is a popular and respected lecturer in family history, regularly presenting at family history conferences both in the UK and abroad. Celia has been passionate about history since childhood. Her new book, *Cemeteries and Graveyards a Guide for Local and Family Historians in England and Wales* will be published late this month. There's a discount if you [pre-order from the publisher](#).

You can follow Celia on [Facebook](#) or find out more on her website: [www.heritagefamilyhistory.co.uk](http://www.heritagefamilyhistory.co.uk).

Catriona Haine is a professional genealogist specialising in Scottish Family History and the lives of those who lived through the industrialisation of Central Scotland as well as the Irish diaspora and their origins in Ireland.

After researching family histories for almost 20 years, Catriona graduated with an MSc in Genealogy from University of Strathclyde in 2021, having carried out extensive research into 19th Scottish asylum history and the lives of those impacted by pauper patient removals from the Glasgow Royal Asylum at Gartnavel.



Catriona can be contacted through her website at [www.marplecat.com](http://www.marplecat.com) or on Twitter <https://twitter.com/marplecat>



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](http://www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk)). A holder of a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Chris is author of 'Sharing Your Family History Online', 'Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records', 'Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet' and 'Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd edition)'. His next book, 'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records', will be published in late 2021. Chris also writes a daily genealogy blog,

Scottish GENES (<https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>), and as well as regularly lecturing on Scottish and Irish subjects, Chris also runs courses for Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd ([www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com)).

## **Paleography**

The Scottish Handwriting website offers free online tuition in palaeography for historians, genealogists and other researchers who have problems reading manuscript historical records written in Scotland in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries:

<https://www.scottishhandwriting.com/>

Rachel mentioned the Scots Palaeography and Diplomatic module from the University of Dundee: <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/module/rm50007>

**Read Me:** As demonstrated by Rachel this website allows you to learn and test yourself: <http://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/readme/exhibits/show/read-me--for-english--renaissa/how-to-use-read-me--for-english>

## **Services of Heirs (Retours)**

There is a helpful guide on the website of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/inheriting-land-and-buildings>

1530-1700

[Volume I](#)

[Volume II](#)

[Volume III](#)

1700-1859

[Microfilm copy of the printed indexes on Family Search](#)

Celia mentioned an intriguing book, A Comedy of Errors or The Marriage Records of England and Wales 1837-1899 by Michael Whitfield Foster 1998 [ISBN 0 473 05581-3]. A quick Google has revealed it's out of print and expensive to buy. Keep an eye open for this one in charity shops etc! Or perhaps see if you can borrow it from a library.

An interesting five-volume work, 'The Place Names of Fife' (2006-2013) by Simon Taylor was mentioned. There is also this handy website: <https://fife-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/>

The 'Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents' by Peter Goulesbrough is a very handy publication. It was published by the Stair Society in 1985 but copies are hard to come by. Rachel mentioned that it is available through [heinonline.org](http://heinonline.org). Some universities have a subscription to this and other organisations may also do so. It could be worth checking if you are a member of a National Library or similar. Sadly the National Library of Scotland membership does not currently give access to this online archive.

What was the Privy Council? Here is a handy guide:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/privy-council-records>

What is the Great Seal? Here is another handy guide:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/chancery-records>

### **How can you find out more about our ancestors occupations?**

The Complete Servant: Being A Practical Guide To The Peculiar Duties And Business Of All Descriptions of Servants. This is available new and used in various places online, also here is a version you can read for free online:

<https://archive.org/details/b21530786/page/n1/mode/2up>

You may also find the Dictionary of Old Occupations by Jane Hewitt helpful.

Soon to be replaced by Your Scottish Archives but still useful just now, is the SCAN Knowledge Base: <https://www.scan.org.uk/knowledgebase/index.htm>. Please note that this may not work well on all devices.

### **Would someone be able to explain a bit about escheats?**

[DSL tells us](#), "The forfeiture of a person's property, heritable or moveable, upon his conviction of certain crimes, and also, until 1748, upon denunciation for non-payment of civil debts."

There could be a few useful records to look at depending on the period. Here is some information on the Privy Seal Records

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/privy-seal-records>

The most famous Forfeited Estates are probably those which were forfeited in 1745. Here is some information about the Exchequer Records related to these estates:

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/details.aspx?reference=E738>

**Keep learning** - We have a very active and friendly Facebook group. If you have a question pop along and post it: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scottishindexes>

**Past conferences** - On our website, you can watch some videos from past conferences as well as handouts: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/pastconferences.aspx>

# Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair

## The Scottish Association of Family History Societies



SAFHS Conference Saturday 9 April 2022

[safhs.org.uk](http://safhs.org.uk)

Scottish Charity Number SC029006

We're looking forward to helping our friends at SAFHS with their conference in April. It's always a popular event but having it online has opened it up to an even wider audience. [Book now on Zoom](#) and you will receive a reminder nearer the time.

## Caithness Family Society



Website: [www.caithnessfhs.org.uk](http://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.

# Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Website - [angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk](http://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.

## Ardchattan Parish Archive

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

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

Email: [ardchattan@gmail.com](mailto:ardchattan@gmail.com)

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

# Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Website - [angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk](http://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.



## 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

## 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](http://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 Wigtonshire. 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:secretary2013@orkneyfhs.co.uk)



## East Ayrshire Family History Society

East Ayrshire Family History Society

Scottish Charity number SC029629

Website: [www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

Email: [enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:research-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk)

For questions of a military nature you can contact David Anderson by email at: - [military-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

Contact can be made through the website, or by email to: [enquiries@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

# Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society



Website: [www.anesfhs.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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



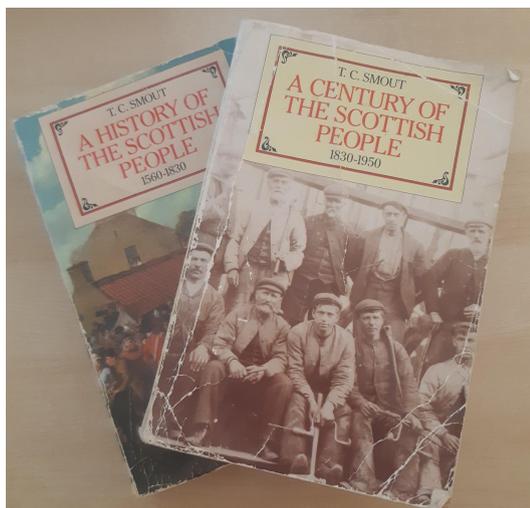
Website: [www.csfhs.org.uk](http://www.csfhs.org.uk)

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.

## 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 time goes on.

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.

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