

Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



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['The Society for One-Place Studies'
by Jane Harris](#)

['Traquair's Tenants, Cottars and
Workers' by Margaret Fox](#)

['Ich bin ein Berliner: \(re\)uniting 5
half-siblings from 4 different mothers'
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Scottish Indexes Conference XVII

3 September 2022

We always learn something new from our conferences and Saturday was no exception. One thing we think many of us were shocked to learn is that we've already embarked on a one-place study (OPS) without realising it!

Thank you all for your patience on the day, and over the days that followed, as Emma has struggled through COVID.

Did you hear the news? We have released an index to more Scottish criminal records. [Scotland's Criminal Database](#) now has more than half a million entries! Are your ancestors amongst them?

If the indexing of the 1921 census goes to plan, Tessa Spencer will join us from the National Records of Scotland to present, 'Secrets of the 1921 census'. [Click here to book](#).

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at www.scottishindexes.com

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SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2022

FAMILY

Learn how to trace your
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'The Society for One-Place Studies'
by Jane Harris

'The Society for One-Place Studies'

by Jane Harris

Website: www.one-place-studies.org

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

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

Jane Harris, genealogist at janealogy.co.uk, gave us a brief introduction to the Society and what a one-place study is; the benefits for your family history research and some initial steps for starting your own study.

Jane Harris is a committee member of the Society for One-Place Studies. She has a one-place study for North Walls and Brims, Orkney, home to many of her paternal ancestors.

Jane mentioned the blogging prompts from the society. There is a different theme each month and this could be a great way to be inspired and/or motivated if you want to start sharing your research online. Here is a link to the society's website:

<https://www.one-place-studies.org/resources/blogging-prompts/>.

Even if you don't blog yourself, it could be a fun way to discover what other people are up to and what they have found during their research.

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'Traquair's Tenants, Cottars and Workers'
by Margaret Fox

'Traquair's Tenants, Cottars and Workers'

by Margaret Fox

Website: www.traquair.co.uk

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

Twitter: [@mf6060](https://twitter.com/mf6060)

Margaret holds an M.A. (Hons.) degree in History from Edinburgh University and is a professional archivist. For many years she has looked after the archives at Traquair House, Scotland's oldest inhabited house. She worked for twelve years in the National Records of Scotland where she immersed herself in the records of the Kirk (Church of Scotland) and the High Court of Justiciary, and in wills and testaments. She now enjoys promoting these records, and also Traquair's fascinating archival heritage, at local and family history societies and at online genealogy conferences.

In this talk Margaret focuses on the men and women who kept the estate running smoothly during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, building up a picture of their working lives and conditions, and illustrating their families' loyalty to their employers, the Earls of Traquair, over generations. As well as picking out some genealogical gems she shows how a study of Scottish family and estate records can recreate a close-knit rural community in which lives were so interconnected.

Here is a link to the Traquair House website where Margaret has prepared some notes on her presentation and you can read some of the documents showcased in more detail:

<https://www.traquair.co.uk/traquairs-tenants-cottars-and-workers/>

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*'Ich bin ein Berliner: (re)uniting 5
half-siblings from 4 different mothers'
by Michael Tobias.*

'Ich bin ein Berliner: (re)uniting 5 half-siblings from 4 different mothers'

by Michael Tobias

Email: michael@tobias.org

Michael is a co-founder and Board Member of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (1995-); Vice President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB 2019-); Honorary Research Fellow – Genealogical Studies, University of Strathclyde (2020-); Former Vice President, Programming of JewishGen, Inc (1995-2018). He was Database matching consultant to the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. Michael was awarded the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Lifetime Achievement award in Washington in 2011. He was awarded the OBE for services to the Jewish Community in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2021.

During the Covid19 pandemic in the UK in July 2020 a woman asked for help in identifying her newly-discovered (via DNA) Jewish birth-father. She could not imagine the story about to unfold. In the next three weeks, following the DNA trail and building family trees for each of 8 significant DNA hits on 3 different websites, her ties to four half-siblings were identified, all sharing the same father but with four different mothers. To be certain of the connections between the DNA matches and the half-siblings, it was necessary to use the JRI-Poland database to create family trees going back to the late 1700s. In the process the accuracy of the DNA-estimated family relationships could be compared with the true family relationships and the impact of any endogamy could be analysed.



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‘Making Sense of the Scottish Census’

by Emma Maxwell

Website: www.scottishindexes.com

Scottish Genealogy Learning Zone: www.scottishindexes.com/learning

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

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

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/scottishindexes

Emma Maxwell is a genealogist with over 20 years of experience. Together with her husband Graham Maxwell she launched www.scottishindexes.com in 2014. The mission was to make useful historical records accessible to everyone.

Back in the days when there were very few indexes to the Scottish census Emma was well used to searching and transcribing the microfilm rolls. Looking at each and every page in a parish, searching every name and reading every detail gives a unique insight into any record.

Emma has prepared a handout for this presentation which is accessible [here](#), as well as a Learning Zone which is available on the Scottish Indexes website [here](#).

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'A Better Class of Lunatic?' by
Catriona Haine

'A Better Class of Lunatic?'

by Catriona Haine

Website: www.marplecat.com

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

Catriona Haine is a qualified 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.

Catriona was bitten by the genealogy bug 20 years ago when she started to uncover the Irish origins of her Scottish family. More recently, Catriona graduated with an MSc in Genealogical Studies from University of Strathclyde having carried out extensive research into 19th century 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.

When the Glasgow Royal Asylum, known as Gartnavel, opened its doors as the 'Glasgow Asylum for Lunatics' in the early 19th century, it was for the provision of better care and treatment for both the poor of Glasgow as well as those who had the means to pay. However, towards the end of the century, the directors of the asylum announced there were no longer any 'pauper lunatics' at Gartnavel and only private patients would be treated there in future. So what happened to those pauper patients removed from Gartnavel? And why did Gartnavel's directors decide to 'move smartly upmarket'? This presentation provided insight into both these questions along with case studies of individual patients whose lives were impacted by the events at Gartnavel.



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'Scottish Research Resources Before 1800' by Chris Paton

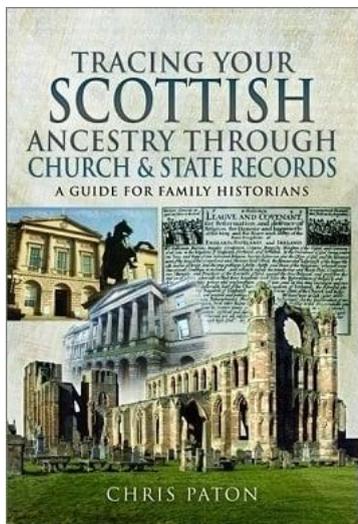
'Scottish Research Resources Before 1800'

by Chris Paton

Website: www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk

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

Facebook: [@TheGENESBlog](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](http://www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk) service. 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 many more. All these are available through [Pen & Sword](http://www.penandsword.co.uk).

Chris also writes a daily genealogy blog, [Scottish GENES](http://www.scottishgenes.com). As well as regularly lecturing on Scottish and Irish subjects, Chris also runs courses for [Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd](http://www.pharos-teaching.com).

In this talk Chris Paton, genealogist and author of *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records*, took us to pre-19th century Scotland, when things begin to get a little more complicated with our ancestral research. From kirk to state, a variety of records are available, but it's one thing to find them, and quite another to understand them, with different handwriting styles, language problems and the feudal nature of Scottish society some of the many challenges that keeps earlier Scottish research fun but challenging. Chris explored the various record types available, and how to access them both online and offline.



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'Tracing a Building Through Time'
by Graham Maxwell

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

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

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

Graham Maxwell is a genealogist with over 25 years of experience. Together with his wife Emma Maxwell he launched www.scottishindexes.com in 2014.

Whether you live in an older Scottish property now or you want to find out more about the property your ancestors used to live in, being able to trace a property through time is a useful skill.

Valuation Rolls are a great place to start. Some valuation rolls are available on www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk These will tell you who owned a property and who lived in it.

Use historic maps to find out the history of land: <https://maps.nls.uk/>

To discover the history of ownership you can order a Search Sheet from the Registers of Scotland: <https://www.ros.gov.uk/our-registers/general-register-of-sasines>

ScotlandsPlaces can be useful to find out who was paying tax before 1800: scotlandspplaces.gov.uk.

Sasines are also very useful, find out more about them here: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningsasines.aspx>

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Q&A and Submitted links

You can [book ahead for our November conference here](#). Keep an eye on our website for the speaker lineup.

Thanks to everyone who shared links in the chat during the conference. Here are the ones I have noted; I hope I haven't missed any!

Learning Zone - The Register of Deeds:

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

Article dated 1 Sep 2022 on the release date of 1921 Census for Scotland:

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/scotlandspeople-confirms-1921-census-still-due-to-be-released-in-2022/>

List of Scottish burial grounds: <https://www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php>

Masons' Marks Project:

<https://www.scottishcastlesassociation.com/news/news-features/masons-marks.htm>

Glasgow street name changes: <http://www.glasgowguide.co.uk/info-streetschanged1.html>
and

<https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/collection/guide-to-glasgow-addresses-part-1-1700-1825-merchant-city/>

Estate Records:

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

Learn with Lorna 28 - Crofters, Cottars and the Napier Commission:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lybzUe5L_tY

North Uist Historical Society: <https://www.hebrideanconnections.com/ceut>

Gairloch Museum: <https://www.gairlochmuseum.org/explore>

#HouseHistoryHour Chat on Twitter every Thursday - see:

<https://www.househistoryhour.co.uk/>

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/>

Read Me: As demonstrated by Rachel Hart during our March 2022 conference, this website allows you to learn and test yourself:

<https://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/readme/exhibits/show/read-me--for-english--renaissa/how-to-use-read-me--for-englis>

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](#)

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 view the handouts: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/pastconferences.aspx>

Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair

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.

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.

Ardchattan Parish Archive

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

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

Email: 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.

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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:

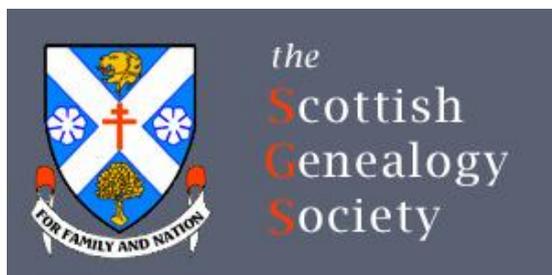
Journal 3 times per year

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

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

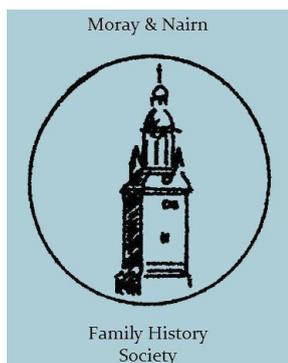


Our Research Centre in Motherwell is currently closed because of Covid 19, we will open again when the situation improves. In the meantime we can still assist you with your Scottish and Irish questions and any 'brickwalls' you have at present. Our Research Coordinator, John Kennedy and his 'team' of 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.

**COVID-SAFE
ONLINE EVENT**

FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show



Next Event Friday 11th + Saturday 12th November 2022

The 2022 virtual REALLY USEFUL Family History Show takes place on the evening of Friday 11th and all day on Saturday 12th November. Friday evening will see family history societies available for all comers – no ticket required: come and ask questions of those local experts with founts of knowledge. Show tickets are selling fast! Your ticket provides full access to all areas, including extended time to immerse yourself in the expert presentations plus a raft of practical workshops are being announced over the coming weeks.

Keynote Speakers:

Connecting Your DNA Matches

Friday 11th at 7pm: Diahan Southard is a leading voice for consumer DNA testing from her position as founder of Your DNA Guide. While it is possible to analyse your DNA matches one at a time to determine how you are related, there is much accomplished by first identifying the connections between those on your match list, organising those matches, and then working together to determine how you are related to each other. Learn the tips and tricks to this powerful method of match analysis.

British Army Detective – Piecing Together the Jigsaw

Saturday 12th at 10.15am Paul Nixon has a keen interest in military history and in particular the British Army and its campaigns between 1850 and 1920. Making the most of what scant information survives in order to build a fuller picture of service is like a jigsaw. This presentation includes a deep dive into regimental numbers and what these can tell us. This presentation is ideal for beginners and seasoned researchers alike.

Buy your ticket today! www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/full-ticket-for-november-2022-show

Review the last show and watch for details of the upcoming event: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

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.