

Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



Quick Links

['Using Scottish Indexes: Civil Courts & Health'](#) by Emma Maxwell

['Maritime Records for Family and Social History'](#) by Phil Astley

['A Death on the Berwick Sloop "Juno"'](#)
by Margaret Fox

['Accessing Records in the NRS: tips from an expert'](#) by Graham Maxwell

['Visiting the National Records of Scotland'](#) by the National Records of Scotland

['Using DNA To Break A Scottish Double Brick Wall'](#) by Michelle Leonard

['Tips for Tracing Your 18th Century Scottish Ancestors Online'](#) by Andrew Armstrong

[Scottish Genealogy Q&A session links and reading list](#)

[Virtual Family History Fair](#)

Scottish Indexes Conference XXXIII

Saturday 19 September 2026

Today flew by! It was great to be back after our summer break, and what fun it was today. We have plenty of suggestions to follow up on for our own family history, and I hope you do too.

Our next conference is scheduled for 14 November 2026, and we will be announcing the speakers soon. Register [here](#) and you will get a reminder nearer the time.

It was lovely to be joined by Else Churchill, representing the Society of Genealogists in London. Else told us about 'All About That Place'. It's a free family and local history event like no other, designed to help you put your ancestors into the context of their time and place. There are more than 190 10-minute talks with over 150 speakers. Did I mention that it is free?

Visit www.sog.org.uk/AATP to find out more.

Huge thanks to all of our presenters and to Alan Beattie who joined us from the Shetland Family History Society.

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at www.scottishindexes.com



Using Scottish Indexes: Civil Courts & Health

by Emma Maxwell

Website: www.scottishindexes.com

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

Emma Maxwell is a professional genealogist and co-founder of Scottish Indexes. Since 2001, Emma and her husband Graham Maxwell have painstakingly indexed thousands of historic Scottish family-history records, making them accessible to researchers around the world.

Her work combines archival rigour with engaging storytelling. Emma has appeared on BBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?" and regularly speaks at major genealogy conferences, where she shares practical methods for turning indexed data into vivid ancestral narratives.

Missed 'Using Scottish Indexes: Scotland's Criminal Database' at our last conference?
Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/GmhBeH-9j9Q>

'Using Scottish Indexes: Civil Courts & Health'

With nearly 770,000 civil court entries on Scottish Indexes and over 245,000 health record entries, the search results on Scottish Indexes can be bewildering. When searching Scottish Indexes, have you ever wondered...

Which entry is the right one?

Why is there more than one index entry for the same person or case?

Which entry is the right one?

What will the document tell me about my ancestors?

Will these records help me overcome my brick wall?

How do I view the original document?

Or perhaps this website is new to you and you would like to know what records are available to help you trace your Scottish family tree. During this presentation, Emma shared some expert insights on how to make the best use of the indexes and discover the lives of your Scottish ancestors.

Useful links:

- ❖ Search the Scottish Paternity Index:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/paternitysearch.aspx>
- ❖ Search the Court of Session Records Index:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/cssearch.aspx>
- ❖ Search Mental Health Records: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/hsearch.aspx>
- ❖ Search the Kelso Dispensary Patient Registers:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/dispsearch.aspx>

🎓 Learning Zone - Finding Paternity Cases in Sheriff Court Records:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningcourt.aspx>

💡 This article includes a case study; look for the YouTube video at the top of the page

💡 You can also read explanations of the terms: Decree, Extracted Decree, Unextracted Decree & Processes

🎓 Learning Zone - The Court of Session: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningcs.aspx>

🎓 Learning Zone - Mental Health Records in Scotland:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learninghealth.aspx>

💡 Look out for a video by NHS Grampian Archivist Fiona Musk at the end of the article. In this presentation from a past conference, Fiona looks at health records in local archives.

🎓 Learning Zone - The Records of the Kelso Dispensary:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningdisp.aspx>

💡 Don't forget to watch the videos on the search results page, as these will give you more information and tips on using our service.

💡 Not used wildcards yet? Here is a how-to video:
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningtechniques.aspx#q8>



Maritime Records for Family and Social History

by Phil Astley

Website: <https://sites.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM/archives>

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

Phil Astley is City Archivist for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives. Born and brought up in Maidenhead, Berkshire, he headed north in 1986 to study history at the University of Aberdeen. With over thirty years' experience in the archive sector, he has previously worked at the University of Aberdeen (2004-2008), the North Highland Archive (2003-2004) and the Orkney Library and Archive (1994-2003). He has served as a trustee for the Scottish Council on Archives and as a board member of the Scottish Records Association. He was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Aberdeen in 2024.

Using examples of records held by Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives, Phil Astley highlighted some of the amazing sources that are available to genealogists whose ancestors may have had a maritime-related occupation and how these collections can also be used to shed light on aspects of social history.

Resources mentioned in the Q&A

Merchant Seamen, 1918-1941

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/merchant-seamen-registers-1918-1941/>

Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Register of Seamen's Tickets

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3154>

Merchant Navy ships' records: crew lists, musters and log books

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/merchant-navy-ships-records-crew-lists-musters-and-log-books/>

The National Archives (UK): Holds establishment books, registers, and service records spanning from 1816 to 1947 under series ADM 175. You can view many online for free or visit Kew, London.

Coastguard stations and administration

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/coastguard-records/>

Maritime deaths 1781-1968

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/maritime-deaths-1781-1968/>

Your Scottish Archives: <https://yourscottisharchives.com/>

Coastguard records ADM175 also available on Findmypast

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/coastguards-1801-1952>

David Dobson: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/David_Dobson

Mariners of Aberdeen and Northern Scotland, 1600-1800

<https://heritagebooks.com/products/101-d0042>

Argyll and Bute Archives

https://liveargyll.co.uk/library_resources/archives/

Ancestry Scottish Maritime Records, 1600-1850 (David Dobson)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/49350>

Shipwrecks of North East Scotland, 1444-1990

<https://www.abebooks.co.uk/signed/Shipwrecks-North-East-Scotland-1444-1990-ferguson/9577771300/bd>

University of Aberdeen Archives: <https://calm.abdn.ac.uk/archives/>

For The Safety Of All: Scotland's Lighthouses - Lives of light keepers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd3cDBzxDX0>

Lightkeeper registers:

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-support/guides/lightkeeper-registers>

Learn with Lorna 107 - Customs & Excise Records:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA52tYCr418>

Deaths of Scottish Seafarers:

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/article/deaths-scottish-seafarers>



A Death on the Berwick Sloop "Juno"

by Margaret Fox

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.

On 12th January 1855 a small trading vessel set sail with a cargo of porcelain from Berwick-upon-Tweed, England's most northerly town, three miles from the Scottish border, bound for the port of Leith on the Firth of Forth. Only a few weeks later, on 19th February, the trial of the ship's captain, Robert Bruce, commenced in the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh. He had been indicted on a charge of culpable homicide. Intrigued? In Margaret Fox's talk, she told the full story based on her research in the court papers held in the National Records of Scotland. It is a fascinating story which was widely reported in the newspapers the length and breadth of Britain!

Sources used:

Berwick Shipping Register and database compiled by volunteers in Berwick Record Office - <https://northumberlandarchives.com/berwick/>

British Newspaper Archive - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.com/>

Papers of the Lord Advocate (prosecution) Ref. AD14 in National Records of Scotland - <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

Papers of the High Court of Justiciary (trial) Ref. JC26 in National Records of Scotland - <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>



Accessing Records in the NRS: tips from an expert

by Graham Maxwell

Graham Maxwell is a professional genealogist and co-founder of Scottish Indexes. With decades of experience navigating Scotland's historical archives, Graham has vast experience indexing complex historical records and helping researchers worldwide trace their Scottish ancestry.

Are you ready to take your family history research to the next level? Graham Maxwell walked us through how to access records in the National Records of Scotland when there is no computerised index.

Graham showed us how references in paper indexes (some of which are online) can help you turbocharge your research. We also saw how to look for clues in other places to access deeds, sasines, court records and more.

Along the way, Graham shared tips on planning your trip and making the most of your time in the National Records of Scotland.

🎓 Learning Zone - Sasines - Scottish Property Records:

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

💡 Look for 'Indexes to the General and Particular Registers of Sasines (pre-1781)' to search some indexes online

🎓 Learning Zone - Registers of Deeds

💡 We used examples from The Register of Deeds/Books of Council and Session but this was not the only place you could register a deed. Dig into the detail in our Learning Zone articles:

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

💡 Search some printed indexes to the register of deeds online:

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningdeeds.aspx#q7>

Book of Carlawerock: <https://digital.nls.uk/histories-of-scottish-families/archive/97146822>

<https://www.hathitrust.org/about/mission-history/> "Mission.

The mission of HathiTrust is to contribute to research, scholarship, and the common good by collaboratively collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge."



Visiting the National Records of Scotland (NRS)

The National Records of Scotland is a non-ministerial department of the Scottish Government.

They collect, preserve and publish information about Scotland's people and history to inform current and future generations.

The National Records of Scotland has prepared a service of videos to help people access their search rooms. These can be shared from YouTube.

Welcome to National Records of Scotland:

https://youtu.be/3-r86Ok8_Jw?si=dfewKszv9RyCnw9J

Visiting the Scotland's People Centre:

<https://youtu.be/TRpIVSeoljs?si=JApgs1BtTWGRuCQG>

Accessing history in our archives: <https://youtu.be/7FdK9NPT6SM?si=VU53TxYkY0-Mcrq>

Pre-order records from our historical and digital archive:

<https://youtu.be/XzdVlyfOXS?si=2YwYMGmc4LZIY5O2>

NRS Research guides: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/>

Accessing NRS search rooms:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/records-and-archives/accessing-our-search-rooms/#>

💡 Take particular note of what ID you need to apply for a reader's ticket!



Using DNA To Break A Scottish Double Brick Wall

by Michelle Leonard

Website: [Genes & Genealogy](http://www.genesandgenealogy.com)

Legacy Family Webinars: <https://familytreewebinars.com/speaker/michelle-leonard>

DNA Workbook:

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/store/workbooks/family-tree-magazine/dna-workbook/>

DNA A Guide for Family Historians (UK)

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/DNA-Paperback/p/51627>

DNA A Guide for Family Historians:

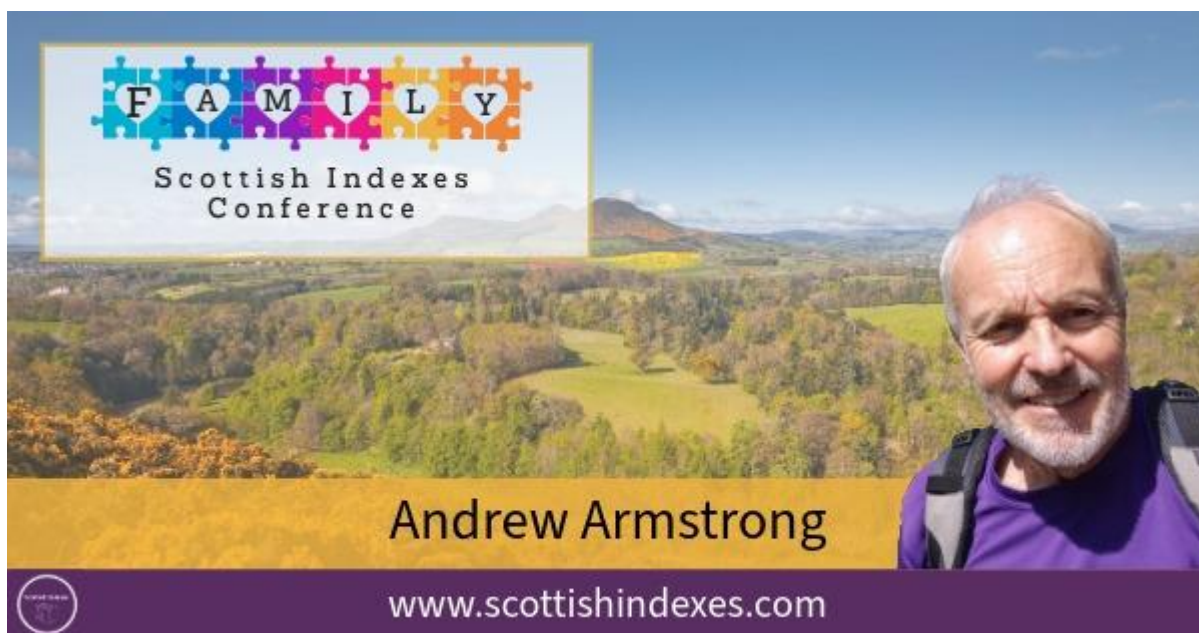
<https://www.penandswordbooks.com/9781036150136/dna/>

Michelle Leonard is a Scottish professional genealogist, DNA detective, speaker, educator, author and historian with a wealth of experience in both traditional and genetic genealogy fields. She runs her own family history and DNA consultancy business, Genes & Genealogy, specialising in solving all manner of unknown parentage and unknown ancestor mysteries using a combination of DNA results analysis and traditional research methodologies. She also uses DNA to verify, enhance and extend family trees. She has worked on hundreds of DNA cases over many years and has extensive practical experience across unknown parentage, adoption, misattributed parentage, donor conception, foundling and more distant unknown ancestor cases.

Michelle also creates and teaches DNA courses and offers coaching, consultations, lectures and webinars. Additionally, she undertakes traditional research, media consultancy and article, blog and book writing commissions. Her media work has encompassed television, radio and investigative podcasts in both the UK and internationally.

Michelle is also known for her work on the WW1 Fromelles Genealogy Project, is co-author of DNA: A Guide For Family Historians and is a regular speaker at major genealogy events worldwide.

This presentation outlined Michelle's top hints, tips and strategies for using DNA to tackle Scottish brick walls before taking a deep dive into her own double brick wall case study. Michelle demonstrated step-by-step how DNA evidence and traditional genealogical research can be combined to follow the clues and ultimately uncover the answers to long-standing Scottish family mysteries.



Tips for Tracing Your 18th Century Scottish Ancestors Online

by Andrew Armstrong



1. [Detailed list of the Old Parochial Register of Scotland \(1872\) \(nrsotland.gov.uk\)](http://nrsotland.gov.uk)

This guide available from the National Records of Scotland website highlights the Old Parish Register coverage for baptisms, marriages and deaths in every parish including gaps in the records.

2. [Scottish Genealogy Society online Shop](#)

Monumental inscription guides for many parts of Scotland available to download as pdfs. (payment required)

3. [Memorial Inscriptions | Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society \(dgfhs.org.uk\)](http://dgfhs.org.uk)

Monumental inscription guides for most Dumfries & Galloway parishes available to download as pdfs. (payment required)

4. [Land tax rolls 1645-1831 | Scotland's People Virtual Volumes](#)

Valuation rolls showing the owners of estates and farms

5. [Explore over one million historical newspaper pages for FREE | Blog | findmypast.co.uk](#)

Free access is available to a number of historical newspapers including the Caledonian Mercury which provides the best coverage for 18th century Scotland. Great for farm sales and tenancies in particular.

6. [Farm house tax rolls 1797-1798 | Scotland's People Virtual Volumes](#)

A de facto list of tenant farmers in 1797-1798

7. [Window tax, 1748-1798 | Scotland's People Virtual Volumes](#)

A good way of tracking the middle classes in Scottish burghs

8. [Statutory Deaths Search | Scotland's People](#)

Use 'Statutory Deaths' smartly to learn the most about 18th century characters.

9. [Scottish Post Office directories - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#)

Earliest PO directories start in 1773

10. [Statistical Accounts of Scotland](#)

Unparalleled local parish information from the 1790s.

11. [National Library of Scotland Town Plans](#)

Many town and burgh maps with property owners named

12. [Trade Incorporations of Royal Burghs](#)

Digitised versions of histories of trade incorporations across Scotland

13. [Internet Archive: Digital Library of Free & Borrowable Books, Movies, Music & Wayback Machine](#)

Fabulous collection of local histories published in late 19th and early 20th centuries

All About That Place

Have you heard about All About That Place? It's a free family and local history event like no other, designed to help you put your ancestors into the context of their time and place. There are more than 190 10-minute talks with over 150 speakers. Did I mention that it is free?

Visit www.sog.org.uk/AATP to find out more.

The poster features a dark purple background with a collage of historical images including a street scene, a bridge, and a large pocket watch. The title 'All About That Place is Almost Here.' is written in a mix of white and gold fonts. Below the title, four icons (globe, people, calendar, and date) are paired with text describing the event's features: Free, Online, 10 Days, and the dates 7-16 Oct 2026. The bottom section includes the Society of Genealogists logo and the event's welcome message, 'Welcome to ALL ABOUT THAT PLACE', accompanied by a location pin icon. A small tagline 'Places People Histories Always' is also present.

All About That Place is Almost Here.

Free.
Open to all.

Online.
Join from anywhere.

10 Days.
Expert talks, resources and inspiration.

7-16 Oct 2026.
Save the dates!

 **Society of Genealogists**

Welcome to
ALL ABOUT THAT PLACE 

*Places
People
Histories
Always*

Q&A and Submitted Links

Some Questions:

When will the 1939 Register be released in Scotland?

The National Records of Scotland have not given a release date, but it is unlikely to be before 2040.

You can order an extract; learn more here:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/national-registration/>

When will the 1931 census be released?

After a full 100 years has passed. We would therefore expect it to be released in January 2032: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/census-records/>

Resources suggested in the chat:

Merchant Seamen, 1918-1941

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/merchant-sea-men-registers-1918-1941/>

Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Register of Seamen's Tickets

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3154>

Merchant Navy ships' records: crew lists, musters and log books

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/merchant-navy-ships-records-crew-lists-musters-and-log-books/>

The National Archives (UK): Holds establishment books, registers, and service records spanning from 1816 to 1947 under series ADM 175. You can view many online for free or visit Kew, London.

Coastguard stations and administration

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/coastguard-records/>

Maritime deaths 1781-1968

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/maritime-deaths-1781-1968/>

Your Scottish Archives: <https://yourscottisharchives.com/>

Coastguard records ADM175 also available on Findmypast

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/coastguards-1801-1952>

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

David Dobson: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/David_Dobson

Mariners of Aberdeen and Northern Scotland, 1600-1800

<https://heritagebooks.com/products/101-d0042>

Argyll and Bute Archives

https://liveargyll.co.uk/library_resources/archives/

Ancestry Scottish Maritime Records, 1600-1850 (David Dobson)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/49350>

Shipwrecks of North East Scotland, 1444-1990

<https://www.abebooks.co.uk/signed/Shipwrecks-North-East-Scotland-1444-1990-ferguson/9577771300/bd>

University of Aberdeen Archives: <https://calm.abdn.ac.uk/archives/>

For The Safety Of All: Scotland's Lighthouses - Lives of light keepers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd3cDBzxDX0>

"The Register of British Slave-Traders" <https://britishslavetraders.org/>

I have found this book very helpful in researching Merchant Seamen: My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman: A Guide to Sources for Family Historians

<https://shop.nationalarchives.gov.uk/products/my-ancestor-was-merchant-seama>

SP Tax rolls search: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/virtual-volumes/vv-tax-rolls>

General alphabetical index to townlands and towns, parishes and baronies of Ireland:

<https://archive.org/details/op1248631-1001>

This is also a great resource for finding a townland parish etc in Ireland

<https://thecore.com/seanruad/>

St Nicholas Poorhouse 1779-1788 - Index and Transcription

<https://anesfhs.org/databanks/poor-relief/stnpoor>

Index to Poor Law 1845-1900

<https://anesfhs.org/databank/plindex/plindex.php>

Some Poor Relief Applications for parishes in Moray have been indexed, and can be found on Elgin Heritage Centre's LIBINDEX site (<https://libindx.moray.gov.uk/mainmenu.asp>)

Some of the Poor Relief Applications for Moray have been transcribed and published by Moray & Nairn FHS (<https://www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk/publications.asp>)

Tax rolls search: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/virtual-volumes/vv-tax-rolls>

Introducing the Ordnance Survey Name Books and historical tax rolls on Scotland's People
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q91LQJu3Vkw>

Kininmonth Kirk Session - CH2/1199

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/details.aspx?reference=CH2%2f1199&st=1&tc=y&tl=n&tn=n&tp=n&k=Kininmonth&ko=a&r=CH2&ro=s&df=&dt=&di=y>

Quarrier's: <https://www.quarriers.org.uk/>

Aberdeen Registers Online: 1398-1511

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/riiss/projects/burgh-records/aberdeen-registers-online/>

Privy Council Records:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/privy-council-records/?section=from-union-of-the-crowns-to-union-of-parliaments>

Scotland, The Register of The Privy Council of Scotland, 1545-1632

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/34545?srltid=AU7gw4UbPmDY_vm3rgQ1BW_GZ_ZGAhleHsa6YVe-FJtg9K680u5yrLurG

<https://sar.abdn.ac.uk/#homepage>

Reading list:

Internet Archive Reading List:

https://archive.org/details/@emma_maxwell143/lists/1/scottish-indexes

Robinson, Robinson, Mairi, and Scottish National Dictionary Association. Concise Scots Dictionary. Edinburgh: Polygon at Edinburgh, 1999. Print. [Details on NLS](#).

Steel, Donald John., Steel, A. E. F., and Society of Genealogists. National Index of Parish Registers. Vol. 12, Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History. London: Phillimore for the Society of Genealogists, 1970. [Details on NLS](#).

Bigwood, Rosemary. The Scottish Family Tree Detective : Tracing Your Ancestors in Scotland. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2006. [Details on NLS](#).

Hamilton-Edwards, Gerald Kenneth Savery. In Search of Scottish Ancestry. 2nd ed. Chichester: Phillimore, 1983. [Details on NLS](#).

Clarke, Clarke, T. N., and National Records of Scotland. Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors : A Guide to Ancestry Research in the National Records of Scotland and ScotlandsPeople. 6th Ed. / Edited by Tristram Clarke. ed. Edinburgh: Birlinn : National Records of Scotland, 2011. [Details on NLS](#). (Note, there is now a 7th edition available. You will also find the [free guides on the NRS website](#) have a lot (but not all) of the information.

Gouldesbrough, Peter; Gordon, Donaldson, and Stair Society. Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents. Edinburgh: Stair Society, 1985. Print. Publications Stair Society v. 36. [Details on](#)

[NLS](#). This is not for beginners but it's really useful if you are working with old Scottish legal documents.

O'Rourke, Stephen R., and Andrew Dewar Gibb. Glossary of Legal Terms. Sixth ed. 2014. Print. LawBasics. [Details on NLS](#). Note, for genealogy the 1st edition may be helpful as it includes terms that are no longer used.

Durie, Bruce. Scottish Genealogy. Fourth Edition, Fully Revised and Updated. ed. 2017. [Details on NLS](#).

Smout, T. C. A History of the Scottish People : 1560-1830. London: Fontana, 1985. [Details on NLS](#).

Smout, T. C. A Century of the Scottish People, 1830-1950. London: Fontana, 1987. [Details on NLS](#).

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

Simpson, Grant G. Scottish Handwriting, 1150-1650 : An Introduction to the Reading of Documents. New ed. East Linton: Tuckwell, 1998. [Details on NLS](#).

Young, Alex F. The Encyclopaedia of Scottish Executions, 1750 to 1963. Orpington: Eric Dobby, 1998. [Details on the NLS](#).

Hamilton, David. The Healers; a History of Medicine in Scotland. Edinburgh: Mercatpress, 2003. [Details on the NLS](#).

Fenton, Alexander. Scottish Country Life. New Rev. ed. East Linton: Tuckwell, 1999. [Details on the NLS](#).

Carter, Ian. Farm Life in Northeast Scotland 1840-1914 : The Poor Man's Country. Edinburgh: John Donald, 1997. [Details on the NLS](#).

Roulston, William J., and Ulster Historical Foundation. Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland. 2020. [Details on NLS](#).

Brown, Callum G. Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707. Rev. and Updated New Ed.]. ed. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1997. [Details on NLS](#).

Scottish Genealogy Society. The Scottish Genealogist. (1954). [Details on NLS](#). Note, as this is a long run of journals, scroll down on the NLS website to see the full run. You can download these for just £1 each from the Scottish Genealogy Society's website [here](#). The society also has a free index (1953-2005) [here](#) which means you can identify a specific issue of interest.

Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair

Tay Valley Family History Society

Scottish Charity SC016560

Address: 179-181 Princes Street, Dundee

website: <https://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tayvalleyfhs> email: tvfhs@tayvalleyfhs.org.uk

Tay Valley Family History Society was founded in 1980, as the third Scottish regional FHS, and now has strong worldwide membership. We have a Research Centre and Library at 179-181 Princes Street, Dundee and there extend a welcome to members and visitors. We are open Monday to Friday, and currently also on the first and third Saturdays in the month - check our 'Contact' page at <https://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/contact/> for opening times and location of the Centre.

TVFHS promotes the study of family history, genealogy and local history throughout the Tay Valley: the former counties of Angus, Fife, Kinross and Perthshire, and the City and Royal Burgh of Dundee. Our journal, The Historian, is issued three times a year, and we run a quarterly series of online Video Talks, followed up by Question and Answer sessions via Zoom for our members.

We have a Facebook page, and a Facebook group for members' discussion, in addition to our online presence through our website. Our AGM, in November 2023, will be held in Dundee's Glasite Hall as a 'hybrid' meeting to enable participation to members outwith Dundee, and this will include a discussion led by our President, Iain Flett (formerly chief archivist at Dundee City Archives) on use of archival material in research. We will participate in Dundee Open Doors on 23rd September 2023.

Scottish Genealogy Society

The Scottish Genealogy Society Situated in the heart of Old Edinburgh, the SGS is the place to come if you are interested in researching your family history in any part of Scotland. Manned by knowledgeable volunteers who can help at all stages of your research, you can be sure of a warm welcome and helpful advice.

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

Membership - from £20

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



Shetland Family History Society

Our Coontin Kin journal is free to members 4 times a year and we hold online conferences. Members Area includes Shetland Census including the 1911 and we are nearly at the stage of adding the 1921.

Our next project is adding all the Monumental Inscriptions to our website. See our website for more details.

Membership starts at £12 and more information can be found at:

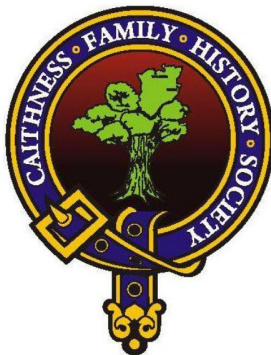
<https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk/>

secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk

Shetland Amenity Trust Garthspool
Lerwick.
ZE1 0NY

Open every weekday afternoon from 14.00-16.00.

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.

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Website: www.renfrewshirefhs.co.uk

Email: secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk

Renfrewshire Family History Society was founded in March 1999 and has charitable status. It exists to promote the study of family history based on the old County of Renfrewshire encompassing Cathcart, Clarkston, Eaglesham, Eastwood, Mearns, Thornliebank, Giffnock,



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

Neilston, Barrhead, Uplawmoor, Paisley, Abbey Parish, Renfrew, Erskine, Bishopton, Inchinnan, Houston & Killellan, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch, Kilmacoll, Langbank, Port Glasgow, Greenock, Gourock, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.

Membership fees starting at £12 includes:

- Induction pack for new members
- Full syllabus of monthly presentations and workshops (September to May).
- Society Journal published at least twice a year, distributed to members mainly by email
- Access to a small library of books CDs etc for loan
- Assistance with family history research, particularly helpful to overseas members
- Books and CDs written/compiled by members are available for purchase online.

The Society's has not held face-to-face meetings since the arrival of Covid-19 but it is intended to introduce combined physical and virtual meetings during 2023.

The Society has carried out projects involving gravestone transcriptions and indexing of records, some in conjunction with The Mitchell Library Glasgow and "Find My Past". More work of this nature is anticipated in the future.

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.

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.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society

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

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



UK (includes a paper Journal) £20.00

Overseas (PDF Journal) £20.00

Overseas (Paper Journal) £25.00

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

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 SC029609

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

The former county of Ayrshire is now divided into three local authority areas. We are best able to help members with connections to East Ayrshire but we have access to census and other records for all parishes in Ayrshire and can often assist with enquiries about these other areas.

Volunteers do their best to help members with their research and to direct non-members to sources of information. Members receive three magazines per year and can view digital copies of all back numbers.

Meetings are held in Kilmarnock most weeks and there is a speaker once a month. Visitors are welcome but should email in advance to check details.

Please see our website for information about membership, meetings and publications.

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.

Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from October to May. For the 2022 – 2023 session, we are trying out a mix of meetings - four in-person afternoon meetings and four evening meetings on Zoom from December to March.

There is a monthly “drop-in” Session at St Ninian’s Library in Stirling, when we introduce the fascination of genealogy to new researchers starting out on their journey, and offer advice to anyone suffering from ‘brick wall’ syndrome.

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, many of which are now available as pdf downloads – see our website for details of price and ordering.



British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO)

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) BIFHSGO is the leading Canadian family history society with a focus on the British Isles.

Our members connect with like-minded researchers to learn effective, trusted research methods and best practices, to share their knowledge, and to inspire other family historians with our presentations and publications. Our quarterly journal, *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, is filled with stories written by our members and provides excellent examples for others researching and writing their own family histories.

BIFHSGO has a Name Index which provides information from our ongoing research on home children, military ancestors, and migration, focusing on British Isles and Canadian ancestry.

Our monthly meetings can be attended in person or online. They are recorded and can be accessed by members following the meeting date. We always welcome visitors and new members.

To make inquiries or to register for any of our upcoming meetings, please visit our website at <https://www.bifhsgo.ca>.