

# Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2021



Learn how to trace your Scottish  
family history 

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



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## Scottish Indexes Conference

6 December 2020

Can you believe that was our 7th conference of 2020? Once again we were awed by the knowledge of the presenters, each of them bringing something unique.

To donate to these conferences, please see the homepage of our website [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)

Registration is now open for the next conference on 30 January 2020 ([click here](#)) and it's already shaping up to be a great day!

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

Graham & Emma Maxwell

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

# Using Kirk Session Records

by Emma Maxwell

In this presentation we saw how records created by Scottish Kirk Sessions can be invaluable to helping us trace our ancestors. These records are usually held by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and they have been digitised. In early 2020 the pre-1855 records will be available on [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) - find out more [here on the Scottish GENES blog](#).

Even before the records are made available online, you can start planning your research. Use the NRS catalogue to plan your searches: Church of Scotland records are catalogued under CH2. Type the parish name in the 'search for' box and 'CH2' in the 'reference' box.

NRS online public catalogue:

<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/search.aspx>

You will often find the 'Fonds' level useful as this will give you the 'Admin' history which could provide vital clues.

Some records have already been indexed. For example we have an index to some birth, marriage and death records, pre-1841 census records and some discipline cases on our website. See <https://www.scottishindexes.com/coverage.aspx> to dig into our coverage.

When the Kirk Session records are released I will create a 'Learning Zone' page and add it to the Scottish Genealogy Learning Zone: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/learning.aspx>

While we wait for these records to be made available online there is access at the following archives around Scotland (COVID-permitting):

[Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives](#)

[Ayrshire Archives](#)

[Glasgow City Archives](#)

[Highland Council Archives](#)

[Orkney Library and Archive](#)

[Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Centre](#)

[Shetland Islands Council Archives](#)

[Stirling Council Archives](#)

# Understanding Scottish Inheritance Records

by Chris Paton



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 'Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd edition)', 'Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records' and 'Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records', and also writes a daily genealogy blog, Scottish GENES (<https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>). As well as regularly lecturing on Irish and Scottish subjects, Chris also runs courses for Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd ([www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com)).

As you may have happened to pick up on during the conference, Chris has written a few books, including, "[Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry through Church and State Records](#)". This book is only £4.99 in ePub format, so it's a great way to have accompanying notes to help you with your research going forward.

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

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

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

## The Highlands: Jacobites, Clearances and Emigration

by Lorna Steele

Lorna Steele is the Community Engagement Officer at the [Highland Archive Service](#). Lorna has been very busy throughout 2020 presenting the 'Learn with Lorna' series on Facebook, all episodes are still available to watch.

Highland Archive Service -

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

Learn with Lorna (Facebook) -

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/highlandarchives/315486416448897/>

Learn with Lorna (YouTube) -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO5YVpLtNnDjOi9WbarC3iw/videos>

# Your Burning DNA Questions

by Michelle Leonard



Michelle Leonard is a professional genealogist, DNA detective, speaker, author, historian and the official genetic genealogist of [#AncestryHour](#). She runs her own genealogy and DNA consultancy business, Genes & Genealogy, and specialises in unknown parentage and all manner of unknown ancestor mysteries using a combination of DNA expertise and conventional research methods. She also undertakes traditional family history research, living relative tracing, historical and television research, podcasts, tutoring, lecturing, bespoke family history books, webinar, speaking engagements and article, blog and book writing. She is also known for her work on the WW1 Fromelles Genealogy Project, is a regular speaker at major genealogy events and

co-authored the book "[Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide For Family Historians](#)" published in June 2019. You can find out more about Michelle on her Genes & Genealogy Facebook page and you can follow her on Twitter.

Facebook - [@genesandgenealogy](#)

Twitter - [@GenealogyLass](#)

If you are keen to learn more about using DNA to trace your family history, join Michelle at the 'DNA Bootcamp' in February 2021. This short course is more than just a webinar, there will be course material, handouts, follow-ups and you will be able to rewatch the recorded webinars for 3 months. [Find out more here on www.family-tree.co.uk](#)

**WEBINAR SERIES**

**TICKETS £35**

**DNA Bootcamp**  
With Michelle Leonard  
6.30pm starting 4 February

# Using FindMyPast to go Beyond Basic Birth, Marriage & Death Records

by Myko Clelland

Findmypast has an extensive and growing collection of Scottish material. It is so useful to be able to search so many records in one place and Myko hinted that more is coming soon!

## All Record Sets

Myko recommended going to 'All Record Sets' to find out what's available. To find this, go to findmypast > Search > All records sets and select 'Scotland'. Then you can narrow down your search further.

## Scotland Monumental Inscriptions

The new collection, [Scotland Monumental Inscriptions](#), has already been helping many of us with our research. Myko described some of the innovative technology that has been used to make these records searchable in ways that just haven't been possible until now.

## Writers to the Signet

Since the conference Myko has been in touch to tell me that he has almost finished transcribing the Writers to the Signet records as mentioned during the conference!

## Newspaper Search

Myko was asked what's the difference between the British Newspaper Archive and the Newspapers available on Findmypast. The answer was, not much. Almost all newspapers on the BNA website are on Findmypast, the main difference is the search interface.

## Findmypast Expert Sessions

During 2020, Findmypast have been hosting a series of webinars. My favourites are the 'Expert Sessions' where we see Myko pop up from time to time. If you have missed these you can [catch up on their Facebook page](#).

### **Top Tip**

Members of Scottish Family History Societies are often eligible for a discount with Findmypast. Check with your local FHS to find out if they have a discount code.

# Borders Family History Society

by Elma Fleming

The Borders Family History Society covers the historic counties that are included in the modern Scottish Borders, which are Peeblesshire, Selkirkshire, Roxburgshire and Berwickshire. Their interactive map will help you to locate these counties and the parishes within them.

They have an extensive [publications list](#) on their website, as well as a useful Poor Law Records Index and Gravestones (Tombstones) Index. The 'Article Index Search' is an index to the society's journals.

Members can tap into their local knowledge by using their research service which they offer to members at a reduced fee.

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

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

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

# Orkney Family History Society

by Jackie Harrison

Jackie joined us from Orkney to share an insight into the Orkney Family History Society. On their website you can access a transcription of census records for Orkney. Also available on the site are transcriptions of gravestones with some even having photographs too.

Membership is £10 a year which gives you access to a lot of resources; a must for anyone with Orkney ancestors!

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

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

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

# Researching Scottish Ancestors from a Distance

by B.J. Jamieson

B.J. Jamieson is the genealogy reference specialist at Maine State Library. B.J. has a wealth of experience researching her Scottish ancestors. Although she has visited Scotland to do this, all of the time she is researching from a distance.

B.J. has kindly prepared a [list of useful online sources](#) and you can watch this presentation on [YouTube](#). B.J. has many more presentations and resources on her [website](#) (not just for Scottish research) so it's well worth checking out.

Website: <https://mainelygenealogy.com>

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

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



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To donate to the conferences and help keep them going please visit [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) - A huge thank you to everyone who has donated, we really appreciate it.

# Genealogy Q&A

Here is a summary of the questions which were asked during the Q&A sessions. I have summarised and consolidated some of the questions with a focus on the answers, links and solutions.

## **Where can I access the 1939 register for Scotland?**

The Scottish 1939 register is still closed, it is not available online. You can order an extract from the National Records of Scotland, [click here](#).

## **Would a 'writer' have gone to university and/or have been an apprentice?**

The Scots term 'writer' could cover anyone from an Advocate to a solicitor and there are a number of places to search.

A history of the Society of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet : with a list of the members of the society from 1594 to 1890 and an abstract of the minutes is available [here on the Internet Archive](#).

## **How can I share my family tree?**

At our January conference Chris Paton will give the presentation 'Sharing Your Family History Online'.

There are many ways to share your family history. Photobooks are a nice way to share with younger members of the family. Also most family tree programs produce a basic report which can be useful. The key is to put the information into the program accurately in the first place!

## **If you have a tree built on Findmypast will all the record hints be shown?**

No, although the system will help by giving you hints, it's always important to search and use clever techniques like wildcards. Not used wildcards? [See our video here](#).

## **Where can I find Militia records?**

The NRS has a [handy guide to Scottish Military Records](#). Chris Paton has also written a blog on [Scottish Fencible regiments](#).

It is also important to check other archives as the records are not all held in the same place.

## **Where can I find coal mining records?**

NRS guide: [Coal Mining Records](#)

[Scottish Mining Website](#): a very useful feature is the 'Accident Index'.

The Museum of the Scottish Shale Oil Industry includes a [family history section](#) which includes a database of employment details from official documents and information of those injured and killed in the shale oil industry.

### **Are there any police employment records?**

These vary, but yes, there can be some great records for police officers. On Sunday we learnt that some records from Edinburgh are available on Findmypast in the '[Scotland, Occupations & Professions](#)' collection.

There is a publication, 'Police Return in Glasgow 1841' available from the [Scottish Genealogy Society](#).

It is also usually a good idea to contact the relevant local archive as many police records will be held there rather than at the National Records of Scotland.

The Glasgow Police Museum may also be of interest: [www.policemuseum.org.uk](http://www.policemuseum.org.uk)

### **What are the best genealogy websites for Skye and the Outer Hebrides?**

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

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

### **Would non-Church of Scotland presbyterian churches have records similar to the Kirk Session records?**

Yes, and many are held by the National Records of Scotland under reference CH3.  
<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/search.aspx>

### **Where can I find records of Scottish Quakers?**

There is an index to births, marriage and deaths from 1647 to 1878 on [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)

The National Records of Scotland hold even more records.

### **Where can I find records about Scottish shipwrecks?**

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

Records of Lloyd's of London, marine insurers are held by the [London Metropolitan Archives](#)  
[Shetland Museum and Archives](#)



## Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair

### Scottish family history month: Family Tree webinars

February 2021 is Scottish Family History Month on the History Scotland website, where the magazine 'Family Tree' are presenting how-to guides, videos and top tips on tracing your Scottish ancestors. You may recognise some of the presenters!

- Exploring Scottish family history records, 3 February - Michelle Leonard
- How to use Sheriff Court records for Scottish Family History, 10 February - Emma Maxwell
- Solve your Scottish Genealogy Problems, 17 February - Kirsty Wilkinson
- Down and out in Scotland: Researching Ancestral Crisis, 24 February - Chris Paton

These webinars are booked individually on [www.family-tree.co.uk](http://www.family-tree.co.uk). Go to <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/webinars/scottish-family-history-month-family-tree-webinars/> to find out more and book.

### 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>

## 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](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 1700 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

- Helping you trace your Scottish family tree

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



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.

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



## Caithness Family History Society

**Website:** <https://caithnessfhs.org.uk>

**Email:** via Contacts page on website

**Facebook:** [Caithness Family History Society](#)

**Facebook:** [CFHS Discussion Group](#)

**Nucleus:** The Nuclear & Caithness Archive -  
[north.highlandarchive@highlifehighland.com](mailto:north.highlandarchive@highlifehighland.com)

## Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

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.

**Website -** <https://angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk/>

## Central Scotland Family History Society



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.

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

## Scotland's People Searches

The Hawick Heritage Hub is now open and is offering access to Scotland's People. Although we can access many records through [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk), complex searches and more modern searches are best made in the Scotland's People centre. I am sure we are not alone in being frustrated by this during lockdown!



Andrew Armstong is now available to visit the Hawick Heritage Hub. Here is some information about Andrew:

Andrew Armstrong is a Borders-based Scottish Genealogist specialising in family history research in Edinburgh and across Southern Scotland. Particular interests are Border Reiver surnames and the records of the Buccleuch Estates. He is actively creating new family history resources on his website at [relativelyscottish.com](http://relativelyscottish.com).

Email - [andrew.armstrong@relativelyscottish.com](mailto:andrew.armstrong@relativelyscottish.com)

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