



SAFHS Bulletin

November 2012

www.safhs.org.uk

Executive Committee: Chairman: Bruce B Bishop; Deputy Chairman: vacant; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: John W Irvine; Editor: Janet M Bishop; Publications Manager: vacant

SAFHS Conference 2013, Galashiels Hosted by Borders FHS

The 24th Annual SAFHS Conference will be hosted by Borders FHS, at the Scottish Borders Campus, Nether Road, Galashiels. There will be a full day of talks, with family history fair. The theme will be "Comings & Goings - Migration and Scotland". Further details from Borders FHS – www.bordersfhs.org.uk

SAFHS CONTACTS

Chairman

Bruce B Bishop:

Deputy Chairman

Vacant

Secretary

Ken Nisbet:

Treasurer

John W Irvine:

Editor

Janet M Bishop:

Publications

vacant

Webmaster

Doug Stewart:

OTHER SAFHS INFO

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met twice since March, in Edinburgh, and minutes of the meetings have been sent to member societies. The post of Deputy Chairman is vacant and will be advertised in the usual way before the AGM 2013. The post of Publications Manager is vacant and will be advertised in the usual way before the AGM 2103.

Website

Would you please submit anything you have for the website to Doug – any changes to your website contact should also be sent direct to Doug.

Contacts List

Please note that the official contacts list is kept and updated by the Editor, then circulated to the members of the Executive Committee and the webmaster. If there are any changes in office bearers, reps, email addresses, mailing addresses, phone numbers, etc, between Council Meeting updates, can you please send them direct to Janet Bishop.

The 2013 AGM will be held on Saturday 9 March 2013, 1 pm, in the Boardroom, Central Youth Hostel, Haddington Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. The Council Meeting will follow the AGM, at around 2.15 pm.

Agendas will be sent out prior to the meetings. If you have not received these by 7 days before the meetings, please contact the Chairman or the Editor.

ScotlandsPeople Vouchers – Orders

All orders for ScotlandsPeople Vouchers should be sent to John W Irvine, Treasurer, at 3 Grants Wynd, Bridgefoot, Angus, DD3 0RZ. All orders must be accompanied by a cheque and should include postage, as per the current agreement, which is as follows. **Please note that the minimum order for vouchers is 20.**

Postage:

21 - 50 vouchers - £6

51 - 100 vouchers £7.20

101 - 175 vouchers £8.50
176 -250 vouchers - £10.50
more than 250, by arrangement

ScotlandsPeople Executive Committee

Ken Nisbet represents SAFHS on this group, and will routinely keep member societies informed of any news.

ScotlandsPeople User Group

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group.

The Scottish Council on Archives

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group.

National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this committee.

Visit Scotland Ancestral Tourism Steering Group

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group.

SAFHS 2014 Conference Committee

The Conference Committee has met twice and arrangements are in hand for April 2014 in Dunfermline.

Future SAFHS Conferences

2014: SAFHS, Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

2015: Central FHS, Stirling

News from Member Societies

Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS

The meetings of the Society in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh continue to be well-attended, and a new organizer has now been appointed for the Moray/Banff branch.

The Aberdeen meeting in March was a talk by Gavin Bell on "Poor-Relief Records". Gavin gave the audience a description of the records available following the 1845 Poor Relief Act (Scotland), which effectively removed the care of the poor from the church to the civil authorities. The newly-established Parochial

boards were required to have an Inspector of the Poor, and were to keep detailed records of all applicants and payments. The audience was encouraged to consult the Poor Relief Records for Aberdeen, Banff, Moray and Kincardine, which are kept at Dunbar Street, Aberdeen. The originals for the whole of Scotland are now in the process of being digitized.

In April David Miller gave "A History of Marischal College". He outlined the history of Aberdeen itself from the arrival of the Greyfriars in 1461, and their establishment of a chapel, and the provision of education in the town. King's College in Old Aberdeen dates from 1494, but after the Reformation of 1560 The Earl Marischal acquired a site in the town and in 1585 he established the 'reformed' university to rival the old one at King's. The speaker then considered the various 19th century rebuilding and extensions to the college, and the building of the magnificent façade in 1903.

In May John Corall spoke on "Parson Gordon's Map". In 1661 Parson Gordon of Rothiemay, although not a trained cartographer, was instructed by Aberdeen Town Council to draw a map of the city, showing not only the physical but the social and sociological aspects of the city. The map gives us a valuable a detailed insight into the city in the mid 17th century.

At the Edinburgh meeting in April Arnott Wilson, head of Special Collections and University Archives at Edinburgh University Library, gave a most interesting talk on the history of the library, and also on its new Centre for Special Collections. Some days later a group of members were hosted for a special visit to the library.

The Glasgow meeting in February welcomed back Ken Nisbet, who spoke on "Researching your military relatives". This was a very well-received talk which updated his talk on the same subject some ten years earlier, and demonstrated just how much information has become much more easily available to the researcher over the past decade.

Membership continues to be strong, although the number of new members is very slightly down when compared with last year. The Society bookshop has attended numerous events during the year, especially over the summer months. There had even been three events booked for one weekend, but fortunately one was cancelled. In chronological order the bookshop had attended events at Kintore, Banff, Dundee, Elgin, Troon, Banchory, Fyvie, Castle Fraser, Braemar, Portsoy, York, Banff (again), Aboyne, Ballater, Inverurie, Arbroath, Aberdeen and then back to Portsoy. Jean Shirer comments that "it's always rewarding to meet local members and be able to assist with the right advice or the right publication – and that's what makes it all worthwhile"

Latest Publications:

"The Alexanders of Bourtie 1696-1886: a family history journey" A very comprehensive study; includes transcript, index and analysis of the 1851 census for Bourtie parish - On CD, price £7.50 plus postage.

John Philip Edmond, Bookbinder, Librarian and Bibliographer of Aberdeen, 1850-1906, a short biography, by John Webb - (AA517), price £6.00 plus postage.

Alloway & S Ayrshire FHS

Our final meeting of the 2011-12 Programme was held in **Maybole Castle**. We were given an excellent guided tour of the Castle by *Helen McAdam* of Maybole Historical Society. Soon afterwards the Castle was closed for essential repairs. A talk by Wendy Sandiford on "Following the Drum" – stories of soldiers' wives through the centuries rounded off an enjoyable evening.

Our meetings continue to be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Alloway Church Halls from September to May and visitors are always welcome. The first meeting of the new 2012-13 Programme opened with a talk "**Addicted to Ancestors**" –

by *Rev. Alan Sorenson*. This was a very entertaining look at his ancestors, much appreciated by members and guests. It kept everyone laughing, but provided some real insights into the way we look at the information we find and how it relates to the social history of the times in which our ancestors lived.

The programme continues on 16 October with a return visit from *Chris Paton* who will this time be speaking on "**Tracing Your Irish Ancestors on the Internet**". As a very experienced genealogist Chris always has a wealth of information and hints to share.

Our October visit will be our second one to the **Burns Monument Centre in Kilmarnock**. This holds an excellent archive of records and this time we are particularly going to see some Ayrshire Kirk Session records.

The Speaker on Tuesday, 20 November will be *Alastair Wham* whose topic is "**Galloway's lost railway lines and various other stories**". The talk also includes a description of walks along old railway tracks around Maidens, Dunure and Alloway.

In December members will gather for our Annual Social Evening and meal.

On Tuesday 15 January 2013 *Edwin Lawrence* will tell us about "**All the Fun of the Fair**" - memories of his childhood spent travelling with the fair, as well as information about his Grandfather who had the town's first cinema in Mauchline in the early 1900's, and his Father who opened an amusement arcade in Girvan.

"**Ayrshire's Railway Heritage**" will be *Gordon Thomson's* theme on Tuesday 19 February 2013 - the history of the railways in Ayrshire up to the present time and the activities of the Dunaskin Railway Preservation Group.

Details of all our meetings, together with brief reports of past talks are available on our Website www.asafhs.co.uk in the **Events** and **Activities** sections.

We are currently involved in setting up a project with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Ayr. The plan is to transcribe their pre-registration births, marriages and deaths from the original handwritten books to a digital form which can be printed or used in digital form, as required. The original books can then be held in the Ayrshire Archives. This will be a long-term project which is, as yet, in its early stages but is extremely interesting.

weekend and it is certainly a weekend we enjoy, although it is exhausting! Come and see us if you are there!

Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives



Once again we are making plans for our stand at WDYTYA Live in 2013. We will be joining with our partners ASGRA on this venture.

We had a study day in London on the 20th October which was open to our members and associates and presentations were given on the subject of tracing living people, business plans and unusual sources in family history. We now hold two study days each year as part of our CPD programme. Our next study day will be in York in April next year.

We still have a growing membership and as well as membership enquiries we do receive requests for research from enquirers worldwide, these enquiries are passed to our members who report they are as busy as ever so it would seem that the interest in tracing one's family history continues to be very popular indeed.

Association of Scottish Genealogists & Researchers in Archives



We are currently preparing for our attendance at WDYTYA? in February 2013, where again we will be sharing a stand with our partners AGRA. Four members will be on hand over the

Membership is still strong, and, even in this often irritating digitized age, there is still a definite place for the professional genealogist, and even more so for a peer-accredited genealogist or researcher. If you are currently engaged in running a research business, and are interested in joining us, please see our website for entrance requirements in the first instance – or perhaps you would like to come along for a chat about what being an ASGRA member means and can do for your business.

Borders FHS

Our Archive and Research Room at Old Gala House, Galashiels has been busy during the summer season, with visitors from home and abroad. The museum at Old Gala House will close to visitors at the end of October. Members of the Society may continue to visit the Archive over the winter months but do need to give at least 2 weeks notice as access needs to be arranged. Booking may be done via our website.

Membership of the Society continues to grow and we warmly welcome new and returning members. To join or for further information on membership, contact: Bill Stewart, Springbank, Ayton, Eyemouth, TD14 5QZ, Scotland; or through our website Contacts page.

Our website, www.bordersfhs.org.uk, has steady usage. There are searchable indexes to our MI volumes, magazine articles, queries, family trees, surname interests, poor law volumes and forums. The information on our parish pages is enhanced with the addition of new sources of information as they become available. Our blog is updated regularly and other snippets of news and information are posted to our facebook place. Blogs and facebook postings may also be followed on our twitter account, @bordersfhs.

The facility to record surname interests is still

very popular, and it's open for everyone to record their interests, not just members. The number of interests recorded encompasses more than 2,400 distinct surnames, all over Scotland, and many in England and overseas too. With the addition of new burial places, our MIs now cover over 5,000 distinct surnames in the Borders. The 550 family trees held now cover more than 4,100 distinct surnames. The forums have become more popular, too. We hope that other Societies will make these facilities known to their members.

Feedback continues from readers of the Border Telegraph, and the Peeblesshire News where we publish our weekly column "Kith and Kin". Our sales list, which can be found on our website, will be updated in October with several new publications, including the popular Selkirk Genealogy transcriptions of death, burial and mortcloth records and bills of mortality. We also sell a selection of second-hand books, most of which look like new.

We have a 50-50 club to help raise money towards acquiring premises. The club is open to non-members, and an annual subscription (12 draws) costs £12. Each draw there are 2 prizes, a 1st prize, and a 2nd prize.

More details and joining form at:
www.bordersfhs.org.uk/BFHS50-50ClubForm1.asp.



***St Andrew's Tower and cemetery,
Neidpath Road, Peebles***

Our most recent MI Volume, for the parish of Coldingham was published in the spring. Transcription teams have been out over the summer months and have completed the recording at Cockburnspath, Jedburgh Castlewood and Eyemouth. Recording has started at Peebles and, weather permitting, some work will continue there over the winter months. Monumental Inscriptions published by the Society in the 1990's did not include photographs of the gravestones. We have started a project to photograph all of the stones in these earlier publications so that these are available to researchers. Other ongoing projects include the indexing of the digitised Borders police and criminal records, held in the Scottish Borders Archive and we have recently finished the indexing of the Sudden Deaths and Casualties in Roxburghshire 1876-1906. Publication of the MI volumes, police and criminal records and the poor relief records will follow. Until then, any work-in-progress is available for consultation in our Archive room. Our Society thanks the many members and volunteers, at home and abroad, who help with indexing, researching and recording, and therefore making many more resources available to the researcher.

Our programme of Sunday Meetings, at venues around the Borders, started on Sunday 30th September with a most interesting talk on Abbotsford by Dr Sandra McNeil, Learning and Engagement officer with the Abbotsford Trust. Our remaining programme for 2012/2013 is below:

Sunday 28 Oct: A Family Life Revealed: The Stuarts at Traquair 1491-1875, by Catherine Maxwell Stuart & Margaret Fox: Innerleithen Parish Church Hall, Leithen Road, Innerleithen, EH44 6HP.

Sunday 25 Nov: The Black Death, by Mary Craig, well-known author and expert on the Witchcraft Trials of the Scottish Borders returns to Borders FHS with a talk on The Black Death: Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN.

Sunday 24 Feb: How to Research Buccleuch

Records, by Andrew Armstrong: Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN.

Sunday 24 March: Useful Websites for Family History Research, by Peter Munro: venue to be arranged.

Saturday 11 May: 24th Annual Conference of SAFHS will be hosted by Borders FHS at the Scottish Borders Campus, Nether Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HE. A full day of talks with Family History Fair with many FHSs and Archives, exhibitions and more.

Sunday 26 May: After the Society's AGM, Marjorie Gavin will introduce us to Thomas Pringle – poet, traveler and anti-slavery campaigner: Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN.

We warmly invite you to attend our Society meetings whether you are a member or not. There is no admission charge. Except where stated otherwise, meetings are held at 2.30 pm. Speakers at Society meetings occasionally need to be changed at the last minute, due to circumstances beyond our control. Where time permits, changes will be shown on our website What's On page.

A coffee morning was held in Jedburgh in June as a fund raiser for the 2013 SAFHS conference. It was very well attended and our sincere thanks to everyone who helped on the day and to everyone who came along.

The Society is looking forward to hosting the 2013 SAFHS conference on Saturday 11th May 2013 at the Scottish Borders Campus, Nether Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HE. Booking forms for exhibitors will be dispatched to SAFHS member societies during October.

We are planning a programme of 4 main speakers throughout the day with perhaps 2 shorter talks during the lunchtime break. We have chosen migration as a theme and so far, we have speakers on the Droving and Drove Roads in Northumberland, Borders Shepherds who moved to Caithness, and a speaker who will be tackling the main theme of migration.

There will, of course, be a Family History Fair for all to visit. The Scottish Borders Campus will have their cafe open throughout the day for refreshments and they will also provide a soup and sandwich lunch - all quite reasonably priced.

There is ample free parking on site and there are bus routes running close to the site.

An online booking system for delegates should be up and running on our website. Please contact safhs2013@bordersfhs.org.uk for more information.

Central Scotland FHS

The Society moved back to the Smith Gallery for its meetings and just when we thought we were settled we were informed that we could no longer store our film cabinet and films in Bridge of Allan Library.

After a short period of uncertainty, we were delighted that St Ninians Library was able to accommodate the items. We were asked by the Library to hold a once a month drop-in session in the library; this takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10-12noon, and there has been interest in this venture from library members. A member of the Library/Archive staff is on duty as well as a Society Committee member and hopefully some of the local members will get involved to spread the commitment.

We are starting to plan ahead for the 2015 Safhs Conference which we will host in Stirling. More details will be released as we firm up our ideas. We are looking forward to this session's talks which have been arranged for us by Elma our Syllabus Secretary. She always manages to come up with new speakers and new subjects.



Membership has dropped slightly this year but a few new members have signed up which does help to maintain our income.

We had 2 outings this year. First was a visit to Blair Adam house near Kelty, following an excellent talk about the Adam family of architects and military men. It was an excellent afternoon and the group was made very welcome by Keith and Elizabeth Adam, who have been renovating the house and garden for many years. The second visit was to the renovated Logie Kirkyard, where we had a guided tour from Eleanor and Joe Young who are the driving force behind this ongoing project.



Dumfries & Galloway FHS

Our Society at long last is catching up with repairs and general sprucing up of our Research Centre in Glasgow St, Dumfries. We pride ourselves on our excellent window displays but the Centre was sadly in need of a little TLC including a new and more eye-catching sign above the front door. Watch this space!

We are still sorting out our next year's syllabus. Since we changed to Saturday afternoons in Castle Douglas, we have noticed a marked improvement in numbers of members and visitors attending.

In September, Pete Wadley from the NRS came to Castle Douglas and gave us an entertaining and very informative talk on the Top 20 pre-1855 records for Family History. Our October meeting in Newton Stewart will have Tommy Henderson from Dalbeattie Museum, with his fascinating collection of local photographs.

We continue to add to our list of publications. In the last few months we have published Memorial Inscriptions for the parishes of

Morton, Sanquhar, Terregles, Durisdeer and Keir. The latter booklet also contains the previously published OPR burials. Glasserton MIs publication has been updated by including Monreith graveyard which lies within the parish. Torthorwald OPR burials completes our coverage of the surviving burial registers for Dumfriesshire.

East Ayrshire FHS

The Society meets at 7.30pm in the Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock on the second Thursday of each month from September to May. Visitors are welcome. Workshops are held on most other Thursday afternoons throughout the year in The Cabin, Witch Road, Kilmarnock from 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm.

At the opening meeting of the session in September, members had the opportunity to access Society resources and to hear an update about the services available to the public at the **Burns Monument Centre** in Kay Park, Kilmarnock. The Centre is now fully operational and houses registrar facilities, an archive, local history reference library and computer room. Ayrshire census records, OPRs and local newspapers are available on microfilm for free viewing and computers linked to the ScotlandsPeople Centre system for use at £15 a day. For further information see: www.burnsmonumentcentre.com

On October 11th John Hall spoke about his time working in various departments of **John Walker & Sons Ltd** and about his collection of historical items associated with the industry. The company originated from a grocer's shop set up in Kilmarnock about 1819 for 15-year old Johnnie Walker by the trustees of his father, Alexander Walker. The selling of whisky began as a sideline but eventually evolved into a global business. Sadly, the Johnnie Walker plant in Kilmarnock and the associated bonds in Hurlford have now closed.

The speaker at the November meeting is Frank Donnelly and the subject of his talk is **Sir**

Alexander Fleming, famed for his discovery of penicillin. Fleming was born in Lochfield Farm outside Darvel in the Irvine Valley. Darvel will also feature at the meeting in January when Max Flemmich will display some of the fascinating items available to view at his **Darvel Telegraph Museum**.

Publications: East Ayrshire FHS has this year published two new family history resources. A DVD of records of burials in the churchyard of the **Old High Kirk, Kilmarnock** is available at £10 inclusive of postage. This contains over 3300 entries transcribed from original burial records and lair books dated variously between 1832 and 1956.

Also available is a 121-page book of Monumental Inscriptions, with a DVD of photographs included, for **Kaimshill Cemetery (Riccarton)** on the outskirts of Kilmarnock. The price, inclusive of postage, is £14 to addresses in UK and Europe and £18 to other countries. These items can be purchased by sending a cheque in £GB to the Society's address at the foot of this article or through www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk using PayPal.

Fife FHS

The new Season of The Fife Family History Society has begun, with several old members now wearing several "hats." Hugh Hoffman, now wears three hats – Treasurer, Publications, and Deputy Chairman – while Andrew Campbell now wears two, those of Chairman and Editor. The Society now has a new Secretary in Frances Black, and a new Minute Secretary, Alison Murray.

The talk nights for the coming Season have been organised by Frances Black, and are being held this year in the VONEF Centre in Cupar (above the main Post Office, 69 Crossgate, KY15 5AS), which is a 5 minute walk from the train station, and even less from the main bus stops. The first talk was by Dr Gary West, Senior Lecturer, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, on "Voicing Scotland: Folk, Culture, Nation." His talk was excellent,

and included a couple of songs to illustrate how an 'intangible cultural asset' such as music plays a vital role in recording and passing on traditions.

Before the talk, Archie Lumsden, our recently retired Chairman, was presented with a suitably inscribed quaich to mark his 40-years service to Fife Family History, as Sennachie (Historian) to the House of Lumsden Association and later as Chairman of our Society. He has also accepted the position of the first-ever Honorary Vice-President of The Fife Family History Society. Mrs Betty Pryde, who has retired as Secretary after a long number of years in post, was also honoured at the meeting, and Honorary Member, Dave Reid, collected the gift in her absence to be delivered in the next few days.

On 9 October Mr John Reade gave a talk on The Brewing History of St Andrews, and our next talk will be on 13 November, when Helen Foster, Education Officer with SCAN, will give a talk on Images and Archival Material Available Through SCRAN.

Talks start promptly at 7.30 pm, with tea/coffee and biscuits included. Entry is free to members. Non-members are always welcome, with a modest fee of £2 being charged. Thanks to Frances Black for organising the talks.

On a sadder note we have to report the end of our Publications Club series. The Club began in 1995 and in the 17 years it ran, 50 booklets were published on a wide variety of Fife Family History topics. The favourite of the Editor was the one on Fifers who fought at Waterloo. The Society will continue to bring out Publications, and we are currently working on a "Fife Kalendar of Criminals, 1800-1900," to be brought out in time for the Homecoming, 2014.

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

The meetings for the new 2012/13 session held at Hillhead Library, Byres Road, Glasgow G12 8AP started on 17th September. The speaker was Gordon Barr on "The Crown Jewels of Maryhill", a talk on the stained glass windows of

Maryhill Burgh Hall and the area's fascinating history. The next meeting will be on Monday 15th October, and will be given by Chris Paton whose talk will be "Beyond ScotlandsPeople".

The meetings are held in Hillhead Library, Byres Road, starting at 7:30pm prompt. The talks from November are as follows:

Monday 19th November, Graeme Smith is speaking on Glasgow's Alhambra.

Monday 10th December, Social and Film evening - Panamint films (venue to be confirmed).

Monday 21st January, "Using East Dunbartonshire Archives in Family History" talk by Janice Miller.

Monday 18th February, Pete Wadley is speaking on "The Top 20 pre-1855 resources for Family History in the National Records of Scotland".

Monday 18th March, "The Glasgow Story in Four Chapters" talk by Neil Baxter.

Monday 15th April, Question and Answer and AGM.

Information on the meetings can be found on the Society's website and reports of the talks are usually given in the Society's Newsletter published three times a year in March, June and October.

The monthly electronic newsletter, E-NEWS, is sent out to all members with an email address. This provides members not just with the Society's news updates but general news as well.

The society is offering the majority of its microfiches at the bargain basement price of £1.00 (yes ONE POUND) for each set plus postage. Please see the website for more details.

The library continues to grow and we buy books and electronic media relating to family history research in Scotland. The library catalogue can be searched and viewed on the Society's web pages.

Finally thanks must go to all the many members who help keep the Society running and help

with the operation of the Research Centre in Mansfield Street. The Centre's opening hours are:

TUESDAY from 2 pm until 4.30 pm

THURSDAY from 10 am until 8.30 pm

SATURDAY from 2 pm until 4.30 pm

except for Easter Saturday and 3-4 weeks over Christmas & New Year

Guild of One-Name Studies



In April 2012 the Guild published a book "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom: The Art of One-Name Studies". It is an attempt to bring together in a printed format the advice, information and experience contributed by Guild members to the Guild Wiki. The 7 pillars are – Data collection – Analysis – Synthesis – Publishing your study – Responding to enquires – Publication of results – Preserving your study. It can be purchased from the Guild website for £8 for delivery in the UK (higher price for other places) or you can get a copy from me at the 2013 SAFHS Conference and avoid the postage charge.

One of the volunteer projects that the Guild organises is a Marriage Challenge where volunteers look up marriage entries between 1837 and 1911 in England and Wales for names which members have registered. Over the last 7 years 110,000 marriages have been transcribed and at the current cost of a certificate this comes as a benefit of over £1 million.

The quarterly Guild Journal is now available in three electronic formats for members to download. As well as PDF there is now ePUB and Mobi but I must admit that I still like holding a printed paper document. The Journal now includes some articles which are abridged versions and the fuller version can be viewed on the Guild website. This is useful if the subject is of particular interest.

Have you recently checked the Guild website to see whether one of your family names has been registered by a Guild member? The recent Journal for the October-December 2012 has an introductory article by an Australian who has registered the name Allan and reports that there are 18,258 people in the 1911 Scottish Census with this surname. He is retired but has taken on a massive project. Do look for less common names as well where the Guild member may have been able to link the majority of the people with the particular surname into a limited number of family trees.

Another Australian Guild Member has been investigating the use of his surname as a second forename. Of the 256 examples that he found 77% of those he managed to identify came from the maternal side and the majority were given to sons. In one family I investigated I found that the maternal surname continued to be used for at least 5 generations but perhaps that is an unusual case because she was the one who provided the family money!

The 2012 Guild Conference and AGM was made available to the rest of the world via a LiveStream channel on the Internet. The audience numbers built up until they reached the limit of 50 concurrent viewers and then a queue of people waiting to get in built up. On both afternoons there was a major difficulty – it was not a problem with the Wi-Fi technology in the hall but the actual connection between the hotel and the outside world.

The forthcoming seminars organised by the Guild are:

26 and 27 October 2012 - 1st Australian Seminar – Kingswood and Sydney NSW

17 November 2012 – Maritime Records – National Maritime Museum, London

1 December 2012 – Why be a Society in the 21st Century? – Gaydon, Warwickshire

9 February 2013 – DNA – Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

18 May 2013 – Trade Union Records – University of Warwick, Coventry

10 August 2013 – The Art of One-Name Studies – Amersham, Buckinghamshire

The Guild 34th Guild Conference and AGM will be 5th-7th April 2013 in Cardiff with the conference title "Around England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales in 8,000 names".

Lanarkshire Family History Society

We held 2 Events at the David Livingstone Centre Blantyre. April was an "Irish and Scottish Family History Fair", with talks by Dr Irene O'Brien and Chris Paton on "Irish Research". Elizabeth McCarrol's talk was on the connections between the "Titanic and her Ballymena Carlisle Ancestors", and Seamus Coleman's was "The Roman Legacy at Nethercroy". There were also local History/Heritage groups in attendance.

June was our next event - "Military and Family History Fair". Three Military Speakers and various military displays, along with our own FH Bookstall and FH Advice/Help Desks. There was also a static display of Ex-Military Land Rovers and "The Sealed Knot Society" in 17th Century Military Costume.

Our monthly Speaker evenings at the GLO Centre Motherwell were:

April: "Jewish Family History Records" by Michael Tobias, *Vice President, Programming, JewishGen Web-site.*

May: "Top 20 pre-1855 Family History records in the National Records of Scotland", by Peter Wadley, Archivist at the National Records Office.

June: "Battle of Bothwell Bridge" by David Bryce, *Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association.*

September: "Bothwell, An Historic Lanarkshire Community", by Jack Gallacher, *Chairman of Bothwell Historical Group.*

October: "Mitchell Library Registration & Family History Records" by Fiona Borland and Dr Irene O'Brien.

Other events we organised recently were:

"Family History Day", Saturday 20th October, Whitburn South Parish Church - *Joint event by West Lothian FHS and Lanarkshire FHS.* Both societies supplied Bookstalls, Advice and Help Desks, Military Artefacts Display Help Desk. Also attending was Shotts History Group. West Lothian Council Local History conducted tours of the Church and Kirkyard. A Tea and Coffee Bar was organised by the Church.

"Irish Family History Workshop", Saturday 20th October, at Summerlee Industrial Museum Heritage Way, Coatbridge - a Workshop facilitated by Dr Irene O'Brien Senior Archivist, Glasgow City Archives.

Still to come: Saturday 27th October 2.00pm - 4.00pm at Summerlee Industrial Museum Heritage Way, Coatbridge, ML5 1QD - Michael Reilly - *Coatbridge Irish Genealogy Project* -Talk 2:00 – 3:00pm "Irish Family History Research". 3:00 – 4:00pm Advice and Help Desk. Learn how to research your Irish ancestors with Michael and Tom Harkness.

Saturday 3rd November, 2.00pm – 3.00pm., at Summerlee Industrial Museum Heritage Way, Coatbridge. ML5 1QD - "*Lanarkshire's Forgotten Regiment*" The Lanarkshire Yeomanry Talk by Campbell Thomson.

Thursday 8th November, 7:00pm, GLO Centre Motherwell, ML1 1BN - "*Glasgow's Involvement in Slavery*", by Stephen Mullen.

Saturday 17th November, 2.00pm – 3.00pm, at Summerlee Industrial Museum Heritage Way, Coatbridge, ML5 1QD - "*Battlefields and Cemeteries of France and Flanders*" - Talk by Joe O'Raw.

Our Publications, Projects and Graveyard groups continue to keep very busy along with the Research Group answering Forum and other

research requests. The Military and Irish Interests Groups continue giving a great service to our members.

We are now offering our members the option to receive electronic Journals instead of paper. This started with our April journal being the first available in both formats. Although giving a discount the society will have more funds to run the society. I understand from our Membership Secretary that around 23% have so far taken this option. We thought that overseas members would be the biggest percentage to take up this offer but that is not the case it is largely UK members opting for e-journals.

2012 is the 21st Anniversary of the Society and we celebrated this with a Dinner in the GLO Centre. The Provost of North Lanarkshire Council Tom Curley was our official guest. We also had a special guest, one of our overseas members John Graham from Australia. After an enjoyable meal we were entertained by Christopher Farrell, younger brother of our Vice Chairman Gerry. Christopher gave a short programme of "Songs from the Musicals".

We stated in the March Bulletin that we had to move out of our Crosshill Street premises before 27th September. Our Landlords - North Lanarkshire Council - made several premises available for viewing with us deciding that 122 - 124 Merry Street Motherwell ML1 1NA was the preferred building. Members of all Societies are invited to visit or Centre if they wish to carry out Lanarkshire research. As you will see in the picture we are above "Hara Hill and Wason" Insurance Services, entry is from the Rear Car Park.

Just as a reminder - we are open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 12:00 – 3:00pm and Thursday 5:00 – 9:00pm Our Postal address remains the same.



Largs & North Ayrshire FHS

Prior to the beginning of the new session, some committee members attended a gathering of many of the local clubs and societies in Largs Library. This was arranged by North Ayrshire Council to allow members of the public thinking of joining a group to learn more about it beforehand.

The society was happy to welcome a few new members at the beginning of the new session.

The first speaker was Robert Foulkes, who spoke on 'The Census, Past and Present'. He was well equipped to do so, as he was involved with the 2011 Census. He told us of the organisation and training necessary, of the difficulties that arose and how they were solved. He then went on to discuss the changes in the census questions over the years.

'Legendary Tales' were Dane Love's subject in October. He learned many of them from his grandfather. Many of them revolved around ancient wells, burial mounds, buildings and natural outcrops of rock that are spread around Ayrshire in out of the way places.

On 27th October, we shall be hosting our annual Coffee Morning in the Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs, and later, on 19th November we shall be joining with Largs Historical Society to hear a lecture by David Forsyth from the National Museum of Scotland on 'Transforming the National History of Scotland'. This will be followed by a Workshop in Largs Library Community Room on the next evening.

The speaker for the December meeting will be Valerie Reilly, whose subject will be 'Pageants and Plum Pudding; A Mediaeval Christmas', and so will the first part of the session end - note that this meeting will be on the first Tuesday in December.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month between September and May in the Community Room in Largs Library at 7.30pm.

The syllabus can be found on our website www.largsnafhs.org.uk

Lothians FHS

The autumn session started in September with a talk by Alan McLaren on Midlothian Gala Days. This was followed in October by a presentation on Old Scottish Handwriting by Margaret McBryde from the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. Talks take place at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month, September to November and January to May.

Volunteers are currently transcribing OPR deaths for Midlothian parishes. Several have been completed in print and it is hoped that these will shortly be available on CD. Others are assisting a group in Tasmania with background details on convicts deported from this area.

Workshops take place each Wednesday evening from 7 till 9 pm in the library of Lasswade High School and we have been delighted to welcome several new local members in the last few weeks.

We recently began visiting the local Midlothian libraries on Saturday mornings with a view to publicising the society and hope to attract some new local members.

Moray & Nairn FHS

2012 saw MNFHS having its third birthday in February. Membership remains fairly constant.

This year the society completed its work on the Monumental Inscriptions of Auldearn Churchyard and Cemetery and this should be published in time for Xmas! Other publications this year include the Poor Register for the Parish of Bellie 1845-1897 and Deaths & Burials for the Parishes of Nairn & Auldearn 1855-1860, the details of which can be found on our web site. <http://www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk>.

Renfrewshire FHS

Our calendar for the rest of year follows:

September 20th.

Jeff Holmes, reporter with The Paisley daily Express.

"Wilfred's Travels"

October 18th.

Emma Anthony, Asst. Archivist N.H.S. Glasgow & Clyde.

"N.H.S. Hospital Records"

November 15th.

Graeme Smith, author.

"The Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow"

December 6th.

Members Evening – a fun evening for all members.

2013. January 17th.

Alistair Alexander, broadcaster and B.B.C. Commentator.

"Submarine Warfare in the Clyde"

February 21st.

Fiona Hayes, Collection Curator, The Peoples Palace.

"Co-operative Societies – S.C.W.S etc"

March 21st.

Craig Osborne, shipping-buff, researcher

"The Comet"

April 18th.

Amanda Robb, Giffnock Library,

"East Renfrewshire Heritage Service"

May 16th.

Annual General Meeting**Scotslot**

During the summer, Scotslot has met on four occasions – all very well attended. Sadly, although we have new members, they are fewer than those who have resigned, all for legitimate reasons! Fittingly, our meeting on St

Patrick's Day concentrated on Irish ancestors and the sources available to find out more about them; the majority of members present had at least one Irish ancestor and recounted their experiences of tracking them down. The following meeting looked at those family members who had left Scotland, with the emphasis on those who had gone to North America and to South Africa; some of the problems of South African records were explored by David Dewar. There was also a report on the SAFHS Conference in Dundee.

Our July meeting summarised the development of Scottish medicine and the medical profession in Scotland, with members describing their medical ancestors and sources with information. Mention was made of the extensive biographical resources in the Wellcome Library. In September we looked at interesting buildings – large and small – with a family connection with Marion Donaldson leading a lively discussion.

Further meetings this year include 'Excise Men' and 'Scottish Music and Mountains'. Scotslot meets in Harpenden in Hertfordshire and visitors to our meetings are most welcome. A brief history of the group appears in the latest 'Scottish Genealogist.' Anyone interested in coming along should contact Scotslot using the contact details on the SAFHS website.

Scottish Genealogy Society

The SGS is gearing up for its 60th Anniversary celebrations in June 2013, and this has involved research by several members into the history of the building at Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. A pictorial display is in place at the Library. In September we took part in the Edinburgh Doors Open Days, offering a short presentation and a tour of the Library to pre-booked groups, and around 100 members of the public accepted the offer. While the majority were primarily interested in architecture and/ or local history, some did join the society on the day.

Also to celebrate our 60th Birthday, we will be staging a one-day Conference at the Augustine

United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, on Saturday 5th October, with speakers on a variety of topics. More details will follow, in the Bulletin and in our Journal.

New publications include *The Candlemakers of Edinburgh* by Richard Torrance, which is already proving to be very popular. Russell Cockburn has transcribed a number of Dalkeith church records: *Associate Congregation Baptisms 1755 to 1809*; *St Nicholas Church Testimonials 1764 to 1789*; *Burgher Congregation Baptisms 1747 to 1763* and *Free Church Baptisms 1843 to 1854 & Marriages 1848*. These are all available, as ever, via our online shop at www.scotsgenealogy.com.

The Saturday morning "Taster Sessions" at our Library have been well attended and we've expanded this to classes on specific topics. Details on our website.

The SGS continues to hold talks at the Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, and evening visits (in conjunction with Standard Life) to New Register House. The former are open to all and the latter to all members of SAFHS societies. See *The Scottish Genealogist* or our website (address above) for dates, times and talk titles.

Shetland FHS

Yet another busy summer with the biggest number of cruise ships calling and once again bringing researchers to augment those travelling to the Isles for extended stays. The Society's summer outing this year was to the most northerly island of Unst where members followed the "Gutters trail" – an interesting walk detailing the history of the women who travelled the UK, following the herring fishery.

Our winter season of evening events kicked off in October with a visit from Dr. Ian Tait, Shetland's museum curator and a staunch supporter of the Society. His topic was "The Story behind the Artefact" and he brought his usual selection of items of interest for members to discuss and enjoy. Our next speaker, Jon

Sandison, a history teacher who has been researching Shetland Territorials in WW1 will be sharing his discoveries and, of course, asking for more assistance from members and friends.

Discussions are underway to upgrade our website which will, hopefully, be operational in the new year. Meantime information is still available on www.shetland-fhs.org.uk

The AGM of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 5th March, 2013. As in previous years, the premises will not open on Monday and Thursday evenings during November, December, January and February but weekday afternoon openings from 2-4p.m. will continue as normal. Appointments can be arranged by telephoning one of the contact numbers displayed at the premises.

Society of Genealogists

Listed below is further information about events at the Society of Genealogists to be held during the remainder of the year. To book a place, SoG members are encouraged to log into "My SoG" and enter the online shop using the link there. You can also contact the events department, details at the bottom of this email. All events must be pre-booked and pre-paid (unless noted as free of charge).

Sat 6 Oct 14:00-17:00

Good Research Techniques for Beginners & Improvers

This course will take an in-depth look at the best ways to research in order to avoid making mistakes as well as how to get the most out of the records you use. We will also look at the likely causes of brick walls you may meet during the course of your research and the best way to tackle them. Sources covered include BMDs, census and parish records. A half-day course with Celia Heritage £17.50/£14.00

Sat 13 Oct 10:30-17:00

Writing Family History Workshop: Part 1 (Starting out and expanding your family history biography)

The first of a series of three practical creative writing workshops which enable people to bring the story of their ancestors to life. These workshops will guide participants through different phases of writing and editing. The students will engage in writing and producing their family history. At the end of workshops the students will be working towards having a body of work ready for publication/display. Part 1 will cover: How to start writing, Format and what to include, adding social, geographical and local history context, expanding your family history biography, practical writing exercises and Analysis and review of progress. Can be booked alone, or with parts 2 & 3.

A full-day course with Gill Blanchard, £30.00/£24.00. SPACES LIMITED

Mon 15 Oct 11:00-16:00

Open Day

Free library tours, no booking necessary. Note the library is closed to research this day. Please spread the word to any non-member friends.

Sat 20 Oct 10:30-13:00

How to Get the Best From the New Familysearch Website

We recently saw the release of the new version of the popular FamilySearch website, and the website continues to change with regular additions to its database. This lecture will explain the changes to the website, and will also show you how to get to grips with the new search features.

A half-day course with John Hanson, £17.50/£14.00

Wed 24 Oct 10:30-11:30

Visit: Reform Club

A one-hour group tour of this magnificent building will allow time to appreciate the Italian Renaissance architecture, as well as visiting the Library and Archives. The Reform Club was founded in 1836, in the centre of what was known as London's Clubland. Its membership was originally restricted to those who pledged support of the Great Reform Act of 1832 and was associated with the Liberal Party. Today, it has no political affiliation. £10.00/£8.00

Sat 27 Oct 10:30-17:00

Writing Family History Workshop: Part 2 (Developing Your Writing Further)

In part 2 of our 3 part workshop, we will concentrate on specific work using secondary materials that relate to an area, people, trades, historical period or experiences of your ancestors – e.g. biographies, autobiographies, memoirs and oral histories. We will also look at building background material: dealing with family stories, missing pieces and anomalies. There will be an analysis and review of progress. Note workshop part 3 (on 10 November) will cover layout and final production and reviewing/ presentation of own work. It is preferable you take part 1 before attending workshop 2.

A full-day course with Gill Blanchard £30.00/£24.00

Wed 31 Oct 10:30

Getting the Most From the Society of Genealogists

A one-hour lecture with Else Churchill, free but must be pre-booked

Wed 31 Oct 12:00

New Member Orientation Tours (repeats 14:00)

These intensive tours are aimed both at beginners and those who wish to learn about new resources in the library. Our experienced staff will show you what is held on each floor of the library, explain sources which you may not have used before and demonstrate how to find material on the catalogue and in the library. Free of charge, but must be pre-booked due to limited space. Lasts approximately 1-1.5 hours.

Sat 3 Nov 10:30-13:00

My Ancestor was a Leather Worker

Amongst our ancestors we will inevitably find family members who were working with leather – tanners, curriers, shoemakers, saddlers, leather bottle makers and bookbinders to mention a few. Some trades were highly skilled and others were performed by the labouring classes. The leather trade had its height in the mid 1800's and this study session looks at the variety of records available and the conditions

in which they worked. A half-day course with Ian Waller, £17.50/£14.00

Sat 3 Nov 4:00-17:00

Careers in Genealogy: The Road to AGRA and Running a Genealogical Practice

Are you thinking of doing Genealogical Research as a paid professional? If you read the classified ads in the many Family History Magazines, you will find there is no shortage of offers of research for a fee, but how do you know that you can trust your research, and money, to these people? Are they competent, running a business or just making a quick buck? There are many issues around actually running a Genealogical Practice. This Lecture will give insight into what is really involved and how membership of AGRA (The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) is an advantage to professional Genealogy. A half-day course with Ian Marson, £17.50/£14.00

Wed 7 Nov 10:30-11:30

Using My SOG - Members Area Online

The Society's collection of online genealogical records (SoG Data Online) is constantly growing, and becoming an increasingly valuable free resource for members. In this 1 hour lecture the Head of Library Services describes how to effectively search these records, and gives an update on what is available. A one-hour lecture with Tim Lawrence, free of charge but must be pre-booked.

Sat 10 Nov 10:30-17:00

Writing Family History Workshop: Part 3

The last part of this workshop will cover layout, adding images, final production, printing/publishing and review/presentation of your own work. Workshops 1 & 2 should be taken before booking this course. A full-day course with Gill Blanchard, £30.00/£24.00

Wed 21 Nov 14:00-17:00

Family Historian Software for Advanced Users

Family Historian is one of the UK's leading family history packages packed with features. This half day session will look at some of the advanced features in the program. It is designed for those that already have some

knowledge of the program, but if you are having a problem then why not bring it along to be solved. A half-day course with John Hanson, £17.50/£14.00

Sat 24 Nov 14:00-17:00

Tracing Family History in Southbank & East Surrey

Family history research in London is perhaps one of the most challenging. The area south of the river Thames was in the ancient counties of Surrey and Kent, before the creation of the County of London in 1889. With its huge population growth during the 19th century, mainly from in-migration, its many industries and comprising several ancient parishes that multiplied many times during Victoria's reign, 'transpontine London', as it was referred to in the 1870s, has its own research problems as well as echoing those for other parts of the metropolis. A half-day course with Paul Blake, £17.50/£14.00

Wed 28 Nov 14:00-15:00

Short cuts for Family Historians

A one-hour lecture with Michael Gandy £6.00/£4.80

Sat 1 Dec 10:30-17:00

Palaeography for Beginners Workshop

You will learn to read and transcribe 16th and 17th century documents written in the Secretary Hand characteristic of the period. You will work with facsimiles of key documents for family and local historians such as wills. You will practise techniques to help you tackle any unfamiliar style of handwriting. You will learn how Secretary Hand came into being and why it was superseded. If the tutor has time, he will help you read your own difficult documents. £30.00/£24.00

Tay Valley FHS

The main item for 2012 was the conference on 21 April 2012 in Dundee.

This was a success and thanks are extended to all who attended to display, or as a delegate.

The final count of delegates was over 100, with 50 display tables, alleviating the anxiety of the small numbers when just a month to go.

Banners and spare unused badges and goodie bags (empty) have been passed on to the Borders FHS for 2013.

The TV is running beginners courses in family history, 1 in the opening months of the year, and 1 towards the end of the year. These courses run for 6 weeks, and with their popularity, are over-subscribed, causing a waiting list for the next course and so a knock on effect. They are run by one of our members, Angus Gellatly, within the TV centre in Princes Street, Dundee. A 1-year membership of the TVFHS is built in to the costs.

Sat 17 Nov 2012: GOONS: Maritime Records, National Maritime Museum, London.

Sat 17 Nov 2012: ANESFHS: An update on St Nicholas Skeletons: Alison Cameron, archaeologist, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace, Aberdeen, 2.30.

Sat 17 Nov 2012: ANESFHS: LDS Research Centre, Glasgow, Renfield St Stephens Church Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, 2 pm.

Sat 17 Nov 2012: Lanarkshire FHS: Battlefields & Cemeteries in France & Flanders, Joe O'Raw, Summerlee Industrial Museum, Heritage Way, Coatbridge, 2 pm.

Sat 17 Nov 2012: AngloScots: Researching your Military Ancestors, Colin McInnes, Clayton House, Piccadilly, Manchester, 2 pm.

Diary Dates

Sat 3 Nov 2012: Lanarkshire FHS: Lanarkshire's Forgotten Regiment, the Lanarkshire Yeomanry, Campbell Thomson, Summerlee Industrial Museum, Heritage Way, Coatbridge, 2 pm.

Thurs 8 Nov 2012: EAFHS: Sir Alexander Fleming, Frank Donnelly, Gateway Centre, 4 Gate Street, Kilmarnock, 7.30.

Thurs 8 Nov 2012: Glasgow's Involvement in Slavery, Stephen Mullen, GLO Centre, Motherwell, 7.00.

Sat 10 Nov 2012: ANESFHS: Scottish Photographers pre 1914, Richard Torrance, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, 2 pm.

Tues 13 Nov 2012: Fife FHS: Images and Archival Material available through SCRAN, Helen Foster, Vonef Centre, 69 Crossgate, Cupar, 7.30.

Thurs 15 Nov 2012: Renfrewshire FHS: The Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow, Graeme Smith, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley.

Mon 19 Nov 2012: Largs&NAFHS, in conjunction with Largs Historical Society: Transforming the National History of Scotland, David Forsyth (National Museum of Scotland).

Mon 19 Nov 2012: GWSFHS: Glasgow's Alhambra, Graeme Smith, Hillhead Library, Byers Road, Glasgow, 7.30.

Mon 19 Nov 2012: SGS: Names & Patronymics in The Hebrides, Ruairidh Halford-MacLeod, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Tues 20 Nov 2012: ASAFHS: Galloway's Lost Railway Lines & various other stories, Alastair Wham, Alloway Church Halls, 7.30.

Sun 25 Nov 2012: Borders FHS: The Black Death, Mary Craig, Corn Exchange, Market, Square, Melrose, 2.30.

Sat 1 Dec 2012: GOONS: Why be a Society in the 21st Century?, Gaydon, Warwickshire.

Tues 4 Dec 2012: Largs&NAFHS: Pageants & Plum Pudding; a Mediaeval Christmas, Valerie Reilly, Largs Library, 7.30.

- Thurs 6 Dec 2012: Renfrewshire FHS: Members' Evening, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley. Heritage, Gordon Thomson, Alloway Church Halls, 7.30.
- Sat 8 Dec 2012: ANESFHS: Christmas Social, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace, Aberdeen, 2 pm. Thurs 21 Feb 2013: Renfrewshire FHS: Co-operative Societies – SCWS, etc, Fiona Hayes, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley.
- Sun 9 Dec 2012: Scotslot: Scottish Music & Mountains, David Dewar, South Down Methodist Hall, Harpenden, 2 pm. Sun 24 Feb 2013: Borders FHS: How to Research Buccleuch Records, Andrew Armstrong, Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose, 2.30.
- Mon 10 Dec 2012: GWSFHS: Social and Film Evening, venue tba. Thurs 14 Mar 2013: Joint Meeting of the Ayrshire Societies: 100 Years of Lace, Margo Graham, Gateway Centre, Kilmarnock, 7.30.
- Thurs 10 Jan 2013: EAFHS: Darvel Telegraph Museum, Max Flemmich, Gateway Centre, Kilmarnock, 7.30. Mon 18 Mar 2013: GWSFHS: The Glasgow Story in 4 Chapters, Neil Baxter, Hillhead Library, Byers Road, Glasgow, 7.30.
- Tues 15 Jan 2013: ASAFHS: All the Fun of the Fair, Edwin Lawrence, Alloway Church Halls, 7.30. Thurs 21 Mar 2013: Renfrewshire FHS: The Comet, Craig Osborne, shipping buff, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley.
- Thurs 17 Jan 2013: Renfrewshire FHS: Submarine Warfire in The Clyde, Alistair Alexander, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley. Sun 24 Mar 2013: Borders FHS: Useful websites for Family History Research, Peter Munro, venue tba.
- Sat 19 Jan 2013: ANESFHS: Beginners' Meeting: Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace, Aberdeen, 2.30 pm. Thurs 12 Apr 2013: EAFHS: Belgian Refugees 1914-1919, Irene Hopkins, Gateway Centre, Kilmarnock, 7.30.
- Sat 19 Jan 2013: ANESFHS: Pre-1855 Births, Marriages & Deaths in Scotland – not just the OPRs, Bruce Bishop, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, 2 pm. Mon 15 Apr 2013: GWSFHS: AGM & Question & Answer, Hillhead Library, Byers Road, Glasgow, 7.30.
- Mon 21 Jan 2013: GWSFHS: Using East Dunbartonshire Archives in Family History, Janice Miller, Hillhead Library, Byers Road, Glasgow, 7.30. Thurs 18 Apr 2013: Renfrewshire FHS: East Renfrewshire Heritage Service, Amanda Robb, Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley.
- Sat 9 Feb 2013: GOONS: DNA, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Sat 11 May 2013: SAFHS Conference (Host: Borders FHS), Galashiels.
- Mon 18 Feb 2013: GWSFHS: The Top 20 Pre-1855 Resources for Family History in the NRS, Peter Wadley, Hillhead Library, Byers Road, Glasgow, 7.30. Sat 18 May 2013: GOONS: Trade Union Records, University of Warwick, Coventry.
- Tues 19 Feb 2013: ASAFHS: Ayrshire's Railway Mon 20 May 2013: GWSFHS: Lettering on Grave Markers, George Thomson, probably in Hillhead Library, check website, 7.30.

Sun 26 May 2013: Borders FHS: AGM: Thomas Pringle, poet, traveller and anti-slavery campaigner, Marjorie Gavin, Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose, 2.30.

Sat 26 April 2014: SAFHS Conference (Host: SAFHS), Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline.

Seallam! Visitor Centre Isle of Harris

Janet kindly asked me to do an article about the work we do for the families of the Outer Hebrides. I am sure that you will know that genealogy in the Scottish Gaidhealtachd is a very different matter from genealogy on the mainland, as we do not have many of the sources available elsewhere, but on the other hand, oral tradition here was very strong, and much of our work here involved the gathering of this oral tradition before it was lost.

Another problem here is the large number of people with the same name – at least in English, which was the language of record-keeping – we have to keep remembering that all records here were kept in a foreign language – English – so that the names which appear in registers, census returns etc, are the translations favoured by the particular registrar of the time – and the next registrar might have a different translation! So Effie of 1851 census could be Euphemia of 1861, Henrietta of 1871 and Henny of 1881, and in fact she would really have been none of these, but Oighrig in Gaelic.

In passing, I may mention that we recently compiled a teaching course in Genealogy in the Scottish Gaidhealtachd, which is being run at the Gaelic College at Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Skye – an English-language version is also available, though it is not yet being offered in any of the Colleges.

One great trouble with gathering oral tradition is that unless you write it down it is going to be lost as the tradition-bearers die, so we have been writing and publishing books on local

Please confirm with the society before setting out for these events. If you would like your events included on the diary, please send them to the Editor at along with your next item for the Bulletin.

history – 60 to date – to try to ensure that the information we have gathered is preserved. We hope to produce many more titles, but in the meantime we are also compiling a data-base – at least my wife Chris is doing so – I am the original techno-phobe! On this, we are trying to integrate the information available from written records with that obtained from oral tradition. Written records here are poor in quality, and generally late in starting, while oral tradition, though usually reliable in general terms is often lacking in detail, but a combination of the two should bring us as close to accuracy as will ever be possible

In our paper records, we have records of over a quarter of a million people who were in the Outer Hebridean islands of Lewis, Harris, the Uists and Barra between 1750 and 1920. These will be entered on a searchable database on our bi-lingual website at www.hebridespeople.com and the first section, comprising of 19,000 entries for people connected with the Isle of Harris should be on line by the time you read this, with the other island parishes following as they are completed, over the next few years. In compiling these data-bases we are fortunate to have the technical assistance of Reefnet Ltd as web-master, and financial support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Heritage Lottery Fund, Comunn na Gaidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and Leader Innse Gall.

As a first stage in our database, we have already released a searchable database with information on 22,000 emigrants from these islands to destinations world-wide. This cannot

of course be completely exhaustive, especially for individual persons, but it does include almost all the families who disappear from our records on the islands in that period. To these we have attached information from census returns overseas, shipping lists, cemetery listings and whatever other sources are available to us to compile a list of emigrants showing their family details, where they left from, and where they went to – and even if we do not yet know where they went to, they still appear as leaving the islands, with destination as yet unknown!

In general, the earlier the emigration the less complete the information on the website, but for an emigrant after about 1820, we will usually name the spouse and parents, the village and island of departure, the country and province of settlement, and at least approximate date of emigration, and sometimes the name of the emigrant ship.

The emigrant database base has been well received, to judge from the number of clients making use of it. In theory, it should save us having to answer some of the basic queries about emigrant families, but in practice it of course leads to clients wanting further information about the families left behind, but as the parish databases come on line, these should answer some of these queries also!

I can assure our colleagues that, between answering mail, writing books and compiling databases, any suggestion of the slow pace of life on the islands is a complete myth!

Bill Lawson BL, ASGRA, FSA

***Seallam!* Visitor Centre An Taobh Tuath
(Northton) Isle of Harris HS3 3JA
Scotland
Telephone and Fax: 01859 520 258
www.hebridespeople.com
e-mail:info@hebridespeople.com**

SAFHS PUBLICATIONS

from 1 November 2012

	Postage		
	UK	Europe	Rest
Inventory of Scottish Graveyards, 2 nd Edition, CD	£ 12.00	£2.20	£2.93 £3.90
Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Minutes of the Church of Scotland	£ 4.00	£2.20	£3.62 £5.70
The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland (New Edition)	£ 6.75	£2.20	£3.62 £5.70
Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland	£ 4.00	£2.20	£3.62 £5.70
Researching Scottish Graveyards	£ 4.50	£2.20	£2.93 £3.90
Scots Abroad (Part One)	£ 4.50	£2.20	£3.16 £4.50
A Scottish Historian's Glossary	£ 4.50	£2.20	£2.93 £3.90
Scottish Trades, Professions, Vital Records and Directories: A Selected Biography	£ 7.00	£2.20	£3.62 £5.70
Weights and Measures	£ 3.75	£2.20	£3.16 £4.50

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Updated on 31 10.12

Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, P.O. Box 38026, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 1N0, Canada

Cumbria Family History Society, 23 School Fold, Hesketh Bank, West Lancashire, PR4 6RE

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc, P.O. Box 8795, 1 Symonds Street, Auckland 1035, New Zealand

Scottish Group, Genealogical Society of Queensland, P.O. Box 8423, Woolloongabba 4102, Queensland, Australia

Scottish Interest Group, Western Australian Genealogical Society, 6/48 May Street, Bayswater, 6053, Western Australia

Shoalhaven Family History Society, P.O. Box 591, Nowra, NSW 2541, Australia

South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc, Society Library, 201 Unley Road, Unley, 5061, South Australia

The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, GPO Box 585, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia