



# SAFHS BULLETIN

November 2016

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

**Executive Committee** - Chairman: Janet M Bishop; Deputy Chairman: Stephen Benson; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: Bruce B Bishop; Acting Bulletin Editor: Janet M Bishop; Acting Publications: Bruce B Bishop; Member: Lorna Kinnaird

## The 28<sup>th</sup> SAFHS Annual Conference “Building Bridges; Making Connections”



The SAFHS Conference 2017 will be held in Kinghorn, Fife, hosted by **ASGRA**  
(the Association of Scottish Genealogists & Researchers in Archives).

The date is **Saturday 22 April 2017**, and you can find all the details of the event on the association's website: <http://www.asgra.co.uk> & the SAFHS website: <http://www.safhs.org.uk>

**Contacts:** Please contact via the SAFHS website [www.safhs.org.uk](http://www.safhs.org.uk)

**Chairman: Janet M Bishop**  
**Deputy Chairman: Stephen Benson**  
**Secretary: Kenneth Nisbet**  
**Treasurer: Bruce B Bishop**  
**Publications: Bruce B Bishop**  
**Webmaster: Doug Stewart**  
**Bulletin Editor: Janet M Bishop (acting)**

**The next SAFHS Council Meeting** will take place on **Saturday 11 March 2017, at 2 pm**, in the Augustine Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, directly following the **AGM at 1 pm**.

Please note that the Council Meeting is open to **designated SAFHS Council Representatives only**. An agenda will be circulated to the designated SAFHS Council reps prior to the meeting. If any rep has not received an agenda 7 days before the meeting, please contact the Chairman.

## OTHER SAFHS NEWS

### Neil Murray

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of past SAFHS Chairman, Neil Murray, who died in Inverness on 30 July 2016. A member of Highland FHS, at the end of his term of office, Neil was made a Life Member of SAFHS. Our sympathies go out to his widow, Mary, and their family.

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met quarterly since March, in Edinburgh, and edited minutes have been sent to member societies.

### Website

Items for the website should be submitted to Doug Stewart direct, including changes to your **website contact details** only.

### Bulletin Editor

Janet Bishop is for now Acting Editor and with immediate effect all items for the Bulletin should be sent to her by email – as usual, the deadline for items is the day of the Council Meeting. Please send in your items in plain Word format, with no boxes, etc, otherwise the editor will need to retype everything.

### Contacts List

The Chairman maintains the official contacts list. If you have changes between council meetings, please send them to Janet by email.

### ScotlandsPeople Vouchers

ScotlandsPeople vouchers are still useable on the new ScotlandsPeople website. However, the supply of these has been suspended, pending, hopefully, discussion on a new arrangement with the operators.

### ScotlandsPeople User Group

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group. Ken Nisbet and Janet Bishop also attend, representing the amateur and professional genealogists respectively.

### National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this committee.

### Visit Scotland Ancestral Tourism Group

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group.

### SAFHS Archive

Following discussions at the last Council Meeting, it has been decided to begin and maintain an online SAFHS archive. This will be progressed by member societies submitting material to the editor and to this end an email will follow from the editor in due course.

## News from Member Societies

### ***Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS***

Our team of volunteers who staff the Research Centre continue to provide an excellent support service to new and experienced researchers and develop the resources available.

The meetings of the Society in Aberdeen, Elgin, Glasgow and Edinburgh continue to be well-attended.

Our Aberdeen meetings are held in the Unitarian Church Hall on Saturday afternoons: 19th November 2016, 21st January 2017, 18th February 2017, 18th March 2017.

Our Glasgow branch meetings are 19th Nov 2016 and 12th Feb 2017, held in St Stephens Church Centre. Renfield Street.

Our Edinburgh branch meetings are 12th Nov 2016 and 21st Jan 2017, held in The Royal Scots Club, Abercromby Place.

Our Moray Branch has meetings on 12th Nov and 10th Dec 2016, 14th Jan 2017 and 11th Feb 2017 in Elgin Library.

Full details including speakers can be found via our website.

Our Research Centre is at 158-164 King St. Aberdeen. AB24 5BD. The opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm  
Saturday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Our MI teams continue and some of our printed MI booklets are now also available in Kindle format but more recently we have allowed Find my Past to upload a large number of our MI records.

We are about to publish Nellfield which will be in 3 Volumes.

Our 6 week beginners/near beginners classes

are still proving popular with our current classes oversubscribed and a waiting list for the next classes which will take place in the New Year.

**Contact:** *Chairman, Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS, 158-164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD.*

**E-mail:** *enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk* **Tel:** 01224 646323;

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

### **ASGRA**

ASGRA, as the leading professional genealogical association in Scotland, continues to go from strength to strength. In September, we marked the new formal alliance with our Irish counterparts, the Accredited Genealogists Ireland, with a joint two-day event in Belfast. Based at PRONI in the Titanic Quarter, delegates had the opportunity to visit other repositories such as the Linen Hall Library and the Presbyterian Historical Society archives.

At the end of October the association achieved another important milestone with the official presentation of our coat of arms by Dr Joseph Morrow, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, in New Register House, Edinburgh. ASGRA is committed to promoting continuing professional development for members and the wider genealogical community and has hosted two business development seminars in Edinburgh.

While all this has been happening, the more mundane but important work of the association has been underway, with a radical review of administrative systems and procedures, not to mention the time-consuming preparations for the 2017 SAFHS conference at the Bay Hotel, Kinghorn, Fife.

And finally congratulations are due to Linda Kerr on the successful completion of her probationary period and admission to ASGRA as a full member.

**Contact:** *Janet M Bishop, Chairman*

**Email:** [info@asgra.co.uk](mailto:info@asgra.co.uk)

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

## Borders FHS

Archive & Research Centre opening hours from 1 November 2016 to 28 February 2017:

Monday 6 pm to 8 pm, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am to 4 pm. Friday by appointment.

We will be closed from Monday 19 December 2016 to Sunday 8 January 2017 inclusive.

If you are unable to visit, we offer a Research Service. Contact us via our website, email, facebook or by post. We can help you break down those brick walls and source information on your ancestors and their families. The Society gratefully appreciates the many members who keep the Society running and welcome visitors to our Archive & Research Room.

Programme of talks and events:

Sunday 30 Oct 2016: The Great Disruption of 1843 and the wider religious implications by Kenneth McLean

Sunday 27 Nov 2016: Soldiers' Wills by Tristram Clarke

Sunday 27 Feb 2017: From Abbey St. Bathans to Otago: the story of a forgotten Borderer, John Turnbull Thomson by David Lockie

Sunday 26 Mar 2017: Transcribing Scotlandsplaces' Andrew Nicoll

Sunday 30 Apr 2017: Farm Servants of South-east Scotland 1750 -1914 by David McLean

Sunday 28 May 2017: AGM followed by The deid's letterwills and legacies – lifting the veil on past lives by Margaret Fox, Archivist at Traquair House

All Borders FHS talks start at 2.30pm and will be held in the Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN.

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Mary Thomson. Mary joined the Society in June 2005, but such was her enthusiasm, knowledge of the Borders and particularly of Border families (Mary seemed to know absolutely everybody), that within two years she was not only appointed a member of Council but

found herself the Society Archivist and also both Sales and Research Convenor. Mary's knowledge, expertise, dedication and hard work will be hard to replace.

During the Borders Heritage Festival in September, the Society held an exhibition on "Life in the Borders 1914-1919" which featured the "Christina Craig", the Berwickshire fishermen and their boats of the Auxiliary Patrol. It also included the schools and life in Traquair Parish and the Borders Policemen and Arrest records in Roxburghshire from 1914 to 1919. Our thanks go to the Collin family who provided material on the Christina Craig.

Our Monumental Inscription recording continues with transcriptions of Broughton, Glenholm, Kilbucho, Skirling and Heriot now added to the archive with several others in progress including Hawick Wilton.

**Contact:** 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1DP

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

**Research:** [research@bordersfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@bordersfhs.org.uk)

**Email:** [info@bordersfhs.org.uk](mailto:info@bordersfhs.org.uk)

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

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

## Caithness FHS

Hello from Caithness Family History Society (CFHS), Scotland's most northerly mainland family history society. CFHS has, over the years, acquired many resources that can help trace Caithness roots. These are held in our Library, located in Caithness Horizons, Thurso (<http://www.caithnesshorizons.co.uk>).

The library resources and the experience and expertise of CFHS members are available every Saturday afternoon to anyone seeking help or support with Caithness ancestors or by arrangement by contacting Ian Leith on 07715 493696.

We are looking forward to the opening of 'Nucleus', the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Archive, which is currently under construction. When complete, this amazing building will also house the Caithness Archive.

Details are included in our most recent CFHS Journal.

Our events continue to be well attended. The current programme has included:

- The amazing story of 'Finding Relatives in New Zealand' by Myrtle Gillies
- An informative talk on 'Weaving Fiction from Fact' by author Dorothy Stewart, who was born in Wick.
- An interesting talk on the 'Nicolson Collection' by Alistair Sutherland John Nicolson was a renowned sculptor, painter, archaeologist and collector from Auckengill in Caithness.
- An update on the 'Duke of Kent's Plane Crash at Eagle's Rock' by local historian David Bews.

The programme for the next few months:

Wednesday 12 October 2016

*Caithness Family History Society AGM*

Wednesday 9 November 2016

*Kirk Session Minutes: the lives, loves and many sins of a parish by Bruce Bishop*

Wednesday 14 December 2016

*The Australian Connection by Muriel Murray*

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

### ***Dumfries & Galloway FHS***

Dumfries and Galloway membership remains steady. We have been delighted to welcome many overseas and UK members this summer. Two of our volunteers retired earlier in the year after many years of sterling service. However we have been joined by two new volunteers, but we are always looking to recruit more.

The Society has bought a new precision scanner – called UScan. It is available in the Centre for volunteers and visitors to use to scan fiche and roll films. It can be used to scan the fiche of the indexes to Old Parish Records of births and marriages; IGI records and Newspapers that we have in our archives. It can also be used to scan

the roll films of the Old Parish Records which contain births, marriages and sometimes Proclamations and deaths. The UScan has 2 USB outlet sockets as does the computer. So, a visitor who brings a memory stick with them, can record all their research and take it away with them. This facility has benefit for members who live at a distance. If a member asks for information, a volunteer can do a "look-up" on fiche and/or film, record the results digitally and then transmit the results via e-mail to the enquirer – without printing and postage costs being incurred. This new UScan adds significantly to the services we can provide through the Research Centre for members and visitors.

Our talks held in St. Ninian's Church Hall Castle Douglas continue to be well attended. In April Ken Nisbet was our guest speaker who presented a most interesting and informative talk on Researching Your Military Relatives from 18<sup>th</sup> Century to WW11. Our speaker for June was our past chairperson Lynda Mackie who gave a most interesting presentation of Dumfries Academy and the Jamaican Slave Trade. We were privileged to have Dr Joseph Morrow the Lord Lyon King of Arms in September. Dr Morrow presented a most interesting and humorous talk on the duties of the Lord Lyon. Our syllabus for 2017 is in the process of being compiled.

Dumfries & Galloway were present at the SAFHS Conference & Family History Fair at New Lanark Mill and the Lanarkshire Family History Fair in Motherwell.

We are hoping to have some new publications to offer in 2017. There is work in progress at the moment.

**Contact:** 9 Glasgow Street, Dumfries DG2 9AF

**Email:** [secretary@dgfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dgfhs.org.uk)

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

### ***East Ayrshire FHS***

**Meetings:** Evening meetings are held at 7 pm in the Johnnie Walker Bond, Strand Street, Kilmarnock on the second Thursday of the

months September to May. Visitors are very welcome to attend.

The speaker at the September meeting was Frank Beattie, a well-known local historian and retired journalist. His presentation *The Kilmarnock I Remember* featured old photographs of the town from his collection. At the time of writing we look forward to the meeting in October when Neil Dickson's subject is *The Nobel Prize and Kilmarnock Academy*. It is remarkable that two Nobel Prize winners, Sir Alexander Fleming and Lord John Boyd Orr, were both former pupils, albeit but briefly, of Kilmarnock Academy. Fleming won his Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1945 for discovering penicillin and Boyd Orr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949 for his work in human nutrition. In November local author Donald Reid will speak about *The Last Miners of Ayrshire's Doon Valley*.

**2017 joint meeting:** On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 our Society is hosting the annual Ayrshire joint meeting when we will enjoy the company of our friends from Troon & Ayrshire FHS and North Ayrshire FHS. The speaker on that occasion will be Dr Irene O'Brien from The Mitchell Library.

**Our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year:** East Ayrshire FHS was founded in 1997. In celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary we are holding a special event on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017**. This is a **Local and Family History Fair** which will take place from 10.15 am to 4.15 pm in the **Grand Hall, Kilmarnock**. Admission is free. Stallholders include family history societies from Ayrshire and adjoining areas and various heritage groups. Booking forms will be available soon.

**Contact:** Secretary, East Ayrshire FHS, c/o Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU

**Email:** [enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

**Facebook:** Enter East Ayrshire FHS in the search box

### **Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS**

**IMPORTANT** all meetings (unless otherwise stated) are held in the Gilchrist Theatre at Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow,

G12 0SW and entry is via the Kirklee Rd entrance.

The meetings start at 7:30pm prompt and the meetings for 2016/17 session are on

Monday 21 November 2016 Ronnie Convery – "The Making of Italian Scotland"

Monday 12 December 2016 Social Evening in Kelvinside Academy Dining Hall

Monday 16 January 2017 Bill Hicks & Jill Scott – "Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel"

Monday 20 February 2017 Iain Hutchison – "Child Health in Scotland – A History of Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children"

Monday 20 March 2017 Andrew Nicholl – "Catholic Burial Grounds in Scotland"

Monday 10 April 2017 AGM and James Slavin – "Communion tokens and Family History"

Monday 15 May 2017 Stephen Mullen – "Glasgow's Built Heritage: Tobacco, Slavery and Abolition"

NOTE: The venue for the May meeting has still to be arranged.

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. See detailed [map](#) of how to get to Kelvinside Academy.

Please note that any changes to venues will be advertised on the Society Website or the Society Facebook.

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. Back issues can be viewed on the members only area of the website that also includes several databases together with information from recent talks. We welcome our new E-News Editor David Hart who took over from John Mills in September

after six years as editor. The E-news has proved to be a great success and thanks must go John for all the work John has put in over the years.

The society is involved in a project to record the inscriptions in Glasgow Cathedral graveyard. The wall around the Cathedral has been photographed and will be transcribed then checked later. The remainder of the stones are all laying flat on the grounds and require to be uncovered then photographed. An architect from HES wants all the stones uncovered.

New resources are continually being added to the computers at the Research Centre and the computers have recently been upgraded to Windows 10. Access to the data on the computers is assisted by having the data split into 16 Categories.

The Society has recently published on CD Glasgow Cathcart Churchyard M.I.s (ref. GCD17). Work on The Glasgow Necropolis Cemetery project is now complete. There are photographs of over 4,600 stones and monuments to a total of over 7,000 photos as some have data on multiple sides to the monument, transcribed them and drawn up location maps where to find your ancestors place of rest. There are 22 sections in the Cemetery and maps have been created to outline the stone number sequence for each section. A surname searchable program has been added to help locate ancestors and this will bring up the photo, linked to the transcription and location. All this data has been put on a DVD disk (ref. G0047). These together with many other publications can be viewed on the website (under "Resources").

As well as frequent additions to the Society's library there are also regular additions to the computers in the Research Centre. The library additions include both new publications and out-of-print books and the library catalogue can be searched on the Society's website. Many of the books are donated by members. Recent additions include several volumes in the series Place Names of Northern Ireland.

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. For exact dates please check the Society's website**



*Building housing the G&WSFHS Resource Centre*

**Contact:** G&WSFHS, Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street, Glasgow G11 5QP

**Tel:** 0141-339 8303

**Twitter:** @GWSFHS

### **Lanarkshire FHS**

Lanarkshire Family History Society is proud to have been the organisers of the **27<sup>th</sup> Annual SAFHS Conference & Family History Fair** on 23 April in New Lanark Mill, which is a World Heritage Site. From all reports, the Conference was a success.

We also held our own **Local and Family History Show** in Motherwell Concert hall on Saturday 3 September. Our thanks go to the 12 SAFHS member societies who attended along with around 25 local history groups and 5 schools with various class projects on display.

Our November Speaker Evening in the GLO Centre, Motherwell, will be on Thursday 10 November. The speaker will be Agnes Dougan, and her talk will be about her recent visit to Taiwan, visiting the sites of WWII Japanese

Prisoner of War Camps. Agnes's father had been one of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry men held prisoner for many years.

Over the summer months, our transcribers and publications teams have been extremely busy and have added 7 titles to our growing Publications List:

## **1 Monumental Inscriptions Book:**

Airdrie Clarkston Churchyard MIs.

## **5 Fallen of WWI Books:**

Lanarkshire Fallen at the Battle of the Somme 1916;

Lanarkshire Fallen at the Battle of Loos 1917;

Fallen of Wishaw WWI 1914-1918;

Lest we Forget, WWI Newmains, Cambusnethan and Morningside;

Lest we Forget, WWI for Overtown, Waterloo, Castlehill.

## **1 Local history book:**

This book has been out of print for many years; we worked with the author and the book is now available again.

'**Calderbank - An Industrial and Social History**' by Robert Duncan.

## **Address ALL correspondence to:**

Lanarkshire Family History Society  
c/o North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre, Local History Room, 1 High Road, MOTHERWELL.  
ML1 3HU.

*Email:* [secretary-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:secretary-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## ***Lochaber & N Argyll FHG***

Here are the dates and subjects for the coming year:

8 November 2016

Bring along an item or a story about a part of your own research to discuss.

6 December 2016

Angus Grant, the left-handed fiddler, talking about his own background.

10 January 2017

Alex, the Lochaber Archivist.

14 February 2017

May and Alisdair: 1901 Census, part 8.

14 March 2017

Fiona Marwick (former Curator, West Highland Museum): dating old photos.

11 April 2017

Anne Marie MacLaren: Brackletter and Cille Choiril.

9 May 2017

To be confirmed.

*Lochaber and North Argyll Family History Group*

- <http://tinyurl.com/y6te7n>

## ***Lothians FHS***

Our team of volunteers continues to provide an excellent support service to new and experienced researchers and have continued our program of transcribing the burial indexes for Midlothian.

We have attended family history events at Lanarkshire FHS fair at Motherwell and SCOTCON at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh. We will be attending the Fife FHS Fair on 8<sup>th</sup> October and a local event at the Dalkeith Museum on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The society has a wide variety of informative and entertaining talks for the 2016/ 2017 session.



The program is as follows –

Sept 14 Cousland History & Smiddy –  
Sheena Irving

Oct 12 Newbattle Abbey's contribution to  
WW2 project - Charlotte Johnson

- Nov 9 The Innocent Railway - James Waugh  
Dec 14 Christmas Gathering  
**2017**  
Jan 11 "What's in your Attic", Bring your artefacts along.  
Feb 8 Memories and memory.  
Introduction to oral history - Anne Reid  
Mar 8 Mining in the Lothians - Alan Donaldson  
April 12 Master masons in family history - Rosemary Garrod  
May 10 Photography for Family Historians

Talks are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Library, Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg. Workshops take place each Wednesday evening from 7 till 9 pm. The Lasswade Centre is a 10 minute walk from the main bus stops and has a large car park.

*[Photo: Cousland Smiddy, which dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century]*

**Contact:** Lothians FHS, The Library, Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA

**Email:** [lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com)

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

**Facebook:** Lothians FHS

**Contact:** Lothians FHS, Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA

## **Moray Burial Ground Research Group**



In August we had two MI recording visits of interest. This year our annual summer outing was to Cabrach Church and Churchyard

which is situated almost on the boundary between Aberdeenshire and Moray. As we had a large turnout of some 17 volunteers, we managed to record most of the 190 odd memorials. The keenness of one member being worthy of considerable note, travelling as she did from her home near Perth and back again all in the same day! Our efforts also included the careful cleaning, and transcribing of 30 flat

tombstones, the majority of which were extremely worn and very difficult to read. Also about 80% of the memorials were also photographed, as for once we had a plentiful supply of sunshine. Afterwards, most of our volunteers headed for the Grouse Inn for a well earned meal and other refreshments.

Our second more extraordinary foray was to the old churchyard of Drainie, situated on the airfield of RAF Lossiemouth, to which there is no public access. Previously in 2011, Helen and I visited Drainie for the second time to advise and assist in the cleaning and tidying up of the churchyard, the tombstones having become badly overgrown with grass. Our initial visit to the site was in 2003 when MBGRG recorded all the memorials which were published the following year.

Unfortunately the site had once again reverted to its natural state and Andy Kidd, Operations Officer on the Airbase requested our further assistance. So on another sunny Saturday Helen and I, along with Secretary Ruth McIntosh, proceeded to the camp gate where we received our pass cards and were then taken out to meet the other "volunteers." These included William, a bright young boy, who Ruth patiently helped to enthuse, and by the end of the day almost all of the 67 odd tombstones had been brought back to some semblance of tidiness [pic shows Ruth and William].



Most of our work during the last few months has concentrated on recording old Keith churchyard and its extension. This contains well over 700 memorials. Although the old section contains many stones of interest, such as the one erected to his parents, by playboy James Gordon Bennett who published the New York Herald, a few others require further research. One such is the large table stone erected by George McIntosh of Halifax, Nova Scotia in memory of his brother George who died in 1778 aged 26. What is of

special interest is the large, framed image deeply carved at the bottom end of the stone. This appears to show the representation of a man holding a very long spear in his left hand. Unfortunately because the carving is so deep, water regularly collects over and around the figure making the image much more worn than it might otherwise have been. However, enough survives to see that the man is wearing what seems to be a skirt or kilt like piece of clothing.

So the interesting question arises, is this the image of say George wearing a kilt, or might it just be the depiction of a native Canadian Indian?



Work continues apace on producing our next publication, Cullen and Deskford Monumental inscriptions and War Memorials. We had hoped it would have been available by now, but with so much else going on it probably won't be out till sometime next year.

**Contact:** Keith Mitchell, Chairman  
**Website:** [www.mbgrrg.org.uk](http://www.mbgrrg.org.uk)

### ***Moray & Nairn FHS***

Work this year saw the society produce the following publications:

#### **Death Notices, Articles Concerning Deaths and Obituaries from the *Elgin Courier* 1827-1834**

Published in two parts. Unlike today, in 1827 there was no newspaper published in Elgin and the people of the town had to content themselves with newspapers from other parts of Scotland, and further afield.

The notices cover deaths in Elgin, the near neighbourhood, the rest of the county, throughout the country and even overseas. Many examples can be found of notices of deaths at sea, both locally, and from elsewhere. Entries

are listed also from more unexpected places such as Toulouse, Rome and Gibraltar.

There are announcements of the death of the illustrious, the well-known and the humble. The shortest announcement may be one from June 14, 1833 which simply states, "Near Dublin, Captain Wainwright, of the 25th Foot." The longest entry is probably that for the murderer William Noble whose crime is first announced in the issue of January 3, 1834, with reports continuing to his execution which is described in the issue of June 6, the same year.

This work by the Moray & Nairn Family History Society follows on from the work undertaken on death notices from the *Forres Gazette*. The series, in two parts, is available from Moray & Nairn FHS at only £6 each, p&p extra.

#### **Poor Register for the Parish of Elgin from 1845-1891**

(published in 3 parts 1845-1871, 1871-1881 & 1881-1891) which is a transcription of the Register for each pauper who was accepted to be given Poor Relief under The Poor Law Act of 1845 which ended the relief of the Poor by charity, ie by church collections, and made it possible for more financial support to be raised.

They note in detail the change in circumstances of the person named and sometimes their family's circumstances, including any increase or decrease of relief given, occasionally entry into the poorhouse and often their date of death. Over 970 individuals are listed in the Register of paupers. They give a unique glimpse of the social attitudes to the poor in Victorian Elgin, though it was not always paupers who got relief, sometimes it was those who were sick or out of work. An entry is as follows:

BAXTER, JANE - Residence: Blackhills; Age: 44; Date of Minute of Parochial Board authorising relief: Sep 1845; Amount and Description of Relief: 9d per week; Country and Place of Birth: Elgin; Religious Denomination: Protestant; Condition: Single; Trade or Occupation: Fieldwork; Wholly or Partially Disabled: Partially;

Description of Disablement: Illegitimate child; Wholly or Partially Destitute: Partially; Earnings: 6d per day when employed & has a free house; Nature of Settlement: Birth & Residence; Name & Age of Wife, Children: James Baxter or Walker 10; Name, Age and Weekly Earnings of Husband, Wife, Child: In 1873 son above alluded to is in Aberdeen, and sends no aid to his mother; Other Information: This woman is of a very violent temper and very few will employ her; Register: Nov 1862 – Her allowance was increased to 2/- per week, 13 Dec 1873 – Has been sick and in bed and some small extras given, illegitimate son James Walker at Devenha Distillery Aberdeen made responsible for all outlays, 6 Oct 1875 – Admitted to Poorhouse 18 Sep 1875, - Dec 1875 – Died 16 Nov 1875 and buried by Parish.

This work by the Moray & Nairn Family History Society follows on from the work undertaken on the Poor Registers for the Parishes of Alves and of Bellie. The series, in three parts, is available from Moray & Nairn FHS at only £6 each, p&p extra.

For further information see the Bookshop on the website

[www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](http://www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

### **NORTH AYRSHIRE FHS**

The first meeting of the new session began with a talk on 'The Lost Villages of Ayrshire', the title of the latest book by Dane Love, which will be available in December.

We heard how a large number of villages have been 'lost' due to the re-alignment of roads, the result of the movement of people to the towns for better conditions and higher wages and the closing of unprofitable pits.

October's meeting has the intriguing title of, 'My Ancestors got into trouble: court, Kirk Sessions and Scandal'. A large attendance is expected for this talk to be given by Joan Wiggins, as we all like a little bit of intrigue.

Our annual fundraiser in the form of a Coffee

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SC 029006

Morning will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. in the Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, Eileen Bremner will be speaking on 'Hair Styles; male and female through the Ages'. Hopefully, after this talk we shall be able to date our old photographs more accurately.

The Joint Meeting with Largs Historical Society in St. John's ToCh, Largs will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November when Dr S Morrison, Strathclyde University will talk on 'People's histories: Exploring oral history in the community'.

The Christmas Social is being held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December when Val Reilly with a very suitable title for the season, 'To honour the Angels,' will tell us of the origins of the Christmas Carol.

The dates for the '**Find Your Ain Folks**' workshops – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 27<sup>th</sup>, Apr. The workshops are from 2-30-4pm in the Community Room of Largs Library, 26, Allanpark Street, Largs, KA30 9AG, where all the monthly meetings are held unless stated otherwise.

*The Secretary may be contacted through Largs Library.*

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

### **SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

The Scottish Genealogy Society is the longest-established family history society in Scotland and our library and research centre are located at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL, where members and non-members are welcome. The library is staffed by enthusiastic volunteers, who are happy to assist researchers and offer advice. UK annual membership is £20 and overseas membership is £25, which includes receipt of 4 journals a year. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10.30 – 5.30, Wednesday 10.30 – 7.30 and Saturday 10.00 – 5.00.

The library offers access to both Ancestry and

Find My Past, as well as the myriad internet sites offering free access. ScotlandsPeople website can also be accessed using the visitor's account.

The society holds all the microfiche and microfilm records of the Old Parish Registers for the whole of Scotland, of which copies can be taken at a charge of 30p. One of the strengths of the society is its collection of Monumental Inscriptions, which are continuously added to and can be viewed free of charge, or purchased as required. The extensive reference library holds many rare and interesting volumes. Our website offers a wealth of information with numerous links, which are helpful to family and local researchers. Monthly meetings are held between September and April (see website for details).

The society also organizes a series of courses on Saturday mornings in the library. These include "Old Parish Registers", "Beginners", "WWI", "Health and history: Using medical records in genealogical research", "Catholic Church Records", "Irish Records" and "Pre-1841 Population Lists". Please see the website for further details.

**Contact:** *Scottish Genealogy Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL*  
**Tel/Fax:** 0131 220 3677  
**Website:** [www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com)

### **WEST LOTHIAN FHS**

We have settled into our new home at the Lanthorn Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6JL, and it's there that we will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from September to June at 7.00 pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

We have also taken up residence in our new 'office' space within the Library at the Lanthorn Centre. We have all our research materials in place and since our move to the Lanthorn Centre we have also welcomed along more new members. We aim to provide a similar service to that which we already currently have in place at the Local History Library in Linlithgow.

At Linlithgow we provide a "helping hand" to anyone who pops in to the Local History Library on Wednesdays and Fridays between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. Days and times for our Lanthorn facility will be: Mondays 10.00 am till 3.00 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays 11.00 am till 4.00 pm.

This will also be a place for people to come along and meet us and learn what the Society is all about and with the help of our member volunteers at Lanthorn we aim to provide beginners start up sessions as well as giving a helping hand to all members, old and new, to explore various websites to further their knowledge and get the best out of them to help grow their family trees.

We also continue to have our monthly visits to New Register House on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month. These visits are very well attended by our members and, more often than not, our 40 places are nearly always taken up. New members are welcome to attend and our steadfast members will assist anyone who needs help with their research.

The Society continues to grow from strength to strength and we are very fortunate that we continue to have an excellent turnout of members to all our meetings and talks.

Our membership remains at £10 for single members, £15 for a couple from the same household and £12.00 for overseas membership.

Our first meeting this session, which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016, was very well-attended and generated five new members. We continue to have a very healthy, active membership. Our new lecture facilities, which we intend to expand, were on display.

At our second meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed new members to our slideshow, "How to start researching", and we will also have tables with other research facilities for returning members.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November we welcomed Sybil Cavanagh, who gave a talk on Bangour War Hospital during WW1, including Hopetoun and Polkemmet Auxiliary Hospitals.

Our meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December will be a Christmas get-together with the usual quiz and eats, non-alcoholic drinks and a bit of a laugh getting to know each other better. Anyone stuck with a query is invited to bring it along and we will try to provide answers for them in the January meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>, in the New Year, a 'Gee's a Haun' night.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 our guest speaker will be Craig Statham, of The National Library of Scotland, who will give a talk on Maps and Local History.

***For further information contact:***

*Secretary, West Lothian Family History Society, c/o 21 Willowpark, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9HN*

*Email: [sec@wlfhs.org.uk](mailto:sec@wlfhs.org.uk)*

*Membership Enquiries: [member@wlfhs.org.uk](mailto:member@wlfhs.org.uk)*

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

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**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 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741, New Zealand  
**Scottish Group**, Genealogical Society of Queensland, P.O. Box 3070, Stafford DC, Queensland 4053, Australia  
**Shoalhaven Family History Society**, P.O. Box 591, Nowra, NSW 2541, Australia  
**Scottish Interest Group**, Western Australian Genealogical Society, 6/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia 6053  
**South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc**, Box 592, Adelaide 5001, South Australia  
**The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc**, GPO Box 585, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

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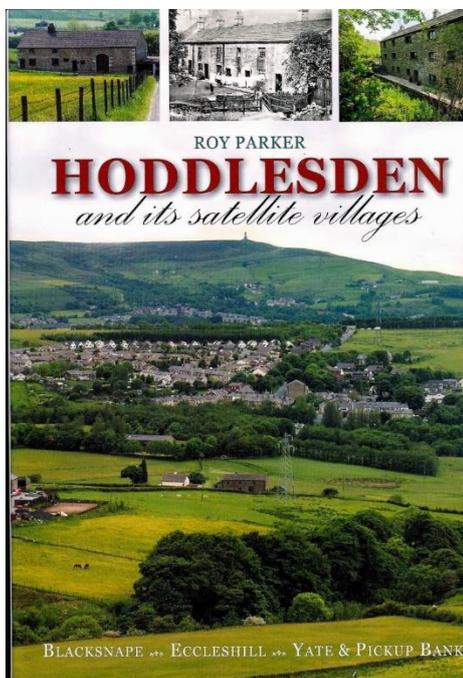
## *Diary Dates 2016-17*

Monday 21 November	The Making of Italian Scotland: Ronnie Convery, 7.30 pm, Gilchrist Theatre, Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow (Glasgow & WSFHS)
Sunday 27 November	Soldiers' Wills: Tristram Clarke: 2.30 pm, Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose (Borders FHS)
Tuesday 6 December	Angus Grant, the left-handed fiddler: his own background (Lochaber & NAFHG)
Wednesday 14 December	The Australian Connection: Muriel Murray, 7 pm (Caithness FHS)
Tuesday 10 January	Alex, the Lochaber Archivist (Lochaber & NAFHG)
Thursday 12 January	Members Talks: 7 pm, Johnnie Walker Bond, Kilmarnock (E Ayrshire FHS)
Wednesday 11 January	What's in your Attic: bring along artefacts, 7 pm, The Library, Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg (Lothians FHS)
Monday 16 January	Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel: Bill Hicks & Jill Scott, 7.30 pm, Gilchrist Theatre, Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow (Glasgow & WSFHS)
Tuesday 7 February	Maps and Local History: Craig Steatham, NLS, 7 pm, Landhorn Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston (WLFHS)
Thursday 9 February	History of Craufurdland Castle, Simon Craufurd, 7 pm, Johnnie Walker Bond, Kilmarnock (E Ayrshire FHS)
Wednesday 8 February	Memories & Memory: an introduction to Oral History: Anne Reid, 7 pm, The Library, Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg (Lothians FHS)
Tuesday 14 February	1901 Census, part 8, by May & Alisdair (Lochaber & NAFHG)
Monday 20 February	Child Health in Scotland: a history of Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children: Iain Hutchison, 7.30 pm, Gilchrist Theatre, Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow (Glasgow & WSFHS)
Sunday 27 February	From Abbey St Bathans to Otago: David Lockie, 2.30 pm, Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose (Borders FHS)
Wednesday 8 March	Mining in The Lothians: Alan Donaldson, 7 pm, The Library, Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg (Lothians FHS)
Thursday 9 March	Heritage along the Clyde: Irene O'Brien, 7 pm, Johnnie Walker Bond, Kilmarnock (E Ayrshire FHS)
Tuesday 14 March	Dating old Photographs: Fiona Marwick (Lochaber & NAFHG)
Saturday 18 March	Local and Family History Fair: 10.15 am – 4.15 pm, Grand Hall, Kilmarnock (E Ayrshire FHS)
Monday 20 March	Catholic Burial Grounds in Scotland: Andrew Nicoll, 7.30 pm, Gilchrist Theatre, Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow (Glasgow & WSFHS)
Sunday 26 March	Transcribing ScotlandsPlaces: Andrew Nicoll, 2.30 pm, Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose (Borders FHS)

Monday 10 April	AGM, followed by Communion Tokens & Family History, James Slavin, 7.30 pm, Gilchrist Theatre, Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow (Glasgow & WSFHS)
Tuesday 11 April	Brackletter & Cille Choiril (Lochaber & NAFHG)
Wednesday 12 April	Master Masons in family history: Rosemary Garrod, 7 pm, The Library, Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg (Lothians FHS)
Thursday 13 April	Lost Villages of Ayrshire: Dane Love, 7 pm, Johnnie Walker Bond, Kilmarnock (E Ayrshire FHS)
Sunday 30 April	Farm Servants of South East Scotland, 1750-1914: David McLean, 2.30 pm, Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose (Borders FHS)
Wednesday 10 May	Photography for Family Historians: 7 pm, The Library, Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg (Lothians FHS)
Monday 15 May	Glasgow's Built Heritage: Tobacco, Slavery & Abolition, Stephen Mullen, 7.30 pm, venue TBA (Glasgow & WSFHS)
Sunday 28 May	AGM, followed by The Deid's Letterwills and Legacies: Margaret Fox, 2.30 pm, Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose (Borders FHS)

## SAFHS Publications, April 2016

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Researching Scottish Graveyards	£ 4.50	2.20	2.93	3.90
Scots Abroad, Part 1	£ 4.50	2.20	3.16	4.50
A Scottish Historian's Glossary	£ 4.50	2.20	2.93	3.90
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'Hoddlesden and its satellite villages' is a well illustrated example describing life in rural upland communities throughout the British Isles. The themes focus on earning a living during the 18/19C, contrasting prosperity and survival through growth of industrialisation, population changes, small-scale farming, developments in textiles, extractive and other industries. The impact on families and the workforce are well researched.

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Tel: 01204 64424. email: [royparker0019@gmail.net](mailto:royparker0019@gmail.net)

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