

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) was founded on 4 October 1986, as a result of a need for individual societies to communicate with one another. Since then, its membership has grown, and now includes all established family history societies in Scotland, as well as several national and regional bodies throughout the world. Its main aims are to promote and encourage the study of Scottish family history, and to provide a forum for the exchange, collection and distribution of information among the member societies.

Full Membership is open to Scottish family history societies and associations with a particular interest in Scottish family history. Full members are expected to send representatives to Council meetings. A new society wishing to become a Full member of SAFHS is offered the first year's subscription free of charge, and has the opportunity of receiving help and advice from the established societies.

Associate Membership is available to societies outwith Scotland with an interest in Scottish family history. All member societies receive a copy of the Minutes of the Council meetings.

The Council of the Association is made up of representatives from the full member societies, and meets twice a year in Edinburgh. This enables the societies to exchange information and debate important matters affecting family historians in Scotland. The Council defines policy, and can, by discussion, agree and set satisfactory standards for family history societies, to which member societies should aspire.

The Association's Newsletter, the *Bulletin*, is published twice-yearly and distributed world-wide. It contains news from the government agencies, and reports on the latest news and activities of the member societies. Copies of the *Bulletin* can also be downloaded from our website www.safhs.org.uk

ScotlandsPeople Vouchers are available to member societies on a discount scheme negotiated with ScotlandsPeople.

Annual Conferences are organised by member societies, in conjunction with the Association, which is always willing to help and underwrite such events, if agreed beforehand. These Conferences are designed to promote family history through a programme of talks, sales of societies' publications and the recruitment of new members to family history societies. Conference delegates have the opportunity of meeting others with similar interests, and of informally exchanging ideas about their own research. SAFHS has produced a Conference Guide for Conference hosts.

Representations & Co-operation – the Association acts for its members as spokesperson to national and local government bodies and agencies in Scotland, on matters affecting the study of family history. SAFHS is currently represented on the Scottish Family History Project and the Scottish Council on Archives, and regularly attends meetings in Edinburgh to represent Scottish interests. The Association, through its member societies, represents approximately 37,000 individual family historians in the UK, and 32,000 in the Commonwealth and United States. It also seeks to co-operate with archive centres, museums and public record offices in Scotland, as well as having regular contact with the Federation of Family History Societies, which represents England and Wales, on matters of common interest.

National Projects are co-ordinated by the Association, thus avoiding duplication of effort by societies. The Association also co-operates with other national bodies in the UK, to ensure uniformity in research projects.

Education is an important aspect of promoting family history, and this is achieved through the annual Conferences and regular programmes of talks, seminars and workshops, organised by member societies. Through their journals, individual societies also promote family history courses run by certain universities.

Publications – the Association publishes a range of publications, generally on topics covering the whole of Scotland. Current publications are:

Inventory of Scottish Graveyards, 2nd Edition; Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Minutes of the Church of Scotland; The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland; Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland; Scots Abroad (Part One); A Scottish Historian's Glossary; Scottish Trades, Professions, Vital Records and Directories; Weights and Measures.

Member societies exchange journals, information and advice concerning new publications, and may review other societies' publications in their own journals, thus promoting sales.

The SAFHS Website – www.safhs.org.uk – lists all member societies, with links to their websites. The site also contains a sales list of the Association's publications, as well as a News Desk giving details of future Conferences and new family history publications.

Membership Rates : Full Member £40.00; Associate Member £30.00

The Association's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December, and subscriptions are payable on or before 31 January each year.

For further details, contact: Mr Kenneth Nisbet, Hon Secretary SAFHS, 22 Spey Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 4PL

All correspondence to the Association or its members societies must be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and 3 International Reply Coupons, or the appropriate UK postage stamps, to ensure a reply.

Full Members:

Aberdeen & N E Scotland FHS
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Anglo-Scottish FHS
ASGRA
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FHS of Buchan
Caithness FHS
Central Scotland FHS
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