



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION of FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2009

www.safhs.org.uk

Executive Committee: Chairman: Bruce B Bishop; Deputy Chairman: Andrew Eadie; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: Vacant; Editor: Janet M Bishop; Publications Manager: Margaret Mackay



The SAFHS Executive, l to r: Janet Bishop, Editor, Bruce Bishop, Chairman, Andrew Eadie, Deputy Chairman, Margaret Mackay, Publications Manager, rear: Kenneth Nisbet, Secretary

The next meeting of SAFHS is on Saturday, 20 March 2010, in the Boardroom, Central Youth Hostel, Haddington Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, at 1.30 pm

October 2009 Council Meeting

The October Council Meeting was held on Saturday 17 October 2009, in the Central Youth Hostel, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. Minutes have been distributed to member societies.

SAFHS Conference 2009 King's Conference Centre & Elphinstone Hall, Aberdeen, 25 April 2009

When the idea of hosting the SAFHS Conference was first mooted a couple of years ago, we embraced the idea with enthusiasm and thought it sounded like good fun and not too demanding of time and effort. I did notice that Gay, Jean and Anne, who had been responsible for organising an earlier conference in 1995, kept strangely quiet and non-committal, merely shaking their heads pityingly and glancing at each other knowingly. I soon discovered why!!

It was incredible how much hard work went into this Conference and Fair. As chairman of the Society, I operated on a "need to know" only basis, and am amazed at what the sub-committee achieved. I am so grateful to them for all their hard work; Stuart West as Conference Convenor must have spent hours writing and e-mailing possible speakers, arranging publicity - newspapers/buses/genealogy magazines (at home and abroad)/local radio stations. Margie Mellis had the unenviable job of co-ordinating delegate applications - right up to the last minute, with late applications/waiting lists/cancellations, sending out information packs, advising on location and venue. Sheila Sutherland was responsible for organising sponsorship and collecting "goodies" for our "goody bags". Not everyone approached agreed to help but it was incredible how many local firms were prepared to sponsor the event, and we are so grateful to them for their support. Hamish Wilson acted as treasurer, and, as if that weren't enough, was responsible for organising the actual layout of Elphinstone Hall and the Linklater Rooms - some exhibitors wanted more than one table, some wanted a couple of display boards, some wanted internet access - the variation in requirements was incredible, and Hamish spent hours juggling with numbers and positions. Theresa Shewell (who had been involved in the 1995 conference and who was still willing to help again!) had the unenviable job of discussing menus,

SAFHS 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

Please see under West Lothian FHS for Conference details.

Future SAFHS Conferences

2010	West Lothian FHS
2011	Scottish Genealogy Society
2012	Tay Valley FHS
2013	Borders FHS

SAFHS CONTACTS

Chairman

Bruce B Bishop:

Deputy Chairman

Andrew Eadie:

Secretary

Ken Nisbet:

Treasurer, Acting

Bruce B Bishop:

Editor

Janet M Bishop:

Publications

Margaret Mackay:

Webmaster

Peter Munro:

jiggling prices and requirements and coming up with a lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. Other helpers and advisors included Joyce Irvine and John Urie, whose input was invaluable. The 25th of April eventually arrived - not brilliant weather, but at least the rain held off till the afternoon. The Lord Provost, Peter Stephen, arrived promptly and had time to chat to stall holders and organisers before introducing MSP Brian Adam, who talked briefly about his own Family History research. Brian then formally opened the Conference and we were off! Our first speaker was a long-standing friend and supporter of our Society, Lesley Diack who spoke knowledgably and amusingly about the role of women in Family History. It was fascinating to see from Lesley's examples the changing attitudes to women through the years and the roles they played (and continue to play) in society. After a question and answer session and a short break, Margaret McBryde from the NAS spoke about the facilities and research materials available at NAS. I must admit to feeling a bit ashamed to realise how little I knew about the wide range of research tools on offer there. A visit to Edinburgh is certainly on the cards in the near future! After lunch, another local friend, Fiona Watson spoke about the use of hospital records in genealogical research. Although there was a slight glitch when the technical equipment refused to work, Fiona carried on unflustered and delivered an informative and interesting talk. Although I personally did not hear the talk (I wanted to have the opportunity to go round the stalls and speak to some of the other Family History Societies and local studies groups as well as the commercial firms who had made the long journey to Aberdeen), it was obvious from the applause for Fiona that everyone had enjoyed her talk and found it had given them food for thought. Our final talk of the day was given by Major Malcolm Ross and 2 colleagues from the Gordon Highlanders Museum here in Aberdeen. Even for someone without any military ancestors whatsoever, it was a fascinating and informative talk. It was obvious from the questions asked afterwards that many delegates in the audience did have military connections and were inspired by his talk to dig deeper into military records.

While the conference was going on, visitors to the fair had the opportunity to visit the many stalls in Elphinstone Hall, and to attend the small informal talks given by experts in many various aspects of genealogy, ranging from getting started to more specialised research via tartans and local entertainment. The setting for a Family History Conference and Fair was ideal. I've attended fairs in huge conference centres, where there might well be more space but where the atmosphere was more like that of a car-boot-sale. Kings Conference Centre has a dignity and sense of history that were so appropriate to the occasion and Elphinstone Hall provided a perfect backdrop to an event centred round Family History. I was fortunate to be able to attend a couple of the talks given by our guest speakers and also to spend some time wandering around the fair talking to stall-holders and visitors. It was lovely to chat to people at all levels of research from those just beginning their journey of discovery to those fairly well along the path but who agreed that there's still a long way to go. It was nice to welcome visitors from outwith the area as well as renewing friendships with local enthusiasts. I hope everyone benefited from the event and went away inspired to make just one more attempt to track down that elusive ancestor.

Chairman, Aberdeen & NESFHS

OTHER SAFHS NEWS

SAFHS Conference Guide

If you require a copy of the Guide, please be in touch with Margaret Mackay, Publications Manager.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met twice since March, in Edinburgh, and minutes of the meetings have been sent to member societies.

Graveyard Working Group

The Graveyard Working Group has now been disbanded, having completed the Graveyard CD. However, when member societies publish new MI books, it would be appreciated if they could let Margaret Mackay know, as the CD may be updated at some point in the future.

Project Working Group

The PWG is at present working on a new edition of "*The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland*". This is at the checking stage, and it is hoped that the publication will be available early in 2010. Anyone wishing to become involved in the Project Working Group, for future SAFHS publications, please contact Bruce Bishop, the convenor.

ScotlandsPeople Executive Committee

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

ScotlandsPeople User Group

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group.

The Scottish Council on Archives

SAFHS has agreed to remain on this Council, on a consultative basis, but will no longer attend the meetings.

News from Member Societies

Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS

In this Year of Homecoming the Society has been very busy indeed. In addition to having a bookstall at the usual Family History events, including the SAFHS conference in Aberdeen, and Family History Fairs at Troon, York and Glenrothes, by the end of November the Society will have been present at 21 other occasions, large and small, celebrating local heritage in the Northeast.

Meetings of the Society and its branches have continued to be well-attended. The May talk at Aberdeen, given by Bill Glennie, was entitled "The Sydney Harbour Bridge" and his title slide gave us the information that "My Faither built the Sydney Brig". There were too few local masons in Australia, and Bill's ancestor was one of the first of many Scots who went to Australia, some of who stayed there after the work was completed.

The May meeting of the Glasgow Group was its annual 'Member's Day', with the theme of "Sharing Successes/Problems". The many members who attended had a wide variety of contributions, from publications to genealogy software, and from the Journal to the use of local and national archives.

The April meeting of the Moray and Banff Branch was the usual annual Old Handwriting Workshop, this time covering Estate Records and Kirk Session Minutes, and by the end of the afternoon most of those who had attended seemed quite happy

reading documents back to the late 17th Century. The Family and Local History Day which was held in the library in Aberlour in May was not very well attended due to the numerous other events going on in the village that day, and maybe proved to the local council that it is not a good idea to organise such an event as part of a village gala week, as most family history people are much more serious-minded. About a dozen members of the Moray/Banff Branch went on the 'Elgin Walk' in June, which took them from the site of the old Cathedral precinct walls to the east end of the town at Shuttle Ra' and Weavers Close, the main focus of that industry in Elgin in the 18th and 19th centuries. Then on to the old North Port, and the High Street to look at the closes for which Elgin is so well known. It was interesting to look at the closes from the rear and see the miniscule windows way up in the roof which must have been where the servants lived.

The first meeting of the Edinburgh group of ANESFHS was held on Saturday 12th September, and was attended by over 40 members, or prospective members. The discussion focussed on how to take this group forward, and dates were agreed for future meetings.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions Kinnellar (£2.40), Kintore (£3.00), and also Lower Donside Burial Grounds (£3.00) Letters from Regency Scotland featuring Barclay/Berry correspondence Auchterless, Aberdeen and Edinburgh c1810-1820, is available as a CD (£7.50) Postage is extra for all publications.

Alloway & S Ayrshire FHS

We have had another very successful half-year, culminating in a well-supported Open Day, held on Saturday 3rd October at the McKechnie Institute in Girvan. It had been felt that Alloway can seem a long distance for people in the south of 'our' area to travel to our meetings – hence our Saturday visit to Girvan to make contact. The verdict was that it was very well worth the effort involved!

Our meetings in the latter part of last session included, in April, a presentation by local member Andrew Gray on "*The Spithead Reviews of 1935 and 1937*". Andrew built this around actual films of these events shot by his father, supplementing them with related slides and artefacts.

In May, we enjoyed an interesting talk and demonstration on 'Saving Photographs for Family History' and, in June, a lovely sunny afternoon saw around twenty of our members embarking on an eagerly anticipated visit to Dumfries House near Cumnock. Dumfries House was designed 250 years ago by the architects John, Robert and James Adam. This building presents a calm, imposing, unfussy exterior: inside is a wonderful treasure trove of 18th century rococo furnishings.

Our Winter Programme is now well underway. Our new season started with a welcome return visit from Tom Barclay, Senior Librarian at Ayr Carnegie Library. On this occasion, he chose to give an illustrated talk on the history of the Library from the founding in 1762 of Ayr Library Society to the present day.

In early October, a nineteen-strong group from the society visited the recently opened Burns Monument Centre in

Kilmarnock. Set in the delightful surroundings of the Kay Park, the new custom-built centre is an inspired blending of the old and the new providing registry offices, a "spectacular venue for weddings and other ceremonies," well-planned areas for conferences and meetings, and first-class facilities for local and family history.

At our 'normal' October meeting our speaker was Clare Paterson from Glasgow University Archives. We were treated to an extremely interesting and practical account of the full range of the resources held there for family and local history research.

We meet at Alloway Church Halls on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September to May, and visitors and new members are always welcome.

We have a growing list of publications, which can be ordered directly from our website, which has a Paypal facility for convenience.

Anglo-Scottish FHS

Our project, Digitising The Presbyterian Church Records, is ongoing and a CD should be available for the Conference next year.

Presbyterian Church of England Records

In 1972, when the Presbyterian and Congregational churches in England united to form the United Reformed Church (URC), many Presbyterian churches sent their records to URC headquarters in London and eventually they were sent to the church's Westminster College in Cambridge, where they lay for 30 years before they were sent to County Record Offices around the country. In 2003, it came to the notice of the Anglo Scottish Family History Society based in Manchester that The Manchester Central Library held the records of the previous Manchester Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of England covering an area of Greater Manchester and churches in Bolton, Blackburn, Crewe, and Warrington. Permission to photograph those records was obtained from the United Reformed Church and, with the cooperation of the archivists at Manchester Central Library and Bolton, began work that year.

Why search such records?

Because it is quite evident that during the 19th and 20th centuries, protestant Scottish emigrants to England would look for a Presbyterian church. During this period the church was, to some extent, the social centre. As the Church of Scotland and the Secession churches were, and are, Presbyterian, ergo emigrants would look for something which was familiar to them.

What do the records cover?

Records from 28 Churches, 13 in the centre and south of Manchester, and the remainder in Ainsworth, Blackburn, Bolton, Crewe, Little Hulton, Ramsbottom, Rochdale, Sale, Salford, Stalybridge and Warrington. The records cover a period from 1808 to 1972, with the bulk from 1840s to 1940s.

What is in the records?

Communion Rolls (19 churches) which contain 78,000 names, addresses, details of where the person has come from and where they went if they left and include the dates when these

events occurred.

Baptismal Rolls (15 churches) which contain 10,000 names of children and parents – most with maiden name of the mother – addresses, occupations, dates of birth and baptism.

Church Magazines (4 churches) which give information of baptisms, marriages and deaths. Magazines also contain the names of members and their activities, which, having established that an ancestor attended the church, can show if they were Elders or members of committees etc.

Annual Reports (3 churches) - similar information as the magazines except annually instead of monthly.

Burial Records (2 churches): Ainsworth from 1641 to 1960; Wharton from 1869 to 1921.

We continue to be supplied with data for our Scottish Marriage Index that is freely available on the web site www.mlfs.org.uk We continue to attend Family History Fairs.

We have had a variety of speakers during the year covering DNA, Scotch Chapmen, FH through Postcards, Food our Ancestors ate, and we are looking forward to Agricultural Improvements in Scotland in 18th & 19th C in November. Our Meetings are held on 3rd Sat of Month except August and Dec and non-Members are welcome.

ASGRA

Since the last Bulletin, Andrew Eadie has been admitted to ASGRA as a probationer. This year, ASGRA has attended the SAFHS Conference, the Strathclyde International Genealogical Festival and the Moray Homecoming Family History and Local Heritage Fair in Elgin. This year of Homecoming has further increased interest in genealogy, and with this has come also an increased interest in professional research as a career, resulting in many enquiries about membership of ASGRA.

Borders FHS

The Society is still enjoying considerable growth in membership. We've had a busy summer, and our archive at Old Gala House, Galashiels is open till 30th October every Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. and also for the same hours on Tuesdays and Fridays but by appointment only. While strictly speaking no booking is required for a Thursday visit, because of the limitation of the room this is nevertheless strongly advised and is necessary at all other times. Booking should be made via our website.

The archive continues to grow, and an up to date list of all volumes is contained on our website.

In October we started a new project in partnership with Scottish Borders Archives and Local History Centre in Hawick to index digitised poor law records and transcribe core information, and to publish them for sale. Peter Munro gave a talk about these records and their history in March. These records offer fascinating glimpses into the lives of the poorer people in Borders communities from 1831-1935. The records are from the 25 parishes of Bowden, Drumelzier, Eckford, Eddleston, Eyemouth, Kilbucho & Broughton & Glenholm, Hounam, Jedburgh, Kelso, Lilliesleaf, Linton, Makerstoun, Manor, Maxton, Morebattle, Oxnam, Peebles, Skirling, Smailholm, St Boswells, Stichill, Stobo, Traquair, Tweedsmuir, Yetholm.

The Poor Law was the means of providing food, accommodation, financial assistance and, latterly, care to those in need from the middle of the 19th century. This system replaced the parish support mechanism and recognised that the Industrial and Agricultural Revolutions had led to great population movements and drift within Scotland making the parish support no longer able to cope without assistance.

Our website, www.bordersfhs.org.uk, is growing in usage, attracting new members and higher publications sales. There are searchable indexes to our MI volumes, magazine articles, queries, family trees, surname interests, poor law volumes and forums. We now have a blog too. Work is still underway on adding requests for research, and publication sales to the website.

The facility to record surname interests is still very popular, and it is open for everyone to record their interests, not just members. The number of interests recorded encompasses more than 2160 distinct surnames, all over Scotland, and many in England and overseas too. With the addition of new burial places, our MIs now cover more than 3,850 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.

We held our first meeting away from Melrose, in Peebles – the start of an initiative to have meetings in other Borders towns.

We held a history fair in Duns Parish Church Hall, Church Square, Duns on 18th April 2009, and we've been active in holding family history workshops in partnership with the Hawick Heritage Hub (the Scottish Borders Council Archives) during Common Riding events, Homecoming events, and other festivals over the summer.

We've recently started writing a column for two of our local papers, the Border Telegraph, and the Peebleshire News.

We have three new publications:

Galashiels - Old Ladhope Monumental Inscriptions (CD - £10 plus postage): 121 gravestones, it includes inline colour photos of all the gravestones and videos of the graveyard.

The first two volumes of **Borders Poor Law Records** have been published on CD, - **Jedburgh Parish (1852-1874)** covering over 1000 people and **Jedburgh Parish (1875-1893)** covering 895 people. Each costs £12 plus postage, the set of two are available for £22 plus postage. It's important to understand that many of the people listed came from outside the Borders, so if you've lost someone, they might be here. The 2 volumes comprise the following:

- Index to the Poor Law Records
- Images of the Poor Law Records
- History of the Parish
- History of the Poor Law for England and Scotland
- Map of the Town and Environs of Jedburgh by John Wood in 1823
- Bibliography
- 17 Jedburgh Poor Law Cases from 1844
- Forename and Surname Index

**List of Borders Inspectors of the Poor
Duties of Inspectors of the Poor**

Details included in the index to the Poor Law Records comprise names, place of birth, age or date of birth, address, other family members, description of disablement, date of death, and there's more information on the images themselves, including occupation, benefit received.

See details of many people between the censuses.
See married women's maiden surnames.
Birth places sometimes differ from the census.
Family details are often not shown in the census, religion, and disabilities.
Find people who moved away from their birth place.

Most of all, you get the chance to put some flesh on the bones of those who up till now have just been names and dates.

Work on producing Monumental Inscriptions volumes for Abbey St Bathans, Bunkle & Preston, Cranshaws, Duns, Drumelzier, Galashiels - Eastlands, Innerleithen, Longformacus, Minto, Stow and Yarrow is in progress.

We are also reprinting the Monumental Inscriptions volumes for Greenlaw, Kelso, Morebattle, Smailholm, Stichill & Hume, Yetholm.

The remainder of our programme for 2009-2010 is below:

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|-----------|--|
| 25 Oct 09 | Rollo Duncan: The Border Abbeys : Corn Exchange, Melrose |
| 22 Nov 09 | Dr Chris Cameron: Tracing my Russian Ancestors: Abbey Row Centre, Kelso |
| 1 Dec 09 | The Capture and Rescue of Kinmont Willie – a New Perspective: Joint meeting with Hawick Arch Soc Hawick : Town Hall, 7.30 pm |
| 28 Feb 09 | Tom Hogg: Church Buildings, Galashiels: Corn Exchange, Melrose |
| 25 Apr 09 | Trevor Swan: The Clay Family: Corn Exchange, Melrose |
| 23 May 09 | AGM: Nan Oliver: Searching for my Relatives: Corn Exchange, Melrose |

We warmly invite you to attend our Society meetings whether you are a member or not. There is no admission charge, except for the meeting on 1st December, where there is an admission collection at the door. Except where stated otherwise, meetings are held at 2.30 pm in the Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN. 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.

Central Scotland FHS

Attendance at monthly meetings continues to be high and on occasions almost a full house. An evening with Charles Burnett, the Ross Herald, brought heraldry alive for all who attended and proved to be quite revealing. Patrick Cadell, the Honorary Archivist for Hopetoun House, kept all enthralled with his knowledge of the family, and the opportunity to get a

look at the archive material he had brought along was much appreciated. The chance of a "hands on" experience was well worth the missing of the usual cup of tea. This session's syllabus has also many new and interesting speakers.

Steady progress is being made on the indexing of the Camelon lair records, with more volunteers being recruited. A start has also been made on the transcribing of the Monumental Inscriptions for the whole of Polmont graveyard. A digital image of every stone will also be taken.

The complete, fully searchable 1851 Census CD-Rom for Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire, along with Bo'ness and Carriden, is now on sale. A problem with the storage of publications has been partially solved by the availability of the CD-Rom.

As a contribution to the Year of the Homecoming, the Society sponsored local speakers at the Stirling Libraries and Archives "Homecoming" Conference in June.

Unfortunately, our Treasurer of several years, Ian Anderson, has decided that this will be his last year in office. Ian has carried out a power of work on the census and burial publications and was instrumental in the starting of the Camelon lair transcriptions. The task of the completion of the financial records to the satisfaction of the OSCR is carried out single-handedly by Ian, and his scrupulous attention to detail is much appreciated by the committee. Hopefully someone will come forward to take on this task.

Dumfries & Galloway FHS

Homecoming year proved a busy one for us, especially when we decided to hold a Homecoming Fair in June. It has been a wee while since D&G have hosted this kind of event! We decided to involve local schools and finally had 40 schools, mainly primary, from Port William to Greta, Tundergarth to Closeburn signed up. 'Do a project on a Homecoming theme' we said, 'and we will help you'. What a variety of presentations they had! We had maps, CDs, cards, walks and fantastic displays for our Centre window not to mention pupils in old-fashioned dress on the day.

At the Fair we were glad to see many SAFHS members with their stalls. Stalwart speakers, Liz Carmichael, Marjorie Harper and our own Ted Cowan, addressed good audiences on cemetery records and on emigration from Southern Scotland, the "Lowland Clearances".

Membership numbers are holding steady, perhaps even slowly edging upwards, despite the internet. Our latest publications are: Dumfriesshire People in Carlisle newspapers and Galloway People in Carlisle newspapers (2 vols). The MIs for Wamphray, Tundergarth and Kirkpatrick Juxta (all DFS) are newly in print, as is Part V of Dumfries OPR burials 1770-1812. The next two volumes of Dumfries OPR burials Part VI 1813-1829 and Part VII 1830-1845 are at the printers and the final Vol Part VIII should appear shortly.

East Ayrshire FHS

On Saturday 3rd October the Society hosted a Family History Open Day to mark Homecoming Scotland. The weather

forecast for that day was wet and windy and this probably contributed to the disappointing number of members of the public who came along. However those who attended seemed to find the event worthwhile and enjoyable. People new to family history research took the opportunity to ask questions on a wide range of topics and there was time to chat to fellow enthusiasts. The Society thanks the staff from Ayrshire Archives and from East Ayrshire Registration, Libraries and Information Services who prepared and brought along items for display and who patiently answered questions. Troon @ Ayrshire FHS and Largs & North Ayrshire FHS were also able to take part and their contribution to the event is greatly appreciated.

Monthly evening meetings of East Ayrshire FHS are held at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month from now until May in the Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock. On the other Thursdays throughout most of the year, workshops are held in The Cabin, Witch Road, Kilmarnock from 1.30 pm until 4 pm.

The venue for the evening meeting in September was the Burns Monument Centre, Kay Park, Kilmarnock. Staff members from the Registration, Libraries and Archives services were on hand to give members a tour of the facilities. The Centre is open Monday to Thursday from 9.15 am to 4.45 pm and on Fridays from 9.15 am to 3.45 pm. Resources available include local history books, trade directories and microfilms of Ayrshire OPRs, Censuses and newspapers. A member of staff from Ayrshire Archives is available to give specialist help on Wednesdays, but archive material held in the Centre can be viewed on any weekday. The computers in the PC room do not yet have a direct link to the digital imaging system available in the ScotlandsPeople Centre, but it is hoped that this facility will be in operation soon at a fee of £15 for a day's use.

At the October meeting, James Gibson gave an interesting talk about the setting up of various Burns Clubs and of the Robert Burns World Federation. Topics of the talks during the coming session include shipbuilding, costumes of the past, Ayrshire coins and tokens and the John Hastie Museum in Strathaven.

Publications (all on CD): Among the series of e-books available are post office/trade directories for Ayr (1873), Irvine (1898) and Kilmarnock (1846, 1855, 1868, 1879 & 1899) and local history books written early in the 20th century. Please see the EAFHS website for details.

Fife FHS

Last year finished with a visit to Kellie Castle and a social evening combined with our AGM. During the year, we have contributed £5,800 to Fife groups and organisations, to further the cause of family history research and publications.

Our year commenced in September, with a talk by Lilian King on "Scottish Suffragettes" with the emphasis on Fife members. This was followed by participation at the Fife Family History Fair in Glenrothes, where we had a very successful day, selling well and signing up new members. To mark the 20th Anniversary of our Society, we launched our latest CD-Rom. This contains digitised text of all our Society Journals from 1989 to 2004. The great advantage is that the contents can be searched, making this a valuable family history resource. This

was sold well. In October, we had a talk from Fife Council Librarian, Audrey Brown. The Society had sponsored part of her expenses, allowing Audrey to carry out a post-graduate certificate course at Strathclyde University on genealogical study. She gave an interesting view of the course and the results of the mandatory tasks and her project on the Dysart Register of Voters. In November, we will have a talk from Andrew Dowsey, the Fife Archivist on some additions to his collections.

Our latest publications comprise an index of portraits from the Fife News Almanacs from 1886 to 1942.

Membership of the Society is holding up well and we look forward to completing another successful year.

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

The new session of Society meetings on the third Monday of the month started in September with a talk by Rev. Alan Sorenson with the interesting title "Addicted to Ancestors". Ian Frazer followed this in October with a talk on "The Surnames of Scotland" and in November Dr Irene O'Brien will speak on "Glasgow Archives". After the Social and Film Evening on 14th December, held in St Peter's Hall, Chancellor Street, Partick, the subsequent meetings will be in the Boyd Orr Building of Glasgow University, University Avenue, Glasgow., We look forward in the new year to having talks on "Refurbishment of Summerlee Heritage Centre" in January, followed by "Creating a Fictional Family History" in February and then in March, "Sources for Jewish Family History in Scotland". 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 that is published three times a year (October, March and June).

The Society took part in the Homecoming Festival organised by the University of Strathclyde in July. We attended for three days and were very pleased with the number of books that were sold. The Society took part in the East Dunbartonshire Family History Fair in Milngavie in September, and also attended the Argyll gathering. In May we took part in the Glasgow West End Festival, and had good numbers visiting us, with some new memberships. Similarly, the Society took part in September in the Glasgow Doors Open Days event, and had full houses for each of the time slots. We recruited new members on the days and a new Minute Secretary.

Guild of One-Name Studies

The 31st Guild Annual Conference will be held outside Oxford from 9th to 11th April 2010. The title is "Around the World – an international perspective". The talks will include British India, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand and North America. The 30th Conference at Peterborough was the most successful ever with 180 people attending. There is a photograph in Journal 10(3) of 4 kilted men (one in a Cornish kilt), who were at the conference dinner, but one regular attendee who wears tartan trews was not at the conference this year.

The number of Guild members continues to increase and so does the proportion of non-UK members. The committee is discussing a marketing plan aimed at non-UK countries for

implementation next year. Applications to join the Guild are now completely separate from surname registration, so allowing new members to join without feeling under any compulsion to register a one-name study until they are ready to do so.

The forthcoming seminars organised by the Guild are:

21 November 2009: Finding Further Less-Used One-Name Sources Seminar, at the National Archives, Kew

20 February 2010: DNA Developments Seminar, at Cheltenham

15 May 2010: Maps and Mapping Seminar, at Frodsham, Cheshire

7 August 2010: Computer Seminar, at Epsom, Surrey

More information can be found on the Guild website.

A small landmark was reached in May, when the 500th Guild Profile was created. The Guild created this facility as a simple way for members to publicise their studies online, without the need to create and maintain their own web-site. No technical knowledge is required: the content is created by completing a form on the Guild web site. (*Tuley must get round to filling in the form!*).

The Guild Committee has recently approved the setting up of a fellowship scheme, to recognise the expertise of its members and the contributions made to the running of the Guild. Each member awarded under this scheme will be known as a Guild Master Craftsman. Membership of the award will be restricted to fifty members at any one time.



April 2009: GOONS: Graham Tuley 3rd from left

Highland FHS

By the time you read this, the new Highland Council Archive and Family History Centre will have opened at the Bught, adjacent to the Aquadome swimming centre in Inverness, and we are eagerly looking forward to making use of this marvellous asset to Inverness and the Highlands. Our Society will have the use of storage and office accommodation within the Centre, and we have already vacated the small office in Union Street which we held on lease. We anticipate that we will be able to have a regular daytime presence in the Centre, to assist members with their researches, and we hope that in time we will be able to resume our popular Workshops and also hold

our monthly meetings there.

As we had outgrown our previous meeting place, we have moved our monthly meetings to the Spectrum Centre, which is located in the centre of Inverness, adjacent to the bus station and a multi-storey car park. We opened our session with a very successful and well-attended social evening in September. This gave us the opportunity to show those present our initial thoughts on a revised website for the Society, so it is very much a case of watch this space for further developments. A wide range of speakers has been lined up for this session, and we hope that the new venue will prove suitable.

Our latest published volume of monumental inscriptions has been that for Ardersier Cemetery, and it is anticipated that those for Dunlichity churchyard will be ready for publication shortly. Other projects continue, weather and personnel permitting!

Lanarkshire Family History Society

Since the April Council meeting we have had the following speakers: - Andrew Nicoll - Scottish Catholic Archives, Chris Paton - Irish Sources on-line, Dane Love - Scottish Kirkyards, Brian Murray - Scottish Mining Museum and Dee Williams ScotlandsPeople.

We were successful in an "Awards for All" grant application for £9,359. This was used for the purchase of a large Colour Printer/Scanner/Copier and new PC; 6 Flat screen Monitors and 6 Office Chairs; £1,000 of Microfilm Reels; 1861 Census parts Lanarkshire and the surrounding Counties; £2,200 of Lanarkshire OS Maps including OS maps of Lanarkshire 1896 and 1852; Charles Ross 1773 maps; Thomas Richardson 1795 maps; Wm Forrest 1860 maps and 1850 town maps for Airdrie, Coatbridge, Hamilton, Lanark and Strathaven.

Tuesday 22nd September we held an Official Opening of our new Resource Centre. Tom Curley, Provost North Lanarkshire Council, and Russell Clearie, MBE Provost of South Lanarkshire Council, both carried out the unveiling of the Opening Plaque. Also in attendance was Councillor Dennis McKenna of SLC and Councillors Jim Logue and John Pentland of NLC.

Over the summer months we have attended Family and Local History Fairs in Milngavie, Glenrothes, Elgin, New Lanark "Millworkers Reunited", Troon, Dumfries, Cambuslang. and Summerlee Museum Coatbridge, We have also given family history talks at 5 local clubs.

Both our "Irish Interests" and "Old Handwriting" groups remain popular with the members and are well-attended each month. Dr Irene O'Brien gave a 2 hour "Irish Interests" Workshop in our Research Centre, which was a sell out. The Project Group is still working on the remaining LKS Parish Death Records, along with many other projects. The Graveyard Group continues to transcribe Cemeteries and Kirk yards.

On 10th September our new website went live at www.lanarkshirefhs.org. This new site has been built by one of our society members, Jim Rouse. He lives in Tasmania and has done a great job for us.

Our current membership is 419, which is an increase on 2008 at the same time; we have noticed a slight increase in Overseas Membership.

Largs & S Ayrshire FHS

As the Society is keen to increase membership, we had a workshop, with committee members helping beginners research their ancestry without using the internet. With this in mind, we attended the Local Group Open Night in the Largs Library in September. Later in the month we visited Dumfries House, which will be well remembered for the excellence of the tour, the ambience and, of course, the tea. October has been a busy month, with our attendance at East Ayrshire's Open Day, a workshop for beginners and the Joint Meeting with Largs Historical Society. Billy Kay, writer and broadcaster, was the speaker and his subject was The Scottish Diaspora.

In November, Mr.J.Steele will tell us of the disastrous sinking of the H.M.S. Dasher off Ardrossan in World War II, and then the Christmas Social will complete the first part of the session. In the new year we shall hear about House History, the Southern Necropolis and Putting your Ancestors in Their Place. March also brings a visit to East Kitchside Museum of Country Life and the Joint Meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies. The new Burns Monument Centre will be our next visit in April, where we shall be trying out their facilities. May will bring around the AGM, and so ends another year.

There are no projects being undertaken at the moment.

Lothians FHS

The autumn session started in September with a talk by Esther Sharpley on Costume through the Ages. This was followed by the Railways of the Lothians by Jeff Hurst. Future subjects are Fisherrow - A little Bit of its Story, Edinburgh Evening News of January 1884, Witches of East Lothian and the Family History Centre 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.

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.

Moray Burial Ground Research Group

So far this year, our most significant achievement has been the publication of the MIs from Elgin Cathedral. This was published in April and so far has been well received.

Since the start of the new season in March, members have been concentrating their activities recording MIs at Duffus Old Church (St Peter's), Kinloss Abbey – the latter with members of the Kinloss Abbey Trust. We have also been working at the public cemeteries in Forres (Clunyhill) and Lossiemouth. Work has also been ongoing to produce a second edition of our

Dallas MI book, which will include information on the buried tombstones uncovered in this churchyard last year. In August we held our annual summer outing in the Roman Catholic churchyard of St Ninian's (Tynet / Chapelford) with some 20 members helping to record all the memorials. Subsequent research has recently taken place at St. Peter's Church, Buckie.

While research at both St Peter's and Kinloss Abbey is now almost complete, it is hoped to publish the genealogically important results from both these churchyards early next year. The initial MI recording work at Clunyhill carried out by one member is still in the process of being checked. Photography, along with the production of suitable site plans are problematic here, so it is likely to be some time before this will be ready for publication. The cemetery at Lossiemouth is by comparison straight forward, but due to the large number of tombstones it contains it is likely to take a long time to finish. Recording plans for the immediate future are as yet a little uncertain, but we are contemplating various possibilities - these include the burial grounds at Charlestown of Aberlour, Dyke and Moy and Rothes.

The website continues to prove popular with family historians from all over the world. The Ancestor Index now contains nearly 30,000 names.

Latest Publication: Monumental Inscriptions for Elgin Cathedral, price £20.00. Postage is extra for all publications.

Moray & Nairn FHS

Membership of this new Family History Society continues to increase, and there have been two meetings so far. At the first meeting in Forres in June Ken Nisbet gave a most interesting talk on the use of newspapers in family history research, which was followed by a general discussion and a chance for many members to meet each other for the first time. The second meeting, which was held in Nairn Museum in October was a talk by Alan Barron on the old Fishertown of Nairn, which was illustrated by pictures not only of the old fishing boats, but also of the fishing families, including one picture of the fisher wives carrying their men from the boat to keep them dry. It gave the members a most interesting insight into a way of life now long gone. The next meeting will be in Lossiemouth Library on Saturday 13th March 2010 which will be 'A tale of two parishes, from Lochindorb to Culbin'.

The Moray and Nairn Family History Society had a stand at the Elgin Family History Fair, at which some new members were recruited, and will also have a presence at the Forres event on 7th November. For other future events please see the diary page of the website.

The society has so far produced four publications, which are listed below, and have plans to publish further volumes in the near future.

Latest Publications:

The Parishes of Nairnshire, Deaths and Places of Burial 1855 – 1860, parishes of **Ardclach** and **Cawdor**: Compiled by Janet M Bishop and Kenneth A M Nisbet, £4.00; The Parishes of Morayshire, Deaths and Places of Burial 1855 – 1860, parishes of **Speymouth** and **Urquhart**: Compiled by Janet M Bishop and Kenneth A M Nisbet, £4.00; The Parishes of Morayshire,

Deaths and Places of Burial 1855 – 1860, parishes of **Edinkillie** and **Dyke & Moy**: Compiled by Janet M Bishop and Kenneth A M Nisbet, £4.00; and The Parishes of Nairnshire, Pre-1855 Burial Records for **Auldearn**, 1721-1754, 1816-1854, and isolated surviving Death Records for the Parishes of **Cawdor**, **Ardclach** and **Nairn**: Compiled by Bruce B Bishop and Stuart Farrell., £5.00.

Scotslot

During the summer, we have had talks on 'Covenanters' by Iain Stewart; on 'Scottish Gypsies' by Sharon Floate and 'Whisky in the Scots' by David Dewar, who is no connection to the distiller, so no free samples! In addition, we hold regular informal meetings, where members report progress in their research with the emphasis on newly found sources.

Our next meeting is a talk on 'Tracking the Life of a Shoemaker using Estate and Personal Papers' by Richard McGregor.

We have to thank the Scottish Genealogical Society for a recent increase in our membership, partly from our programme being published in their *Journal* and also from their stand at 'Who Do You Think You Are?' at Olympia earlier in the year.

Guests are welcome at our meetings in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Shetland FHS

The Society is pleased to report that most of the refurbishment programme is now complete, with the premises freshened up and the suite of new computers installed. The volunteers are now spending time being familiarised with the new software.

It has, once again, been a busy summer for visitors with some arriving via the many cruise ship visits to Lerwick in order to include research into their busy sailing schedule. The extra openings on two mornings during the summer months have always been busy.

Plans are well-advanced for our *Hamefarin 2010* between June 14th – 27th and the programme of events taking place throughout the Isles should be finalised soon. Watch the web site for details on www.shetlandhamefarin.com

The usual opening times for the Society premises still apply - every weekday afternoon, 2-4p.m., Monday & Thursday evenings, 7-9 pm. Details of opening times, publications and events are available on the Society's website www.shetland-fhs.org.uk

Society of Genealogists

Dates for the Diary:

14 Nov 2009, 2-5pm

Adoption & Fostering in the the UK circa 1850-1930
With Louise Taylor £15/£12

25 Nov 2009, 11am-12 noon

Scottish Sources in the Society of Genealogists Library
With Else Churchill £5/£4

12 Dec 2009, 2-5pm

Researching Armies in British India
With Peter Bailey £15/£12

6 March 2010, 10:30am-1pm

Scottish Poor Law
With William Cross
£15/£12

Tay Valley FHS

Tay Roots 2009

The 2nd Angus & Dundee Roots Festival took place between 26 September and 2 October, with events in the City of Dundee and around the county of Angus. The focus of the festival was for everyone who wanted to find out more about their roots in the area.

It started with a workshop held in the Wighton Centre and Conference Room at the Dundee City Library, opened by Dr. Nick Barrett, and throughout the day we attracted about 150 visitors.

Helpdesks manned by ourselves, Deceased Online, LDS, Fife and Angus Archives, Scotland's People, Dundee University and of course the Local History Library next door, and also the Registrar, provided advice to all our visitors. There were lots of questions and lots of suggestions given for further research. Were able to assist not one but two adopted ladies discover their birthright.

Talks were also held during the day, and glamour was provided by the girls from Angus Council who dressed up in period costume.

Events carried on all week, each day culminating with a talk by Tay Valley in Waterstones' bookshop. The talks covered a diverse range of subjects such as Whaling, Angus Families and their Heraldry, a new Dundee Book, Dundee Archives, and a family of Dundee Architects.

On the final day, a Local History Fair was held in Arbroath, manned by Tay Valley FHS, Various Archives, Local History Groups, and a local book and music seller from Forfar. Again the Council girls dressed in period costume for the occasion.

Looking forward to next year! Phew!

Deceased Online

This was officially launched at Glamis Castle on the 17th September with Dr. Nick Barrett as keynote speaker. The County of Angus is the first Scottish County to make their burial records available online.

Photographing the City

We are working in conjunction with Dundee Civic Trust in identifying city-wide photographs (approximately 40,000) mainly the property of Dundee City Council. A lottery grant was granted for the scanning of the negatives and teams of "identifiers" from both societies meet regularly and this will continue until the end of the year. We have probably identified about 30,000 so far, and a film show of a selection of these has been given to both the Dundee Civic Trust and Tay Valley FHS at their respective AGM's.

Graveyard CDs

Tay Valley continue to produce Photographic and Monumental Inscription CD's. Currently working on St. Andrews Cathedral, Fife.

Research Centre

Membership continues to go from strength to strength, and day visitors have risen dramatically again probably due to the 2009 Roots Festival, local advertising, and interest from various TV series on Genealogy.

Computing is playing an ever increasing and important role in everyday research as more and more archives and indices are put on line. Tay Valley will be increasing their computer power very shortly.

Outreach

Tay Valley volunteers have carried out many talks in the community over the last 6 months, both on local history and family history to Probus Clubs, Local History Societies, and other family history groups throughout Tayside.

We also launched our series of winter talks in Abertay University with a stirring talk by Idris Robb on "Weapons of the '45", with Idris dressed as a Redcoat and brandishing weapons from both the Government Troops and the Jacobites.

Other

We were pleased to have a visit to Dundee by Alex Salmond, Nicola Sturgeon *et al* who were happy to endorse our efforts with the Tayroots Festival as a contribution to Homecoming Scotland 2009.

All our latest publications are listed in our new booklist issued in August 2009.

Troon@Ayrshire FHS

For the first time in a number of years the Troon @ Ayrshire Society was active in the month of August when in association with South Ayrshire Libraries we held a Friday evening meeting in Troon Library at which Tom Barclay, Local History Librarian, gave a talk on Ayrshire Smugglers and their Families. This was followed on the Saturday by an Open Day when anyone in Troon on that day could come along and be introduced to Family History Research. Despite very poor weather on both days the events were well supported and the open day in particular proved to be a rewarding experience both for our visitors and for the society members who took part.

Our winter season has now started with a talk on The Covenanters and their various memorials around the country, delivered by Mr Andrew Blackley. In the course of our very varied session we will move from the religious conflicts of the 17th Century to Shipbuilding in the 20th and from the ancient identification of persons by the heraldic bearings they wore to the modern means by their DNA.

Recently completed projects by the society have included transcription of monumental inscriptions at the Monkton & Prestwick Cemetery (Original Section) and Dankeith Cemetery near Dundonald. These have now been published and are available from our Publications Officer. Our ongoing "Airshire

News" project is continuing with work now being done on Volumes 3 and 4. Volumes 1 and 2 are now available in both book and CD format.

We will shortly publish on CD-rom a full transcription of the names on all the town and village War Memorials in Ayrshire. This will include photographs of the Memorials together with directions to their locations. Almost 8300 persons who made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars and some who died in Korea and the Falklands are named on these Memorials. Full details of all our publications and purchasing arrangements are available on our website.

West Lothian FHS

Various activities have taken place during the summer break and the Conference Committee has been honing the final details for our big event in April 2010. Our summer project to photograph all CWGC Monumental Inscriptions in West Lothian Cemeteries has taken off and plans are also ahead to display West Lothian War Memorials on our Web page. Volunteers manned the Blackburn Library on Fridays during the Homecoming 2009 celebration to help visitors find their ancestors. The West Lothian Interment Records are progressing and volume 2 will be ready for sale at Conference.

By the time you read this all Societies will have received the 21st Conference information and Booking package for delegates and Stall Holders. With the support of West Lothian Council we are confident that delegates will be impressed with the facilities available at the new Howden Park Centre, Livingston.

The theme for the Conference is 150 years of social history in West Lothian and the title is "**Paupers, Physicians and Paraffinalia**". The four guest speakers are experts in their chosen field and family historians will be given an insight to the social history of the County in this exciting period in West Lothian development.

Dr Irene O'Brien: Scottish Poor Law: Painting the Local Picture in West Lothian

Dr Irene O'Brien is Senior Archivist for Glasgow City. Irene has worked for the City (formerly Strathclyde) for more than 20 years. Among her other roles, she is heavily involved in delivering lectures and courses in family history. Irene is also heavily involved in her professional body and was previously chair of the Society of Archivists, Scotland. She is currently Chair of the Scottish Council on Archives, the strategic body for the sector in Scotland

Dr Morrice Macrae: James Young Simpson and his world
Morrice McCrae, MB, MSc PhD, FRCPE, FRCP graduated at Glasgow University in 1955. After service overseas in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he returned to Glasgow University first as Hall Fellow in Medicine and later as Lecturer in Paediatrics. In 1865 he was appointed Consultant Physician at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. After retiring from the NHS, he studied history at Edinburgh University and was awarded his PhD in 2001. He is now College Historian of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. His books on historical subjects include *The National Health Service in Scotland: Origins and Ideals* and *Physicians and Society: A History of the Royal College of*

Physicians of Edinburgh.

Professor Michael Hitchman: Social Aspects of the Paraffin Industry

Michael Hitchman graduated in Chemistry at Queen Mary College, University of London, in 1962. He studied for five years at the University of Oxford, first as a DPhil. student and then as an ICI Research Fellow. In 1970 he moved to Switzerland, where he spent three years as an environmental electrochemist with Orbisphere Corporation in Geneva, before moving for six years to the RCA Laboratories in Zurich. He then returned to the UK, becoming a lecturer at the University of Salford. In 1984 he was appointed to the Young Chair of Chemical Technology at the University of Strathclyde. He retired from Strathclyde in 2004 and founded two companies, both of which have grown rapidly.

He is author of over 100 papers in refereed journals and six patents. He has written two specialized texts, has edited five volumes of research papers and articles, and is founding editor of an international research journal. He has been awarded the British Vacuum Council Medal and Prize, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1995. When he is not tackling technical problems within his companies and attempting to keep the voracious dragons of administration and finance at bay, Professor Hitchman indulges in, among other things, cooking, eating, walking and trying to lose weight.

Elizabeth Henderson: Banners and Benefits – Friendly Societies in West Lothian

Elizabeth Henderson hails from Ayrshire and graduated M.A. (Hons) from the University of Glasgow in German Language and Literature with subsidiary Modern History. She began her career in West Lothian teaching at Blackburn Academy and then Inveralmond Community High School. Following a period of ill health she re-trained as a museum curator and gained a Museums and Galleries Studies Diploma with distinction from the University of St Andrews.

Since 1998 she has worked for West Lothian Council Museums Service and was appointed Museums Development Officer in 2001. Inspired by the Council's large collection of Friendly Society memorabilia, she began to research the history of friendly societies in West Lothian. Initially she focused on Bathgate societies and contributed to the "Bathgate Book" published to mark the Millennium. Since then she has broadened her research to the whole county and given talks to a variety of local organizations on the subject.

Member Societies are invited to book stalls early so that the non-member applications can be allocated the remaining spaces at the Fair.

For the benefit of the public, arrangements have been made for open Family History workshop sessions in the morning and afternoon. The Fair and Conference will be within the Complex but access to the Auditorium will only be available to Delegates. There will be no charge to the Public for access to the Fair. Please advertise the event to your members through your journal and help make this a successful 21st Conference for SAFHS.

SAFHS PUBLICATIONS

	Postage	
	UK(£)	Airmail (£)
Inventory of Scottish Graveyards, 2 nd Edition, CD	£ 12.00	1.00 2.00
Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Minutes of the Church of Scotland	£ 4.00	0.80 3.25
The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland	£ 4.00	0.80 3.25
Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland	£ 4.00	1.05 3.70
Scots Abroad (Part One)	£ 4.50	0.80 2.50
A Scottish Historian's Glossary	£ 4.50	0.35 1.75
Scottish Trades, Professions, Vital Records and Directories. A Selected Biography	£ 7.00	0.80 3.50
Weights and Measures	£ 3.75	0.80 2.50

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Updated on 31.10.2009

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, Ulpha, 32 Granada Road, Denton, Manchester, M34 2LJ

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.
