



SAFHS BULLETIN

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Executive Committee –Acting Chairman: Stephen Benson; Deputy Chairman: Vacant Secretary: Ken Nisbet;
Treasurer: Christine Thomas; Bulletin Editor: Ken Nisbet; Member: Alison Murray

Conference Edition

It's a Sair Fecht...but we made it!!

**The Scottish Association
of Family History Societies**

Free event
Eight presentations
Genealogy Q&A

safhs.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number SC029006

**SAFHS Virtual
Conference
17 April 2021**

Plus

In this edition

The 1921 Census

By Ken Nisbet

The 31st SAFHS Annual Conference

"It's a Sair Fecht!"

presentations sponsored by

**ASGRA, Borders FHS, Lothians FHS, Scottish Genealogy
Society**

In association with Scottish Indexes

For the first time, the SAFHS conference will be held online and it will be free for everyone. You will be able to watch the event live on Facebook or Zoom.

The talks will be pre-recorded to allow sub-titles to be added to enable our friends in different time zones to watch the presentations, they will be available on YouTube for one week after the conference. It will also mean you can catch up on anything you missed or re-watch a presentation if you wish.

[Click here to join the SAFHS Facebook Group](#)

You can also register on Zoom, where you can use the Q&A feature to ask the presenters questions throughout the day and join in with the Q&A session. [Click here to register on Zoom.](#)

If you have any questions about this event please [email our chairman](#), Steve Benson or send a message through our [Facebook page](#).

Conference Programme

09.00 am – Welcome – Steve Benson, Chair of SAFHS

09.10 am - Dr Joseph J Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms, Patron

09.30 am – The Radical Rising of 1820

The last armed rising on British soil happened during one week in April 1820. Those involved were intent on severing the Union and establishing a radical Scottish republic. It ended in executions, imprisonments, transportations and 85 trials for high treason.

The talk is presented by **Alex Wood** and sponsored by **ASGRA**



10.10 am – Lanarkshire Family History Society by Bob Stewart, Chairman Lanarkshire FHS

10.30 am – The Highland Archive Service: Collections and Resources

The talk will be presented by Lorna Steele, Community Engagement Officer at the Highland Archive Service.

11.30 - Ae Fond Kiss, and then we sever!" :Finding Records of Marital Disharmony

The talk will be presented by Kirsty Wilkinson a professional genealogist, based in Edinburgh. She holds an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographical and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA)

12.30 pm– Aspects of Mining in Scotland

The talk will be presented by James Waugh and will cover various aspects of coal mining history

This talk will be sponsored by Lothians Family History Society



1.30 pm – Asylum Records for Genealogy

The talk will be presented by Louise Williams, Archivist, Lothian Health Services and will look at the circumstances of entering an asylum and the treatments while there.



This talk is sponsored by The Scottish Genealogical Society

2.30 pm – The Men and (eventually) the Women of the Police of the Scottish Borders

The talk will be presented by David Smale who served with the Marines and Lothian and Borders Police. David has a Phd in History from University of Edinburgh.



Royal Policing

This talk is sponsored by Borders Family History Society

3.30 pm – Understanding Kirk Session Records

Kirk Session records are a basic building block of research in Scotland and are expected to be released on ScotlandsPeople shortly. Kirk Session records contain the records of the church court and record cases of discipline within the congregation. A common reason people were brought before the Kirk Session was fornication, but that's not all we find in these records. There are also records of money being given to the poor and records of births, marriages and deaths. In her presentation, Emma will help us understand these records so that we can make the most of them to research our Scottish family history.



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The talk will be presented by Emma Maxwell, Scottish Indexes

4.30 pm – The 2022 Annual SAFSH Conference

A preview by George Watson, Chairman of Tay Valley Family History Society



Tay Valley Family History Society
tae ken oor kin

4.45 pm – Closing Remarks – Steve Benson, Chair SAFHS

The Speakers

Alex Wood

My career in education began in 1973 and spanned almost 40 full-time years. I retired in 2011 from my post as Head Teacher at Wester Hailes Education Centre but remain involved in the world of schools and learning.

I teach adult classes in the city of Edinburgh and at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, but my main professional activity is now genealogical research.

I have been an active genealogical researcher for thirty years. Since 2000 I have had the pleasure of teaching genealogy and family history to a series of highly successful adult classes at Wester Hailes in Edinburgh. I hold the University of Strathclyde's MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies and am a full member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives.

Linlithgow has been my family home for many years. As well as genealogy, education, Scottish culture, and politics, I am an active runner and a JogScotland leader, and I retain a partisan interest in Brechin City FC.



Alex is presenting the talk *The Radical Rising of 1820*

Kirsty Wilkinson



Kirsty F. Wilkinson is a professional genealogist, based in Edinburgh. She holds an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographical and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA). After successfully running her own family history research business for over ten years, Kirsty joined the AncestryProGenealogists® (www.progenealogists.com) research team in 2017 where she specialises in Scottish research. She has a passion for solving complex family history problems and for helping others discover their own family stories. Kirsty's first book, 'Finding Your

Scottish Ancestors: Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems' was published by Robert Hale in 2020.

Ae fond kiss, and then we sever!": Finding Records of Marital Disharmony

Many of us are content to simply find a record of when and where our ancestors married and often give little thought as to how happy, or otherwise, that marriage may have been. However, there are many different types of records available in Scotland which may shed light on those marriages which were less than harmonious. These include divorce cases, legal separations, aliment cases, kirk session minutes, poor relief records and newspapers. This presentation discusses how to locate these records and what they may reveal.

James Waugh



Aspects of Mining in Scotland

Pre- nationalisation

- Ownership, conditions in pits and housing. Use of Census and other statutory register looking at typical coal mining family.
- Mauricewood disaster at a pit owned by Shotts Iron Company.
- Reason for pits in Midlothian to be owned by Shotts Iron Company from Lanarkshire.
- Details of pits owned in Midlothian by SIC.

Post nationalisation

- Look at structure of industry and assets over and above pits like 85 brickworks.
- Life in a new house built for miners in Midlothian including domestic improvements.
- Improved welfare and social facilities. The "Casino" in Nivensknowe.
- From 1947 to 1987 more pits were closed than opened. Effect on miners in area around Loanhead. Average workforce in pits move from 400 in 1947 to 1,200 in mid- 1980's.
- Changing market for coal and dependence on electricity production. Move to imported coal, from 4 million tons in 1983 to 10 million tons in 1987.

Louise Williams



Louise Williams has been the Archivist at Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA) since 2014 and worked inside the service since 2012. LHSA is NHS Lothian's archive based inside the University of Edinburgh, and collects records from NHS hospitals and their predecessors, along with more general records about healthcare in Edinburgh and the Lothians. The archive is open to all researchers and offers a remote enquiries service. As well as being the largest medical archive in the UK, LHSA has a particular strength in records from psychiatric institutions, with diverse collections from seven different local hospitals. Louise uses these records on an almost-daily basis to answer genealogy queries, in academic teaching, and in community talks and workshops.

Asylum Records for Genealogy

Asylum records provide an insight into the circumstances that relatives entered an asylum, their treatment while there and what happened to them in terms of the success of their treatment and their eventual release or in some cases their death.

David Smale



The men and (eventually) women who kept the peace in the southern counties of Scotland. Policing the Scottish Borders, c. 1840 – 1945:

David Smale was brought up in north London. He left school at 16 and joined the Royal Marines, studying at the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal, Kent and served primarily with the band based at Rosyth, Fife. After thirteen years' service, which included numerous military parades and concerts, several tours of Northern Ireland, and attending military training and a promotion course at the Commando Training Centre, he left the corps. He joined Lothian and Borders Police, working in a busy inner-city station and in a one-man office in the rural Scottish Borders, serving for 23 years. Throughout his service in the Royal Marines and the police he had been interested in history and studied with the Open University.

On leaving the police he attended the University of Edinburgh and studied for an MSc in History. His studies resulted in a BA (Hons), an MA and MSc in History and a PhD. He worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the university on a project concerning community policing. He has contributed to books on the history of policing and written many articles for academic journals.

In 2020 he co-authored a book *Police and Community in Twentieth-Century Scotland*, and in February 2021 he had an article published in *History Scotland* magazine entitled *The Use of Police Spies in the Radical War of 1820*. In 2021 his book entitled, *The Radical War of 1820: Police Spies, Government Spies and Willing Informers* will be published.

He lives in the Scottish Borders and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians (Scotland). He is presently working on a book on policing in time of war.

A short and fleeting look into policing in the border counties. Policing came to the counties and burghs of the Scottish Borders not because of an outbreak of lawlessness amongst the locals, but because of the fear of the outsider – the vagrants and workers on the tramp who walked the routes of Britain in search of work. These people needed to be watched and encouraged to move on. In the 1840s the towns and counties adopted a new system of policing to monitor the poor on the tramp. Who were these police officers? Where did they come from? The new police suffered from several scandals involving Chief Constables trying to make money out of their men: others diverted money to their own accounts and still others fell into the perennial trap of drink. The talk will also consider the role of the police in wartime, in particular the impact of RAF bases on the Borders. Indeed, it was the world wars that brought about the employment of women in these small rural forces.

Bob Stewart



Lanarkshire Family History Society

Bob Stewart who is the Chairman on the society will present a talk about the Lanarkshire Family History Society.

On leaving school aged 16, I served a 5-year apprenticeship in Engineering, after which my career was maintaining and repairing office equipment. I travelled to customers premises throughout Scotland and on occasions I travelled down to help out in Liverpool, Birmingham and London if they needed additional support, but mainly I worked in Glasgow and Lanarkshire.

I have been happily married to Eileen for 52 years, we have 2 daughters and 5 grandsons. It was after I had taken early retirement, I decided to start my family tree. I soon found Lanarkshire Family History Society and within a few years found myself on the Committee. I was privileged to be Chairman for more than 10 years, and now happily holding the post of Publications Coordinator. I have still research to carry out for my family tree, it's not complete yet!!

Lorna Steele



The Highland Archive Service: Collections & Resources

Lorna Steele is the Community Engagement Officer at the Highland Archive Service. Lorna has been very busy throughout 2020 presenting the 'Learn with Lorna' series on Facebook. The Highland Archive Service, operated by High Life Highland, cares for historic documents dating from the 1200s to the present day in its four archive centres in Inverness, Wick, Fort William and Portree.

Emma Maxwell



Understanding Kirk Session Records

Emma Maxwell is a professional genealogist based in East Kilbride, who runs www.scottishindexes.com with her husband and fellow genealogist, Graham Maxwell. Emma has over 20 years of experience helping clients discover their heritage and indexing historical records to make these available to a wider audience. Emma's main focus of interest is records which reveal the lives of ordinary people, agricultural labourers, servants and factory workers. She finds detailed accounts within court records and health records that reveal the stories behind the names.

Kirk Session records are a basic building block of research in Scotland. Kirk Session records contain the records of the church court and record cases of discipline within the congregation. A common reason people were brought before the Kirk Session was fornication, but that's not all we find in these records. There are also records of money being given to the poor and records of births, marriages and deaths. In her presentation, Emma will help us understand these records so that we can make the most of them to research our Scottish family history. To view Kirk Session records online, please visit www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

ASGRA



The Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA) is the only accrediting body for professional genealogists in Scotland.

Our organisation promotes the highest standards in the profession of genealogy and historical research.

Members have undergone rigorous assessment before being accepted as full members of the association.

Our members undertake research for family and local historians, authors, business organisations and legal firms. By contacting any one of our members, you will be assured of a helpful response and a high standard of work.

The Association of Scottish Genealogists & Researchers in Archives (ASGRA) was founded in 1981 under the patronage of the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

ASGRA members are highly qualified and have many years experience in carrying out research in Scottish archives and assisting clients worldwide to discover their Scottish ancestry.

Many members have individual expertise in particular regions, time periods or types of research, and several are published authors in the field of genealogy, social and local history.

Borders Family History Society



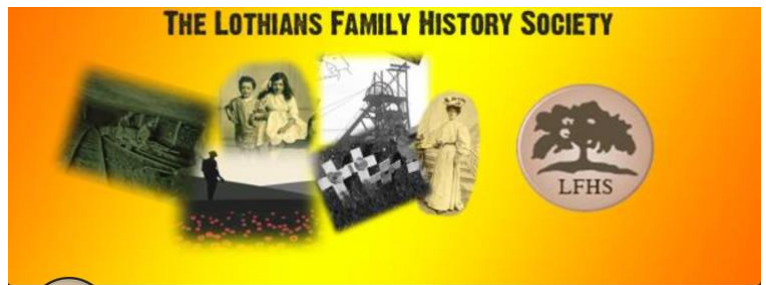
The society was founded in 1985 to promote and encourage an interest in genealogy. To help members trace their ancestors, by putting people in touch, guiding members to possibly sources of information. Monthly lectures from September to May. Society library in 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1DP holding a wide range of publications relating to Borders family history, and bits of adjoining counties.

The Borders Family History Society helps people to trace their ancestors from the Border counties of Berwick, Peebles, Roxburgh and Selkirk. As well as an extensive online resource, they also have their own archive and research room at 52 Overhaugh Street, in the centre of Galashiels.

Here visitors will find the society collection of Borders family history material and publications, which can be purchased. Staffed by local volunteers with knowledge of the area, the collection includes CD and microfilm/fiche records of census returns, births, marriages and deaths.

Lothians Family History Society

Meets every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm (except July and August) at Lasswade High School Centre Eskdale Drive Bonnyrigg Midlothian EH19 2LA Scotland.



The Society`s Library is housed in a location adjacent to the School Library. The Society is a member of the [Scottish Association of Family History Societies](#). **Whether you are a novice or an accomplished researcher the LFHS is here to help you.**

If you live locally, or at a great distance, our Society is committed to helping you in your quest for knowledge about your family tree. The Society is located close to the National Records of Scotland and our local researchers may be the key to helping you solve your 'brick wall'.

The Society has a large number of publications for sale on Burial Indexes, Monumental Inscriptions, Books etc.

Scottish Genealogical Society



The Society, based in Edinburgh and founded in 1953, helps with research into Scottish family and local history. Run by volunteers, we can advise you at all stages in your research. Members and visitors will always get a friendly welcome at the [Library & Family History Centre](#).

The Society Offers:

- Advice and support from experienced volunteers
- Monumental Inscriptions – the largest collection in Scotland
- Old Parish Registers – the original in microfilm for every parish in Scotland with indexes to baptisms and marriages
- Bookshop with publications from every Scottish family history society and other publishers
- [The Library](#), with over 4000 books and CDs on Scottish family and local history
- [Family History Index](#) - Collection of donated family histories, pedigrees and research notes
- Census information
- Scottish family history societies' journals
- Photocopying, microfiche and microfilm printing available
- Internet and full access to: Ancestry (World); Find My Past (World); and the British Newspaper Archive.

Scottish Indexes



Scottish Indexes have volunteered to help us bring #SAFHS2021 to you digitally this year. Scottish Indexes is a family run business based in central Scotland. Graham first set up Maxwell Ancestry in 1996, then in 2001 his wife Emma joined the team. As far back as 2001 Graham and Emma were indexing records so that you could trace your Scottish family tree from anywhere in the world.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020 the research that Emma and Graham were able to do was severely curtailed with the closure of archives across Scotland. The idea came about that they would hold a family history conference on Zoom. Since their first conference in April 2020 Emma and Graham have held eight conferences, all free to attend.

As well as organising the conferences Emma and Graham have continued to index historical records, expanding Scotland's Criminal Database and the Scottish Paternity Index substantially during the lockdown. All the records on www.scottishindexes.com are free to search with no login required. The National Records of Scotland (NRS) reference is also provided so that in 'normal' times you can use that reference to access the record in the National Records of Scotland.

The 1921 Census

One of the resources that family historians look forward to every 10 years, is the release of the historic census data. This year will see the release of the 1921 census data. Due to industrial action by coal miners and railway workers in the spring of 1921 the date of the census was postponed to Saturday 19th June 1921. In late 2020 the Scottish Government took the decision to postpone the 2021 census to 2022 and these are the only census years the census date has been changed, except for the cancelled 1941 census.

Prior to the 1921 census a government act had to be brought into legislation every time a census was to be held. The 1920 Census Act brought into force permanent legislation regarding the holding of the census every 10th year. The act did allow for the questions asked in the census to be changed and for different questions to be asked in the English/Welsh v.v. Scottish Census.

The 1911 Census was sometimes known as the fertility census because it contains questions about the number of children born to a couple and whether they were alive or deceased. Unfortunately, these questions do not appear in the 1921 Census. The other set of questions removed was the questions into infirmities such as being blind, deaf and dumb. It was recognised that the reliability of answering the health questions correctly was diminishing.

So, what differences will you notice? The age on the census was now to be shown as years and completed months, which should help with accuracy of year of birth.

If an individual was aged over 15 whether they were single, married or divorced.

If they were aged under 15 whether both parents are alive, father dead, mother dead, or both dead. If the father was deceased he might have died due to war service during the Great War.

Whether attending school or other educational establishment (previously this had been part of the occupation column).

Trade / Employer and in England and Wales Place of Employment (employer's address except when living at their employer's address). For Scotland the place of employment was replaced by asking whether an individual was entitled to benefits under the National Insurance (Health) Acts. Those out of work were instructed to give their last employer's name and add out of work.

The number and ages of living children or stepchildren under 16 also had to be shown.

The Scottish Census should be released in June 2021 and will only be available through www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

For England and Wales it will be released in early 2022 on the commercial site www.findmypast.co.uk. Between 1921 and 1931, it is estimated that 400,000 Scots emigrated from Scotland so this may be the last period when you may find your relatives in a Scottish census. The census showed a large decrease in the number of Gaelic speakers on mainland Scotland. The English and Welsh census data sets will also contain military overseas bases both Army and Royal Air Force, Royal Navy Vessels and Merchant Ships in English and Welsh Waters. The Scottish census should have the same information for vessels in Scottish waters.

Ken Nisbet

Contacts: Please contact via the SAFHS website www.safhs.org.uk

Acting Chairman: Stephen Benson

Deputy Chairman: Vacant

Secretary: Kenneth Nisbet

Treasurer: Christine Thomas

Publications: Christine Thomas

Executive Member: Alison Murray

The next SAFHS Council Meeting is SCHEDULED to take place in October 2021 via Zoom

Full details will follow. 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, seven days before the meeting, please contact the Chairman.

SAFHS Publications Prices and Postage Costs

		UK	Eur	Rest
Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Minutes of the Church of Scotland	£ 6.00	2.20	3.80	5.70
The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland (New Edition)	£ 6.75	2.20	3.80	5.70
Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland	£ 8.00	2.20	3.80	5.70
Researching Scottish Graveyards	£ 4.50	1.50	2.95	3.30
Scots Abroad, Part 1	£ 4.50	2.20	3.25	4.50
A Scottish Historian's Glossary	£ 4.50	1.50	2.95	3.30
Weights and Measures	£ 3.75	2.20	3.25	4.50