Dunfermline Abbey and kirkyard, Fife (from the north). Dating from the 12th century, the burial place of King Robert the Bruce. Reproduced with kind permission of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland – www.rcahms.gov.uk / SC 381272.

In this issue:

Member News  Conference  Publications

Archives, Collections and News  Diary Dates
SAFHS Bulletin: April 2014

From the Editors …

Avid readers will have noticed a few changes to the Bulletin. We are looking to give a little more news and information about the work of the member societies and the family history world in general. Please provide a report with information as often as you can – it is a great way to get information about what you are doing out to other parts of the world.

Janet Bishop, Editor & Andrew Nicoll, Sub-Editor

SAFHS Contacts

Chairman
Bruce B Bishop:

Deputy Chairman
Stephen Benson:

Secretary
Ken Nisbet:

Treasurer
John W Irvine:

Editor
Janet M Bishop:

Webmaster
Doug Stewart:

SAFHS Publications, April 2014

Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Minutes of the Church of Scotland £4.00 2.20 3.62 5.70
The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland (New Edition) £6.75 2.20 3.62 5.70
Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland £4.00 2.20 3.62 5.70
Researching Scottish Graveyards £4.50 2.20 2.93 3.90
Scots Abroad, Part 1 £4.50 2.20 3.16 4.50
A Scottish Historian’s Glossary £4.50 2.20 2.93 3.90
Scottish Trades, Professions, Vital Records and Directories £7.00 2.20 3.62 5.70
Weights and Measures £3.75 2.20 3.16 4.50

Publications available to order from www.parishchest.com

SAFHS Information

Executive Committee: This has met since March, in Edinburgh. Minutes have been sent to member societies.

Website: Items for the website should be submitted to Doug Stewart directly, including changes to your website contact details only.

Contacts List: The Editor maintains the official contacts list. If you have changes between council meetings, please send them to Janet Bishop.

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

The Scottish Council on Archives: Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this council.

National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland: Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this committee.

ScotlandsPeople Voucher Orders: Orders for vouchers should be sent to John Irvine, with a cheque, and should include postage as per the current agreement (see below). Minimum order 20 vouchers.

Postage:

| 21-50 vouchers | £6  | 51-100 vouchers | £7.20 |
| 101-175 vouchers | £8.50 | 176-250 vouchers | £10.50 |

More than 250 vouchers – by arrangement
The Scottish Association of Family History Societies 25th Anniversary Conference and Family History Fair "A Matter of Life and Death" will be held at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Halbeath Road, Dunfermline, Scotland, on 26 April 2014, 9.30am – 4.45pm.

This one day family history Conference and Fair will take place in the historic old capital of Scotland. There will be four main talks, for pre-booked delegates, and a series of other talks and workshops during the day, which should be booked on arrival. There will also be a children’s Family History workshop. The extensive Family History Fair will feature Family History Societies, Professional Genealogists, Local History Groups and many commercial stands.

The cost for delegates is £32, which includes access to all lectures and to the Family History Fair, tea/coffee and breakfast rolls on arrival, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Admission to the Family History Fair will be at the £2, at the door.

Full details can be found on the SAFHS website at www.safhs.org.uk and booking forms can be downloaded from the website.

The event is part of the Homecoming Scotland 2014 programme, and has received Awards for All Lottery funding.
News from Member Societies

Member societies provide information about their activities in the previous six and future six month period. Societies don’t always provide a report for each edition of the bulletin, but continue to be listed in this directory for your information. Please take a look in the next issue for news from your area if nothing appears here this time!

Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society

Email: enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk
Web: www.anesfhs.org.uk

Contact: Honorary Secretary, Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society, 158-164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD. Tel 01224 646323; Fax 01224 639096.

Founded in 1978, the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society was the second of the regional family history societies to be founded in Scotland. In the 36 years since then, the Society has gone from strength to strength, acquiring property and resources and greatly increasing its membership. It now has some 4,500 members located all over the world. The Society was recently granted a Coat of Arms and the Letters Patent assigning armorial bearings to the Society were presented at a Civic Reception in the Town House in Aberdeen by Mrs Elizabeth Roads, one of the heralds of the Lord Lyon's Office. Mrs Roads has the official title of Snawdoun Herald. The Coat of Arms depicts an oak tree eradicated, counterchanged in red and silver, with the motto "Aye tyaa vin awa."

There are branches of the Society in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Elgin and the Midlands, but the headquarters are in Aberdeen. The Research Centre at 158 King Street, in an atmospheric 19th-century building, houses the book shop and the various research facilities available to members; it is staffed by volunteers who are experienced in helping visitors with most aspects of their research, from finding the sources they need to organising their visit to their ancestral homes, and is open six days a week. Training for volunteers includes visits to other archives to help them expand their knowledge of relevant resources. The Society maintains close relationships with local government and university archives in Aberdeen and the North-East and often points researchers to another organisation that can solve their problems. And of course it maintains its own impressive research facilities. Its computer rooms have subscriptions to the major online family history databases, and guidance in using the Internet for family history research is always available. If you wish to browse the Old Parish Registers on microfilm, these are available for the whole of Scotland.

All the censuses for the whole of Scotland from 1841-1891 and for most of 1901 are also available. The Society also has a library with over 5,000 volumes, largely
rare or limited-edition local publications, parish histories and other local history and genealogical resources, dating from the early 1800s to the present day. To assist research, this collection is catalogued and indexed on the Society's computer database.

The Society carries on a wide range of activities. Apart from its regular public meetings on topics of genealogical and local interest, it is an important publisher, publishing works of genealogical research, a respected family history journal, and a range of transcriptions of monumental inscriptions from graveyards in the North East of Scotland. It provides speakers on relevant topics to organisations and events in the area, and runs popular public classes on researching family history.

The regular monthly meetings with guest speakers cover topics of family history and local interest. On 17 May the speaker in Aberdeen will be the Secretary of SAFHS, Ken Nisbet, who will talk about newspapers as a source of family history. In Glasgow on the same day, members will be holding a workshop on World War One soldiers. Edinburgh's next meeting will be on 13 September when David Webster, of Ross Genealogy, will be trying to answer the question, "Why can't I find that record?" June's meeting in Aberdeen is the last before the summer break, and is traditionally the annual graveyard outing when a group of volunteers descends on a kirkyard to record and subsequently publish the monumental inscriptions there. This year the outing is on Saturday 7 June, and we will be tackling the kirkyard of Auchterless. Why not come and join us – all are welcome!

An important and very enjoyable part of the Society's business is attendance at the many family history and heritage fairs throughout the country. Come and visit us this year at the South Ayrshire Family History Fair in Troon, the Bon Accord Steam Fair at Castle Fraser, the Family History Fair in York, the Scottish Boat Festival in Portsoy, the Heritage Fair in Peterhead, the Book Fair in Ballater, Homecoming events at Haddo House, Fyvie and Castle Fraser, the Family History event in Stirling, the Book Fair in Aberdeen and of course in Dunfermline at the SAFHS Conference. These are just some of the events scheduled so far, but an up-to-date list will be found on our website at www.anesfhs.org.uk

For more information about the Society check out the website and also our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/anesfhs

---

Alloway and Southern Ayrshire Family History Society

Email: secretary@asafhs.org.uk
Web: www.asafhs.org.uk

Contact: The Secretary, c/o Alloway Public Library, Doonholm Road, Alloway, Ayr, Ayrshire, KA7 4QQ

www.safhs.org.uk/ Registered as a charity in Scotland: SC029006
Our winter programme was varied and continued to interest our members sufficiently to draw them to our meeting in very inclement weather. This programme covered the use of Family Search; still a very valuable tool in searching for ancestors and its recent makeover has greatly improved its content and user friendliness. We also were entertained by a presentation on “Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Manchester Rebels”, how their popularity waxed and waned from their arrival and then advance to Derby and subsequent retreat back through Manchester to Scotland.

We welcomed Andrew Nicoll with an introduction to the ScotlandsPlaces website, followed by his plea for transcribers. His journey was not without reward. A member also enthralled us with a presentation about her ancestor “Colin Campbell, the First Lord Clyde”.

Our long-awaited move into the new Archives+ centre at Manchester Central Library has now happened. Archives+ aims to create an archive centre of excellence in the heart of Manchester. It will be a one-stop resource centre, providing a regional, national and international focus for community activities and learning from archive, library and other sources. The project brings together statutory, university and voluntary organisations to provide a holistic range of archive and heritage services from one location. Our parent Society will be operating a help desk each weekday as well as a mentoring service, accessed by appointment, to help with those special problems. Our meetings will be well publicised within the Library, held in well appointed meeting rooms and open to the public, although we will be trying to persuade any visitors to join our Society.

Other partners in Archives+ are Manchester Record Office, North West Film Archives and Manchester Registration Service (Historic Registers) so it really will be worth a visit.

We continue to add to our Scottish Marriage Index, for which new entries are always welcome. For details see our website.

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month, starting at 2 pm, except August and December, and non-members of the Society are always welcome.
Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA)

Email: info@agra.org.uk
Web: www.agra.org.uk

Contact: 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA

Our members meet high standards of expertise and professional conduct within genealogy, heraldry and record searching, and are best placed to work for you. Rest assured that they have proved their competence and agreed to accept AGRA’s code of practice. Ian Waller and Hilary Clare will be speaking on English research topics at the SAFHS 2014 Conference in Dunfermline on 26 April, and will also be on hand for queries on the Ask The Experts stand.

Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA)

Email: via website
Web: www.asgra.org.uk

Contact: Honorary Secretary, Treetops, 570 Lanark Road, Edinburgh EH14 7BN

Our members undertake research for family and local historians, authors, business organisations and legal firms. If you use one of our members, you can be assured of a helpful response and high standard of work. Under the patronage of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, our members are experienced and well-qualified professional researchers, working independently in Scotland, and bound by a strict code of practice. Members will be on the Ask The Experts stand at the SAFHS 2014 Conference in Dunfermline on 26 April.

Borders Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Contact: Secretary, 30 Elliot Road, Jedburgh, TD8 6HN
Family History Society of Buchan

Email: info@buchanroots.co.uk
Web: www.buchanroots.co.uk

Contact: 22 Harbour Street, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire AB42 1DJ

Buckie and District Fishing Heritage

Email: info@buckieheritage.org
Web: www.buckieheritage.org

Contact: Cluny Place, Buckie, Banffshire, AB56 1HB

Caithness Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.caithnessfhs.org.uk

Contact: Dwarick Park, Dunnet, By Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8XD

Central Scotland Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.csfhs.org.uk

Contact: Mrs Mary McIntyre, 18 Melloch Crescent, Tillicoutry, Clackmannanshire FK13 6QJ
The Society, like many other societies, is experiencing a small drop in the Membership year on year. However, attendance at the monthly meetings remains steady despite the wet winter evenings. Elma Lindsay, our Syllabus Secretary, always surprises us with a wide variety of topics and new speakers, and we are indebted to her.

Preparations for next year’s SAFHS Conference in April are now underway and we are delighted that a TV personality is coming along to talk to us. More details will be in the next newsletter. The title of the Conference is “There was a soldier.....” All the talks have a military theme. The Conference will take place in Allan Park South Church in the centre of Stirling. The Church has replaced most of the pews with comfortable chairs; there is powerpoint and 2 screens for ease of viewing, and an induction loop system. In the first instance, one table will be available for Family History Societies depending on demand.

Dr Ian Anderson has produced another MI booklet on Bo’ness and Corbiehall Graveyard, priced at £2.00 plus postage. The information was provided by Geoff Bailey of Falkirk. Sadly all the stones are grassed over and the site is very overgrown.

At the moment, the Committee is running with 2 vacancies, which does cause difficulties at meetings when we are trying to set up the PC for the lectures, cover the bookstall, the library, deal with visitors and members signing in, as well as making the tea and clearing up. Hopefully at the AGM we will have volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Once again, Elma Lindsay and I have been asked to attend 2 events in connection with the Ochil Hills Landscape Partnership Festival in June. One will be at an open day in Menstrie and the other will be an evening lecture and a discussion session for beginners in Family History.

Our monthly drop-in sessions at St Ninian’s Library are still popular and seem to be appreciated. We appreciate the help from a few members who turn up to help as it is not always possible for the Committee to commit to a session.
Our society covers the three counties of Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire, forming the Scottish Region of Dumfries and Galloway. This area of south-west Scotland stretches from Gretna on the border with England in the east to Stranraer in the west, bordering south Lanarkshire and Ayrshire in the north.

We have our own Research Centre in Glasgow Road, Dumfries, with ample free parking to rear and within easy walking distance of the main bus stops beside the River Nith at the White Sands. The railway station is only a 15 minute walk away. Visitors are welcome. FHS Membership is £9 a year for adults and £7.50 for those of pension age.

Our Centre has a wealth of resources – microfiche and films of census and pre-1855 Parish Registers. We hold the Dumfries local newspaper on fiche from 1777-1930, with hard copy indexes of people and places and also the Wigtown Free Press from 1843-1925. We have published many memorial inscriptions from local graveyards, and also hold other unpublished MI surveys done in the 1980s. Our library section contains a wide range of books on local history and genealogy and we can also provide internet access to Scotland’s People (using vouchers).

The Centre is open 5 days a week; currently the summer opening hours are Tues & Thurs 10am-4pm, Wed 12.30-3.30pm, Fri & Sat 10am-1pm. Winter opening hours are slightly shorter. Our friendly volunteers staff the Centre and aim to help both beginners and experienced family historians to advance their research. Their local knowledge is especially useful to visitors.

We hold several talks on local or general genealogical interest in the spring and autumn. Usually they are held on Saturday afternoons either in Castle Douglas or in Newton Stewart.

We have just held our first talk of the year when Ken Nisbet explained just how much information was to be gleaned from the Record of Corrected Entries (RCEs). His audience were fascinated by the detailed information that was to be found in this series of records (many of the examples were highly entertaining!)
and most went away feeling they had learned something new.

Our next talk ‘S R Crockett, The Galloway Novelist’ will be given in Newton Stewart by Prof. Ted Cowan and at our AGM at the end of March Margaret Fox will give details of Traquair House archives. In May, Andrew Nicoll will talk on ScotlandPlaces and in September Anne Reid will explain her “Speaking Lives” project.

East Ayrshire Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Contact: c/o The Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock KA1 3BU

The former county of Ayrshire is divided into three local authority areas: North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on the Clyde coast and East Ayrshire which lies inland. Each area has a local archive centre but shares the services of Ayrshire Archives. Details can be found at www.ayrshirearchives.org.uk

East Ayrshire extends from Lugton and Dunlop in the north to Patna and Dalmellington in the Doon Valley and from Dalrymple across to Muirkirk. It includes small communities such as Fenwick, Moscow, Ochiltree and Sorn, and the towns such as Galston, Newmilns and Darvel in the Irvine Valley. The largest towns in the region are Kilmarnock and Cumnock. Local archives are held in the Burns Monument Centre, Kay Park, Kilmarnock, along with local history and family history resources, which are freely available to browse. See the relevant webpages at www.burnsmonumentcentre.co.uk This Centre also houses a Local ScotlandPeople Centre, giving online access for £15 a day to most of the records available in the main centre in Edinburgh.

East Ayrshire FHS was founded in 1997. The Society aims to promote the study of family history in the area and to assist members with research. A Journal is posted out in April and August and a shorter Bulletin in December. It is planned from September 2014 to offer a new reduced “digital subscription”; members choosing this will be sent each magazine by email as a PDF attachment.

Meetings: Evening meetings are now held at 7pm in the Johnnie Walker Bond, Strand Street, Kilmarnock on the second Thursday of the months September to May. Visitors are welcome. The subject of talks this session included the Abbey Green at Kilwinning, Fairlie House near Gatehead, Crosshouse village and Ayrshire Mining. On most other Thursdays throughout the year afternoon workshops, with internet access, are held in The Cabin, Witch Road, Kilmarnock.

Projects: A number of members are involved in various transcription and indexing projects.

Publications: EAFHS has produced two publications relating to the Old High Kirk, Kilmarnock – (1) a DVD of records of
burials in the churchyard, containing over 3300 entries transcribed from original burial records and lair books dated variously between 1832 and 1956 and (2) a book of Monumental Inscriptions and Additional Notes, plus a DVD containing photographs. The churchyard contains the remains of several prominent citizens of Kilmarnock in the 18th and 19th century, including John Wilson, printer, Thomas Morton, astronomer as well as carpet manufacturer and Thomas Kennedy, one of the founders of Glenfield and Kennedy, internationally-renowned hydraulic engineering company.

Also available is a book of Monumental Inscriptions, plus a DVD of photographs, for Kaimshill Cemetery (Riccarton) on the outskirts of Kilmarnock. These items can be purchased online using PayPal.

Federation of Family History Societies

Email: via website
Web: www.ffhs.org.uk

Contact: PO Box 8857, Lutterworth, LE17 9BJ

Fife Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.fifefhs.org

Andrew Campbell of Fife FHS supporting the SAFHS Conference in Dunfermline with a cheque to Bruce Bishop, SAFHS Chairman
Here is a list of some of our services we offer at Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society:

We concentrate on Argyllshire, Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Glasgow and hold all the census 1841 to 1901 on microfilms for these areas. We also hold the OPR’s for them on microfilms and OPR Fiche for all Scotland for births and marriages. We have many of the census indexed.

Being that we have a keen group of volunteers, we have recorded a large number of Churchyards and have these for sale and on all our 6 research computers.

ancestry.co.uk worldwide version is available and also Find My Past worldwide plus Ireland version.

Our popular website has a Facebook link, a members section where special data bases are there for our members to enjoy. There is also a Guestbook where anyone can leave requests for help with their genealogy.

We offer a photo service and will take photos of grave stones, houses, schools etc for a small fee. OMID, online members interests is available on the site where members can see if others are researching names of interest to them.

Research assistance is offered for folk who require certificates that are out with dates available of Scotland’s People. Our library has an extensive range of maps and many books of our remit areas plus military and MI’s for many of our counties and Ireland.
What is the Guild of One-Name Studies?

How can the organisation help you?
Family historians generally focus their efforts on researching their own family trees, collecting as much detail as possible on every branch, twig or tiny leaf. Others compile one-name studies which seek all occurrences, past and present, of a single surname, anywhere in the world. Kirsty Gray, the Chairman of the Guild of One-Name Studies, gives an insight into one-name (surname) studies and what the organisation is all about.

A one-name (or surname) study is a project researching all occurrences of a surname, as opposed to a particular pedigree (ancestors of one person) or descendancy (descendants of one person or couple). Some 'one-namers' restrict their research geographically, perhaps to one country, but true one-namers collect all occurrences worldwide.

The purpose of a one-name study is not just about the collection of data. Its aim is to research the genealogy and family history of all persons with a given surname and its linked variants. A study may concentrate on aspects such as the geographical distribution of the name and the changes in that distribution over the centuries, or may attempt to reconstruct the genealogy of as many lines as possible bearing the name. A frequent aspiration is to identify a single original location of the name, especially if the name appears to derive from a place name. However, for many names, for example those indicating an occupation like ‘Farmer’ or a patronymic-type surname such as ‘Williamson’, there may not be a single origin.

So, what is the Guild?

The Guild of One-Name Studies (frequently referred to as 'GOONS') is the worldwide centre of excellence in one-name studies and promotes the interests of both the individuals and groups who are engaged in them. Established in 1979 and registered as a charity in 1989, the Guild provides its members with the means to share, exchange and publish information about one-name studies as well as encouraging and assisting all those interested in one-name studies. There are a large number of benefits and services the Guild provides to its members, not least of which is the help and encouragement given by fellow Guild members and the opportunity to learn from others engaging in this specialist field of genealogy:

Award-winning Journal of One-Name Studies, Guild e-mail Forum, Guild web site, unique Guild e-mail alias (surname@one-name.org), regular Chairman’s Newsflash, Marriage
Challenge, Wiki, Marriage Index, Probate Index, Bookstall, Virtual Office, DNA advice, Regional Representatives, monthly Google+ Hangouts, helpful videos on the Guild YouTube channel, one-day seminars, the Annual Conference and AGM

Joining the Guild enables anyone with an interest in one-name studies to benefit from the experience, expertise and friendship of many like-minded people. Membership is open to anyone anywhere with an interest in one-name studies. Undertaking a one-name study is not a prerequisite for joining, nor is it a requirement of membership.

So, what are you waiting for? If you are undertaking a one-name study or are interested in one-name studies, join! If not, take a look at the online register of surnames www.one-name.org and see if anyone is researching a surname you are interested in. Perhaps they can help!

How the Guild helps others

The Guild has over 2,600 members studying 8,400 registered names and variants. Some members are very experienced and knowledgeable about family history research and one-name studies; most are extremely enthusiastic and keen to help other people extend their knowledge and further their research. So, as a family historian, if you have a surname in your family that is being studied by a Guild member, then he or she may well be able to provide you with valuable information and insights about the name and perhaps your own connection with it. The Register of One-Name Studies is searchable on the front page of the Guild web site (www.one-name.org) and is updated regularly.

What are you waiting for?

• If you have an interest in a surname study already registered, get in touch with the relevant Guild member
• If you are interested in one-name studies, apply for Guild membership
• If you are doing a one-name study, register it with the Guild

Come along to Stand 51-53 at Who Do You Think You Are? Live Glasgow to find out more.
The Highland Family History Society was established in September 1981 to promote the study of genealogy, family history and related subjects in the Highlands of Scotland. We are a voluntary organisation based in Inverness, the capital of the Scottish Highlands, with a worldwide membership of over 650. Our area covers the old counties of Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, and Nairn (and we retain interest in, and information about, Caithness and northern parishes of Argyll and Perth, though they now have their own local family history groups).

We try to fulfil our remit by collecting and publishing information that will help anyone researching their family’s history in the Highlands, by providing help and advice to those just starting their research, and by encouraging researchers to join the society and share the fruits of their researches with other members through our monthly talks, our ever-expanding website, and our colourful quarterly journal.

The Society is based at the Highland Archive and Registration Centre at Bught Park, Inverness, where members of the Society may be available to assist your researches (see website for more details). In addition, the Archive Centre has recently been linked up to the ScotlandsPeople Centre, so that research on the online records may be done here, instead of having to go to Register House in Edinburgh.

We hold monthly meetings in the Archive Centre, usually on a Wednesday evening, covering a variety of associated topics, and we continue to publish records, such as Monumental Inscriptions, to facilitate research. Our website gives fuller information and contact details for the Society. We look forward to being of assistance to you in your researches.
Members of our military group have been working with Gartcosh Historical Society on the research required to identify all names on the Village WW1 War Memorial. The group will have the book completed in the next few months. Another group of members has been researching names on various WW1 Memorials in Hamilton. Currently they are researching 1,200 names.

Hamilton Grammar School pupils are researching the 67 former pupils and 2 Masters who fell in the Great War. Society members have assisted with the research and the pupils will now work on their Art Project to remember the fallen.

Our “Irish Interest” and “Military Matters” groups continue to meet. Members pass on their knowledge and are also able to answer member’s questions and attempt to resolve problems.

5 New Publications:
- Lanark Grammar School Book 1, 1873 - 92
- Lanark Grammar School Book 2, A - K 1892 - 1902
- Lanark Grammar School Book 2, L - Z 1892 - 1909
- Motherwell Pupils attending Other Schools
- Wishaw Schools

Correspondence Address:
Lanarkshire Family History Society
C/O North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre
Local History Room, High Road
MOTHERWELL. ML1 3HU

Research Centre Address:
* No mail should be sent to this address

We began the 2014 session with a talk by Tom Rees of Rathmell Archaeology on his firm’s input to Kilwinning Community Archaeology Project. It was
interesting and informative to hear how qualified archaeologists supervise and instruct enthusiasts of all ages and abilities to achieve the best results and record them for the future.

In February, we had Robin Nicholson of Nicholsons Maps in Largs to show us the latest methods of mapping and to point us in the right direction when we are looking for places that featured in the lives of our ancestors. Robin also offered to assist any of our members who were having difficulty finding places or homes in Largs that had been re-named or demolished and rebuilt.

Val Reilly, a former curator at Paisley Museum will be speaking at the March meeting on, ‘A Woman’s Work is Never Done’. As most of the audience consists of ladies, I am sure that she will have a sympathetic audience.

On 18 March, a group will make the trip to south Ayrshire to join with the other two Ayrshire societies at Alloway, where we shall be guests of Alloway and South Ayrshire FHS for the Joint Meeting. The speaker for the evening will be Frank Brown, whose topic will be ‘The Tall Ship at Riverside, Glasgow’

The final talk for the session will be on the ‘Greenock Cut and the History of Greenock.’ The speaker will be Pat Emslie, a ranger at Clyde Muirshiel Park, through which the ‘Cut’ flows. The final meeting, the AGM, will be on 13 May and I am sure that the Committee will be wracking their brains to make it a memorable evening.

The Society has been having Workshops from 2-4pm on the last Thursday of each month except December and these have proved very successful and enjoyable for all who take part. The training given to the committee by the staff at the Heritage Centre in Saltcoats on ScotlandsPeople has been very helpful. One of the archivists from the Centre is also on hand to assist.

Largs & North Ayrshire FHS is also involved with Fairlie Community Association in helping to research the lives of the 126 men from the village, who went to the First World War. Many interested parties will be involved from school children to those who would like to know more about their ancestors’ military careers and what became of the survivors. The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a grant of £9,700 and once the project is complete - there will be a booklet, exhibition and a website.

The Society continues to hold meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Community Room of Largs Library, from September to May at 7-30 pm.
The Lothians Family History Society is a voluntary organisation consisting of members interested in promoting the study of genealogy and family history. We are situated in the Library at the Lasswade Centre, Bonnyrigg which is just a stones throw away (7 Miles south) from Edinburgh.

The Society has a number of resources at its disposal. There is a selection of books and pamphlets for the absolute beginner, some more specialised guides for the more advanced members and newsletters from other Family History Societies. There are files on alternative sources of information from Scottish Public Libraries to the National Repositories like National Records of Scotland. We have an expanding collection of Edinburgh Directories of various dates, files of commercial search organisations and of various courses and events. Of course the library has a number of publications and a collection of maps covering Scotland and Northern England.

The Society strives to keep all its members interested and we have access to the library`s computers and the Internet. Many members have volunteered in projects, e.g. indexing of burial registers as well as their own interests or just helping others with their research. There are many more details about the Society which you will find in this web site.

The society provides a newsletter, thrice yearly, to members to inform and keep abreast of the activities by members or just provide interesting stories about family history. If you have anything you think might interest the members, whether it is pertinent to your family or not, or something you have found of interest, funny or otherwise, the society would be grateful to hear from you.
A voluntary group dedicated to recording and researching graveyards, cemeteries and monuments throughout Moray, publishing books of monumental inscriptions and creating an online index of names accessible to all.

With spring comes the start of the group’s recording season and this year, weather permitting, will prove another busy year. The group will be continuing work at Mortlach churchyard, starting work on Elgin cemetery south sections 3 and 4, St. Lawrence in Forres, Cullen New cemetery and Tomintoul cemeteries.

Work will also continue towards the second edition of the Elgin Cathedral book, which will contain further MIs and memorials and death records relating to other Elgin sources and churches.

March will see the publication of the Aberlour Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions. This book, the latest by the Moray Burial Ground Research Group, contains over 5,500 named individuals from graveyards and memorials in and around Aberlour including: the old churchyard, with original layer record, new cemetery, the parish church memorials and St. Margaret’s Church, churchyard and burial register. Transcriptions of the local war memorials are also included with Aberlour, Craigellachie, St. Margaret’s and Aberlour Parish Church.

Of particular historical interest from Aberlour churchyard is the McPherson-Grant Mausoleum. Built within in the old section of the churchyard on part of the foundations of the mediaeval church of St. Drostans, the mausoleum was found to contain two memorials, along with...
SAFHS Bulletin: April 2014

several old plans of the site. One of these dating to 1858, shows the exact scale and orientation of the ancient church, and includes a lair record of over 100 names never before recorded.

The inclusion of the memorials, gravestone transcriptions, war memorial and the burial register from St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church, link directly to the Aberlour Orphanage and provides useful information for those interested in the history of the orphanage with some 600 names coming from these sources. The orphanage opened in 1875 and closed in 1967.

The book, which contains full transcriptions, graveyard plans and a selection of photographs costs £14.00 plus postage, can be obtained at Yeadon’s Book Shop, or by contacting Helen Mitchell on 01343 546620, or at enquiries@mbgrg.org.

Other planned publications for later this year include Elgin Cemetery East, and Burnside and Rathven Old cemeteries. Keep an eye on our website and facebook page for further information. The group have offered their support to the Moray’s War project that is being run to mark the centenary of World War 1. With our transcription and photo database, the group are keen to make these available to those researching WW1 war graves in Moray.

The MBGRG online names index now contains approximately 60,000 names and can be searched free online at www.mbgrg.org. Group member Lyndsey Robertson is responsible for this index and the groups website, and puts in a huge amount of work dealing with the website which the group thank him for.

The group is also looking at a possible gravestone heraldry project, and working with the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts and the Scottish Churches project regarding recording monuments within churches.

A busy year lies ahead for the group and it all starts with the groups AGM on Sunday 23rd March, with guest speaker Dr Fraser Hunter. The group will be heading out to various cemeteries on Sundays after the agm to start cleaning, transcribing and recording tombstones in cemeteries across Moray, including searching for buried tombstones. The behind the scenes work of typing, checking and preparing for publications and website work continues throughout the year.

Moray and Nairn Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk
Contact: 3 Dunbar Lane, Duffus, Elgin, Moray IV30 5QN

In February the Moray & Nairn Family History Society celebrated its fifth birthday and continues to move along if only slowly, though we continue to
produce at least 3 publications a year. Work last summer and autumn saw recording undertaken at Cawdor Churchyard, which has noted over 700 stones and which hopefully, will be published soon.

The society has also completed the following publication (published in 3 parts): Death Notices, Articles Concerning Deaths and Obituaries from the Forres, Elgin and Nairn Gazette 1837-1855.

Unlike today, in 1837 there was no newspaper published in Forres; people of the town had to content themselves with newspapers from other parts of Scotland, and further afield.

Newspapers were being printed in Edinburgh, Glasgow and elsewhere that might just contain small snippets of news local to Forres, and there were some newspapers being published at that time in Inverness and Aberdeen. Between Inverness and Aberdeen, though, the only local newspaper then published seems to have been the Elgin Courant, which started in 1836.

John Miller, an Elgin businessman, saw an opportunity and opened a printing establishment in the town where he determined that Forres should have a newspaper of its own and, in June 1837, posters were displayed in the town announcing the forthcoming publication on 4th July 1837 of a new newspaper, the Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette, a local newspaper still going strong in the town today as the Forres Gazette.

The newspaper started as a monthly publication of only four pages; it was not until the start of 1851 that it was published fortnightly; and, only from April 1855 did it start to appear weekly. Notices cover deaths in Forres, the near neighbourhood, the rest of the county, throughout the country and even overseas. Examples can be found of notices from Australia, Canada, India and other parts of the British Empire; and also from the United States, and more unexpected places such as Paris, Buenos Ayres, Gambia, &c.

There are announcements of the death of the illustrious, the well-known and the humble. The shortest announcement may be one from December 5, 1838 which simply states, “Died, at Elgin, last month, James Hay, Porter.” The longest announcement and obituary is probably that for the Rev Thomas Stark, whose death is announced in the issue of February 7, 1849 and whose obituary occupies many columns of the next issue on March 7, 1849.

Published in 3 Parts: 1 – 1837-146 94 pages; 2 – 1847-1851 90 pages; 3 – 1851 -1855 108 pages; Each £6; P & P costs on application.

North Perthshire Family History Group
Email: via website
Web: www.npfhg.org
The Orkney Family History Society was formed in 1997 and has grown to a healthy membership of over 1500 people scattered across the globe. We have an office based in the Orkney Library & Archive which is open Mon - Fri 2pm - 4.30pm and Sat 11am - 4.30pm. The office is staffed by volunteers who aim to help visitors with their research. We hold monthly open meetings during the winter months and have an annual outing in June each year.

During the last year the society has had speakers on the island of Sanday, Orkney service personnel of the First World War, the explorer John Rae, the Balfour women and life in a 1950s school hostel. Our outing last summer was to the island of Shapinsay and we were blessed with a beautiful day of blue skies. Planned talks for this year include the history of the Kirkwall lifeboat and the history of some of the more prominent business premises in Kirkwall. We also plan to hold a members' open evening with a World War One theme.

Our webmaster has been away since March 2013 walking the coast of Britain in aid of research into Parkinson's disease. Follow his progress at www.coastingroundbritain.co.uk

The OFHS website is proving very popular with our members who have access to transcriptions of birth, marriage and death records as well as gravestones and other members' family trees. The transcription work is ongoing and we are continually adding new records. These are all fully searchable. As well as the website there is a Facebook page which is slowly growing in popularity.

Our members also get a quarterly newsletter Sib Folk News either by post or download from the website.

Renfrewshire Family History Society

Email: via website
Web: www.renfrewshirefhs.co.uk

Contact: c/o 51 Mathie Crescent, Gourock PA19 1YU

Renfrewshire Family History Society meets regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Paisley Museum, High Street, Paisley. We also have a limited
research facility within PAISLEY ABBEY, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00am – 11.45am, to which all are welcome. Renfrewshire OPRs on film can be searched at this facility, and help can be obtained from our volunteers who are always there.

The Society carries out projects of research interest to the family historian, and encourages members to volunteer for such projects. Where appropriate, the Society will also carry out research locally at a nominal cost for those who are unable to do so.

Scotslot

Scotslot are a group of Family History enthusiasts with Scottish forbears based in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. In the early 1980s, there were over 30 members of GWSFHS living within 20 miles of Elizabeth van Lottum in Harpenden and several of those, like Elizabeth, felt as cut off from Scottish records as she did. Probably the only place in the south of England where Scottish BDM index films could be seen was the SoG library or the LDS centre, both in London. Very occasionally a local FHS would have a talk on Scottish records; OPR and census records on microfilm were not widely available and there were few records transcribed. The Internet was in the future!

Elizabeth arranged a meeting of many of those GWSFHS members and their wants and individual resources were discussed, together with experiences of libraries and archives in Scotland that had been visited. A program of regular, informal, self-help meetings was arranged and continues to this day. Originally we met in member’s houses and as numbers grew moved to a hall. Interested members were recruited from local family history societies and by advertising in libraries and archives. The opening of an LDS family history centre in nearby Luton, sadly now closed, helped increase numbers. Membership has kept fairly steady over the years in the thirties and forties, but very recently has declined.

Our meetings generally follow the same pattern with news and updates from the family history world, new books etc followed by a ‘round the table’ discussion of members recent progress and problems. After tea, a specific topic is discussed, sometimes lead by a member, occasionally by an outside speaker. We have held four very successful one-day lecture and study days with leading experts from the family history world, including several from Scotland. Attendance at these days has been to the capacity of the venue – 100.

In the last year, perhaps as a result of the volume of information available online, membership numbers and the number attending meetings has declined. Topics discussed recently have included ‘Aspects of Inheritance’, ‘Misleading Census Entries for our
Scottish Ancestors’ and ‘My ancestor was a Minister’. A highlight of the year was a visit from Caroline Gerrard, a leading Edinburgh genealogist and historian who talked about the Dean Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Scottish Genealogy Society

Email: via website
Web: www.scotsgenealogy.com
Contact: 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

In January 2014, the SGS had to close its Library for one month, to accommodate some repairs to the fabric of the building. This being done satisfactorily, a little internal redecoration was carried out also. Following the installation of a new server in 2013, some new computers have now been purchased to be used alongside our existing machines. This means that some are available for internet searching only, a very useful addition to our services to members.

Shetland Family History Society

Email: secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk
Web: www.shetland-fhs.org.uk
Contact: 6 Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0EJ

The Society of Genealogists

Email: via website
Web: www.sog.org.uk
Contact: 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA

Standard Life Family History Club

Contact: c/o John Strachan, Dundas House, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5PP
We had our AGM in August when it was approved that we move the date to May in the future; so it has been a short year. Within the Centre we have achieved much and have had very productive monthly meetings with good attendance, starting in early September. On Wednesday November 14, 2013 the Chair had the great pleasure to attend a Civic Reception in Aberdeen on the occasion of the presentation of Letters Patent to Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society to whom Tay Valley Family History Society send their congratulations.

We had no meeting in December and closed the office for two weeks, in order to give the Volunteers personal time in this busy season. I know this was appreciated, as our volunteer force is indispensable and as we so often read ”priceless”. Many times little things go unaccounted for and are missed; so we must appreciate their contributions. At that time too, it was decided, that to hold a Christmas party was not too feasible and so after things settled and a successful January meeting we held a get-together in a Church Hall close by the Centre on Saturday afternoon February 1, 2014. We combined it with an invitation to any area Members who could attend. In some respects it was very impromptu, but was termed a success. We showed slides of Old Dundee while afternoon tea was served. There was lots of friendly chatter on a pretty cold, windy day. It was a drop in, but many stayed for the afternoon and we were delighted about that support to each other from Volunteers, Members and Council alike.

Since then we have organised new joining forms and these should arrive in the next few days. We still get requests from organisations for speakers and are happy to oblige as we have several Volunteers who help us out with that. The attendance of Members and Visitors at the Centre has been better some days than others. At this time following membership renewals our decline in membership seems to have stabilized, but we are always happy to have new members join us and just hope that the numbers will increase again with time. We will have to be pro active though. Our February monthly Journal has just been published, but we are always looking for articles photographs and material of interest and plan to increase the advertising, which is in hand. We have a very comprehensive library and publications and CD’s available through our Bookshop.

The big news is that prior to the installation of a new server and computer system, we are in the process of rearranging the layout of the Centre and freshening up by painting. Tay Valley Family History Society was the fortunate beneficiary of money from a kind benefactor, which has enabled us
to plan this. We were also donated a piece of equipment from the A.K. Bell Library, Perth and we are purchasing a microfilm scanner. We feel we can say that although we are tracing family history backwards, we are moving forwards with up-to-date means to do so.

We are all excited about this outcome and we at TVFHS will be much more user friendly, with more available space to give members who require help in their early days. The administrative part will be out of the way and more private and any Centre Members or Visitors will be able to make better use of the facilities. It will be easier too, for the Membership and Research people, as well as the Volunteers. So we are keen to show off to all and sundry and hope that you will visit us. We will have to close for a weekend, but all should be up and running by the end of the March, which will lead us into the Tay Roots Days on April 5 and 6 in Arbroath, where we have a booth. Following this we are looking forward to attending the SAFHS Conference in Dunfermline on April 26, 2014 followed by our AGM on May 21, 2014 at 7.15 pm in Abertay University.

---

**Troon @ Ayrshire Family History Society**

Email: via website  
Web: [www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk)  
Contact: c/o MERC, Troon Library, South Beach, Troon KA10 6EF

---

**West Lothian Family History Society**

Email: via website  
Web: [www.wlfhs.org.uk](http://www.wlfhs.org.uk)

---

We are currently undertaking a project along with the West Lothian Reminiscence Network as part of their Oral History project. We are running the “My Story” project where we are going out into our local care and residential homes and delivering a potted family tree for those residents who express an interest. As well as giving them the tree the information can then be used by the care staff as a tool towards reminiscence work which has proven very useful especially with dementia sufferers.
We still have a presence in the Local Heritage Centre however this has been slightly reduced due to the fact that the Centre is being refurbished at the moment and is in temporary accommodation. During this refurbishment our monthly meetings are taking place in Blackburn Community Centre on the first Tuesday of every month 7.00 – 9.00pm until further notice. We still have a full syllabus of speakers and we have Margaret Fox giving a talk on “Someone to watch over me” - Kirk and Community, on 6th May.

We are nearing the end of our latest project which was the transcribing of records from the Linlithgow Poorhouse. The records span from 1859 until 1912 and include admissions, deaths and discharges, register of lunatics, lunatic discharges, roll of sick and local censuses. The Linlithgow poorhouse covered most of West Lothian districts. We hope to have this CD ready for sale for the SAFHS Annual Conference.

Associate Members

**Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc**

Email: via website  
Web: [www.aigs.org.au](http://www.aigs.org.au)

Contact: PO Box 339, Blackburn, Victoria, Australia 3130

**British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa**

Email: via website  
Web: [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca)

Contact: PO Box 38026, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 1NO, Canada

**Cumbria Family History Society**

Email: via website  
Web: [www.cumbriafhs.com](http://www.cumbriafhs.com)

Contact: 23 School Fold, Hesketh Bank, West Lands PR4 6RE
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc

Email: via website
Web: www.genealogy.org.nz

Contact: PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741, New Zealand

Scottish Interest Group, Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc

Email: via website
Web: www.gsq.org.au

Contact: Alistair Henderson of Fordell, PO Box 3070, Stafford DC, QLD 4053, Australia

Scottish Interest Group, Shoalhaven Family History Group

Email: via website
Web: www.shoalhaven.net.au/~sfhs

Contact: PO Box 591, Nowra, NSW 2542, Australia

Scottish Interest Group, Western Australian Genealogical Society

Email: via website
Web: www.wags.org.au

Contact: 6/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia 6053, Australia

South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc

Email: via website
Web: www.saghs.org.au

Contact: Society Library, 201 Unley Road, Unley 5061, South Australia, Australia
The Edinburgh Graveyards Project aims to increase community involvement with five historic Graveyards in the Edinburgh World Heritage Site area.

The five graveyards are Greyfriars, Canongate, St Cuthbert’s Kirkyards and Calton Old and Calton New Burial Grounds.

Each of these sites is at risk; suffering not only at the hands of weathering and erosion but also from limited resources, anti-social behaviour and a lack of awareness of their value as local green open spaces.

The project is co-ordinating a joined-up approach to revitalising these places so that they became well-loved community resources as well as ‘must-see’ visitor attractions.

The Website is worth a look to see what is happening in the centre of Edinburgh.

The Macleod Papers: These papers were compiled over a period of approximately 60 years from 1880 to 1940 by Rev William Macleod of Edinburgh and his son, John Macleod, both of whom were professional record searchers. These are in fact the notes compiled for their case reports with a certain amount of other genealogical material of more general interest.

The father Walter Macleod, was born in Edinburgh about 1832, son of John Macleod, joiner and Agnes Stobs. He married Margaret Sutherland in 1867 and was firstly a teacher, but about 1871 became a searcher of records by profession. In later life he became a Minister of the Church of Scotland. He edited at least one volume for the Scottish History Society in 1891/2 (The Diary of Col the Hon John Erskine of Carnock, 1683-1687) and was responsible for the annotation in the ‘List of Persons concerned with the Rebellion of 1745-6’ edited for the same Society in 1890.

Their collections were purchased by the Society of Genealogists in 1949 and in
September 1950 Brigadier H A Joly de Lotbiniere was asked to sort and classify the papers which were then in about 300 files, apparently in no particular order, although occasionally the subject matter was marked on the cover. Brigadier Joly de Lotbiniere sorted the whole into 279 folio folders, each consisting of 100-200 manuscript foolscap sheets, dividing the work into three sections. Today these three sections consist of 77 archive boxes and 33 volumes of records.

Section A: 181 folios arranged alphabetically, each letter of the alphabet having a certain number of folios. In these are all the papers dealing with any one family name arranged in no particular order. In all there are 614 families. A catalogue was compiled.

Section B: 59 folios arranged in no particular order but containing further extracts from sasines, decrets, etc. There is a full list of these under 'B' in the catalogue at the end.

Section C: 39 folios arranged in no particular order but containing a ‘mass of miscellaneous notes’.

This is surely one of the largest genealogical collections located furth of Scotland. If you are visiting the SoG, it would be worth perusing the catalogue.

ScottlandsPlaces
www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk

Further collections of archives have now been made available via the website. These include: Carriage Tax, 1785-1798; Cart Tax, 1785-1798; Clock and Watch Tax, 1797-1798; Dog Tax, 1797-1798; Farm Horse Tax, 1797-1798; Female Servant Tax, 1785-1792; Hearth Tax, 1691-1695; Horse Tax, 1785-1798; Inhabited House Tax, 1778-1798; Land Tax, 1645-1831; Male Servant Tax, 1777-1798; Shop Tax, 1785-1789; Window Tax, 1748-1798; Ordnance Survey Name Books for Scotland, 19th century; Aberdeen Burgh Registers, 1398-1511; RCAHMS Archives.

Tasglann nan Eilan Siar
Hebridean Archives
www.tasglann.org.uk

The Hebridean archives contain significant collections relating to the culture and communities in the Outer Hebrides. On their website is a database of archive collections; information on Gaelic language collections; details of historical societies, heritage groups and their collections; amongst many other exciting resources.
Diary Dates, 2014

2014
25 Apr  Motherwell  Lanarkshire FHS, ‘Piggerybrae’ the Cambuslang Folk Singing Group
6 May   Bathgate   West Lothian FHS, Someone to Watch Over Me, by Margaret Fox, 7pm
8 May   Motherwell  Lanarkshire FHS, AGM, followed by a talk by Lanarkshire Police Historical Society and a display of Policing Artefacts, 7pm
8 May   Kilmarnock  East Ayrshire FHS, AGM & Down Memory Lane, by John Smillie, 7pm
15 May  Paisley    Renfrewshire FHS, AGM, 7.30pm
12 June Motherwell Lanarkshire FHS, Trade Symbols by Don Martin, 7pm
23 Aug  Motherwell Lanarkshire FHS, Family and Local History Show, Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre.
11 Sept Motherwell Lanarkshire FHS, Convicts and £10 Poms, by Ken Nisbet, 7pm
11 Sept Kilmarnock East Ayrshire FHS, Enrolment & Flanders and the Ypres Salient, by Alex Hall, 7pm
18 Sep  Paisley    Renfrewshire FHS, 1884 Political Demonstrations, by Mark Nixon, 7.30pm
9 Oct   Motherwell Lanarkshire FHS, Kirk and Community, by Margaret Fox, 7pm
9 Oct   Kilmarnock East Ayrshire FHS, Future proposals for Dean Country Park, 7pm
16 Oct  Paisley    Renfrewshire FHS, Workshop - all levels, 7.30pm
13 Nov  Kilmarnock East Ayrshire FHS, DNA testing for Genealogy, by Alasdair Macdonald, 7pm
20 Nov  Paisley    Renfrewshire FHS, Guild of One Name Studies, Lorna Kinnaird, 7.30pm

PLEASE CONFIRM THE EVENT WITH THE RELEVANT SOCIETY BEFORE SETTING OUT

Date of the next SAFHS Council meeting:
Saturday 11 October 2014, 1 pm
Usual meeting place!