

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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Clish-Clash change of layout: The Forum's Advisory Committee has recommended that we change our layout to single column for ease of reading on-line. The Editors have decided to use both layouts in this issue (i.e., single- and double-column). Please email scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com to let us know which layout you prefer.

SLHF NEWS

■ Welcome to the May 2021 edition of *Clish-Clash*. As in previous issues we offer a wide range of information to further your interest in local history. Much of our material is drawn from a number of sources including newsletters and publications. Rather than identify these individually we hope that the reproduction of information in *Clish-Clash* is sufficient acknowledgement of the benefits of sharing across groups and organisations. And if it is your group's information we are sharing, please take this as a massive "thank you" from the Scottish Local History Forum.

For those of you who are not members, you might want to **join SLHF**. We are a charity and the vast majority of what we provide is undertaken by volunteers. For a modest annual membership (currently £23) you receive three issues of *Scottish Local History*, a high-quality journal covering important issues for people interested in Scottish local history. Articles, book reviews and news items form the core of this excellent publication edited by Don Martin. And you also automatically receive all issues of *Clish-Clash* – not bad for less than 50 pence a week. So please support us by joining using the following link: <https://www.slhf.org/why-join-slhf>

SLHF 2021 EVENTS:

■ At their meeting on April 12 2021, the **Trustees** considered a number of issues, the most important of which feature in this section including events and progress on publications. The Trustees also noted a small increase in our membership and ongoing activity in social media. The meeting was also an opportunity to finalise planning for the recent mini-conference and the Annual SLHF / National Library of Scotland Lecture.

■ The speaker for the **2021 SLHF / National Library of Scotland Annual Lecture** will be Tom Dowds on 'The 1820 Uprising – the view from the East'. This may take place via Zoom and so please watch out for further information.

■ The Trustees continue to keep a close eye on the state of the pandemic and government advice in relation to the format of 2021 events. It is hoped to run the Walk and Talk event at Linlithgow and the conference on 'Scottish Sports and Pastimes' postponed from 2020. Details will be announced as they become available.

■ The **Annual General Meeting** will be held using Zoom, making the AGM accessible to members far and wide. We will confirm the date in the near future.

■ The SLHF **Advisory Committee** also met on April 12 for a helpful and productive meeting. Three new members were welcomed to the Committee: Ian Copland (Cupar Heritage), Sandra Purves (Broughton History Society) and Ian Shearer (Friends of Kinneil). The Committee advises the SLHF Trustees from the viewpoints of local history societies and national and local organisations with an interest in local history. At this most recent meeting, advice was provided on societies' and organisations' experience of online events, SLHF proposals for online mini-conferences, and issues that local heritage organisations face in engaging with draft Local Development Plans and with planning issues more widely.

■ **Scotland's involvement in slavery – the local view:** Our first mini-conference was held over two evenings on April 28 and 29 and was chaired by our Honorary President Professor Chris Whatley OBE. The level of interest and attendance surpassed expectations, reinforcing the relevance and importance of this issue as well as the wider reach possible in online events. Six presentations covered subjects such as: Links between the Scottish Highlands and the Caribbean; The North Highlands Sugar and Slavery in late 17th Century Suriname and Two bids for liberation in 18th century Ayrshire and Fife. Trustee James Brown has provided the following report on the mini-conference:

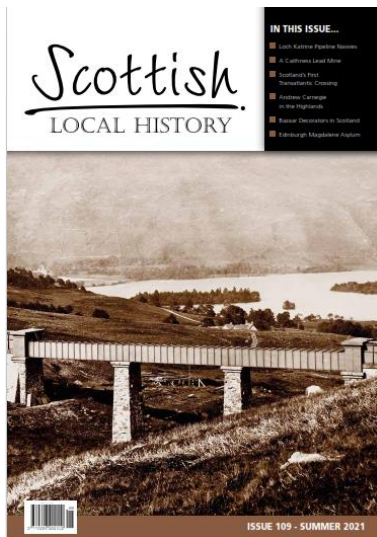
■ **Slavery conference sparks calls for a follow-up:** In his opening remarks to the Forum's highly successful Zoom mini-conference, Professor Chris Whatley pointed out that it is by exploring the local that the national picture is formed. On hearing the speakers over two days he concluded that it was historians working in the localities who were leading the way.

Eric Graham made reference to white slaves, known as 'Red Legs' in Barbados. He and Stuart Nisbet focused on the parts played by landed families of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire. The ruthless business nature of slavery was examined by Alison Clark through the person of James McInroy of Lude, Perthshire, while David Alston showed how slavery permeated local society in Cromarty. A little-known breed of horse (Highland Galloway) was revealed by David Worthington in his account of exports from Inverness to Amsterdam for onward shipping to the Dutch plantations in Suriname. He observed that Scotland's long-standing trading links with the Continent were more significant than those with the British Empire.

The concluding speaker, Iain White, whet the appetite for a follow-up conference by recalling the liberation struggles in Scotland of two slaves, one from Virginia, the other from Grenada. In looking back in time, it is clear that there is much more local research to look forward to.

Given the level of interest the Trustees are now considering how this sensitive area might be further explored by examining **Scotland and opposition to, and the abolition of, slavery – the local view.**

■ **Scottish Local History 109** has just been published and includes the following articles:



James Kennedy: The Navvies at Loch Chon provides an account of the work carried out by navvies on the Loch Katrine-Milngavie pipeline that brought water to the City of Glasgow. A description of social conditions in the navvy village at Loch Chon is a special feature.

Stuart Farrell: A Lead Mine at Achanarras, Spittal, Caithness describes a mine in the far north of Scotland that operated between 1915 and 1921. There is an emphasis on company history and the people who were shareholders.

Thomas Brochard: Scotland's First Transatlantic Crossing: the story of the William of Aberdeen, 1593-1602 gives an account of the late sixteenth century voyages of the Aberdeen vessel the *William*, including a trans-Atlantic crossing to Newfoundland in 1596, the first of its kind by a Scottish vessel.

Eric Simpson: Andrew Carnegie's Mystery Coach Tour: a Speyside Jaunt in a Four-in-Hand Coach. The author describes the places visited by Carnegie on the last leg of a journey by coach from Brighton to Inverness, noting that in some places the exact route is unclear. He speculates on possible options.

Douglas G Lockhart and Diana CF Webster: The Bazaar Age in Scotland – Part 5. Khartoum in Kirkcaldy: bazaar decorators, scenic artists and fundraising in Scotland, c.1860-c.1930. A profusely-illustrated article describes the artistic creations that were available from professional firms to provide added interest for many of the bazaars that were held in Scotland between about 1860 and 1930.

Peter Hoad: Disease and Disorder in the Edinburgh Magdalene Asylum. This article provides further information on Magdalene Asylum (refuge for former prostitutes) which was described in *Scottish Local History* 106.

CONTACT DETAILS

Email <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

'Clash-clash' means repeated gossip, so do email your local history news & information (Word attachment or link to your website) to **Contribute**.

Members only: To receive notification of the newsletter by email or to be removed from the mailing list, choose **Sign up for our newsletter** on the website contacts page.

Scottish Local History Forum

Box 103, 12 South Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1DD

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LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ The recent review of the current lockdown rules means that since April 26 2021 indoor attractions and public buildings across Scotland such as galleries, museums and libraries have opened. The latest Scottish Government guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

■ **National Library of Scotland:** The National Library of Scotland has reopened all its buildings to the public since Tuesday April 27. This includes George IV Bridge and Causewayside in Edinburgh, and the National Library at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow.

More information is published on the Library's website, detailing safety measures, opening hours, booking systems for access to reading rooms, as well as general guidelines for visitors. Anyone who visited the Library's buildings between August and December last year should expect much of the same.

A wee reminder that National Library of Scotland staff are there to answer your questions, and you can chat with a librarian from 10am–4pm, Monday–Friday. <https://auth.nls.uk/contact/ask-a-question/>

The scale of eResources at the National Library of Scotland is significant and with the availability of their excellent team hopefully you will be able to find what you need.

Some information from Craig Statham about events at the National Library of Scotland (book early!):

"The National Library of Scotland provides a wide range of talks and workshops, many with a strong local history theme. Before Covid-19 these were run in the Library, but were made available online at the beginning of the pandemic. Our audiences are bigger, and researchers from around the world can now attend.

The main local history events are:

- Family History From Home: An Introduction
- Further Family History From Home
- Maps for Family and Local History
- Navigating the Maps Website
- Discover Your Online Library

The current programme is listed on the Library's website – <https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours> – and each event appears three weeks before it happens. A link leads to Eventbrite where the talk or workshop can be booked. Please be aware that these events fill up very quickly, so it is advisable to ask Eventbrite to send an automatic reminder when an event becomes bookable.



The Library's staff is also currently putting together a workshop that will help those tracing the history of a house. Watch out for this one in the coming months." (The map at left is an extract from the Charles Goad 1892 Fire Insurance Plan of Leith highlighting the detail that is available at the scale of the individual street; see *Clish-Clash* 43).

The National Library of Scotland has launched a new online learning resource **Struggles for Liberty: African American Revolutionaries in the Atlantic World**. This resource explores the lifelong fight for social justice of African American activists, some of whom campaigned in Scotland in the 19th century. <https://digital.nls.uk/learning/struggles-for-liberty/>

■ **National Records Scotland (NRS)** on-site services have now reopened on a limited basis. The latest position can be found at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/service-status>

The **Historical Search Room** reopened on Monday 26 April, with priority given to users requiring access to the archives to complete academic research. The **ScotlandsPeople Centre** reopened on Tuesday 4 May, with priority given to users who have a business need to access modern day statutory records.

In a recent **Scotlands People Newsletter** the following was announced:

"Thousands of volumes of historical records from the collections of National Records of Scotland (NRS) are now available online for the first time. Images of more than a million pages from the **kirk session** and **other court records** of the Church of Scotland can now be viewed and downloaded on ScotlandsPeople. These records contain details of key events in communities across the country between 1559 and 1900 and are one of the most important sources for Scottish historical research.

The kirk session – the local court of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland – comprised the minister, the elders and a session clerk. The records they created offer remarkable insights into the everyday lives of ordinary Scots,

capturing important moments such as births, marriages and deaths. The church court also adjudicated on the paternity of children, awarded relief to the poor and needy and provided basic education, as well as disciplining parishioners for what could be called anti-social behaviour – drunkenness, cursing and breaking the Sabbath. The most commonly known punishment was public repentance or penance.

The newly added records document how people dealt with exceptional historical events such as wars, epidemics, crop failures and extreme weather.”

Further details available <https://tinyurl.com/yf2kucne>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland (HES):** Scottish archaeology marked a significant milestone in March 2021 as the Five-Year Review of Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy was published. The Strategy – which was the first national Archaeology Strategy in Europe when it was launched in 2015 – aims to make archaeology matter for everyone in Scotland. Key areas are delivering archaeology, enhancing understanding, caring and protecting, encouraging greater engagement and championing innovation and skills.

Scotland’s Strategic Archaeology Committee, which is made up from professionals and interested people from across the heritage sector to lead the strategy, is celebrating five years of world-leading archaeology from Scotland. The main leads for the Strategy are HES, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the National Museums Scotland, Archaeology Scotland and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. <https://tinyurl.com/ycxq9pft>

Four historic communities across Scotland will benefit from a combined investment of £4,502,575, HES announced on Thursday 18 March. The funding, awarded as part of the **Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)**, will be shared between four Conservation Areas to help them regenerate and attract further investment in the future: £762,101 will be invested in Dumfries; £1,113,949 in Dunbar; £1,240,000 in Helensburgh; and £1,386,525 in Stirling.

HES has recently appointed **Elly McCrone** as its new **Director of Heritage**. The appointment spans a number of areas including the provision of advice, policy and guidance on issues relating to the historic environment through HES’s role in the planning process, as well as responsibility for functions including survey and recording and designations.

■ **V&A Dundee** reopened on Saturday 1 May, with a new exhibition, **Night Fever: Designing Club Culture** – the first major exhibition exploring the relationship between club culture and design from the 1960s to today. The show also features an exclusive section on Scotland’s unique and distinct club scene, revisiting legendary club nights from across the country including the Sub Club, the Rhumba Club and Club 69. V&A Dundee is the only UK venue for **Night Fever: Designing Club Culture**, which was developed by the Vitra Design Museum and ADAM – Brussels Design Museum.

■ **National Museums Scotland** have reopened the National Museum of Scotland, the National Museum of Rural Life and the National Museum of Flight. Tickets will be available to book. New exhibitions to look forward to include *The Galloway Hoard: Viking-age Treasure* and *The Typewriter Revolution*. <https://tinyurl.com/uz793xa>

■ **Highland Threads** is an online exhibition of clothing through the ages that has been assembled collaboratively by fourteen museums. The virtual display features a selection of historical garments. including a waistcoat and jacket said to have belonged to Bonnie Prince Charlie (from Inverness Museum and Art Gallery). Also included is a child’s knitted swimming costume from the Highland Museum of Childhood in Strathpeffer. <https://highlandthreads.co.uk/>

■ **National Trust for Scotland** is recreating a 17th-century turf house at the NTS Glencoe visitor centre, offering a glimpse of how people lived in the glen. Traditional methods are being used as much as possible to create the house. <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/building-history-with-glencoe-turf-house>

SOCIETIES

■ The March 2021 newsletter of the **Scottish Labour History Society** (SLHS) reports that they are joining with the Scottish Working People’s History Trust and the National Library of Scotland in discussions with a view to planning a series of webinars commemorating the life and work of the late **Ian MacDougall** <https://tinyurl.com/4zkxma8y>

The newsletter also reports on **Coalfields and Communities On Behalf of the People: Work, Community and Class in the British Coal Industry, 1947-1994** which is an AHRC-funded project led by Keith Gildart (Wolverhampton University) and Andrew Perchard (Northumbria University), exploring the nationalised industry from the bottom up, with profiles of eight collieries (including Barony in Scotland). The website includes pit profiles, oral history interview clips, and other resources. Partners have been the General Federation of Trade Unions and all three national mining

museums. Coalfield events, including one at Auchinleck in Ayrshire, have been delayed because of the pandemic, but will be held in due course. More details at <https://www.coalandcommunity.org.uk/>

The April issue of the SLHS newsletter includes details of **Women in Scotland 1900-2020**. Scottish Union Learning is working with Open University Scotland to develop a *Women in Scotland 1900- 2020: Workplace Struggles* project, and to create and collate accessible learning materials for the OU's OpenLearn website

■ **The Battle of Falkirk Muir 1746** is a Scottish charity established to build a museum to commemorate the battle and to be a catalyst for wider Jacobite studies <https://www.falkirkmuir1746.scot/virtual-museum>

The group also has a promotional video <https://tinyurl.com/pnfufvpe> and can be found on Facebook at: Battle of Falkirk Muir 1746

■ The **British Association for Local History** (BALH), currently in discussions with educationalists at the University of Reading to develop a new education resource for local history, is reaching out to their members and member societies for help and expertise in the project. 'Meanwhile Nearby' allows teachers to bring more local history into the classroom, by having pupils research (and then discuss in class) local history that was happening at the same time as the topics in their taught curriculum.

BALH is now teaming up with this project to provide expertise and support for teachers across the country. To this end, BALH is looking for volunteers from amongst its members to help to identify stories and locate resources that could be used to build a 'Meanwhile Nearby' resource.

Potential projects have already been identified, and BALH is looking for contributions in the following areas:

- London in the Industrial Revolution (particularly the Clapham area)
- The impact of the Industrial Revolution in the Cotswolds
- The slave trade and local landowners in Northumberland
- Working women in Derry (NI) in the Industrial Revolution.

This resource will be hosted on BALH's new educational resources web section for use by teachers across the country. If you feel you might be able to help BALH in this exciting new collaboration please contact Claire Kennan at digital@balh.org.uk

■ **Sett-ing the Scene for Baldernock**. Baldernock, a small, rural parish six miles north of Glasgow, now has its own tartan – inspired by William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland. The map detail below shows Baldernock and its surroundings, with its largest settlement Ballmore [sic] marked just above the big loop in the River Kelvin, about bottom centre. Most of the names shown on the map can still be identified. This section of the map is less vibrant in appearance than some other parts of the country, but the colours that **Baldernock Local History Group** co-convenor Niall Logan used in his design can be seen: black for the original drawing, wording and other detail (becoming grey for shading); yellow for the land; green for the trees; blue for water; red for buildings; and light grey for the gaps between the map sections. More fancifully, the cross-hatching of the cultivated land is reminiscent of tartan.



The Baldernock tartan



Detail of William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755, showing Baldernock. © British Library Board CC.5.a.441 5/7d, 5/7e, 5/6a, 5/6b

Fiona Howie's suggestion that the parish might have a district tartan found ready support from the Community Council, and East Dunbartonshire Council gave permission to name a tartan after Baldernock. Fiona then formed a small working group, which agreed that there should be a competition – open to adults and children with links to Baldernock – to design a tartan reflecting the landscape, history and heritage of the parish. The submissions were shown, anonymously, in a public exhibition in the Church Hall at Balmore in late 2019, and a ballot was held to pick the winner. The sett was then registered by the Scottish Register of Tartans in March 2020.

The working group explored possibilities for having the tartan woven and visited, within the constraints of the pandemic restrictions, tartan specialist Ingles Buchan. Now that the weaver's ticket has been produced, and the yarns selected, all is ready for Selkirk Weaving Company to make some throws, wraps and scarves in Baldernock Tartan. Further information on the tartan can be found at www.baldernock.org.uk/tartan.

UNIVERSITIES

■ You may be interested in the 'Mapping the Scottish Reformation' website, co-created by Dr Chris Langley, the editor of our recent volume, *The Minutes of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, 1648-1659* at <https://maps.mappingthescottishreformation.org>. Containing data extracted from over ten thousand pages of manuscript evidence housed in the National Records of Scotland, the website offers researchers new tools to trace the careers of around seven hundred Scottish clergymen and almost five hundred of their wives from Lothian and Tweeddale between 1560 and 1689.

Users of the website can access five maps, all designed to explore different aspects of the clerical life cycle: 'Tenures', 'Journeys', 'Education', 'Spouses', and 'Events'. 'Tenures' offers the most in-depth dataset, giving users access to ten aspects of a minister's career and giving a broad picture of a minister's career. 'Journeys' and 'Education' show the movements clerics made through their careers, from their place of education to every parish in their career. 'Events' offers an insight into some of the most dramatic aspects of a minister's career, including details on suspensions and depositions over time. Finally, 'Spouses' collects data on clergy wives — critical figures in early modern religious and social life — for the first time.

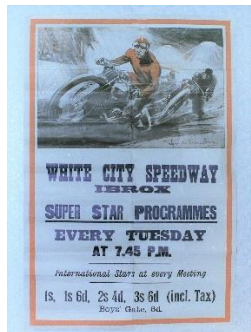
Each map view offers users a new set of tools to refine their research questions. Users can search for ministers by name, parish, presbytery region, date, and by manuscript reference number. Users also get access to powerful aggregations of data: how many ministers were deposed in a certain time period? What was the typical number of career moves a minister made? What was the busiest year for clerical appointments? How many years did ministers spend in one parish?

You might also be interested in downloading for free the new (and rather controversial) article by Prof. Richard Rodger, 'Making the census count: revealing Edinburgh, 1760-1900'. Richard's article is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/rekua3hm>

MAKING THE CENSUS COUNT: REVEALING EDINBURGH 1760-1900*

RICHARD RODGER

WEBSITES



■ The **Speedway Researcher** website contains results and information from all the speedway tracks in the UK, including detailed Scottish information. The site provides A - Z records of riders who appeared at a number of tracks.

The site organisers are prepared to help with details of

riders' careers. For contact details see <https://tinyurl.com/3494h88z>

■ **William Soutar** is regarded as one of the greatest of Scotland's poets and now some of William's work has been recreated in a CD of poignant songs. The production of the new CD and an accompanying songbook is the culmination of the **In A Sma' Room** project which began in 2012 with a commission by the Friends of William Soutar <https://tinyurl.com/cr3wrsd6>

■ The **Royal Collection Trust** usually gives you a chance to discover the Royal Collection and Palaces through tours, trails, activities and more. You can also look and visit by using the following links: <https://www.rct.uk/discover>

- Audio Description Content:

<https://www.rct.uk/discover/access-inclusion/ad-content>

- Art for wellbeing ideas:

<https://www.rct.uk/resources/activity-challenge-art-for-wellbeing>

- Music and Memory:

<https://www.rct.uk/resources/video-music-and-memory-jacobite-songs>

■ **Gaelic Points around Callander** This digital experience brings together 12 Points of Interest from across **Callander's Landscape**, stretching from Auchenlaich in the east to Loch Lubnaig in the west. For each Point of Interest, you will find information about the meaning of nearby place-names drawn from cutting-edge research by Dr Peter McNiven for **Callander's Landscape**. It also includes a photograph of the surrounding area, as well as a sound-file intended to help with Gaelic pronunciation. <https://interestingwalks.com/gaelicplaces>

■ **Our Stories** is a collaborative project capturing and interpreting the rich and varied heritage of the **Falkirk** area. The aim is to develop a public archive of local memories, images and written work. Further details are available here www.ourstoriesfalkirk.com/about

■ The **Scotland's Brick and Tile Manufacturing Industry** website is aimed primarily at recording and detailing the Scottish brick manufacturing industry.

The aim is to identify all the Scottish brickmakers back through the generations and to preserve a physical example of their bricks. The physical examples will mainly relate to those makers with readily identifiable marks on their bricks.



This important facet of Scotland's local industrial history has been rather overlooked but the humble brick is virtually unique in knitting together many aspects of Scottish local history – industrial, agricultural, social, military etc.

<https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/>

■ The **Old Scottish Genealogy and Family History** website is based in Tibbermore in Perthshire. It concentrates on supplying more unusual source documents such as Asylum records, poor law appeals, Edinburgh Sheriff Court extract decrees, school leaving exam results and more. Please note that there is a charge for records. <https://www.oldscottish.com/>

■ The **Anglo-Russian Research Network**, founded in 2011, brings together scholars and students from various disciplines, plus all those with an interest in cultural and intellectual relations between Britain and Russia between 1880 and 1950. The network supports a variety of activities, currently online, and the ARRN website provides information about events, publications and members' research. Membership is free and open to all <https://tinyurl.com/2s4yt5v3>

PODCASTS

In this edition we have a bit of a mixed bag of podcasts but just as in searching the internet, you never know what you are might find and indeed enjoy! Some of these are not what might be called Scottish local history but they give background to various aspects of history more widely.

■ The **White House Historical Association** presents **The 1600 Sessions**, a podcast that explores the history, untold stories and personal accounts of America's most iconic residence and office – The White House. In this first episode of 2021, White House Historical Association President Stewart D. McLaurin introduces the Association's popular virtual program History Happy Hour, and shares conversations with historians, first family members, and other presidential staff about the lives of presidents and first ladies throughout American history. Wait for it ... there are some 54 episodes <https://tinyurl.com/ybh73gty>

■ **The History of Rome** was a weekly podcast tracing the history of the Roman Empire, beginning with

Aeneas's arrival in Italy and ending with the exile of Romulus Augustulus, last Emperor of the Western Roman Empire. <https://thehistoryofrome.typepad.com/>

■ **You're Dead to Me** from BBC Sounds is described as a history podcast for people who don't like history... and those who do. Greg Jenner brings together the best names in comedy and history to learn and laugh about the past. A recent episode focused on King James VI of Scotland <https://tinyurl.com/28bnnnmd>

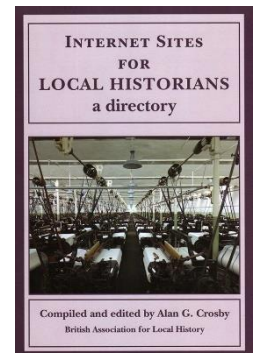
■ **Disability A New History** is an interesting series in which Peter White draws from new research to present a history of disability in the 18th and 19th centuries. White finished this excellent series by revealing the birth of modern disabled identity in the 19th century through the lives of two blind women who fought the conventions of their times <https://tinyurl.com/ty2zabv2>

If you come across a podcast that you would like to recommend, please let us know by sending a message to <https://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

PUBLICATIONS

■ **The Local Historian** Journal of the British Association for Local History (BALH) January 2021 Vol.51 No.1 January 2021 pp.88 £5.00 to non-members; free to members <https://www.balh.org.uk/>

■ **Internet Sites for Local Historians: A Directory (5th Edition)** Compiled and edited by Alan G. Crosby. This popular guide, first published in 2010, lists, describes and briefly evaluates internet sites of interest to local and family historians. For this greatly expanded edition, Alan Crosby has checked and revised all the



entries in its predecessor and added some 430 new ones, bringing the total to 1,000. There are place and subject indexes and a useful brief introduction. The subjects included cover a wide range, and will prove invaluable to historians of many disciplines – family, social, architectural, regional and local. <https://tinyurl.com/k87dcau4>

Also, from BALH the sixth edition of their e-newsletter continues their series of webinars, podcasts and some very interesting 10-minute talks—further details here <https://tinyurl.com/yf4wfm7d>

■ **Scottish Archives** – The Journal of the **Scottish Records Association** Volume 25/26 Includes a series of articles, reviews and an obituary for Dr. Grant Simpson a founding member of the SRA and its first Honorary Secretary <https://tinyurl.com/f4h5f2w>

Retour issue 35 (Spring 2021) the Newsletter of the Scottish Records Association is packed with useful

news including news from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives as well as Highland Archive Service <https://tinyurl.com/z2u59t83>

■ **In a Sma Room Songbook:** Songs by Debra Salem, Kevin Mackenzie, Paul Harrison. From the Poems of William Soutar Paperback by Debra Salem (Author, Editor) Tippermuir Books.

■ **Fowler's Bridges** by Aidan Bell provides perspectives on bridges and landscape created by the Victorian Engineer Sir John Fowler on his Braemore Estate in Wester Ross, Scotland. Available from biblio.com

■ **Scoraig: a peninsula and its people**, by James MacGregor. Available from the Ullapool bookshop for mail order. Copies can be reserved or posted out by calling 01854 612918 or email ullapoolbookshop@btconnect.com

■ **A Highland Legacy: The Maitlands of Tain, their Work and their World**, by Hamish Mackenzie. Grosvenor House Publishing Limited.

■ **100 Dan As Fhearr Leinn / 100 Favourite Gaelic Poems** by Peter MacKay (Author, Editor), Jo MacDonald (Author, Editor) Luath Press Ltd

■ **Dendrochronology. Explore the science of tree ring dating**, by Marcia Cook, Coralie Mills and Jennifer Thoms, edited by Matt Ritchie, published by Forestry and Land Scotland. Aimed as a learning resource. Free download from here <https://tinyurl.com/yvp6rdec>



■ The Spring 2021 edition of **The Geographer**, the newsletter from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, has several articles of relevance to local history. These include Chris Fleet with "Mapping the distribution of reptiles", Jo Woolf "Faithful companions: explorers and their animal friends" and

"Droving memories: the crossing of the Kyle" by Dr. Richard Lowdon.

Further details available from this link where the edition will be available from early June. <https://www.rsgs.org/the-geographer>

■ The Spring 2021 special edition issue of **Women's History** is available for purchase. It includes the themes of community histories, sources and archives, public engagement and book reviews including Frances B. Singh, *Scandal and Survival in Nineteenth-Century Scotland: The life of Jane Cumming*, University of Rochester Press, 2020, Further details are available from <https://tinyurl.com/y7a3y3nf>

■ **The Burns Chronicle**, a dedicated platform for the rich, international 21st century research on Robert Burns. Volume 130, Issue 1, March, 2021. Edinburgh University Press. <https://tinyurl.com/2npuv6ys>

■ **Scottish Church History** is the journal of the Scottish Church History Society. Founded in 1922 to promote the study of the history of Christianity in Scotland, the journal covers all periods and branches of Scottish churches from the early to the modern. Volume 50, Issue 1, April, 2021 <https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/sch/50/1>

■ **History Scotland** 21(3), May /June/ 2021 continues its focus on the Second War of Independence and also explores Scotland and the art of slavery. <https://www.historyscotland.com/>

■ **Who Do You Think You Are?** Issue 176, April 2021 reports that the final WW1 pension records have been published online on the Ancestry UK website. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

■ **Scandal and Survival in Nineteenth-Century Scotland** The life of Jane Cumming by Frances B. Singh, University of Rochester Press 2020.

■ **Union and Revolution Scotland and Beyond, 1625-1745** by Laura Stewart & Janay Nugent. New History of Scotland January 2021.

■ As the 250th anniversary of Scott's birth approaches, the five books shortlisted for the 2021 **Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction** are: *The Tolstoy Estate*; *A Room Made of Leaves*; *The Mirror and the Light*; *The Dictionary of Lost Words*; and the much-lauded *Hamnet*. Because of the postponement of the Borders Book Festival this year the winner will be announced online and through media <https://www.walterscottprize.co.uk/>

■ **Dean Village News** Issue 187 offers information of an historical type including the offering of two artefacts to the village: a sundial dated 1679 and the village pump via Lanark. The life of Sir Thomas Bouch (1822-1880) who was the engineer associated with the building of the ill-fated Tay Rail crossing is also featured. Bouch is buried in the local cemetery www.deanvillage.org

USING ONLINE SOURCES

Some Personal Views

In this edition we continue with the theme of inviting guests to highlight websites they have used for their research. Appropriately we have contributions from John Harrison and Dr Allan Kennedy, joint winners of the SLHF/Birlinn 2020 prize for the best paper in our journal, *Scottish Local History*. Our further congratulations to John whose paper has been recently selected as the overall winner in the "long

article” category of the British Association for Local History Publishing and Research Awards 2021.

John Harrison writes:

“Online Records of the Privy Council of Scotland

For me, the closure of local and national archives is a very real loss. Many projects just cannot be accomplished. For others, there will be gaps which might (or might not) be filled once they re-open. As bad as being cut off from my raw materials is missing the staff and researchers, who have always been integral to my archival visits.

However, the closures have made us all look around to find alternatives, even to contemplate projects we would not have considered before. I have also turned to the online versions of published volumes to replace hard copies in libraries. One I had not used before is the *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*. There are 14 substantial volumes in Series I, eight in Series 2 and 16 in Series 3, together covering from 1543-1691, with a gap for the Inter-regnum. Shockingly, the years after 1691 remain in manuscript only.

Most files are at <https://tinyurl.com/b2v37wba> but Ser. 3, vol.15 is at <https://tinyurl.com/4fmzk39n>. They do not come up in order, some are duplicated, and some files have limited search only. But there are word-searchable duplicates for all the published series, albeit with a few runs of missing pages. Supplement a word search by consulting the Index to each volume.

For much of this period the Council was, in effect, the ‘government’ of Scotland, their concerns astonishingly diverse. There is a summary of the Council’s role and records at <https://tinyurl.com/6e2yzp8>. I have used the volumes to research royal landscapes, whisky making, cattle droving, religious dissent, insults, roads and many other topics; there are cases from every part of Scotland, so the Register is pivotal for local and national history.”

And from Dr. Allan Kennedy we have the following:

The Records of the Scottish Parliament to 1707 [RPS] www.rps.ac.uk

Probably the single most important digital resource about Scottish history available anywhere on the web, RPS makes the core records produced by all Scottish Parliaments prior to the Union freely available. It is a goldmine for anybody interested in pre-1707 Scotland, and also contains huge amounts of information germane to the study of local history.

Mapping the Scottish Reformation <https://tinyurl.com/ry8jn3s7>

A brand-new addition to the digital history landscape, this online database is rooted in a prosopographical study of the Scottish clergy from 1560 to 1689.

Currently containing information only on the synod of Lothian, it is hoped that the project will eventually expand to cover the whole of Scotland, allowing local historians to build up a detailed picture of clerical provision in their area from Reformation to Revolution.

The Scottish Privy Council Project <https://privycouncil.stir.ac.uk/>

Very much a ‘one to watch’, this is the first digital presence of the Leverhulme-funded Scottish Privy Council Project. There is not much to see at the moment, but once complete, the project will provide an online database, similar to RPS, of the unpublished Privy Council records from 1692 to 1708. This will open up post-Revolution Scotland to research – including local history research – as never before, allowing us to rescue post-Revolution Scotland from the relative obscurity in which it has long languished.

ONLINE EVENTS

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic precautions, some societies have continued to offer their members online presentations. If you are organising an event, please add to the listings on the SLHF website as you would for face-to-face events and you might well attract attendees from, ‘further afield’ <https://www.slhf.org/submit-event> Meanwhile here is a flavour of what has come our way. It includes forthcoming and recorded events.

In future listings we will mainly focus on available **recorded** events and ask you to go to our website to check forthcoming events. We will make an exception for major UK or Scottish wide events.

Forthcoming

■ **11th Frow Lecture: Selina Todd, ‘The great British mobility myth’** The Working-Class Movement Library has announced its 11th Frow Lecture, on Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm (live-streamed). The lecture, in honour of WCML founders Edmund and Ruth Frow, will cover social mobility in Britain over the past century. Using hundreds of personal testimonies, Selina Todd, Professor of Modern History at Oxford University, will shatter the myth that Britain was ever a meritocracy. Her research focuses on class, inequality, working-class history, feminism and women’s lives. Her new book *Snakes and Ladders*, a history of social mobility in Britain since 1900, was published in February. <https://tinyurl.com/yh93nkhx>

■ **Library Lives: Books, Borrowers and Beyond** Library of Innerpeffray

Saturday, 22 May 2021 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm

This free online event will highlight Innerpeffray’s unique Borrowers’ Register and the stories it can tell about the library’s books and borrowers. In the first half

you will hear about individual borrowers from a variety of experts and about Innerpeffray's place in the amazing history of library use in Scotland. In part two find out how you can uncover the world behind borrower names and book titles and then challenge the Keeper to find the books borrowed!

Many local names appear regularly in the Innerpeffray Borrowing Register: names like Bain, Fergusson, Keron, McOmish, and many more. If you'd like to find out if your family name appears, and how you might find out more about local history, why not join us this event.?

Organised in conjunction with the project Books and Borrowing 1750-1830, based at the Universities of Stirling and Glasgow (borrowing.stir.ac.uk). Register for your free place at <https://tinyurl.com/emxnfcm>.

■ **Historical Association Conference 2021** goes virtual. Not to be foiled by a pandemic, the HA are still holding the Annual Conference this May – but it will be virtual, with both pre-recorded and live elements. There will be interactive online workshops spread over the week of **24–29 May 2021**. Pre-recorded sessions will be available before and after the live conference, to allow as much time as possible to take advantage of what's on offer. <https://tinyurl.com/yavlmwam>

■ **ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands) Talks** For the first half of 2021 ARCH talks will be online on Zoom, usually, but not always, on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Numbers are capped at 100, so book early, and please cancel if you can't make it. Listings and bookings are via EventBrite with links also from the ARCH Events calendar.

The next event is on Tuesday 25 May, 7:30pm, a talk by Lorraine Evans on **Exploring funerary architecture and symbolism in the Scottish Highlands** <https://tinyurl.com/4usmfdhd>

■ The **Womens History Network** has announced its series of Spring/Summer seminars. Further details are available from <https://tinyurl.com/3p27cc5x>

■ **British Association for Local History** continues its series of Webinars including Archiving Your Local History Collection; Community Created and Curated Collections; Getting Your Local History Research Out There! For full details visit: <https://www.balh.org.uk/events>

Recorded

■ **North of Scotland Archaeological Society NOSAS** has an impressive range of talks from Shetland to Assynt. The full list and links from this link <https://www.nosas.co.uk/onlinemadevenings.asp>

■ Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries has continued its series of virtual meetings. A recorded version of the annual Members' Night takes you on a journey across Scotland. With the theme for 2021 being "The place in Scotland I most want to return to post-Covid", it travels to Arran, Ayrshire, Wester Ross and Burntisland before ending up in Lenzie - a treasure trove of local history. This presentation and previous ones, including one by SLHF Chair Paul Bishop on 'Kirkintilloch and the Flax and Linen Industries' can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/ksyxj8xc>

■ **Breadalbane Heritage Society** has now released the videos of the first two recordings of the winter season talks which were held in October and November of last year. They include a talk from Lesley Whitwood called 'Where have all the Churches gone?', and also from Helen Stewart who presented a talk on 20 November 2020, entitled 'Researching your Family History'. <https://breadalbane-heritage.org.uk/>

■ **Abertay Historical Society (AHS)** has also continued to share its excellent series of presentations on YouTube <https://tinyurl.com/2r5955md>

Steve Connelly writes:

- 'From Lochee with Distinction: Sir Alexander Gray' - a presentation on the life and works of this senior civil servant, academic and poet of the Scottish literary renaissance by Dr David Robb, honorary fellow in English at University of Dundee. Look out for a quote from Gray's poetry on the Canongate wall of the Scottish Parliament.
- 'Ancient Egypt across Scotland - the National Museums of Scotland Collections Review'* by Dr Dan Potter, assistant curator, Ancient Mediterranean collections at NMS with a focus on museums in Tayside. The question-and-answer session on 10 March drew participants from as far away as the USA and Mexico.
- 'Ruined Magnificence? St Andrews Cathedral after the Reformation'* by Dr Bess Rhodes, St Andrews University was our April offering.

The AHS 2020/21 programme concludes with a presentation to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Perthshire's James Croll, a renowned scientist who developed early theories about climate change. The presentation by Mike Robinson, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society will be followed by a question-and-answer session on 12 May.

*Not yet available on the AHS YouTube site.

The **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** has several presentations to view including a lecture by Dr David Caldwell, FSAScot and President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, on "In search of a national identity – Scotland's material culture" and "Glasgow Potteries and the British Empire" by Graeme Cruickshank. More recently available to view:

- March Lecture – "Ahead of Their Time": A Talk in Celebration of International Women's Day;
- April Lecture "The Knights Templar and Historical Revisionism in the Modern Era" by Dr Rory MacLellan.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3ye9yzt>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** has a number of online exhibitions including The Photography of Erskine Beveridge and Great Scottish Interiors. <https://tinyurl.com/evhc535p>

■ **National Library of Scotland** has been bringing a programme of vibrant online events to enjoy from home. Watch recordings of a selection of their live talks at <https://www.nls.uk/player>

■ **The 2021 Annual NTS / 1745 Culloden Lecture** was delivered by Andrew Grant on Thursday, April 15 2021, the eve of the 275th Anniversary of the Battle of Culloden. The title of the lecture was "The Interaction between Tourism, Research and Conservation at Culloden Battlefield, 1746-2021." To view the lecture, follow this link

<https://tinyurl.com/ecvfdtnh>

■ The **Royal College of Nursing Archives and Library** team has made available a series of lectures with a focus on the history of nursing. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/5c6xha47>

MEET AN SLHF TRUSTEE

Jan Bateman

I retired some years ago from a career in project management and operations management for a large international IT consultancy. I moved to Scotland with the company to open our office here in 1998. However, my interest in history stems from School and Exeter University where I chose options in economic history and the history of political philosophy. I did my Honours dissertation on David Hume! Exeter University was also where I met my now husband Eric Graham – a widely published Scottish historian. Over most of the last 40 years my involvement in Scottish history has been limited to editing Eric's work (and occasionally helping with research and going on field visits), starting from when I typed (on a manual typewriter) his MA thesis!

Having been involved in quite a few charities since moving to Scotland (with particular interest in governance and finance) it wasn't long before I too joined the Forum (in 2012) and became a Trustee to contribute my administration and financial management skills. At one point I was Treasurer and Secretary. Given my IT background, I project-managed the re-development of the Forum's website which now provides facilities for member societies to promote themselves, their events and their publications; as well as allowing online payments for events, publications and membership. In 2018, thanks to a bequest from a generous member, we were able to undertake a project to implement the Directory of Local History Resources, in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland and LOCSCOT (the Scottish working group of the association of professional librarians). Inspired by Michael Cox's invaluable publication *Exploring Scottish History* (last published in 1999), the Directory is hosted on our website. Check it out <https://www.slhf.org/about-directory>.

Early in 2020 I recruited a team of young and knowledgeable volunteers to help launch our long-overdue social media presence with a Facebook page www.facebook.com/scottishlocalhistoryforum to raise awareness of the Forum. Do please visit (ideally follow and "like" it). Some weeks our FB page has reached over 1200 people which is very gratifying.

I remain Treasurer and Web Editor (authorising event listings, news items, resources etc which have been submitted to our website and processing online orders!) and I also manage the Facebook page – although I encourage as many others as possible to create posts! I am very keen to expand the number of organisations (museums, archives, and societies or individuals with collections) listed in the Directory. If you know of any, encourage them to create a listing. It is free and easy to do. Just go to <https://www.slhf.org/node/add/directory-organisation>

MEET A LOCAL GROUP

The Grantown Society



The Grantown Society was founded in the Spring of 1974 with a clear focus on both Grantown's past and future: its heritage and its development.

It was established at a time when part of Grantown's Georgian High Street was under threat of demolition. The Society retains its civic trust role and continues to contribute to local planning decisions. Recently, on behalf of The Highland Council the Society carried out a comprehensive Conservation Area Appraisal and Review, subsequently adopted by the planning authority. We are now trying to initiate a Conservation Area Management Plan. Building on the town's heritage, the Society promotes potential sympathetic developments and is co-ordinating a major Sustrans-funded "Active Travel Project" and working on proposals to enhance the Town Centre.

The speaker at The Society's first public meeting was the distinguished independent historian, Dr Jean Munro, chair of the Scottish Local History Forum, 1984-1988. Her presentation gave an excellent account of the planned settlement movement in 18th and early-19th century Scotland which resulted in the founding of New Grantown in 1765. The first honorary president was the equally distinguished Dr I F Grant. Currently Dr Munro is the Society's Honorary President. Its vice-president and historian is George Dixon; another previously heavily involved in SLHF. The Society still has Trustee representation on the Forum.

Highlights of the Society's almost fifty-year existence include the creation of the local museum trust, the foundation of a music festival and in 2015 a nine-day celebration of the town's 250th anniversary. Core to the work of the society are the monthly meetings and occasional walks and tours. This year the two are combined with a series of virtual heritage walks presented digitally to members. As for other societies, 'going digital' has sadly meant the loss of some members.



Grantown: Grounds of Castle Grant during the Society 250 celebrations.



Grantown 250 years: A group outside one of the shops taking part in the 250 celebrations

In April 2020 the Society, as a community heritage organisation, moved to charitable status by becoming a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The Society has developed a number of local and national partnerships, including UHI and the Scottish Civic Trust. Nevertheless, it is still at heart a small local history society, whose aims, activities and outlook remain the same: focussing on Grantown's rich history and the appropriate development of one of Scotland's best documented and finest surviving Georgian planned settlements set in the heart of "Romantic Strathspey".

Bill Sadler, Chair, The Grantown Society

NEW ONLINE MAPS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

In March, the NLS maps home page, viewers and footers were updated in response to user feedback, to try to improve search and navigation. The [home page](#) is now shorter and simpler, with the main map search options presented more clearly. The previous *Find by Place* viewers have been renamed *Map Finder*, to make their purpose clearer, and the [Map Finder - with Marker Pin](#) has been updated with better filtering options. Help and guidance has been improved, with a new [Guide to this website](#) page, and clearer orange **Help** buttons to the lower left in all

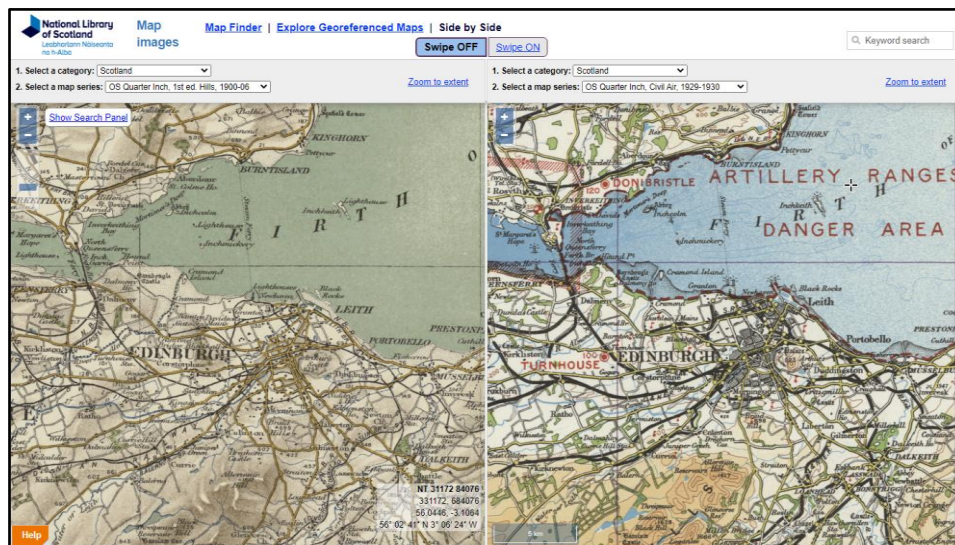
[viewers](#). All central page content, URLs and zoomable maps are unchanged. The NLS maps team hopes these changes are appreciated, once regulars have got used to the updated styles, but are always happy to receive feedback to maps@nls.uk.

During March, NLS maps added three new 20th century series online, covering Scotland and Great Britain:

1. OS Quarter-inch to the Mile, maps of Scotland, 1901-1960

This addition is of all Ordnance Survey [Quarter-Inch to the mile maps of Scotland](#), numbering 182 maps across 16 series. The quarter-inch to the mile series is useful in providing an overview of significant landscape features, including larger settlements, reservoirs, railways, and roads. It was also particularly valuable for aviation, with various [Civil Air](#) and [Royal Air Force](#) editions, as well as a set captured and reissued for the [German Luftwaffe](#), showing new aerodromes, landing strips and conspicuous features (including golf courses) from the air. There were four main numbered editions, with various [military](#) and [civilian](#) forms, and with different ways of showing relief using [hachures](#) as well as hypsometric tints or [layer colours](#).

- View all the [quarter-inch to the mile maps of Scotland](#).
- Further information: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#108>

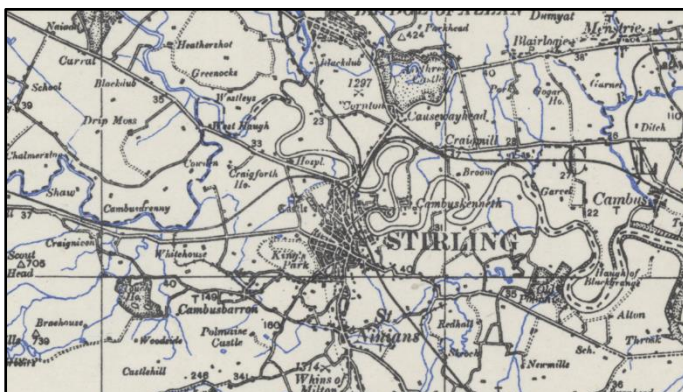


Comparing OS *Quarter-Inch 1st edition mapping* (1900-6) on the left with the OS *Quarter-Inch 3rd Civil Air Edition* (1929-30) on the right, with the latter showing new airports at Donibristle and Turnhouse, artillery ranges in the Forth, as well as new golf-courses and roads. View at: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=11&lat=55.99317&lon=-3.22934&layers=221&right=223>

2. OS Half-inch to the Mile, Scotland, Outline Edition, water in blue, 1942

This Ordnance Survey half-inch to the mile scale (1:126,720) series was published during the Second World War as an Outline (uncoloured) set of maps, with topography in black, and inland water features printed in blue. The map content largely represents the late 19th century landscape, with only minor later updates to topography and roads, but it possibly provides a useful insight into 20th century water features at this medium scale.

- Home page - [OS Half-inch to the Mile, Scotland, Outline Edition, water in blue](#), 1942
- View the maps as a [seamless layer on a satellite image base](#)



Detail from OS *Half-Inch Outline edition*, Sheet 23 - Dundee, Perth and Stirling (printed 1942)

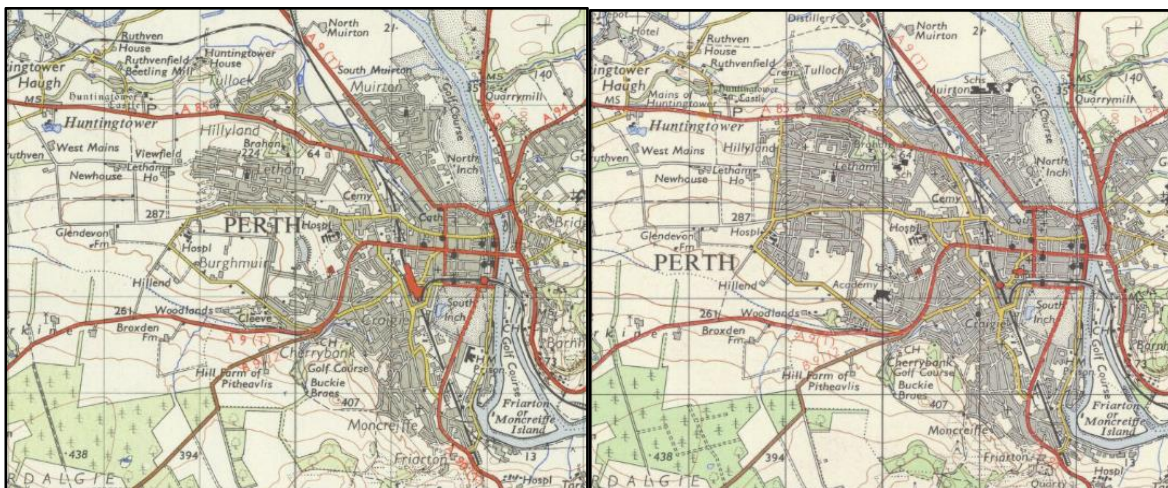
3. OS One-Inch Seventh Series, Great Britain, 1952-1970

This addition includes all of our Ordnance Survey [One-Inch Seventh Series](#) maps (896 sheets), covering all of Great Britain, 1952-1970. Our previous coverage of this series included just one edition for each sheet map, but we have now put online all our out-of-copyright editions. This also includes a set of [Outline](#) (uncoloured) sheets, as well as the [Seventh Series Indexes](#). The Seventh Series gives an excellent overview of the

(uncoloured) sheets, as well as the [Seventh Series Indexes](#).

British landscape in the 1950s and 1960s, and it was the only standard one-inch to the mile (1:63,360) series to cover the whole of Great Britain.

- Home page - One-Inch Seventh Series - [Regular / Coloured maps](#) - 703 sheets
- Home page - One-Inch Seventh Series - [Outline / Uncoloured maps](#) - 179 sheets
- Home page - One-Inch Seventh Series - [Indexes](#) - 14 sheets
- Further information: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#109>



Comparing suburban expansion at Perth on the OS One-Inch Seventh Series [Sheet 55](#) (revised 1954, published 1957) on the left, with OS One-Inch Seventh Series [Sheet 55](#) (revised 1964-7, published ca. 1969) on the right.

CAN YOU HELP?

We have several 'Can You Help' items this issue, resulting from queries to the SLHF's website. As always, we note that we cannot undertake research for individual queries, but we try to direct the query to someone we know of who might be able to help.

■ Mining and Mining-related Memorials in Scotland

For almost eight years, National Mining Museum Scotland (NMMS) volunteer Jim Henry has been researching, locating and photographing mining and mining-related memorials in Scotland. It is part of a project that started before the opening of the National Mining Memorial (NMM) section of the Museum in 2013 and will hopefully yield a catalogue for the NMM.



The memorial at Allanton near Shotts

The 180 or so memorials located so far stretch from Perth to Rowanburn (near Canonbie) and from Dailly to Prestonpans. The list of memorials in alphabetical order includes locations of known memorials, known memorials to be located (their having been removed etc), known memorial proposals in the pipeline, and memorials no longer existing. The list can be viewed on the NMMS web site <https://tinyurl.com/2tuaps22>.

Photographs of most memorials, and many town entry features not considered to be memorials, can be viewed on the Healy Hero web site. <https://tinyurl.com/59rupxv7>

Jim is still on the lookout for information on "missing" memorials such as the Seafeld Disaster Plaque which was in the old CISWO building at Glenrothes and three plaques that were in the now-demolished Uddingston Miners' Rehabilitation Centre. He would

also welcome information on any memorials not shown on his list, especially those which might be out of public view in buildings.

Jim can be contacted via jamesjhenry1950@aol.com or on 0131 664 7185.

■ History in the making! Collecting the Scottish Parliament Election 2021

We have received the following from our good colleague Jennifer Giles at the National Library of Scotland. Please help if you can.

"Dear Scottish Local History Forum Friends,

The National Library of Scotland would like to request your help with collecting the printed leaflets and election addresses that were published during the Scottish Parliament election campaign.

As a legal deposit library, we always collect election flyers as comprehensively as possible, and they will be preserved forever in the national collection. We do collect directly from the political parties, but there are always gaps and so if you are able to assist us by sending to the Library the leaflets that came through your door, that would be very appreciated. Collecting these sorts of material is difficult, especially during a pandemic, but they are a really important part of our heritage and belong in the national collection, so your help will make a difference. Thank you.

Our address is : Acquisitions – Donations, National Library of Scotland, 92 Cowgate Edinburgh EH1 1JN"

■ And a folksong query that came in via the SLHF Facebook page

Hi--I'm an American with a limited knowledge of Scottish history. I'm trying to understand the context of a song recorded by The Battlefield Band, "The Gallant Grahams." In it the singer was arrested "for the killing o' an English lord." He was taken to Carrickfergus Castle and imprisoned. There he "...asked for the sight of the double derbies / And the sight of them was granted me / With them I knocked the jailer down / And I set bold Johnson at liberty." I've found many online mentions of the song but no one seems to say what the "double derbies" were and who "bold Johnson" was. Can anyone here explain this to me? Thanks.

Dr Nicola Small, a member of the SLHF Advisory Committee, was able to help out. Nicky is one half of PlaidSong, a duo whose performances specialise in combining history and song. She wrote:

I actually know someone who played in the Battlefield Band, Alan Reid! So, he was delighted when I contacted him re this enquiry and he got back to me with this:

"I've always been poor at remembering how and where we got material (not being either an academic or well organised) but I can shed a little light in this case. As I recall Brian McNeill found this song in Hogg's Jacobite relics. We put a Breton melody to it and recorded it on a duo album for Topic in 1978, an album that was deleted around 1981. The Batties played the song live for a while.

I don't know the specifics of this story but I recall reading that a branch of the Graham family went to Northern Ireland and I think it was because it was a bit hot for them in Scotland rather than them taking part in the Protestant plantations (maybe there's a link, as you note yourself, with the Duke of Montrose and the religious wars of the 17th century). Some of the family apparently turned the name backwards to Maharg (again suggestive of some kind of evasiveness). I also recall that 'double derbies' are handcuffs, but as for Johnson or the rest of the story I'm at a loss. That's all I can offer to your man I'm afraid."

The song itself, from my own [Nicky's] research, is a little complicated as there are different versions with the same names. The Gallant Grahams feature in songs which are giving the history of the Marquess of Montrose and they are referred to in a song called *The Battle of Otterburn* and also in a song by Carolina Nairne called the *Banks of the Earn*. PlaidSong has versions of both these songs but the Battlefield Band version is taken from Hogg or from other sources and this comment here suggests the connection between the two needs more study. More detail is available from online music resources <http://www.fresnostate.edu/folklore/ballads/Ord441.html>

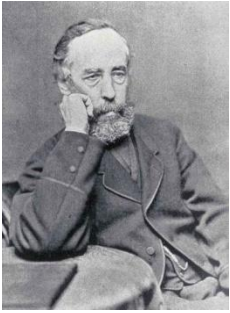
Nicky also notes: there is still an outstanding question at the end of this enquiry as I had not found out who Bold Johnson was – perhaps readers might respond?

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENARY OF JAMES CROLL

Jo Woolf, Writer in Residence at Royal Scottish Geographical Society writes

In 1821, when James Croll was born into a poverty-stricken family in Little Whitefield, Perthshire, nobody could have predicted that he would grow up to become a brilliant scientist. In fact, he was lucky to survive at all: two of his three brothers died in childhood, and James himself suffered from a painful physical condition that would plague him all his life.

Against all the odds, Croll rose to become one of the most gifted thinkers of his day. While toiling away at a succession of hopeless jobs, he fed his powerful intellect by reading all the latest scientific books and papers and pondering the biggest questions of the universe. He entered the Andersonian College in Glasgow quite literally



through a back door, by getting a job as a janitor. As a result, he was able to access the library and attend lectures, and he was soon penning academic papers himself.

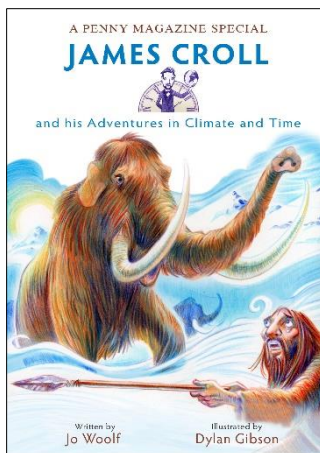
Croll's theories about the causes of the Earth's ice ages attracted the admiration of the great scientists of his day: Sir Charles Darwin, Sir Joseph Hooker, Lord Kelvin, Sir Charles Wyville Thomson. He worked out that glacial periods were directly influenced by variations in the Earth's orbit, its degree of tilt and 'wobbles' in its spin, together with the reflection of sunlight from snowfields. He calculated the pattern of glacial periods hundreds of thousands of years into the past, and hundreds of thousands of years into the future. He was, in fact, one of the world's first climate scientists.

Why is Croll's name still so little known? Perhaps it is because he deliberately shunned public attention, preferring instead to focus on study. As a person, he was solitary, self-effacing and humble. Yet his story of struggle against a lifetime of adversity is both inspiring and timeless. In 2021, exactly 200 years after his birth, a number of projects have been designed to promote greater public awareness of this extraordinary man.

One of these projects is the publication of a special volume of the *Earth and Environmental Science Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*. The volume will contain contributions by leading scientists who each bring a special insight into the significance of Croll's work in their particular field of study.

Linked with the publication of this volume, an online meeting entitled 'James Croll - from Janitor to Genius' was held on 16 April 2021. In what proved to be a fascinating programme, specialists from the worlds of science and history explored James Croll as a person and as a scientist. The event was co-sponsored by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Quaternary Research Association,

With a long-standing interest in Croll's life and work, Professor Kevin J Edwards of Aberdeen University has been central to the planning of the *EESTRSE* volume and its associated meeting. He writes: "The bicentenary provides an opportunity to honour the memory, scientific contribution and topicality of Croll and to enhance further his standing as a giant of Scottish, British and world science."



As a child, one of Croll's best-loved sources of inspiration was his weekly copy of the *Penny Magazine*. This publication, the brainchild of the delightfully-named Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, covered a vast wealth of topics from geology and astronomy to philosophy and literature, and in later life Croll collected every single issue. It occurred to Mike Robinson, Chief Executive of RSGS, that a modern take on the *Penny Magazine* would be the perfect means of sharing Croll's story with younger readers, and so the idea for a Croll-themed 'special edition' was born. The result is fresh, vibrant and colorful, telling Croll's astonishing life story and then explaining some of his most important theories. Illustrator Dylan Gibson has created some fabulous images, while I have written the text. We have focused on bringing to life the young James Croll, appealingly human with all his energy and enthusiasm, his hopes and challenges, and his worries and insecurities. 'James Croll and his Adventures in Climate and Time' will be published later this year, and there will be accompanying lesson plans for schools.

PHONE KIOSKS ... ONE LAST CALL

Rob Close writes as follows:

The last two issues of *Clish-Clash* (Nos. 44 and 45) have said much about telephone kiosks in Scotland, particularly the way that some have been re-purposed, acting as libraries, defibrillator hubs and in other locally beneficial ways.

The November 2020 edition (volume 42, no.2) of *Industrial Archaeology Review* contains an article (Nigel Linge, Andy Sutton and others, In Celebration of the K8 Telephone Kiosk – Britain's Last Red, Cast-Iron Phonebox) which chimed nicely with the notes in *Clish-Clash*. The K8 was introduced in 1968, and hailed as a masterpiece of industrial design. The designer was Bruce Martin, and the kiosk's angular lines, large areas of glass and almost streamlined look speak clearly of the 1970s. When firstly, economics and, secondly, the rise of the mobile phone, drove phone boxes from our streets, the conservationists' focus was on the Giles Gilbert Scott designed K6, and the quality of the K8 was overlooked. The result was that, despite over 11,000 having been produced, less than 50 are known to remain in situ or in museums.

Seven of these are in Scotland. Two are in Orkney, on Flotta and at Brinian on Rousay. Dan Lee, the Lifelong Learning and Outreach Archaeologist at UHI's Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, reports that the North

Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme has proposals for the restoration of all the kiosks on Orkney's northern islands, including the K8 on Rousay. The kiosk on Flotta can be seen on Google Street view.

The third box is at Eyemouth Holiday Park, while the final four act as low-key sentinels guarding the Erskine bridge, two adjoining each carriageway, in pairs on either side of the Clyde. Each appears still to work, with prominent advertisements for the Samaritans. They could do with some love and attention, and perhaps deserve the protection of statutory listing. The Erskine box illustrated, on the northbound carriageway on the Dunbartonshire side, was made by the Carron Works in Stirlingshire.

I'd be pleased to know of any other K8s that survive in Scotland, as I plan my lockdown escape from Ayrshire, via the now unique, and A-listed concrete K3 at Rhynd (Perthshire), to Flotta.



*The K8 at Brinian, Rousay
(credit: Dan Lee)*



*A Carron-built K8 at the Erskine
Bridge (credit: Rob Close)*

QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

"A library outranks any other thing a community can do to benefit its people.
It is a never failing spring in the desert."

Andrew Carnegie

(**ERRATUM:** In *Clish-Clash* 45, we made a mistake in the Quote of the Moment for which we apologise.
The correspondent should read Margaret Bayard Smith.)

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Scottish Local History Forum

**Box 103, 12 South Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1DD**

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