



**Memorial Garden, Slamannan** 

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to anyone who subscribes to the aims of the Society. Current rates are:-

Subscription	Annual	3– Year
Individual	£14.00	£39.00
Concession	£12.00	£33.00
Overseas (Hard Copy)	£16.00	£45.00
Overseas (e-version)	£14.00	£39.00
Family	£18.00	£51.00

Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st October each year and payment should be made to the Treasurer, Margaret Turner, 11 Springbank Gardens, Dunblane, FK15 9JX. Payment can be made online using PayPal (csfhs@hotmail.com), Genfair or by cheque made out to CSFHS.

Each paid-up member will receive two issues of the Journal each year. Meetings of the Society in October, November, April and May will be held in Bridge of Allan Parish Church Honeyman Hall at 2pm and December to March will be zoom meetings at 7pm.

Please see local press and the Society website (www.csfhs.org.uk) for details.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions in the form of articles, news items, reports etc. are invited and should be sent to:

This feature is designed to offer members the opportunity of assistance from other members of this or other Societies. Please submit any

Central Scotland Family History Society Newsletter, c/o Elsie Fraser, 17 Rylands Avenue, Dunblane, FK15 0HH.

E-mail: newslettercsfhs@yahoo.co.uk

Copy for the next issue should be submitted by 11th August 2023

#### HELP WANTED

This feature is designed to offer members the opportunity of assistance from other members of this or other Societies. Please submit any query briefly and clearly. Always quote your name and membership number. Please put names and places in **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

It will be appreciated that the Society cannot undertake to act as intermediary, and all subsequent correspondence must lie between individual members, although the editor will always be pleased to hear of any outcome

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## **Notice of AGM**

The AGM of Central Scotland Family History Society will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 2pm in the Honeyman Hall, Bridge of Allan Parish Church.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of 2022 AGM (see page 3)
- 3. Matters arising
- 4. Chairman's report
- 5. Treasurer's report
- 6. Election of office bearers
- 7. A.O.B.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS**

Our new session has got off to a good start with many enlightening talks from enthusiastic speakers. The first two meetings were held in Bridge of Allan Church's Session Room and were extremely interesting. The dating of old photographs proved to be quite a complex subject, with so many different styles in fashion to cope with. Our second speaker, Monica, who was adopted at birth and has spent the last 25 + years searching for her birth mother, was a true example of how perseverance eventually pays off.

Our next three meetings were held on Zoom and it was good to welcome our far flung members again. There has been a record attendance at each meeting of almost 40, which is most encouraging for the committee – again members signing in from all corners of the world – even a couple from Australia at 5.00am (their time). The topics were well received and led to many questions for the speakers.

We became aware that, though the small hall we had booked for the meetings at Bridge of Allan was adequate for the numbers attending (average of 24), it proved to be just too small for comfort when it came to serving teas and coffees. So for the last two meetings this session, we will be holding the meetings in the church's Honeyman Hall – the larger one just through the wall from the Session House - and using the same kitchen facilities. So please enter through the left-hand side door.

For the May meeting, which is also the AGM and Social, we need to have contributions from some of our members. Many of the replies to the questionnaire, which we sent out last year, said that there should be more input to meetings from the members, so now is your chance!!! We are only talking about a short 5 minute slot – eg. the story behind a family heirloom you have inherited; something in your research which has really opened up your family story or has thrown you into more confusion! an unusual occupation of one your ancestors; how you finally solved a family mystery/puzzle; or what you've discovered in the 1921 census! The list is endless – I'm sure some of you can come up with something out of the ordinary! Tickets for our first Summer Social (An afternoon tea, which will cost £6) will be on sale at the April meeting.

We are now starting to think about next year's syllabus, so please put on your thinking caps and send in any suggestions of topics or speakers which you think we have not had for a while. You may have heard them speak at another online conference. At the end of this session, we will be sending out a very brief survey about how you feel the meetings have worked for you – ie. do you think we should continue with the split between holding them on Zoom and in person?

Our drop-in sessions at St Ninians Library have had mixed results so far, but I am extremely grateful to the 7 volunteers who help at them. In November we also took a stall at a 'Love your Library Day' which was held in the library as part of Libraries Week - a good opportunity to raise awareness of our Society.

I hope you are all making good use of the access to the 1921 census. I've yet to find anyone living where I did NOT expect them to be living, but there are still some interesting facts to discover – probably the best being the name of the employer for whom your ancestor worked. What I do miss, which was collected in the 1911 census, is the number of years a woman had been married and the number of children living and dead – that was a great way of finding out about missing children who had died between the censuses.

The committee is grateful for all the support the members give to this journal, the monthly newsletter and the meetings. It makes all the worry and effort worthwhile!

I hope you all have a good spring / summer (or autumn / winter, if you live in the Southern Hemisphere!). Good luck in your researching and take care.

Sandra M Reid

# Minutes of Central Scotland Family History Society Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

- 1) **Apologies**: Fiona Campbell, Jenny Crawford, Roy Emmerson, Lori Farrow, Cathy Greig, James Kennedy John McCormick, Marie McCormick, John McEwan, Gail McKay, Anne Paterson, Jean Weir, Jean Whyte, **Tracy Wong**.
- 2) **Minutes of AGM 2021** previously issued were read and accepted. Adoption of minutes proposed by Sandra Reid, seconded by Peter George
- 3) Matters arising from the minutes: nil.

### 4) Chairman's report:

Another challenging year for everyone, but I feel the Society has managed successfully to keep in touch with its members by embracing technology. We are now well versed in Zoom meetings and have been able to complete our annual syllabus of talks, though not without a few minor hiccups with speakers. My thanks to our secretary Carol for the necessary reorganisation of a couple of talks. We had a wide range of interesting talks from excellent speakers, who all seem perfectly happy using Zoom. We discovered how to use Kirk Session Records, how to read old Scottish handwriting, how to write family history articles, and how to look beyond the bald facts in order to add 'flesh to the bones' of our trees. We heard about the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, about our ancestors who emigrated to various areas of Canada, and we delved into the mysteries of DNA. Tonight we will bring the session to a close with everyone helping to break down some 'brick walls' - hopefully. Attendance at our meetings has been good, ranging from 27 to 38 - averaging out at 30 regular members. We have gained a few new people during the year too, though we were saddened to lose our newest committee member, Frances Rendall, at the beginning of the year, Unfortunately, we have still been unable to deliver our monthly voluntary tuition and research sessions at St Ninians Library, but hope that these may resume in the autumn. We issued our usual 2 Journals in the autumn and spring, with our e-newsletter, 'Share Your Story', being published monthly. My thanks to Elsie and Margaret for producing the Journals and to everyone who has contributed to them, and to the Newsletters. Please continue to submit articles for both publications. Looking to the future, the committee decided to survey the members in order to gain opinions about the way forward for the Society, as we continue on our way back to a more 'normal' life. With reduced numbers, an inevitable falling income, and the prospect of returning to 'in person' meetings, we felt this was the right time. The replies are now being collated and a full report will appear in the autumn journal. I will give a short update under AOB. Many thanks to all those who took the time to complete the survey and share their thoughts. Based on the survey's results, the committee will need to make some decisions before the new session begins in October. We did decide during the year that we will hold the October and November meetings 'in person', though we do realise that many of our regular Zoom attendees will miss out. So we need to investigate if we can resolve that. We also decided that the meetings from December to February will always be held via Zoom, as the bad weather has in the past sometimes been a problem for speakers and members attending. Updates will be issued via the Newsletter and on our website. Our special thanks must go to Ian Anderson, our Vice Chairman who has decided to stand down from the committee. Ian has been a member of the Society since 1998, though I am not sure when he joined the committee. But he has held various posts over the years, and has contributed immensely to the publications produced by the Society. He was also instrumental in discovering that, as a Charity, we could have free use of the community room at the Tesco branch in Redding for our committee meetings – ie. when we were able to hold them in person. We will miss his advice and wit at our meetings. Finally, I would like to thank you all for 'sticking with it' and supporting the Society and its small committee during these past two strange, and at times, difficult years. I hope you enjoy the summer wherever you live or travel to, and I look forward to seeing you again in the new session.

Sandra Reid.

**5) Treasurer's report:** I would first like to thank Jim Cram our Independent Examiner for his prompt examination of the accounts.

Deficit for the year was £440.44. We will look at the responses to the membership questionnaire to work out how best to reduce any future losses.

Income:-

Subscriptions have steadied but we lost quite a few members over the last 2 years of shutdown and zoom meetings.

Donations were down as we had no magazines etc to offer members at meetings.

CD and publication sales were slightly down, as there have been no family history fairs to attend. We have now digitised all our publications and they are available as digital downloads.

Gift Aid - the reduced number of subscriptions has had a matching decrease in the amount we can claim back in Gift Aid.

#### Expenditure:-

Hall rental costs were reduced as the cost of the zoom meetings is lower than the charges for the Smith Lecture Theatre.

Speakers - some members did not realise that we have to pay for every monthly talk, anything from £30 to £100 so this is still a major expense.

Postage - has increased again and members are encouraged to choose e-journals rather than printed if they don't mind which format they receive.

Printing and journals - remains our biggest cost, but we know many members still prefer to receive physical copies.

SAFHS Membership - as of February this year, our membership of SAFHS gives us free access to zoom for meetings, so that will be a future saving for the Society.

In summary, we still have a healthy balance in what used to be our reserves (now just part of our bank balance) and we will actively look at ways of reducing future deficits. There was a majority vote for increasing the subscriptions for next year, so members will be notified of the new rates in Sept when the subscription reminders are sent out.

Adoption of the report proposed by Sandra Muir, seconded by John Patrick.

## 6) Election of Office Bearers:

It was agreed that we would elect the Office Bearers and Independent Examiner en bloc.

Chairman: Sandra Reid, Vice-Chairman: vacant Treasurer: Margaret Turner, Secretary: Carol Sergeant, Committee Members: John McCormack, Peter George

Independent examiner: Jim Cram

Proposed by Helenor Jones, seconded by Marion Smith

Nomination of John Patrick as Committee Member, proposed by Sandra Reid, seconded by Lindsay George.

Nomination of Feona Mann as Committee Member, proposed by Margaret Turner, seconded by Doug Souter.

## 7) Proposed Changes to the Constitution

4.5 Proposal to change "A quorum of the Committee will consist of not less than five elected members." to "A quorum of the Committee will consist of not less than four elected members."

Proposed by Lindsay George, seconded by Marion Smith.

6.1 Proposal to change "The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on a date in April/May to be determined by the Committee." to "The Annual General Meeting of the Society will usually be held on a date in April/May or a different date to be determined by the Committee." Proposed by Craig Adam, seconded by Sandra Muir.

#### A.O.B:

**a) Questionnaire:** Once again the committee thanks all those who took time to respond to our questionnaire. We received 51 returns which is just over 40% of our membership, though not everyone gave their thoughts on each of the 4 questions. We have a lot to think about, but here is a short summary in the meantime:

**Question 1** about our monthly meetings - as expected almost 50% of the replies were for a mixture of in-person and zoom attendance. So we plan to hold 4 meetings on Zoom in December, January, February and now also March and 4 in-person meetings in October, November, April and May. But we are looking into the possibility of these latter 4 being 'hybrid' meetings, where we can have a Zoom link to the meeting. (as the Aberdeen Society currently is testing). But this will depend on many technical factors, including wi-fi links at the chosen venue. As regards the venue, we are looking at other possibilities, and are also considering afternoon meetings.

**Question 2** about other society meetings etc. which members have attended – the big winner by far was the Scottish Indexes online conferences – just over 1/3 had attended some or all of them. However, we were amazed at the wide variety of other meetings and webinars which members have attended – there was a list of 33 different ones!

**Question 3** about the Society's finances. There was a resounding result of 84% for increasing the Society's subscriptions, followed by holding more home-made talks at 64%. Margaret will have discussed some of this in her report, but the replies to all the possibilities have given plenty of food for thought.

**Question 4** about other ways to improve our services to members. This took a lot of collating, as there were lots of really good suggestions, too numerous to mention just now, but many worth considering. I ask that you bear with the committee, while we consider all the suggestions, put some things in place and possibly trial a few ideas next session.

**b) Syllabus:** Carol is contacting the 2 speakers from 2020 – 2021 Session, who preferred to speak in person rather than on Zoom to see if they can come next Session. And we have a few others under consideration. We are always open to suggestions for speakers or topics.

## **SAFHS**

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

Hosted by ANESFHS in partnership with the Elphinstone Institute of the University of Aberdeen

# "Haste Ye Back"



## One-day conference. Online only. Free to attend.

A conference on settlement, migration and return, with reference to the records, stories and resources that underpin family-history research.

The theme of "Haste Ye Back" encompasses not only the conditions that led to migration or resettlement but also the ways that the telling and recording of family histories enrich a culture. Our speakers will consider diaspora through emigration and war etc., and then revitalisation through returning settlers and new Scots. Family history as a pursuit is a great example of that revitalisation of engagement with the past and with our heritage.

We think this theme will be particularly topical at a time when more folk contemplate resuming long-distance travel to maintain family connections and pursue family history.

Planning is well advanced for the conference, with seven speakers and topics confirmed:

- Prof. Marjory Harper (University of Aberdeen) "Emigration, emigrants and returners"
- Dr Jackson Armstrong (University of Aberdeen) "Digitising Aberdeen's medieval city records"
- Dr Tom McKean (University of Aberdeen) "Family history interfacing with recorded history"
- Nicholas Le Bigre (University of Aberdeen) "New family traditions in the North-East"
- Alasdair Macdonald (Univ. of Strathclyde) "Using DNA in family-history research"
- Ken Nisbet (SAFHS/SGS) "War brides"
- Alison Spring, genealogist "Where did my Scots ancestors go?"

A conference website is under construction and will launch shortly. The website will manage registrations for the event. Updates will be posted on the ANESFHS and SAFHS websites and on family-history-related Facebook pages.





## Fashion Through the Lens – Dating Historical Photographs

By Valerie Reilly

Most, if not all of us, are guilty of having boxes or bags of old photographs that we haven't got round to giving information on names, dates and places. Even if they are scanned onto your computer, they still need to be annotated.

Photography generally started off in the 1850s and it was not until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that photographs became more informal and were produced in greater numbers. We can give rough dates to old photographs by the format of the photo as well as the style of the clothes worn in them. Very early photos, such as daguerrotypes, are very frail and are always found sealed behind glass. Ambrotypes were printed onto glass and the backs were painted black and tintypes were made on sheets of thin iron and could be produced very quickly. They were popular with the itinerant photographers who plied their trade on beach promenades or at fairs. The cartes-de-visite format (usually 2.5 inches by 4inches) was introduced in Britain in 1858 and were very popular through to the end of the century. The larger format, 4.25 inches by 6 inches, were most popular in the 1880s.

In 1894, the Royal Mail allowed postcards to be sent by post and many photographers produced individual postcard portraits that could be sent to family and friends. They had undivided backs meant only for the address, so any message is usually on the front image. From 1902, the postcard backs were divided to allow for longer messages to accompany the photograph.

In the early years of the  $20^{th}$  century, Kodak brought out their Box Brownie camera, priced at 5 shillings and many people were able to take their own family photographs for the first time. The small photos (3.25" x 2.25") remained very popular well into the 1950s. Before this time, photographs were taken to commemorate special occasions and those taking part would dress up accordingly.

Trying to date photographs by fashion styles will give us an "earliest possible" date but not a latest date. In group photographs, it will usually be the younger women who will be wearing the most fashionable styles of dress or hairstyle. Older women often kept wearing older styles with which they were most comfortable. Men's clothes are harder to date and can often only indicate a possible decade.

If a woman is prominently displaying her left hand in a photograph, it is probably commemorating an engagement. Photographs of people in uniform, nurses, policemen, clergy etc can be identified by looking at specialist books or websites.

#### The 1850s

In these early photographs, women's dresses were neat and modest with tight-fitting bodices and large bell-shaped skirts, Tops changed to show basques, large

flaps coming from the bottom of the bodice and flaring out over the skirt. Day dresses had high necks, often with white collars and a brooch at the throat. Sleeves were tight at the top and flared out at the wrists. Hair was often pulled back with a central parting and gathered into a low chignon at the back. Men wore three-piece suits with a white shirt and the jackets were often frock-coat style. The hair might have "wings" sticking out over the ears and bushy side-whiskers were common. Full sets of whiskers became fashionable after the Crimean War.

#### The 1860s

Simple backdrops and props appeared in photographs. Subjects were often seated at a small table or standing beside or leaning on the back of a chair. Backdrops of columns, drapes, arches and balustrades were popular. Full or near full-length shots were normal and they tended to be of individuals rather than groups. Women's sleeves became narrower with closed ends. Skirts were flatter at the front and fuller at the back. Hair was often shown in ringlets and long pendant earrings, brooches and gold chains began to appear.

## The 1870s

Single subjects were shot as three-quarter length portraits and padded velvet chairs appeared with more substantial tables, often with books. There was also a growing fashion for painted outdoor backdrops and cane chairs. Ladies dresses acquired lots of frills and bows and hairstyles became more complex. If hats were worn, they were small and perched at the front, so as not to disturb the elaborate hairstyles. Skirts became narrower and bodices lost the defined waist of earlier years. Men wore lounge suits for casual dress, still with a collar and tie. Men's hair was often parted to the side, with the front flicked up and combed to the back.

## The 1880s

Outdoor photography became popular but formal studio portraits still dominated. Single subjects were usually three-quarter length but groups were shown full length. Ladies dresses became even narrower, with hemlines hovering round the ankles. Bodices often had a pointed front. Hairstyles started off with short, curled fringes but by the end of the decade, there was a trend for taller styles. Men's lounge suits were single-breasted with three or four button, often with a white handkerchief showing in the top pocket. Jackets were worn open to display the waistcoat and watch-chain. Wing collars were popular and men were often pictured with canes and walking-sticks. Young girls' dresses tended to be knee-length and young boys wore shorts or knickerbockers or sailor suits.

#### The 1890s

Formal portraits tended to be head and shoulder shots, often within oval mounts and plain backgrounds. Props were kept simple and often consisted of a single potted palm. Ladies' dresses had leg-o'-mutton sleeves which were wide at the top and narrow at the wrist. Young women began to team tailored suits with a masculine-looking shirt and tie. By the end of the decade the hour-glass silhouette was popular. Men's trousers began to have turn-ups and centre creases. Beards became rarer and hats were common, from top hats to straw boaters and flat,

cloth caps. Young girls wore smock dresses with decorated yokes and short white socks with lightweight shoes rather than the boots of previous decades.

#### The 1900s and 1910s

As cameras became more widely available, more informal amateur photographs appear in our albums. They are almost all taken outside to make the most of natural daylight. For formal studio portrits, the backgrounds often showed painted woodland glades. The new breed of working women favoured separate blouses and skirts. Necklines were high and the blouses were often frilled and puffed. Vast hats were an essential accessory. Hobble skirts that were very narrow at the ankle became popular. Men were usually shown wearing a bowler hat or cloth cap. Men's jackets and trousers were cut narrow and hair was short with a side parting. Beards were only worn by elderly gentlemen, although younger men often sported moustaches. Young girls had hair drawn away from the face, often secured with a ribbon bow at the side. By 1910, young boys wore knee-length shorts and knitted jumpers began to appear. By 1913, under-the-bust empire line gowns became everyday wear and the popular V-neckline was being denounced from the pulpit as vulgar.

Hopefully, these hints will give you a clue as to rough dates when looking at you own old photographs and might even help you decide who the subjects are and where and when the photographs were taken.

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## **Death of Founder Member**

**Tom Finlay** sadly passed away on 8th August 2022. Tom was one of the founder members of the Central Scotland Family History Society along with his wife Myra. He had a great passion for local history and genealogy, and was a member of a number of organisations in this field. Tom enjoyed helping family and friends (and friends of friends!) with their genealogy investigations and will be missed by many.

## **Aunt Pete's Wedding Dress**

Holly Pitka (Member No. 1210)

While this research project is based in Canada there is Scottish heritage in the stories participants and it is a very good example of the adventures in life we can uncover from the inspiration of a simple thing like a dress. Although this particular dress is far from simple!

About two years ago my cousin received a great deal of information and some family heirlooms from our shared aunt who has since passed away. Included in this collection was a parcel with a note on it that read "Aunt Pete's wedding dress". The parcel was addressed to M.E. O'Conner at 2646 Yukon Street, Vancouver, British Columbia.



Aunt Pete's wedding dress

My cousin and I decided the best place for this dress was the Melfort, Saskatchewan museum since that is where our Grand Aunt Pete was married in 1926. We thought it would be best if we provided more information about the dress. The hunt was on.

Things we already knew about our grand aunt were that she was born Rachel Peters Atkinson in 1900 in New Brunswick the daughter of Arthur Atkinson and Georgetta Fraser. She was named after her paternal grandmother, Rachel Peters. Her parents and seven siblings moved out west sometime between 1902 and 1906.

I recently read a letter that her father wrote to her sister, my grandma, in 1909. In it he said, "the teacher told Pete that she would grade her in June so she must be quite smart". How the school system worked back then in rural Canada is a research project for another day.

I had previously been in contact with the wife of Aunt Pete's grandson, so I contacted her again. She asked her husband and her father-in-law some questions and got more information about the adventures Aunt Pete had as a young woman. She went to school in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to become a nurse and graduated sometime around 1921 because she was working in a hospital as a nurse in the 1921 census. Granny Pete had also travelled to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, New York and England before her marriage. So the hunt was on for ships passenger lists.

We found three ship manifests that listed her as a passenger. The first was the Santa Marta arriving in New York from Jamaica in August of 1925. She sailed to New York to join her employer H.V. Myers for a 6 week business trip. Her occupation is listed as a nurse and she was 5'6", with black hair and green eyes (just an example of some of the detail you can get from a passenger list).

The next passenger list found was for the S.S. Majestic of the White Star line. The ship sailed from New York and arrived at the port of Southampton, England in January of 1925. Her employer Horace Myers, his wife Mae and daughter Elsie are also on board. They all travelled 1st class and their proposed destination in the UK is the Savoy Hotel in London. The Savoy Hotel would also be termed as 1st class! Rachel P Atkinson is listed as a nurse and she lists her permanent residence as being New York.

A quick note about her employer: He was a well to do merchant in Jamaica who headed a rum distillery. I found one picture of him touring the Prince of Wales around in Jamaica in 1924.

In April of 1926, about 1.5 years later we find Rachel Atkinson arriving in Quebec on the S.S. Montcalm which sailed from Liverpool. Her father, A.B. Atkinson of Melfort, Sk, paid her passage and she had \$309 in her possession. She was planning on travelling inland on the CPR (Canadian Pacific Railroad).

In November of 1926, just seven months after returning home, she married Stinson McDonald in Melfort. She probably knew him previously, it wasn't a very big town.

According to Aunt Pete's son his mother was not married in a fancy wedding dress. My two grandmothers were married in wool suits in the same era in Saskatchewan.

Her grandson seems to remember there being a story about his Granny Pete's first love.

The address on the parcel was for a nursing home that Aunt Pete owned, ran and lived in. We also learned that M.E. O'Conner (the parcel addressee) was Aunt Pete's best friend.

The dress didn't have a label in it. I've searched for images of wedding dresses and evening gowns in the early 1900's. Any dresses similar are termed as evening gowns.

There are still questions that remain unanswered and probably will remain that way.

But we do know she had a grand adventure for a young Saskatchewan girl in the 1920's, something we would have never found out if we hadn't investigated further. I never would have considered looking for ship's passenger lists for her had it not been for the dress and she would have been another name in the family tree with just the BMD facts listed.

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#### INTERESTING DISCOVERY

Sandra Reid (Member No. 369)

On my recent visit to the Alloa Hub I made a very interesting discovery about one of my ancestors. Not so much about him personally, but about the registration of an entry in the Register of Corrected Entries 54 years after his death!!!

I was pretty sure that the death certificate I had found for him was correct, as the date of birth and place of residence were what I already had. As he had died in hospital, the certificate was signed by a Medical Records Officer. However his surname was spelt wrongly, his middle name was missing, as were his parents names, his and his father's occupations; his marital status was 'unknown', his divorced wife's name was not there.

I thought nothing of it while looking at the RCE, until I started to take notes from it. That's when I noticed the date when the corrections were registered at the GRO in Edinburgh. It was dated 2021, 54 years after his death!

This was definitely my man! All the errors were corrected and omissions added. But how was it discovered? Who had known that there was an incomplete death certificate? Was it a family member who had started doing their own research? I don't suppose I'll never know. But certainly a first!

## The Search For My Birth Mother

By Monica Gillespie (Nov 2022 talk)

Monica came along to Bridge of Allan to tell us her amazing story. Here it is in her own words.

I was adopted at age 8½ weeks and I have always known I was adopted. My adopted parents already had a biological son, eight years older than me. I have always felt slightly different from the rest of my family, as I am interested in maths and science and they are into languages and history. I looked a bit like my adopted father and I adored them and had an idyllic childhood. I was sent to a great all-girls Catholic school in Glasgow as I was told that my birth mother had wanted it. Although I knew I was adopted, I didn't realise that this meant that I had a birth family out there somewhere.

When I was 9 years old, I overheard my brother telling his friends that my mother was German and my dad had been in the American air force. When I was 21, I was looking for some paper in my dad's desk when I found an envelope marked "Monica's arrival" which contained some useful information, including the letter from the adoption society saying they could come to the Salvation Army home (Homelands in Great Western Road) and collect me. They said that my mother was a shorthand typist and very refined. Her dad had remarried an Asian woman and wanted an arranged marriage for her and her sister, which led to the girls breaking contact with the family.

I decided that I really wanted and needed to search for my birth family. I contacted St Margaret's Adoption Society in Glasgow and though they agreed to see me, I was left with the impression that they thought I should just be grateful and had no business trying to find my birth mother. All they told me was that my mother's name was Sonia Smith, that she had met my father in Germany and that she hadn't told my father that she was pregnant.

Over the next summer I made several visits to New Register House looking for Sonia Smith but with no luck. However, as I was leaving one day, a registry staff member sidled up to me and slipped me a bit of paper, murmuring something about having made a phone call and found only two Sonia Smith's in Britain and these details seemed to fit. It said - Sonia Teresia Smith born 28 Apr 1937 in Kinderheim, Schlier, near Munich. Arrived in Britain from Dieppe 14 Aug 1946 with guardian E A Smith. She also muttered something about a sister.

In 1982 I went to London to research at the London equivalent of New Register House, but my search found nothing. It was not until 1991 when I was married with two little boys, I decided to register with Birthlink, where you put in your details and hope that one of your birth parents is also looking for you. Years passed and in 2015 I decided that I was going to find my mother. I paid money to the firm that did the research for the television programme "Long Lost Family"

who took my money and came up with the name Sonia Daniels from Windsor who had the correct date of birth and whose mother's name was Widner, which they thought was German. They then said that if I paid them more money, they would reveal more information.

As it happens, I was going to a wedding in Windsor and my daughter had found out that the Daniels family had a big house in Windsor and we decided to drive up to their house. When we got there, electronic gates opened and a big car stopped and asked if we needed help, but I froze and said we didn't. Back home, I continued to contact everyone I could think of who might have information, including an old babysitter who had moved to New Zealand, the German authorities, the Salvation Army and even drove up to an Invergordon restaurant because a neighbour said they had seen someone who looked just like me.

I paid for a full membership of Ancestry and kept searching, contacting all likely Sonias. The Salvation Army blog mentioned that Day Books existed for the homes and I eventually persuaded them to let me see the information, which they agreed to if I was in the presence of a social worker. This was arranged through Stirling Council and in December 2017 I saw the information which confirmed her name and date of birth. I re-registered online to Birthlink and tried to get information unsuccessfully from the German embassy in Glasgow. I looked up the electoral roll for the home's address and copied out all the names of people living there at that time, intending to trace them all and ask if they remembered a Sonia.

I took a DNA test which threw up a second cousin in the USA, with German ancestors but this is on my father's side and he remains unfound. I decided my research needed to take place in Germany and as I do not speak German, I hired a very helpful German genealogist called Philip Steinhof. In December 2017 I travelled down to Kew to search the naturalisation records but again drew a blank. On the train back home, a fellow passenger asked what I had been doing and I told him my story. He pointed out that "Kinderheim" meant "children's home" and that maybe my mother had been in an orphanage. On a trip to the British Library in 2018 I found an entry for a Sonia Teresia Smith but with a date of birth of Aug 1946. Back home, I found a site called familyrelatives.com and there was a Sonia T Smith born Munich in 1937 followed by an entry for a Helen Smith born Munich 1938, both with the same reference number. By this time, I had discovered that my birth mother had named me Helen Smith, after her sister.

By this time, Philip had come up with the same information on the two sisters in Germany. He found they had come to Britain in 1946 and that Sonia's father was British and was called Douglas Smith. Under German law, you take your nationality from your father, so she was considered British. Douglas was a very wealthy British diplomat, living in Germany, and the records were protected, which may have been why information was so hard to find. Philip also told me that a family called Llewellyn were also researching the same family.

As they were living in Munich at the time, the Llewellyns took over the search and discovered that Sonia's mother, Helena, had given birth to an illegitimate son in 1929 and he had once been married to Angelika Llewellyn. Helena wasn't

interested in the child and left him in the hospital. Her parents found out and took him home to bring him up with the rest of the family. She then had another son, Michael in 1934 followed by Sonia in 1937 and Helen in 1938. On the brink of war, the family get a letter, signed by Hitler, saying basically we know your address, that you are a British diplomat and you have these British children. Douglas is considered an enemy alien and has to flee to Switzerland. Helena prefers to keep her privileged lifestyle and decides to remain in Germany.

Douglas's father is also British and living in Germany and he flees to Scotland with young Michael, but can't also look after two infant girls, so Sonia and Helen are sent to a children's home in Bavaria where they live as misplaced orphans of war. Meanwhile, Douglas has asked his business partner to look after Helena, which he does and with whom she has four more children.

In March 2019, I was able to contact the only remaining half-sibling of Sonia and swaps emails with Carl, whom I now considered my only surviving relative on my mother's side. While facetiming with Carl in 2019, I asked him if Sonia had ever mentioned me and was devastated to hear that she hadn't. Then he said, that at her funeral, her sister Helen had mentioned Sonia and the other baby she had. Suddenly I found I had a sibling. I contacted the adoption society again, who admitted that information had been deliberately withheld from me when I first spoke to them. They told me that my father's name was Robert Roach and that he had been 30 years old but had no information on Sonia returning to them to have another child. However, it was suggested that Sonia may have gone to St Andrew's Adoption Society which covered the east of Scotland rather than going back to St Margaret's in Glasgow.

I emailed them and got a reply the next day confirming that she had given birth to a child there, but the person was just going off on holiday for a week and would get back to me on their return. After a long week's wait, they were able to tell me that the sibling in question had been in touch with them and they had a current email address and **he is here now** – John McFarlane from Edinburgh! [At this point John stood up to great applause and many wee tears were shed in the audience].

John had also been looking for their mother but not with as much determination as Monica. The grandfather and guardian was Edgar Andrew Smith who returned to Germany after the war to collect the two sisters, who were then brought up in both Scotland and Germany. They discovered John's father in Portobello, just as lockdown began and the Llewellyns are continuing to search for Monica's birth father and they are writing a book about the family.

#### Calliebohallie a.k.a. Calziebohalzie

Edgar Anderson (Member No. 1118)

There will not be many members living in our region who recognise the local place-name whose first version above, I encountered in a 1789 birth record, and whose second version is on the current Stirling and the Trossachs 1:50000 O.S. map, (GR724024). It is a farm settlement 6km due north of Doune on the braes of Doune (so no doubt, an FK postcode). It is in Kilmadock parish, Perthshire, but the rain that falls there ends up in the River Teith, below Doune, then in the Forth, so surely Central Scotland. Google can tell me nothing about the name, but I bet some CSFHS member knows or is willing to speculate.

The family history I was researching was ordinary enough, but gives a clear picture of its time and place. I was looking for the birth of a Jean McNie to marry Alexander Fotheringham at Logie about 1818. They had a second child, oldest daughter, christened Jean Fotheringham In 1822, but known as Jane. At the 1851 Census Jane was a servant in the household of Principal Lee of Edinburgh University, in Lady Yester's Parish in the Old Town, but just a year later she married Alexander Aitken, a paper-maker at Dowie's Mill, Cramond, as his second wife.

After Jane herself was widowed in 1865, she moved back to Menstrie and raised as a ward, alongside her own young family, my illegitimate grandfather William Milne born in December that year in Bruntsfield, Edinburgh. William's parents both signed the birth register, and married two years later, thus legitimising him, but oddly did not take him back from Jane. Thus, in due course, I and all my grandparents were raised in East Stirlingshire. Not quite straightforward, but hardly exotic.

In my search for Jean McNie, Jane's mother, there were only two Jeans born at a suitable time, 1789 and 1794, and not only were both births in Kilmadock parish, they were both in the middle of nowhere at Calliebohallie. Their fathers were James and Alexander McNie, who unsurprisingly were brothers while their mothers were both named Deur, later Dewar, Jean and Ann respectively, and they were sisters. The Deurs were raised at the farm settlement Severie 2km west of Callie, on the track which leads in a roundabout way, from Callie to Doune. That two brothers marry two sisters, was not unknown in such empty country – the men could have gone much further and fared much worse, as the common wisdom has it.

These two Jean McNies, cousins twice over, both left Calliebohallie, married, and both ended their lives in Logie Parish, in one case at Bridge of Allan. The other married Alexander Fotheringham, produced Jane and died at Craigmill, also in Logie, but on the opposite, east, side of Abbey Craig.

A hundred years earlier, all the McNie and McNee birth records in Scotland that survive were in or near Balquhidder and Menteith Parishes, but by 1800, fewer than 50% were. Kilmadock parish seems to have become a staging post out of the Highlands, and thereafter, lots of people in their own time, moved further on to the richer farmlands of the Carse, or on to the more industrial central belt even further east. In fact, while the McNies were on my mother's side, Stewarts on my father's side, a century earlier, had also moved east from Kilmadock, down to Culross.

The map shows that there is a vast swathe of empty country, between the river Teith and the Allan Water to the south and the River Knaik! and Glen Artney to the North. There are more than 100 sq.km., not 30km from Stirling, at the furthest, but I doubt if many other than locals ever visit. You can see this emptiness in the satellite picture in Google maps, and when you zoom in with this picture, the overprinted name Calziebohalzie eventually appears.

If you know the view of Stuc a Chroin and Ben Vorlich from any vantage point way down the Forth Valley, on a clear day, Calliebohallie is on the upland moor you see in front of these two mountains.

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### WORD OF WARNING

Sandra Reid (Member No. 369)

You will probably be aware that Microsoft is no longer supporting Internet Explorer. So if you use that as your browser, you may be having difficulty accessing, fully, some of the Family History websites.

Eg. Ancestry has this pop-up message on its website, if you are still using Internet Explorer:

"We've made updates that may impact your experiences. Certain features on Ancestry may have reduced functionality or may not be supported when using Internet Explorer. Check out the Recommended browsers for more information". Note - the words 'Recommended browsers' was highlighted as a link to choose from Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome.

On Scotland's People, you might find that the links in the index to choose to 'view' or 'order a certificate' appear as a continually spinning logo.

## Which 1881 Census Transcription to choose?

Craig Adam (Member No. 802)

There are advantages to using the LDS transcription of the 1881 census on ScotlandsPeople, not least that it is free to view the detail of each entry. However, it is only a transcription and so care must be taken when searching using ancestors' names. For example, my G-G-grandfather James Gourlay and his family living in Grahamston, Falkirk are indexed on the LDS database as 'Gourway'. Interestingly, try as I might and using all sorts of wildcards, I have been unable to find this family in the ScotlandsPeople transcription for 1881 and so cannot access the original census image. Is this an oversight or a really poor transcription of the name? However, searching on the transcription used by FindMyPast, the surname and all other detail is perfectly correct!

Another issue with these versions of this census emerged recently when I was tracking the family of my widowed G-G-grandmother Jane (Lynn) Mullan who had two older children by her late husband Robert Mullan - Jane (b. 1865) and James (b. 1867) – then three further living children by 1881 by unknown fathers – Wilhelmina (b. 1871), John (b. 1874) and Jessie, my G-grandmother (b. 1878). Jane herself is present in all three versions of the 1881 census as a boarding general servant in the household of William Shields, a coke-maker in Binniehill, Slamannan. Interestingly, she is shown as 'married' rather than 'widowed', perhaps in the knowledge that two weeks after the census date she would marry William Spence – or perhaps just an error!

None of her children are included here. Jane and James were of working age by then so may well be found elsewhere. Searching the LDS index failed to find any of the other children. However, the ScotlandsPeople transcription for 1881 shows that both Wilhelmina and John were inmates in the Linlithgow Combination Poorhouse. They are amongst a long list of, mainly child, inmates. Further examination of others on this page revealed that none are found in the LDS version. I can only conclude that when transcribing several pages of poorhouse entries, the transcriber simply overlooked this page so omitting these 25 people from this census index. I have been unable also to find my G-grandmother Jessie, aged 2, in any of these transcriptions of this census. I can only imagine that she was, in fact, living with her mother at Binniehill and either by accident or deliberation was not recorded by the enumerator. Interestingly, the FindMyPast transcription does include both Wilhelmina and John present in the Poorhouse in 1881.

So, do make best use of the free LDS transcription of the 1881 census but, if you fail to find an ancestor there, do try alternative versions and vice versa.

## Bridge of Allan, the Making of the Town 1800 – 1900

By Craig Mair (Dec 2022 meeting)

From a family history point of view, Bridge of Allan was a place that people came to from elsewhere. It would be very unusual to have family from there going back more than four generations.

A bridge over the Allan Water appeared sometime in the 1500s and it began to draw people to this river crossing. The bridge was replaced by the 1700s and then again in 1740 when the military widened the bridge to double its size. This military road was the start of people coming to the area to settle.

The most important thing is the Allan Water itself. There were mills of all types along its banks – meal, grain, woollen, paper, bleaching etc. There were at least a dozen in the area, with several of them close to the bridge. Each of these mills developed its own little community of workers and management living close to their place of work, but the hamlets were very small. One day they would all be part of Bridge of Allan, but initially they remained quite separate places in the 1500s and 1600s.

By the 1820s, maps show a mill lade powering a handful of mills before returning to the river. The Perthshire side of the river was known as Inverallan and there was a small community called Bridgend on the Stirlingshire side. The one remaining mill building from this time was built in 1710 and was the Inverallan meal mill. Inverallan was on the lands of the Stirlings of Keir and consisted of a pub, a brewery, the mill and the houses of the small community. Across the river were the lands of the Westerton estate and its neighbour, the Airthrey estate. The laird of Westerton House had a large part to play in the later development of Bridge of Allan. The Airthrey estate was where the lords of Abercromby lived. They also had a lot to do with the evolution and growth of Bridge of Allan.

Behind Bridge of Allan today there is a bank of wooded hills called the Mine Woods. We can still see the hole, now gated off, which was the entrance to the copper mine, where mining had been taking place for several centuries. The shaft plunges downward, following a seam of copper that was practically vertical and went down to a depth of around 150feet. Mining was sporadic as there was no nearby copper smelting facility and even transporting the copper to the nearest one at Alloa was very difficult due to the bad roads. The mine closed for good in 1807.

A network of tunnels at the bottom of the mine was used to drain the water from the mine down to where Henderson Street is today, with a branch going down to the Allan Water. There are various shafts leading off from these adits, with the most important one being the Well House Shaft. In 1820, Lord Abercromby decided to cash in on the fashionable desire for the perceived health benefits of mineral waters. "Taking the waters" was just beginning to catch on in Britain and was already very popular in Europe.

In one of the tunnels there were places where the water seeped out of the walls and ran down into the tunnel, so he had collecting basins placed at the easiest to access places and then took the water to the main Well House Shaft. There it was brought up to the surface to be sold to visitors. There was still no place called Bridge of Allan, but Lord Abercromby publicised the availability of the mineral waters and people began to arrive wanting to drink it.

From the collecting basins, clay pipes were fitted together leading to a collecting tank at the bottom of the Well House Shaft. There were a series of 14 ladders going up 130 feet to the surface and a pipe where the water was sucked up to the Well House at the top of the shaft. At first, the water was hoisted up by buckets powered by a horse walking round and round winding up the rope. Eventually, it was replaced by a steam pump.

The people who came to drink the mineral water were affluent individuals but there were no places to accommodate these visitors other than the nearby towns of Stirling and Dunblane. A separate building was erected beside the Well House, purely for selling the water. Lord Abercromby had many ideas on how best to make use of the mineral waters. As time went by, the fashion changed from merely drinking the water to wanting to bathe in it. A small bath house was built about a hundred yards away from the Well House Shaft and a tin bath was installed. The water was heated up at the shaft and taken down to the bath in pails.

Meanwhile, the rival Westerton estate was run by Major Henderson, who realised that the people coming to drink the waters needed somewhere to stay. Luckily, between 1809 and 1815 a turnpike road was built at the bridge then ran through his lands to Causewayhead, where it met the road from Stirling. This opened up his land and gave him a spine of road that ran on until it reached the Airthrey estate to the east. The turnpike road allowed side streets to appear and in the late 1830s, Henderson began to build the first of the streets that would eventually become Bridge of Allan on the Westerton estate, such as Allanvale Road, Union Street and Fountain Road.

The oldest houses that still exist in Bridge of Allan date from 1839 and there are two in Union Street and two in Allanvale Road. From the beginning, Henderson decided that he wanted it to attract affluent people and so he insisted that the houses had to have front gardens of 12 feet, no sign of an outside stairway (which was allowed at the back), no sign of an outside dunghill and to be no taller than two storeys plus an attic. He feued out the land and it developed piece by piece. This became the beginning of the town of Bridge of Allan.

On Henderson Street itself, the first building erected was the post office in 1845 and the building is still there today. Beyond it lay the Queen's Hotel, which within a few years had gained a third storey and another hotel appeared across the road in the early 1840s. Although rivals, both local estates were benefitting from the mineral waters trade. Lord Abercromby sold the water and ran the baths and Major

Henderson provided the accommodation. The Royal Hotel was built in 1842 and had to be extended a few years later as demand for accommodation grew.

Major Henderson realised that you also needed to provide visitors with a variety of things to do if you wanted them to stay more than one day. On the corner of Fountain Road and Henderson Street was built a reading room with a hall where people could put on shows, hold religious gatherings, flower shows, pet shows etc. It was built around 1845 and remained until 1902 when it was replaced with the current buildings. Also in 1845 the Westerton Arms pub was built, originally as a hotel and reading room. Sports facilities began to appear. A bowling club was developed at the back of the Westerton Arms and was still in use in 1904 when it moved to a new site.

Gilbert Farie's Dispensing Chemist shop appeared in the 1850s. He did more than just dispense medicines. He was an agent for finding lodgings and ran a mail-order service for everything from lentils to grand pianos. The shop remained in the family until the 1950s and still operates as a pharmacy today. Most importantly, the railway opened in 1848 and gave a huge boost to the plans of the two men. There was a big increase in the number of visitors. The first churches began to appear in the 1840s, as the nearest churches were Logie Kirk (a good three mile walk away) on the Stirling side or Lecropt Church on the Perthshire side.

There were more people living full time in the communities, such as lodging house keepers and a large number of tradesmen and builders. More shops opened up catering for the resident population as well as the visitors and more restaurants and pubs. The first church to open was the Free Church, which also provided a school, before moving to what was Chalmers Church in Henderson Street. What became the parish church was originally built in the 1860s and grew very quickly because of the demand for a Church of Scotland in Bridge of Allan. Directly across the road from it was built the Episcopal Church.

Henderson Street had the shops, lodging houses and places of entertainment and began to provide embellishments to the community, such as the fountain in Fountain Road which was erected in the 1860s. The place began to be called Bridge of Allan on maps from the 1830s. At about the same time, the Wallace Monument was being built and that was another attraction for people to visit. Both Abercromby and Henderson provided scenic walks in the hills and lands around the village and they encouraged the older cottages to change themselves into more picturesque homes by adding thatched roofs and growing roses round the doors to encourage artists to come and sketch in the area.

Due to the high demand, by the 1840s and 1850s the original pump house for selling the mineral waters was too small, so the next Lord Abercromby opened up a better building close by in March 1862 to improve the experience of taking the waters. Once inside the front door, the right hand side was for men and contained a bar and a smoking room where you could drink the water (hot or cold) or you could carry on through to the back where the baths were situated. Ladies went to the left to the powder rooms and sofas and then through to their bathing area.

Not to be outdone, the Westerton land which lay only ten feet from the back of this building soon contained a rival establishment, the Hydro. This was a much bigger place and contained Turkish baths. They were continually dreaming up new ways to encourage people to take the waters by using exotic titles such as Swedish this, Arabic that or Russian the other. At the same time, Lord Abercromby developed much bigger lodging houses than had previously been seen in Bridge of Allan and the big houses began to appear up on the hill. These were rented to affluent visitors for one to two weeks at a time.

Major Henderson's Hydropathic Establishment started off with just Turkish baths but expanded very quickly. He continued to think of new attractions to keep visitors in the area and one of the things he started were the Highland Games. At first they were held on his own estate, but later moved into Pullar Park. As well as the usual sports, they held penny-farthing cycle races and people competing to climb a greasy pole.

The Turkish Baths continued to expand until it became what used to be the Allanwater Hotel. In the Turkish Baths you started in the cold bath, then the hotter part and then the steam rooms where massages were also available. There were separate days for men women and eventually just separate hours each day as their popularity grew. The baths remained popular right up till the 1900s. New fads were incorporated, such as needle baths where you stood upright in the bath and were hit from the sides by jets of cold water. Russian douches were offered as the very latest idea. At the back of the building was a bowling green on Airthrey land while right next to it on Westerton land were croquet lawns and the hotel's vegetable gardens.

A major turning point came in the 1860s when the town was allowed to become a police burgh and that meant that they could have their own town council and charge rates. With the money raised, they provided town improvements such as street lighting, pavements, waste refuse collections and better drains. It also allowed the town to set up its own school and so the Free Church school closed down and the teachers just transferred to the new building provided by the Council. The fire brigade was also established around this time and was made up of local tradesmen on a part-time basis. In the 1880s the tramline was built from Bridge of Allan to Causewayhead, providing another visitor attraction. It took the tram around thirty minutes to get to Stirling, as opposed to six minutes to travel by train.

There was a big growth in the number of cyclists, especially penny-farthing riders, stopping off to visit Bridge of Allan. Local retailers began selling small knick-knacks that could be bought and stowed in a handy pocket. A library and a bookshop also appeared. The Museum Hall started out solely as a museum in the 1850s but was replaced in the 1880s by a building that was much more hall than replacement museum. Concerts and pantomimes were held there and it continued in use up to the 1970s.

A golf club opened in the 1890s and all kinds of other sports clubs were also in operation. There was a cricket team, but after most of the team were killed in

World War I, it was never re-established. Tennis courts were laid out in 1904 and various football teams and curling clubs sprang up.

As the popularity of taking the waters lessened, some of the large lodging houses up the hill began to close but found a new lease of life with the fashion for private schools. Many such schools opened up in the area, the last of which was Beaconhurst School.

The working class people lived in the Inverallan area around the railway station, beside the gas works and the industrial area. For a long time they had very poor accommodation compared to the houses in the town centre. They had earth floors, no running water and no sewage and were still occupied up to the 1930s. The land was owned by the Stirling of Keir family but was not considered as very important to them. In the 1840s the Pullars of Perth bought over the bleaching fields and factory and proved to be considerable benefactors. Bit by bit they bought the working class properties from the Stirlings and demolished them all, replacing them with much better housing between 1890 and 1910. They then built even better houses for the workers on the Stirling side of the river and built a bridge to connect the workers with the factories. The paper mill was still there until the 1940s, though most other mills had disappeared. The two previously separate communities began to combine and became the one town of Bridge of Allan.

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## WANTED FOR THE MAY MEETING

A SHORT 5 MINUTE PRESENTATION ABOUT SOMETHING FASCINATING OR FRUSTRATING IN YOUR RESEARCH

We urgently need members who will be attending the May meeting to volunteer to speak for five minutes. If you have a good story to share with other members at the meeting on 10 May 2023 at 2.00pm in Bridge of Allan Church Hall, please get in touch.

email censcotfhs@gmail.com

## **Always Look for the Original!**

Cathy Greig (Member No. 1209)

I found a transcription of a census record that had a child named Lucy Gair Magitson. Her mother, Mary Gair, wasn't married, so I assumed she had used the father's name as a surname for the baby. I spent a great deal of time researching Magitsons and looking for DNA matches with a Magitson connection. (I even found some!)



However, when I finally bought the original record, I saw that someone had mistranscribed "Illegitimate" as Magitson! It always pays to get the original!!

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## The Highlands: Jacobites, Clearances and Emigration

By Lorna Steele, Highland Archive Centre (January 2023 talk)

These are enduringly popular subjects and people are fascinated by all three of them. They are all emotive subjects that people feel strongly about. All of them have had a long-lasting legacy. They have shaped the image of the Highlands to a large extent, as well as the wider image of Scotland.

## **Jacobites**

In 1660, King James VII of Scotland and II of England married his first wife, Anne Hyde, who was a Protestant. They had two children, Mary and Anne, who were both raised as Protestants. In 1673, having lost his first wife, he married again, this time to a Catholic, Mary of Modena and as a result of this, he converted to Catholicism. At the time, people were not unduly troubled by this. He ascended both the English and Scottish thrones in 1685. Up to this point, the heir presumptive was his daughter Mary, then his daughter Anne, both still Protestants. In 1688, however, James and Mary had a son, James, who was born as a Catholic. This changed the order of succession and meant that the Establishment were worried at the thought of a Catholic heir.

Their main worry was that James would grow up to believe in the doctrine of absolute monarchy, with a diminished role for Parliament. These worries led to what is known as the Glorious Revolution. Parliament invited James's daughter Mary and her Protestant husband William of Orange to return from Holland and take the throne. James fled to France, where he was recognised as the rightful king and William and Mary were crowned as joint monarchs.

Almost immediately after the coronation of William and Mary, Jacobite (from the Latin name for James = Jacobus) risings began across the British Isles. It was not a Scotland / England divide, but purely a religious one which progressively also became a cultural and political divide. The first rising came in 1689, led by John Graham of Claverhouse, who was known as Bonnie Dundee. He led the support for the Jacobite rising in Scotland and those who supported William and Mary became very concerned. The minutes of the Inverness Burgh Council of the time express their worry about "the incursions of the Highlanders who are threatening to fall on the Lowlands". They did not see "Highland" as a geographical thing but as a cultural difference. In July 1689, the Jacobites won the Battle of Killiecrankie but Bonnie Dundee was killed and this was a grave loss to their side. They began to lose battles such as Dunkeld and Cromdale and gradually the rising dissolved.

Between then and the next major rising in 1715, there were a lot of changes in the country. During the 1690s, Scotland invested and lost a huge amount of money trying to establish a trading colony in Darien in Central America. Its

failure left the country with immense debts. In 1701, James VII and II dies and the cause passed to his son James, who became known as the Old Pretender.

Also in 1701 the Act of Settlement was passed and this enshrined in law that the throne could not be passed to a Catholic. After the deaths of William and Mary, the throne passed to Mary's sister Anne. In 1707, the parliaments of Scotland and England united and when Anne died in 1714, the throne passed to her distant cousin, George of Hanover, who was the nearest Protestant heir in line to the throne. Without the Act of Settlement, the throne would have passed to her half-brother James and then to his son, Bonnie Prince Charlie.

As soon as Anne became ill, clan chiefs came out in support on both sides. Not everyone in the Highlands supported the Jacobite cause, although several prominent families did, such as the Camerons, MacDonalds and McKenzies. Some families, such as the Grants, were divided with some of the family supporting each side. Other families supported the Hanoverian side, including the Munros and the Sutherlands. People began to call out their clansmen to be ready to fight and both sides started to issue propaganda. After the collapse of the Battle of Sheriffmuir, near Dunblane, the Jacobite cause of 1715 just ground to a halt. There were repercussions for those who had been involved, including the forfeiture of estates.

The final big rising came in 1745, when Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the standard at Glenfinnan on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1745, fighting in support of his father's claim. The Battle of Culloden was the culmination of this Rising. The armies had fought their way down and up the country and by the time they reached Culloden, the Jacobite army was tired, ill-equipped and ill-suited to fighting on this terrain. They were used to relying heavily on the Highland charge, but the land at Culloden was boggy and unsuitable for their way of fighting. The Hanoverians were rested, well-armed and determined to end the risings once and for all. It was a crushing defeat for the Jacobites and the repercussions were horrendous. The Duke of Cumberland's men rounded up wounded prisoners, stripped them naked and locked them inside a church to die of their wounds. Lands, estates and titles were forfeited, there was widespread persecution of Catholics and numerous Jacobite supporters were exiled or executed.

After Culloden, they put in place a scheme to completely remove, disrupt and dismantle the culture and the infrastructure that might lead to another rising. Although the risings had happened all over Britain, including Cornwall and in Ireland, there was a fear that the existing clan culture and the ability of clan leaders to call out men to fight couls be a breeding ground for future problems. So they banned the carrying of weapons, reduced the power of the clan chiefs substantially and prohibited the wearing of Highland dress. It was incredibly effective. The warrant against Highland dress was overturned in 1782 but by then the Jacobite cause had all but disappeared.

The 1701 Act of Settlement was amended in 2015, which meant that members of the Royal Family could now marry Catholics but it still remains illegal for the monarch of the United Kingdom to be a Catholic.

#### The Clearances

There were several waves of clearances over about a century from around 1760 to about 1860. They came about for several reasons. The highlands often offered a hard and precarious way of life with a difficult landscape and not a lot of money to be made by farming it. The clan system had been crumbling for centuries but things like the Act of Proscription and the result of Culloden sped this up. New landlords were coming in, as estates were forfeited and broken up. These new owners brought with them new ways of running estates and they did not have that long-standing connection to the people or the land.

A lot of the Clearances came about in order to increase the landlord's revenue, initially by increasing the number of sheep and then by farming deer. It was estimated that between 1811 and 1820 there was a 750% increase in the number of sheep in the highlands. At first, the clearances were internal to Scotland. People would be moved within an estate and landlords would often move tenants from one area to another, removing them from areas best suited to supporting animals and moving them to poorer or coastal land. This created new townships and increased rents as the landlords had the power to raise rents at will. This also produced a lot of overcrowding.

Some of the Clearances were peaceful and some tenants thought it gave them new opportunities, but many were brutal. Those carrying out the removals often cut the rafters and burned the thatch so that they could not be re-used. People were not allowed to carry away timbers from their old homes to build new ones.

The name most strongly associated with the Clearances is Patrick Sellar, the factor to the Duke of Sutherland. He was in charge of clearing the estates of Strathnaver and the rest of the Duke of Sutherland's lands. He became famous for his brutality. He was accused of wilful fire-raising, culpable homicide, oppression and injury. This was because he set fire to a house while an old lady was still in it. He did not give her time to get out to safety. He was tried but honourably acquitted, with the judge saying that he was a good and honourable man and that they were sorry to have encroached upon his time. However, he has not gone down in history with that reputation.

People who were moved from the good land to the coast, often found work in the kelp industry working on harvesting seaweed or they learned to become fishermen. In the 1800s however, there was a series of events that meant that this was no longer sustainable. There was a prolonged period of bad winters, crop failures and famines, leading to the collapse of the kelp industry.

## **Emigration**

It is at this point that we see a shift from people being cleared internally within the highlands to people moving voluntarily or being moved to other countries. During the 1850s there were several schemes that were funded by the government to encourage people to emigrate overseas. A main one was the Highland and Islands Emigration Society which was in charge of thousands of people being relocated from the highlands and islands to Australia. In December 1852, hundreds of

people from the Outer Hebrides and also from the Isle of Skye went to Campbeltown where they boarded the "Hercules" bound for Melbourne, Australia. The voyage lasted 98 days and many children died on the voyage. A number of the settlers who went to Philadelphia and Kentucky in America were Scottish highlanders.

Why did people go so far away and suffer these overcrowded journeys? Many went in search of prosperity, looking for a better life and often sending money home to family who had stayed in Scotland.

Lorna supplied us with some useful website addresses:-

https://www.highlifehighland.com/Skye-and-lochalsh-archive-centre/

https://liveargyll.co.uk/facility/archives/

https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/emigration-records

friendsoftheargyllpapers@gmail.com

Lorna has a YouTube channel called Learn With Lorna; a series of short films about the documents in their collections.

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Established 1974

## **Baptism records for Erskine Church, Stirling**

One of our members has started a project to transcribed the baptisms records from 1739 to 1763, and now requires the data to be computerised by typing up the hand transcribed sheets into a spreadsheet. This document will be of value to family historians as it contains over 3500 entries from families living in over 30 parishes.

There are two separated tasks required to complete this project

**First Task** - We are looking for volunteers to enter the hand written transcription into a spreadsheet.

Example of transcription sheet

ast Name	First Name	Parents names	Date	Parish
CHRYSTY V	* JAMES .	JOHN CHRYSTY JAMES STEVENSON	28 607 1736	ST. NINIANS
CHRYSTIE .	* ANNA	JOHN CARYSTIE / JANES STENENSON	15th may 1738	"
OGILVY	* KAT"	JAMES OGILY/CHRIST DOWALDSON.	15 SEPT 1738	Logie
MCNAIR	ANNA	ROBT MENATR/GIRZEL GLAS	13 F AR 1740	STIRLING
ROBERTSON	* James	JAMES ROBERTSON/KAT" LISHMAN.	17 FGS 1736 (6)	DUNBLAIN
h	+ GEORGE		18 JAN 1739 (6)	1,
Compsei	WILLIAM	SAMES CAMPBELL/JANES MITCHELL	28TH MAR 1739	KINCAIRN
ADAM	SEAN	THOMAS ADAM / JANKT ADAM	181 APR. 1739	DENNY
THOMSON	MARGT	JOHN THOMSON / MARG PROVANA.	"	
SMART	- JAMES	THOMAS SMART HAVE LOWRIE		STIRLING
BOWIE	WILLIAM	ROB BOWIE/CHIRST RUSSALL	٠	ST NINIANS
FEREUSON	MARY	Jan Ferenson / Amer Parison	"	51.01.10

**Second task** – Volunteers will be needed to check the spreadsheet data against the original document and add any additional information. To get this project started we need volunteers to complete the first task. Please email censcotfhs@gmail.com if you have questions and to register your interest to help.

# Amazon Smile donations ends

Amazon has now announced the closure of their Amazon Smile Scheme, through which charities received a small percentage of the money spent by those who had chosen the charity as their preferred option. Although the amounts received have been small, the Society is very grateful to everyone who chose us as their preferred charity.

#### **ANCESTRAL EMIGRATION - BUT WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND?**

Tamara Langford (Member No. 1208)

I've only been a member of CSFHS for a short time, but have been interested in family history since my early teens and researching in earnest for two decades. Before the internet and moving to England, I had a couple of notebooks in which I would keep family names, dates and places, point-form notes on stories heard and other bits and pieces of information. After moving here, having a family of my own and yet at the same time being far from loved ones in Canada, including older relations beginning to leave this earthly plain, I knew I wanted to gather as much information as possible for myself and for the future.

In my first notebook I had several names and dates, provided to me by my maternal grandmother. Andrew Hossie, his wife Janet Wilson and seven of their nine children left Denny, Stirlingshire by way of Greenock in 1833. Andrew's single brother, James, also went with them. They would all remain in Canada, but were always very proud of their Scottish heritage. Andrew and Janet are my third great grandparents. Janet was baptised in Comrie, Perth in 1795 to David Wilson and Ann Philps. I have found out she had several siblings and found her parents marriage in 1786 as well as names and dates for siblings on both ScotlandsPeople and FamilySearch. By the time Andrew married Janet in 1818 it mentioned that he, "Andrew Hose, weaver Lonehead & Janet Wilson lawful daughter of David Wilson in Muirhead, gave in their names for proclamation in order to marriage" so I know she was no longer in Comrie. Looking more on the Hossie line, I have found several spellings including his brother James, who dropped the second "s" in Canada due to a family feud or a disagreement.

In several places in Canada, counties would gather together information, not always or necessarily correct, to put into a Biographical Record for the area. I think it was a way to boast or a veritable who's who of that period. Both Hossie brothers (Hossie and Hosie) were mentioned in the Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of Lambton, Ontario, and while both mention coming to Canada together, both stories vary, including James giving a wrong first name for their father. The one thing that is mentioned under James, is that their father (James Hose) died when he was five which would be circa 1800. I'd heard family stories through Andrew's line (of which I am a descendant) that the father died when they were young, but to this day I've not been able to find a death record for him. He, James senior, marries Jean Stark in 1787. From a record from ScotlandsPeople, James McIlehose married Jean Stark both of the parish of Denny. In a record two years later his name was spelled Hose.

It may seem a lot of detail thus far, given the title, but the record of 1789 which I found was for a sister I never knew existed! I'd heard about where the Hossie family were from, and that they were weavers, and the fall out between Andrew's family and his brother James, but not once had anyone in the family mentioned they had a sister, Janet, baptised in January 1789 to James Hose and Jean Stark. The following year there was another record for another baby in

May, but whoever transcribed it miswrote the parent's names as Andrew Hose and Jean Stark. There was no first name given for this baby though. So potentially, two siblings for my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather and potentially relations still in Scotland. I have found a few records for a Janet Hose being married in the area but I don't know if any are my ancestor. I am not sure she or the baby born the year after in 1790 survived, in part, because they were never mentioned in family lore. Both brothers who went to Canada mentioned their father died when they were young but there is no mention of their mother or additional siblings. It isn't the first time I've found extra siblings in my own research but the Hossie's talked about the past, shared stories and even saved a few precious items from "home" (see the photo of the spinning wheel). I have always believed that the people are more precious, so why was there no mention of their sister or even a mention of what became of their mother, Jean Stark Hose? For now, these items remain in my research pile. As well as a death date for James Hose, husband of Jean Stark, these all remain as brick walls. It is my hope that someone reading this may have had similar issues or perhaps knows of the family from the Denny area (or even the Wilson line from Comrie to Muirhead!) or can suggest another place to look for records. While I tend to rely on the internet, I have been fortunate enough to see records in Callendar House in Falkirk before but sadly didn't find any mention of my family in any church records. I've also been up to the National Archives in Edinburgh as well and hope to go again. Any comments, or suggestions would be useful or wonderful as this is only my second attempt at writing about family history.



Spinning wheel, belonging to the Hossie family, brought to Canada from Scotland by Andrew Hossie and his wife, Janet Wilson.



Copy of Andrew Hossie's signature from 1848 Canadian land agreement.

## **Help Wanted**

I am wondering whether any of your members are able to help me. My **Pettigrew** family lived in the grounds of Muiravonside House and Muiravonside Park with the **Stirling** family.

The family were: Archibald Douglas **Pettigrew** Snr. (1802-1887), his wife Elizabeth nee **Chitty** (1802-1867), daughter Sarah (1837-1924), sons Robert (1839-1847), Archibald Douglas Jnr. (1843-1915), daughters Marion (1841-1859) and Charlotte (1845-1920).

Charlotte was my great grandmother.

I have searched their complete family history but what I am looking for are any possible photographs of the family and also details of where some are buried.

All except Sarah were born on the Muiravonside estate.

I know that young Robert is buried in Muiravonside Churchyard and his father is buried with him. I know that Sarah is buried in St Andrews Cemetery in Fife and Charlotte is buried in West Derby Cemetery in Lancashire, England. Archibald Douglas **Pettigrew** Jnr. moved to England with his wife and children and they are buried there, except for the first son, who was killed in action in WWI and buried in France. I am unable to source where Marion and her mother are buried.

The family all lived in the gatehouse on the Muiravonside Estate. The gatehouse no longer exists, although I have a picture of it.

Archibald Douglas **Pettigrew** Snr. worked in and ran the water-powered sawmill on the estate by the river. Sarah worked in Muiravonside House as a nanny/governess for the **Stirling** family. Charlotte was a cook in Muiravonside House.

Do you have any information and/or photographs that may be useful to me, as I am writing the history of the **Pettigrew** family.

I would appreciate anything that you can tell me.

Eunice Bold-Edwards eunice.be@bigpond.com South Australia

## **More Help Wanted**

I am researching my Scottish Stewart ancestors who we believe in Ancient to Medieval times settled in the parish of Callander in an area near the Trossachs. My ancestor, James Stewart, arrived in York, Virginia on 29th June 1716 aboard the prisoner ship "Elizabeth and Anne" as he had taken part in the 1715 uprising. His family records later appear in Chatham County, North Carolina. Through the use of commercial ancestral DNA testing, I have been able to connect him to his Scottish homeland and verify that we are the direct descendants of Robert II, King of Scotland.

In May of 2018, I commissioned Dr Tyrone Bowes (who created the website "Scottish Origenes" www.scottishorigenes.com) to pinpoint my Stewart Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. We are seeking Stewart males from the parish of Callander to participate in a DNA study to confirm the link between the American Stewart genetic homeland and Scottish Stewart genetic homeland. Dr Tyrone Bowes will help interpret the results of the test and prove a conclusive link.

Many of my relations in the United States have already taken this test and it is highly probable that their DNA will match one of the early Stewart lines in Callander. This is because of the Y-chromosome carried by males, which was inherited by their fathers, remaining virtually unchanged in time over hundreds if not thousands of years. When the DNA of two people matches, they are genetically related.

To participate in this project, any male Stewart may request one of several free commercial DNA test kits available. The participant should know his ancestry back to his paternal great-great grandfather. If unknown, applications will still be considered.

This information will be kept confidential and will only be used for genealogy and family history purposes. DNA tests for genealogy are different from the usual DNA tests as they only test markers that point to ancestral information. The person testing is given a barcoded Kit number and not referred to by name.

More information will be provided if selected for the project.

Please send your letter of application to wordhound48@yahoo.com

Please place Callander Scottish Stewart in the subject line.

Thank you

**David Stewart** 

## **Members' Interests**

SURNAME	PARISH	PLACE	COUNTY	COUNTRY	DATE FROM	DATE TO	MEM NO
BROCK	DENNY		STI	SCT	1750	1900	1219
CARRICK	FALKIRK		STI	SCT			1221
COUPAR	DUNIPACE		STI	SCT	1700	1800	1201
COWIE	FALKIRK		STI	SCT	1750	1950	1219
DOUGLAS	DUNIPACE		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1201
JOHNSTON	FALKIRK		STI	SCT	1800	1950	1219
KERR	PENICUIK		MLN	SCT	1780	1830	1211
LAURIE	FALKIRK		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1211
LAURIE	MUIRAVON- SIDE		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1211
LAURIE	POLMONT		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1211
LOWRIE	MUIRAVON- SIDE		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1211
MCEWAN	DUNIPACE		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1201
MCQUEEN	DUNIPACE		STI	SCT	1700	1850	1201
MIRK	FALKIRK	BONNYBRIDGE	STI	SCT			1221
RUSSELL	FALKIRK	BONNYBRIDGE	STI	SCT			1221
RUSSELL		GLASGOW	LNK	SCT			1221
WRIGHT	DUNIPACE		STI	SCT	1700	1900	1201

## Exchange Journals Received: List 64 – Feb 2023

Normally, journals are available for loan along with our library books at our monthly meetings (not available at zoom meetings). Past issues will be held for about two years before being offered to members. Most of the journals are now available in electronic format as e-journals and the intention is to have these available to view on our website. In the meantime, if you wish to request a copy, please contact centscotfhs@gmail.com.

Society	Issue	Format
Caithness FHS	No. 69 Sept 21, No. 71 May 22	e-journal
Dumfries & Galloway FHS	No. 104 Nov 22	Hard copy
Highland FHS	Vol 40 Issue 4 Aug 22, Vol 41 Issue 1 Nov 22	e-journal
Lothians FHS	Winter 2022 (Dec-Feb)	e-journal
North Ayrshire FHS	Autumn 22	Hard copy
Orkney FHS	Issue 103 Autumn 22	Hard copy
Renfrew FHS	Iss 45 Sept 21, Iss 46 Feb 22, Iss 47 Sept 22	e-journal
Shetland FHS	No. 123 Hairst 22, No. 124 Yule 22	e-journal
Tay Valley FHS	121 Feb 22, 122 June 22, 123 Oct 22	e-journal
West Lothian FHS	Issue 59 Nov 22	e-journal
Genealogist Magazine	Vol 34 No. 3 Sept 22, Vol 34 No. 4 Dec 22	Hard copy
The Manchester Genealogist	Vol 58 No. 3 22, Vol 58 No. 4 22	e-journal
Alberta FHS	Vol 4-7 Sept 22, Vol 4-8 Oct 22, Vol 4-9 Nov 22, Vol 4-10 Dec 22, Vol 5-1 Jan 23	e-journal
The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra	Vol 45 No. 2 June 22, Vol 45 No. 3 Sept 22	e-journal
Liverpool Gen Soc	No. 132 Oct 22	Hard copy
Journal of Richmond-Tweed FHS inc Ballina NSW Australia	Iss 153 Sept 22, Iss 154 Dec 22	e-journal
Journal of Shoalhaven FHS inc Australia	Issue 130 Dec 22	e-journal
Journal of the Western Australian Gen Soc	Vol 15 No. 3 Nov 21, Vol 15 No. 4 Mar 22, Vol 15 No. 5 July 22	e-journal
Scottish Interest Group NZSG	Issue 130 Spring 22, Iss 131 Summer 23	e-journal
Family History Society of New Zealand	Apr 22, Aug 22	e-journal

## **Slamannan War Memorials**

Slamannan has a number of memorials recording the people who served in times of war-

<u>Memorial Garden</u> - A memorial garden was created in 2010 to commemorate the following individuals:

**Samuel Frickleton** (Lance Corporal), who won the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the battle of Messines on 7 June 1917. He was born in Slamannan in 1891 and moved to New Zealand in 1913 after his father was offered a job as a miner there. After the war he returned to New Zealand an died in 1971. He is remembered by the date set into the gate to the garden, by descriptive plaques and by a large carved stone Victoria Cross, all beneath the flags of New Zealand, Scotland and the United Kingdom. Included is the government commemorative paving stone



**Alexander Penman 1896-1961** (Corporal), from Slamannan, who was awarded the Military Medal (twice) during WW1.

**John Tristram Silvester** (Sergeant Pilot), was killed on 14 February 1942\*, at the age of 22, when the Spitfire he was flying from RAF Grangemouth crashed near Slamannan. The twisted propeller was excavated from the crash site in 2013. He is also listed on the RAF Grangemouth and 58 Operational Training Unit memorial that was unveiled in 1993.

\*The plaque has the date as 1942, Commonwealth War Grave Commission and his headstone in St. Andrew Churchyard, Ombersley, Worcestershire has a date of 1941.

Further details can be found at -

Imperial War Museum www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/82866 www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/86384

Our Stories Falkirk www.ourstoriesfalkirk.com/story/slamannan-memorial-garden

War Memorial to commemorate First World War (1914-1918), Second World War (1939-1945), Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), Gulf War (1990-1991)

<u>School Roll of Honour 1914</u>
This document details dates, names, where living, regiment etc of 42 men. (Document is held by Falkirk Archives at Callendar House (ref. No.a1100.01).

Additional information and a list of names recorded can be found at -

Imperial War Museum

Memorial Garden - www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/82866 RAF Grangemouth - www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/86384 War Memorial - www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/86382

Falkirk Local History Society (https://falkirklocalhistory.club) Have information on the Memorial Garden, War Memorial and School Roll of Honour 1914.





**Slamannan War Memorial** 

