

CENTRAL
SCOTLAND

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Carriden Church c1950

MEMBERSHIP

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

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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 :

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 2024

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 8th May 2024 at 2pm in the Chalmers Hall, Bridge of Allan Parish Church.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2023 AGM (see page 4)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of office bearers
7. A.O.B.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

We are now well through our new session of talks which have covered a wide variety of topics. We started off at Bridge of Allan Church Hall with our two autumn afternoon meetings on two quite different subjects – *The History of Smith of Maddiston Haulage Contractors* and *Would Rebus have made a good genealogist?* Paul Bruce has made it his retirement project to discover the history of the company for which his father was a driver, and he has certainly done a great job of researching the company. Just like all amateur genealogists, it proved to be quite addictive! Gary Lawrie, an ex-policeman, compared the skills required to do our family history research to that of a policeman solving a crime – just like a jigsaw, trying to put all the pieces of evidence together to come to a satisfactory conclusion. Would Rebus have been good at it? – the jury is out on this!!

It was good to meet up with our far-flung members (and our more local ones) at the winter Zoom talks. We have kept more or less to our usual attendance of an average of 35 people per talk. We heard about ScotlandsPeople records beyond the statutory births, marriages and deaths; we were introduced to the various types of Deeds which could help us expand our knowledge of our ancestors; and we were enthralled to learn of one person's 3 ancestors who were shipwrecked in different parts of the world and survived to tell the tale.

We have two more talks, one on Zoom and another at Bridge of Allan before it is AGM time again! At this last meeting we would welcome a couple of short talks which any members are prepared to give on something fascinating they have discovered about their family during their research. Just get in touch with me via the Society's website, as we will need advance warning, so that the committee can be on standby with something if necessary! The May meeting will also be our closing social and tickets will be on sale at the April meeting.

Looking ahead to our next session, we have a blank page for the syllabus! If you have a topic you feel we have not covered recently, or think should be covered again, please let us know. You may have heard a good speaker in your own area whom we've not heard of – with some of our talks being held on Zoom, it is possible to have speakers from anywhere in the world!

Our monthly advice sessions at St Ninian's Library in Stirling have been slow this year, so we need to look at different way to advertise them. If you know of anyone who is keen to get started, then please tell them about these workshops, and encourage them to book a place by phoning the library on 01786 472069.

My thanks to those members who were involved in transcribing and checking the early baptismal records of Stirling Erskine Church. This project is finished now and pdf copies will be available soon. Watch this space!

The committee is grateful for all the support you, the members, give to this journal, the e-newsletter and the monthly meetings. It gives us confidence that we are doing the right thing! 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

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Help Wanted

My Pettigrew family lived in the grounds of Muiravonside House and Muiravonside Park with the Stirling family. All except Sarah were born on the Muiravonside estate.

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 researched their complete family history but I am looking for any possible photographs of the family and details of where some of them are buried.

I know that young Robert is buried in the Muiravonside churchyard and his father is buried with him. I know that Sarah is buried in the St Andrews (Fife) cemetery and Charlotte is buried in the West Derby Cemetery in Lancashire, England. Archibald Douglas Pettigrew Jnr moved to England with his wife and children and they are buried in England, except for the first son who was KIA in WW1 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.

I would appreciate any information and/or photographs as I am writing the history of the Pettigrew family.

Eunice Bold-Edwards, South Australia

eunice,.be@bigpond.com

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I wonder...

From Moira Love (Member No. 794)

We grew up eating banana and cheese sandwiches, the most filling and healthy sandwich in my mind. The only other person I have come across eating this, said her parents were from Stirlingshire. Is this a local thing?

Minutes of Central Scotland Family History Society Annual General Meeting

held on 10th May 2023 at 2pm at Bridge of Allan Church Hall.

- 1) **Apologies:** Carol Sergeant, Else Fraser, Betty Sutherland, Anne Paterson, John & Marie McCormack, Jean Whyte.
- 2) **Minutes of AGM 2022** previously issued were read and accepted. Adoption of minutes proposed by Peter George seconded by Margaret Turner.
- 3) **Matters arising from the minutes:** nil.
- 4) **Chairman's report:**

This session we tried something different. Since the pandemic we had been holding all our talks and committee meetings on Zoom, which was great, as we were able to meet members from outwith our local area. However, we were conscious that there were also those members who didn't use Zoom, who used to come to our meetings in Stirling. So we tried to keep both camps happy. The first two meetings in the autumn and last two in the spring were held in our new venue at Bridge of Allan Church Hall, while the other 4 winter talks were held on Zoom. We have also experimented with holding the Zoom meetings in the evening when our overseas members are able to attend, and our in-person meetings in the afternoon. We feel this has worked well, so with the members' approval, we hope to follow the same pattern again next session.

Our numbers at the Zoom talks hovered around the mid-30s, with one talk attracting 40 members. At Bridge of Allan we have kept to our pre-pandemic numbers of around the mid-20s. We have had a varied selection of speakers. We've looked at fashion through old photographs, heard about life as a servant, and been enthralled with one lady's story of her search for her birth mother; we've been in the Highlands with the Jacobites and during the Clearances, transported and banished to Australia, heard about the early history of Bridge of Allan and toured the graveyards of Falkirk. This afternoon we have another couple of firsts – two of our members are going to give a short talk about something from their own family story, followed by our social get-together, which pre-pandemic we normally held at the December meeting.

We continue to produce our two journals during the year, plus our monthly e-newsletter, and we thank all those who have contributed to these in any way. My thanks to Elsie and Margaret, who edit the journal, for their perseverance and patience in transcribing and summarising the talks for publication in the journal, so that our members don't miss out on those talks they could not attend. Though we have not added anything new to our publications list this year, we have successfully+ digitised all our existing publications and have made them generally available on our website and through Genfair.

We have encountered some difficulties this year with our workshops for beginners at St Ninians Library, with people booking slots, then not letting the

library know they cannot attend, or just not turning up on the day. As most of our volunteers come from a distance, this has been disappointing. The library held a Love Your Library event in the autumn to celebrate Libraries Week, so we took a table to advertise the Society, our workshops and family history in general.

Finally I would like to thank you all for continuing to support the Society and its small committee. We look forward to seeing you again in the autumn. Enjoy the summer.

Sandra M Reid

Chairperson

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

Due to the savings we undertook last year, in consultation with members, we have a surplus this year of £327.27. This includes a very generous donation to our funds from one member.

Income:- Subscriptions are up as this year is the renewal of the 3-year memberships. Sales of publications, especially downloads, remain steady. Gift Aid has been claimed but had not been received by the year end.

Expenditure:- There has been a slight increase in hall rental costs as we have moved to a larger hall in Bridge of Allan Parish Church. Our membership fee to SAFHS continues to include insurance for our meetings, as well as covering the cost of our Zoom meetings. We had to purchase a new laser presentation remote.

It has been agreed that there is no need to increase subscriptions this year.

Adoption of the report proposed by David Dobbie, seconded by Jenny Crawford

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 Lindsay George, seconded by David Dobbie.

A.O.B: Nil

The History of Smith of Maddiston Haulage Contractors

By Paul Bruce (October meeting)

Today I'm presenting the subject "Smith of Maddiston Remembered". This subject is very close to me and my wife Linda kindly assists with my presentation.

My background

I was born in June 1964 and I'm originally from Stockton-on-Tees, which is in County Durham in the northeast of England. In my working career I worked for 32 years within the plastics industry, where I started in 1980 as an operator with ICI. I completed 27 years service with them and I then moved to a different plastics company in the Scottish borders. I then moved into food and I'd eight years production in food starting my career as operator, working through to supervisor then shift manager and eventually production manager. I ended my career as training and development manager with a food manufacturing company in Aberdeenshire. I retired in 2020 at the start of COVID and I returned to the Scottish borders from Aberdeenshire.

I'm so pleased that there's a number of people who have heard of Smith of Maddiston and I am pleased we have two ex-drivers in the audience today. I wish to make it absolutely clear that I am not related to the Smith family, nor was I an employee of the company. My connection with this company is through my late father, who was a driver for them in the 1960s and 1970s. From a young child into my teenage years, I remember so many trips with my father, sitting in the passenger seat, looking out and learning all about on the road.



This is what started the project and I've actually got that photograph with me right now. This is a photograph of my late father and the photograph was taken in the summer of 1969. It was taken at the Stockton-on-Tees depot. The vehicle in question was a 1967 Guy Invincible with a Cummins 180 horsepower engine in it. The load you can see is a boat and that boat was destined for Grangemouth. The vehicle was not my father's usual vehicle. He had a different one on that day

because his vehicle was in for a service. I was 5 years old and I remember my father arriving. You could hear him and the sound of the vehicle from a mile away from home and what he would do is leave the depot, head for home and collect his case with his belongings in to go on his journey. You could actually feel the windows rattle with the engine noise from that vehicle. He came into the house to collect his case and he said to my mother and myself, "Come outside and meet Sheila." My mother said, "Who on earth is Sheila?" My mother and I went outside and we looked in the passenger seat of the vehicle and there was nobody there. My father pointed at the boat and the boat was called Sheila. He introduced myself and my mother to that boat. My mother was disgusted, went in the house and my father went up to Grangemouth.

Location

If you don't know where Maddiston is, look south of junction four of the M9. North of the junction is Grangemouth with its docks. Maddiston is a small village.

Evolution of haulage vehicles

Haulage vehicles have come on very similar to cars over the years. Guy Motors was a Wolverhampton-based vehicle manufacturer that produced cars, lorries, buses and trolley buses. Sydney Guy founded the company in 1940 and the company later in life came under the umbrella of British Leyland. The Smith of Maddiston fleet included a lot of Guy Big J vehicles which I will talk about later. If we look at a typical 1960s cab of a Guy Big J, there is a manual indicator selector. You had to manually turn it to the right to have the right-hand indicators flashing and manually put it to the neutral position to switch them off, not like cars nowadays when you've got an antenna just in front of the steering wheel that would self-cancel.

On the floor of this Guy Big J there is a little button. People who've had for example a mini in the 1950s or 1960s will remember either the start button or the high beams button was on the floor. The driver would have to use his left foot to put the high beam on using that floor button. We also had a manual gearbox with a manual gear stick and window handles you had to wind up and down. There was no bunk bed behind the seats. If you compare that with vehicles of today, they have an automatic gearbox, cruise control, power steering, radio, TV, fridge, microwave etc. Some vehicles nowadays don't even have wing mirrors. They have a camera on the outside of the vehicle looking back and two monitors inside the cab. Typical route planning in the past would be the map. I saw my father regularly with a map out, looking to see where he was going and route planning nowadays is done using navigational aids such as satnavs.

The Smith family and the business

The business was started by James Smith senior. He was born in 1883 and died in 1956. With his wife Nelly Helen) he had two daughters and two sons. James Smith junior and his brother Alec ended up as directors of Smith of Maddiston. Murray Smith is the son of James Smith Junior and Eleanor is his sister. I have been fortunate to meet them both.

James Smith Jnr was born in 1911 and died in 1994. Alec Smith was born in 1915 and died in 2004. The business started in the 1930s. Times were tough between the wars; money was scarce and jobs were very hard to fill. James Jnr and his brother Alec persuaded their father to buy a second-hand vehicle for £75 pounds (equivalent to £10,000 today) which was a 1928 Morris flatbed. This was to start a coal delivery business in the Stirlingshire area. They had an old shed that they used as the first garage in Maddiston. Business picked up and within two years the fleet was increased to three vehicles. Following on from the 1930s, the fleet expanded as they moved into general haulage rather than just coal delivery. The vehicles had "Smith for Service" on them as that was the motto of the company.

Even at this early stage they thought about trunking. To understand trunking, we need to know that there is a unit which is the cab that the driver drives, plus the trailer and then the load. Trunking is taking a load from point A to point B, having a number of drivers along the way. The brothers realised that delivering a load and not returning with a load is a lost opportunity, so they thought of trunking but it would only come later in time. Trunking can be described as a load transported on a trailer having multiple drivers and articulated vehicles or units used to take the load from its starting position through to its final destination. The load and trailer would be the only constant in that process. For example, a load has to be taken from Inverness down to Southampton in four stages. The first driver would take the trailer and the load from Inverness to Edinburgh. He would drop the trailer and another driver would come along, pick that trailer up and take it to Manchester. He would drop that trailer, another driver would come along, pick that trailer up and take it to Birmingham and the fourth driver would pick that trailer up and take it to his final destination in Southampton. Trunking would play a major part in the success of this company, but more of trunking later.

In the 1940s, the company was growing. Having secured return loads, the business became more efficient and profitable, allowing the company to add their first new vehicle to the fleet. They had 17 existing vehicles which were all bought second-hand. They decided then to purchase the first brand-new vehicle, which is a 1947 ERF flatbed. The 1950s was a period of steady growth for the company. Profits were ploughed back into the business and the brothers set out acquiring vehicles from failing businesses in the area, e.g. D Smith (no relation) of Avonbridge, J & J Keir of Camelon and Smith of Maddiston successfully tendered for the haulage of the finished aluminium from British Aluminium at Falkirk. They won that contract and delivered to towns and cities throughout the UK.

In 1954 the company became a limited liability and changed its name to J & A Smith of Maddiston, J and A being James and Alec. They purchased more vehicles, mainly Leyland vehicles and looked for more opportunities to acquire land and depots to expand the network. They had a working capital of £40,000 and at this point they purchased the building next to the original garage which they eventually turned into an office block.

The 1960s and 1970s was a period of massive growth for the company. The brothers continued to grow the business and eventually it had depots and storage

facilities at strategic points throughout the UK. In 1960 the company purchased the 31-vehicle fleet of H L Walker of Thornaby-on- Tees in the northeast of England, the area that my father was based at. Although the company came under the Smith group, they kept the original H L Walker trade name. The vehicles still said H L Walker on the door, but they were painted in the cream and maroon livery of Smith of Maddiston and used the "Smith for Service" motto. In a two-year period in the early 1960s, they bought a further 130 vehicles from four failing companies.

In 1962 they purchased the 65-vehicle fleet from Alexander Scott with land, depots etc for £1, because they bought that company's debt. The company was in trouble, but Smith's took on the debt and within five years they had turned it round and were making a profit out of that company.

The acquisition of each company meant that the Smith family now had depots in strategic locations throughout the UK. They could now do trunking from as far north as Inverness to Southampton as far east as Hull to Liverpool in the west. They had depots at Greenock, Glasgow, Maddiston, Alloa, Grangemouth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Stockton-on-Tees, Wigan, Manchester, Arksey in Doncaster, Birmingham, Newport in South Wales, St Albans, Rainham in Essex and obviously Southampton. The trunking network was now established and can you imagine the amount of work that there was behind the scenes to manage not only the fleet but the drivers effectively and efficiently, at a time when computers were not used in the industry? It had to run like clockwork to ensure the loads were delivered to the customers on time.

Additional staff included office staff, drivers, mechanics, electricians, paint shop staff, stores staff, canteen workers and cleaners. Multiply it by the number of depots and it was a massive operation. The company now had a large fleet, mainly based around heavier types of lorries with a twenty-tonne carrying capacity. At its peak the company had 350 cab units, 1000 trailers and employed over 1000 drivers. It was commonly known that the oil in the sump of a Smith of Maddiston vehicle didn't cool because they ran them around the clock. The first Guy Big J in the fleet was purchased in 1966. Between 1966 and 1977, the company purchased a further 409 Guy Big Js. There were other vehicles as well, so you can see that the company was a good customer of British Leyland.

At this point Paul had a mini quiz of three questions with three "volunteers" per question guessing e.g. how many tonnes of raw materials of manufactured goods per year on behalf of the 1500 customers were they moving annually in the 1970. Those who guessed closest to the correct answers were very pleased to be given Yorkie bars as prizes!

A new building was erected for the headquarters in Maddiston in 1974 that cost £250,000. At the Kelliebank depot in Alloa they had a huge storage facility, because they had the United Glass contract and they stored a lot of glass in those buildings. They also had the contract for Weir Pumps. At the London Road depot in Glasgow, they had another huge storage facility because they used to store a lot of dog food in that area for Winalot, Spillers and Kennomeat.

Recovery vehicle

The recovery vehicle was one of two 44-tonne vehicles in the Smith Fleet. LMS 290F was a Guy big J and started its working life in the Maddiston depot as a heavy haulage vehicle. It transported the likes of cranes, caterpillars, bulldozers etc. It was quite unique at that time because they purchased a 3-axle vehicle. Although 3-axes are common on the road nowadays, back then in the 1960s it was rare. A Guy Big J with a normal 180 hp Cummins or Gardner engine, would when fully loaded normally return eight miles to the gallon. The 1967 Big J 3-axle had a 14-litre Cummins engine and when fully loaded with 26 tonnes would return an unconfirmed two miles to the gallon. If you're going from Inverness to Southampton which is 582 miles away, that is 291 gallons of diesel costing £2500 pounds.

In 1966 the company change once again from J & A Smith of Maddiston to Smith of Maddiston Limited. At its peak in 1968, with no younger family members wanting to take over the company, it was sold to a South African-based company called United Transport for just over a million pounds which today would be around about £22 million. James and Alec were still directors at the company and continued to trade as Smith of Maddiston under the umbrella of the United Transport Group. However, United Transport saw huge opportunities with the transportation of containers around the world and concentrated their business in that area and so they didn't focus on the Smith of Maddiston brand. They lost key contracts such as ICI Chemicals, Vauxhall Motors, British Aluminium, Boots the Chemist, British Steel, Unipart and Alloa Glass to name a few. This contributed to the demise of the operation and depots then started to close from the late 1970s. The Alloa depot closed around 1979, Newport, Doncaster and Stockton closed in 1982 and the following year saw the closure of Birmingham and Edinburgh depots. In 1984 the former headquarters at Maddiston was transferred to the warehousing facility at Grangemouth and all Southampton traffic was dealt with by subcontractors. The company Smith of Maddiston stopped trading altogether on the 11th of October 1984 after fifty-three years in business. The headquarters building at Maddiston was sold to the Central Scotland Fire Brigade and after they moved out, the building became derelict. That area now has been flattened and is now a housing estate.

Project Smith of Maddiston

My project has been running since the year 2000, so for 23 years I have researched this company. My collection contains over 800 photographs of the fleet, depots and employees as well as items of memorabilia. I believe that I have the largest collection of Smith of Maddiston memorabilia in the world, probably more than the Smith family because I obtained the majority from them. In 2009, at my home in Hawick, I had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Murray Smith and his wife Anne who came for three hours and we spoke a lot about Smith of Maddiston. He invited me to his home in Maddiston a number of times to get as much information as I possibly could. I produced a pictorial album showing the timeline of the company and I have the fleet database that shows the company vehicles from

number one to number 1338 showing registration number, fleet number, make and model, year of manufacture and carrying capacity. This database is 96% complete. I have several models of the fleet on display in my home and I am very fortunate to have my living room that is a shrine of Smith of Maddiston memorabilia. Note that it is painted in the cream and maroon livery of the company. I have permission from Linda to have all that in my living room as long as I dust it!

There is what looks like a picture on the wall of my late father at work, but is it a picture? If you look closely it is a tapestry. My good lady spent two years doing that cross stitch and it took her 2 years and 8000 stitches to complete.

The missing photo hunt

In 1968 when my father joined the company, he had the pleasure of driving a brand-new Guy Big J. This vehicle was allocated to him on day work all over the UK and the vehicle was based at the Stockton-on-Tees depot. It was fleet number TD530 and the registration which I want you to remember is OWG 27G. In my collection of photographs of memorabilia I have 24G, I have 25G, I have 26G, I have 28G and I have 29G. So I was looking out for 27G because my father drove that vehicle for five years.

I visited Maddiston in the early 2000s when snow was on the hills in the background and that's a place very close to my heart. There's something here I want to share with you and this happened very recently. There is a guy called Peter Humphreys and I met him on the 8th of June this year at a caravan site in Newquay, Cornwall. There's an amazing set of circumstances that I want to share with you. My wife and I hooked our caravan behind the car and set off and we travelled 472 miles from Hawick in the Scottish borders to Newquay in Cornwall. I met this guy when I had my barrel at the tap filling it with water. He walked up behind me and said "Have you travelled far?" I said "Yes, I've travelled down from the Scottish borders, 472 miles. It has been a long day." He said "That's a long, long way. My long driving days are over." I wondered if this meant he had been a lorry driver, so I asked the question and he said, "yes, I used to be a lorry driver. I used to work for a company you won't have heard of, a Scottish transport company called Smith of Maddiston." I'm 472 miles from home and I'm meeting a guy who's an ex-employee of the company. Now the company finished in 1984, so there's not that many drivers about. we're fortunate today to be in the company of two but to meet this boy, who was based at Southampton, was amazing.

The connection with Dave Phillips

Living in France, Dave Phillips is an ex-Smith of Maddiston driver that I speak to on a regular basis. I've been in touch for the last 12 years and Dave was based at Southampton, so I asked Peter if he could remember a guy called Dave Phillips. He said, "I remember Dave. I used to work with him at Southampton." I rang Dave up that evening and said "Did you know a guy called Peter Humphreys?" He said, "I've been looking for him for 45 years." I said "Hang on a minute, I'll just go and get him" and I put him on the phone and they had a conversation. Amazing, wasn't it?

Jack and Walter

Walter Pugh (1923 – 1973) was based at Stockton-on-Tees along with my father, Jack Bruce. They were both drivers, they were born in the early 1920s, they had RAF wartime service, they were both professional drivers, they both had sons employed by ICI, were both very good friends and colleagues. My father spoke very highly of Walter Pugh. From 1969 to 1973, my father did the night trunking from Stockton to St Albans my and Walter Pugh did the night trunk from Stockton to Southampton. So my father used to follow Walter to Leicester, which is halfway roughly. They would stop and have a cup of tea at Leicester and then my father would go on to St Albans and Walter went on to Southampton. They would both park the vehicles up, go to sleep, wake up in the afternoon, go back to the depot, check the vehicle over and then head north and they would both meet up at Leicester on the way home and follow each other back to Stockton.

The shocking events of May 1973

On a trip in May 1973, Walter left my father at Leicester. My father got to St Albans and Walter headed to Southampton but he didn't get there. He had a massive heart attack at the wheel on the M3 motorway near Basingstoke. Fortunately he must have felt it coming on and he went on to the hard shoulder and stopped the vehicle. He died at the wheel, just 49 years old and he had a young family. I knew Walter had a son, so with the help of Ancestry online records, Linda started the Pugh family connection tree. I didn't know the name of his son but we found out his name was Philip and we searched to see if we could find it. I actually found him at Yarm-on-Tees in the northeast of England. I rang him and I basically said, "if your father was Walter, he was a good friend of my father's. I'd love to meet up with you, because I have a photograph of your father's vehicle that I want to give to you." We met up and that was a great day. The day that we met, which was the 5th of June, was the day before we started packing to go to Cornwall and meet Peter Humphreys, would have been the day before Walter's 100th birthday. Walter was born 6th of June 1923 and I met Walter's son on the 5th of June 2023.

At that meeting his son said he had some photographs somewhere of Smith's vehicles he would dig out and send them to me. With all my research, I wanted to pass on information to ex-employees of the company and members of the general public who have an interest in this company, because once a company finishes it dies a death. I wanted to keep that flame lit, so I decided to write a book and it went down very well with the general public. They are for sale for £7. I wrote this to preserve and keep the memory alive. It was so successful that people who bought the book wanted more, so I decided to write volume two and it's got a lot of memories from my time with my father as well as a lot of drivers' memories.



I want to thank Central Scotland Family History Society for inviting me along today, the Smith family from Maddiston, various people here, Peter Davis, Frank Love, Richard Stanley, whose copyright transport photographs I have used in the presentation and Malcolm Mortimer for some of these photographs and assistance with the fleet database, numerous ex-employees of the company who have provided me with information and memorabilia and obviously my wife Linda for her patience. My late father obviously gets a mention, to whom I dedicate this presentation and the books I've written as without him I wouldn't have the knowledge or drive to complete the project.

People are curious as to why I have done this project. I lost my father when I was sixteen and I was very close to my father. It was a massive shock to my system and I miss him. I had such a close relationship with him but had he lived longer, I may not have done this because the connection might have drifted away with Smith of Maddiston. Because of that snapshot in time, I've got a lot of good memories and needed to express them. That's why I stand here in front of you.

Breaking news

Paul then showed us a photograph. He told us "this photograph was taken at Stockton-on-Tees depot in May 1972 by Walter Pugh. It was sent to me in July 2023 by Philip Pugh, his son. That is my father at the driving seat of his Guy Big J OWG 27G and the bonus here is that my mother is sat in the Hillman Avenger (also in the photo). She's just dropped him off for work. He's heading towards St Albans. That is a prize and a treasure."

So, you can see it's come full circle. This subject's been very close to my heart for a lot of years now but Project Smith of Maddiston has come to an end. Now is the time to call it complete, especially after finding the missing photo of my father's vehicle. I now need to find a new pastime, as my wife is sick to the back teeth of listening to the words "Smith of Maddiston" for the past 23 years. It's actually become more of an obsession to find more information about the company rather than a hobby. The last slide I have is rather appropriate. It's the first load of polyethylene out of Grangemouth chemical complex, transported by Smith of Maddiston in 1958. I actually worked in an ICI polythene processing plant in Stockton-on-Tees for twenty-five years so it's quite appropriate that that photograph is in my collection and polyethylene is the game that I was in for many years.



Sgt. William Watson of the 90th Regiment of Foot
An Unexpected Side-branch in a Family Tree
By Craig Adam (Member No. 802)

The fact that my 3x great-grandmother, Margaret Burgess, had been married twice did not, at first, particularly interest me. It is not mentioned on either her death certificate in 1875 or on that of her daughter Margaret, my 2x great-grandmother, in 1902 where, in both cases, the informant was her son James Scott Stewart. The source of this information is to be found in James's own death certificate in 1920 where the informant was his sister-in-law, Mary Ann Clow. Here, his parents (my 3x great-grandparents) are given as Charles Stewart, tile maker, (deceased) and Margaret Scott Stewart, formerly Watson, m.s. Burgess (deceased). Examination of the OPR marriage entry from 1809 when Margaret was aged around 20, raised my interest however:

'Falkirk 1809 19th March 4/8 William Watson, soldier 90th regiment and Margaret Burgess in this parish'

It is immediately followed by a similar entry for a William Miller, also a soldier in the 90th regiment who presumably was a friend of William Watson. The full title of this regiment was initially the 90th Perthshire Light Infantry when it was formed in 1794 by Col Thomas Graham, later becoming the 90th Regiment of Foot (Perthshire Volunteers) (Light Infantry) in 1815. The Regimental Registers of Service for this period (on Ancestry) tell us that William joined the 2nd battalion of the 90th regiment in October 1807 at Pevensey, having started his military career with the 'Inverness Fencibles' in 1799 when he was sixteen. This group, which was formed as a defence militia, was disbanded in 1802 and, though William appears to have remained as a soldier, the Register is unclear on his regiment or where he was stationed until 1807. The Register also gives his age, in that year, as 25 years and 90 days and his birthplace as Neilston in Renfrewshire. This enabled confirmation of his baptism on 2nd June 1782, his parents as Daniel Miller and Mary Wright and that he had five siblings born at various places across the borders and central Scotland, with the family ending up in Glasgow for the birth of their last child in 1786.

My initial assumption was that marrying a soldier during the Napoleonic Wars was a risky venture and that William had simply not returned from the battlefield, leaving Margaret available to marry Charles Stewart in 1820. However, more recently, exploration of the newspaper archives on Find My Past and further searching of both the Scottish and English parish records, have revealed a fascinating and unexpected story of Margaret's life over the next ten years or so. Using the newspaper resources and an early history of the regiment ⁽¹⁾, it was possible to track William Watson's military travels and, despite the war in Europe, it appears that his battalion of the 90th Regiment of Foot never left the British Isles over that time.

In fact, the 2nd battalion of the 90th was based in Ireland for the majority of this period, moving around from place to place, attempting to counter any unrest or rebellion following the abolition of the Dublin parliament in 1801. Around the time of his marriage, the local newspapers reported military movements around Irish

towns. In March 1808 the Limerick Gazette tells us that 'the 90th regiment arrived from Fermoy on their way to Bandon' while, in September 1809, the Belfast Chronicle states that 'A letter from Armagh mentions that the 2nd Battalion of the 90th Regiment quartered there have got a route for Dundalk and Newry'. Presumably William was allowed leave during this period that enable him to go back to Scotland and meet and marry Margaret or perhaps he had met her before joining the 90th in 1807.

Initially, my expectation was that Margaret Burgess remained in Falkirk while her husband was away in the army and I had low expectations of many children at this time and this was supported by no OPR birth records being found for the couple in Falkirk or nearby parishes. However, casting the net wider revealed a surprising outcome. In Ayr, in April 1815, the following entry appears:

'WATSON - Daniel lawfull (sic) son of William Sergt 90th regiment and Margt Burges was born 24th and baptized 27th by Mr Cuthill.'

Clearly William is doing well as he has been promoted to sergeant but what are they both doing in Ayr? I suspect the port of Ayr was on route from central Scotland to Ireland and, indeed, there was a military barracks built on the south side of Ayr harbour in 1795. The second conclusion is that Margaret had been accepted as a military wife for at least some of this time, permitted to travel with her husband and the regiment, and that while stopping at the Ayr barracks she had given birth to Daniel. Although the army did not accept this practice for all married soldiers, some wives did accompany the men but were expected to work in support of the domestic life at camps. Later evidence supports this conclusion.

Although far from an active war zone, life was not without incident in Ireland at this time. The Dublin Evening Post of 15th November 1810 reports on an incident between the regiment, based at that time in Enniskillen, and some local people in nearby Tempo, County Fermanagh:

'Extract of a letter from Enniskillen, November 14th

This morning an unfortunate affray took place at or near Tempoe (sic), co. Fermanagh. Mr Woods a revenue officer and a party of the military went out to seize an unlicenced still. The distillers who were yeomen, resisted; several shots were fired at the military, one of which proved fatal to a corporal of the 90th regiment who was shot through the heart and instantly expired; he was a fine young man and a great favourite in the regiment. He has left a wife and four children. Woods had a horse shot under him – so much for the loyalty of the county Fermanagh orangemen!!!'

Later reports identify the deceased as Corporal William Henderson of the 90th regiment. By 1817 the regiment had left Ireland for Plymouth as several newspapers reported on a duel on the 8th March between two officers of the 90th regiment, lieutenants Hinds and Conroy, at Plympton, resulting in the death of the former. In the following year the Army Burials and Baptisms index includes this baptism entry:

'Watson William, Plymouth 1818 90th regiment vol 1256 page 7'

From Plymouth the regiment moved to Brighton in Dec 1818 where the burial registers of St Nicholas of Myra Church, entry 1202, for 1819 reveal that, on the 10th April, William Watson, aged 1 year, was buried, with his abode being given as

'Regimental barracks in Church Street'. This strongly suggests that the birth in Plymouth the previous year was, in fact, a son to William and Margaret. Other than Daniel and William no other baptism records for children have been found to date; given that for much of this time they were in Ireland, where such records of this period are almost non-existent, that is not unexpected.

However, the St Nicholas burial records for later in that year include that of another William Watson; entry 1298 states that William Watson aged 35 years of the regimental barracks in Church Street was buried on 1st July. The tragic circumstances leading to William's death and its aftermath were described, in great detail, across many newspapers throughout the summer of 1819.

Private Edward Broadbent had joined the 90th regiment in 1806 aged sixteen and by 1819 had a record of addiction to drink. Under its influence he became violent and quarrelsome leading to failure to carry out his military duties responsibly. He had been imprisoned in barracks for such an offence in late June 1819. However, he returned to a public house in the evening and the following morning, 29th June, was confined to the guardhouse by Sergeant Watson for being absent on duty. Later that day, Watson released Broadbent who was heard, by his comrades, cursing the sergeant and promising revenge, saying, according to the Saint James Chronicle of 14th August:

'If I go to the evening parade this evening it shall be worse for Serjeant Watson.'

Prior to the evening parade, Broadbent was seen by a comrade to prime his musket with powder. This soldier snatched the weapon from Broadbent and shook out the powder which angered Broadbent who said that, as it was his musket, he could do what he liked with it. No-one recalled Broadbent re-loading the gun after this incident. A little later when Sergeant Watson was standing in front of and facing a group of soldiers who were lining up for the parade, Broadbent appeared from the guardhouse and approached within a few yards of the Sergeant. As Watson turned round, Broadbent raised his musket to his shoulder and fired it at Watson:

'.. who was observed to instantly fall upon his right knee and then backwards to the ground – Several of the men hastened to the assistance of the wounded man who was only heard to utter "My God, my God, I am shot" when he became totally insensible and died in about half an hour later.'
Manchester Mercury 13th July 1819

An inquest was held on 30th June at the Brewer's Arm(s) Inn. Military witnesses gave accounts of what they had seen and the surgeon of the regiment confirmed that death was due to the gun-shot wound received by Watson. A verdict of wilful murder was recorded by the Coroner, G. Gwynne, against Broadbent who was being held in County Gaol at Horsham.

The funeral and burial of William Watson, with military honours, at St Nicholas of Myra Parish Church in Brighton, was held the following day. The newspaper accounts tell us that:

'The procession from the barracks to the church was impressively solemn, the band played the *Dead March in Saul*, the whole of the 90th here attended, including the officers, the latter wearing crape on their arms, and the

following crowd was very great. The deceased has left a widow who is pregnant, and two children, to mourn his premature loss.'
New Times London 3rd July 1819

Some other reports say that he left three children, rather than two. so that point is not wholly clear. A few reports include some complimentary comments on Watson's recent career. It appears that his regiment was involved in providing the guard to the Prince Regent, shortly to become George IV, when he was staying at Brighton Pavilion earlier that year:

'Serjeant Watson, the deceased, was a good soldier, active and exemplary in the discharge of his duties. When the Regent was last here he was, from his intelligence and punctuality appointed orderly Serjeant at the Pavilion and was a great favourite of Sir B. Bloomfield at whose request he was made Colour Serjeant - His remains were interred with military honours on Thursday morning. The whole regiment, or rather the division of it which is here, attended, the officers closing the rear - and we never saw a funeral conducted with more solemnity.'
Weekly Dispatch 4th July 1819

Sir Benjamin Bloomfield was at that time private secretary to the Prince Regent.

Broadbent's trial took place at the Sussex Assizes at Lewes on 11th August to a crowded court and, again, this event was widely reported in the newspapers. Despite the judge, Mr Justice Park, advising him to plead not guilty, Broadbent insisted that he was guilty and that he expected no mercy. Evidence was taken from several soldiers who had been in the barracks at the time and who confirmed the circumstances of the shooting. Corporal James McCabe who took Broadbent into custody immediately afterwards, stated that, on his way to the guardroom, he had said to the prisoner:

"Are you not a terrible man for doing such a thing as this?" The prisoner replied, "I am not, for the sergeant was always tyrannizing over me and I was determined he should not do it any more."
Northampton Mercury 21 August 1819

Following the judge's summary that there could be little doubt on the outcome of the case, the jury immediately found the defendant guilty and the judge then passed the sentence of death on him.

'His Lordship pronounced the dreadful sentence and ordered the wretched culprit for execution on Friday morning and that his body should be delivered over to the surgeons to be anatomized.'
Northampton Mercury 21st August 1819

The execution which took place at Horsham two days later, appears, from the newspaper reports, to have been an amateurish affair. Broadbent was taken in a cart to a tree in the town and a rope fixed there. As the noose had not been properly formed and the cart driver did not respond correctly to the orders of the gaol-keeper, Mr Smart, who was in charge of proceedings, it took some time for the whole process to be completed, thus ending the whole sorry affair. Capital punishment, far less public execution, seems so far from us in the present day that the final comment in one report is surprising and shocking:

'The concourse of spectators upon the melancholy occasion was unusually small, in number not more than 100, consisting chiefly of boys and girls.'
Northampton Mercury 21st August 1819

The next time we meet William's widow, Margaret Burgess, is in the following year when her marriage to Charles Stewart appears in the Falkirk OPR. However, this entry in fact records that Falkirk parish recognised in September 1830 that Charles and Margaret had undergone an irregular marriage in Glasgow on 8th April 1820. My 2x great-grandmother, Margaret Stewart, was baptised in Falkirk on 7th January 1821 having been born on 25th December the previous year. The circumstances leading to Margaret Burgess being in Glasgow, rather than in her home town in 1820, are unknown. Charles was born in Grandtully, Perthshire and appears to have moved south to pursue work as a brick and tile maker; perhaps initially in Glasgow prior to moving to Falkirk with his new wife. The number of children Margaret took with her to Scotland at this time is also uncertain. If she was indeed pregnant at the time of her husband's murder, then no trace of a live birth and baptism has been found. The death of a Daniel Watson in Falkirk in 1834 may be that of her son but that is only one possibility. Nevertheless, after her eventful and tragic first marriage, Margaret seems to have settled into almost 50 years of relative prosperity with her second husband, followed by six years of widowhood before her death, aged around 85, in 1875.

- (1) Records of the 90th Regiment Perthshire Light Infantry, Alex M Delavoye, London 1880; available at:
<https://electricScotland.com/history/scotreg/recordsOf90threg00delarich.pdf>

INTERESTING DISCOVERY

by Sandra Reid

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!!!

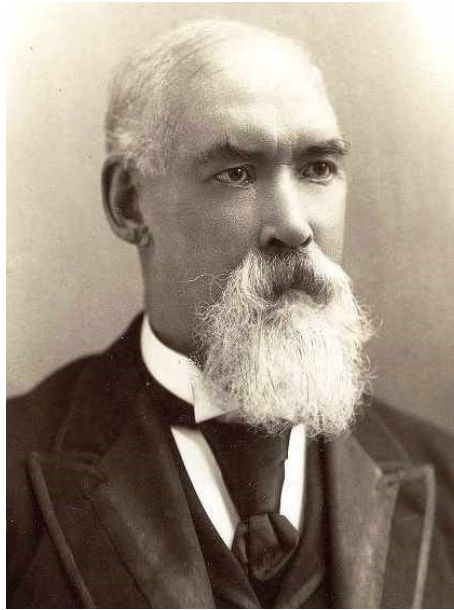
I was pretty sure that the death certificate I had found for him was correct, as the date of birth and place of residence were what I already had. As he had died in hospital, the certificate was signed by a Medical Records Officer. However his surname was spelt wrongly, his middle name was missing, as 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 Sharps of Clackmannan

By Laura Goodman



John Sharp (1820-1891), the first person from the Clackmannan area in central Scotland to be baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was my 4th great grandfather. He became the first president of the Clackmannan branch/congregation, and in turn he baptised over 100 people of his family and friends. Here is his story.

John Sharp was born 9 November 1820 in Devon Iron Works. His family were colliers and John first entered the coal mines at the age of eight. He was still working in the coal mines when he heard the Latter Day Saint gospel, brought to his quarter by William Gibson, one of the first Scottish missionary Elders sent out to preach in Scotland.

John Sharp was the first of his family to embrace this new faith. He was baptised 2 May 1847 and served for a short time as the president of the Clackmannan branch. According to the Clackmannan LDS Branch Record, he performed 105 baptisms in the twelve months from 12 September 1847 to 13 September 1848. He baptised his sister Catherine Sharp Wilson, then a widow, on 7 February 1848. His older sister, Helen, and her husband Adam Fife were baptised on 13 September 1848. He baptised Janet Cook on 27 August 1847 and the next day she married Adam Sharp, John's brother, in the Clackmannan parish church.

Although the great majority of those who joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were the lowly-esteemed colliers, the anger of the Clackmannan clergy was stirred and mob action aroused. Howard Sharp Bennion, a grandson of Adam Sharp, visited the Parish Clerk of Clackmannan, Mr James Alan Hunter, in 1919 – more than sixty years after the LDS missionaries arrived. Mr Hunter said *"This is the very house where the Mormons were holding a meeting when the mob came and rapped on the door and demanded entrance. My grandfather held*

them talking while the Mormons slid out the window and through the garden and went back through the fields to Sauchie." This house is located across the street from the parish church.

In 1848 the spirit of '*gathering to Zion*' – leaving to join the main body of the church in America - took hold of the Sharps. Perhaps the anti-Mormon sentiment of the locals strengthened a resolve to emigrate. Entries and notations in the Clackmannan branch membership record indicate that a band of 63 members plus their children left Sauchie under the leadership of John Sharp, bound for Glasgow on their way to the Salt Lake Valley. Ship records indicate the Clackmannan group boarded the *Erin's Queen* on 7 September 1848 from Liverpool to New Orleans, USA. The notation "emigrated September 1848" is written after the membership record of 9 Sharps, 8 Patersons, 7 Hunters, 5 Wilsons, 3 Condie and others. The Sharps were John and his wife Jane (nee Patterson), with their young children John (born 1841), James (born 1843) and Margaret (born 1847); a baby, Adam, had been born in 1849, but died in 1850. John's father (also named John) and mother, Mary (nee Hunter), his brothers Adam and Joseph, and Adam's wife Janet were also with them.

In Utah, John Sharp became an influential business leader and remained an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, serving as a bishop (local minister) in Salt Lake City for 30 years. On 23 December 1891, John Sharp died of complications caused by the 'flu. His funeral was attended by the leaders of both the Mormon and non-Mormon communities. His wife Jane had died in 1882; they are buried side by side in the Salt Lake City cemetery.



John Sharp, of humble Scottish coal mining stock, had realised the elusive "great American dream" and had become a self-made man. He truly was one of the first cosmopolitan 'Mormons'. He was a man of pronounced character, possessed of a very common-sense type of mind.

Would Rebus have made a good genealogist? Applying police skills to family history

By Gary Lawrie, Heart of Scotland Ancestry (November meeting)

I was very keen to examine the skills that a police officer had and look at how transferable they are to the job of genealogist. You may be able to pick up some hints and tips on the types of things you can do to avoid the mistakes that people sometimes make in genealogical research.

My career and family history

I joined the police at the age of 17 and served 20 years in Central Scotland police, eventually retiring after 30 years in the job. When the time came to retire, I decided I wanted to try something different and set about becoming a professional genealogist. I did two courses through the University of Strathclyde, first the Certificate, then the Diploma in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies. I learned a huge amount about how to do your research properly and how you should record your evidence and your information. One of the things you had to do for the Diploma was to do a project and produce an essay. I looked at the names of fallen soldiers who are on the memorial at Randolphfield, the police headquarters where I had worked for a lot of my service. I did it very much as an academic study and I'm hoping to tidy it up and produce it in fuller fashion. There are some quite incredible stories. The number of officers involved and the rate of losses of former police officers who were called up in the First World War was actually quite high, as a lot of them found themselves officers and NCOs as they already had a degree of discipline. After I had qualified in 2016 and finished in the police, I founded Heart of Scotland Ancestry.

My own family history is that my dad's side of the family were all from Aberdeenshire, north-east Scotland, Kincardineshire and Buchan. My mum's side are all Stirlingshire, specifically Falkirk and Lanarkshire. I found I have a historical ancestral connection to policing and in particular, my 3 times great-grandfather was a guy called John Stewart. He was from Fergie in Aberdeenshire and in 1841 he briefly was a police officer in the Edinburgh City Police. His brother William Stewart was an Inspector with the City of Glasgow Police and that is one area I do need to research. I know the records on policing in the Glasgow Archives are really good. However, as we all know, you can't pick your ancestors and sometimes other ancestors have a different experience of the police. My two times great-grandfather, a guy called John Lawrie, was a quarry worker in Kintore and Kemnay in Aberdeenshire, which is a famous area for granite work. I found an article in the "Press and Journal" about his aggravated assault on a police officer, a breach of the peace and obstruction of duty.

Even more recently, my dad was in the police as well and so I just moved into the family business, so to speak. My dad joined Stirling & Clackmannan Police as it was in 1960. Our life was very much spent moving around in the tied police housing that existed at the time. Between 1967 when I was born and 1975, I was in five separate police houses. By the time I went to Killin, I was in Primary 3 and

had been in 3 or 4 schools by that time. In 1975, dad was promoted to sergeant and he moved from Kilsyth up to Killin. Killin taught me a lot about the importance of a police officer and a police officer's role in the community. It was a very, very supportive and a caring community. Mum had a very unique role. The police station was right next to the main street in Killin. She was the only way in which my dad could communicate with headquarters as radios weren't as advanced as they are these days. My dad would be up in Glenlochry at an incident and the only way he could communicate back to Randolphfield would be by a small hand-held radio to my mum sitting in the house and she would have to then pick up the phone and speak to headquarters to say he needs this and that. She didn't get paid anything for doing that. You just accepted that it was part of the job.

We also had a big family role in the Boys Brigade and Sunday School and you became very much part of that community. What I learned from that and took into my own service in the police was the importance of police officers being part of the community. The police get a lot of flack at the moment in the media. A lot of it is deserved, but some of it is that they are only a reflection of society in a community. You need to work to gain the confidence of communities, you can't take it for granted. I joined in 1986, served across the Central Scotland Police area in various roles and eventually, in 2010, became the Superintendent in Falkirk, then when Central Scotland Police became Forth Valley Division, I was responsible for the operational policing for the whole of the Forth Valley and finally in May 2016 I left the police and set up Heart of Scotland Ancestry.

People often talk about doing genealogy as like being a detective, tracing your ancestors, finding and uncovering clues and the use of evidence to trace your ancestors, looking at what proof you have that that is your ancestor and how reliable are the sources that you are using. These are all skills we use in policing and in genealogy. I will talk a little bit about the values that relate to both policing and genealogy and then speak a little about evidence, which is a really important area of work, particularly given the preponderance for online family trees. I'm sure you will have heard plenty people going on about how they can be really useful, but they can be a big risk. We have to be very careful about how much we rely on them.

We will look at the skills a police officer should have and that a genealogist should have. We'll look at how you communicate with people to get the best information from them, how you deal with paperwork, dealing with sensitive information. A little bit of cynicism or thinking critically is an important skill as well, and demonstrating honesty and integrity and then a little about the investigating skills and managing evidence. I will share a flow chart that shows how you can prove you have covered the bases.

Communication

First of all, we will talk about communication. From a police point of view, you need to be able to communicate with an audience. One minute you may well be speaking to the local ned and you need to speak to that person in a certain way to deal with them and then the next time you might be speaking to a witness. If you

Speak to them the same way you spoke to the first person, you are not going to get very far. Unfortunately, some police officers have learned the hard way about how you have to adapt. This is the same for genealogy. We may be speaking to other family members who might have information and you need to speak to them and reach out to them, particularly older family members, in a certain way to make sure you get the best information from them.

It is the same if you are online and you are speaking to somebody. Generally, the genealogical community is quite good online, unlike some others you might see on social media. If you want to get the best from people you need to be able to communicate in a proper and an appropriate way. Anybody who has done DNA research knows that there is a big debate about the best way to approach somebody if you find they are a match.

Paperwork

Dealing with paperwork is important. In policing, one of the things that will trip up any police officer is if they don't manage their paperwork properly and it is exactly the same for those of us who do family history. I do a course every January at Forth Valley College on family roots and I do a session on how to organise your folders etc because you need to get the system right at the start. It has to be a system that suits you. Some people like lots of paper, some like electronic only and some like a mixture. Whatever your system is, you need to make sure that you prioritise your paperwork because if you just suddenly go away and head down a rabbit hole when you've done research and you've forgotten to record properly what you had first discovered, you end up repeating the same research over and over again a few years later. So properly managing your paperwork is absolutely critical. Prioritising your actions and how you record what you have found from your research in the same way as a police officer should record any investigations or enquiries that they are carrying out, is also very important.

How you deal with information is important, as it can be a very sensitive issue. As a police officer it is very much part of your day-to-day business. You are having to deal with some horrible situations throughout your service and you have to deal with people in a very sensitive way. You have a job to do and you have a bureaucracy to fulfil but you have to do it in a way that is humane to that person.

Sensitivity

From a professional and amateur genealogy basis, you will also be speaking to people as well about family members who may have recently died or are within their own personal recollections. It may be their grandmother who died thirty years ago, but it might still be a source of great pain to people. It is important to protect the information you put online for people who are still alive. It is an absolutely critical issue. You shouldn't be publishing information about people who are still alive from a data protection and a privacy side. It is the same way that a police officer deals sensitively with a person who is dealing with different incidents. As a genealogist you have to be aware of other people's views and the responsibilities that come with it.

Honesty and integrity

Every job has one or two bad apples, but the reality of the situation is that one of the things that is really important is that one must think critically. We need to be able to challenge information you may find about family history that just doesn't make sense. I'm sure everyone here must have looked online, found a tree and found the most ridiculous information on your ancestors on it.

I have one where I know for a fact that one of my main family lines is up in Keith in Banffshire and they were quite a landed family, a well-known family and I know the guy died as a church minister in 1743. I've got his will; I've got his wife's details and how she lived on as a widow for a further 20 years. Somebody, somewhere, I think in the States, has found the name Magdalene Stewart, which is the name of the widow and has attached her to some guy who was a colonel in the army from Berwickshire who went to Ireland and then eventually went across to America. There must be around 150 people who have just copied that one after the other. I had gone onto Family Search and I've challenged it repeatedly but people will not look at changing it.

You have to be able to challenge people, especially if you are communicating about your family tree and you have the evidence to show that your line is right and their line is not. You should have the honesty and integrity to be able to challenge them in a constructive way. I have had incidences when I have had people approach me as a professional genealogist. One was a guy that wanted me to trace the family tree of a national athlete whose daughter he had run alongside in the Commonwealth Games. She is still alive and still a young woman and I refused from an integrity point of view as there was nothing to show that she wanted her family tree looked at.

Evidence and proof

I have included a copy of a useful flowchart (see page ??) to help you confirm the validity of your information. You don't need to do this for everything, but it is useful if you are unsure whether or not you have covered all the information. The flowchart was created by a well-known genealogist called Elizabeth Shown Mills from America. It is called Evidence Explained. One of the first things you start off with when you are looking at evidence, in the same way as a police officer would look at it, is the research question or what is it you are trying to achieve? So, if you were the police officer, you learn it is important not to take things at face value. A police officer, even faced with someone who is admitting to having committed a crime, would still need to investigate it and would be expected to find enough evidence to back up the confession. In the same way for ourselves as genealogists, we should have a research question and even if you find a family tree online with a father's name for someone, do you just say "oh that's fine, there's a family tree" or do you actually do the research yourself? Do you question it and try to make sure you have the evidence? That is what you should do.

The first part of any investigation in terms of genealogy, is about sources. You will have heard the term often in genealogy. Basically, it is where are you going to get

your information from? What evidence proves that this is your family tree line? On the policing side of things, the kind of sources that detectives will use when they are looking at a crime is e.g. witnesses. They will go door to door, they will use covert sources, CCTV, fingerprints and forensics. They would look at the background of the source, was the data right? What was the quality of the information? Who is the witness that is giving us the information? Sources from a genealogist point of view are exactly the same. The kind of things we might use as sources include documents, records, interviews with relatives, the online databases such as Ancestry or FindMyPast. What you should also be doing at the same time is to ask yourself what is the background of this source, who obtained the information. People talk about family bibles, especially in America, but you need to question how the information was created. Did someone sit down 30 years ago and write it all down or was it written down generation by generation?

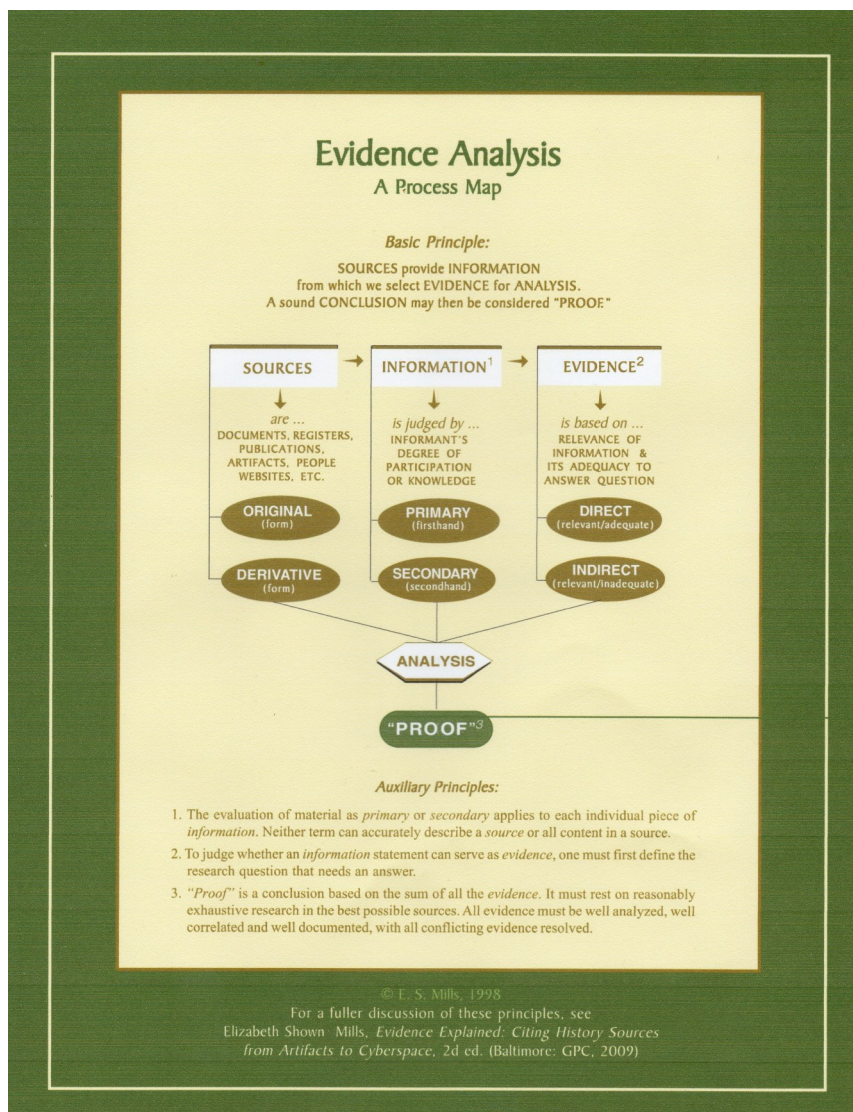
Of course, when you come to things like census records, that is even more complicated. A census record is simply a transcription by the enumerator and therefore it is not the original document, apart from some of the England and Wales ones. In Scotland, we are seeing a document that has been transcribed by somebody else.

One you have your sources, you then take those sources and extract the information that you are looking for. From a police point of view, you would be looking at witnesses. What did they see? How reliable is that information from the source? As a genealogist, we too have our sources. We have ScotlandsPeople records, we have online databases, we have all sorts of online records. We need to be asking what information is being provided, who is providing the information? If you think about something like a death record or a marriage record, just think about how many pieces of information you get from a ScotlandsPeople marriage record. You get the town where they were married, the location of the church, the date they were married, their names, occupations, their ages, names and occupations of the fathers and mothers on both sides of the family, the places of residence, details of witnesses, and who performed the marriage. You also have to question the information. The most obvious one, of course, is death records. Marriage records are probably more reliable as the person is actually present to give the information. There might be a reason why they have given dodgy information, but generally both people are adults giving information about their parents. When you get to the death of someone in their 80s and you look at who the informant is and it could say grand-nephew. The obvious question you should be asking is how reliable is that information? Was this a family who sat down and told the family who their parents were, where they came from, who the ancestors were, their occupations etc or is this just someone taking a guess on what they believe is the correct information?

Once you have identified your sources, interviewed your witnesses, examined your documents and extracted all the little bits of information from them, at some point in time you have to sit down and ask your question about what evidence you have in front of you. The evidence might prove or it might disprove what you were

expecting. From a police point of view, they examine all the evidence, then have to make a judgement call on if there is sufficient evidence to put a report to the Procurator Fiscal for this to go to trial. Is there enough corroborative evidence? As genealogists we don't have such a strict set of rules. You should look for more than one source of evidence to be absolutely sure you have the right family line. The further away we get, the more difficult it is for us to get that evidence. Sometimes we have to word it in a way that says the evidence indicates that it is likely that this is the ancestor. The big risk with online trees is that people don't do this. They don't look at the evidence. They don't weigh up the evidence. They don't look at others with the same name and ask how many other candidates are there for being that ancestor? Can the others be ruled out? You look at death records, and rule out as many as you can. Eventually you may end up with the one that can possibly be that ancestor.

One way of doing that is presenting an evidenced case (especially for brick walls). It is a good exercise for clarifying what evidence you've got. Write out a proof statement, showing the evidence you've got, good and bad. You set out what you have been able to disprove and is there an overarching conclusion you can reach. When the police reach the end of an investigation, they present all the evidence to the Procurator Fiscal and set out your conclusion. Doing all this should leave you with sound information on your family tree.



Additions to our Archive (PD105) held by Stirling Archives

We have received 2 new books for our archive.

1. Donation from Larry Hafey (Australia)

THEY MADE ME!

Family names in the book



Heafey West Griffin Vidler
Blair Jarrett Edwards
Carey Wilebore King
Sneddon Blaney Falvey
Kemp Kennard Larkin
Snook Shears Lenaghan
Vandipere Boxsell Souter
Brennan Paterson Hunter
Marshall Barnes Puxted
Cogger Dacombe Holburn
Jarrett Puttock Elliott
East Jarrett
and others.

Heafey West Griffin Vidler
Blair Jarrett Edwards
Carey Wilebore King
Sneddon Blaney Falvey
Kemp Kennard Larkin
Snook Shears Lenaghan
Vandipere Boxsell Souter
Brennan Paterson Hunter
Marshall Barnes Puxted
Cogger Dacombe Holburn
Jarrett Puttock Elliott
East Jarrett
and others.

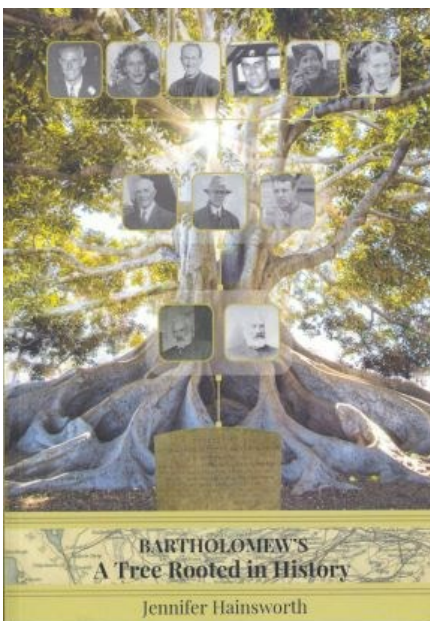


LARRY HAFEY



The book (228 pages, A4) deals with the family history of members of some 35 families, a number of which have a direct connection with Clackmannanshire and others with Perth and Fife. Clackmannanshire families included are Snadan (Sneddon), Hunter, Paterson, McAlpie and Williamson, and they came from Alloa, Clackmannan, Sunnyside and Carse Bridge. The families of Blair, Wilson Crysedale, Curror, Hutchison and Peddie came from Tulliallan, Low Torry and Dunfermline.

2. Donation from Jennifer Hainsworth (New Zealand)



Jennifer has donated a copy of her book "BARTHOLOMEW'S A Tree Rooted In History" (A5 size, 205 pages). This covers her research going back to Bartholomews from Muiravonside.

Jennifer would like to get in touch with anyone researching this family name.

ScotlandsPeople: Beyond births, marriages and death records

Jessica Evershed, Outreach & Learning Archivist, National Records of Scotland
(Dec talk)

This talk will give you a brief introduction to records you can access on ScotlandsPeople outside those vital events records such as births, marriages and deaths. I will talk you through record sets recently added to the website such as Kirk Session minute books, prison records, lightkeepers' registers and Land Army and Timber Corps records. I'll explain a little about what information you can find in those records and also profile some of the individuals that feature in the records and how I've used other ScotlandsPeople records to learn a little bit more about their lives. The ScotlandsPeople site is maintained by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) which is a non-ministerial department of the Scottish Government. Our purpose is to collect, preserve and produce information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations. The website is the official Scottish Government site for searching government records and its archives. Apart from the statutory registers of births, marriages and deaths which began in 1855 the NRS have taken the opportunity to upload different record collections to the ScotlandsPeople website in the interests of increasing engagement with our collections and making them accessible to people around the world. These records can also help flesh out family trees and help detailed research into local or social history.

Before you can search on ScotlandsPeople, you need to log in or create an account. You don't need to pay anything to do this, but you will if you want to view, download or save the records. To register for a new account, you can click on the green button on the home page on the top right-hand corner and then you would complete this form with your details to register for an account. Usually, you can search records on the site by a person's name or a place, however on ScotlandsPeople, you can also search records not indexed by personal name. These are most notably the church court or Kirk Session Records using our Virtual Volumes application. You can navigate to this page by clicking on the "search for kirk session and other court records" block on the home page. In our Virtual Volumes there are more than a million pages from around 6000 volumes from the courts of the Church of Scotland. If you are registered with our website, you can search the records and browse through the images on the site at no charge. You can also save or download a copy for a small fee.

The kirk session used to run the church affairs, education and poor relief following the Scottish Reformation in 1560. The hierarchy of the General Assembly, synods, presbyteries and kirk sessions was formed. The records created by the church courts are very useful for family and local history stream research and they contain details of key events in communities across Scotland. These are mostly in the form of evidence given by individuals who were called and appeared before the elders of the kirk session and they offer a vivid snapshot into the

everyday lives of ordinary Scots and in this period covered by the kirk session records, cases could involve the paternity of children and irregular marriages. The church also carried out many functions later taken on by local government and the evidence given can give us fascinating details of how our ancestors lived, worked and worshipped. These included school education and poor relief, registering births, deaths and marriages before the statutory registers kicked in and also disciplining parishioners for what we now would term as anti-social behaviour, such as drunkenness, cursing or breaking the Sabbath.

Virtual Volumes give you three different options to search the records. You can search by volume, by record creator (such as the kirk session, presbytery or other institution) or by place. If you know where your ancestors lived, but do not know the name of the specific kirk session, you can use the place search to look for records related to a civil parish, county, city, burgh, island or legal jurisdiction. For example, if you search for "Crieff" there is only one result and you would click on the Crieff kirk session underlined in blue. You can also bookmark pages to return to later. The kirk session minutes are broken down by type of record and also by timespan. Within the image viewer, there are a number of functions to help you navigate your way through the volume and to manipulate the image within the viewer and these are similar to the viewing application views of the statutory records. You can zoom in, zoom out, sharpen the image etc. It's always worthwhile searching the corresponding records for the parish where you know a family member lived and you might be surprised by what you find. For example, in the kirk session minutes for Dallas in Morayshire there is a list of the population of the parish for June 1811 and the list includes children's names, which is very unusual for an early census record. Each entry includes the person's name, their address, their rank (which could be their occupation) and age.

To view legal records, use the "search our records" tab which is found under the ScotlandsPeople logo. You can use the "people search" option to view some legal records, including the military service appeals tribunal records. The military tribute system was established under the Military Service Act of 1916 which laid down terms for mandatory military service. From 1916, men seeking exemption from military service could apply to local appeal tribunals and central tribunals based in London. An applicant refused exemption by the local tribunal or dissatisfied with the type of exemption granted had a right of appeal to the appeals tribunal. These were appointed by the Crown and in Scotland were held within sheriffdoms. In these records you will be able to find out more about the appellant, his home, family or job; whether they appealed themselves or whether their relatives or employers appealed on their behalf. You will also find out the grounds upon which the appeal was based and whether it was successful or not. Some appeal papers include additional correspondence in support of the appeal. Under the legal records section there are many other interesting types of records which I'm sure you have used, such as wills and testaments, coats of arms and the soldiers and airmen wills.

In 2022 we released the prison admission registers for Perth prison on ScotlandsPeople and earlier this year we released prison admission registers for Edinburgh Bridewell and Calton prisons which dated from 1798 through to 1851. We also released Largs prison registers from 1843 to 1853. Prison registers were maintained by each Scottish prison and detail records of prisoners who were in custody. They recorded daily admissions to the prison and are a valuable source of information for both family and social historians. For each prisoner, registers generally include their name, data of admission to prison, particulars of the trial or offence, the sentence if convicted and the date liberated or removed from the prison. They can also contain significant personal details such as their age, place of birth, nationality, occupation, height, their general health condition and also their religious persuasion.

We hope to add to this list in the very near future. Last summer saw the release of some of the Lighthouse Registers on ScotlandsPeople and these included four volumes spanning a total of 84 years from 1837 through to 1921 and these came from the 19 registers of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses and they can be accessed now through the site. These registers are indexed and can be searched by name, age and the year an individual entered into the service. For those interested in a particular area, you can also search by the lighthouse name and the county locality. Registers give the histories for each person giving their name, often their date of birth, which lighthouses they served in, any promotions or demotions and their retirement date. You can find out more about the role of the principle lightkeeper and the assistant lightkeeper in Scottish lighthouses in our feature article available to read on ScotlandsPeople. Access to the lightkeepers' registers in ScotlandsPeople is again through the "people search" option. Just click on the advanced people search and select employment records as a category. Two options are displayed, lightkeepers' registers and the Scottish Women's Land Army. We can then choose to search by the employee's name or name of the lighthouse.

I was quite heavily involved in the release of the Scottish Women's Land Army and I must say it was a delight and a pleasure to work through these records and research more about the organisation. The index cards of those women who volunteered for the Scottish Women's Land Army in the Second World War were recently added to ScotlandsPeople and the Land Army was upscaled in 1939 as women were asked to do the work of those men called up to the armed forces at the start of World War Two. There are around 10,000 land army records available to view on ScotlandsPeople and these date from 1939 through to 1950, when the service was disbanded. The Timber Corps started slightly later, in 1942, and was disbanded just before the Land Army. These records will be of particular interest to family historians hoping to learn more about the lives led by their female relatives and each card can give you insight into the training given to new recruits, where they worked and reveal why they left their post. These records are accessed through the employment records along with the light keeper registers and you just need to click on the Scottish Women's Land Army option. This initial release consists of Land Army and Timber Corps members born in or before 1922. On the first of January 2024, entries for individuals for the birth year of 1923 will be

released and we will continue releasing records annually until the entire collection is available to use. Sometimes the full forename is not recorded, so if the person you are searching for doesn't come up, try using their initials instead. Obviously try different spellings of surnames and first names.

I'm going to just quickly mention the image library and the maps and plans section on ScotlandsPeople. The record library is where you can search a selection of images from the National Records of Scotland collection and these can be anything from sketches, photographs, images of selected documents and more. If you click on the image library button, you will be taken through to the landing page for all the images. We have recently uploaded some Christmas cards which we found in our archives and these are displayed at the top of the list. There are 2215 images accessible on the ScotlandsPeople image library and they really vary in subject from shipbuilding to St Kilda. You can search by a keyword, place name or by one of the categories which you can select on the left-hand side of the page. The maps and plans section of the website hosts more than 170,000 architectural drawings, maps and plans and you can search them again by keyword, a phrase or a reference number if you have it.

The maps and plans on the site are a selection of what we hold in the NRS in our collections and our full collection can be searched using the NRS online catalogue. ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk/glossary can help you find the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases found within the records and it also features a link to it through many of our records guides. Our guides are also available under the "help and guidance" tab and we produce and upload a guide for each new record release. I've just written the record guide for the Land Army records, for example, and you will find in-depth guidance on each category of record I've mentioned tonight in the record guides. If you haven't already signed up to our social media accounts you can find us on X (which was Twitter) and also on Facebook where our posts generate some fantastic discussions and the sharing of knowledge, along with our newsletter which we send out every month or two months at the moment and you can hear about the new record releases that are coming, along with new features that we've written to highlight individuals found in the records .

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The List

Falkirk Local History Society have now published on their website the full list of over 13,500 names from the Falkirk District, known to have given Military Service in the First World War. Some of our members may recall Geoff Bailey giving a talk to the Society in October 2019 on this subject.

Follow this link to see the full list **<https://falkirklocalhistory.club/wars/the-first-world-war-1914-18/ww1-military-personnel-from-falkirk-district>**

Members' Interests

SURNAME	PARISH	PLACE	COUNTY	COUNTRY	DATE FROM	DATE TO	MEM NO
HOTCHKISS	AIRTH		STI	SCT	1780	1884	1226
HOTCHKISS	BOTHKENNAR		STI	SCT	1780	1884	1226
LINDSAY	FALKIRK	CAMELON	STI	SCT	1780	1999	1226
LINDSAY	LANARKSHIRE		LKS	SCT	1780	1999	1226
MCKENZIE	DINGWALL	KILTEARN	ROC	SCT	1780	1927	1226
MCKENZIE	FALKIRK	BAINSFORD	STI	SCT	1780	1927	1226
MCPHERSON	FALKIRK		STI	SCT	1800	1980	1226
MCPHERSON	POLMONT		STI	SCT	1800	1980	1226
SCOTLAND	CULROSS		FIF	SCT	1780	1970	1226
SCOTLAND	FALKIRK		STI	SCT	1780	1970	1226
SHARP	AIRTH		STI	SCT	1760	1900	1226
SHARP	LARBERT	CARRON	STI	SCT	1760	1900	1226
SMITH	FALKIRK	BAINSFORD	STI	SCT	1800	2024	1226
SMITH	LARBERT		STI	SCT	1800	2024	1226

Cover Photos

The cover picture was taken about 1950 and shows the church from the south-east, taken from the road to the graveyard. This view today is obscured by trees. The church was dedicated in September 1909 and replaced the ruined church built in 1766, located immediately south of the present church.

The back cover shows the view from the main road and the location of the old church in relation to the new.

Further information on the history of the church can be found on the church website <https://carridenchurch.co.uk/about> and the Falkirk Local History Society <https://falkirklocalhistory.club/around-the-area/churches/boness-parish/carriden-parish-church/>

Exchange Journals Received: List 66 – Feb 2024

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 centスコットフhs@gmail.com. Our most recent exchanges are with Berkshire FHS and Waltham Forest FHS (covering south-west Essex), FHS of New Zealand (based in Christchurch) and the NZ Society of Genealogists.

Society	Issue	Format
Aberdeen & North East FHS	167 Aug 23	e-journal
Caithness FHS	No. 73 Apr 23, No. 74 Sept 23	e-journal
Glasgow FHS	No. 126 Mar 23, No. 127 Jun 23, No. 128 Oct 23	e-journal
Highland FHS	Vol 41 Iss 4 Aug 23, Vol 42 Iss 1 Nov 23	e-journal
Lanarkshire FHS	No. 83 Oct 23	e-journal
Lothians FHS	Autumn 23 (Sept-Nov), Winter 23 (Dec-Feb)	e-journal
Orkney FHS	Issue 107 Autumn 23	Hard copy
Renfrew FHS	Issue 50 Sept 23	e-journal
Shetland FHS	No. 127 Hairst 23, No. 128 Yale 23	e-journal
Tay Valley FHS	126 Oct 23	e-journal
Troon@Ayrshire FHS	99 Summer 23	e-journal
West Lothian FHS	Issue 61 Nov 23	e-journal
Genealogist Magazine	Vol 34 No. 7 Sep 23 (paper copy), Vol 34 No. 8 Dec 23	e-journal
Berkshire FHS	46 June 23, 47 Sep 23, 47 Dec 23	e-journal
The Manchester Genealogist	Vol 59 No. 3 2023	e-journal
Waltham Forest FHS	Mar 22, Sep 22, Mar 23, Sep 23	e-journal
Alberta FHS	Vol 5-7 Sep 23, Vol 5-8 Oct 23, Vol 5-9 Nov 23, Vol 5-10 Dec 23	e-journal
The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra	Vol 46 No. 3 Sep 23, Vol 46 No. 4 Dec 23	e-journal
Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group	Iss 53 Nov 23	e-journal
Liverpool Gen Soc	No. 134 June 23, No. 135 Oct 23	Hard copy
Journal of Richmond-Tweed FHS inc Ballina NSW Australia	Iss 157 Sep 23, Iss 158 Dec 23	e-journal
Journal of Shoalhaven FHS inc Australia	Iss 132 Aug 23, Iss 133 Dec 23	e-journal
Journal of the Western Australian Gen Soc	Vol 15 No. 9 Nov 23	e-journal
Scottish Interest Group NZSG	Issue 134 Oct 23	e-journal
Family History Society of New Zealand	Aug 23, Dec 23	e-journal
NZ Society of Genealogists	Mar 23, June 23, Sep 23, Dec 23	e-journal



Carriden Churches, old and new

