

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

ISSN 0961-0502



The Old Kirk, Killearn

Killearn Old Kirk & Graveyard

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 :

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 18th February 2025**

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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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Here we are almost at the start of another season of Family History meetings. It doesn't seem all that long since our AGM and Social in May.

We will be continuing with the pattern now set of holding 4 meetings in person and 4 on Zoom. So our meetings in October, November, April and May will be held at Bridge of Allan and the others in between on Zoom. The in-person meetings will begin at 2.00pm while the Zoom meetings are at 7.00pm.

Our first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9th October at Bridge of Allan Church Hall., when the speaker will be well-known Falkirk local historian, Ian Scott. His topic is the History of Mining in Central Scotland and we can be sure of an in-depth look at this subject. As usual our secretary, Carol, has come up with a varied programme of talks which we hope you will find of interest. Enclosed with this journal you will find your membership card detailing the talks.

Our workshops at St Ninians Library on the first Thursday morning of each month will start again on 5th September. I am extremely grateful to the volunteers we have for this and thank them in advance for giving up their time, usually at very short notice, as we never know until the last moment how many people are booked in. Each of the volunteers has a different knowledge and experience base and we can only hope that we can introduce genealogy to some new converts with our own enthusiasm.

Within this issue you will find details of our latest publication - Erskine Church Baptismal Records. We are grateful to those members who did the transcribing and checking, and to Peter for preparing it for publication in pdf format.

The Society was saddened to learn of the death of one of our longer serving members and a former chairperson – Mary McIntyre. Mary had not been in the best of health for some time and passed away peacefully in Hillview Nursing Home in Sauchie on 16th May. There is a tribute to Mary elsewhere in this issue.

My thanks to Margaret and Elsie for editing yet another packed journal, and I am sure you will find interesting stories and reports.

Happy researching! Maybe some of will share your interesting discoveries and problems with the other members through this journal or the e-newsletter. Articles, no matter how small, are always welcome.

'We are who we are, because they were who they were'

Sandra Reid

My Ancestor was Shipwrecked

By June Wiggins

(February 2024 talk)

My ancestor was shipwrecked. Not on some remote desert island, but on a small rocky outcrop off the South Ayrshire coast.

Captain John Buchanan was one of three of my seafaring ancestors who were shipwrecked, each in different circumstances and in different places, during the 19th century. Life for a 19th century mariner was extremely dangerous, so it was not really surprising that some of my ancestors who went to sea had been shipwrecked. What was surprising was that all three survived being shipwrecked, had long careers as master mariners and each died at home in his own bed at a reasonably old age. In each case, no story of the incident had been passed down: I discovered the details while carrying out my family history research.

John Buchanan was born in Stranraer on 4th October 1763, the son of James Buchanan, mason in Stranraer, and baptised the following day. Unfortunately, at that date there are no records of his early career and he first appears in the records as the captain of a smack named the Speedwell.

According to the Stranraer shipping registers of 1825, John was the owner of the Speedwell, originally built in the Isle of Man as an open boat, but thoroughly repaired and enlarged at Stranraer in 1816. It was 33ft 5ins long, 11ft 5ins wide with a burthen of 15 14/94. I followed the details of Captain Buchanan's voyages in the shipping notices in the Ayr Advertiser. During the 1820s he sailed regularly between Ayr, Girvan and Stranraer, usually carrying coal or potatoes. In those days of poor roads, before the coming of the railway, it was the fastest way to transport goods.

On 23rd August 1830 the Speedwell arrived at Ayr from Stranraer in ballast. This time the return voyage did not go as planned. The Ayr Advertiser of Thursday 2nd September 1830 reported: "The smack Speedwell of Stranraer, Captain Buchanan, sailed from Air on Friday last for Stranraer, coal loaded. In proceeding along the coast, wind SE, she struck on the point of Brest, near Turnberry, on Friday, and soon became a wreck. The boat was washed off deck, and the men were in imminent danger of their lives throughout the night, but next morning they were relieved by people from the shore. The Brest rock is but indistinctly laid down in the charts of the channel. It is very dangerous, lying, as it does, in the tract of vessels from Ireland to the Clyde when the wind is southwardly, and has been, perhaps, more destructive to shipping than any other rock of the kind on the Scottish coast. It is surprising it has not been more attended to by the Commissioners of the Northern Lights, and it is still more surprising that the merchants of the Clyde - so much and so directly concerned in the matter - do not prompt the Commissioners to place a light or beacon on or near it, pointing out the danger."

Captain Buchanan and his crew were fortunate in that they were wrecked fairly close to the shore, within easy reach of rescue. He would have been nearly 67 years old at that time. He lived for a further ten years after that and died in May 1840 at the age of 77.

We go a little further afield and forward in time for the next shipwreck. Thanks to the efficient records the Victorians introduced to register mariners, some of which are available online on the FindMyPast website, I know more about my next two seafaring ancestors than about Captain Buchanan.

David Palmer was born in February 1807 in West Thorney in Sussex, the son of William and Hannah Palmer, the youngest of a large family. Most of them were agricultural labourers but, growing up on Thorney Island overlooking the English Channel, young David must have seen the ships sailing to and from Portsmouth. Perhaps he dreamt of a more exciting life than working on the land would provide.

He went to sea as an apprentice at the age of twenty in 1827 and served as a mariner on the ship Hawk between December 1835 and June 1836, then on the Patience of London between June and December 1836. He was listed as being on the ship James between December 1843 and 29 May 1844.

David's register ticket was issued at Sunderland on 19 May 1847, when he was a mate. This gave his date of birth as 15 February 1807 in West Thorney, Sussex. He was 5ft 8 ¼ ins tall, with brown hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. He was able to read and had not served in the Royal Navy or in foreign service. When unemployed, he resided at Williamson Street in Monkwearmouth.

He sailed regularly from Portsmouth and Southampton to Sunderland, where he met and married Elizabeth Yule on 9th December 1830. Her father was also a sailor, Peter Yule, originally from St Andrews. David and Elizabeth settled in Sunderland, where they raised their family. In the early 1850s he became captain of the brig Napoleon.

On 27th October 1852, Captain Palmer was sailing back from Hamburg in ballast in very stormy conditions. As the ship entered Sunderland harbour, she struck the south pier, was driven up the harbour, then struck the north pier and began to break up. One of the crew, a man named Trimmer from Southampton, had got out on the bowsprit and managed to get on to the north pier. The vessel sank in fifteen minutes. Captain Palmer clung to an empty cask, managing to keep himself afloat until he was rescued by a pilot coble. By this stage he was exhausted and unable to speak. William Watson Welsh, the pilot, held out his hand and the captain grasped it like a vice. With much difficulty they pulled him into the coble, semi-conscious. Welsh and the other two pilots, Alexander Campbell and William Ward, tried to rescue another crew member, but were unsuccessful.

Once ashore, Captain Palmer was taken to the Globe Tavern, where he regained consciousness several hours later. The Newcastle Courant of 5th November 1852 reported that he was treated with every kindness by the host and hostess. The courage of the pilots who had carried out the rescue was praised and there was outrage that the Sunderland lifeboat had not been launched. Captain Palmer

thought that his crew might have been saved if it had been. Four bodies were later found. Two French ships, bound for Bordeaux, were also wrecked with the loss of all of their crews. The Shipping & Mercantile Gazette of 28th October and 1st November carried comprehensive reports of the shipwreck.

Captain Palmer recovered and went back to sea as the captain of the Elbe, sailing between Sunderland, Southampton and the Continent. Previously that vessel had been captained by Captain Foster, who may have been his brother-in-law. Captain Palmer died on 27th November 1880 at the age of 73 at his home in Sunderland.

The third of my seafaring ancestors to have been shipwrecked was James Connell Clark. He was born in Irvine on 10th June 1816, the youngest son of shoemaker David Clark and his wife Mary Connell.

James Connell Clark's register ticket was issued at Ayr on 21st July 1845 and showed that he had first gone to sea as an apprentice in 1829, when he would have been only thirteen years old. He was 5ft 5 ½ ins tall, with brown hair, blue eyes and a ruddy complexion. I even have a photograph of him, taken later in life.

James was certified as a Master Mariner at London on 1st May 1851 and sailed to the West Indies, Cuba, India, China, Singapore and Australia. Using the shipping movements in the Glasgow Herald, I was able to track his voyages all over the world. For much of his career he sailed for J Kerr & Co of Greenock. Kerr's business partner was Abram Lyle of Golden Syrup fame. According to the book "From Cape to Cape" by J Orbell, Kerr was the largest of Greenock's 86 shipowners. The book states that: "Life afloat was unpleasant for the crews. Loss of life was heavy, due to poor maintenance, overloading and bad seamanship."

It wasn't until I applied for Captain Clark's master mariner certificate that I discovered that he'd been shipwrecked. The certificate was a duplicate, issued at Ayr on 17th February 1869 to replace the lost original. The file contained a letter dated 15th February 1869 from John H Watt, the owner of the ship Persia, stating: "This is to certify that Captain James Clark was master of the Persia of 1,290 tons, belonging to Glasgow; the official number being 50.366. That the ship was destroyed by fire off Cape of Good Hope about 31st October last, and the crew lost the greater portion of their personal effects, among which were the ship's register and papers."

The Glasgow Evening Citizen of 9th January 1869 reported: "Loss of the ship Persia – This large ship, of 1,289 tons, the property of J H Watt, Glasgow, has been destroyed by fire (said to have originated in her cargo) off the Cape of Good Hope. The Persia was on her passage from Greenock to Bombay, and she had a cargo of 1,830 tons of coals (loose splints). She was commanded by Captain Clark, and had a crew of 32 men, all of whom, we are glad to say, have been saved. She sailed from Greenock on the 31st August and seems to have made a good passage to the Cape. The Persia was built by Russell, of Quebec, in 1864, and still had three years of her class to run."

The Scotsman of the same date added that the information had been received by telegram, the Persia had been a splendid vessel and they regretted to learn that the ship was only partly insured.

Coal was an unpleasant cargo for a ship. It was dirty and in certain circumstances could spontaneously combust, which seems to have been what had happened. Fortunately, Captain Clark and his crew were presumably ashore when the fire broke out. They were a long way from home, but at least they had survived. The news didn't reach Glasgow until the beginning of January. The Evening Citizen of 19th January reported that the barque Black Watch, on its way from Liverpool to Calcutta, called at the Bell Buoy in Mauritius to land Captain Clark and the crew of the late ship Persia.

By February Captain Clark was back home in Ayr. He went back to sea, sailing for Kerr again on the ship Cochin. His last command was the ship Culzean. This was damaged in a storm on its maiden voyage from Port Glasgow in 1872. It put back disabled on 29th January and the voyage was abandoned on 14th March at Queenstown, after which he retired, aged 56. I'm sure his wife must have been relieved. Three of their nephews had died at sea, one while serving as mate to his Uncle James.

Several of the ships he had previously captained were later wrecked. The Isabella Kerr, on which he had sailed to the West Indies in 1855 and 1856, went missing in 1859 when sailing from the Clyde. In a case like that, nobody would ever know exactly how the ship met its end. Sometimes wreckage would be found by another ship, but it was not always possible to identify the wreck. The Culzean was wrecked in 1881 in the Sound of Jura on its way from Dundee to Glasgow.

Captain Clark died at his home in Miller Road in Ayr on 20th June 1896 at the age of 81. He did well to survive for so long. A report of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Merchant Seaman found that one in 80 died of disease in service, one in 70 drowned and one in twenty was invalided out each year. Conditions for sailors were worse than for their land-based fellow-workers. The report stated that: "the majority of merchant seamen who form the crews of our foreign-going ships are broken down in health soon after the early age of 35 years, and the expectation of life of seamen at about twenty years of age does not extend beyond the 45th or perhaps even the 40th year."

Perhaps it's not surprising that James's only surviving son didn't follow him to sea.

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Useful DNA information

James Kennedy (Member No. 1182) has sent us the following useful piece of information:

DNA Ancestry Tests get a once over in the "Sliced Bread" programme on BBC Radio 4. It tells how useful or otherwise those that are on the market are.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0020xzb>

A Legal Dispute By Alexander Ross

This is the transcription of a letter from 1903 to Alexander Ross, formerly proprietor of the Brookfield Mill in Alva, relating to a legal dispute between the Rosses and the Johnstones. The sender's name is missing. Many local people are named in the letter.

Bank Cottage
Alva 22nd Oct 1903

Dear Mr Alexr,

I was through at Edinburgh last week at a meeting of Mr David's Trustees about this miserable action of the Johnstones over Brookfield feu. I had meant not to write you again until we had got it finally settled, but have today thought differently. I can scarcely write all I think about it, as I consider Miss Johnstone & Major Johnstone have shown a great want of humanity & even commonsense in the matter, that their Edinburgh agents have advised them very badly over it. As for my brother-in-law, he has a very difficult place to fill & part to play, but on this one point I have actually quarrelled with him. My contention from the beginning has been that that they are pretty well convinced they see the game is almost up.

The idea of asking £600 & all arrears & expenses in addition to the buildings was preposterous. Of course nothing is settled yet, but I trust when Miss Johnstone now gets it made clear to her that she can recover nothing & that she has only Mr David's children to fall back on, that she will not even take the £165 odds which Fraser Stoddart & Ballingall had lodged on their behalf for the 3 years arrears of interest. I have done my share of fighting over this business & am resisting the duplicand until I was fairly cornered, but even should she elect to take it (the £165 I mean) I will have something to say to her personally, before I would agree to it being handed over.

You will understand it has been the properties at the West End which the Johnstones have considered they could fall back on. But I have argued & pointed out time & again that there is no free residue from them, as they are covered by bonds far beyond their value. I read your letters to Arthur & the lawyers, I can only say that their contents gave me the greatest pain, & Mrs Robertson & I had a pretty wakeful night after I came home from Edin.

Since then too my thoughts have been a lot with you & away back to the time when I spent so many pleasant years in your service, these, my dear, Mr Alexr. I never can forget, & I earnestly hope that you have seen the last of your misfortunes. I really do not like to say more about this but I hope you understand my feelings. Meantime you are not to think of sending home even the sixth of the arrears. What I would suggest is that you should renounce the old school garden ground in Croftshaw Road. This I have never been able to dispose of, & have always been afraid that we would be landed with having the street to make, indeed I don't think it can be kept off much longer. So if you approve of this, without going to the expense of any formal deed of renunciation, would you write a letter renouncing all claim to the ground &

making it over to Miss Johnstone & her successors & this I would deliver over to her along with the papers which you sent me formerly.

I don't think I have anything more to say about this, & can only call it what I described it at the beginning, a miserable action. I hope the boys are doing well in South Africa & are making headway there. George Purdon the youngest of the Purdons, & who was considerable of a waster here, went out to the War with the first contingent of Volunteers. He didn't come home, but got a post in connection with the railways. His brother John tells me he is doing well & has got good promotion. Charles went out fully a year ago, & has also got a railway appointment, & evidently thinks of settling down now, as his wife & little boy sailed last week to join him.

Changes are taking place every year, Mr Donaldson is now out of business, young Joe Hunter having the business to himself, & seems to be doing pretty well. Mr D. is pretty much the old sixpence, Mrs D. is ageing. John Young has had to succumb this week. He has never been able to do any good since. Mr Shorrocks of the Manchester Co-op died, he fairly kept him going. Mrs Alexr. Makin is giving up, her trade has been leaving her & she can't have been making anything lately, so that the trade is getting into few hands. John G. Gray, the Thomsons, & Arnot seem all to be prospering still. George & James Thomson are building a large double house between Mr Archie Porteous & Mr Williams' house. A fine looking house it will be when it is finished.

Alfred Gray, John G's son is not behaving himself at all & if he does not take care will make a complete mess of his life & young Andw Arnot will require to take care also. Young John Porteous is a nice well doing lad, but they are awfully quiet & don't seem to be able to get a hold of trade at all. I don't see how they can avoid losing money there. Mr Cockburn retains his position there, with evidently some interest in the business.

At the Meadow Mills they are fairly busy. Wilson Bros at the moment are quiet a little, but they have had pretty good times. James Henderson manages to scramble along somehow, he is behaving himself & has managed to shake himself clear of the redoubtable Kennedy, who is now devoting himself to the green grocery business. Cowan & Dawsons are doing well, most industrious young men they are, their worsted business is developing with them. Mr Todd is a greater grumbler than ever, & Mr Duncan is hugging the old man to him & looks quite a ...

[next page of the letter is missing)

....we paid the feu duty, as long as we got even the £60 from Purdons which did not quite pay us for outlay, on lawyers & feu duty (we even paid them a duplicand in 1897). Then when that revenue closed I offered them the whole place, buildings, dwelling house & everything renouncing all claim over everything, so that they might make the most they could out of it, & I considered that in all fairness they might have said, well, we have done pretty well out of this little corner. £52 - 4/- annually for 35 years is a tidy little sum, the venture has not prospered, and must just accept our share of the loss along with the Rosses, I will try to recoup ourselves by utilising the buildings & vacant ground to the best advantage. In the action they spread their nets pretty wide & dragged us all into, but I am hopeful that they are going to make a good deal less than they expected in fact.

Irish Genealogy Qualifications

The Irish Ancestry Research Centre is a leading provider of services designed to help people understand their past and save it for future generations. In addition to offering a personalised genealogical research service, they also run the Certificate in History of Family & Genealogical Methods course (accredited by the University of Limerick) and the Diploma in Genealogy (accredited by University College Cork). Both courses are available online. Past experience has shown that the Certificate and Diploma are favoured by members of historical societies and archives and in particular those living overseas with an interest in their Irish ancestry. Information on both courses is available on their website, www.irisharc.org

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I wonder...

By Moira Love (Member No. 794)

My grandfather, William Fairley Morton Love (1900-1984) grew up in Grangemouth. He started work as a butcher's delivery boy on a bicycle with the Co-operative Society. When he retired (I imagine around age 65) his occupation was stated as Master Butcher. My family always seemed to hold the Co-operative Society in high regard. Why was this? Surely not just because he worked for them!?

I read somewhere that the very first branch started in Fenwick near Kilmarnock (my place of birth) in 1769. Living in England, it is strange to hear people pronounce the name differently. Do other people have anecdotes about the Co-op?

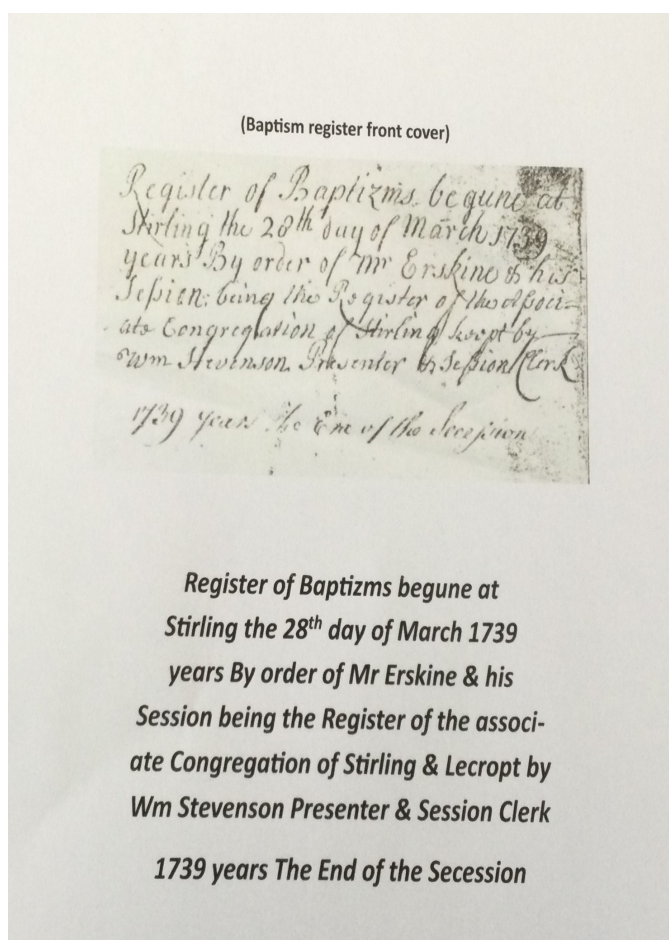
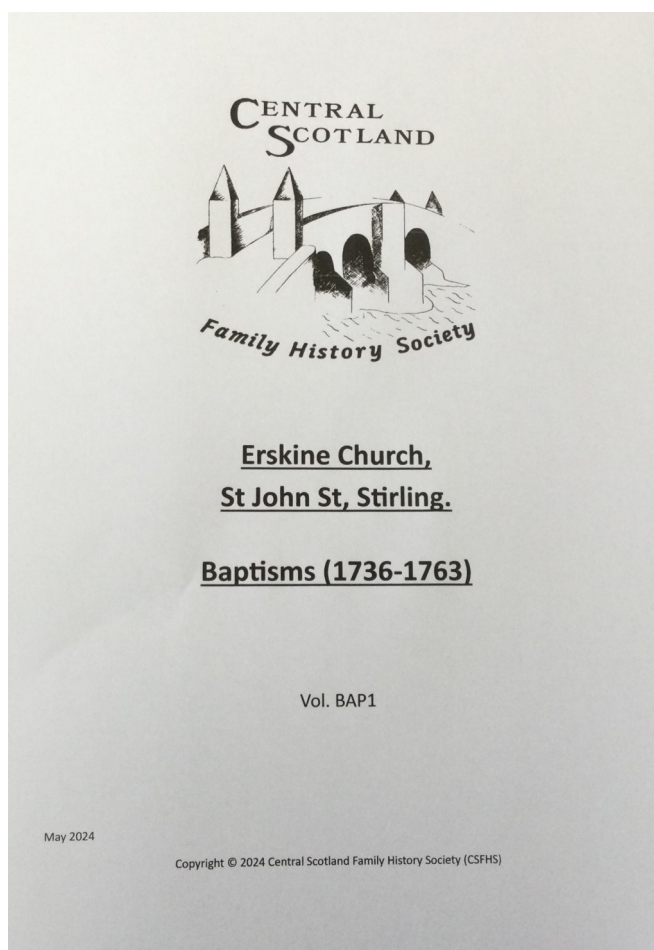
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Book Donations Received

Archives—"1854 Population of Clackmannanshire (sample), According to subscriptions to the Royal Patriotic Fund"

Library—"They Shall Grow Not Old, The Men of Falkirk Parish Church & Erskine Church". This book gives background information for the names on the two churches' war memorials.

Exciting New CSFHS Publication



Stirling Erskine Church originated when Reverend Ebenezer Erskine (1680-1754) opposed the introduction of patronage to the Church of Scotland which led him to form the Associate Presbytery in 1733.

He was formally excluded from West Church, Stirling in 1740 and formed a new congregation. The new church occupied a building in St John's Street, Stirling from c1742. At the split of the Presbytery in 1747, Erskine sided with the Associate Synod (Burghers) and the congregation joined with the United Secession Church in 1820 when the Burghers and the Antiburghers united.

There was a further change of name for the church in 1847 when the United Secession Church and the Relief Church combined to form the United Presbyterian Church. The church was increasingly referred to as Erskine Church, with a monument erected to the Reverend in 1859. When the UP Church united with the Free Church in 1900 the congregation became Stirling Erskine United Free Church.

Volunteers from the Society spent many hours transcribing and checking the original entries and the document is now available to purchase as a pdf download from the Society or Genfair. It costs £5. Many of the baptisms listed do not appear in the ScotlandsPeople old parish records.

Tracing Family History Through Health

By Dr Louise Williams, Archivist, Lothian Health Services Archive

(March 2024 talk)

Thank you very much for inviting me to talk to you this evening and I'm going to look at some of the health records that I help to look after and hopefully that will give you a guide to the sorts of records that various types of hospital kept and how they can help you in your own genealogy. I'm going to explain who Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA) are and then give some examples of specific records from LHSA and talk a little bit about how you can access these records.

The LHSA is the archive of NHS Lothian inside the University of Edinburgh. We're physically based in the University of Edinburgh main library and we are the largest medical archive in the UK. We collect records from NHS hospitals in our region and their predecessors and also information about health and health care in Edinburgh and the Lothians. We're one of several regional archives across Scotland holding documents from NHS hospitals. By law now in Scotland, every health area needs to have a designated archive but we all have slightly different arrangements about where those archives are kept and it usually means that often the NHS board pairs up with a university (as in our case) or a local council.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde archives were kept within the University of Glasgow but the last I heard, that arrangement was being slightly reformulated so I'm not really sure what is going on with that archive at the moment. The National Records of Scotland do hold records for parts of NHS Scotland that serve the whole of Scotland, but if the person that you're looking for was a patient or a staff member in a particular hospital, you're probably looking for someone like us. There are local health board archive collections in all health board areas but not all archives will have the same level of access or have the same type of hospital records. It is worth getting in touch with the archive in advance before you visit and a good hint is to think about where the hospital that the person that you're looking for was in would be now, even if that institution doesn't exist anymore as a hospital. From that you can find out where the records are likely to be kept.

LHSA records are quite extensive, both by Scottish and UK standards. The records that we hold date from 1594 and go right up to the present day. The records we have can take all sorts of forms, from Georgian charters to more modern case notes as well as physical objects and engravings. The best way to find out what we have is through our website (<https://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk>). If you do a simple Google search for LHSA Edinburgh that should take you straight to us and you can access our catalogues from there. Now, because people lead busy lives or live far away or can't search through records

themselves, we offer a free remote inquiry service. We will look for individuals for you with no charge and in most cases we can send copy record data for free, but we do ask that the queries meet certain criteria. Essentially, we can't search in a speculative way to see if somebody was ever in hospital or inside a very wide time frame, because the records that we have are usually ordered by hospital and inside that by admission. We don't have a computerised index of all the individuals that are mentioned inside our hospital records.

The main way that you might want to use our records in family history research is if you're looking for somebody who was a patient or a member of staff in the Lothian area. By member of staff, I mean either a nurse or a doctor and not another hospital employee like a porter or a gardener, for example. A lot of genealogists come to us after investigating other sources. They might have found from a census record or in a death register entry that their relative was in a hospital at a particular time and then they want to find out more. The types of records that have survived vary from hospital to hospital. As a general rule, we've got a lot more information about patients than staff, so I'm going to focus today entirely on patient records and I'd like to look at these in three categories - examples of what you might expect to find when you're looking in hospitals which dealt with physical illnesses, psychiatric hospital records or asylum records and birth records.

Physical illnesses

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is the oldest voluntary hospital in Scotland, founded in 1729 and it's still going today on its fourth site. The William Adam building on its second site existed from 1741 up to 1879 and was replaced by a Scottish baronial building on the Lauriston Place site which operated from 1879 to 2003. It now exists in a modern building located to the southeast of Edinburgh.

Voluntary hospitals were charitable institutions funded by public contributions before the NHS and in them we treated the sick for free. Doctors worked in these without charge and earned their money from private practice. We were founded as the Royal Infirmary archives and because of that we've got quite a range of records from it. The first thing that I'd look for in a query for the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh would be to check the registers.

I would go to the high level first and we have general registers of patients for the Royal Infirmary from 1762 right up to 1963 without any gaps and they cover everybody that came through the doors of the hospital. They are a really good source to find out some basic information. The register for 1890 to 1892, for example, contains one line for each patient admitted to the hospital. Even though it's only one line for each patient, it has a lot of information as they are actually really huge volumes. The register gives really basic information about the patient's age, their name, their status (whether they are married, single or widowed), their occupation, where they live now, their usual residence and their native place. On the second page we are given more information about their illness with how long they stayed in hospital, whether the patient was operated on or not and the outcome of their treatment. So comparatively speaking, this 1890s register is

extremely detailed and would hold a lot more information inside than the very early 18th century hospital registers that we have.

If somebody comes to us and says that the person that they're looking for died in the infirmary, we can sometimes go in and look at the hospital's own death register. The Infirmary Death Register gives some more information about who claimed the body and about the family network of the person. There is very little about the patient here but there is a little bit more about family ties. There's nothing about the burial place but it does say who the undertaker was and sometimes you can find out a little bit more from that. The Scottish Business Archives are based in Glasgow and they do hold records of certain undertakers. From there it might be possible to look for a burial place.

To look in more detail for the 18th and 19th century, we do have some bound books of case records and they give more detailed information but compared to the people who came into the hospital they only cover comparatively few patients, but for some later patients and generally around the mid-1920s onwards, we also have folders of case notes which give more detailed information. These replaced case histories which were written in bound books. They tend to use very specialist medical language and acronyms, so they're not always the easiest to decipher for a general audience if you're looking at them decades after they were produced. The advantage of them as opposed to a case written up in a book is you can put a lot of different documents in a folder such as typed case summaries as well as correspondence, charts, handwritten notes and photographs.

We've got about one million case notes across different hospitals but even this number is a drop in the ocean compared to the people who would have been treated in Edinburgh hospitals from around the 1920s to the 1970s which is the range that the majority of our case notes cover. Most of those are for the Infirmary but we do have them for a range of hospitals as well. To summarise, the registers that we have do provide very basic high-level information on the hospital stay so they'd be your first go to when you're looking for a person. Hospitals also used a lot of different registers, so don't stop at registers of admission. Archives often keep records of operations, board registers also death registers and then maybe more detailed records that can be explored from these, for example looking at the ward someone was in can lead you to a record in a ward book or to a case note.

Psychiatric hospitals and asylums

The second group of records that I'd like to talk about are around psychiatric patients and asylum records. We have these records from a number of different institutions. What I'd like to focus on today comes from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital which was the Edinburgh and Lothian regions main Royal Asylum and that opened in 1813. MacKinnon House or West House was a building opened to pauper patients in 1842. Until then, the hospital was only open to private patients. A point to note here is when you're looking at psychiatric records, it can be distressing to consider that particularly an ancestor spent some time in an asylum and a lot of cases are extremely sad. Many illnesses which are treated and recognised in different ways today could result in long periods of institutionalisation and the only

positive is that often asylum records are much more detailed than general hospital records. You can find out a lot more about a person if they were institutionalised for a period of time. We hold quite a range of different records from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and some of them are registers which are very similar in form to those from general hospitals and some hold more specialist detailed information on certification papers or admission papers. Certification papers were documents that justified somebody's confinement in an asylum on legal and medical grounds. It was a standard document in a set format but you can still tell a lot about why someone was thought to be in need of psychiatric treatment. There were also patients who went into asylums of their own free will and they were called voluntary patients. We do have separate registers recording details of these patients who are certified, so it's always worth considering how the person you're looking for might have gone into the hospital and if you don't find them in registers for certified patients, it's always worth looking at the voluntary registers and vice versa.

For most patients entering the Royal Edinburgh Hospital between 1840 and 1932, we'd find an entry in a case book and these are very detailed records which tend to give a lot of information about the patient's illness, their treatment and the progress of their case. Sometimes they can have information as well about the patient's family and if there are any other illnesses in the family that were believed to be related to the patient's own mental health. At the end of the 19th century, they tend to be very uniform in how they are set out. On the first page there's biographical information including when the patient was admitted, details of any previous admissions and sadly you do find that in this period people could be in and out of different psychiatric hospitals quite a few times. You can see their age, their status, whether they were a private patient or a pauper patient, their occupation, their religion and their parish. On the next page is more general information about the patient's physical state on admission including their diagnosis. It is quite rare for an asylum records in Scotland to have a photograph of the patient, whereas it's more common for English asylum records to have pictures of patients.

Other pages contain more free-form progress notes and often these can be quite detailed, but if someone stayed in hospital for quite a while they often can record things like "no change" or just the weight of the patient. Physicians were required to add to these case books every six months but it can be quite frustrating that for a long stay you can find quite a lot about the beginning of the time that somebody was in hospital but that doesn't continue throughout the whole time that they were there. For patients who were in a psychiatric hospital in the last two thirds of the 20th century, from around 1920 onwards, we do have case histories and folders too for the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. We do have quite a number of letters from patients which were kept by the hospital and not sent out, because in law they could do that and that means that we have a picture of some patients from their own point of view. We don't only hold records from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital but also from Bangour Village Hospital and that only when it served as a psychiatric hospital, though it was turned into a war hospital in both World Wars.

We also have records for the Haddington District Asylum, Rosslynlee Hospital or Midlothian District Asylum and rather oddly Dingleton. I know that it comes under the Borders Hospital and that we do have their Roxburgh District Asylum records on loan from NHS Borders and those do include records from Milholme Private Asylum in Musselburgh. When Milholme closed, patients went over to Dingleton. We have records on Saint Michael's Hospital, St Michael's Poorhouse in Linlithgow and also records from Gogarburn which was the 20th century institution founded primarily for children and later adults with learning difficulties. Another option when you're looking for somebody who could have been in an asylum are the Mental Welfare Commission indexes in the National Records of Scotland which have been digitised and indexed through the Scottish Indexes website. You can search for a particular individual up to around 1913 and get an idea of which hospital that they were in.

Births

The final group of records that I'd like to look at are records from maternity hospitals because people often come to us after finding birth certificates and noticing that their ancestor was born in a particular Edinburgh hospital. Generally the earlier your record, the more information it's going to give to genealogists but particularly from the mid- 20th century onwards, more acronyms and specialist medical language is used. The records are generally more about the birth itself than the mother or the child. The Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital was Edinburgh's first planned maternity building and Scotland's first purpose- built maternity hospital. It was founded so that poor women could give birth in a supervised medical environment and was opened in 1879. After 1939, it's work was carried out by the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion and it now takes place in the current Royal Infirmary site.

We have Registers of Birth in a set format from 1844 to 1959. The Register gives a lot of good information for genealogy and it focuses more generally on the mother than the child being born. If somebody asked me to look for a birth of a particular person at a particular time, I would ask for the name of the mother. Giving birth in hospital only really became the norm after around the 1950s. Earlier, most people would give birth at home with either a midwife or a doctor attending them.

We find that a lot of the women were working as servants in private houses, farm workers or shop girls, reflecting the purpose of the hospital as somewhere where someone with little finance or resources or family ties in a place could go to give birth. They might have little choice in terms of people supporting them so because of that, the Royal Edinburgh Maternity Hospital was also a common place for women coming from the area's mother and baby homes to give birth. In these records you can learn about the mother's native place, see their past and future place of residence which could lead you on to other records. Earlier in the 19th century they included more biographical details on the mother herself but also had space to enter details on the mother's parents as well as on the father.

As well as the Birth Register, I'd look for something which could tell my inquirer about the birth itself and in the 19th century I'd look for something called an indoor case book. We've got these from 1844 to 1939. It's more medical and less biographical, but they give the mother's name, their age, the stages in the process of pregnancy, how the child was born, the child's length, the child's weight and it would also record whether the child was born alive. We've got quite a few records around births in hospital and we hold these from around 1825 to 1993 for births in hospitals. Sometimes they cover births at home as well. If hospital midwives attended the birth, they would often keep their own case records in what they call outdoor case books and so we have some of these as well. We also have records from a number of maternity hospitals in Lothian such as the Elsie Inglis Memorial Maternity Hospital, Bruntsfield Hospital, the Deaconess Hospital and the Eastern General Hospital. So if you think that the person you're looking for was born in a maternity hospital in Edinburgh, do get in touch.

Finally, a quick word about access because I know this is something that concerns quite a few people if they're thinking about using health records in genealogy. How we give access to records is governed by two basic things - first by the UK Data Protection Act which covers individuals who could still be living and then on top of that we also have some Scottish Government guidance for the health records of individuals who could be or are proven deceased. They govern access to our patient records. Records are closed to the general public for either 75 or 100 years after the last date recorded in the record, but we're lucky enough in Lothian that we can apply to NHS Lothian to see if access can be granted to these more modern records for relatives or legitimate academic researchers. We can advise on individual cases, including how to access any of your own health records that we might hold, so do get in touch. We treat every query that we have on a case-by-case basis and we do go through access implications with you. Although it can seem very complicated, it's really not.



Bannockburn House Query

Helen Rudland (Member No. 707)

The History Group at Bannockburn House, Stirling are looking for help. The house was the subject of a community buyout a few years ago and the History Group is always on the lookout for people who have some knowledge of the house. Perhaps someone may have childhood memories of visiting the house? Perhaps you worked there? Do you have a family member who had a connection to the house? Perhaps you delivered newspapers, milk, mail or coal there? Any memories at all would be so nice to have. Copies of photos too would be fabulous. If you can help, please contact CSFHS.

Donation from Kathleen MacQueen to our archive

The Alloa Advertiser and Clackmannanshire Journal of News, Politics and Local Occurrences.

Saturday Morning, 9 December 1854

List of Subscriptions for Patriotic Fund, County of Clackmannan.

Kathleen MacQueen, who is researching Clackmannanshire history in the first half of the 19th century, came across a subscription list for the Royal Patriotic Fund of 1854 for Clackmannanshire. She has transcribed it and donated a copy to our archive. The list contains 609 names which she thought might be useful to our members, even though it comprises, from her estimate, only about 3% of the population. The file is named "1854 Clackmannanshire Population", though it clearly is only a sample of names from the region at the mid-century.

Parishes and towns represented: Alloa, Clackmannan, Logie, Tullibody, Cambus, Dollar (but not Tillicoultry).

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Gilfillan Family

I live on the South Coast of New South Wales in Australia. I am researching the Gilfillan families connected to Stirling County and am wondering if your members have any information in any of their records that I could access.

The information I have is as follows:

John Gilfillan—christened 28 June 1682, married Janet (Jonet) Reid c1704 and died 14 July 1762. Janet was christened 8 Feb 1685 and buried 23 Aug 1731. John's parents are Thomas Gillphillan and Jonat Ewing.

George Gilfillan—born 1706, married Janet McAlister (date unknown), then married Katherine Stuart 13 Jan 1759 and died at Balfron in Stirlingshire. His parents are John Gilfillan and Janet Reid.

Alexander Gilfillan—born 1735, married Lady Katherine Buchanan 19 Jan 1754 at Falkirk, Stirlingshire. His parents are George Gilfillan and Janet McAlister.

Alexander Gilfillan—born 1794, married Ann Forrester 29 May 1812 at Airth.

If you have any information please contact Frances Cairns on **frances.cairns@bigpond.com**

www.familyfascination.com.au

Obituary
Mary McIntyre (1946-2024)



Mary Allison Hunter moved to Tillicoultry at a very young age. She attended Alloa Academy and went on to study in Paris and at the Universities of Strathclyde and Stirling. Mary became a librarian and worked in various Stirling area libraries including Bridge of Allan and Central. As Head Librarian Mary clocked up over 30 years dedicated service. On 5th December 1964 she married Jim McIntyre in Tillicoultry Church. Jim predeceased her in 2013. They had 3 sons—Hamish, Gordon and the late Lewis. Mary was the proud grandmother of two sets of twins—Erin & Lewis and Lauren & Ross. The family travelled extensively over the years and Mary relished visiting so many different countries.

Mary was an elder in Tillicoultry Parish Church and sang in the choir there.

Mary joined the Central Scotland Family History Society in 1997 and was chairperson from 2008 – 2016. She was chair when the Society hosted the SAFHS Annual Conference in Stirling in 2015. After resigning as chair, Mary continued to attend meetings of the Society until ill-health prevented her.

Family History Sources in Clackmannanshire Archives

By Susan Yule, Clackmannanshire Archives

(April 2024 talk)

Susan is based in the Speirs Centre in Alloa and has been the Archives and Record Management Officer for seven years.

I look after both archives and local history. The archives are more unique records that were created by different people and organisations. The local history collection is more the published material about the local area. A new archives store was put in in 2017 in what was originally the billiards room when the building was the swimming baths and gymnasium. The floor had to be reinforced and we got the mobile shelving system with the turn handles.

Archives

We have a mixture of volumes and boxes of records and the job of keeping track of where everything is and what everything is. We have sasine abridgements and sasine indexes, dealing with the transfer of heritable property which includes land, houses, other buildings and minerals in the ground. Since 1617, every transfer of ownership or use of the property as collateral for a loan is recorded in the Register of Sasines. Unfortunately, the sasines don't record things like demolitions, property reconstruction or alterations. We have the sasine person indexes from 1869 to 1969 with a few gaps, mostly between 1900 and 1911.

Council records

Another property resource for research is the Valuation Rolls. These were created by the County and the Regional Assessors offices for the purpose of local taxation. Our main collection of county Valuation Rolls starts in 1889 and goes up to 2011. We also have a draft handwritten valuation roll for 1855. We also have some Assessment Rolls for the individual burghs which start on the 1880s. From 1990 onwards, the Valuation Rolls only consist of commercial properties which paid business rates as domestic properties were covered by the Poll Tax. They give you the owner's name, the tenant's name and often occupation, as well as the property value.

We have Electoral Registers and Voters Rolls. The first one is for 1927, then there is a gap in the collection until the 1960s. We do have some earlier voters' information from the 1800s into the 1900s in the local history collection. The National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh also have registers of voters in Clackmannanshire between 1832 and 1862.

The archive also holds School Records. We have records for 29 local schools; some are historical schools and some are still in operation. We also have records of meeting minutes for the School Boards. Admission Registers usually contain pupils' names, dates of birth, addresses, parents' names and when the children left that school. Due to the personal information held in them, they usually have a 100-year closure period for data protection. The Admission Registers that are

available for people to look at are those for Alloa Academy, Alloa St John's, Sauchie public school, Alva Academy and Dollar public school.

We also have a series of log-books which are more about the day-to-day running of the schools. They include names of teachers, what classes they were teaching, tests given, class progress and prize-giving ceremonies. Log-books exist for various Alloa schools as well as Devon, Fishcross, Clackmannan, Kennet, Alva Academy Infants School, Menrtrie, Coalsnaughton, Tillicoultry Junior Secondary and Dollar Public School. The log-books usually have a 50-year closure period on them for personal information. For a few of the schools, we also have school magazines and official opening brochures for some of the school buildings.

We have some Poor Relief Records. Before 1845 the responsibility for poor relief lay jointly with the local heritors (landowners) and the Kirk Sessions of each parish. Our Kirk Session Records are actually held at Stirling Archives. The Poor Law Act in 1845 established parochial boards to administer poor relief in each parish. The closure period for sensitive information in these records is 75 years for adults and 100 years for children's registers. We have lists of the poor (Paupers' Rolls) in the parochial board minutes for Alloa, Clackmannan, Alva, Tillicoultry, Dollar and Muckhart parishes. These mostly date from the 1840s and 1850s onwards.

The Clackmannanshire Council website has some digitised Burial Records dating back to 1866 with a searchable database. Within the Archives unfortunately, a lot of the burial records don't have specific dates on them or they have vague dates. They are often about who bought the lairs, rather than who is buried in them. The earliest records are for Dollar Churchyard from 1740, Alloa Greenside Cemetery from 1759 and Clackmannan Churchyard from 1781. Most of the other burial records start from the mid-1800s. There is a Burials Officer who is based at Sunnyside Cemetery in Alloa with a small office and he holds some burial records there. If you would like to visit Greenside Cemetery, you have to make an appointment with the Burials Officer as it is kept locked.

We did a volunteer project last year about the Clackmannan Combination Infectious Diseases Hospital (also known as the Fever Hospital) to index patients' names from a donated Medical Superintendent's Casebook 1895 - 1916. We already had some hospital records in the council collection with staff names contained in the minutes.

What we unfortunately don't have in Clackmannanshire Archives (as we don't have Charge and Superintendence status which is awarded by the National Records of Scotland) are certain records which originally go to Edinburgh and then local archives are awarded custody of them. Stirling Archives have been awarded this status. They hold the Kirk Session records, Justice of the Peace and Police Records for Clackmannanshire. They also hold the Alloa Harbour records dealing with Customs & Excise.

Private deposits

The private deposit records are made up of items that have been donated to us by local individuals, clubs, businesses and organisations. The biggest one we have is

the Patons & Baldwins Woollen Mills collection. We also have the Alva Estate papers and Tillicoultry Estate papers dating back to 1596. We have items from the Clackmannanshire Agricultural Society, the British Women's Temperance Association, the Masonic Lodge, Devon Valley Tribune newspapers and the Clackmannanshire Oral History Project done in the 1980s. They put a closure date on that for the actual recordings but the transcripts are available to view.

There are items from sports clubs such as Alloa Bowling Club, St John's Cricket Club and Norwood Ladies Swimming Club. The items for Patons & Baldwins cover the woollen mills they had in the local area as well as in England and overseas in Canada, China and Tasmania. There is a photo album of the setting up of the mill in Launceston in Tasmania. We don't have a lot of personnel records in the collection, especially for the earlier period. We have a Wages Book from the 1930s and 1940s, Overlookers' (supervisors) Minutes from the 1950s and 1960s, but nothing earlier. The staff magazines hold most of the available staff information. There is information on weddings, staff clubs, promotions and trainees etc.

The Johnstone of Alva Papers (the estate was earlier owned by the Erskine family) date back to the Jacobite period. It includes correspondence between the different family members and their business associates and social contacts. There is also a plan of the Barony of Alva from the mid-18th century as well as a Barony of Alva Court Book from the 1730s up to the 1780s which includes a list of Alva tenants, cottars and householders.

Recently-catalogued collections include those of the Alloa Burns Club (done as a joint project with Stirling University Archives). They have a digitisation studio with large-scale scanners and book scanners. They digitised the Minute Books and the Burns Supper menus. These are now available to view on the Stirling University Archives website. The club was originally known as the Alloa Tripe Club. Another collection recently catalogued is that of the Deerpark Youth Theatre records. This was a donation from a lady who had done the costume and set design for the theatre and she wanted the scrapbooks she had compiled to be donated to the archives. It includes photos of the productions, costumes, set designs and newspaper clippings. They did local productions and also performed at the Edinburgh Fringe for several years. The collection dates from around the 1960s up to the 2000s. It includes correspondence, including telegrams from one of their patrons, the actress Vanessa Redgrave.

Local History Collection

This includes photographs, covering all the towns and villages in Clackmannanshire arranged into subjects such as street scenes, education, industry and sport. There is also a collection of ephemera (items that were supposed to be for short-term use) like tickets and programmes. The published material for the collection includes books as well as the local publication booklets produced by Clackmannan Libraries in the 1980s. They produced a Register of Voters of Clackmannan 1832 - 1834, books about the harbour and the aircraft factory that used to be at Alloa Harbour making Sopwith Camels during the First World War. We also have the County Annual Registers which hold a wealth of local information such as lists of voters,

householders, businesses, churches, schools, post offices, clubs and societies. We have the Statistical Accounts for Clackmannanshire, copies of Ordnance Survey maps and street plans and some monumental inscriptions for Clackmannanshire and the booklets published by our Society on the pre-1855 burials.

As well as having the physical bound volumes of newspapers from the late 1800s up to the 1970s, we have them on microfilm as well. From the 1970s onward, the newspapers are only on microfilm. There is a newspaper index, but it is held on microfiche sheets. We also have the Old Parish Registers on microfilm and the census records up to 1901. You can also look at the online catalogue which covers the archives, local history collection and the museum collections.

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NEW MEMBERS

1217	Suzanne Proven	Portencross
1218	Gordon Lumsden	Falkirk
1219	Claire Callender	Ottawa, Ontario
1220	Andrew Melville	Sheffield
1221	Shirlee Cantwell	Wellington, New Zealand
1222	Wilma Nicholson	British Columbia, Canada
1223	Anthony Mazy	Hercules, California
1224	Marion Boisen	New Plymouth, New Zealand
1225	Bob Wilesmith	New South Wales, Australia
1226	Gary Lawrie	Stirling
1227	Tricia Parnell	Victoria, Australia
1228	Elaine Petrie	Falkirk
1229	Madeline Woolfson	California, USA
1230	Fiona Patterson	Dunfermline
1231	Kay Campbell	Stirling
1232	Andrew Campbell	Stirling

The Story of Wangra and Alva House

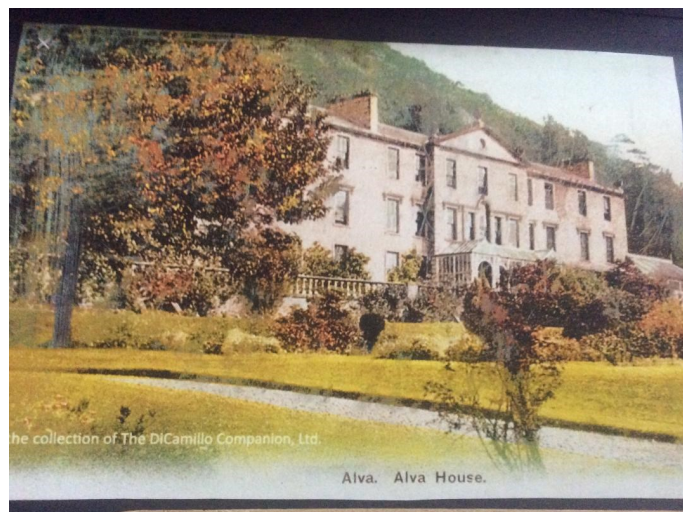
By Alva Harker (AGM talk 1)

This afternoon I would like to give a short talk which relates to both my family history and local history.



The first photograph is of Alva Infants School in 1899. My grandfather Robert Paterson who was born in Alva in 1896 is second from the left in the bottom row. His parents Mary and Robert worked in the local mills. Robert's great grandfather was a miner who lived in Collyland, a pit village which is no longer there but was on the road between Alva and Sauchie near H.M.P. Glenochil. His mother's family were Foggos; they came originally from the village of Garvald in East Lothian but moved to Clackmannanshire in the early 19th century. John Foggo was a shoemaker. Apparently at the time Menstrie was a well-known centre of shoemaking. His grave is in Logie churchyard.

In the centre of the photograph is a black boy called Wangra. He has a connection to Alva House.



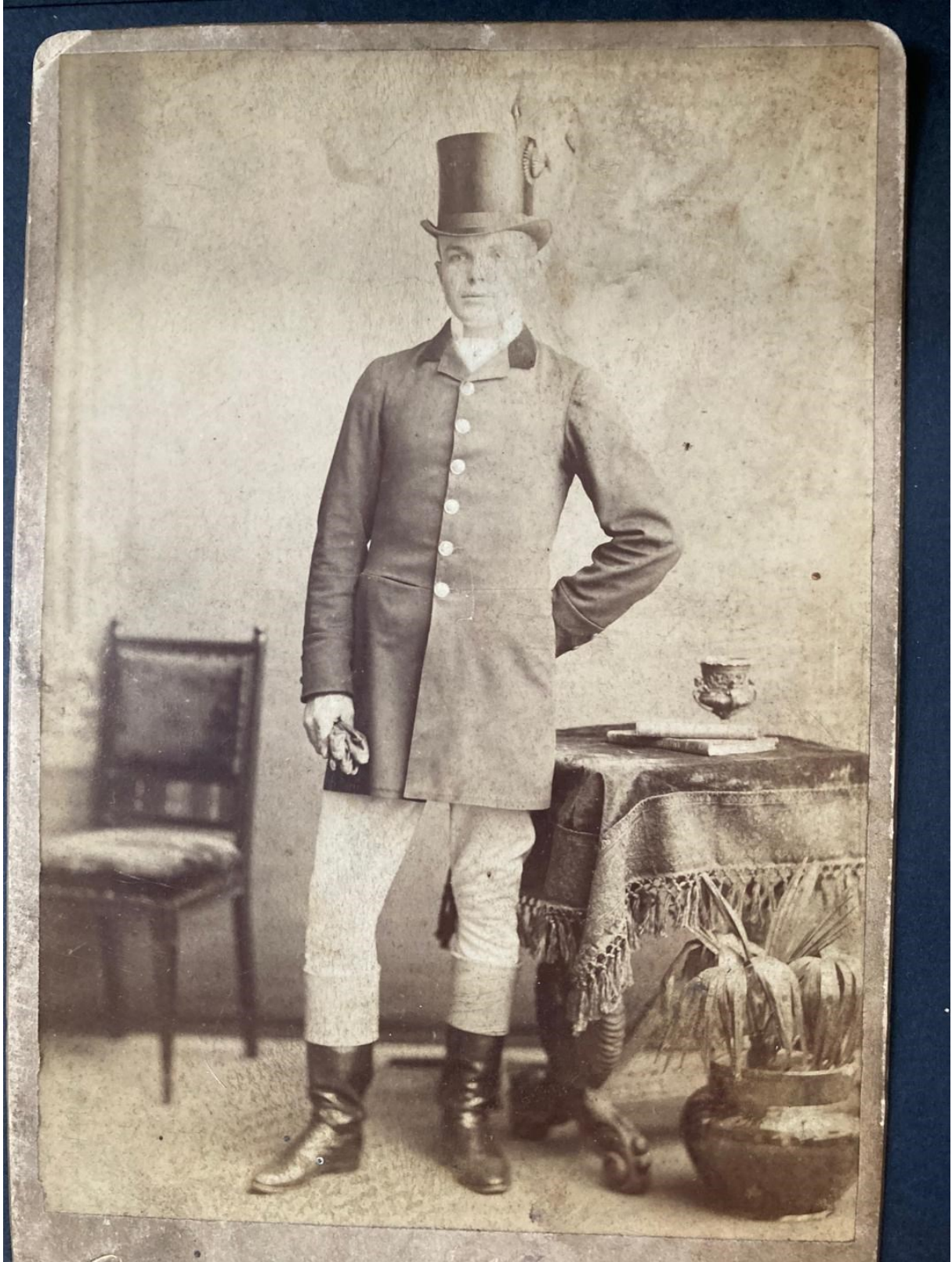
The second photograph shows Alva House as it was in its heyday. It is thought there was a tower house on the site built in the mid-16th century in a form comparable to Alloa, Clackmannan and Sauchie Towers. In the early 1700s Sir Charles Erskine mined silver in the area (hence Silver Glen) and incorporated the tower house into a mansion with at least 30 bedrooms. In 1775 John Johnstone of Westerhall, Dumfries bought the house. He commissioned the Adams brothers to extend the house and build stables, an icehouse and a mausoleum which remain to this day. The mausoleum is in the grounds of St Serfs Church, which was demolished by fire in 1985, although it was no longer in use by this stage. John Johnstone's son James had a very large family and had a large western extension built along with a decorative walkway and beautiful conservatory. Today all that is left is part of a wall of this extension. In 2022 we visited the site of the house and the icehouse on a Clackmannanshire Doors Open Day. The icehouse is worth a visit. It is quite large and elaborate with a heptagonal chamber. Large blocks of ice were shipped in from Scandinavia to provide refrigerated storage for the big house.

Caroline Johnstone, born 1849, was the granddaughter of James Johnstone. She was unmarried and lived in Alva House for many years. She had two half-brothers; James Henry L'Estrange (b. 1865) and Henry (Harry) Beresford Johnstone (b. 1871) Both brothers spent many years in East Africa. Harry Johnstone worked for the Imperial British East Africa Company which was founded in 1888 to develop trade in the areas controlled by the British Empire. It oversaw territories in present day Uganda, Somalia and Kenya. It became bankrupt after a few years and territory became the Uganda Protectorate and East Africa Protectorate under control of the British Government. It is said that Wangra saved the life of Harry Johnstone and was brought back to Scotland to provide him with an education and employment at Alva House.

The 1901 census of Alva House shows Caroline Johnstone as head of the house. At this period there were still several servants and Tom Wangra, aged 16, is listed as an under footman. I have tried to decipher his place of birth but have been unable to. It begins with a B and Uganda at that period was known as Buganda. Wangra is also a fairly common surname in Uganda.

In the following years the upkeep of the house was proving impossible. Caroline Johnstone appeared to have expensive tastes, but she was also philanthropic and was President of the Scottish Domestic Servants Association which cared for servants when they fell on hard times. She died in another Johnstone property, Myretoun House in Menstrie in 1929. There is a fountain erected to her memory in Johnstone Park in Alva. The house fell into disrepair and by the Second World War was roofless and being used for target practice by the army. It is thought that Wangra returned to Africa as a missionary. The archivists in Alloa have a large collection of Johnstone papers. They haven't all been indexed yet, but it would be interesting in the future to discover any correspondence regarding Henry Johnstone and Wangra.

The stable block remains. It once housed 19 horses. This is a photograph of one of my Foggo forebears who was a groom at Alva House. I haven't been able to identify which one but my research on that continues. I recently spoke to an expert in historical photography who told me that you can get information from the clothes worn as to the date of the photograph and this may give me a clue for further research.



PLEASE MR POSTMAN

Sandra Reid (AGM talk 2)

I'll start by telling you about the main characters in my story.

My mother had two cousins, a sister and brother - Cathy and George Kirkland - neither of whom ever married. Though they lived in England since 1935 we still saw them occasionally at family events and holidays.

After their parents' deaths in the 60s, they continued to live together in the family home in Eastbourne. My mother and Cathy kept in touch, like all families, at Christmas time and after my mother died, I kept up the correspondence.

Sadly in January 2014 George died, and shortly after my brother and I had attended his funeral, Cathy asked me to be her next-of-kin. Little did we know that Cathy would die 7 months later in the August.

So there I was back in Eastbourne for two separate weeks arranging a funeral, then clearing out the house of people I knew – and yet I didn't know. It was a sad but interesting experience – staying in a house from the 1960s era.



But among their many possessions I came across, at the back of a cupboard, was this bag of 154 postcards, which has added some interesting snippets to my family tree.

They were written to Cathy by her unmarried Aunt Cathy (who lived in Glasgow with her mother), when the Kirkland family was living in America, where their father was working at the time. Cathy and her mother first went out in December 1927, when Cathy was just 2½ years old and George was born in America in April 1931. The family finally returned to Scotland in April 1932.



Most of the postcards are dated, so I've been able to arrange them in chronological order from August 1928 – March 1932, with a few odd ones written later in 1935 and 1936, when the family was back in England living in Birmingham, then Wolverhampton. They are written almost weekly.

I have transcribed them all, both the back and front. And – there are very few duplicates! It is interesting to see how the style and fashion of the cards changes over the years. I'm not sure that some are even suitable for such a young child! What strikes me too is the language used sometimes to such a young child by her aunt who would have been in her early 30s at the time!

Many of them have little information of any significance, but there are times when I've been able to pick up a few gems of information. I discovered that Cathy and her mother came home to Glasgow for a holiday in 1929; found out the exact date when Aunt Cathy and her mother (my great grandmother) moved house in December 1929; that Aunt Cathy had attended the launch of a ship called the 'Empress of Japan' in December 1929 at Fairfield Shipyard; that my mother was more sporty than I had realised!; that Aunt Cathy liked to go to whist drives; that she and her mother went to a place called Cullercoats on holiday in 1930. These may all seem quite insignificant, but they all add that little bit extra 'something' to a family tree.

Exchange Journals Received: List 67 – Aug 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 centcotfhs@gmail.com.

Society	Issue	Format
Aberdeen & North East FHS	168 Nov 23, 169 Feb 24, 170 May 24	e-journal
Caithness FHS	No. 76 June 24	e-journal
Dumfries & Galloway FHS	No. 108 Mar 24, No. 109 July 24	e-journal
East Ayrshire FHS	Issue 54 April 24, Issue 55 Aug 24	e-journal
Glasgow FHS	No. 129 Mar 24, No. 130 June 24	e-journal
Highland FHS	Vol 42 Issue 2 Feb 24, Vol 42 Issue 3 May 24	e-journal
Lothians FHS	Spring 24 (Mar-May), Summer 24 (Jun-Aug)	e-journal
North Ayrshire FHS	Spring 2024	e-journal
Orkney FHS	Issue 108 Dec 23, Issue 109 Spring 24, Issue 110 Summer 24	Hard copy
Renfrew FHS	Issue 51 Feb 24	e-journal
Shetland FHS	No. 129 Voar 24, No. 130 Simmer 24	e-journal
Tay Valley FHS	127 Feb 24, 128 Jun 24	e-journal
Troon@Ayrshire FHS	100 Winter 23, 101 Spring 24	e-journal
Genealogist Magazine	Vol 34 No. 9 March 24, Vol 34 No. 10 Jun 24, Vol 34 No. 11 Sept 24	e-journal
Berkshire FHS	47 Mar 24, 47 Jun 24	e-journal
The Manchester Genealogist	Vol 60 No. 1 2024	e-journal
Waltham Forest FHS	March 24	e-journal
Alberta FHS	Vol 6-1 Jan 24, Vol 6-2 Feb 24, Vol 6-3 Mar 24, Vol 6-4 Apr 24, Vol 6-5 May 24, Vol 6-6 Jun 24	e-journal
The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra	Vol 47 No. 1 March 24	e-journal
Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group	Iss 54 May 24	e-journal
Liverpool Gen Soc	No. 136 Feb 24, No. 137 Jun 24	Hard copy
Journal of Richmond-Tweed FHS inc Ballina NSW Australia	Iss 159 Mar 24, Iss 160 Jun 24	e-journal
Journal of Shoalhaven FHS inc Australia	Iss133 April 24	e-journal
Journal of the Western Australian Gen Soc	Vol 15 No. 10 Mar 24, Vol 15 No. 11 July 24	e-journal
Scottish Interest Group NZSG	Issue 136 April 24	e-journal
Family History Society of New Zealand	Dec 22, Mar 24, Apr 24, Jun 24	e-journal

Cover Photos

The Churches of Killearn

The front cover shows Killearn Old Kirk and graveyard built in 1733. This replaced an original church dating from the 13th century. When comparing both cover pictures, you can see a number of flat stones that are now overgrown by the grass. To the left-hand-side is the 31-metre-high Buchanan Monument to George Buchanan who was born in Killearn. He was a royal advisor to Mary Queen of Scots and tutor to James VI. In the 1820s it was replaced by a new building which is now the village hall.



The church above was replaced by the “New Kirk” in 1882. Further details can be found on the Killearn heritage website—<https://killearnheritage.org.uk> and the Buchanan website—www.buchanansociety.com





Killearn Old Kirk present day

