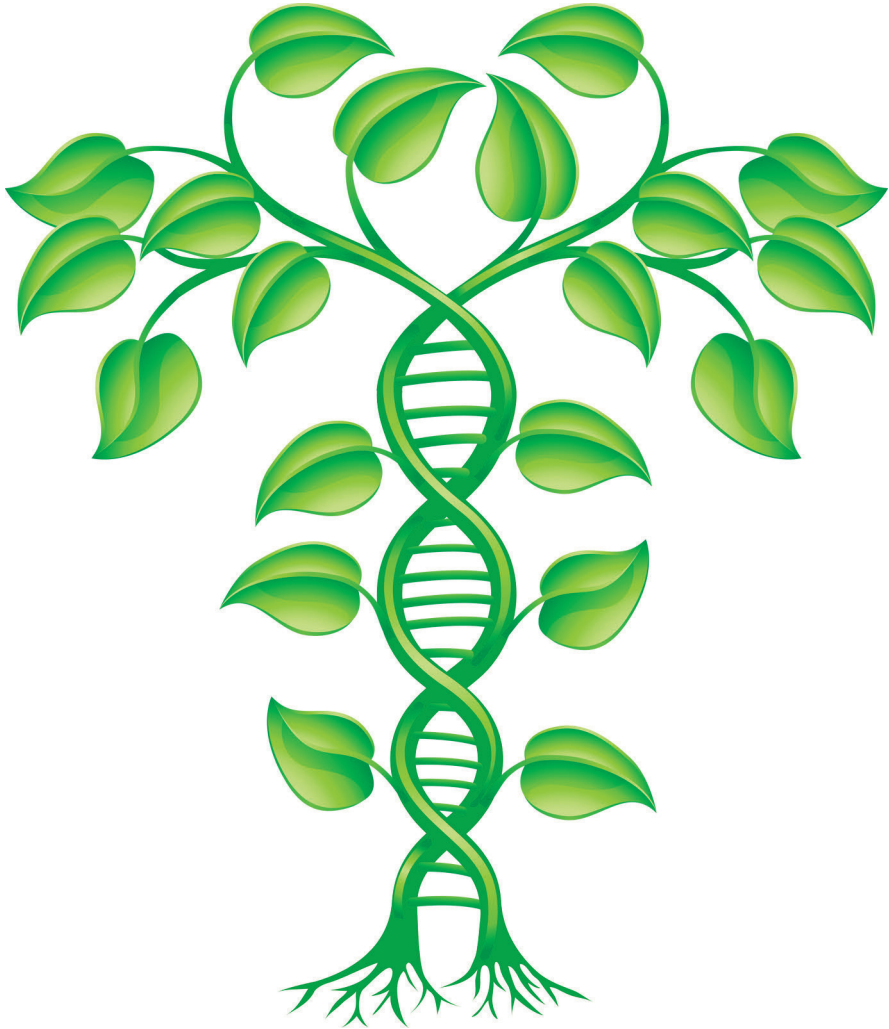




# GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

March 2023

Issue 126



**Exploring our ancestors through DNA:  
who and what might we discover?**

*Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society Journal*



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# Welcome to Journal 126

The DNA theme for this edition has provided articles on discoveries of unknown cousins, and tracing long-unknown ancestors. There are also articles about how to go about using your DNA results and a review of a course which might help if you are struggling to get your head around the myriad of DNA data presented to you by Ancestry or other providers.

We are pleased to announce our new Affiliate Library status with FamilySearch, which provides great opportunities to access the vast range of records held by them which are not available through their main website when searching from home. Murray Archer has written an article giving more details, including ways in which it can be accessed.

Alongside these are contributions reflecting the wide range of family history research that our members have been involved with which are always interesting to read about.

**Karen Hunter, Editor**

## Themes for Future Journals

### J127: June 2023

#### *Exploring our family links to Ireland*

Closing date for submitting articles:  
31 March 2023

### J128: October 2023

#### *Glasgow opens its doors: stories of immigrants who have made Glasgow their home*

Closing date for submitting articles: 30  
July 2023

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## Chair's Blog

We are approaching the end of another session, with our AGM in April, and are thankfully emerging from a few years of lockdowns. Over the period the Society managed to maintain its presence thanks to Zoom meetings. Although we have missed the personal contact, Zoom has engaged many more of our distant members which is great. This year the talks have been extended through the summer, organised by our new Syllabus Secretary.

Now things are opening up, our assistants have gathered to be able to open the Research Centre for three afternoons a week. Perhaps the most exciting centre news is that we have become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library - this gives researchers in the centre full access to images on the FamilySearch site. In time, as we build up volunteers, we hope to be able to offer a download service to members who provide full document reference researched from their indexes. [See the article on page 30 of this Journal for more details.]

Our last AGM saw many changes to the Council and the new office bearers have been working to document processes and teams to try and share out some of the load taken on by a few council members. We still have some positions vacant which you may be able to contribute to: if you have an interest why not contact our Secretary.

Our publications group have made available a wide range of items in PDF format. This has made a number of paper and CD offerings available which had previously been out of print or expensive

to post: now a few clicks can bring a searchable PDF to your computer screen. [See page 22 for more details.] Similarly the Journal and e-News archives are available through our website.

The website provides a resource for all our members and the wider community, giving access to the Society's online resources. The last few years have seen a great increase in datasets, which has taken us close to the limit of the website, and we have now sadly lost our much-valued Data Manager, David Hart [See his obituary on page 12] If any member has experience in database management or web page editing, and could offer their support, our Webmaster would love to hear from you through [webmaster@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@gwsfhs.org.uk).

The move to publication of the Journal in colour has been well received and the Editor has collected an excellent range of articles on all subjects. The theme for each Journal provides a focus for the articles, but does not limit the subjects. Articles illustrating your research, family stories or local histories illustrating the past lives of our ancestors are all much appreciated.

On a monthly basis the brief e-News sheet is now reaching more than 1000 members and other subscribers who have signed up on the website. Sent by email, it provides links about the Society and also about other events. Because of security changes at Microsoft an alternative link was added to directly open the document, but it is often moved to the 'Downloads' folder and needs a second click to open it.

**Scott Fairie, Chair, 30**

# The search for my Great Great Grandfather

After decades of research, my paternal great great grandfather had remained an empty space on the family tree. Elizabeth GREEN, his daughter and my great grandmother, had been born at Bedlington Colliery, Northumberland, a purpose-built mining village of four rows of houses at the pit head.

Miners were valued employees, and the houses were two-storey properties, each with its own coal bunker, outside W.C. and long vegetable garden. Just north of the village lay Hirst Head Farm; to the east, the coastal town of Blyth and to the south the town of Bedlington.

Elizabeth's mother, Mary Green, lived with her parents Lewis and Margaret Green, and her married sister and brother-in-law and their two children. In 1855 Mary had given birth to Jane Ann - father's name not given on the birth certificate. Mary's next child, Elizabeth Green, was born in 1862, and it is probable that the two girls had different fathers.



*Margaret Taylor and Lizzie Taylor née Green*

By 2014, when I did my first DNA test (with Family Tree DNA), stories were already

abounding of astonishing discoveries of 'lost' ancestors found through this newly available tool. My brother and paternal first cousin tested too but we saw no obvious Green matches appearing from the results. The break-through came after I had tested with Ancestry and a known paternal second cousin (P.T.) appeared among my matches. We shared 3% DNA and 179cM over 10 segments.

P.T. is the granddaughter of my grandfather's brother. Later her sister and niece tested, respectively sharing with me 3% and 1% DNA. However, the really interesting part was the cluster of triangulating matches between us who had origins in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. (Triangulation occurs when three or more DNA testers all match each other on the same segment of DNA on the same copy of the same chromosome.) At first the cluster was about six people, including a father and daughter. The daughter, Leslie, was the only one to reply to me, but that was enough.

I started by creating a family tree based on Leslie's knowledge of her English ancestors, the Parkers. On her online tree was recorded the marriage of a Matthew Green (c.1830-1912) and Mary Ann PARKER (1833-1906). I assumed there must be a genetic link between the Greens of Bedlington Colliery and Leslie's Greens of Rothbury, Northumberland. However, the surname Green is one of the most common in the English language and despite extensive searching, I have been unable to find a connection between the two families.

The Rothbury Greens comprised John Green and Margaret WHELANS, their daughter Isabella (b 1833), and sons Christopher (b 1827), Matthew (b c.1830)

and John (b 1843). In 1851 Christopher Green was employed by Fenwick Wilson as a servant on Hirst Head Farm, north of Bedlington Colliery. The Greens kept in touch with the Wilson family, and in 1861, John senior and his family, including Matthew's wife and three children, were all living at Hirst Head Farm Cottage.

Elizabeth Green was born at Bedlington Colliery on 1 October 1862, suggesting that Mary had had a relationship around Christmas Eve 1861. Matthew Green stayed in England until after the birth of his fourth child, William, in 1862, before moving with his family first to Illinois (often the arrival point for emigrants leaving the UK for America), then Iowa and finally settling in Pennsylvania.

Matthew and his wife, Mary Ann Parker, had a total of ten children. He was a pillar of the community in the town of Banksville, Pennsylvania, becoming a justice of the peace, a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Banksville and of the Sons of St George.

On the Green/Parker family tree, I entered the ten children of Matthew and Mary Ann, and began tracing the descendants of each one. I was unable to find the descendants of Matthew's siblings, Isabella and John Green, because the names were so common, but had high hopes of Christopher.

Aside from Matthew, there are other possible fathers for my great grandmother. Although Christopher was married and living away from his parents by 1861, he could have joined the family for Christmas 1861. John, aged around 17, is another candidate as is his father, the 64 year old John Green snr, both of whom were living at nearby Hirst Head Farm.

So far, I had mainly used Ancestry to identify matches. It was the testing company used by P.T. and Leslie, and the 'in common with' feature enabled me to build up a list of matches I shared with them. I had long ago unsubscribed from Gedmatch (because of its security record) but my brother and cousin had both tested with FTDNA, where the chromosome matching feature enabled more accurate DNA comparisons.

On FTDNA, I matched 'Christopher', a direct descendant of Matthew Green's brother, and my brother and cousin were both matches with him too - on chromosome 20. Our matches with Christopher confirmed that I and my relatives were descended from the Green rather than Mary Ann Parker's line.

As a final check, I selected some of the names that had come up on Ancestry as triangulating between P.T. and myself, with a view to tracing the living people back to Matthew Parker's individual offspring. Leslie had replied to me and given me access to her tree, so the connection between her, her father and myself was documented. Another match's reply, from Mindy, enabled me to trace her and her brother back to another of Matthew's children.

A final bit of rummaging in the Public Members Trees section of Ancestry (which has proved very useful in this project) revealed a link between myself, 'Patricia' and yet another of Matthew's children.

I hope this argument is sufficiently water-tight to convince all but the most sceptical of readers, and that Matthew Green isn't sitting on a celestial cloud raging with indignation at my suggestion!

**Diana Burns, 7039**

# A short guide to DNA

I have found the easy access to DNA tests to be the most important advance in genealogical research tools in recent years. If you have taken a DNA test or are thinking about it, you may still be wondering how it can really help you. This article attempts to give you a few pointers to its usefulness.

Male line only (Y-DNA) tests have been available for much longer than autosomal (atDNA) tests, which only became available about seven or eight years ago. Dealing briefly with Y-DNA tests, these are most useful for someone trying to solve a mystery in their direct male line, e.g. to home in on at least the surname of an unknown ancestor or even to track down an unknown father. I believe some testers find either no or very few matches, whereas I found many, with no predominant surname among them. This type of test can only be taken by males, although a female could possibly ask a suitable male relative, e.g. a father or brother, to take the test on her behalf. Female line tests (mitochondrial DNA) have their uses, but are outwith the scope of this article.

Autosomal tests can be taken by both males and females, and the results have many more uses than Y-DNA tests. When the results are received you will, on signing into your account on the testing company's website, be presented with an ethnicity estimate and a list of your DNA matches.

You will probably find the ethnicity estimate initially very interesting,

although for most testers it will only confirm what they already suspect. For many people in the west of Scotland, it will reveal varying proportions of Scottish and Irish ancestry, with perhaps a dash of English or Scandinavian. If any unexpected ethnicity is flagged up, that would be worth investigating further.

For a family historian the real meat of the results is in the DNA matches. The list will be presented in descending order of amount of shared DNA, measured in centiMorgans. You may recognise some relations in the list, as many people use their own name as their user name, though it is possible to use a code or initials. It will then be possible, if you wish, to make contact with these matches.

The full potential of your test can, however, only be realised if you link your results to your family tree. To do this you must either build a tree on the company's website, or upload as a gedcom file an already existing tree, which you may have built on a stand-alone genealogy program on your home computer. Having done this, you must link your test to the tree, assigning yourself as the "Home Person". You must then decide whether to make your tree public for anyone to see, or to keep it private. A possible compromise is to mark yourself and your parents as "Private", so that no details will be displayed. If your existing tree has a very large number of names, another compromise could be to upload a gedcom file containing only your direct ancestral line or that line plus siblings of your direct ancestors. It is always possible to add other names later.

Once you have taken a test with one company, it may be possible to send your



results, which are your own property, to other testing companies, depending on whether they will accept them. For instance, Ancestry results can be sent to MyHeritage free of charge.

Moving on to the uses of your match list, I have listed below some of the possibilities:

- (a) Making contact with relatives to share information.
- (b) Pushing back your tree if someone has made more progress than yourself.
- (c) Validating the research you have already done by traditional means.
- (d) Finding out what became of someone who just disappeared from e.g. the Scottish records.
- (e) Possibly being able to view and copy photographs of some of your ancestors.

Two particularly useful features provided by Ancestry.com are “ThruLines” and “Common Ancestors”. These both give hints as to how some of your matches might be related to you by suggesting a line of descent from common ancestors. It should be borne in mind that the results are only as good as the trees submitted by testers. Nevertheless, I have found these to be mainly accurate.

Although your own tree is presumably thoroughly researched, the same cannot be said for all the trees you find online. It therefore goes without saying that you should verify each addition you make to your tree.

A warning should be given at this stage before taking the plunge. Your DNA results could reveal unwanted discoveries. In a worst-case scenario, you could find out

unexpectedly that you were adopted, or that your biological father is not the person who helped bring you up. These matters are definitely worth considering before you take a test. As an example, I once received a message from someone who was puzzled by the fact that they had many matches attributable to their mother’s side of the family, but none from their father’s side. I had to phrase my reply very carefully.

Once you have mastered the DNA basics, it is possible to take things further by doing some chromosome browsing, which is possible on MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA and Gedmatch. This feature can enable you to identify which segments of which chromosomes came from which ancestors. Then when a new match pops up, you may be able to work out where on your tree they are likely to fit in. This guide is however not going to attempt a detailed explanation and I would recommend reading up about the subject.

For two practical illustrations of the uses of DNA tests, readers may wish to refer to two articles I wrote for the Journal, viz., *The DNA Hunters* in Journal 108 (March 2017) and *The Fergusons of Kilwaughter* in Journal 118 (June 2020).

**Robert J Carson, 1587**  
[r.j.carson@talktalk.net](mailto:r.j.carson@talktalk.net)

*An anonymised example of an 'ethnicity estimate' from Ancestry DNA*





# Family Tree's DNA Bootcamp Course

I am the second generation custodian of our family history: my late aunt Mabel began her research decades ago before any documents were available online. Consumer DNA tests were science fiction.

In 2017, Kylie and Grahame, cousins in New Zealand, asked me to help them to break down one of our "brick walls", the father of my maternal grandmother. Kylie grouped unidentified autosomal DNA matches. One of these matches was a professional genealogist in Washington State, USA. My role was to take a DNA test and share my match list (as one of the oldest generation in our family). We were successful – further details are in *Journal 120, McLeans from Cathcart to New Zealand*.

Prior to then, I attended a couple of presentations by Michelle Leonard on DNA testing for genealogy. Michelle recommended Blaine Bettinger's book *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, [See review on page 36.] I read this book and I took tests with several of the testing companies. In May 2019, I gave a brief presentation at a Members' Day of the Glasgow Group of the ANESFHS – when I looked at the audience I saw Michelle in the front row!

Like most people, when I received the results of my autosomal DNA test, I looked at the match list and I saw some close relatives; some known cousins and many unfamiliar names. I concentrated my efforts on my Ancestry DNA matches because Ancestry has the largest database of test takers. The familiar

names gave me confidence in the test technology and I was relieved that they supported relationships derived from our paper research into documents that were often thin on details. Paper documents might be wrong – one elderly cousin told me that her mother lied to the Registrar!

However, I felt that there were gaps in my understanding of the application of DNA testing for genealogy research. My research was intermittent, as time allowed, and somewhat lacking in focus. I rarely looked at my match lists on the other vendor websites. When I retired, I naively thought that I would have more time to spend on my research. I viewed some of the webinars available on-line or on YouTube. Then I read that Michelle Leonard would tutor an 8-week DNA Bootcamp run by Family Tree magazine. I enrolled in the Autumn 2021 course (September – November).

The Autumn 2021 DNA Bootcamp was the second enrolment: for this term Michelle updated her presentation slides and she wrote a 52-page DNA Workbook that comprises information and practical tasks covered in the course. The Workbook was provided to students at no extra cost as a PDF or editable Word document. A printed copy was offered at a discounted extra cost to students and Family Tree magazine subscribers or full price to non-subscribers. [See review on page 36.] In addition, Family Tree gave students a pre-course reading list; a guide to DNA testing companies; a DNA glossary and an Excel Workbook Resources template.

Michelle presented four fortnightly webinars of 105 minutes each with interactive follow up meetings (split into

four groups) one week after each of the webinars. Michelle always has a lot of content to present in her webinars and so recordings were made available to the students and she encouraged us to re-watch them, pausing when convenient, to give ourselves time to understand her. Each week, Family Tree gave us a handout listing our tasks for the week, with timings for the relevant topic in the webinar and links to other resources.

Family Tree created a dedicated, private Facebook group for DNA Bootcamp students to share tips, advice and queries. Although membership of the Facebook group was optional, the discussion in the group was one of the benefits that I got from the course. I was always sceptical about Facebook but Helen Tovey of Family Tree reassured us that we didn't need to share anything publicly and so I joined. Family Tree administer a group for the DNA Bootcamp alumni where we were able to virtually meet some of the students from the first course.

There are no prerequisites for enrolment in the DNA Bootcamp although most of the tasks use the results of your DNA test and so I would recommend that you have at least one test result before enrolment. A couple of students didn't receive their test results until well into the course. Michelle began at the beginning, assuming no prior knowledge of DNA. Most of us had some experience already; however, I found that I picked up some things that I had missed or misunderstood in my preparation.

The DNA Bootcamp was not a course in genetics, although Michelle explained the different types of DNA test, the different patterns of inheritance of autosomal,

Y-DNA, X-DNA and mitochondrial DNA and when it would be appropriate to use each type of test. Most of the course referred to autosomal DNA testing because this is the most useful test for us to build and validate our family trees. It is not necessary for you to take the other types of DNA test for this course.

The DNA Bootcamp was not a course in statistics, although some basic understanding of statistical probability is necessary. Michelle explained that autosomal DNA recombination and inheritance is random and that beyond close family members the amount of shared DNA does not prove a particular relationship; e.g. 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin? It seemed to me that some of the students seek certainty and they struggled to understand or accept that their test results won't always provide that certainty.

Michelle emphasised that we should be sceptical of all hints generated from family trees submitted by the users of the websites and that we should use the Shared cM Project Tool in DNA Painter or the Possible DNA Relationships in Ancestry to check the probability of each hypothetical relationship. Although some people share much less or much more autosomal DNA than one would expect (outliers in the probability curve), these relationships are rare and we should seek paper evidence to support the relationship.

In the UK, five companies offer consumer DNA tests: Ancestry; 23andMe; MyHeritage; FamilyTreeDNA and LivingDNA. Michelle gave fair coverage to the tests and tools offered by each of these companies. Course participants

had taken tests and/or uploaded test results to most of these sites. Michelle's recommendation was that we test and/or upload into as many sites as we can afford ("fish in all the ponds"), starting with Ancestry because they have the largest database. Michelle also recommended that we concentrate on learning one site at a time.

A major focus of the DNA Bootcamp was management of our DNA match lists. Michelle showed us how she uses Ancestry's colour coded groups and the shared matches to known cousins to allocate unidentified matches to specific branches of the tester's tree. She suggested naming conventions for these groups. Which convention one adopts depends upon one's current research question and personal preference. During the course, MyHeritage added colour coded labels to their matches and the filter for their match list, which enables this technique on their site too (see: <https://blog.myheritage.com/2021/11/introducing-labels-for-dna-matches-on-myheritage/>).

Michelle is very logical and organised whereas most of us had our research much less well organised (or even a bit of a guddle). Michelle encouraged us to define clear research questions and to use the notes facilities in the websites, and external to the websites, to document our actions. She emphasised that we must be proactive, especially with matches who haven't attached a tree to their test result. Use the messaging function to contact them. They might not reply, that is their right, which we must accept. We must be sensitive in our communication with them; our relationship might be a surprise or disclose a family secret.

Michelle told us how she handles these cases. Above all, we must do no harm to others in the pursuit of our hobby.

The hints raised by Ancestry's Common Ancestors and ThruLines™ or MyHeritage's Smart Matches and Theory of Family Relativity are the product of public trees published by their members and associated with their DNA match list. Sometimes these hints are incorrect due to errors in these trees. Many researchers build unproven hypotheses into their public trees which mislead the Artificial Intelligence 'Robots' which create the hints. Michelle showed us how to create a private and unsearchable research tree in Ancestry so that our hypotheses don't raise false hints.

I am inclined to procrastinate (as the Journal Team will testify), I am not well organised and I am easily distracted. However, I have a scientific background and I think that I think logically. The DNA Bootcamp was the help that I needed to better organise my research and the encouragement of the other students via the tutorials and the Facebook group pushed me to get it done. The tasks are not mandatory and there is no formal assessment; however, like most things in life, you get out of it what you put into it.

## Family Tree's DNA Bootcamp Next Steps course

This course is open to anyone who has attended one of the DNA Bootcamp courses or who feels they've got to grips with how to work with the DNA data at their testing site and would like to enhance their knowledge and skills. I took this course to learn more about the third-party tools and the more advanced techniques.

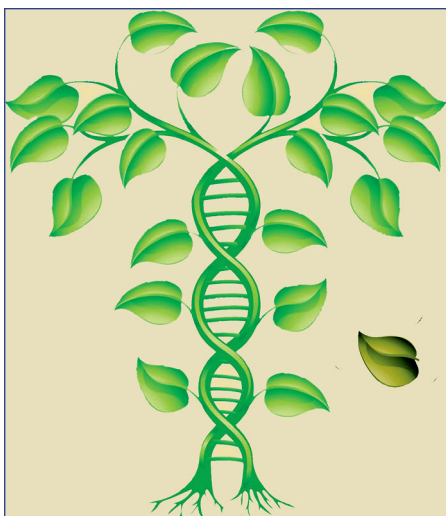
Michelle wrote a detailed handout after each of her four webinars, rather than a Workbook. These handouts (177 pages in total) are not images of her webinar slides; the handouts include more explanations and worked examples. These handouts are of such high quality in content and presentation that they could become the basis for a published book.

This course covered many topics, including: chromosome browsers; triangulation; GEDmatch; DNA Painter; What Are the Odds? (WATO); false matches; inferred chromosome mapping; DNAGedcom; clustering tools; and the Genealogical DNA Analysis Tool (GDAT).

I haven't, yet, applied many of these tools to my own research, which is why I so appreciate the handouts.

### **Murray Archer, 4316**

*Editor: Please note there are no Bootcamp courses currently scheduled. However, the workbook is still available to purchase on the Family Tree Magazine website.*



## Obituary

### David Anderson Hart, 1435



**W**e were saddened to hear of David's death on 7 January 2023 following a short illness.

David was a past member of our Council, and a valued member of the Society's Computer team over many years. As Data Manager he ably gathered together datasets and uploaded them to the website for the benefit of members.

He was a retired lecturer in Business and Computer Education at the University of Strathclyde. Together with the contributions he made to our Society he also gave time and shared his expertise with a number of other community groups, including the Church, Clydesdale Cricket Club, and Pollokshields Heritage Group whose website he created.

His loss is keenly felt, and we send condolences to his wife Sheila, son Tim, and to his wider family and friends.

**Scott Fairie, Chair**

## Identifying Family Links using DNA

Since taking a DNA test a few years ago through Ancestry I have been 'dabbling' in the results. I'm sure I should be more methodical and organised but that doesn't tend to be my approach.

However, it has helped in two specific cases. For both of these I have not given specifics to maintain confidentiality and neither of them have Scottish links but it does show the power of DNA in exploring family connections.

The first example relates to a match described on Ancestry as 'extended family', with us sharing 2% DNA, or 146cM, suggesting a 2nd cousin 1x removed. The name bore no link with any I recognised in my own tree but they showed shared matches against others I knew to be linked on my maternal side, which had the potential to narrow it down slightly. There was no linked tree - frustrating, but not unusual. However given the relatively close match I decided to pursue it and messaged them. To my surprise I had a response quite quickly. They told me:

*'I did the DNA test to uncover some geographic history, but I do not have a tree on Ancestry because I was actually adopted shortly after my birth in xxxx and know very little about my biological family other than some names and the birthplace and approximate d.o.b. of my birth mother. Other family members may not be aware of my existence and I certainly don't want to cause any*

*upset although a lot of time has gone by and attitudes have changed.'*

This certainly highlights some of the potential dilemmas of DNA testing and the need to be so careful when making contact with people.

They shared some surnames which resonated with me (which I am not revealing to maintain confidentiality). This gave me enough to work on to be able to identify where within my family tree they fitted in and how they were related. From this I was also able to share what I knew of the family and the individuals involved. My match found some of this a little overwhelming, having spent many years wondering where they had come from but they were appreciative of what information I was able to share.

The second example relates to a close relative who did not know who their father was. So when I started on this investigation I had no information about their father. They had not taken a DNA test but when it was explained that I had, and that it might show up a match in that line, they came up with a name! Yes I thought - this could give me a clue, but then I got a call to say the name wasn't correct. Fortunately they had also recalled another possible name which did help and I was eventually able to identify their paternal line. They also then told me that the couple had wanted to get married but their parents refused as they were considered to be too young. The individual concerned was then brought up by her maternal grandparents as if she was their youngest child, and the situation was almost never referred to again for many years to come!

**Karen Hunter, 10206**

# A Distressing Incident Near Uddingston

## 1788: Two Old Men Drowned

Late on a cold and foggy Saturday night, 27 February 1876, two longtime friends left Uddingston to walk to their homes in nearby Tannochside. Widowers in their early sixties, each held responsible positions as miners: one a blacksmith, and the other an engine keeper. Although they had traversed the road on many occasions, poor visibility and snow-covered ground limited their ability to follow the narrow and twisting road that led to home. At one point, where the road made a sharp right turn, the two men walked straight ahead, fell off the precipice of an unfenced quarry, and drowned in thirty feet of water. Referred to as "two highly respectable members of the community", Robert SCOTT was the blacksmith, and John BRACKENRIDGE, the engine keeper, was my great-grandfather.

An article in the Hamilton Advertiser, published on 4 March 1876, gave a detailed description of the event.

*A great sensation was caused in Uddingston and neighborhood on Sunday when the melancholy news was spread abroad that two highly respectable members of the community, Robert Scott, blacksmith, Bredisholm forge, and John Brackenridge, engine keeper, Little Up near Uddingston, had been drowned the previous night. The two men left Uddingston together about half-past eleven on Saturday night*

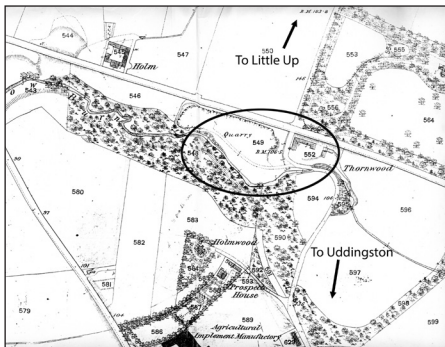
*for their homes which are situated in the direction of Nacherty. A dense fog threw a pall over the neighborhood and owing to the darkness and snow the road was very difficult to make out. At a point about a quarter of a mile distant from Uddingston, the road to Nacherty diverges to the right, straight on being the Holm Quarry, which is not fenced or closed in by any gate. The two men, in the dark, instead of turning into the Nacherty Road at the proper point, appeared not to have noticed it. Walking into the way leading to the quarry, they diverged at a track by the side of a heap of stones, which they had mistaken for the proper road. A short distance brought them to the face of the quarry, over which they walked, falling a depth of 60 feet, and being drowned in 30 feet of water.*

*Strange to say, the exciting occurrence was witnessed by a youth, who left Uddingston with his brother and others about the same time as the two men. Having missed his party on the road, he walked on after the two men, one of whom he mistakenly thought was his brother. When they took the Quarry Road, he shouted to them, "Where are you going"? Receiving the answer, "Home", he called to them to come back, but before another answer could be given, they disappeared from sight over the precipice.*

*In a distracted state, the lad ran back for help in the direction of Uddingston, but meeting at a short distance his brother, had his principal fear relieved. The two proceeded to the spot from which the men had*



*disappeared but finding nothing, they came to the police at Uddingston, who reached the Quarry at about 1 a.m. A dark object floating on the surface of the water was brought to the side by means of a grappling iron and it proved to be the body of Robert Scott. Brackenridge's cap was next found leaving no doubt that he had shared his companion's fate. A raft was formed but proved useless. A small boat was then got from Clydenewk and launched. After an hour's search, Brackenridge's body was brought to the surface. Scott was 61 and Brackenridge was 64. They bore an irreproachable character for steadiness and were much liked in the district. Both were widowers. The scene of the fatal occurrence was visited on Sunday by large crowds.*



Quarry map

Noticeably missing in the article is an explanation of why the two men (and others), were in Uddingston at that late hour of the evening on a Saturday night, and that alcohol likely played a role in their fatal missteps. Either out of Victorian propriety or respect for family members, the reporter left unsaid what readers surely knew. They were leaving Uddingston after spending the evening

drinking in a local pub. According to family oral history, the two men were walking arm in arm as they fell into the quarry.

A word about Scottish drinking habits sets the tragedy in historical context. Scottish miners had a reputation for being heavy drinkers, and Brackenridge and his fellow workers were no exceptions. Alcohol was central to the limited leisure activities of working-class men and local pubs were the preferred settings. In addition to enjoying warmth, conversations, food and alcohol, workmen made contacts for employment, placed bets, and borrowed money. The heaviest drinking occurred on the weekends, especially Saturday nights, when one could sleep off hangovers on Sunday, a day of rest. Moreover, drinking was associated with concepts of manliness. Getting drunk and still standing was the sign of a “real man”. Nevertheless, employees were expected to be sober and on time when they began their daily tasks. If they displayed any signs of alcohol abuse, they were immediately suspended or dismissed.

Preceding the drowning accident, Brackenridge had experienced a series of tragic events that likely contributed to his use of alcohol as a coping mechanism. A major loss was the premature death of his wife, Christian RHYMER, who died of tuberculosis in 1858 at the age of thirty-eight. She had given birth to a daughter Jane in 1852, a son Robert (my grandfather) in 1854, and a son William in 1856. During and following her final illness, Christian's sister, Janet Rhymer, came to care for the children. Sadly, William died of tuberculosis at age four in 1860 as did Janet Rhymer



in 1872. Such occurrences were not uncommon in Scotland due to damp and poorly ventilated homes and uncertainty surrounding the causes of tuberculosis.



*Robert Brackenridge and family c.1900*

The second tragic accident involved my grandfather Robert Brackenridge, who was orphaned in 1876 due to the sudden death of his father. Having worked in mines at any early age, it was not unusual for him to follow in his father's footsteps as an engine keeper. Robert's name does not appear in Lanarkshire mining accident reports, but his daughter Jean told me that while her father was operating the machinery that lowered and raised the miners, a mishap occurred that resulted in a death and serious injuries. Even though he was not charged with negligence or alcohol abuse, Robert became depressed and began drinking heavily. Unable to resume his position as engine keeper, single, with no family responsibilities, he spent several years at sea, sailing to locations in Africa, India,

and China before returning to Scotland. No longer suffering depression, in good health, and having moderated his drinking habits, Robert was able to resume his career as an engine keeper. Still single, he was living in rental quarters in nearby Bellshill.

However, alcohol continued to be an important ingredient in Robert's social life and had a residual effect on his family's fortunes. The Brackenridges had been longtime tenants of Little Up cottage on the Hozier family estate on Tannochside, whose members, prominent Lanarkshire business and civic figures, lived in a spacious home called St. Enoch's Hall. The Hoziers apparently had given the Brackenridge family members extended tenants' rights by serving as agricultural laborers and part-time caretakers and paying a nominal rental fee. These arrangements remained in place until the estate property was sold and a modern cottage erected on the Little Up site in the 1930s.

During the early 1890s, the occupant of Little Up was his uncle Robert Brackenridge, a bachelor. When his uncle died in 1895, Robert was the last living male relative of the Brackenridge family and presumably entitled to live as a tenant in Little Up. According to a deeply entrenched family tradition, however, members of the Thomas Brackenridge family helped his aunt, Janet Brackenridge Murray, to ply Robert with alcohol and offered him several bottles of whisky and cash to sign papers relinquishing his rights to live in Little Up cottage.

This oral tradition has some supporting background documentation. The 1895

property valuation rolls list Janet Brackenridge Murray as tenant in Little Up under the heading “Reps [reparations] Robert Brackenridge.” Reps in Scottish law refer to paying compensation for something. The present owner of Little Up confirmed that when she bought the property in the 1930s, the Murrays were listed as having been the previous tenants. Whatever may have transpired, Robert Brackenridge and his family members held grudges against Thomas Brackenridge family members for many years.



*Little Up Cottage, 1968*

When I visited Little Up in 1968, the old cottage was still standing, located directly behind the modern residence. Now used for storage purposes. its original roof had been replaced by a tin one due to water leakage. Not much larger than a modern two-car garage, it had a dirt floor and one large fireplace. Two small windows offered little light or ventilation. Nevertheless, it was a substantial stone building with pleasant surroundings, a gem compared to the houses of most nineteenth century miners.

This family saga story does have a happy ending. In 1896 Robert married Mary Wright, daughter of a mining family in Hamilton, who had a positive influence on his life. He maintained his position of engine keeper and was regarded as a respected citizen and responsible parent. A photograph taken about 1900 [see image on facing page] shows the 46-year-old Robert standing behind (L-R) Jane

Wright, Mary Wright’s sister Janet; his daughter Jean, and son John (my father), sitting on in his mother’s lap. By then the family was residing at Turningham Place, 67 North Road in Bellshill, adjacent to the Bellshill Public School and close to the town centre.

With the original participants now long deceased, memories of the Little Up episode have faded and no longer constitute barriers between the two families. A serendipitous meeting on the Island of Iona with Tom and Jean Brackenridge and his family during one of my visits to Scotland, marked the beginning of a lifelong friendship that we renewed by reciprocal visits across the Atlantic. On one occasion, we took a photograph of Tom, my brother Bruce and me, [image below] standing at the front door of Little Up proudly proclaiming ownership of the house. We all had a good laugh, as did the owner who enjoyed our antics.



**R. Douglas Brackenridge, 3095**

# Remembering Timothy Alphonse Pertus

Born D'Escousse, Nova Scotia, Canada  
on 6 August 1920

Died Leuchars, Fife, Scotland on 5  
February 1943



**T**he weather in eastern Scotland in February 1943 was mostly mild, and even sunny, for the time of year but early in the month a depression tracked north-east across the country and on the 5th (Friday) this matured into heavy rain and localised gales.

The adverse weather caused severe difficulties for the crew of Lockheed Hudson T9414 'V' of 279 Squadron RAF, but that was not the only challenge they faced. Soon after taking off from Leuchars air base in Fife at 16.41 to carry out an air-sea rescue search in the North Sea, the aircraft's automatic pilot became inoperable causing the captain, Flying Officer A.A. Henderson, to give his

full attention to the controls during the bumpy five-hour mission.

Things got much worse. Returning to Leuchars, Henderson was unable to make out the runway landing flares because of heavy rain obscuring the aircraft's windshield. He made two attempts to land but aborted on both occasions when the plane's lateral controls proved difficult to handle. The pilot now decided that landing would be impossible and told the crew to prepare to bale out when they were safely over land.

After climbing to 3,000 feet, the aircraft went into a spin. At 1,500 feet, it lurched into the opposite spin. This undoubtedly terrifying experience became too much for one of the crew's three wireless operator-air gunners, Sergeant Timothy PERTUS of the Royal Canadian Air Force. According to the testimony his crewmates later gave in debriefing, and recorded in the formerly top-secret Operations Record Book, "*Sgt. Pertus shouted incoherently and rushed to the exit*". Despite his crewmates' attempts to restrain him, Pertus jumped. His body was later recovered and taken by launch to Tayport.

What makes the story even more tragic, is that Henderson managed to regain control of the aircraft and again gave the order to bale out. All the crew, including the two other wireless operator-air gunners, Sergeants J.P. Burness and G.H. Lumley, and the navigator, Flight Sergeant J.A. Birkett, baled out and landed safely at around 21.30 with only minor injuries.

My interest in Timothy Pertus came about because of three distinct triggers. The first happened on 17 September

2002, the day my father died. His youngest sister, Helen, came to sit with us and talked of her earliest memories of her brother, Albert, who would appear periodically in RAF uniform during WWII. On one of those occasions, she told me, he had collected her and their two sisters from primary school during an air raid. His aircraft had been diverted to RAF Leuchars because of bad weather, he said, and that meant an unexpected overnight pass to visit his home in nearby Dundee. Accompanying him was a crewmate who so captivated my aunt that she had remembered his name and the attention he gave her all her life. He was Timothy, or Tim, Pertus. Next time Dad came home on leave, my aunt asked why he had not brought Tim too. The shocking answer was that Tim had been killed, apparently close to Leuchars.

Now a childhood memory of my own was triggered. In September 1966, Dad took me to the annual Leuchars Air Show that ran until 2013. I remembered that on our way home he stopped at a cemetery and told me to stay in the car. When he returned after about 15 minutes, I asked what he had been doing. "*A friend is buried here*" was all he said, and I sensed he didn't want to say any more. "*Could it have been Tim?*" I asked my aunt.

A few weeks later, I got an excited call from Helen. She had decided to visit Leuchars and searched the village without finding a cemetery, but then a call on the base guardhouse had her redirected to Leuchars Cemetery. This is reached by crossing the railway from the A919, about half-way between the villages of Leuchars and St Michael's, and the car park is shared with St Michael's Golf Course. The location is about 15

minutes' drive from St Andrews. As soon as she parked her car, my aunt told me, she knew this was not her first visit, and she seemed instinctively to find her way to Tim's grave. Buried in her unconscious memory was a visit as a child, with my father and their mother, which could not have been earlier than late 1946 when Dad returned from service in the Pacific. I paid my own first visit shortly after.

The third trigger came in 2017 when I heard a report on BBC Radio Scotland about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A spokesperson explained that the immediate families of the war dead from WWII were either no longer living or were prevented from visiting because of age or infirmity. Also, many families were not in the UK. He suggested that local people could '*adopt*' graves and remember the fallen as proxies for their families. I thought, "*I can do that for Tim's family*", and my wife and I now visit regularly to place flowers on his grave.

On my 2017 visit to Leuchars Cemetery, as I looked at the simple yet elegant Portland stone memorial, three questions occurred to me:

Why are there no other memorials for the same day, indicating an entire crew lost, as there are in neighbouring stones?

Is Tim's body really buried here, or is this simply a commemoration?

What was Timothy's life before volunteering for war service so far from home?

The people who could have told me the answers - my father and his mother - were dead, and my aunt didn't know, so I would need to conduct my own research, now made easier by online search facilities, genealogy and war-

related websites, and the declassification of WWII RAF records.

I began simply by searching for references to 'Timothy Pertus' in Google. These searches produced several 'hits', including those from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Canadian veterans' websites, 'findagrave', and I uncovered a lovely portrait of Tim in uniform. His forage cap bears the white stripe worn by aircrew in training. I also found a directory of the New Cemetery at St Hyacinth's Church in D'Escousse, Nova Scotia, in which I found several Pertus names listed, including a reference to Timothy "*resting in Fife, Scotland*". But the key find was an obituary of Susan Clemence Murphy (née Pertus), which listed Timothy as a sibling. Susan, clearly a prominent member of the community, including serving as postmaster for 25 years, had died a year before my search, on 29 February 2016.

Susan's obituary included reference to her funeral mass being celebrated "*by her good friend, Father John DeCoste*". Further online searches allowed me to trace Father DeCoste to Saint Ignatious' Church, Bedford, Nova Scotia, and I sent a speculative email to the parish administrator explaining my interest in the family. I received a prompt response reassuring me that my email would be passed on, but that Fr DeCoste was currently very busy. The priest replied some weeks later, confirming that he knew the family well, was aware that a brother had died in WWII, and that another sister, Jeanetta, was living in Fall River, near Halifax; he would contact the family for me.

Next, I received an email from Terry Doucet who introduced himself as the husband of Jeanetta's cousin Claudette. He told me that Aunt 'Jeanette' lived independently, kept well, and that they lived nearby and saw her daily. They had read to her my email forwarded by Fr DeCoste, and she had been pleased to learn of the direct connection to her late brother. The family was particularly pleased to receive the recent photographs I had taken at Leuchars Cemetery.

In September 2018, Terry emailed to say that Jeanette would like to speak to me by phone. A date and time were arranged. During the call, I reprised my own connection, and my Aunt Helen's childhood memories of meeting Tim. Jeanette told me that she had visited Scotland twice, in 1999, together with her sister Susan, and again in 2004, and on both occasions had visited Tim's grave. Following my call with Jeanette, I received an email from Terry attaching a folder containing photographs of Tim's funeral which had taken place with full military honours, and copies of letters she had received from her brother. My second question now had an answer: Tim's body was interred at Leuchars.



Jeanette caught me off-guard by asking if I knew how Tim had died. By this time, I already knew the answer



to my first question, having accessed the 279 Squadron 'Operations Record Book, AIR27/1609', now available online from The National Archives. But I hadn't realised that the family didn't know, having only received a wartime communication of death on active service.

I told Jeanette I did know, but that she might find the account distressing. She said she'd had a long time to process her brother's death and she wanted to know the details. She also said she was comforted to know that there was someone in Scotland who also cared for her much-loved brother.



*Jeanette and Fr. Decoste*

My Aunt Helen died in January 2020. She had Alzheimer's disease, and by the time I contacted Tim's family, her dementia was too advanced for her to understand. I received an email from Terry to say that Jeanette died on 11 June 2021, aged 99. She had continued to live independently, other than a brief period of hospitalisation earlier in the year, and although she was increasingly frail and her eyesight was poor, she preferred the security of familiar surroundings.

My father's flying logbook showed that he landed at Leuchars on 13 January 1943, and my assumption is that it was that day, or the next, that he and Tim collected Helen from school and had an overnight at my Granny's home in Dundee. Dad himself had to bale out of an aircraft that had developed engine trouble shortly after, on 22 January, over Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, landing safely, and he did not return to operational flying until 18 February, by which time Tim had died.

Timothy Alphonse PERTUS, RCAF, Service Number R/88231, was posthumously promoted to Warrant Officer Class II. He is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at Leuchars Cemetery; in the family plot at St Hyacinth's Church in D'Escousse; and in lists of Canadian fallen, such as the Canadian Virtual War Memorial. The tragedy is also recorded in a database of WWII RAF aircrew and aircraft losses maintained by volunteers found at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com).

Timothy was the son of Albert Leonard PERTUS (1889-1979) and Florence Catherine DOYLE (1893-1963), and brother of Lorette Mathilda PERTUS (Keith) (1917-1997), Marie Susan PERTUS (Murphy) (1918-2016), Marie Jeanetta PERTUS (Hilchie) (1922-2021), and John Wilfrid PERTUS (1924-2002). I know very little of Tim's life before volunteering for war service and training as a wireless operator in Canada, though the family told me he enjoyed hunting deer with his father and younger brother John.

**Graham Connelly, 8330**

# Publications Report on Rebranding

I'm a relative newbie to GWSFHS; I only retired up to Scotland in 2016. As my father was a Glaswegian Master Mariner, I was returning to my roots and so joined my local FHS. After four years, I decided I would get to know better how the Society works by volunteering to serve on Council. The then Vice Chairman asked if I could assist in the rebranding exercise that was ongoing at the time. You are all aware of the results of this, as Gallus transformed into the rebranded Journal with issue 121 in June 2021. By then, I had been working on our Publications for about four months, particularly those which had ceased to be in our Shop in booklet form due to zero stock levels. I have great respect for the amount of work put into these publications, notably Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) and Research Aids (RAs), created by volunteers over the last forty years or so. So, helping bring these publications back to a wider audience has felt a worthwhile task. An initial batch became available in our Shop in about November 2021.

So, recently, our Journal Editor asked me to explain to our membership the key elements around the work on the rebranding and creating the PDF versions of the various resources and how to find them. Earlier work by Council members had prioritised which of our MIs and RAs were worthy of rebranding and what versions of the publications could be located in our computer archives. These slowly appeared in a variety of formats, Word, Excel, Publisher and

the like. The rebranding went through various iterations, dependent on the style and format of the original source material. Phase 1 were all MIs, now totalling fourteen, initially envisaged as printed booklets but the enormity of this task became apparent. The volunteers to help print the booklets could not visit our Mansfield Street office because of Covid restrictions and we needed a small run, perhaps ten copies of each, to put stock back in the Shop. Commercial printing would make the booklets too expensive to be viable. So the inspiration came. *"Can we sell the publications as online PDF documents?"* A positive decision was made, we had an achievable target: the process could continue.

Another issue had arisen, regarding CDs, previously for sale in the GWSFHS Shop. Unfortunately, the CDs had become unreadable using various operating systems by the 2020s, so it was agreed to extract the MIs from the CDs and present these as searchable PDF files to make the information contained therein accessible again to researchers. However, the photographs will be excluded from these documents. Throughout 2022 I continued on rebranding. Further publications have been put in the Shop, all as PDF digital documents.

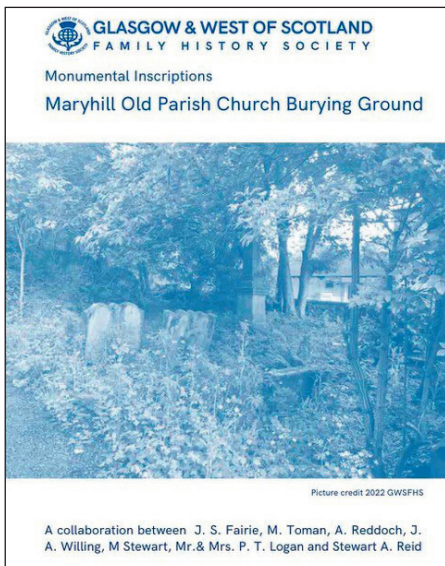
This is an interesting and ongoing project. The work is not in itself difficult, but needs precision. Getting the formatting right so the final document is clear and readable is my primary aim. The ease of conversion depends on the original data and the earlier formatting. Not everything ends up strictly in accordance with our Design Manual but it's good enough! Each document is reviewed by a team of other volunteers, but we cannot promise



all transcriptions are complete as some gravestones are themselves very worn. Anyone interested in helping with this process would be welcomed. There are over a dozen CDs still to be investigated, to see if raw data can still be extracted or if copies exist in our archives. There are also numerous RAs to be brought back to the Shop.

What we are offering for sale in our Shop are PDF versions of our Monumental Inscriptions and Research Aids. The National Library of Scotland endeavours to ensure the collection and preservation of Scottish material for current and future generations and it would like to have as many of our publications as possible in its national collections. A summary of what we have produced is as follows.

## Monumental Inscriptions



## Initial tranche - 14 publications

These include 'Maryhill'; 'Rhu'; 'Dunoon' High Kirk; 'Carmunnock'; 'Ramshorn'

Burying Grounds and St. David's (Ramshorn) Church; Glasgow 'Cathedral' New Burying Ground & St Mungo's Burying Ground; 'Cadder'; 'Rutherglen'; 'St Andrew's by the Green, Glasgow'; Lair Holders of 'Certain Burying Grounds' of Glasgow; 'Kilmarnock'; 'Pollokshaws' and 'Strathblane. (In each case, the words in 'nnnnn' apostrophes is the Keyword for a free-form search – see details at the end of article).

## Monumental Inscriptions

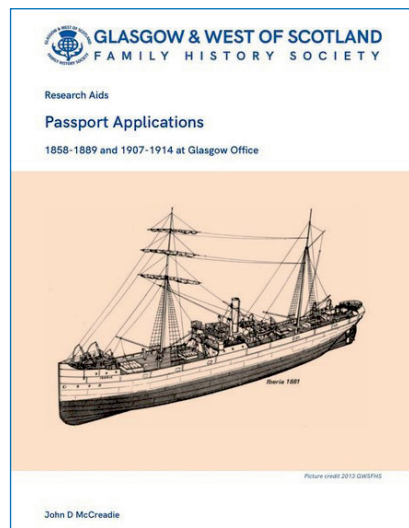
### Recent tranche - four publications

These include 'Renton Millburn'; 'New Kilpatrick'; 'Alexandria'; and 'Bonhill'.

## Research Aids

### Three publications

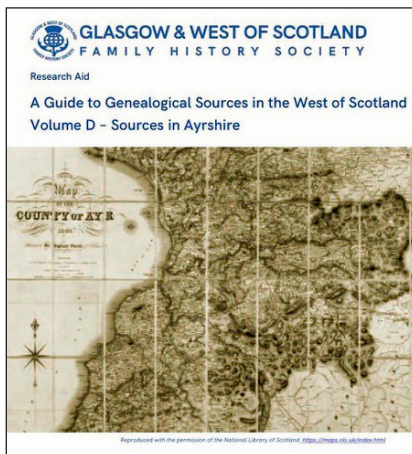
These include 'Police Returns'; A Guide to Glasgow 'Addresses' (two parts); and 'Passport Applications' at Glasgow Office.



## Guide to Genealogical Sources in the West of Scotland

Single publication in eight separate volumes

These include Volume A, Guide and Index (free with every other volume); Volume B, General Sources; Volume C, Argyll & Bute; Volume D, Ayrshire; Volume E, Dunbartonshire; Volume F, Glasgow; Volume G, Lanarkshire; and Volume H, Renfrewshire.



In order to find these documents in the GWSFHS Shop, go for a free-form search, for example, 'Renton Millburn', 'New Kilpatrick', 'Alexandria' or 'Bonhill' to find and access any of the recent tranche of MIs and the other documents referenced above.

### John Wotherspoon, 8261

*Editor: Thank you John. This is a significant task and I'm sure the work will be appreciated by a number of our members.*

*As John highlights there is still work to be done and if anyone is interested in helping please get in touch.*

## The Covenanter William Smith

In Kirk o' Shotts churchyard is the grave of the Covenanter William SMITH. The headstone has the inscription:

*Here lies the bones of William Smith, who lived in Moremellon, who with others appeared in arms at Pentland Hills in defence of Scotland's Covenanted work of Reformation, anno 1666, agreeable to the word of God, in opposition to Popery, Prelacy and Perjury, and was murdered near to this place.*

William Smith and his brother had been at Pentland, and on returning home, he called at a nearby house - possibly Shottsmyers. A quarrel with the inhabitants of the house resulted in Smith's death. His body was found years later in a moss, identifiable only by part of his clothing. The body was then buried at Kirk o' Shotts.

According to William Grossart's book *Historic Notices and Domestic History of the Parish of Shotts*

*The Smiths resided at Muirmailing (or Moremellon), on the estate of Murdostoun, and their descendants still reside in the Parish. Mr Smith of Bentfoot is a branch, where they have long been tenants after they were tenants of Glenmeadow.*

The headstone on William Smith's grave replaced an older headstone and the inscription on the back reads:

*This is the property of William and James Smith and their heirs. 1838.*

When I was quite young, my father took me to Kirk o'Shotts to see the Covenanter's grave and he told me that according to family folklore, he was our ancestor, through my great great grandmother Jean Smith.

## Parish and Death Records

It has taken a few years to research my family history, but I now have documentary proof that the man mentioned in Grossart's book as '*a branch of the Covenanter - John Smith of Bentfoot*' was my great great great grandfather James Smith's younger brother.

Lanarkshire Family History Society's Shotts Death Records were instrumental in my research, recording, before statutory registration, the farms where the family were tenant farmers. The parish records of births provided the final proof, recording that the Smiths lived in Glenmeadow and then Bentfoot farms.

The parents of James and John Smith were William Smith and Mary CROMBIE. Several parish records appear to have had difficulty with the spelling of Crombie. It was Crummy, Gramare, and Cromar (on a statutory record in 1874). They lived on Glenmeadow farm and had their children there. William Smith moved to Bentfoot farm when his son James Smith married my great great great grandmother Janet SHAW in 1807. Their children were all born on Glenmeadow.

Another name connecting the families was Robina who was James and John Smith's sister. She never married and appears on every census with John Smith and his family. John Smith named a daughter Robina after his sister and her

nephew William, James Smith's son, also had a daughter Robina.

## Erection of Headstone

By a process of elimination, according to the inscription on the back of the Covenanter's headstone, the only James and William Smith who would be the age to see to the erection of the stone in 1838 would be the brothers of Jean Smith, my great great grandmother. Their grandfather William and their father James had died before 1838. William would have been 28 and James 26 in 1838. He is the James Smith who is in the grave next to the Covenanter's grave. He married his sister-in-law Agnes Lochhead, who was my great great grandfather Alexander Lochhead's sister.

Finally, in *Scotland's Places Ordnance Survey Name Books, Shotts* (1858-1861), the occupier of Bentfoot farm is recorded as John Smith. He is also named as the occupier of the site of Glenmeadow which by then was no longer used as a farm steading.

Family folklore has a place and can set us off on a fascinating journey of discovery. I am grateful that we now have technology to assist our research and my only wish is that I could tell my father that the oral history he heard long ago appears to be correct.

## Christine Ferguson, 10832

*Editor: For more information about William Smith see <http://www.salsburghheritagegroup.co.uk/4.html>*

*This article demonstrates that those family 'stories' we are told do sometimes have some truth in them. It's just that proving it can be something of a challenge.*

# James Robertson Paton: Two wives and three marriages

The usual advice for family historians is to remain focused on a particular line of research at a time and not to get distracted. In more than 30 years of researching my family tree, however, I have often succumbed to the temptation of investigating a person or event which is only peripheral to my main line. This lack of focus has often given me much pleasure as I meander down avenues I would otherwise never have found myself in. This article illustrates what type of interesting discoveries might be waiting to be made if one allows oneself to follow a byway instead of always staying on the main highway.

James Robertson PATON previously featured in an article I wrote in Newsletter No. 92 in 2011, entitled *Elizabeth Beveridge SMITH and her Two Husbands*. He became Elizabeth's second husband in 1907 after she was widowed by the death of her first husband William CARSON, my great grandfather. She had started a business to support her family of seven and was running a "sweetie shop" in the front room of the family home in Boglemart Street, Stevenston, Ayrshire. This is how she came to meet James, who was a traveller for his father's wholesale confectionery business.

James was born on 9 November 1875 at 33 Boyd St, Kilmarnock, the second eldest of eight children of Thomas PATON, a bonnet dresser, and his wife Agnes Craig ROBERTSON. At the time of the 1881 census Thomas was working as

a chimney can maker, then in 1891 he is described as a merchant. He must have been a capable businessman, as he came to own a wholesale food distribution company that delivered confectionery and other foodstuffs over a wide area, with premises in Parnie Street in Glasgow city centre. James was still at school where he was acting as a pupil teacher under the system in operation at that time due to a shortage of qualified teachers. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the militia for six years, but after three days he was discharged by purchase. It therefore appears that he changed his mind. This record is the first known instance of James's surname being spelt "PAYTON", a version he later favoured. By the time of the 1901 census James's mother had died, his father had remarried, but James was not at home. His father is described as a wholesale confectioner.

After his marriage to Elizabeth, James gave up his work for his father; Elizabeth helping him to start a wholesale confectionery business in Stevenston, while she continued to run her own business. Apparently he had designs on taking over her business, which caused unhappiness between them. James appears to have been difficult to live with. An example of his behaviour is that in March 1912, he was charged at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court with maliciously breaking windows in the Boglemart Street shop and another shop at Canal Street, Saltcoats run by Elizabeth's sons from her first marriage. James pled guilty and was fined 15s or 10 days imprisonment. It is not known exactly what lay behind this incident, but it is unlikely to be a coincidence that it occurred around the same time as another incident involving

Elizabeth. Her brother Alexander, who had previously been occupying the Canal Street shop, had removed the counter and the total stock, which eventually led to a slander action. [This incident and its aftermath was the subject of my article entitled *The Strange Case of Elizabeth Beveridge Smith and Baldy-Headed Sanny*, published in Journal 95 in 2012.] In April 1918 Elizabeth finally put James out of the house, which by this time was in the ownership of one of her sons, because of his drinking and abusive behaviour.

After a short spell in the Royal Air Force towards the end of the First World War, James moved to London. There he answered an advertisement for someone to take charge of a boarding-house and thereby met the owner, a Mrs Henriette WHEELER, who had been widowed in 1913. Within a few months, they were married on 7 July 1919 at Kensington Registry Office, James claiming to be a widower. There is an obvious parallel here with James's previous relationship with Elizabeth, also a widow in business for herself. After being together less than three years, however, James and Henriette separated and she went to live in Brighton, Sussex. According to Henriette, James had "intemperate habits". Later Henriette had occasion to visit James in London, where he had opened his own boarding-house. She discovered him living with another woman who claimed to be Mrs Payton! Henriette went to the police, who discovered that James's first wife was in fact still alive in Scotland. In 1922 James was convicted at the Old Bailey of bigamy and served a six month sentence at Pentonville Prison. Back in Scotland, Elizabeth sued James

for divorce and this was duly granted at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on 18 January 1923. The court papers gave a great deal of detail, including the "fact" that Henriette was a French widow with 14 children, seven still living.

At the time I wrote my previous article, all I knew about the rest of James's life was that in 1926 he got married again, this time in St Pancras, London, to a Harriett WIEDER. He died in 1929 in the Earl's Court district of London and left a will, granting the administration to his wife.

Given the similarity between the names Henriette Wheeler and Harriett Wieder, I had my suspicions that they might in fact be the same person. I was not, however, motivated enough at that time to spend the money to obtain the 1919 and 1926 marriage certificates to attempt to find out. Over the years, I occasionally gave the question some thought, but it was not until recently that I finally decided to splash out. When the certificates arrived, my suspicions were confirmed! On both documents, the bride had named her father as Julius COHN, hotel proprietor.

Now knowing her maiden name, it did not take me long to discover that Henriette Cohn had married Abraham Isaac Wieder in the City of London in the 3rd quarter of 1891. This led me into the world of the London Jewish community and a great deal of confusion about various name changes over the years. The 1891 census revealed Henriette still in the family home in Hatton Garden with her parents and four siblings. It also revealed that her father, a restaurant owner, was not in fact Julius, but Joshua. He had been born in Wollstein, Germany (probably now Wolsztyn in western Poland), while

her mother, Catharina (née LÖWIT), was from Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic). Henriette and her siblings had all been born in Berlin, so she was not French as she claimed in 1923! Just after the First World War was obviously not a good time to be German or to have a German-sounding name. It is not known when the family arrived in England, but it was presumably after 1881, as I have not found them in that year's census. According to the 1891 census the youngest of Henriette's siblings had been born in Berlin about 1876. Henriette herself had probably been born there in 1867.

The surname Wheeler that Henriette later adopted suggested that her deceased husband had been English, though in fact the 1911 census revealed he had been born in Austria. An index to Polish Jewish records gives his birth in 1867 in Tarnow, which was formerly within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but is now a city in south-eastern Poland.

By the time of the 1911 census, she and Abraham had had 12 children, seven of whom were still alive. The 14 claimed in the divorce papers had been a slight exaggeration, as there is apparently no record of any children being born after 1907. More interestingly, Abraham Isaac had now morphed into Henry George, though still using the surname Wieder. He gave his occupation as an inventor in the mechanical engineering industry. Intrigued by such an unusual occupation, I just had to find out more. I discovered that in the early years of the 20th century he applied for a number of patents, mainly in relation to sound reproduction and recording, but also one for a furniture castor. In his applications he

used the name Henry George Abraham Isaac Wieder or just Henry George Wieder. He appears have been known mainly as George, though in the 1901 census he is recorded as Henry Weidner. The various name changes made it very difficult to track him in the records. The family surname is also found as Weider, Weidner and Wilder. In 1901 he gave his occupation as watchmaker, which is likely to have been his original trade. His father was also a watchmaker.

There is a family legend that Abraham/George and Henriette lived in the United States in the 1890s, where George had collaborated with the famous inventor Thomas Edison. There is certainly a record on a ship's passenger list of Henriette arriving at Liverpool from New York on 27 March 1893, travelling with her daughter Rose, aged eight months. Another family legend is that George invented the silent typewriter. When he died in 1913 he was aged only 47.

Following James's temporary separation from Henriette, he appears on the 1922 electoral register at 9 Frederick Street near King's Cross, living with an Ada King, who was probably the woman claiming to be Mrs Payton when Henriette visited. James's whereabouts immediately following his release from prison are not known, but when he and Henriette got married for the second time in 1926 they were both living at 57 Cartwright Gardens, Bloomsbury, James's occupation being hotel proprietor. In fact the property is still a hotel, the Avonmore. Over the next three years the couple moved several times, their addresses including the Derby Hotel, 151 Marylebone Road; 10 Coleherne Road, Kensington; and finally 2 Eardley Crescent, Earls Court.



The reason for the frequent moves is not known, but all the properties appear to be hotels or boarding-houses.

On 5 November 1929 Henriette was left a widow for the second time, when James committed suicide. According to a newspaper report on an inquest into the death, a week after he came out of prison, having served a three-month sentence, James was found dead from gas poisoning. Henriette testified that since his release from prison her husband had said he was a marked man, was afraid to go out and had suggested they should both kill themselves. He had lost £1,000 in share speculation but was apparently not in financial difficulties. A verdict of "*suicide while of unsound mind*" was returned. James may have lost money in the London Stock Exchange crash of September 1929, and in fact he took his own life only a few days after "Black Tuesday" of the Wall Street Crash on the New York Stock Exchange. It is not known what crime he had committed which resulted in another prison sentence. James was aged 53 and is buried in a common grave in Brompton Cemetery. He had written a will in 1927, leaving everything to Henriette, who acted as his executrix. His estate was valued at £332 2s 9d, equivalent to over £15,000 today.

At some point after James's death Henriette moved to Ramsgate in Kent, where in the 1939 National Register she is found living with her daughter Rose and her family. During the Second World War some of the family moved to the English Midlands, Henriette settling in Leicester. There she died of cancer in the City General Hospital on 21 March 1945, aged 77. She is buried in an unmarked

grave in the Welford Road Cemetery in that city.

### Additional Genealogical Notes

James Robertson Paton and Elizabeth Beveridge Smith were married 21 Dec 1907 in Glasgow.

James Robertson Payton (sic) and Harriett (sic) Wieder were married 4 Sep 1926 at St Pancras, London

Henriette Cohn was born 9 Jul, probably in 1867, in Berlin, Germany, to Joshua Cohn & Catharina Löwit

Abraham Isaak (sic) Wieder was born 17 Mar 1867 in Tarnow, Poland, to Gedalie Wieder and Tschewa Steiner

### Main Sources

Civil registration certificates: Scotland, England and Poland

Censuses of Scotland and England

Court of Session Divorce Proceedings

National Probate Calendar, England and Wales

Newspaper reports

Electoral registers

Trade directories

International Patents via Ancestry.com

I am grateful to Christopher and Susan Ford of Arizona, USA and to David and Susan Wieder of Sandhurst, Berkshire for providing much information about the Wieder family. Chris and David are descendants of Henriette and Abraham/George Wieder.

**Robert Carson, 1587**

[r.j.carson@talktalk.net](mailto:r.j.carson@talktalk.net)



# FamilySearch Affiliate Library



On 1 November 2022, our Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society research centre and library at 32 Mansfield St, Glasgow, G11 5QP became a FamilySearch Affiliate Library.

FamilySearch is a non-profit organisation and website affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Family History Department. The Family History Department was founded in 1894 as the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU). The GSU began microfilming records of genealogical importance in 1938. FamilySearch is free of charge to everyone, regardless of tradition, culture or religious affiliation.

In our library and research centre, we hold microfilms of Old Parish Registers (OPRs) and some census years (1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1891), for counties in our region, purchased from the GSU. Images of these films are available now to view online at the Family History Library in Utah, USA, FamilySearch Centres and FamilySearch affiliated libraries. The Family History Department withdrew these microfilms from sale and they recalled the films from their FamilySearch centres for destruction.

The FamilySearch centre at Julian Avenue, Glasgow, closed more than four years ago. Although they had to send the microfilms away for destruction, they kindly donated some microfiche, books and equipment to our Society. We are grateful for their donation.

Council decided to apply for FamilySearch affiliation so that our researchers, members and visitors to our premises may access the additional digital records not available outside a FamilySearch centre or an affiliate library. Devices in our premises, including personal devices such as laptop computers, tablets and smart phones, may access these additional records. These devices must be connected to the Internet via our WiFi in order to unlock access.

We must allow members of the public to visit our premises, free of charge, during our public opening hours, to view records on FamilySearch. Of course, we will invite regular visitors to join our Society. We have a page in the FamilySearch wiki to advertise our Society and advise visitors of opening hours and our contact details.

The FamilySearch digital resources include images of OPR films for the whole of Scotland (beyond the area we hold on microfilm) and images of the 1881 Census returns (which we don't hold on microfilm due to the detailed transcription available for free on ScotlandsPeople). They include images of the Statutory Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths for Scotland for the years 1855-1875, 1881 and 1891 (including the neglected entries of events from about 1820 to 1860 registered between 1860 and 1868).

The images of microfilms of the Old Parish Registers of the Church of Scotland include Kirk Session records. Although many of these Kirk Session records are available to view online using the Virtual Volumes function of the ScotlandsPeople website, FamilySearch includes some Kirk Session records that are not yet available to view at ScotlandsPeople. In addition, FamilySearch has images of microfilms of OPRs for many dissenting presbyterian congregations and some Episcopal Church of Scotland parishes.

FamilySearch has a large collection of cemetery records filmed at the Glasgow Council Cemeteries and Crematoria Department in 2005. Access to these records is unrestricted; you may view them online from your home. These records include major cemeteries in Glasgow including: Cardonald Cemetery, Carmunnock Cemetery, Craigton Cemetery, Eastern Necropolis, Eastwood Cemetery, Lambhill Cemetery, Linn Cemetery, Glasgow Necropolis, and Riddrie Park Cemetery. In addition to these records, FamilySearch has images of cemetery records filmed at the National Archives of Scotland which you may access at our premises.

Those of us who have used the microfilms know that often the films of the original registers contain images of pages that are not available to view on ScotlandsPeople, such as the census enumerator's description of the boundaries of their district and their walk around it. It might include a count of the number of persons not enumerated because they were sleeping in a tent or under a hedge! If you cannot find someone in the indexes, but you know their address (for a census) or the parish and date of the event (for

births, baptisms, marriages or deaths), then you might find them by scrolling through the images of the microfilm.

Although some of the data recorded in the filmed registers is indexed by name, often records in these indexes are linked to the image of the film, not to the specific frame in the image of the film, and so you must be prepared to use the image viewer to scroll through the film image frames until you find the relevant frame. Sometimes an index on another website might include a more specific location of the record in the film. For example, the FreeCen census indexes include the enumeration district, folio number, page number, schedule number and house number. Ancestry references the films by FHL Film Number; MyHeritage references the films by GS Film number.

Sometimes there are multiple registers in the microfilms. Sometimes the FamilySearch Catalog record gives an item number which tells you which register in the film relates to the indexed record. You must scroll through the image of the film to find the register.

The FamilySearch Catalog is a guide to birth, marriage, and death records; census records; church registers; books; periodicals; family histories and many other records that contain genealogical information. These records may be searchable online, on microfiche or microfilm, in a book or in a computer file. Some entries in the FamilySearch Catalog include images of records. When an image is available in the catalogue, a camera icon will appear to the right of the microfilm note associated with that image. You will find the FamilySearch

Catalog under the Search tab on the home page.

We suggest that you search the FamilySearch Catalog before you visit our research centre and save the relevant catalogue records in your Catalog Print List. If the format icon beside the film shows a camera without a key, you may view the film from home. When you are in the centre, use your Catalog Print List to quickly access the records that you want to view. Many films that at home showed a camera with a key will now show a camera without a key - you may view these films. Browse through the film for the frame you need and print it or save it.

We don't have an institutional login to FamilySearch; each user must login to FamilySearch using their own credentials. If you don't have a FamilySearch account, you can easily create one using the Create Account button at the top righthand side of the FamilySearch home screen. There is no charge or subscription for a FamilySearch account. You must login to FamilySearch to view the images.

We noticed that the image quality of a small sample of statutory registrations downloaded from FamilySearch is better than the image quality of the same registrations downloaded from ScotlandsPeople. It appears that these images on ScotlandsPeople were scanned as black and white images, whereas the images on FamilySearch were scanned as greyscale images. We found it easier to read the cursive handwriting in the greyscale images than the black and white images.

If you use your own device in our premises, you can download the restricted images to your device while you are on site. Once

you take your device off our premises, it will be unable to access the restricted records on FamilySearch but you will still be able to view the images that you downloaded. If you use our computers, you may download images and save them on your personal memory stick or print them on our printer. We are also able to send them to you by email.

Our volunteer assistants will be pleased to help you when you visit our research centre and library.

[Murray Archer, 4316](#)

## FamilySearch Film Number Lookup

The example below has been provided by Murray to illustrate some of the search facility referenced in his article.

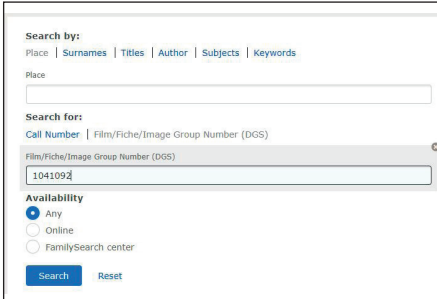
Ancestry records, derived from a Family History Library film, reference the film by FHL Film Number; e.g.:



**John Miller**  
in the Scotland, Select Marriages, 1561-1910

**Detail** Source

Name:	John Miller
Gender:	Male
Marriage Date:	23 Jan 1841
Marriage Place:	Cathcart, Renfrew, Scotland
Spouse:	<a href="#">Sarah McLean</a>
FHL Film Number:	1041092



Search by:  
Place | Surnames | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Place

Search for:  
Call Number | Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)

Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)

Availability  
 Any  
 Online  
 FamilySearch center

Press the Search button: FamilySearch lists the items on the film:

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog  
 PRINT Catalog Print List (0)  
 1-2 of 2 results

Items 1 - 2: Parish registers for Cathcart, 1690-1855  
 Author: Church of Scotland, Parish Church of Cathcart (Renfrew) Add

Items 3 - 4: Parish registers for Eaglesham, 1659-1855  
 Author: Church of Scotland, Parish Church of Eaglesham (Renfrew) Add

Select the item containing the indexed record. Click on the camera icon to view the film.

Parish registers for Cathcart, 1690-1855  
 Church of Scotland, Parish Church of Cathcart  
 (Renfrew) (Main Author) Add to Print List

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film  
 Language: English  
 Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1951-1962  
 Physical: on 2 microfilm reels : 35 min.

Notes: Microfilm of O.P.B. ms. no. 860 in the New Register House, Edinburgh.  
 View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations.

Subjects: Locality Subjects  
 Scotland, Renfrew, Cathcart - Church records.


Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (OCLC)	Format
Vol. 1, Septemrs. 1761-1820; marriages, 1690-1820; burials, 1740-1815. V. 2 Septemrs. 1820-1855; marriages, 1820-1855; burials, 1820-1855. (Preferred film for viewing. Use this before ordering the other film(s).)	Family History Library	British B1 Southwest	1041192	Boxes 1-2 7908503	🔍 📄
Another filming, 1951.	Genealogy Resource Project	British Film	102052	8045068	🔍 📄

The equivalent transcription at MyHeritage shows the film number: Use the GS Film number, as illustrated above.

Sarah Mclean & John Miller  
 in Scotland, Marriages, 1561-1910

Save this record and choose the information you want to add to your family tree Share record

Name: Sarah Mclean & John Miller 

Marriage: Jan 23 1841  
 Cathcart, Renfrew, Scotland

Wife: Sarah Mclean  
 Husband: John Miller

Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M11560-5

System Origin: Scotland-ODM

GS Film number: 1041992

The equivalent transcription at Findmypast does not show the film number.

John Miller in 1841  
 Scotland, Parish Marriages & Banns 1561-1893  
 Cathcart, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Add to tree Print

Transcript of John's record Close to Upload

First name(s)	John	County	Renfrewshire
Last name	Miller	Country	Scotland
Banns year	1841	Archive reference	ORS 5612
Banns date	23 Jan 1841	Item	2
Marriage year	1841	Year range	1820-1854
Occupation	Print craftsman	Page	-
Residence	Cathcart	Record set	Scotland, Parish Marriages & Banns 1561-1893
Sponsor's first name	Sarah	Category	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
Sponsor's last name	McLean	Subcategory	Parish Marriages
Sponsor's residence	Cathcart	Collection from	Great Britain, Scotland
Place	Cathcart		

## Unable to visit our centre?

Many FamilySearch microfilm images are open for you to view from your home. If you see the camera icon without a key, you may view the film. One of the most useful record sets available to view from home are the Glasgow Cemetery records, filmed at the Cemeteries and Crematoria Department in 2005. These films include records for most of the major cemeteries in Glasgow; Cardonald, Carmunnock, Craigton, Eastern Necropolis, Eastwood, Lambhill, Linn, Glasgow Necropolis, Riddrie Park, Sandymount, Sighthill, Southern Necropolis, St. Kentigern's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Maryhill and Tollcross. See the Glasgow page in the FamilySearch Wiki for links: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Glasgow,\\_Lanarkshire,\\_Scotland\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Glasgow,_Lanarkshire,_Scotland_Genealogy)

If you want to view a restricted access film but you cannot visit our Research Centre and Library, you might be able to visit a FamilySearch Centre. See <https://www.familysearch.org/centers/locations/> but please note that some of the centres on this map have closed. We recommend that you contact the centre before you travel to confirm their open hours.

FamilySearch offer a Library Record Lookup Service. Upon request, staff and volunteers at the library will look up specific records in their collections that cannot be viewed online. Since Library Lookup is not a research service, you will need to identify the specific record from FamilySearch.org that you need to see. See <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/new-library-lookup-service-for-when-you-cant-visit-the-family-history-library>

# Scotland's 1921 Census

After much delay, speculation and hints about its publication, Scotland's 1921 census results were published on ScotlandsPeople at 9am on St Andrew's Day 2022. This followed an update to the site which in the preceding days had caused some angst, with glitches and some of the functions not working properly.

I held off looking for a couple of days, deciding to let others test it out first and kept an eye on their comments on social media to see how things were going. Overall it appeared to be working OK so I dipped in!

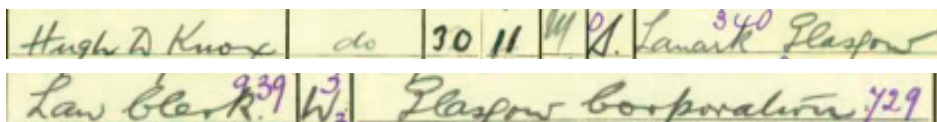
There weren't any close family members I actually needed to track down, or at least I thought there weren't, as I was reasonably sure from other information that I knew where they were and what they were doing.

However, bearing in mind the timing of the Census I did find one of them presumably on their holidays, 'doon the watter'! My husband's Grampy, who I wrote about in J121 was staying at 32 Guildford Square, Rothesay which appears to have been a hotel/guest house. He was recorded as a visitor and a Law Agent working for the Glasgow Corporation - a different description for a Police Constable as he was described on his marriage certificate a few months later.

I have been looking into the occupations recorded in this Census and can't find anything which suggests they did use the term Police Constable so that might explain the use of 'law agent'.

But where was Nana, his fiancée, a widow, Annie Henderson (née Peddie)? I had expected to find her with her mother in Carfin Street, Glasgow but no, she wasn't recorded as being there on Census night. So, I wondered if she might have been staying with her sister with whom she was close, but no sign of her there either. I searched under various name combinations and geography but nothing very obvious came up at the time. However, running the searches again as I write this article I find there are at least eight 'Annie Henderson' references in Glasgow around the right age. I will now need to add them to my list of searches to do when I am next at ScotlandsPeople in person as it might take rather too many credits on their website.

As far as we know my husband's paternal grandparents were at the time living in Burma so there was no chance of finding them! However, further consideration leads me to wonder if they might have been home on leave, so again I need to spend some time searching the records at ScotlandsPeople. I imagine if they were back they would likely be staying with relatives as they did not have their own home in Scotland at the time. It might also lead me to the whereabouts of some of the wider family at the same time.



Before this census information was released I was familiar with the 1921 census data for England and Wales as released through Findmypast, as most of my family are from south of the border. The one significant difference I have noticed is that those originals are of separate households and are scans of the actual forms completed by the head of the household, thereby providing us with their own handwriting and signatures. Whereas the Scotland records are a handwritten transcription of the originals, with the originals having then been destroyed. So, as well as any recent transcription errors, of which certainly in the E&W records there have been many, there is also the potential for errors made back in 1921 by the enumerators.

When I eventually complete my searches in the 1921 Scotland Census I will be able to look forward to the release of Scotland's 1931 Census to track the families into the next decade. Sadly I won't be able to do the same with my English families as the records for that census have been destroyed!

**Karen Hunter, 10206**

*Editor: Have you found anything of interest in the 1921 Census? Has it helped to break down any brick walls? Has it thrown up some information that now leads you down a different path for your ancestors? Do you have any particular hints or tips that might help others in their research on this database? If so perhaps you can share it with our members.*

*A lesson learned: keep an eye out for when your credits expire on ScotlandsPeople. They are valid for two years and will 'disappear' if you don't remember to top them up before that expiry date!*

## Did you know?

ScotlandsPeople have an additional index for the 1881 census which links to a transcription rather than a digital image of the record. The indexing was coordinated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS).

The Census search page <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/advanced-search/census-returns#record-type> gives you the option of searching 1881 (LDS) and, if selected, the search boxes include name, gender, age range, occupation, address, census place and birth place. This expands the search options from those available for the standard Census search parameters.

And the transcriptions are free to view!

## Proof of Membership

There may be occasions when you want or need to prove you are a member of the Society. In the past we have issued Membership Cards but recently this has not been done. However, if you do need proof we suggest you could either use the envelope in which the Journal is delivered or print off the appropriate page from the 'My Account' section on the Website.

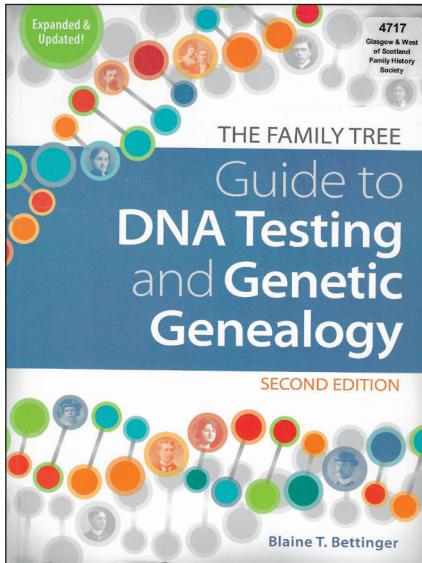
## Letters and Queries

*The Editor welcomes letters and queries from members for inclusion in the Journal. They can be emailed to [editor@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@gwsfhs.org.uk) or sent by post to the address on the back page.*



# Book Reviews

**BETTINGER, Blaine T** *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy. 2nd edition. 272 pages*  
Family Tree Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, August 2019.  
ISBN 9781440300578  
Shelf location: G/-/BET



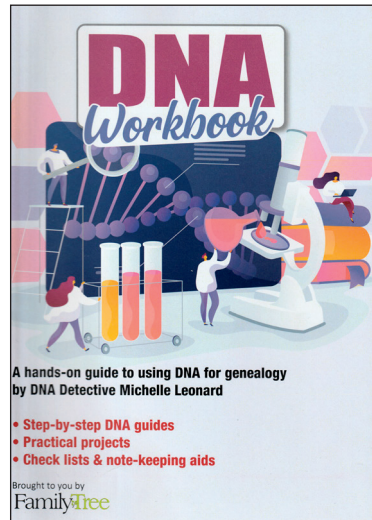
This book is both the standard introduction to DNA testing for genealogy and a valuable reference book for genealogists as they progress to use the more advanced tools and techniques. The book assumes no prior knowledge of genetics. It begins with the information that a novice family history DNA researcher needs: to understand the different types of DNA and the related tests (and their limitations); the ethics of DNA testing; the various test providers; third party tools; research techniques and further reading.

If you prefer a presentation to a book, Dr Bettinger presents a series of five hour

long recorded webinars for Legacy Family Tree Webinars, in their *Foundations in DNA* series (<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar-library/?category=beginners&subcategory=foundations-in-dna> subscription required). He recorded these webinars in 2016 and so some details such as prices and website functions are not longer current, but the fundamentals haven't changed.

**Murray Archer, 4316**

**LEONARD, Michelle** *DNA Workbook (2nd ed.)*  
Family Tree, 2021  
Shelf Loc: G/-/LEO



Michelle Leonard is a professional genealogist who runs DNA Bootcamp webinars. The DNA Workbook accompanies her webinars but can be used as a stand-alone guide to using DNA for genealogy. (Ideally, this is a book for individuals to use – as an acquisition in our library, we will need to discourage readers from filling out the text boxes!)



Michelle starts the book with an introduction to the four main DNA testing companies, describing the features which they have to offer. Reference is made throughout the book to these companies, analysing how their respective approaches compliment the author's guidelines.

A proper level of emphasis is laid on the organisation of research findings. The creation of a master research tree, backed up by 'quick and dirty trees' as a search strategy, does away with those random scraps of paper. Michelle also advocates, as the ultimate solution, the creation of an off-site repository for one's most important match information

I was grateful for the clear definition of recombining, a concept which had long confused me. Descriptions of the significance of segments, triangulation and chromosome mapping were also useful, although a glossary to explain technical terms such as chromosome and autosome would have been helpful.

The text is dotted with useful nuggets of information. For instance, I did not realise that Ancestry's shared match lists only comprises of matches who share over 20cM with both the tester and the comparison match - it's a wonder any matches emerge at all!

The layout and presentation of the workbook is colourful and varied, making the science of DNA easier to understand.

To do Michelle's book justice, it would be better read in conjunction with her webinars but until such time as I enrol in one, her workbook is a very useful tool.

**Diana Burns, 7039**

Other books on DNA also available in the Library include:

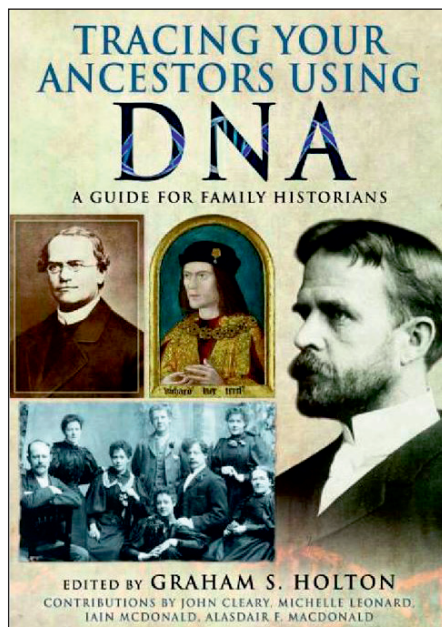
**HOLTON, Graham S et al** *Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA*

Barnsley: Pen and Sword, 2019

ISBN: 9781526733092

Shelf Loc: G/-/HOL

There is a review of this book in Journal 117, March 2020, which members can view on the GWSFHS website



**KENNETT, Debbie** *DNA and social networking: a guide to social networking in the twenty first century*

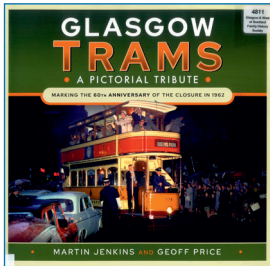
Stroud: History press, 2011

ISBN: 9780752458625

Shelf Loc: G/-/KEN

While old in DNA terms, this is still an excellent book for beginners in DNA with clear explanations of DNA testing.

**Martin Jenkins and Geoff Price.** *Glasgow Trams: a pictorial tribute marking the 60th anniversary of the closure in 1962*  
Pen & Sword Transport, 2022  
ISBN 9781526794383



This beautifully produced book illustrates the decline of the Glasgow tram system between 1947 and 1962. The authors state that the purpose of the book is *“to cover the abandonment programme in date order with photographic profiles”*. The reduction in the scale of operation is shown by comparing the network maps for 1947 and 1961.

There are no chapters, contents list or index, but the structure of the book is by year, each with a short description and profile of events. There is also additional commentary to be found in each section. For every year, there is often both a service (route number) and a section (part of a route) profile. The main contents are of course the photographs, many of which are in colour. Each image is usually captioned with a tram identification number, a location, a date, a fuller description and a source attribution.

Most of the photographs are of trams in service on the track in a variety of locations but there are some in the depot in various states of repair. There is only one internal shot of the interior of a

“caur” and it is on page 7, where some staff of the Glasgow Corporation are named. In fact, people do not appear in many of the photographs. One unusual image on page 66 is Elderslie depot clerk, Jim Caldwell, overseeing the transfer of takings from the “bullion car” to the bank in Paisley. This was in 1957!

On a more contemporary note, plans to close a line to Paisley were postponed owing to the impact of the Suez Crisis in 1956.

Finally, the gradual deterioration in the condition of both the trams and the track is apparent as the years go by and recorded in this enjoyable book.

**James Emery**

## An invitation

For the past few years some members have not been able to take part in zoom meetings for various reasons.

Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS are inviting our members without zoom to come along in person to their Glasgow meetings in the Renfield Centre in Bath St. Space is limited so they have requested that if you wish to attend in person you email a request to them at [glasgow@anesfhs.org.uk](mailto:glasgow@anesfhs.org.uk)

You will find full details of their meetings at <https://www.anesfhs.org.uk/meetings-events/events/eventlist> and over the coming months there are meetings in Glasgow on 13 May, 30 September and 25 November, all at 2pm, where you will be made welcome. Please note these sessions are free but donations of £1 per person are invited to help cover the costs.

**John Urie, 1868**



## Facebook groups for DNA

### DNA Detectives

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNADetectives>

Genetic genealogy group focused on using DNA to find biological family for adoptees, foundlings, donor-conceived individuals, unknown paternity and all other types of unknown parentage cases, recent and more distant.

### Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques>

Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques is a place to discuss topics in DNA ranging from beginner to advanced.

### Autosomal DNA-Gedmatch-FTDNA-23andME-Ancestry-MyHeritage

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNAandGenealogy>

This group is for genealogists interested in genetic genealogy research and anyone using their DNA results to learn more about their biological families.

### Mitochondrial DNA for Genealogy

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1723434311139711>

A place to learn about Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) for genealogy and discuss

human origins, migration, and our ancestors. What does mtDNA mean? What is my mtDNA haplogroup? How do I connect with others in my haplogroup? Where's my haplogroup from?

### DNA Gedcom User Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNAGedcomUserGroup>

This is a place for you, the user, to come and discuss DNAGedcom and ask questions and help each other out.

### DNA Surprises support group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1798909400175879>

A place to come and talk/discuss your surprise DNA results from Ancestry, 23 and Me, and other services. Maybe you found out you are NPE or you have a sister or brother you never knew about! Some people even find out about an aunt or uncle or even a grandparent. It could have happened to you personally or to a loved one. For some of us it's exciting news...but for others it's confusing and devastating! Either way, let's talk about it and try to heal.

### Christine Woodcock, 10008

*Editor: To access any of these you will need to have a Facebook account and all these groups are 'private' and therefore it is necessary to apply to join them. This is usually a painless process, although you may be asked a few simple 'screening' questions and will need to wait to be granted permission.*

*You will also find a number of Twitter accounts which link to DNA. Just do a general search and you will find a number of people with a particular interest in DNA including, for example, Michelle Leonard, as mentioned elsewhere in the Journal.*



## The Scottish Association of Family History Societies

33rd Annual Delegate Conference

### 'Haste Ye Back'

Saturday 22nd April 2023

Hosted by Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS



**H**aste Ye Back is the theme of the 33rd annual one-day conference of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) which will take place as an online event on Saturday 22 April 2023.

The conference is a free online event, hosted on behalf of SAFHS by the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society (ANESFHS) in partnership with the Elphinstone Institute of the University of Aberdeen.

The conference will explore different aspects of settlement and migration to and from Scotland. There will be plenty of hints and tips about resources for family history research and some thought-provoking perspectives. We think this theme will be of particular interest at a time when more folk contemplate resuming long-distance travel to maintain family connections and pursue family history.

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

Emigration, emigrants and returners: Prof Marjory Harper (University of Aberdeen)

Digitising Aberdeen's medieval city records: Dr Jackson Armstrong (University of Aberdeen)

Family history interfacing with recorded history: Dr Tom McKean (University of Aberdeen)

New family traditions in the north east: Nicholas Le Bigre (University of Aberdeen)

Using DNA in Family History Research: Alasdair Macdonald (University of Strathclyde)

War Brides: Ken Nisbet (SAFHS/Scottish Genealogical Society)

Sailing to Philadelphia; or, Where Did My Scots Ancestors Go?: Alison Spring

To book see the website: <https://safhs2023.anesfhs.org.uk/>

## Did you know?

**T**he Society has now added an Instagram Account to its Social Media portfolio. This offers the chance to share a wider range of images and commentary linked to family history, genealogy and wider Scottish history, people and places.

If you are interested and have an account please take a look and perhaps follow us to see what we are talking about.

We also have standard Facebook and Twitter accounts, plus a Facebook group through which anyone can ask questions and seek help on their family history queries.

# From the Editor

## Are you a genealogist or a family historian?

**P**aul Chiddicks (writer of the 'Dear Paul' articles in Family Tree magazine) published a blog about this a while ago which triggered a significant debate online, mainly via Twitter. His blog can be found here <https://chiddicksfamilytree.com/2021/07/17/are-you-a-genealogist-or-family-historian/> and he is also on Twitter: @chiddickstree.

So, if someone asked you this question how would you respond?

Might your response be different if you are an amateur or a professional in this field?

Do people approach the subject differently depending on how they define themselves?

Is there actually any difference?

Does it matter?

I am interested to hear your thoughts so perhaps you can share them with me and I can share them in print. It might only be a sentence or two or you might want to write an essay – whichever you choose please share your thoughts with me.

Our Society has a 'Family History' tag, while others have a 'Genealogy' tag but in looking through examples of both, they appear to do much of the same things.

As the articles in our Journals illustrate there are a wide variety of ways in which our members approach this hobby of ours. Some have a focus on the facts and figures, some present a wider perspective

of the lives of their ancestors and others provide information and education on the subject. All are equally important and I am delighted that our members want to share their stories with us and that you seem to enjoy reading them.

## A helpful bunch

From my own experience, people involved in family history (or perhaps that should be genealogy) are generally a helpful bunch. Each of us has a unique family history but we also share much of it with others through our common ancestors. Some of the articles in this edition have illustrated the varied responses from others when it comes to sharing information about our ancestors – and there are no doubt valid reasons behind any of those decisions. However, even if we choose not to share the specifics of our families there are many ways in which we can help others in their quest to research their family history.

You only have to check out our Facebook Group to see this help in action. This group has 4.8K members from all over the world and allows them to post their queries, especially related to the West of Scotland; and for others to help resolve them. For example, help sought and given recently includes reading almost indecipherable writing in documents; suggestions of resources to check out related to tenement buildings in Glasgow; and help with locating burial grounds.

So, if you have any hints, tips or help you can offer others please let me know and we could share them with our wider membership.

**Karen Hunter, Editor, [editor@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@gwsfhs.org.uk)**

**Glasgow & West of Scotland  
Family History Society**  
A Scottish Charity No. SC010866  
**Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the 46th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society will be held virtually on Zoom on Monday, 17 April 2023, at 7.30 pm for the following purposes:

- 1 Sederunt and Apologies
- 2 To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday 25 April 2022 and the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 April 2022
- 3 To accept the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022
- 4 To accept the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022
- 5 To receive confirmation of the Bank Signatories for the year
- 6 To elect the following Office Bearers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 7 Editor, Membership Secretary and Publications Officer
- 8 To confirm in office any Ordinary Members of Council co-opted since the last Annual General Meeting
- 9 To elect Ordinary Members of Council
- 10 Election of Honorary Members as proposed by Council
- 11 To fix the Subscription Rates for the year to 30 June 2024
- 12 To appoint an Independent Examiner
- 13 Conclusion

By order of the Council  
Annette McGarill, Secretary

Nominations are invited from members to serve on Council. If you are interested, want to know more, or wish to nominate someone (with their permission) please contact the Secretary at [secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk) prior to the AGM. All meetings are held via Zoom and this will continue therefore geography is no restriction. Please see the Constitution (<https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/constitution/> Sections 46-71) for details of Council and member requirements.

To attend the AGM please register for the '*Creating an Ancestor's Life Story Book*' talk via the website as the AGM will precede this talk.

## Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting held virtually on Zoom on Monday 25 April 2022 at 7.30pm

### 1. Sederunt and Apologies

Present: Chair: Edward Nairn; The Council and 77 other members of the society.

Apologies: None

Minutes: Murray Archer

The Chair explained that the final sentence of Clause 57 of the Constitution states *“Council Members elected or co-opted to fill a casual vacancy may be, at the expiry of the initial period of office, immediately elected to serve for a fixed term of three years”*. This is not consistent with the fixed term of two years stated in the second sentence of Clause 57.

Proposal: To amend the final sentence of Clause 57 of the Constitution to state *“Council Members elected or co-opted to fill a casual vacancy may be, at the expiry of the initial period of office, immediately elected to serve for a fixed term of two years”*.

Proposed by The Council.

There being no objections, the Chair declared the proposal carried.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the EGM closed.

## Minutes of the Forty-fifth Annual General Meeting held virtually on Zoom on Monday 25 April 2022 at 7.35 pm

### Sederunt and Apologies

Present: Chair: Edward Nairn; The Council and 77 other members of the society.

Apologies: None

Minutes: Murray Archer

#### 1. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Minutes were published in Journal 123 (March 2022) and on the website.

Proposal: That the minutes of the 2021 AGM be approved as accurate.

Proposer: Olive Allardyce; Seconder: James Oakes. Passed unanimously.

#### 2. Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021

The Annual Report had been made available on the website.

Proposal: Adoption of the Trustees' Annual Report.

Proposer: Jean Mackenzie; Seconder: Olive Allardyce. Passed unanimously.

The Chair extended his thanks to all trustees and volunteers for their contribution to the Society.

#### 3. Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

The Income & Expenditure Account was published in Journal 123 (March 2022) and the full accounts have been available on the Society's website or by written request.

The Treasurer, Elizabeth Anderson presented the accounts, which had been examined by the Independent Examiner, Ailsa Mowat, and will be submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).



The Treasurer noted a typo in the accounts published in the Journal, the Closing Bank Balance at 31 December 2021 (including floats) should be £34,886 rather than £34,866. The Treasurer noted that over the year the society gained approximately 500 new members and therefore an uplift of subscription revenue of approximately £7,000 plus Gift Aid.

All members' meetings are now held on Zoom, which is a small saving in the cost to hire a meeting venue. The benefit to non-local members is immense.

Publication sales are up slightly. Most sales were through the website as we were unable to attend fairs and shows in 2021.

The research centre was closed for most of 2021; however, we still had to pay the overheads. We were able to reduce the cost of our insurance by changing the provider.

The change to an all-colour Journal increased printing and postage costs. We will reduce the number of pages in the Journal slightly to control postage costs. Member reaction to the colour Journal has been positive overall.

The Treasurer asked members to update their profile on the website to add their email address, so that the society can save the cost of postage on correspondence. The society does not sell email addresses to third parties.

The Treasurer reminded members who are UK taxpayers that the society can claim Gift Aid on their subscription. However, for a claim to be valid, the society must hold a signed mandate on paper. If you are a UK taxpayer, and your Gift Aid status in the dashboard of your membership profile does not show that the society can claim Gift Aid, please contact us and we will post a mandate form to you. The society can claim 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

The Independent Examiner, Ailsa Mowat, confirmed that she signed the Independent Examiner's report.

Proposal: Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021. Proposer: Sheila Cuthbertson; Seconder: Scott Fairie. Passed unanimously.

#### **4. Bank signatories**

The Treasurer advised the meeting that the society's bank signatories for the new session will be: Sheila Cuthbertson, Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Anderson, and Edward Nairn.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her presentation of the Financial Statements and for her care of the Society's finances throughout the year.

#### **5. Election of Office Bearers**

a) Chairperson: Scott Fairie was nominated by Jean Mackenzie and seconded by Sheila Cuthbertson.

b) Vice Chairperson: Jean Mackenzie was nominated by Scott Fairie and seconded by John Wotherspoon.

c) Secretary: Annette McGarill was nominated by James Slavin and seconded by Brian Watson.

d) Treasurer: Elizabeth Anderson was nominated by Edward Nairn and seconded by Brian Watson.

There were no further nominations. The Chair declared these office bearers elected.

**6. Editor, Membership Secretary & Publications Secretary**

These are ex-officio members of Council and Council is pleased to appoint:

- Elizabeth Smith as Membership Secretary
- John Wotherspoon as Publications Secretary
- Karen Hunter as Editor.

**7. Ordinary Members of Council co-opted since the last Annual General Meeting**

Murray Archer was nominated by James Oakes and seconded by Elizabeth Smith. Confirmed.

**8. Election of Ordinary Members of Council**

James Oakes was nominated by Karen Hunter and seconded by John Wotherspoon. Sheila Cuthbertson was nominated by Edward Nairn and seconded by James Slavin. Christine Woodcock was nominated by Karen Hunter and seconded by Jean Mackenzie. Colin Campbell was nominated by Jean Mackenzie and seconded by James Oakes. John Urie was nominated by Elizabeth Smith and seconded by Elizabeth Anderson. Edward Nairn was nominated by Sheila Cuthbertson and seconded by Elizabeth Anderson.

There were no further nominations. The Chair declared these Ordinary Members of Council elected.

**9. Election of Honorary Members as proposed by Council**

John McCallum was proposed as an Honorary Member by Edward Nairn and James Slavin. Passed unanimously.

**10. To fix the Subscription Rates for the year to 30th June 2023.**

Council proposed no change to the rates, which were last increased in 2008.

Category	UK	Overseas
Ordinary Member	£15	£18
2nd Family Member	£10	£10
Associate Member	£18	£21

Passed unanimously.

**11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner / Auditor**

Mrs Ailsa Mowat was thanked for her contribution to the work of the Society in this post and Council is pleased to appoint Mrs Ailsa Mowat as Independent Examiner for the coming year.

**12. Conclusion**

The meeting was concluded by Mr Edward Nairn giving thanks to the members of the Council, administrative assistants and volunteers for their contributions to the society over the past year and, particularly, he thanked Vice-Chairperson Brian Watson, Secretary James Slavin, and Treasurer Elizabeth Anderson for their support over the past few years.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the AGM closed.

## Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society

### Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2022

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	25,005	26,216
Gift Aid Tax Refund	2,109	2,497
Members Research	-	50
Donations	836	782
Printing Income	69	-
Publications	1,342	558
Commission	365	1,311
Other Income	12	20
	<u>29,738</u>	<u>31,434</u>

### Expenditure

Mansfield St	Rent	7,404	7,241
	Electricity	3,164	312
	Insurance	902	821
	Maint & Repairs	<u>693</u>	<u>94</u>
		12,163	8,468
Journal & Postage		8,776	7,825
Meeting Expenses		570	725
Printing & Stationery		479	232
Postage & Telephone		1,508	1,757
Publications		299	53
Members Research		-	-
Projects		-	-
Library		370	53
Website & I/T Costs		2,653	1,977
Merchant Rentals		-	369
Credit Card charges		700	977
General		389	54
Advertising		203	-
Subscriptions		408	371
Equipment repairs and purchases		<u>100</u>	<u>31</u>
		<u>28,618</u>	<u>22,892</u>
Surplus for year		1,120	8,542
Bank Balance at 1 January 2022 (incl floats)		<u>34,886</u>	<u>26,344</u>
Closing Bank Balance at 31 December 2022 (incl floats)		<u>36,006</u>	<u>34,886</u>

### Represented by :-

Current Account	34,794	33,764
Paypal Account	922	762
Floats held by volunteers	<u>290</u>	<u>360</u>
	<u>36,006</u>	<u>34,886</u>

The full annual accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 will be available on the website. Alternatively on request to the treasurer, [treasurer@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gwsfhs.org.uk) a copy will be emailed to you.

## 2023 Programme of Meetings

20 March	<b><i>The Scottish Printing Industry and its Workers</i></b>	Dr Helen Williams
17 April	<b><i>Creating an Ancestor's Life Story Book</i></b> <b><i>Please note this talk will be preceded by the AGM</i></b>	Christine Woodcock
15 May	<b><i>The Paddle Steamer Pegasus and her People 1835-1843</i></b>	Jane Bowen
19 June	<b><i>Crimes of a Heinous Nature</i></b>	Margaret Fox
17 July	<b><i>Components of the British Army</i></b>	Paul Nixon
21 August	<b><i>Inverclyde Harbour Trust Records</i></b>	Lorraine Murray
18 September	<b><i>The Coats Family</i></b>	Stephen Clancy
16 October	<b><i>History of the Bank of Scotland and its predecessors</i></b>	Sian Yates
20 November	<b><i>Historic Environment Scotland in and around Glasgow</i></b>	Joe Waterfield
11 December	<b><i>Glasgow's ties to Covenanting</i></b>	Jimmy Fisher

These meetings will be held in the evening, (7.30pm BST/GMT) via Zoom. To register for any of these sessions please see the links on the GWSFHS website.

The website also provides more information about the individual talks and the speakers.

Don't forget we are 'extending' the monthly meetings for a while after the presentation/ Q&A session to give people a chance for more of an informal conversation and we look forward to some of our members joining us.

Please remember if you miss one of the talks when it is first 'broadcast', there is a link to the recordings through our website, providing the presenters give us permission.

If anyone has any suggestions for future talks please let Christine Woodcock know at [syllabus@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:syllabus@gwsfhs.org.uk)

## Contact Us

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Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/587314851642666](https://www.facebook.com/groups/587314851642666)

Twitter: [twitter.com/gwsfhs](https://twitter.com/gwsfhs)

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## Research Centre

The Research Centre is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4pm. There is no need to book unless you want to ensure access to one of the computers.

## e-News – monthly newsletter

The Society sends out an email newsletter open to both members and non-members. To receive it, you have to sign up because the software operates with extra security and permits people to unsubscribe. The sign-up is in the footer of each page on the website.

Previous issues can be seen at: [gwsfhs.org.uk/services/e-news-archive/](http://gwsfhs.org.uk/services/e-news-archive/)

The e-News editor welcomes contributions which can be sent via the email above.

## Editorial Team

Karen Hunter	10206	Murray Archer	4316
Diana Burns	7039	James Oakes	7179
Christine Woodcock	10008		

**ISSN 2755-7731**

Printed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design,  
Unit 2, Glenmore Business Centre, Range Rd, Witney OX29 0AA

