

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Journal No. 164
August / November 2022



“Haste Ye Back”

One-day conference • Online only • Free to attend



The Scottish
Association of
Family History
Societies



ELPHINSTONE
INSTITUTE
studying culture in context



AIBERDEEN VARSITY

*SAFHS Conference, 22nd April 2023: to be hosted by ANESFHS in partnership with
the Elphinstone Institute of the University of Aberdeen*

Membership Details

New members pay the annual rate, and your subscription runs for exactly one year from the date on which you join. Further details are available on our **website**. Membership of the Society entitles you to receive the quarterly Journal. There is a discount for e-members who opt to download the Journal digitally instead of receiving printed copies.

Family membership is available for two named persons at one address. Please nominate one surname for registration purposes.

From 1st January 2020, the 12-month subscription rates (choose printed or e-Journal) are:

Ordinary membership:	£25·00	Ordinary digital (e-Journal only):	£18·00
Family membership:	£30·00	Family digital (e-Journal only):	£24·00

Payment

You can pay online at our website (PayPal: account or cards), by post (credit/debit card or cheque), by Direct Debit, by Internet Banking, or in person at our Family-History Centre. Members who are UK taxpayers may sign a **Gift Aid** declaration (forms supplied on request) and so increase the value to the Society of their contributions by 20%.



Internet Banking:

Bank: Virgin Money (Clydesdale Bank plc), 62 Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1WD

Account name: ABDN & NTH EAST SCOT FAMILY HISTORY SOC

Account number: 90100648 **Sort code:** 82-40-00

IBAN: GB92CLYD82400090100648 **BIC/SWIFT:** CLYDGB21250

Include your membership number in the payment reference, and also e-mail renewals@anesfhs.org.uk so that we know you've paid!

Direct Debit: e-mail renewals@anesfhs.org.uk for details.

Cheque: GBP (Sterling) only. Pay: Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS.

Website: You have to register first (see below). Then select “The Society / Members / Renew my membership” from the menu. All payments are processed by PayPal. If you don't have a PayPal account, be sure to select “*Check out as guest*” when PayPal asks you to log in.

As website renewals are processed automatically, renewing via the website greatly assists our hard-pressed volunteers. Thank you.

ANESFHS website and Members' Forum

In order to get the most from your Society membership, you should register on our new website. Go to www.anesfhs.org.uk and click on the Register link at the top right of the screen. For further assistance, please visit www.anesfhs.org.uk/how-to-register

Once you have registered, you can access our growing list of very useful members-only features:

- All our Journals from 1979 onwards
- Monumental Inscription look-ups for many North-East Scottish graveyards
- A Members' Forum for exchange of ideas, assistance with “brick walls”, and much else.

General Data Protection Regulations, 2018

Members' details are stored on computer for administration and research purposes only, and will not be lent or sold to a third party. We require only your name and address – all other details are optional.

We may occasionally send e-mails to Society members only, concerning Society membership, appeals for volunteer help or promotional information, using the e-mail address you have provided. You may choose to unsubscribe from these e-mails. For further details of data protection, please contact the Society in writing.

Journal of the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society

Issue 164, August / November 2022

CONTENTS

SOCIETY REPORTS, NEWS AND INFORMATION	2
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	2
FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE: MANAGER'S REPORT	2
PARTY TIME!	3
ELEANOR PATERSON (1930–2022)	5
VOLUNTEER PROFILE: ALAN JOHNSTON	5
RESEARCH CENTRE: SATURDAY OPENING BY APPOINTMENT	6
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	6
EDITORIAL	7
THE KIRKYARD OF DYCE UNITED FREE: LAIR RECORDS AND MIS	7
LIBRARY REPORT	8
MEMBERS' MEETINGS: ABERDEEN	8
<i>Elaine Petrie, "Digging up the Family Bodysnatcher"</i>	11
MORAY/BANFF GROUP REPORT	13
EDINBURGH GROUP REPORT	13
GLASGOW GROUP REPORT	14
<i>Kate Clark, "Cartomania in North-East Scotland: cartes de visite"</i>	14
SOUTHERN ONTARIO GROUP REPORT	15
<i>Gavin Bell, "MIs and More – A Monumental Miscellany"</i>	15
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER	17
BEGINNERS' ONLINE COURSE IN FAMILY HISTORY	18
GIFT AID ON SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS	18
1911 CENSUS TRANSCRIPTION AND INDEXING PROJECT	19
MBGRG SEEKS NEW WEBMASTER	19
SCOTTISH FAMILY HERITAGE WEBSITE	20
ANESFHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022	25
SCOTTISH-THEMED ONLINE EVENTS AND WEBINARS	28
BOOK RECOMMENDATION	29
100 CLUB NEWS	29
GENEALOGICAL WILL FORM	31
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	31
<i>Thanks to Centre Volunteers</i>	31
<i>Chartists: Contacts Sought</i>	31
<i>Journal 163 Feedback</i>	32
<i>Beware of Family Lore</i>	32
<i>Record of Ancestors Chart: Feedback</i>	32
<i>Scott Skinner</i>	33
<i>Wedding Traditions</i>	33
DIARY	35
QUERIES	36
ARTICLES.....	37
CONNECTING MURRAYS THROUGH DNA MATCHES	37
CLUNY CHURCHYARD.....	39
WILLIAM BAIN: FROM STABLE-BOY TO TRANSPORT TITAN	42

Society Reports, News and Information

Chairman's Report

It's been a busy few months of Members' Meetings for our various local-area groups. We are trying to reach all members by offering hybrid meetings where we gather at a venue and share the experience with our online audience. There is always plenty to be done to try to ensure that we get it right for everyone. Are Saturday afternoons the best slot? Is there enough publicity for each meeting? Are we trying to do too much?

Thank you to members who have been in touch about volunteering. If you've yet to receive a reply, you soon will. Existing volunteers often find themselves in a bit of a "Catch-22" where they're too busy within and outside the Society to reply promptly to people who might help to make their lives easier!

This Journal arrives later than intended, but all the closer to the festive season. We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year when it comes.

chairman@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

Family History Centre: Manager's Report

Life in the Centre continues as usual: sometimes we are busy, and other days we have very few visitors. This allows us to do jobs such as completing the filing of the indexed 1911 census for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, some parts of which are virtually illegible but which we have included in a separate file. This has been a huge task undertaken by a team of volunteers who have had to deal with deciphering handwriting and other details often partially obscured by census-work marks. I am sure you will have viewed original census images and will understand the enormity of the task. Thanks go to all the team.

Recently, apart from our regulars, we have had visitors from other parts of the country as well as abroad. Some are new to researching, and others are looking for help in finding those elusive ancestors. FamilySearch is an invaluable tool in making those searches quicker and wider-ranging, offering sensible possibilities and coping with variations in spelling without the need for us to be precise. Today we take literacy for granted, but you must remember that even 100 years ago it was not unusual for people to be uneducated, and the spelling of a name could be left up to the census enumerator or the church clerk. One exception to the rule is the ScotlandsPeople website, whose default search option is exact spelling. Alongside each surname field, "Search Options" opens a blue drop-down box of options, including wildcard searches. One advantage of coming to see us in the Centre is that we routinely use various search methods and are happy to help and advise.

One ongoing job is book sales, and we are now at the stage of having to make decisions about the future for this area. Many publications are available online from a variety of sources, from second-hand bookshops to large retailers, making searches quick and easy.

I have started putting book reviews onto our Facebook page, as we have some interesting and less well-known publications which could be of interest and may well be out of print or be one of our own publications.

We are still looking for new volunteers to help in the Centre, so now would be a suitable time to come and have a talk with us. If you have researched your own family history, you are in a good position to help others.

Barbara.Lamb@anesfhs.org.uk

Barbara Lamb

No. 20206

Party Time!

Not just one, but *three* Society Christmas Socials!

3rd December: ANESFHS Online Christmas Social

All members are invited to the Society's online Social, hosted by Mary Evans. We all need some festive cheer after the last few years. This meeting is now open for registration by logging into the website and clicking the link under either "Aberdeen Meetings" or "Moray/Banff Meetings". Then scroll down to select the event. An automatic e-mail will be sent, to the address which the Society holds for you, containing the invitation link. Registration is possible up to 1:59pm on Saturday 3rd December (if you are reading this Journal electronically before the printed version is available).

Bring along your wine/tea/coffee and mince pies, and join us for an entertaining afternoon. Do you have any special family Christmas traditions or stories? Does the area where you live have special Christmas events? Please bring along your Christmas stories! Before the day, any suggestions for festive quizzes or other fun activities to keep us busy would be very welcome – ideas to *syllabus@anesfhs.org.uk* or *moray.banff@anesfhs.org.uk*.

10th December: ANESFHS Christmas Social in person

**Friends, family-history and holiday cheer
make Christmas the most wonderful time of the year!**

We ho-ho-hope you can join us for our in-person Christmas Social on Saturday, 10th December 2022 from 2pm to 4:30pm at the Rubislaw Church Centre, 1 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen AB15 4AB.

Feel free to bring and share festive treats and nibbles. Wine and beer will be available. You can also BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle – but, no spirits, please – only the Spirit of Christmas Present!).

Mix and mingle with fellow members, swap family-history stories, participate in our quiz and get involved in our "Guess who" photo competition.

What is the "Guess who" photo competition?

Bring a childhood photograph of yourself. The photos will be displayed for all to see.

Then the fun begins ... how many members can you identify from their childhood photograph?

You can either bring the photo on the day or drop it off at our Research Centre prior to the event. (All photos will be returned.)

Mark your calendar, and join us for a jolly good time at our first in-person Christmas Social in three years. We hope to see you there.

10th December: Moray/Banff Group Christmas Social in person

Moray/Banff Group are pleased to be holding a face-to-face Christmas Afternoon Tea, in the Coffee Shop at Threaplands Garden Centre (just east of Lhanbryde on the A96 – postode IV30 8LN). If you would like to come along and socialise with other members, then please e-mail Mary Evans (*moray-banff@anesfhs.org.uk*) to book a place.



SAFHS

33rd Annual Conference

Saturday 22nd April 2023

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

“Haste Ye Back”



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Eleanor Paterson (1930–2022)

We at King Street were saddened to hear of the death on 2nd August of one of our former helpers. Eleanor Paterson worked for many years on Thursday mornings and will be remembered not only by those of us who worked with her but also by the many members and visitors whom she helped to research their family history. She was born and brought up in the North-East and had a wide knowledge of its history and social background.

Eleanor trained originally as a tailoress and worked for many years in the retail industry here in Aberdeen. She was married to Alan for over 50 years, and they made their home in Cove, where they raised their family of two sons and a daughter.



Family was always very important to Eleanor, and she was a much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She and Alan shared an interest in family history, and Eleanor joined the Society in 1988. She researched her own background and was delighted to trace her family back to the early 18th century. Eleanor was always willing to share her knowledge and was a popular and much-appreciated member of the team.

We send our sympathy to Phyllis and Neil and the rest of the family.

—oOo—

Liz Foubister No. 6129

Volunteer Profile: Alan Johnston

“Fit d’ye wint ti ging inti a’ that for?”

This less-than-encouraging reply from his father didn’t discourage Alan from continuing his research into his family history! He persevered, with help from a cousin in Canada in the form of a family tree. Like so many of us involved in researching our genealogy, he found help and inspiration quite unexpectedly, when a visitor admired a sampler embroidered in 1839 by his great-grandmother. Fortunately for us, the visitor happened to be a member of the Society and encouraged Alan to join (20 years ago, as member no. 12329). He then found the unpublished MIs for Glenbuchat, which took his family back five generations.

With much help from the late Violet Murray and others, Alan was encouraged to dig deeper. He became interested in using a PC to store his information and to use Internet resources. Like most of us, he has accumulated a large tree for his own and his wife’s families. He responded to a Society call for volunteers and can be found every Monday afternoon quietly beavering away, encouraging and helping visitors with researching their family history.

He was born and brought up in Glenbuchat in west Aberdeenshire, and attended Inverurie Academy. After graduating BSc(Eng) from Aberdeen University in 1965, he worked



firstly in the Glasgow area and then as an engineer at the Torry Research Station until he retired in 1996.

Many people would relax after a long working life ... but not Alan! He followed his daughter into the world of education and retrained as a teacher of Design and Technology. He taught until 2008 at Fraserburgh and then at Northfield in Aberdeen.

For many years he was involved with the Territorial Army, and retired as a major before the name changed to Reserves. In 2013, he was awarded an MBE for services to SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. He and his wife enjoy hillwalking and climbing – they have climbed all of Scotland's Munros and Corbetts but still have a few Grahams to be visited!

Again, like many of us, he has encountered The Brick Wall in his research – but, knowing Alan, I am sure that his perseverance and determination will help him find the answer to this ... or at least convince him that he's done everything he possibly can and that some mysteries are unfortunately going to remain unsolved!

liz.foubister@anesfhs.org.uk

Liz Foubister

No. 6129

—oOo—

Research Centre: Saturday Opening by Appointment

Our Family History Centre at King Street has seen a steep fall-off in visitor numbers on Saturday mornings. In the current climate of high energy prices and the increased cost of living, the Society can no longer justify the costs of opening the Centre or expect the duty volunteers to travel in when there are no visitors for us to welcome.

Until further notice, our Centre will be open on Saturday mornings by appointment only. If you would like to visit on a Saturday, please telephone to make a booking. We will keep these arrangements under review and will announce any changes. The Centre is open for business as usual from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

Barbara.Lamb@anesfhs.org.uk

Barbara Lamb

No. 20206

—oOo—

Membership Renewals

We hope you have enjoyed your Society membership in 2022 and will want to renew for 2023. Renewing by 31st January will ensure that you receive Journal 165 (February issue) automatically. We thank you for your membership, and wish you a Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year when it arrives. We hope to see you at King Street in the year to come.

membership@anesfhs.org.uk

Sheila Symons

No. 13157

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Research undertaken in North-East records, also at the
National Archives of Scotland and New Register House
All enquiries welcome

Mrs. Margaret Davidson, CSFHS, Grampian Ancestry Research
6 Bayview Road, Inverbervie, Montrose DD10 0SH
E-mail: grampian.ancestry@btinternet.com
Tel. 01561 361500

Editorial

This Journal edition has ended up as the combined “August / November” 2022 issue. I apologise for its late appearance and for skipping a quarterly edition. It’s been a year of rather trying personal circumstances on top of overcommitments, but I look forward to a New Year of being better organised.

The last Journal carried a plea for feedback and contributions. This issue’s Letters pages give a flavour of responses received. Many thanks to all who replied. Keep ’em coming!

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

The Kirkyard of Dyce United Free: Lair Records and MIs

This new booklet include a set of Memorial Inscriptions but differs from all our other MI booklets in that it sets these alongside the equivalent burial records. This might seem an obvious way to combine sources, but it is seldom possible, as access to burial records can be both complicated and expensive. The fact that we can do so for Dyce UF is down to a historical anomaly, by which some Free Church burial grounds and their records were not transferred to the local authority, in contrast to the Church of Scotland’s burial grounds.

As might be expected, there are discrepancies between burial records and the inscriptions on the gravestones. There are nearly 200 individuals listed in the burial records whose names do not appear on any gravestone – but also the MIs show quite a few names of people who are not recorded in the burial records. For every lair (i.e. plot), this booklet prints the burial details alongside the inscription on the equivalent gravestone, if any – and also examines some intriguing puzzles which emerged in the process of matching these up.

A version of the MIs of Dyce UF was published by ANESFHS in 1990 (along with the MIs for the older Dyce Parish Kirkyard). That booklet used the system of abbreviations, paraphrases and partial omissions then current, but the opportunity has now been taken to carry out a new survey and to record the full, literal text of each stone. This new booklet includes a brief history of Dyce UF church along with a more detailed account of the burial records (and their numerous oddities).

The booklet is now available (catalogue number AA070) and is priced at £3.60.

mis@anesfhs.org.uk

Gavin Bell (MI Co-ordinator)

No. 4085

Discover with me your ancestral roots in Aberdeen & NE Scotland!

Walk in your ancestors’ footsteps, see sights they saw, breathe the air they breathed

I am a professional, qualified tourist guide, fully insured to drive and guide you



Elma McMenemy, Blue Badge Tourist Guide
Member of the Scottish Tourist Guides Association



www.elma.uk.com

guide@elma.uk.com

Library Report

My six-year-old grandson loves the Edinburgh trams. A trip to Edinburgh always involves a day spent going backwards and forwards from terminus to terminus. He was very interested to learn that Aberdeen once had trams, and that the pedestrian track along which he walks every day to school was once the tram track to Hazlehead.

Aberdeen's tram network was the most northerly in Britain, and ran from 1874 when the first horse-drawn trams were introduced by the Aberdeen District Tramways Company. In 1898 the Company was taken over by the City Corporation, which began to electrify the system and expand the network; and the trams continued to run very effectively and efficiently until 1958, when the last trams were set on fire on the City's Beach Boulevard.

The Society's library has several books which chart in detail the history of the trams in Aberdeen. All are well illustrated with original photographs – and not just of the different kinds of trams themselves, but also of trams in their setting travelling through Aberdeen, with views of different parts of Aberdeen, and of people going about their business. The history of the trams is not just transport history, it is social history too. The trams meant quick, cheap travel, and enabled the expansion of the city from the overcrowded centre to the suburbs to the north and west of the city.

But eventually trams fell out of fashion. They had to go because they weren't mobile enough and because extending the network to cover the rapidly expanding city would be too expensive. The future lay in diesel buses and private cars. The tramlines would be lifted – and, by the end of the year, according to a councillor, "Union Street would be laid out as a first-class motoring track". Lamenting the 1958 burning of the trams, an *Evening Express* reporter said: "Progress in this world of ours is merciless in its application. Sentiment, when all is said and done, really never has a chance" (*EE*, 2nd May 1958, p. 4).

The trams are not forgotten though. After years of controversy, Aberdeen's Union Terrace Gardens has finally been redeveloped. The three new café pavilions have been designed to look like trams – and, as you stand on Union Street and look along Union Terrace, you can easily imagine yourself back in time and see three trams proceeding along Union Terrace. Only if you're of a certain age, of course!

Mackenzie, H. K. and A. W. Brotchie, *Aberdeen's Trams, 1874–1958* (Crown Press Ltd, 1974).

Mitchell, M., *The Aberdeen District Tramways* (NB Traction, 1983).

—, *The Aberdeen Suburban Tramways* (NB Traction, 1980).

—, *Aberdeenshire Tramways* (Amberley, 2013).

—, *Fae Dee to Don and Back Again: 100 Years of Public Transport in Aberdeen* (First Aberdeen, 1998).

library@anesfhs.org.uk

Margie Mellis

No. 2090

—oOo—

Members' Meetings: Aberdeen

Aberdeen monthly meetings continued online-only in June; see report below. After the summer break, we resumed in September with live meetings at a new venue: Rubislaw Church Centre, near Queen's Cross. The large meeting room has the technology and the space to allow us to hold "hybrid" meetings, i.e. broadcasting presentations to the audience gathered in the room while also allowing members across the world to tune in online.

Some two dozen members turned out for our September meeting, with more than twice that number Zooming in – and it was great to see each other again. The pre-recorded talk

was played, then the guest speaker joined us online for live Q&A from both audiences. At the tea-break in these hybrid meetings, the live audience mingles happily and has the chance to browse and buy MIs and other items from the Society's publications for sale, while the online participants enjoy their conversation from their respective homes.

The October meeting was even more successful: our guest speaker was "live on stage", and over 40 members and friends were present from locally and quite far afield, with a similar number Zooming in from everywhere. Reports of these meetings also follow.

Meanwhile, see our website's "Events" tab for details of forthcoming meetings. We are eager to encourage attendance in person whenever possible. Alternatively, registration for a digital link usually opens a few weeks before each hybrid or online-only meeting.

Apologies for the short notice in this late-appearing Journal – but there's still time, if you are reading this online, to attend the online-only Society Christmas Social on Saturday 3rd December, hosted by Mary Evans of our Moray/Banff Group. Then, on Saturday 10th December, there are Christmas Social gatherings in the Moray/Banff Group area (contact Mary to book a place) and at the Rubislaw Church Centre. All members welcome.

18th June 2022: Ken Nisbet, "Education through the ages: researching Scottish schooling and schoolteachers"

Ken, an alumnus of one of Scotland's oldest schools, Aberdeen Grammar School, looked at the history of education and how it was administered by the Church and then local authorities. He showed how to investigate the schools and universities your relatives attended, and what records are available. He also examined how to research those who took up teaching, and how it gave an opportunity for women to enter the professions.

In 1496, an Act introduced compulsory education for the sons of noblemen. In 1690, an Act decreed that all teachers and professors had to be Protestant and members of the Church of Scotland. In 1696, an Act stated that each parish in Scotland should have a parish school and a schoolmaster. There were also Catholic schools; and children might also receive some teaching from other individuals, notably older women.

In 1709, the Society in Scotland for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge was founded. In 1711, the SSPCK had five schools "where religion and virtue might be taught to young and old", mostly in rural parishes. This grew to 25 schools by 1715, 176 in 1758 and 189 in 1808. There are free lists online. Unlike "the Establishment", the SSPCK was not anti-Gaelic: in 1767 a New Testament was published with facing pages in English and Gaelic.

A Government Report on Educating the Poor, from 1818, gave detailed descriptions of schools. Reports for Moray and Nairnshire are available for free via Moray & Nairn FHS.

A series of Education Acts (Scotland) wrought improvements. In 1872, responsibility for education passed from churches to elected School Boards, which advertised their elections in newspapers. Education became compulsory for children aged 5 to 13. In 1901, the school-leaving age was raised to 14, and part-time attendance was abolished, though there were still the autumn "tattie holidays" where children had to help in the fields. In 1918, School Boards were abolished and replaced by local government authorities. The school-leaving age was raised to 15 in 1947, and 16 in 1973.

Local newspapers listed prizewinners in subjects. School photographs may also be found in books about a locality, or on websites. Group photographs usually show varied ages of

children, and no uniform; just day-to-day wear. Only towns and private schools had recognisable uniforms. Female teachers had to be unmarried: the “marriage bar” operated.

School registers and logbooks, in a standard format, are kept by local archives. They are good for spotting adopted children, and may be the only place where you can see who was Guardian of whom. A very small number are online for Scotland (e.g. on Ancestry for west Fife; and a lot free on Friends of Dundee City Archives). There is usually a 100-year limit on the information you are allowed to view. Aberdeen Archives (city and shire) has a list of all school logbooks it has access to, and school records.

Information can also be found on school sports and clubs, gala days and other activities. Try the Old Scottish website, school magazines and local libraries. Local newspapers often mentioned teachers, especially when they retired.

There was a recognised shortage of teachers: the authorities couldn't just rely on college graduates. Often, the headmaster was male, and the other teachers were female. In 1846, the National Pupil Teacher Scheme began: schools selected their most promising 13-year-old students to undertake a five-year apprenticeship. An adult teacher had overall control. The most able students received a Queen's Scholarship to attend the “Normal” school training college at Moray House, or the Church of Scotland College on Johnston Terrace, both in Edinburgh. By 1857 there were 500 students at these colleges, $\frac{1}{3}$ of them female.

For university and further education, there are lists of graduates, clubs, societies etc., and reports on annual balls and charity balls. The University of Aberdeen has one of the best and biggest graduate collections; see their website.

17th September 2022: Alison Spring, “Getting More from FamilySearch”

FamilySearch is a free website operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for anyone to use. Opening an account is like opening a box of different tools that will let you be more productive in researching, recording and sharing your family tree. There's a multitude of things you can do, whether as a solo researcher, in collaboration with others, or with your own family, including younger genealogists. Alison Spring's aim in this talk was to introduce us to aspects of the website that we perhaps hadn't come across before.

Alison has over 40 years' experience of family-history research, specialising in Scottish records. She runs the “Frugal Family Historian” blog, writes for *Family Tree* magazine, has delivered presentations for RootsTech and others, and shares hosting duties for the weekly Ancestry Hour on Twitter (Tuesdays, 7pm UK time, #AncestryHour).

We played Alison's slide-illustrated presentation, and then she joined us online for Q&A. You can achieve all sorts of things with the FamilySearch website from home, but you can achieve even more if you use an Affiliate Library edition, such as ANESFHS has on computer at King Street. Affiliate Libraries have access to even more record sets, some of which can otherwise only be accessed at LDS HQ in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Aspects of the website to which Alison drew attention included Research Help, Time Line, Sources, Collaborate, Memories, Catalog, Film/Digital Notes, Latest Changes, Search Historical Records, Learning Center, Get Involved, and many others for many different purposes. We particularly enjoyed the (successful) search for one particular book where the informant could remember only that it was hardback with a red cover!

Elaine Petrie, “Digging up the Family Bodysnatcher”

15th October 2022

The starting point for this talk with its eye-catching title was the life and times of Dr Duncan Reid (1806–65), brother of Elaine’s great-great-grandfather. She had become interested in Duncan Reid after being told a family story by her aunt, who said that he “excavated the body of the wife of the Blacksmith at Foveran. He was pursued by the family and, passing Patagonian Court in Aberdeen city centre, he stowed the body, made good his escape and returned later to retrieve the corpse.” Elaine then set about trying to establish the original source of the story and whether there was any documentary evidence for it. The resulting quest led her through many of the familiar trials and tribulations of family-history research, with all the pitfalls of unrecorded snippets, the joys of the “aha!” moment and the discovery of how wonderful Family History Societies can be for the struggling researcher.

Our Society played a leading role in this journey of discovery, as it turned out that the bodysnatching tale had been told to Elaine’s aunt in the 1980s by a distant cousin, the late James Milne, a teacher in Aberdeen who was a Society member. He’d been researching the Reids of Craskins in Tarland, and had been passed this story by a younger cousin, Alasdair Hendry, also connected to the Reids – and also a Society member.

The first step was to find out more about Duncan himself – and it proved possible to put together quite a comprehensive biography, starting with the usual parish records, which showed he was born to Duncan Reid and Isabel Gauld in Smiddyhill Farm, Migvie in 1806. Young Duncan left home to become a boarder in Aberdeen so that he could attend Aberdeen Grammar School (1819–21) and then Aberdeen University. He became an active member of the student Medico Chirurgical Society and was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons in London in 1828. He practised as a surgeon in Aberdeen, with the census returns for 1841, 1851 and 1861 all showing him at Crown Court in Union Street. He became prison surgeon at Aberdeen Bridewell and was also appointed as a lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence at the University. So, it seemed he had a very solid and respectable career up to his relatively early death in 1865, from tuberculosis.

So, why might he have been associated with bodysnatching – or resurrection activity, as it was known? One clue lay in his will, which made a bequest to a neighbour “for various acts of kindness and other assistance in the way of my profession which can only be known to ourselves”. The other important factor was that, at the time Duncan was a student, it was recorded that “Few burial grounds in Scotland, it is believed, have escaped the ravaging hands of resurrection men”. The reason for this was a shortage of bodies available to medical students to learn and practise anatomy and dissection as part of their training. The Aberdeen Medical Society minutes show they had a rule in the early 1800s for “every member to attend at the taking up or Depositing a Dead Body under the penalty of 10/6”. An *Aberdeen Lancet* article stated that “subjects for dissection were procured by the members of the Medical Society ... the senior students were at great pains to initiate their junior brethren in the art of anatomical investigation”, and that “about five or six bodies were dissected every winter ...” (*Bicentenary*, p. 72). One individual who figured prominently in these activities was Andrew Moir, who became important in developing Anatomy training in Aberdeen. Tellingly, Andrew Moir, also born in 1806, attended the Grammar School and university at the same time as Duncan Reid. They were both in the

Medical Society and both became surgeons in London in the same year. So, if Andrew was there, there's a good chance that Duncan was "there or thereabouts". According to Ella Hill Burton Rodger, whose own father had participated in these activities in his student days, "Body-snatching ... was looked on as a good risk in a brave cause, and was thus joined in by lads of spirit" (p. 224).

A big change finally came about with the Anatomy Act 1832, which authorised dissection of unclaimed bodies of those who died in workhouses (if unclaimed after 48 hours). This also ended the practice of anatomising as part of the death sentence for murder. It was the direct result of public unrest after the high-profile trials of William Burke and William Hare in Edinburgh (1828) and of a gang of so-called London "Burkers" who also had kidnapped and murdered individuals in order to sell their bodies.

Meanwhile, in November 1831, Dr Andrew Moir had opened his Anatomical Theatre in St Andrew's Street, Aberdeen. "Anti-Burker" feeling was still high, and the discovery of human bones, carelessly disposed of behind the building, led to a public riot. Moir and an assistant fled the building, which was set on fire and destroyed by the mob. Arson was a capital offence, and three people were tried in Edinburgh High Court in April 1832, receiving a "lenient" sentence of a year in prison. One was George Sharp, a blacksmith from Schoolhill, who said he had come to look for the remains of his lately-interred grandmother.

It does sound like a tantalising echo of the story Elaine's aunt was told – but there was no connection to Foveran that could be proven. Yet, coincidentally, Foveran does have its own well-documented "bodysnatching" story, dating from 1770. Medical men broke into Foveran Church to remove a body that was awaiting a coffin. The minister complained to the authorities, and the doctors were obliged to return the body for proper burial (see A. Strath Maxwell, *Monumental Inscriptions and Register of Burials, Foveran Churchyard, Aberdeenshire, Scotland 1753–1966*, Aberdeen, 1988).

Elaine's conclusion was that the Duncan Reid story was made up of snippets from various places and so was based on truths but not provable in itself.



Her other quest was for the original of a photocopied photograph of Duncan Reid given to Alasdair Hendry by an unknown Society member in the 1980s. We reproduce it here – and Elaine would be very interested and grateful to hear from anyone who has seen this striking image in a family collection.

This lively, informative talk was very well attended: over 40 online from around the world, and over 40 others in the Rubislaw Church Centre. Our local meetings are picking up the pace again, and we look forward to welcoming you at future meetings.

Moray/Banff Group Report

With Covid numbers in Moray finally coming down in late spring, it seemed a good time to venture into a face-to-face meeting again. Our meeting room in Elgin Library is quite small and doesn't allow for any social distancing, but the opportunity to meet up in the much more spacious coffee shop at Threaplands Garden Centre was welcomed, and this was arranged for Saturday 28th May. We had a number of apologies, as many people were suddenly on the move again after the recent lifting of restrictions, but 17 of us gathered for a lovely afternoon of good food and lots of genealogical chat. It was a great chance to renew old acquaintances from our days at the Library and to meet a few "Zoomers" in person for the first time. Some members had travelled quite a distance to join us, and it was a lively and very enjoyable afternoon.

Our June meeting would usually have taken place on the first Saturday, but this was the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, so we decided to meet online on Saturday 11th June. Despite the fact that the holiday season was beginning, we still had 55 participants. As this was to be the final meeting before our summer break, we used this mainly as a reviewing and planning time. With face-to-face meetings in the Library finally looking to be a real possibility from September, we spent some time discussing various options for combining these with our online meetings, which we are all keen to continue with. Members had also come along, as requested, with a wide range of suggested topics for future meetings, which really helps in terms of forward planning.

Our calendar of meetings resumed on Saturday 3rd September, and reports will appear in the next Journal. Not all local members have been able to join us online, so we are experimenting with alternating between meeting in Elgin Library and continuing with the online-only meetings. There will be a Moray/Banff Group e-Newsletter going out in plenty of time to let you know about each meeting.

During what has been an unusual and difficult couple of years, it has been wonderful to have had the enthusiasm and genealogical co-operation of our online meetings, which have brought together Society members and occasional guests from all parts of the world. Thank you very much to you all, both local and far-flung participants, for making it such a great experience. We look forward to meeting up with you all again soon!

moray.banff@anesfhs.org.uk

Mary Evans

No. 1975

—oOo—

Edinburgh Group Report

Our speaker on 10th September was to have been Andrew Nicoll of Historic Environment Scotland, but this meeting had unfortunately to be cancelled because of the Queen's death two days earlier. We hope to reschedule the speaker and topic for a future date.

The next Journal will report on our November meeting and Sally Low's well-researched and thought-provoking presentation on "Slavery and its impact in family history".

At our next meeting, on 28th January 2023, the speaker will be Ken Nisbet. The release of the 1921 Scottish census had been anticipated for over a year, and finally occurred on St Andrew's Day 2022 just as this Journal went to press. Ken will aim to describe the significance of the 1921 census and how some of its features differ from earlier censuses.

edinburgh@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand
and Elaine Petrie

No. 4161
No. 22949

Glasgow Group Report

Kate Clark, “Cartomania in North-East Scotland: *cartes de visite*”

8th October 2022

Many of us have inherited family photographs. Sometimes we know who the subjects are, but often we are dependent on clues in the costumes and the setting to help us pin down the likely period and therefore the possible family members. Kate Clark, of our Glasgow Group, took us through the history and development of photography, with copious excellent examples that demonstrated the clues we should be looking for.

Key stages were the development of the Daguerreotype in 1839, the Calotype in 1841 and, from 1851 onwards, the collodion wet-plate process and later tinfoil processes that allowed the production of multiple copies. Small (2½ × 4 inches; 6 × 10cm) visiting cards (*cartes de visite*, or CdVs) soon became all the rage. There was a growing market for personal photographs, many of which were used as calling cards but also as family mementoes to share among relatives as individuals left to seek their fortune elsewhere. Aberdeen had seven photography studios in 1857–8, and 21 by 1868–9.

So, what are the tell-tale elements in dating photographs? First of all, remember to look at the backs and check the thickness and quality of the card on which the photo is mounted. Thin card was used first, and a thicker card is likely to be more modern. The corners can also tell a story: square in the early examples, and round by the 1870s. The 1870s also saw the introduction of pastel colours for the card, while darker colours became more popular in the 1880s. Similarly, the borders and backs started plain but gradually became more ornate. Some designs included images of exhibition medals or awards gained by the photographer, sometimes helpfully giving the date of the award. A few *cartes de visite* are dated, but often you need to correlate the photographer’s name with entries in the relevant town directories.

Kate warned against scanning only the image, as so much can be learned from the mount itself. Gilt borders date from early 1880s, whereas plain edging lines suggest an earlier date. The posing of the individuals can also tell a story just as helpful as the fashion trends in dating the photo. In the 1860s, the custom was to show the whole person, standing and perhaps using physical supports to keep them steady during the long exposure time that was required. In the 1860s–70s, the subject is more likely to be sitting or leaning on a chair. During the 1870s, close-ups along with painted backdrops and *papier-mâché* props were used to create more realistic settings.

Even without knowing who the sitter is, a photograph can be fascinating because of the changing fashions in dress and hairstyle for both men and women. In the late 1850s to 1860, women were wearing crinolines and pagoda drop sleeves. During the 1860s, more trims were introduced and the gathers in the skirt congregated at the back as the silhouette gradually moved towards the introduction of the bustle. Photos around 1876–80 will often show sitters wearing tight, fitted cuirass bodices; and jackets gradually became longer and straighter. The 1880s saw even more furbelows and a straighter silhouette with a shorter bodice and a small bustle. Sleeves in 1892 were big and puffed at the shoulder then tapered to the wrist, whereas in 1895 the bigger puffed leg-of-mutton sleeve was popular.

For men, the type of tie or neckcloth, the cut of the jacket collar and lapels, and placement of buttons, along with changing fashions in sideburns and facial hair, are the key markers, with the 1860s being the era of the mutton-chop whiskers.

After Kate's talk, members shared some wonderful photographs on screen, often with interesting stories attached. Ian Beaton contributed an example and information about the subscription scheme for photos to commemorate the 1869 addition of a memorial to mark the grave of Mill of Tifty's Annie in Fyvie. This prompted an entertaining recitation in Doric – mentioning photographers – from Fyvie's own Helen Taylor, participating online.

Perhaps the most amazing story was one shared by Helen Strachan. Her father-in-law Archie Strachan, a commercial photographer, served his apprenticeship in Aberdeen with Fred Hardie. After Fred's death, Archie bought the premises and discovered that the basement was full of 42,000 original glass plates, weighing 55 tons, produced by the famous pioneering photographer George Washington Wilson. Archie donated this stunning collection to Aberdeen University – and many images can be viewed online, thus providing a resource bank against which to compare your own North-East images.

We saw examples where all was not what it seemed at first, for example when the sitter wore fancy dress, or when photos of Scottish-based relatives had American studio details. This last came about when diaspora relatives had copies made of photographs from home.

It was a fascinating session – and it's time for us all to look out the family photo album. This was another hybrid meeting, where members worldwide joined in online with others at our venue. Our online members had difficulty with the audio during Kate's talk, though the video and the Q&A afterwards worked fine. The subject is popular, and many more members will have photographs to share. We are pleased that Kate will deliver this talk again at the Society's Aberdeen meeting on 18th February 2023.

Kate recommended books by Gary W. Clark. Other useful resources include:

- Stephen Gill, *Dating by Design, 1840–1915: A New Way of Dating Old Photographs* (FFHS).
- Jayne Shrimpton, *Family Photographs and How to Date Them* (Countryside Books, 2008).
- Richard Torrance's series of booklets (SGS, 2001) on photographers in Scotland to 1914: *North-Eastern Scotland* covers Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Angus, while *Northern Scotland* includes Banffshire, Moray and Nairnshire. His *Scottish Studio Photographers to 1914, and Workers in the Scottish Photographic Industry* (2 vols, SGS, 2011) is an update.
- <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/how-to-date-family-photographs/>
- <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/collections/our-collections/george-washington-wilson-collection-152.php> (George Washington Wilson Archive)
- Victoria & Albert Museum guide: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/photographic-processes>

elaine.petrie@anesfhs.org.uk

Elaine Petrie No. 22949

—oOo—

Southern Ontario Group Report

Gavin Bell, “MIs and More – A Monumental Miscellany”

24th September 2022

Our group enjoyed this online presentation from Aberdeen by long-time member Gavin Bell, on the volunteer service of the members who transcribe graveyard monuments.

It is 40 years since ANESFHS started publishing MI booklets – and now the number exceeds 125, covering 160 separate burial grounds. Gavin began with the Hows and Whys of the Society's MI work and some of the challenges encountered along the way.

The first challenge is the stones themselves. Some pre-1800s stones are of a material that is flaking, so much of the carved area has fallen off. In a few cases, thoughtful volunteers picked up pieces, assembled them like a jigsaw puzzle and photographed them. Many stones, though, were not that lucky. Then there are marble stones with some erosion, stones with lichen growing on them, and stones with attached letters falling off. Some stones were broken in half, while others were removed entirely and repurposed. How heartbreaking to see tombstones lining the inner wall of a river overpass.

Gavin then talked about cemetery plans drawn up in the early days. These were not done to scale, and worked fine as long as graves were all in neat rows. That was not always the case, and some stones got missed while others were counted twice, throwing off the entire numbering system.

Some early transcriptions, not done by ANESFHS, left off names entirely, recording only two of five names on the stone in one case, while other transcriptions were rife with spelling errors. Gavin explained that it is tempting to use what is in the old transcriptions, especially when part of the stone has now chipped off, but they try to resist this borrowing and only use the old transcriptions as a back-up. Gavin likes to have two independent transcribers read the stones and then compare notes.

Some people ask Gavin why lair plans aren't used. The first reason is that for many older burial grounds, no such plans were ever made. The second reason is that sometimes what is on the ground does not match what is in the lair plan. Also, gravestones have had their numbered markers removed by eager landscapers hurrying to mow the grass.

Gavin then demonstrated the results of taking photographs of stones at different times of day or in different weather conditions. He had to get very creative, taking a photograph of a stone that was made out of mottled pink granite, lying on the ground and catching the sky's reflection in order to make out the indented letters.

There was also the dilemma of errors on the stone. Do you transcribe what is there, or correct it in the MI? Sometimes you meet a correction that was actually done on the stone and is hard to read. Do you transcribe what you *think* it says?

Mistakes were sometimes the fault of the family member who gave information to the tombstone inscriber. For example, a son-in-law may not have known the exact year his mother-in-law was born, or the correct spelling of her maiden name.

There are also challenges with records. Many burial records did not start until after the 1850s, while records from the 1700s might say something like "Angus was buried near that stone or tree". The late 1800s is when records began to give much more information, including who bought the plot. These records are invaluable when you come across a stone that just says "Family". They might list each person by name who was buried there. Gavin also touched on mistakes in records and on the practice of reusing a grave.

In 1925, the responsibility for burial records was transferred to the local Town or County Council. The original records are fortunately still with the relevant Council. They have however, been licensed to Deceased Online and are available online as pay-per-view. The pros and cons of that were also discussed.

Gavin concluded with the future of transcribing monument inscriptions and how many more graveyards the Society has yet to possibly transcribe. The meeting finished with a question period for Gavin which included a good discussion by online members with

suggestions. Anne Park advised searching the online British Newspaper Archive for the cemetery name and then going from there for information on your family members.

All in all, it was a well-attended and enjoyable presentation. From all of us in Canada, we are thankful to Gavin and all of the volunteers who do this very important work. The MI booklets are one of the ways that ANESFHS raises funds, and the Society's website lists those cemeteries already transcribed and describes how you can order the booklets.

The next Journal (February 2023 issue) will carry a report of our online meeting on 19th November, when we were treated to a "Zoom tour" of the Family History Research Centre at King Street. Our Group's next meeting will take place in late February 2023, and the Society's website will show details.

ontario@anesfhs.org.uk

Susan Brouwer No. 20475

co-organizing with Rod Coates (No. 18349) and David Joiner (No. 16651)

—oOo—

Australia and New Zealand Chapter

15th October 2022

This online meeting had 23 attendees from across the globe, including special visitors from Guam and New Zealand as well as the usual attendees in Australia and the UK.

Ann Swain (member no. 200), in Brisbane, gave a fascinating presentation, titled "The Mobile Scot". Ann began by explaining how it was difficult to move around Scotland before 1750, as there were limited roads. In 1725, General Wade had constructed some military roads. The aftermath of the 1745 Jacobite Rising saw the building of thousands of bridges and 800 miles of roads, yet in 1749 it still took two days to get from Glasgow to Edinburgh, which is now an hour on the train. Technology improved mobility. By the 1830s, railways were being built across Scotland, which opened up migration; however, shipping was vital for migration.

There are a number of explanations for the migration of Scots. First, there was a degree of intermarriage between royal families, e.g. James III married Princess Margaret, daughter of Christian I, king of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and Dorothea of Brandenburg. Second, it was common to rent out Scottish mercenary armies. Third, there were trading links, and smuggling links, between Scotland and England. Just as in Australia, where droving cattle was an established practice for moving livestock, cattle were walked from Scotland to England. Finally, there was international trade. Scots helped to establish the East India Company in India. There were factories in Madras, Bengal and Bombay by the 1700s. There was extensive trade with Russia, and there were even Scots in Poland because there was trade there.

Ann went on to examine many other groups that migrated and to provide some interesting examples of prominent Scots who migrated to Nova Scotia, America, Ireland, Africa and New Zealand, as well as Australia.

We heard how convicts were not exclusively an Australian phenomenon. From 1648, convicts were sent from Scotland to America, and from 1660 to Jamaica and Barbados – so much so that by 1762, a third of Europeans in Jamaica were Scots.

In addition to convict migration, many Scots were forced out by the Highland Clearances. These started in the 1750s due to the breakdown of the clan social structure. By 1762,

sheep had been introduced, and tenants were forcibly evicted from crofts. Between 1800 and 1806, 20,000 people were evicted from Highland crofts.

A number of countries ran development schemes to attract Scottish workers. This was the case after gold was discovered in Australia in the 1850s and many of the Australian colonies experienced labour shortages. Ann explained the different ways that Scottish migrants could come to Queensland: on free passage, or assisted passage, or as nominated or remittance passengers, or as indentured immigrants. The Queensland government tried a land grants scheme, but it failed due to fraud. Other Australian states had a similar range of incentive schemes to encourage migration.

In Scotland, relief committees were established for destitute cotton workers. For example, Glasgow paid Mr Rennie £62 to organise passage of 155½ cotton workers to Queensland.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing brick walls and helping each other.

australia@anesfhs.org.uk

Robin Price No. 18058

—oOo—

Beginners' Online Course in Family History

In early 2021 and 2022, the Society ran an online six-week Beginners' Course tutored by experienced genealogist Ken Nisbet of the Scottish Genealogy Society (and SAFHS, and ANESFHS). These were popular and successful, and may be run again if there is enough interest. Proposed dates are Thursdays, 26th January to 2nd March 2023, from 7pm to 9pm UK time (2pm in Ontario; 11am on the North American west coast).

The course is likely to be priced around £46 (£42 concession). A detailed description of each week's material can be found in the News section of the Society's website. Week 2 includes coverage of the censuses and will feature the 1921 Scottish census, which is now expected to be released imminently.

If you would like to take part, please e-mail the address below. Places may also be offered to non-members. If there is insufficient interest, the course will be postponed. If there is enough interest for the course to go ahead, we will confirm this to you, and will send a course invitation link at a later date.

syllabus@anesfhs.org.uk

—oOo—

Gift Aid on Subscriptions and Donations

I would like to thank all UK members who have taken the time and trouble to complete and return the Gift Aid declaration forms. It certainly helps to ensure we have the correct information before submitting our claim to HMRC for the year. It costs you nothing, and is effectively a tax rebate to the Society.

If you support Gift Aid but have yet to return a completed form, there is still time to do so, as a GA submission is usually completed in the autumn. If you want a form but do not have one, let me know and I'll send one out to you. Or you can download a form: log in to the Society's website, select "Services" and "Download" for GA form in PDF format.

Last year, Gift Aid amounted to £7,923 – a significant addition to our annual accounts. So, thank you to all who support Gift Aid. Well done.

Jane.Cameron@anesfhs.org.uk

Jane Cameron (Finance Team)

No. 9680

1911 Census Transcription and Indexing Project

Just before the release of the 1921(!) Scottish census, Helen and I are happy to say that, thanks to our army of volunteers, we have now done as much work as we can on the transcription and availability of the 1911 census for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

We began this project around eight years ago with little or no idea of the size of the task we had undertaken. Since then, almost 150 Society members have volunteered to sit for days and weeks with a magnifying glass to decipher the census-takers' handwriting. We checked and printed over 480 districts of the census, and, although we realise that there are still errors and missing words, we have created typed versions which are more accessible to researchers. Volunteers live all over Scotland and England, and it was also a great opportunity for overseas members from the USA, Canada, Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand to contribute, as well as those who live locally.

These printed versions, in rows of yellow folders, are now available for anyone to consult in our Family History Centre in King Street, and each district has its own index. We also owe huge thanks and appreciation for the work done and continuing to be done by Dave Anderson, who has used his technical expertise to create a searchable database of the completed districts. This is available for searching on the computers at King Street.

We really have reached the point where almost everything that can be transcribed has been done. About a dozen districts are virtually unreadable on the original image (although some of our keen volunteers continue to try to make sense of them as well), but in the meantime we have made those originals available for research – and just maybe someone will be able to make use of them.

We have enjoyed being part of this project and have made many friends through our email correspondence. We hope that all those involved feel the same way.

1911census@anesfhs.org.uk

Rhona Robertson and Helen Dewar

—oOo—

MBGRG Seeks New Webmaster

Many members will know of, or have actively made use of, the Moray Burial Ground Research Group website at <https://www.mbgrg.org>. However, if you have only recently joined ANESFHS, perhaps a little background information might be useful.

Our research group began life at Elgin in 2003, made up largely of ANESFHS members. The group's express aim was to record and publish as many monumental inscriptions as possible within the Moray area's boundaries. This was a continuation of a parallel project undertaken by the Society which was directed ably by Bruce and Janet Bishop.

As work progressed, and the MIs mounted up, in 2005 our member Lindsay Robertson, of Aberdeen, suggested the time had come when the group should consider having its own website. With considerable expertise and effort, Lindsay constructed a suitable version, which over the intervening years has helped many family historians from various parts of the world with their innumerable and varied enquiries. Currently the website contains references to over 90,000 individuals, and can provide a link to many tens of thousands of photographs relating to memorials throughout much of Moray.

Time marches on, so in August 2021 Lindsay retired, and the group needed to find a new Webmaster – not an easy task, particularly on a voluntary basis. After much fraught

discussion, the MBGRG Committee was almost about to consider closing down the website – a decision we certainly felt was the last and worst choice open to us.

Society member Doug Stewart (no. 563) is valiantly standing in, but only on condition the position is temporary. He has updated and maintained the MBGRG website in a very professional manner, but we are still looking for a full-time Webmaster. Could you help?

scottishfamilyheritage@gmail.com

Keith Mitchell No. 11314

Taking On a Website

Taking on an existing website can be a fraught experience. You will instantly be expected to be an expert on the website's structure and content. You will also need to be competent in the use of whatever development tool has been used to build the website, and initially you may well have to pay the website bills yourself for domain registration, hosting etc. – claiming back these expenses from whoever happens to be in charge of the purse strings.

The single most important thing to consider has to be whether you have enthusiasm for the subject of the website. After all, you'll be taking on a significant task on a voluntary basis – which means, of course, you don't get paid for the time you spend on the project.

Your next task is to familiarise yourself with the structure and content of the current version of the website. Strange as it may seem, the more important at this stage is the structure: you may find you first need to change the About Us page, replacing the name of the retiring webmaster with your own. You need to be able to find this page in the myriad of folders and files making up the website.

This leads on to another important task: to learn how to use the development tools used by the previous webmaster(s) when building, developing and editing the website. There are innumerable website development tools available, and you may be lucky and find you are already familiar with the tool used. But, more than likely, you'll find the development platform to be new to you, with a steep learning curve to negotiate – by yesterday.

If you've read this far and not been put off, I'll finish with a word of warning – do not try to change too much too soon! It will take considerable investigation to fully understand the structure of the website you've taken on. Making too many complex changes too soon might result in problems in related areas of the website which you simply did not yet know existed. Should you feel the urge to take the next step in finding out more details about the possibility of becoming MBGRG's new webmaster, please write in the first instance to *enquiries@mbgrg.org*, and we will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

enquiries@mbgrg.org

Doug Stewart No. 563

—oOo—

Scottish Family Heritage Website

My interest in family history began to merge with other antiquarian pursuits in the 1970s after I was given a copy of a family tree on my mother's side going back as far as 1680. This had largely been taken from a copy of a family bible that included birth, marriage and death records put together by my 4g-grandfather, James Donaldson, manager of the Devon Iron Works in Clackmannanshire. Genealogy is also something my wife Helen takes an active interest in – and, being a Huntly “quine” descended partly from the local farming community in and around Dufftown, Gartly, Keith and Rhynie, with surnames such as Duff, Forbes and Gordon, who can blame her!

In the 1980s, while living in Edinburgh, I began compiling a highly eclectic mix of old documents and items of ephemeral interest, which came my way, through the the process of scouring second-hand bookshops, auction sales and generous donations. My initial idea was assuredly somewhat fanciful: that maybe, just maybe, some item might come my way originating from somewhere among my various ancestors and relations. Some hope!

As time went on, I took on the mind-bending task of indexing and transcribing many of these antiquarian treasures, first on a manual typewriter, then an electronic typewriter, followed at last by an actual computer operating on Windows 95 – would you believe? Great fun, as well as being extremely informative and relaxing! In the late 1990s, it struck me that a newfangled piece of technology called a “website” might be a way to make some of my efforts more widely accessible to other like-minded family-history enthusiasts. And so, in 1999, www.scottishfamilyheritage.co.uk first appeared on the World Wide Web. After one or two false starts, the site was given a significant makeover by Lindsay Robertson, the same person responsible for the Moray Burial Ground Research Group website. At present, SFH is expertly maintained by ANESFHS member Doug Stewart.

Aside from over 10,000 surnames that can be searched, there are many unusual and often fascinating glimpses into the past to be found from various parts of the world in the assorted mix of information that has already been indexed, and in some cases digitised. A few examples of the source material available include *Pre-1830 Assorted Anecdotes of world news collected by John Manders of Dublin & Whitehaven*, and the 1897 *The Purchaser's Catalogue for the Contents Sale of Culloden House*.

Many of the documents come from defunct solicitors' offices and range in date mainly from the 16th century to about the 1950s. A large number of these items contain mountains of legal gobbledegook, but they also provide many genealogical treasures which more than repay the studious researcher's reading efforts. And so many of these documents are unique in their own right and cannot be replicated elsewhere.

The majority of the collection relates to items of Scottish interest. Lowland southern regions of Scotland predominate, but there are still plenty of references to people and places further north, including Aberdeenshire, Banff & Buchan and the Moray areas.

Although the datasets published online so far are quite extensive, much still requires to be done by way of indexing and digitising the collection. Two examples are manuscript ledgers of some historical significance. The first is a legal abstract relating to the State of The Principality of Scotland collated by George Chalmers, Writer to the Signet in 1751/2, while the second is a House, Stable and Food Cash Book relating to Elizabeth, Duchess of Gordon between 1857 and 1864, with many pages signed off by herself.

A significant number of documents remain unindexed because the various forms of archaic handwriting are beyond my own capabilities. Many of these items are also written in equally antiquated legal Latin text. If any Society member would like the opportunity to attempt the task of transcribing or even indexing any of these items, this might bring centuries-old and lost primary source information back into the light of day. Any help on this front would of course be suitably acknowledged online.

My website has had a link to the ANESFHS website for many years; and a reciprocal link is on the ANESFHS website under “Information”, “Links”, “Other Web Resources”.

MOTHER'S SIDE

Record of Ancestors

Name **1228**
Address **David L. WALKER**
Solihull, W Midlands, England

Great-grandparents

Date 24 Jul 2022
e-mail d.l.walker@blueyonder.co.uk

M3 **David FORGIE**

Born 3 Sep 1833
Place Longside, Aberdeenshire
Married 4 May 1864
Place Longside, ABD
Died 1 May 1905 (71)
Place Longside, ABD
Occup. Tenant farmer

Grandfather

M1 **David FORGIE**

Born 29 Nov 1870
Place Longside, Aberdeenshire
Married 9 Jan 1907
Place Old Deer, ABD
Died 26 Jun 1923 (52)
Place Kildrummy, ABD
Occup. Tenant farmer

M4 **Mary JOHNSTON**

Born 1838
Place New Deer, ABD
Died 19 Jun 1922 (84)
Place Kildrummy, ABD
Occup.

Mother
[M0]

Jane Ross FORGIE

Born 5 Jan 1911
Place Longside, Aberdeenshire
Married 1 Dec 1937
Place Edmonton, Middlesex, England
Died 14 Nov 1987 (76)
Place Edinburgh
Occup. MB ChB (Aberdeen)

Great-grandparents

M5 **Alexander Kemp ROSS**

Born 27 Dec 1851
Place Drumoak, Aberdeenshire
Married 16 Dec 1876
Place Aboyne, ABD
Died 1 Mar 1913 (61)
Place Aberdeen
Occup. Farm overseer; grain agent

Grandmother

M2 **Jane Ann ROSS**

Born 26 Dec 1878
Place Ballater, Aberdeenshire
Died 29 Apr 1951 (72)
Place Edinburgh
Occup. Schoolteacher

M6 **Jane ARCHIBALD**

Born 7 Jul 1856
Place Kincardine O'Neil, ABD
Died 11 May 1927 (70)
Place Dyce, ABD
Occup.

Form designed by:
Aberdeen & North-East Scotland
Family History Society,
158-164 King Street
ABERDEEN
AB24 5BD

Great-great-grandparents		M15	William FORGIE	<i>Born</i> 1753	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, Aberdeenshire
				<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>
M7	James FORGIE		<i>Died</i> 15 Feb 1837 (83)	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, ABD	<i>Occup.</i> Tenant farmer
		M16	Marjorie MUTCH	<i>Born</i> 24 Jun 1752	<i>Place</i> Peterhead, ABD
			<i>Died</i> 4 Apr 1844 (91)	<i>Place</i> Longside, ABD	<i>Occup.</i>
		M17	John MITCHELL	<i>Born</i> 1761	<i>Place</i> Longside, ABD
			<i>Married</i> 20 Jul 1790	<i>Place</i> Longside, ABD	<i>Place</i> Longside, ABD
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i> Wright
M8	Margaret MITCHELL	M18	Mary DANIEL	<i>Born</i> 23 Jun 1761	<i>Place</i> Ellon, ABD
			<i>Died</i> 7 Aug 1823 (62)	<i>Place</i> Longside, ABD	<i>Occup.</i>
		M19	William JOHNSTON	<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i> 1 May 1798	<i>Place</i> New Deer, ABD	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i> Tenant farmer
M9	George JOHNSTON	M20	Janet BREBNER	<i>Born</i> 22 May 1780	<i>Place</i> New Deer, ABD
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i>
		M21	James BALFOUR	<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i> 4 Feb 1812	<i>Place</i> New Deer, ABD	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i> Wheelwright
M10	Jane BALFOUR	M22	Mary LEASK	<i>Born</i> 1789	<i>Place</i> New Deer, ABD
			<i>Died</i> 2 Aug 1880 (91)	<i>Place</i> New Deer, ABD	<i>Occup.</i>
		M23	James ROSS	<i>Born</i> 3 May 1794	<i>Place</i> Peterculter, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Married</i> 4 Jul 1820	<i>Place</i> Peterculter, ABD	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i> 21 Dec 1868 (74)	<i>Place</i> Drumoak, ABD	<i>Occup.</i>
M11	John ROSS	M24	Elspet NIVEN	<i>Born</i> 1793	<i>Place</i> Peterculter, ABD
			<i>Died</i> 26 Oct 1885 (92)	<i>Place</i> Drumoak, ABD	<i>Occup.</i>
		M25	Duncan CAMPBELL	<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i> Overseer
M12	Ann CAMPBELL	M26	Ann MAITLAND	<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i>
		M27	David ARCHBOLD	<i>Born</i>	<i>Place</i> Ireland
			<i>Married</i> unproven	<i>Place</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Occup.</i> Seaman
M13	David ARCHBOLD	M28	Elizabeth SILVER	<i>Born</i> 1778?	<i>Place</i> Fordoun, Kincardineshire
			<i>Died</i> 3 Jan 1867 ("93")	<i>Place</i> Aboyne, ABD	<i>Place</i>
				<i>Place</i> Aboyne, ABD	<i>Occup.</i> Knitter
		M29	James McPHERSON	<i>Born</i> 17 Dec 1796	<i>Place</i> Strathdon, ABD
			<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Place</i>
			<i>Died</i> 13 Dec 1875 (88)	<i>Place</i> Strathdon, ABD	<i>Occup.</i> Agricultural labourer
M14	Jean McPHERSON	M30	Ann IRVINE	<i>Born</i> 1801	<i>Place</i> Inveravon, Banffshire
			<i>Died</i> 12 Jun 1889 (88)	<i>Place</i> Auchindoir, ABD	<i>Occup.</i>

ABERDEEN & NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **Year ended 31 December 2021**

Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds	
	General Fund	100 Club	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income:				
Covenants and Gift Aid	7,923	–	7,923	7,424
Donations	2,731	–	2,731	4,025
Legacy income	10,500	–	10,500	–
Annual fees	–	1,451	1,451	1,455
Investment income:				
Interest received	311	–	311	565
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
Subscriptions	53,390	–	53,390	56,964
Publication sales	8,051	–	8,051	7,315
Research and queries	1,872	–	1,872	1,194
Other incoming resources:				
Other income	2,601	–	2,601	592
	£87,379	£1,451	£88,830	£79,534

RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Direct charitable expenditure	48,721	704	49,425	84,768
Depreciation	8,027	–	8,027	6,252
	£56,748	£704	£57,452	£91,020
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	30,631	747	31,378	(11,486)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	333,773	5,815	339,588	351,074
Total funds carried forward	£364,404	£6,562	£370,966	£339,588

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS **Year ended 31 December 2021**

3. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED – CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES GENERAL FUND

	Direct Charitable Expenditure	Depr'c'n	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Publication cost of sales	3,043	–	3,043	3,831
Printing Society Journal	10,646	–	10,646	14,618
Postages and Journal distribution	7,034	–	7,034	11,159
Stationery and office supplies	832	–	832	2,581
Insurance, heat, light and telephone	5,080	–	5,080	6,854
Rent	5,900	–	5,900	5,800
Rates	3,179	–	3,179	2,528
Equipment repairs and maintenance	–	–	–	–
Meeting expenses	1,361	–	1,361	1,067
Conference and course expenses	–	–	–	–
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	2,227	–	2,227	2,543
Advertising	–	–	–	-46
Internet and IT expenses	623	–	623	1,334
Accountancy fee	1,025	–	1,025	1,000
Professional fees	–	–	–	–
Bank and credit-card charges	1,640	–	1,640	1,763
Sundry expenses	3,466	–	3,466	5,997
Building and library repairs	2,665	–	2,665	22,774
Depreciation	–	8,027	8,027	6,252
	£48,721	£8,027	£56,748	£90,056
100 CLUB				
Building and library repairs	–	–	–	233
Prizes etc.	704	–	704	731
	£704	£ –	£704	£964

ANESFHS Annual General Meeting 2022

19th March 2022

The Society's AGM was held online for a third year, allowing worldwide participation. The Chairman, Ivor Normand, welcomed all attendees and noted apologies received. Minutes of the AGM of 20th March 2021 appeared in summary form in Journal 159 (May 2021), and a full version is available from the Secretary. Those minutes were approved by Barbara Lamb, seconded by Liz Foubister, and adopted by the meeting.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman had been quite overcommitted outside the Society as well as inside, and felt he had been struggling to discharge his various roles effectively. Journal 161 (November 2021), published in January 2022, was smaller than usual, but Journal 162 was back to normal in February 2022. He appealed for material contributions.

Committee meetings had not been held for a few months, but the intention was to resume regular meetings, ideally on our King Street premises. Three attendees at this AGM were in our Centre, and this was a template for the Society's ability to conduct online meetings and consultations between members in King Street and elsewhere.

Vice-Chairman's Report (Bert Lawrie)

Bert reported on repairs to the roof and rear guttering of our premises, and on further such repairs needed. He also outlined progress in recording segments for a short video of the "Hidden Treasures" within our Research Centre at King Street. It is hoped that this video will encourage an increase in visitors when it is released on a suitable platform. Bert is a regular volunteer and was glad to have seen some days very busy with visitors.

Paul Hudson (no. 2428) thanked Ivor and Bert, and all other volunteers, for all their work on behalf of the Society. Ivor then called on other office-bearers for their reports.

Secretary's Report (Ronald Leith)

The ravages of Covid have affected membership: in 2018 and 2019 we welcomed 400 new members per year; in 2020 and 2021 these dropped to 250 per year. Up to mid-March, 80 new members had joined in 2022, compared to 72 in 2021. We are thankful that people are still joining the Society and, presumably, with our help, enjoying this engrossing hobby. Our great strength is in helping our members with their research; everything we do, from publications and research to keeping the Centre open, is geared towards this. We thank all those who involve themselves with all these aspects of the Society.

The late Jean Shirer left a large number of photographs, most of them from the early days of the Society. Thanks go to Susan Freer for making these available online for us to view and identify. Being member no. 39, Ronald could identify most of the people in these photos, many of them no longer alive. Does the name Archie Strath Maxwell mean anything to you? If you have an interest in Aberdeen's Episcopal records, then you will have come across his transcripts. We have only one photo of him! From time to time, we fall heir to old photographs, and we have no idea who they are. It is tempting to throw them away, as the Society lacks the facilities to process and store unsorted donations; but the storage problem could be eased if photographs were donated on disk or online.

Ronald commented on the cover of Journal 162 (Feb 2022) showing the frontage of the Society's first Research Centre, at no. 152 almost next door to our current premises. It is

regrettable that later owners ripped out this artwork and that the frontage is now in a state of decay. Our current frontage is due for a repaint when the contractor is available.

AGM 2022: Finance Team Report

Pat Black, on behalf of the Finance Team, began with huge thanks to Jane Cameron for preparing this report at short notice during Pat's recent illness.

Overall, our finances for 2021 are in good order despite the Covid presence and associated difficulties. Some savings have been made, with the reduced use of premises balanced out by extra costs (reduced fuel usage, plus additional equipment and resources needed to improve safety). Meeting costs have increased (Zoom usage mainly), but only marginally and with the blessing of increased opportunities to communicate across the globe.

With reference to accounts (expenditure/income), there have been no major differences on the previous year (2020) except for one. The expense on Building and Library repairs in 2020 was £22,774, substantially different from £2,665 in 2021. Just to clarify, this was for the completion of the much-needed refurbishment of the back office.

There is still some disappointment with the continued downward trend for membership and of course the implication for subscription income. In 2019, membership was at 3,086; in 2020 it was 2,843, and in 2021 it was 2,757.

The 100 Club was set up some years ago as a fund-raising initiative by Teresa Shewell. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Teresa has had to resign meantime. (Postscript: thanks go to Dave Anderson for his work in automating much of the running of the 100 Club.)

Brexit regulations have added complications not fully appreciated in 2021. VAT has become an issue when posting out Journals and books to other countries. HMRC give out information, but it can be very confusing. With help from Andy (accounts), Dave (IT) and Nick (publications), the management of transactions outwith the UK is becoming clearer.

We have to consider the steep increases in fuel costs (heat and light) for two properties. The Committee may need to make better use of 136 King Street if we are going to keep it.

We are still operating the Treasurer's post with a financial team. Sincere thanks go to Linda Davie for doing the regular graft of book-keeping (Sage), Andy Horne for his regular quarterly reports, audit prep (and making sure our mistakes are corrected!), Sheila Symons for membership renewals, direct debits and authorising payments, Bill Rodger for his monthly credit/debit reconciliation, and Ronald Leith for distributing invoices and receipts to the right person/place to be addressed. We haven't had too many upsets.

The full accounts can be found on the Society's website. These were proposed by Pat Black, seconded by Hazel Meldrum, and duly accepted by the meeting. For any questions or other points, contact treasurer@anesfhs.org.uk.

Centre Manager's Report

Barbara Lamb greeted attendees and hoped everyone had come through the pandemic. These have been an odd couple of years, but we have maintained a presence in the Centre as long as we have been able to, and have only been closed when mandated and on one other occasion as a precautionary measure. Barbara thanked all the Centre volunteers, especially Paul Webster, for their perseverance during these difficult times.

"We are here and we are open" is the message. You no longer need to book, but Fridays can be busy, so it's best to check before visiting us. We aim to provide a safe environment for volunteers and visitors alike.

Our Centre has numerous resources for your use, from computer programs to books, but our number one resource is probably our volunteers, who, among them, have many years of experience in researching family history. It can be a good idea to vary the days you visit, as you will see a different volunteer who may have a different search path.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Centre, please contact Barbara for a chat (Barbara.Lamb@anesfhs.org.uk) about what you can offer and what we would like.

We now have Affiliate Library membership of the FamilySearch website, thanks to the efforts of Committee member Pat Black. FamilySearch has a huge library of information from around the world. Of primary use to us is their Old Parochial Record (OPR) film section. Instead of having to put the old microfilm into the reader, we can now scan it on computer screen and manipulate the size and clarity of the image. It can still be quite a search, as the film is not indexed, but at least you are sitting in comfort when searching.

Jean Shirer died suddenly in 2021, and we have spent considerable time during lockdown trying to come to grips with everything she did for the Society. On the book-sales side, we hope to stick mainly to publications which have a local connection and may be less easy to find in the mainstream. We need more help to take on some of the work that Jean did.

Among the many treasures in our research library in the basement, we have an extensive collection of books, many of which are now out of print and irreplaceable. We ask that members accessing the library do not take bags downstairs with them, rather just paper and pencil, and if books are removed from the shelves that they are left out for the librarians to return. Many books have been misfiled, leading to dismay. As difficult as it is to understand, some books have actually been removed from the library.

Of course, we have a toilet and tea/coffee-making facilities. Much can be discussed and sometimes discovered over a cup of tea with other members. Please do come and visit for a tour of the premises. We will be very happy to see you.

Election to Board of Trustees (a.k.a. Committee)

Ronald Leith stated that the 2021 AGM had voted that Membership Secretary be added as a named Committee position. Sheila Symons, holder of the post, had been appointed to the Committee at its next meeting. Ronald explained that this results in a minor change to the Society's constitution, item 62, last sentence, thus: "The honorary secretary, treasurer and membership secretary are elected to serve three years and may stand for re-election". He was thanked for this clarification, which will now also be reflected in the Journal. Ronald's proposal was seconded by Barbara Lamb and adopted by the meeting.

Teresa Shewell has stood down on health grounds and was thanked for her work. Pat Black and Susan Freer retire by rotation after serving three-year terms. Both had indicated their willingness to stand again. Susan was proposed by Bert Lawrie and seconded by Margie Mellis. Pat was proposed by Barbara Lamb and seconded by Paul Hudson.

Scottish Association of Family History Societies: Conferences

The 32nd SAFHS Annual Conference would be held on 9th April 2022, online and free to attend, facilitated by Scottish Indexes. Ken Nisbet, chairman of SAFHS, outlined the programme: pre-recorded presentations from the Patron and then six guest speakers, each appearing for live Q&A after their talk.

ANESFHS is hosting the 33rd SAFHS Annual Conference on 22nd April 2023, again online and free to attend. With the uncertainties surrounding Covid, it has not proved possible to organise a live conference or family-history fair; but we have a good team working on the preparation. Details appear elsewhere in this Journal.

AOCB

John Urie had e-mailed the Committee, offering to put the Society's own published bookstock on to an online bookshop run by the (English) Federation of Family History Societies. He wished to know the Committee's position on slow-moving stock, and what efforts had made to sell books in the past six months, bearing in mind the past two years of no family-history fairs or other bookstall events. The Chairman replied that the late Gay Murton had previously been unimpressed at the cut taken by an FFHS online bookshop, and that the Committee had taken decisions on unsaleable stock and was resolved to act on potentially saleable stock. He thanked John for ongoing work in scanning a selection of Society publications to make digital images available.

Ronald Leith advised that such discussions were best held in person and not via strings of e-mail exchanges. Ken Nisbet said that SAFHS encouraged FHSs to do their own deals licensing publications to, for example, FindMyPast rather than the FFHS. Barbara Lamb said that even the "help yourself" box of ex-sale stock is hardly touched because of low visitor numbers and low interest in many types of books.

John clarified that he had been looking to put books on Parish Chest, which takes a 7.5% cut. Barbara noted that ANESFHS would be unable to meet the turnaround timeframe required for postage. Publications Department would need more volunteers.

The Secretary thanked the Chairman, who thanked all attendees.

chairman@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

Scottish-Themed Online Events and Webinars

Our friends in the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) are inviting participation in some of their Scottish-themed online events this year and next. They have also held workshops and symposiums, and are likely to run more of these. Keep your eye on their websites, and subscribe to their e-mail updates.

Kilted Kulture: Quarterly Online Events

Kilted Kulture (#YS2022, #KiltedKulture) presents a series of quarterly events, each consisting of four short presentations in an hour (9–10am Eastern Time; 2–3pm in the UK). The next is on 10th December (themed on tartan, kilts, drinks and food). For details, and how to register, see <https://www.genealogyvic.com/>.

Webinars

Webinars from the Scottish Special Interest Group of the OGS resumed in September. These webinars are free at the time of the live presentation (access to the recordings is a member benefit for the SIG). There is no limit to attendance, so please share and join in.

These live webinars usually take place from 10am to 11am local time (3pm to 4pm in the UK), though times may vary. For the current schedule of events, up to May 2023, see <https://ogs.on.ca/events/categories/branch-sig-webinars/>

Book Recommendation

Sarah Lark (Christiane Gohl), *In the Land of the Long White Cloud* (trans. D. W. Lovett), 2007.

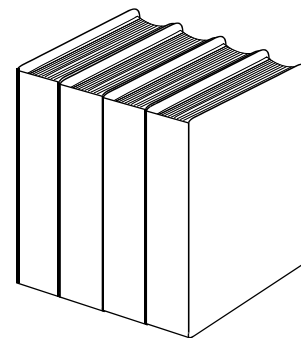
Historical fiction is very popular nowadays. This book, set in the 19th century, is the saga of two unforgettable women, and is an interesting insight into early settlers who travelled by boat to New Zealand's South Island. (The title is the country's Maori name.)

The heroine is English, though the novelist is German, writing under a pseudonym. I listened to this book in translation on 19 compact discs.

mcb_melv@hotmail.com

June Melvin

No. 834



—oOo—

100 Club News

The 100 Club gives our members the opportunity to win a cash prize while also supporting the Society's work. All you need is a UK bank account, wherever you live. The fee for each number held is £12 per annum and is payable annually, in May, by banker's order.

The payout is always 50 per cent of the income, and there are four prizes in the monthly draw (1st 20 per cent, 2nd 15 per cent, 3rd 10 per cent and 4th 5 per cent of the income).

You must be a current member of the Society. If you decide not to renew your ANESFHS membership, please **also cancel** your standing order for the 100 Club.

The draw takes place monthly, and **we now pay winners via online banking. We need to be kept up to date with any changes to 100 Club members' bank-account details.** Winners are also announced in the Journal. For further details, please see the current Information Booklet on our website.

	1 st prize		Mem.		2 nd prize		Mem.		3 rd prize		Mem.		4 th prize		Mem.	
	No.	(£18·80)	No.	No.	(£14·10)	No.	No.	(£9·40)	No.	No.	(£4·70)	No.	No.	No.	(£4·75)	No.
May	51	George Westmore	2711	37	Doreen Florence	13880	114	Debra Tomkinson	15015	53	Ian Grant	18498				
		(£19·00)			(£14·25)			(£9·50)			(£4·75)					
Jun	103	Kathleen McLeish	17352	79	Angus Pelham Burn	19808	72	Fiona Gaskell	17588	67	John & Kit Corall	1000				
Jul	67	John & Kit Corall	1000	13	William Low	484	16	Alan Byatt	4899	50	Edna Cromarty	2568				
		(£19·15)			(£14·36)			(£9·58)			(£4·79)					
Aug	63	Derek Ferguson	17823	73	William Low	484	132	Sue McFarlane	15807	67	John & Kit Corall	1000				
Sep	136	William Copland	20126	119	Alison Stimpson	15080	72	Fiona Gaskell	17588	125	Janet Brown	15008				
Oct	29	Edith Stuart	4659	31	William Munro	8229	48	Alex Smith	2880	63	Derek Ferguson	17823				
Nov	60	Doreen Florence	13880	86	Elizabeth Jordan	18139	72	Fiona Gaskell	17588	105	Raymond Mennie	11359				

100club@anesfhs.org.uk

Jane Cameron

No. 9680

My Genealogical Will For Preserving My Family History

Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament:

To my spouse, children and/or heirs, guardian, administrator or executor:

Upon my death, it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those prepared by others, which may be in my possession. This includes but is not limited to books, paper and/or computer files, notebooks, correspondence, audio/visual items, photographs, and documents, for a period of two years.

During this two-year period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories.

Parties to contact regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but are not limited to:

Name	Address	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

In the event that you find no one to accept these materials, please contact the institutions listed below, in order, and determine if they will accept part or all of my genealogical materials.

Institution Name	Address (Contact Person)	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please remember that my family history studies consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my strong desire that the product of these efforts be preserved and allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature

Witness

Date _____

Date _____

Genealogical Will Form

I have been an ANESFHS member for three years, and am most impressed with the range of the Society's offerings. In particular, I'm glad that the Society moved quickly to make members' meetings available online from early in the pandemic. These continue to be a real boon, especially for those of us living far from Aberdeen or the other Groups' meeting points (I'm in south-west England). I have enjoyed these meetings and learned a lot, and they have made me feel a part of the Society.

One topic of discussion that recurs in members' meetings is what to do with all your family-history research when you are no longer able or around, especially if none of your relatives appears to be interested. I'm also a member of my local (Devon) Family History Society, and I found this Genealogical Will form on their website. This form also appears on Cyndi's List and other websites, and it seems to be freely available for use. Devon FHS doesn't know the origin, and is happy for ANESFHS to spread the word.

Members may like to photocopy or cut out this page, fill it in and add it to their papers for peace of mind. Like any codicil to a will, it can always be amended or replaced at any time as your circumstances change. This form has now also been made available from the ANESFHS website: see "Services", "Downloads".

christine.baseotto@gmail.com

Christine Baseotto

No. 22615

—oOo—

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Thanks to Centre Volunteers

I'd like to express my appreciation for Rosalyn Kinnear, Kathy Diez and Stuart Petrie and the help they provided me in July when I visited the Research Centre from Chicago. We only had a few hours together, and with their help we discovered that I had the wrong Margaret Davidson in my family tree and that my great-great-grandfather had a fourth brother, Forbes Gibbon. It amazes me what can be accomplished when you work with people who know what they are doing.

(from the Members' Forum online)

kevinhuigens@gmail.com

Kevin Huigens

No. 23442

Chartists: Contacts Sought

Before the pandemic, I wrote a short piece which appeared in Journal 155 (May 2020, p. 43), "My Eureka Moment: Chartist Discovery", about my ancestor James Shirron, who was a Chartist leader in Aberdeen.

I subsequently received two e-mails from members abroad. Unfortunately, they arrived while I was in hospital for a lengthy stay, and have been lost, so I have been unable to answer them. One was a lady from Canada, the other a gentleman – I think from the USA.

If these members would like to contact me again, I would be pleased to hear from them.

ehnicol@aol.com

Edith Nicol

No. 871

Journal 163 Feedback

I always find the range of articles absolutely fascinating, illustrating the breadth of genealogical interests of the Society's members. In Journal 163, I particularly liked "A Gamrie Boy's Diary 200 Years Ago", as I'm sure did many others – what a wonderful find! And also the reflections on climate change, including the fluctuations in climate in the late 17th and 18th centuries and the devastating impact this had on people's lives.

I can't think of any suggestions for improvements, but can only congratulate the editorial team – and the Society's members – for producing something consistently interesting!

lindasmith@metronet.co.uk

Linda Smith No. 22285

Beware of Family Lore

Having read your Editorial (Journal 163), and feeling suitably chastised, I set out a little family anecdote about the Scottish writer John Galt (1779–1839), who is mentioned in the report of a talk on the "Scottish Studies Collection, University of Guelph, Ontario" (p. 9).

When I first developed an interest in genealogy, a great many years ago, a cousin of my father proudly told me that we were related to John Galt – well-known writer, friend of Lord Byron, founder of Guelph, and who had had Galt City named after him. This was all very exciting, and I went out and bought one of his expensive, hardback books, which I could ill afford at the time, being an articulated clerk on £4 per week!

As research facilities gradually improved, I was able to confirm that my 3g-grandfather was, indeed, named John Galt. Further research revealed that his birth date was six years adrift from the famous man and that he was, by profession, a coal miner.

The family were not impressed with my foray into our lineage – so beware family lore!

ajf.mutch@icloud.com

Alastair Mutch No. 2178

Record of Ancestors Chart: Feedback

I am very excited about seeing my Record of Ancestors Chart published (Journal 163). I had noted in Journal 160 that you were short of charts with permission to publish, and am delighted to have supplied mine now, having enjoyed looking at these in the Journals for over 20 years.

It is also great to have someone cast a meticulous eye over my chart. I have pored over it for years and had never noticed typos you picked up! Thank you again, both for all you do for ANESFHS and also for making this happen. You have reinvigorated my research, and I am looking forward to more delving. In gratitude, I have made a donation to the Society via "Ad-Hoc Payments" on the website, because I think all the volunteers are wonderful. I renewed my membership at the same time, so a win/win situation!

Members may be interested in the story of my maternal grandmother's birth in 1905, three years before her mother married James Main. My family were adamant James Main was the father and they married later, possibly because Barbara Jean McKay was too young to get married at the time of Elsie Ann's birth. However, secretly briefed by my mother, I "had ma doobts"! I have been in touch with the Main family through Ancestry over the years, and they had no doubt that James was the dad and they just married later.

You gave priceless guidance to look closely at Elsie's birth certificate and to view the associated Register of Corrected Entries (RCE) page, which proved paternity. I was astonished at the results, and spent a few days so excited that I felt like I had tumbled into a historical drama. Oh, how I would have loved to see how it all played out! That is one of the longest-standing mysteries in my family tree solved.

From the entry, it seems that on 24th May 1905 the Sheriff Court declared that James Main was the father, a couple of months after Elsie Ann's birth on 3rd March. I'm pretty sure this was the same James whom Barbara Jean later married (he's listed as a Hammerman on the RCE and a Quarryman on their 1908 marriage certificate, resident in Cove/Nigg on both), though they didn't marry until nearly three years after the birth. The actual register wasn't corrected until February 1914, which may explain Elsie Ann's marriage certificate but not her birth certificate showing her mother as "later married to James Main".

In further good news: within a day of Journal 163 appearing in print, I had contact from a long-lost relative who had just seen my chart in the Journal. Within a few more days, I had already had two further contacts about my chart, one of them from Germany. I am delighted and astonished at the responses. Proof, if any more were needed, of the power of ANESFHS – lang may yer lums reek!

marianne.porterporter@btinternet.com

Marianne Porter

No. 8373

Scott Skinner

I read with great interest Elaine Petrie's article on James Scott Skinner (Journal 163, pp. 24–26) because in my youth I was tutored by Hector MacAndrew in violin-playing (I must admit to failing very dismally). Hector was a driver, gardener and general factotum to a lady, Miss Spence, who lived in a house with grounds called Mayfield in Cults, a suburb of Aberdeen. As a youngster of around 16, I could never get over the size of his fingers – and yet he played the fiddle so well, having himself been tutored by Scott Skinner, I understand during his time in Banchory.

I have a copy of a tape issued by Scottish Records of Hector playing a programme of airs, marches, strathspeys and reels. It is in stereo but subject of course to copyright. I would be happy to send this tape to the Family History Society for its library.

I repeat I was a dreadful pupil and gave up when the family moved back into Aberdeen. The above took place before 1957 when I was 17. Maybe I should have undertaken more practice ... but I am not sure the rest of the family could put up with my efforts!

peekairns@aol.com

Peter Cairns

No. 17752

Wedding Traditions

In response to Elaine Petrie's request (Journal 163, p. 41) for more information about wedding traditions, my mind went straight to the book by William Buchanan, *Glimpses of Olden Days in Aberdeen, Being Sketches from Memory: Incidents and Characters in and about Aberdeen During the Last Fifty Years*, printed in 1870, so going back to the 1820s. I quote from this book (now long out of copyright), pp. 141–2:

I recollect a custom that was common at wedding parties, when weddings were conducted in the old, modest plan of walking to and from the church in a quiet, orderly kind of way, and when the party returned from the the church the bride was

always allowed to enter first, when some female relation met her at the threshold, and broke a bannock over her head, which was considered an omen of good luck for the future, and a foreboding of plenty. I once saw a rather awkward incident take place at a wedding in connection with this custom. Two elderly females, relatives of the bride, had disputed about which had the right to perform this ceremony, when one of them gave way apparently for the time, until the arrival of the bride. But when the party who was expected to go forward as bannock-breaker was just coming forward, the other, who had secretly provided herself with a bannock, also sprang forward, and in her hurry to be first, struck the bride so severely, as to bring her to her knees in the doorway – a savage kind of welcome certainly. A scream got up, which the bridegroom heard, and knowing the scream came from his newly-wedded partner, rushed forward to her assistance, amidst the utmost confusion, which for a time prevented explanations being made. At last, quietness was restored; but tears were shed by both the old women – by the one, because she had been prevented from exercising her right, and the other because she had overdone her part. The weeping was also considered a necessary part of the proceedings on another ground – as they said, “Somebody maun aye greet at a marriage”.

This book, printed for the author at the “Free Press” Office, is fascinating; I came across it when doing research at Aberdeen University many years ago, in the Special Collections. I recently managed to track down a copy for sale (they are quite rare) and was delighted to purchase it for myself. My copy is signed by the author – and a previous owner has also written his own name (looks like Allan Hunter).

Incidentally, having long been a lapsed member of the Society, I rejoined in 2017 via the website, which automatically assigned me a new number (21603). Thanks to your good offices, and to the Membership Secretary, I am delighted to have been able now to revert to my original membership number from the 1980s.

ehnicol@aol.com

Edith Nicol

No. 871

I enjoyed Elaine Petrie’s article on wedding traditions. Has the tradition of “maiks” – coins thrown from the wedding carriage for children to catch – died out? I also remember my mother, who married in the 1920s (article, Journal 161, pp. 24–26), saying that it was quite common for prospective brides to have all their teeth removed in favour of gleaming dentures (she didn’t)!

annadoxford@icloud.com

Anna Doxford

No. 21502

Elaine replies: I remember we threw coins out of the car window after getting married at Portlethen in the early 1980s. I haven’t seen it more recently, and hadn’t heard them called that. I wonder if others will come up with other names. Glad I didn’t need to get rid of my teeth, though!

The Editor adds: The *Scottish National Dictionary* defines a maik as a halfpenny. In the early 1970s, also in coastal Kincardineshire, I attended aunts’ and uncles’ weddings where, to the shout of “scramble!”, the departing newlyweds threw coins for children to catch. My father, from Fife, knew this as a “poor-oot”.

Diary

Most meetings are now “hybrid”, being held in person and online. Details are kept up to date on the Events pages of the Society’s website.

3rd December 2022

ANESFHS Online ** Christmas Social **
Hosted by Mary Evans of Moray/Banff Group
2pm–4pm, online only

10th December 2022

ANESFHS Aberdeen Meeting
Christmas Social: all members welcome
2pm–4:30pm, Rubislaw Church Centre

10th December 2022

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting
Christmas Social
2pm–4:20pm, Threaplands Garden Centre,
Lhanbryde (contact Mary Evans to book)

Holiday closure, 158–164 King Street:

Closing at 4pm, Fri. 23rd December 2022;
reopening at 10am, Wed. 4th January 2023

7th January 2023

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm–4pm (online / in person: TBA)

14th January 2023

Scottish Indexes Conference XIX
Recorded talks; live Q&A; free to attend
7am–11pm www.scottishindexes.com

21st January 2023

ANESFHS Aberdeen Meeting
Beginners’ Meeting
2pm–4pm, Rubislaw Church Centre and online

28th January 2023

ANESFHS Edinburgh Group Meeting
The 1921 Scottish census
Ken Nisbet, genealogist
2pm, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place
(and online: hybrid meeting)

4th February 2023

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm–4pm (online / in person: TBA)

11th February 2023

ANESFHS Glasgow Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm, Renfield Saint Stephen’s Church Centre
260 Bath Street, Glasgow (and online: hybrid)

18th February 2023

ANESFHS Aberdeen Meeting
Cartomania in NE Scotland: cartes de visite
Kate Clark
2pm–4pm, Rubislaw Church Centre and online

4th March 2023

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm–4pm (online / in person: TBA)

18th March 2023

ANESFHS Annual General Meeting
Followed by a talk – title TBC
Elaine Petrie
2pm–4pm, Rubislaw Church Centre and online

25th March 2023

ANESFHS Edinburgh Group Meeting
Genetics, succession and family law
Prof. Gillian Black
2pm, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place
(and online: hybrid meeting)

1st April 2023

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm–4pm (online / in person: TBA)

15th April 2023

Tay Valley FHS Family History Fair
Details TBC

22nd April 2023

SAFHS 33rd Annual Conference (online)
Haste Ye Back
Hosted by ANESFHS and the Elphinstone
Institute, online. Free to attend.
www.safhs.org.uk; www.anesfhs.org.uk

6th May 2023

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm–4pm (online / in person: TBA)

13th May 2023

ANESFHS Glasgow Group Meeting
Topic TBA – see website
2pm, Renfield Saint Stephen’s Church Centre
260 Bath Street, Glasgow (and online: hybrid)

20th May 2023

ANESFHS Aberdeen Meeting
Delinquency and prostitution in the records
Dr Dee Hoole
2pm–4pm, Rubislaw Church Centre and online

Queries

164/1 *JAMIESON / CARNEGIE*: Seeking any info on my 3g-gf, Peter Jamieson of Rathen (1768?–1824): parents, any siblings, origins, and where he had lived before he m. Margaret Carnegie, 19 Jun 1810. Both were in Balthangie in the north-east corner of Monquhitter parish, near New Deer parish and New Byth in King Edward parish.

Generations of my family have tried to research our ancestor. At their engagement in 1806, Margaret was given (by Peter?) an elaborate leather-covered bible, now known as the Jamieson Family Bible. It shows their first child as Elizabeth, b. 6 Aug 1810. She doesn't appear in parish records; could she have died before baptism?

Other chn, all b. Rathen parish, further to the east: William (1813), George William Alexander (1815), Peter II (1817), Christian/Christina (1819) and Robert (1822). All five were entered in the Family Bible, and appear twice in Rathen baptism records: soon after their births, but also all together in 1825, soon after their father's death.

At the top of the Family Bible is a later note in the handwriting of my uncle Peter Jamieson V (1903–73), who emig. in 1922 with his parents to Canada, where his grandson Peter VII (b. 1972) now holds the Family Bible. It says: "Peter Jamieson from the Shetland Islands, GOT Land". Subsequent family researchers have been unable to establish the source of this info. At least two researchers in the past 20 years have sought help from Shetland FHS, but to no avail.

Peter d. 1824 at Nether Cortes, Rathen parish, and was buried in Rathen kirkyard, lair 324. Stone 91 (ANESFHS MI booklet) has an incomplete transcription mentioning only "his widow Margaret Carnegie", who is thought to have m. (2) Charles *WHITE* in 1838 and d. before 1855. The Scottish Record Office has confirmed that Peter Jamieson was *not* the local landowner.

Any ideas or suggestions would be very gratefully received by us researchers.

sheltiewink@shaw.ca

Glenda Gentleman

No. 14285

Instructions for Queries

Queries are accepted from paid-up Society members free of charge (up to four queries per person per calendar year). Each query will show the submitter's name, e-mail address and membership number. The query service is intended for ancestor research and *not* as a finding service for recent or living relatives. We will omit parts of a query which we consider too recent, or which have no North-East Scottish content.

If you have asked the Society for research, you'll receive an answer eventually. Please don't duplicate requests by asking for research on the same question as a Journal query.

If you resubmit or update an old query, ***please annotate it accordingly***. Journal queries should be sent separately from other correspondence, with your name and membership number on each request, to: [***queries@anesfhs.org.uk***](mailto:queries@anesfhs.org.uk)

Articles

Connecting Murrays through DNA Matches

Murrays of Chapel of Garioch and Monymusk

For a very long time, my research into my Murray line was stuck at my 3g-grandfather James Murray, who, according to the 1841 census and his gravestone, was born about 1775. James's occupations were at different times labourer, soldier, farmer and crofter. His name was unfortunately a very common one, especially in the north-east of Scotland. The 1841 census only gives the information that he was aged about 66 and was a crofter at Durno in the parish of Chapel of Garioch, and was born in Aberdeenshire. He was living with four other Murrays, whom I now know to be his wife, two of his 10 children and a grandchild. James died in 1844 at Durno, about 22 miles north-west of Aberdeen. As this was before the introduction of Scottish civil registration in 1855, I had unfortunately no knowledge of James's parentage. The only seemingly likely birth/baptism recorded in the Old Parish Registers (OPR) was the son of the schoolmaster in the neighbouring parish of Daviot, who was baptised in 1775. The schoolmaster then seems to have moved away from the area, so I discounted him as James's father.

James's wife was Jane or Jean Jaffrey, whose ancestry I had managed to establish with some confidence going back several generations. Her father was Alexander Jaffrey, a master wright or carpenter at Logie Durno. It is not recorded when and where James and Jane were married, but their first known child, Lesly, a boy, was born in 1799 in Causey, Aberdeen, where James was working as a labourer. Lesly was baptised in the Gilcomston Chapel of Ease, which lay within the parish of Old Machar. This is the first time that I have found James's name in any record. In 1801 the couple had another son, also James, whose baptism was recorded at both Chapel of Garioch and the Gilcomston Chapel of Ease. The witnesses to the Chapel of Garioch baptism were Alexander Murray and John Taylor. This entry describes James senior as "in Durno".

The next record of James and Jane is in 1803, when their daughter Margaret was born on 31st August and baptised in the parish of Ardersier in Inverness-shire. James is described as "of the Aberdeenshire Militia", which indicates that he had been conscripted into one of the militias which were raised in 1798 for the defence of the country against invasion by the French during the Napoleonic Wars. Their residence in Ardersier parish suggests that James was stationed at Fort George, the fortress and barracks built on the shores of the Moray Firth in the mid-18th century to control the Highlands after the Jacobite Rising of 1745/46 and to defend Inverness from attack by sea.

There was provision for relief to be provided to the families of men chosen by ballot to serve in the militia, and on 9th November 1803 a certificate was granted in respect of James and Jane. This states that the family home was Chapel of Garioch and that they had two children. It is not known what became of any of the couple's first three children, but this record seems to indicate that one of them had died young.

There is also some mystery over Charles, the couple's fourth child, and the first known to have lived to adulthood. He was born on 4th October 1805 and baptised three days later at Chapel of Garioch. Again James is described as "in Durno". While the 1841 census gives Charles's birthplace as Aberdeenshire, the 1851 and 1861 censuses give Edinburgh. The 1871 census then gives Chapel of Garioch again. There is therefore the possibility that the

Aberdeenshire Militia were stationed in Edinburgh in 1805. Their next child, Barbara, was apparently born at Durno and baptised at Chapel of Garioch, but there is no further trace of her. The births of the next two children are not recorded, although the censuses give Chapel of Garioch. The OPR gives the births of the last three at Chapel of Garioch. The death certificates of the six children who survived beyond 1855 give their father's occupation as either farmer or crofter.

Since taking a DNA test with Ancestry.com, I had noticed that their "ThruLines" feature was flagging up the possibility that James's parents could be Alexander Murray and Jean Harper. This couple had children born in the parish of Monymusk, which borders Chapel of Garioch to the south. When I decided to investigate this hint, I was lucky in that five of their children lived until after 1855, and I could therefore obtain their death certificates. These certificates describe their father as, variously, wright, house carpenter (master), cartwright and ploughwright, all occupations involving working with wood. The OPR recorded the marriage of Alexander and Jean in 1773 in Monymusk.

Censuses and death certificates indicated approximate dates of birth of the three elder daughters as 1774 (Katharine), 1778 (Jean) and 1779 (Margaret). Only the two youngest children had their births and baptisms recorded in the OPR, Helen being born in 1785 at Achrevie, and Elizabeth in 1789 at Tombeg.

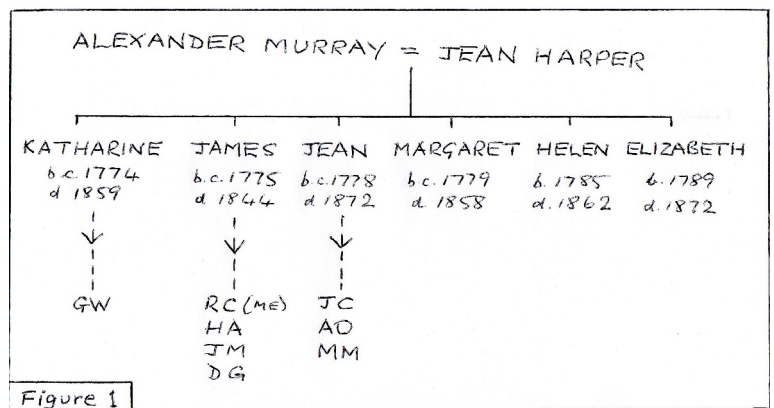


Figure 1

The current Ordnance Survey map shows that Tombeg and Auchravie are both farms lying about a mile south-west of Monymusk village and about eight miles south of Durno. Figure 1 shows a basic family tree.

Was there any evidence that my ancestor James could have been a son of Alexander and Jean? The only documentary evidence I have discovered is that an Alexander Murray witnessed the baptism of James's second son in 1801 (see above). Although James and his wife Jane Jaffrey had 10 children, this is the only time a Murray is recorded as a witness. It could also be relevant that Jane's father was a master wright, though there is no known connection between him and Alexander Murray of Monymusk, also a wright.

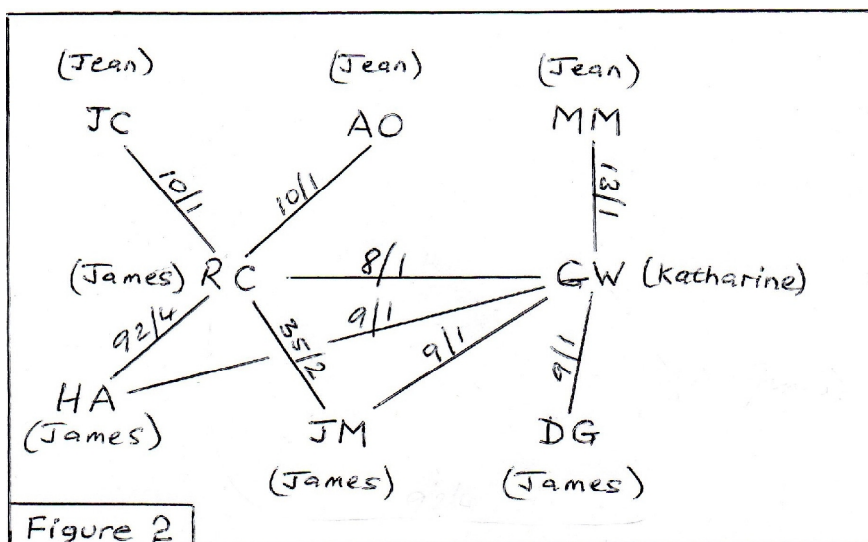


Figure 2

The strongest evidence for Alexander Murray and Jean Harper being my ancestors is found in my DNA matches, as illustrated in Figure 2. At the time of writing in October 2022, I had three matches with descendants of Alexander and Jean, excluding my 18 matches with other descendants of James Murray and Jane Jaffrey. Of these three matches, two are descended from Alexander and Jean's daughter Jean (JC and AO) and the other from their daughter

from Alexander and Jean's daughter Jean (JC and AO) and the other from their daughter

Katharine (GW). I have been able to contact GW, who has shared his ThruLines with me. He matches with nine other descendants of Katharine, and also with a different descendant of Jean (MM). More importantly, he also has a match with three descendants of James and Jane (HA, JM and DG) in addition to his match with me. I am matched with HA and JM, but I have no match with DG. Because the amounts of DNA shared with such distant relations are very small, this is not really significant. I know, in fact, that DG is descended from James Murray and Jane Jaffrey. Figure 1 also shows which of the various children of Alexander and Jean each of our DNA matches is descended from.

I am therefore almost certain that James Murray was indeed a son of Alexander Murray and Jean Harper. I hope that, as time passes, I will gain more DNA matches to strengthen the evidence for this belief.

r.j.carson@talktalk.net

Robert Carson

No. 4293

—oOo—

Cluny Churchyard

I have been impressed by the books of Memorial Inscriptions for which the Society is responsible, and have purchased several. In April this year, I was lucky enough to enjoy a trip to Aberdeenshire. I had already investigated the churchyards at Birse and Kincardine O'Neil with the relevant books, and chose this time to visit Cluny, where I found the graves of two family members.

My 3g-grandmother Mary was a Harper, her father having farmed at Ythanside, Birse. She had two brothers. The younger, William, I can't trace; but the elder, Alexander, was also a farmer, at Minew (between Torphins and Lumphanan). He and his wife went to great lengths to educate their two eldest boys, while the younger ones went into farming. The eldest, Duncan, became a lawyer in Edinburgh, but the second son, William, was on my radar. **William Harper** was baptised in Banchory Ternan on 21st February 1838 and followed his brother Duncan to Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University, where he gained a second-class Honours degree in Classics in 1860. He was immediately appointed as parochial schoolmaster at Cluny, where he served for the next 52 years, only finally retiring in 1912. He was also Session Clerk, Registrar and Collector of Public Rates. Cluny is only about nine miles from Torphins. He was apparently extremely well regarded as a teacher, but his stay there was not altogether a happy one, by any means.

He married Elizabeth Strachan in Lumphanan in January 1863, and they had three children – Elspet Jane, John and Fanny Louisa. But Elizabeth died in May 1877 aged only 40. In 1881, William had staying with him his youngest sister Isabel, presumably to help look after the children – but Elspet Jane died later that year aged only 17; Fanny Louisa died in 1884 aged 15; and John died in March 1890 aged 24, after gaining his MA in 1886 and being about to qualify as a doctor. All three died of TB.

In 1891, William was on his own (with a housekeeper) at the School House. But in May 1894 he remarried. Margaret Greig was nearly 30 years younger, an excellent musician and a collector of traditional folk songs of Aberdeenshire. Their daughter Margaret Greig Harper was born in 1895, and then twins Elizabeth and Jean in 1897, when William was nearly 60. But Jean lived for only four months.

After William retired in 1912, the family moved to Woodside, Aberdeen. Elizabeth died there – also of TB – in 1914 aged 17, and William himself in 1916 while his only

surviving child Margaret Greig Harper was at university. He sounds a lovely man. The note in the newspaper on his death recorded that “in addition to his cultivated mind, he possessed a character lovable and winsome, and much natural dignity”. His wife Margaret died in 1942 and their daughter Margaret Greig in 1960, having herself been a senior school teacher in Aberdeen. The family is all buried in Cluny Old Kirkyard, and I found the memorial stone just inside the gate.

The other family member in the churchyard was related to Mary Harper’s husband, James Birss. James’s younger sister Barbara married George Christie (shown as being from Kincardine O’Neil) in Birse parish in 1830, and in 1841 the couple were in Glenbervie, Kincardineshire, where George was the village schoolmaster. They remained there until about 1848, when they moved to Aberdeen. In the 1851 census, living at Gordon Mills, Old Machar, George is recorded as a “pauper (late School master)” and Barbara as “pauper (late School master) wife”. George died later the same year; and there is a record of Barbara Christie, widow, appealing to Kincardine O’Neil Board of Supervision in 1854 against inadequate poor relief.

Before 1855, I have found deaths rarely recorded (George’s is an exception; I believe it was recorded in the Register of Burials in Old Machar Churchyard, and the gravedigger was paid 2s 6d), and I have found it difficult to know whether people died or were just elsewhere. Even the birth records are, for Scotland, astonishingly poor, but I believe the couple had eight children; there may have been more. The youngest son, **George Glegg Christie**, was born in May 1846 in Glenbervie, and the youngest daughter, Isabella, in January 1849 in Aberdeen.

George Glegg is not with the family in the 1861 census. The widowed Barbara was a “sick nurse” in Water Lane, St Nicholas, with son James and Isabella. Of her elder daughters, Mary was (probably) a dairymaid with James Merchant (brother of Barbara’s sister-in-law May Merchant) in Kincardine O’Neil; Elizabeth was probably a domestic servant with the Massies in Rosemount Place; and Barbara the domestic servant for the Rattray family in Links Lane, both in Aberdeen. (For this family, even in Aberdeen, farm or house servant appears to be the only occupation available to girls at this time, whereas in Montrose and Dundee women were beginning to work in the jute and linen factories that were springing up.) I also finally found George Glegg Christie; I think he may have been a cattleman (aged 14) in Strachan, Kincardineshire.

But by 1871 the Christies had all disappeared from the Scottish records, leaving not a trace behind. For a long time I could find no further census records, no other death records and no obvious marriage records, although surely one of Barbara’s four grown-up daughters had married? The mystery unravelled when I widened my field of search and discovered the eldest son James Christie had moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in north-east England, where he became a maltster and married Barbara Drever in 1866. A daughter, Barbara Jane, was born in 1867, but by 1871 James’s wife had died, and he was living in Percy Street with his daughter, his brother George Glegg Christie and his sister Isabella!

Further digging showed a fascinating record in nearby South Shields, where in the 1871 census a Barbara Christie (from Scotland) is living with her daughter Barbara Nicoll and family, also from Scotland. There are two children: Mary Ann, born in Scotland, and David, aged 4, born in Durham. Looking again at marriage records, I found Thomas Nicoll, a ship’s carpenter, married to Barbara Christie in St Nicholas, Aberdeen, in 1862;

and Mary Ann was born there in 1863. And what about Elizabeth and Mary? Well, there is also a record of an Elizabeth Christie in Newcastle in 1871 – a Scottish servant with the Sandersons in St Andrew, near Percy Street. I had also found a record for a marriage between Mary Christie and James Calder in Aberdeen in 1864; and in 1871 there is a Mary Calder from Aberdeen working as a domestic servant at the brewery yard at 91 Percy St ... too close to James and George to be coincidental.

Meanwhile, George Glegg Christie became a brewer's drayman and in 1881 was living in George Place, Newcastle with his sister Mary Calder. He then leaves Newcastle and reappears as a farmer at Upper Kebbaly, Midmar, Cluny, where he married farmer's daughter Jessie Brown in 1883. I am at a loss as to why he was there – a change of profession, but back to what he was used to? They had no children, and George died of cancer in 1902. Jessie erected the memorial to him in Cluny Old Churchyard. The death certificate records his mother as Barbara Birss, although it misnames his father as James – his father (also George) had died when George jnr was 5, so maybe his father's name had been misremembered? George Glegg's will leaves his estate to his wife Jessie, with no other relatives mentioned. Jessie died in hospital in Montrose in 1924 and is buried with him. So, a more peripatetic life than William – but back in Aberdeenshire, unlike his siblings, who remained in the Newcastle area.

It was coincidental that George Glegg's father had been a teacher but George ended up a farmer, while William Harper, son of a farmer, became a teacher. I doubt that poor George Christie snr, a pauper in Aberdeen in 1851, had a teaching qualification though. Barbara Birss's grandfather had also been a teacher, in Strachan, but the *Statistical Account* for Scotland in 1793 for the parish where he taught notes wryly:

The encouragement given to schoolmasters is by no means adequate to their usefulness; for which reason, in country parishes in particular, these are generally obliged to put up with such as have not had the opportunities of much education, or may have made choice of that line of life only for a temporary convenience, having other schemes in view. It were to be wished, that such a useful class of men were put into a situation that would make them more respected, and consequently more useful to the public.

By the 1860s, there were University men in schools in country parishes.

I was pleased to have been able to visit these graves in such a picturesque and peaceful area, and to have been pointed here by the very useful MI booklets. Looking around such places, one always notes stones commemorating family tragedies and distressing deaths – but one stone close to George Glegg Christie's struck me in particular. On the grave of his wife Marie Claudine Nardin, James Reid, schoolmaster at Leochel Cushnie, had this inscribed:

Vos yeux se sont clos pour jamais
Ame immortelle allez en paix.

*(Your eyes have closed forever:
immortal soul, go in peace.)*



What a lovely sentiment.

William Bain: From Stable-Boy to Transport Titan

A common sight on the streets of Aberdeen, and other cities, in the second half of the 19th century was the horse-drawn bus. It became an essential element in the transport system, and many companies were established to provide this service. William McMillan and others operated in the North-East, but it was Bain's Buses that dominated the scene in and around Aberdeen for many years. Robert Smith is one who has written about these buses and the company; but very little has been written about their entrepreneurial founder and operator, William Bain himself – the stable-boy who rose to become a transport titan.

William was born in 1835, we are not sure exactly where. His elder brother, Robert, had been born in 1833 in Kiltarn, Easter Ross, where their parents had married in June 1832. Younger brother, John, was born in 1837 in Cromarty in the Black Isle; and sister Mary was born in 1840 in Alness, where the family is found in the 1841 census. The parents were James Bain and his wife, Isabella Ross, daughter of Donald Ross, a meal-miller.

James worked in domestic gardens and on the Drummond estate, in Kiltarn and later at Bridgend in Alness. He died in early 1841, leaving Isabella ("Bell") with four young children to care for. She was to remain in Alness for the rest of her life, working on local farms, dying in 1881 aged 80, and outliving three of her children: John died in his teens in the early 1850s; Mary died in 1877 aged 36; and Robert died in 1869 aged 35, having worked with horses, become a coachman, gone to Aberdeen and married there.

Meanwhile, William had also been working with horses and had followed his brother to Aberdeen, where they initially worked together. William was just 20, though claiming to be 23, when he married Elizabeth Hay, daughter of Thomas Hay, a cartwright. She was a little older than William and came from Fyvie, where they married on 13th January 1856. William had worked at the coach station there for a spell as a "strapper" and would have handled the famed *Defiance* coach, which operated on the Aberdeen-to-Banff route.

He had originally left home in Alness as a young teenager, and by 1851 was a stable-boy at the Balnagowan Arms Inn in Tain. From Easter Ross, he moved south to Aberdeen and was employed as a hostler for a few years, both in the city and in surrounding districts. He resided for some time in Shoe Lane and was clearly making a favourable impression on his employers. By 1859, he had become a cab proprietor himself. He also bought, sold and hired out horses. Then, when one of Aberdeen's long-standing and respected Post Horse Masters, George Harrison, retired in April 1860, he entrusted the running of his whole business, from its base at 60 Loch Street, to William. He was confident that the young William Bain would carry it on, "keeping everything first class", he said.

That confidence was well placed: soon William was able to buy out Harrison altogether. Acquiring the old Waterhouse property on Union Place, he expanded company activities further. By late 1862 he was not just hiring and selling horses, cabs and carriages, harnesses and other tackle, but also launching his Bain's Buses enterprise. He was soon operating a network of horse-drawn buses, serving much of the city and, in time, areas beyond. Bain's Buses served Union and King Streets, the Gallowgate, Rosemount, Skene Square, Carden Place, College Street, Old Aberdeen, Bridge of Don, Bielside, Woodside, Bucksburn and other districts. Operating until the late 1880s, the company could claim never to have had a serious accident – quite unlike buses in other cities, notably Glasgow.

When the company launched, William and Elizabeth already had three sons. During the next 10-plus years they had two more, and also two daughters. His brother Robert had died, but William's elder sons worked with him, and by the mid-1870s William junior was becoming something of an entrepreneur too and was establishing himself as one of the city's leading auctioneers. The main family business was going from strength to strength, and William senior was visiting Ireland to buy horses, and Wales for ponies. He was also buying the newest tackle and equipment as well as older second-hand stock, and was selling and hiring out animals and equipment, and even "leasing" the dung from his various stables. He added another coach-house in Mealmarket to his HQ in Loch Street; and, when his cabs and coaches pushed out further into rural districts, he won coveted and prestigious contracts with Balmoral and the Royal Family to provide transport for both.

The Castle Street / Rosemount / Mile End horsedrawn omnibus



[Image from Aberdeen City Library and other sources]

Elizabeth died in August 1880 of "cerebral apoplexy", and thereafter the family moved house to Wellington Place and later to 83 Crown Street. Competition in the transport business was becoming much more serious and sustained by this date, especially from the new horse-drawn trams. The Aberdeen District Tramways Company had been founded during the 1870s, and it soon became a significant competitor.

During the 1880s the trams extended their routes, and William realised that Bain's had to diversify to remain a force. His company was already building as well as operating coaches, with son Alfred involved on the building side, and in 1889 (assisted by other sons) William established a Funeral and Undertaker's business. With its main office at 36 George Street, this business thrived during the 1890s and into the new century. William Bain Limited therefore remained a significant name in Aberdeen for some years ahead, with its cabs and funerals especially, but also with other activities, even providing sewing-machines! William junior, the auctioneer, was making his mark in public affairs too.

William senior retired in 1900. He had suffered from Bright's Disease for some time, and daughters Elizabeth and Emily had remained at home to care for him, but his condition now deteriorated, and he died on 29th June 1901, in his mid-sixties, just five months into the new Edwardian era. Many leading citizens (from councillors to legal and business chiefs) and many humbler dealers, cab drivers and ordinary folk attended the funeral of this well-known personality in the city and surrounding districts, or stood and watched the cortège pass by on its way to Allenvale Cemetery.

William Bain remained a lover of horses throughout his life, enjoying a career from lowly stable-boy to local transport titan, founding and heading a significant company and enterprise widely recognised and influential in the North-East of Scotland. He also left quite a legacy to his heirs. The net figure was more than £1,860 in 1901. According to the Bank of England, that equates to more than £180,000 in 2022.

THE COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman:</i>	Ivor Normand	<i>Ordinary members:</i>	
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Bert Lawrie	Gavin Bell	John Corall
<i>Secretary:</i>	Ronald Leith	Stuart Petrie	Nick Reid
<i>Treasurer:</i>	vacant [interim team]	Susan Freer	Pat Black (reporting treasurer)
<i>Membership:</i>	Sheila Symons	Barbara Lamb	

A representative of each *italicised* department below is entitled to attend Committee meetings but may only vote if he/she is an elected member of the Committee.

Key Contacts

100 Club	Jane Cameron	100club@anesfhs.org.uk
Advertising (Journal)	Ronald Leith	advert@anesfhs.org.uk
Ancestor-chart/draft MI photocopying	<i>vacant</i>	pedigree.chart@anesfhs.org.uk
Ancestor charts (collation; indexing)	<i>vacant</i>	charts@anesfhs.org.uk
Bookstalls/Events	John Urie	John.Urie@anesfhs.org.uk
Centre manager	Barbara Lamb	Barbara.Lamb@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Education officer</i> (organises talks to outside groups)	<i>vacant</i>	talks@anesfhs.org.uk
Family-tree charts (large format)	Stuart Petrie	familytreeprints@anesfhs.org.uk
First World War; and Gordon Highlanders	Anne Park	Anne.Park@anesfhs.org.uk
General enquiries	John Urie	enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Indexing co-ordinator</i>	<i>vacant</i>	indexing@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Journal editor</i>	Ivor Normand and Journal team	journal@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Librarians</i>	Margie Mellis, Kit Corall	library@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Membership secretary</i>	Sheila Symons and Membership team	membership@anesfhs.org.uk
MI and MI Index co-ordinator	Gavin Bell	mis@anesfhs.org.uk
Microfiche/microfilm print-outs	Print-out team	printouts@anesfhs.org.uk
Postal sales	Nick Reid	postal.sales@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Press officer</i> (publicity)	<i>vacant</i>	press.office@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Publications (new/reprints)</i>	Publications team	society.books@anesfhs.org.uk
Queries for Journal	Ivor Normand	queries@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Research secretary</i>	Joyce Irvine	research@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Secretary</i>	Ronald Leith	secretary@anesfhs.org.uk
Social media	Susan Freer	Susan.Freer@anesfhs.org.uk
Standing Orders officer (publications)	<i>vacant</i>	standing.orders@anesfhs.org.uk
Strays (from North-East area)	Library team	library@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Syllabus secretary</i>	(<i>interim.</i>) Ivor Normand	syllabus@anesfhs.org.uk
<i>Website / IT</i>	Dave Anderson	webmaster@anesfhs.org.uk



Charles

Michies ABERDEEN TRAVEL HEALTH CLINIC

**** Travel Vaccinations**
**** Travel Health Advice**
**** Travel Accessories**
**** Yellow Fever Clinic**
**** Anti-Malarials**
**** Travel Medicines & Kits**
****Adult & Infant Passport Photos – Digital & Printed**

A comprehensive range of services to ensure you travel wise and travel well

www.michies.co.uk
Aberdeen
 01224 585312

Stonehaven
 01569 762298

Laurencekirk
 01561 377417

céad míle fáilte

Journal Submissions

Submissions to the Journal are always welcome. Please send text and images **separately** (not embedding images in a document), e-mailed to journal@anesfhs.org.uk or queries@anesfhs.org.uk

Prospective articles and other items should have genealogical **and** North-East Scotland content. Articles, extracts or images may also be published on the Society's website or may be re-used in subsequent ANESFHS Journal editions. All submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail.

The next Journal will be published in **February 2023**. Last date for submissions is **16th January 2023**.

Format – Please type your article on a computer and send it as an e-mail attachment. Sorry, we no longer accept handwritten submissions. Source/reference lists are fine, but we prefer **no** footnotes/endnotes.

Illustrations – For best reprographic results in the Journal, please send images at the **highest** possible resolution. We have limited space, and the A5 size format means that the quality may be somewhat less than you expect. If you wish to send any originals, then please contact the Editor (**not** the Centre at King Street). If you require originals to be returned, then please state this clearly and include return postage.

Permissions and credits – We can only publish copyright material if due permission has been obtained and is included. For copyright material, and for all photographs and other images, please always state the source (publication, website, photographer and so on).

Length – Keep it reasonably short, please. We have limited space, so long articles may be edited. If you have a really long tale to tell, then why not write it as two (or more) parts?

Computer details – Please use a format that can be read by a PC running Microsoft Word. Any font or size of text is acceptable. If in doubt, send plain text. If sending **illustrations**, any standard format is acceptable – as long as these are in files **separate** from the text.

Advertisements – Electronic copy is preferred. Note that the original size of the Journal is A4 before photo-reduction to A5, and so a quarter-page advert should be prepared as 175mm (w) x 60mm (h).

The rates for advertisements, per Journal issue, are:

- £30.00 (black and white) or £45.00 (colour) per quarter-page (doubled for a half-page)
- £45.00 b/w or £60.00 colour for one third of a page (175 x 90mm)
- £90.00 b/w or £120.00 colour for a full page (175 x 270mm).

Writing to the Society

Please send all correspondence to The Family-History Research Centre (address on back cover). To help us be more efficient, please detail your requirements on separate sheets (with your name and membership number) according to which service you wish to call upon or which office-bearer you wish to write to – or use the appropriate e-mail address (see opposite page) to minimise delays.

Change of address

If you have access to the Internet, then **PLEASE** use the special form on our website to notify address or e-mail address changes. This form is processed automatically on receipt, ensuring fast service. If you write to the Membership Department, **please quote your membership number**.

Publications Sales

We stock a wide range of titles with emphasis on Scottish genealogy. Individuals who are prepared to place a standing order for all Society publications qualify for a 33% discount. An up-to-date catalogue, *Family and Local History Publications for Sale*, can be downloaded from our website.

For all information on publications and how to order, see www.anesfhs.org.uk, “Publications” tab.

Disclaimer

The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that are advertised in the Journal, or be responsible for the outcome of any contract that a reader may make with an advertiser. Views expressed in contributions are the author's and not necessarily the Society's. **The Editor reserves the right to amend any copy.** The Society Library does not necessarily hold copies of books quoted or referenced in this Journal.



ABERDEEN & N.E. SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
158–164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD
Scotland

Tel. +44 1224 646323

E-mail: enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk

Website: www.anesfhs.org.uk

Centre opening hours

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

Saturday morning by appointment: please telephone

Closed on local and public holidays

ANESFHS Family-History Centre closures, 2022–23

Closing at 4pm on Fri. 23rd December 2022; reopening at 10am on Wed. 4th January 2023

Closed on local holidays: 17th April, 1st May, 8th May, 10th July and 25th September 2023

See website for further details

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, microfilming, recording or otherwise without prior permission of the Society.

Copyright © 2022 Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS and contributors.

Registered charity no. SC012478 SCIO

ISSN 0143-4500

VAT registration no. 875 3262 06

*Printed by McKenzie Quality Print Ltd, Unit 12, Wellheads Trading Estate, Wellheads Crescent,
Dyce, Aberdeen AB21 7GA*