

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Journal No. 171 • August 2024



*Detail from sampler stitched in 1825 by Charlotte Runcie, aged 14, of Aberdeen
(see article in this issue by Pauline Gerrard, no. 21174)*

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:

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

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You can pay online at our website (PayPal: account or cards), by post (now cheque only; **no cards**), 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: ABERDEEN & NE SCOT FAMILY HIST *[please note latest change]*

Account number: 90455891 **Sort code:** 82-11-07

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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 171, August 2024

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Society Reports, News and Information

Chairperson's Report

Much has happened in the last few months, with the Society making real progress in a few areas where we have struggled in the past.

Our Finance Team has settled in well, and this sharing of the roles and responsibilities is a real positive example of the way ahead. This approach is also working well in relation to other areas of our work, and we now have three volunteers working as a Research Team and able to manage the many requests for research and to respond within a few weeks. A third team, working with Helen Strachan, has started work on the Pedigree Charts: four volunteers have completed their training, and another will have done by the time you read this Journal. Indexing of the members' charts had slowed down, and over 300 charts were awaiting indexing, with a large number of outstanding requests from members keen to have access in order to progress their research. There have been a few UKGDPR issues that have delayed our indexing process, but Helen has been reviewing these on behalf of the Trustees, and we are satisfied that we are now in a position to start the indexing and to allow members access again fairly soon.

In March, the Trustees met with Gavin Bell, our MI and MI Index Co-ordinator, who has announced his intention to "pass the reins" to others. Gavin outlined the current workload and provided the Trustees with a detailed overview and written report. The Trustees are still digesting Gavin's report and will devote a large part of a future meeting to discussing how best to proceed. We will be back in touch with the membership on this, but our early thoughts are that we need to develop a team of volunteers to continue the good work and the many achievements that Gavin has given us over the years.

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Bert Lawrie No. 17901

—oOo—

Research Centre Report

We have had a number of Canadians, Americans and Australasians calling into our Research Centre with specific queries or more usually a general wish to find out more about their family history. In mid-July, we had an upsurge in local visitors, and it made me wonder why. Has there been a TV rerun of *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Prior to arriving, it is advisable to have your "ducks in a row", such as a membership of *Scotland's People*, which has no joining fee but a pay-per-view of 6 credits, which translates to £1.50. We can and will look up for you, but it is easier if you have your own account, as the records are then available for you to view at any time.

Bring certificates for births, marriages or deaths that you have for any relatives. These are a very useful starting point, as we cannot access certificates of births within the past 100 years, marriages 75 years and deaths 50 years. This is because of data-protection law. If you are at the Scotland's People Centre in Edinburgh, or a local registrar's regional outpost, you can view these more recent records and note the details in pencil.

Any stories or anecdotes from more senior members of your family can be useful but may be open to question, such as with Family Bible recordings (with the best of intentions, dates were sometimes fudged). Once we have a lead, the path backwards can begin.

Official record-keeping in Scotland began in 1855, and prior to that it was mainly church records or OPR (Old Parochial Records) where information was recorded. As we are an affiliate library member of FamilySearch we have these records on computer, but we still also hold microfilm records for all of Scotland which can be viewed on a film viewer. On occasion it is worth checking a run of film in case some detail can be gleaned concerning other entries on the film – witness names or farm names, for example.

We have a large library of useful information, some of which you will not access easily elsewhere. Please come in and see us soon.

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Barbara Lamb (Centre Manager) No. 20206

—oOo—

Keith Mitchell, FSA Scot.

Keith Mitchell, member no. 11314 and co-founder of Moray Burial Ground Research Group, died in April 2024 after a long illness.

Keith and his wife Helen founded MBGRG (<https://www.mbgrg.org/>) in 2003 with Bruce Bishop (no. 7410), intending to survey and record all Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) in burial grounds in the county of Moray and some in the former county of Banff. Before 2003, they had worked with ANESFHS in the field after meeting Bruce at a Family History Fair in Huntly. Keith and Helen joined ANESFHS in 2000.

They moved in 2017 from Elgin to Livingston to be closer to family, and continued their work remotely. By the time Keith became ill, he had accomplished this monumental task, recording MIs and photographing all stones visible and buried, publishing many in PDF and hard copy. The database has some 92,500 names ranging from the 1400s to 2019. Unfortunately, he did not see them all published, as work is still ongoing.



Keith's niche in the group was photography. Each stone the volunteers had cleaned, or uncovered in the case of buried stones, and any artefacts of interest, could not escape Keith's attention. He had two battle cries which every volunteer knew – the first being "Far's ma camera?" when he would have left it in some obscure place, the second being "Far's the sun?" No photograph could be taken unless the sun was in the right place. Over the years, many volunteers worked tirelessly every Sunday to record in the cemeteries, and I am sure they would agree "there was only one Keith". His memory will live on.

Keith never tired of spreading the good word about MBGRG's work. ANESFHS members enjoyed presentations by Keith and Helen in November 2016 to our Edinburgh Group, and in April 2021 online to our Moray/Banff Group (see Journal 159 and front cover). He also used to operate his own website, now closed down, where he enjoyed featuring a great range of items of Scottish family-history interest.

Keith has left a huge legacy which will be useful to many people for years to come. He will be sorely missed, and we send our condolences to Helen and their family.

Thanks go to Mary Evans, Ivor Normand and Helen Mitchell for additional input.

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Ruth McIntosh (Secretary, MBGRG) No. 18933

Society Bank Account Name

Unfortunately, yet another confusion has arisen regarding the Society's (rather lengthy) official name on our bank account. The inside front cover of Journals 169 and 170 was wrong, and contained the word "SOCIETY", which should now be **disregarded**.

For an exact match when paying over the Internet, please use this version, as shown on the inside front cover of **this** Journal onwards:

ABERDEEN & NE SCOT FAMILY HIST

If you have received this Journal by post, its address label was generated automatically on 1st August 2024 as per the normal schedule, so it still shows the old account name, which should be disregarded. It will be corrected for the November Journal. We apologise for these small but important and annoying oversights, and for any confusion caused.

If you pay by BACS, FPS or Giro, the Society's new bank-account number and sort code have been shown on the inside front cover of each Journal since No. 166, May 2023.

Please note: card payments can only be made in person at our Centre or online via PayPal. You cannot ring us and pay over the phone, and nor can you e-mail your card details to us.

membership@anesfhs.org.uk

Sheila Symons No. 13157

—oOo—

Meet the Gang! Profile: Fiona Pisacreta

It is probably true that most of us develop an interest in family history following a change in our own family dynamic – perhaps the death of a much-loved member of the older generation, or the excitement of the birth of a grandchild. Sometimes it's a chance meeting with a distant relative about whom we had known nothing. I have never heard of anyone influenced through writing a dissertation for an archaeology degree!



Fi was born in Chicago and moved as a child to New Jersey, where she was brought up. Her father's family came originally from Santa Stefano de Sole in Italy, and emigrated in the late 1890s to the USA. Even in Italy, her surname is very rare and is found only in one specific region. Her mother's family line, on the other hand, stretches back over 200 years to the early settlers in Pennsylvania.

Fi came to Aberdeen in 2019 to study archaeology at Aberdeen University, where she met and married Henry. She graduated in 2023. For part of her dissertation, she studied a particular area in Rosemount, Aberdeen: not only the artefacts found there but also the social and economic changes in the area over the centuries. As this involved not only studying valuation rolls but also looking at census returns, she was inspired to pop into our Research Centre in King Street to see if we might be able to help. Thanks to Barbara Lamb and the team, Fi was quickly pointed in the right direction and soon found herself feeling quite at home here. After graduation, she decided

to join our team of volunteers and spend time helping others. She comes in almost every weekday and is always willing to make helpful suggestions and to volunteer when anything needs to be done.

I asked Fi about her hobbies, and was rather taken aback at the response: axe-throwing! She works in the evenings at the Aberdeen Axe-throwing Centre (I didn't know we had one!) in South College Street, teaching and training others. Thankfully she is quiet and friendly, so we don't need to be concerned about turning our backs on her!

Obviously, we don't know how long Fi is likely to be with the Society. Ideally she would like to work in museum research, so she is also busy job-hunting. We wish her all the best with that, and hope she finds something suitable – but in the meantime we appreciate all she has brought to the Society, not least the fact that she has reduced the average age of volunteers quite considerably!

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Liz Foubister No. 6129

—oOo—

Glasgow Group Report

Members' Day: Family History in Samplers and Other Textiles

11th May 2024

Yet again, a Glasgow Group meeting was impacted by external events. On this occasion, the effects of a rail strike in England meant disruption to local Scottish services – and our loyal Group chairperson, Buzzy Garden, was stranded at home instead of being able to host this in-person meeting. Fortunately, she was able to participate via Zoom. Our gold star participant was Enid Cruickshank, who intrepidly managed to travel from Kincardine (on Forth) to Glasgow by bus. We were also delighted to welcome Heather Partington to her first “live” meeting. Heather, who hails from South Africa and now lives in south-west England, is a frequent online participant but was able to combine a trip north with a Society meeting. Now that's what we call dedication!

At our online February meeting, we had learned about samplers from Buzzy Garden. This Members' Day was now a chance for members to share textile items which related to their family history. The items were diverse and offered us all a chance to learn about people in the past. Some items were mysterious and had us all speculating as to their use; some were glorious examples of skill but each one undoubtedly worthy of preservation.

The first was a collection of household napery in natural coloured fabric – antimacassars, dressing-table sets and assorted linens, which all featured crochet, cut-work and some embroidery. Accompanying these items was a very old cardboard box filled with wooden tools, shuttles and bars (shown here), as well as enormous metal needles.

The group offered all sorts of suggestions for their purpose. It would seem from further research that these may have been net- or lace-making tools. The same member also shared an interesting collection of work-a-day and beautiful thimbles which prompted more discussion.





As Scots travelled the globe, it was good to see beautiful cotton fabric from one Scottish family who had lived in Nigeria. There were two examples of long strips which had been woven by hand on an 18-inch loom. The pristine white was interspersed with indigo warp threads. The fabric was many years old, but despite continuous use there and in Scotland, it was untouched by age. Other attendees with ancestors who had worked in African countries agreed that the quality of African cotton was top notch and extremely durable. One added wryly that her wedding sheets just wouldn't wear out!

We shared a photograph of a family sampler which, following Buzzy's talk, we could now admire with a

knowledgeable eye. This sampler was sewn in 1895 by 12-year-old Mary Ann Murray of Foveran. The fabric used was similar to "Aida", which will have made the work much easier to set out and execute. It was a great example of a young girl's hard work.

A most exquisite white-work tablecloth was shown. It had been made by the member's mother in the 1920s–30s. It was particularly interesting to hear about the life of the embroiderer, who had been a children's nanny, then a nurse, before marrying and no longer having time to sew such beautiful things. We were shown other pieces created by the same talented stitcher which were equally fine.

As family historians, we look forward as well as back and think about the legacy we leave for the future. One member shared



stories and examples of tapestries and embroidery she made, one of which was earmarked for posterity with her family having wisely "been told" to preserve it.



Men sewed too! A member showed a WW2 hussif, a pocket-sized sewing kit. It was issued to military personnel to do basic mending of their uniforms. Alas, the contents were gone – but this "housewife" shines a light on life as a conscript. The same member showed a miniature blouse which had been made from a pattern in the *Aberdeen People's Journal* of 25th January 1908 to illustrate how girls with reasonable sewing skills, far from the fashion houses of Paris and London, could still be in vogue.

We broke for tea and the chance to participate in the highlight of our annual Members' Day meeting – Graham's quiz. Our quizmaster again excited our curiosity with 20 objects. This time he was more even cunning than usual, asking us to match the un-numbered objects with a phrase. As just one example, there was a small metal measure marked G 3d W 4d B 6d. Only one member cracked the code, correctly identifying it as a measure and

tariff for a tot of gin, whisky and brandy. Every day is a school day, and we certainly learned a lot. It was such fun.

(report by Kate Clark, No. 934)

We were saddened to learn that Jessie Hamilton (no. 1634) died suddenly on 18th July. She always loved attending Glasgow Group meetings with her good friend Mary Murray (no. 20982). They “didn’t do computers”, so couldn’t attend our online meetings, but were always keen to come along and enjoy our variety of talks and to meet like-minded people.

Jessie joined ANESFHS in 1988 and was one of our Group’s few actual North-East native “quines”. Born a Garden in Aberdeen, she was of Banffshire and Aberdeenshire ancestry, and she then married a Hamilton and lived in Hamilton, Lanarkshire. Her Ancestor Chart was in Journal 123 (May 2012) and can be seen if you log in to the Society’s website and select Journals. We’ll miss Jessie, and we hope we’ll still see Mary at our meetings.

Our next Glasgow Group meeting takes place **in person only**, on 28th September. Keep an eye on the website for details of this and future meetings.

glasgow@anesfhs.org.uk

Buzzy Garden No. 12916

—oOo—

Moray/Banff Group Report

Having had to cancel our May meeting, we were looking forward to our final online meeting before our short summer break.

We had decided to continue our theme of making the most of the Internet. In March, at our face-to-face meeting, we had asked members to discuss their own favourite websites; and in April, with our huge attendance of 140 at our Zoom meeting (see Doug’s excellent report in the May Journal), we had looked at ways of making better use of the Internet generally and also concentrating on getting the most from our usual main websites of Scotland’s People, Ancestry, Find My Past and the Moray LIBINDEX.

In June, we took this further and looked at less familiar websites. It is amazing just how many under-used resources are out there on the Internet for anyone researching their ancestors. Many are free to use, and some can help to identify a potentially correct entry before having to commit to a payment for a Scotland’s People download. A good example is www.freecen.org.uk, which has very detailed transcripts of many of the censuses. Our North-East counties are very well covered up to and including the 1871 census; and later ones are being added all the time. A good example of a more unusual site, place-based rather than people-based, is www.curiousfox.com/. Instead of entering the name of a person, you enter the name of a hamlet, village or town. When you click on “search”, a list of posts comes up from people asking about families who lived in that place.

The PowerPoint slides from the April meeting had already been sent round to attendees. We then put together a Word document version of these, together with all the websites we had looked at across the three meetings, and with input from a similar meeting some years ago. This resulted in a mammoth 18-page handout, which you can have on request. Many of the websites were general ones which would be useful for research anywhere, but a number of the more unusual ones were specifically relevant for North-East Scotland.

Now that August is well under way, it is time to turn our attention to the next sessions. We start with a face-to-face meeting in the Activities Room in Elgin Library on the first

Saturday in September, using our traditional “Bring Along a Brick Wall” as the topic for both this meeting and our next Zoom meeting in October.

We hope some new family-history brick walls have reared their heads during the year – so, please dust them off and bring them along to these two meetings!

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Mary Evans (Group co-ordinator)

No. 1975

—oOo—

Australia & New Zealand Group Meetings and Events

After a long break, our Group met again online on 1st June 2024. Of 40 who registered, about 35 Zoomed in from around our region and from the UK. We welcomed old friends and new, and discussed topics for later meetings after introducing ourselves and outlining our family research interests. A list of these ancestral surnames and mainly North-East Scottish placenames is available on request, updated from the list in our Brisbane-Area Group report that appeared in Journal 153 (Nov 2019).

Our meetings will be quarterly on the first Saturday (March, June, September, December) at 4pm AEST. Melbourne goes to daylight saving from 6th October 2024 to 6th April 2025, but we think it’s easier to leave the time as Brisbane AEST.

At our next meeting, on 7th **September**, we look forward to a talk from Seonaid Harvey, a librarian with Auckland Library, on “Researching New Zealand ancestors”. Seonaid has also asked if we can publicise events forming part of Auckland Library’s Family History Month. A number of events will be available via Zoom as well as in person:

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/family-and-local-history-events.aspx>

Some events will be over by the time you read this Journal, but others will still be of special interest to family historians, such as this:

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/2024/08/london-gazette-a-cornucopia-of-genealogical-items/>

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Robin Price

No. 18058

Kate Brial (no. 13272) regrets to inform the Society that Isabelle Thompson (no. 938) died in July. Isabelle, of Elanora, Queensland, joined ANESFHS in 1986 and remained a keen researcher of family history. The two friends were excited in 2019 when an ANESFHS Brisbane-area Group was formed, and they attended the inaugural meeting, kindly hosted by John Thomson (no. 17144). In Journal 152 (August 2019), Isabelle is on the far right of the front-cover photograph, and on page 12 she is peeping out above the Aberdeen-area map and holding one edge of it. She also attended this Group’s first online meeting, held in May 2020 when lockdowns forced us all into the online world.

—oOo—

Members’ Meetings: Diary Dates

All members, friends and visitors are always welcome at any meetings of the Society’s various local-area Groups. These may take place in person only, **or** online only, **or** as a hybrid of the two. Speakers and topics may be subject to change at short notice. Details are kept updated on the **Events** pages of the Society’s website and on social media.

To attend **in person**, just turn up! We do appreciate a note of your intention, but it's not required. Our meetings are always **free** to attend, but do please give a tea/coffee donation!

For **online** attendance, **Society members** please **log in** to **sign up via our website** once a meeting is open for registration. An invitation link will be sent automatically, so check your Junk/Spam just in case. **Ex-** or **non-members** should e-mail the relevant Group.

Aberdeen meetings take place at the Fountainhall (ex-Rubislaw) Church Centre on the third Saturday of the month. These are usually hybrid: in person, with Zoom broadcast.

Moray/Banff Group meetings take place on the first Saturday of the month, alternating between in person only (in the Activities Room at Elgin Library) and online only.

Other local-area Groups aim to hold meetings four times a year:

Glasgow Group is currently alternating between online only (November and February) and at the Renfield Centre, Bath Street, in person only (May, and September or October).

Edinburgh Group meets at the Royal Scots Club, usually in hybrid format. This Group's next meeting is on 14th September 2024 with the popular Chris Paton as guest speaker.

London Group meets in the Church of Scotland hall, in person only. Dates for 2024 are now on the website. (Notice will be given if a meeting has to revert to online only.)

Southern Ontario Group meets online only (next: 28th September, 1pm EDT, 6pm BST).

For **Australia and New Zealand** meetings, see the report above.

—oOo—

Helen Taylor's Online DNA Workshop

2nd July 2024

We were delighted when our dedicated Society volunteer, Helen Taylor, offered to hold an online DNA workshop. Helen has a lifetime's experience of stockbreeding, and she approaches human genealogy in a refreshingly practical and down-to-earth manner. She has guided lots of Society members through the best strategies for getting started and has unravelled many a DNA family knot.

She was also clear that she didn't intend to give a talk. Instead, she proposed running an informal, practical question-and-answer session. This workshop was exclusively for Society members who had already tested with Ancestry.com and had begun to develop a family tree on that site. Helen stressed the importance of linking your test results to a tree, which will enable Ancestry to process the linkages and to offer DNA matches and, most importantly, Common Ancestors and Throughlines. It takes about a week from when you link your tree and kit results for these to show up on your account.

Using Common Ancestors is a good way to identify where you connect with people who come up as DNA matches with you. Helen showed us how to assign matches to different family lines on the tester's maternal and paternal sides. She recommended adding the identified Common Ancestor in the Notes section and saving this information. She suggested working systematically through all the matches who share a Common Ancestor with you first, and then working through the Unviewed Matches.

When trying to find a missing ancestor, Helen starts by picking a match with a lowish amount of shared centimorgans (cm), then looking at the Shared Matches between them

and the tester. Matches can then be assigned a group number (and/or coloured dot). Then she repeats the process with the next person who is not a Shared Match with this first match, and looks for the Shared Matches listed for them. Again, she assigns that family line a distinctive number or coloured dot. Then she moves on and does the same with the next person who is not a match to group 1 or 2 and so on, giving each potential family line its own number or coloured dot. She then demonstrated how you can select the lists of matches, copy them and paste them into a helpful sorting tool provided by Jim Antley: <https://jimantley.app/AntleyMethod/>.

Helen limited this online workshop to 25 places (the Zoom on-screen limit) so that it could be fully interactive – and this encouraged sharing of information across the group. The session was very well received, and participants said they welcomed the helpful step-by-step approach. One participant said: “It was very useful. Some of it was a tad too quick for me, but I much appreciated having the same example shown several times. It would be a good idea to do similar workshops periodically.” The good news is that Helen is already planning for a follow-up session – and we hope “Helen’s DNA Hour” will become a regular item in the Society schedule.

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Journal Team

—oOo—

Day Conference: “Banffshire Places”, Saturday 5th October 2024

Encouraged by the success of the conference held in 2023, Banffshire Field Club is forging ahead with plans for a similar event later this year. The Seafield Arms Hotel in Cullen provided a warm welcome on the occasion of our first conference, and we are delighted to be returning there on Saturday 5th October.

Keeping the focus firmly on Banffshire, we have chosen “Banffshire Places” as the theme for the day. At the time of writing, we are still putting final touches to the programme. We are pleased to confirm that Iain Taylor, Gaelic scholar and author of *The Placenames of Scotland*, will be a keynote speaker, as will our own Professor Peter Reid, who will be revealing the secrets of “Banffshire’s Lost Places”.

For more details as they become available, please visit the conference web page at <http://www.banffshirefieldclub.com/conference-2024.html>, which includes a link for booking.

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Alison Smith

No. 7779

—oOo—

Editorial

We are delighted with the response to our requests for Journal submissions, and we thank all our contributors. We have begun editing material for the next issue and will be glad to hear from you with more items for consideration. Keep ’em coming, please! Journal 170 (May 2024) contains guidelines on writing for us.

We are grateful to Sally Low (no. 1441) and former member Steve Edwards for valuable assistance in preparing items for the present issue: Sally for editorial support, and Steve for his graphic-design skills in processing and enhancing images.

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Elaine Petrie (No. 22949) and Ivor Normand (No. 4161)

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, by Standing Order. If you would like to join, please e-mail the address below.

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).

If you decide **not** to renew your ANESFHS membership, please **also remember to cancel your Standing Order for the 100 Club**. Only you can cancel your own Standing Order. If cancellation is not requested, the transaction will continue.

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 informed personally and are announced in the Journal. For further details, please see the current Information Booklet on our website.

	1 st prize		2 nd prize		3 rd prize		4 th prize					
	No.	Mem. No.	No.	Mem. No.	No.	Mem. No.	No.	Mem. No.				
Apr	6	David Peters	2402	30	Irene McCafferty	6462	41	Angus Burn MBE	19808	132	Sue McFarlane	15807
		(£20·80)			(£15·60)			(£10·40)			(£5·20)	
May	61	Kenny Harrison	13946	95	Margaret Vieira	3106	80	Jim Illingworth	2542	96	Margaret McDowall	18020
Jun	11	Sheila Armstrong	9082	97	Elaine Muir	20837	46	John Davidson	6455	88	Amelia Horn	3667
Jul	139	Dorothy Smith	14618	69	Sarah Martin	3884	11	Sheila Armstrong	9082	74	William Munro	8229

100club@anesfhs.org.uk

Sheila Symons No. 13157

—oOo—

FamilySearch Library Classes and Webinars for August 2024

FamilySearch International is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organisation sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their services and resources can be accessed for free online at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) or through over 6,000 family history centres in 129 countries, including their main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- Explore 18 billion historical records and images at FamilySearch.
- Search historical record images using the powerful Explore Historical Images feature.
- Peruse over 1,500 free on-demand sessions from RootsTech.
- Schedule a free 20-minute consultation with a FamilySearch Library research specialist.

ANESFHS is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library member, which means that you can access even more datasets from the computers in our Research Centre in Aberdeen than you can access as an individual.

For these FamilySearch Library classes and webinars in August, no registration is needed. Mountain Daylight Time (10am MDT) is seven hours behind the UK (5pm BST). The

links below are clickable (in the PDF downloadable version of this Journal) to watch the classes live or to view Available On-Demand classes. Most sessions are recorded and can be viewed on demand in the FamilySearch Library classes and webinars archive.

Date/Time (MDT)	Class/Webinar	How to view	Presenter
On Demand	From Research to Draft: Rapidly Writing Your Ancestor's Story	Watch Now	Devon Noel Lee
On Demand	Let AI Be Your Ghostwriter	Watch Now	Storied
On Demand	The Power of Storytelling: How Stories Connect Us with Our Roots	Watch Now	Storied
On Demand	The Power of Storytelling: Taking Family History off the Shelf through Storytelling	Watch Now	Tori Bush
On Demand	Stories for Your Family History: Preserving Children's Stories	Watch Now	Sunny J Morton
Tues 20 th August, 10am MDT	FamilySearch Family Tree: Record Hints and Sources	Watch Live	Lori Montague
Mon 26 th August, 10am MDT	Marriages, Murders, and a Munchkin: Using FamilySearch to Record Memories	Watch Live	Dan Poffenberger, B.A., AG®
Tues 27 th August, 10am MDT	FamilySearch Family Tree: Adding Memories	Watch Live	Israel Poulson

—oOo—

Wanted: New MI Team

Since our foundation, the Society has recorded and published 130 booklets of Memorial Inscriptions (MIs), covering 185 different burial grounds across North-East Scotland, with information on nearly 200,000 individuals. There are steady ongoing sales of our MI booklets, and we derive extra income by licensing some of our MI data to *Find My Past*.

This represents the work of many ANESFHS members, present and past, as organised by successive MI Co-ordinators. The current holder of that post, Gavin Bell, now wishes to retire from front-line MI work – but, as recording and publication of MIs actually involves a number of connected but quite varied activities, the Board of Trustees thinks that the work could best be carried forward by a team, with each member able to concentrate on one aspect of the work. We are therefore looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Mapping

An accurate numbered plan, which unambiguously identifies every gravestone, is essential (a) to allow for all transcriptions to be double-checked, and (b) to help purchasers of the booklets to find their family graves. There may be “lair plans” for newer burial grounds, but older kirkyards may never have been mapped, so we have to create our own.

In the early days, plans were created by pacing out the distances between the stones, and plotting the results on graph paper – and, if the stones are in reasonably regular lines, this can yield a perfectly usable plan. But many older burial grounds are quite chaotic in their layout, so some higher-tech methods have been devised. This is an area, however, where emerging technologies are likely to prove useful.

Reading inscriptions

This is probably the most enjoyable part of MI work, and many members are skilled at it. In years past, mass “Graveyard Outings” proved popular. They do generate a lot of work, both before and after, for whoever organises them – and it is essential that someone **does** take overall responsibility for managing the process. But whether on a mass outing or as an individual effort, it is vital that the graveyard is mapped **before** any inscriptions are recorded. And, as even the most skilled graveyarder can make mistakes, the first reading

must be checked, preferably by a different set of eyes, or perhaps compared with an earlier “unpublished” version, if one exists.

It is sometimes suggested that making digital images of all the stones and reading these remotely could speed up the process. But experience teaches that, while many newer stones can be accurately read from a one-off two-dimensional image, there are many older or degraded stones which yield their secrets only when viewed “face-to-face”, and under varying lighting conditions.

From transcription to publication

However captured, initial transcriptions need to be transferred into word-processed form for checking and indexing. But even once a fully-checked version of the inscriptions has been produced, much work remains to convert this into final publishable form. Title page, publication data, introduction, burial ground and location plans, and surname index are all needed – and will require different settings for margins, type size, paragraph spacing, number of columns, and page headings.

Work is also needed to convert some earlier MI titles (which may have originated as typescript) into word-processed versions suitable for making reprints, as required from time to time.

All these tasks require familiarity with Microsoft Word, including some of its more advanced features, such as use of Templates, Styles, Tables, multi-Section documents and automation tools using Visual Basic macros.

Indexing inscriptions

Each set of MIs is processed to produce a master index (currently held in Microsoft Access) from which are derived a surname index for inclusion in the booklet, and data for the cumulative *MI Index Online* available on the Society’s website. Extracting the raw index terms from inscriptions which are often incomplete, or ambiguous, or both, requires careful reading, and some of the skills of a proof-reader.

Digital processing

The *MI Index Online* is currently held on the Society’s web server in the form of a MySQL database, interrogated by a suite of PHP scripts. Whenever a new MI booklet is produced, the relevant index terms have to be appended to this database. The Society webmaster is keen to integrate this Index more closely with the rest of the website, which may require additional work on the MI side.

The Society licenses some of our older MIs to *Find My Past*, from whom we receive regular royalty payments. Our current agreement with FMP runs out in the not-too-distant future, at which point the Society could choose to renew or terminate the arrangement, or to extend it with additional sets of MIs. If we extend it, then additional work would be needed to convert the relevant MIs into the format required by FMP.

Each of the stages described above has been carefully documented, and support is available to help ease volunteers into the various tasks. If you think you could help the Society’s ongoing MI programme in *any* of the areas outlined above, please send your name, contact details and area(s) of interest to chairman@anesfhs.org.uk. We look forward to building a happy new MI Team.

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds	Total Funds
	General Fund	100 Club	2023	2022
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income:				
Covenants and Gift Aid	7,592	–	7,592	6,370
Donations	3,807	–	3,807	3,138
Legacy income	3,000	–	3,000	–
Annual fees	12	1,189	1,201	1,188
Investment income:				
Interest received	4,112	–	4,112	1,251
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
2				
Subscriptions	55,908	–	55,908	55,522
Publication sales	7,829	–	7,829	7,230
Research and queries	1,343	–	1,343	1,519
Other incoming resources:				
Other income	1,549	–	1,549	139
	£85,152	£1,189	£86,341	£76,357
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Direct charitable expenditure	59,195	571	59,766	57,957
Depreciation	6,142	–	6,142	6,414
	£65,337	£571	£65,908	£64,371
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	19,815	618	20,433	11,986
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	375,789	7,163	382,952	370,966
Total funds carried forward	£395,604	£7,781	£403,385	£382,952

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2023

3. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED – CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES GENERAL FUND

	Direct Charitable Expenditure		Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Publication cost of sales	1,684	–	1,684	2,813
Printing Society Journal	14,178	–	14,178	13,760
Postages and Journal distribution	8,088	–	8,088	8,553
Stationery and office supplies	1,046	–	1,046	888
Insurance, heat, light and telephone	9,185	–	9,185	6,647
Rent	6,000	–	6,000	6,000
Rates	3,164	–	3,164	2,775
Meeting expenses	1,323	–	1,323	1,838
Conference and course expenses	110	–	110	–
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	1,987	–	1,987	1,929
Advertising	25	–	25	–
Internet and IT expenses	196	–	196	1,116
Accountancy fee	1,200	–	1,200	1,100
Bank and credit-card charges	2,120	–	2,120	1,822
Sundry expenses	4,999	–	4,999	6,874
Building and library repairs	3,890	–	3,890	1,231
Depreciation	–	6,142	6,142	6,414
	£59,195	£6,142	£65,337	£63,760

100 CLUB

Prizes etc.	571	–	571	611
	£571	£ –	£571	£611

Summary of EGM (AGM) Minutes 2024

The Society's Annual General Meeting, held on 20th April 2024, had to be aborted for technical reasons. Apologies were communicated to all participants, and all Society members were given due notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to conclude the business of the AGM. This EGM was held on Saturday 18th May 2024 in the Society's Research Centre at 164 King Street, Aberdeen, and simultaneously online.

The EGM was attended by 51 online households and 16 in-person participants. Full minutes and accounts are downloadable by logging in to the Society's website, and are also available from the Secretary. Summary reports and minutes are as follows.

Officers' reports

Bert Lawrie (Chair) welcomed Margaret Stevenson to the Finance Team. She takes over the role previously carried out by Jane Cameron, whom Bert thanked for her many years of service to the Society. Gavin Bell, who has led on recording and publishing MIs (Monumental Inscriptions), also wishes to retire, and the Society will be glad to hear from any volunteer who might be interested in joining this team or becoming its leader.

Bert reported on significant refurbishment work carried out at our King Street premises, using funds originally raised through the Granite Roots appeal.

Ronald Leith (Secretary) reported that the Society had 328 new members joining in 2023, surpassing 286 in 2022. In 2024 so far, we had already welcomed 126 new members. The number of current members sits at around 3,000 per year. Many early members are still with us, and continue to contribute to the work of the Society.

Barbara Lamb described her role as Centre Manager and how volunteers help visitors with their enquiries. Our Family History Research Centre is an Affiliate Library member of Ancestry and of FamilySearch. Our well-stocked reference library is another extremely valuable resource that can only be fully appreciated by visiting.

Financial report

Sheila Symons reported that 2023 showed few changes, with the Society showing steady income despite challenging energy bills. We have received further donations in support of the Society, including a welcome legacy of £3,000, which is greatly appreciated.

Insurance, heat, light and telephone costs increased predictably, as did the costs of printing and posting the Society's quarterly Journal. The 100 Club continues, with the admin load greatly eased by Dave Anderson having automated the monthly draw process.

We sadly lost Bill Rodger and Paul Webster in 2023, and we still feel the impact. We thank our team members: Linda Davie (Sage Recorder and mobile banking), Sheila Symons (membership subscriptions, direct debits, mobile banking and Gift Aid), Ronald Leith (cheques) and Andy Horne (preparing the accounts for audit). We are also grateful to Graeme Reid, our external auditor. We are delighted to welcome Margaret Stevenson as Finance Coordinator, liaising with Sheila, who becomes the Trustee reporting on Finance.

The Accounts were approved.

Election of Trustees

During the year, the Board had co-opted three members whom they now presented to the membership for approval as Trustees, eligible for renewal in 2027: Sheona MacDonald, Elaine Petrie and Helen Strachan. The nominees were approved.

By clause 62 of the Constitution, Board Trustees are elected to serve for a period of three years, after which they retire and are eligible for re-election if they wish. Barbara Lamb and Sheila Symons were eligible for re-election and were approved by the meeting.

Changes to the Constitution

It was noted that the Constitution now contained amended wording previously approved by the membership, to ensure that “attending in person or virtually” held the same status. In addition, two other changes to wording had now been proposed and had been approved by the membership in an online vote:

Clause 70: “The charity trustees must elect (from among themselves) a chair, vice-chair, a secretary, a membership secretary and a reporting Treasurer. The reporting treasurer will liaise on the Board’s behalf with the Financial Coordinator, who is a Society member but need not be a Trustee.”

Clause 85: “No valid decisions can be taken at a board meeting unless a quorum is present. If the Society has between **10 and 15** current Trustees, the quorum for board meetings is **seven charity trustees**, present in person and entitled to vote upon the business of the meeting. If the Society has **nine current trustees or fewer**, the quorum for board meetings is **five charity trustees**, present in person and entitled to vote upon the business of the meeting. A person shall be deemed to be present by attending either in person or virtually where arrangements for virtual attendance have been made.”

All members had been invited to vote electronically in advance of the meeting via the Society website. Both motions had received a resounding majority in favour and were therefore adopted: Clause 70: 95%; Clause 85: 98%.

The Board believes online voting is a democratic and inclusive way to deal with Society business, as it ensures that all our members, including our large overseas membership, have an opportunity to contribute their view on proposals. A few members had not voted, having thought they need not use the electronic voting system if they planned to attend the meeting. The Trustees undertook to ensure that all wording for future votes clarified this.

Update on Journal production

Ivor Normand has been editing the Journal single-handedly for many years despite other responsibilities and some challenging circumstances. Elaine Petrie has officially become part of the team as a “commissioning Editor”. Journal 170 (May 2024) contains guidelines on writing stories for the Journal; and the Journal team looked forward to plenty of new submissions in the coming months. Ivor had asked the Board to consider moving to an all-colour Journal if we continue to carry a high proportion of stories with photographs or illustrations. While many other Societies are moving to online-only publication, just over half our members opt to take the printed version.

Progress on Record of Ancestor Charts and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Helen Strachan leads on UKGDPR compliance for the Society. Helen acknowledged help received from those previously involved with the Ancestor Charts and with indexing. She believes she now has a comprehensive overview of what charts and indexes the Society holds. She has recruited five enthusiastic volunteers who will begin to index the backlog of charts which have been received but not yet processed. They expect to complete most of these by midsummer and will report progress to members through the Journal.

The Index of Ancestor Charts, downloadable as a Zip file on the Society website, has been reactivated, and members can again request access to charts. Helen's team will use these requests to pilot the mechanism for seeking appropriate permissions from each chart's original compiler. The procedure will also help to identify missing charts and seek replacements. Helen will, initially, be the sole account-holder for the charts@ email address, pending the full training of her team.

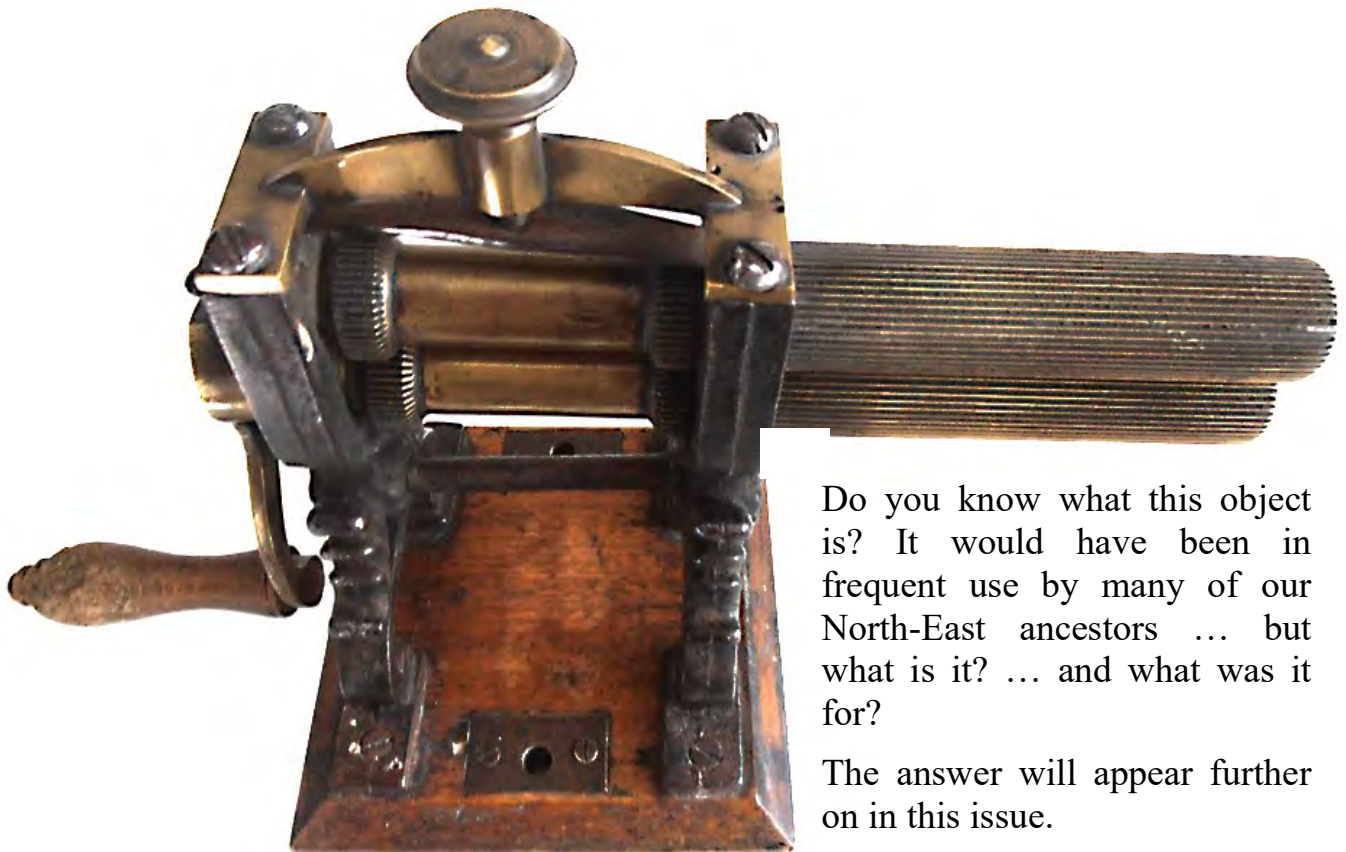
Helen was of the view that the Society does not currently have complete control of the data, mostly for simple reasons such as the fact that some volunteers in the past had saved the indexing material onto their own computers and, in some cases, it can no longer be accessed. However, she has identified potential solutions and will report progress regularly to the Board and to the members through the Journal.

Our volunteers: an appreciation

The Board wished to take the opportunity provided by the EGM to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who give of their time and energy to keep the work of the Society going forward every year. Every contribution counts, and the Board was especially grateful to all those volunteers who keep the Society running by booking and paying for speakers and venues, running Zoom sessions, responding swiftly and helpfully to member queries, administering bookings, and refreshing and supporting our website and social media, with a special mention for those who do all the mundane jobs as well as the big-ticket items. All of this is what makes and sustains the life of the Society.

—oOo—

Graham Robertson's Mystery Object Quiz



Do you know what this object is? It would have been in frequent use by many of our North-East ancestors ... but what is it? ... and what was it for?

The answer will appear further on in this issue.

—oOo—

Indexing of Ancestor Charts: An Update

I am really pleased to report that four of our volunteers have completed the short training required to work on indexing the Ancestor Charts submitted to the Society. A fifth volunteer will do so shortly but was unable to make the June dates.

The team has warmed to the challenge, and I am delighted that as of mid-July the new index has 450 surnames and associated locations added – an excellent achievement in only a few weeks. The index will continue to grow over the summer and, we hope, for a very long time to come, thus helping to protect and develop this important resource. Of course, it does not mean that 450 individual charts have been indexed. This total represents five members' charts ranging from one to 20 pages. I hope that, by the November Journal, I will be able to advise how you can access the new index to further your research.

We know of around 300 charts awaiting indexing, including 12 new submissions received in June. Charts which have not been previously indexed will appear on the new index rather than being added to the existing one. Meantime, we work through testing new procedures and planning how and where your Ancestor Charts will be stored in the future.

In addition to charts requested by members visiting our Centre in King Street, we have received e-mail requests for access to around 40 charts (from four members). Four of these charts were found not to be available, and we continue to review the original database created by the late Niall Scott to try to track down the scanned originals.

Many of you have made an approach to the Society stating that you had previously submitted your Ancestor Chart to be indexed but that it has not appeared on the online list. If you would like to email me at charts@anesfhs.org.uk with your membership number, I will check to see if your chart is one of the 300 we have in waiting.

helen.strachan@anesfhs.org.uk

Helen Strachan No. 22873

—oOo—

Mystery Object Quiz: The Answer



If your Victorian ancestor wanted fashionable pleats or ruffles in their collars, cuffs, mitches or dresses, they (or their laundry maid) might use a crimping machine like this.

The corrugated brass rollers were heated by inserting hot irons, and the newly laundered fabric was crimped by being passed between them as the handle was turned.

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Journal Team

—oOo—

ANESFHS and UKGDPR: An Update

If you were a member of the Society back in 2018, you might recall a series of Journal updates about the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulations. UKGDPR became enforceable on 25th May 2018. The Regulations allow for some entities, such as charities and other not-for-profit organisations, to be exempt from registering with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). ANESFHS was granted exemption status, but

in so doing we were “expected” to embrace the regulations and to ensure that the data we manage on behalf of our members is safe and secure.

To ensure ongoing safety, security and compliance with the regulations, the Society is required to undertake a review of its functions every three years, or whenever there is a change to the regulations. Other than being aware that a review is under way, you should not be affected by the review process. For example, UKGDPR does not apply to the processing of personal data for family-history purposes undertaken in your own home. As long as the data you collect is for your own use and will not be published online, you are covered by the “household exemption” which falls outside the scope of the GDPR.

As the current review continues, we have become aware that we will require to make changes to some of our documentation, e.g. our Privacy Policy. I hope that, as you read this, we will be well through the review and update process. We will then be in a position to update you on our progress and to inform you of any changes we propose to make.

You can find out more about your data protection and information rights by clicking on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>. I am the Society’s UKGDPR Compliance Officer, and if you have any questions about how UKGDPR affects the Society and its members, or about the ongoing review process, or if you wish to comment on this article, please e-mail me. Thank you!

helen.strachan@anesfhs.org.uk

Helen Strachan No. 22873

Journal Proof-reading and Layout: New Eyes Needed

In years past, the Editor has politely declined offers of help with Journal proof-reading. Now he would very much appreciate help with this. Do you have sharp eyes and a keen sense for detail? We would love to work with you on the Journal Team. To get involved, contact us at journal@anesfhs.org.uk.

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

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

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Maintaining the Sampler Tradition

I enjoyed reading the articles on samplers in the May Journal. I do a bit of stitching and have over the last 20-odd years done some samplers. As each of my nieces and nephews married, I gave them a marriage sampler, and as their children came along I did a birth sampler. So far I have done 15, and I hope that at least some of them will survive long enough to become an antique!

simpsonhazel41@gmail.com

Hazel Simpson No. 12778

Volunteering for the Research Team

I refer to Journal 170 and the note on page 19 about volunteering. Unfortunately I don't live near the Research Centre, but I wonder if I can help with members' research queries using online resources. There used to be a section in the Journal for members' queries. Do members still contact the Centre with queries about their "brick walls" or other research? If they do, I'd be happy to try to help.

I've been researching my own ancestry for many years, particularly around Peterhead/Fraserburgh (including the fishing villages in between) and New Monkland (Lanarkshire).

janice7102@btinternet.com

Janice Lane No. 12761

The Journal still welcomes Queries, but this section has largely been overtaken by the Society Facebook page and by the Members' Forum on our website, both of which allow for a faster turnaround of responses and a track back through the discussion thread. However, we are delighted to pick up some of those stories in the Journal as they develop. We've passed Janice's information to the Research Team to follow up.

McWilliam Family Documents

I have a small number of original documents relating to the family of William McWilliam who was born on 29th August 1854 at Banff. My great-uncle Sydney Bayly was executor for William's wife Emily, so the collection includes the details of her burial at St Pancras, London, in 1943, and William's in 1923. It includes William's original certificate for gaining the Freedom of London in 1876. His father was William McWilliam, born on 23rd August 1824 at Mill of Botary, Cairnie, Aberdeenshire. I would be delighted to return these documents to a family member, or, if not, to a relevant repository.

shirleylevon@talktalk.net

Shirley Levon

Fake Bananas?

Ian Stewart's article in Journal 169 (pp. 25–8) evoked memories of wondering what a banana was. All we saw was the Fyffe poster on pre-war lorries. Great excitement when an Aberdeen uncle visited, bringing a dish of mashed "banana". There was a mixed reaction to what I now think was parsnip with flavouring. Does ANESFHS have the recipe?

annadoxford@icloud.com

Anna Doxford No. 21502

Articles

DNA: What a Difference 40 Years can Make

One acronym: DNA. How *amazing*. The difference it has made to my Record of Ancestors chart, sent in 1984 to ANESFHS, has indeed been life-changing. Through my personal experience, I would like to show how the paper records, which were all we could use back in the “old days”, cannot really be trusted in many cases. The complications of real life can only be accurately winkled out through DNA matching.

I first became aware of ANESFHS as an enthusiastic schoolboy in Dunedin, New Zealand, back in 1979, when I was given the Society’s first Newsletters (as they were then called) to read. Pocket money had to be carefully spent, and I finally joined the Society in 1981 as member no. 202. My interest in North-East Scotland was prompted by my earliest NZ immigrant ancestor, Elgin-born 2g-grandfather William Taylor (no. 29 on the chart), who had arrived in Dunedin just before the first Otago gold rush in 1861 – and he himself was, of course, bitten by gold fever.

With my overseas research being conducted only by letter-writing – which took *forever* – I had discovered a fact which, so far as I am aware, no-one then knew: William Taylor was illegitimate. His father, also William Taylor, was grieve at Linkwood near Elgin, where his mother Elizabeth Helen Anderson also worked (coincidentally, she was an ancestor of ANESFHS member and volunteer Lorna Simpson, whose death was noted in Journal 169). William Taylor senior was born in 1806 in King Edward, Aberdeenshire, son of Alexander Taylor, M.A., “of” Mill of Balmaud, King Edward. Hence my interest in Aberdeenshire!

“Newsletter” 5 (March 1981) featured a query from me – and the late Sheila Spiers took pity on the young NZ schoolboy. She was a massive help, even heading to King Edward kirkyard to see if she could find any Taylor gravestones to aid my quest. It was this huge effort by Sheila (and Margaret Brown) that led to the publication of the Society’s first kirkyard MI transcription booklet, as Sheila mentioned in Newsletter 9 (March 1983).

But back to 1984. That year, I duly completed my Record of Ancestors sheet with its 28 names (counting grandparents upwards) all carefully researched from available paper records, and posted the chart off to Aberdeen. It appeared in Newsletter 13 (Nov 1984), being only the second chart to be published – perhaps due to my marginally more “exotic” genetic mix – after local member Lesley Diack’s chart had appeared in Newsletter 11! Comparing my 1984 chart with the 2024 version in this Journal 171, the latter contains a remarkable *nine substituted names* of ancestors (plus a new alias for good measure). That is nearly a *33% error rate* from taking paper records at face value!

The primary reason for this is illegitimacy. My parents were unaware that any of their immigrant forebears were illegitimate. Emigration to a faraway land must have provided a good cover story for individuals with what was then seen as a scandalous past. They need not lie to their spouses about their origins, but who was to say the parents they named on their NZ marriage certificates were not married themselves! From my background reading, I was aware of the comparatively large proportion of illegitimate children born in the rural communities of the North-East, but I hadn’t realised a healthy number (including from socially harsher England) would feature in my own ancestry.

Record of Ancestors

Membership No: **202**
 Name **Peter GRANT**
 Date 6 May 2024
 e-mail pfwgrant@gmail.com

His Father

3 William Thomas GRANT

Born 18 Dec 1894
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Married 25 Sep 1924
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Died 31 Aug 1960 (65)
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Occup. Company manager

Your Father

1 Fergus John GRANT

Born 10 Jul 1934
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Married 11 May 1963
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Died 10 May 1983 (48)
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Occup. Carrier

His Mother

4 Margaret Augusta O'DONOGHUE

Born 28 Apr 1896
Place Esk Valley, Canterbury, NZ
Died 6 Jul 1970 (74)
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ
Occup. Housekeeper

You

Peter Fergus William GRANT

Born 18 Feb 1964
Place Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand
Married 13 Feb 1999
Place Teddington, Canterbury, NZ
Occup. Lawyer

Her Father

5 * Charles Hammond DONALD**

Born 22 Apr 1886
Place Omimi, Otago, New Zealand
Married
Place
Died 22 Dec 1958 (72)
Place Temuka, Canterbury, NZ
Occup. Farmer and publican

Your Mother

2 Veronica Isabel GRAHAM

Born 2 Nov 1936
Place Balclutha, Otago, New Zealand
Died
Place
Occup. Nurse receptionist (retired)

Her Mother

6 Isabel SHARP

Born 29 Jan 1908
Place Rongahere, Otago, NZ
Died 12 May 1971 (63)
Place Dunedin, Otago, NZ

The member whose chart appears here has given permission for it to be printed in the ANESFHS Journal.

		15	*** William Mackenzie GRANT ***		
			<i>Bapt.</i> 3 Jun 1827	<i>Place</i>	Marnoch, Banffshire, SCT
			<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>	
			<i>Died</i> 23 Mar 1903 (75)	<i>Place</i>	Elgin, Moray, SCT
				<i>Occup.</i>	Draper
7	William GRANT	16	Bathia ROSS		
	<i>Born</i> 7 Apr 1847		<i>Bapt.</i> 2 Jun 1815	<i>Place</i>	Rosskeen, Ross-shire, SCT
	<i>Place</i> Evanton, Kiltearn, ROC, SCT		<i>Died</i> 11 Jun 1881 (66)	<i>Place</i>	Monimail, Fife, SCT
	<i>Married</i> 16 Dec 1893			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Dunedin, Otago, NZ	17	*** George FITCH ***		
	<i>Died</i> 15 Jun 1917 (70)		<i>Bapt.</i> 15 Nov 1835	<i>Place</i>	Hundon, Suffolk, ENG
	<i>Place</i> Dunedin, Otago, NZ		<i>Married</i>	<i>Place</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i> Gentleman's gardener		<i>Died</i> 3 Jun 1914 (78)	<i>Place</i>	Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, ENG
8	Jane LYNN (WILLIAMS)	18	Priscilla WILLIAMS	<i>Occup.</i>	Publican
	<i>Born</i> 30 Mar 1862		<i>Bapt.</i> 7 Nov 1841	<i>Place</i>	Oddington, GLS, ENG
	<i>Place</i> Little Faringdon, OXF, ENG		<i>Died</i> 25 Feb 1933 (91)	<i>Place</i>	North Taieri, Otago, NZ
	<i>Died</i> 24 Nov 1929 (67)			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Dunedin, Otago, NZ	19	Maurice O'DONOGHUE		
	<i>Occup.</i> Caterer		<i>Born</i> abt 1829	<i>Place</i>	Causeway, Co. Kerry, IRE
9	John O'DONOGHUE		<i>Married</i> 1 Dec 1855	<i>Place</i>	Causeway, Co. Kerry, IRE
	<i>Bapt.</i> 21 Jan 1858		<i>Died</i> 15 Mar 1905 (75?)	<i>Place</i>	Causeway, Co. Kerry, IRE
	<i>Place</i> Causeway, Co. Kerry, IRE			<i>Occup.</i>	Farmer and shopkeeper
	<i>Married</i> 14 Jan 1886	20	Bridget DEE		
	<i>Place</i> Timaru, Canterbury, NZ		<i>Born</i> abt 1829	<i>Place</i>	Causeway, Co. Kerry, IRE
	<i>Died</i> 1 Jan 1920 (61)		<i>Died</i> 9 Jun 1903 (74?)	<i>Place</i>	Causeway, Co. Kerry, IRE
	<i>Place</i> Salisbury, Canterbury, NZ			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Occup.</i> Farmer	21	Michael GEANEY		
10	Norah GEANEY		<i>Born</i> abt 1828	<i>Place</i>	Brosna, Co. Kerry, IRE
	<i>Born</i> 4 Oct 1862		<i>Married</i> 21 Jun 1856	<i>Place</i>	Brosna, Co. Kerry, IRE
	<i>Place</i> Brosna, Co. Kerry, IRE		<i>Died</i> 9 Jun 1907 (79?)	<i>Place</i>	Timaru, Canterbury, NZ
	<i>Died</i> 21 May 1947 (84)			<i>Occup.</i>	Publican
	<i>Place</i> Salisbury, Canterbury, NZ	22	Mary CURTIN		
			<i>Born</i> abt 1836	<i>Place</i>	Brosna, Co. Kerry, IRE
			<i>Died</i> 8 Sep 1912 (76?)	<i>Place</i>	Timaru, Canterbury, NZ
				<i>Occup.</i>	
		23	*** David DONALD ***		
			<i>Born</i> 12 Sep 1819	<i>Place</i>	Brechin, Angus, SCT
			<i>Married</i> abt 1849	<i>Place</i>	
			<i>Died</i> 23 Feb 1882 (62)	<i>Place</i>	Merton, Otago, NZ
				<i>Occup.</i>	Farmer
11	*** Alexander DONALD ***	24	*** Jean ROBB ***		
	<i>Born</i> 5 Mar 1856		<i>Bapt.</i> 18 Aug 1822	<i>Place</i>	Marykirk, Kincardineshire, SCT
	<i>Place</i> Bothwell, Lanarkshire, SCT		<i>Died</i> 14 Nov 1872 (50)	<i>Place</i>	Bothwell, Lanarkshire, SCT
	<i>Married</i> 25 Oct 1882			<i>Occup.</i>	
	<i>Place</i> Merton, Otago, New Zealand	25	*** William DONNELLY ***		
	<i>Died</i> 14 Jul 1936 (80)		<i>Bapt.</i> 2 Jun 1827	<i>Place</i>	Ballybricken, Co. Limerick, IRE
	<i>Place</i> Dunedin, Otago, NZ		<i>Married</i> 6 Nov 1859	<i>Place</i>	Melbourne, Vic., Australia
	<i>Occup.</i> Farmer		<i>Died</i> 25 Dec 1865 (38)	<i>Place</i>	Rockhampton, Qld, Australia
12	*** Alice May DONNELLY ***			<i>Occup.</i>	Civil engineer and surveyor
	<i>Born</i> 5 Nov 1862	26	*** Rosannah GALBRAITH ***		
	<i>Place</i> Carlsruhe, Victoria, Australia		<i>Born</i> abt 1827	<i>Place</i>	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, IRE
	<i>Died</i> 3 Jun 1937 (74)		<i>Died</i> 29 Sep 1868 (41?)	<i>Place</i>	Clyde, Otago, NZ
	<i>Place</i> Dunedin, Otago, NZ			<i>Occup.</i>	Publican
		27	Wm SHARP (alias *** James CAMPBELL ***)		
			<i>Born</i> abt 1831	<i>Place</i>	Co. Antrim, IRE
			<i>Married</i> 11 Aug 1851	<i>Place</i>	Abbey, Paisley, RFW, SCT
			<i>Died</i> after 1865	<i>Place</i>	Western Australia?
				<i>Occup.</i>	Slater, soldier and convict
13	John SHARP	28	Margaret EWING		
	<i>Born</i> 14 Feb 1854		<i>Bapt.</i> 10 Dec 1831	<i>Place</i>	Abbey, Paisley, RFW, SCT
	<i>Place</i> Ayr St Quivox, Ayrshire, SCT		<i>Died</i> 28 Apr 1864 (32)	<i>Place</i>	Abbey, Paisley, RFW, SCT
	<i>Married</i> 8 Aug 1888			<i>Occup.</i>	Silk weaver
	<i>Place</i> Mosgiel, Otago, New Zealand	29	William TAYLOR		
	<i>Died</i> 28 Oct 1930 (76)		<i>Born</i> 1 Aug 1838	<i>Place</i>	Elgin, Moray, SCT
	<i>Place</i> Seacliff, Otago, NZ		<i>Married</i> 4 Aug 1863	<i>Place</i>	East Taieri, Otago, NZ
	<i>Occup.</i> Road contractor and farmer		<i>Died</i> 22 Apr 1911 (72)	<i>Place</i>	Dunedin, Otago, NZ
14	Mary Dunbar TAYLOR			<i>Occup.</i>	Labourer and smallholder
	<i>Born</i> 4 Nov 1868	30	Sarah RUMSEY		
	<i>Place</i> East Taieri, Otago, NZ		<i>Born</i> 2 May 1843	<i>Place</i>	Lambeth, Surrey, ENG
	<i>Died</i> 3 Aug 1943 (74)		<i>Died</i> 21 Sep 1927 (84)	<i>Place</i>	Seaview, Canterbury, NZ
	<i>Place</i> Tuapeka Flat, Otago, NZ			<i>Occup.</i>	Midwife

So, three out of the 28 turn out to be illegitimate: one in Ross-shire (great-grandfather no. 7, William Grant), one in Moray (the above William Taylor) and one in England, the above William Grant's wife Jane Lynn. She likely never knew she was illegitimate, as she was simply slotted by her parents into the family as the eldest in a large family of 12 – and her parents, when registering the births of younger NZ-born children, falsified their year of marriage by adding a couple of years on to the actual year they married! I had no reason to suspect that the paper trail was inaccurate and that (no. 18) Priscilla Williams's husband, Thomas Lynn, was not Jane's birth father. However, DNA matching presented some surprises, with weaker matches to Lynn relatives than should be expected, and I was later able to establish (via DNA matches) that Suffolk-born George Fitch (ancestor no. 17) was Jane Lynn's birth father. Amusingly, his English descendants had a story that he had to go on the run from London after some trouble with the brothers of a young lady. The Williams brothers and George Fitch all appear a short time earlier in the 1861 census, living close by in West Ham, and all working as excavators. It seems likely that Priscilla Williams took a shine to her elder brothers' friend, and her brothers certainly did not appreciate her unmarried pregnancy! The rest is history.

I think William Grant (ancestor no. 7) must have known he was illegitimate. He was born in 1847 in Ross-shire – and, although the relevant Kirk Session minutes have not survived, the detailed christening record enabled me to identify the birth father from his name, occupation and residence – in Forres, Moray. I later met lots of lovely Canadian cousins, descendants of a legitimate half-brother of William Grant, and travelled across Canada as a student being generously looked after by them. They are lovely people and remain great friends, but ... DNA again presented a shock. One of my Canadian cousins kindly DNA-tested for me, and we weren't a match. What??!! I was devastated.

Fortunately, my wife Morag (despite the name, another Kiwi) has a mother who is an immigrant to NZ, happening, coincidentally, to be a Grant – from Nairn. As far as I could see, Morag's Grants were from Glenurquhart, Inverness-shire, and mine were from the Forres area. Never the twain shall meet, you might think. But then Morag's Scottish great-uncle, the late George Grant of Balloch, Culloden and Glasgow, DNA-tested for me – and he was my *closest* Grant DNA match. By now, more records were available. Prompted by the DNA result, I found another William Grant in Forres at the right time and with the right occupation to be the father of my (no. 7) William Grant – William Mackenzie Grant (ancestor no. 15) – and I knew him already from my wife's family tree! Sure enough, DNA matching shows that my Kiwi wife and I are 5th cousins, both descending from 42nd Regiment private Robert Grant (born c. 1763) from the Braes of Glenurquhart. Morag and I met when both working as solicitors in the same law firm in Christchurch, NZ!

But the biggest DNA surprise of all to upset my Record of Ancestors chart involved my mother (now in her 80s – and she doesn't mind me writing this). My mother is the middle daughter of three from a rural farming family in Central Otago, NZ. Her father's family, despite being a very large one, did not breed well, and she only had two cousins on her father's side. Her father had served in the Otago Regiment in the Great War and been badly wounded twice, being repatriated to NZ before the end of the war. I had reasoned that my lack of DNA matches on my paternal grandfather's side was simply a result of small families and no other DNA testers. However, once I had worked my way through a group of unknown NZ DNA matches, the penny slowly dropped: my mother's birth father was not the father she knew, but someone else – Charles Hammond Donald (ancestor no.

5). Grandchildren of Charles were fascinated and delighted that they might have a new “auntie”, and with their help sure enough more DNA tests confirmed that fact. My mother (then 85) is a practical realist and found the experience wonderfully “additive”: the new names on my chart have led to several lovely new family members for her to meet and dote on. Meanwhile, I have added seven new names to my one-page Record of Ancestors, including a (topical) healthy splash of new Kincardineshire and Angus ancestors!

Last but not least, and although not through DNA (nor relevant to the North-East, I should quickly add), I have added another new name to my chart – this time an alias, for (no. 27) William Sharp. I knew from other sources that William was a private in the 63rd Regiment, but there were no men of that name in the Regiment at that time, and he remained a mystery for 35 years. Then I found evidence that William had enlisted under the name “James Campbell” (Campbell being William Sharp’s mother’s birth surname). William Sharp served as James Campbell through the Crimean War before deserting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1857 and being sentenced by court martial to 10 years’ penal servitude.

I had always envied my Southern Hemisphere cousins “across the ditch” in Australia with the huge amount of genealogical information they were able to discover if they found a convict ancestor. Now the pleasure was to be mine. I was able to track William a.k.a. James from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Bermuda where he was a convict, and then on to Western Australia in 1863 after the convict establishment at Bermuda closed. However, after he received his ticket of leave in 1865, the trail runs cold. I suspect he very well may be the “James Campbell” who drowned off the Busselton jetty in Western Australia in 1886 – but again, over to DNA, and I keenly await DNA results of that James Campbell’s kindly co-operative descendants in Western Australia to see if my hunch is correct.

So, along with the many other changes since my Record of Ancestors was first submitted when a teenager, I have learned to maintain a healthy scepticism about paper records at all times. You never know what interesting discoveries may await you through DNA matching – although a near-33% error rate surely won’t be everyone’s experience. For all that, although several names on my 1984 Record of Ancestors chart have changed due to genetics, I fondly retain the original names as my cultural ancestors. And, as my mother says, more family is always a good thing!

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No. 202

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Slavery and the North-East of Scotland: A Harvie Family Story

John Harvie was born in 1690 in Kintore, Aberdeenshire. He received a degree from King’s College, Aberdeen in 1716, after which he became the schoolmaster in Midmar – a post he held for 57 years. He married Elizabeth Mackie in 1718 in Midmar, and they had three sons and five daughters. According to Ancestry.com, Elizabeth’s brother George Mackie (born in 1689) had become a ship’s captain sailing between London and the West Indies. (This might mean that he was the captain of a slave ship sailing between London, Africa and the West Indies.) Perhaps his experiences may have prompted his three nephews Alexander, John and Robert Harvie to go there too.

Eldest son Alexander went out around 1748, and his brothers John and Robert joined him a few years later (Robert had studied at Aberdeen University and had qualified as a doctor). The three brothers owned estates in Grenada and Antigua which produced sugar,

cotton and tobacco. Their slaves had to work many hours a day in hot sunshine, supervised by overseers who were quick to use the whip. If the slaves tried to revolt or run away, they were dealt with in the most severe way.

British involvement in the transatlantic slave trade had begun a lot earlier, and by the 1730s Britain was a leading slave-trading nation. The triangular transatlantic slave route was very lucrative. It began in London, from where goods such as textiles, wine, arms etc. were shipped to Africa to exchange for enslaved people. These people were transported in the lower decks of slave ships, shackled together in desperate conditions, to the British colonies. The journey lasted several weeks, and many slaves died on the way.

Alexander Harvie did not stay long in the West Indies but returned to Scotland in 1758 with his wife Elizabeth Ceely, having sold his estates to his brothers. He bought a house in Broad Street, Aberdeen, where his family lived for many years. The house was later known as Freestone House.

Brothers John and Robert remained in the West Indies and became very wealthy. John Harvie junior died in 1770 aged 47. In his will, he left money for a slave called Mary and her three children. He bequeathed his estates in Grenada to Charles Harvie (elder surviving son of brother Alexander). Aged 16, Charles sailed to Grenada to take up his inheritance, but there was an accident when he was disembarking from the ship, and he drowned. The inheritance passed to his younger brother, Alexander, who probably, on the advice of his father, sold the Grenada estates to his Uncle Robert for £20,000. With 10,000 guineas of this, Charles bought Broadlands Estate in Buchan. John left his estates in Antigua to another nephew. He left some money to all 24 of his nephews and nieces, along with £100 to his mother “to buy a mourning ring”, and £50 per annum for life.

Robert Harvie died in 1791 aged 59. In his will, he left money to four children in the West Indies and bequests to all his nephews and nieces. He left £250 for the poor of Midmar and £150 for the governors of Aberdeen Infirmary. He named three nephews (sons of his sisters) and left them considerable sums, his estates in Grenada and Antigua and his houses, including one in London – on condition that they changed their names to Harvie.

By this time, at least three men in the North-East of Scotland were doing their best to raise awareness of the conditions that slaves lived in and to try to promote abolition.

James Beattie (1735–1803), born in Laurencekirk, gained an MA at Marischal College, Aberdeen and spent some years teaching in Fordoun. He was later appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy at Marischal College and was prominent in arguing against slavery.

John Chalmers (1742–1810) launched a campaign for the abolition of slavery by writing articles in the weekly and monthly *Aberdeen Magazine* in the 1780s and 1790s.

The Rev. James Ramsay, born in 1733 in Fraserburgh, studied medicine at King’s College, Aberdeen. He joined the Navy, and while serving he boarded a slave ship travelling between Africa and the British Colonies. Ramsay was much affected by the conditions he found aboard this ship. He was later injured in an accident, and left the Navy. He trained to become an Anglican priest, and then set about writing articles highlighting the dreadful conditions that slaves lived under. These articles were published and were very influential. He met William Pitt and William Wilberforce in 1783 and was part of the movement which campaigned against slavery.

The people of Aberdeenshire and the Aberdeen Anti-Slavery Society wrote more petitions to demand an end to slavery than any other region in the United Kingdom.

By 1787, the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was formed, boycotting slave-produced goods and petitioning Parliament. (In 1791, the Haitian Revolution forced France to abolish slavery in all its territories.) After many failed attempts, the slave trade in the British Empire was abolished in 1807 – but this just meant that it became illegal to purchase enslaved people from Africa. It was not until August 1833 that Parliament passed the Slavery Abolition Act, which made the ownership of slaves illegal. But slaves were not freed until 1838. To get this Act through Parliament, it was decided to compensate slave-owners for the loss of their slaves. The Bank of England was instructed to raise £20,000,000 for that purpose. To give an example of the compensation paid, George Orwell's great-grandfather received £4,442 (more than £3 million in today's money) to compensate for losing 218 slaves.

It was only in 2015 that the UK taxpayer finished paying off that debt generated by the compensation fund.

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Identifying “a Child named Colin More” using Kirk Session Records

Although the events discussed here took place in Ross-shire, my More family did originate in Drainie, a small parish near Lossiemouth in Banffshire, before moving to Avoch. There was quite a bit of movement between the Black Isle and the North-East coast.

A few years ago, the Kirk Session Records (KSR) became available online, and for free, on the ScotlandsPeople website. They have been digitised, and I must point out that they are not transcribed or indexed. I have a long-term plan to do the latter for the parishes on the Black Isle where my father's family had settled – and it could be a good project for ANESFHS to transcribe those for Aberdeen – but in the meantime, I sat for several days reading through them looking for any genealogical information. It is always infuriating when you have exhausted the Statutory Registers, read all the census returns, and moved on through the Old Parish Registers (OPR), only to find nothing. My family were poor and good, and never did anything to hit the headlines, so my research peters out around 1800. I'm envious of those who have ancestors in the big cities where the OPRs seem to stretch on and on. In Aberdeen, the earliest OPR baptism entry is from 1563 ... what joy if that was for your family!

I do still have an extensive tree, don't misunderstand, but it's wide rather than deep, so every time I saw "my" surname mentioned in the KSR I noted the reference and checked my own files. I found the following story in the records for Avoch in 1845:

Compeared Isobel More, an unmarried young woman residing at Avoch who has been delivered of a male child at said place on Friday 28th of January last [1845]; and being interrogated declares as follows that a man whom she knew not, but who had a box, supposed by her to be a Pedlar, on his back, came upon her as she was taking a burden of sticks (firewood) from the woods of Avoch on the east side of the road leading to Templand, who, pretending to assist her with her burden, saying to her, "My young woman, I think you need assistance"; before she could get her head extricated from the tier of her burden [this would have been a fabric band which went around her head and down round a large basket-type carrier on her back] had crim con [an old expression for sexual intercourse] with her in the month of April last [1844] but that she does not remember what day of the month or of the week, but that it was in the evening. That he is the father of her child and that she never had any connexion with any other man.

Being interrogated if she had mentioned to any person what had happened to her, declared that she had not but that she said to her stepmother that she never got a fright before in the woods, in answer to her question "what kept her so long?" on which her stepmother made no observations. Further, that she revealed not her state to any person till the day on which she was delivered when she said to her stepmother that she could no longer conceal her state.

Being interrogated if she would know the man if she saw him again she said she would, that he was black-haired and marked with the smallpox, a young looking chap and about the middle size. Being interrogated if she asked him his name, says she did not. Declares she cannot write.

There are no further entries in the KSR about this case, and there is no mention of Isobel More's parents, nor of the name of the child, nor whether the child had been allowed to be baptised, nor an address. My challenge was to discover if Isobel was a relative! What were the clues?

- 1 *Isobel More*
- 2 *Unmarried young woman – hard to define "young"*
- 3 *Living in Avoch*
- 4 *Event happened in the woods of Avoch leading to Templand*
- 5 *She has a stepmother.*

While looking at my tree, I realised that I had collected a lot of information about the brothers of my 3g-grandfather, Alexander More, who were all farming around Templand in the parish of Avoch – and, coincidentally, several of the More "boys" each had two wives! One brother, William More (1776–1856), had a first marriage recorded in July 1801, and his wife, Christian More, was the lawful daughter of Colin More of Crosshill. *Pay attention to the name "Colin"!* His second marriage is recorded in February 1816 to Christian MacDonald. I had also noted that he had a daughter, Isobel, with his first wife, baptised in 1810.

If this is Isobel from the KSR, would she have been called "young", when she would have been 35? Maybe this is where I get my youthful looks from!

The illegitimate child was not baptised, although I did search through all the registers, so I have no OPR details – no extra names of parents, grandparents or sponsors. However, I do like to be thorough and had also collected all the census entries for every member of the family – even a brother with two wives, who is so far distant from me that the rest of my family roll their eyes and laugh. My view is that genealogy is like a jigsaw with no picture on the box ... you have to look at every piece before you can complete it.

I looked at the census entries I had previously found. In the 1851 census, I have the following entry which shows a small boy, Colin More, born around 1843 in the parish of Avoch. Has he been called after his maternal grandfather, Colin?

William More, Head, married, aged 73, Crofter of 6 acres, born Knockbain
Christian More, Wife, married, aged 60, born Rosemarkie
Isabella More, Daughter [no marital status given], aged 48, Ag. Lab., born Avoch
Colin More, Grandson, aged 8, born Avoch

Census: 30th March 1851, ref. 059/2/21, Avoch.

I realise that Isabella in the above census, to fit with my story, should have been 41, and Colin should have been 6, but our family always seems to have been a little vague – much like myself – so, could I possibly allow for a little error?

By the time we get to the 1861 census, William More has died and little Colin hasn't aged 10 years! He now states he is 13, which would give a birth year of 1848 – so you see, averaging these two census entries, we could have a child actually born in 1845. Isabella has, however, now correctly recorded her age!

Christian More, Head, Widow, aged 71, Crofter's Widow, born Rosemarkie
Isabella More, Daughter, Unmarried, aged 51, Ag. Lab., born Avoch
Colin More, Grandson, Unmarried, aged 13, Scholar, Avoch

Census: 7th April 1861, RD 059/2/14, Avoch in Kirkton, a house with one room with windows.

In 1874, Colin got married and the certificate seems to suggest he is 26, which would give a birth year of 1849 (the poor wee soul has no idea!); he names his mother as Isabella More, agricultural labourer, and ... leaves his father's name *blank*.

In 1889, Isabella died and her death was registered by her younger half-brother, George More. I would have preferred her son to have registered the death; however, George was a competent informant, and he stated her parents to be William More and Christina More (I will allow Christina instead of Christian). We know George is from the second wife, from his marriage certificate in 1859 where he stated his parents were William More and Christian McDonald.

So, in conclusion, please read the KSR for “your” parishes and note every entry for your own surnames. Cross-check with your tree, and don't ignore brothers and sisters when doing your research. Link KSR queries to OPRs, census entries and statutory registers. I feel confident that all the above evidence points to Isobel/Isabella More, daughter of William and Christian More, stepdaughter of Christian McDonald, and granddaughter of Colin More, as being *the* Isobel More who was abused in the woods, unable to confide in her stepmother, and rebuked before the Kirk Session for having an illegitimate son, who, I believe, was a child named Colin.

Amelia Creswell, a Lady Porter: Inter-Family Coincidences

We've all had that moment when you're scanning the newspaper and something catches your eye. In this case, I was looking for a ship when this headline jumped out at me (*Evening Express*, 17th July 1916).



Aberdeen Lady Porter? I read the story, and that's when I first "met" Amelia Creswell and found how our families were connected. Amelia was born on 3rd May 1890 at 74 Constitution Street, Aberdeen, the fifth of 12 children to William Creswell and Margaret Duncan, who had married in 1881 at Aberdeen.

First coincidence: at this time my mother's family stayed in the same area, at Fish Street, Cotton Street and Lemon Street, so both families could well have had children attending the recently opened Hanover Street School.

In the 1911 census, Amelia, then aged 20, was recorded as a jute weaver, but by 1916 she was working at the envelope factory of Alex. Pirie & Sons Ltd, the Union Works on Guild Street. Here we have the second coincidence, because two of my maternal great-aunts were employed in the Union Works at this time, and there is every chance that they would have known Amelia.

By May 1916, when conscription was introduced, Amelia had become a railway porter, employed by the Caledonian Railway Company. Along with a number of other young women, she was transferred to Uddingston, near Glasgow, taking the place of men who had been conscripted or called up for war work.

Though I knew that during the Great War women took what had traditionally been men's roles in factories and trams, I must admit to not having realised the important role they played in maintaining Britain's rail network. While only three female porters had been employed by railway companies in 1914, by 1918 this had become 10,000. Women also filled other roles essential to keeping the trains running, from station master to boiler cleaner, only being excluded from duty as engine driver and fireman, due to the long training period required.

The cynics who prophesied that women would not be able to carry out the duties of a porter were proved wrong, and a report by the Great Central Railway was that "*Those women who worked outdoors required health, strength, quickness of hand and fleetness of foot to be successful. These qualities allowed the women to trundle barrows, discharge cases and barrows, and load trucks with cheerful agility.*" This did not prevent them from being classed as temporary workers, an excuse for them to be paid less than their male colleagues – and they suffered every other form of discrimination, initially not even being allowed to join the railway unions to fight for their rights. When females were introduced to the signal box, the National Union of Railwaymen's magazine declared that "*Lever pulling is not good for women's delicate constitution*".

During her ten weeks at Uddingston, Amelia was reported as having been an "excellent servant", but while working on the evening of 14th July 1916, she was found on the railway line with head injuries, and died in an ambulance wagon while passing through Dennistoun on her way to Glasgow Royal Infirmary. An inquest found that she had been struck by a train.

Amelia Creswell died of injuries received while engaged on war work, yet I have not found her name commemorated on the Aberdeen Roll of Honour for the Great War or on any other record of war dead. A Roll of Honour is generally regarded as being not only for military personnel but for anyone who died while aiding the British Armed Forces, including civil defence, civilians, non-combatants, nurses, and members of the Merchant Navy – and Amelia certainly falls into that definition.

Should her name be added, even after 100 years? I think she deserves that honour.

The press report on her death also mentions that her older sister Mary was married to Skipper Alexander Hall, but he and his whole crew had died in October 1914 when the trawler HMT *Princess Beatrice* was mined and sunk off the Belgian coast while minesweeping. At the age of 33, Mary had been left a widow with seven children aged between 2 months and 12 years. Another victim of war – and a third coincidence, given that Aberdeen trawlers are among my main areas of research.



*A female porter dealing with a young calf.
Ref: IWM Q 110105*

The fourth coincidence: Frederick Creswell, the tenth of the Creswell children, is listed in the 1921 census as an apprentice plumber with the firm of Alex. Wood, my grandfather, and he would have been contemporary with my father, who also served an apprenticeship with the family firm at this time.

So, that's what I know of Amelia Creswell and our family connections. It's another "rat hole" which may never be resolved, but there could be Creswells out there who might add to the history, and perhaps right a wrong, by having her name added to the Roll of Honour, thus honouring a woman who gave her life in her country's service in time of war.

georgeawood@btinternet.com

George Wood No. 13758

—oOo—

Moray Council LIBINDEX: A User's Guide

LIBINDEX is Elgin Heritage Centre's index to sources of information about people, places and subjects relating to the area of the country now covered by Moray Council. The main part of the website, the people index, contains over 300,000 names and is a useful aid for genealogists tracing their roots in Moray. There are also sections covering places – with links to an excellent collection of plans and photographs – and subjects. Based on library index cards, and first intended just as an in-house application, the website was developed in the late 1980s, and a version was placed online for public use a few years later.

A vast range of Moray-related items has been indexed, including: local newspapers; local monumental inscriptions; books and magazines with local references; Poor Relief Applications and Registers of Poor; and Burgh Records, including Claims of Service, Court Actions and Council Minutes.

It is important to remember LIBINDEX will give summary details and pointers to the actual records, but will not allow direct access to the original source items online. LIBINDEX can be accessed at <http://libindx.moray.gov.uk/mainmenu.asp>, but be aware this is a website which is flagged as "not secure", and browsers may block access.

Using the search form

At least one, and as many of the search options as desired, may be completed. Wildcards cannot be added, but the system uses implied leading and trailing wildcards (*) for most parameters. A search for Forename “CHRIST” is equivalent to “*CHRIST*” and will find any record containing that string.

Entries have been taken from diverse sources: documents, monuments or family submissions, so not every person recorded has a setting for every parameter. For people, all references start “NM”, followed by six digits, and each person recorded is given at least one unique Reference code. Some people appear more than once: for example, a quirk of design restricts each person to only one spouse, so someone with more than one spouse will have multiple entries.

When searching for a surname, the first thing to bear in mind is that most names have been converted to a single standardised version of the spelling. For example, “Crookshank” has been indexed as “Cruikshank”. A list of alternative surname spellings can be found at <https://libindx.moray.gov.uk/people/surnamewizard3.asp>.

Three distinct options may be used when starting a search, each controlled by tick boxes after Surname field. The default, “Exact”, matches the Surname exactly. Searching for SHAND this way would give more than 1,000 names. The same search with the tick for “Exact” removed (as shown above) adds names that include SHAND, for example all members of the KYNOCH-SHAND family. Enabling “Sounds like” generates a very much longer list of names. The Soundex method converts SHAND to S135, but unfortunately it gives the same conversion number for SMITH, so the search returns people belonging to either family. First names are only recorded where they are known. The Maiden Name option can be very useful when searching for female relatives, especially where there is uncertainty over the name of their spouse. For information on Soundex, see <https://www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Miller/javascrp/soundex.htm>

The three date options should be used with great caution. Year of Death is likely to be the most accurate, as it will have been taken from a document or monument. Year of Marriage is the least useful, being present only if associated with a newspaper announcement, or submitted by a family historian. Year of Birth requires great caution; any date recorded here may be based on a calculation from Year of Death and Age. Implied wildcards apply here, which can be useful when searching for an entry somewhere in a specific decade. Searching for “187” is the equivalent to searching for “*187*”, so 1870 to 1879.

Of the three place options, Place of Death is likely to be the most useful, as it will have been taken from a document or monument; but not every person has a Place of Death

recorded. Place of Marriage and Place of Birth will likely only be present if associated with a newspaper announcement or if submitted by a family historian.

One great advantage of LIBINDEX's Headstone Ref feature is that it will bring up a list of all names recorded on a stone, not just the individual searched for. There is, however, one downside: the details were recorded in the 1970s so are somewhat out of date. However, there is an upside, as details from lost, damaged or faded monuments may be revealed.

The "Exact" search is important here. For example, leaving the tick box empty when searching for "Kn10" searches for "*Kn10*" – so, in addition to Kn10, it brings forward Kn100 to Kn109. By ticking "Exact", the implied wildcards are not used in the search, and only names associated with monument Kn10 are listed.

The listing

Sort Order

Matching Records 1

NM169415
JOHN DONALD SHAND
02 MAY 1879 to 02 APR 1973

Occupation : BLACKSMITH
Date of Birth : 02 MAY 1879
Place of Birth : LOSSIEMOUTH
Spouse's Name : JESSIE SUTHERLAND
Date of Marriage : 27 JUN 1902
Place of Marriage : BURGHEAD
Headstone Ref : Lo832
Date of Death : 02 APR 1973
Place of Death : 13 FARQUHAR STREET HOPEMAN

All matching names are listed, and can be sorted in one of five orders shown at the top of the page. Options allow access to Full Details, Family Tree and Quick View. Of these, the last is the most useful, giving a summary of all details.

The Elgin Local Heritage Centre is located within Elgin Library, Cooper Park, Elgin, IV30 1HS, and can be contacted at heritage@moray.gov.uk or 01343 562639. Call to check opening times. The Centre holds an extensive collection of local books, pamphlets, plans and photographs, as well as a large collection of monographs submitted by local researchers on a diverse range of subjects.

doug.stewart@mail.scot

Biography Details			
Reference No.:	NM169415		
Surname:	SHAND		
Forename(s):	JOHN DONALD		
Maiden Name:			
Occupation:	BLACKSMITH		
Date of Birth:	02 MAY 1879		
Place of Birth:	LOSSIEMOUTH		
Father's Name:	JAMES SHAND TAILOR(See NM169084)		
Mother's Name:	JANE HOSSACK(See NM169169)		
Biography:	BROTHER OF JAMES & ALEXANDER & THOMAS & JANE SMITH & WILLIAM & ALEXANDER & MARGARET ANN SHAND		

Marriage Details	
Spouse's Name:	JESSIE SUTHERLAND
Date of Marriage:	27 JUN 1902
Place of Marriage:	BURGHEAD
Married by:	
Marriage Narrative:	PARENTS OF ALEXANDER & JEAN HOSSACK "JANE" & ISABELLA YOUNG & JAMESINA

Death Details	
Date of Death:	02 APR 1973
Age:	93
Headstone Ref:	Lo832
Place of Death:	13 FARQUHAR STREET HOPEMAN
Parish Register:	
Death Narrative:	

Newspaper Articles			
Newspaper	Description	Date	Page/Column
NS	death	07/04/1973	1/2-3

Miscellaneous Articles	
Date	Description

Society Library: A User's Guide

The User's Guide to our Research Centre, which featured in the May Journal, contained the sentence "The librarians have recently been improving the layout, so this description ... may differ from what you've been used to seeing". This is a polite way of saying that librarians have an annoying habit of moving stuff around, and your favourite book isn't where it used to be! But I like the word "improving".

This article is intended to complement that "whistlestop tour", and focuses purely on the library, its contents and how to use it. Our library has about 6,000 books and journals, so it's not huge, but all the books relate to family history in one way or another and can yield valuable background information to enhance your research and help to put it in context.

The library stretches throughout the basements of our three adjoining properties, which helps to explain its unusual layout. There are three separate interconnecting areas, three "rooms" if you like, all leading on from one another.

But how do you find what you want? In a library devoted to fiction, the books are usually arranged in alphabetical order of author, although even here there are often sub-divisions such as "crime", "science fiction", "romance". But in a library where the books are all non-fiction, the arrangement is by subject matter using a classification scheme. This usually means assigning a number or letters to an item, to make it easier to shelve books with the same numbers or letters, and therefore keep the same subjects together.

You may be familiar with the two most commonly used systems, the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme and the Library of Congress Classification scheme. These work well in a large library which covers a wide range of subjects – but most smaller specialised libraries use an in-house classification scheme tailored to their specific subject.

Our library is divided into 15 subject areas, all relevant to different aspects of family history. There are handouts in the library which list the different sections and explain in some detail the kinds of books you might find there. It's a useful guide, but too big to reproduce here, so what follows is a very brief tour of the library and what it contains.

Room 1

From the ground floor, the stairs lead down into Room 1. At the foot of the stairs are the Ancestor Charts. Members are encouraged to hand in a basic chart showing their direct ancestors (or send electronically to charts@anesfhs.org.uk). These charts are scanned, indexed and filed in red ring binders in order of member's number. If you go to our website and click on Services, you will find information about the Ancestor Charts. Click on Downloads in the same drop-down menu, and you can download an index.

Room 1 has three subject areas. First is the Census section [CEN]. The term "census" is used broadly to mean lists of people in a certain place at a certain time. Some of these lists have been compiled over the years by our members, usually in connection with their own research – for example, a *List of Voluntary Contributors for the Defence of the Country in the Parish of Rathen, 25 June 1798*, extracted from the Kirk Session records; or research into the 1813 grain riots in Fraserburgh Harbour, which was compiled from documents in the National Records of Scotland. The riots started when women in Fraserburgh blockaded the harbour to prevent a ship from unloading imported grain. Things soon got out of hand, and 14 people were eventually charged with Mobbing and Rioting. I was quite excited to discover that one of my Nobles (surname rather than character!) was involved. Her

detailed declaration before the Sheriff-substitute of Aberdeenshire, and those of the others who were charged, gives a vivid description of the local unrest and the strong feelings of the townspeople. This research input from our members is a feature of our library. Most subject areas contain transcriptions done by members in the course of their research, and donated to the library in the hope that it will help other members. As well as these lists, this section includes Post Office directories and the Poor Relief indexes for Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire, Banffshire and Moray.

Next is the Deaths, Monumental Inscriptions and Wills section [DMI]. This contains our booklets of transcriptions of the gravestones in kirkyards and cemeteries in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Kincardineshire. The Moray Burial Ground Research Group concentrates on recording inscriptions on the gravestones in Moray and parts of Banffshire; and other family history societies record the gravestones in their local areas. We have copies of all these published booklets from other Scottish societies as well as our own. In some cases our own transcriptions are not yet ready to be published, but you can find a surname index to these unpublished or draft Memorial Inscriptions in the members' area of our Databank on our website.

Finally in Room 1, we have the Scottish Families section [SF]. The Ancestor Charts contain a record of your direct ancestors; the books in this section contain more detailed family-history research done by our members, and donated to the Society. Our members' research is presented in various different ways, but so long as it's written up, and not loose papers, we're always very happy to have it. It's a valuable research tool.

Room 2

Down a couple of steps, and you're in Room 2. In a bay on the dividing wall between rooms 1 and 2 is the Parish/Church Registers section [PCR], containing material about parish and church registers of all denominations and sects, as well as transcriptions of actual registers. Some of these births and marriages, in particular the episcopal registers, are not on *ScotlandsPeople*.

To your left is the Church History & Religious Research section [CH], containing books on religious ancestry (*My Ancestor was a Quaker/Jew/Methodist*), books and pamphlets about individual churches (these often list the ministers' names, as well as perhaps the organists, choir masters, leaders of church organisations), religious biographies and directories, and books on church history.

Then comes the Biographies section [BIO]. There are biographical dictionaries, collected biographies, graduation lists of schools, colleges and universities, and professional lists with details of, for example, Scottish photographers or clockmakers or female teachers.

Facing you is the Air/Military/Naval section [AMN], which will be of interest to people tracing ancestors who served in the armed forces from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The "naval" part of this section has books on the Royal and Merchant navies, but there are also books on fishing fleets and the fishing industry and on ships and shipbuilders.

Journals

Further along that wall are the journals from other family history societies. We exchange journals with about 100 societies throughout the world. So, if your ancestors migrated within the UK or emigrated, and you know where they ended up, it's well worth checking the journals from that part of the world in case you find anything relevant.

More and more societies are now exchanging journals electronically. When we receive these electronic copies, they are added to a database and are available to read on any of the computers in the Society. Just click on the Exchange Journals icon on the desktop, use the drop-down menu under Library, select Exchange Journals, and then you will be prompted to select a country followed by a Society, followed by a journal issue. At present, these are only available to view on the intranet in the Research Centre.



Room 2 also has the Map Cabinet with its maps and plans, including the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps of Aberdeen in 1867. These are fascinating to pore over as you try to find the streets, many of course now long gone, where your ancestors lived.

The photocopier is in this area, and beside it is the fire exit.

Room 3

And so on to Room 3. On your left is the Scotland/Scottish Nation section [SSN] with books of general interest about Scotland and the Scottish people, their history, social life, customs. It provides useful background reading for those with Scottish ancestors who wish to know something about the country, lifestyle and period in which their ancestors lived.

Next comes the Area Research section [AR]. The books here deal with family-history research in particular areas of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland.

The Overseas Records section [OR] follows on, and it's where to search for ancestors who emigrated overseas. It starts with books about emigration in general; and then the books are arranged alphabetically by country from Australia to the West Indies.

On the opposite wall is the Scottish Counties section [SC]. This is divided into three, with books on Aberdeen City, books on Aberdeenshire, and then books on the other counties of Scotland, arranged in alphabetical order from Argyllshire to Wigtownshire, and within the counties in order of parish. Many of these books have been written and published in small print runs by local groups or heritage societies, and are not always easy to find elsewhere.

Behind the desk in this room are several much smaller sections. The Heraldry, Clans & Tartans [HCT] section is self-explanatory; there is a Quick Reference section [QR] which has dictionaries of, for example, medical terms or legal terms; a Research Manuals section [RM] with "how to" books, books on how to date photographs, books on how to read handwriting, and books explaining adoption, illegitimacy or DNA.

Lastly, there is a Geographical section [GS] with maps and street plans and books on place names. The series of Victorian Ordnance Survey maps is here. At 1 inch to the mile, this is another useful tool for pinpointing the streets where your ancestors lived.

As noted, the library guide has much more detail about all the subject areas and holdings.

The catalogue

A book can only go in one physical place. But it may cover several aspects of a subject, or cover different parishes; or a family history may mention many family lines. So, you need the catalogue. Our library catalogue is available on all computers in the public area. Click on the Resources icon on the desktop, then on Library, then on Library catalogue. There

are instructions for using the catalogue on the table in the library. Please help yourself to a copy. Once you have accessed the catalogue, put in for example “Fyvie” as a search term, and you will get a list of everything we have on Fyvie – books about the parish, which memorial inscriptions we have, and family histories of ancestors who came from Fyvie.

No	Authors	Title	Class	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Taylor, Helen	Old Fyvie	[SC]ABE/FYV	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Taylor, Helen	Fyvie memorials 2: Fyvie Cemetery newest section 1875-2017, Clovery Woods of Rest	[DM]MI/ABE	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Taylor, Helen	Fyvie memorials: Fyvie Cemetery, Clovery Woods of Rest, World War memorials	[DM]MI/ABE	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Groves, Arthur Taylor, Helen	Fyvie War Memorial: World War 1 anniversary - 2014	[AMN]M/DEA	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Coburn, Sue	Fyvie castle: its lairds and their times	[SF]FOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Beaton, Ian J.	The Sims of Gourdas: Thomas, George and William Sim from Fyvie, 1834-1916	[SF]SIM	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Randall, David J.	The kirks of Buchan presbytery: a publication to mark AD2000	[CH]CH/ABE	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Wilson, John	The Nicols from Fyvie	[SF]NIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Carter, Jennifer J McLaren, Colin A	Crown and gown, 1495-1995: an illustrated history of the University of Aberdeen	[SC]ABD	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		Heirskip '94: the Buchan Heritage Society	[SC]ABE/BUC	<input type="checkbox"/>

Click on the underlined blue title of the book, and you will get the full details of the particular book which interests you. The catalogue entry will always state in which section of the library the book is located. This is shown at the foot of the catalogue entry.

In addition, the catalogue entry will give the class mark. This is the notation that appears on the label of the book. The class mark is preceded by two or three letters in square brackets which also indicates the section of the library where the book is to be found.

1

Standard no. 1840339500 Medium Book Class [SC]ABE/FYV

Title **Old Fyvie**

Authors [Helen Taylor](#)

Imprint Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing Ltd, 2023

Series

Subjects [Scottish Counties](#)

Keywords [Aberdeenshire](#), [Fyvie](#), [Photographs](#)

Associated

Related

Notes (DES) In olden times **Fyvie** in Aberdeenshire was the site of a castle, the political centre of Formartine and a Royal Burgh. The Battle of **Fyvie** took place in 1642. When peace returned, the Gordon family began to develop the village, which was consolidated by the 1804 turnpike road and the arrival of the railway in 1857. This illustrated history shows a peaceful **Fyvie** from the Edwardian period onwards, with a mixture of general views, village scenes and old shopfronts, all knowledgeably described by the local author. Among the many photos included are St Katherine's shop and post office, Fordoun Bridge, Mill of Milton, the Club House, Lewes, **Fyvie** Old and New Schools, the Cottage Hospital, the Mill of Tifty and **Fyvie** Castle and estate buildings. The book ends with Woodhead and Gight.

Citation Taylor, H. (2023) *Old Fyvie*. Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing Ltd.

Price Language

Collation 48pp; illus Reservers

Copy no.	Loan type	Location	Status	Due date	Shelfmark
1 B5652	Reference only	Scottish counties section	Available		[SC]ABE/FYV

At present, the catalogue is available only in the Research Centre.

This “brief tour” will give you an idea of where everything is and the kinds of material we hold, but of course the best way to get to know our library and its resources is to spend time here browsing. This isn’t easy if you’re visiting from afar – but, if you live nearby, why not familiarise yourself with our library, discovering just what treasures it holds? Nowadays we’re so used to finding information at the click of a mouse that we can forget there’s a whole lot of information that isn’t available online, but only in libraries like ours!

Charles Reid, Renowned Photographer

Recently, in trying to date *cartes de visite* for family-history purposes, it was my delight to discover the globally renowned photographer Charles Reid. A mid-1860s c.d.v. from the little village of Cuminestown caught my interest and prompted me to explore further.

From very humble beginnings, Charles Reid rose to renown on the world stage of animal photography. His desire and ability to share his love and knowledge of domestic and wild animals had a similar impact then as today's David Attenborough or Hamza Yassin. In 1914, Charles himself said: "my images are known in every country under the sun".

Born in 1837, Charles spent his early years in Turriff, where his father was a labourer. From age 10, he worked as a herd during the summer months but continued his education in the dark, cold winters until he was 14. It was during his time as a herd that he first felt the desire to capture images of animals, but by the only means available: sketching. An apprenticeship as a shoemaker followed school. But it was not the life for him – and so, aged 23, he changed tack and became the post runner at the village of Cuminestown. This gave him the chance to embrace a fit, outdoor lifestyle and to observe nature.

While living in Cuminestown, he was visited by a needy friend from Aberdeen, who had a camera which he taught Charles to use. The friend returned to Aberdeen but in gratitude left the camera for Charles. And so, in 1864 he began his photographic career as an adjunct to the post-runner work. At first he took portraits in his garden, charging just enough to cover his costs. Seeing the potential of his new hobby/business, he built a glasshouse studio in 1866. His venture flourished, and he gave up the post work.

It was at this time that a local gentleman, keen on photography, took Charles out to photograph horses. This first field day was challenging. The wet glass plates he used were only reactive for 20 minutes once prepared on site, and the animal subjects were required to be still for several seconds. As Edison said, genius is 99% perspiration and only 1% inspiration. Charles enjoyed overcoming the difficulties, and his reputation for fieldwork grew over time. Technically his career began by creating positives on glass, then negatives and positives on paper. He embraced each new advance in photography. Moving from wet plate to dry plate negatives must have removed some angst from the process in the field.

He married Margaret Fraser (1845–94), a domestic servant and a crofter's daughter, in 1865 at Longside. The subsequent pattering of tiny feet may have prompted his move in February 1870 to New Pitsligo for a larger customer base to generate more income. He did not stay there long. In June 1875, he was off to Wishaw in Lanarkshire to take over the studio of his friend, fellow North-East photographer, Henry Gordon.

It was in Wishaw that the three areas of Charles's photographic work thrived: his studio portraiture work; animal subjects taken to order; and wildlife photographs taken by his own desire for publication.

The studio in Young Street and Shand Street served the citizens of Wishaw very well. Beyond the studio work, he had regular commissions. He was the official photographer to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, and the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and was employed by the Shire Horse Society, the Hackney Horse Society, Hunter's Improvement Society and others to photograph examples of the best of breeds.

By his own admission, it was the third area of work which gave him most pleasure, where he had absolute freedom in the choice and handling of his animal subjects, in particular

birds. It was “a wide and untrodden field of adventure also entailing the inevitable pioneer work. He could wander at his own sweet will in quest of the endless forms of animated life to be found in their native haunts and among natural surroundings.” To this end, he practised the modern ethos of work/life balance. Once his business was firmly established in Wishaw, he took Wednesdays off to “do his own thing”. The time spent on these photographic adventures increased as he travelled far and wide across Great Britain to enjoy photographing wildlife for publication. His prints sold well, and he is credited as one of the first and most successful commercial photographers in Scotland.

As wildlife enthusiasts now promote their work in the media etc., so did Charles Reid. As well as publishing volumes of his photographic work, he was a frequent contributor to the *Wishaw Press*. He regularly gave illustrated talks on animals and photography in Wishaw, in Edinburgh, to the Photographic Society, and beyond.

But he was not a one-trick pony. Charles Reid was also a J.P. and an active participant in the civil life of Wishaw, concerned with the health and well-being of its citizens. He was a member of the Temperance Movement. Having a captive audience, he concluded one animal talk in 1909 with a dire warning, stating: “the influence of intoxicating liquor drags the drinker down below the level of the beast”. He was an active Liberal Party member and inaugurator of the local League of Nations Union. In 1913, he was the prime mover in National Health Week, which provided free events and activities to promote improvement in the citizens’ health.

Charles and Margaret had seven children: Charles jnr (1867–1951), William (1868–1955), Robert (1868–1948), Eusebia (1871–1957), Marion Kay (1874–1966), Esther Fraser (1876–1927) and Richard Hodgson (1878–1967). The three eldest sons followed him into the world of photography. Margaret died in 1894, shortly before her 50th birthday. Charles died in 1927, aged 92, having enjoyed good health apart from a loss of hearing. It was a great sadness to him that he could no longer enjoy birdsong.

This son of Turriff led a remarkable and admirable life. He was an exceptionally talented and able man who pursued his passion for wildlife through photography and was also committed through his beliefs and altruistic interests to enabling his fellow citizens to have a decent life.



Of course, his chief and most wonderful legacy is his photographic work, which you can see at these links (clickable in the downloadable PDF version of this Journal):

<https://photo-discovery.com/catalogs/animal-studies.pdf>

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/artists/charles-reid>

This charming portrait of Charles Reid with a young cuckoo is believed to have been taken by his son William. It appeared in *Hamilton Natural History and Photographic Society* magazine (1915–16) and is reprinted with permission from Hamilton Reference Library.



A Craig/Greig link in North Dakota and New Zealand

I have been researching my family tree for close to 40 years, and about 20 years ago was given two photograph albums that belonged to my great-grandmother Jane (Greig) Craig. Inside those albums were a couple of photos apparently taken by Albert Lawson in his studio on Ronaldsay Street in Palmerston, near Dunedin, New Zealand.

In all the years of my research, *no*-one in our family had ever heard of ancestors going to New Zealand. I can only believe that having photos taken and then sending them halfway around the world was a way of keeping families together back before 1900. Of course, there is nothing written on the backs to identify anyone. Yet, we also have photos of what could be these same folks taken at an earlier period in Aberdeen and in Keith, Banffshire. On the page opposite, the first photograph was taken by William Taylor in Keith. The photo alongside was taken by James Ewing, who operated at 11 Crown Street in Aberdeen from 1878 to 1904. The bottom two were both taken by Albert Lawson in Palmerston – and I have colourised one of them using MyHeritage.

I had photos of my great-grandparents, William L. Craig (born 1845 to Thomas Craig and Jean Smith) who came from Auchlee, Longside, Aberdeenshire, and his wife Jane Greig (b.c. 1845–50), who is supposed to have come from Montrose, Angus. They emigrated to the USA (Arkansas) via Canada (Galt, Ontario) and were married in Austin, Minnesota.

However, with no names written on the photos, and no family oral history to explain the presence of any relatives in New Zealand, I had never been able to prove the connection until I took the MyHeritage DNA test. The results told me I have 98 DNA matches in New Zealand – and, as I am wont to do, I started looking all over for the connection. I found Early New Zealand Photographers <https://canterburyphotography.blogspot.com/> while searching the web – and amazingly, there under the entry for Albert Lawson was a photo of those same folks I had in *my* Palmerston photo, but looking even older again. I asked the blogger if he knew these folks, and sent him a copy of my photos – but he had bought the photo on TradeMe. It was the only photo for sale; and there wasn't an inscription.

So, I decided to contact every one of the 98+ matches, to see if any of them could help me confirm who these folks are. No-one has yet been able to identify them, but the response to my request has been nothing short of amazing, and a few people are still digging and researching. As a result, I have had an article published in the *Oamaru Mail* and have been in contact with the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum and other New Zealand archives.

So, we have what seem to be photos of the same folks taken in Keith, Aberdeen, Dunedin and Palmerston. I cannot think it was cheap to have photos taken, prints made and then mailed to Iowa or Arkansas. So, it would seem to make sense that someone in the photo was part of William's or Jane's family. Jane Greig came from Montrose, based on her handwriting in her Bible, so Aberdeen might be a feasible destination to go to for pictures, but Keith seems a bit too far. Consequently, I believe it is more likely these photos belong to William Craig's family and may be his sister Jean Craig and her husband. Jean has long been a brick wall for me, although I know where all the other Craig siblings went.

Mary married William Lillie, a cabinetmaker, in 1865, and they lived the rest of their lives in Peterhead. She was the only member of the family who stayed in Scotland that I am aware of, and I do have a photo of them as well. They had three children, Mary Jane, William and Barbara, who all married in Scotland and had children, but I have yet to track down any of their descendants. Thomas moved to Canada, and James moved to Nebraska.

I would like to think these photographs are of Jean Craig and that it explains all the New Zealand DNA connections – but it is all speculation, although it does seem plausible, to me at least. I was stationed in Scotland, in the US Navy at Kinnaber just north of Montrose, back in the late 1970s, when it would have been much easier to research these matters. Supposedly that is where my great-grandmother Jane Greig was born, but at the time my uncle was “sure” she was from the Outer Isles, although he did not happen to know which one! In the process of our job, we would go to Mormond Hill and pass only 10 miles from Auchlee, Longside ... but I did not have that tidbit of information either. Luckily for me, someone at ANESFHS in the 1980s put me in touch with Sandy and Vi May, and now I have a photo of the croft and a photo of the location where both of my great-grandparents are buried in Longside, although there is no stone.

I'd love to know if any Society member has seen these photographs before or can identify who the people in them may be.

bobbinnd@gmail.com

Robert Craig

No. 1287

—oOo—

Sampler of Charlotte Runcie, 1825

This unusual sampler, made by Charlotte Runcie in 1825, has a lovely poem, but we can't find the poem's origin. Oddly, it has a spelling mistake: the fourth “Prize” is spelt “Pirze”.

The main picture is the Porcelain Tower of Nanking, known as the Temple of Gratitude. We have never seen a sampler like it and are intrigued as why Charlotte made this image the main focus. It seems a bit grand in the middle of more rural scenes with a cow being milked and a horse and two deer. The border pattern looks similar to those in other 19th-century Scottish samplers.

We are intrigued by hard-to-read letters at the top left-hand side of the picture – they look like “E & M W”. They seem a bit random, but must have some unknown significance.

There are eight sets of family initials at the bottom in the middle, with “RR” in black being Robert Runcie who had died.



JR AR JR JR WR AR **RR** GR

CHARLOTTE RUNCIE 1825

ABERDEEN

The sampler was passed to my brother and will go, in turn, to his son. Our direct paternal line takes us back to our 3g-grandfather James Runcie (b. 1797), married to Jane McDonald, whose family, we know, are the people recorded in our sampler. We descend through his son John (1836–91), who had a sister called Charlotte (b. 1838 in Aberdeen) – so, not the one who sewed our sampler, but perhaps she was named after an aunt?

I really hope that somehow we can prove that “our James” had a sister called Charlotte. There are many family trees online that suggest different parents and family members for James. We believe the correct answer is James Runcie, a plasterer in Aberdeen, and his wife Ann Sievewright, but I am continuing to research this connection. The statutory death

records show details for a John Runcie (1802–62), a tinsmith, whose parents were James Runcie and Ann Sievewright. We also have details of a burial record for a Charlotte Runcie in St Peter’s Cemetery, who died aged 26 years in 1838, which suggests she was born in 1812. The record states that her father was James Runcie, the plasterer.

If we do eventually find Charlotte was “our James’s” sister, it would mean that she made this beautifully embroidered family sampler to remember her nephews and nieces. The researching continues!

James Runcie and Ann Sievewright		
James Runcie & Jane McDonald	John Runcie 1802–62	Charlotte Runcie 1812–38
<i>Pauline's 3g-grandparents</i>	<i>tinsmith</i>	<i>embroiderer</i>

Genealogical summary

James Runcie (b. 1797) was the father of John Runcie (1836–91), whose son was Thomas Milne Runcie (1870–1944). Thomas’s son John Wilson Runcie (1901–70) was my paternal grandfather. My father was also called John Wilson Runcie (1933–2017).

Editor’s note: the Porcelain Tower of Nanking (now called Nanjing) was constructed in the 15th century as part of the Great Bao’en Temple. It was made of white porcelain bricks which reflected the light, and was regarded as one of the seven wonders of the world. As a result, images of it were frequently included in travel books and histories. Charlotte’s beautiful rendering of it is faithful to these illustrations, although it doesn’t explain why she chose it.



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Charles

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Prospective articles and other items should have genealogical **and** preferably 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.

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