



The Lothians Family History Society

Autumn 2023 (Sept-Nov)

Quarterly Newsletter

Chairman's Welcome:

Welcome to our existing members and our new members going into Autumn 2023. It is great to see so many at the *Lasswade Centre* each Wed and at the *Loanhead Library* each 3rd Thurs of the month. Check out our updated website. We continue to have problems with the system at the Lasswade Centre – so please bear with us.

Your amazing committee have been working very hard as always and have superb speakers planned. *It is important as always that we continue to support our speaker evenings with good attendance.*

Contact Us:

EMAIL: lothiansfhs@hotmail.com

Speaker Evenings:

SEPT: 13th Sept: Charlie Cumming talking on *Mavis Bank House*

OCT: 11th Oct: Gordon Michie talking on *Poppy Scotland*

NOV: 8th Nov: Arron Johnston talking about the *Battle of Dunbar*

Loanhead Library

SEPT – 21st Sept from 10.30am-2.30pm

OCT – 19th Oct from 10.30am-2.30pm

NOV – 16th Nov from 10.30am-2.30pm

DEC – 21st Dec from 10.30am-2.30pm

Members Help

If you have a problem in your research that you think other members might be able to help you with – let us know. Send your brick wall problem or enquiry to lothiansfhs@hotmail.com.

The Corn Exchange, Dalkeith

By the Editor



The Corn Exchange is situated in the heart of Dalkeith and was a former flesh market. It was opened on the 10th Aug 1854 in a grand ceremony with an attendance of over four hundred men - and was for a time considered the largest indoor grain market in Scotland until the introduction of the railway that allowed farmers to sell their grain in Edinburgh. As with many old buildings, the use of it has had to change and adapt over the centuries. It is still at the heart of the community, used now for public gatherings, exhibitions, and concerts. During both World Wars it

was used as a military base. The building was in a deplorable state, and it needed to be restored. *Melville Housing Association* bought the building in 2013 with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is now a new museum for the *Dalkeith History Society*.

With a listed building, it is always good to 'look up' and see the stonemasonry but also note any additions. The Corn Exchange has a Coat of Arms.



This Coat of Arms is amazing. Each 'grand quarter' and then each 'quarter' thereafter can be clearly seen. But what can we work out about the *families* involved here? And what is its significance to this building? And what about the *motto*? The stonework has no colour, so this has not been added to the blazon. Let us look at what we *do* have here.

1st grand-quarter: *quarterly* (1 and 4) France and England; (2) Scotland. (3) Ireland – all debriused by a baton sinister [*the Dukedom of Monmouth was forfeited in 1685*]

2nd grand-quarter: *quarterly* (1 and 4) three fusils conjoined in fess within a bordure [*Montagu*] (2 and 3) an eagle displayed beaked and membered [*Monthermer*]

3rd grand-quarter: *quarterly* (1 and 4) a human heart ensigned with an imperial crown on a chief three stars [*Douglas*]; (2 and 3) a bend betwixt six crosses crosslet fitchy [*Mar*] charged with a double tressure flory counter-flory [*Dukedom of Queensberry*]

4th grand-quarter: On a bend a star of six points betwixt two crescents [*Scott*]



AMO ['I love'] is the Duke of Buccleuch and Duke of Queensberry family motto. We can therefore say confidently that this Coat of Arms is the Dukedom of Buccleuch held with the Dukedom of Queensberry. At the time that this building had been erected, there were two Dukes of Buccleuch.

Walter Francis Montagu Douglas Scott, 5th Duke of Buccleuch (1806-1884) and his son *William Henry Walter Montagu Douglas Scott, 6th Duke of Buccleuch* (1831-1914).

Walter Francis Montagu Douglas Scott, (WFMDS) was born at the Palace of Dalkeith to *Charles Montagu-Scott, the 4th Duke of Buccleuch and the Honourable Harriet Katherine Townshend*.

Educated at Eton and St John's College, Cambridge, he became a Privy Counsellor in 1842. He served as *Lord Privy Seal* from 1842 to 1846. In July 1846 he supported Peel's decision to repeal the Corn Laws which had a disastrous impact on his political career – effectively ending it overnight. How apt that we are looking at the Corn Exchange! WFMDS married *Lady Charlotte Anne Thynne* and had four sons and three daughters – one being the 6th Duke of Buccleuch.

This Coat of Arms therefore must be for *Walter Francis Montague Douglas Scott, the 5th Duke of Buccleuch* as his son William would not have inherited the Buccleuch Coat of Arms until the passing of his father at which times, he would then augment his own Coat of Arms based on the hereditary elements of the original Arms.

Although WFMDs died at Bowhill House (Selkirkshire) in April 1884, he was buried in the family crypt of the Buccleuch Memorial Chapel in St Mary's Episcopal Church, Dalkeith – not far from the Corn Exchange building in which his Coat of Arms hangs high.

Image of the Duke of Buccleuch photographed by H J Whitlock, c. 1860s.

Dalkeith Palace Exhibition Sat 4th – Wed 8th Nov

<https://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/remembrance-at-dalkeith-palace/>

The RS373 Team will create a museum display at Dalkeith Palace in the period 4 – 8 Nov 2023 to raise awareness of Remembrance.

THE EXHIBITION The Royal Scots Museum will hold a temporary exhibition at Dalkeith Palace during **Remembrance Week 4 – 8 November**. Its aim is to illustrate the importance of Remembrance, especially of Royal Scots fallen, concentrating on the period from the Boer War right up to 2006. The exhibition will also cover the role of Dalkeith Palace in two World Wars and refers to the Lord Henry Scott who served in the 3rd Militia Battalion The Royal Scots during the Boer War and was a founding father of The Royal Scots War Memorial Club. Partners in the exhibition also include the Dalkeith Museum, The Royal Scots Club, Poppy Scotland, Royal Scots historical re-enactors, National Records Scotland, and others (including the Lothians Family History Society). The target audience includes the good folk of Dalkeith, Midlothian and beyond. Organised visits by local schools are also scheduled. The exhibition will be followed by our annual Royal Scots Remembrance events at the Glencorse Memorial Gates, the Regimental Monument in Princes Street Gardens, and others throughout the Regimental area.



Midlothian Open Doors 9th Sept 2023

The Lothians Family History Society have the opportunity again to offer their expertise and services to the people of Midlothian by setting up a stall within the premises of the Lodge 580, Loanhead on the 9th September from 10am-2.30pm. We successfully do these open days at the Loanhead Library on a monthly basis, and prior to 'Covid' we did these 'Open Doors events' in conjunction with the Masonic Lodge in Loanhead. Please come along on the day if you can make it.

A Hard Life By George Nairn

My Great-Great-Grandfather James Nairn was born the 15th of December 1826 at Lochend, South Leith Parish, Edinburgh, the eldest son of *James Nairn and Jane White*. James senior is recorded in the *South Leith Kirk Session* as ploughman to Mr Oliver (a tenant farmer). James moved to Leith at the time of his marriage to Jane White in 1822. Jane's father was a workman there and I suspect James went along for work as well. Originally from a Berwickshire farming community they moved around the countryside a lot, their type of work often meant moving house sometimes twice a year and it was around 1840 that James and Jane with their now young family were back in the Scottish Borders.

Usually not much detail can be found of farm labourers, a ploughman, or others engaged in farm duties around this period. However lucky for me but not so for my ancestor, James (who had been born Leith) got into a spot of bother with the authorities. On the 19th of August 1846 he was convicted and sent to prison for a month for deserting his service, a trivial matter in terms of life today, but serious at the time. I have provided his prison record courtesy of *Scottish Indexes* and from the *Kelso Chronicle Newspaper*. The reason James was in trouble is he had moved to a most likely better paid job at a neighbouring farm before his contract of 6 months or so was up as can be seen in the newspaper entry.

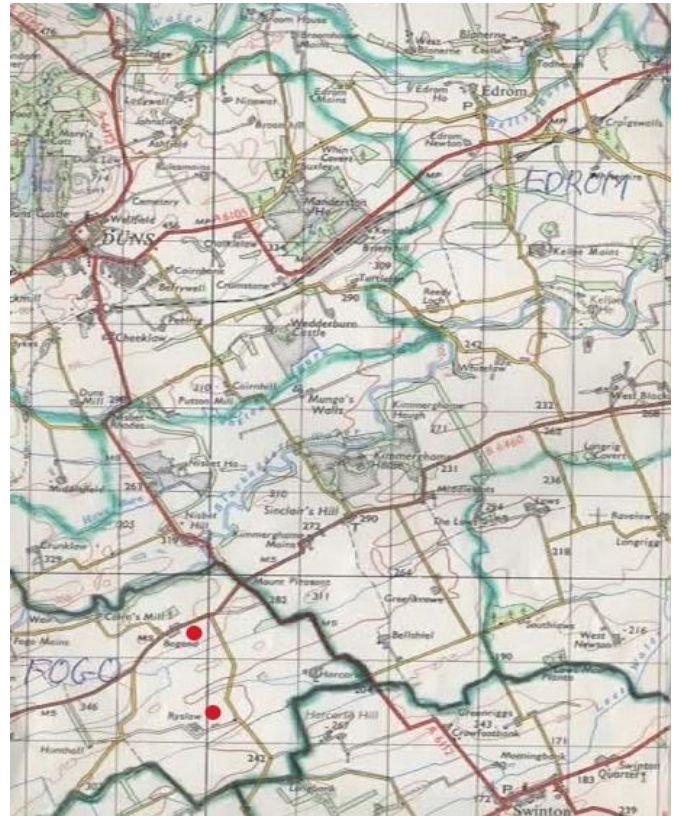
Prison Register Transcription Greenlaw Prison 1840-1848 (*National Records of Scotland Reference HH21/4/1*) Number: 16 Date of Admission: Augt. 20 1846 By whom Committed: Geo. Buchan Esqr. J.P. Name: James Nairn Sex: Male Age: 18 Marital Status: Married Where Born: Lochend Late Residence: Riselaw Where he has spent the greater part of his life: Berwic...[rest obscured by binding, likely Berwickshire] Height: 5 [feet] 8 [inches] Description: Dark [complexion]; Dark brown [Hair]; Blue [Eyes] Marks &c.: [none] Offence: Deserting his Service Clean or Dirty: Clean Sober, partially Intoxicated, or Drunk: Sober Clothes in good Repair or Ragged: Good Did the Prisoner come in direct after Arrest: From Dunse Prison Did the Prisoner have knowledge of any Trade?: Yes Ordinary Occupation: Labourer Previous Imprisonments: [none] Tried - Date: Augt. 19 By whom: Geo. Buchan Esqr. J.P. Convicted or Acquitted: Con[victed] Sentence: Without a Jury. One Calendar (sic) month confinement Liberated or Removed after Conviction - Date: Sepr. 20 By whose Authority: Time of impris[onment] Expired Employed or Unemployed at time of committing Offence: employed Time in Prison: 30 Days Conduct during Confinement: Good.

Kelso Chronicle Friday 28th August 1846. *James Nairn* Steward to *William Mein* esquire tenant of *Bogend* was brought before the court for deserting his service, which he confessed. The court ordered him to be imprisoned in Greenlaw jail for one month and abated ten shillings per week from his wages during the imprisonment. That equates to a week's pay in those days for a Hind (the name given to a horse ploughman).

The Statistical Account of August 1834 for Fogo Parish. Rate of wages Hinds or yearly servants working a pair of horses received in Boll measurement grain, some potatoes and a cow summered and wintered, and often a small garden to grow vegetables.

James continued to work the rest of his life on many farms as a ploughman, it was harsh living as in Alexander Somerville's book which appears to have been written in 1848 stated - "*Description of his early years in a farm row in East Lothian in the second decade of the nineteenth century was not untypical of the time. He was born in a single roomed dwelling in a hinds' row at Springfield in the parish of Oldhamstocks. It was about 12 ft. by 14 ft. with a clay floor. The low roof was open to the rafters and therefore lacked the nicety of a*

ceiling and insulating roofspace. A simple division of the living space was effected by box beds. What might be regarded as fitments such as windows or even window panes were removed by the tenants when flitting, as were also the iron bars which formed the grate of the fire. Father and mother and eight children huddled in that small space" (Somerville 1951'1 7.)



Source: Ordnance Survey Map

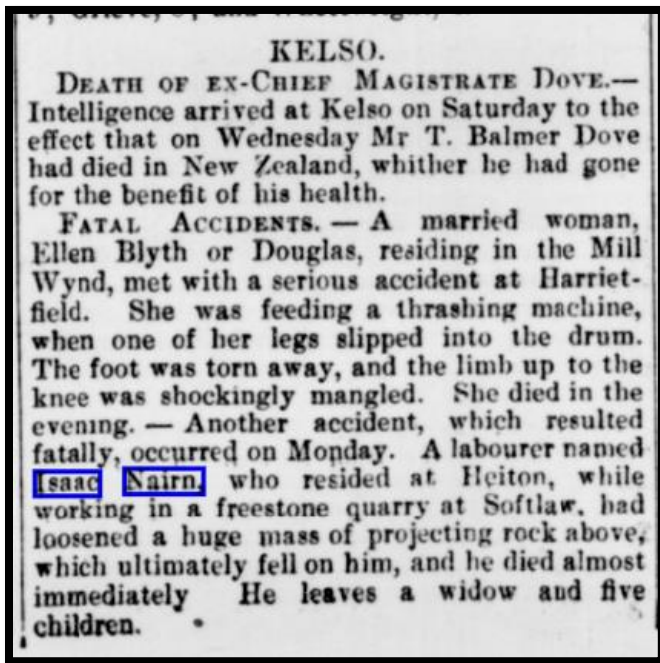
Above is a map showing the short distance between Riselaw and Bogend, where he took up the new employment just before his trial and all within the Berwickshire Parish of Fogo. His wife *Helen Baillie* was reputed to be of Gypsy blood but no solid evidence has been found, and no doubt difficult to research and prove. There was a suggestion that Helen's father named Isaac was connected to other Gypsy families in Southern Scotland, indeed it is possible Matthew Baillie who attended St. James's Fair, Kelso in 1886 with a big group of Gypsy friends with all their covered carts and horses may have been a relative of my Isaac Baillie. I have a distant cousin *Frank Baillie* who is positive we are Gypsy stock, perhaps it is possible! Well known is *Kirk Yetholm*, home of the Border Gypsies, I can remember as a young boy going to see the crowning of the last Gypsy Queen in that village.

In 1890 when James was 63, one of his four sons was killed in a tragic accident. The following is from a newspaper entry.

The Kelso Chronicle

Friday 11th April 1890. Helton, Roxburghshire. Fatal Quarry Accident. A very distressing accident, which resulted fatally occurred on Monday, the victim being a labourer named Isaac Nairn residing in this village. He was engaged at work in the face of a freestone quarry at Softlaw, and by his operations he loosened a huge mass of projecting rock above which ultimately fell upon him. Peter Armstrong a brother in law who was working not very far off, and who narrowly escaped injury by the falling debris immediately went to Nairn's assistance and then to Kelso for Doctor Wright. The injuries sustained by Nairn however were so serious that he died within five minutes. The body was conveyed home. Nairn leaves a widow and five young children.

The same entry was found in *The Hawick News*, on Saturday 12th April 1890:



Source: FindMyPast Newspapers

One of those children had been Nellie Nairn who died in 1983, at the great age of 101, and I had the opportunity to meet and talk to her some years previous to her passing. She could remember her father's unfortunate accident when she was only 7

years old. Nellie told me her mother often said, "Isaac if you would only speak to me" and think most of us can easily relate to that sad sentiment. Nellie could also remember visiting James her grandfather born 1826 the subject of this story and clearly remembered his well-kept garden in the village of Ednam, Roxburghshire, where he died in 1897 age 70, five days before his wife Helen Baillie in what appears to have been a flu epidemic. James and Helen must have reflected on their lives many times during the years and I'm sure there will have been good times too, so proud to be a descendant of a man and woman who never gave up and worked hard the best they could with the circumstances facing them.

Interesting to note that anthropologists have traced Gypsies back to three migrations from the Sindh region in India, which was southern and central Pakistan, about 1700 years ago. They are Romani (the western gypsy) from Pakistan and northern India; Lomavren or simply Lom (central gypsy) from eastern Turkey and Armenia, and the Domari (eastern gypsy) from the Middle East and Egypt

Source: <https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-famous-people/gypsy-dynasty-0010692>



Source: Tour Scotland
Old Photograph Gypsy King Kirk Yetholm

Edinburgh Local Heritage Network (ELHN)

Edinburgh Libraries contacted a number of local heritage, cultural and historical societies with a view to establishing a local network group. The aim of the group is to support, develop and promote local heritage organisations across Edinburgh. Although the emphasis is on Edinburgh, the *Lothians Family History Society* was invited to attend the initial informal meeting on 28th March 2023. Most of the groups who were represented are based in the Capital City and are heritage and local history based. However the Committee feel it could be beneficial to contribute to this group.

The aim of the ELHN is to develop, support and sustain relationships between Council services (Archives, Libraries, Museums and Galleries) and local heritage groups. The Honorary President of the ELHN is the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, *Robert Aldridge*. He officially launched the group on 10th May 2023. A report of the launch and the groups who were represented on the 10th May is found on the Edinburgh Council website <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk>; Click on *All News*. Scroll down to May 17th.

One of the main plans of the group is to develop a directory of heritage groups in the Edinburgh area which will be easily accessible to those who are interested. Groups may be able to help each other in other activities like fundraising and other events.

Meetings will be quarterly either over Teams or in person. At the moment, ELHN is facilitated by Council staff but it is hoped that eventually the Network members will take over responsibility for the Network's overall direction. *Thanks to Sheila Petrie and Roy Murray (Committee Members).*

Our Public Records

<https://ourpublicrecords.org/europe-family-records/>

Joe Laurel, Marketing Specialist of *Our Public Records*, has created an excellent guide to help people who are getting started in tracing their European roots, with resources for each country to help with the search. The *Lothians Family History Society* are going to add their website to this list for Scotland.

<https://ourpublicrecords.org>

The Lord Lyon Society

<https://lordlyonsociety.org.uk/>

The Lord Lyon Society was set up by the present Lord Lyon, Dr Joe Morrow CBE QC FRSE, to support the Court of the Lord Lyon and to further enliven the promotion of Scots Heraldry.

- *To promote Scottish heraldry, genealogy and related arts, heritage, and culture.*
- *To advance heraldic, genealogical, and Scottish heritage through education and engagement with young people.*
- *To aid and support the protection and preservation of the records, archives and collections of the Court and Office of the Lord Lyon.*
- *To aid and support the digitisation of those records and to make them accessible to the public at no cost.*
- *To support and promote the contribution by the Scottish diaspora, especially within the Commonwealth, to heraldic, genealogical, and cultural education.*

A great opportunity to learn all about Scottish Heraldry from the experts. Please consider supporting the Society.

Members Interests:

Members are encouraged to submit to the society *any Lothians surnames* that they would like help with. Log into the Members Area and look at who is researching what surname and in what area. It is a great opportunity to share information too between members.

Membership of the Lothians Family History Society:

Members can join through the LFHS website or leaflets found at the Lasswade Centre or the Loanhead Library.

The Society has publications for sale on Burial Indexes, Monumental Inscriptions, Books etc.

Link: <https://genfair.co.uk/supplier/lothians-family-history-society-1129/> for a full list of available items.

For access to the Members Area on the LFHS website - members need a username and password for entry. If a reminder is required for these formalities, members should contact the Society via email on lothiansfhs@hotmail.com and these will be forwarded.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Lothians-Fhs/100009903970976>

Research Enquiries

Send your request direct to:
lothiansfhs@hotmail.com

Once your request has been received and logged, one of our volunteers will be in touch with you about how best to proceed.

Limitations to research requests:

- *Volunteers are restricted to answering requests within 1-hour free research*
- *Enquiries deemed to be in excess of 1 hour may require assistance from a genealogist who will be a member of the society (additional costs or expenses may apply)*
- *As a non-profit society, all donations from research enquiries will be gratefully appreciated.*
- *Donations can be arranged through the Secretary via lothiansfhs@hotmail.com.*

A CALL TO ALL MEMBERS:

IF YOU CAN SUBMIT AN
ARTICLE OR SOME PIECE OF
NEWS THAT WILL BE OF
INTEREST TO THE
MEMBERSHIP, WE WOULD
LOVE TO RECEIVE IT

