

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

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Broad Street, Aberdeen, c. 1925
(front-cover image, Journal 144, August 2017)



Broad Street, October 2020
(photograph by Susan Freer, no. 17329)

Our Aberdeen online meeting on Saturday 14th November 2020 will be a presentation on the Society's Broad Street Project, which focused on a number of families who lived in Broad Street during the 1911 census and on businesses that were operating there

Membership Details

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

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

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

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

Payment

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



Internet Banking:

Bank: Clydesdale Bank plc, St Nicholas Branch, 62 Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1WD

Account name: ABDN & NTH EAST SCOT FAMILY HISTORY SOC

Account number: 90100648

Sort code: 82-40-00

IBAN: GB92CLYD82400090100648

BIC/SWIFT: CLYDGB21250

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

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

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

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

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

ANESFHS website and Members' Forum

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

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

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

General Data Protection Regulations, 2018

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

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

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

Issue 157, November 2020

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Society Reports, News and Information

Chairman's Report

News has reached the Society of the deaths of several members. We extend our sincere condolences to all families and friends. Some of our unsung volunteers have retired on health grounds, and we wish to record our thanks in particular to Bob Mathers (no. 1540) for many years of service. We also send best wishes to June Melvin (no. 834) in hospital.

Our Research Centre at King Street has been open again since 3rd August apart from a brief local lockdown later that month. All Covid-19 precautions are in place, yet very few members have visited at all. Our volunteers are mystified and are just waiting for you to phone up and make an appointment to come and do your research. Guidelines are on our website. You'll almost have the place to yourself! The basement library remains closed for browsing just now; but staff can bring research materials to you, and all publications can still be bought via our website or by visiting our Centre.

King Street now has a computer with webcam for online meetings with remote members, so you can phone or e-mail our Centre manager Barbara to set up an online session.

We are developing next year's syllabus to avoid clashes of timing among our various Groups, just in case we're still living under Covid restrictions for the foreseeable. When physical meetings do resume, we'll aim to have a mix of online and in-person gatherings. In any case, it's important to keep your eye on updates on our website's Events pages.

Attending members' meetings online

We have a new system of website registration to improve our management of requests for invitation links to e-meetings. We also have a new "Upcoming Meetings" category in the ANESFHS Members' Forum when you log in to our website as a Society member.

In addition, you can choose to subscribe to occasional e-Newsletters from Aberdeen and each of our Scottish area Groups. Until further notice, the e-Newsletters for Aberdeen, Glasgow Group and Edinburgh Group will contain the invitation links for these online meetings. For all Groups, you can still contact the local convenors by e-mailing the relevant address to be found on our website's Events pages (or in Journal reports).

If you've yet to join in online, we welcome all members at any of our meetings. If you have an e-mail address and a (non-ancient) computer, then that's all you need to join in a meeting. The bigger your screen, the more you'll get from an online meeting; but even smartphones work. We offer practice sessions and individual coaching if you are nervous or inexperienced. Read the encouragements from other members later in this Journal!

As best we can, we're sticking to the 2020 Syllabus Card's published schedule, though all meetings have had to move online meanwhile. We'll even hold the Christmas Social online! Moray/Banff Group and Aberdeen were each going to hold theirs on Saturday 5th December at 2pm, and so we've decided to combine these into one big drop-in party. Again, see the website and an e-Newsletter that'll announce details. All welcome!

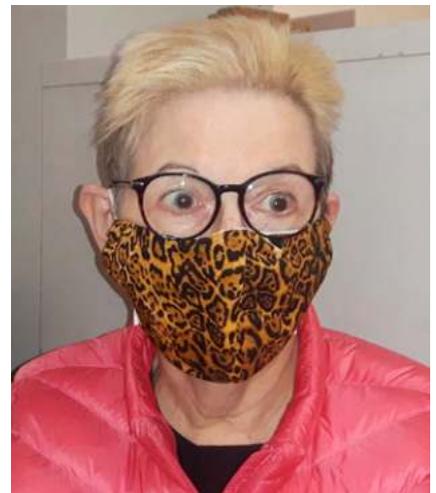
Though it's still early for Christmas greetings, this is the last Journal of this unusual year, and so we would like to wish all our readers good health and much happiness as we all try to help each other over the coming months. Join us on 5th December for a Virtual Social!

Volunteer Profile: Barbara Lamb

Our Centre Manager, Barbara Lamb (no. 20206), has been keeping us in order for several years now. It's a good job she's not afraid of hard work, as there's been plenty of that since our Granite Roots Appeal. Barbara has taken on cleaning and clearing not only our Research Centre and shop but also the offices and storage areas. Our premises have been redecorated, refurbished and generally brought up to date and functional. Barbara's former role in catering management has stood her in good stead. She is someone who manages to see immediately what needs to be done and how best to do it. Under her aegis, our Research Centre is looking brighter and more welcoming – even with all the Covid-19 protection measures we have had to adopt. The last several months have not been easy, but Barbara, along with her team of helpers, has persevered and has succeeded in bringing order out of chaos!



Born in Huntly, Barbara attended the Gordon Schools there before coming to Aberdeen to study at what is now Robert Gordon University. Her working career took her all over the country before she was forced to retire early on health grounds. Despite her health problems, Barbara manages to fit more into 24 hours than most folk do in a week! Where do I start? As well as being our Centre Manager (no easy task, believe me!), she is involved with the CSO Public Engagement group and has recently risen to the challenge of making masks to protect against Covid-19. She is now busy preparing for Remembrance Sunday and is making poppy-influenced masks in support of the Poppy Appeal.



She first became interested in family history through the involvement of a New Zealand-based uncle who visited our Centre when home on holiday. Barbara decided to investigate further and (like so many of us) was immediately hooked. When she's not tidying shelves and "rationalising" our cupboards, she enjoys helping people starting out on their journey of discovery among MIs. Census returns, statutory records, OPRs and myriad websites are just waiting to reveal their secrets. She says she gets a real buzz when people come in with only the barest knowledge about their family and then, by showing them how to access information, she can help them to build up a picture of who their ancestors were, how they lived, where they lived and died, where they worked and what their lives must have been like. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing folk going away delighted with what we have helped them discover and feeling inspired to "dig deeper".

Over recent weeks and months, Barbara has worked tirelessly with Bert Lawrie and other volunteers to ensure that our premises are in line with the strict government protocols concerning Covid-19. The front door is kept on the latch, and visitors must ring for admittance. The front desk has a supply of hand sanitiser, and contact details must be given. Keyboards are covered with a protective plastic which is wiped down with bacterial wipes after every use. We are confident that our Centre is safe and secure against the virus, and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight (1938–2020)

Honorary President of ANESFHS

Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight died on 20th September 2020 in Edinburgh, aged 82. Born on 25th May 1938 in Edinburgh, he played a part in so many of our lives – as Lord Lyon, as a founder member of our Society, and, to many of us, as a friend and mentor.

Sir Malcolm delighted in genealogy, and in 1978 became no. 33 among our Society's co-founding members. He lent his name and considerable prestige, as well as his learning and experience, so that the new-born family-history infant grew to attain the stature that our Society possesses today.

Sir Malcolm Rognvald Innes, 16th of Edingight KCVO KStJ MA LLB WS, Lord Lyon and Secretary to the Order of the Thistle 1981–2001, was born into heraldry, third son of Lyon Emeritus Sir Thomas Innes of Learney and of Lady Lucy Buchan, daughter of the 18th Earl of Caithness. A boyhood memory was that so little alcohol was ever served in Learney that young Malcolm initially believed whisky to exist solely to counter bee stings.

Aged 10 at Edinburgh Academy, he was inducted in November 1948 as a page to serve his father at a Head Court. This, combined with appointment in 1957 as Falkland Pursuivant Extraordinary while at Edinburgh University, gave him a 72-year connection with Lyon Court, not far short of the extraordinary 75 years established by Sir Francis Grant.

The ability of the young Innes became noted, and, on joining Lyon Office in Edinburgh, he moved swiftly through the ranks, being made Lord Lyon in 1981. Sir Malcolm's Lyonship coincided with a period of significant change, and his rise to these challenges saw him appoint the first female herald in the world in 1992.

During his reign, he employed heraldic symbols for uses as disparate as representing electronics and computing. He himself had long familiarity with how to show heraldically such elements as DNA and space travel.

He was forthright in suggesting that languages relevant to applicants be used for mottoes, rather than staple Latin, after his father Sir Thomas's example in 1956 when granting Shetland Islands Council a motto in Old Norse: "Med Logum Skal Land Byggji" (By law shall the land be built up). Thus in Sir Malcolm's time came mottoes in English, Gaelic, Greek, French, Welsh and several Asiatic tongues. He took particular interest in the use of Scots, with "Leal" (True-hearted) being granted in 1987 – the shortest motto in Scots of all time. His example encouraged his successors. Thus our Society bears the Doric motto "Aye Tyaavin Awa".



*Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight
(photo by Anthony Maxwell)*

His extensive writings included a revised edition of *Scots Heraldry*, from the original written by his father. Heavily involved in Scots culture and history, Sir Malcolm was a founder and later president of the Scottish Genealogy Society, and an active past president of the Royal Celtic Society.

Ample humour laced Sir Malcolm's profound knowledge. He once predicted that heraldry in globalisation would increasingly occupy a role in preserving identity for the individual and family, and for institutions local and national; he added that the desire for individual identity ran very deep in Scotland. Invoking his famously dry wit, he turned for authority for this prediction to his wife's hairdresser, who informed Lady Innes that "Edinburgh's leading tattoo parlour" never applied exactly the same tattoo to customers. "Each pattern is absolutely individual", she said.

Essentially modest and not one to seek the limelight, Sir Malcolm welcomed visitors of all distinction and none to Lyon Office. Many an intending armiger has benefited from his kindly intervention in heraldic design. He retained the dignity of his ancient office while leaving admiration of the majesty of it to others.

gcasely@herald-strategy.co.uk

Gordon Casely

No. 4311

—oOo—

Joan Duncan (1951–2020)

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the sad death on 9th October of Joan Duncan (no. 6349), a long-time volunteer behind the scenes at King Street. Although she was not involved in dealing personally with people coming in to do their family-history research, she was integral to the successful running of the Society.

Joan joined ANESFHS in 1995 and was part of the Membership Renewals Team for many years. She could usually be found sitting quietly in the back office sorting out various problems. She dealt efficiently and professionally with the annual renewal details. When she eventually had to retire, her successors soon realised just how thorough and meticulous Joan had always been.

In 2009, Joan's husband Albert suffered a severe stroke which left him very dependent on Joan. She realised that she would have to relinquish her Society work. Fortunately, she had the foresight to compile a file detailing the responsibilities of the post and step-by-step instructions for dealing with membership renewals and any problems arising.

She nursed Albert devotedly and could often be seen pushing him in a wheelchair round Westhill. Sadly, in 2014 Joan also suffered a stroke. The couple then had to move together into residential care at Pitcairn Lodge, where Albert died in 2016.

Due to her stroke, Joan lost the power of fluent speech, but she always managed to make herself understood to her visitors. Her brain and thought processes remained as sharp as ever, but she had problems formulating and enunciating speech. Jean Shirer, who visited her regularly until Covid-19 made it impossible, was always full of admiration at Joan's quiet determination to get her message across, no matter how many attempts it took her.

Despite all her problems with speech and general mobility, Joan never lost her sense of humour. Although her life must have been very frustrating for an intelligent woman, she never gave in to despair or self-pity. She never lost her interest in genealogy, and always enjoyed reading her ANESFHS Journals. She also received *Scottish Life*, did jigsaws and

had a regular supply of DVDs from the library. She simply made the best of what she could, and always remained positive. In her last days, she developed a chest infection and had to be moved to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, where sadly she died. We remember her with affection and will miss her warm smile and friendly welcome.

liz.foubister@anesfhs.org.uk

Liz Foubister No. 6129

with thanks to Jane Cameron (no. 9680), Jean Shirer (no. 14) and Bill Rodger (no. 8458)

—oOo—

1911 Census Update, 2020

It's now a year since our last report (Journal 153, p. 12) on our 1911 census transcription project. Several volunteers responded to that plea for help, and we thank all who did so. Transcribing the 1911 census for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire has proved to be a mammoth task, and we are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who have sat at home poring over the handwritten material and helping us to produce a readable typed copy for the use of all our members.

However, even though the release of the next census (1921) is almost on the horizon, we still have a bit of work to do to complete this one. So, if there's anyone out there – anywhere in the world – who would be willing to give it a go, please just get in touch. We know it's fairly time-consuming, but it can be done a little at a time. If you can read an Excel spreadsheet, you'll manage fine, as you just have to compare the spreadsheet against the original handwritten census and look for typing errors or add anything that's been difficult to decipher.

So far, we have completed and indexed 32 Aberdeenshire communities and the Aberdeen districts of St Nicholas / Greyfriars; Woodside; Old Machar; and most of St Machar / Rosemount / Ferryhill. These are all now available to consult in our Research Centre, where a cumulative index of the Aberdeen City files is also on computer so that you can search for a name and see which section to consult.

If you'd like to help take this project towards a conclusion, please e-mail me.

rhona.robertson@anesfhs.org.uk

Rhona Robertson No. 17741

Valentine Card, 1795

On Sunday 27th September, there was great excitement among my relatives around the UK who watched the *Antiques Roadshow's* unseen highlights from 2019. At a Crathes Castle visit, an unnamed gentleman and his niece showed an elaborate Valentine card made in 1795 by their ancestor James Alexander for Mary Duncan, whom he married in 1803 in Banchory-Devenick parish. That couple were also *our* ancestors!

We would love to contact that family and exchange information. My uncle George Alexander contacted the BBC but had still received only an acknowledgement as this Journal went to press. He also joined the ANESFHS Facebook Group page and posted a query on 7th October, but to no avail yet.

If any reader knows the family who hold this heirloom, we would greatly appreciate being put in touch with them, as I also have a ton of genealogical information I can give them. Thank you in anticipation if you can help. Sorry about "abuse of privileges" with this personal plea!

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand No. 4161

Editorial

Reports of members' online meetings are prominent in this Journal. Fewer meetings take place over the next three months, so the next Journal will have more room for articles. Thanks go to members who are patiently waiting for their longer articles to appear.

There's no Diary page this time; instead, see our website and e-Newsletters. Also, Queries are held over to the next Journal, as too few were received for this issue.

Many subjects are discussed in our online meetings. One question raised recently was: do any members know of original records in private hands that should really be in archives, even if only a copy is made publicly available while the original is retained? These could be any records with potential significance for family history: school records, gravediggers' books, lists of estate tenants, military attestation papers, captioned old group photographs, diaries of ministers or soldiers, lists of company/industrial workers and so on.

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

Database of Second World War North-East Fatalities

I am Norman Wood, a volunteer with the Guardians of Aberdeen's Graveyards. I also update and maintain the WW2 Database started by Pauline Gerrard and Sheila Runcie.

This database runs from 1st September 1939 beyond the end of the war in Europe on 8th May 1945 and the surrender of Japan on 2nd September 1945. Casualties were also still being recorded after 1945 due to death from injuries sustained during the war.

The database contains all the known fatalities of servicemen, servicewomen and civilians who were killed in action at home or abroad, or during the bombings in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. These casualties are in the database because of their local connections: born, died, buried or commemorated in the city or surrounding areas.

If you require or would like to volunteer any information regarding a relative or anyone you knew who should be included on the database, please do not hesitate to contact either Pauline or me by e-mail (below). Any information supplied will be kept strictly private and not shared with anyone without the permission of the relatives or close friends.

It is hoped that, post-Covid, a master version of the database will be made available to view at ANESFHS in King Street or via the website for research purposes.

woodng51@yahoo.com

Norman Wood (Database Controller)

No. 21781

pauline.gerrard@outlook.com

Pauline Gerrard (Administrator)

No. 21174

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

In Praise of Online Meetings

I have been lucky to catch all the Glasgow Group Zoom meetings – but the latest, with the largest attendance so far, was really great. The main topic was so interesting, and again we had plenty of time to chat on general points and also find out about all the countries and areas for everyone attending. I am sure future online meetings will be equally successful, and I look forward to being able to attend them. Well done to all the team.

jamesmac47@aol.com

Jim Mackie No. 18550

Many thanks for the wonderful meetings organised by yourselves. Those presenting and contributing do so in a way that you cannot help but become as enthusiastic as they are. The hints, tips and information given, as well as passing on contact details (with their permission), have been so helpful and have enabled me to find additional members of my family as well as share information with others. I am a complete novice but have learned so much since joining only a few months ago.

lynnemackay1@icloud.com

Lynne Mackay, Elgin No. 22888

I'd like to show my appreciation of these meetings and the many people who spend hours organising and contributing to make them so informative and enjoyable. Having grown up in Elgin, Moray, and later emigrated to Brisbane, Australia, I do most of my research online at home but really enjoy connecting with such interesting and knowledgeable fellow members of ANESFHS. I hope online meetings will continue in the future, and would encourage everyone to give it a go. I even don't mind staying up to join meetings at 11pm (Brisbane time) and finally getting to bed at 3am.

tricia1953@hotmail.com

Tricia Hickey No. 16398

I really enjoyed the Zoom meeting, especially as I originate from Keith. Sadly I have been unable to attend meetings in the past, as I reside in South Devon – but this has really given me a great opportunity to feel part of the Society. I look forward to the next meeting.

larnetay@aol.com

Alastair Taylor No. 21070

Many thanks to all who helped join so many of us across many miles at the Zoom meeting on 3rd October. Although I live in Essex, so not as far flung from Scotland as many who joined in the meeting, it can seem so very distant when you just want to pop to a churchyard in Mortlach, Banffshire, to see if the Innes you are searching for lies there. I have yet to visit our Centre at King Street in Aberdeen, but that is on my bucket list.

It was great to see the faces of names I see in the Journal – and what a knowledgeable, friendly group you are. As I have not been able to join in Moray/Banff Group meetings at Elgin Library, it has been invaluable for me to join their organised and very informative online meetings – which, I must say, are so easy to join in. Once you get the invitation link, the instructions are very straightforward, and you soon get used to finding your way around things, whether you are on a tablet or a laptop. I always think: if I can do it, then it's possible for everyone else out there who thinks it's beyond them. So, have a go!

I recently visited Speyside for a two-week holiday, armed with so much information that was provided to me by our kind Moray/Banff Group attendees. And eureka! – I managed

to break down a 40-year-old brick wall, finding the farm, Bush of Muldearie near Keith, where my great-great-grandfather Alexander Allan was born. Without joining in the online meeting and getting information from people more knowledgeable than myself on the intricacies of old maps and the local area, I would still be none the wiser. So, do join in an online meeting! You will be surprised at how many family connections can be found with the help of so many like-minded people.

jenniwhitmarsh@gmail.com

Jennifer Whitmarsh No. 17771

—oOo—

Members' Meetings: Aberdeen

25th July 2020

Aberdeen members had seen the cancellation by Covid of talks scheduled for March, April and May. Once online meetings were up and running, we arranged two general “brick wall” discussions over the summer before our schedule resumed in September. In this first e-meeting, it was good to see a peak of 47 members at once, and 51 altogether after early leavers and late joiners had been added up. There was a lot of enthusiasm evident.

The topics we discussed were many and varied: Poor Law records; Canadian research; DNA-testing for genealogy, particularly Ancestry; MyHeritage versus other DNA-testing companies; GEDmatch having recently been hacked; LIBINDX very helpful at times, though light on primary sources; www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk for the plethora of different taxes raised in the 1790s; Find My Past transcribing Scottish placenames more accurately than Ancestry; name variants; and Fraserburgh MIs and burials.

22nd August 2020

There was a similar turnout this time, with many useful contributions. A few of these:

- <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland/> for poorhouse records; both the SGS and Moray & Nairn FHS have published volumes for the north of Scotland
- All the gravestones in Fyvie kirkyard have been photographed and transcribed now and are available on www.findagrave.com
- For the 5th Battalion (Buchan & Formartine) the Gordon Highlanders in the Great War, see <http://gordonhighlanders.carolynmorrisey.com/index.htm>
- For details and a summary of Scottish burial grounds, start with the SAFHS inventory at <https://www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php>
- <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/church-court-records-online>
- If you live in Scotland, sign up for the NLS Digital Collection (digital reader's ticket) for free access to newspapers including *Aberdeen Journal* and the *Scotsman*
- UK Paper Mills On-line History Project: www.ukpapermills.org.uk
- Very useful map/photo site: <https://www.geograph.org.uk>
- <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>: (free) website which can help you discover more about towns, places and anywhere you can think of.

19th September 2020

This was our first e-meeting in the form of a webinar, where only the host and the guest speaker appeared and talked on screen. The audience remained unseen but could input

their topical questions into Zoom's Q&A window and could also communicate as usual by text messages in the Zoom Chat window.

Our guest speaker was the in-demand Michelle Leonard, Genealogy Detective, with the latest update of her excellent beginner-level(!) presentation on "Using DNA to Solve Family-Tree Mysteries". She always packs a lot of good material into an hour (or more).

The host and speaker then took the audience's questions in order. Michelle answered very thoroughly as usual, and was kind enough to make a downloadable handout available to us (bit.ly/ANESFHS2020). Type or paste that link into your browser's search bar, and it'll bring up the five-page PDF file in Michelle's DropBox, which you can then download (wee arrow next to "Sign Up") and save to your computer.

Michelle has kindly supplied a link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7GWZjzjyY>) to an unlisted YouTube video of a similar talk that she gave on 1st May 2020 in the first of the Scottish Indexes online conferences, where she is now a regular and popular presenter. She also advises investigating Legacy's webinars.

17th October 2020

This was the latest of our general family-history discussion and problem-solving sessions. The first problem we had to solve was the Zoom invitation link, which was misdirecting some members to the ANESFHS website (a glitch since eliminated from the e-Newsletter software). After a brief delay, we had 58 members in eight countries (now also Ireland, Norway and Switzerland!) who succeeded in entering the meeting – and we apologise to anyone else who couldn't beat the gremlins. Just a few of the many useful snippets:

- The 1921 Scottish census should be released in June 2021; England and Wales only on 1st January 2022, as their deal is exclusively with Find My Past
- Moray Roll of Honour is available under <https://digital.nls.uk/rolls-of-honour/archive>
- Some one-name studies: www.mutches.com and <https://lobban.one-name.net>
- The seventh (online, free) Scottish Indexes Conference is on 6th December.

At our next meeting on 14th November, Bert Lawrie will give a presentation on the Broad Street Project, featuring in-depth research into selected families and businesses from 1911 census entries. See our website's Events pages to register your interest. All welcome.

syllabus@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

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

Book Selection: Broad Street Project

In the Good Old Days BC (Before Covid!), the Society held a public meeting each month with talks on various topics, at which Jean Shirer and her band of helpers would organise a bookstall. As well as taking along publications of general interest, Jean tried to select books of specific relevance to that month's topic. Now that we have meetings online, it was suggested that we should offer a few publications at sale prices on the website.

Bert Lawrie's talk on 14th November on the Broad Street Project calls to mind these publications which may interest members whose ancestors came from Aberdeen city:

- *Jack Webster's Aberdeen*: this beautiful book by a local journalist offers a fresh look at the city's story. From Robert the Bruce and Mary, Queen of Scots to Annie Lennox and Donald Trump, Jack introduces a whole host of characters who have left their mark on Aberdeen. Code: LT161 £10 1120g
- *The Roll of the Inhabitants of Aberdeen 1795* (E. Mortimer): list, drawn up in July 1795, of citizens entitled to elect commissioners of police. Code: AA580 £3.75 140g
- *Lost Aberdeen – The Freedom Lands*: the third part of Diane Morgan's trilogy, dealing with the west side of the city. She covers land improvement, great mansions and a bevy of Scottish Enlightenment characters. Code: LT096 £14 710g
- *Textiles and Toil* (R. Duncan): this little book describes Aberdeen's factory system and industrial working class in the 19th century. Code: LP142 £1.45 120g
- *Taranty Ha'* (A. A. Thomson): since 1633, Trinity Hall has been the home of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen. This book contains a list of notable characters and events associated with the guilds. Code: LP036 £5 180g
- *Aberdeen Beyond the Granite* (Ian R. Mitchell): this is an account of Aberdeen from the textiles, shipbuilding and fishing industries of the 19th and 20th centuries to more recent times, with personal reminiscences and suggestions for walks of historical and social interest. Code: LT101 £8.50 300g
- *Aberdeen Street Names* (G. M. Fraser): this fascinating book gives the history and meanings of many of the older streets in Aberdeen. Code: LA030 £5 370g
- *Free St Clement's Aberdeen 1843–59* (Rosemary Baxter): although this book covers a relatively short period of the history of this church, it provides a wealth of detail about the congregation, ministers and elders. Code: AA420 £2.25 130g
- *Aberdeen: A Celebration in Pictures*: this would make an ideal Christmas present for the exiled Aberdonian! The title says it all. Code: LT008 £8.50 520g
- *Pictorial Guide to Aberdeen*: this fascinating little book, from 1909, contains everything a visitor to Aberdeen could possibly want, from adverts for high-quality shops and grand hotels to places of local interest. Code: LA011 £3 110g

There are also pictorial celebrations of various places of interest – beautiful photographs of our city in times past:

<i>Bygone Bridge of Don</i>	Code: LT018	£10.95	210g
<i>Old Rosemount</i>	Code: LT076	£10	200g
<i>Aberdeen Remembered</i>	Code: LT007	£7.99	170g

<i>Old Torry and Aberdeen Harbour</i>	Code: LT073	£10	200g
<i>Torry: Architecture and Engineering</i>	Code: LT053	£5	120g

And finally, if your ancestors lived or worked in the city centre, the Old Ordnance Survey map of Aberdeen in 1900 shows you exactly where! Code: MO205 £3 40g

—oOo—

Moray/Banff Group Report

Hoping to be back in Elgin Library for our September meeting proved over-optimistic, and here we are some time later with the Library still closed. Even if it were to open, we would still be very limited by the need for social distancing, so it doesn't look as if this is going to be an option for some time yet. However, we have continued to hold monthly online meetings right through the summer, and we completed our fifth in October.

After the successful June and July e-meetings, we continued to meet new members from far and near in August and September. Keeping to the theme of the first two meetings, we focused on “brick walls” and again found that there was a surprising number of “matches” when we came to compare surname, date and placename interests.

Since our first e-meeting in June, the number of attendees has been increasing gradually as more members have taken their first step into the world of Zoom, but in October there was a potential clash of times with the Glasgow Group meeting. They were to have a speaker, Gary Lawrie (no. 8615), on a topic very relevant to Moray/Banff Group: “The Stuarts and Gordons of Birkenburn, Keith”. With this in mind, it was jointly decided to run a combined Moray/Banff and Glasgow Group e-meeting, and for this we had 93 participants in 89 households. Gary's talk was excellent and was enjoyed by all, while for some of the members it also provided a welcome link with their own research.

With all the ANESFHS Groups currently holding meetings online, it has been easy to become genealogical “tourists”, and several of us have been attending e-meetings of some or all of the other Groups, not just in the UK but also in Australia and Canada! While lockdown has inevitably had its difficulties, online meetings are definitely an upside, and it is a real pleasure to have the chance to meet so many other ANESFHS members.

Sadly, we have lost one of our long-standing Moray/Banff Group members with the recent death of Mary Macdonald (no. 1520). Mary had been part of our meetings for very many years, and she will be very much missed.

moray.banff@anesfhs.org.uk

Mary Evans No. 1975

—oOo—

Edinburgh Group Reports

26th July 2020

To tide us over the summer, and because our first online meeting in May had gone well, we held an extra one. Turnout was slightly lower on a Sunday, but it was another highly successful and enjoyable e-meeting. We welcomed three of the keenest “Group tourists”, all joining in from the North-East; and we're always grateful to Ken Nisbet of the SGS for his readiness to share his expert knowledge and wide experience of matters genealogical.

We shared all sorts of hints and tips, and were glad of the Zoom Chat window in which to paste links to websites on topics discussed. Some snippets from this meeting:

- The National Archives (UK) at Kew have extended the free access to records through Discovery and plan to continue this, even with limited reopening of the Archives
- <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs> for legacies of British Slave-Ownership
- For railway accidents, look at <http://www.railwaysarchive.co.uk/eventlisting.php>
- For ministers of the Free Church, try <https://www.ecclegen.com/>
- In My Heritage, go to “My Privacy – My Member Preferences” and untick all the boxes if you don’t want to receive notifications
- Always look out for the next Scottish Indexes online Conference (free).

12th September 2020

Our usual venue had reopened, but with Covid restrictions that wouldn’t have suited us. Our scheduled speaker preferred to hone his talk for delivery in person at a future meeting, which we hope can be soon. So, we arranged another general-discussion meeting online and were pleased to welcome 33 members: “old” and “new” from our local area, along with others from the west and the North-East, as well as England, Canada and the USA.

Ken Nisbet kindly started us off with a valuable short talk on “Tracing farming ancestors”. Many useful further hints and tips were swapped, such as how to order an official extract via www.nrscotland.gov.uk from the 1939 National Identity Register, even though the register for Scotland is closed for browsing (Ancestry has images for England and Wales).

We tackled each other’s family-history problems with gusto and imagination – and a few brick walls were smashed down in the meeting, to the great delight of several members.

This Journal will be in print too late for our next meeting on 7th November, though you’ll read it online before then. We’re back on Zoom, welcoming guest speaker Ken Nisbet on “Going Beyond Names, Dates and Places”. After Q&A on his talk, and a “kettle break”, we’ll continue with friendly and informative discussion in the Q&A format.

After that, our next meeting is on 23rd January 2021; details on the Society’s website. Anyone is welcome to request an invitation link to our online meetings while these last. See the Events pages of the Society’s website for how to use our new registration system.

edinburgh@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

Glasgow Group Reports

15th August 2020

By popular request, following the success of our online Members’ Day in May, we held an extra e-meeting, with members from England and overseas (and the North-East!) also joining in and being invited to state their North-East Scottish surname and placename interests. Ken Nisbet, great friend of our Group, yet again shared his vast knowledge.

Some snippets from this meeting that were shared in the Zoom Chat text file:

- For a wide variety of FH webinars (some free): www.familytreewebinars.com
- <http://www.hongkongwardiary.com/hkwdhome.html> (Second World War)
- “Scotland’s Places” website: free to use for taxes / survey-name books / health books
- <https://www.oldscottish.com/school-leaving-certificates.html>: free index (1908–17)
- For any UK mining disaster: dmm.org.uk (Durham Mining Museum)

- Find My Past Facebook page has very good webinars twice a week (also on YouTube) – all free if you “like” their page
- <https://maps.nls.uk> – and explore all the other goodies available on <https://www.nls.uk/>

3rd October 2020

Our guest speaker, local member Gary Lawrie (no. 8615), gave us a great presentation on “The Stuarts and Gordons of Birkenburn, Keith” and his research methods. We held this online meeting together with Moray/Banff Group and enjoyed by far our highest turnout for any ANESFHS e-meeting to date: 93. They came fae a’ the airts, including 16 in England, four in Australia staying up late – and nine in Canada and five in the USA, some of whom had got up very early. We admire their dedication, and welcome one and all.

Gary’s excellent talk was followed by Q&A on the topic, then a brief break, then further general family-history chat and sharing of news snippets. National Records of Scotland does not look like reopening until at least Easter, unfortunately.

- <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/webinars/> (series, 6th–26th November)
- The Really Useful Family History Show: <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/> (Saturday, 14th November, 10am–4pm BST)
- Strathclyde University have another part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies beginning in January 2021
- Visit www.familytreedna.com/groups/aberdeen-north-east-scotland/about/background to add your details to the ANESFHS DNA Project
- Moray Burial Ground Research Group: www.mbgrg.org

Thanks go to Doug Stewart of Moray/Banff Group for many of these weblinks and other ideas. Several members also expressed thanks to the King Street volunteers who have kept dealing promptly with postal sales throughout the pandemic.

Glasgow Group’s next meeting is on 21st November (2pm GMT), when Professor Marjory Harper will give an online presentation featuring “Voices of Emigrants and Returners”. Anyone is welcome to request an invitation link to our e-meetings. See the Events pages of the Society’s website for how to use our new registration system.

glasgow@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

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Brisbane-area Group Report

15th August 2020

Our usual venue, the local city council library, had advised that we could have a physical meeting as long as we adhered to Covid-19 requirements; however, as the library has no facilities to run a webinar with sound, we stuck with Zoom and all stayed at home. We had 11 members Zooming in, including Ivor in Edinburgh and Pat Black in Aberdeen.

I presented on my efforts to break down an Aberdeen “brick wall” on the birth of David Shirras (Sheriff/Shirrefs) c. 1725 by researching relatives in the West Indies and following inheritances of property and slaves back to family remaining in Aberdeen. A general discussion ensued on locating records for the West Indies.

We have not, as yet, got plans for our November meeting, but it is likely that we will be meeting via Zoom again. All Society members are welcome to request an invitation.

brisbane@anesfhs.org.uk

Robin Price No. 18058

—oOo—

Melbourne-area Group Reports

8th August 2020

After general Zoom-related chit-chat to get audio and video working, and various admin matters, we started the meeting with a brainstorm about future guest speakers and topics. Suggestions included social history about motivations and inspirations for our ancestors emigrating to the colonies. Our members have many connections to historical societies that have people with expertise in a range of matters – and several were suggested.

We agreed that DNA is a constant source of wonder, and a regular Q&A session with open questions works best. David, our expert in this, is happy to field questions. John asked about advice for understanding your own DNA information displayed by Ancestry. This will feature in our next meeting, with DNA Q&A included as a regular agenda item.

David spoke about a connection with our Southern Ontario Group and an ancestor who was linked via Journal notes on our February meeting. Julie reported on attending the Moray/Banff Group virtual meeting in July and shared the various links to resources about old maps and travel writing for local areas, supplied by Mary Evans, convenor of that group. There was unanimous support for Mary to be invited to our meeting.

Roadblocks

Peter presented a beautiful album with photos of his ancestors, though they are not named, so he is unsure who they are. Margaret suggested he post these in a local (to his family) Facebook group where local people may recognise more information about the location, costumes etc. Also, the photographer or studio may have archival information.

Jeanette spoke about receiving a box of postcards and letters, 140 years old, from St Louis, connected to her ancestor, Thomas McRob(b), who was in the Black Watch and the Missouri military. She knows he was on the HMAS *Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar, a ship's carpenter, and eventually a Chelsea Pensioner. These records are with the National Archives but are hard to locate (need to know the War Office file number). David's third cousin, Ken Nisbet (of the SGS and SAFHS), may be able to help and will provide details.

Jenny asked about Episcopalian records and how to access, for a Banff location. Bishops' Diocese records were suggested. We were lucky to be joined by Pat Black, a volunteer at King Street and a local Aberdonian. She reported that the Centre had newly reopened, but Aberdeen had then been put back into Covid-19 lockdown for a week.

Surname interests: Pat – Galt/Gatt, Forbes, Black, Pritchard (Wales), Dallas. Michael R – Harpie (north coast Aberdeen), Milson, Reid, Downie. Julie R – Reid, Ritchie, Downie. Mary Jo – Reid, Cumming (Strathdon), Davidson (Birse/Lochee), Angus (Forfarshire).

Resources

- www.safhs.org.uk/contact.php
- Online Parish Clerks: www.ukbmd.org.uk/county/scotland/onlineparish_clerks/

- WW1 – Roll of Honour (research by Anne Park): very detailed catalogue of all from North-East Scotland who died in the Great War. Log in to the ANESFHS website.

Our next meeting was brought forward from November to 26th September, 4–6pm (a later start, to enable overseas members to join us).

26th September 2020

We were delighted that our decisions paid off: moving our e-meeting to an earlier date and a later starting time allowed a good number of members to join us from overseas. In total, we had 37 in attendance, including members in Scotland, England, Canada and Guam! We welcomed our international guests along with our guest speaker, Mr Alex Glennie from the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.

Alex (using Zoom for the first time) spoke about the Scottish Births, Marriages and Deaths dated 1855–75 and 1881 and 1891 relating to the digitisation of the Scottish Registrars' Books and how to access them online. He showed examples of different certificates and a number of strategies to employ. With all libraries closed during the Covid-19 pandemic, we will have to wait for them to reopen to access the certificates. Alex is more than happy to receive e-mails if we are in need of assistance.

Christopher spoke about using Y-chromosome data from male relatives to fill in gaps in family trees relating to the North-East Scottish Lobbans: <https://lobban.one-name.net>. David asked how Christopher had convinced people to take a DNA test.

Julie had received an e-mail from our Brisbane-area Group with a checklist spreadsheet allowing users to write down their sources for each category. Quite extensive and well thought out, it was created by Thomas MacEntee from Abundant Genealogy.

David and John had both joined in the previous day's Southern Ontario Group e-meeting on genealogical DNA-testing; and both suggested <https://doriccolumns.wordpress.com/> for background information on Aberdeen.

Gweneth spoke about roadblocks with tracing her Russian/Jewish ancestors and with the problems of anglicised surnames. In Ancestry, search entries in the Alien Entry Book.

There was general agreement that Find My Past is very good, with accurate transcriptions of British and Irish documents. The consensus was to research a variety of programs.

Anne pointed out her background picture of Menin Gate which she received from Carolyn at Monash University, as Anne had sent a CD with the WW1 database which included members of the 5th Battalion of Gordon Highlanders. Anne is also putting photographs on the Find A Grave website.

Pat, in Aberdeen, had newly received a box of sentimental photographs from Canada after tracking down the stepchildren of her aunt who had died in 1980. One photo was of her parents' wedding that she had never seen before; and there were some of her as a child.

Mary Jo reminded everyone about our Group's Facebook page and blog. No date has yet been set for our Group's next meeting. We are excited about possible developments in sharing webinars with our Aberdeen Area and/or other ANESFHS Groups.

Julie thanked Alex for speaking and joining in. Thank you also to Jeanette for organising Alex, to Mary Jo for using her Zoom account, to Carolyn for notes, and all attendees.

Southern Ontario Group Report: DNA-testing for Genealogy

24th September 2020

Our Group continues to evolve. Even though we have yet to meet face to face as a group, and are mostly members of an older generation, we are all becoming comfortable with being called “Zoomers”. Meeting online has allowed members from all across our area to connect – an unexpected benefit of our otherwise-doleful worldwide health restrictions.

Following a webinar and our first Zoom-platform Group meeting in late spring, this was our second Group meeting. Three of our members shared some of their expertise and experience on the topic of “DNA-testing for genealogy”: Marian Bellamy, David Joiner and John McLean. This e-meeting was attended by 21 ANESFHS members, including five visiting “genealogical tourists” from Scotland and Australia. New members were invited to share their research interests, and Hazel Smith (no. 13390) provided a brief story about her family connection with Robert Burns.

John McLean (no. 5641) introduced our topic with an overview of the most common types of DNA testing, including mitochondrial (mtDNA), Y-DNA and autosomal. He explained the differences between male- and female-dominant test results, how many generations for which one might expect to obtain meaningful results, and which companies provide testing and for what expected results. John (and other presenters) noted that DNA test kits are often on sale at a discount, and it is not necessary to pay full price.

David Joiner (no. 16651) focused on his Y-DNA experience, which was of personal interest to him as a geography teacher. One of his vignettes outlined results he shared with two fellow teachers, and how the migration patterns of the three subjects in their Y-DNA project (Italian, Scottish and Japanese ethnicity) revealed that all had begun with the same point of origin in Africa millennia ago. David illustrated detailed results from the testing he’d done, and outlined costs and benefits of those different results.

Marian Bellamy (no. 22828) gave an overview of the most common DNA testing, from Ancestry, with some additional remarks about other websites such as Family Tree and GEDMatch. She demonstrated several tools she uses with Ancestry DNA to code and highlight various family relationships. Marian emphasised that there are limitations to DNA-testing: genealogical research is required to prove family relationships; and DNA-testing and analysis needn’t be a barrier to finding new members of your ancestral family.

Lorna Weber (no. 21787) provided an update on our Monumental Inscriptions project, which continues to evolve as new members join. She also highlighted the next in the Scottish Indexes series of online conferences. John McLean spoke of the benefits of the Pharos Tutors online courses and briefly outlined our upcoming Group meetings and topics. This information is also posted to our Google Group site, which is currently our forum for information exchange.

We have set a quarterly meeting schedule, now posted on the ANESFHS website in the Events section. Current health restrictions are expected to preclude the possibility of in-person meetings for some time – but Zoom meetings have worked extremely well for us, given our disparate geography.

ontario@anesfhs.org.uk

Rod Coates No. 18349

and co-organisers John McLean (No. 5641) and Lorna Weber (No. 21787)

Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) versus Burial Registers / Lair Plans

In this article, Gavin Bell (no. 4085), our MI Co-ordinator, answers some members' queries that crop up concerning gravestone inscriptions and their availability, and about connections between recorded MIs and any burial information that may exist.

> *The ANESFHS basement library contains a book on MIs in St Peter's Cemetery (along King Street), as well as materials on several other graveyards. Could these be added to the Society's website, perhaps with a "read with caution" note where applicable?*

The St Peter's MIs are omitted from our website because they are in a mess. There are three separate historic sets of transcriptions labelled "St Peter's" or "Spital", each starting with stone number 1, but all different. One contains stones numbered 1–842, the second has stones numbered 1–1066, and the third has stones from 1–54 ... but there is no overlap of the actual transcriptions between the separate files, and there are only vague clues as to which parts of the burial ground they might cover.

There are also some fragmentary bits of mapping. Two of these appear to cover adjacent areas and show stones numbered 1–874. However, these two sections do not appear to be adjacent to the third, which bears numbers 904–1080. As with the MI transcriptions, it is not possible to say how much of the total burial ground they cover. The inconsistencies in the ranges of numbers between the MI transcriptions and the mapping mean that the two cannot be linked. In view of these inconsistencies, I judged that to put St Peter's online (with whatever caveats one might devise) would merely sow confusion.

My observations on St Peter's emerged as part of a larger review of the "unpublished MIs" which I carried out on taking over the role of MI Co-ordinator, with a view to seeing if any of them could be made more widely available. I had previously had occasion to discover, in the course of my MI work over the previous 15 years, various problems with some of the "unpublished" MIs, and I did not want to be distributing inaccurate information.

Leaving aside MIs that were obviously fragmentary, or which appeared to be photocopies of unidentified published (and possibly copyright) material, I looked in greater detail at the remainder. In trying to identify some that might be halfway reliable, I picked out those which had (a) a plan (preferably showing the same number of stones as the transcriptions!) and (b) an index (reasoning that no-one would go to the trouble of creating an index if they thought the mapping or transcriptions needed further checking).

St Peter's failed on both counts, but I managed to identify around 30 other graveyards which passed. These I made available on our website in the form of a Surname Index, with links to the full text of each inscription. Log into our website and select "DataBank", "Memorial Inscriptions", "ANESFHS unpublished MIs (members only)".

The number of unpublished burial grounds in this database has now dropped below 30 because some have been able to be brought to publishable condition. Aside from the kinds of errors and omissions found at St Peter's, almost all of the "unpublished" had been recorded using frequent abbreviation and paraphrases instead of recording literally. I have taken the leading role in publishing around 30 burial grounds which previously existed as "unpublished" versions – but, in almost all cases, this involved either an overhaul of the mapping, or else a completely new survey, and a complete re-read of all inscriptions. To publish anything else, either in print or online, would be to short-change our members.

> *Thinking of Anne Park's excellent North-East WW1 database (ANESFHS website, "DataBank", "WW1 – Roll of Honour"; also members only) as a model, she includes basic information on the fallen but has also added notes on where to find additional details she has researched and continues to collect. For example, a name appearing in a published MI booklet could have a link from our website to www.findagrave.com, which collects and publishes photographs?*

Would Find A Grave allow links into their site? And how would one establish that there was a relevant image? Such a facility would be nice to have, but, after many years of creating and maintaining databases, I fear it would be a seriously non-trivial task.

It would be technically feasible to include links to images held on our own server, but there would be overheads in terms of storage and bandwidth.

> *When mapping graveyards, do you take digital photographs for aids in deciphering?*

Not as a matter of course. My experience has been that not all gravestones, particularly old, eroded or damaged ones, "take a good picture", and that the human eye (or eyes – binocular vision is important) can see things that the camera misses.

Burial registers and lair plans

> *I have consulted lair plans in various repositories. Is there scope for an approach to these repositories to allow the Society to digitise these lair plans on an official basis? Deceased Online has less than 50% of the Aberdeen cemeteries.*

I understood that Deceased Online had negotiated exclusive rights to the images they have scanned, and that the holders of the actual paper plans would be contractually precluded from making them available.

It should also be borne in mind that making lair plans and keeping accurate burial registers is a comparatively modern sport, dating from the mid- to late 19th century for major urban burial grounds, but rather later (if at all) for most rural ones. Checking the start dates for burial records in Aberdeenshire, we find that the earliest records for many supposedly "ancient" sites are well into the 20th century (typically when the original kirkyard was deemed to be full, and a new extension was laid out next door).

Lair plans are a decidedly mixed blessing. When first laid out, the individual plots would have been clearly delineated with numbered blocks or labels – but these get in the way of motor mowers, so have often been removed. Without any clear physical indicators above ground, it can be difficult trying to relate a paper plan to a stretch of mown grass.

The problem is compounded by lair plans often resembling the London Tube map: they show where the various rows and plots lie in relation to each other, but are not very good at giving accurate locations. This is where a carefully surveyed plan, showing the actual gravestones, comes into its own. If you know Great-Auntie's grave lies two plots along from the obelisk, and that the next-door plot is empty, navigation becomes much easier.

> *I've offered to help a member by taking photographs of gravestones in my area. She has sent me the relevant MIs taken from ANESFHS information. Where can I obtain a burial lair plan? Does the Society hold any, or is it from the local council?*

As you will be looking for stones mentioned in the published MIs, what you need is not a lair plan – which may not exist, especially for older (parts of) burial grounds – but a copy of the graveyard plan made by ANESFHS which shows the locations of the actual stones.

Finding a Grave in Aberdeen City or Shire

There are several routes to finding a grave in Aberdeen city or shire. ANESFHS has, with our volunteer members, over the years mapped many burial grounds. For Aberdeen city, there are Monumental Inscription booklets covering Chapel of Stoneywood, Dyce, John Knox, Nellfield, Newhills, Old Machar (St Machar's Cathedral), Peterculter, St Clement's, St Fittick's and the Snow Kirk. All these, and many more MI booklets for North-East Scottish burial grounds, can be purchased via the Society's website, or by visiting us. We also have additional resources in our library at King Street (alas not available for public browsing just now, though our Centre is open for research).

Graveyard Guardians

Two years ago, a local community group, the Guardians of Aberdeen Graveyards (or "Graveyard Guardians"), began gathering data on city cemeteries not yet tackled by the Society. They began with Section K of Trinity Cemetery, then progressed to Nigg Kirkyard, and this year are working on Allenvale Cemetery. New volunteers have been coming forward in 2020 and are in the early stages of transcribing the Broadhill side of Trinity, Springbank Cemetery, and also St Peter's. If you would like to be involved in gathering data or taking photographs, please contact graveyardguardians@outlook.com or look on their website (www.aberdeenremembers.co.uk) to find their Facebook pages.

The ANESFHS website also links to the Graveyard Guardians. Select "Information", "Links", "Local interest". Both "Aberdeen Remembers" on page 1, and "Graveyard Guardians" on page 2, will lead to the Guardians' website.

Registrar's Office

Other ways of finding graves in the city are by contacting the Registrar's Office (Aberdeen City Council, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB; tel. 03000 200 292 or e-mail registrars@aberdeencity.gov.uk), or by contacting Aberdeen City Council Bereavement Services (tel. 03000 200 292 or e-mail burials@aberdeencity.gov.uk), who are now based at Aberdeen Crematorium, Skene Road, Aberdeen, AB15 8PT.

Aberdeen City Council: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives

The Archives hold a few records for some cemeteries in Aberdeen and beyond. These include a few burial registers and lair registers; but most records are of no use for family history. Some of the registers have been digitised and are available through Deceased Online (www.deceasedonline.com). A guide to these surviving records can be found at:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Guide_to_Cemetery_Records_held_by_Aberdeen_City_and_Aberdeenshire_Archives_0.pdf

That's a lot to type in if you're not reading this Journal online and simply clicking on the hyperlink! The link is on the Graveyard Guardians site; or you can also find it this way:

Do a search for "Aberdeen city archives burial records". This leads to a Council page with a link to click on: "Guide to Cemetery Records held by Aberdeen City Archives".

That document lists the Archives' rather sketchy holdings of various types of records for 23 cemeteries: ten in Aberdeen city (including Nigg), four in Kincardineshire, and nine in old Aberdeenshire (that also feature in the "Marr South" group under Aberdeenshire below). Descriptions and date-ranges are given. A few other miscellaneous records are listed that also contain some short ranges of B/M/Ds.

The above City Council page begins: “All original Aberdeenshire burial material on our catalogue is held at Old Aberdeen House and is not available through Deceased Online. Aberdeenshire Council have now made many of their other burials records (i.e. those not held by the Archives) available via Deceased Online. A full list of all our burial records can be found on our Online Catalogue under the reference BR.”

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeenshire Council’s webpage <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/bereavement/burial-grounds/> begins: “There are in excess of 200 burial grounds in Aberdeenshire managed and maintained by the council”. No descriptions or date-ranges are shown; but grounds with available records are gathered under six main area headings:

- **Banff and Buchan:** 22 burial grounds listed. “Details ... are held by Landscape Services, St Leonards, Sandyhill Road, Banff, AB45 1SD.”
- **Buchan:** 12 listed. “Details ... are held by Landscape Services, Cape House, Seafield Street, Banff, AB45 1ED.”

For all the above: “Appointment requests for personal visits are to be made in advance by contacting Landscape Services by telephone on 01467 538267 or by emailing burialadminnorth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk”.

- **Formartine:** 20 listed, plus five private burial grounds. “Details ... are located within Landscape Services at Roads and Landscape Services, Harlaw Way, Inverurie, AB51 4SG; telephone 01467 536136 or email burialscentral@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Appointment requests for personal visits are to be made in advance ...”
- **Garioch:** 24 listed, plus five private burial grounds. “Details ... are no longer held at Gordon House and are now located within Landscape Services at Roads and Landscape Services, Harlaw Way, Inverurie ...” – all as for **Formartine** above.
- **Kincardine and Mearns:** 25 listed. “Details ... are held within Landscape Services, Unit 21/22, Spurryhillock Industrial Estate, Stonehaven, AB39 2NH. Appointment requests for personal visits are to be made in advance by contacting Landscape Services by email on lssouthadmin@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone on 01467 538265.”
- **Marr** [*sic*], divided into North and South:
 - **Marr North:** 29 listed, plus two private burial grounds. All location and contact details as for **Formartine** above.
 - **Marr South:** 20 listed, plus one private burial ground. All location and contact details as for **Kincardine and Mearns** above.

ANESFHS Members’ Forum: new “Graveyards” category

We hope this article has been helpful, especially if you are seeking your ancestors’ burial grounds. By the time this Journal appears, we hope a new “Graveyards” category will appear on the ANESFHS website in the Members’ Forum, where you can request or offer specific support, such as taking photographs of particular gravestones where these exist. For an optional small donation, we may be able to fulfil these requests.

Record of Ancestors

Membership No.: **12254**
 Name **Grant Scroggie**
 Address **The Netherlands**
 e-mail **scroggiefam@hotmail.com**
 Date **24 Oct 2020**

Great-grandfather

3 Charles Alfred SCROGGIE

Born 6 Nov 1857
Place Fordoun, Kincardineshire
Married 3 Jun 1885
Place Dundee
Died 8 Apr 1938 (80)
Place Dundee
Occup. Linseed/leather merchant

Father's father

1 Thomas Willock SCROGGIE

Born 30 Sep 1892
Place East Newport, Fife
Married 28 Jan 1918
Place Wormit, Fife
Died 13 Apr 1973 (80)
Place Eldoret, Kenya
Occup. Civil servant in "pre-" and "post-" Indian Government

Great-grandmother

4 Mary Barclay WILLOCK

Born 2 Jul 1861
Place Aberdeen
Died 2 Jun 1941 (79)
Place East Newport, Fife
Occup.

Father

Duncan Campbell SCROGGIE

Born 25 Jan 1922
Place Calcutta, India
Married 8 Sep 1951
Place Kitale, Kenya
Died 14 Jul 1996 (74)
Place Nairobi, Kenya
Occup. Tea-planter

Great-grandfather

5 William ROBB

Born 10 Aug 1863
Place Dundee
Married 3 Sep 1890
Place Dundee
Died 13 Mar 1909 (45)
Place Riga, Latvia
Occup. Flax merchant

Father's mother

2 Agnes Winifred ROBB

Born 12 Nov 1892
Place Riga, Latvia
Died abt 1973
Place Nandi Hills, Kenya
Occup. Housewife

Great-grandmother

6 Elizabeth Grant KIDD

Born 20 Apr 1869
Place Dundee
Died 25 Jul 1915 (46)
Place Newport-on-Tay, Fife
Occup.

Please send in your known pedigree chart, with extension sheets as required. Don't worry about leaving gaps, but try to fill in as many as you can.

Please return this form to:
pedigree.chart@anesfhs.org.uk
 Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS,
 158-164 King Street,
 Aberdeen AB24 5BD.

Great-great-grandparents

15 **Robert SCROGGIE**

Born 4 Jun 1757 *Place* Odmoston, Fordoun, KCD
Married 23 Apr 1822 *Place* Fordoun, Kincardineshire
Died 30 Jan 1826 (68) *Place* Fordoun, Kincardineshire
Occup. Tenant farmer

16 **Isobella SMITH**

Born abt 1792 *Place* Fordoun, Kincardineshire
Died 7 Apr 1883 (91) *Place* Edzell, Angus
Buried Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire

17 **Robert VALLENTINE**

Born 28 Mar 1786 *Place* Fettercairn, Kincardineshire
Married *Place* *Place*
Died 18 Jan 1868 (81) *Place* Bogmuir, Fettercairn, KCD
Occup.

18 **Helen RHIND**

Born 1 Nov 1788 *Place* Fettercairn, Kincardineshire
Died 12 Dec 1874 (86) *Place* Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire
Buried Fettercairn, Kincardineshire

19 **James WILLOCK**

Born abt 1795 *Place* Riccarton, Ayrshire
Married 13 Jun 1821 *Place* Ardrossan, Ayrshire
Died 3 Jul 1879 (84) *Place* Saltcoats, Ayrshire
Occup. Master gardener

20 **Mary BARCLAY**

Born abt 1797 *Place* Ardrossan, Ayrshire
Died 26 Oct 1874 (77) *Place* Saltcoats, Ayrshire
Occup.

21 **Robert CAIRNS**

Born abt 1800 *Place* *Place*
Married 9 Jul 1824 *Place* Glasgow
Died 26 Apr 1857 (57) *Place* Paisley, Renfrewshire
Occup. Clergyman

22 **Margaret WALKER**

Born *Place*
Died *Place*
Occup.

23 **Kinnaird ROBB**

Born abt 1809 *Place* *Place*
Married 27 Dec 1833 *Place* Dundee
Died 14 Dec 1843 (34) *Place* *Place*
Occup. Starcher / flaxdresser

24 **Margaret McREA / MacRAE**

Born abt 1810 *Place* Nairn
Died 5 Sep 1887 (77) *Place* Dundee (St Peter)
Occup.

25 **William BLACK**

Born *Place*
Married *Place*
Died *Place*
Occup.

26 **Christina WOOD**

Born *Place*
Died *Place*
Occup.

27 **James KIDD**

Born abt 1803 *Place* Dundee
Married 5 Jun 1825 *Place* Panbride, Angus
Died 30 Aug 1859 (56) *Place* Dundee
Occup. Mason

28 **Jane LINDSAY**

Bapt. abt 1807 *Place* *Place*
Died 2 Jun 1872 (65) *Place* Dundee
Occup.

29 **John HILL**

Born *Place*
Married 26 Jun 1828 *Place* Dundee
Died *Place*
Occup.

30 **Elizabeth GRANT**

Born *Place*
Died *Place*
Occup.

7 **David SCROGGIE**

Born 9 Aug 1822
Place Odmoston, Fordoun, KCD
Married 23 Aug 1843
Place Fordoun, Kincardineshire
Died 14 Sep 1866 (44)
Place Laurencekirk, KCD
Occup. Tenant farmer

8 **Catherine VALLENTINE**

Born 9 Jan 1823
Place Fettercairn, Kincardineshire
Died 14 Sep 1900 (77)
Place Dundee
Occup.

9 **Thomas WILLOCK**

Born 4 Dec 1827
Place Ardrossan, Ayrshire
Married 10 Sep 1854
Place Ayr
Died 23 Feb 1910 (82)
Place Newport-on-Tay, Fife
Occup. Bank teller

10 **Henrietta McDougall CAIRNS**

Born 21 Jul 1832
Place Cumbernauld, Dunbartonshire
Died 11 Nov 1912 (80)
Place Newport-on-Tay, Fife
Occup.

11 **Thomas ROBB**

Born 14 Dec 1837
Place Dundee
Married 27 Dec 1861
Place Broughty Ferry, Angus
Died 3 Jan 1916 (78)
Place Dundee
Occup. Printer compositor

12 **Margaret WOOD / BLACK**

Born 13 Aug 1838
Place Colinsburgh, Fife
Died 3 May 1911 (72)
Place Dundee
Occup. Dressmaker

13 **Robert KIDD**

Born abt 1838
Place Dundee
Married 21 May 1861
Place Dundee
Died 7 Jan 1909 ("72")
Place Dundee
Occup. Potato merchant

14 **Agnes HILL**

Born abt 1837
Place Dundee
Died 22 Mar 1924 ("83" [86?])
Place Dundee
Occup.

ANESFHS Annual General Meeting 2020: Summary Report

6th September 2020, via Zoom video-conference (postponed from 21st March 2020)

A copy of the full minutes can be obtained by e-mailing secretary@anesfhs.org.uk or writing to King Street. The full Financial Report was also in Journal 155 (May 2020, pp. 15–16) opposite the summary accounts. That summary contained a wrong column under “Total 2019”; and a corrected version and the full accounts are on the Society’s website.

All members who receive e-Newsletters had been given the option to request an invitation link to this e-AGM. In total, 50 members joined in from the UK, the USA, Canada and Australia. Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been published in Journal 151 (May 2019, p. 13) and were taken as read.

Chairman’s Report

Ivor Normand welcomed members and noted that Covid-19 has forced us all to think on our feet as to how to overcome the new challenges. Our Research Centre in King Street reopened on 3rd August with an appointment-booking system and sanitation protocols in place. Volunteers had continued to visit the Centre to keep the Society running. Special thanks go to Paul Webster for looking after the Research Centre by attending daily.

Online meetings have been proving successful. The starting times of meetings can be taken into consideration to allow overseas visitors in other time zones to participate.

164 Refurbishment

Bert Lawrie (*in absentia*) had submitted a report on the refurbishment of our back office in 164, which Ivor read out. Work was completed by July, equipment was moved back in, and volunteers returned. All necessary sanitation protocols were implemented and tested so that we could hone our approach for reopening the Research Centre to all visitors.

New computer servers have been installed; and the Internet is to be reconnected to our annexe at no. 136. The Granite Roots Appeal funds are still enough for an upgrade of 136. Sincere thanks are expressed to all who donated and helped to make it happen.

Treasurer’s Report

Pat Black, Reporting Treasurer for the Society, stated that members may request a copy of the full audited accounts for 2019 by e-mailing treasurer@anesfhs.org.uk. See above for availability of the full Financial Report.

Pat concluded by thanking Jane Cameron for all her hard work over many years, and especially for helping to prepare the report. Jane’s expertise will be sorely missed, and we all wish her well in the future.

James Slater asked about membership numbers declining, and suggested a recruitment drive for new members. Ivor noted that all societies are seeing membership numbers steadily declining. The Society has not had an Education Officer or a Press and Publicity Officer for ages, which has hindered us. John Urie advised that advertising has been of limited value. Our Facebook Group is potentially one of our biggest recruiting tools.

Secretary’s Report

Ronald Leith noted that 2019 saw 402 new members, compared to 420 in 2018. In 2020, January to August saw 192 new members, versus 280 for the same period in 2019. From March to August, new members numbered 110. We now have a rolling membership year.

2019 saw the refurbishment of 164 being planned, and 2020 saw the works completed. We are eternally grateful to Bert Lawrie for all his hard work in designing and organising.

The Society did not cease activities during closure. Ronald concluded: "There was mail to attend to and tasks to pass on – notably to Sheila (membership); bills (Jane); publications (Nick). John Urie still dealt with enquiries by e-mail. And we are so fortunate that these Society members still worked on, despite any personal inconveniences they may have experienced during this time. Ivor devised e-meetings, so we didn't grind to a halt."

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

Dave White and Eleanor Martin had resigned. Gavin Bell and John Corall were each retiring after three years and standing for re-election. Ivor Normand and Bert Lawrie had been co-opted to the Committee, pending ratification at this AGM. Teresa Shewell was standing for election. There were thus five nominations for Trustees to be voted on:

- Pat Black proposed **Ivor Normand**, and this was seconded by Jean Shirer.
- Liz Foubister proposed **Bert Lawrie**, and this was seconded by Jean Shirer.
- Jean Shirer proposed **Gavin Bell's** re-election; seconded by Teresa Shewell.
- Pat Black proposed **John Corall's** re-election; seconded by Barbara Lamb.
- Barbara Lamb proposed **Teresa Shewell**, and this was seconded by Liz Foubister.

After this AGM, it emerged that business had moved on without votes actually being conducted. Attendees were contacted; and all replies approved all five motions above.

Per the Constitution, the Committee has powers to co-opt members and elect additional office-bearers. As meetings are now online, it was noted that overseas members could be encouraged to join the Committee, which could enhance the quality and raise our profile.

Volunteers and online meetings

Barbara Lamb advised that a computer in King Street has a webcam for online meetings between Centre volunteers and remote members. Not all volunteers have returned yet, and there are varying levels of computer knowledge and experience.

SAFHS Conference

It has been many years since the Society hosted a SAFHS Conference; and the Committee will consider this matter. ANESFHS had started the concept of a combined SAFHS conference and family-history fair, which has been successful for subsequent conferences. Jean Shirer stated that the fair is always a great way of advertising our Society.

AOCB

A discussion took place about the possibility of a Scotland's People Centre in Aberdeen. A registrar would have to be available. The Society will approach Aberdeen City Council and will contact other local SP Centres to ascertain what is involved in setting one up.

It was suggested that the Society participate in Family Tree Live in London. John Urie advised that a much more cost-effective alternative was to attend the Craft Fair at the SECC in Glasgow. As we now have a London-area Group, perhaps a volunteer from that group would be interested in representing the Society at a large London event. A few attendees at this e-AGM mentioned that they live near London and would consider helping out. The Committee will consider the feasibility of participation.

The meeting closed with thanks to the host/chairman, and general discussions continued.

Publications List Update

Our volunteers are continuing to process and despatch your orders. On our website, the list of "Publications for Sale" was updated in October 2020. New in stock:

ANESFHS

AA076 Fordyce MIs. £3.00 150gms

Moray & Nairn FHS

AJ155 Nairn Cemetery (1918 Section) MIs. £12.00 320gms

jean.shirer@anesfhs.org.uk

Jean Shirer No. 14

—oOo—

100 Club News

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

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

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

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

	1 st prize		2 nd prize		3 rd prize		4 th prize	
	No.	Mem. No.	No.	Mem. No.	No.	Mem. No.	No.	Mem. No.
Aug	123	Sue McFarlane 15807	50	Edna Cromarty 2568	62	Pat Black 18074	61	Kenny Harrison 13946
Sep	75	Margaret McDowall 18020	79	Angus Pelham Burn 19808	95	Margaret Vieira 3106	10	Graham Collie 20933
Oct	100	June Melvin 834	120	Janet A T Brown 15008	72	Fiona Gaskell 17588	81	Patrick Boyne 8988

100club@anesfhs.org.uk

Teresa Shewell No. 4883

Roselea House

12 Springbank Terrace, Aberdeen AB11 6LS

Tel./Fax: 01224 583060

E-mail: CandFMoore@roseleahouse.co.uk

Friendly, family-run, city-centre guest house convenient for bus/railway stations and ferry terminal.

Vegetarian breakfasts available. TV and tea/coffee-making facilities in all rooms.

A non-smoking establishment.

B&B rates: Single: £35.00, en-suite £40.00

Double/Twin: £20.00 p.p., en-suite double £25.00 p.p.

** These are new lower prices for 2020 when you book direct with us **

** Please be aware that external booking websites may charge a fee **

Visit our website at www.roseleahouse.co.uk

Library Report

Although our Research Centre has reopened, the current Covid-19 restrictions mean that the Society's library remains closed for browsing. However, the resources are still available for those who visit the Centre. Books and other materials can be brought to you for consultation. Make use of the catalogue in the Research Centre, and also of the knowledge our Centre helpers have of the library stock.

We follow Public Health Scotland's guidance for public libraries, so books which have been used are quarantined for 72 hours before being replaced on the shelves.

Work in the library hasn't come to a halt though, and our main project at the moment concerns our exchange journals. We exchange journals with about 100 family-history societies worldwide. Some of these journals are in printed form and are on the library shelves, but more than half are now in electronic form. We are currently processing the backlog of these electronic journals to make them more easily available. Initially this will be on a database in King Street, but we also hope eventually to put them online.

library@anesfhs.org.uk

Margie Mellis

No. 2090

—oOo—

1871 Census Puzzle Solved

In Journal 156 (pp. 14–15), we set you a brain-teaser concerning a household in the 1871 census. Could you work out why this RICE family appeared in transcriptions on Ancestry and on FindMyPast but didn't appear in the 1871 census index on Scotland's People? How long would you take to find them *without* using credits to view any images?

The method, as so often in such cases, was to start with the two infant children, whose ages could be relied on to be potentially more accurate than the parents. For the surname search, setting "Wild cards allowed" lets you narrow down the options: R* will find any surname beginning with R, while RI* finds any surname beginning with those letters.

It turned out that Scotland's People had mis-indexed this family as "RIED". I received four replies. The quickest solution was Doug Stewart of Elgin (no. 563): 1 minute and 30 seconds. The others were almost as fast. If you didn't have a go at the puzzle, it's now too late, as Scotland's People have corrected the error since it was pointed out to them!

enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk

John Urie

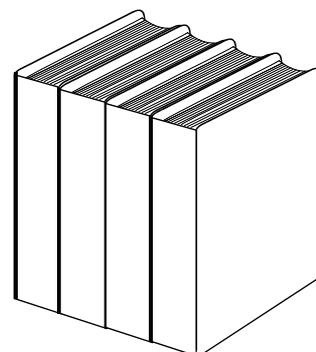
No. 9338

—oOo—

Book Review

Tracing Your Poor Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians by Stuart A. Raymond (Pen & Sword Family History, 2020), Paperback 196pp, £14.99. ISBN 978 1 52674 293 3

Many of us, if not most, have ancestors who lived hand to mouth, humble people who never expected to be remembered by future generations. However, while giving a comprehensive account of attempts through the ages to relieve poverty, the author lists dozens of websites where records can be found, plus books for further information. A drawback for those with Scottish ancestry and



without any forebears south of the border, though, is that this book's focus is on the poor of England and Wales.

A theme running through poverty relief was always the question of who would pay for it, and the amount of bureaucracy. What seems to have been considered only belatedly were the causes of poverty, for example the enclosing of land (so denying grazing or the collecting of fuel), trade depressions, or the uncertainty of seasonal work. There was always a distinction between the deserving poor and the undeserving poor, and one object of 17th- and 18th-century workhouses was to deter the latter. Overhauling the system was the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 that created unions of parishes, with Boards of Guardians and salaried staff. A similar law was enacted in Scotland in 1845, but here parishes were not compelled to provide a Poor House (Workhouse), and the able-bodied poor were exempt from receiving relief.

The spectre of entering the workhouse loomed if the family breadwinner had no work. Men, women and children were separated, but at least the children got some education, and there was medical care for all. The workhouse was almost inevitable for old people with no means of support; no wonder the introduction of old-age pensions in 1908 was considered a miracle. The need for workhouses then diminished. In 1909, my widowed great-great-grandmother died in one, aged 88. By then, this was more of a geriatric unit, but inmates still had to wear the standard uniform. Even after the demise of the last workhouse, I remember my own grandmother still speaking darkly of "the workhouse". Memories of past poverty still lingered on.

spthorshope@gmail.com

Stella Pedersen No. 12914

—oOo—

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Hints and Tips from Members

As the days get shorter, SCRAN's free subscription offer gets longer and is now extended to the end of March 2021. Standing for "Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network", and now part of Historic Environment Scotland, www.scran.ac.uk is an online learning service containing over 400,000 images and media from museums, galleries and archives. It aims to advance public education by enabling access to Scotland's culture, heritage and related material. Its huge range of materials includes much of interest to family historians.

alisonmckay@blueyonder.co.uk

Alison McKay No. 18168

From our Southern Ontario Group members:

While looking through some old Journals, I found a report in Journal 112 (August 2009) from the Glasgow Group meeting of 16th May 2009 recommending the US website www.archive.org/index.php, which has a large number of scanned documents, including many from Scotland like *Scottish Notes and Queries* (good for Aberdeen) and various church publications. The link still works, and the website is free to use.

jmccausland@sympatico.ca

Joan McCausland No. 12504

People might also want to look at the *Scottish Historical Review* on www.jstor.org. Anyone can create an account and have access to 100 articles until the end of the year.

smleblanc@sympatico.ca

Sue LeBlanc

No. 1821

Journal Feedback Always Appreciated

Thank you for printing my query 156/4 and my article, “The Tales of Two Headstones”, in the August Journal. There has been no reaction yet to the photos, but these were quite a long shot anyway. I did receive two responses to the article. One was from a member in England who normally goes up to Dundee once a year to do family-tree research, and who has kindly offered to help me. Covid-19, however, has put all that on hold.

The other – an amazing surprise – was from a member, now living in North-East Scotland, with whom I was friends between the ages of 5 and 10 in Kenya. Our fathers were both tea-planters, and we lived in a location which was literally “in the middle of nowhere”. It was great to get reacquainted – though not yet in person, as I live in the Netherlands!

I am also delighted to be this Journal issue’s “centrefold”, with my Record of Ancestors chart starting back from my father. My grandmother was born in 1892 in Riga – now the capital of Latvia, but then part of the Russian Empire – where her Dundonian father was a flax merchant. She was, according to my father’s last surviving cousin, one of Churchill’s Russian translators at the 1945 Yalta conference with Stalin, because she was fluent from having been brought up in Riga. Do any readers know how I could try to establish this from official records?

scroggiefam@hotmail.com

Grant Scroggie

No. 12254

Hands Across the Sea

I have been a Society member for many years; and, although my paternal family is from the far north of Scotland, I do have a couple of ancestors from Moray, and my father left a very interesting diary of his time at Marischal College in Aberdeen before the Second World War. My maternal family is Irish.

When ANESFHS set up a Melbourne-area Group in 2019, my ears began to twitch, as an Irish great-uncle had emigrated to Sunshine, now a suburb of Melbourne, and had sadly died there. Family letters which have survived from the early 1900s show that his relatives were waiting to see how he got on before they too considered emigrating. I know most of his story through the Australian archives, but my twitchy ears got the better of me, and I made contact with the Group.

Gweneth Myers (no. 12481), who attends Melbourne Group meetings, corresponded with me and went to the cemetery to search for my great-uncle Edmund Jenkins. He has no gravestone, but she found his plot.

So ... from a member in Edinburgh, via an Aberdeen society which has an active group of members in Melbourne, to a member close to Sunshine, who kindly travelled to Footscray cemetery to look for the grave of a man from Monaghan in Ireland ... thank you. This is how it should work – hands across the sea.

akahattie@hotmail.com

Sally Low

No. 1441

Articles

Never Give Up: Wedding Photograph Discovered



This is my Mum and Dad's wedding photograph – and, until September 2020, I had never seen it. Agnes Helen Forbes (1915–58) and Alexander Leonard Galt (1912–92) married on 27th December 1940 in Aberdeen. The best man was my Mum's oldest brother, David Forbes (1900–85), and the bridesmaid was my Dad's youngest sister, Mary Yorston Galt ("Molly", 1917–80). I think the boy was my Dad's adopted brother Denis (1933–2003); and the little girl was my Mum's niece, Margaret Park Forbes (1935–41).

My mother died when I was eight years old, and I have very few photographs of her. I had resigned myself to the idea that I would never find any more photographs, as most of my family are long gone.

Auntie Molly met a Canadian soldier, Anton Ralph Wanner ("Tony", 1922–2009), who was in North-East Scotland during the Second World War. They married in Aberdeen in May 1946, then Tony returned to Canada (with his regiment?), and Molly followed him in the September. She died in 1980, and I found her gravestone on the Find a Grave website, but it didn't give her exact date of death. However, a few months ago I found Tony's obituary, which mentioned his second wife, Thelma, and also named his stepchildren.

On the off-chance, I searched Facebook for the stepson's name, and found a matching name. When I looked at his profile, there was a post showing a photograph of his mother, whose name was Thelma!!! It had to be him. I private-messaged him through Facebook

explaining who I was, asking if he was the correct person, and, if he was, did he know Molly's date of death? He replied a few days later to confirm he was in fact Tony's stepson but sadly couldn't help with my query.

Recently, he contacted me again. They had been at a family gathering to celebrate his mother Thelma's 94th birthday, and he had mentioned to his sister that I had contacted him. She then said: "I have all Molly's photos". This lady and I then had a conversation through Messenger about these photos. She said she was happy to send them to me. She is a keen photographer and didn't want to throw them away, as she knew someone would want them. I shared a photo showing Molly with her mother and surviving siblings, taken when she had come back to Aberdeen for a visit in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The lady then asked what my Dad's name was. When I told her, she said: "I have his wedding photo"!!! She e-mailed me a copy – and, when I saw it, I confess a few tears were shed. To see this photograph almost 80 years after the event was so emotional.

There is a little sad sidenote to this, though. When I first saw the photograph, I didn't know who the little girl was. While looking through newspaper archives to see if I could find a marriage announcement, I found a death notice for a Margaret Park Forbes, aged five, who was the only daughter of John and Jean Forbes. Now, I knew these were my Mum's youngest brother and his wife, but I had never heard of this little girl. I have since confirmed that this was in fact the girl in the photo, who very sadly died of diphtheria just one month after my parents' wedding.

The lady in Canada has since let me know that all the photographs and some papers are on their way to me by airmail. I just hope that the Canadian postal system and the Royal Mail don't take too long, as I am beyond excited!

It just goes to show that you should never give up looking for photographs or records; they may be out there somewhere. You never know what may turn up, even from folk who have up until now been complete strangers.

patblack@sky.com

Pat Black No. 18074

—oOo—

Torry Heritage Group Stories: Alexina Law

Torry Heritage Group is active locally and on Facebook, and has researched many stories that may interest ANESFHS members.

ANESFHS has produced the MI booklet for St Clement's Kirkyard in Footdee. Stone 36 commemorates George Law, late shipmaster (d. 1868 aged 62), his wife Margaret (d. 1844 aged 42) and their children George, John and Ann. The inscription continues:



Also in memory of ALEXINA LAW, beloved wife of ROBERT GRAHAM, who was lost in the emigrant ship *Kapunda*, off the coast of Brazil, on a voyage from Plymouth to Western Australia, 20th January 1887, aged 45 years.

On 22nd July 1865, at 4 Cotton Street, Aberdeen, Alexina Law (22), of 4 Cotton Street, married Robert Graham (23), sailmaker and seaman, Merchant Service, of 2 Links Street, Aberdeen. Alexina's parents were George Law, seaman and master, Merchant Service, and the late Margaret (née Stables). Robert Graham was the son of Joseph Graham, foreman rope and sailmaker, and the late Margaret (née Taylor).

From the *Aberdeen Evening Express* of Thursday 10th February 1887:

THE KAPUNDA DISASTER
AN ABERDONIAN DROWNED

We regret to learn that among the long list of names of those who went down with the *Kapunda* appears that of Mrs Alexina Graham, a native of Aberdeen. We understand that Mrs Graham was on her way out to join her husband, who was for a long time a sailmaker in Aberdeen, but who emigrated to Australia a short time ago. Mrs Graham, who was forty-four years of age, was a niece of the late John Law, baker, Shiprow.

Alexina was travelling on her own to join her husband in Australia on the “Nomination System”, having been nominated for cheap passage by a person already in Australia, in this case listed as R. Graham in Fremantle. Alexina had been living in Liverpool prior to her departure.

The iron-hulled *Kapunda* had been built in Dumbarton on the Clyde and launched in 1875. Under Captain John Masson, she had been chartered by the Crown Agents to carry emigrants to Australia. She sailed from London on 12th December 1886, calling at Plymouth on the 18th to embark passengers, on passage for Fremantle, Western Australia. She carried a crew of 40, a surgeon, four cabin passengers, 268 emigrants, 600 tons of cargo and 300 tons of ballast.

(Kapunda is a town in South Australia, founded after copper was discovered there in 1842. The name comes from an Aboriginal word “cappieoonda”, meaning “water jumps out”, in reference to a spring.)

At 3:20am on 20th January 1887, off the coast of Brazil, the *Kapunda* was hit by the iron barque *Ada Melmore*, which was sailing from Chile to the UK with 843 tons of manganese ore. The *Kapunda* was hit on her starboard side near the bow and cut down to the keel. Spars and rigging fell to her deck, killing and injuring passengers and crew coming on deck. She sank in minutes, with no time to launch any lifeboats – and survivors thrown into the water may have died as a result of shark attack. Other passengers, young females, may have been locked in their accommodation at night “for their own safety”.

Nine survivors managed to climb onto the *Ada Melmore*, another was picked up by a boat from her, and six found a small boat in the water, making 16 survivors (all male) from a total of 313 aboard. On 25th January, 14 survivors transferred to the French barque *Ulysses*, which took them to Bahia, Brazil. The other two stayed aboard the *Ada Melmore* and landed at Maceió, Brazil, after she sank on 28th January, also as a result of damage from the collision. The resulting inquiry into the loss found Captain Milliken of the *Ada Melmore* at fault and suspended his certificate for two years. One source suggests that no sailing ship ever carried emigrants after this tragedy.

georgeawood@btinternet.com

George Wood No. 13758

—oOo—

DNA Does Not Lie

What does your DNA hold for the genealogist or family historian? It does not lie or suffer transcription errors or loss. It's waiting there to share its secrets – not only helping you with your research but also helping those unknown relatives who share your DNA. So, take a test, and help the wider community and Society members.

A DNA test is like a blood test in that, when one is ordered, you have to specify what tests are to be run on the sample. What results are required? Decide on what you want from the test. The three main types of DNA tests are:

- Autosomal, for researching back up your tree for up to five to six generations only, and for discovering your living male and female cousins. It can be taken by male or female researchers, and is very popular.
- Y-DNA, for direct male-line research, taken by males only. It covers any number of generations back to Adam. Who was the father's father's father ...?
- Mitochondrial (mtDNA), to follow the direct female side of your tree back. It can be taken by male or female researchers. Who was your mother's mother's mother ...?

Testing companies and costs vary. Ancestry, being the best known of them, and Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), 23andMe, and numerous smaller companies offer regular sales. The features and functions they offer also differ widely. The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) provides lists of these companies and what tests they offer. Upgrades for some types of tests are available, allowing for a cheaper "try it and see" option first. When you find a match to someone who has taken a bigger test, you can decide to upgrade to see if your match continues with this person.

The ways your results are presented vary with each company. Their algorithms for finding matches etc. vary, and it is common to find differences between the list of matches reported by the companies. Share your test results as widely as possible. FTDNA, along with several other companies, allows you to upload your results from another company to their database. Ancestry do not offer this service. So, I suggest ordering a test with Ancestry, ensuring that the test provides what you want to discover. Then do a free transfer of your results to FTDNA. You're getting two tests for the price of one.

When receiving a list of matches for a Y-DNA test (all-male line), you may be expecting all matches to have the same surname. Centuries ago, only if people were rich, famous or a clan chief did they use a surname. Not everyone in a small community would have need of a surname. Not until official registration, in all its different forms, did it become a necessity. So, accept the list of matches you are given, and research them. Do not expect immediate exact matches. Your closest matches may not have tested yet.

Forums and projects, run by the companies, help you learn how best to use your results. Obvious choices would be to join appropriate surname projects; but consider haplogroup and geographic ones too. A haplogroup is a group of individuals who share well-defined segments of matching DNA. The better the test, the more refined your haplogroup will be. Geographic projects offer the sharing of DNA research with a mix of all those different surnames associated within a region. Combining this with conventional research and with the expert knowledge available at ANESFHS, for example, helps the project members.

The Aberdeen & NE Scotland DNA project at FamilyTreeDNA is a Dual Geographic project. "Dual" means we accept Y-DNA and autosomal tests. Some surname projects only research male Y-DNA. The projects are free to use, and you can join as many as you wish. Here is a link to ours; just click on "Join":

www.familytreedna.com/public/AberdeenNorthEastScotland

These projects are run by volunteer administrators, with no financial reward for their efforts. Plenty of help is available, as most administrators and project members started from the same place – knowing absolutely nothing about DNA.

Offering and maintaining privacy is important to these testing companies. You can set an assortment of sharing or privacy settings to suit your needs. Obviously, the best way to go is to share your results as widely as possible.

If you have your traditional research in a GEDCOM file you can upload, you will find other researchers – those possible cousins – will use it to try to find shared ancestors and to share their research with you. How helpful would it be for someone to pick their way through your tree looking for matches? Ancestry, having millions of GEDCOM files, will produce a list of matches containing close cousins down to “5th to distant” ones. The results will be based on both the uploaded trees and your matching DNA. Ancestry use their “ThruLines” routine to scan every one of their GEDCOM files to find shared ancestors. I read recently they have completed 18 million DNA tests. Not every one of them will have a GEDCOM tree available, but a high proportion have at least one in place.

Take a test, have fun, and find out who you really are.

A worked example of what can be achieved

I have two long-standing brick walls for Jamieson lines with roots in Bogmoor/Bogmuir near Spey Bay, Bellie parish, Moray:

- George Jamieson (b.c. 1750), who married Margaret Ritchie around 1780 in Bellie;
- John Jamieson, who married Mary Gray on 19th March 1796 in Bellie.

Many independent, well-researched and proven versions of these two long-established trees exist. My theory is that there were three earlier Jamieson males living in what would have been the small hamlet of Bogmoor:

George (b.c. 1690), William (b.c. 1700) and Lewis (b.c. 1710).

All were salmon-fishers on the River Spey, so surely they must be related? I believe George (b.c. 1690) is my 7g-grandfather, and George (b.c. 1750; m.c. 1780 Margaret Ritchie) is my 4g-grandfather. I have not been able to find a way to prove the parents or birth of my 4g-grandfather, George Jamieson. So, my brick wall should stop short of these three “brothers”, who might possibly be cousins. My theory begs the acceptance of a further three generations, partly researched and proven, ending with our three males as not 100% proven, and left with the branches at the top of the tree blowing in the wind.

Demolishing the two brick walls

How do I prove a connection and send these two brick walls to landfill? Having taken a Y-DNA test for my male line, I needed a descendant from the other tree and to hope he could be persuaded to kindly take the same test. It took a year to track down an individual, since deceased, who was willing to provide a sample. I ordered a Y37 DNA test (to test for 37 markers) – and, as I was sure of my theory, expected us to match. As our two trees do not connect on their two Jamieson male lines through traditional research, we know that if we match, then we share a male progenitor from the far side of the brick walls.

You may guess we didn’t match – and not only that, but also we were from different major haplogroups (mine is R-M296 and his I-M253). It would not be strictly true to say that I’m Scottish and he is Irish, but I use it to help illustrate how far apart we stand – i.e. not at all close, and no help with the brick walls.

Not willing to accept my theory could be wrong, I asked (what up to this point was) a supposedly “known” male direct-line first cousin of mine, living in Buckie, to provide a sample to test. What would I find? Which of us would he match? He did match – but not with me. His Y37 DNA test matched almost exactly with the other tree, thus proving my theory but leaving my branch fallen from the tree.

Brick walls to landfill, but my tree with a damaged branch

Maybe it would be wise to try to prove, in support of my theory, where my mismatch had occurred. I wanted to date my “NPE” (Non-Paternity Event, or Not the Parent Expected). How do I do that? I contacted another cousin from Buckie, and, along with my first cousin above, ordered two tests. Their common ancestor, with matching DNA, was up until that point my 2g-grandfather William Jamieson. So, the break in my part of the line has happened since William, who married Jessie Hendry in 1841 in Rathven. I have an NPE which is not attested in the conventional public records.

Where does my branch belong?

So, the next stage is to find proof of how my paternal line descended from William. I have had autosomal tests run on two of my first cousins, and the three of us have good solid matches to our common grandparents. I match my three cousins, so the NPE looks like it lies prior to our grandfather, therefore with either my 2g-grandparents or their son John Jamieson, who married Mary Davidson in 1882 in Rathven.

Left holding the branch

At what point was my DNA grafted onto the Jamieson line? There are lots of possibilities for an NPE. Maybe an unofficial adoption for my great-great-grandparents (William, married Jessie Hendry in 1841), or for my great-grandparents (John, married Mary Davidson)? My autosomal results give a good solid connection to Mary Davidson and much weaker matching for John, and so they point to John m. Mary as where the issue is to be found ... but read on.

Score so far: two old brick walls demolished and another newly built

My grandfather, registered as George Jamieson Davidson (b. 1879), was an illegitimate child of Mary, who took John to the Kirk Session to accept paternity – which he did. In 1882 they married, and the child became George Davidson Jamieson and the eldest of nine children. All the male siblings, apart from my grandfather, either died young or did not marry: John (1883–96) died aged 13, William (1886–1953) never married, Henry (1893–1943) never married, and Alexander Logie Jamieson (1898–1901) died aged 3. So, no further male descendants that I can test ... or did any of those brothers not marry but nevertheless father any children?

I carry on researching my “Jamiesons of Bellie” for the benefit of my family members and the lines that married into it.

Where to from here?

I need to discover who was the progenitor of my branch, and to start researching our early generations of my paternal tree. All I need is to get *everyone* with North-East roots to take a test, and I’m sure I will find the answer. Having spent over 30 years researching my “Jamiesons of Bellie” tree, only to see just three or four generations remain of my paternal line, I need your help – and please hurry it up, as I don’t think I will have another 30 years to look forward to.

Take a test, have fun, and find out who you really are.

george.jamieson@btinternet.com

George Jamieson

No. 8140

Stewart Family History: Aberdeen Combworks

The company which eventually became the Aberdeen Combworks (ACW) was established and developed for almost 100 years by the Stewart family. John Stewart, a native of Perth, arrived in Aberdeen around 1830 to set up a comb-manufacturing business in partnership with Joseph Rowell. Despite competition from existing rivals in Aberdeen, Stewart, Rowell & Co. thrived and eventually became the leading comb manufacturer in the world.

I first became involved with ACW in the 1960s as a partner in the firm of Williamson & Dunn, auditors to the company at that time. I have been very ably supported in the present project by Hugh Smith (director 1964–74) and Gillian Downie (accountant 1972–77 and ANESFHS member no. 11991).

This account, drawing extensively on the National Records of Scotland, builds on research carried out by Dr Charlie Geddes BSc PhD CChem FIMMM MRSC (1938–2016), with added references from newspapers online at Find My Past.

John Stewart (1810–87)

John Stewart was born in Perth in October 1810. Records suggest that his father, John snr, was a blacksmith in Perth, and his mother, Mary Martin, was the daughter of a farmer in Forgandenny, outside Perth – though John Stewart jnr’s death certificate in 1887 gives his mother’s maiden name as “McPherson”. The certificate also gives the occupation of John’s father as a “Gentleman”, suggesting that he had become a man of means.

At the tender age of 18, John Stewart first applied his entrepreneurial spirit in setting up a business in Edinburgh making combs from horn, but the business failed, and he moved to Aberdeen two years later to set up a similar business in partnership with Joseph Rowell, a chainmaker, in a cart shed in Mealmarket Lane. The combs were fashioned from ox hooves. The business was so successful that in six years they purchased substantial land lying between Hutcheon Street and Charles Street from Dr Watt of New Deer. The friends went on to marry sisters: in 1832 John Stewart married Mary Irvine, who was the sister of Joseph Rowell’s wife, Isabella Irvine, whom he had married in 1829.

The company’s success was due to the inventive and entrepreneurial skills of the men, being the first combmakers to introduce steam-driven machinery, which reduced process costs by 80%, and partly by introducing a novel technique for producing two combs from one sheet of horn. Consequently, the fortunes of Stewart, Rowell & Co. went from strength to strength, and they amassed a substantial fortune.

In the 1851 census, John Stewart, aged 40, is described as “master comb maker”, with 626 employees. He was living at Cotton Lodge, Aberdeen with his wife Mary (39) and their children Julia (17), David (15), John (13), Mary (12), George Irvine (10), Joseph Rowell (6), Jessie Souter (5), Patrick Irvine (3) and Sarah (1). Also in the household were three domestic servants and a farm servant. John and Mary completed their family around 1854 with the birth of Hannah.

In 1853, John’s partnership with Joseph Rowell was dissolved, and the company was renamed Stewart, Rowell Stewart & Co., with the new partners being John Stewart and three of his sons: John (III), George Irvine Stewart and Joseph Rowell Stewart. John’s eldest son, David, was not named as a partner, perhaps because he was a student at Aberdeen University at the time, although he started working for the company in 1855 when he completed his studies, and played a big part in its development.

In the 1861 census, John (50) is described as a cotton manufacturer, ship-owner, railway director and landed proprietor. It appears that “cotton manufacturer” was a mistake and should read “comb manufacturer”, because he was still active in the company. Following a dispute with the Aberdeen & London Steam Navigation Co., where he was a director, he set up a steam shipping line and was a director of the newly formed Highland railway, the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, where he became chairman. The shipping company was not a success, two steamers the *Stanley* and the *Gambia* being wrecked on the coast. The “landed proprietor” description also applied because he had purchased the estate of Craigiebuckler, to the west of Aberdeen on the north bank of the River Dee.

The lands of Craigiebuckler had been granted to the City of Aberdeen by Robert the Bruce as “freedom lands” in 1319. The lands were sold off in the early 19th century to pay for the construction of Union Street. In 1826, James Blaikie, who became the first Lord Provost of Aberdeen in 1833, built a mansion house on the grounds of Craigiebuckler. John Stewart, a relative of James Blaikie, purchased the mansion house in the 1850s but had to sell it in the late 1860s when his shares in the Highland railway depreciated. John Couper, an engineer working in China, purchased the estate and laid out the grounds as they are today. In the 1930s, the estate was purchased on behalf of the newly founded Macaulay Institute of Soil Research. The mansion house and grounds are now the home of the James Hutton Institute, which is an amalgamation of the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Aberdeen and SCRI (Scottish Crop Research Institute) in Dundee.

In 1865, John Stewart owned Craigiebuckler House, the Overseers House, the Home Farm, Braeside Farm and houses at Slopefield.

As a result of the cost (£46,000) of setting up the North Steam Company with a fleet of steam ships, and because of the depreciation in the stock of the Great North Railway, triggered by the contract for mail being awarded to the Highland railway, John Stewart was forced to sell the Craigiebuckler Estate in the late 1860s. In December 1870, John Stewart jnr ceased to be a partner in Stewart, Rowell Stewart & Co.

In the 1871 census, John, aged 60 and described as a comb manufacturer, employing 600–700 men, was residing at 32 Bon Accord Terrace, Aberdeen, with his children: Joseph (28), Jessie (25), Patrick (23) and Sarah (21). Also in the household were their grandchildren, Arthur Oncke (4), born in Germany, and Gertrude Oncke (0), born in Leith, and five servants. John’s wife Mary had died at Craigiebuckler in 1863, aged 52.

With the continuing success of Stewart, Rowell & Co., John’s financial fortunes were revived, and he was able, in 1872, to purchase Banchory House and estates, in the parish of Banchory-Devenick, Kincardineshire, just across the Dee from Craigiebuckler. This estate dates back to the 14th century. In 1843, the previous owner, Alexander Thomson, started to build a new mansion house on the site of one built in the 17th century, which had fallen into disrepair. One notable event at the new house was a visit from Prince Albert in 1859, in connection with a meeting of the British Association in Aberdeen.

In the 1881 census, John Stewart (aged 70), widower, comb manufacturer and Justice of the Peace, was residing at Banchory House, Banchory-Devenick, Kincardineshire, with three of his children, Joseph (38) (occupation: comb manufacturer), Jessie (35) and Hannah (27) (all unmarried). Also listed in the household were six servants.

John Stewart died on 25th January 1887, aged 76, at Banchory House. On his death certificate, he was described as “Comb Manufacturer and Proprietor of Lands”, widower of Mary Irvine. Of his two sons listed as partners in Stewart, Rowell Stewart & Co.,

George Irvine Stewart had died in 1870, and Joseph Rowell Stewart died in 1888, after which the company was managed by John snr's eldest son, David.

John Stewart and Alexander MacDonald, granite stone-polishers, were great personal friends and Baptists instrumental in the building of the Baptist Church in Silver Street. The foundation stone was laid in 1893. Local lore is that Alexander borrowed the steam machinery to test its effectiveness in polishing granite. Both men provided employment for many hundreds within the city.

Sources

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klm.seafield@gmail.com

Lawrence McAllister

No. 1114

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR STEWART OF BANCHORY.

The remains of the late Mr John Stewart of Banchory were yesterday interred in the cemetery connected with the Free Church of Banchory-Devenick. The ceremony was attended by a large and representative gathering of gentlemen from Aberdeen and the neighbourhood, as well as by tenants on the estate of Banchory, numbering about 170, and fully that number of employees from the extensive comb manufactory in Aberdeen of which the deceased gentleman was the founder. A funeral service was conducted at Banchory House at half-past one, by the Rev. Mr Hagan, of Dunfermline; and the coffin was afterwards conveyed to Banchory-Devenick Free Church, where an impressive service was conducted by the Rev. Mr Hagan, assisted by the Rev. W. S. Chadburn, of Crown Terrace Baptist Church. Several appropriate hymns were sung by a special choir, the harmonium accompaniments being played by Mr Mozart Atkins, Aberdeen. The church was crowded during the service. Shortly afterwards the remains, which were encased in a polished oak coffin with brass mountings, were borne to the churchyard, the carrying party consisting of twelve of the tenantry and an equal number of men from the Combworks, in relays of eight. The chief mourners were—Mr David Stewart, Dean of Guild of the City of Aberdeen; Mr John Stewart and Mr Joseph Stewart, sons of the deceased; Mr Thomas Irvine, Liverpool (brother-in-law), Mr William Hall, shipbuilder, Aberdeen; Mr George Thompson, yst. of Pitmedden (sons-in-law); Mr Douglas Stewart and Master Charles Stewart (grandsons); and Professor Niven, Aberdeen University. The coffin-plate bore the inscription:

**JOHN STEWART OF BANCHORY,
BORN, 22ND. AUG., 1810
DIED JAN. 25TH. 1887.**

A choir of girls from the Hutcheon Street works sang appropriate hymns while the company were entering the church, and afterwards at the graveyard. The wreaths sent for the adornment of the coffin numbered fifty [...]

The order of the procession was as follows:—Workers, carrying party, the coffin, mourners, tenantry, general company, carriages.

Among those who attended the funeral were Baillies Kinghorn, Gordon, Ogilvie, Pyper, Berry and Mearns; Treasurer Walker; Councillors Findlay, Curr, Morgan, Maconnachie, Collie, Byres, Craig, Crombie, Lyon and Maitland Moir; Principal Geddes, Professor Milligan, Professor Matthew Hay, Mr Ogston of Ardoe, Mr Fortescue of Kingcausie, Mr Alex. Forbes, merchant; the Very Rev. Dean Stopani, Dr Stewart of Heathcot, Mr George Jamieson, merchant; Mr James Ross, Mr George Donald, Mr John D. Milne of Melgum, Mr Robert Walker, M.A., librarian, Aberdeen University; Mr James Walker, Mr James Chalmers of Westburn, Mr John Chalmers, Mr J. Murray Garden, advocate; Mr Sinclair of Loirston, Rev. Mr Lawrence, Banchory-Devenick; Mr Crombie of Balgownie, Mr Crombie of Daneston, Rev. G. W. Thomson, Free West Church; Mr T. A. W. A. Youngson, advocate; Mr G. Cadenhead, Procurator-Fiscal for the county and city of Aberdeen; Mr Wm. Gordon, advocate, Town Clerk; Mr P. M. Cran, city chamberlain; Dr Will, Mr Wm. Smith, city architect; Mr Robert Gerard, Dr Gibbon, Mr Robert Lumsden, North of Scotland Bank; Mr John Findlater, Town and County Bank; Dr Alexander, Mr Wm. Lindsay, publisher; Dr Macgregor, Dr Jamieson, Dr Urquhart, Mr Meffet, advocate; Mr Sutherland, commission agent; Mr A. W. Robertson, M.A., Public Library; Mr John S. Stuart, Great North of Scotland Railway; Mr Thomas Hector, School Board clerk; Mr John Clarke, Gymnasium, Old Aberdeen; Mr Andrew Murray, advocate; Mr Alexander H. Wilson (Messrs Hall, Russell, & Co.); Rev. Mr Still, Banchory-Devenick; Mr Allan, teacher; Mr Charles Shepherd, Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company; Mr S. G. Mitchell, advocate; Mr A. C. Barker, Mr Henry Worling, Mr M^cAdam, contractor, &c. About twenty carriages followed the cortege, among them being those of Lord Provost Henderson and Mr George Thompson of Pitmedden. The funeral arrangements were entrusted to Messrs James Allan & Sons, Aberdeen, and were efficiently carried out under the superintendence of Mr Garden, of that firm.

“Who was Sandy?”

There are many routes to the start of an interest in family history. These include:

- a half-remembered story your grannie once told you
- an old photograph of people you do not know or recognise
- a military medal or Dead Man’s Penny for somebody you had never heard of
- *a whispered tale of the black sheep of the family* that NOBODY will tell you about!

My own research started with the above question: “Who was Sandy?” Around 1969, my great-aunt Chrissie Inverarity (née Murray) visited Scotland from Canada for only the second time since she had left in 1906. This would be her last trip home to Aberdeenshire.

A party was held at my parents’ house, Bynach, Westfield Farm, Bielside, Peterculter, where also present were my grandmother, Elsie Stewart, and her other sisters Jessie Cowie and Annie Craig. While the four sisters were deep in conversation about the past, one of them said: “It’s a pity Sandy isn’t here with us today. He always enjoyed a good party.”

I knew about their brother Rob and another sister called Ella Johnston, and I had a vague recollection about another sister, Peggy Murray, but had never heard about a relative called Sandy. So, as an inquisitive 14-year-old, I asked the question: “Who was Sandy?”

There was silence for a moment, then one of the four sisters said: “He was our youngest brother and was killed in the War”. “The Second World War?” I enquired. “No, no, the First World War: his boat was sunk in 1916.”

There was another moment’s silence, then I posed the third critical question:

“So, *how many* brothers and sisters did you have?”

I got an unexpected rush of information from all four sisters at once. “Well, there was Peggy that mother had before she married father, and Maggie who was born to father’s first wife, and Mary and Dod and me Chrissie and Johnnie and me Elsie and Jim and Rob and Bill and Sandy and me Jessie and me Annie and Ella, so that is fourteen” was the eventual collective answer.

So, who were the seven I had never heard of – Maggie, Mary, Dod, Johnnie, Jim, Bill and Sandy? This list was the starting point, which I would follow up 12 years later when I started regularly visiting New Register House after taking a job in Edinburgh in 1977.

Early family life of Sandy Murray

Sandy’s parents and family were typical of North-East Scotland’s agricultural community in the later 19th century and the early 20th century. The seasons and the farming calendar mostly defined their lives; external affairs had little influence on them until 1914. Though some larger and richer farms may have had tractors and lorries by 1918, most North-East farms depended totally on thousands of heavy horses (normally Clydesdales) to pull carts, till the soil and collect the harvest. My father ploughed with horses until the early 1950s, when his farm bought its first tractor, so the use of heavy horses would have been critical throughout the lives of George Murray (Sandy’s father) and all of his sons.

Weather was another major factor, as the Murray family found during their tenure of West Lasts farm in Peterculter parish, when several bad summers and early winters resulted in poor harvests. According to family stories and various letters to Chrissie in Canada, 1907 was particularly bad, with the corn (oats) frosted before harvest, and the neeps (turnips)

rotting in the field. My great-aunt Jessie once said farming at West Lasts had been a total disaster *every* year from 1905 to 1911, and “*The only good crop was the year we left*”.



Murray family, August 1906, West Lasts Farm, Peterculter, just before Chrissie left with Mary and her family for Canada. Back row: George snr, George jnr (Dod), Elsie, Chrissie, Rob, Bill, Sandy, Jim. Front row: Annie, Margaret (née Marr) (Ella in front), Jessie, Dod's wife Teena, Chrissie's daughter Bessie, Mary Gordon (née Murray) with son Jamie, James Gordon with their daughter Agnes. This is the only known photograph of Sandy.

George Murray was eventually released from the tenure contract at West Lasts. With his wife and younger children, and a granddaughter, he moved in 1912 to Moss-side farm on the north bank of the Dee in Drumoak parish, which at 52 arable acres was smaller but a much better and more productive farm. George was the tenant at Moss-side until both he and his wife died in 1923. From a later poem by my grandmother, George only had a young boy to help him work the farm after Sandy left for the Navy. So, it is reasonable to assume that Sandy would have spent 1912–15 working with his father at Moss-side.

Sandy would have left from the nearby Drumoak railway station for Aberdeen in autumn 1915 to join the Royal Navy. Had it not been for the war, as youngest son he could have continued to work for his now elderly father at Moss-side, and even taken over the tenancy after George fell ill in 1922. Or, like his older surviving brothers, Sandy could have gone to another farm and tried to move up the scale. He might even have joined his sisters and brother-in-law on the Canadian prairies – but none of this was to be.

Royal Navy and HMS *Genista*

My third cousin, Neil Burnett, found Sandy's service record in the National Archives. His naval service began on 24th November 1915 – which means that he had volunteered, as national conscription began only on 2nd March 1916. His elder brother Bill had chosen the Army; and a nephew was already in the Navy as a Leading Seaman. Whatever Sandy's motivation, the 1st Class Stoker's task of shovelling coal for long periods in the bowels of a naval vessel cannot have been pleasant, especially in the rough Atlantic off Ireland.

Most of my information on HMS *Genista* has come from websites and seems plausible. This Clyde-built sloop minesweeper, launched on 22nd February 1916, was minesweeping off Cape Clear near the strategic port of Cobh (Queenstown) in County Cork, south-west Ireland, when she was torpedoed and sunk by U-boat U57 on 23rd October 1916 with the loss of 73 ratings and all six officers. Only 12 ratings survived.

As so often in war, this was a small ship doing vital work for the benefit of others, but unluckily placed for an opportune attack by an unseen enemy submarine. Newspaper reports claimed that the ship went down while fighting back the submarine's attack, but I suspect this was wartime propaganda. Sandy Murray is recorded on the casualty list for HMS *Genista* as Stoker 1st Class, Alexander Aberdein Murray, K/29288. He was 19.

As well as his son Sandy, George Murray lost two grandsons in the First World War. Another son, Bill, serving in the Gordon Highlanders, was gassed, captured and held PoW for a year, which severely affected his health for the rest of his life. Two other sons had earlier been lost to ill health in young adulthood: John at Hill of Eddieston croft, and James during the family's unlucky tenancy of West Lasts farm, both in Peterculter parish.

“So, who was Sandy?”

Sandy was Alexander Aberdein Murray, born on 3rd February 1897 at Hill of Eddieston, West Peterculter, sixth and youngest son of George Murray and his second wife Margaret Marr. In his short life, he only knew a few of his eventual 40-plus nieces and nephews but was fondly remembered by his sisters. It is not known if he had a sweetheart; it was not a question I asked of his four sisters when I had the chance (but I bet my grandmother would have known). Since 1916, his body has remained with most of the others in the wreck of HMS *Genista* off south-west Ireland. He is recorded on Portsmouth Naval Memorial and on the family gravestone in Durris kirkyard in Kincardineshire. That inscription reads:

In memory of MARGARET STRACHAN wife of GEORGE MURRAY died Westerton, Durris June 26th 1875 aged 27; the above GEORGE MURRAY who died Moss-side Cottage, Drumoak April 21st 1923 aged 75; also his wife MARGARET MARR died Jan 23rd 1923 aged 65; and their sons JOHN MARR died Feb 2nd 1903 aged 18; JAMES died April 17th 1911 aged 21; ALEXANDER ABERDEIN lost at sea Oct 23rd 1916 aged 19; and their daughter JESSIE ALVES COWIE died Dec 19th 1993 aged 94. At Rest.

Perhaps because of the nature of his death, Sandy in particular was always in the memories of his immediate relatives in the decades which followed. Perhaps just to be remembered is all anybody can expect, along with the knowledge of who everybody is in fading images of family photographs. Obviously I never knew him, but his life and the conversation with his four sisters was the starting point of my quest for knowledge of who my ancestors were. I just hope I can give him some immortality for another generation or two.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Married surname</i>
1 Margaret (Peggy) Marr	2 Mar 1875	28 Nov 1969	Murray
2 Margaret Strachan (Maggie) Murray	27 Apr 1875	29 Jan 1927	Campbell
3 Mary Murray	3 Jun 1877	1938	Gordon
4 George Alexander (Dod) Murray	6 Oct 1879	1 Mar 1961	
5 Christina Watson (Chrissie) Murray	13 Jan 1882	15 Jan 1973	Inverarity
6 John Marr (Johnnie) Murray	11 Sep 1884	2 Feb 1903	
7 Elspet Ewen (Elsie) Murray	18 Nov 1886	19 Feb 1976	Stewart
8 James (Jim) Murray	10 Jun 1889	17 Apr 1911	
9 Robert (Rob) Murray	19 Nov 1891	27 Aug 1971	
10 William (Bill) Murray	19 Jul 1894	21 Jul 1930	
11 Alexander Aberdein (Sandy) Murray	3 Feb 1897	23 Oct 1916	
12 Jessica Alves (Jessie) Murray	31 Mar 1899	16 Dec 1993	Cowie
13 Ann Sinclair (Annie) Murray	10 Jun 1901	18 Aug 1981	Craig
14 Isabella (Ella) Murray	19 Jul 1903	30 Dec 1979	Johnston

If any members of the Society recognise the names above, or their parents George Murray (25 Jul 1847—21 Apr 1923), Margaret Marr (30 Jul 1857—23 Jan 1923), and Maggie jnr's mother Margaret Strachan (abt 1848—27 Jul 1875), please let me know. I have a family tree of 600+ names, all descended from George and his two wives, in Britain and Canada. I suspect there are several others in America, Australia and New Zealand.

On a secondary note, my father, Harvey Murray Stewart (1927–2007), always maintained that he had more cousins than Queen Victoria had had grandchildren (only two of them on the Stewart side of the family; all the rest were on the Murray side) – and I was later able to prove him right ... but that is another story for another time.

Acknowledgements

Ethel Margaret Cowie (1935–2008, Jessie's daughter), history teacher, genealogy sleuth and past member of ANESFHS, for her notes on George Murray and Margaret Marr.

Neil Burnett (grandson of Dod Murray) for his help with military and naval history.

The *wonderful* Miss Annie Craig Scott, headmistress of St Nicholas Primary School, who *taught all* of her pupils to *ask questions* and *think* about the answers.

And, last *but not least*: my grandmother Elsie and my great-aunts Chrissie, Jessie and Annie. *IT IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!!!*

Sources

New Register House/Scotland's People Centre, Edinburgh; <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> website
Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk> website

reidnib.research@hotmail.co.uk Laurence J Stewart (Sandy's great-nephew) No. 2742

—oOo—

The Enigma of Fraser Park and Margaret McKenzie

My great-great-grandfather, Andrew Park, was born in Strichen, Aberdeenshire around 7th May 1830. Family folklore tells that he and an unnamed brother were orphaned as infants. The folklore indicates he was a stonemason working at Balmoral Castle in the early 1850s and came to Australia with a group of fellow stonemasons at around that time. After early work on the construction of the Melbourne-to-Bendigo railway (my great-grandfather, George Strachan Park, was born in 1862 at Sandhurst, now Bendigo), Andrew spent the rest of his working life on the construction of lighthouses around the Australian coastline.

We have the certificate of his marriage in 1857 in Melbourne to Elspet Strachan. Born on 1st November 1828 in Whiterashes, Newmachar parish, Aberdeenshire, Elspet had arrived in Melbourne with two of her sisters on 19th October 1854 as an assisted passenger on the *Black Eagle*. It appears that Andrew came to Australia as an unassisted traveller, and shipping records indicate that he may have arrived in Melbourne in late 1854.

Their marriage certificate and Andrew's death certificate (3rd July 1912) indicate that his parents were Fraser Park, carter, and Margaret McKenzie. There is no OPR entry for the birth of either Fraser or his son Andrew that I have been able to find. OPR and Kirk Session evidence that is available includes the following:

- *Parish of Strichen, 1828 April 5, Park and King. Fraser Park in the Parish of Udney and Elspet King this Parish. After proclamations, were married at Old Deer.*

- *Parish of Strichen, July 6th, 1828, Session met and compeared Fraser Park & Elspet King for Antenuptial Fornication. They were seriously exhorted and relieved from Church censure, their penalty being paid. (Was Andrew's brother born around this time?)*
- *Burial: Parish of Strichen, 1831 Dec 27, Elspet King, Village (no age given)*
- *Burial: Parish of Strichen, 1832 Feb 2, Fraser Park, Village. Age 25.*

I have found no references to a Margaret McKenzie that are relevant to my research. Fraser Park is a very rare name in OPsR, whereas Margaret McKenzie is a very common one, and the question seems to arise: "did Andrew Park know who his mother was?"

From census records, Andrew Park is found in 1841 living with John and Anne Scott in Low Street, New Pitsligo. He is listed as an Apprentice Hand Loom Weaver, aged 11. In 1851, it appears he was living as a lodger with the Robertson family in Port Elphinstone, by Inverurie, and is listed as an Apprentice Mason.

(Andrew's youngest son, John Strachan Park, born in 1868 in Melbourne, had a property in Croydon, north-east of Melbourne, which he called "Kemnay" – so this town, near Port Elphinstone, may have had some relevance to Andrew.)

Strichen Kirk Session records through the 1830s refer to payments made to John and Anne Scott for Fraser Park's orphan residing with them. An entry made in 1839 explicitly states that these payments were to cease, as he was of an age to go into service. It would appear from my research that Anne Scott is Anna Park, born in 1792 to Andrew and Margaret (Maiders) Park, and probably a relative of Fraser's on this basis.

My father became a serious genealogist in the 1970s, and my ANESFHS membership has retained his early number. I have continued his research into the Park family of Strichen over the past 10 years and, despite obtaining further information not known to him, have gone no further to solving the mystery of Fraser Park and Margaret McKenzie.

My grandfather, Andrew Robertson Park (born in 1896 in Melbourne), served in France in the First World War. He kept a brief diary in which he refers to visits he made at the time in England and Scotland to Strachan "cousins". He made no similar references to meeting any Park relatives, so it appears that his Scottish-born grandfather, Andrew Park, being an orphan, had no contact with his family after emigration to Australia.

jstrachanpark@bigpond.com

John Park

No. 1888



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First World War; and Gordon Highlanders	Anne Park	Anne.Park@anesfhs.org.uk
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<i>Indexing co-ordinator</i>	Jean Shirer	indexing@anesfhs.org.uk
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Queries for Journal	Ivor Normand	queries@anesfhs.org.uk
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ABERDEEN & N.E. SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
158–164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD
Scotland

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