



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

MARCH 2025

What is a Cappelman?

Thomas Smith Arnott

The Scottish Voyager

Anne Elphinstone, 'Heiress of Restalrig'

As Others See Us?

Patterns of Second Marriages

**QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY (SCIO)**

Vol. LXXIII No. 1

The Scottish Genealogy Society (SCIO)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Society is established to promote research into Scottish Family History and to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish genealogy. We assist members with modest enquiries but do not carry out professional research.

COURSES

We run a series of Courses throughout the year on various subjects to help members and non-members with their research.

NEWSLETTERS

The regular Newsletters are e-mailed to members who have chosen to receive them, and recent back issues are available to read in the online Members Area. If you are not currently receiving our Newsletter please contact us at E-mail: scotsgenpublicity@scotsgenealogy.com

MEMBERSHIP

All personal memberships of the Society are £20 per year (£25 for family memberships) and entitle all to receive "The Scottish Genealogist" as a PDF by email. UK residents can opt to receive a printed copy at no additional charge. For overseas members who wish to receive a printed copy of "The Scottish Genealogist", and for all institutions, the membership is £25 per year. All types of membership provide access to the online members' area of the website.

The Society has charitable status and members who pay UK income tax are encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme. Details of the scheme are available from the Membership Secretary. E-mail: membership@scotsgenealogy.com

PUBLICATIONS

Information about publications can be obtained from the Sales Secretary, email sales@scotsgenealogy.com Back issues of the Journal can be accessed in the members area of the website or by contacting the Sales Secretary.

ENQUIRIES

Correspondence should be addressed to 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Telephone 0131 220 3677. E-mail: enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com

TALKS

Most talks are online via zoom. Latest information is always available via our website at:

<https://www.scotsgenealogy.com/scottish-genealogy-society/calendar>

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

Articles are welcomed by the Editorial Team via email. Illustrations should be in JPEG format. Members' queries are welcome for inclusion in the magazine, space permitting. E-mail: editor@scotsgenealogy.com

SOCIETY WEBSITE

This can be accessed at www.scotsgenealogy.com Members can access the Members Only Area on the website by clicking "login" at the top of the webpage.

Note that we accept no responsibility for the functionality, accuracy, or content of external websites that may be referenced on our website or in our emails. If you believe that a link we provide points at inappropriate material, please do advise us at enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com

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Keeping up to date

The latest Society News

Sign in to our Website at scotsgenealogy.com and click on "Society News" in the "Members Area".

To subscribe to our monthly newsletter delivered via e-mail, click on your user name at the top right of the page and choose "Edit Profile" from the drop down menu. Then, under marketing, check the box for "newsletter".

Editorial

A fairly regular feature of life in the library has been phone calls from prospective visitors who have got lost enroute to 15 Victoria Terrace. The scaffolding and claustrophobic single-file walk on the first part of the Terrace has been with us for about four years. But if media reports are to be believed, this torture will cease by the end of 2025. At last, the developers have given us all a date for taking down the scaffolding.

Perhaps this will mean more visitors in 2026, and the need for more volunteers to assist them? It's a job that is immensely rewarding, and educational. For those of us who are naturally nosey, there is great fun in travelling down unexpected highways, and low-ways, in search of answers.

The environment in our library is improving just as outside is. The broadband now gallops rather than strolls (and it's cheaper!), the smell of fresh paint hovers gently in the background, the ugly screens at reception have gone, and new doors greet visitors.

With increasing numbers of people watching our talks online, that has become the main way we provide them. But members can also visit the Library to watch them in company. Either way, an engaging 2025 program is in prospect.

With the conversion of the Society to a SCIO all but complete, what should be the final update on the project will be provided at the AGM.

The draft of the next edition of the Journal, due in June and now in its seventy-first year of publication, is filling up and the outline for September is in preparation too. But contributions from members and others remain very welcome. The most recent arrival in the Editor's inbox was from a Canadian Society.

Mea Culpa. We referred to the donation from the late Dr Jim Cranstoun in our last edition. But the Editor's finger omitted to press the "u" and thus spelt his surname incorrectly. Sorry! We remain very grateful for his generous support.

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

*Send contributions to editor@scotsgenealogy.com
We are also happy to provide feedback on your ideas before you start the
serious task of writing a potential article.*

*We are looking for up to 1,750 words with limited references.
A further up to 40 words describing the author can also be provided which
may be published at the end of your contribution.*

Notice Of The AGM

Annual General Meeting Scottish Genealogy Society (SCIO)

5th June 2025 at 19.00 hrs

(Note: Early start)

Augustine United Church
41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL



AGENDA

Presiding: Dr J.J. Morrow, CBE KC LLD DL FRSE
The Right Honourable the Lord Lyon King of Arms

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approve and adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th February 2024
3. Council Annual Report 2023 – 2024. A copy is included in the March 2025 edition of the Scottish Genealogist
4. Treasurer's Report
Approval of Annual Accounts
Appointment of an independent examiner of account
5. Election of Trustees:

NAME	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Paul Soutar	Mirren McLeod	Moira Stevenson
Lynn Corrigan	Mirren McLeod	Paul Soutar
Kenneth Nisbet	Debbie Craig	Pauline McQuade
Elizabeth Watson	Lynn Corrigan	Ken Nisbet

6. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Progress
7. A.O.B.



Ordinary Meeting of the Society to Follow

A short talk will be provided by the Lord Lyon

There will be an opportunity to discuss the talk after the meeting over tea, coffee & biscuits

8. Hall closes at 21.50 hrs

Annual Report 2023-24

The overall stability seen in 2022-23 has been continued through this year, although there have been a small number of organisational changes. These are mainly due to the requirements of our migration to SCIO status, which has caused some turnover of personnel.

We have said farewell to Jan Rea as Chair, to Ellen and John Ellis as Journal Editors and to Eileen Ferguson as Trustee: we wish them well in the future and thank them for their contributions to the Society over the years. We welcome Paul Soutar as Chair and Membership Secretary, and Stewart Stevenson as Journal Editor. Ken Nisbet has also rejoined the Council as an additional Trustee.

Obituaries

We regret to record the deaths of some of our long-standing and valued members, including Jim Cranstoun and James Gibson.

Membership

The financial year has seen an increase in our membership on the previous year. At the close of September 2024, we had around 700 active members, of which over 200 are Overseas residents. We do have a fairly high turnover rate, with some 210 members choosing not to renew in the year. This was offset by about 290 new members joining in the same period. Our Overseas membership is predominantly US-based (140), with 32 Australians, 25 Canadians, and single digit counts from New Zealand, Ireland, Norway and eight other countries.

Our membership is increasingly becoming an online community. In September 2023, we posted some 560 copies of the Journal to members and emailed a further 135 PDF copies. By September 2024, we posted some 400 copies, with over 330 members opting to receive the PDF version. This represents a significant saving to the Society in terms of printing and distribution costs. We also now distribute over 330 copies of our monthly email newsletter to members.

SCIO

It was agreed by members at our AGM in February 2023 that the Society would pursue changing our constitution to a SCIO (Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation). Following extensive work by Pauline McQuade with the assistance of members Alex Wood and Gillian Kerr, a new Constitution was drafted. This was approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 11 April 2024. Scottish Genealogy Society (SCIO) SC053432 was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 12 June 2024. New Bank accounts have been opened, and we are currently running the legacy Society in parallel during the transition phase.

Treasurer's Report

Reduction of our operating costs has been a continued focus during the year. We have migrated to an alternate broadband supplier, which brought us a faster and more stable internet link for the library, plus improved onsite wi-fi access for members. We have also moved to an alternate energy provider at a fixed tariff, thus stabilising our energy bills. Our IT Support contract was also reviewed, and we have moved to a more cost-effective provider.

The website members' area was successfully launched in December 2023 and has been well received. With secure access, members can now -

- View all copies of the Scottish Genealogist
- Search surnames in our Cemetery Index
- Read our most recent Newsletters
- Download useful Genealogy Resources

Sales and Publications

In February 2024, the Society moved to Sumup, an online payment system for both card and cash transactions. It came with a free online shop which provides the Society with a more efficient, cost-effective platform and gives our customers a more user friendly and attractive shopping experience.

Overall footfall was down from the previous year, and this is reflected in the figures for sales of publications and donations. Conversely, royalties from Findmypast were slightly up but this small increase highlights the need to collect more data - Monumental Inscriptions and Burial Records. Concentrating on Edinburgh, groups of volunteers have been out and about in the city's cemeteries and graveyards, photographing and transcribing headstones and other grave markers for future publications. This is an exacting and time-consuming process, but we hope to have several publications ready in the coming year.

In line with other Family History Societies, new and some of our older publications are now available as PDFs. Many of our larger publications have been or are being reformatted and expanded. These will be (or are already) available in several parts as a volume set or as individual booklets and of course, as PDFs for online download.

Two new books were published in 2024 –

- Aberlady, East Lothian Burials and Mortcloth Records pre-1846
and
- Gogar Churchyard, Corstorphine Parish, Edinburgh, Monumental Inscriptions

Revision to existing publication –

- North Berwick: St. Andrew's Old Parish Church Monumental Inscriptions is now into its 3rd Revised Edition and was published in late summer

Talks

Our Talks programme for the past year has been excellent as ever and our thanks go to Barbara Revolta for putting together a range of interesting speakers. We have continued to make use of the hall and IT Facilities at Augustine United Church to provide the talks as hybrid events (in person and on Zoom).

The visit to the Archers Hall in Buccleuch Street, which was postponed from last year, took place on 14th May.

Outreach

The Society took part in a number of external events, including -

- Our return to the Meadows Festival on 1st and 2nd June (following the Covid hiatus)
- Doors Open Day on 28th September: the Library was open to visitors, and we also had a stall at the Augustine Church Hall

During the year, we also hosted a party of genealogists from Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI) as part of ASGRA's bi-annual exchange with AGI.

Library

The refurbishment of the library has continued, with the volunteers' kitchen area and the toilets all getting a thorough make-over. The kitchen now has a layout which allows it to be used as a private meeting area or as a quiet space for trustees to focus on key admin tasks.

The main library area now has new tables which also allow more flexibility in layout and usage. Further maintenance is planned for the coming year, to the front door area.

As ever we wish to thank our volunteers, those you meet when you come into the Library for help, those you meet online and those behind the scenes who deal with all the administrative work needed to keep your Society running. We are very grateful for all their commitment and expertise.

Family History Classes

After a few years' absence, our programme of family history classes was reinstated on Zoom. We are now doing more classes throughout the year, and we are attracting members from all over the world. A big thanks go to all our Class Leaders.

What Is A Cappleman?

from the Editor

Cappleman, *noun (English, Yorkshire)*

1: occupational name from Middle English capel caple capul(le) 'horse' + man 'man' a term for someone who looked after horses. Compare Palfreyman.

2: occupational name from Old Norman French capel(l)e 'chapel' (see Capel) + Middle English man 'man' denoting someone employed at or living near a chapel. Compare Templeman.

Not a common name in Scotland with 21 births since 1855 but none recorded prior to that. There were 12 Capplemans resident in Scotland in 1911 and 7 in 1921 with the eldest being 41 years old.

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

What's Coming In The June Edition Of The Scottish Genealogist?

Alexander Hart, *by Leslie Hills*

Born in a Malt Kiln at Glencoe

**My Irish Forsyth(e) Ancestors and
The Ulster Plantation 1610-1630**

Is there a Genealogical Value in Memorial Bench Plaques?

A Puzzle Picture

Report from AGM

.. and much more

Thomas Smith Arnott

by Robin Arnott FSAScot

In the Scottish Genealogist published in December 2020, an article recounted the tragedy at the 'William' pit when, in September 1876, Andrew Arnot was killed in a boiler explosion. He left a widow, Mary Smith, and a seventeen-year old son, Andrew Baxter Arnott. At some point the family added an extra 't' to the surname.

Andrew Baxter Arnott became a coal miner until a lung condition, caused by the coal dust, forced him to leave the mines. He became a stone-mason and latterly was the chief building officer for Cowdenbeath Town Council. As a family home he built a property in Alexander Street, Cowdenbeath where, after his marriage to Martha Aitken Smith Greenhill on 7 October 1881, he raised a family of six sons and two daughters. He named his house 'Arnhill', a combination of Arnott and Greenhill.

Thomas Arnott, born on 28 March 1896, was the second youngest in the family and attended Foulford Road Primary School, Cowdenbeath. He left school at the age of fourteen and in 1910 he joined the North British Railway Company as a railway clerk, serving in that role at stations in Cowdenbeath, Crossgates, Lochgelly, and Menstrie.

The North British Railway Company provided a service between Berwick-upon-Tweed and Edinburgh and later expanded to provide lines to Glasgow Queen St, Stirling, Dundee, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Peebles and Galashiels. Ultimately, it owned the largest track mileage of any Scottish railway company. The company was later incorporated into the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), the second largest (after LMS - London Midland Scottish) of the "Big Four" railway companies created by the Railways Act 1921. LNER operated from 1 January 1923 until nationalisation on 1 January 1948 when it became British Rail.



The First World War interrupted his career and he was conscripted into the Fife & Forfar Yeomanry in 1915, transferring to the Royal Highland regiment (Black Watch) in 1916. His regiment saw action at the Battle of the Somme and on 16 November 1916 he was wounded and, as such, was entitled to wear a "Wound Stripe" as authorised under Army Order 204 of 6th July 1916. This indicated a soldier had been wounded or gassed during active service. He returned to active service but was seriously wounded while fighting in the Ypres sector in April 1917.



He was hospitalised for nearly one year and in March 1918 he was drafted to the Royal Highland Regiment (51st Division) where he continued to be engaged in battles until the Armistice. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the Victory Medal and the War Medal. The 1914-15 Star was instituted in December 1918 and was awarded to officers and men of British and Imperial forces who served against the Central European Powers in any theatre of the Great War between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915, provided they had not already received the 1914 Star.

The Victory Medal (also called the Inter Allied Victory Medal) is a bronze medal that was awarded to all who received the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star and, with certain exceptions, to those who received the British War Medal. It was never awarded alone. The British War Medal was awarded to all officers and men of British and Imperial forces who had served for a prescribed period during any stage of the war, or who had died on active service before the completion of this period.

These three medals were sometimes irreverently referred to as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.

After the war, Thomas, or 'Tam' as he was called in the family, resumed his career with the North British Railway Company and was variously posted. In 1920 he was appointed a Relief Station Master, although in the 1921 Census he is still recorded as living in Cowdenbeath, with his older brother Andrew and family. Future postings were to Kilmany, North Fife (1922), Torryburn (1924), Yard Master, Dundee Docks (1926), Station Master Leslie (1929), N. Queensferry (1930), Annfield Plain (1933), Haltwhistle (1935), Blaydon (1937),

Castleford (1939), Harrogate (2 weeks in 1940), Selby (1940), Sunderland (1942), Yard Master Hull (1944), and in 1945, until retirement, he held the prestigious post of Stationmaster, Waverley Station, Edinburgh.

At Waverley, he welcomed many dignitaries including HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Rt Hon Sir Winston Churchill MP, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Prince Akahito of Japan, and Prince Georg of Denmark.



He was later honoured with an MBE for services to the railways during the 2nd World War. In the early part of 1960, he and his wife, Robina Henderson, retired to Strathmiglo where he died in May 1975.

Robin was born in Dunfermline, worked for Royal Bank of Scotland, latterly in a senior management position as a Chartered IT Professional in Technology Division, then as Chief Executive of EMMS international; now retired, he researches family and local history.

The Society Is looking to establish a Family Tree Maker® User Group. This can give us several advantages and provide a forum for members to exchange experience in using this software.

Please contact us if this is of interest to you.

ftmgroup@scotsgenealogy.com

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The Scottish Voyager

by Barbara Gooding

My 2nd great grandfather, Archibald Fletcher was born in the town of Greenock, Scotland in 1852. He was one of 3 children born to John and Christina Fletcher (brother, Duncan and sister, Jessie).¹

Archibald trained for and later became a Marine Engineer. From December 1866 to May 1868, Archibald was an apprentice at the Clyde Foundry in Glasgow. He began his training on a small planing or nibbling machine.²

Archibald worked for R. Laidlaw & Sons from May 1868 to November 1869 as an apprentice planer.³ Thereafter, he apprenticed as a Fitter with Finnieston Engine Works of Glasgow from November 1869 to October 1870.⁴ He received a letter of reference from the firm which stated that he had conducted himself to the firm's satisfaction. He took another job as an apprentice Fitter from October 1870 to April 1871 with James Howden & Company Engine Works of Glasgow.⁵ Archie appears in the 1871 census, at age 18, as a lodger in Stobcross Street, Glasgow.

Archie and Janet Richardson applied to be married in April 1873. The Clerk's office issued a certificate on 05 May 1873 to be used in the Parish where the marriage was to occur.⁶ Archie and Janet were married on 09 May 1873 in Glasgow. The next day, their daughter, Mary was born.⁷ They lost Mary in January 1875. By this time, Archibald was a journeyman Engine Fitter and he and Janet had moved to 37 Well Road, Glasgow. Janet and Archie had a second daughter, Janet, in 1875 who died at age 3 of pneumonia.⁸

For many years, Archibald was a 2nd Engineer and Assistant Supervisor. He joined the merchant seaman service and made the following voyages:⁹

¹ Census Scotland. Anderston, Lanarkshire. 07 April 1861. FLETCHER, Chistina. 644/8 80 /13.
<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

² Marine Engineer's Certificate of Competency issued to A. Fletcher 13 Mar 1883

³ Memorandum of reference dated 12 Sep 1869 from R. Laidlaw & Sons

⁴ Letter of reference dated 14 Oct 1870 from Finnieston Engine Works

⁵ Memorandum of reference from James Howden & Co. dated 01 Apr 1871

⁶ Certificate from Sessions Clerk's office

⁷ Births (CR) Scotland. Milton, Glasgow. 10 October 1873. FLETCHER, Mary. 644/7 955.
<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

⁸ Deaths (CR) Scotland. Kelvin, Glasgow. 26 May 1878. FLETCHER, Janet Graham. 644/9 479.
<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

⁹ Board of Trade Certificates of Discharge

Voyages of Archibald Fletcher

Dates	Ship Name	Voyage Destination
06 Sep 1875 – 15 Nov 1875	S.S. Rose	[unknown]
16 Nov 1876 – 15 Jan 1877	S.S. Alice	Antwerp, Belgium
02 Feb 1877 – 25 Jun 1877	Bonnie Kate	Antwerp, Belgium
19 Jul 1877 – 13 Sep 1877	Bonnie Kate	Varna, Bulgaria
10 Feb 1878 – 11 May 1878	Bonnie Kate	Taganrog, Russia
15 May 1878 – 28 Jul 1878	Bonnie Kate	Mediterranean
05 Aug 1878 – 06 Sep 1878	Bonnie Kate	Baltic
12 Mar 1879 – 22 Apr 1879	Neva	[Illegible entry]
25 Apr 1879 – 30 May 1879	Neva	Baltic
05 Jun 1879 – 26 Jul 1879	Neva	Kronstadt, Russia
28 Jul 1879 – 19 Aug 1879	Neva	Baltic
23 Aug 1879 – 20 Sep 1879	Neva	Baltic
16 Sep 1880 – 23 Jul 1881	S.S. Larne	[unknown]
12 Dec 1881 – 20 Jan 1882	Thomas Jolliffe	Bilbao, Spain
27 Jan 1882 – 05 May 1882	Thomas Jolliffe	[unknown]
15 May 1882 – 14 Oct 1882	S.S. Spearman	Odessa, Ukraine
21 Oct 1882 – 05 Feb 1883	S.S. Spearman	Constantinople (Istanbul)
01 Jun 1883 – 01 Jun 1885	T.S.S. Francisco	Brazil

After 1½ years on the Bonnie Kate, Archie looked for another ship. He requested a letter of reference from his employer. Mr. Samuelson of the John W. and C.S. Smith Steamer and Ship Brokers obliged with a letter in October 1878 that stated Archie had conducted himself in “*an attentive and sober manner.*”¹⁰ Archie then joined the Ship “Neva” from March 1879 to September 1879. Janet and Archie had a third daughter, Annie in 1878.

For a period of three months (February to April 1880), Archie was appointed by Murray & Murdock, Ltd., shipbuilders, to oversee the engines and mechanics of a screw hopper lighter (barge) built for the Dock Company at Kingston Upon Hull¹¹. From September 1880 to July 1881, Archie served as Chief Engineer of

¹⁰ Letter of reference from John W. and C.S. Smith Steamer & Ship Brokers dated 11 Oct 1878

¹¹ Letter of reference from the Dock Company Upon Hull dated 24 Apr 1880

the S.S. Larne out of Glasgow.¹² ¹³ From the S.S. Larne, he went, in December 1881, to the S.S. Thomas Jolliffe as a 1st Engineer.¹⁴

Thereafter, he joined the S.S. Spearman and made several voyages as a 2nd Engineer earning £6 per month.¹⁵ In September 1882, his son John was born in Glasgow.¹⁶ His tour on the Spearman ended in February 1883 at which time Archibald took a short break from seafaring to prepare for the Marine Engineer's examination. In Glasgow, Archibald passed the examination on 13 March 1883. The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council of Trade issued Archie a Certificate of Competency as a First Class Marine Engineer.¹⁷ The certificate is printed on vellum and has survived to this day.

Archie had considerable experience in his profession by 1883. This enabled him to secure a 3-year contract as Chief Engineer with the Brazilian company, *Companhia Pernambucana De Navegacao a Vapor* on the ship T.S.S. Francisco. His wages were set at £18 per month. As an advance, the company agreed to pay Archie £10 before he left Scotland.¹⁸ At the time of his departure, Archie and his family were residing at 152 Park Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow where the rent was £2. 6s per month.¹⁹ Perhaps because of the long duration of the contract that Archie had just signed with the Brazilian shipping company or because he feared the worst, Archie purchased a £200 life insurance policy in 1883.²⁰ He and Janet had their fourth daughter, Isabella born in 1884.

Archie arrived in Brazil around the end of May 1885. He wrote to his wife in August 1885 from Ceara Harbour Works in Ceara, Brazil that his spirits had been nearly broken because he had been "*sorely put about in the country.*" He enclosed a cheque to her that he had to request from the head man because there were no banks in town. He said he hoped to get home the following spring

¹² Letter of reference from Master George Donald dated 02 Jun 1881

¹³ Certificate issued 20 Feb 1883 by the General Register and Record Office of Shipping and Seaman, London

¹⁴ Certificate of Discharge

¹⁵ Seaman's Allotment Note, and Account of wages on blue slip, Certificate of Discharge

¹⁶ Births (CR) Scotland. Kinning Park, Glasgow. 18 September 1882. FLETCHER, John. 644/ 14 / 271. <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

¹⁷ Certificate of Competency #15353 from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, dated 13 Mar 1883

¹⁸ Memorandum Agreement of 01 Jun 1883 between Fletcher and the Brazilian shipping company

¹⁹ Receipts for rent

²⁰ Contract 21 Jun 1883 with the Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society

and asked Janet not to send weekly mailings because they were not reaching him. Instead, she should write every 10 to 12 days.

He concluded the letter with the words *"I remain your affectionate and ever the same your dear husband."*²¹ This would be the last letter she ever received from him.

Based on correspondence received thereafter by Janet, it was clear that Archibald went missing in Brazil. Janet wrote to the Ceara Harbour Works to learn of his whereabouts. She received a reply from them that states Archibald left their employ in September 1885 and went to Para, Brazil. The letter continues *"we regret to add that a report subsequently reached here announcing his death of yellow fever in that city; we are afraid that it is only too true."*²² The next letter from the Consulate said Archie was hospitalized for gastric fever (Typhoid), died and was buried in November 1885 in Para, Brazil.²³ An all too short a life for a Scottish voyager at the age of 33.

After the death of her husband, Janet tried to collect his wages and belongings. She received correspondence in July 1886 from Mercauble Marine office in Glasgow that no accounts had been received by the Board of Trade. They offered to make inquiries if she could provide the particulars of his employment at the time of his death.²⁴ The consulate in Brazil recovered Archie's belongings: a yellow tin trunk and a canvas bag and shipped them to Janet.

Janet never remarried but raised her children in Scotland until 1905 when she emigrated alone to the USA at age 50.²⁵ She settled in San Francisco. She survived the great earthquake in April 1906. Her daughter, Annie, son-in-law and 2 of their children, followed in August 1906. Thus began our family's life in America.

Barbara Gooding is a second generation American with roots in Scotland on her mother's side. Her ancestors lived in Caithness, Dumfriesshire, and Renfrewshire. She has traced her father's family to its earliest ancestor's arrival in America in 1663.

²¹ Letter of 30 Aug 1885 from Archibald to Janet Fletcher

²² Letter of 22 Mar 1886 from Ceara Harbour Works to J. Fletcher

²³ Letter of 02 Sep 1866 from the British Consulate in Brazil to J. Fletcher

²⁴ Letter of 03 Jul 1866 from Mercauble Marine Office to J. Fletcher

²⁵ S.S. Astoria manifest of passengers from Scotland to New York, March 1905

Anne Elphinstone, 'Heiress of Restalrig'

by Robert Veitch

In earlier journals we've seen how Mary Hay Tweedie Murray (Veitch) a poor Edinburgh charlady was disinherited by her wealthy parents, the Murray family, how she was descended from wealthy landowners, Tweedies and Carmichaels, and finally from the ardent Jacobite Hay family, namely Sir John Hay secretary to 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'. It's now the turn of the Elphinstone family and we start with the clues we got from the old parish register of South Leith where the birth of Sir John's spouse, Anne Elphinstone (1711-39) was recorded.

1711 ELPHINSTOUN, ANNE (Old Parish Registers Births 692/ 2 Leith South) Page 16 of 699
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Elphinstoun James Elphinstoun writer in Edinb^g & residenter at Loghend & Mary Anna Smith his spouse had a daughter named Anne born & baptised on ye 24 November 1711 with Mr James Smith of Whytehill & Alexander Elphinstoun of Cotefield

This reads: 'James Elphinstoun writer in Edinburgh & residenter at Loghend & Mary Anna Smith his spouse had a daughter named Anne born and baptised on 24 November 1711 witness Mr James Smith of Whytehill & Alexander Elphinstoun of Cotefield.'

'James Elphinstoun of Cotefield' was a gentleman, a Writer to the Signet (a lawyer) and Coatfield Lane is adjacent to South Leith Parish Church, in the Kirkgate in Leith and at the other end of the lane was Lord Balmerino's house. Was it possible that there was a relationship between James and the owner of the house, Arthur Elphinstone, 6th Lord Balmerino?

Then when we learnt that James's residence at Loghend (Lochend House), was at the time of Anne's birth owned by Lord Balmerino we saw that it was necessary to enquire further.



Lord Balmerino's House was formerly located at the end of Coatfield Lane, off the Kirkgate in Leith and was notable as the place where 3rd Lord Balmerino greeted Charles II on his landing in Leith in 1650.

His lordship's house no longer exists but was formerly on the site now occupied by the RC church, St Mary's Star of the Sea, in Leith.

Tracking Anne's father James Elphinstone b.1676 on ScotlandsPeople showed he was the son of Alexander b.1643 and Margaret Kerr b.1654, the grandson of Alexander b.06 May 1603 and Elizabeth Benerman. Then finally we find he was the great grandson of James Elphinstone 1553-1612, the 1st Lord Balmerino and his second wife, Marjory Maxwell 1559-1601.

The Balmerino peerage descended from His Lordship's first wife, Sarah Menteith, but his second wife, Marjory Maxwell 1559-1601, was the mother of James, created Lord Coupar in 1607, two daughters and Alexander, born 06 May 1603. We must mention this because although Alexander's birth is recorded on ScotlandsPeople it doesn't appear on Wikipedia

Now as it happened the maternal grandmother of James, 1st Lord Balmerino, was Margaret Stewart, the daughter of James IV and his Mistress Margaret Drummond.



James IV of Scotland. National Gallery of Scotland. Unknown artist; in the public domain.

This explains why young James Elphinstone was asked to give the speech in Latin in the King's Wark in Leith to welcome the king and his bride Anne of

Denmark on their safe return from that country. The king and his courtier were in fact first cousins.

Union of the Crowns

James Elphinstone became an Octavian, one of eight responsible for the Treasury, and in 1598 he became secretary of state. He accompanied James VI on his journey south in 1603 and was rewarded for his services by being raised to the peerage in 1604 and given the estates of the former Cistercian Abbey at Balmerino in North East Fife.

But woe is me; in the lives of courtiers it seems the higher one rises the further one must fall. And James, on the very verge of further appointment as secretary of state for England, was charged with treason. His alleged offence was that he had tricked James VI and I into writing in friendly terms to the Pope and for this offence had to be beheaded, quartered and demeaned as a traitor. Luckily, it seems James was simply the scapegoat for it was the King who wrote in the full knowledge the letter was to the Pope and the sentence on James was not carried out. In the end James retired to his estate at Balmerino where he died in 1612.

The Thistle and the Rose 1503

Most people are of course familiar with the marriage of the 13-year-old daughter of Henry VII of England and James IV of Scotland.



Daniel Mytens: Margaret Tudor, Queen of Scotland, Royal collection but in the public domain.

Few readers will perhaps want to know that a second Rose and Thistle were joined in holy matrimony when in August 1507 the English Lady Elizabeth Barlow, Maid of Honour to the Princess Margaret Tudor on her journey north married the king's courtier, Alexander Elphinstone.

Queen Margaret Tudor gave her former lady a velvet and satin gown, a featherbed, bedclothes, and a "verdure" bedcover, as a marriage gift. And for his part Alexander was ennobled as the 1st Lord Elphinstone in 1510 by James IV and given Kildrummy Castle and its lands.

Kildrummy on the A97 at the foot of the Cairngorms is not to be missed. Although it's a bit of an uphill puff once one enters the gate, inside the visitor will find an Elphinstone Tower and a display featuring my Lady Barlow, solid testaments to this story.

When Henry VII and James IV agreed to the marriage it was surely in the hopes of friendship with each other and for the advantage of their subjects. Sadly, it was not to be. Only 10 years had passed when Scotland was once again dragged into a war in 1513 in the interests of the French and an auld alliance that favoured the French, though hardly the Scots found the two British kingdoms once more at war. A war with an almost inevitable ending on Flodden field as both James IV and the 1st Lord Elphinstone, along with most of the rest of the "flower of Scotland" came into conflict with an English renaissance host and met their long lamented end.

Arthur Elphinstone, the 6th and last Lord Balmerino

We started this article with Lord Balmerino's house but, sadly, we end it with his execution alongside the Earl of Kilmarnock at the Tower of London on 18 Aug 1746.

Both Lords of the realm were leaders of Jacobite cavalry at the battle of Culloden and, having the misfortune to be taken prisoner after the battle, now had to pay the price. But their motives for being on Drumossie Moor in 1746 were very different.

In his last speech Kilmarnock said that he did not care in particular for the Stuarts but he was starving and would have followed anyone who set up his standard.



The drawing is in the collection of the National Library of Scotland and is in the public domain. The crowd was estimated to be as big as 100,000. The grim old Tower of London on the right looks over to the executioner's block on the left approving the soldiers, pikes at the ready in case of any disturbance. And in the lower right foreground vendors can be seen because there's nothing like an execution for those who want a wee bit of comfort food for afters.

Arthur Elphinstone was of a very different calibre. He was a man of principle. While equally impoverished he was also a committed Jacobite, a Scottish Episcopalian who worshipped at South Leith, and a Scottish nationalist. He declared that 'he had been brought up in true, loyal and anti-revolution principles. Arthur went to the gallows with some insouciance, apologising to the executioner for being so poor he was unable to leave him a tip which may have unnerved the executioner who took three blows before severing his head.

Horace Walpole wrote in a letter that Arthur was *"the most natural brave old fellow I ever saw. He behaved like a soldier and a man; in the intervals of form, with carelessness and humour"*.

To return to Anne Elphinstone of Restalrig, Lord Balmerino had agreed to be guardian of her children if so needed, which is why we could not let his story pass without comment. The true theme that seems to hold good for many Scottish family histories is of an enduring caring relationship between relatives. It's to be found at all levels of society and time and again we find working folk caring for the orphans of their kin. And so it was with the upper classes too; and so it was with Anne and her cousin Arthur, the 1st Lord Balmerino.

There's little doubt of the attachment of the Elphinstones to the Stewarts and in this short account it stretched from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. But I wonder whether it was a little longer than that for when our late Queen Elizabeth passed away there was a mention in *The Times* how little Lilibet and her sister princess had a cousin for a playmate, one Maggie Elphinstone.

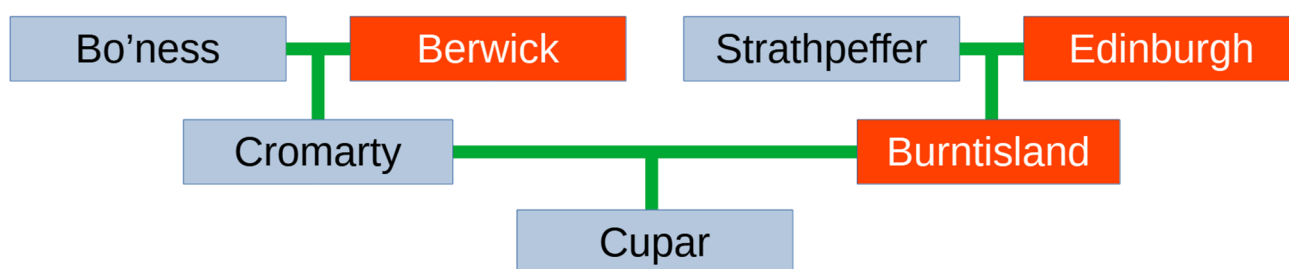
Listen To Your Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts, Etc.

As your editor sought to fill a bit of white space in the near final draft of this Journal edition, a sin of omission in his own researches dropped into his cerebral cavity.

One of my great sorrows, is that I spent little time asking my mother about her parents. I do not even have a photograph of either of them. And Grannie died when I was fourteen months old, Grandpa 8 years earlier. So if you haven't interviewed your parents or other older relatives, now's the time.

Thankfully I did sit down with father and write up that discussion. Forty years on, it is still guiding some of my research. His parents departed life in 1930 and 1933, many years before I arrived.

One of the mysteries is why I exist at all. Statistically I must be considered a non-person. My parents and grandparents were brought up implausibly distant from each other. The three marriages in my family tree of near ancestors were of people from places 77, 123, and 168 miles apart by road. And indeed my spouse came from 135 miles away.



Bearing in mind that my four grandparents were born between 1862 and 1872 and that none went to university or college, those modern great meeting places, their meeting, far less marrying, remains the big unsolved mystery in my tree.

Don't follow my bad example. Listen to the oldsters in your family. You and your genealogy will undoubtedly benefit.

As Others See Us?

Domestic life in some circles of Edinburgh society is not likely to grow dull from any fault of those whose duty it is to make home and fireside as entertaining as possible. The Edinburgh method is eminently calculated, from its engaging variety and exuberant spirit, to sustain a liveliness around the domestic hearth. At the Sheriff's Summary Court one Felix Wallace, to whose "intelligent looks" the reporters testify, was brought up, and charged with assaulting his wife. The defendant had an answer to the indictment which certainly is not lacking in ingenuity. The accused stated that his wife had pitched a basin of water, an iron dish, and some plates at him. He was not the worse for liquor at the time. In trying to save himself from the different articles he held up his hand and foot, and she came in "contact with both." The situation was trying enough, and it would have required the agility and dexterity of a circus acrobat to get through without "contact." When it is added that the husband was treated at the same time to a liberal if rather violent distribution of salt herrings, it will be admitted that his difficulties were somewhat complicated. Unfortunately, for appreciation of his troubles, the "contact" was rather a venerable defence, the defendant having been up before—"previous convictions for assault were libelled." He was sent to prison for twenty-one days with hard labour.

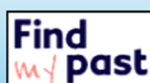
In the Society's Library and Family History Centre at Victoria Terrace in Edinburgh, the many shelves of books are supplemented by terminals that allow visitors to search for information.

One of these is the commercial service, FindMypast. A scroll through its newspaper transcriptions finds the *Derry Journal* of 12th September 1888 poking gentle fun at douce Edinburgh through the court appearance of Felix Wallace for assaulting his wife. The Court's sense of humour was further tested when Wallace attended a case brought two months later by his wife for legal separation, after less than two years of marriage. Wallace offered the judge a drink among other interventions.

But Wallace finally exhausted the various Courts' patience after fourteen (or more) appearances when he appeared for sentencing on 9th November 1907 for murdering the married (not to him) mother of his two-year-old son. We might think him lucky in being sentenced to only 8 years for culpable homicide after a long history of violence against partners and others.

Thanks for the tale, FindMypast.

Online services available at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh include:



The British
NEWSPAPER
Archive



Patterns Of Second Marriages In An Extended 19th Century Scots Family

by E.M. Donoghue

[A reprint from *Journal Volume 36 No 3, September 1989*]

I had always known from a fairly young age that both my grandmothers had married twice. I used to think this was pretty unusual; and it wasn't until I started researching into my family history that I found that, far from being unusual, second marriages were far more common in the nineteenth century—at any rate in our extended family—than they were to become in the twentieth.

The pattern of second marriages as it emerged from the various family trees appeared at first sight to be pretty random; but, when the ages of the children of first marriages were taken into account, the pattern wasn't nearly so as at first appeared—anyway as far as widowers were concerned.

In many cases the only way in which a widower left with a family of perhaps four or five young children could see that they were properly looked after was by marrying again. If he himself was middle aged, it was obviously "sensible" to marry a woman of about the same age as himself. There were, however, many variations on the general theme, examples of which are given below. (I should perhaps say here that I have discounted any possible emotional reasons for remarrying for the obvious reason that these, if they existed, would not show up on the documents available.).

Where a wife died childless and comparatively soon after marriage, the widower tended to marry as his second wife a woman in early middle age—not yet past childbearing.

Example 1

Childless Widower of 41 Marries Spinster of 35

On 30 January 1863 Archibald Gilmour, aged 29, a shoemaker, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, married a domestic servant,

Agnes Halliday, aged 28, the second daughter of William Halliday, a carpet weaver. Agnes must have died within a few years of her marriage and, as far as I know, she had no children. After her death the 1871 census finds Archibald living as a widower with his coalminer brother, John Gilmour, and John's wife Helen.

However, four years later Archibald married as his second wife Margaret Twedde, the daughter of a woollen weaver. Archibald was then 41: Margaret was 35. They were to have one child and two grandchildren.

Margaret died at 60 years of age on 16 October 1899; but Archibald, in spite of being a chronic asthmatic, lived to see the beginning of the first world war, dying aged 82 on 15 April 1916.

In the classic examples of 'Middle Aged Widower Marries Middle Aged Spinster', the spinster was occasionally older than the widower.

Example 2

Middle Aged Widower of 42 Marries Spinster of 46.

Joshua Henderson was born in Sanquhar in 1860, the son of William Henderson. Joshua was to do quite well for himself, becoming successively a banker's clerk, a "bank agent", and eventually the manager of a bank in Manchester.

In 1886 he married Mary Grierson, a milliner and the daughter of a mason from the neighbouring village of Thornhill. They had three children. Mary died of tuberculosis at about 28 years of age in 1899. The three children would then have been aged 9, 11, and 12.

Three years later Joshua married again. His second wife was a Grace Leslie-a church connection (they both belonged to the Church of Christ, an offshoot of the Scotch Baptist Church). Grace, the daughter of a Glasgow tailor, was a drapery saleswoman in the Glasgow firm of Simpson, Hunter and Young.

Apart from providing a step-mother for his children, it would seem that, by marrying as a second wife a woman of 46, Joshua had no intention of starting another family and, in fact, he and Grace had no children.

Middle-aged or even elderly widowers did not invariably marry middle-aged women. But, in cases where the second wife was young, or relatively young, there were usually special circumstances surrounding the offspring of the first marriage. For example, the first marriage might have produced one child only.

Example 3

Widower of 60 Marries 28 year old Spinster.

One of the oddest cases of an elderly widower marrying a young, or at any rate youngish, spinster is that of Robert Grierson, a mason of Thornhill, Dumfriesshire. In 1861 at the fairly advanced age of 57 Robert had married a Mary Hyslop. They had one child, also named Mary. Robert's wife must have died fairly soon after the marriage because two years later, at 60 years of age, Robert married again.

His second wife, Robina McLintock, was a domestic servant aged 28. Robert and Robina proceeded to have a family of one boy and three girls, the youngest being born when Robert was 67. The fact that his second marriage provided a home for the daughter of his first marriage is shown in the 1871 census for the

family where daughter Mary, by then aged 9, is described as a "scholar at school".

This Mary Grierson was to marry Joshua Henderson, a nephew of her step-mother. Joshua's mother was Robina's sister, Margaret McLintock, who had married a William Henderson. For the three children of the Grierson/Henderson marriage Robina McLintock/Grierson was therefore not only their mother's stepmother but also their maternal grandfather's second wife as well as being the sister of their paternal grandmother!

Where the children of a first marriage were old enough to be independent a middle-aged widower might then marry a much younger woman.

Example 4

39 Year old Widower Marries 24 year old Spinster.

William McLintock, born in Sanquhar in 1826 and originally apprenticed as a hand loom carpet weaver, married a Mary Roberton in 1844. They had four children—two boys and two girls. Mary died of tuberculosis, aged 35, in 1856. The children would then have been aged 12, 9, 5 and 3. A year after his wife's death William moved to Glasgow. In 1865, eight years after his arrival in Glasgow and nine years after his first wife's death, William married again.

Who looked after the four children of the first marriage during the nine year gap between William's first and second marriages? The answer is given, at any rate in part, in the 1861 census for the family where daughter Jean, then aged 13, is described as the "house-keeper"!

At the time of his second marriage William, then aged 39, was working as a "saddlery warehouseman". His second wife, Annie Bell, worked in the same saddlery warehouse. By this time at least two of the children of the first marriage were old enough to be off his hands (the eldest boy was to die of tuberculosis a year later). At any rate William settled down with his new young wife and proceeded to have a family of five daughters. Four of the daughters eventually married, the unmarried daughter remaining her father's "most devoted companion and nurse" until his death in 1916—thereby illustrating yet again that the day-to-day burden of looking after the father of a family tended to fall, if not on the wife, then on a daughter.

Elderly widowers whose first wives had died in late middle age usually married women younger than themselves but past child-bearing age.

Example 5

Elderly Widower of 60 Marries Spinster of 52.

In 1855 William Henderson of Sanquhar married Margaret McLintock, a "wool sorter" in a woollen factory. William has been variously described as a sewing agent, a manufacturer's agent, a stationer, a bookseller and a merchant.

His wife Margaret died aged 50 in 1871—rather oddly of "ulceration of cartilages of the knee joint". Four years later, in August 1875, one of his children, a daughter, Janet, aged 8, died of tuberculosis.

His daughter's death may possibly have prompted William to marry again for the sake of the remaining five children. At any rate nine months after Janet's death, in May 1876 he took as his second wife a Jane Colvin, the daughter of a local farmer. At the time of their marriage William was 60 years of age and Janet was 52—an eminently "suitable" age gap. Jane moved into William's shop and home at 72 the High Street, Sanquhar, where she continued to live with her husband and step-children.

William died in 1881; and although two of the sons and one daughter (then unmarried) continued to live in Sanquhar, the 1891 census rather oddly finds Jane Colvin living alone at the same address and carrying on one of her husband's many occupations as a bookseller.

She died, aged 74, in December 1897.

Where there was a considerable gap between the first and second marriages, there was usually at least one daughter (often more) who was old enough, not only to go out to work, but also to look after the widower and the rest of the family.

Example 6

Widower aged 55 Marries Spinster of 41.

James Wishart, a boot and shoe maker, born in Kirkcaldy in 1811, married a Christian Graham, the daughter of John Graham, sailor, and Grissel Donaldson "his spous". James and Christian had nine children—four boys and five girls, the youngest of whom was born in 1850. The others were then aged 3, 5, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19. From the following year's census return we learn that the five eldest children had been put to various trades—linen warper, apprentice cabinetmaker, hand loom weaver, apprentice hand loom weaver (2): two were "scholars" (i.e. at school) and the youngest was still an infant.

Christian Wishart was still alive at the time of the 1851 census, but she died sometime between then and 1861. In the census of that year James, by then aged 50, is described as a widower. Three of the four boys are not listed and had presumably left home. The three eldest girls (age range 17-27) were all linen winders, the remaining two being 11 and 14 years of age and presumably not yet working. The three eldest girls were certainly old enough to look after their father and brother (one must assume that brothers had to be "looked after" as well as fathers), but it is quite possible that the work may have been shared by, or even delegated to, one or both of the two youngest girls.

At least three of the girls were still unmarried and at home six years later in 1867, in which year James chose to marry a spinster of 41 named Jane Dick (always

known as Jeannie Dick), the daughter of a local shoemaker and herself a "saleswoman". At the time of their marriage James was 55 and Jeannie was 41—possibly not quite past child-bearing age, although, as far as I know, she and James had no children.

This example also illustrates the fact that having unmarried daughters at home to look after him did not necessarily preclude a widower from marrying again.

In the case of widowers who chose not to remarry but who had been left with a large family with ages ranging from the very young to the grown up, the duty of looking after the family usually devolved on one or more of the daughters.

Example 7

Elderly Widower of 66 Remains Unmarried.

William McLintock, a 19th century hand loom carpet weaver at the Crawick Mill, Sanquhar and also pastor of the local Scotch Baptist Church, married a Jane McCall. The date of their marriage is not known, but, when their eldest child Janet was born in about 1819, Jane would have been 29 and her husband William 44. They were to have six more children. Jane died in 1841 "after a lingering indisposition borne with Christian resignation". Her husband would then have been 66 years of age.

William was left with five daughters and two sons, with ages ranging from 6 to 22. The two eldest girls worked in the local woollen factory, one as a "reeler" and the other as a "wool sorter"; the third daughter's occupation is not known: the youngest, Catherine, was a "cotton flowerer". The eldest son William, aged 15, was apprenticed as a cotton hand loom weaver. The two youngest children, aged 6 and 10, were still at home and perhaps still at school.

William did not remarry. At 66 years of age he may have lacked any inclination to do so; but as a widower he would have found it difficult to bring up his large family had it not been for the fact that the two eldest girls were old enough to take on the traditional unmarried daughter(s) role of looking after both their widowed father and the younger members of the family. They almost certainly continued to work in the woollen factory. (It was not until the next generation of the family that a widower could afford to keep an unmarried daughter at home to act as his housekeeper and sometimes also as his nurse).

Both the McLintock boys married and moved to Glasgow: three of the girls married: another disappears from the available records; but the eldest daughter Janet remained unmarried and one assumes that she continued to look after her Father until his death, aged 81, in 1857. In 1861 Janet is found, aged 39 and still unmarried, living with one of her younger sisters; but after that she too disappears from the records.

Précis Of Recent Talks

18 November 2024, 1930 hrs in the Augustine United Church, Geo IV Bridge

“The Servants in Traquair House – What the Archives tell us about their lives”
by Margaret Fox, Archivist

Margaret anchored her talk with a comment written in the visitors’ book at Traquair House in 1978, “Very good but what about the servants?”.

That prescient question is one which the archives at the House can well answer. The earliest reference to servants dates from 1686. And perhaps contrary to expectations, many of them were relatively well educated. In 1695 one signed that they had witnessed a legal document.

But as is often the case, it is the financial records that provide a large part of the story “below stairs”. For example, in 1706, they show wet nurses receiving £100 Scots for drink money. The ladies of a house such as Traquair did not breast-feed their children but instead outsourced that task. So in this case, the drink money referred to was to provide the infants with their drinks, not to inebriate the servants!

But there was other drink money. It was essentially tips for the servants from visitors and intended to provide, yes alcoholic, drink for the servants. The accounts record, to the penny, all tips left and to whom the money was paid. The laird kept none of it.

The loyalty of the servants to the house and its owners, was substantial. One, William Traquair, stayed working there from 1717 to 1789. Correspondence from him to his master shows his still diligently carrying out his duties even at the end of his career.

But in unhappier times, servants could be many years in arrears of their pay. In one case a gardener lent his master £100 Sterling, perhaps £10,000 in today’s money. Yes, he did get it back.

A fascinating talk, well attended, of which this précis is a mere glimpse.

20 January 2025, 1930 hrs in the Augustine United Church, Geo IV Bridge

“The Slave Compensation Scheme, A Midlothian Connection”

by James Waugh

With Scots notoriously having a sweet tooth, it was not surprising to hear of our entrepreneurs of hundreds of years ago being heavily involved in the Jamaican and South American sugar industries.

But the industries had a much darker side than simply feeding excess calories straight onto Scots waistlines.

About one third of the estates growing sugar cane, and using slaves to do so, were Scots owned.

And business, from banks to shipowners, benefitted at second hand.

The evening audience were perhaps unaware that the abolition of slavery did not really happen in that simply described way. In practice, the end started with legislation prohibiting the shipping of slaves. The slaves already in the West Indies were legally unaffected by this change. But it led to abolition and many slaves becoming landowners in their own right.

Also significant was the precipitous reduction in the yield of sugar because the land in Jamaica was exhausted by continuous farming.

That led to production being shifted to the area around the Demerara River in what is now known as Guyana. And the Scots followed the money.

Many Glasgow merchants in particular benefitted from the compensation paid to slave owners as the practice ended. And as slaves were more “valuable” where sugar yields were highest, Scots with interests in Guyana received most.

We were told of a useful database on this whole subject at UCL which can be searched at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search/>

The evening ended with a substantial round of questions which showed the attentiveness and interest of those attending.

James also told us of his work at the National Mining Museum at Newtongrange.

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Puzzle Picture



Two little puzzles for this edition of the Journal. One fairly easy. One less so.

On the left is one of the guardians atop a pillar marking the entrance off Lauriston Place into Middle Meadow Walk in Edinburgh. The question is: what does it say on the garland being held?

On the right, what's the history of these hexagonal post boxes? Who designed them? Hint: the crest says VR.



Last Time

The December Journal's picture was of the Clearances Memorial at Helmsdale in Sutherland.

The mother is looking back up the glen which she shall never see again, while the child has a bewildered look.

The brother of the late Tam Dalyell MP's three greats grandfather was James Loch. John Prebble, author of *The Highland Clearances*, wrote of him that he sought "*to ... mould and control the lives of the ... people*". In his own writings in 1820, Loch said approvingly, "*children of those who are removed from the hills will lose all recollection of the habits and customs of their fathers*".



There have been a number of attempts to destroy the Duke of Sutherland's memorial on the hill above Helmsdale. He is widely held accountable for the savagery of the Clearances in the County.

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Recent Additions To The Library

Title	Author
10 Scotland Street	Leslie Hills
Empires of the Dead – How One Man's Vision Led to the Creation of WW1's War Graves	David Crane
Kilmorack Burial Ground & Kilmorack Cemetery & Struy Churchyard, Parish of Kilmorack, Inverness-shire	Highland Family History Society
Monumental Inscriptions Kilchrist Churchyard, Parish of Urray, Ross-shire	Highland Family History Society
Clan MacMillan, A Complete History	Graeme M Mackenzie
The Chisholms of Lietry, Two Centuries of a Highland Family	Michael Cope
North Berwick St Andrew's Old Parish Church Monumental Inscriptions	North Berwick Graveyard Research Group
Fifeshire Monumental Inscriptions – The North East Parishes, volume 3	John Mitchell & Sheila Mitchell
Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae: the Succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Reformation. Vol XII Ministers of the Church from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2020	Roy M Pinkerton
The Observer's Book of Heraldry	Charles Mackinnon
A Long Stride – The Story of the World's No 1 Scotch Whisky	Nicholas Morgan
40 Years-40 Stories – Written to Commemorate 40 Years of the Adoption Contact Register	Birthlink
The Devil's Ain – The Story of Witch Persecution in Scotland	Roy J M Pugh
Covenanters of the Glenkens	David S Bartholomew
Scottish Baronial Families 1250-1750	David Dobson
Tangled Yarns – The Lives of James Finlayson and Margaret Wilkie	Angela Harris & Tony Harris
Pro Patria Mori – The Edinburgh Academy at War 1914-1918	Sarah Heintze ed. et al
Townland Atlas of Ulster	Andrew Kane

Book Review

“Tangled Yarns” by Angela and Tony Harris, Madge Books, Edinburgh

Sometimes a book lands on the table that is the perfect match for the reader who picks it up. *“Tangled Yarns”* is one such when the reader is a genealogist. But that doesn’t discount its considerable interest for the general reader.

The latter may find it somewhat of a pleasure delayed, as forbye the Introduction, it starts as a fascinating description of family and local history research into *“The Lives of James Finlayson and Margaret Wilkie”*, its second title.

In its first few dozen pages, we discovered that the cost of a perpetual and exclusive lair in the newly opened Newington Necropolis in 1845, seven foot deep and three feet wide, was between £1. 11s. 6d and £4. 13s. 4d according to situation.

That January in Penicuik has daily temperatures of about 5.6°C and that that name is from the Cymric pen-y-cog (‘hill of the cuckoo’).

I finally learned why there were Burgher and Antiburgher branches of the Associate Presbytery, the secession from the Church of Scotland which took place in 1733. It led me to look elsewhere to find that each then divided into Auld Lights and New Lights around 1800.

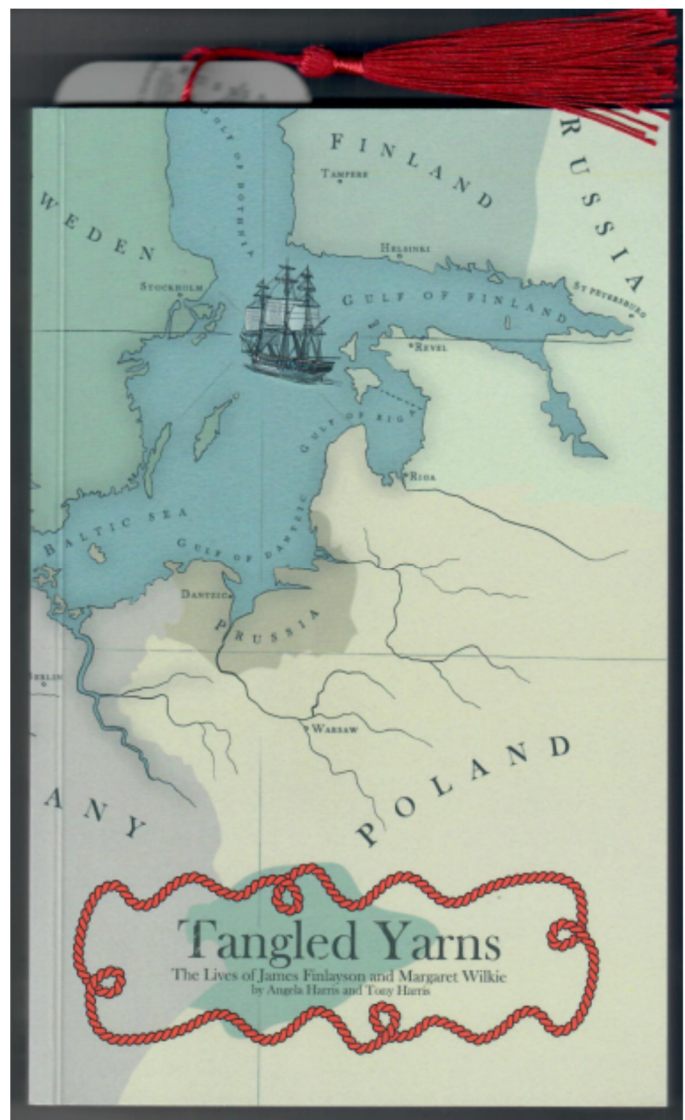
That’s an example of the amateur genealogist being tempted off the main track of research being pursued, into a temporary diversion down a previously unnoticed rabbit hole.

So back to the tale.

The Finlayson family of Penicuik, the subject of this book, are given nineteen different spellings for their surname here.

Like many families, there’s a black sheep story to add interest.

The Pennycuik (sic) Kirk Session on 06 July 1778 enquired into an allegation of “Uncleaness” against Margaret Fairbairn by Jas Finlayson, a married man. He



had confessed and been rebuked before the Associate Congregation at Howgate. Margaret denied that there had been any carnal connection.

He finally got his comeuppance in 1781, seven years after his first accusation, when the Presbytery found that there was no foundation for what was said beyond the man himself. They stated that Margaret's character before and after the scandal had been fair and irreproachable and absolved her from the scandal.

Why did he do this? Who knows?

Much later, James and Margaret Finlayson moved to Glasgow and became involved in the textile business. James became an engineer in the trade, supplying spinning machines to factories.

But James, not being of a corporation, found himself in trouble in 1807 for breaching a monopoly. In consequence he found himself sequestered (the English use the term bankruptcy).

After a few more twists and turns, he headed for the Baltic and arrived at St Petersburg on 17 July 1813. The voyage had taken six weeks and cost the enormous sum of £30 each for his spouse and himself.

Ending up in Finland he and his wife succeeded in textiles there although his continuing inability to well manage money caused intermittent difficulties.

The Finlayson Factory in Finland was the vehicle, and primary source of funds, for an orphanage founded in Tampere.

The book ends with a useful Appendix on Textile Technology, useful that is should one wish to follow the Finlaysons with an endeavour similar to theirs.

As an engineer, albeit a software one, I found it fascinating.

The book will feed the minds, and entertain its readers whatever their background.

And for genealogists, it provides a model as to how one might write up a family history story.

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

ADVERTISING

*The Society is happy to include suitable advertising
in the Scottish Genealogist*

Rates are – quarter page £25, half page £50, full page £100

For further details contact scotsgenpublicity@scotsgenealogy.com

Other Family History Journals – New Arrivals

All these and more can be read in the Library

The Society exchanges journals with a number of other family history societies. Here are some of the articles in recent issues.

Scottish Local History

Ebenezer Erskine – Stirling's Original Seceder

The Ferguslie Mills of J & P Coats

The Manchester Genealogist

Scots in Manchester Presbyterian Records – The Barbour Family

Coontin Kin – Shetland FHS

Henry More, a Family Mystery – Did the Great Uncle of the author meet his end in a shooting in New York?

Sib Folk News – Orkney FHS

Family Law which ceased to be Folklore, Balfours being witnesses for Mrs Manson in Balfour & Manson's offices in 1909 – account of a Scottish irregular marriage

Looking for a Covenanter Ancestor – a connection to Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Kidnapped'

Cairt – Scottish Maps Forum

Locating Ingadill, a lost name in Gairloch, Wester Ross – the location of this Old Norse name identified thanks to the early mapmakers

Western Ancestor – Family History WA

Convict Ancestry in Australia – Connecting with our Ancestral Strength

The author blends a theoretical perspective with the story of her family coming to grips with life in colonial Australia

Tracking the Travancore – Researching the mid-nineteenth century 'Bride Ships'

Progenitor – Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc

Early NT Teachers – Profiles of ten teachers in NT in early 20th century

Anglo-Celtic Roots – British Isles FHS of Greater Ottawa

The Cream of the Crop – Techniques and resources, useful article on the recent additions to available resources

Descent – Society of Australian Genealogists

Investigating Historic Irish Wills – In search of end of life records

Ancestor – Genealogical Society of Victoria

Patrick McAlister – Wheat Farmer to Fruit Grower

The South Australian Genealogist

Finding the Soldiers of Fromelles Through Their Families and DNA – Account of the work undertaken to identify 250 soldiers buried in a mass grave at Fromelles

News from the Scotland Special Interest Group

Submission Dates for Articles in The Scottish Genealogist

**Able to submit an article for future editions of
The Scottish Genealogist?**

The closing dates for submissions are:

Thursday, 8th May 2025 for the June Edition

Thursday, 7th August 2025 for the September Edition

Thursday, 6th November 2025 for the December Edition

Send submissions or queries to

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

Dates For Your Diary

The March Talk (7.30 p.m.) and the AGM in June (7.00 p.m.) will be held in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

All other Talks will be on zoom, or members/visitors can come along to 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL to watch them online

**Please contact meetings@scotsgenealogy.com
to obtain sign-in details for watching a talk via zoom**

Donations of £5 each from non-members are much appreciated

Please check our website for possible program amendments
<https://www.scotsgenealogy.com/scottish-genealogy-society/calendar>

7.30 pm at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh, Monday 17 March 2025

William Schaw Lindsay, Victorian Entrepreneur

by Bill Lindsay, Historian & Author

7.30 pm on zoom, Monday 21 April 2025

Commemoration and Remembrance

by Ken Nisbet, Military Historian

1.30 pm at 9 Warriston Road, Edinburgh, Wednesday 14 May 2025

Visit to the Poppy Factory (book your visit in the Library)

7 pm at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh, Thursday 05 June 2025

Annual General Meeting

Address by Dr Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon & Society President

7.30 pm on zoom, Monday 15 September 2025

Porteous Riots

by Eric Melvin, Edinburgh Historian

7.30 pm on zoom, Monday 20 October 2025

10 Scotland Street,

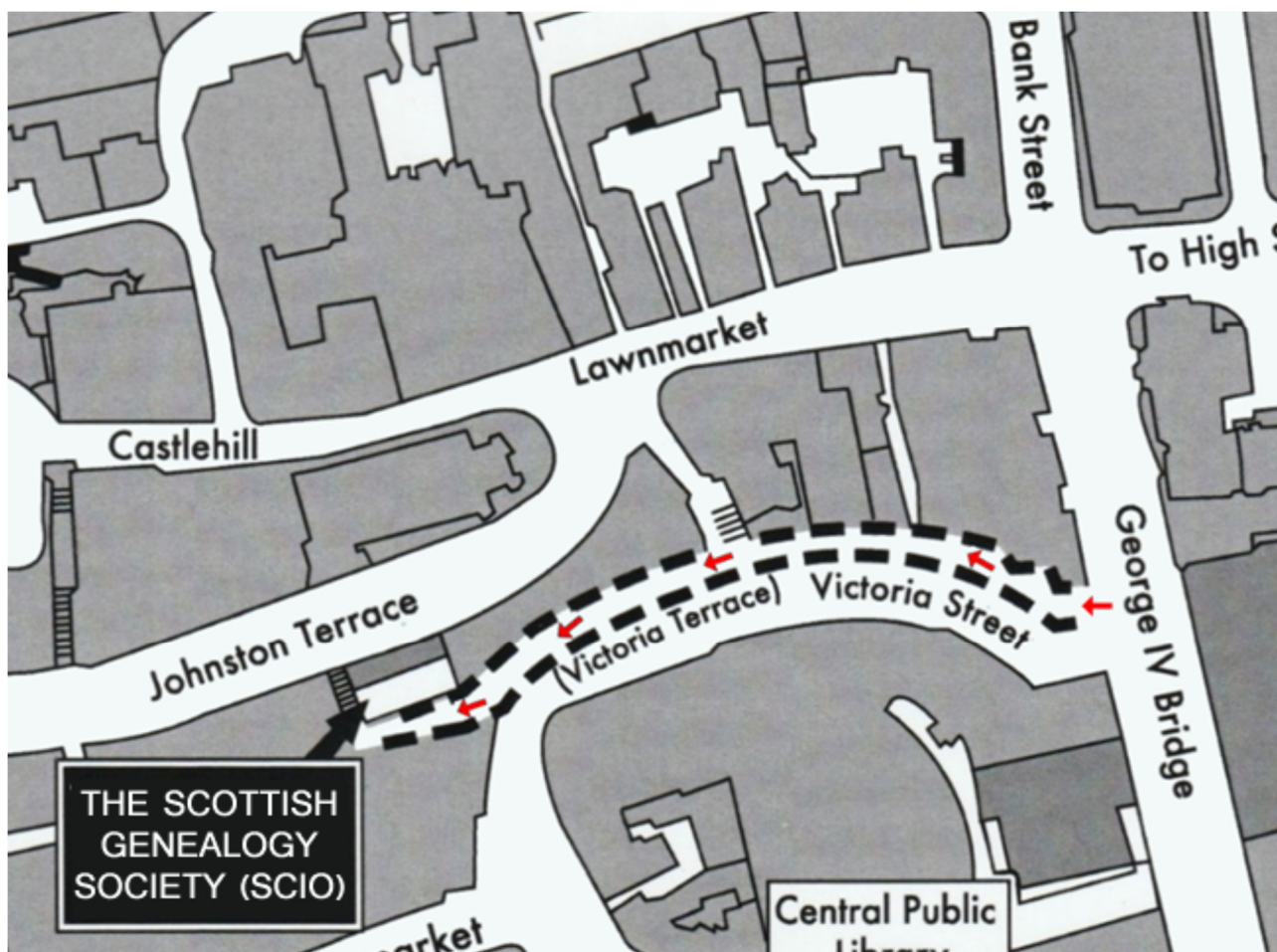
an Opinionated History of One House Over Two Centuries

by Leslie Hills, Independent Scholar

7.30 pm on zoom, Monday 17 November 2025

Bigamy, Adultery and Murder

by Stewart Stevenson, Journal Editor & Genealogy Researcher



Library & Family History Centre Opening Hours

Monday	10.30am to 4pm
Tuesday	10.30am to 4pm
Wednesday	2.30pm to 7pm
Thursday	10.30am to 4pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10am to 2pm
Sunday	Closed

15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

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Published by the Scottish Genealogy Society (SCIO)

Scottish Charity No. SC053432

ISSN 0300-337X

Printed by Tantallon Press, Loanhead, Midlothian