



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

JUNE 2025

What is a Cowan?

Alexander Hart

Born in a Malt Kiln at Glencoe

My Irish Forsyth(e) Ancestors

Is There a Genealogical Value in Memorial Bench Plaques?

Précis of Lecture on William Schaw Lindsay

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

Vol. LXXIII No. 2

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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.

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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.

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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

Summer has truly arrived at Victoria Terrace with increasing numbers of overseas visitors dropping in to increase their understanding of their Scottish connections.

Some bring no more than a family legend that a distant ancestor called MacLeod, or some other obviously Scots name, arrived in the USA in the 1700s. For them the presence of George Black's "*Surnames of Scotland*" on a shelf very close to the front desk in our library is most often the gateway to a discussion. George was born in Stirling in 1865 but started work at New York City Library in 1896.

The foreword to one of George's other books, "*Scotland's Mark on America*", suggests that the Scot is never so much at home as when he is abroad. One couple this month came straight off a plane from the USA, four hours after landing at Edinburgh airport, to visit the Scottish Genealogy Society. US citizens may be said to be more at home with us even though we have only just met.

There is no editor's desk in our HQ, but the new table in the front office is adjacent to a power point for a laptop computer and provides a good seat for engagement when visitors arrive. That's where I met them.

This quarter's Journal breaks firmly with the "editor's rules" and includes a much longer than usual article on a DNA search. Not exceeding the 1,750 word limit, but certainly including lots of diagrams and a fair few references.

With DNA technology helping to break down research walls, it's a fascinating article of one person's science-led research.

There's space for **your** words in September's Journal.

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.

What Is A Cowan?

from the Editor

Cowan is a fairly familiar Scots surname. Nearly 22,000 with that name have been born in Scotland since the start of civil registration in 1855.

But in a sense it is more familiar than that. We see the results of this occupation more or less everywhere once we leave our towns and cities.

Cowans, also known as dikers, are the tradesmen who built the dry stane dykes erected all over Scotland, and further south, which played a vital role in enclosing animals to particular pasture land.



editor@scotsgenealogy.com

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

Report and Accounts from the AGM

A Brief History of Duddingston Lodge, *by Pauline McQuade*

A Bottle of Whisk(e)y and a Coat, *by the Editor*

A Puzzle Picture

A Book Review

.. and much more

Alexander Hart

by Leslie Hills

Accounts of the Radical Rising of 1820 tell of a radical weaver from Glasgow who was condemned to transportation, to live out a lonely life at the other side of the world. In fact, Hart was neither a weaver, nor from Glasgow and there is little evidence that his politics were radical. Nor was he isolated and his work was celebrated and coveted.

Hart's father Alexander and his mother, Rebecca Kerr, were handloom-weavers in Old Kilpatrick. Over twenty-one years, Rebecca bore eleven living children. Alexander, born 1794, was the eighth child and third son. One daughter stayed home. The others made their way to Glasgow where they worked and lived in adjacent Gorbals streets. Alexander served his apprenticeship in a carpenter's shop, as unrest in Scotland grew and the Radical movement demanded annual parliaments and universal male suffrage. On 5 April 1820, around thirty artisans, trudging the forty miles from Glasgow to Falkirk, reached Bonnymuir.

A letter from an Alexander Wallace tells that, as a youth, he lodged at Bonnybridge with a man of eighty-four, born in 1743, whose father and grandfather were carting fireclay to Carron Iron Works when they met the Radicals. One, kin to his mother, stopped to talk. According to them, the group had no weapons. Cavalry, alerted by a spy, and armed with sabres and muskets, charged the group. They scattered and were hunted down. Hart was cut about the face with a sabre and suffered a gunshot wound and was in very bad condition. Carted to Stirling, he was charged with High Treason, a capital offence. He was twenty-six and described as a powerful man, tall at five foot eight and a half inches, with black hair and a long visage. A Royal Commission Court, operating under fourteenth-century English treason law, listed Alexander and his fellows for trial at the Stirling Court of Oyer and Terminer.

The group was brought before Lord President Hope, Lord Justice Clerk Boyle, Lord Chief Commissioner of the jury Court, Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, Sir Samuel Shepherd, Lord Hermand and Lord Gillies and assorted advocates including the Lord Advocate, Sir William Rae. Francis Jeffrey led the defence and advised the prisoners to prepare for the worst. Two men, Hardie and Baird, designated the leaders, were sentenced to hanging and beheading. Alexander and his fellows took Jeffrey's advice, pled guilty and asked for mercy.

More than four weeks passed until, on 4 August, Lord President told the twenty-two men in the dock that they would be carried on a hurdle to a scaffold, hung, taken down, their heads struck off and their bodies divided into four parts, to be disposed of at his Majesty's pleasure. Hart was taken by steamboat down the Forth to the fishing port of Newhaven and then by coach to the Bridewell on Edinburgh's Calton Hill. His sentence was commuted to fourteen years transportation.

On 22 September 1820, Alexander, writing to his brother John, thanks God that he is well. His main concern is for a woman named Lumsden, who accompanied him on the steamboat. He is agitated about a watch over which Lumsden has some right. Will John please send him the watch? Alexander then moves on to practical matters. Having his own tools will be important. As soon as he reaches Australia he will set to and send home money. His spirits revive and he instructs his cousin Peter to use three fasteners on each corner of his toolbox, and a bar across each end. He also asks John to put in his violin and some sheet music. It's a young man's letter to an elder brother on whom he relies. Apart from disquiet about Lumsden, he is upbeat and planning for the future.

Alexander was taken south to the prison hulk, Bellerophon which he found bearable. On 11 December, he wrote from the Speke, moored near Sheerness. The deterioration in his mood is striking. He is in miserable condition. Penniless, he has borne his condition as well as he might. He ends in despair, his last words for the ten wretched boys with whom he shares a small space. Two days later, they were underway.

The Speke was a sailing ship, built in Calcutta in 1790. There were 156 convicts aboard, the majority younger than Hart. His food was as good as any Royal Navy sailor's. Pudding, pea soup, bread and tea and an ounce of lemon juice to prevent scurvy, were standard, as was salt beef. His leg-irons were removed before Tenerife.

The Speke reached Australia, after 147 days, on 18 May 1821. The prisoners, were landed at Botany Bay five days later. Hart was a convicted felon, but, in a new and empty land, was literate, a skilled craftsman and had the enormous advantage of being able to entertain with his fiddle.

Among the passengers was Surgeon Henry Grattan Douglass, bearing a letter of introduction to Governor Lachlan Macquarie, who gave Douglass charge of the General Hospital and Female Factory, at Parramatta. In 1821, New South

Wales was a small colony of around 30,000 convicts, settlers and soldiers. Douglas found, in a group of literate and skilled Scotsmen, an asset to be exploited. He took Hart with him to Parramatta.

At Parramatta, Hart met Bridget O'Hara. She had been sentenced to fourteen years transportation at Louth and taken to Cork, from where the John Bull sailed on 25 July 1821. Bridget, arrived safely 146 days later and was put in the charge of Dr Douglass. In early 1822 Hart was refused a conditional pardon. On 14 May he married Bridget O'Hara. Bridget was five foot four, illiterate, and understated her age of thirty-seven, by five years. This unlikely marriage conferred advantages. A ticket of leave was more readily granted to the married. Bridget, released from the Female Factory, in 1824 is mentioned in a desperate disposition made by a man who had left his precious ticket of leave in a waistcoat he gave to her for washing. The ticket emerged wholly destroyed.

In 1825 Alexander became a salaried foreman with Mr McArthur of Camden Park. On 1 June 1826 he received his ticket of leave. In the census of 1828 Alexander has set up shop in Macquarie Street, Sydney. He described Bridget as his housekeeper. She then disappeared. Hart expanded his business, bought property in Pitt Street, moved to Lower Castlereagh Street and, finally, to 8 Smith Street from where he retired, aged seventy-four, in 1868.

On 22 March 1836, the Caledonian Mercury reported that in the Imperial Parliament, Mr Wallace, MP for Greenock, asked the Lord Advocate if anything had been done by HM Government on behalf of the eighteen unfortunate men who had been convicted of what was, at that time, known as treasonous practices. The Lord Advocate was happy to say that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to pardon them.

Back in Glasgow, Alexander's brother, John Hart, had three children – Margaret, Alexander and Peter. Peter went to sea and reported back on Uncle Alexander in Sydney. On 20 October 1841, his sister, Margaret, took free passage on Thomas Arbuthnot with an unmarried woman's bounty of £19. Two years later, Hart witnessed her marriage to George Brown, a carpenter from Tarbolton. Their first child, John Hart Brown, born 1845, was followed by George, Alexander, Janet and Peter.

The Harts and Browns prospered, living together in row houses around Elger Street, Glebe. In 1847, Alexander wrote to his aunt, in Glasgow. Both he and Margaret, he says, like the country well and shall be satisfied to end their journey

in Australia – if Providence wills. Alexander hopes that cousin Peter will return. Peter did, several times, before, in 1863, he docked in Shanghai and, a few days later, died of cholera.

Bridget gained her freedom on 30 January 1838, three years after her sentence had expired. In 1860, aged seventy-five, she was admitted to the Benevolent Society of New South Wales' institution and in February 1862 to the Immigration Barracks which housed aged, destitute women. There is no record of her death.

On 29 March 1876, the Sydney Morning Herald announced the death of Alexander Hart, aged eighty-two. Alexander had spent his Australian life, at the heart of a busy, close family, who if their naming conventions are anything to go by, loved and respected him. Margaret was less fortunate. She lost her firstborn and her husband, quite young, and then three more children. She buried them beside Alexander Hart and, in 1900, joined them.

In the small Australian colony of the time, ambitious men and women sought furniture of quality, such as the cedar chests of drawers which are quilled on the cann, signifying a Glasgow workshop and Alexander Hart. Many designs are attributed to him. His work is still valued. In an old family photograph, taken around 1860, the engraved lines and strong bones of his face, are clear, as are his bayonet scars. My great-great-grandfather James, was Alexander's younger brother by four years.

All Hart OPR births and marriages available at Scotland's People;

Convict registers at the Public Record Office London;

Australian records at Convict Records;

Births marriages and deaths in Australia at National Library of Australia and widely available records through genealogy sites.

Various announcements from the Caledonian Mercury and NSW Australia press.

Leslie Hills' book *10 Scotland Street – an opinionated history of one house over two centuries* is now in paperback and ebook. A copy is lodged in the Society's library.

Born In A Malt Kiln At Glencoe

by Brian Mercer

John Moor, the progenitor of our race of Moore's was born in Argyll in 1648. He belonged to the Clan of MacDonald of Glencoe.

In the Revolution of 1688, it was some time before all the Scottish Chiefs submitted and took the oath of allegiance to the new government.

In 1691, King William issued a proclamation offering amnesty to all the chiefs and their clans who would take the oath of allegiance before 31 December 1691. All the chiefs submitted within the time except MacDonald of Glencoe who had appeared at Fort William on the deadline but could not find a magistrate to administer the oath. Due to MacDonald taking the oath six days late on 06 January 1692, orders were given to destroy MacDonald and the entire clan.

One hundred and twenty soldiers were sent to occupy Glencoe, professing peace and friendship and they were received with the kindest hospitality. On the evening of February 12, 1692, after their entertainment at the MacDonald home, an attack was made upon MacDonald. He was shot through the head, and his family murdered, and the inhabitants of all ages were cruelly massacred. More than forty were killed.



Photo by Brian Mercer, Colonial Graveyards

In this infamous massacre, John Moore, our progenitor, was shot dead in his garden. His wife, finding him dead, covered his body with a sheet, and fled to a malt-kiln for safety. That night she was delivered of a son, the John Moor, who was among the early settlers of Londonderry, New Hampshire. Mrs. Moor had two daughters, Elizabeth and Beatrix, whom she left in the care of a servant while she fled for safety. She remained in the malt kiln three days, when she took her young son and returned to her house. She found the body of her husband had been taken away, and the daughters and servant had gone, and the house deserted and she alone with her babe.

Her husband's brother, Samuel Moor, with most of her family relatives, had removed some time before this event, to Antrim Co., Ireland. By the help of friends, she joined her relatives in Ireland. Two years later, the servant brought the two daughters to her.

Our forefathers in Scotland were Presbyterians, but were obliged to worship in form according to regulations of the established church of England. They looked to America as the only place where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

On 26 March 1718, I find two hundred from the North of Ireland signed a memorial to Samuel Shute, Governor of Massachusetts to assure his Excellency of their sincere and hearty inclination to transport themselves to that very excellent and renowned plantation, upon their receiving from his Excellency suitable encouragement. Among the signers of this memorial I find the names of John Moor, Samuel Moor, and William Cochran, afterwards the father-in-law of John Moor. Gov. Shute promised the memorialists a township twelve miles square of the unoccupied lands in New England, and sixteen families made immediate preparation to leave Ireland for America, arriving in Boston, August, 1718. These emigrants did not make the selection of their lands until 11 April 1719.

When the news of their settlement reached Ireland, many families prepared to leave for America. It was agreed that the Moors and their relatives should leave Ireland in company and settle together.

John Moor, son of Samuel Moor remained in Ireland, but came to America in 1724. Samuel Moor was 65 years old. Charter John, was 27. William Cochran 55, and Andrew Todd 23. These with their families left Ireland in the spring of 1720. On their passage the vessel was captured by pirates. While in their hands, a Mrs. Wilson was delivered of her first child. Their helpless innocence so moved the pirate band that after taking most of their money, they permitted them to go on their journey, bestowing upon Mrs. Wilson some valuable presents, among

which was a silk dress, a piece of which I have in my possession, given me by Mrs. Robert C. Mack of Londonderry, N. H., in 1873.

The party arrived in Boston in June 1720, and soon after joined their friends (who had previously come from Ireland in 1718), in Nutfield, later Londonderry, now Derry, N.H.

He with his uncle, Samuel Moor and Charter William Cochran bought adjoining farms, north of and bordering on Ezekiel's Pond, in that part of Londonderry, N.H., now Derry. He married in Londonderry, 02 April 1723, to Jean Cochran.

He was a surveyor and helped to survey the town of Londonderry in the fall of 1720.

He was a successful farmer and lived on his farm 21 years, In 1736 he was chosen a deacon in the first Presbyterian Church of that town. He died in 1741, aged 49 years,

The inventory of his property filed 26 August 1741, was over \$7,000.

Did you know...?

Most genealogists will be aware of the Parliamentary Act that created the Civil Registration System which started in England and Wales in 1837.

And probably also know that Scotland, after many false starts – the Church of Scotland didn't want to lose its monopoly of registration created under a Privy Council Act of 1616 and the income it derived from it – only followed suit in 1855.

So you've always thought that compulsory registration of births started first in England and Wales?

Wrong!

Their Act required that the local registrar inform themselves of births and make enquiries of parents to enable registration. But there was no legal obligation on parents to register their child's birth until further legislation in 1874. So between 1837 and 1875, the English or Welsh birth you are searching for might be missing from the civil register – legally.

But Scotland's 1855 system **did** require parents to register their children's births. So Scotland was first.

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

by Robert Flanagan Stieglitz

Mary Forsythe (1847-1912) was my second great grandmother who immigrated to the United States in 1867.¹ She settled in Newark, New Jersey where like many single Irish women, she worked as a domestic servant.² She would later marry another Irish immigrant and raise a family. Mary was the last of my mother's eight great grandparents that came to the US from Ireland between 1851 and 1867, where all were born in what is now the Republic of Ireland.

Like most family historians I had my DNA tested, in fact I tested with all the "big four" companies, which includes Ancestry DNA, My Heritage, Family Tree DNA and 23&Me. Ancestry DNA with the largest databased places a lot of emphasis on "Origins or Ethnicity" so I believe they would provide the most reliable result. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "The request for your ethnicity is to learn what group of people you identify with according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background. In other words, it is meant to get an idea about your nationality, heritage, culture, ancestry, and upbringing. The concept of ethnicity contrasts with that of race in that it is concerned with group cultural identity or expression whereas race focuses on physical and biogenetic traits."³ In simple terms, Ancestry's "Origins" does not depict race, but a similar genome found in those people of Ireland whose ancestors lived there for centuries or those whose descendants that recently emigrated from there.

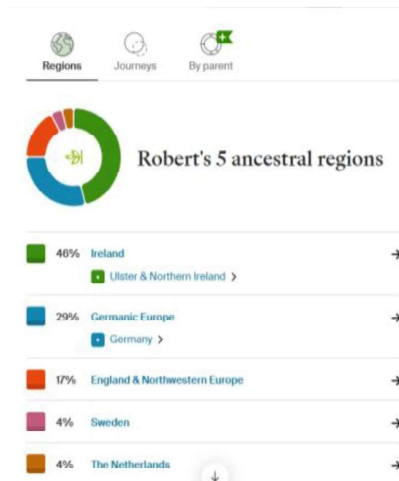
My Origins - Autosomal DNA

Under Ancestry's Origins are your "Ancestral Regions" maps. My previous map listed 4% Scotland, while my most recent does not indicate such. The new 4% added to my 46% Irish inherited from my mother is listed as England. Having my sister test is essential as seen in her profile, remember siblings have the same genealogical tree but their genetic trees are different. Her regions still report 3% Scotland.

¹ Ship's record

² [https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/bridgets-irish-domestic-servants-new-york#:~:text="](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/bridgets-irish-domestic-servants-new-york#:~:text=)

³ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/grammar/difference-between-race-and-ethnicity>



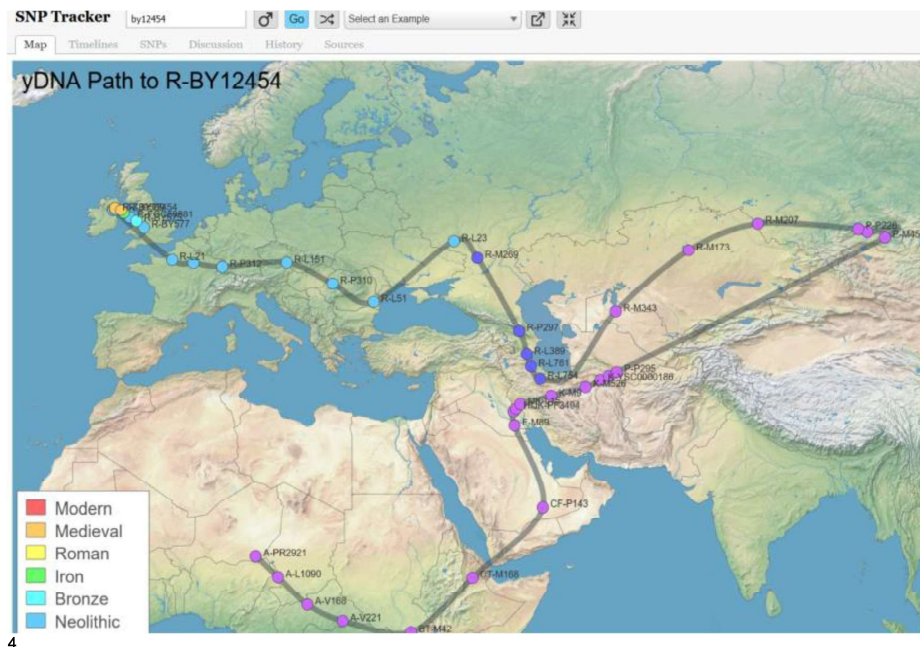
Like many genealogists of Irish descent, I traced the origins of my ancestors' surnames. My narrative "My 2nd Great-Grandfathers Patrilineal Ancestry in Ancient Ireland" published in the Summer 2022 Issue Irish Lives Remembered used Y-chromosome haplogroups to establish their Irish heritage. Seven of my mom's great-grandparents' surnames are associated with Irish Gael ancestry while only one differs in that it is connected to a Scottish Clan.

Y-DNA Patrilineal Line

Recently I located a male Forsythe relative who tested his Y-DNA, the result being Haplogroup R-BY12454. The Y-chromosome is passed down from father to son just as their surname is.

Was Mary a descendant of the Clan Forsyth?

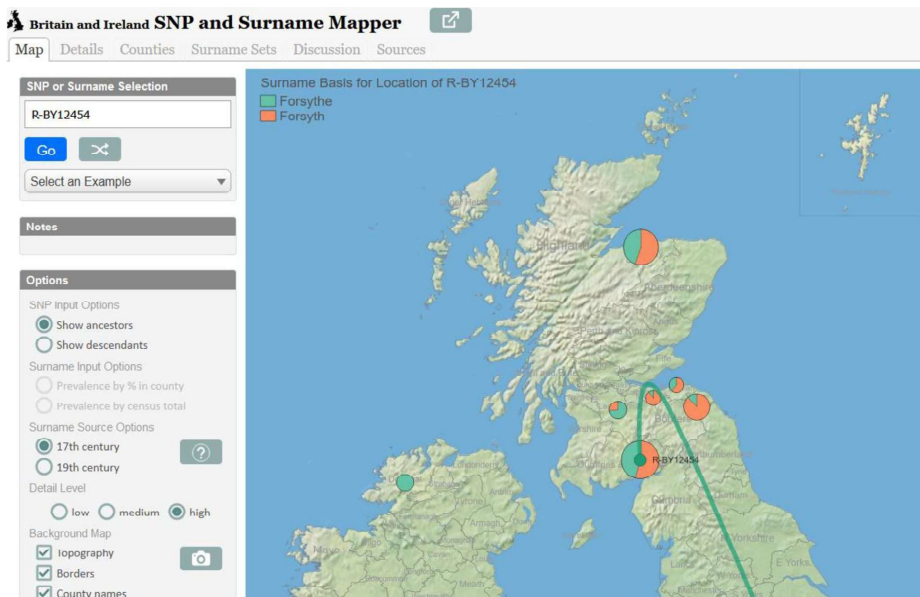
Rob Spencer's SNPTracker, seen in the image below, plots out the 65,000-year migration of the Forsythe patrilineal line from Africa to Scotland using the SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms). In simple terms, SNPs are mutations that take place on the Y-chromosome that are used as markers because the time and location for each occurrence has been estimated by geneticists.



If this is my line and the Forsythes came from Scotland then to Ireland, then the next question would be when? *SNPTracker* also has a tool call “SNP or Surnames Selection.” A close-up image for the Y haplogroup R-BY12454

⁴ <http://scaledinnovation.com/gg/snpTracker.html>

(patrilineal Forsythe line) in the “SNP Selection” indicates its origin in the Scotland Lowlands.



Geneticists have determined the Y haplogroup R-BY12454 originated between 1160 CE and 1770 CE. Scottish clans and surnames date back to the 12th century, therefore my Forsythe ancestral line most likely emigrated from Scotland to Ireland.⁵

Is this DNA information consistent with the history of Clan Forsyth?

The origin of Clan Forsyth is suggested to be dated to the Thirteenth Century, if not before, when it is recorded in the book, *Scottish Arms: being A Collection of Armorial Bearings CE 1370-1678*.⁶

Additionally, the surname "Forsyth" is thought to have originated from a place name in the Lowlands.⁷

⁵ <https://www.ancestry.com/c/ancestry-blog/scottish-surnames-kilts-clans-and-culture>

⁶ <https://www.clanforsyth.com/ancienthistory>

⁷ <https://clancentral.co.uk/clanfinder/Forsyth#>

When would the Forsythes have immigrated to Ireland?

The Plantation of Ulster was the project by the English monarchy to colonize the northern province of Ireland with Protestant settlers from England and from Scotland.⁸

This took place between the years 1610-1630. The surname Forsyth/Forsyth is found in the lists of Scottish families that immigrated to Ireland during early 17th century.⁹

Catholic Ulster Irish?

As a child I recall my grandaunt Mamie Tighe (1879-1957) would hold me in her lap and say “Jesus, Mary and Joseph (while making the sign of the cross), you’re as Irish as Paddy’s Pig!” Mamie was the daughter of Mary Forsythe, and they were Irish Catholics to the core! This then begs the question, were any of the Ulster-Scots Catholic? “The majority of Scottish colonists arriving in Ulster after 1610 were mainly Presbyterians, but a sizeable minority were Catholics. Driven by religious motivation, these Catholic Lowlanders were fleeing persecution in Scotland and settling on estates of Scots Catholic planters.”¹⁰

Conclusion

All my traditional genealogical research, DNA analysis and historical background of the Clan Forsyth appear consistent with the ancestral background of my second great-grandmother. This would not be considered solid evidence but most likely the story behind my 2nd great-grandmother’s ancestral background.

<https://www.clanforsyth.com/contact-us>

⁸ <https://www.theirishstory.com/2024/06/02/the-plantation-of-ulster-a-brief-overview/>

⁹ <https://discoverulsterscots.com/history-culture/who-are-ulster-scots/surnames-ulster>

¹⁰ <https://academic.oup.com/manchester-scholarship-online/book/15393/chapter-abstract/169979396>

Pedigree Chart for Virginia Marie Flanagan

Thomas Joseph Flanagan

b: 10 Jan 1869 in New York City, New York
d: 26 Jun 1929 in Neptune, New Jersey
m: 29 Jun 1892 in Blessed Sacrament, New York City, New York

Charles Raymond Flanagan

b: 13 Feb 1901 in New York City, New York
d: 26 Sep 1964 in Asbury Park, Monmouth, New Jersey, USA
m: 29 Mar 1922 in New Monmouth, Monmouth, New Jersey, USA

Mary Jane Finnegan

b: 09 Apr 1871 in New York City, New York
d: 02 Apr 1929 in Freehold, Monmouth, New Jersey, USA

Virginia Marie Flanagan

b: 22 Jun 1922 in Spring Lake, Monmouth, New Jersey, USA
d: 24 Sep 2002 in Delray Beach, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
m: 10 Oct 1943 in Holy Spirit Church, Asbury Park, New Jersey

Bernard Thomas Tighe

b: 02 Jul 1877 in Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA
d: 11 May 1915 in Asbury Park, Monmouth, New Jersey, USA
m: 20 Sep 1899 in Holy Cross Church, Harrison, New Jersey

Anna Catherine Tighe

b: 13 Jun 1903 in Harrison, Hudson, New Jersey, USA
d: 23 Sep 1978 in Asbury Park, Monmouth, New Jersey, USA

Anne Mae Brannigan

b: 20 Feb 1872 in Harrison, Hudson, New Jersey, USA
d: 06 Mar 1944 in Neptune, New Jersey

Thomas Flanagan

b: Bet. 1835-1836 in Cloonfree, Cloonfulough, Co. Roscommon, Ireland
d: 28 Jun 1880 in New York City, New York
m: 22 Dec 1862 in St Columba, New York City, New York

Margaret A Conroy

b: 24 Oct 1839 in Lissonuffly, Co. Roscommon, Ireland
d: 27 Sep 1904 in New York City, New York

James Finnegan

b: 1830-52 in Kilmore Parish, Cavan, Ireland
d: Unknown in New York, USA
m: Bet. 1869-1870 in New York, New York, USA

Mary Jane Connell

b: Bet. 1830-1852 in Cavan, Ireland
d: Unknown in New York

Thomas Bernard Tighe

b: 30 Jun 1842 in Lisnagon, Kildare, County Meath, Ireland
d: 15 Sep 1911 in Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA
m: 1875 in Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA

Mary Forsythe

b: 31 Aug 1848 in Ballymanus, Rathgarve, Westmeath, Ireland
d: 31 Aug 1912 in Newark, Essex, New Jersey, USA

Patrick F Branagan

b: 20 Jul 1841 in Ardee, Louth, Ireland
d: 03 Mar 1908 in Harrison, Hudson, New Jersey, USA
m: 24 Nov 1864 in St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral Catholic, Newark, NJ

Catharine Ann Kennedy

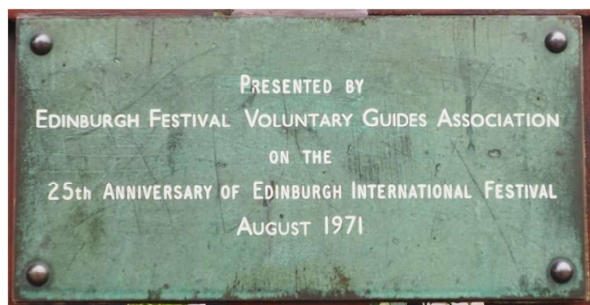
b: 12 May 1844 in Mount Nugent, County Meath, Ireland
d: 08 Jun 1887 in Harrison, Hudson, New Jersey, USA

Is There A Genealogical Value In Memorial Bench Plaques?

by The Editor

It is suggested that there are over 3,000 memorial benches in Edinburgh. And as I walk around town, I pass very many of them.

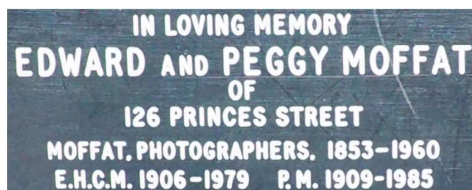
They don't have the kind of legal protection that graveyards have. But many seem to carry information for the family historian that could be similarly useful. Or do they?



So as I walked along Princes Street in Edinburgh from Lothian Road to North Bridge I photographed each plaque. Some were not family history related. For example, we find this between Castle Street and Frederick Street, with one more, not genealogical, in the same part of the street,

a further one between Lothian Rd and Castle St, and another between Frederick St and Hanover St.

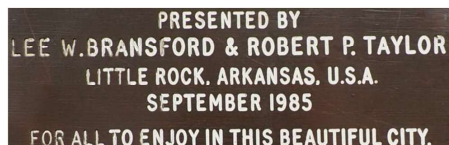
But there are eleven which might attract a genealogist's attention. For example, between Lothian Road and Castle Street we find:



Before we reach North Bridge there are another ten benches of similar interest. One has separate plaques for a husband and wife.

Another carries a quasi-political message but requires one to dig online to find it.

Two are perhaps a wee bit more challenging, having their origin in the USA.



Benches don't last for ever, particularly wooden ones. But with the City of Edinburgh Council saving the plaques from decommissioned benches, the information on them is not lost, merely removed from public view.

So, tentatively, yes there is genealogically valuable information on these benches across Edinburgh. And elsewhere.

And to illustrate my conclusion, here's the transcriptions from the remaining family plaques on Princes Street.

This seat is erected in memory of Alexander Darling, Esq. J.P., LL.D., formerly Master of the Merchant Company & founder of the business of Darling & Company 124-125 Princes Street, Edinburgh. Who was born in 1858 and died in 1936. [Castle St to Frederick St]
To the memory of Major John Cowper M.C. R.E. F.I.C.E. 1917-1985 and his dear wife Ruth Ernestine 1918-1995 [Castle St to Frederick St]
In memory of Ronald MacDonald Douglas author and patriot 1896-1984 [Castle St to Frederick St]
In memory of Councillor Joseph MacKaill Craigentinny Ward 1953-1962 [Castle St to Frederick St]
In memory of James Haldane O'Hare 1904-1966 Helen Gaskell (née Grieve) 1904-1986 [Castle St to Frederick St]
To the memory of Alice Helen Walker who died 21 st November 1958 age 42. Gifted by her husband Thomas Elliot Walker who died 4 th June 2006 age 91. [Lothian Rd to Castle St]
Donated by Helen in memory of my dear husband of 35 years John F.M.Crease who died 22-7-87 a precious father to John and Cliff dear papa to his grandchildren so sadly missed by so many people [Lothian Rd to Castle St]
[1] In memory of Joan Cross 1909-1981 beloved wife of Lewis Cross [2] In memory of Lewis Cross 1910-1983 beloved by his family [Lothian Rd to Castle St]
In loving memory of my mother Wilhelmina Hunter (Minnie) formerly of Stockbridge 1916-1981 not just a mother but a friend [Lothian Rd to Castle St]

Précis Of The Lecture On William Schaw Lindsay

17 March 2025, 1930 hrs in the Augustine United Church, Geo IV Bridge

William Schaw Lindsay, Victorian Entrepreneur

by Bill Lindsay, Historian & Author

Whilst living in Roslin in the 1980s I conducted my family research in earnest. Visiting New Register House I learnt that my great-great-great-grandfather Joseph Lindsay (1767-1823) was born in Stirlingshire but died a failed businessman in Edinburgh aged fifty-five.

My attention shifted to his grandson William upon discovering his extensive papers in a solicitor's trunk, later acquired by the National Maritime Museum. Six years of transcription culminated in his biography.

Born in Ayr and orphaned by ten, William, despite some schooling, chose a life at sea, inspired by his cousin Lieutenant Peter Belches RN. After a challenging six weeks on Liverpool docks, he became an apprentice, spending nine years traversing oceans and rising to captain.

Retiring, he became a colliery agent in Northeast England, marrying Helen Stewart in 1843. A brief Edinburgh honeymoon preceded his return to Hartlepool, where he partnered with Helen's brother, Robert, later Lord Provost of Glasgow who was instrumental in the city's water supply. Witnessing a shipwreck spurred Lindsay to successfully campaign for a local lighthouse.

In 1845, he established a thriving shipbroking business in London, securing major coal supply contracts and building it into a leading British shipping enterprise. He entered Parliament as a Liberal MP for Tynemouth after unsuccessful attempts in corrupt Newport and Dartmouth, refusing to engage in bribery common at the time.

During the shift from sail to steam, Lindsay astutely pioneered auxiliary steamships – sailing vessels with small engines for manoeuvring – capitalizing on their cost-effectiveness for a decade before efficient full-powered steamers emerged. He also operated large sailing ships for Australian emigration. An

auxiliary steamship built on the Clyde was delivered late, leading to a successful lawsuit against the shipyard, though Lindsay ultimately prioritized an apology and charitable donation over financial gain.

His ships were requisitioned for the Crimean War, one controversially altered by an Admiralty surveyor. Despite this, his fleet played a significant role in transporting troops and Florence Nightingale. Lindsay became a vocal critic of the war's mismanagement, advocating for reforms through the Administration Reform Association. His ships also supported Caroline Chisholm's humanitarian efforts in Australian emigration.

Post-war, a mail line venture to India via South Africa proved short-lived due to merchant reluctance to pay a premium for auxiliary vessels. Two of his ships then served as "bride ships," transporting women to the male-dominated gold rush towns of Vancouver.

As an MP, Lindsay moved within influential circles, befriending figures like Richard Cobden and Charles Dickens, focusing his parliamentary efforts on shipping matters. In 1860, he toured the Northern US, advocating for uniform navigation laws and meeting Abraham Lincoln. Despite this, he later supported the Confederacy in the Civil War, citing taxation and representation disparities. He believed the South needed to build a navy in Britain and helped raise funds, personally investing in Confederate bonds. A staunch supporter of Free Trade and a pacifist, he unsuccessfully lobbied Napoleon III for Confederate recognition.

A stroke in 1864 ended his parliamentary career. Confined to a wheelchair, he sold his ships and dedicated himself to writing, his four-volume 'A History of Merchant Shipping' becoming a seminal work. He recounted a visit to the SS Great Eastern, presciently predicting its unprofitable future.

William Schaw Lindsay died in 1877 in Shepperton. His life, from orphaned cabin boy to shipowner and MP, was a remarkable testament to ambition and resilience.

About the Author:

Following the publication of the biography of his forefather entitled William Schaw Lindsay Victorian Entrepreneur, Bill Lindsay has been conducting a lecture tour around the UK in more than 50 centres.

Having followed a career in the Pharmaceutical Industry, he is retired and researching Victorian Merchant Shipping. He is Editor of Topmasts, the online magazine for the Society for Nautical Research (SNR). He is also a member of various Maritime Societies, including the SNR and the Navy Records Society, and has written numerous articles and book chapters.

Bill was educated at Loretto School in Musselburgh and lived in Roslin for several years. He now lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and visits the coast as much as possible.

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Some of the Mysteries of Adultery

by The Editor

Margaret Main was born in Nairn in 1880, the daughter of Hugh Main and Ann Storm.

In 1899, at the age of 19, she married 23-year-old James Brown in Nairn. However, James abandoned the marriage later in the same year according to the record of birth for Margaret's first child.

Her daughter, Annie Allan Main, was born in 1902 with no father recorded.

1902 BROWN, ANNIE ALLAN (Statutory registers Births 123/ 77)

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Page 26.

1902. BIRTHS in the Parish of Nairn in the County of Nairn

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Birthplace, if not of the House in which the birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
77	Annie Allan Main or Brown (Elphinstone)	1902 July Nairn, N. B.	F.	Margaret Main or Brown, Reservist of Seaforth Highlanders, whom she declares is not the father of this child & further that she has had no personal connection with him since 1899	M. Main Brother	1902 July 28 th At Nairn R. H. D. Registrar.

R. H. D. Registrar.

Column 4 reads:

Margaret Main or Brown married to James Brown, Reservist of Seaforth Highlanders whom she declares is not the father of this child & further that she has had no personal connection with him since the year 1899

A further adultérine child with no named father, George Roy Main Brown, was born in 1905.

James White Brown (junior), was born in 1915. This time, Margaret's husband is shown as the father despite his having apparently deserted his wife in 1899. Margaret's spouse James White Brown passed away aged 40 in 1916 shortly after this, in Glasgow.

The army pension record for James, shows that Margaret's son George was adopted. It is not known by whom.

In February 1917, Margaret married Alexander McLean. And in August that year she had another son, Alexander McLean, this time with her new husband.

Margaret Main spent the rest of her life in Nairn, where she died on 28 August 1933.

Puzzle Picture

Where Are We?



Last Time



On the left the Scottish Unicorn holds a garland with Scotland's motto – “Nemo Me Impune Lacessit” (No one provokes me with impunity). If you spotted that it was a unicorn and read the word “ME” preceded by an “O”, you probably got it.



The first post office box, installed in London in 1857, was green and gold. The design of architect John Penfold's hexagonal box was adopted in a simplified form and became the now familiar red colour in 1874.

There are a fair number left in regular use with (I am told) some protected as “listed buildings”. The design was replaced by a circular one in 1879.

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

Recent Additions To The Library

Title	Author
William Schaw Lindsay, Victorian Entrepreneur	Bill Lindsay
John Dewar's Islay, Jura and Colonsay	Edited by Ronald Black and Christopher Dracup
The British 19th Century Surname Atlas <i>[CD version 1.2]</i>	Archer Software
Scottish Witchcraft Trials	Scottish History Society
Tarbat Free Church Births & Baptisms 1843-1862 & 1873-1899	Stuart Farrell
Some Notable Burials – Grange Cemetery, Beaufort Road, Edinburgh	The Grange Association
Holytown Memorial, Remembering the Fallen, 1914-1919	Lanarkshire Family History Society
New Stevenston Memorial, Remembering the Fallen, 1914-1919	Lanarkshire Family History Society
The Country House Servant	Pamela A Sambrook
The Scottish Widows' Fund & Life Assurance Society Roll of Honour	David McNay

Book Review

Scottish Witchcraft Trials

Edited by Julian Goodare and Liv Helene Willumsen

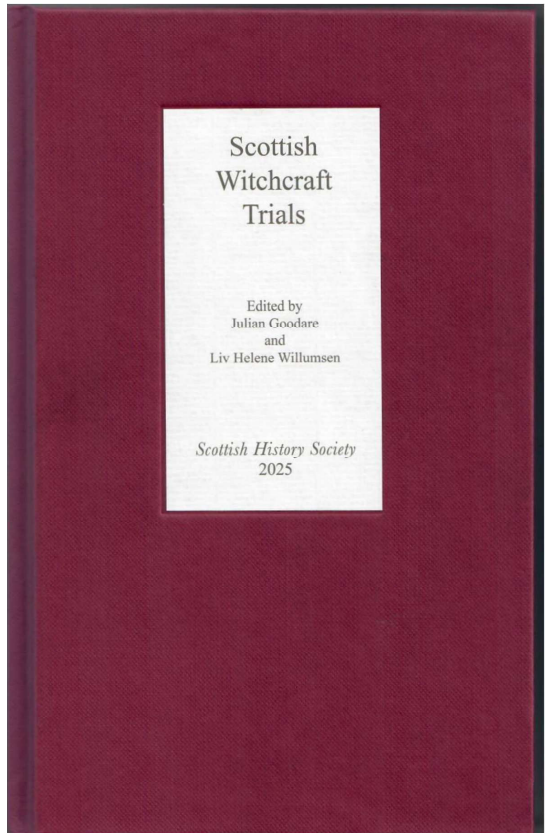
The Scottish History Society seeks to publish one book each year. It's quite a bargain for the Society's members who get a copy included as a benefit of their subscription.

This year's book immediately deconstructed some of my personal bias about witchcraft. The index shows two important things. Firstly that quite a few of the trials described, involved men. And many were people who were aristocratic. A life of assuming that witches were working class women swept away five minutes after lifting up this volume.

Chapter 2 describes the activities, trial and fate of Sir William Stewart of Edinburgh.

This describes "*one of the most spectacular instances of necromancy and elite magic ever to have occurred in Scotland.*"

Stewart aimed high – all the way to the throne through his connections, via prophecy in Scotland and Norway. As a mathematician I am glad not to have been around in 1569 as an ability to manipulate numbers and create geometric diagrams was regarded as clear evidence of the devil's hand at work. Stewart had the skills, and was known for them.



In those days the law moved fast. He was taken from Edinburgh Castle for trial on 5th August that year and after *“being convicted for witcherie”* was burnt ten days later.

If you were looking for somewhere to live in the seventeenth century, Peebles might have been a good choice, except if you were one of the twenty-seven people from six different parishes, mostly women, who were identified in 1629 as *“vehementlie suspect”* for witchcraft. The good news is however that it was concluded in most cases that there was insufficient evidence.

Three appeared before a Commission of Justiciary on 22 December. The book reports that executions followed but the record does not show who or how many thus died. But twenty-four seem not to have been tried.

The prosecutions described here generally took place on under 1563 Witchcraft Act. It was eventually annulled by the Witchcraft Act 1735.

Although prosecution numbers had dropped, 1706 still saw members of the Ratter family in Shetland arraigned under the Act which had made illegal *“witchcraft, sorcery and deluding the people”*. Fortunately for Kitty Ratter, being found guilty meant she was only fined and branded on the forehead.

The book tells us that that case has travelled by oral tradition down the centuries, still being part of island folk memories today.

Although this is a book written by academics, it an interesting read for all of us.

The Society’s motto *“Colligite Fragmenta ne Pereant”* (Collect fragments so they don’t get lost) is well served by this offering.

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

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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.

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS, Journal No 173, February 2025

Ecclesiastical Account of Lonmay – a fascinating and detailed account of the Parish of Lonmay from 1603, written by Rev James Forrest, Minister at Lonmay Church from 1878-1913. He records the delays in building a new kirk, school and even the school bell, which were eventually reluctantly funded. Rev Forrest details the payment of schoolmasters, poverty and famine, farming methods, the manners and customs of the time – including a church service lasting 12 hours and punishments as decided in the Kirk Sessions for many and varied misdemeanours.

The Historian, 130th Edition of the Journal of the Tay Valley FHS, February 2025

Newspapers as sources for research – a useful article by Dr David Dobson describing how newspapers can provide a rich source of data for genealogists. The author refers to reports of mutiny on two separate ships in the year 1748, which include good descriptions of some of the escaped mutineers. He mentions that many old newspapers have been digitised but many of our reference libraries have old papers available for inspection. The earliest newspaper held in Edinburgh Central Library dates from 1651.

Lanarkshire FHS Journal, Issue No 87, February 2025

What you can find at the Mitchell Library! – George Barnsley from the Lanarkshire Police Historical Society gives an interesting insight into how career criminals were brought to justice and dealt with by the criminal justice system.

The Lothians FHS Newsletter, March 2025

The Portobello Story – Gordon Stevens, Vice-Chair of the Society, traces the development of the much loved 'day-oot' destination from 1742 when a young sailor, George Hamilton, first built a house on a bleak and desolate spot, which he named after Puerto Bello on the Isthmus of Panama, the scene of a successful naval battle where he served under Admiral Vernon. This interesting article details the various attractions that have come and gone over the years, which many readers will remember.

The Manchester Genealogist, Volume 61, No 1 2025

The Scotch-Irish – Hilary Hartigan came across the original copy of this old book, written in 1902 by Charles A Hanna. The book, written in two volumes, looks at the historic connections between the Irish and Scottish populations. Hilary reproduces some interesting extracts, which will be useful to others researching this subject.

Central Scotland FHS Journal, Issue 69, Spring 2025

History of Mining in Central Scotland – Ian Scott gives a detailed and fascinating history of the area's very long history of mining, from the early involvement in mining by monks to the eventual decline and closure of all deep mines. Included in the historical details he exposes how an Act of Parliament led to pit employees effectively becoming serfs, the employment of women and children as young as four, pit disasters, the cohesion of mining communities and the Miners' Strike of 1984-5.

Coontin Kin, Shetland FHS, Journal No 133, Voar 2025

A Reunion of the Souls of Japanese and Scottish Engineers: Following in the Footsteps – Manako Yabe, a Japanese deaf surveyor, travelled to Orkney and Shetland and discovers a connection to a broader piece of deaf history linking Japanese and Scottish engineers. The article finishes with a request for help with two questions for the reader.

Dumfries & Galloway FHS Newsletter, Issue 111, March 2025

Dr Thomas Rae – Meryl Ritchie gives a 'warts and all' biography of Dr Thomas Rae, born in Dalton in Dumfriesshire in 1835. At the age of 24, Dr Rae emigrated to Victoria on completion of his medical degree at Edinburgh University. He became known for his diligence and benevolence, although his good-natured kindness and renowned 'bonhomie' contributed to his increasing difficulties, both personal and financial. An interesting portrayal of a deeply flawed man as he battled inhospitable conditions and his personal demons.

Sib Folk News, Orkney FHS, Issue 113, Spring 2025

Some Westray Tullochs to Australia (Part 1) – Wayne Crooks follows up on his article from issue 91, back in 2019, asking for help to identify the parents of his GGG Grandfather, William Tulloch, which he was able to do with the assistance of members. This article takes the story further and ends with another request for help.

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS, Issue 132, March 2025

For The Salvation of Destitute and Neglected Children – This interesting article by Christine Woodcock provides details of the various philanthropic organisations created due to concerns about the plight of destitute and neglected children. Many children were sent to Commonwealth countries, often without the permission or knowledge of their families, leading in some cases to legal action attempting to repatriate the children.

The South Australian Genealogist, Volume 52, No 1, February 2025

The Saint Who Brought a Memory of Napoleon to South Australia: John Colbey 1821-1894 – Kathleen Emms provides an interesting account of the life of a 'Saint', John Colby, born on St Helena just as the exiled Napoleon Bonaparte died on 5 May 1821. John left the island in 1838 as the economic hardship brought about by Napoleon's death began to bite, leading to a sharp decline in population and living standards. John found work as a merchant seaman, eventually arriving in South Australia following a tortuous 173-day journey on the 'John Cooper', a Scottish clipper built on the Clyde.

Descent, Society of Australian Genealogists, Volume 55, Part 1, March 2025

In Search of ... Crafting Your Family History: Introduction – Danielle Tebb looks at the use of crafting in history, from the Bayeux Tapestry, which inspired the Great Tapestry of Scotland, to the more meaningful items handcrafted by our ancestors and the deep significance behind their creation.

Bulletin, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, Volume 56, No 1, April 2025

A Light Bulb Moment: It's All About the Place – Marian Powell gives a resume of the free ten day event held by the Society of Genealogists in London at the end of last year. She describes the event as 'truly a learning session about new resources and strategies to flesh out your ancestors' lives in the places and the times in which they lived'. A few of the 140 sessions are highlighted, including a presentation by Laragh Quinney of the National Library of Scotland covering the use of maps in genealogy. All the sessions are on YouTube, available through the Society of Genealogists website: <https://www.sog.org.uk/all-about-that-place-2024> or directly on YouTube.

Progenitor, Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory, Volume 44, No 1, March 2025

Hill 60 Remembered – An article on the battle for Hill 60 in the ANZAC Gallipoli campaign in 1915, heavy losses sustained due to a combination of strong

resistance, a lack of ammunition, inaccurate maps and inexperienced soldiers led to the battle being abandoned.

Ancestor, Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Volume 37 No 5, March 2025

The Sisters, the suitor and an old story – the author, Angela Rutherford, writes ‘the events to be described occurred in Melbourne 175 years ago – an old story but familiar to contemporary readers.’ The prize-winning article describes how a ‘romantic’ entanglement led to violence and death.

The Tripe Dresser – a tasty article introducing the uninitiated to the world of tripe!

Oregon Genealogical Society Journal, Lane County, Volume 63 No 1, Spring 2025

East Oregonian Personals Items, 1903 – A fascinating snapshot of life, death and everyday life in East Oregon.

Anglo-Celtic Roots, British Isles FHS of Greater Ottawa, Volume 31, No 1, Spring 2025

Robert Malcolm: Saddler, Soldier, Sportsman – Robert’s great-great-granddaughter, Adrienne Stevenson, looks at his fascinating life from humble beginnings in Barony, Glasgow to his military service, entrepreneurial successes in Toronto and his involvement in the sport of curling.

Submission Dates for Articles In The Scottish Genealogist

**Able to contribute an article for future editions of
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The closing dates for submissions are:

Thursday, 7th August 2025 for the September Edition

Thursday, 6th November 2025 for the December Edition

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Send submissions or queries to

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

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Address by Dr Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon & Society President

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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

****Advance notice****

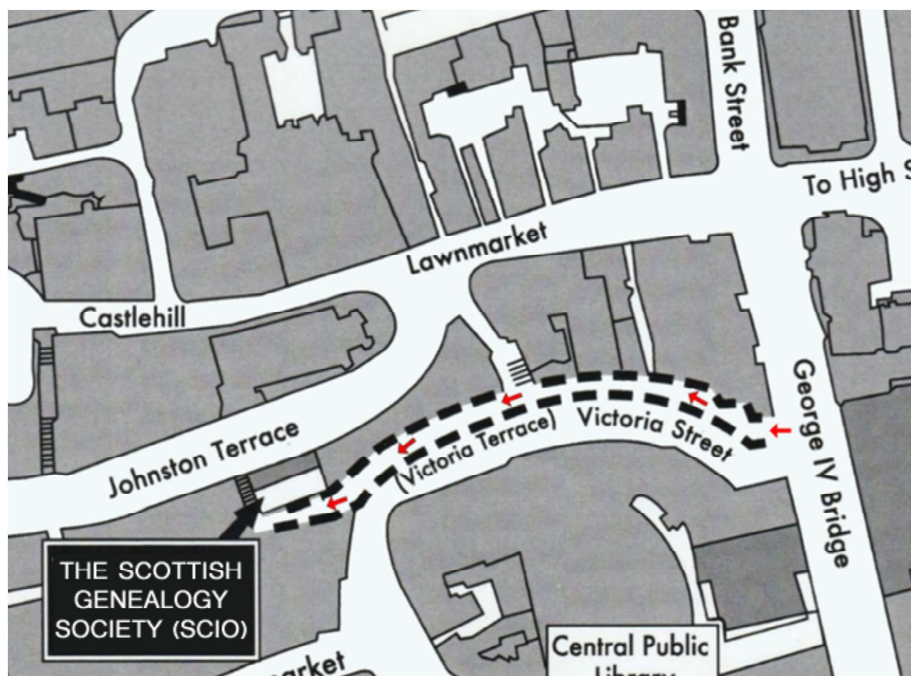
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Published by the Scottish Genealogy Society (SCIO)

Scottish Charity No. SC053432

ISSN 0300-337X

Printed by Tantallon Press, Loanhead, Midlothian