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The Journal

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Welcome to Journal 135

A number of articles in this edition illustrate some of the different approaches which can be taken to explore family history. Such exploration might be about our own ancestors or as the *Diary of a Scottish Soldier* shows, it could be for a complete stranger.

Some of the contributions show how letters and diaries can provide an insight to the lives of those who have gone before, and how those lives are impacted by world events. If you are lucky enough to have such items, I wonder what details you have been able to discover about your ancestors.

Formal notice of our forthcoming AGM on Monday 20 April can be found on pages 41-45, including the agenda and balance sheet for the year.

Karen Hunter, Editor

J136: Please submit articles for the next edition of the Journal to editor@gwsfhs.org.uk by 14 April 2026.

Contents

Welcome to Journal 135	3
Chair's Blog	4
Actors, orphans, and chancers	5
A letter from Chile	10
My Partick Ancestors	16
John Grenham's Irish Ancestors website	19
My Scottish Seafaring Ancestors on the Clyde Coast	20
Diary of a Scottish Soldier 1826-1844	24
The Smallest Heirloom?	29
Glasgow Necropolis: The story continues	31
Arthur Frame R.N. and Family	34
Publications in the GWSFHS Online Shop	38
Book Reviews	39
Annual General Meeting	41
Programme of Meetings 2025/26	46
From the Editor	47

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Murray Archer	4316	James Oakes	7179

Chair's Blog

We are now well into 2026 and the Society's success is thanks to our volunteers who selflessly give their time for the benefit of the membership. The Research Centre in Partick continues to provide a venue for members and visitors to study, with help of volunteers, on three afternoons a week. Electronic resources through the terminals at the Centre give access to many datasets, and you always learn something from a browse in the extensive library, even checking the Library catalogue can give you leads to potential sources.

If you can be there regularly, as well as doing your own research, perhaps you could help out with some of our ongoing projects. If you can't get into the Centre there is also online indexing and checking which you may be able to help with from home: currently this is continuing with the indexing of Southern Necropolis burial records. If you are visiting from distant parts and our regular opening doesn't work with your itinerary it may be possible to arrange special opening times. To find out contact James Oakes at research@gwsfhs.org.uk to discuss.

Our Zoom talks are well attended each month, and thanks to Christine, our Syllabus Secretary, we continue to have varied and interesting presentations all through the year. We also continue to involve members by hosting an 'open mic' session after the talks. Although we had problems with Society email systems last year, all systems seem to be back online and the Website is a source for Society information and membership. As ever we are looking for volunteers and members who can write articles or short notes, to inform and entertain us by publishing on the website, in the Journal and in eNews.

For a number of years we have enjoyed the work of our editor who produces such a quality journal and we are sad that this is the final Journal she will put together. Huge thanks to Karen. She is in the process of working together with Luke Gibson to pass on her expertise, and we hope that Luke will be able to carry on her good work with future productions.

Scott Fairie, Chair, 30

Actors, orphans, and chancers

The unsolved mystery of my dad's early life

Around 100 years ago my father was born, probably in England, possibly in London. The truth is a mystery, because my dad never had a birth certificate and, after ten years of searching, I have been unable to find any record of his birth. If the birth was registered, his name was most likely changed when he was a young child, and although he went through life with a 'working' date of birth this is probably not accurate either.

So, what is known about my Dad? What I have has been pieced together from 'family' stories, Dad's memories, and hours spent wading through material on Ancestry and other family history sites.

Let's begin with the family who raised Dad. Jessie Swann met Frederick Walter Bailey while she was nursing during World War 1. He had been invalided-out having lost a leg and the couple married in 1917. They lived in England for a time (he was from Lowestoft); they had four children; they moved to Scotland and lived in the Charing Cross area of Glasgow (Jessie was Scottish and her extended family lived there).



Image: Head and shoulders photo of Fred in army uniform

In May 1927 'The Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press' covered a story in which Fred (Frederick) had sold Crawford Poultry Farm, Tingewick to one Alfred Seemann Clough, for upwards of £130. Fred was now in court accused of fraud...because the farm hadn't actually been his to sell: he was renting it. He explained his deceitful action by stating that his wife - residing at 193 Renfrew Street, Glasgow - needed a surgical procedure and that he was attempting to raise money to pay for it.

Where is my Dad in all of this? Well, at this time I believe he was in the care of Langley Hall, the Actors' Orphanage, in Buckinghamshire. Dad's earliest memories were of Langley Hall and of being in the annual pantomime, 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'. The labels 'actors' and 'orphanage' are a little misleading, as many of the residents were children from acting families whose parents were on tour, and - as it had wealthy and well-known patrons (presidents have included Sir Gerald

du Maurier, Noël Coward, and Sir Laurence Olivier) - it was apparently a 'safe' place for the gentry to deposit unwanted children.

By September 1927 though my dad was living with Jessie Swann Bailey and her other children at 304 Bath Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow. Here she took out a life insurance policy to cover funeral expenses for the new addition to the family - my dad, Peter Bailey (though he was referred to in the Bailey family as Peter Villiers Bailey), who would be, according to the policy, age 3 at the next birthday. This would suggest that he left the orphanage (he believed that was because there was an epidemic of some sort so he was removed for safety) when he was no older than 2 years old so it is unlikely that a child that age would remember being in a pantomime. It is more likely, then, that Jessie altered his age to accommodate him more easily into her family.

11.2.27.562

WORLD-WIDE. TABLE C.

SCHEDULE.

Name, address and occupation of the Assured.	Amount of weekly premium.	Rate assured payable at death (exclusive of any bonus referred to in the conditions referred to herein).
Jessie Swann Bailey 304 Bath Street Glasgow	ONE	£50 if the child dies under age 2. £100 do. do. do. or after age 2 and under age 4. £150 do. do. do. or after age 4.
Name and address of the child. Peter Bailey Same address	PENNY.	
Next birthday stated as 1st birthday Anniversary to the Assured 28th		

Witness the common seal of the Company this 11th day of September 1927

J. Burns. General Manager.

W. H. Barclay. Secretary.

Photo of insurance document

Fred led the family to believe that he was Peter's biological father. Jessie was in effect accepting into her family the 'love-child' of her husband. Peter joined the Baileys, but there are no records of any adoption. Dad remembered going to (primary?) school in Woodlands, which is only a short walk from the Bath Street property in Charing Cross, but the family were on the move again, and, after a spell at 26 Kirkland Street, Glasgow, and various other addresses in the west end of the city, a large detached house in a prestigious area of Lenzie was purchased as the family home and in which Jessie opened a nursing/ convalescent home.

Peter had fond memories of growing up here with his 'siblings' and 'cousins' (on Jessie's side), but Fred was absent. While Jessie broke the news to her children that their father was dead, Fred was off in Suffolk with a new family - a lady calling herself Ellen/Helen Bailey, though Fred didn't divorce Jessie and there's no record of a marriage between Ellen and Fred. They were bringing up a daughter - another Helen Bailey - who was born in December 1925 (the same month and year that my dad acknowledged as his birthday - coincidence?)



Dad with Jessie (in the dark dress) and his 'sister' Jean in the garden in Lenzie, around 1947

When Fred died in 1940, Ellen turned up at Jessie's home in Lenzie with Helen junior in-tow, claiming the girl was Fred's daughter and asking for money to support them. Dad's 'cousin' and close boyhood friend (now deceased) told me of the day this happened as witnessed by Peter and possibly some 'siblings' too. This must have come as a shock to the children, who had been led to believe that Fred had died years earlier.

My Dad did not speak to me about his childhood until shortly before his death in 2013, when he said he was a true cockney as he'd been born within the sound of the Bow Bells. He told me about the Actors' Orphanage and his memory of the panto. I asked him about the origin of his middle name, Villiers. It's mine too, so I assume it was important to him. He said that was his name in the orphanage. He was embarrassed that his biological parents didn't want him and had never been interested in investigating his past. Without a birth certificate life must have been awkward at times; he was never able to acquire a passport, for example. Jessie's brother was in business in a dairy equipment plant in Duntocher, near Clydebank, and Dad trained there as an engineer. He was in the area at the time of the Clydebank Blitz and this event may have provided a convenient explanation for the absence of documents; the family firm were probably able to arrange his NI number and that's the official ID he relied on throughout his life.

After Dad's death in 2013 I found amongst some papers a response from GRO [as shown on the right] - he had evidently contacted them in 1986 searching for some record of his birth, under the names Bailey, Langton, and Langley. Why Langton/Langley? Langley Hall was the orphanage he had been in as a young child, but was there any other significance?

So much for stories and memories - many of which may well be inaccurate for a variety of reasons.

REFUND £1.50

General Register Office
St Catherine's House 10 Kingsway London WC2B 6JP
Telephone 01 242 6262 ext 2452

P. V. Bailey
Pack Hall
Chidebark

Our reference: C. 1537/86/P
Your reference:
Date: 10 JUL 1986

Re Birth of Peter William Langley (Adopted)
and also under name Langley
A search has been made for the entry you requested in the year
given and also on two years either side of that year but without
success.

*A search has been made for the entry you requested, but because of
the frequency with which the name occurs, it has not been possible
to identify the particular entry from the information given. If you
can supply further information to help us identify the entry, please
return the form with your reply.

*A search has been made for the entry you requested, but because of
the limited information provided it has been impossible to identify the entry.

*The entry requested has been found but marked "Adopted" which
indicates that the child has been adopted under the Adoption Act.
You can have a full certificate of the entry which will include the
word Adopted in the margin, or a short certificate which omits the
original name. Will you please write and tell us which kind of
certificate you want.

*Delete as appropriate

No fee search fee 6.00

My own 'research' began after my Dad died in 2013 when my husband gave me a DNA test kit as a gift.

Was Fred really Dad's biological father? After months of hard slog, I managed to track down and make contact with one of Helen Bailey junior's children, a son in his 60s, living in the USA. If Fred was Dad's dad, and Helen's dad, then Helen would be my half-aunt. Christopher - my newly discovered half-cousin - and I embarked on a correspondence and he was struck by the similarities between me and his late mother. He offered to take a DNA test, only to discover that we do not share any DNA. So, we don't share a grandfather in Fred. Of course, there is more than one scenario which could explain this.

I have struggled to identify a DNA connection with Fred's line. One strategy has been to contact Ancestry members who have Fred in their family trees - public and private - in the hope that someone who is related to Fred is also a DNA match with me. Most messages go unanswered or unread but there has been the odd response which has only served to deepen the mystery.

Now that Ancestry labels members' matches by parent I can look more closely at matches on my paternal side. My closest match on Dad's side is related to me via a family in Scotland called Brown whose men fathered many illegitimate children. I am indebted to other family historians who have helped me to delve further into this line. Yet again, though, I have run up against a brick wall.

Some years ago I contacted TACT (The Actors' Children's Trust), formerly the Actors' Orphanage. I spoke with a lovely man who was clearly keen to help me discover more about Dad's early life, but who explained that all records from the mid to early 1920s have been lost. He confirmed that the children of Langley Hall did indeed perform in pantomimes which were featured in the press (I contacted 'The Stage' but they have no records of Langley Hall pantos from the period). He said that he was still in touch with a few surviving residents from the late 20s and early 30s but that there was no-one now who would have been in Langley Hall at the same time as my dad. If only I had started my search sooner!

There are so many questions which I fear will remain unanswered. What was Fred doing in Buckinghamshire (apart from trying to sell a farm which didn't belong to him)? Langley Hall was in Buckinghamshire, and wealthy gents used to motor round at weekends and take a favourite boy for a day out. I don't think Fred would have fallen into that 'wealthy gent' category, but I'm convinced that it was Fred who took Dad away from the orphanage to his new life in Scotland. And where did the money come from to buy Jessie's large house/ convalescent home in Lenzie? One family story is that with Dad came money, but why then would Jessie be buying an insurance policy to cover funeral costs in the event of the child's death? Why did Jessie and Fred move from property to property so frequently prior to the move to Lenzie? Was this a way of 'hiding' the fact that Jessie suddenly had a toddler to look after? And why did Jessie agree to this arrangement at all?

I have been on this roller coaster ride for the past ten years - excitement at a potential breakthrough, followed by disappointment and despair as I reach yet another dead end.

I find the story fascinating, if frustrating.

If it has piqued your interest and you are willing to throw some new suggestions my way I'd love to hear from you.

Anne Cross

Images ©Anne Cross



Dad in Army uniform

A letter from Chile

I wrote a previous article for Journal 125, October 2022, *A tale of two sisters*, which included that *James Braes Wotherspoon, my grandfather, married my grandmother, Christina Menzies Wood*. This is a story of my grandmother and two of her brothers, James in Glasgow and John in Chile. My great grandfather, John Wood (1843-??), 'the old man' in the transcription following, had got tired of family life in Glasgow and went to Chile sometime after the 1881 Census was taken, when he was described as a boilermaker, living at 43 Cowlairst Road, with his wife and six children, then aged from 2 to 15. He did not vanish, but I am unaware of him ever returning to Glasgow, though he bought a lair in 1897, in Sighthill Cemetery, in which his wife was buried some thirteen years later, just across from 306 Springburn Road, where my father was born in 1903. Perhaps my father knew about his grandmother's death and burial when he was seven? I never asked!

John Wood asked his son, also John, whom I refer to as John Jnr, to join him in Chile when he was 21, which he did, arriving about 1886. He stayed in Valparaiso for three years, then he moved north to Tacna. There he met and married Isabel Walters, born in Peru of probably UK parents, who had married on board HMS *Naiad* in Callao, Peru. John Jnr and Isabel had married in 1892 in Tacna. Their marriage certificate is stamped 'Civil Registry Office of Arica, Chile', which is when I realised



this was just after the time of the war between Chile and a Peru/Bolivia alliance from 1879-1883, which ended when the Treaty of Ancón was signed between Peru and Chile in 1883, leaving

Chile the victor. In the end it was not until 1929, when the Treaty of Lima was signed, in which Chile kept Arica, whilst Peru reacquired Tacna. John is described as "Mecanico" on his marriage certificate (it is all in Spanish, of course), so presumably his skills were useful in rebuilding Tacna ten years or so after the war, a time referred to by Peru as *cautiverio*, captivity. It is obvious, but interesting, that our ancestors and their siblings lived in what we think of as history, as we can Google

the dates and find what happened next, but to them, the future was just that and unknown. There was an unresolved issue, which John Jnr refers to in his letter, the plebiscite for Tacna and Arica, '*the voting*', which never occurred due to political disagreements, creating ongoing conflict. When the ten years of Chilean occupation had elapsed, the two sides could not agree whether to include a large number of imported Chilean labourers in the vote. Of which John Jnr was one!

The two elements of the letter are a mixture of world history and family news. He was aware of Chile administering what was part of Peru, but the Treaty of Ancón had set a time limit for Chile to administer the provinces of Tacna and Arica for ten years, also taking control of valuable mineral deposits, after which the plebiscite was to be held to determine the region's sovereignty. It was to take over twenty years from John Jnr's letter before these matters would finally be resolved in the Treaty of Lima. John Wood Jnr had by then moved back to Santiago in Chile, where he died in 1930. So his letter sparked my research in Wikipedia, to learn more of the history of Chile and Peru, of Tacna where all nine of his and Isabel's children were born and from where his descendants have moved on, some still in Chile, Spanish speaking, who have contacted me via FamilySearch, and others who have moved to Utah in the United States, DNA cousins through Ancestry, whom I have contacted.

As I said, family news too, up to 1998, what would follow? Three children had been born, Juanita, Ana Maria and Ines Alicia. John Jnr was right, Juanita (Little John) was bright, at three months short of five, '*He is making pretty good progress so far*'. He went on to become a gynaecologist, where I read on the University of Chile website:

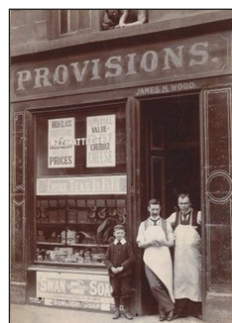
Since 1935, the Clinic was led by Dr. Juan Wood Walters (1893-1987), who promoted the development of all areas of gynaecology and scientific research, turning the service into a top-level teaching centre with high national and international prestige... and Full professor of the Chair of Gynaecology (1935). He was a founding member of the Chilean Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

This research I did confirmed the family story I had heard that there was a famous medic in the Chilean relatives, possible heard from my aunts in Glasgow. In my quote, when reading about Juan Wood Walters,

you will see the naming traditions in Chilean society, which involve a person having two surnames: the father's first surname followed by the mother's first surname. John Stevenson Wood, John Jnr, Juan's grandfather, had adopted this custom when he settled in Chile, though he had taken his own grandmother's surname, not his mother's. His wife, Isabel Walters, seems to have retained the English tradition of a single surname. Juan Wood Walters died in 1987 and is buried in the family plot in Santiago.

I know little of the life of Juanita's sister, Ana Maria. As far as I can tell, she never married or had children. Her father says, '*Anita, well, will she take the bull, as they say, for cheekiness*'. At the time, she would be three, so who knows what he meant. She was still with her mother and father and her siblings, a brother and two sisters, at the 1917 Census in Tacna. Perhaps just helping her mother with the younger siblings, her occupation is '*Labores*', as was her mother, perhaps the same as domestic duties? Finally, the youngest in the letter, '*The other one, the youngest, I gave her up a long ago*', which sounds a little harsh from her father, but perhaps she had not been well all her life and died of meningitis only six weeks after the letter was written. '*The wife intended having her photograph taken for the occasion (first birthday)*' but did that ever happen? Nothing seems to exist in the family archives! In the 1917 Census in Chile is Normando, aged 14. He would marry later and is the grandfather of my living cousins in Chile and Utah.

And how does the letter tie in with the rest of the family? It begins '*Dear Brother and Sister*', the brother is easy, the letter is directed to James, probably at 12 Cowlairs Road, where he was in the 1891 Census, as was my Granny, Christina. James, a Grocer's Assistant in the 1891 Census and a Grocer by the 1901 Census, but sometime between 1905 and 1911 he moved to labouring at the local Loco Works where he is in the 1911 and 1921 Censuses. He died at only 52, from septicaemia (Pyæmia), leading to death from amputation of both legs. The years before antibiotics would have saved him! The letter, which reached me as a photocopy of all eight pages, came from my first cousin, so I assumed the letter was to his sister, Christina. She had married in 1892, then a daughter, my Aunt May, had been born later that year in



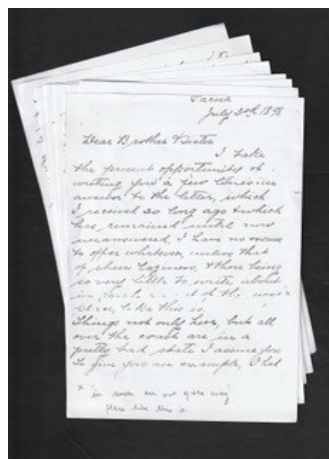
20 Caledonian Street, Glasgow. But her next three children had all died within minutes, hours or days of each birth before my Aunt Grace was born in October 1898 and lived! John Jnr had concluded, '*Hoping that you are all both well, also the children*'. Was he aware how few of his sister's children had survived? How about the other sister, Elizabeth, who's descendants include my cousin Kay, who I knew nothing about, even though she is in Glasgow. Elizabeth married William Wynd in 1897 and her children are born from 1898 on, the year of the letter. So perhaps John Jnr was not writing to that sister, even though she was also at 12 Cowlairs Road for the 1891 Census and her descendants, Kay and DNA matched cousins in Australia, are the holders of an impressive array of photographs from the time, both from Chile and Glasgow. It seems strange.

So what have I learnt from the letter? That brothers and sisters were still in touch, though there would be a major time delay in keeping up to date with families. The brother in Chile was affected by '*world history*', which we can read about using Google and Wikipedia and find what happened next. I have had an interesting time learning something of South American history and politics. The letter led me to research the Wood family in Chile, so responding more accurately to a message through FamilySearch from my Spanish speaking cousin in Chile (Thank you, Google Translate!) and to identify the links to my DNA matching cousins, both in Utah and in Australia. One came back to visit Glasgow and her closer cousin, Kay, so the three of us met a year or so ago in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, an inspiring place to meet cousins for the first time.

So here goes, my transcript of the Letter from Chile follows. It confirmed family stories, found me cousins from afar and led me into the history of South America. So do not ignore letters from ancestors or their descendants, they can be a primary source to reveal more about your family tree.

Transcript of letter written from Tacna. July the 3rd 1898, by John Wood Jnr

Dear Brother and Sister, I took the present opportunity of writing you a few lines in



answer to the letter which I received so long ago and which has remained until now unanswered. I have no excuse to offer whatever, unless that of sheer laziness and there being so very little to write about in such an out of the way place like this is. Things not only here, but all over the coast are in a pretty bad state I assure you. To give you an example I had a letter only the other day from an old acquaintance, inquiring if there was any show here for a job as leading hand, or barring that one as driver, he had a job at the time of writing but the Coy that employed him were thinking of shutting down. He said that the people in Santiago, Valparaiso & posts further south were on the verge of starvation on account of there being no work. And to make matters worse they expect war to breakout in August between Chile and the Argentine. Then the price of everything will go up and the value of the dollar will decline, should such a thing happen and everything points that way, people's lives won't be safe at least in Chile as the Chileans are broke. That is the lower class of them, & are only too glad whenever an opportunity arises to Rob and even murder to attain their ends.

This province Tacna is held by the Chileans at the present time but it is really a part of Peru. According to the Treaty signed in Ancón at the end of the late war between Chile and Peru the first-named was to hold possession of this province for ten years, on the expiration of which a vote was to be taken of all the inhabitants, to determine whether they should remain under Chilean government or whether they returned and became part of Peru again, should the voting favour Peru she has to pay an indemnity of ten millions of dollars gold and vice versa

They have just fixed up a Treaty and have named the Queen Regent of Spain as arbitrator on one of the disputed points. So the voting won't take place until we have her decision. I expect she has got other fish to fry at present, anyhow it's a pound to a postage stamp that Peru wins hands down whenever the voting takes place.

I had a letter about 3 weeks ago from the old man he has left Valparaiso and is now in Antofagasta. His present address Restaurant 21 de Mayo, Antofagasta, Chile. He has had quite a time of it with rheumatic pains and influenza, but was feeling all right when he wrote me. I have met not seen him for more than 9 years as I left Valparaiso

in /89. The place where the old man is lies about 2 days sail from here further south. Tacna is in latitude 18° more or less, well within the Tropics, while Antofagasta lies just outside by about a quarter of a degree. I have asked him once or twice to come up and pay a visit, but he hasn't done it as yet. As for me going down to see him it is almost next to impossible as I am alone here in the shops.

Have you been doon the water this Fair? Long before you get this the Fair will be come and gone. There are no Fairs out here. Plenty of church processions, there is one on just now. Mrs W & the youngsters have gone round to a neighbour to see it pass. All the children go dressed in white it is a very pretty sight. Today, Sunday is Ynez Alicia's birthday she is one year old. The wife intended having her photograph taken for the occasion but some things came in the way and upset her plans. I can see she will have it taken later on so you may count on one if she does.

The youngsters are all growing and getting cheeky except Johancito, he will be five years old in September. He is not at school yet but he gets an hour's lesson every day from a friend of Mrs W. She is a Profesora as they call teachers (I mean female teacher) when in this country. He is making pretty good progress so far. Anita, well, will she take the bull, as they say, for cheekiness. I might as well be made of wood instead of being called Wood for any notice that she takes out of me, if I should have occasion to correct her. The other one, the youngest, I gave her up a long ago.

This letter I will direct to the care of James as I am certain that he told me in one of his letters that you had moved lately. Hoping that you are all both well, also the children.

I remain, your affectionate Brother, John.

PS Mrs Wood and children send their best respects and kisses for you all.

John Wotherspoon, 8261

John has also provided a Wood Family Tree image but it will not reproduce well enough to be included in the Journal. However, if anyone is interested in the details please contact John at publications@gwsfhs.org.uk

My Partick Ancestors



My great grandfather, Thomas Hill, was born in 1870. He was a postman for 46 years, firstly in Millport and then Partick and Jordanhill. He was a proud resident of Partick and Scotstoun for the majority of his life.

When he left the Post Office in 1931, an article appeared in the *Western Leader* newspaper reporting on his retirement celebrations. [The *Western Leader* was a Saturday newspaper, published between 1930 and 1940. It served the 'Western' community of Partick, Hillhead, Kelvinside, Whiteinch, Scotstoun, Knightswood, Anniesland and Kelvindale.] The article became legend within my family and is interesting because as well as speaking in the warmest terms of Thomas's dedicated service and how much he was respected locally, it also says that Thomas's family had a 300-year association with Partick and claimed he was directly descended from a local heroine. As the piece was written within his lifetime, it's possible that Thomas himself contributed to the details.

The article mentioned that Thomas's grandmother, Jane Craig Hill, was '*celebrated with her sister*' (Mrs Rait) for remaining in Partick to nurse the sick during the cholera epidemic of 1832:

Of all the wealthier people they alone stayed behind, nursing the sick, running terrible risks and using their wealth and education to save the stricken community. It went on, there is a huge monument in Govan Churchyard, erected by public subscription and that the monument has a footnote referencing an account of the sisters' heroism in '*Napier's Notes and Reminiscences Relating to Partick*.'

There is indeed a stone memorial with such a footnote in Govan Parish kirkyard, which is still visible today. It stands to the right of the church as you look towards the Clyde, has a square footprint and is about 1.5m high. The monument is described as '*one of the most interesting memorials in Govan churchyard*' by Aileen Smart in her 2002 book entitled *The Villages of Glasgow, North Side*.



The footnote on the monument reads,

In 1832, cholera broke out in Partick and the panic-stricken natives would have shunned the afflicted and fled had not Janet Brown Craig named above heroically led them on to nurse and succour the sick and dying and bury the dead. See Napier's Reminiscences of Partick.



James Napier's book *Notes and Reminiscences Relating to Partick*, written in 1873 (41 years after the cholera outbreak) is well worth a read if you're interested in early Partick and provides the earliest written account of the cholera heroine. Napier, however, does not mention anyone other than Jenny 'Auntie Brown' Craig and makes no mention of a sister or anyone called Rait.

The inscriptions on the monument in the Govan Parish kirkyard show that it was erected by '*Robert Craig Rait, a Chemist in Partick*', whose grandmother was Janet Brown Craig (1759–1846). Researching the names, dates and relationships of those listed on the memorial in Scotland's People show that the inscriptions are accurate. There is no reference public subscription to funding the purchase of the memorial.

There are two other problems with the Western Leader article in relation to the memorial. The Thomas Hill article says that Mrs Rait died at a young age, however, the Mrs Rait on the monument lived to a very respectable 83 years of age and the Mrs Rait on the memorial was Jenny Brown, Craig's daughter and not her sister.

Try as I might, I cannot find a connection from my own family to the people listed on the Govan monument. Research on Scotland's People revealed that Thomas's parents were Thomas Hill (1832–1891) and Margaret Pollock (1827–1903). His paternal grandparents were John

Hill (1793-1837) and Jane Craig (1792-1888). The Scotland's People research is corroborated by the Hill family grave marker in Millport Old Cemetery, where many of Thomas's family, including Jane Craig Hill, are buried. Thomas's grandmother Jane's name and age at death are, however, similar to Jenny Craig and both died in Millport.



While it looks very much as though my Craig and Hill ancestors are not related to the cholera era heroine, it does seem odd though that Thomas would claim a false history for his grandmother, if indeed, as I suspect, he was the source of the information in the article.

Could it be that the idea came from William Greenhorne, author of the 1928 book *History of Partick 500-1912* who, according to the *Western Leader* article, was fond of telling the tale of the Partick cholera heroine?

As Greenhorne and Thomas Hill were contemporaries, it is possible that they could have met each other, perhaps in a local ale house or other setting. (My granny, Annie Hill, Thomas' eldest child, used to say that when she was young, she was sent out by her mother along Dumbarton Road with the family dog to fetch her father home for his meal. When the dog stopped and wouldn't go on, she knew she had found the right pub and would send the dog in to fetch her father! Could William and Thomas have had a conversation and perhaps William jumped to an incorrect conclusion using some limited information from Thomas?

Interestingly, the Rait monument does not appear on the 1936 plan of the Govan burial ground, known as the "Big Green Map", which also seems strange. Perhaps the J & G Mossman memorial that exists today is a more modern replacement paid for by the Rait family?

If any member can provide additional information on the Rait monument, the story of Jenny "Aunt Brown" Craig, or William Greenhorne, to help me shed light on these inconsistencies, then I'd love to hear from you.

Lesley Littlejohn, 8225

Images © Lesley Littlejohn

John Grenham's Irish Ancestors website

If you are researching ancestors in Ireland, you might be aware of John Grenham's Irish Ancestors website.

The site aims to provide a single reference source for any records needed to research Irish Ancestors, as well as a starting-point for anyone with a surname historically found in Ireland.

Most map pages and most pages with the most detailed information have a five-bites-of-the-cherry limit in a 24-hour period. More than five views, and you'll be asked to subscribe, or log in. You can also come back 24 hours later and continue. Much of the site, in particular the Browse section, doesn't count towards the free five views.

A common problem is that many records in Great Britain state that the subject came from Ireland, but not whereabouts in Ireland! One heuristic approach is to focus research on the places in Ireland where the surname is prevalent. Irish Ancestors is a tool that you can use to find these places.

The website uses Griffiths Valuation data from Findmypast to map the distribution of surnames for the whole island of Ireland, down to county, then on to parish and now down to townland. If you have a subscription to Findmypast you can click through to Findmypast for a transcript for your selected surname in any townland.

John & Co. publish many blogs. These interesting blogs explain many of the features of the website and the sources. They are very educational.

John Grenham generously offers a discount on the annual subscription to libraries and societies. We have one of these discounted subscriptions. If you visit our premises, you will have unrestricted access to the records at Irish Ancestors. There is no need to login to access our subscription; the website automatically knows that you are in our premises.

We are a Findmypast Affiliate, with access to Findmypast in our premises; Irish Ancestors and Findmypast work together, and so this is a convenient combination. Visit us in Partick and try it for yourself! See <https://www.johngrenham.com/>

Murray Archer, 4316

My Scottish Seafaring Ancestors on the Clyde Coast

Introduction

Shipping was a major industry on the Clyde coast in the second half of the nineteenth century. My two maternal great grandfathers were both fully involved all their lives, Dugald Shankland joining his brother Robert in the Burn Line of sailing ships while Captain Peter Macfarlane was a Ship Master and ship owner: the two families intermarried.

My interest and curiosity was awakened by hearing family stories of a fleet of sailing ships, and finding their pictures. As there were no official records of the shipping company. I set about to piece together what I could from family members, newspapers, census returns, books, diaries and photographs. Making slow progress I found enough to put into two small books, one based on each great grandfather. All this before the days of web searching, so many happy hours were spent in local libraries and tramping the streets, and travelling to Scotland from the south of England where I live.

Shankland family, Greenock

The earliest Shankland I found is James, from the record of his marriage in 1814 to Janet Cowan, a daughter of Captain Dugald Cowan of Greenock. As I did not find him in earlier records, it's possible that he moved into Greenock to join the shipping trade, where he became a rope maker.

Figures 1 and 2: Provosts Robert Shankland and Dugald Shankland. Copies family possessions, originals in Watt Library, Greenock



Fig 1 Robert Shankland. Photograph of "Oil painting on canvas entitled Robert Shankland, Provost of Greenock (1885-1889), by John Horsburgh (1835-1934), unsigned and undated." (Original in Watt Library, Greenock.)

James and Janet had four children, but she was widowed by 1827 James perhaps being lost at sea. Two of the children, Dugald and Robert became prominent Greenock citizens. They founded the shipping



Fig 2 Photograph of "Oil painting on canvas entitled Dugald Shankland, Provost of Greenock 1885-1889, by William Drummond Young (1855 Glasgow -1924 Edinburgh). Unsigned and undated." (Original in Watt Library, Greenock.)

company R. Shankland & Co. known as the Burn Line as all the ships names ended in 'burn'. Each in turn was elected Provost, and they had a road named after them.

In 1864 my great grandfather Dugald married Grace Hamilton, younger daughter of James Hamilton of Seabank House, Greenock, originally from Arran.

Figure 3: Dugald and Grace with their family of 12 children, family possession



The first two sons, James and Dugald, joined the Burn Line firm, and the other five sons all went into ships, but moved south and to London. The daughters all stayed locally, two of them living with the widowed Grace until well into the 1920s.

The Burn Line, R. Shankland & Co

After buying the first few ships, the first ship was built in 1864, followed by 20 more until 1897, making them a sizable firm. They were square-sailed three and four masted ships and barques (two or three square-sailed masts and one fore-and-aft). One was traded for 29 years, and 6 for over 20 years. Three took emigrants to New Zealand. But we hear more about those that met with misfortune, such as wrecks, fires and posted missing.

A proud occasion came in 1888 with the opening of the new James Watt Dock in Greenock by Provost Robert Shankland.

*Figure 4: Opening the James Watt Dock 1888
(Illustrated London News August 1888)*



The third son, Robert Robertson Shankland (my grandfather) was sent to South Africa on Celticburn's maiden voyage. He kept two diaries which are now published for the family. On his return in 1893, he was sent to London to set up as a ships broker, arranging the sales and cargoes.

Despite Dugald Shankland's assertion that '*he didnae hold wi' steam*', the firm did have five steamships from 1905, which they kept till the firm was wound up in 1911.

Captain Peter Macfarlane and family, Port Glasgow

My other maternal great grandfather, Peter Macfarlane, born in 1822, was the second child of Robert Macfarlane of Port Glasgow and his wife Catherine Brown. Robert was a sailmaker, and his father was a cooper, making and repairing barrels. Census returns include more than one Macfarlane family with four children, since the name is relatively common, so I am not sure of his siblings' names. From the custom of handing down names however, they may be Robert, John and Catherine.

Running away to sea at a young age, Peter started as a cabin boy. He rose rapidly and gained his Captain's Certificate at the age of 30. He took command of his first ship immediately after that. Over the next twenty years he commanded seven ships on voyages of two to six years spending only short periods at home. He went to Australia, the East Indies, North America taking cargoes in similar ships to the Burn Line.

Peter married Jane Maclarty in 1857, the second daughter of Malcolm Maclarty of Port Glasgow, who had a sailmaking business like his father Angus before him. Malcolm's wife was Helen Gow Thomson who had moved to Port Glasgow with her father John, from Perthshire where he had been Equerry (ghillie) to the Duke of Richmond at Dunkeld.

Malcolm and Helen had six children, but only two survived to old age, the others lost to illness or drowning. Malcolm himself drowned, leaving Helen to continue the business with six employees and bring up the family aided by two of her sisters. They lived in Clune Park on the edge of Port Glasgow. The house no longer stands, the area subsequently being used as a football ground and later for a new housing development. The youngest daughter Mary (Polly) lived at Clune Park until old age, she died in 1917. The eldest daughter Helen (Nellie) married John Birkmyre of the Gourrock Rope Works and John gave generous financial support to his wife's family especially for ships. To celebrate the marriage John had a large house, Broadstone, built overlooking the Clyde in Port Glasgow. This still stands, although was badly damaged by a fire. It was an old people's home for a while. It is now at last restored into housing units. The fine octagonal stone conservatory is a Grade II listed building.

Jane and Peter had nine children, but only four girls and one boy survived beyond childhood. Firstborn Robert died of scarlet fever aged only six years. The eldest daughter, Helen (Nellie) died of TB aged 19 years. The next one, Kate, married the Rev Walter Mayne who had four children. Nina and John, who both died in infancy, were followed by Susie, then Maude Mary, then Hilda (my grandmother) and finally Peter Charles. Susie and Hilda married two Shankland brothers James and Robert. Maude Mary married Joe Neill of the Greenock Sugar Refinery, and Peter Charles married Annie Rankin. Susie had three daughters, Hilda had three sons and two daughters (one being my mother) and Peter had a son and a daughter.

Figure 5 Captain Peter with his daughters and grandchildren in 1900, Family photograph



The ship *Niagara*

Captain Peter's favourite ship was the *Niagara*. She was built in 1847 as a Cunard Mail Packet Steamer, but after service in the Crimean War, was sold in 1867 and converted to sail. John Birkmyre bought her for Peter Macfarlane. Her most notable voyage was in 1873 when Peter and Jane's youngest daughter was born on board during a journey back from Australia. This event had issues for registering the birth, it was first noted in the ship's log, then in the Parish of Stepney, London docks, and finally as a Birth at Sea on the normal Birth Certificate in Port Glasgow.

When Captain Peter retired in 1882, he had three ships built for him, with financial aid from John Birkmyre. He traded these until 1899.

Jane Macfarlane caught influenza in 1892, and died. She was 56 years old. Peter died in 1905.

Conclusion

Have I achieved my aim? Yes I think most of it. There are still a few unknowns like tracing lines further back. But I have found enough to write two more books for the family, one on each maternal great grandfather. Above all I have learnt how to use the resources, and have enjoyed myself immensely.

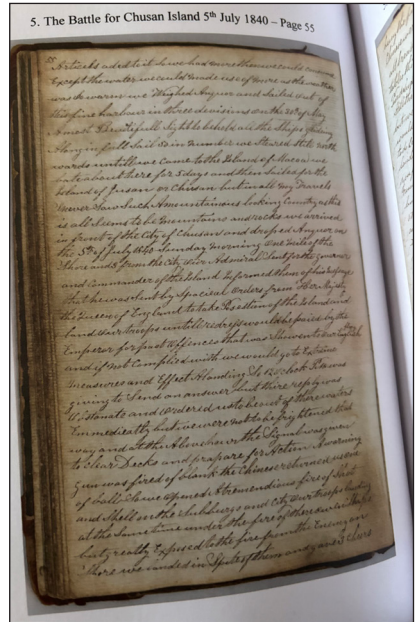
Alison Paul, 2015

[Images all provided by the author]

Diary of a Scottish Soldier 1826–1844

As a project to fill his spare hours during COVID Colin Massey decided to transcribe an intriguing manuscript diary of an unknown Scottish soldier. This diary was among the possessions of his late father-in-law, George MacDonald Crawford, a Greenock Solicitor. At that time the soldier was unknown apart from the initials RM on page 150 of the original diary.

His narrative describes many unique and unusual experiences in the daily life of a Foot Soldier during 18 years of service in the Royal Regiment of Foot. Colin transcribed the Author's writing in his own words, grammar and spelling exactly as written. He then published it privately giving copies to interested friends. He has given a copy to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society. A specimen page can be seen in this image with the transcription below.



*we Weighed Anquor and Sailed Out of
this fine harbour in three divisions on the 30th of May
a most Beutifull Sight to behold all the Ships gliding
Along in full Sail 50 in number we Steared Still North
wards until we came to the Island of Macoa we
bate about there for 5 days and then Sailed for the
Island of Jusan or Chusan but in all my Travels
I never saw Such A mountainous looking Country as this
is all seems to be mountains and rocks we arrived
in front of the City of Chusan and dropped Anquor on
the 5th of July 1840 Sunday morning One Mile of the
Shore and 3 from the City Our Admiral Sent for the Governor
and Commander of the Island informed him of his message
that he was Sent by Special Orders from her Majesty
the Queen of England to take Posestion of the Island and*

land Our troops until redress would be paid by the Emperor for past Offences that was Shown to Our English flag and if not Complied with we would go to Extreme Measures and Effect A landing So 12 o Clock PM was giving to Send an answer but there reply was Obstanate and Ordered us to be out of there waters Emmedieatly but we were not to be frightened that way and at the above hour the Signal was given to clear Decks and prepare for Action A warning Gun was fired of blank the Chinese returned us one of ball So we Opened A tremendous fire of Shot and Shell on the Subburgs and City Our troops landing at the Same time under the fire of there own Ships but greatly Exposed to the fire from the Enemy on Shore we landed in Spite of them and gave 3 cheers being the first Brittish Troops that landed in China the Chinese were badly prepared for us they had there beach all breasted or lined with bags of sand and other combined tables thinking it would Stop the progress of our balls Poor deluded People we cease fire in about 20 minutes Still the Chinese were firing at us from the City walls but we let them play themselves for a little until we would get our Artillary landed and we had Something to do before we got all our heavy guns and carraighs

Colin gave a copy of the book to a golfing friend Maurice Paterson (Member 495) who said he was sure from the clues in the Diary it should be possible to identify the soldier.

The main clue was that after being discharged from his regiment in 1844 he stated '*After being home Ten months I married on the Sixth of December 1844 and I kept my Promise Surely not to take A wife until I would be clear of the Service*'. It was also stated regarding his father '*Still in life but very feeble as he was An old man upwards of 70 years of Age and that he lost his Second wife in the year 1832 with the Cholera and had married Again on the 26th of January 1844*'.

Thus it seemed that going into Scotland's People we should be able to find a match with two identical surnames beginning with M surname

marrying that year and then check for exact dates. It was almost certain from the text that both marriages would have taken place in Glasgow. 703 males with a surname beginning with M married in Glasgow in 1844 and by reading through the list one M married on 6 December, a Richard McFarlane who married Agnes Innes. However there was no McFarlane who married on 26 January or any entry in 1844 likely to be Richard's father.

From the Diary we knew the soldier must have been born early in the 19th Century. The only Richard McFarlane we found in Glasgow was born on 8 November 1804 and hence age 21 when M enlisted. His parents were Peter McFarlane, a ropemaker, and Mary Reid. Their marriage was on 20 January 1794 when again Peter was described as a ropemaker. We found Richard had at least two siblings, Peter born on 24 November 1799 and Mary born on 24 April 1802.

In the 1841 Census we found Peter, still a ropemaker, aged 67 living in Stockwell Street with his wife Mary aged 52. Peter would have been about 20 in 1794 but Mary would have been five. This does indicate Mary Reid was by then deceased (about 1816 in the diary) but whether this Mary was the second or third wife cannot be ascertained. Perhaps in 1841 Mary was a "bidie in" but Peter told his son they were married.

With this information Maurice triumphantly reported back to Colin who said '*Innes! We have material on Innes as well but we did not know there was a connection*'. The lawyer had acted on the death of a Peter McFarlane Innes who died at age 91 on 25 June 1927. Further investigation found that Mary, the soldier's sister had married a John Innes on 3 June 1834 and their son Peter McFarlane Innes was born on 22 December 1836. Checking the 1841 Census we found in Stockwell Street John aged 45 and Mary 40 with children Agnes 23, William 20, Craig 15, George 6, Peter 4 and Richard one. Clearly John had been widowed prior to 1834 and there were three children from each marriage at home at that time.

Agnes was 23 in 1841 so by December 1846 would have been 28 and possibly on the shelf. When Mary's brother came home from India, aged 42 and in indifferent health keen to marry it was an opportunity to solve neatly two problems by marrying Agnes off to her step-mother's brother.

Agnes and Richard had a daughter on 29 December 1847, named Mary Blair McFarlane. Richard's occupation was ropemaker. Agnes had been

born in Stockwell Street, Glasgow on 16 April 1816 to John Innes and Mary Blair. There is no evidence of there being any further children of the marriage. In the 1851 Census the couple were living at 1 Cameron's Court but sadly there was no sign of their child. By then Richard was described as a labourer in an engineering shop. We could not find evidence of Richard's death but see below. Agnes did not remarry, and remained a widow for over 50 years.

With this information Colin was able to visit the Royal Scots Regimental Museum in Edinburgh Castle. He was delighted to receive the following reply within a few days.

Good afternoon Colin,

It was lovely to meet you earlier - many thanks again for bringing in the diary and transcriptions for us.

Having done some digging - I think you are on the right lines for RM being Richard McFarlane.

Looking at the Chelsea pension records for Richard McFarlane, I have found the following:

- He is registered as a soldier of the 49th Regiment of Foot [Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Hertfordshire)] which matches the diary's record of transferring in 1830*
- He was entered into the pension register in February 1844 - matches his disembarking at Leith*
- Invalided out of the army after 17 years and 7 months of service for Rheumatism and general debility - matches the years of the diary and can be accounted for by periods of sickness*
- Died on 19th July 1852 aged 47 - matches other dates suggesting death in mid 1850's and birth around 1804/05. Would make him around 21 years of age at time of enlistment*
- Place of birth listed as Glasgow, Lanarkshire which fits with beginning of the diary.*

As I alluded to - it seems he spent a large period of his service (13-14 years) with this other regiment. The 49th Regiment of foot no longer exists as a distinct entity. It has amalgamated a number of times since RM's service, and it's most current regiment would be The Rifles. The 49th first amalgamated into The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess

Charlotte of Wales's), which then amalgamated with the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) to form Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) which was again amalgamated, on 27 July 1994, with the Gloucestershire Regiment to create the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. Like its predecessor regiment, however, this was on 1 February 2007 merged with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the Royal Green Jackets and The Light Infantry to form a new large regiment, The Rifles.

The Rifles have their own museum, found in Winchester, now called The Rifleman's Museum.

With this information, I will leave it to you to decide on the ultimate home for the diary itself. As he spent his formative years with The Royal Scots, it does have a home here. However, as he spent a good chunk with another regiment and had the lion's share of his experiences with them, the more appropriate home is possibly The Rifleman Museum. As it is your diary I will leave the decision to you and Jill, however, I would ask if we might please keep one of the published transcripts!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best, Sophie Lenthall, Museum Curator

The Diary started its life in Edinburgh, then with the enlisting it was off to India for 18 years including a period in Hong Kong. Then it returned to Glasgow being held by Richard until his death in 1852. His wife Agnes then must have kept it for over 50 years till she died in 1903. It was then kept by her half-brother Peter Innes Mcfarlane till his death in 1927 at the age of 91. Then his affairs were wound up by the solicitors, and the diary was kept by George MacDonald Crawford, a Greenock Solicitor. Mr Crawford's daughter Jill, the wife of Colin Massey, took it home, where Colin transcribed it. He and Jill have decided the diary shall remain at the Royal Scots Museum in Edinburgh, a suitable final resting place after a journey of 200 years.

Maurice Paterson, 495

Editor: This sounds like a wonderful project, illustrating how a small scrap of information and lots of detective work can lead to uncovering a whole family story. It is also good to read that the diary has found a fitting home, where I am sure it will prove to be of interest to others in the future.

The Smallest Heirloom?

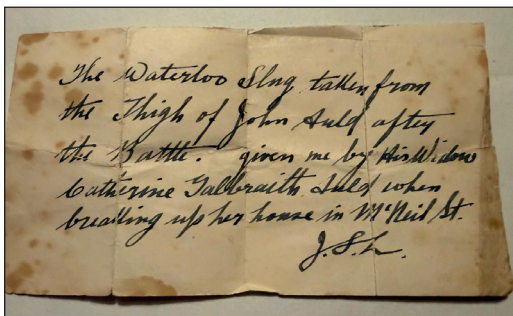
When my godmother Moira died in July 2012, I was fortunate to inherit not just a grandfather clock, manufactured in 1783, which had been in the Young family since 1851, but also the residuary contents of her house not bequeathed elsewhere. My family has a habit of not throwing things away, and we discovered this had applied equally to Moira and her father William Auld Taylor Young (1877-1959).

In the course of several visits to Crookston as we prepared to sell the property we found many objects and documents dating back into the nineteenth century, notably glass-plate camera equipment and boxes of glass negatives, many of which I have since been able to scan. Also my great-uncle Willie's hand-written memoir of his service in the First World War, illustrated with his own photographs. Suitcases contained not only many family photographs but also copies of the Glasgow Herald and other papers recording key events – the Armistice of 1918, the General Strike of 1926.

The smallest and perhaps most remarkable of our finds was in an envelope in a drawer, with a note recording its provenance as having been in the possession of my great-great grandmother Catherine Auld (née Galbraith, 1814-1896). In 1838 she had become the second wife of John Auld (1798-1863) and subsequently bore him seven children. My great-grandmother Maggie Young (1849-1923) was the youngest of these to survive to adulthood.

The record of John's first marriage in 1823 had him down as a 'warper' – working in the weaving industry. The same applies to most of his census details, although those of 1861 describe him as a 'Chelsea Pensioner'. In the nineteenth century this term was not reserved for the scarlet-uniformed ladies and gentlemen we are accustomed to seeing on London-based ceremonial occasions but was applied to those who had been awarded an army pension for long service or after being wounded in battle. John's qualification was that when not yet seventeen he had taken part in the battle of Waterloo (1815), was wounded and (to quote my grandfather's memoir) 'lay on the field that night with a ball in his leg', requiring some months' convalescence before being discharged with his pension.

Our resulting family heirloom is the French musket ball removed from John Auld's leg at Waterloo. My photograph shows its size compared to a modern five-penny coin – at around 15mm, this conforms to what I have read was the standard bore of a French musket of the day. The note kept with the ball (or 'slug') indicates it had been preserved by John's widow until she gave up living independently: 'The Waterloo Slug taken from the Thigh of John Auld after the Battle. Given me by His Widow Catherine Galbraith Auld when breaking up her house in McNeil St. J.S.L.' The initials are of Catherine's son-in-law John Steele Laurie, who died in 1924.



Remarkably, for they were not a rich family, my great-grandparents and six of their nine children visited Paris in July 1912. They had seen Waterloo on a similar trip two years previously. As she stood looking at Napoleon's tomb in Les Invalides, Maggie was heard to comment, 'Yon's the man my faither chased'. The chase ended with John Auld lying wounded on a Belgian battlefield, his souvenir eventually coming to Maggie's son, for which I am grateful. I value it enormously – even if similar ammunition is available to buy for no more than fifteen pounds or so. It is an heirloom as unusual as it is portable!

Bill Young 12005

Glasgow Necropolis: The story continues

Murray Archer, 4316, wrote a previous article for Journal 131, October 2024, '*Glasgow Necropolis*', detailing the cooperation between our Society and the Friends of Glasgow Necropolis (FoGN). Murray's project is to upload our monumental photographs and transcriptions to our members area. He has completed approximately two thirds of the total uploads and is currently working on Compartment Sigma. As part of my role as Publications Secretary, it was decided by GWSFHS Council that it would be useful to researchers if we could make some of the Necropolis information available to all, in a PDF format, but without the photographs. We have thus concentrated on maps of individual compartments, the names indexes, with the two or more records for each married woman, as Murray explained, and the monumental inscriptions. I am playing 'catch up' on Murray's work, only working on the Compartments he has finished. This ensures the transcribed inscriptions are as up to date as we can achieve. A new pair of eyes looking at the photographs, the transcriptions and reviewing what the family and the stone mason was trying to convey in the 19th century, combined with our 21st century ability to search with Google and AI, has led to some improvements of the most likely understanding of a worn or weathered stone. Also, blanks in the original transcriptions can now be interpreted more fully as a result of Murray's and my additional research.

So, my progress so far. Three volumes have already been published by December 2025 and perhaps another volume will be completed by the time you read this Journal. The pattern of each volume is similar for each, with Volume 1 having a slightly fuller introduction, comprising a short introduction to the Glasgow Necropolis, illustrations to compliment the short introduction, further information and Glasgow Necropolis location plans, with other volumes omitting the complimentary illustrations. Each Compartment will have a Compartment Plan, detailing the positions of the original photographed monuments and hence the numbering of the inscriptions, the Surname Index as a searchable alphabetical list, the latest Monumental Inscriptions and finally a selection, usually nine in number, showing some gravestone pictures, illustrating the difficulties that the original transcribers had to deal with. In all, over 4,600 monuments had been erected and 50,000 people interred, but sadly the industrial

nature of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley have taken its toll on the stones, along with vandalism, leaving many stones now being badly eroded or broken. Following work by Morag Fyfe, in 2009 John McCreadie, project coordinator of the GWSFHS, began a project to preserve the details on the stones in the Necropolis through photography. So began this mammoth task, helped by many volunteers from the Society, the stones were photographed, the photographs were transcribed, checked and verified, maps were created to aid finding individual stones.

Occasionally, a compartment will have an Annex, such as in Compartment Alpha, which has some interesting additions concerning Wellington Street UP Church. This starts "This Annex first appeared as an article in GWSFHS Newsletter, no 28, November 1988, written by Morag Fyfe, entitled "A Note On Burials transferred from Wellington Street UP Church to Glasgow Necropolis in 1879". This article is as written in 1988 and has not been revised since, apart from changing that documents within the then Strathclyde Regional Archive (SRA) are now in Glasgow City Archive (GCA)". This annex was courtesy of Morag Fyfe, a member of FoGN and still willing to offer advice and her encyclopaedic knowledge of the Glasgow Necropolis as we utilise another format of publishing these transcriptions. Our PDF volumes are generally about 100 pages long, which normally would be priced at £5.50, but due to the special nature of the records, Council has agreed a reduced price of £4.00 per PDF. I will suggest to Council that a full set of all volumes, once completed, should also be sold at a reduced price. At this stage, it is difficult to predict how many volumes will be required for all twenty two compartments, with Volumes 1 to 4, we will have dealt with eleven of these, but it may take more than four volumes for the remaining eleven, some compartments are very large with many people contained within the inscriptions.

We thus invite our readers to discover your Glasgow ancestors with this essential resource for Scottish genealogy and family history research. These searchable PDFs record monumental inscriptions from the Glasgow Necropolis, with detailed surname indexes and historic maps. Based on transcriptions of the gravestones, it preserves names and epitaphs that might otherwise be lost to time. Perfect for anyone tracing family roots in Glasgow or West of Scotland, this digital edition brings local history and genealogy together in several invaluable volumes. Originally recorded between 2010 and 2012 by dedicated volunteers, this volume preserves the

legible inscriptions of over 4,600 monuments and provides an invaluable record of Glasgow's "City of the Dead." The accompanying plans, based on the 1895 Ordnance Survey, help researchers locate family memorials within the cemetery's distinctive terraced landscape. The introduction offers a concise yet fascinating history of the Necropolis—from its 19th-century origins under the Merchants' House of Glasgow to its later management by the city. Readers will discover how the cemetery evolved, who is buried there, and how its design reflects the city's industrial and social heritage. This second edition (2025) replaces the original 2012 CD with a fully searchable text-only PDF, making the material accessible to modern researchers. Photographs referenced by catalogue number are available exclusively to GWSFHS members through the Society's online Data Sets—just one of the many benefits of membership. A must-have resource for genealogists, historians, and anyone interested in Glasgow's people, architecture, and past.

These carefully compiled PDFs, published by GWSFHS, in Volume 1 presents a detailed transcription of monumental inscriptions from the first three compartments of the Necropolis—Alpha, Beta and Delta—alongside historic maps and comprehensive surname indexes. The ten most frequently found names in these compartments are Watson, Wilson, Brown, Paterson, Robertson, Lyon, Fleming, Miller, Mitchell and Stewart. Volume 2 continues with the transcriptions from four further compartments of Eta, Mnema, Iota and Omicron, in which the ten most frequently found last names are Wilson, Brown, Thomson, Campbell, Smith, Anderson, Robertson, Stewart, Clark & Mitchell. This is followed by Volume 3 with the two compartments Theta and Upsilon, in which the ten most frequently found names are Robertson, Miller, Stewart, Graham, Scott, Mitchell, Smith, Buchanan, Paterson and Ker. The contents of the fourth volume, currently in preparation, will consist of two further compartments, Petra and Primus. Further volumes will become available in 2026. When published, all our PDFs are now lodged in the archives of National Library of Scotland using Digital Deposit Scotland. This ensures that our Society's work is preserved within the records of Scotland for the foreseeable future.

John Wotherspoon, 8261

Arthur Frame R.N. and Family

In a previous article I wrote about my 4th great grandfather, Arthur Frame, whose family lived on Merryton Farm, Larkhall from 1628 till 1806. This one is about his grandson, also Arthur Frame, who was a Purser and then a Paymaster in the Royal Navy, from about 1820 to 1851.

Early Life

Arthur Frame was born in Hamilton in 1789. His father was James Frame, born on Merryton Farm to Arthur Frame and Isobel Brownlie in 1766. Their eldest son, John Frame (Arthur's uncle) is buried in the family grave in Hamilton churchyard, alongside two of Arthur's eight children.

Royal Navy Service

The Purser in the Royal Navy was a warrant officer who, in 1825, became formally responsible for payment of the ship's company. Purser became commissioned officers in 1843 and from 1846 were known as Paymasters. The equivalent rank in the modern Royal Navy is Logistics Officer.

Publication of Naval promotions and appointments in the newspapers of the day have helped to provide information about Arthur Frame's Naval career and the ships on which he served.

As reported in the *The Age*, 2 October 1825:

The Volage of 28 guns, was commissioned at this port on Wednesday, and the following officers have been appointed to her: - Captain the Hon. Richard Saunders Dundas (son of Viscount Melville), Lieutenant John Parker, Lieut. Whitcombe, Royal Marines, Lieut. Francis Hart, and Mr Arthur Frame to be Purser. The Volage is intended for the East India Station.

Between 1824 and 1848, Arthur Frame served on - *HMS Terror, Volage, Conway, Samarang, Egeria, North Star* and *Vernon*.

Some of these ships were involved in significant events during and after the time Arthur Frame served on them.



Image: *Erebus and Terror in New Zealand on the Ross Expedition, August 1841* by James Wilson Carmichael - [1], Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12034577>

HMS Terror

In 1845, *HMS Terror* and *HMS Erebus* sailed to the Arctic with Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition, in search of the North-West passage through Canada. The ships became ice-bound and tragically, all 129 crew members died of exposure and starvation.

HMS North Star

In 1849, *HMS North Star* was sent to the Arctic in search of the Ross expedition, which had not returned from searching for the lost Franklin ships and crew. Both the Ross expedition and the North Star eventually returned home safely.

HMS Samarang

Arthur Frame was appointed to *HMS Samarang* as Purser in 1836. The Samarang took part in the First Opium War (1839-1842), which was a major conflict between Britain and China over questions of trade, opium, silver and imperial influence.

HMS Vernon

Arthur was appointed Paymaster of *HMS Vernon* in 1846. The Vernon saw active service in home waters, the Americas and the East Indies between 1832 and 1848.

The figurehead of *HMS Vernon* is now on display at Gunwharf Quay, Portsmouth.

Image: Colin Smith / Figurehead and No 1 Gunwharf Quay/ CC BY-SA 2.0



Family Life

Despite his Naval career, Arthur maintained close contact with his roots in Lanarkshire. He appeared in the 1841 and 1851 Censuses living with

his wife Elizabeth Howard and family in Linholm Cottage, Hamilton. Even after the family left Scotland to live in Devonshire and then the Channel Islands, all newspaper notices, such as Arthur's obituary, stated that he was "*Arthur Frame R.N, late of Linholm, Hamilton*".

Arthur Frame died in St Brelade, Jersey in 1866 at the age of 77.

Arthur James Frame M.D

Arthur James Frame was the second son of Arthur Frame R.N. He was born in 1826 in Bothwell, Lanarkshire, and had seven siblings, all born and brought up in Lanarkshire, despite the fact that his father had a naval career and his mother Elizabeth Howard was from Devon.

Arthur qualified as a doctor in 1852 and, sometime after that, took up a position in a hospital in Grenada in the West Indies.

Career and Family Life

Arthur appeared in the 1851 Census as a medical student working in Glasgow's Royal Infirmary. When he qualified in 1852, he did not immediately start practising medicine, but following in his father's footsteps, worked as a Purser on board the *SS City of Manchester*, a trans-Atlantic steamship owned by the Inman Line.

Arthur's next position was in a hospital on the Plaisance Estate in Grenada, where in 1856, he married Agnes Cruickshank Wilson, whose father was Orlando Hart Wilson, a Royal Navy Lieutenant.

Arthur and Agnes had a son in 1860, Gregor McGregor Frame, named after Arthur's brother-in-law, Gregor McGregor Turnbull, a Sugar Merchant, who had married Arthur's sister Eliza in 1852. The Turnbull family returned the compliment and named one of their sons Arthur Frame Turnbull.

Grenada

Known as the "Spice Island", Grenada's exports have long included nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, bananas, chocolate, fruit, vegetables, cocoa and sugar. In the 18th and 19th centuries, most of the land in Grenada was divided into plantations known as estates. When slavery was abolished in 1833, a shortage of labour meant that workers had to be brought in from other places. Records show that in 1857, a ship

docked in Grenada with 289 Indian workers from Calcutta, recruited to supplement the workforce.

Death in 1863

Sadly, Arthur died at the age of 37 in Grenada, on 22 April 1863. His will and testament, dated 5 July 1861, was not finalised till 1871, when details of the Edinburgh Sherriff Court Inventory were published.

Gregor McGregor Frame (1860-1939)

Gregor was only about three years old when his father died. His mother re-married, to John Wildman, a Planter in Grenada and Gregor was sent to Scotland to be educated. Gregor appeared in the 1871 Census, age ten, resident in a school in Monymusk in Aberdeenshire.

In 1885, Gregor lived in Hillhead, Glasgow, appearing in a notice in the *Army and Navy Gazette* - "*The 10th Lanarkshire (Glasgow Highland) - Gregor McGregor Frame to be Lieutenant.*"

The 10th (Glasgow Highland) was a volunteer battalion of the Highland Light Infantry (HLI).

Gregor married Elizabeth Gill in 1888 in Bothwell and the groom's occupation was recorded as West Indies Merchant. Like his uncle Gregor McGregor Turnbull, Gregor was involved in the sugar trade in Grenada.

Ian McGregor Frame (1892-1974)

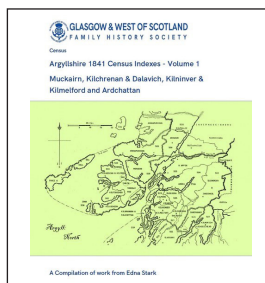
Gregor and his wife Elizabeth had a son, Ian McGregor Frame, born in Surrey in 1892. Ian became a Cocoa Planter in Grenada and continued the family tradition of maintaining a property in Scotland. His home was in Aberdeen, his mother's place of birth. When the First World War broke out, Ian enlisted with the Gordon Highlanders, rose to the rank of Captain, and was awarded a Military Cross. According to *The Scotsman* of 20 March 1920, during an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, Ian's Military Cross medal was presented to him by King George V.



Christine Ferguson 10832

Publications in the GWSFHS Online Shop

Argyllshire 1841 Census Index

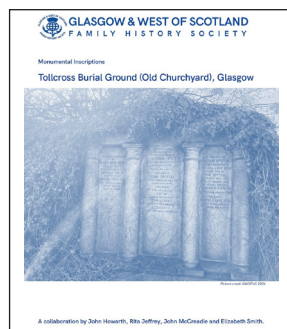


Spanning four PDF volumes, this collection contains an alphabetical listing of entries in the 1841 census records of Argyll originally compiled by Edna Stark. Designed as a search aid to help locate original documents, these extracts provide an alphabetical listing of entries including surname, forename, age, census address and the specific parish, enumeration book and page numbers.

Each volume is for sale at £3.00 but if you purchase all four it is £10. For details of which parishes are covered see <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/product/argyll-1841-census-index-volumes-1-4/>

Tollcross Burial Ground (Old Churchyard) MIs

This newly reissued PDF brings back into circulation a valuable genealogical resource documenting the monumental inscriptions of Tollcross Burial Ground, also known as the Old Churchyard, in Glasgow's east end. It is an essential tool for genealogists, local historians, and anyone with ancestral ties to Shettleston, Parkhead, Westmuir, or the wider Glasgow area.



This volume includes a brief historical overview of the site, transcriptions of headstones and monumental inscriptions, gravestone plans, and full Surname Indexes for both the Burial Ground walls and the Burial Ground itself and photographs of selected gravestones. The transcriptions range from early 19th-century stones belonging to local portioners and tradespeople, to later memorials commemorating Glaswegians of the Victorian and modern eras.

Tollcross Burial Ground, 68 pages, ISBN: 978-1-915941-50-3 priced at £4.50, but if purchased with the Cemetery records (£5.50), the set of two volumes may be purchased for the reduced price of £8.00. See <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/product/glasgow-tollcross-burial-ground-and-cemetery-mis/> for more details.

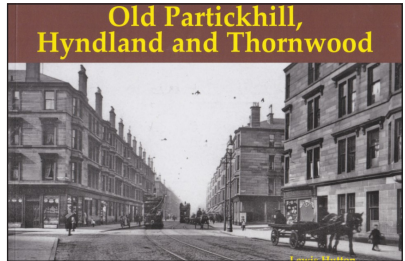
Book Reviews

Stenlake Publishing have a number of new titles that will appeal to members interested in local and social history, architecture as well as family research.

Lewis Hutton *Old Partickhill, Hyndland and Thornwood*

ISBN 9781840339949. £11.95

This book follows Stenlake's successful format of old black and white photographs from the 19th century onwards with commentary that brings historical context to life and covers an area of western Glasgow north of the river Clyde. The author provides a contextual introduction, a list of further reading and a brief commentary on each photograph. It is an illustrative history of the development of a rural farming area to an urban and industrial zone that is now mainly residential.



The most striking feature of many of the prints is the view of well known streets without any parked cars. It allows the reader to appreciate and admire the architecture of the area especially in Hyndland. Transport does feature in terms of railways and it affords the opportunity to see railway lines, bridges and buildings which no longer exist. People are largely anonymous except for the image of the Partick tramway football team of 1910.

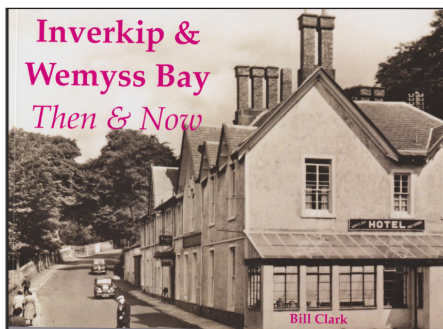
The commentaries are most useful but there are lost opportunities to make connections between photographs. For example, the Saltire award winning Crathie Court (1951) is discussed on page 39 '*...this accommodation for unmarried women, earning it the nickname the 'Spinster Flats'*' but is depicted in the background on page 37.

Bill Clark *Inverkip & Wemyss Bay then and now*

ISBN 9781840339987. £12.95

This book entails two distinct activities by the author. As well as finding a range of photographs to comment upon, Bill Clark then had to find and match the location in order to show recent views of the same area. Most of his comments are brief but straight to the point by outlining

the changes. The main impact on the development of both locations was the arrival of the railways in Wemyss Bay in 1865. While Glasgow merchants moved to the area before, the arrivals of trains increased their numbers as commuters and brought day trippers. Clark states that this development changed the area from



rural agricultural activity to one which welcomed visitors from Glasgow and Greenock. The impact of rail traffic on the small piers in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay undermined the smuggling activity which kept them in business. Wemyss Bay's first station was replaced by the splendid pier and station in 1903. Pages 42 and 43 enable a comparison of the station view between 1952 and a more recent date (not given). Coming up the south road from Largs, services infrastructure and hardware obscure the approach to the station and the war memorial.

Clark also highlights the changes in the area such as the completion of Inverkip Marina, the replacement of Castle Wemyss by a modern housing estate and the demolition of the 1877 Episcopal Church in 1970. This church was built by Lord Inverclyde in memory of his wife. Maritime historians will know that he was founder of G & J Burns shipping company with later connections to the Cunard line.

One minor omission is the absence of a photograph of Inverkip power station even though it is mentioned in the text on page 18. Construction of the oil-fired facility began in 1970 and over the years until 2013 when most of it was demolished, it was largely unused. Some of the employees were redeployed to other power stations while the various turbines and components were stripped out and used elsewhere such as Hunterston B. There are currently plans to build 650 new homes on the site.

James Emery

Editor: Exploring the places where our ancestors lived, and being able to see images of them, all help to enhance our understanding of how they lived. This gives a richer picture of them as people, well beyond the basic information of names and dates of the key events in their lives.

**Glasgow & West of Scotland
Family History Society**

A Scottish Charity No. SC010866

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 49th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society will be held virtually on Zoom on Monday, 20 April 2026, at 7.30 pm for the following purposes:

- 1 Sederunt and Apologies
- 2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 April 2025
- 3 To accept the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025
- 4 To accept the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025
- 5 To receive confirmation of the Bank Signatories for the year
- 6 To elect the following Office Bearers:
Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 7 To appoint the following Ex-Officio members:
Editor, Membership Secretary, Publications Secretary
- 8 To confirm in office any Ordinary Members of Council co-opted since the last Annual General Meeting
- 9 To elect Ordinary Members of Council
- 10 To elect any Honorary Members as proposed by Council
- 11 To fix the Subscription Rates for the year to 30 June 2027
- 12 To appoint an Independent Examiner
- 13 Conclusion

By order of the Council
Annette McGarill, Secretary

To attend the AGM please register for the April talk via the website as the AGM will precede this talk.

Nominations are invited from members to serve on Council. If you are interested, want to know more, or wish to nominate someone (with their permission) please contact the Secretary at secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk by 1 April 2026.

Minutes of the Forty-eighth Annual General Meeting held virtually on Zoom on Monday 21 April 2025 at 7.30 pm

1. Sederunt and Apologies

Present: Chair: Scott Fairie.

There were 108 members in attendance and so there was a quorum of members.

Apologies: Edward Nairn (member #195), Douglas Boyd (member #8154), Janice Brinley Codd (member #11440).

Minutes: Murray Archer

2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Minutes were published in Journal 132 (March 2025) and on the website.

Proposal: That the minutes of the 2024 AGM be approved as accurate.

Proposer: Scott Fairie (member #30) Seconder: Annette McGarill (member #7770)

Passed unanimously.

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The Annual Report had been made available on the website. The Chair summarised the Annual Report for the meeting. The membership is holding at just over 1,600 members. The society published new PDF booklets for sale and data into the data sets in the member area of our website. We have an active group of volunteers indexing the burial registers of the Southern Necropolis. Our fortnightly DNA study group is popular. We had a full syllabus of interesting talks through the year, available to all members live via Zoom and (copyright permitting) as recordings.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The Income & Expenditure Account was published in Journal 132 (March 2025) and the full accounts have been available on the Society's website or by written request.

The Treasurer, Elizabeth Anderson presented the accounts, which had been examined by the Independent Examiner, Craig Crosthwaite, and will be submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Income:

We did not increase our subscription rates in the 2024-25 session. Nevertheless, the increased income from subscriptions still reflects the increase in 2023-24 as annual membership subscriptions fell due during 2024-25. Income was up by £2,120.

Gift Aid income was up more than £372 compared with 2023.

The exceptional commission of £3,000 in 2023 did not reoccur in 2024.

Income from research and donations was down by £37.

Publications income increased by £95.

Interest income increased by £278.

Expenditure:

The annual running costs for the Research Centre increased by £2,321, mostly due to increased rent, electricity and insurance charges.

Journal costs reduced by £1,057; many overseas members now opt to receive their Journal as a PDF and we print fewer spare copies.

Meeting expenses increased by £370 due to higher speaker fees and extra Zoom fees when we have more than 100 participants.

Publications decreased by £1,299, matching the post-COVID increase in 2023.

Website and IT costs decreased by £949. These costs vary annually due to the timing of prepurchase of discounted developer hours.

Credit card charges increased by £98 due to increased sales of subscriptions and publications.

Equipment purchases decreased by £1,401 after some equipment was replaced in 2023. This year we purchased 4 larger monitors and upgraded two processors.

The surplus for 2024 was £4,060 compared with £2,020 in 2023.

The Closing Bank Balance at 31 December 2024 was £42,086 compared with £38,026 at 31 December 2023.

Elizabeth Anderson requested members to update their details online, when necessary, to avoid manual processing and the high cost of postage.

Elizabeth Anderson reported that she passed the papers to the Independent Examiner, Mr Craig Crosthwaite, and he reported a clear independent examination of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The Treasurer invited questions from the attendees. There were no questions.

Proposal: Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Proposer: Murray Archer (member #4316) Seconded: James Oakes (member #7139)

Passed unanimously.

5. Bank signatories

The Treasurer advised the meeting that the current bank signatories are Sheila Cuthbertson (member #4187), Elizabeth Smith (member #248), Elizabeth Anderson (member #4062), and Edward Nairn (member #195).

6. Election of Office Bearers

There being no further nominations, office bearers for the 2025-26 session will be as follows:

Office	Bearer	Nominator	Seconded
Chairperson	Scott Fairie (member #30)	Elizabeth Anderson (member #4062)	Christine Woodcock (member #10008)
Vice Chairperson	Jean Mackenzie (member #6966)	Scott Fairie (member #30)	John Urie (member #1868)
Secretary	Annette McGarill (member #7700)	Elizabeth Anderson (member #4062)	Elizabeth Smith (member #248)
Treasurer	Elizabeth Anderson (member #4062)	Anne Burgess (member #504)	Olive Allardyce (member #241)

7. Ex-Officio Members of Council

These are ex-officio members of Council. Council is pleased to appoint:

- Elizabeth Smith (member #248) as Membership Secretary

- Karen Hunter (member #10206) as Editor.
- John Wotherspoon (member #8261) was co-opted by Council as Publications Secretary in 2024-25.

The Chairman put his confirmation to the meeting; nominated by Olive Allardyce (member #241), seconded by James Oakes (member #7139); confirmed unanimously.

8. Ordinary Members of Council co-opted since the last Annual General Meeting.

- None.

9. Election of Ordinary Members of Council

Re-election of Ordinary Members:

Ordinary Member	Nominator	Second
Linda Emery (member #8216)	Scott Fairie (member #30)	Annette McGarill (member #7700)

There were no further nominations. There being no objections, the Chair declared Linda Emery elected as an Ordinary Member of Council.

10. Election of Honorary Members as proposed by Council

None proposed.

11. To fix the Subscription Rates for the year to 30th June 2026.

Council proposed no increase in subscription rates for the 2025-26 session.

Proposed Subscription Rates for the 2025-26 Session:

Category	UK	Overseas (PDF only)	Overseas (Paper Journal)
Ordinary member	£20	£20	£25
2nd family member	£10	£10	N/A

Proposed by Council. Passed unanimously.

12. Appointment of an Independent Examiner / Auditor

The Chair thanked Mr Craig Crosthwaite for his examination of our accounts this year. Mr Crosthwaite is a 'lay examiner'.

Council proposed to re-appoint Mr Craig Crosthwaite as Independent Examiner for the year ending 31st December 2025. Approved.

13. Conclusion

The meeting was concluded by the Chair giving thanks to the Secretary for her organisation of the AGM and Karen Hunter, our Editor for our excellent Journal.

The Chair appealed for volunteers to assist Karen and Annette. Both Karen and Annette want to step down from their positions in 2026-27.

The Chair thanked all of our volunteers, especially the Treasurer and our Webmaster.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the AGM closed.

Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society

Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	32,958	32,778
Gift Aid Tax Refund	2,683	3,038
Members Research	480	708
Donations	855	1,406
Printing Income	239	153
Publications	2,243	2,199
Interest Received	432	344
Other Income	468	401
	<u>40,358</u>	<u>41,027</u>

Expenditure

Mansfield St	Rent	8,090	7,855
	Electricity	5,194	6,710
	Insurance	1,115	1,014
	Maint & Repairs	<u>649</u>	<u>361</u>
		15,048	15,940
Journal & Postage		7,704	7,991
Meeting Expenses		870	930
Printing & Stationery		475	356
Postage & Telephone		1,275	1,408
Publications		967	296
Members Research		0	20
Library		282	274
Website & I/T Costs		4,111	6,982
Credit Card charges		934	896
General		606	648
Subscriptions		563	503
Independent Examiner		50	50
Equipment purchases		<u>0</u>	<u>673</u>
		32,885	36,967
Surplus for year		7,473	4,060
Bank Balance at 1 January 2025 (incl floats)		<u>42,086</u>	<u>38,026</u>
Closing Bank Balance at 31 December 2025 (incl floats)		<u>49,559</u>	<u>42,086</u>

Represented by :-

Bank Current Account	28,220	21,069
30 Day Notice account	20,841	20,410
Paypal Account	108	217
Floats held by volunteers	390	390
	<u>49,559</u>	<u>42,086</u>

The full annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 will be available on the website. Alternatively on request to the treasurer, treasurer@gwsfhs.org.uk a copy will be emailed to you.

Programme of Meetings 2025/26

20 April	GWSFHS AGM followed by talk: One night with venus, a lifetime of mercury: sex and syphilis This talk by Cat Irving, Human Remains Conservator for Surgeon's Hall, will look at what syphilis does to the body, the cures which could be as bad as the disease itself, and its impact on society.	<i>Cat Irving</i>
18 May	Scottish Bastards: Perceptions of Illegitimacy in Scotland Based on his book, Alex Wood delves into a fascinating yet often overlooked aspect of Scottish history, exploring the complex tapestry of illegitimacy woven into the fabric of Scottish life, sparking debate and discussion across generations.	<i>Alex Wood</i>
15 June	The People of New Lanark Explore 240 years of history through the fascinating lives of the people who called New Lanark home. From familiar figures like David Dale and Robert Owen to the lesser-known paupers, doctors, soldiers and Millworkers, this 'People of New Lanark' talk showcases fascinating stories and original research from the archives.	<i>Sophie Hunter</i>

These meetings will be held in the evening, (7.30pm) via Zoom. To register for any of these sessions please see the links on the GWSFHS website. The website also provides more information about the individual talks and the speakers.

Please remember if you miss one of the talks when it is first 'broadcast' there is a link to the recordings through our website, providing the presenters give us permission.

If anyone has any suggestions for future talks please let Christine Woodcock know at syllabus@gwsfhs.org.uk

From the Editor

This is my final Journal as Editor, a role I was appointed to in November 2021. My first edition, J123, was published in March 2022, making J135 my thirteenth. Being Editor of the Journal is a privilege, and I appreciate the trust and support I have been given by Council during my tenure.

To all who have worked with me on the Editorial team – thank you. And a special thanks to all those who have contributed articles for publication over the last few years – without them I would not have been able to do my job!

I have found this role challenging, especially when searching around for items to fill the pages; frustrating, especially when the software decides to play up or a late submission floats in which has a deadline of that edition; and time-consuming when the print deadline is approaching.

But it has also been rewarding when the finished printed Journal arrives in the post, especially if I don't spot any 'errors'; and encouraging when getting positive feedback from our readers.

The new Editor, Luke Gibson, is working to get his head around all the stages which go into producing this publication as well as exploring the new software which is being adopted for future editions. Please help him by keeping the flow of articles coming in (send to editor@gwsfhs.org.uk) and be kind to him as he takes on this role.

I hope that by freeing up a bit of time, I can pick up my own family history research again. There are significant Scottish links through my husband's family, with my own family being linked primarily to Shropshire, Yorkshire and County Durham. I have large quantities of information, documents, and memorabilia which need to be sorted through and there are lots of stories still to be told, giving our ancestors' lives some 'colour'. I am also continuing in my role as Chair of Shropshire Family History Society, and volunteering for the National Trust, so not much rest in sight! However, my first priority, and something completely different, is to design and make my mother-of-the-groom outfit for our son's wedding in the summer!

Tìoraidh an-dràsta!

Karen Hunter, Editor editor@gwsfhs.org.uk

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Please note that the phone will only be answered when the Research Centre is open. If you want to contact us otherwise we suggest using the Contact Form on the Website: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/contact/>

Research Centre

The Research Centre is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4pm. There is no need to book unless you want to ensure access to one of the computers.

e-News – monthly newsletter

The Society sends out an email newsletter open to both members and non-members. To receive it, you have to sign up because the software operates with extra security and permits people to unsubscribe. The sign-up is in the footer of each page on the website.

Previous issues can be seen at: gwsfhs.org.uk/services/e-news-archive/

The e-News editor welcomes contributions which can be sent via the email above.

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