

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

Information Booklet

Sept 2017



Research Centre

158-164 King Street,

Aberdeen,

AB24 5BD

Visiting the Centre

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday 10:00am to 1:00pm

Closed on local and public holidays.

Visitors to the Centre should note the following guidelines:

Our Society exists for the benefit of our members, who pay annual subscriptions to maintain these facilities. We do however always welcome visitors from near and far. Please sign in and out at the front desk when you visit. Non-members will be charged £5 per hour plus the cost of printouts.

Entry to the Research Centre, Bookshop & Library is at 158 King Street. There is a ramp available, on request, for wheelchair access.

King Street is on Bus route Nos. 1 and 2. For buses from Peterhead and Fraserburgh, alight at the stop opposite Morrisons. Street parking is by meter in neighbouring streets –. There is a multi-storey car park nearby accessed from Park Street and then into Frederick Street which is one way. See map on back cover.

There are toilets and washbasins. A toilet for the disabled is located at a nearby supermarket. For a small donation, tea and coffee are available in a small kitchen. Snacks, brought by members, can also be eaten there. Consumption of any drinks or food (including sweets) is not permitted elsewhere in the Centre. Smoking is not allowed in the building.

We have limited floor-space. To avoid inconvenience to other members, please do not bring small children, pets, prams, pushchairs or bulky luggage into the Centre. Access to the basement Library is only via stairs.

Mobile (or Cell) phones must be switched off prior to entering the Centre, but calls can be made outside the front entrance. To avoid breach of copyright laws, members must request permission to use digital cameras to copy microfilms or microfiches. These copies should be for personal use only, and not posted on any Internet site.

None of our library books may be borrowed or removed. Many library titles are for sale in the bookshop.

Only pencils can be used in the Library.

Our volunteer staff are available for assistance and advice. However, their time is limited, so members are encouraged to carry out their own research wherever possible.

We hope that our service is satisfactory at all times. Complaints or suggestions can be made in person, or in writing to the Secretary, and will be acknowledged.

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Introducing the Society

**Aberdeen & North-East Scotland
Family History Society** was founded in 1978.

It is a member of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) and is a registered charity No. SC012478.



The Society premises are located at:

158–160 King Street	Research Centre, Bookshop and Library
164 King Street	Publications Department
136 King Street	Administration.

Since its foundation 39 years ago, the story of ANESFHS has been one of steady progress. A modestly sized Research Centre opened at **152 King Street**, Aberdeen in 1986. This soon became inadequate, and was sold. In July 1993, the Society moved six doors up to much larger premises at **No. 164**. Just three months later, **No. 160** was also acquired – and, in April 1994, the basements of the two properties were linked to form a walk-through library. **No. 158** was leased in October 2000, and in January 2002 was merged with No. 160 to become the new Research Centre. The Library was also extended into the basement of No. 158. For some years, administration of the Society was undertaken in any space that was available in the storeroom at No. 164. No. 136 King Street, about 50 yards away – is used for meetings, beginners' classes, storage and chart printing.

The current subscription entitles you to free use of all the Society's facilities. Please refer to the guidelines listed on the inside front cover. The Research Centre is staffed by a team of experienced volunteer helpers, who will show you how to start your research. You may not find anyone famous in your family tree, but will still be thrilled by the discoveries you make as you travel back through the centuries. A quarterly Journal is posted or viewed on web site to all members in February, May, August and November. Members are encouraged to contribute articles; and the Queries section can be of great help if you think you have reached a "dead end" in your research.

Meetings, with a guest speaker, are held on the third Saturday of each month: January to May, and September to November. The venue is the Unitarian Church Hall in Skene Terrace (near the Central Library), at 2:30pm. Non-members are also welcome, and admission is free. There is also a bookstall, and refreshments are provided.

Where to Begin

TALK – to grandparents and other elderly relatives. What can they tell you about their own lives and those of deceased relatives? Sometimes they will pass on some treasured “family tradition”, which may turn out to be, at best, exaggerated and, at worst, complete fiction ... but it will be fun finding out if there is any truth in the story. Unfortunately, there may also be a “skeleton in the family cupboard” which they may wish to keep to themselves! If they have old family photographs, ask them to identify the people pictured.

The next part of this guide lists all the information found on Scottish **Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates**. These have been issued since 1st January 1855, when Registration Offices were first established in Scotland. Look at your own birth certificate and note down all the details. If you don't have one, you can buy a copy from the Registration Office where your birth was recorded, or from the Registrar General in Edinburgh if you were born in Scotland. If you were adopted, and are at least 17 years old, this is still possible. Having obtained the details of your parentage, you do the same for your mother and father, and their parents and grandparents, if the certificates still exist. Once you have managed to trace your line(s) back to 1855, your main sources for earlier records will be the **Old Parish Registers (OPRs)**.

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Birth, Marriage and Death certificates (BMDs)

Civil registration in Scotland began in 1855. Initially, an enormous amount of information was recorded. The Registrars complained about their workload, which resulted in 1856–60 certificates having much less information. From 1861, some of the deleted information was reinstated. Information given on each certificate is as follows:

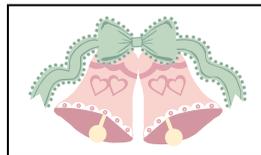
BIRTH Certificate

1. Name and sex
2. When and where born
3. Name and occupation of father
4. Maiden name of mother
5. Date and place of marriage of parents (except 1856–60)
6. Name and relationship of informant, and address if not present
7. When and where registered, and name of registrar
8. Other children of parents (1855 only)
9. Parents' ages and places of birth (1855 only).



MARRIAGE Certificate

1. When and where married
2. How married – Church of Scotland etc.
3. Names and occupations of bride and groom, marital status and relationship (if any)
4. Ages of bride and groom (birthplace, where and when registered – 1855 only)
5. Usual residences
6. Names of both sets of parents, occupations of fathers, maiden and subsequent surnames of mothers, and whether alive or dead
7. Names of minister, registrar and witnesses
8. When and where registered
9. Number of children by any other marriage (1855 only).



DEATH Certificate

1. Name, sex and address of the deceased, and marital status
2. When and where died
3. Age and occupation
4. Names of parents, with father's occupation and mother's maiden surname (and any subsequent surnames), and whether alive or dead
5. Cause of death, and name of doctor who certified death
6. Name and relationship and residence of informant (name only – 1855)
7. When and where registered, and signature of registrar
8. Place of birth and length of time in district (1855 only)
9. Name(s) of spouse(s), if married (omitted 1856–60)
10. Issue in order of birth: names and ages (1855 only)
11. Burial place, and name of undertaker (1855–60).



Statutory records can be accessed either at the “ScotlandsPeople Centre” in Edinburgh, at the local registrar or at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Data Protection restricts access on line to Births (100 yr) Death (50 yr) and Marriage (75 yr)

England and Wales: Civil registration began in 1837, but certificates contain less information than those in Scotland. ANESFHS holds Birth, Marriage and Death indexes on **microfiche** for 1837–2002; and these are also available online. They are recorded in quarterly indexed volumes. Prior to 1866, no ages are given for deaths. Maiden surnames are not given at all.

Ireland: Civil registration began in 1863 and follows the English pattern, though free births, marriages and deaths can be ordered on the NA website.

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Local Registration Offices

Aberdeen Registration Office is at:

Business Hub 3, Ground Floor South, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AB.

Tel. 01224 522033

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

E-mail: searchroom@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Hours: Mon–Fri: 9:30am to 4:30pm (closed 12:30pm to 1:30pm for lunch)

B/M/D registers for Aberdeen City (birth 1855-1901, marriage/death 1855-1939), Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire, which were formerly in the Registrars' Search Room at St Nicholas House are now stored at Marischal College

There is computerised access, but using only the DIGROS system, to::

- all registration documents for the whole of Scotland from 1855 to the present
- the Old Parish Registers for the whole of Scotland from 1553 to 1854
- Scottish census records from 1841 to 1911.

Other North-East Registration Offices are located at:

Aberdeenshire: Aboyne, Alford, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inch, Inverurie, Maud, Peterhead, Turriff.

Kincardineshire: Banchory*, Stonehaven*.

Banffshire: Banff*, Buckie+, Keith+.

Moray: Elgin, Forres.

**now in Aberdeenshire. +now in Moray.*

The addresses, contact details and opening hours for these offices can be found in *Routes to Your North-East Roots: Researching family history in Aberdeen City and Shire*, available locally and at:

www.northeastscotlandroots.com

Old Parish Registers (OPRs)

The most important sources for pre-1855 family history research in Scotland are the Old Parish Registers -- the OPRs. These were compiled from records of Baptisms and Marriages kept by the Session Clerks in Church of Scotland parish churches.



The OPR indexes, and images of the records, can be accessed online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, or at our Research Centre on **microfiche and microfilm**. They are also available through our Society's subscription to www.ancestry.com. These are listed in strict alphabetical sequence, with the spellings as they appear in the parish register – so always be ready to look for unusual variations of your sought-after surnames.

In the main, the OPRs contain only the records of the established Church of Scotland. Some session clerks, however, also recorded other denominations – Episcopalian, Free Church and others. Please note that these indexes are only a finding aid, and are not infallible. Deaths or burials are listed sometimes, but are typically fragmentary. ANESFHS, however, has compiled a computerised **Burial Index** from the OPRs. See “Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) and Burial Records” on page 12.

The Society holds the OPR films for every one of Scotland's parishes, from Unst in Shetland to the Mull of Galloway. Sometimes the original handwriting is faded or not easily readable. Some registers start earlier, and some are in better condition than others. A Centre helper will print any pages you require at a cost of **35p** per page. It will be helpful if you can take a note of the Frame Number, where it exists, at the top of the page you want copied. Digital images of most surviving parishes in Scotland are available at the City Archives by appointment.

Kirk Session records Kirk Session records sometimes have information on marriages, and always feature paternity cases.

Those for St Nicholas is 1562-1940, St Clement 1828-1965 and Aberdeen Presbytery (1720 - 1995) can be consulted at Aberdeen City Archives.

Old Machar (1383–1952) are available in original book form at St Machar's Cathedral by appointment only.

Digital images of the others are available at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh, and at Aberdeen City Archives.

International Genealogical Indexes (IGIs)

Supplementary indexes (called IGIs) of births, baptisms and marriages have also been compiled on computer and microfiche from various sources: OPRs, some post-1855 civil records, wills, censuses, family bibles – or any kind of record available – from the 16th century to 1875. In addition to the OPR, the Society holds the following indexes in its main fiche cabinet at No. 158 King Street:

IGI 1981 Scotland: in Surname order for the whole country. (Counties are not indexed separately, and this index is far from complete.)

IGI 1981 England: in County and Surname order.

IGI 1988 Scotland: in County and Surname order.

IGI 1988 England: do.

IGI 1988: various countries, including Denmark, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and the USA.

IGI 1992 Scotland: in County and Surname order.

IGI 1992 England: do.

IGI 1992 Wales: do.

IGI 1992 Ireland: do.

The layout and format of IGI microfiches are similar to that of the OPR indexes.

The main advantage of IGIs is that they list all the various spellings of a surname together. The **1981** IGI for Scotland is also particularly useful if you don't know which county your ancestor came from. The **1992** IGI also contains information submitted by researchers – and some records may be of dubious accuracy. The 1981, 1988 and 1992 IGIs should all be consulted, as the information they contain is not identical.

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Ancestor Charts

A blank **pedigree chart** is given to all members when they join the Society, and can also be downloaded from our website. When a chart is returned, every surname and placename on it is indexed. Even incomplete charts will be accepted and indexed, so it is never too soon to send it in. When the member later submits a fuller chart, the original can be discarded. Presently, there are over 200,000 entries in this index.

The form contains spaces for 30 names. Names 15–30 are for great-great-grandparents, each of whom can be transferred to a **Continuation Sheet**. Most researchers manage to get back to c. 1750 with at least one of their lines.

The Ancestor Chart Index has been on the ANESFHS website for some time. The huge task of scanning every one of the charts is under way, and they too will soon be available for downloading. Together, they are a superb aid in finding others interested in the names you are researching, and who may be related to you. Members can still order print-outs of sheets featuring relevant*

surnames on any chart to be sent by post. Please specify name of interest as well as the membership number required.

*** Sample page from Ancestor Chart Index:**

This extract shows that the chart of member no. **4233** has **ABELs**, who were found in Oyne, Cairnie, Kintore, Skene, Echt and Insch parishes:

M.NO	NAME	LOCATIONS
====	====	=====
2701	ABEL	PETERHEAD
2949	ABEL	CRAMWORTH – UTAH
4233	ABEL	OYNE – CAIRNIE – KINTORE – SKENE – ECHT – INSCH
5146	ABEL	CANADA – BURNSIDE – KINTORE – INVERURIE
5146	ABEL	AQUERTON – KINELLAR – ABERDEEN – BURNHEAD

Photocopies of Ancestor Charts or of unpublished MIs:

There is a £1.00 search fee, plus print-out costs of 15p each page. Remember that some ancestor charts have more than one page, so please specify the surname(s) you want. Please do not ask for more than 10 charts at a time.

The index includes membership numbers for people long dead, long lapsed, or no longer easily identified. You **must** write to us for copies of the charts. We no longer produce a Membership List because of Data Protection concerns.

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Research Requests and Costs

The Society has a small team of volunteers who are prepared to undertake research for out-of-area members.

When we receive your research request, whether by post, e-mail to research@anesfhs.org.uk or by a research enquiry through the Society's website (www.anesfhs.org.uk), it will be placed on a waiting list. There is usually a wait of about 4–6 weeks, but that may be longer if a large number of requests arrive at the same time. It is only fair to point out that our volunteer researchers are not professional genealogists. They are family historians with many years of experience researching their own and other members' family histories. They also have jobs, commitments and other interests outwith their voluntary work for the Society. Some queries require research in depth, but others can be answered quickly. We may find a lot of information, or we may find very little. We may not be able to find what you are seeking – but, irrespective of the results, we still have to charge you for the time taken to search for information.

We can search various sources in the Society, including:

- On our networked computers: Family Search IGI; the 1881 census for the whole of the UK; the pre-1855 OPR Burials Index for North-East Scotland; Ancestry.com Library edition (which has all UK censuses 1841–1901, with print-outs of English and Welsh census images available, also 1911 English and Welsh, only viewable by household, no Scottish 1911); Findmypast.co.uk has the same censuses as Ancestry, plus the British Newspaper Archive, the 1939 England & Wales register and other specialist collections; Deceasedonline.com has burial records from local authorities including Aberdeen city and Shire; various CDs including *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, British Newspaper Archive and the Society's Library catalogue.

We can also search:

- OPR fiche for the whole of the UK, plus many countries worldwide
- English birth, marriage and death indexes on fiche, which we hold from 1837 to 2002
- Local newspapers for Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Kincardineshire
- St Nicholas MIs on microfilm, including the index.
- 1911 Aberdeenshire Census, ongoing transcription project.

Outwith the Society, we can visit:

- Aberdeen City Archives
- Aberdeen University Library
- Aberdeen Central Library
- Aberdeen Register Office

These searches are done at the discretion of the researcher and if time permits.

We have introduced a new scale of charges for research based on the time taken to do the research.

Cost: £12 per hour, with a minimum charge of £3.00 for a 15-minute search.

Other costs are:

Print-outs from OPR or census films:	40p per page
Print-outs from OPR fiche:	40p per page
Print-outs from computer:	15p per page
Photocopies from Society Library material:	15p per page
Photocopies from Aberdeen City Archives:	at cost (currently 50p per page)
Printouts from local newspapers in Central Library:	at cost (from 20p per page)

Transcriptions of Births, Marriages and Deaths:

We can transcribe **births post-1917, marriages post-1942** and **deaths post-1967** for anywhere in Scotland. This involves a volunteer researcher going to the Registrar's Office and copying details of certificates by hand. The notes then have to be typed up. We keep a list of requests for certificate details – and, when we have sufficient to justify the Registrar's fee, the volunteer will make an appointment to do the research.

Cost to search for and transcribe each certificate: **£3.00**

Notes

- Postage and packaging will be added to all these charges.
- Please do not send money in advance. We will invoice you along with the results of the research sent by post. If you have an e-mail address, we may send you the results by e-mail with the cost of the research along with a reference number, which should be quoted on payment to the Society. You can specify a ceiling cost, e.g. "not more than £20".

All charges include VAT at the current rate.

Please note that you must be a current member when you ask for research.

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Useful Research Publications

<i>Alphabet of Sources for the Scottish Family Historian</i>	R. Torrance
<i>Church for Scotland</i> [story of the Scottish Episcopal Church]	G. Stranraer-Mull
<i>Discover Scottish Church Records</i>	C. Paton
<i>Discover Your Scottish Ancestry</i>	G. Holton and J. Winch
<i>Family and Local History Handbook</i> (14 th edn)	R. Blatchford
<i>Family Record</i> (2 nd edn) [popular and unique method of recording family trees]	
<i>My Ancestor Was Scottish</i>	A
<i>Stewart</i>	
<i>Parish Registers in Kirk Session Records of the Church of Scotland</i>	D. Baptie
<i>Parishes, Registers and Registrars in Scotland</i> (2 nd edn)	S. Spiers
<i>Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland</i>	D. Baptie
<i>Researching Scottish Family History</i>	C. Paton
<i>Rooted In Scotland</i> (getting to the heart of your Scottish heritage)	C
<i>Taylor</i>	
<i>Routes to Your Roots: Researching family history in Aberdeen City and Shire</i>	
<i>Scottish Family Tree Detective</i>	R. Bigwood
<i>Scottish Genealogy</i>	B. Durie
<i>Scottish Historian's Glossary</i>	L. Burness
<i>The Surnames of Scotland</i> [reliable, well-sourced reference work]	G. F. Black
<i>Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors – a guide for Family Historians</i>	I. Maxwell
<i>Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors – official guide</i>	
[to research in the National Records of Scotland and "Scotland's People"]	
<i>Tracing Your Scottish Family History</i>	A. Adolph

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Ordering from the Society

We are delighted to help all our members, including those who live at some distance. Prices and weights are on our website. If you wish to order items from different departments, e.g. computer print-outs, publications, research etc., please ensure that each request bears your name, address and membership number and is submitted separately. Each request can then be dealt with by the relevant department. Orders cannot be accepted over the phone. Either write or email to publications@anesfhs.org.uk

Censuses

The first properly organised censuses of Scotland, England and Wales took place in **1841**. Previous censuses merely recorded the number of people at any particular location, and the names of those enumerated have not usually survived. However, names do appear on the 1801 Peterhead census and later ones in Galston, Ayrshire. There was also a detailed census in 1821 in some Orkney parishes. Since 1841, a national census has been conducted in the first year of every decade, except in 1941. Because of a 100-year confidentiality rule,

the most recent census available for research is the one held in 1911, and we won't be able to see 1921 personal information until 2022 unless the law changes.

The available censuses were held on:

7 th June 1841	31 st March 1851	8 th April 1861	3 rd April 1871
4 th April 1881	5 th April 1891	31 st March 1901	2 nd April 1911 .

The enumerators' handwriting and spelling varied considerably. Be warned – in many cases, surnames and place names have been misread in transcriptions on some Internet websites.

1841 census:

1. Name of each person resident in the house on the night.
2. Age to lowest 5 above 15 years, e.g. those aged 20–24 would be listed as “20”, those aged 25–29 as “25”, etc.
3. Occupation is sometimes given.
4. Whether born in the **county** (Y = yes, N = no), or in E = England, W = Wales, I = Ireland, etc.

1851–1901 censuses:

1. Name.
2. Relationship to the head of the household.
3. Marital status.
4. Exact age – but not always as claimed.
5. Occupation.
6. **County/Parish** of birth in Scotland, or country of birth, e.g. England, Wales, Ireland.
7. **From 1861:** Other details: e.g. employment status, physical or mental handicaps, Gaelic-speaking, etc.

1911 census:

As above, with additional questions:

- Number of persons in house.
- Particulars as to marriage: single, married, widower or widow; for couples, duration of marriage; children born alive; children still living.
- Industry or service with which worker is connected.
- Nationality if born in a foreign country.

“Scotland's People” is the only place to access the 1911 Scotland census online.

Microfilms at the ANESFHS Research Centre:

1841–1901 censuses: for every parish in Scotland (except a few for 1901).

1881 census Indexes for Scotland, England and Wales on fiche and computer.

England & Wales: The censuses contain the same information as those in Scotland. The censuses for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1891 are available, for each county, **on CD-ROM or on www.ancestry.com** where the original can be viewed.

Australia: Available on **fiche** are: NSW – Births and Deaths 1856–1905; Vic. – Births 1853–1913, Marriages 1853–1930 and Deaths 1854–1960; Census

records for other States; and various other Australian records and directories.
New Zealand: Births, marriages and cemetery records.

Army, Navy and Air Force: Army births, deaths and marriages; navy deaths; RAF deaths; location of army registers; muster rolls; military courts and other military information are also accessible on **fiche**. Other sources can be found in the **Library** and on **CD-ROM** (see below).

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Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) and Burial Records

The term generally used by family historians for the text on gravestones is "Monumental Inscriptions". The Society is progressively recording and publishing lists of graveyard and cemetery inscriptions in the North-East. So far, over 100 booklets have been published covering nearly 130 separate burial grounds. Each booklet is fully indexed by surname and stone number, with a detailed plan of the graveyard. You will find them listed on pages 1 and 2 of our Publications catalogue.

The booklets can save you hours of searching in a graveyard, at a cost of only a few pounds. About 100 other kirkyards have been partly surveyed and, in draft form, are available for reference in the Society's Library. Also available for sale are MI booklets from elsewhere in Scotland, including Orkney and Shetland.

Try to obtain **Death Certificates** of relatives. These could guide you to a gravestone, which may list other family members buried there.

Online MI Index. The index can be found on the Society's homepage under "MI Index". There are three different sections to this:

1. Online index to Memorial Inscriptions in published booklets
2. Burial grounds in North-East Scotland
3. Databank with several datasets, including St Nicholas Burials 1666–1793 and St Nicholas Kirk Session Accounts 1602–1705.

Burial Grounds in North-East Scotland. Also on our website: this is a quick way of finding the location of any of the 300+ burial grounds in the North-East. The website uses diagrammatic maps, featuring coloured markers for each graveyard or cemetery. By clicking on a marker, you will be told the total occurrences of particular surnames; other information such as OPR or Lair Records (where known) for that burial ground; and a link to the MI Index site. The two sites may be merged at some time in the future.

OPR Burial Index. All the death and burial information recorded on the Old Parish Registers for Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire and Moray has been indexed by the Society, and can be viewed on the Research Centre computers. These records include the charges made by the church for hiring a "mortcloth", which could be used to cover the coffin prior to burial. There is also an index to cemetery records including St Peter's, Peterhead up to 2000 and Nellfield up to 1950. Cemeteries are burial grounds managed by a parish or

town council, and which were not necessarily “attached” to a church. Deceased Online (www.deceasedonline.com) has an ever-increasing list of indexes to cemetery records throughout the UK. In particular, there are records for St Peter’s Cemetery, Aberdeen, Old Machar Churchyard and St Clement’s Churchyard for various dates.

Moray. The Moray Burial Ground Research Group was formed in 2003 with the challenging task of surveying all 140 burial grounds in Moray, which now also includes about two-thirds of the former county of Banff, including Buckie, Cullen, Keith, Dufftown, Aberlour, Tomintoul and Glenlivet. Moray Council’s LIBINDX also has a Cemetery Explorer service, and both can be accessed online.

McKirdy Index. This is being compiled in New Zealand, on fiche, and eventually will record all the deaths in Scotland from 1855 to 1875. The fiches for the counties of Bute, Clackmannanshire, Kinross-shire, Lanarkshire (1855–57 only), Peebles-shire and Sutherland are currently available.



Library

The Library occupies the linked basements of 158, 160 and 164 King Street, and is accessed via a stair from the Research Centre. There are around 5,500 books on its shelves, plus journals from other societies worldwide, magazines, ancestor charts and maps.

When you go downstairs, the first sections you reach contain **Censuses** and **Monumental Inscriptions**. “Census” means any list of people in a place at a time, not just the official 1841–1901 census returns. The MIs consist of both published booklets and drafts of work in progress, and there are also other death records and wills. The green files are packed full of **ancestor charts** which have been submitted by members over the years. The indexes to them, which are periodically updated, are in the accompanying red files, and can also be consulted on the Society’s website. Close by is the **Strays** card index, containing the names of thousands of North-East folk who lived and died elsewhere, and two bays of books on **Scottish Family Histories**.

The next “room” has boxed back copies of **journals** from most Scottish family-history societies, with others from England and Wales, Australia and Canada. There is also a range of genealogical magazines. **Air, Military & Naval** includes books on war, regiments, fishing and Forces personnel research. There are photographs and name lists of War Memorials in the North East and Angus on the right hand end of the top shelf of this section. In front of these shelves is the **map** cabinet, with drawers containing large-scale flat maps, which have been laminated for easy reference. Beside the cabinet, there is a photocopier for use by members. On the opposite wall are the **Church Histories & Religious Research** and the **Parish/Church Registers** sections. These can be particularly valuable to those who have ancestors who were members of other denominations. The *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae* lists Church of Scotland

ministers from 1560. The **Biography** section contains items on local and national biography, graduates and professional lists.

The third part of the Library contains **Scotland/Scottish Nation** with general books on Scotland, description, history and social history, occupations and transport. Next to this is the **Area Research** section for Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland. **Overseas Records** deals mainly with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA, but also has works on Europe and Asia. The **Scottish Counties** section is divided into three: Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and the rest of Scotland. At the end of this, there are display shelves for new items of Library stock.

Geographical has Francis H. Groome's 1882 *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*; Victorian and Pathfinder folded maps; parish lists of places, farms and crofts; and books giving the derivation of placenames in Scotland. Behind the librarian's desk is **Quick Reference**, where you can find a variety of dictionaries. **Genealogical Directories & Members' Interests** list who is researching what nationally as well as worldwide. **Heraldry, Clans & Tartans** has information on clan septs and family coats-of-arms. **Research Manuals** include information on computers, family and local history, newspapers, occupations, photographs and record offices.

*Obviously, this is only a brief summary of the wealth of knowledge held in our library. Members are strongly encouraged to take a walk downstairs to look at what is on offer. Remember that much of the material on the shelves will not appear on any Internet site. The **Library Catalogue** will help you find what you need. Members can search for items using a keyword or a word in the title, a geographical location or a subject. Or they can just enter a word from their area of interest and see what comes up. This makes it much easier to identify the resources which are relevant to your own particular research. The catalogue can be accessed from any of the computers on the ground floor of the Research Centre.*

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Computers and the Internet

In recent years, a vast array of information has been made available on the internet. It is important to realise that many of the transcriptions have been done by people who have no knowledge of local or family names. Wherever possible, therefore, original source documents should be consulted.

The Society always has to stress that the use of the Internet is no substitute for **on-the-ground research**, and that it will always be to the researcher's advantage to visit the ANESFHS **Research Centre** at some stage. Our main strengths are our local knowledge and large stock of reference books and other material, which put "meat on the bones" of the facts already known about the sought-after families. Rather than sitting in front of a PC at home, it will be infinitely more enjoyable, productive and worthwhile for ancestor-hunters to visit our Research Centre. In a relaxed, friendly environment, they can use our

computers and film/fiche readers and, of course, have a chat with our knowledgeable staff and other members. It can also be **cheaper**, in the long run, to carry out most of your research at our Centre, where a print-out of a census return will cost a matter of pence.

Ten of the most widely used genealogical websites:

Ancestry.com	FamilySearch.org
FreeBMD (births, marriages and deaths)	FreeCen (free censuses)
GENUKI (Genealogy UK and Ireland)	FindMyPast.com
General Register Office of Scotland (GROS)	Rootsweb
National Records of Scotland (NRS)	Scotland's People *

** Individuals pay to view by buying units*

*The Society has a subscription to **Ancestry.com**, which enables members to access the site, at no charge, on one of the Society's PCs. **Scotland's People** charges £7.50 for 30 credits, or £10 for 40 credits i.e. 6 credits to view certificate or census page £1.50p.*

Other popular websites are:

Aberdeen City Archives	Aberdeen University Library
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Regiments.org
National Archives (Kew, London)	Ellis Island Records
Scottish Archive Network (ScAN)	Maps.nls.uk
National Library of Scotland	English BMD Indexes
North-East Scotland Roots	
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland	

Computers in 160 King Street (on-screen icons):

Ancestry.com	IGI and Ancestral File (Family Search)
Cemeteries Index	Pre-1855 OPR Burial Index
MI Index	1881 Census Index (Family Search)
Heritage Search Source Viewer*	Library Catalogue
Soldiers Died in the Great War*	Ancestry View 2.6*
British Newspaper Archives	
WW1 Roll of Honour	<i>*these are on CD-ROM</i>

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CD-ROMs

The Society has an extensive library of CD-ROMs, adjacent to the computers, which include various records from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Netherlands, India, South Africa, USA, Sweden as well as more local information.

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Newspapers

The Society currently subscribes to the British Newspaper Archive, where newspapers for the whole of the UK can be accessed online. In addition, we have acquired microfilms of several Aberdeen and North-East Scottish newspapers. At present, the Society stocks films of the following:

<i>Aberdeen Journal</i> (City of Aberdeen; <i>Press & Journal</i> forerunner)	1747–1900
<i>Banffshire Journal</i> (Banff; index for 1847–52 available)	1845–1900
<i>Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette</i>	1844–1907
<i>Fraserburgh Advertiser</i>	1858–1906
<i>Stonehaven Journal & Kincardineshire Advertiser</i>	1847–1917

When you say “newspapers”, most genealogists immediately think of obituaries or birth and marriage notices. In early editions of most newspapers, however, it was generally only the well-off who could afford (or were deemed to be sufficiently important) to have their notices included in the columns. So, if you were hoping to see a birth announcement for your Macduff great-great-grandad in a 19th-century Banffshire Journal, you will probably be disappointed.

On the other hand, small provincial newspapers usually had good coverage of local news, including photographs of various events and locations, arrests and appearances in the Sheriff Courts, legal notices (including divorces), fires and accidents, advertisements and general “gossip”. Some papers in port cities carried a Marine Intelligence column, which listed ships arriving and departing and other information. Deaths of people such as prominent local personalities and World War I casualties were usually given detailed obituaries. Sometimes the names of those attending a funeral were listed.

Maps

*The Society has a wide selection of maps and gazetteers. Of particular use to researchers is the **Parish Map** series, which show the OPR date ranges of births, marriages and deaths, under each parish name, for the whole of Scotland. For instance, Map No. 4 covers all the parishes in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Kincardine, Banffshire, Moray and Nairnshire. A similar series, but with much less information, has been produced by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.*

The **Map Cabinet** contains five drawers of large-scale flat laminated maps. They are: Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50,000 (1999–2003); OS 1" to the mile (1898–1904); Thomson's Atlas of Scotland (1832) – Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine (1822); Town Plans; OS 1:500 City of Aberdeen N and NW (1867); OS 1:500 City of Aberdeen E and SW (1867).

Also available are a series of Victorian Ordnance Survey Maps of Scotland, folded, 1" to the mile. These were surveyed in the 1860s and published in the late 1890s. There are also folded OS street plans (dating from 1899–1904) of Aberdeen City suburbs and other towns. See the “Library” listing (page 13) for

details of other maps and gazetteers. Modern street plans and Clan and Tartan maps can also be bought from the Society.

The Society's most prized possession is the monumental *The Great Map: The Military Survey of Scotland 1747–55*, by William Roy. The 400-page book, which also has a gazetteer, was published in 2007.

When searching for the precise location of a particular farm, croft or house, researchers should also consult books of placenames, Valuation Rolls, Registers of Sasines, 1696 Poll Books and the Register of the Great Seal (1306–1660), which can narrow the search down to a particular parish.

Online, the best map source is at the National Library of Scotland (maps.nls.uk). This is the best source of historical maps for the whole of the UK.



Poor Relief Records

During the period 1845–1930, parish councils and parochial boards kept records of people applying for Poor Relief (an early form of social security). Where the registers still exist, ANESFHS has compiled separate **indexes** to: (1) Register of Applicants; (2) General Register of the Poor, i.e. the names of those receiving Poor Relief; (3) Register of Children receiving Poor Relief through a guardian. These indexes (one per register per parish) can be consulted at our King Street premises and also at Aberdeen City Archives in Dunbar Street, at the Library and Information Service in Oldmeldrum and at Moray Archives in Elgin.

All that survives for Aberdeen City is a record of the Minutes for St Nicholas Parish 1895–1948. Along with original **registers** for many Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire and Moray parishes, these are held at Aberdeen City Archives in Dunbar Street, Old Aberdeen. Those for some Moray parishes are also at Moray Archives in East End School, Elgin.

1696 Poll Books

In the late 17th century, one of the ways in which money was raised was by means of a **Poll Tax**. It was devised as a levy on every person over the age of 16 who was not a beggar. The Poll Book for Aberdeenshire gave rise to a list of 30,000 names – almost a census for Aberdeenshire at this time, and of immense value to family historians. It is the only complete one in existence for a Scottish county apart from Renfrewshire, and was transcribed and published in two volumes in 1844. Unfortunately, it was not completely indexed. The 19th-century index, made by Dingwall Fordyce, was only of “important” people.

The Society has published the whole set in 43 booklets. The volumes are indexed by people and place so that, for the first time, researchers will be able to look for their ancestors quickly and easily. Each volume also contains a map with as many places named in the Poll Book as can be found. The parish is divided into villages or farms, with a list of their inhabitants and the tax due in

each case. Occupations are normally given and, in many cases, the wife's maiden surname and sometimes even the names of their children.



100 Club

Members who have a UK bank account can have a “flutter” and help to support the Society at the same time. There is a monthly draw, with four prizes (50% of the income) being paid out. The fee for a number is £12 per annum, payable by banker's order. Ask for a membership form.

Relationship Chart

Use this chart to determine the relationship between you and another relative.

- Determine the common ancestor you and the other person share.
- Starting with your common ancestor in the upper left corner, find yourself across the top and note the column.
- Again starting with your common ancestor in the upper left corner, find the other person down the left side and note the row.
- Go to the box where your column and their row coincide.

This is the relationship you share with the other person.

	Child	Grand-child	Great-grand-child	2 x great-grand-child	3 x great-grand-child	4 x great-grand-child
Child	<i>Sibling</i>	<i>Niece/nephew</i>	<i>Great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>2 x great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>3 x great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>4 x great-niece/nephew</i>
Grandchild	<i>Niece/nephew</i>	<i>First cousin</i>	<i>First cousin once removed</i>	<i>First cousin twice removed</i>	<i>First cousin thrice removed</i>	<i>First cousin four times removed</i>
Great-grandchild	<i>Great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>First cousin once removed</i>	<i>Second cousin</i>	<i>Second cousin once removed</i>	<i>Second cousin twice removed</i>	<i>Second cousin thrice removed</i>
Great-great-grandchild	<i>2 x great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>First cousin twice removed</i>	<i>Second cousin once removed</i>	<i>Third cousin</i>	<i>Third cousin once removed</i>	<i>Third cousin twice removed</i>
3 x great-grandchild	<i>3 x great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>First cousin thrice removed</i>	<i>Second cousin twice removed</i>	<i>Third cousin once removed</i>	<i>Fourth cousin</i>	<i>Fourth cousin once removed</i>
4 x great-grandchild	<i>4 x great-niece/nephew</i>	<i>First cousin four times removed</i>	<i>Second cousin thrice removed</i>	<i>Third cousin twice removed</i>	<i>Fourth cousin once removed</i>	<i>Fifth cousin</i>

“Grand-” can also be used for “great-niece/nephew”, but confusion is reduced if “grand-” is kept only for direct lines of ascent/descent.

Membership

New members are very welcome. Membership runs from for a full year from date of joining

Family memberships are also available.

UK taxpayers are encouraged to sign a *Gift Aid* declaration, as this increases the value of their subscription to the Society.

If your contact details change, please let us know. Always quote your Membership Number. If you have a Standing Order for Publications, or are a member of the 100 Club, please tell us so these records can also be updated.

How Can I Pay?

In addition to present methods of payment, all members can now go to our web site and renew, pay for publications, research or donate.

UK Members:

All UK subscription renewals can be paid via Direct Debit. Please ask for a form.

Any payment (subscriptions, publications, research etc.) can be made by cheque made out to "**Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society**" or by *credit/ debit card/paypal*.

Overseas Members:

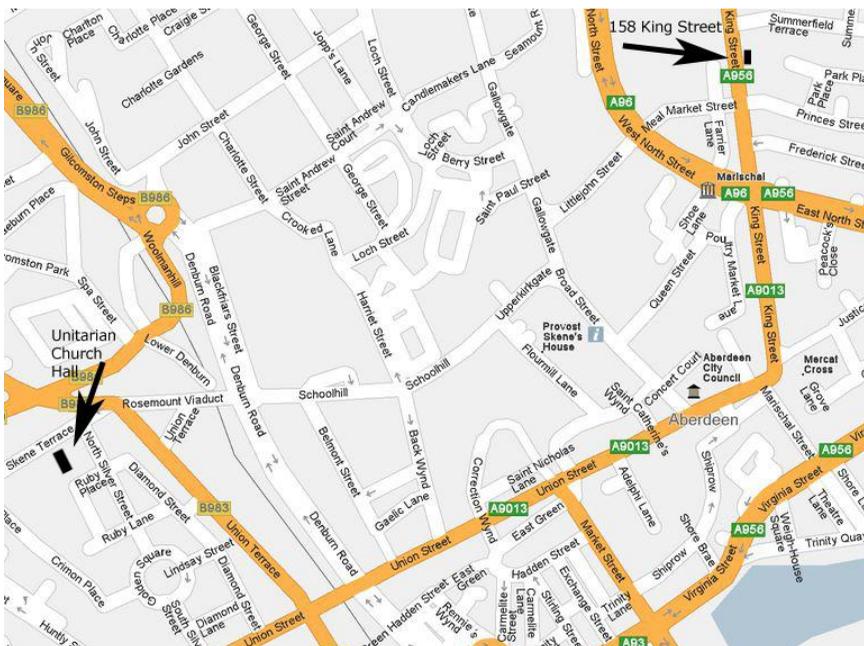
Some overseas members may hold UK bank accounts. If so, subscriptions can be paid by Direct Debit. Please ask for a form"

Alternatively, membership can be paid by using Credit card or paypal.

Credit and Debit Cards:

Members may find it more convenient to make any Pounds Sterling payment (but only where the amount is over **£5**) by Credit or Debit Card. In all cases, the card number, 3 digit CVC security number and expiry date should be quoted and, where applicable, the start date or issue number.

Cards accepted are **VISA, MasterCard, Switch, Delta and Solo**.



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