



February 2022

Greetings to all our members and friends, another month gone, and February is even shorter, time flies. A good section of society news this month. Things are starting to get a bit more active. Not long till the AGM, and there are some vacancies on the committee, so members think about offering your time to bring in some new ideas and expertise.



Society News

- **Meetings** - Members please register on the website, up to a week before the Next Meeting:-

Titanic Love Story - Sean and Sheila Mae Szmalc, Monday 21 February 7.30pm

- **Opening Hours**

Sadly volunteers didn't feel confident about opening after Christmas break. However, now that things are a bit more relaxed, and we now have plans in place to open again for research. Still with full masks and precautions. To maintain social distancing members must be able to work mainly on their own.

From Saturday 19th February afternoons, Telephone 0141 339 8303 Saturday 2-4pm to make a booking. Check out the flash screen on the website for conditions and at :-

<https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/2022/02/14/research-centre-open-19th-feb-22/>

- **AGM**

In the March Journal you will receive notice of our AGM (and a short Extraordinary General Meeting) on Monday 25 April 2022, starting at 7.30pm on Zoom. This will be followed by a talk on Glasgow High Kirk Burying Ground. There will be 4 vacancies on the Council, and office bearer positions to elect. Everyone on Council is a volunteer, and welcomes new members to come forward to bring new ideas. So if you are interested, are a member of the Society, and can spare some time for a meeting once a month, by Zoom, why not submit your name and membership number to secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk.

- **Datasets**

The process of preparing our Monumental Inscription data for upload is quite time consuming, because the indexes to transcripts do not include event dates or ages, these are needed for an efficient database entry. Work has started to recruit a team of volunteers to update the indexes - look out next month for details, and get your keyboards dusted off to volunteer some help.

● Journal

The March Journal should be with the printers next week so hopefully it will be dropping through our members' doors quite soon. Looking forward the theme for the June edition will be 'A Fork in the Road – Accidents and disasters that changed the course of my Scottish family history'.

Although we have a theme, any subjects illustrating your research will be of interest to members, so think about submitting an article, before the next submission deadline on 5 April. A colourful image or two to illustrate is always good, so long as it is your own or copyright free. Also get your thinking caps on for future themes:

October 2022: 'Who doesn't love a good story? - Unlocking our family history through storytelling : ideas and examples'

March 2023: 'Exploring our ancestors through DNA: who and what we might discover.'

● Website

The new pdf versions of some of our Monumental Inscriptions booklets, in the shop, have been well received, and additions continue to appear. Articles tab has a whole series of useful contact lists showing themed Museums for Family Historians on subjects from Clans to Urban Life. Even if you can't visit, the web links will take you to a wealth of information. As ever Diana Burns has submitted interesting piece on 'Glasgows Vulnerable – Home for Deserted Mothers'



News from elsewhere

- Once again Christine Woodcock's Canada/Scotland Special Interest Group has kindly opened their talks to our members, all at 3.00pm our time, next talks with Zoom web link to register.

MAR 7 - **Border Reiver**, by Wendy Mayfield

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlkcOyoqz4oH9zInS9yTqP7obGrn5ImfuvN>

● Findmypast

Members please remember that you can get a discount on FmP membership, using coupon code from the Resources box in the Members area on our website at <https://gwsfhs.org.uk>.

FmP has Newspaper additions for our area include Glasgow Evening Times for 1879 & 1884, along with additions to holding of Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser.

They note that the collection of 'Jamaica, Manumission of Slaves, 1747-1779', contains 15 out of 120 owners addresses which are in Scotland.

In their 'what's new blog <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/1921-police-gazette> there is an overview of the police Gazette, where they have illustrated entries with 'previous conviction in Glasgow' and one with a 'Scottish accent', the Scots do get around! They also mention newspaper additions for Alloa, Barrhead News, Highland News, Oban Times, Scottish Leader....

● ScottishIndexes

Look forward to their 16th Zoom Conference on Saturday, 12th March 2022, as before, another packed day of interesting talks, repeated twice to allow the whole world to hear.

Register at their website <https://www.scottishindexes.com/>.

- As ever, Chris Paton's blogspot at <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com> always has useful news for Scottish and Irish researchers.



Ramblings

This month some random projects in the area that have caught notice and may be of interest to readers. Some thoughts on why very commonly suffer from lost baptisms.

- **St Mary's R.C. Burial Ground**

One of our members is involved in a project on St Mary's R.C. Burial Ground, which adjoins St Mary's Church in Calton, Glasgow. A housing development of 80 houses is planned on land including the burial ground. Glasgow City Council say they have no records of who is buried there. If you have an ancestor who is buried there, or if you know of anyone who might be a current lair holder, could you possibly get in touch? Drop a note to enews@gwsfhs.org.uk, if you put Annette, or St Mary's in the title line it will be speedily forwarded.

[Ed: Note this is the area behind the church, which was abandoned sometime around 1960, not the Calton Burying Ground which is further south on Abercromby Street.]

- **Kilmarnock Old Kirk, Loch Lomond**



One year ago, Kilmarnock Old Kirk was purchased by a local community trust with support from the Scottish Land Fund. Kilmarnock is the parish at the south end of Loch Lomond which embraces the villages of Gartocharn and Croftamie and the surrounding rural community. The church was closed by the Church of Scotland in 2017. The graveyard surrounding the Kirk is run by West Dunbartonshire Council and is still in use for burials.

The church was built in 1813 but occupies a site that probably dates back to the days of the early Celtic missionaries. The trust has been exploring the history of graveyard with the help of Archaeology Scotland's Adopt a Monument team. About 10 years ago Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society produced a booklet detailing nearly 400 Memorial Inscriptions,

which is providing a very useful starting point. Kirk Session minutes and the Diary of the Reverend Thomas Leckie written in 1718/19 are providing fascinating insights into life in a rural parish several hundred years ago.

Please visit their website www.kilmaronockoldkirk.org.uk for more information and contact details if you would like to get in touch. Members and volunteers are always most welcome. [Ed note: – Kilmaronock in Dunbartonshire, not Kilmarnock in Ayrshire]

- **Friends of Hartwood Paupers Cemetery**

You may have seen this interesting group started on Facebook

About this group

This is a brand new group page where we can share information and support each other to help restore the Old Paupers Graveyard in Hartwood. Over the past 18 months we have worked together to ‘remember’ the hidden 1255 souls buried within the grounds, giving them their name and dignity back.

We are hoping to improve the condition of once much neglected Hartwood Cemetery in Hartwood.

- **Where did all the baptisms go?**

I decided to look at the history of Kilmaronock in the Statistical Accounts and spotted some interesting statistics. As mentioned in a previous e-News, the Statistical Accounts give a valuable background to life in the parishes – the link

https://electricScotland.com/webclans/statistical_accounts.htm provides a brief overview, at the bottom of the page are links to scans by Google of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Accounts – giving histories before 1799, 1845 and 1951.

To locate the parish it is quickest using CTRL-F to find the volume, because ordering is random; with the volume open you need to check the index and scroll to start of parish. For Kilmaronock Parish, on p202 of vol 11, it states that there are no towns or villages and no manufactures; “Many farms are so small, as to yield but scanty subsistence to the farmer” lime and manure are expensive and there is little attention to crop rotation – so a pretty poor community. The population had dropped from 1193 in 1755 to 820 in 1793 “owing to increase in trade and manufactures in Bonhill and Balfron”. Interesting clip :

No authentic account can be given of the births, as many of the people, and particularly the Dissenters, decline to have them inserted in the parish register.

shows that there were significant number of dissenters from the church.

Looking at the 2nd Statistical Account, Vol 8 for Dunbartonshire, p211, you see more detail of the geography and history of the parish, with a list of the principal landholders. There is still “no village in the parish and not even 4 dwelling -houses in it closely contiguous”, the roads are not well kept, there are about 500 sheep and a few cattle, the agriculture is somewhat improved but “perhaps more than a third part of the arable land is incapable of a high state of improvement”, and there are 10 Paupers continuously on the Poor Roll.

The Church was built in 1813 and the Manse in 1807. There is detail of coverage of church registers, and here again, lack of baptisms is stated :

order of their date, and many children in the parish have not been registered at all. They cannot, therefore, be said to be regularly kept. The only book containing a register of proclamations or

Following the previous statement about dissenters, there is more detail in 1835, that :

There are 60 families, and 240 persons of all ages attending the parish church. There are about 100 families, and 400 persons of all ages attending the Relief meeting-house in the parish, and

More families out of the Established Church than in!! The Relief meeting-house was formed about 1780 when many dissenters left the established Church over the selection of a minister by the patron Lord Stonefield. The dissenting congregation may have kept their own registers, but that is still to be investigated, however this information gives an insight into how so many baptisms may not be recorded in the main OPRs, and the 'Other' registers should always be checked on Scotlands People, but that may not cover all and you need to investigate other churches active in the Parish. This is especially true in 1840's when many congregations split for theological reason; see the famous chart showing secessions and returns to Established Church:

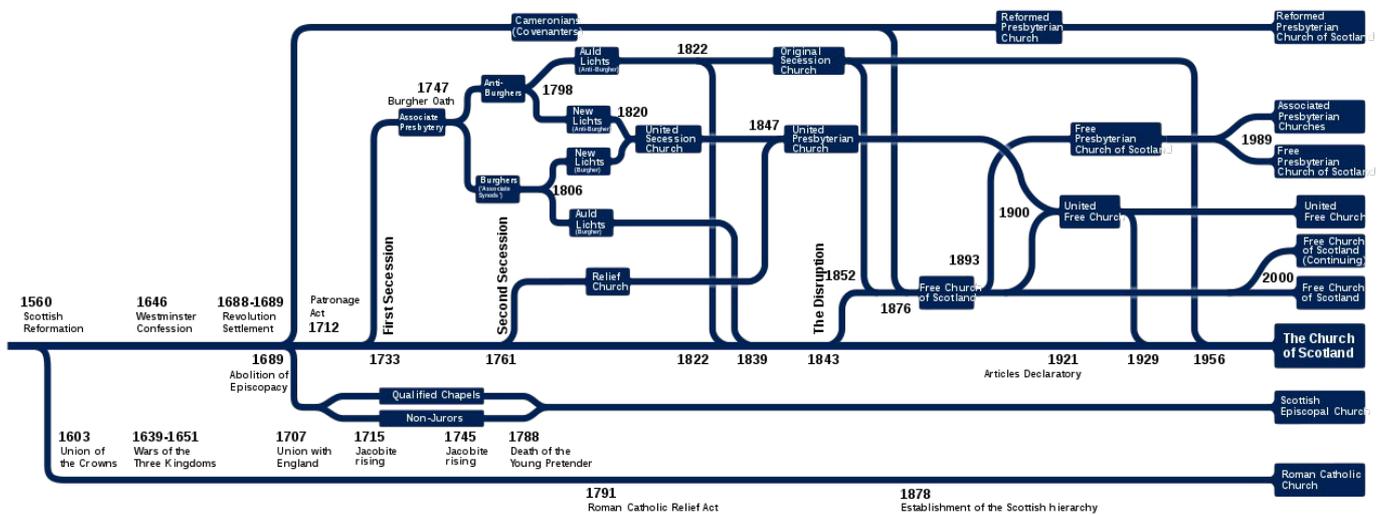


chart from : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Original_Secession_Church#

By Hogweard - This file was derived from: Churches of Scotland timeline.svg, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=58574353>

Where anyone has comments or corrections, don't be shy, and send a note to enews@gwsfhs.org.uk, thoughts can be included next month. Also let us know of any other suggestions for less obvious resources which may be of use to other members.

Ideas, opinions and techniques from contributors to e-News, are for information of readers, they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or recommendations of the Society.

To be in contact with others you can go to :





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