



Thistle

SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP
A service group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc.
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URGENT

Scots looking to the future

VOTE NOW ON SAG'S FUTURE

Unless you already have done so

The voting procedure is in the email sent out on August 23 to all members

If you can't find the email, contact us on scotland@gsv.org.au

More info pages 8-9

Sickness and death in Scotland

prior to Civil Registration

From the June meeting, Joy Roy FGSV

Many of my Scottish ancestors hailed from some very remote places, that is by today's standards, with bitumen roads, aeroplanes and helicopters, safer boats etc., not to mention better communication systems of the mobile phones, social media to name but a few.

I often wonder how my ancestors fared when they had an accident or fell ill in these remote locations of Scotland – probably with some fortitude and a lot of luck. As I ponder the lives of my ancestors – how did isolation and distance affect their everyday lives? Some of the areas my ancestors were living in were the more isolated areas. Also my ancestors had a habit of marrying people of the same surname, some cousins marrying cousins – this just gives me more headaches working out relationships.

James Scott left his home in Meerlees, (about 2 miles from Ettrick, Selkirkshire) on 8 February 1831, and was said to have been in good health, but he was found two hours later lying in the snow by another shepherd. He was still alive, and could walk a little, he was conveyed to a nearby house, but died without uttering a word – this was gleaned from a

newspaper article in the *Caledonia Mercury* 21 February 1831.

I did hope the records would tell what he died from – but alas not – James Scott was 49 years if age. There are no Kirk Session records to consult – so we can only assume he died from a Heart Attack, Stroke, Hyperthermia following a fall and sustaining an injury! This sparked my interest in finding details on what could I find about my ancestor's demise in these remote locations.

As we cannot just get a Death Certificate that would tell us the cause of death, we need to use social and local histories to build a picture.

These Covid pandemic days have heightened our awareness of isolation. Were our ancestors more accepting of their surroundings and circumstances than us modern-day folk?

The plague of 1349, was unwittingly carried back to Scotland by soldiers returning from various campaigns. Whilst the Plague of 15th Century did reach Scotland, but was contained well away from the Highlands and Islands – mainly reaching the Central belt of Scotland, along with Dumfries, Fife,

Perth, Aberdeen, and Moray. But the Plague of the 17th century did not reach Scotland because the Government of the day imposed strong restrictions on trade with other countries, (sounds familiar as present times with Covid).

Early medicines and cures were made from ale, white wine or vinegar, mixed with water and various herbs and spices – and of course blood-letting. Some of the common popular herbs were aloes, myrrh, saffron, lemon, rosewater & peppermint. As early as the 14th century there were 'Remedies, some to improve the vision', for dysentery and laxatives.

There was a time that Malaria was prevalent in Scotland, but just died out – the reason thought to be because of 'Global Cooling', now that's not a catch phrase we hear today. As an aside, John Smith a Roxburghshire native, had a plant nursery here in Riddells Creek, Victoria (in the 1860s): they supplied Eucalyptus trees to Europe, for them to be planted in swamps to help drain them and reduce Malaria.

In 1681 the Royal College of Physicians was formed in Edinburgh, but it took time to train a body of people, and the out-posts of the Borders, the Highlands and Islands did not attract doctors.

Medicine was seen as one of the least trustworthy occupations, with only the most self-confident men taking up its practice. Edinburgh only conferred twenty degrees per year, and once qualified these Doctors headed to the more lucrative places in England or abroad. Blood-letting was still the inevitable panacea for almost every disease.

Having had Whooping-cough as an adult, I'm glad I was living in the 20th century, as in the 17th-18th centuries the treatment for babies was the placement of 5 leeches behind the ear, and if the child had a headache, then 12 leeches must be used (a leech sucks about 5 to 10 ml of blood per session).

Scotland's epidemiological history had been that of periods of bubonic plague, Typhus which was made worse because of many victims being weakened by hunger in the famine of 1730-40s. Conditions in the Borders were deplorable, and the Highlands was even worse, with Crofters only able to rent a tiny portion of land to grow a boll of oats, that land was mostly rocks, moss and heather which was difficult to dig. Other work for highlanders was scant, even by the sea, there were no markets or trade for them.

Smallpox was a noted killer of pandemic proportions – throughout the 17th and 18th centuries alike, with deaths as high as 1 in 7 persons, with

36% of children under the age of ten dying in Glasgow alone. Highland areas fared better, on Yell, Shetland Islands, Johnny Notions, an amateur doctor inoculated everyone on the island, using *Cow Pox*, it was said he never lost a patient.

To try to combat these pandemics a two-stage approach was adopted: first was 'inoculation trialed in Dumfriesshire in 1733. By 1765 only 6,000 persons were inoculated. The second stage was a vaccination developed by Dr Edward Jenner in 1796. The outcomes of these methods can be found in the old *Statistical Account of Scotland*, with the inoculation working to reduce the frequency of the outbreaks, and vaccinations reducing the disease – but there were still incidences of children dying of the disease even though they had received the vaccination.

Around the mid-1700s, Infirmarys were being built but these were all in major populated districts, though they also created 'dispensaries' where the poor could get cheap medical attention. Though some of the medical attention offered I personally would not like to try. One example in 1739 was to give the 'juice of 20 slaters', twice daily! Another, 'burnt earthworms', makes one wonder what is in the medications we get today, probably better not to know!



(from the *Glasgow Times*)

It is reported that Measles accounted for one percent of the population of Glasgow dying between 1738 and 1788 – yet by 1807-1812 it was 10 percent. At the same time tuberculosis was the killer of youth and those in their twenties. Obviously, the close living conditions in housing found in all the cities throughout Scotland, contributed to the statistics on Measles and Tuberculosis.

Crop failures, sharply increasing prices and famine also affected the health of our forebears – in the early 1700s the introduction of potatoes for consumption by the lower classes helped feed the poor, the humble potato increased the standard of nutrition when the oat crop failed. By 1770 it was said to be the 'savior of the people of Skye'. Potatoes became the most common crop grown on all holdings – rich and poor alike. Yet later 'potato blight' was to cause the potato crops to fail, this was from 1846 – 1856, and along with the changes in farming practices led to the Highland Clearances and mass migration.

Even the weather had an effect on the wellbeing of our ancestors – the end of the 1700s and again during several periods of the 1800s, the weather had been so wet that the inhabitants had been unable to cut peats, and with crop failures, weather

too bad for fishing, that the population were often left to burn turfs from the cottages to keep warm and dry, though using the peats from their rooves may not have helped with them keeping dry.

It is noted in the 19th century that there were occurrences of fatal disease, especially 'consumption or 'phthisis', although the plant 'coltsfoot' (*Tussilago farfara*): a flower in the daisy family was considered beneficial in curing 'bronchial disease'. It is also shown that there were occurrences of rheumatics, asthma and fever, mostly bought on by the wet conditions people lived in.

Cholera outbreaks were experienced throughout Europe in the 19th century, caused by contaminated water and food, as well as with poor sanitation. Scotland was affected in 1832, with recurrences in 1848 and 1856. Overcrowded industrial towns and fishing ports, were worst impacted. In some areas, as many as half the population perished. In the early 1830s Roxburghshire experienced a Cholera outbreak, with some parishes experiencing so many deaths that they were buried in a common grave, and the burials not recorded, so again you don't find your ancestor's death.

Even religion played a part in the health of the people with preachers who pushed the notion that 'everything was ordained by God, and if a thing did happen then it was bound to be!'.

Now to some resources that may lead you to help understand the health and wellbeing, and even the cause of death prior to the introduction of death certificates in 1855.

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland both Old and New can offer a picture of the living conditions in a particular parish.

Colvend, Kirkcudbrightshire – reference to 'malignant fever' in 1772 – this may be why you cannot find your ancestor, if they perished around that time.

Kilmalie Parish – reference to the poor of the parish wandering about, begging door to door, to the grave!

This says a lot - if you do not get assistance then 'death is inevitable'. The Account also states 'If any are reduced to poverty, by accident, disease or calamity, there is an extraordinary collection made for their relief! The fund is around £40, but no distribution list shown.

One of my Berwickshire parishes mentions the '*there were no communicable diseases in the parish because of the houses all being separate from each other*'. Further on in the text it also relates that '*the roads and bridges with in the parish are impassable for six months of the year!*'

You may like to check *The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland* to see if your parish of interest has death or burial records – a lot of highland parishes, in particular, do not have either death or burials records.

I am a big user of maps in my family history – getting a good understanding of the location and lay of the land where my ancestors resided.

Some of my family lived at Glendessary, about 2 kms from the top of Loch Arkaig, using the National Library Scotland Map collection - the William Roy Military Maps 1747-1755 which are invaluable in showing some of the remote places, and marked with small red squares are the dwelling house in an area. There are just two for Glendessary – today there are no dwellings - just rubble. Though, John McPhee made-a-donation to the poor relief fund in 1793 of 10 shillings.

Understanding where you ancestor lived will give you an image of what their life may have been like. On visiting Glendessary in 2010, there is a narrow bitumen road to the top of Loch Arkaig, then a 2km walk up to the ruins of the crofts – the image shows an old croft at the end of Loch Arkaig – probably Glendessarys' nearest neighbors. Whilst I was there, they experienced the earliest snow for 80 years in October, that gave me a picture of what it would be like – just imagine being snowed in for several months, where you could



Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, 1883

not walk or boat anywhere.

Old Parochial Registers [OPRs] from ScotlandsPeople – Death or Burial may give the cause of death, but a lot of the registers are lacking in detail. From Melrose Parish, one of the better ones that show cause of death in a goodly proportion. Many of the parishes just give a date and name.

Kirk Session Records include payments for the hiring of the Mortcloth – these are usually included in the Kirk Accounts, or sometimes in the Kirk Minutes – note not all Kirk Sessions Records contain accounts. If you are lucky sometimes next to the entry you get a surname and cause. Every record entry is worth a try. Even just getting a date

from a mortcloth entry can lead you to what was happening in the parish at the time.

The first Dispensary was set up in Edinburgh in 1692, but they did not offer 'home visits', and have been left out of analysis of Dispensaries as a whole. Many groups were excluded from inpatient hospital services (including children, pregnant women, incurables, those suffering from venereal diseases and fever cases or contagious conditions) and this may have been key to the increase in dispensary provision.

Interestingly, it was George Armstrong, a Scottish Physician, who set up a Dispensary for the infant poor in London in 1769.

Another source is the Kelso Dispensary Records, whilst this record set appears to be a one-off transcription – I have not looked for others in different counties. Only trouble with a common surname is 'which James Smith' a very common problem with my Smith families.

You may like to consult the National Records Scotland or County Archives for records pertaining to your area of interest.

There is an Index to patients of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children 1852 – 1921, part of a program being run to index admission registers, at present

only three hospitals are included – two in London and one in Scotland.

Another website is Remote and Rural Remedies – it's worth a look, it may not lead you to a resource or a result, but certainly to detail as to why you haven't found the information i.e. your area of interest did not have a medical man there. One example I have seen is of Surgeon John MacDonald, from 1851 – you can actually view the original two-page deposition from him on the website. This is an ongoing project, the database can be search by 'People' or 'Place'. There are also three online exhibitions on Bloodletting, Medicines and Quackery! As well as other activities Recipe Workshop, Videos and Blogs.

You may be interested in a hospital that no longer exists – there is a list on Wikipedia for 88 Defunct hospitals in Scotland – some contain photographs of the original hospital. You can also check archive offices for holding of historic admission registers etc.

It is Testament to the resilience of our ancestors that we are here today looking into their lives. They experienced both health and sickness as well as accidents, finding out about these is just another part of the picture of their life that we are re-creating

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR RESEARCH!

READING LIST:

- Black Death in Scotland*, Karen Jillings
- A History of the Scottish People*, T C Smout
- History of Skye*, Alexander Nicolson
- The Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*, Henry Grey Graham
- The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland*

INTERNET SOURCES as described above

- <https://digital.nls.uk/learning/scots-plague-buik/plague-in-scotland/>
- www.scan.org.uk/VirtualVault/Aberdeen_City/page_1.htm
- <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/exhibition/osa>
- <https://maps.nls.uk/roy/>
- <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/search-our-records>
- <http://www.scottishindexes.com/dispsearch.aspx>
- <https://hharp.org/>
- <http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/remotandruralremedies/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Defunct_hospitals_in_Scotland

Scottish Monumental Inscriptions

John Blackwood

Scotland became a Protestant nation in 1560 with the Reformation, which rejected papal jurisdiction and the Mass. At that time, most Catholic records were destroyed or lost.

The Scottish Protestant churches were far more interested in recording births/baptisms and banns/marriages than the death or burial of their congregations.

So how are we supposed to search for Scottish death or burial records prior to the introduction of civil registration in 1855 with death certificates as we know them today?

Some church records have survived, but the information about the deceased is usually quite sparse. Also, some Kirk Session records might include information about mort cloth records (hired for covering coffins), or refer to a death, but again quite sparse information at least giving some idea of the date of burial.

Also of some help are Wills and Testaments available on the ScotlandsPeople website. Not everyone left a Will, but for those who did the probate records usually include date and place of death, and occupation of the deceased.

Then we come to tombstones, or headstones, otherwise known as monumental inscriptions, erected over graves to acknowledge the deceased. Like many families elsewhere, Scottish families found the money, where they could, to pay for a headstone at the burial ground to record the name and other BMD information about the deceased, often including names of other family members. Volunteer groups, and individuals, have spent many hours reading, recording and publishing a considerable number of these headstone inscriptions.

The commercial website, Findmypast, www.findmypast.com.au, now has a large selection of these Scottish monumental inscriptions, indexed and searchable by name and place. They include a transcription of the information on the headstone. To search the web site, I have found the following sequence to work, although you might find a better one:

- Once logged in, scroll down to “Quick Links”

The screenshot shows the Findmypast search interface for 'Parish Burials in Life Events (BDMs)'. The search criteria are as follows:

- Who:** First name(s) 'jane', Last name 'watt'. There are checkboxes for 'Name variants'.
- When:** Year of Birth 'YYYY', Year of Death 'YYYY'. There are 'Give or take' options with '-/+ 2yrs' and a range selector.
- Where:** 'World' (dropdown), with an example 'E.g. Boston, Lincolnshire or England'.
- Record set:** 'Scotland Monumental Inscriptions' (dropdown), with a 'Browse Record set' link.
- Optional keywords:** An empty text box.

At the bottom of the search criteria, there is a button that says 'View 1,334 Results' and a 'Clear search' link.

- Click on "Life Events (BDMs)
- Scroll down to "Parish Burials"
- In Record Set type "Scotland Monumental Inscriptions"
- Click on "Browse Record Set"
- In the Filter start typing "Scotland ..."
- Select "Scotland Monumental Inscriptions"
- Apply filters

At this point I came up with more than 1.8m results. However, don't be fooled by this number. There are still many gaps in the records. From this page you may now carry out a search by name and/or place. I conducted a search for the name Blackwood at Inchinnan, Renfrewshire, which came up with 14 results. Selecting Walter Blackwood gave the following:

First name(s)	Walter
Last name	Blackwood
Birth year	1770
Birth date	? ? 1770
Age	81
Death date	01 Oct 1851
Death year	1851
Cemetery	Inchinnan Cemetery
Place	Inchinnan
County	Renfrewshire
Country	Scotland
Inscription	Robert BLACKWOOD late farmer Flourish 9.11.1759 62, son James 12.8.1803 78, great grandson Walter BLACKWOOD late farmer Bottom 1.10.1851 81 (wife Christens CRAIG 16.9.1851 74, son James 3.7.1840 40). James BLACKWOOD 11.7.1927 80

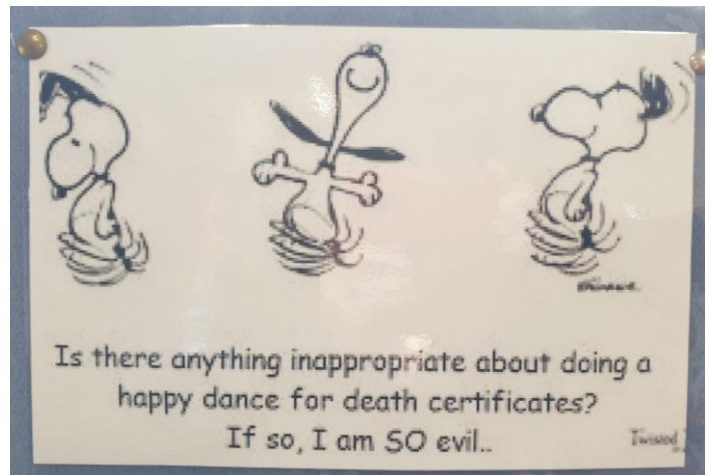
This entry gives the date of death (or burial) of other family members and their age.

I chose Inchinnan, apart from a family interest, because the gravestones were removed and set aside to make way for the expansion of Glasgow airport. So not an easy site to visit.

Findmypast (FMP) is available to GSV members at the library. Also, there is a discount available to GSV members for a one month or twelve month subscription. After logging in, click on the Members Area near the top of the page, and then click on Special Offers. Click on Findmypast discount. If you already have a FMP membership, it is important to make sure you have allowed it to lapse, and to have turned off auto renewal. Also, you need to apply via the Australian web page www.findmypast.com.au

Of course, Findmypast is not the only source of monumental inscriptions that we have at the GSV. Over the years, the Scottish Ancestry Group has contributed a considerable number of booklets on monumental inscriptions to the GSV library. A search of the GSV catalogue in "topic" in our catalogue as cem* transcript* scot* brings up 566 records, including 410 books, 89 digital copy @ gsv intranet and web 18 records. These are located on the shelf at GSV:929.5411.

So, in summary, there are indeed several sources where we can look for death records prior to 1855 and help us complete the picture of our ancestors' lives.



Note: picture is the responsibility of the editor, not John

Events

For more event details and all our news go to <https://www.gsv.org.au/scottish-ancestry-group-sag>

SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP of GSV Inc.

Quarterly meeting

Saturday 16 September 2023 2 pm – 4 pm

Discussion

- a) **some places in Scotland** – Where did your folk live?
- b) **What Scottish websites have you found useful?**
Tell us about your experiences of Scottish Family History Groups

PLUS AGM to discuss the future of SAG

Hear the outcome of the vote on the Proposal: That the Scottish Ancestry Group cease to be a Service Group of the GSV and continue as a GSV Discussion Circle, effective immediately.

If passed, some time talking about how we do the future?

If not passed, we will need elections, etc and hereby call for nominations more on pp.8-9

This is a 'Zoom' meeting, booking essential

via the GSV Website www.gsv.org.au or email gsv@gsv.org.au

All Thistle subscribers and GSV Members welcome

Victorian Seniors Festival

2.00 – 3.30 pm – free

Open to GSV members & non-members

Monday 23 October
Researching Scottish Family History

+

Wednesday 25 October
Using ScotlandsPeople

Classes will be held via 'ZOOM'

Booking essential: online at www.gsv.org.au
or email gsv@gsv.org.au

SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP of GSV Inc.

Special Quarterly Meeting

Sat. 25 Nov 2023

2 pm to 4 pm (tbc)

IT'S A SURPRISE
Where? What? How?

CELEBRATING 30+ YEARS OF SAG

YOU ARE ASKED TO OFFER HELP
Contact Anne scotland@gsv.org.au 0414 962 150
or phone the editor 0400 638 936

'Zoom' meeting, booking essential

via the GSV Website www.gsv.org.au or email gsv@gsv.org.au

Final details in next Thistle & by email

All past and present SAG members are invited

From the Convener

Hello SAG Member,

It's that time of the year once again as we approach our Annual General Meeting.

Recently we sent out an email to all members, asking for your input on a pivotal decision – whether our Scottish Ancestry Group should transition into a discussion circle. See the details following this letter. The voting process for this potential change will conclude on Tuesday 12 September. If you haven't already, please take a moment to consider your stance and cast your vote. A big thank you goes out to those who have already participated. For those who are yet to vote, you can easily do so by sending an email to scotland@gsv.org.au stating a simple "yes" or "no" in response to the question: "Do you want the Scottish Ancestry Group to become a discussion circle?"

The theme for the upcoming quarterly meeting, slated for September 16th, centres around the origins of your ancestors. With the richness of Scotland's history, many of us trace our roots back to more than just one region. We're interested to learn about your interactions with local Family History Societies in Scotland. Which ones have you used, have you joined, visited, or engaged with? And for those who couldn't make it in person to Scotland, how did the experience of engaging remotely via email pan out?

Your insights into these experiences will help us all.

We are also keen to learn what hidden treasures you've unearthed, beyond the commonly trodden paths of the big five internet genealogical sites. Have you stumbled upon any gems that have added colour to your ancestors' lives? Where did you find the sites and how?

Looking forward to enriching discussions and shared insights.

Warm regards

Anne Nolan.



Service Group or Discussion Circle?

Your committee recommends to our 150 or so members that we move from our current status as a service group of the GSV to a Discussion Circle. For nearly two years we have been following a format of two quarterly meetings with a main talk and two quarterly meetings as a more open discussion. This is the sort of pattern that would continue. Moving to a full Discussion Circle will require a vote by our SAG membership.

A Service Group of the GSV is a specific style of sub-group, with a Committee, an AGM, membership with a fee and more formal procedures. It also has separately listed finances in the GSV books – though all monies ultimately belong to the GSV. Fees were principally used to pay for the postage of *Thistle*, but only a very few copies are now mailed and so the reason for having a fee no longer exists. As well, handling the fees adds a layer of work for the GSV office and our volunteers that is unnecessary.

In the Discussion Circle format there would be no committee and no fees. The quarterly meetings would be open to all GSV members, and would definitely continue on Zoom, with a hybrid option if we can find a suitable place to gather. A number of interested people would arrange the meetings each quarter, preferably with one person named as convener or primary contact – but we would not need to elect a treasurer, secretary or membership officer. People could move in and out of the planning group without any formal elections or specific terms of office. In other words, we would have much more flexibility, which should help to overcome the problem we have faced for a few years of trying to recruit enough members prepared to commit long-term to a committee.

As a Discussion Circle, the GSV would make funds available if we wanted to run a Conference – as we have done so successfully on several previous occasions. Donations are always welcome to contribute towards the cost of subscriptions to Scottish genealogical journals for the GSV Library. We could maintain our Facebook page and would have a Noticeboard in the GSV Members area linked to an email list to which any GSV member could sign up. The current membership list would be automatically transferred to the new format and people can opt-in or opt-out at any time through the Members area of the GSV website.

Thistle would continue, with one of our number as editor or several as an editorial team (we would ensure those few people still receiving *Thistle* in hard copy would do so, but everyone else on the Scottish Discussion Circle mailing list would receive it by email). Our links with interstate Scottish groups would continue.

One issue we have carefully considered is that of the status of non-GSV members, of which we have 30 or more. After a period of grace, say 12 months, these friends would need to join the GSV if they wished to

continue with SAG. This is more costly, but would provide them with *Ancestor*, with access to all the GSV's Discussion Circles, classes, Library and the other substantial benefits of membership.

What happens at the meeting on 16 September depends on the outcome of the vote:

If the vote for change is affirmed the proposal will need to be formally moved and adopted.

Volunteers will be sought to plan subsequent meetings of the new Scottish Discussion Circle.

If the vote for change is negative, at least 2 things need to happen

a) a committee will need to be elected – President, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary members. Note that some current members are unavailable for re-election. Nominations will be taken during the meeting, but if you are an apology for the meeting and wish to nominate, please contact Anne to notify her.

b) a membership fee will need to be set (currently \$11pa) – it could even be \$0. A renewal form will be sent out soon if required.



NEWS DESK

We're still looking for some Scottish indexers

The GSV has received a donation of typed index cards with wonderful details of many Scottish settlers in Australia and their families. We're wanting to digitise them to make them much more available to researchers – to people like you. John Blackwood has been beavering away, but a job shared is an easier job, rather than leaving it to one person. Thanks to the 4 new helpers – it is really quite interesting.

[Can you offer some time to transcribe some of them into an Excel database?](#)

[You might even find something about some of your family!](#)

Contact the editor Eric on emsmith@bigpond.com or Meg Bate gsvlib2@gsv.org.au .



Genealogical Society of Queensland seminar Scotland – Here we come!

GSQ is holding its annual seminar this year on September 23, and the theme is "Scotland – Here we come!" We have several overseas presenters arranged but are looking for someone within Australia who could present on "Planning a trip to Scotland", or else a topic that they specialise in regarding Scotland.

The seminar will be held using Zoom and start at 12pm – 5.30pm when we have our Overseas presenters come live for a Q&A session.

If anyone in your Scottish Group wants to participate, I would be very interested in talking to them and forwarding further information.

GSQ Events events@gsq.org.au

Ailsa Corlett

Convenor GSQ Seminar



CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson: Anne Nolan 0414 962 150 antern@bigpond.com

Minute Secretary & Treasurer: William Taylor 0417 304 395 wt1734@outlook.com

Membership: Lynda Collier 0466 277 222 lynda.collier@gmail.com

Committee: Eric Smith 0400 638 936 emsmith@bigpond.com (*Thistle* editor)

John Bird 0400 504 907 johnkb13@hotmail.com

Bruce McDowall brucemcdowall@hotmail.com



SPECIAL EVENT

CELEBRATION OF SAG'S 30TH BIRTHDAY

(actually we're 32), but what's a couple of year's COVID between friends)

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

2.00 - 4.00 p.m. (to be confirmed)

In person !!! (maybe Zoom as well)

Venue - do you know of a suitable place, central, friendly, inexpensive

Speaker: who would you like to invite - and still leave plenty of time for chat

Contact Anne scotland@gsv.org.au 0414 962 150 or the editor 0400 638 936 emsmith@bigpond.com

Details by email and in November *Thistle*



Our contact details

SAG's own web page <https://www.gsv.org.au/scottish-ancestry-group-sag>
email scotland@gsv.org.au



For the latest news on SAG, Scottish Genealogy and Scotland join our Facebook page.

If you are a member of SAG just copy and paste the link below, answer a few questions and you're in. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1019656381830603>

Home base is at the GSV: Level 1, 10 Queen St, Melbourne
(03) 9662 4455 <https://www.gsv.org.au>



Items for next issue of *Thistle* due by 3 November 2023 PLEASE

Editor: Eric Smith emsmith@bigpond.com 0400 638 936 2145 Old Sale Road, Shady Creek Vic 3821

Especially I'd love offers of articles as well as tit-bits for "Do you Know"

I am also looking for articles on Cromarty, Huntly, Banff and Kilmarnock
(it does not need to be exhaustive or scholarly, simply your connection, a little history and some suggestions
for resources you have found useful) Thanks!!!!

**The Scottish Ancestry Group acknowledges the many nations
of Australia's First People**

upon whose land this Magazine has been prepared and where it is distributed.

We acknowledge their Elders, past and present.