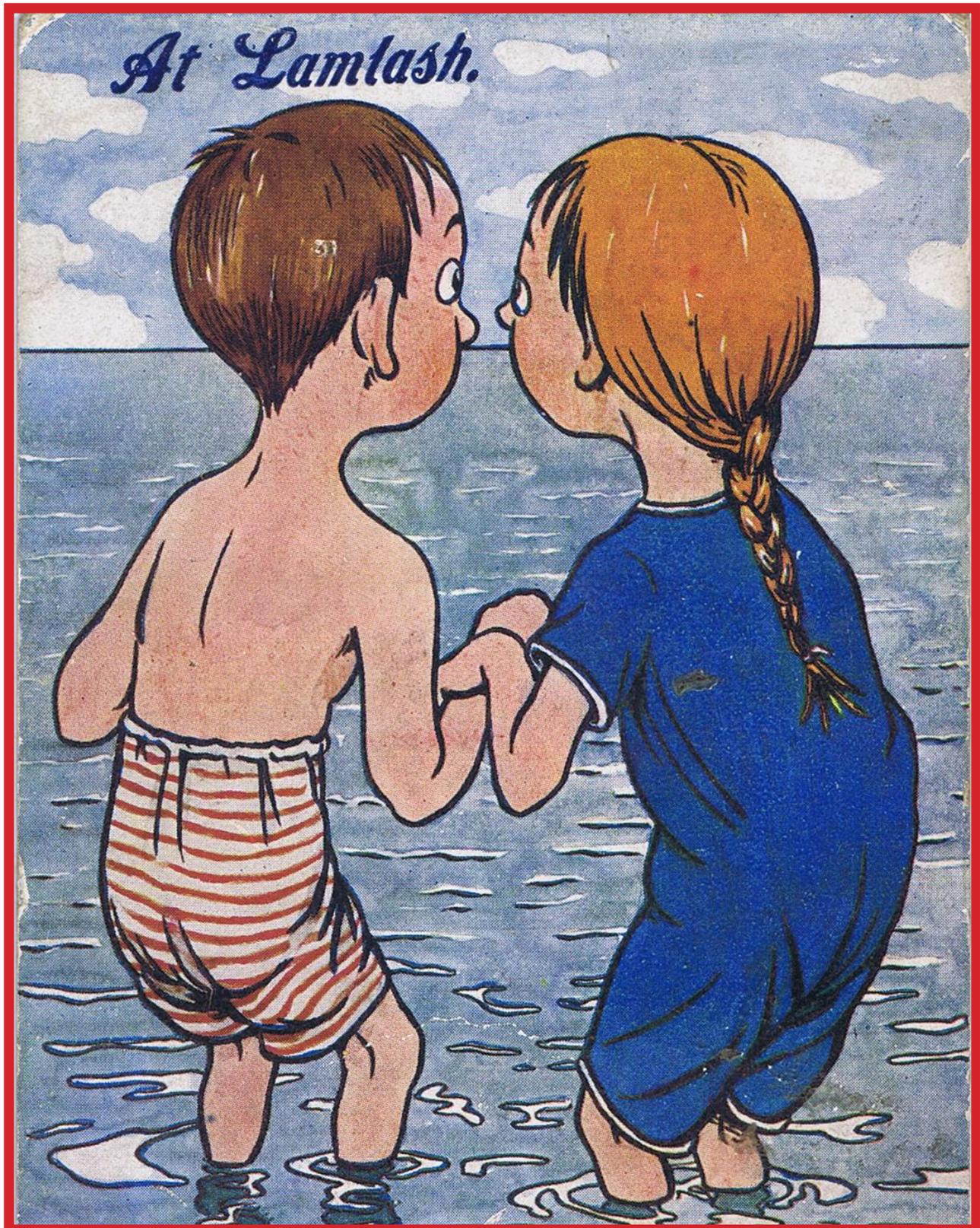


BROADSHEET

Magazine of the Scottish Council on Archives
www.scottisharchives.org.uk

Summer 2019



Welcome to our bumper (late) summer special - a final treat before the nights get longer, the temperature descends, and those balmy three days in June are a distant memory.

This issue we look back to our Why Archives Matter conference held earlier in the year. It was a full and fascinating day and the selection of articles that follow, based on papers given there, capture the diversity, richness, and enduring importance of Scotland's archive collections. As Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said in her opening address:

"We can properly understand Scotland as it is today by understanding the stories of those who came before us. Archives help keep those stories alive and give us all a real sense of what it was like to live, learn and work through the generations."

We were also fortunate to be joined by Dr Ciarán Wallace, deputy director of Beyond 2022, Trinity College Dublin. Dr Wallace summarised the chequered history of Irish records and introduced the Beyond 2022 project, which aims to digitally reconstruct the premises of the Public Records Office of Ireland, destroyed in 1922 during the civil war, and to refill its shelves using copies and transcripts taken from the original records during the operational lifetime of the Record Treasury. This is a fascinating project, and again underlines how important archives are to a sense of national identity.

A third Why Archives Matter conference will take place early in 2020, looking at the significant role Records Management and good recordkeeping play in all our lives. We will announce further details soon.

We also have an overview of National Records of Scotland's latest exhibition.

A very full issue to ease you back after the summer holidays!

Cover Image

Our cover image this month comes courtesy of [Ayrshire Archives](#). This postcard is from Lamlash, Arran and produced by Raphael Tuck & Sons. The reverse includes written correspondence from a holiday maker, enjoying the mixed bathing in August 1909. (Copyright: Ayrshire Archives AA/DC208/1)

Contributors

Terri Colpi, Lesley Ferguson, Jocelyn Grant, Harvey L Kaplan, Bruno Longmore, John Pelan, Richard Rodger, Dawn Sinclair, and Ciarán Wallace.

We are always keen to highlight your latest projects and news, and welcome submissions for articles. Please [email](#) the SCA office if you would like to contribute an item for a future edition.

Why Archives Matter: Heritage, Memory, Identity

Why Archives Matter: Heritage, Memory, Identity, was the second in a series of events run by the Scottish Council on Archives demonstrating the importance and impact of Scotland's archives.



The first conference, on 27 October 2018, focused on projects where archival material has been used to support educational initiatives, intergenerational and community-based heritage activity, and mental health and dementia-related work by charities. A third event, later in 2019, will focus on the importance of good records management in terms of governance, best practice, business efficiency and accountability. The purpose of Why Archives Matter: Heritage, Memory, Identity was to promote greater awareness of the importance and usefulness of archives to many different sectors including education, architecture, cultural heritage, archaeology and genealogical research.

The first session, 'Heritage' focussed on how archives inform and underpin the work of architects, academics, archaeologists and conservation professionals. The second session, 'Memory' revealed some of the many stories of individuals, communities and organisations which are safely stored in National Record while also being widely shared. This session ended

with a presentation from Dr Ciaran Wallace of Trinity College Dublin and the Beyond 2022 project (pictured above). The project involves a virtual reconstruction of the Irish Record Office, destroyed in 1922 during the civil war, and assembling a complete inventory of loss and survival. The final session, 'Identity' examined how archives contribute to our diversity and sense of identity, with focus on the changing demographics of Scotland, looking ahead to the 2021 Census. and the National Records of Scotland.

Fiona Hyslop, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs gave the opening speech (pictured above). The event was supported by the Built Environment Forum Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Records of Scotland.

A full report of the day can be found [here](#), and we are delighted to reprint many of the papers on the following pages.

John Pelan, Director, SCA

Excavation Archives

John Nicolson & Sir Francis Tress Barry



Image: Sir Francis Tress Barry standing in the entrance to Road Broch, Kirk Tofts, Keiss, 1893 (DP296056) Courtesy Historic Environment Scotland

The act of archaeological excavation is destructive, and it is therefore essential to create a record of work undertaken as evidence to enable re-examination and re-interpretation of sites in years to come. With the professionalization of archaeology, there are standards and guidance in place which set out how an excavation should be recorded and modern archives are quite formulaic and proscriptive. But it has not always been so and in the archives at Historic Environment Scotland there is a fascinating example of an archive from the late 19th century and early 20th century illustrating archaeological work undertaken on a number of sites across Caithness which also provides insight into the lives of two remarkable people – Sir Francis Tress Barry and John Nicolson. It is an archive which has attracted

much interest in recent years - from researchers reassessing brochs across Caithness and from local groups interested in finding out more and understanding the history of their communities.

John Nicolson (1843-1934) was a farmer at Auckengill, Caithness and had an artistic talent and active interest in the past. Sir Francis Tress Barry (1825-1907) was a wealthy businessman and MP for Windsor who purchased Keiss Castle, Caithness in 1881, effectively becoming a neighbour of Nicolson. Two men brought together by chance who between them excavated and made discoveries in some thirty ancient monuments, and importantly documented their work adding to the wealth of knowledge of Caithness archaeology and becoming part of the biography of the monuments.

Barry's excavations do not stand up to the scrutiny of modern professional standards but he did document his work through photography –sometimes being seen with a small camera in his hand – and he did recognise the importance of sharing discoveries with correspondence, photographs and objects being posted to Joseph Anderson, Keeper of the National Museums of Antiquities in Edinburgh. John Nicolson also sketched, prepared detailed plans of sites excavated and drew many of the objects discovered. Their combined documentation, along with the published account of the excavations by Joseph Anderson, effectively make up the record of their work, and it was to prove to be invaluable when archaeologists in 2005 began work to reassess the broch at Nybster. Initially excavated by Barry and Nicolson in 1895-96, photographs illustrate the extent of the clearance of the broch and their discoveries but the modern excavations demonstrated that much of the original archaeology had survived prompting a major new programme of community archaeological research a few years later.

Not only of value and importance to the professional archaeologists, at the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards in 2018, the Caithness Broch Project, was nominated in the Best Heritage, Interpretation or Recording category. As well as promoting the archaeology and brochs of Caithness, this project has been working to create a local interest, passion and pride in their heritage, actively working with

people of all ages and experiences, from 5 year olds to pensioners. Barry and Nicolson are part of that story, part of the history of the monuments which they have included on new interpretation panels and in a blog on their website. But the story and the archive is also inspiring them to research further. Across Caithness there are many sculptures created by Nicolson – these are only partially documented – and using the archive and traditional fieldwork they hope to discover more.

As an educational resource, an education pack, linked to the curriculum for excellence was produced for local schools. It touched on who John Nicolson was and his importance to the history of Caithness; it looked at his work as an artist and a sculptor; and introduced children to archaeology, brochs and artefacts; and they discovered the importance of preserving documents.

Credit for the survival of the historic photographs of Barry must go to Nicolson. In 1907 Barry died and his executors gifted his entire collection of objects to the National Museums of Antiquities but there was no recognition of the value and importance of his photography. Family accounts suggest that all the glass plate negatives were thrown over the cliff at Keiss and that Nicolson rescued the photograph albums from the bonfire. Nicolson's family have lovingly looked after the archive and have gifted it to Historic Environment Scotland ensuring its survival for posterity.

Lesley Ferguson,
Head of Archives, Historic Environment Scotland

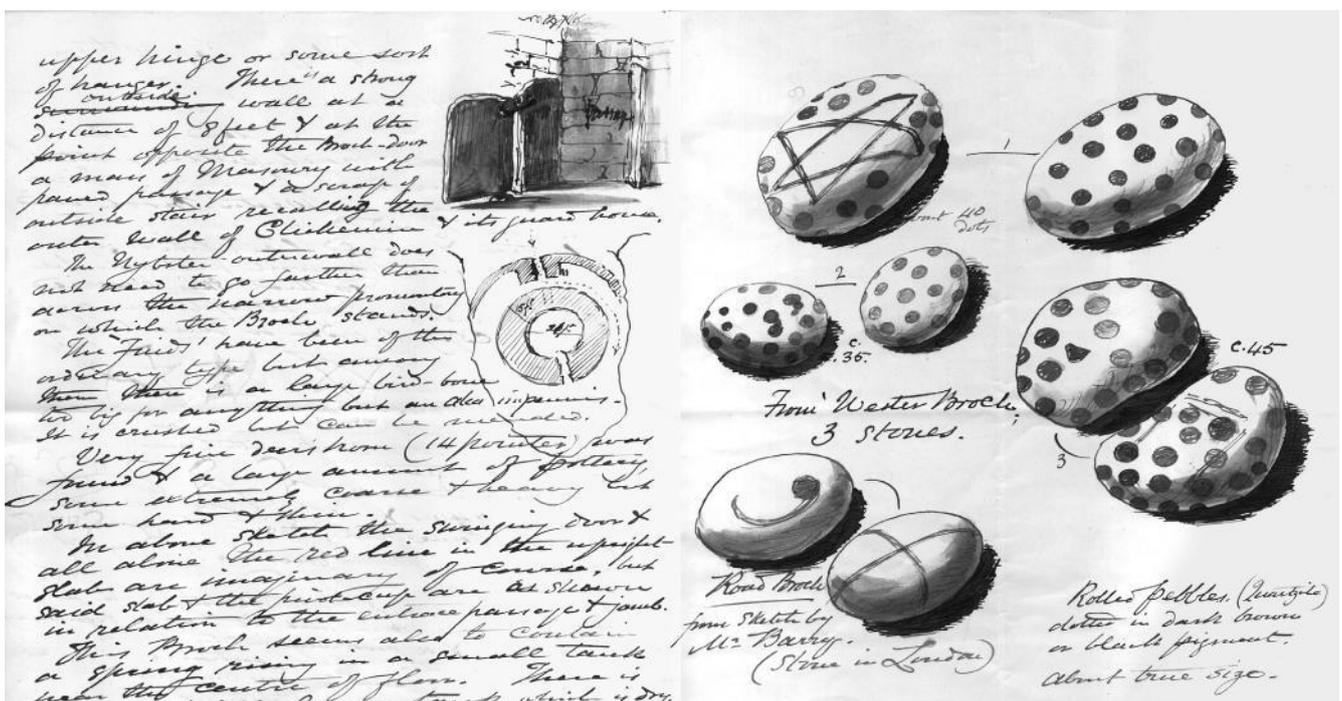


Image: Illustrated letter from Reverend J Joass to J Anderson describing Barry's excavations at Nybster, 1895 (SC356518) Courtesy Historic Environment Scotland

The Impact of War

Emerging New Evidence from the WW1 Pension Appeals Cataloguing Project

Since 2017, National Records of Scotland (NRS) has worked on a Wellcome Trust funded project to catalogue WW1 Pension Appeals Tribunal records (NRS ref: PT6). These consist of appeals by ex-servicemen, or their dependents, who served during the war and the applications cover the whole of Scotland. They provide a unique insight into the longer-term impact the war had on individuals.

Our perception of The Great War tends to be viewed through the prism of commemoration and remembrance. We often see the conflict as about those who died rather than those who survived. Often referred to as the 'Lost Generation', more is written about those who were killed than those who returned home. Little is recorded about the long-term impact the war continued to have on them.

The Imperial War Museum states that almost 90% of those who served returned alive, so there was in fact no 'Lost Generation'.¹ The pension appeals reflect that post-war experience and

what survivors and their families went through afterwards.

Pension Appeal Tribunal Records

Ten years after the war ended, nearly 2.5 million men were receiving a disability pension for injuries sustained during it.² Pension Appeal Tribunals were established under the War Pensions Act 1919 to allow ex-servicemen and their dependents to challenge decisions about the pension they had received after the conflict.

The Scottish Tribunal was based in Edinburgh but hearings were also held in Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Dumfries, hearing cases from their respective geographical areas. Tribunal membership included a chairman and at least one medical member and one service, or ex-service member. The chairman was likely to be a judicial appointment.

The PT6 series contains around 30,000 Scottish appeals. Applications outline individual claims and all are supported by extensive medical



Image: Army Hospital, National Records of Scotland, BR/LIB/S/5/63/115

evidence. Before the project, these records were listed to box level only, arranged by date of hearing and alphabetically by month. They were accessible only to the most dedicated of researchers.

An appeal may contain details of service history providing a unique insight into a veteran's own war experiences. Many therefore contain unique information as the majority of WW1 service records were destroyed by enemy action during WW2.³

The project received Wellcome Trust funding because of the medical information contained in the records. Appeals can include reports of medical examination on enlistment and demobilisation, findings of medical boards or notes from medical assessors, reports by doctors both before and after the war, or reports by employers concerning an employee's sick pay. There are reports from hospitals, sanatoriums or asylums and recommendations from the medical advisor to the Ministry of Pensions.

Many appeals contain personal statements, submitted either by the ex-servicemen, their dependents, relatives or supporters. Appearance at the Tribunal could be daunting, so claimants might obtain support from different organisations. They could apply through their Local War Pensions Committee which would grant an interim pension and help them through the process. Other avenues of support might include letters from national armed forces charities including The British Legion, Soldiers and Sailors Families Association and Comrades of the Great War. Regimental associations or former commanding officers would sometimes write in support of family members and doctors or the local minister attest to the good character of an ex-serviceman. In cases where a strong sense of injustice was felt communities would also seek help from the local MP.

William Ellis (PT6/3/2/22) served in the Royal Scots. He had multiple conditions including syphilis, combat disorders and neurasthenia. The tribunal recorded that he 'Sleeps poorly and is troubled with war dreams'. Because he was not able to work since his return from the war, he wrote about the impact on his family, indicating his wife had to 'pledge chest of drawers and various other things ... for food' to feed their three children. His appeal was allowed.

The project

The appeals are being catalogued to ISAD(G) standard using a custom built database and we are rehousing them to modern archival standards. We are also undertaking any essential preservation or conservation work.

To support the project, we will digitise a small number of them as examples to researchers. Longer term we are looking to digitise the entire series to improve public access and safeguard the records once cataloguing is completed.

We will make the information available on line and provide researchers with the opportunity to explore these unique post-war records in many different ways.

Content of Appeals

Appeals normally consist of a typed summary, not the application form itself, and a decision paper – green if the appeal was allowed, pink if it was disallowed. Some 75% of appeals were disallowed. The records contain no explanation of how the Tribunal reached its decision and, like a jury trial, its deliberations remain silent.

We are cataloguing them using a database developed by NRS. When completed the information will be searchable free of charge. Each application is catalogued to item level and database entries include details of name, service history, discharge information, Tribunal decision and the detailed medical information. The aim is not to replicate the records and the database will act only as a gateway not a replacement for them.

MeSH Codes

The records are being catalogued in such a way as to allow access to as wide a research audience as possible. Being Wellcome Trust funded, inevitably we must focus on the extensive medical information they contain. One of the unique features of the project therefore is in the use of Mesh Codes. This was something new to NRS cataloguers.

MeSH stands for **Medical Subject Headings** and the online dictionary is maintained by the [National Library of Medicine in the USA](#). It maps medical terminology, providing a unique reference number for each condition and a brief description which connects it to any related conditions. Using MeSH provides a framework to catalogue according to recognised medical conditions allowing future interdisciplinary research.

Medical Terminology

Many of the medical terms used are antiquated or use abbreviations, for example:

Antiquated, vague or unusual terms must be interpreted therefore and allocated a MeSH code. Examples include:

- Phthisis
- General Paralysis of the Insane
- Moveable Kidney
- Morbis Cordis
- Narcomania

One of the most frequently found terms is Neurasthenia. It was used to describe the physical symptoms reflective of a mental disorder and was a common diagnoses for shellshock cases.

George Martin (PT6/11/1/167) served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He died of pneumonia in Oct 1918. Both his doctor and widow, Marion Martin, wrote to the Tribunal indicating that he had in fact died from inflammation of the brain caused by shrapnel to the head. Despite an operation, many metal fragments could not be removed, and were still being retrieved right up to his death. The appeal was heard in Glasgow, but disallowed.

Marion commented bitterly that she and her family were made '*paupers after Daddy doing his bit for his king and Country*'.

As well as meeting the requirements of genealogists and social historians therefore, searches can be conducted by medical researchers for specific medical conditions, local historians for geographical areas, or military historians for service or regimental histories.

We have already identified many fascinating stories and vignettes that reflect events of great heroism or personal tragedy. A common theme throughout is that many men describe their situation as desperate. Health issues made it difficult for them either to return to work or maintain their pre-war employment. Many appeals state that a military pension was a last resort before poor relief and applicants were often treated in poor law hospitals or occasionally referred to the Tribunal by Poor Law inspectors.

Men returning from the war often had a long list of physical wounds. A recognised wound would normally result in a pension payment, but applicants could receive very different responses to similar conditions, reflecting the lottery of the process.

Effects of War: Physical and Mental Health

Long-term health deterioration and recurring illnesses are constant themes. Three of the most common conditions recorded are rheumatism, myalgia [a painful sensation in the muscles] and bronchitis. Many men worked in pre-war occupations such as coal-mining or labouring which may have contributed to their poor health. The Tribunal had to decide to what extent war service played the major part and only then would the appeal be allowed.

Appeals often reflect the appalling conditions in which men had fought and the impact that had on later health. Claims show men suffering from the ongoing impact of trench foot, lice and fevers associated with life in the trenches. Others suffered ongoing bouts of malaria having been posted to malaria war zones.

Men complained about the poor quality of service food, promoting conditions such as gastritis, indigestion and stomach ulcers. Lack of nutrition was a particular problem for prisoners of war who spoke of eating raw vegetable peelings or uncooked food. Many PoWs reported having neurasthenia.

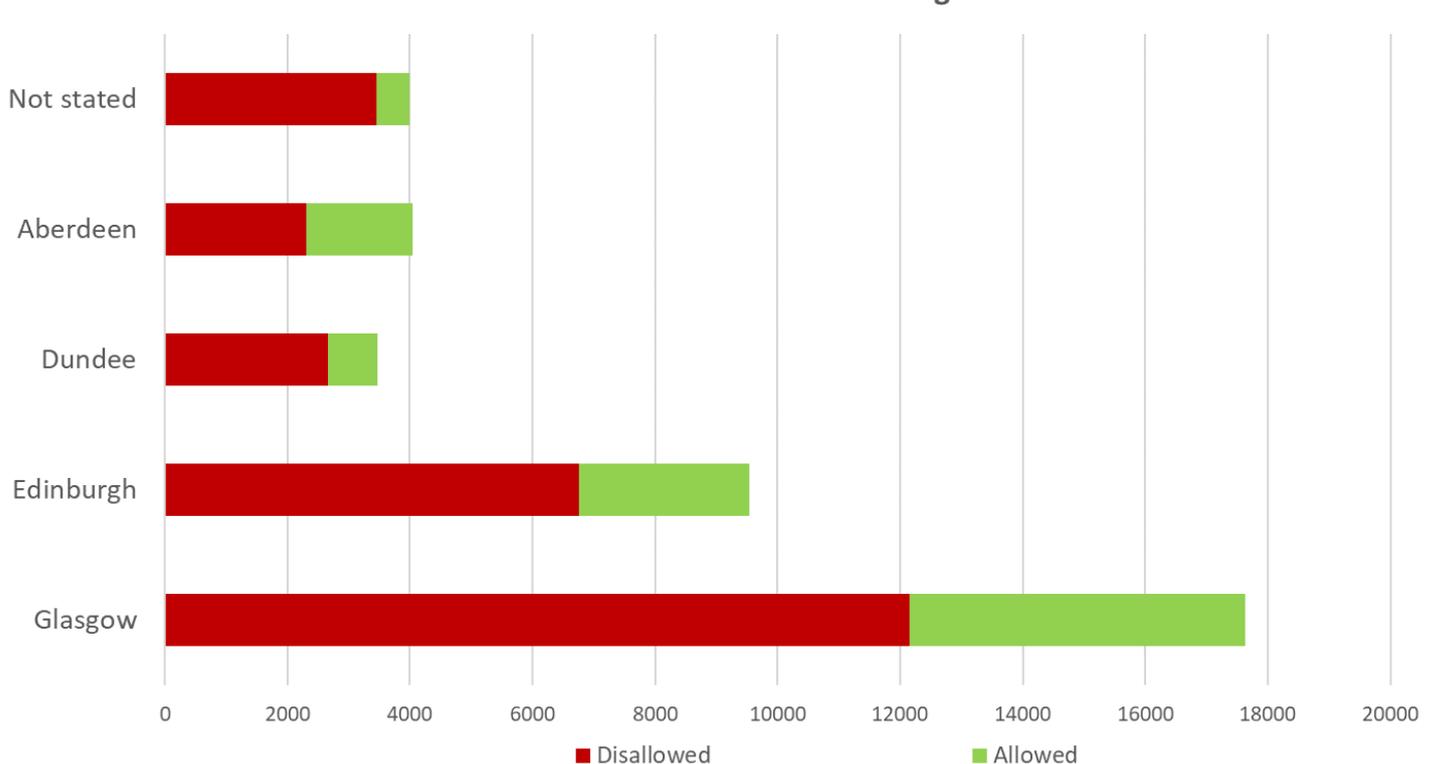
The war also took a psychological toll. Tribunal evidence records key events that may have triggered mental instability. Mental health conditions were often rejected by Tribunals because of insufficient evidential links to connect the condition with war service.

Appeals reflect a high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Those were often judged unsympathetically by tribunal members who viewed them as issues of morality.

James Kerr (PT6/34/1/155) was in the Royal Engineers and claimed a pension for neurasthenia. He was at Gartloch Asylum, Lanarkshire, and described being blown up at Messines in 1917. He was manning a gun when three of his comrades were killed at his side causing him to abandon his unit. He was so scared to return to the frontline that he carried ammunition in his pocket 'intending to do himself bodily harm rather than go to France again'.

The appeal was allowed.

Disallowed vs Allowed in different Hearing Locations



Janet Wallace appealed for a pension for her late husband **Robert Wallace** (PT6/5/1/163) for service in the Royal Naval Reserve. It was denied. Robert died on service due to heart failure caused by syphilis and septic infection in Oct 1917. The Tribunal considered his death due to serious negligence or misconduct, but Mrs Wallace persevered and her appeal was eventually approved.

‘If he committed a folly then, the punishment was expiated, for his death ensued. I fail to see for what reason, we, his family, should be treated in this way...what am I to tell [the children] ... It is hard enough now to allay the suspicions of my neighbours with the small temporary allowance I receive.’

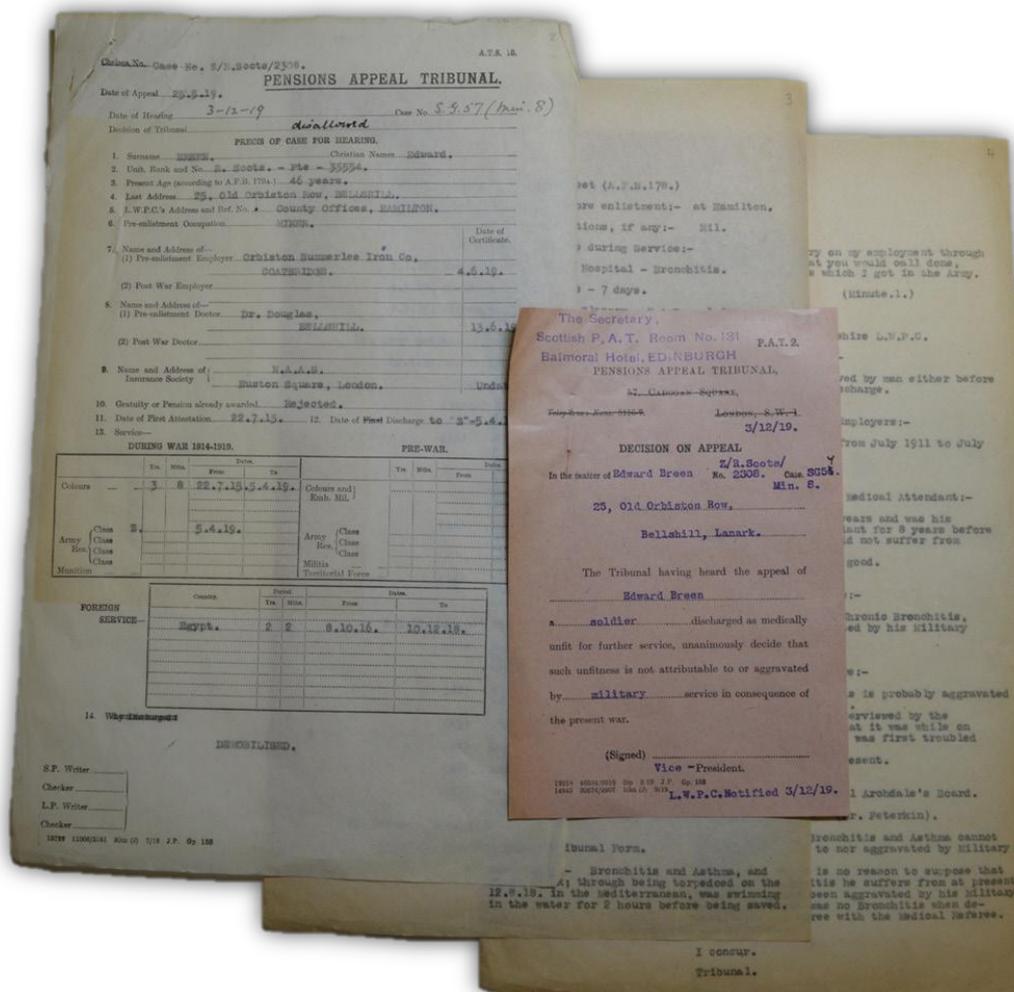


Image: Example of the Pension Appeal, courtesy National Records of Scotland; Crown Copyright

Andrew Robertson (PT6/3/2/73) was a private in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). He lost his leg at the Battle of Loos in 1915. He too died of pneumonia in Dec 1918. The appeal by his widow, Ann Robertson, was heard in Dundee. It was allowed perhaps aided by the persuasive submission of his local armed forces charity.

‘Are you aware that Private Robertson was wounded 1/2 an inch from the heart in May, 1915; that when lying wounded minus a leg at Loos in September, 1915, he crawled to a dead comrade and took his water bottle to give Colonel Harry Walker, beloved by all the Black Watch a drink’.

Colonel Walker was the regimental commander who later died in the action.

Tribunals frequently took the view that there was pre-disposition or that a condition was congenital. Medical assessors would note physical signs they thought indicated mental or intellectual disabilities, using phrases suggestive of phrenology, e.g. stigmata of degeneration. There are examples of men from Lewis being described as ‘of the Stornoway Type’ inferring that they were dull or slow. Pension appeals are therefore a rich seam of information, but it is the voices of the veterans themselves that shine through. They provide the most poignant and illuminating testimony.

Patrick Dobbin (PT6/103/1/48) served in the Black Watch. He was gassed and discharged in April 1917 receiving a pension for neurasthenia. In May 1923 he appealed for a larger pension. It was disallowed, as the Tribunal found that he suffered from ‘Neuritis due to alcoholism superimposed on neurasthenia.’ His statement read:

‘I was, on enlistment, a strong and healthy young man capable of enduring any amount of fatigue and hardships and because I am now a total wreck I am of no consequence and therefore I am to be flung on the scrap heap as unworthy of any notice after I have sacrificed the best part of my life that others might live in peace and security.’

Such sentiment resonates with us today, as the anger and frustration expressed by Patrick Dobbin might well have been said by contemporary veterans of the Falklands, Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts.⁴

**Bruno Longmore,
Head of Archive Depositor Liaison
National Records of Scotland**

Endnotes

- 1 The First World War Galleries Guide, Paul Cornish, Imperial War Museum (2014), p.233
- 2 Ibid
- 3 The National Archives (Kew) estimates that approximately 60% of British Army WW1 service records were destroyed by fire during a bombing raid on the War Office in London in World War Two. The surviving service records have become known as the ‘Burnt collection’.
- 4 Thanks to Lynn Bruce and Olivia Howarth, project cataloguers, who provided much of the information for this article.

Archival Challenges

On 5 February 1992 Margaret Ewing moved the Second Reading of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill.¹ Quoting Hugh MacDiarmid, ‘The present’s theirs, but a’ the past and future’s oors’, Mrs Ewing claimed that, ‘There is a new renaissance in Scotland – a new interest in the past, which helps people to understand their present circumstances and make decisions about their future.’ Clause 1 of the 1992 Bill identified that ‘appropriate funds’ should be devoted to resource ‘the study of the history, languages and culture of Scotland.’

The past has meaning for the present and the future. What is the present but the layered past, and how can policy be formulated without reference to previous decisions? What works, and more importantly, what does *not* work and are vital elements in any administrative or technical

system. So, a repository of the past is actually an investment. It provides the back story, the wayfinder for future developments and marks out the potholes along the decision-maker’s route which saves both time and money. The recent scandal over the existence of documentation surrounding the Windrush generation of Caribbean immigrants in the 1950s and 1960s should be a lesson to all that archives matter. Proving ‘Settlement Status’ for current European nationals in Britain also relies on documentary proof.

The lesson is this: if we do not take care of current archives (paper, digital, audio, visual) it is almost impossible to do so retrospectively. We cannot then get the past back! We are poorer as a society. We will have squandered an asset, and denied future generations the waymarkers of their cultural inheritance. Presumably that is not how we would act individually towards our children and our children’s children. Even with many competing and

¹ Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), House of Commons Official Report, 6th Series, Vol. 203 (3-14 Feb 1992).

worthy social priorities compromising our cultural legacy is not something in which we should be complicit.

We are guardians, trustees, and we should act responsibly. What might we do to protect this legacy for future generations? Think about two practical matters. First, how do we stimulate schoolchildren to understand and appreciate their surroundings if they (and maybe their parents!) know little about the past? Second, how do you write heritage trails for the thousands of tourists to Scotland who every year underpin the Scottish economy to a considerable extent? Five elements provide a rationale for some elements of an Archives Strategy.

A first step is to ensure that the contemporary records are offered as *a matter of course* to the local records authority. Let's not under-estimate this. That means that business records, minutes of societies and official bodies should as a matter of course be offered to a local archive. Private information and sensitive decisions can be embargoed. So, step one is about *Collections and Collecting*. 'Shed don't shred' should be the archival mantra to publicise deposits of records.

Secondly, we really do need a *consistent* approach to our Scottish records. Libraries are not archives since they lack specialist archivists, and specialist facilities. Invariably pressed and with hours of work curtailed by budget cuts, library staff are simply unable to cope with documentary or other archival deposits. Although the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 allotted time to consider the impact of administrative changes on the Civic Restaurants Act (1947) and Breeding of Dogs Act (1973) there was no consideration given to how the reorganisation of local government might affect records and record-keeping. This crucial issue of a standardised approach to archival provisions in the public sector was overlooked. In this respect, the English County Record Office system is much superior to the situation in Scotland – which cannot be called a 'system.' The English County Record system is also more generously resourced; Scotland is a poor relation by comparison.²

² R. Rodger, 'Scottish archives under reorganised local government', *Local Historian*, 14, 1980, 98-100; and R. Rodger, 'The future of the past: archives for all', *Scottish Archives*, 13, 2007, 1-10.

Thirdly, the 'Cash Cow' mentality associated with Census records and the focus on pay-to-see should be anathema to Scots who, in developing a land registry locally and nationally in the seventeenth century and a fine building, General Register House, to house wills and deeds open for public consultation on a free to use basis. This gave real meaning to open access. To pay to see our own census records is a disgrace.³ This and the insistence that only census records of 100 or more years can be consulted is absurd and wildly out of kilter with international best practice.⁴

Capturing and Cataloguing records is central to an archive and is the fourth area for improving access to archives. Effort and investment is required to make the collections accessible. An important element in this strand of activity relates to audio-visual sources. Is there a general strategy for such A-V materials in Scotland? The asset banks of the UK National Archives and the BBC Sound Archive are welcome, but audio and visual materials exist all over the country and the question arises, 'How are these collected, curated, and catalogued?' England divided the responsibility into various regional film archives. To some extent the National Library of Scotland's recently opened Moving Image Scottish Screen Archive in Glasgow functions on a basis similar to the regional screen archives in England. Is there a policy, and if so, is the public aware of it and contributing to it? There is a possible disjuncture between what the national and statutory agencies do and what exists locally?

Finally, and while it may seem trite to mention it, the fifth and final 'C' word is 'Comfort.' Long hours, or even short spells, in uncomfortable premises is not an encouragement to visit, transcribe and generally extract a positive experience from an archive. With the exception of University, medical, and some professional institutions, the archival holdings are often in rather dated and cramped premises. Public libraries are rarely set up adequately for the consultation of archival items. A few, new excellent facilities have been built – and these should set the standard to encourage and enrich users, and especially younger users who through project work and e-learning respond well to, and indeed expect, such facilities.

³ A current poll shows that 87% of almost 6000 votes wish to see the [100 year rule revoked](#).

⁴ 10-11 Geo.V, c.41, Census Act 1920, and confirmed by Eliz.II c.6, Census (Confidentiality) Act, 1991, Section 1, amended Census (Amendment) Act 2000.

We need to be clear. It is not necessary to tune in to such TV programmes as *Who Do You Think You Are?* or *History of a Building* or *Antiques Roadshow* to recognise a deep interest in the past on the part of the general public. Perhaps we have not previously focussed sufficiently on archives as a place of discovery. Yet in practice Community Councils and local organisations welcome historical input to shape local change. Nor has there been a thorough evaluation using cost-benefit techniques to analyse the contribution made by historical information both to community activities and to local revenues. Focussing interest away from the town centre also helps sustain such areas in various ways. Historical archives underpin an interest in place, and in the (re)construction of space. The past provides the basis for intergenerational dialogues, and specifically for reminiscence therapy with the aged. As a corrective, archival materials can illuminate the locally significant personalities and places in contrast to the elitism of blue plaques. In short, in terms of value-added, these and a number of other characteristics noted above provide enrichment through history.

So, a sense of the past, and a commitment to the future of the past, lies at the heart of heritage, and has many advantages. We really do need our archives – today and especially for tomorrow. We cannot afford complacency.

Richard Rodger
Professor Emeritus, University of Edinburgh

Our Place in (Scottish Publishing) History How the HarperCollins Archive Shapes who we are.

The HarperCollins Publishers Archive is a rich resource for the business to use to celebrate our heritage but also to understand who we are as company today. Our history is 3-fold, that of our role within the publishing industry, the local and national history of Scotland and finally the personal history of our employees and authors. HarperCollins archive plays a vital role in the understanding of our business history.

As a 200-year old publisher, HarperCollins and its requisite parts have accumulated a vast number of amazing stories. It is a heritage to be proud of and one which still feeds into our business today. William Collins I was a teacher before he set up his publishing and stationery business in the Trongate in Glasgow. His belief that knowledge was for everyone and should be made accessible to all was a key proponent of the business. Therefore, the company's first books were instructional and with a religious slant. Our first publication on the 24th of September 1819 was 'A Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns' by Rev Thomas Chalmers. Chalmers went on to write many more books for us before he and William Collins fell out!

A historical change in publishing came in 1839 when there was no longer to be a single publisher



Image: William Collins II, HarperCollins Publishers Archive

licensed to print the bible. Any publisher could now apply to legally publish the bible and if their proofs passed the checks then they acquired the license. William Collins immediately took on the challenge and diligently began to create plates for the bible – the Board found only 3 mistakes in his plates, these were quickly corrected and printing started. In 1842, Collins published the New Testament and in 1843 published the full Holy Bible with over 4 million letters set by hand. Collins' success with bibles was immense and by the late 1850s, Collins were printing and selling approx. 80,000 per year. Today, our bible publishing in the UK has reduced in size. However, the Collins brand is still synonymous with bible and religious publishing.

Another area of publishing history which Collins were heavily involved in was that of the accessibility of education books in Scotland and in fact the world. Our 3rd book – A System of Commercial Arithmetic for Use in Schools and Private Families - was an education title and throughout the following decades, we continued to publish schoolbooks. In the 1850s when steam presses became available, Collins were able to increase printing. This was timely as the need for school books had steadily been increasing and then with the Forster Education Act in 1870, it grew even more. In 1862, we became the Scottish School Book Association publisher. We also supplied books to the Irish School Book

Board and published schoolbooks in Canada, New Zealand and Australia and India. Today we are the 3rd biggest education publisher in the UK with the tagline 'Freedom to Teach' which echoes our original education motto of 'Docendo discimus', 'By teaching, we learn'.

Our business has also played an important role in the local history of Glasgow and moreover of Scotland. In the archive, we have a collection of papers and ephemera related to the Collins family and through this, we have learned a lot about the influence the Collins family had not just in terms of the business. WCII was a prime example of this. He was interested in temperance like his father and moreover the welfare of his workers and his community of Glasgow. He chose to reduce the working week of his employees without a change in wage and he opened the Collins Institute near the Heriothill Works in 1887 which provided a place for his employees to learn and to socialise. As well as running a successful business, he was Lord Provost of Glasgow for 4 years from 1878 until 1881. A drinking fountain was erected in Glasgow Green for his work in Temperance in 1881 and still stands in the park today.

Despite no longer being a family business, our business still has a vested interest in the local community. At the moment, we are working with the Literacy Trust. This is a chance for all employees to volunteer for 1-2 hours a week for 6 weeks

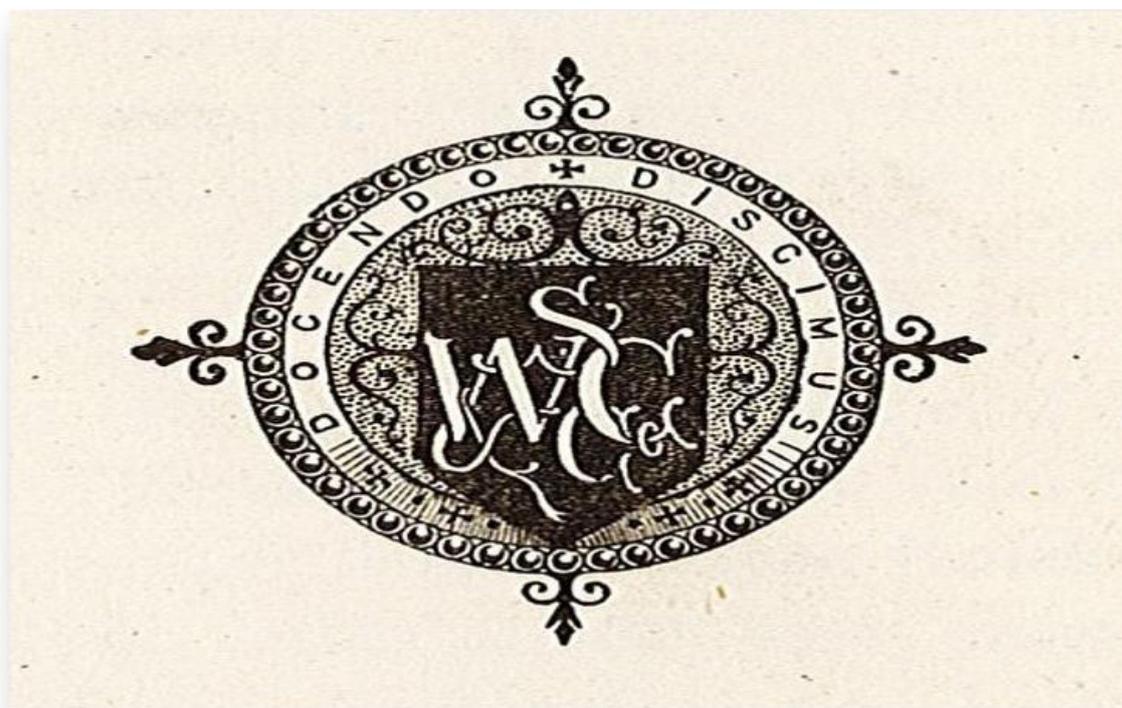


Image: William Collins Learning Colophon, HarperCollins Publishers Archive

at a local nursery or school. We work with the children and their parents to encourage them to read and engage with books and storytelling. It is a rewarding opportunity for our employees.

Finally, on a more personal level, our archive holds the histories of the people who worked for Collins – be that factory workers to authors. Throughout our 171-year history as a family business, the Collins valued their employees and took great pride in their loyalty. They rewarded this often with days out and recorded it in pamphlets and photographs. The archive is full of printed material recognising the work of the staff, from wonderful black and white photographs from 1948, to pamphlets celebrating the business at various milestones. The Collins family wanted to ensure their heritage was captured as it happened.

The archive contains not only stories of the whole work force but the individuals too. This does not focus on only the senior members of the business. In our newsletters, all members of staff who reached long service milestones or retirement were acknowledged. As with many family businesses, employees tended to stay for a long time. For example, in a newsletter from February 1978, we learn about 2 women from the factory who had worked for Collins for 92 years between them in the Sewing and Gathering Section and the Hand Case Making department. The newsletters are filled with stories of our employees and their amazing service. Even today, we still have people who have worked for the business for 40 plus years.

An author who comes up often is Agatha Christie, an immensely talented writer for whom we have been publisher for 93 years. Her history and ours are heavily intertwined. Her presence in the archive and the business, is evident. In 2017 we worked with the Harrogate Crime Festival to celebrate her life and work. While our archive is full of information on her books, it was her correspondence which provided the most interesting information. The letters are records of the most wonderful relationship between Billy Collins and Agatha. One which was both brutally honest and at the same time, one of deep respect and care for one another. They had lunches and teas together and in the end, Billy said the eulogy at her funeral. Billy was described ‘the personal

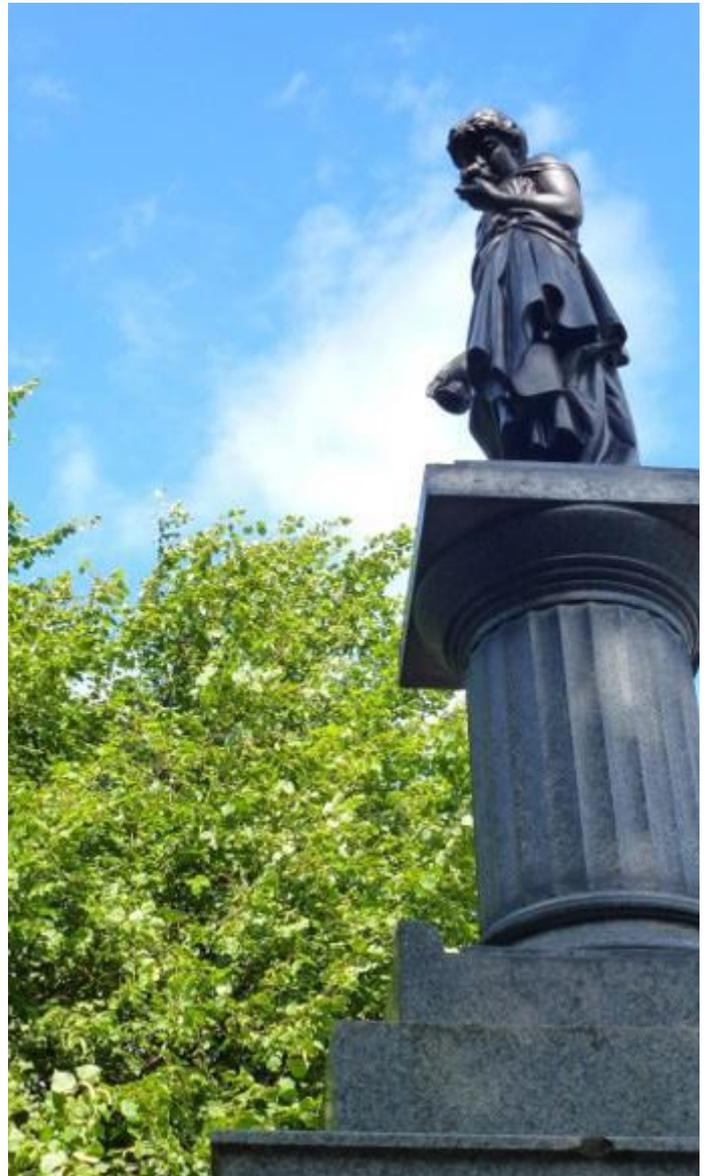


Image: William Collins II Drinking Fountain, HarperCollins Publishers Archive

publisher’ and throughout his working life, he combined business with the personal touch to ensure that authors knew they were appreciated. Having a long-standing relationship like this plays directly into how we treat authors today, whether that is simply from editorial support to publicity.

In conclusion, HarperCollins Publishers has an immense number of wonderful stories from throughout its 200-year history. This article is only brief look at our heritage. However, it is great to share our stories and show how the archive feeds into the business and supports it. We are not the same business which started out in 1819 but our values reflect some of the original ideas of William Collins I – like knowledge for all and the importance of recognising the successes of our employees and authors. The archive and the material held in it helps reinforce these values daily.

Dawn Sinclair
Archivist, HarperCollins

The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre

Preserving the Records of Jews in Scotland

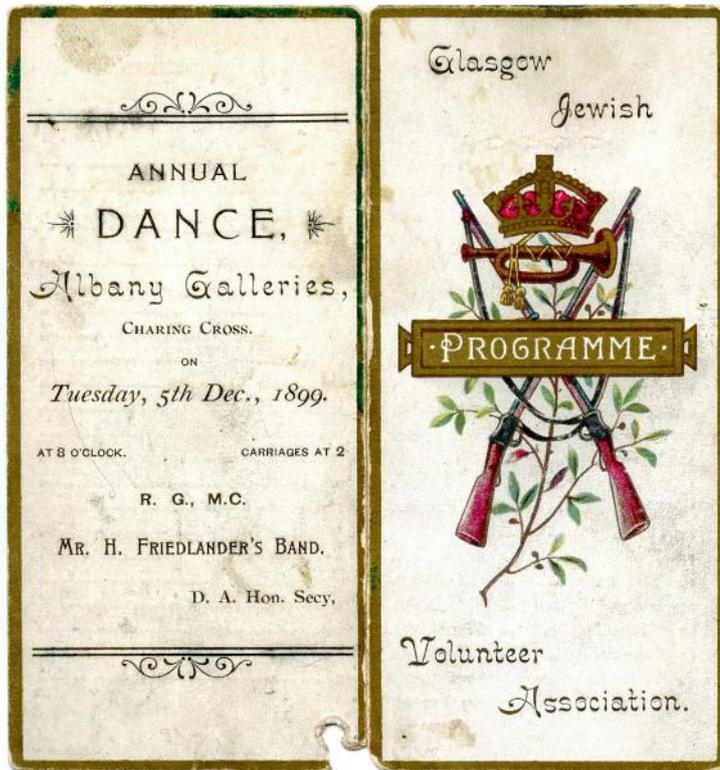
Jewish people have lived in Scotland since the 18th century, with the first communities being established in Edinburgh c1817 and Glasgow c1821. Small communities are also located in Aberdeen and Tayside & Fife, and there were at one time small communities in Ayr, Dundee, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Greenock and Inverness. For over thirty years, the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC) has collected the records of the Jewish experience in Scotland, showing the contribution made by Jewish people and has been a pioneer in minority community archives in this country.

The Archives Centre is located in Scotland's oldest synagogue, the iconic A-listed Garnethill Synagogue in Glasgow, opened in 1879. It collects a wide range of material, and its large collection includes old synagogue minute books and registers (going back to the 1850s), annual reports and membership lists of many communal organisations (including religious, welfare, educational, cultural and youth groups), photographs, oral history recordings, cemetery records, correspondence, a library of around 400 books and almost 50 academic dissertations of Scottish Jewish interest, friendly society regalia, personal papers, immigration and naturalisation papers, war medals, ceremonial keys, newspapers, magazines, textiles, trophies and plaques. There are also paintings and sculptures by artists such as Benno Schotz, Hannah Frank, Hilda Goldwag, Josef Herman and Joseph Ancill.

SJAC documents, preserves, exhibits and publishes aspects of the collections and makes the collections available for education, academic research, tourists and visitors of all kinds. The Centre welcomes research enquiries and organises regular Open Days and events. It encourages the study of Scottish Jewish history and has published a number of books.



Image: Passover celebration for Polish soldiers in Dundee in 1941, SJAC



Work is now progressing to create a Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre in Garnethill Synagogue as a partnership project between SJAC and Garnethill Synagogue Preservation Trust. This will include the creation of a Scottish Holocaust-era Study Centre, as part of SJAC, to provide greater access to its growing collections on Jewish refugees who came to Scotland in the 1930s and 1940s.

More than 2,000 Jews fled to Scotland from Nazi Europe in the 1930s and 1940s – including those who came on the Kindertransport, Jewish physicians, holders of domestic service visas and other refugees and survivors. SJAC has passports, landing cards, correspondence, Home Office and Red Cross papers, photographs and memorabilia, as well as oral history interviews and personal testimonies from this period. The Study Centre will show the experience of refugees in Scotland and the contribution they made in education, science, medicine, arts and culture and the economy.

Funding for the capital works, which will also refurbish areas of the synagogue building has come from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Association of Jewish Refugees, The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust and the Federal Republic of Germany.

More information about this project is available from SJAC by [email](#) and on the [website](#).

Harvey L Kaplan
Director, Scottish Jewish Archives Centre



Images: Glasgow Jewish Volunteer Association dance card, 1899, SJAC (top); Jewish Scouts, Glasgow, 1958, SJAC (bottom).

Beyond 2022

Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury

In 1867 after centuries of neglect and loss by accident, fire and theft, Ireland's records were finally gathered into a modern, purpose-built archive – the Record Treasury of the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI). Ideally located within the Four Courts complex in Dublin city centre, and armed with the new Public Records (Ireland) Act, the PROI set to work. Over the following twenty years archivists filled the six floors of metal shelving and the stone vaults with vellum rolls and volumes of parchment and paper, recording details of life in Ireland from the Medieval period to the late nineteenth century. Unifying the collections of legal records, population and agricultural censuses, taxation, education and religious records into a single secure repository attracted other, non-state, archival material to the PROI. The records of Dublin's Huguenot community, French Protestants who fled to Britain and Ireland in the 1690s, were deposited in the early twentieth century, as were the archives of many of the city's Medieval trade guilds.

The premises was designed with fire protection as a priority. The Record Treasury was separated from the public reading with its open fires and gas lighting room by a fire-break, two sets of metal doors and a covered passageway at ground level being the only communication between them. Within the Treasury the walkways, stairs and fittings were metal rather than wood. Ten tall arched windows along each side, and a glass roof running the length of the building, filled the space with natural light, reducing the need for gas lamps. These precautions, however, could not guard against the political upheavals that overtook the country in the early twentieth century. Following the Irish War of Independence (1919-21) a violent split emerged in the Irish forces over the terms of the compromise Treaty signed with Britain in December 1921. Civil War broke out and the Four Courts and PROI were occupied by anti-Treaty forces. On 30 June 1922 a six week stand-off between opponents of the Treaty inside the complex and forces of the new Irish Free State outside ended with an artillery bombardment and fire-fight. A tremendous explosion ripped through the Record Treasury throwing a column of ashes

and archival fragments high into the air where the wind carried them out to sea. Initial efforts to gather scraps which fell to earth produced little result and, following the end of the Civil War, the new state had more pressing issues to deal with. Ireland's ancient records were lost and gone forever. Or so it seemed for almost a century.

Beyond2022 is a collaborative project based in the Department of History and the ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology in Trinity College Dublin. Its aim is to locate transcripts, calendars and indexes of the lost records and digitally reunite them in a virtual recreation of the Record Treasury. The National Archives of Ireland, The National Archives (UK), The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission are core partners of the project. In a two-year 'proof on concept' phase researchers combed through their catalogues, and the catalogues of many other libraries and archives in Ireland, Britain, Europe and North America, identifying replacement or surrogate records for those destroyed in 1922. It soon emerged that the challenge was not the lack of copies and transcripts but their sheer volume. In an age before photocopiers state agencies, antiquarians and legal firms transcribed copies from the collections in the PROI, whether manuscript volumes, typescript collections or individual wills. In discussion with archivists and librarians, and sometimes reading against the grain of the catalogue, likely targets emerged for further investigation.

Remarkably, two collections survived the destruction. Over three hundred bundles of mixed items were baked, rather than burnt, in the vaults below ground. Known as the 'Salved Records' these charred and brittle parcels were carefully preserved by archivist in the Public Record Office of Ireland (and later National Archives of Ireland) in the hope that conservation techniques and new technologies (and funding) might someday align. In 2018 the Irish Manuscripts Commission funded a conservation assessment of the Salved

Records by Zoe Reid, Senior Conservator at the NAI. This assessment process has produced a far greater understanding of the contents and full conservation has been possible for some records on animal skin and parchment. A second collection to survive was in the PROI's other building, the public reading room survived almost unharmed, the fire-break created to protect the Treasury had done its job – although the fire did not come from the direction anticipated. The finding aids, calendars and indexes all survived, as did those few records held overnight in the strong room for readers whose intended return was prevented by the anti-Treaty occupation. Created as resources, these finding aids have now become records in their own right.

Shortly before the destruction of the Record Treasury, the Deputy Keeper, Herbert Wood, produced *A guide to the records deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland (1919)*, briefly describing over 5,600 series of records. Guided by our archival partners, Beyond 2022 converted Wood's work into a modern archival hierarchy of fonds, subfonds and series to create a catalogue for an empty archive. This allows us to associate any transcript with its lost original.

The survival of original architectural drawings enabled Beyond 2022 to build a 3D virtual model of the Record Treasury. In addition, the PROI produced schematic diagrams showing the major collections' storage locations by floor and bay within the Record Treasury, so we can replicate in the virtual environment the archival arrangement of the collections. Wearing 3D goggles, or using a touchpad, a user will be able to search for records and go to the correct bay to see what had been shelved before 1922, what has survived as transcripts or charred fragments, and what has been lost forever.

While Beyond 2022 was beginning its work, the unrelated EU-funded READ project had successfully developed Transkribus, a new handwritten text recognition software (transkribus.eu). This happy coincidence transformed how Beyond 2022 could engage with extensive manuscript collections. We have converted multi-volume collections of manuscript replacements into searchable text. This is of particular significance to Beyond 2022's Computer Scientists who are working on an ontology, or knowledge base, of person and place names



Image: 30 June 1922. Dark smoke from the Four Courts dome mixes with white smoke from the PROI Record Treasury. Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive.



Image: Aftermath: A destroyed car amid the rubble in front of the ruined Record Treasury.
Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive.

in Irish history. The knowledge base will link variant spellings in English, Gaelic and Latin to a unique identifier. When complete, this will allow a user to search for all references to a place name through history, or for all mentions of an individual across the range of archival sources. Beyond 2022 is an entirely collaborative project, it does not hold any records in its own right but offers partners the opportunity to enhance records within their own collections by highlighting links to lost originals, enriching their catalogue entries and widening their archival context. With the agreement of archival and library partners, Beyond 2022 can display digitized records using the IIIF platform (International Image Interoperability Framework) and transcribe manuscripts through Transkribus. Through IIIF users will view multiple images from different repositories side by side and compare their content, adding to the research value of each individual repository's collections.

Phase 2 of Beyond 2022 (Jul 2019 – Dec 2022) will engage comprehensively with those replacement collections already identified.

Historians and records specialists will collaborate on detailed archival research and catalogue enhancement for collections in Dublin, Belfast, London and beyond. On 30 June 2022, one hundred years to the day since the cataclysmic explosion and fire, Beyond 2022 will launch the public online resource, free to the user, as part of the state commemorations for the Irish Civil War. The losses of 1922 can never be fully recovered, but careful collaboration between historians, archivists and computer scientists has already shown what can be achieved, continued work can offer hope for Ireland's lost archives – and perhaps a way forward for other cultural losses around the world.

Ciarán Wallace

Deputy Director, Beyond 2022, Trinity College Dublin

Website: www.beyond2022.ie

Twitter: [@Beyond_2022](https://twitter.com/Beyond_2022)

Italian Identity in Scotland: Archival Foundations

Italians have been present in Scotland for well over 150 years, have an interesting history and represent a well-established migrant group. Their arrival and settlement falls into distinct historical phases displaying diverse characteristics, the latest of which began around 2000 adding a new and very different stratum to 'Italian Scotland'. The community today is thus not only long-lived but also vibrant and varied and consideration of its archival underpinning, as well as the role of the archive in fostering identity, provides a useful lens through which to reflect on that history.

The most important archival source, offering a rich seam of data on the early period, is a census of Italians living in Scotland in 1933 that enumerates almost 6,000 individuals. Conducted by Mussolini's government, it is extraordinary that this unique census survived the War years, when most documents were either destroyed or returned to Rome in diplomatic bags. Indeed, that it survived until the present day given the ever-changing heads of the Italian consular mission to Scotland over the last almost ninety years is equally remarkable. From a historical point of view and that of the academic researcher, as well as of the genealogist, this cache of documents powerfully connects us to the past, telling both individual stories and also the collective chronicle of a people.

The census supplies high quality demographic and geographic data in addition to information on military service, political allegiance and associational affiliation. Most significantly, perhaps, it allows the construction of migration profiles through retrospective detail dating back to the 1870s. A considerable degree of mobility within Scotland and at an international level is revealed showing the migrants were part of the contemporaneous global Italian diaspora. The movement of Italians to Scotland was not linear and often encompassed sequential relocations within the UK and around the world.¹

Over the years, from the 1930s until recently, few people knew of the existence of this census and only a very small number of bona fide researchers had been permitted access to study its contents. In 2014 however, through an initiative I proposed to the then Consul General, Carlo Perrotta, a groundbreaking collaboration ensued with National Records Scotland, then under the directorship of Tim Ellis. NRS undertook to restore, conserve and digitise the census with a view to making it available to a wider public. Both the conservation project, carried out by Gloria Conti², and the digitisation process were completed in 2015, while complex legal negotiation of the agreement on access is still in progress. The final home of the physical documents is also unresolved, but the current Consul General, Fabio Monaco, supports them remaining in Scotland, perhaps on loan in perpetuity.

A further and supplementary source relating to the Italians during the 1930s can be found at the National Library of Scotland – a rare copy of the 1936 edition of the *Guida Generale degli Italiani in Gran Bretagna* – general guide to the Italians in Great Britain.³ This volume gives a strong impression of the period and the impact of Italian politics on the emigrant community. Significantly, the *Guida* lists Italians alphabetically by address and also includes adverts for businesses, profiles on individuals and so on. As a fascist propaganda publication, exaggeratory and often inaccurate, it nevertheless gives further archival foundations to the pre-War era and taken in tandem with the 1933 census portrays a well-established community with its self-created and sustaining economic niche in shops, fish and chips and ice cream. NLS recently made available an interactive online distribution map of Italians using the 1936 *Guida* combined with evidence on areas of origin in Italy from the census – an exploratory tool much valued by Italian families and potentially researchers alike.

2 See her article on this work in Broadsheet, October 2015. [Issue 35](#), p19.

3 The *Guida Generale* was published in 1933, 1936 and 1939. Only the 1936 edition includes a listing of Italians resident in Scotland.

1 For a full analysis of the census, see Colpi, T. 2015. *Italians' Count in Scotland: Recording History. The 1933 Census*. The St James Press. London.

The War formed a watershed in the Italians' history with enemy alien status, internment, the closing down of businesses and forced displacement of families living in restricted areas. The sinking of the SS Arandora Star in 1940 carrying internees to Canada with the loss of 446 British Italians lives, around 100 from Scotland, was a traumatic event, whose memory has lingered long. It wasn't until 1990 that much of the documentation on the War, including those onboard the Arandora, became available at the National Archives in Kew under the fifty-year rule. In 2010 public recognition of the event was achieved with the establishment of the Italian Garden and Arandora Star monument in Glasgow where a marble plaque lists the lost men, forming a very public archive and collective reference point. There was also a small exhibition at NRS, curated by Tristram Clarke, marking the 70th anniversary of the Arandora's sinking, again giving official platform and visited by many families who had lost fathers and grandfathers.

The first institutional recognition of the Italian community, showcasing their history and contribution was an exhibition presented at National Library Scotland in 1991. This fashioned a powerful statement, pulling together diverse

papers, documents, photographs, paintings and artefacts, helping crystallise Scottish Italian identity for both the Italian community itself and Scottish people who visited the exhibition. Unfortunately the paper collection, both from NLS's own archives and from within the Italian community, were never catalogued as a collection and are no longer available to the public. This perhaps highlights one of the issues relating to archival materials on the Italians in Scotland; there is no national or clear and leading depository. Materials and resources are widely scattered in local archives, museums, libraries, galleries and private collections. For the researcher, this web can sometimes be challenging to trace and unravel. On the other side of the coin, individuals and families are often unsure of the historic value of their papers, documents and photographs and are uncertain of how and where to deposit items.

As a result, a great deal of testimony and potential archival material have vanished over time, such as Aliens Registration booklets, and although there is a tradition of oral history within the Italian community, there is something of a sense of loss, certainly of the detail since often the past cannot be substantiated or verified. Unlike some other minority groups, the Italians in Scotland never managed to sustain their own institution,



Image: Arandora Star Monument, Glasgow. Plaque with Names of Italians Lost. Courtesy Terri Colpi



Image: Aliens Registration Booklet of Giuseppe Dora, 1920-1961. Courtesy Terri Colpi

or church, despite the latter being something numbers would have allowed. Although the Casa d'Italia at Park Circus in Glasgow survived from 1935 to 1989 and during that time also housed an Italian Consulate, as an organisation the Casa was never involved in preserving or promoting Italian history. That said, with its closure and also that of the even more enduring Club Romano in Dundee in 2016, much relevant documentation and potential archival material has inevitably been lost to posterity.

Yet, interesting and valuable records do exist. For example, business directories, rateable value rolls, photographs of the iconic Italian shops, plans and photographs of the Arandora Star, Poor Law Records at Glasgow City Archives; listings relating to internment at Inverclyde Heritage Hub; internees held in Scottish prisons and letters concerning war-time compensation at NRS; letters concerning the need for Italian priests at the Catholic Archives; diaries of Scots Italians from the First World War at NLS; and, in the Richard Demarco Archive, the life narrative of a prominent Scots Italian as well as a record of the artistic dialogue between Scotland and Italy over seventy years. Furthermore, the establishment of the Italo Scottish Research Cluster at Edinburgh University by Professor Federica Pedriale in 2011 marked a new and influential departure with its online archive, programme of cultural activity and,

notably, engagement of academia with the Italian community.⁴

The collaboration of NRS and the Italian authorities, mentioned above, generated a further manifestation in 2015/2016 in the form of a very successful exhibition which, a generation after the NLS exhibition of 1991, reinforced Scottish Italian identity and underscored the experiences of Italians as part of the national narrative. While the past, both distant and more recent, has a relatively firm foundation in terms of archival source materials, it may well be that for future investigators looking at the recent wave of new Italian migrants to Scotland, a more difficult research journey awaits. With free movement, at least until 2016, and a more heterogeneous and less visible group of professional migrants from all over Italy, tracing their arrival, occupations, residence and movement, social norms, aims and aspirations, will present interesting challenges which archives may well be tested to address.

⁴ For example [here](#).

Terri Colpi
Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Italian,
University of St Andrews

Prisoners or Patients? Criminal Insanity in Victorian Scotland

National Records of Scotland (NRS) has partnered with Professor Rab Houston of the University of St Andrews to curate a Fringe exhibition, 'Prisoners or Patients? Criminal Insanity in Victorian Scotland'. Bringing together never before displayed archives, the stories of prisoner-patients are revealed through records of the courts, prison authorities, doctors and photographs.

Guest curator Professor Houston has researched nine individuals represented in NRS' archives, tracing the trials of those accused of murder and other serious crimes at the High Court of Justiciary and the Criminal Lunatic Department (CLD) in Perth, their treatment, recovery and release. One such individual is Elizabeth Gilchrist or Brown.



Image: Elizabeth Gilchrist or Brown, NRS. HH17/15

Elizabeth was aged 21 when she killed her six month old daughter Jessie by giving her laudanum.

"the child had been troublesome and was teething and I thought the laudanum would make her sleep...I did mean to destroy her"

In common with many of the prisoner-patients, Elizabeth had a history of mental health problems which ran in her family.

"Her reason is so far gone and she has become so degenerated, that if not prevented she would eat excrement, anything, her own flesh; fingers and toes especially"

In the Victorian era medical men focused on sex-specific physiological events like pregnancy, childbirth and lactation when considering the causes of insanity in women. 'Puerperal insanity' was the label applied to Elizabeth. A term used only during the 19th century, this diagnosis encompassed a wide range of symptoms, some of which might now be classed as

post-partum psychosis. Prison policy at this time, was not to release such prisoners until the end of their child-bearing span.

Although the medical men at this time were limited by their understanding of mental health and the treatments available, their compassion towards the prisoner-patients shines through the records. Their communities, and the authorities who took charge of them, understood that they were unwell; they attempted to treat, and where possible, provide their liberty from imprisonment.

Clinicians regularly assessed prisoner-patients to see if they could be released, conditionally or unconditionally. Conditional release transferred the prisoner-patient to a nominated guardian, who they lived with, and who monitored their condition to prevent any danger to the self or to the public. Although the Scottish Office paid guardians, the task was onerous. Unconditional liberation was granted if the prisoner-patient had recovered, and was deemed to be harmless not only to the self, but importantly, to the public.

By the early 20th century Elizabeth had been discharged from, and readmitted to Perth CLD multiple times. At one point, her son smuggled her to America for a fresh start, but this too ended

in relapse. In 1904 she was deemed no longer dangerous and was transferred to the Ayrshire District Asylum where she died in 1909.

'Prisoners or Patients?' will be on show until 30th August (Monday-Friday, 10:00-16:00) in General Register House, Matheson Dome. Come along to gain further insight into the infancy of psychiatry and the stories of people – occasionally dangerous, often vulnerable but almost always severely disturbed – who experienced mental health problems and impairments in the most extreme circumstances.

More information on NRS' events is available on the website [here](#). For further information on Professor Rab Houston's project 'Promoting mental health through the lessons of history', including links to further mental health resources and services, see the website [here](#).

*'Prisoners or Patients? Criminal Insanity in Victorian Scotland' examines how those labelled at the time as criminal lunatics and afflicted by mental health issues were treated and recorded in the Victorian era. As such, it uses the medical and social terminology and references the practices of that time.

Jocelyn Grant
Outreach and Learning Manager
National Records of Scotland

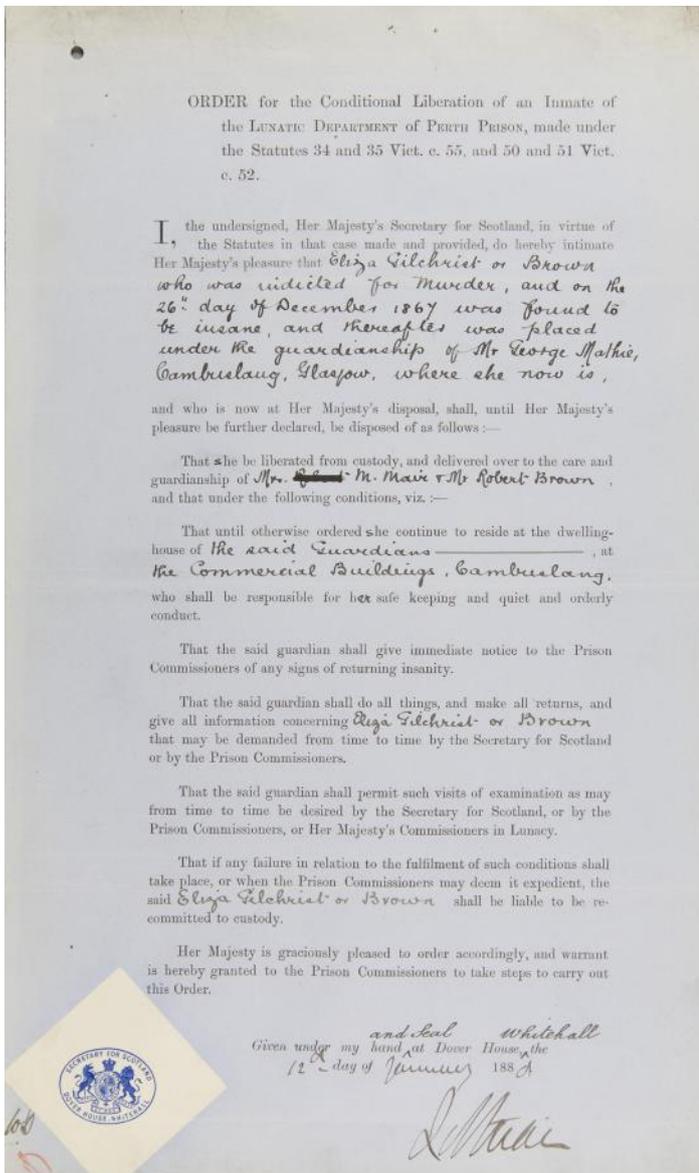


Image: Order for conditional liberation of Elizabeth Brown or Gilchrist, 12 January 1889, NRS, HH17/15

Prisoners OR Patients?

Criminal Insanity in Victorian Scotland

FREE EXHIBITION

The histories of prisoner-patients held in the Criminal Lunatic Department in Perth are revealed in this Fringe exhibition.

Discover their stories as guest curator Professor Rab Houston (University of St Andrews) delves into the archives of National Records of Scotland and examines their crime, recovery and release.

1-30 August 2019, 10am-4.30pm

Access via garden
 HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street,
 Edinburgh, EH1 3YY

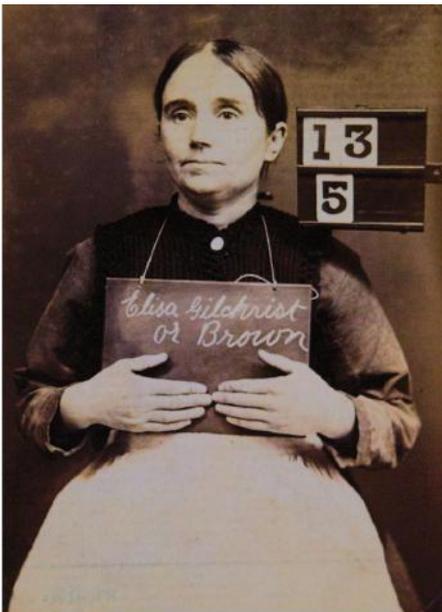


National Records of Scotland

Learn more at www.nrscotland.gov.uk
 and arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/psychhist



University of St Andrews





SCOTTISH COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

CONTACT

Scottish Council on Archives
HM General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YY

E: contact@scottisharchives.org.uk
T: +44 (0)131 535 1362



[facebook.com/ScotsArchives](https://www.facebook.com/ScotsArchives)



[@ScotsArchives](https://twitter.com/ScotsArchives)



www.scottisharchives.org.uk

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC044553)