



## SAFHS 2017 CONFERENCE - FAMILY HISTORY FAIR SPEAKERS THESE TALKS ARE BOOKABLE AT THE DOOR ON THE DAY



**10 am**

### **Medicine & Morality: *The Crichton Royal Institution for Lunatics Dumfries 1839-1857***

The Crichton Institution in Dumfries was the last and the most prestigious of Scotland's great C18th asylums to be built, and gained an unrivalled reputation in Europe for its state of the art facilities and humane treatment of the mentally ill. The medical and psychological practice of the early years is examined, as well as patients' experience of the pioneering, but often misunderstood, moral treatment. A case study, concerning the tragic life of Mary Cameron Robertson (1824-1890), is presented which illustrates how genealogical methodology may be used to interpret asylum records, unravel the hidden complexities of family history and foster a deeper understanding of contemporary mental health issues.

#### **Speaker: Stuart Coles**

Stuart Coles is a professional genealogist with a busy practice in south-west Scotland. After graduating as a zoologist, he later qualified as a science teacher specialising in human biology, physics, maths and technology. During his career in education he also held many administrative posts, including head of department, deputy head teacher, international examiner, school and university governor, as well as membership of several local authorities. He recently completed an MSc in genealogy, heraldry and palaeography at the University of Strathclyde.

Stuart has a long-standing interest in the medical humanities, and the current focus of his academic research is in developmental & cognitive psychology and psychopathology. By applying genealogical methodology to medical family history, he explores mental illness in its wider social, historical and philosophical context. Recent projects have included historical mental health case studies of the impact of syphilis in working class families and the meaning and explanation of mental illness from the personal perspective of the sufferer.

***MUST BE BOOKED ON ARRIVAL AT THE MAIN DOOR - £2.00***



**11.10 am**

### **Gordon Bennett!**

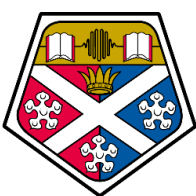
Where does the expression come from? Who was the real Gordon Bennett? The legend and the reality. The Scottish connection, the American connection, the French connection and his *European Edition of the New York Herald* (later called *International Herald Tribune*). The transatlantic yachtsman, the gilded-age play-boy, the international philanthropist, the modern sports promoter and the cosmopolitan who made the Riviera the playground of the rich and famous. Also featuring Churchill's mother, Buster Brown, a Weather Girl, Marconi, an old lady from Philadelphia, Kaiser Bill, Baroness Reuter, the Titanic, Livingstone, Stanley, and other fine messes he got himself into .....

#### **Speaker: Dr Geoff Hare**

Dr Geoff Hare is a retired academic, formerly head of Modern Languages in Newcastle University, having also taught at Aberdeen University. He has written extensively on the history of sport and media, notably on France: *Football in France: A Cultural History* (2003). He co-edited *The Tour de France, 1903-2003: A Century of Sporting Structures, Meanings and Values*. He is now working on a biography of the Gordon Bennetts.

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**University of  
Strathclyde  
Glasgow**



**12 noon & 1 pm**

### **A Roundup of Recent Research by the University of Strathclyde Genealogical Studies Programme Students**

Staff and students at the University of Strathclyde have been active in genealogical research topics for the last ten years. MSc and PG Diploma students pursue a variety of topics from considering the usefulness of particular record sets to focusing on questions around historical demography, genetic genealogy and heraldry. A number of students will present their research outcomes in this session.

**Speakers:** The Genealogical Studies Programme at the University of Strathclyde's Centre for Lifelong Learning offers a range of courses from beginner level up to a Masters degree. The Postgraduate Programme offers an intensive practitioner-led University qualification in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies. Now in its tenth year, it has more than 300 alumni worldwide.

***DELEGATES AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE SESSIONS***

***MUST BE BOOKED ON ARRIVAL AT THE MAIN DOOR - FREE***



**2 pm**

### **Using English Records**

When searching for your English ancestors, you will find that records can be spread across many locations; England has a network of County Archive and Diocesan record offices. Where are the records that you need? How do you locate them?

Once you have found out where your ancestors were domiciled what records are there available to help you build up a picture of their lifetime? How can you track their migration?

This talk will give you tips on how to find the relevant records for your English ancestors, and it will identify some of the most useful sources for you to access and how to interpret them.

#### **Speaker: Ian F Marson, FGRA, ASGRA**

Ian Marson has over thirty years' experience in genealogical research, and turned full-time professional in 1998.

He is a Member, Fellow and former Chairman of AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives), and a member of ASGRA (the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives). He is a former Trustee of the Society of Genealogists and member of its Education Committee.

Based in Yorkshire, he carries out research in all parts of the UK. Ian is a keen local and family historian and is former Chairman of Rotherham Family History Society.

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**3.10 pm**

**Searching for your Irish-Born Ancestors**

In this entertaining talk, Helen will provide an overview of Irish genealogical sources, and empower you to take on the many challenges posed by Irish family history research. Through visual images and the use of online sources, she will introduce you to the family history records that are likely to be of most value to you in your Irish research. In a light-hearted and professional manner, her lecture will lead you to the various online and offline sources that should empower you to overcome some of the challenges that Irish family history research poses to the uninitiated.

Her deep interest in and knowledge of Ireland's geography and landscape will also be of immense interest to those who are challenged by the complicated system of territorial divisions in Ireland, and who are having difficulty in identifying the precise birth place of their Irish-born ancestor.

**Speaker: Helen Kelly, MAGI**

Helen Kelly is a well-known and experienced Irish genealogist, based in Dublin. She has been involved in research and consultation since the late 1980s, and is a member of Accredited Genealogists Ireland (formerly the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland) – the accrediting body for Irish genealogists – and served as their President from 2009-2012.

In addition to carrying out genealogical research for clients, Helen has a keen interest in roots tourism, and particularly enjoys her consultancy work, which brings her into direct contact with members of the Irish diaspora, who wish to strengthen their links with their Irish heritage. Over many years, she was a member of a team of genealogy consultants at Ireland's national institutions, such as the Genealogical Office, National Library and National Archives. Currently, she is part of a team of accredited consultant genealogists at the National Archives of Ireland, in Dublin.

Helen has been the genealogy consultant at Tourism Ireland's stand at the Who Do You Think You Are? event in London and Birmingham for a number of years, and since 2007 has been consultant genealogist at Dublin's historical Shelbourne Hotel, where she bears the unique title of Genealogy Butler.

Helen travels widely in the course of her work, and has lectured and broadcast frequently on Irish family history in Ireland, England, North and South America.

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