

# Their story is your history

## Experience your ancestors



### Initial enquiry

Michael contacted the National Library of Scotland in the hope of finding out about an old card which had been handed down within his family. It was decorated with a lion and unicorn and said Ewart, Saddler To his Majesty, 64 Princes Street, Edinburgh.

“Thank you so very much, not at all what I was expecting to receive in a response email. Your hard work to find this information out for me is so greatly appreciated.”

**Michael E., Canada**

### How the National Library of Scotland helped

Our Reference Services team searched for information using newspapers, trade directories and published inscriptions on burial headstones.

An advert was found in the Caledonian Mercury newspaper in June 1799 for a saddlery warehouse run by a Robert Ewart on Princes Street. Further research among trade directories showed that Ewart became a burgess to the City and received a royal warrant. He became saddler to the Prince of Wales, later George IV, which allowed him to display the Royal coat of arms, featuring a lion and unicorn, on the card which was likely used as a business card.

A search among monumental inscriptions established that Robert Ewart died in 1823. The business was taken over by his son Robert Brunton Ewart but an entry in a Circular to Bankers magazine in 1835 revealed it had ceased to trade. Finally, evidence was found through Post Office directories showing that the family lived at a residence on Princes Street until the mid 1830s.

### Talks and workshops

The National Library of Scotland holds regular workshops and tours in both Edinburgh and Glasgow that can aid your genealogy research.

- Discovering family history
- Maps for family and local history
- Getting started at the Library

For dates and further information, please call us on 0131 623 3734 or visit: [www.nls.uk/events](http://www.nls.uk/events)

### External resources

National Records of Scotland:  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)  
ScotlandsPeople:  
[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

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### Contact us:

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[www.nls.uk/family-history](http://www.nls.uk/family-history)