

Their story is your history

Experience your ancestors



Initial enquiry

Susan contacted the National Library of Scotland looking for information about her ancestors William and Isobel MacKay and their sons George and Hugh who lived in Scotland in the late 1700s. In particular, she wanted to find out about a place name called 'Corrifurran' and about William's military service with the NF Highlanders.

"Thank you very much. I am delighted with the information, which is a great starting point. I look forward to visiting the Library in person to undertake more research".

Susan S., England

How the National Library of Scotland helped

Susan already possessed some pieces of the jigsaw that made up her family history. She turned to the Library to help fill in some of the detail.

She knew William and Isobel's sons were born in 'Corrifurran' in the parish of Farr, part of the county of Sutherland but could find no trace of it on any map. Research by Reference Services uncovered a place with the Gaelic spelling of 'Corirenamfeuran' in a map of the area from 1878. Remains of a rural settlement could be seen when this map was overlaid with a modern map showing the current landscape. Records indicated that this settlement did not survive the Highland clearances of the 18th and 19th century.

Our Reference Services team found the NF Highlanders were most likely to have been a Scottish militia regiment, His Majesty's Regiment of North Fencible Highlanders. These were troops raised to defend the country when regular forces were over-stretched in times of conflict. Susan was also given advice on books that could help with further research and details of other organisations that could aid her search into her ancestors.

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

External resources

National Records of Scotland:

www.nrscotland.gov.uk

ScotlandsPeople:

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Donate to the Library today to help us preserve the rich memories of Scottish ancestry. Visit www.nls.uk/support-nls. Call 0131 623 3733. Text BUIK33 + donation amount (eg. BUIK33 £5) to 70070.

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