

# Their story is your history

**Experience your ancestors**



## Initial enquiry

James contacted the Library to find more information about his ancestors who lived in Crawton, a cliff-top fishing village to the south of Aberdeen. James was keen to find out why the village now lies in ruins and what their lives were like living on the edge of a cliff.

**'I am overjoyed at how much the Library found out about my ancestors, who lived in a small fishing village'.**

**James D., Scotland**

## How the National Library of Scotland helped

Our Reference Services team provided a vast amount of information about Crawton and the inhabitants of the village. Valuation Rolls that record property ownership chart the village's decline from 22 houses in 1873-74 to only 10 houses in 1901-02, which included those of James's ancestors. By 1913-14 the village was completely deserted with many families moving away to take up mining jobs elsewhere, with other men going to war. An article in the Aberdeen Press and Journal from 1928 blamed the 'decrease in fish' and the introduction of the 'dole' for ending the village's fishing tradition.

Numerous newspaper articles were found, including a report on the golden wedding anniversary of James's great grandparents complete with photographs. Another article spoke of William (James's grandfather) who at 13 years of age fell 40 feet off the cliff near their house and was found in an 'insensible condition with no broken bones'. A couple of years later it was reported that William found a dead body washed upon the same rocks, probably belonging to a 'young lad' who drowned at sea two months earlier. Living and working at Crawton was not for the faint-hearted.

## 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)

**Help us preserve the rich memories of Scottish ancestry. Find out how to support the Library by contacting our Development Team on 0131 623 3733 or email us at [www.nls.uk/support-nls](http://www.nls.uk/support-nls)**

### Contact us:

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