

**Laidlaw Research Project****Schedule****Phase One (01-06-2020 to 14-06-2020)****Tasks to be completed**

- 1) Contacting staff at special collections
  - 2) Contacting the custodians of the Kingsbarns church
  - 3) Online palaeography training
    - a) National Archives
    - b) University of Glasgow
  - 4) Online oral history training
    - a) Scottish Oral History Centre, Oral History Training
    - b) 'Introduction to remote interviewing for oral historians' (optional)
  - 5) Investigation of other primary resources
    - a) Minutes of the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland
    - b) National Library of Scotland
    - c) Statistical Accounts of Scotland
  - 6) Planning of the 3-5 minute research video
  - 7) Preparation of the 3000-word research essay
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**1) Contacting staff at special collections**

Rachel Hart, Senior Archivist (Keeper of Manuscripts and Muniments) – [REDACTED]

Elizabeth Henderson (Rare Books Librarian) – [REDACTED]

I will contact these individuals on the first day of the research period (01-06-2020) via email. I will inquire about the process of accessing the documents in January, as well as availability of other documents in June.

How do they manage Special Collections during university holidays? Do they operate on reduced opening hours in this period? How will they implement social distancing measures (if necessary)? What level of palaeographic competence is required to access the earlier documents effectively? How did Special Collections obtain the documents I will be looking at? What precautions need to be taken by those handling the documents? What are the risks?

The answers to these will be used to create a guidance document for my own future research in Special Collections in January.

## 2) Contacting the custodians of the Kingsbarns Church

I have received a response from the School's ethics committee, outlining some amendments to the ethical application. This may mean I will not be cleared to contact the custodians of the Church during the two week period due to delays in the application. I will make the relevant amendments to the ethical applications ASAP. If needs be, I will contact the custodians outside the window (as soon as ethical clearance has been acquired) of the first phase in order to ensure I can interview them in January.

## 3) Online palaeography training

### a) University of Glasgow, *Early Modern Scottish Palaeography*, Future Learn course


The course involves video content, exercises, and interaction with other students. The course itself is three weeks of content, can be condensed to two weeks. I have done a futurelearn course before so understand the requirements. I will work my way through the palaeography training in the mornings over **both weeks**. My aim is to complete the course in the two weeks.

### b) National Archives

The course is less 'taught' in nature, instead providing scanned documents of varying difficulty to allow me to practise for my eventual work with the documents in Special Collections. I will use the scanned documents on the website to practise my palaeography skills in the **second week (w/c 08-06-2020)**.


## 4) Online oral history training

### a) Scottish Oral History Centre, Oral History Training

Application deadline: **18-06-2020** [requires form to be filled out and emailed to 

SOHC Online Training Programme: **25-06-2020** and **26-06-2020**

### b) Optional: 'Introduction to remote interviewing for oral historians'

Application deadline: **10-06-2020** [requires form to be filled out and emailed to 

Programme: morning of **17-06-2020**

## 5) Investigation of other primary resources

These primary resources include: a) 'The principle acts of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland' (available on the university library website); b) maps of Scotland and Fife from late in the period (available on the National Library of Scotland website); c) and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland (available on the Statistical Accounts of Scotland website).

a) 'The principle acts of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland'

These are the minutes of the annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian kirk. They are available in scanned form on the library website so I will have access to them in June. The earlier records (seventeenth century) may involve some palaeographical issues so these will be consulted after I have had some palaeography training (see **3**). I will spend my afternoons in **both weeks** consulting these sources and indexing the information for later reference.

The aim in consulting these is to gain some background experience in consulting minutes from kirk assemblies. The type of source is very similar, structurally and linguistically, to those I will consult in Special Collections in January. Thus there is a practical benefit to consulting these documents. Additionally, I will investigate these sources as a way of contextualising the information given in the Special Collections sources. I will use the indexes to search for references to Kingsbarns, and for references to wider historical trends that may have affected the running of the church (Civil War, Acts of Union, Jacobite Revolt etc).

b) Maps of Scotland and Fife from late in the period

These are available on the National Library of Scotland website. Most of the maps date from the eighteenth century (particularly the OS ones). I will consult maps from different periods to assess how the landscape of the diocese changed over a long period. This will help me understand how the people of the area respond to the landscape (did people move closer to the church? Was there an increase or decrease in farmland? etc). There is only a handful of relevant maps on the NLS website so they will not take long to consult. I will spend two days in the **first week (w/c 01-06-2020)** analysing these sources.

c) The Statistical Accounts of Scotland

These are contemporary records created between 1791 and 1845 under the direction of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster. The Statistical Accounts of Scotland website organises the scanned documents by county. I will look at the accounts about Kingsbarns as well as some other parts of Fife. My aim is to relate the village of Kingsbarns to St Andrews and other areas in the county. I will examine these sources in the **second week (w/c 08-06-2020)**.

## 6) Planning of the 3-5 minute research video

I will begin planning the video by laying out what I want it to achieve. It will focus on the research itself. It will lay out the process from its earliest beginnings, and track how research develops with, and responds to, circumstances. These circumstances involve adapting to Covid-19, applying for ethical clearance, and taking part in training programmes. This storyboard will be put together in the **first week (w/c 01-06-2020)** so as to aid in the structuring of research afterwards.

Throughout the two week period I will keep a daily log of what I took part in. I will film and take photos. These will act as an introduction to the final video. The filming process will take place over **both weeks**.

I will use the daily log as a structure for the script for the final video. I will start writing the script at the end of the **second week (w/c 08-06-2020)**, since by this point I will have a clearer indication of how the video will be structured.

## 7) Preparation of the 3000-word research essay

The final essay will be split into two sections. The first section will describe the research methods I will use. It will outline the benefits and drawbacks to oral history and primary source analysis. The second section will outline how these benefits and drawbacks affect the final use of the sources to make the pamphlet history.

The preparation for the research essay will follow a similar plan to that of the research video. The daily log that I keep will act as a structure for the first half of the essay. This part of the essay will focus on the research process, placing it in the methodological processes of oral history and consulting primary sources. It will relate how these methods impact the final production of the pamphlet history. In the daily log I will record how I will use the activities from **both weeks** to

The results of the research will exist primarily in the pamphlet history of the church. This will act as a narrative overview of the history of the church and diocese. The research essay will reference the pamphlet history in its second half. This half of the essay is mostly subject to the research I undertake in January. However, I will be able to apply the analysis of the methodology to the June research (see **5**), although this will be subsidiary to the January research in the final essay. The focus must be kept on the research of the Special Collections sources. I will focus on this towards the end of the **second week (w/c 08-06-2020)**, after I have consulted the other primary sources and have the daily log more fully fleshed out.