



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the October edition of the newsletter as we all continue to struggle with the consequences of this horrible virus. Such pandemics are not new of course, and I am indebted to our family history colleagues in Bolton for drawing our attention to this historical article about the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1918 to 1920 ([click here](#)). Whilst interesting and informative it is something of a Job's comforter, but I thought it worth sharing if for no other reason than to confirm that we (humanity) do survive these things and move on. A shorter edition of the newsletter this month, but, hopefully, just as useful. Please take care. Editor.

Scottish Marriage Index: I am sure that many of you are familiar with the Scottish Marriage Index. This is a brilliant resource born out of the mind of, and initially managed by, Dan Muir, a founding father of the Anglo Scottish Society. It has been functioning for about 20 years and has about 10,000 marriages contributed by offerings from people from all over the world. When I was looking at it the other day however I realised that few, if any, of the kind contributors to our little "Ancestral Survey" of Scottish emigrants carried out last year had submitted the details of their ancestors to the Index. This is a shame because all of the people who entered information in the survey had interesting ancestral tales to tell. All of us involved in family history research are always on the lookout for sources to help us in developing our family stories and the **Scottish Marriage Index** is one such resource open to us all. It is also a resource that is regularly visited by family researchers. To give you some idea, in the one week of the 28th September to the 4th October the site was accessed on 43 occasions. Can I therefore encourage you to go onto the Anglo Scottish web site and under the heading of "Branch Events" you will see Scottish Marriage Index. Once you click on this you are offered the option of submitting information by filling out an information form. If you want to know how your information is then displayed then have a look at the "Search" section itself and insert any likely Scottish name. Apart from the information you submit your privacy is protected at all times, although there is an option when submitting information to indicate that you have more details and are prepared to be contacted by interested researchers. You never know, you might find that you have a distant relative somewhere.



So please, do take the time to submit your ancestral details. It is the kind of resource that helps us all.



I have drawn your attention in a previous newsletter to SCRAN, the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network. As it defines itself, it "aims to provide educational access to digital materials representing our material culture and history" by way of hosting "images, movies and sounds from museums, galleries, archives and the media". It really is a useful resource to have a look at ([click here](#)) but the reason I am bringing it to your attention again is because **until the end of October** they are offering **free access** to all of their resources. So if you are quick you will be able to explore the resource and find out if it is something you think will be useful to you. Afraid that the logging in to get the free offer is a bit of a faff but do stay with it.





Sources to Remember: over the 4 years that this newsletter has been going we have suggested several online resources to you to help with your family history research. This is not a bad time to recall some of these and to suggest others.

Highland and Island Emigration Society records: ([click here](#)) Scotlands People offer free access to these records that detail the names of those who left western Scotland for Australia. The HIES was a charitable society established to help alleviate the effects of the potato famine in Scotland in the early 1850's. Such was the level poverty and starvation as a result of the famine, particularly in Skye, that emigration was seen by the authorities as the only viable response and it is estimated that around 5,000 men women and children took up the offer of a new life in Australia. It would be interesting to know how many Australians today are able to trace their roots back to those people. As well as giving access to the passenger lists, Scotlands People also give a very good summary of the HIES, its policies and history.



Free Scotlands People Resources: as well as the HIES records, Scotlands People also offer other free research tools that are worth looking at. To access them you log into your Scotlands People then click "Search our records". Once there you are presented with two options;

"Other ways to search" which is a catchall access to how to go about using all the resources of Scotlands People that also gives you access to these resources, so a great way to learn and to practice.

"Free" resources. This is a quick way to discover from the "Other ways to search" option which resources are offered for free. There are three, one being the HIES records. The other two are the maps and plans option and the image library.

My weakness for **maps** is well recorded and researching this site again for this article resulted in my being well distracted. Interestingly, I found maps on this site older than maps listed on the National Library of Scotland map site. The only thing I would say though is that their search criteria is difficult to understand. For example in the search box I put in "Edinburgh Castle" (don't ask me why) and got nothing on that but a whole series of options including maps of the ferry landing between Dundee and Fife. Still, it all adds to the colour of research.

The **image library** is a rich resource of photographs not only of places but individuals, industry, architecture, Church history and much more. Again, you can get lost in this.

Speakers Notes: please remember that one of the features of the Anglo Scots Branch web site, under the heading of "Research" is the ability to access the notes of speakers we have had in the past. All of these have loads of suggestions for sources and ongoing research.

Internet Archive: this is a non-profit making, free to access digital library which, according to its own definition is like;
"a paper library, (providing) free access to researchers, historians, scholars, the print disabled, and the general public. Our mission is to provide Universal Access to All Knowledge."

A laudable claim that is backed up by granting access to millions of books, videos, audio recordings that have been lodged with it from libraries throughout the world. ([click here for access](#)) The National Library of Scotland has clearly also deposited material because I accessed their Post Office Directories on this Archive site. So I shall be playing around with this site to see what else is available.

Bolton Family History Society Zoom Meeting: to let you know that our colleagues in Bolton are having a Zoom presentation, the topic, **"Searching for Ancestors when you are Adopted"** given by Dr Penny Walters on Wednesday, 4th November, at 7.30 p.m. This is certainly an area of research that is often neglected out of sheer lack of knowledge if nothing else. The meeting is for anyone interested but if you would like to attend please register your interest by emailing boltongenies@mlfhs.org.uk before Monday 2nd November. Simply write; "Please add me to the mailing list for the Bolton FHS Virtual Meeting joining information." If you are a Society member please include your MLFHS Membership number. Numbers are limited and priority will be given to current members.



Scottish Indexes Conference: Graham and Emma Maxwell, who own and operate “Scottish Indexes” have for some time generously organised and offered free, digital, family history conferences. Their web site is worth a visit in itself ([click here](#)) but this particular conference, held on the 10th October, was their latest offering. It is the first one I have “attended” and I can thoroughly recommend them. Account is taken of the fact that some “attendees” from other corners of the world may want to attend and so the day programme runs from early morning to late evening to take account of time differences with the presentations looped throughout the day. Whilst I was watching people joined from as far apart as New Zealand and Canada which was interesting. Whilst the presentations themselves are not available for download a pdf printout of the day with references is made available with words of encouragement to make this available to whoever wants it. So, just in case any of you are interested to see the format and list of speakers and topics, I make it available here ([click](#)). A further conference is already planned for Sunday, 6th December, 2020 and details of it can be viewed on the Scottish Indexes web site.



Society On-Line Book Shop: hopefully you will have had time to have a look at the revamped MLFHS web site, now called of course, “**Manchester Ancestors**”. Please do have a look at the book shop. This includes several Scottish related items including CD’s as well as books.



Anglo Scottish Branch Zoom Meeting Saturday, 21st November, 2.00 p.m.



Many of you will have by now received a letter from our chairman, Michael Couper, giving some more details about our planned Zoom meeting as a Branch. The presentation is a talk by Hilary Hartigan on a subject that continues to baffle many, certainly me. DNA tests continue to be popular, some even given as gifts, but what do you make of the results when you get them back? In the summary of her presentation Hilary writes;

You have taken a DNA test but the results do not match your expectations. You and your cousin have taken a DNA test. You have the paper trail, you have the familial likenesses, you have the family stories. Your results come back. Your DNA matches are not DNA matches.

Reads like an advert for a crime novel!!! Now if that taster doesn’t whet your appetite for more what can? We are glad to say that a number of you have already reserved a place but there are still places available. However be warned that bookings close on Thursday 19th November.

In the newsletter last month, when announcing the Zoom meeting, I asked that if you wanted to participate that you send notification and your email address to Michael Couper and many did, so thank you for that. However, since then we have set up the Meeting on **Eventbrite**. So, for reasons of ease of communication and confirmation, **can we ask all who want to take part in the Zoom meeting, even if you have let Michael Couper know, to please now register through Eventbrite. This can be done through this link ([click here](#))** We apologise for the confusion but we also are just getting our heads around this process, so please be patient with us.

Attendance at the talk is of course free of charge, and although Hilary’s presentation is not due to begin until 2.00 p.m. we intend to open the Zoom session at 1.30 p.m. This is to give those who want to the opportunity to meet and chat with other members or just say hello given that we have not met one another for 6 months. There will of course be the opportunity for questions at the end of the presentation and/or a chance to share your experience so far of DNA testing - which I know Hilary is very keen on.

Given that our Branch has an international flavour I did have the hope - or fantasy - that some of our Canadian, US, Australian and New Zealand readers might be able to join us, but of course time is the issue. 2.00 p.m. is the middle of the night in some places. Anyway, you never know. If any of our members abroad would like to join us, then you are only a click away and we would love to see and hear you.