



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: [www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk)

E-mail: [angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk)

Newsletter: [scotia@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:scotia@mlfhs.org.uk)



Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the November edition of the newsletter. Dare we get hopeful at the mention of a possible vaccine to help us out of this situation? Why not. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who use all their skills and learning to find a way through this pandemic. We trust that you are all paying attention to your own and your family's wellbeing. Keep safe. Over the past few weeks and months the Anglo Scottish Committee have been working out how to continue to engage and serve our members during lockdown and this month we started off what we hope will be an ongoing process over subsequent months using Zoom. In this edition we again try to point you in the direction of resources for your research. Hope it is useful. Please, take care. Editor.



**DNA in Family History Research:** this presentation by Hilary Hartigan was subtitled, "You have taken a DNA test but the results do not match your expectations" How can this be?



Hilary used the example of her husband and his cousin. When they looked at their respective DNA results it showed no connection between them. Making use of charts to illustrate her point Hilary demonstrated how this could come about through the splitting of genes in various ways through different generations. What is required to address this apparent anomaly is a third person match. In other words a third person linked genetically to the first two and with a common ancestor that can then be seen to link the first two together. So two cousins can have a common ancestor but match that ancestor on a different segment of DNA and so apparently not genetically linked to one another.

The theme of the talk was expanded to advise on how best to make use of the information gleaned from the DNA results acquired. Hilary took us through the Ancestry DNA site with advice on how to make most use of it. Searching the trees of those identified as close DNA matches might throw up some hints. However this requires some work in noting down the details of other people's trees and tracing these back to find out the common ancestor of all those given as matches and extrapolating from this the link with yourself. Linked with this process was making use of the facility to mark/group those matches that have been explored. Apart from identifying matches that have already been explored one further advantage of doing this is that you are able to see immediately any new matches that Ancestry has found.

As a way of sifting through the matches Ancestry offers we were shown the option of filtering by surname and/or place name. Whilst the surname filter is fairly straightforward, the place name filter option needs to be treated with caution. It was pointed out that Ancestry goes by Parish name when identifying a place. This means that you need to be aware of the name of the Parish and not necessarily the name of the village/town that your ancestor came from.



I have to admit to continuing to find the whole DNA search option baffling. This despite the good services of family history colleagues, including Hilary, who have spent time explaining it to me. It must be that I just don't have that mind set but I plod on because it is a serious help option. What is available to continue to help me - and you if you want - are Hilary's notes of her talk. These can be found by logging into the Anglo Scottish Branch web site either directly or through the MLFHS site and selecting "Research". The "Speakers Notes" button can be seen on that ribbon and by clicking this you are able to select the speakers notes from various talks that the Branch has had.



**National Library of Scotland:** we have over many editions of this newsletter recommended registering for the NLS newsletter which is sent to you free of charge. If nothing else were to encourage you to do so then the November edition of their newsletter must sell it. It has a couple of must see sites and for those of you who do not have access to the newsletter then I attach links to the sites.

A web site called "Wee Windaes" ([click here](#)), that I had never heard of previously, has won the project of the year at the Scots Language awards. As is so often the case, information like this in a newsletter takes you to web sites that you would never otherwise look at or know about. I must admit to an initial prejudice when I looked at the site wondering who in Scotland talks like that any more. Then I recalled that growing up in Dundee it was not unusual to ask, for example, "geisa skiffie" for "give me a clue" and I am sure many of our readers who come from Scotland can think of many more examples. The web site offers various options to explore Scots language and, helpfully, has a button at the bottom of the articles with the chance to read it in English. Just all very different and worth a look.



**Map additions:** we are all familiar with the fabulous map site on the NLS. They have just added some new material to the site including the Sutherland Estate mapping, 1770s-1920s ([click here](#)) and the German naval charts of British waters, 1938-1945 ([click here](#)). What is interesting about the Sutherland Estate maps is that through the whole series you are able to see the structure of the Estate prior to the Clearances and the subsequent consequences of the Clearance policy so drastically carried out on that particular Estate. With regard to the German naval charts these are interesting insofar as they indicate the areas of the British coastline considered important to the German Navy. (Dundee isn't on there. Can't understand why!!!!) However these maps were extracted from and based upon the British Admiralty maps and there is access given to these maps which are much more numerous.

**Scottish Estate Maps:** many estate maps, previously in private hands, have been digitised by the NLS and are available to search online. ([click here](#)) As the NLS site says,

*"Estate maps are primarily associated with the major era of agricultural improvement from around 1760 to 1840, and are often the most detailed maps of rural areas before Ordnance Survey mapping."*

So if your ancestor was a landowner or rented a farm then have a look through these maps. You might be able to find their home

These specific sites aside, a regular exploration of the NLS web site will always prove worth while. During this time of lockdown for example they have many online talks and resources that you can access at your leisure or, in some cases, book into to attend via Zoom. If you ([click here](#)) you will be taken to the section of the NLS that offers tours and workshops. Now some of the workshops will have gone by the time I am able to send out this newsletter, but there are others there and you can register to attend free of charge. Once logged in you can also make a note of the website address for future reference.

**Why not register with the National Library of Scotland?** It is a simple process and costs nothing. However being a "member" opens up access to all of their digital resources including access to such items as the Cambridge and Oxford University journals. Now that may sound daunting but there are sections of these journals that cover history and family history, so worth a look. 🍌

**Exchange Journals:** just to alert you to the journals exchanged with other Family History Societies that have been recently uploaded onto the Society web site. These journals can be accessed by logging into the Society web-site via your membership. The Exchange Journal option is found on the first page.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** have sent their November edition. An interesting article in there about the Monumental Inscriptions project carried out in the area.

**Aberdeen and North East Scotland FHS:** some interesting articles with plenty of help and advice on how to progress your research, particularly in that region. I copy out some useful web sites that members have mentioned;

## Exchange Journals (cont)

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland/> for poorhouse records; both the SCS and Moray & Nairn FHS have published volumes for the north of Scotland.

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) all the gravestones in Fyvie kirkyard have been photographed and transcribed now and are available here.

<http://gordonhighlanders.carolynmorrissey.com/index.htm> for the 5th Battalion (Buchan & Formartine) the Gordon Highlanders in the Great War;

<https://www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php> for details and a summary of Scottish burial grounds, start with this SAFHS inventory.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/church-court-records-online> the NRS information site:

<https://www.geograph.org.uk> a useful map/photo site;

**Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS:** as well as sending us a copy of their journal, "Gallus", the G&WSFHS have informed us of their brand new web site. Do have a look at it ([click here](#)) It is a bright and attractive site with lots of information that draws you in. They have clearly put a lot of work into producing this site and it shows. Well done them. I was delighted to see that in their Library Catalogue they have several items from the MLFHS and also the Anglo Scottish Society



**Central Scotland FHS:** some interesting material in this journal including a list of all the Parishes within the Central Region that this FHS covers. They are another Society that have updated their web site. Not as grand as Glasgow, but worth a look.

**Find My Past:** have uploaded some new records;

**Scotland, Forfarshire (Angus), Dundee Death Index 1990-1993:** covering those who died in Dundee in the early '90s.

**Scotland, Ayrshire Census and Population Lists 1801-1831:** giving ages, addresses and occupations.

Speaking of Find My Past, I have recommended previously registering with the "Lost Cousins" web site ([click here](#)) which was created and continues to be operated by Peter Calver. You can register without becoming a member, (for which you pay but get all the benefits), and apply to have the newsletter sent to you. This is usually full of interesting material and the latest one is no exception. Peter is very knowledgeable and is keen to pass on his expertise. He has previously compiled quite a substantial article on how to get the most out of the Find My Past web site and in this latest newsletter he uploads this together with some updated tips and advice. Whilst there is no indication of "copyright" issues, Peter does ask that the information in the newsletter not be copied and I want to respect that. However, given this article about Find My Past on its own, I do recommend that you sign up for the newsletter. Back copies are always available so you will not miss out.

### Helping the Society financially through - Amazon Smile

For some time now there has been the opportunity for members to support the Society by making any purchases through the **Easyfunding** web site available on the MLFHS web site. Whilst this remains an option it has come to our attention that **Amazon** have created their own charity donating option with the creation of **Amazon Smile**.

Many of us are already registered with **Amazon** and sales through them, particularly at this time of year, are many indeed. With this scheme, any purchases made through the **Amazon Smile** site means that **Amazon** donate 0.5% of the sale purchase price to a nominated charity.

In order to take part in this scheme you have to log into the **Amazon Smile** site ([click here](#)) and register using your usual **Amazon** email and password. Part of this registration process involves nominating a charity of your choice from a vast list that **Amazon** offers. In our case you scroll down to **Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society** and click this. Once so registered, and for the donation to be applied, you must then make any **Amazon** purchases you intend through the **Amazon Smile** site and **not** the normal **Amazon** site. The **Amazon Smile** site has all the normal/usual **Amazon** facilities and purchasing options. It is simply that it is geared up to the charity donating option.

If you do use **Amazon** for purchases, please do consider this option as it is a great help in providing funds for the Society at no extra cost to yourself. Thank you.

## Promotions and Education Committee of the MLFHS

At the Executive Committee meeting in November 2019 the Committee, in light of a working party assessment, approved the formation of the Promotions and Education Committee.

The prompt for this was the situation in which the Executive Committee found itself following the retirement of the Family History Fairs co-ordinator who for many years had organised, promoted and attended to the Societies involvement in Family History Fairs throughout the country. No replacement was forthcoming. This, together with the Executive Committee's desire that the Society be promoted more broadly resulted in the formation of the Promotions and Education Committee.

The remit for the Promotions and Education Committee is threefold:

- To meet twice/three times a year or as often as appropriate.
- To provide guidance for any material that emanates from the Society by way of publicity and education including the Manchester Genealogist; all leaflets produced by the Society and all promotional material
- To be responsible for identifying, co-ordinating and developing the Societies involvement in fairs and other gatherings where the Societies aims would be met.

It is understood that the existence of this resource for the Society has not been sufficiently disseminated. We bring it to your attention in the hope that any member of the Society who has observations or suggestions as to how the Society might best be promoted would share these. You can get in touch with the committee via the Society office email address.

**Retour: the Journal of the Scottish Records Association:** the latest journal from the SRA is now available and can be found here ([click here](#)). Remember also that accessing the SRA web site itself ([click here](#)) gives access to a large number of articles to do with Scottish research.



**MLFHS Book Shop:** don't forget the Society book shop when considering gifts for family/friends. The shop is easily accessed through the Society web site and the door is always open. With particular reference to our Anglo Scottish Branch, there are a number of items of interest including CD's and Chris Paton's new books on Scottish Family History research. Have a look through. You are sure to find something for that budding family historian.



## Anglo Scottish Branch "Zoom" Meeting - Saturday, 12th December 2020, 2.00 p.m.

### Subject: "The new Society web site - How do I get the most out of it"

Now, as long-term members of the Branch know, we don't normally have a December Branch meeting. However, what with all this new technology, and the success of our last Branch meeting using Zoom, we have decided to continue to meet within the comfort of our own homes. The nod to the Christmas season coming upon us is the fact that we are going to meet on the second Saturday of December rather than our usual third Saturday which seemed a bit too close to Christmas itself. If you did not manage to join us previously please do give it a try. It is simple to log in and great to see everyone again, albeit, in little squares!!!

The topic we have chosen for this presentation is a look through the new Society web site. By and large the feed back from Society members has been positive about the web site, but there remain indications that people are struggling a bit to find their way around and to appreciate all that the new site has to offer. Enter our very own Hilary Hartigan. Hilary has been one of the key people on the working party established to oversee the setting up of the new web site and is more familiar than most with its structure and contents.



We want the meeting to be a casual get together with a focus on the web site. It is a chance to join in with a glass of sherry and a mince pie - if it is not too early for such!! - and find out what is on offer. So do join us. We look forward to seeing you.