



e-Scotia



Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the December edition of the newsletter. This comes with our best wishes for the Christmas season. The nativity scene I am using is a pen and ink drawing by a friend when she was 16 yrs. old. The newsletter this month is rather more sparse than usual with so little happening, but I have searched around for some news and sites that might help you in your research. Again the world of "Zoom" is dominating the family history scene, so whilst we miss the contact with one another it does mean that there is a lot of online information available to us - and for free!!!

Take care.

Editor.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas



And every good wish for the New Year



YOU GIVE LITTLE WHEN YOU GIVE OF YOUR POSSESSIONS
IT IS WHEN YOU GIVE OF YOURSELF THAT YOU TRULY GIVE

Kahlil Gibran



“The new Web Site - How to get the most out of it”

Since the setting up of the new Society web site the general response from members has been positive. That said there were some expressions of frustration when trying to find some resource so familiar on the previous web site. Given the more light-hearted mood prior to Christmas we decided that a topic exploring the new web site would be helpful and 17 members of the Branch joined this Zoom meeting to take part.

The demonstration of the web site was led by Hilary Hartigan, a member of the Branch and a leading light in the setting up of the web site. Who better? Having just received my copy of the Manchester Genealogist, I see that in the Anglo Scots section, Hilary has written an article about the web site and as the MG goes out to all 2,500+ members of the Society, then all benefit. However I share the content of our Branch get-together which gave rise to some questions from members the answers to which you might find helpful and I mark off the items that were highlighted for me:

Remember to scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page: it is good to remember that the pages of the web site are long and so not just what appears immediately on your screen. So there is the need to make use of the scroll button on your computer. Some users have done a search and then claimed that nothing appeared. However a scroll down would have revealed their results

Home Page: attractive to members and non-members alike: obviously members of the Society can log in and take advantage of the many thousands of records that we have, but there is on this Home Page also the opportunity for non-members to savour some of the benefits. By way of referencing the number of records our site has Hilary made the point that whilst, for example, the War Grave Commission site has 1.7 million records, the MLFHS site has 2.7 million.

Web Links: I must admit that this was a source that I had not tapped into let alone made use of but it is indeed a vast source of information on, and links to, what is available on the Web. The site is subdivided into three categories; Main, Overseas and Miscellaneous, which are in their turn subdivided into useful headings to ease research. Every category that you could be interested in is there. The “Overseas” category carries websites for Canada, Australia and New Zealand whilst the “Miscellaneous” category includes categories related to military research. It is certainly a site that I shall be consulting in the future.

The Great Database: this is the primary source of research of all of the databases on the site, 187 in total, a phenomenal number. For members of the Society it is possible, by way of the Great Database site, to explore, individually, all the various databases. We were advised that if you know what you are looking for it is useful to go into the specific database as searching this can throw up more information than simply doing a general search via the Great Database.

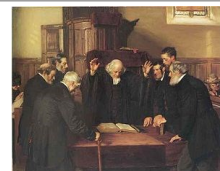
New additions to records: again this is a site that I have not been familiar with but one which Hilary advised us all to keep an eye on since new records are being added all the time. Members and non-members can access this part of the site from the Home page by scrolling down to the heading “New Additions to our Record Collection” and clicking on the “read more” button. There you will see all the most recent records that have been added to the overall collection some of which may be of interest.

Indicating membership preferences: now this was an area that caught many of us out since we had not addressed it since the opening of the new web site. It refers to our registering what Branches of the Society we might be interested in. This was something we had done when we joined the Society and something that all new members to the Society are invited to indicate when joining. We all join the M&LFHS and this also includes our membership of the various Branches; Anglo Scots, Bolton, Oldham and Irish. However by specifically indicating an interest in one or all of the Branches this alerts that Branch to your interest and they are able to include you in their local interest group/newsletter, etc.

If you are receiving this newsletter then you are presumed to have an interest in the Anglo Scottish Branch but could we ask you please to check on the system that you are so registered? If you want to join the Society this will be taken care of. However if you are already a member then you have to do this manually. You do this by logging into the web site with your membership number. Then on the “Home” page, scroll down to the black box under the “Unique resources for members” section that says “Join M&LFHS”. Although you are already a member, click on this and you will be taken to your own profile page. On this there is an option under the “Your Personal Details” section to “Update your membership details”. Click on this and you are taken to a page where you can “Edit membership details”. One of the options that you have is headed “Preferences”. Click on this and you will see all the Branches indicated with check boxes next to them. Click on the “interest” that you have and click “Submit”. I am sorry that it is a rather convoluted process, but once done it does let the Society offer a better service by meeting all the interests that members might have.

Plus-One Membership and Zoom meetings: whilst in the “Your Personal Details” section you will see that you have the option of adding a “plus-one” to your membership. Now if your “plus-one” is in your household then they will be able to join in on your Zoom meetings from your home. However, if your “plus-one” lives elsewhere and they want to attend any Zoom meetings, you will need to let our chairman, Michael Couper, know, along with their email address, so that he can send them a separate invitation.

Kirk Session Records to be digitised: I am always grateful to readers of the newsletter who send in information that might help other readers in their research. So thanks to Ina for sending me this latest information from the **Scottish Genes** web site ([click here](#)) (which is edited by Chris Paton by the way) about the latest addition to be forthcoming on the *ScotlandsPeople* web site.



It has been announced (although not yet formally by *ScotlandsPeople* as far as I can see) that *ScotlandsPeople* have at last got around to digitising the Kirk Session Records and plan to release these, online, "sometime early 2021". We are all familiar with the importance of Kirk Session records in conveying information about families and individuals, in particular, prior to statutory registration in 1855. Better still, as you will see from the article, it seems that *ScotlandsPeople* are going to give access to the Records, prior to 1855, free of charge. Anyway, read the article. There is a lot more detail in it. Great news though. ([Click here](#)) for the full details.



Scottish Indexes Conference - December 2020

If you have looked at the *Scottish Genes* article you will see that the announcement about the Kirk Session Records was made at the recent Scottish Indexes Conference on the 6th December. By now some of you will be aware of the family history conferences organised and operated during this period of lock down via Zoom by Graham and Emma Maxwell co-founders of the Scottish Indexes web site. ([click here](#)) Indeed I am sure that many of you have logged in to benefit from the conferences.

For those of you unable to access the conference, or to manage to stay for all the topics, the Maxwells have kindly made available a handout of the conference and the resources indicated by the speakers. With their permission I make a copy of this handout available to you. ([click here](#))

The next online Conference - the 8th - is arranged for the 30th January 2021 and booking is open now.

DNA Research: last month we dedicated our main topic to DNA research and its uses in informing our family history research. Co-incidentally we then received the following communication from a research centre in the University of Newcastle, Australia, inviting participation in a project they are carrying out.

Our research team at the University of Newcastle (Drs Shaw, Donnelly, Burke and Parkes from the School of Education) are conducting research into family history DNA testing and its impacts on people's understanding of themselves and their place in history as well as some general demographic information. To this end, we are conducting an online survey which is expected to take about 20 minutes. This study is an Australian first and provides your group members with an exciting opportunity to be involved in a new worldwide project about exploring the past. We are hoping that you would be able to share the attached invitation, either by email or social media, with your group's members and direct them to the link provided: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2DDTC2L>.

Thank you for considering this invitation,

Dr Emma Shaw (for the research team)

I know there are many of you who have taken DNA tests as part of your own research, so if you would like to take part in this, rather interesting project, then do get in touch with them via the link.

Find My Past: information has come to us about new/additional resources that Find My Past have added to their site. For those of you who do not normally receive these details, they are as follows;

Scottish Monumental Inscriptions: they have added several thousand more monumental inscriptions to their data base. Information about these and other items of interest can be found on this link. ([click here](#))

Newspaper death reports and obituaries: these have been extracted from the FMP newspaper archive as well as from FH Society records throughout Scotland. ([click here](#))

Glasgow & Lanarkshire Death & Burial Index: includes entries of deaths with extra details such as notes of those too poor to afford a funeral, the hire of a 'mortcloth' and the ringing of a burial bell. ([click here](#))

Scotland Post Office Directories: hundreds of pages covering the whole of Scotland. Discover names, addresses and occupations, while learning more about Scotland during your chosen era. ([click here](#))

Anglo Scottish Branch - Calendar of Events 2021

January 16th

Quiz and Social

May 15th

The Great Tapestry of Scotland

September 19th

"Instantly buckled for live"

February 20th

AGM

Sue Whitaker

Chris Paton

June 19th

October 16th

"Tracing Irish in Scotland"

The Mitchell Library and its Holdings

Ancestral Breakthroughs

Chris Paton

Irene O'Brien

November 20th

March 20th

July 17th

Ancestral Heirlooms

The Scots Elite in Liverpool 1780-1850

"Gems of Manchester" Walking Tour

December 18th

Alan Crosby

Jonathan Schofield

No meeting

April 17th

August 21st

Ancestral Brick Walls

No Meeting

In view of the current situation these meetings will be held through the medium of Zoom including the talks by invited speakers. The programme is also open to review but any changes will be notified to you through this newsletter and the letter sent out to members by our chairman, Michael Couper. However it is hoped that as the year progresses conditions will change and we shall be able to recommence our meetings at Manchester Central Library. When this is considered safe, we shall inform everyone in ample time.

Society Branch Zoom Meetings: Whilst advertising our own Branch programme for 2021, don't forget that our sister Branches within the Society also have a programme of talks and that you can "attend" these during this period of lockdown via Zoom. No need to travel during these cold dark evenings. Just sit in the comfort of your own armchair with a cup of tea and a biscuit and enjoy. Click on these links to access their programmes.

Bolton: [Bolton FHS/Events](#)

Oldham: [Oldham FHS/Events](#)

Manchester: [Manchester FHS/Events](#)

Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting - Saturday, 16th January 2021

Zoom gathering - 1.30 p.m. for 2.00 p.m. - Social and Quiz



As indicated above, our first "gathering" in 2021 is a celebration. It is our traditional get-together and quiz, the latter put together by our two intrepid quiz masters, Ina and Yvonne. Now normally we are able to distribute prizes to the winners of our quiz, but this time, unless someone comes up with a novel alternative, the winners (brainboxes) will have to be satisfied with our applause and admiration.

