



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: www.angloscots.mlfs.org.uk

E-mail: angloscots@mlfs.org.uk

Newsletter: scotia@mlfs.org.uk



Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the February edition of the newsletter. Many of us will have been injected with new hope with regard to this pandemic and whether you have decided to have the vaccine or not we wish you well and please continue to take care. This month the Branch were fortunate to have, once again, Chris Paton, talking to us, this time, via Zoom. Both his popularity and the topic chosen were indicative of the number of attendees at the meeting. This meeting was also the Anglo Scots AGM but more about that later. Despite the isolation that we all feel, there is still a goodly amount of source material to help us, or entertain us, in our research and we share these with you. As usual, please take care and go safely.

Editor.



Tracing the Irish in Scotland



We were fortunate to welcome once again Chris Paton to our Branch meeting, albeit, via Zoom. Chris was born in Northern Ireland but has lived for many years in Scotland. He is therefore in a good place when it comes to exploring and sharing this movement of peoples from Ireland to Scotland.



We were glad to welcome 42 attendees at the meeting with a real international as well as national flavour.

We had 2 tuned in from Australia (goodness knows what time you got to bed!!!); 2 from Canada; 2 from Scotland; 1 from Northern Ireland and everyone else from all parts of England. Great to see you all and a pleasure to welcome you.

In giving this summary of the presentation I am conscious that Chris was good enough to provide a handout of his talk with all the references that he referred to. This is currently available in the public area of the Society web site but soon to be moved into the member-only area. So if you receive this newsletter or attended the meeting and are not a member then please get hold of it now. It can be accessed by going to:

[MLFHS web site](#) ➡ [Branches](#) ➡ [Anglo Scots](#) ➡ [Research](#) ➡ [Speakers Notes](#).

If you are a member of course then you can access this and much more at any time, so for the rest..... 😊

Given that the notes of the talk are available I offer my own take and notes on the event that enlightened me. We are familiar with the varying dates of registration in the different administrations; 1837 in England & Wales; 1855 in Scotland and in Ireland, 1864, although non-Catholic marriages were registered from 1845. The significance of this is that Scottish records might provide clues to children born in Ireland and couples married in Ireland prior to 1864 who later moved over to Scotland.

In trying to find where a person came from in Ireland using Scottish records, Chris referred to what he called the "Chain Migration" system. This takes account of a common phenomenon amongst immigrants to any country who tend to congregate with people from their own land, either because they are related or just feel more comfortable. When you therefore find in a Scottish census the basic indication that the person you are interested in comes from "Ireland" it might prove fruitful to explore all the residents in the census of that area as one might indicate where in "Ireland" they came from and this might prove a clue to the person you are interested in.

Tracing the Irish in Scotland (cont.)

Chris spent some time advising us about Church Records. Given that many of the immigrants to Scotland from Ireland were Roman Catholic, then reference was made to the extensive Roman Catholic Records of baptisms, marriages and some burials that are available on the **Find My Past** web site as well as on Scotlands People. However another source referred to was the **Bishopric of Forces collection**. The Bishopric is based in Aldershot and these records refer to all Roman Catholics in the British armed forces who have had events recorded during their service. A useful summary of the site can be found here on the **Scottish Genes** web site. [\(Click here\)](#) Another source for Catholic ancestors could be the banns for marriage read out in the Church of Scotland since to have a lawful marriage the banns had to be proclaimed in the national Church, the Church of Scotland. Some Catholics therefore had the banns read out in the Church of Scotland then married in the Catholic Church. A search of the OPR's might therefore prove fruitful.



It is the Church of Scotland that is the primary Church in Scotland. Although not the state Church in the same way that the Church of England is the state Church of England it is the national Church of Scotland. Consequently what is referred to, for example, as the Old Parochial Registers (OPR's) on the Scotlands People site refers to the registers of the Church of Scotland. The heart of the Church of Scotland is Presbyterianism and Chris alerted us to the fact that Presbyterianism in Ireland is different from Presbyterianism in Scotland. This established another source that might prove useful in our research into Irish ancestors, namely, "The Ulster Covenant". Detailed information about this Covenant can be found here [\(click here\)](#) which also clarifies how you can access the Covenant. In essence it was an adverse response to the Home Rule Bill that emerged from Westminster in 1912 when those opposed to it signed a declaration opposing home rule. It was signed not only in Ireland but in other countries, including Scotland so it is worth having a look at therefore to see if your ancestor put their name to this.

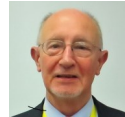
Old age pension applications made by Irish people in Scotland is another possible source of information. When the State Pension came about in 1909 proof of age was necessary to qualify. Since many did not have birth certificates, evidence from Irish census or Parish records was acceptable.

Scottish Poor Law records are another source worth looking at since many coming over from Ireland to work in Scotland sometimes found themselves in difficulty and had to apply for poor relief. The Glasgow records held in the Mitchell Library are the most comprehensive collection but other cities have records worth exploring. However, just as applicants to one Parish could be sent to the Parish that they originated from so it seems that some Irish applicants for poor relief were deported back to Ireland. Access to this source is however only available in the House of Commons records but it is worth knowing that such a record exists and for the persistent it could be accessed. Information about this deportation process can be accessed on the "Raymond's County Down Web Site" [\(click here\)](#)

These then are the highlights for me of Chris's talk that indicated areas that I did not know previously about. There was a great deal more some of which might be accessed through the handout, and we were all grateful for a very interesting gathering.

Anglo Scottish Branch AGM: our Branch meeting was also the occasion of our AGM when the report from our chairman, Michael Couper, was presented and voted upon and the Branch committee was chosen and confirmed. The annual report had been previously sent to members but can be read here. <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/about/what-we-do>

The Branch committee members all indicated their willingness to serve for another year and this was accepted. The gallery therefore remains; L to R: Michael Couper (chairman) Hilary Hartigan, Ina Penneyston, Yvonne Gill-Martin, David Muil, Linda McInnes, Mark Campbell.



Census 2021: in this part of the world we are being made aware of the new census due to be taken on Sunday 21 March so we will be in full swing by the time of the next newsletter. This census is unique in that it is the first time that the census will be administered digitally. Apparently there is going to be help and advice for those who feel they need it as well as paper versions on request. Scotland has announced that, due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus, the census there is postponed until 2022.



The appearance of one census of course means that we can look forward to the publishing of the 1921 census. So far it looks as though in England and Wales that will not occur until January 2022. We understand that in Scotland they plan to publish the 1921 Scotland census some time after June this year.

On the subject of census' can I refer you to the web site [Family History.co.uk](http://FamilyHistory.co.uk) where they give a great breakdown of everything and anything to do with census collection.



SCOTTISH
COUNCIL ON
ARCHIVES

The council has been around for many years of course and is charged with collecting, collating and preserving all the archival material throughout Scotland. Their web site, Scan (www.scan.org.uk/index.html) is probably more familiar to us where access is available to all of their resources. However the Council is not simply interested in historical archives but has announced that, in light of the curious experiences we have all suffered during the past year, it is seeking to collect these. not only of the statutory agencies, but also the day-to-day experiences of ordinary people. So, if you fancy being part of the Scottish archive for future generations to ponder, then get in touch with the SCA. Full details of the project and how to take part can be found here. [\(click here\)](#) Remember, we shall all be ancestors at some stage!!



Family Search RootsTech Conference; 25th - 27th February 2021.



This massive two-day conference is this week-end and is absolutely free. You simply have to register then you can dip in and out as you want and also have access to all the workshops. Details of the event can be found here [\(click here\)](#) where you can also find information about how to register. It is an international event with many hundreds of classes available. There must be something here for all of us. [\(click here to find out\)](#)

Scottish Indexes: last month mention was made of the video conference organised by **Scottish Indexes** and once again it was a success so thanks to the Maxwell's for being generous enough to offer this to us. The Scottish Indexes web site, if you register to join it, offers also a forum and I noticed that several people post requests on it for help with their research. I noticed also that someone had asked the Maxwell's if, in light of the many references to sources made in the webinars, a list of genealogical/web site resources could be produced since this person often forgot what the sources were. Well a fairly rapid response came back from another researcher reminding the enquirer, and indeed all of us, about **Cyndi's List** (www.cyndislist.com) which does precisely that - and a great deal more. So let us not forget the more established resources that are already available to help us.

On a lighter note: never mind Strictly Come Dancing, take a look at the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. They have started to digitise their archive ([RSCDS Archive](#)) which, in itself, makes for interesting viewing. However what attracted me to this site was the story of a dance being devised and performed by soldiers of the 51st Highland Division who had been captured at Dunkirk and ultimately ended up as POW's in Germany. ([Dancing for victory—Canvas \(bbcrewind.co.uk\)](#)) The dance was compiled by 2nd Lt James Atkinson of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders whilst a prisoner. The story is an interesting and uplifting one - and there is even the chance to see and hear it performed.



Exchange Journals: we have promoted our Exchange Journal resource previously and do so again to encourage you to have a look at the site. Digital copies of the journals of 47 Family History Societies worldwide are available on the member web site. They are a rich source of local information and resources that can be dipped into at anytime. I came across a reference to this particular web site in the Aberdeen and East of Scotland journal called "Geograph". (www.geograph.org.uk) As the site declares;



*The **Geograph**® Britain and Ireland project aims to collect geographically representative photographs and information for every square kilometre of [Great Britain](#) and [Ireland](#), and you can be part of it.*

So when you enter the site you see the UK and Ireland mapped out in squares. You click onto any particular area that you are interested in and there you have access to a number of photographs of that area that people have submitted. There are some historical photographs that can give some idea, if you are fortunate, of the area that your ancestor hailed from. The bonus? If you have any photographs that you think would be of help to others, then you can submit them.

Anyway, do have a look at the Exchange Journal site. There is a wealth of information there provided by local family historians who know the people and the area. The bonus is that if you have any connections with that area you can contact them directly through the Journal and seek their help.



An interesting Blog about Gravestones: a reader of this newsletter sent this to me. Surely only family historians can get excited about a blog about gravestones!!! Anyway it can be accessed here ([click](#)) and is headed, "**Morte Photography**" The site consists of a vast number of photographs of gravestones taken by volunteers around the country in an attempt to try and preserve this particular heritage/source. A noble venture and you never know what you may find.

Society and Branch Events: as members of the Society we are also members of all the Branches of the Society and have access to all of their events. So please remember to have a look at their respective sites Each has a large library of local resources, information and newsletters as well as monthly Branch talks to which you are invited: Anglo Scots ([click here](#)) Bolton ([click here](#)); Oldham ([click here](#)) and Manchester ([click here](#)) where all details are available.

Society Shop: ([click here](#)) is the place to go to for all your books, maps, CD's and more. Although access to Manchester Central Library is very limited there are no such limits to the willingness and ability of our shop staff to deal with your enquiries and requests. Some books are also for sale as "downloads" which makes them cheaper, so have a look.



Anglo Scottish Branch Zoom Meeting

Saturday, 20th March, 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

The Scots elite in Liverpool - 1780-1850

Dr Alan Crosby



We are pleased to welcome back to speak to us, Dr Alan Crosby. This presentation continues the talk Dr Crosby gave to us last year when considering the movement of peoples around the border area of Scotland and England. To explore our current topic we make use of and continue to follow the fortunes of the Rickerby family of Dumfries who move to Liverpool and find their fortune. Whilst focused on this family the talk will illustrate the movement and fortunes of many Scots who made a similar journey. Given the topic we are hoping that some of our fellow family history researchers in the Liverpool area will be joining us.

Once again the meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Apologies to those members of the Branch who, for whatever reason, are unable to join us in this forum. We miss you and are aware of your absence.

Attendance at the meeting will require you to book through **Eventbrite** but our chairman, Michael Couper, will be in touch nearer the time to invite you to join us.