



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society



Welcome: to the March edition of the newsletter. Spring is in the air for us in the northern hemisphere and it is good to feel a bit of warmth. We were pleased to welcome again a knowledgeable friend of the family history scene, Dr Alan Crosby. It was again, a Zoom gathering, and whilst this means that some of our regular members are not able to join us for various reasons, (and we remember you all) we are able to welcome members and non-members from further afield who would not normally be able to journey to Manchester. A brief summary of Alan's talk is given here but for those able to access it, a fuller version will be available for members in the next Manchester Genealogist Journal. Take care. Editor.



The Scots Elite in Liverpool - 1780-1850

Dr Alan Crosby



When Alan spoke to us in February last year he dealt with the Scottish/English border scene by way of reference to a particular family, the Rickerbys. This family, a rather ordinary small farming family for many generations, originated in Cumbria. In the early 18th century one member of this family, Jonathon Rickerby, broke away from farming and, on marrying, became involved in the business of hide tanning and brewing. These businesses took this family over the Border into Dumfriesshire where Jonathon, and later his son James Rickerby became increasingly important members of the local business community. A couple of generations later the family are involved in international trade, particularly in the West Indies. Making use of this family's history we were thus provided with a scenario that led to subsequent family members moving down, probably by boat from Dumfries, to Liverpool, then the beating heart of international trade with the Americas and West Indies. By then there was a sizeable Scottish community immersed in Liverpool business and the family were absorbed into this.



James Rickerby had married into an important Dumfries family, the Duncan's, and it was this Rickerby/Duncan family combination that was to make such an impact not only to trade in Liverpool but, through subsequent descendants, an influence in health and social conditions.

James' daughter, Mary Ann Duncan Rickerby, married William Campbell in Liverpool, a Scot who had made good in business through American trade so much so that he had a residence and offices in Philadelphia as well as Liverpool.

Three male cousins of Mary Ann Rickerby, George, William and Robert Duncan, all moved from Dumfriesshire to Liverpool motivated by business. It would seem that Dumfriesshire did not offer sufficient opportunity for business expansion, and in Liverpool they became involved in the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. This was founded in 1801 to offer a voice to Liverpool's business empire opposed to the abolition of slavery, slavery being at the heart of much of the trade with America. Evidently therefore in this regard they mirrored the thinking of much of the economic interests in the UK at this time.

The Scots Elite in Liverpool (cont)

Alan introduced us to other branches of this incredible family who were not so supportive of this thinking or so interested in commerce. George Duncan had a son named William Henry Duncan, born in 1805. He pursued a career in medicine qualifying at Edinburgh University. He moved to Liverpool and set up a practice. It was through this that he was inspired to explore and discover the link between the water people were drinking and diseases like cholera. As a result of his work he was appointed the first Medical Officer for Health for Liverpool and pioneered much of the improvements in health and housing in the city.

Another family member related to William Duncan through his mother was James Currie. After a period of trying to establish a business in America, he returned to the UK and to Edinburgh where he too studied medicine before setting up a practice in Liverpool. Unlike some of his cousins however his links were with the abolitionists of slavery and a supporter and companion of William Wilberforce. Through a relative of his wife, James Currie also published the first biography of Robert Burns.

Then there was the youngest Duncan family member, Henry, who was a minister at a church in Dumfriesshire but who left the Church of Scotland and was one of the founders of the Free Church

Using many of the members of this particular family, Alan illustrated the astonishing achievements and influence that these and many Scots had on the development of commerce and social and literary improvement in Liverpool and beyond. It was emphasized that this was a very ordinary farming family from Cumbria some of whose members, in the space of 150 years, engineered a thriving business empire and pioneered health and social welfare developments.

A thoroughly enlightening talk that was appreciated by all those attending. It engendered a lot of questions that stimulated further discussion. We were fortunate to have some in the Zoom audience who were from Liverpool and so were able to throw some light onto the wider issue of the Scottish presence in Liverpool and hopefully this will open up a basis of some future research.

SAFHS Conference: Saturday, 17th April 2021

A reminder about the Conference as it will be over by the time the next newsletter is published. Our Anglo Scottish Branch were co-founders of SAFHS way back in 1986 when we were all younger and could remember things. This is the first time that the annual conference is being held on line, a tricky business at the best of time, but there is much assistance being offered by the Maxwells who have great experience through operating their own Family History Conferences. The

title of the Conference is ***"It's a Sair Fecht"*** which, for those of you not familiar with the dialect translates literally as "It's a Sore Fight" meaning "It's a Hard Life" so that gives a flavour of the tenor of the gathering. It runs from 9.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. BST but I understand that time arrangements for those living in other parts of our world are being considered. You can get access to all the information by [clicking here](#) where you can also get details of the speakers and topics.



The Scottish Association of Family History Societies

Free event
Six presentations
Genealogy Q&A

safhs.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number SC029006

SAFHS Virtual Conference 17 April 2021

The poster features a map of Scotland with the letters S, A, F, H, S stacked vertically. To the right, there is a black and white photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) and a circular orange badge with the text 'SAFHS Virtual Conference 17 April 2021'.

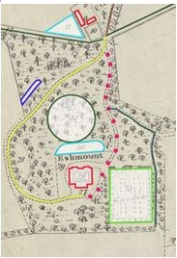
Bringing ancestors to life!! I don't know if you have heard of this latest development in software technology launched by the web site MyHeritage. It is called "Deep Nostalgia" and enables you to animate - yes animate!! - your ancestors using old photographs. The site can be accessed [\(here\)](#). I tried it out with a photograph of an aunt who died relatively young. For the



programme to work they seem to reconfigure the photograph to some extent, but still it continued to look like her as in the photograph. Sorry to say, but it was all a bit too spooky for me and I shall not be making use of the technology again. I think I will let my ancestors rest in peace. Still, if you are interested in it, have a look - and you might find your ancestor having a look at you!!!

National Library of Scotland: for those of you who do not subscribe to the NLS newsletter (and I strongly encourage you to do so) , I attach their latest information with regard to maps and map searching. I have included the links so that you can navigate your way through from here. These maps are a great way of discovering where your ancestors came from.

March Maps Miscellany



We recently added [new tools to allow easy tracing or drawing of features](#) on maps. You can select a feature type for drawing, choose any colour, and just click/tap on the map to start drawing. The results can be saved locally as an image or text file for onward editing. We also added a [new georeferenced layer covering much of Great Britain](#) in the mid-20th century. Other additions include a new *Show IIIIF* link in the footer of all our [map viewer pages](#). This makes it easier to reuse images inside other viewers or applications - for example, for transcription or georeferencing.

A couple of sources sent in by readers: I am always grateful to readers of this newsletter who take the trouble to pass on web sites that they have come across and found helpful/interesting and that they think might be worth passing on to the rest of us;

Archive Web Sites: ([click here](#)) this was actually passed on to us through the Society Forum by a member who lives in Fort William who was searching for another digital archive. The site lists the web addresses of the archives of a vast range of every conceivable organisation including businesses, Local Councils and Local History Libraries. It is not all-inclusive of course (Dundee isn't mentioned which is a shame but as there is the option to propose other sites I sent Dundee off!!) but it is certainly a site to go to as it brings together a number of sources without the need to pursue them individually. You might find a site you never considered previously.

Monuments and Monumental Inscriptions in Scotland by Charles Rogers: another reader of the newsletter made us aware of this book which is an offering by the *Forgotten Books* organisation. ([click here](#)) There is the option to join Forgotten Books for a monthly fee when you then have access to the whole book, but you can actually "Read" most of the book for free. If you download the free "Read" version as a guest then scroll down to the end of the book to the index you see page references to particular individuals and particular church yards.

If you have come across any sources that you think would be useful for others, please do let us know and we will share them. We all need a little help with our research. Don't worry if you are thinking "I know of this so everyone else will". It is often not the case.

Census 1921: I have just completed our census form for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As has been



referred to previously in this newsletter, Scotland have decided to postpone the census until 2022.

(I was interested to read a very recent contribution to the Society Forum from a Society member in Scotland who had just found out that the census had been postponed there and was angry about this. Clearly he should register for our newsletter then he could have been angry a lot sooner!!) Since this newsletter is sent to members in other countries to which Scots have travelled, I was interested to find out when their census' is taken. I discover that Australia and New Zealand take the census every 5 years (this year in Australia; 2023 in New Zealand) and that Canada is due this year whilst the USA took a census last year with the next one in 2030. Many countries, like here, have developed online digital census-taking for the first time so the success or otherwise of this approach will be closely watched - but it is at least being taken - although the threat of future census' still hangs in the balance.

To balance the announcement of a postponement of the 2021 Census, the Scottish Government are releasing the **1921 Census of Scotland** this year - sometime after June is all we can garner so far (In England and Wales the release is not due until January 2022). To "celebrate" this release the Anglo Scottish Branch are in the process of planning the organisation and release of some pertinent documents but more of this later.

Scottish Indexes: I expect that by now many of us are familiar with the Scottish Indexes web site created and run by Graham and Emma Maxwell. Emma is due to give a presentation on Kirk Session Records at the SAFHS Conference referred to earlier and to be held on the 17th April. You can access their site ([here](#)) where you find details of what is offered as well as the opportunity to **volunteer** to help in the work of digitising various Scottish records. Hopefully too you have been able to attend some of the family history conferences that they so generously organise and offer for free - although there is the hope of donations to help support the venture. The last conference was held on Saturday 20th March and a handout of the talks can be downloaded from ([here](#)) but you can actually access the presentations at all the previous conferences ([here](#)) which is a real treat. The next conference is arranged for Saturday 22nd May and you can register for it on the Scottish Indexes web site.



Federation of Family History Societies - The Really Useful Show

On Saturday, 10th April, the FFHS is offering an online Family History Show. It runs from 10.00 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. There are 25 talks being delivered by excellent speakers and details of what is on offer can be found on the FFHS web site ([click here](#)) where you can also book tickets. With so many speakers it will not be possible of course to attend all the talks, but they are going to be recorded and can be accessed at a date suitable to yourself.



As well as the talks, many of the Family History Societies throughout the country will have a presence, and that includes ourselves under the banner of **“Manchester Ancestors”**. You access the various societies by clicking on to their logo. You can then ask questions via an internet link. If you have family links with other areas of the country it is a great opportunity to explore what is available.

Closer to Home: sometimes we become so familiar with family history web sites that we forget that they are always being updated with new features and news added. Don't forget that as members of the Anglo Scots Branch you are also de facto members of MLFHS and its Branches and able to join in all their programmes.

Bolton: where you can access a lot of local material to aid your research. There is a lot going on with their Branch meetings continuing via Zoom and these include really interesting talks. Next month the topic is Quakerism in Bolton.

Oldham: again, access to local material. They too continue with their monthly meetings via Zoom and I see that the offering for April - just to get us in the mood for better things - is entitled “Memories of holidays past”.

Manchester: whilst we might be more familiar with the content of this site it is always worth another look as, with all the Branch sites, it is being continually added to and updated. I am interested in their April talk which is the history of Manchester through street names. Sounds intriguing.

Bookshop: remember that there is a Scottish section in the bookshop along with other offerings at bargain prices for books, CD's, maps, and much more.



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting - Thursday, 15th



Please remember that, in view of the SAFHS Conference referred to above, we have moved the Branch gathering from our usual Saturday to the Thursday. Times remain the same, - 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.

The theme of the meeting is **“Knocking down those brick walls”** and don't we all have those in our family trees. It is one of those more popular themes as it gives us all a chance to share and learn from one another. Once again it will, of necessity, be a Zoom meeting. We are very conscious that some of our more regular members do not feel able to make use of Zoom for a variety of reasons.

Please know that we are aware of your absence and can only look forward to meeting up again when we can at the Library. In the meantime, to book your place at the meeting, please do so through **Eventbrite**