



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk

E-mail: angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk

Newsletter: scotia@mlfhs.org.uk



Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the April edition of the newsletter. Trying to engender some hope for spring weather but night frost and even snow continue. Our Branch meeting this month focused upon the brick walls that members were or are encountering in their research and we welcomed 15 members of the Branch to our Zoom meeting. Our two-hour meeting was full of sharing and a sign that we are becoming more familiar and confident in this virtual medium. Whilst we miss the actual meeting of people, one of the advantages of a virtual meeting is that members from outside the Greater Manchester area are able to join us, and again we had a member from even outside the country. Apart from a resume of our meeting I include again reference to some resources and news that you will, hopefully, find of use as you continue with your research. Take care. Editor.

Knocking down those Brick Walls: once each year we give the Branch meeting over to members to share "brick wall" issues that have arisen in their family history research. For those of you not able to be with us here are some of the issues raised and the advice offered:

I sought help finding a great uncle, Robert Scott Campbell, born in 1881. he was my grandfather's elder brother. For many years I was aware only that my G Grandparents had two children, Isabella born in 1879 and my grandfather James born in 1886. I always thought that, given the space of years, there was probably another birth in between these dates. Using the Scottish naming pattern, I mused that any boy born would be named after his grandfather or father, both fortunately named Robert. Sure enough I eventually found Robert Scott Campbell born in Edinburgh, his mother's home town although the rest of the family were in Dundee. Having found his birth however, Robert Scott Campbell just disappears. Searches of death records and census records proved fruitless. Help!! It was suggested that given that Robert's mother came from Edinburgh it is possible that he was left there with her family and assumed the name of Robert Scott and dropping the Campbell. Searching for him under the derivations of Robert, e.g. Bob/Bobby/Rob or looking into institution records such as hospital or industrial/residential schools was also suggested. Given that I had run out of ideas, all this was useful and opened up other avenues.

Kath Jones raised the issue of two brothers who sailed from Liverpool to Victoria, Australia in 1852. Whilst she has the date of sailing and the name of the ship, the SS Maria, she has lost track of them. A letter from one of the brothers dated 1859 suggests that the other brother was dead, but no evidence of this. How to trace them in Australia? Helpful hints included searching the records at the port of arrival given that this is known as is an idea of dates and the different territories organised their own shipping records. A look through the Australian newspaper archive, Trove, that listed port arrivals might also prove fruitful. As for researching a death at sea, this might prove more problematic but the National Library Archive BT152 and BT153 might be of value. It was also suggested that Kath make use of the MLFHS Forum to seek help/advice from the members of the Society who are in Australia and may be able to indicate other resources.



Knocking down brick walls (cont.)

Denise Ewing wanted help to find an ancestor, Margaret Gardner Ewing, born in Aril 1847 in Falkirk. Parents Robert Ewing and Elizabeth Taylor who had 9 children. Denise has all the family in the census but Margaret just disappears. She has searched all the usual records without success. Suggestions varied from making use of Asylum records in Ancestry to searching the local Falkirk newspapers in Find My Past.

Anne McConville raised with the Branch a talk/tutorial that had been given on the recent FFHS Really Useful Show to do with "mind mapping". Far from being some psychological profiling system it turns out to be another way to organise your family history research. It is carried out in a somewhat organic (if I dare use that term) way in contrast with the somewhat rigid family tree structure that we are more familiar with. Anne's reference to the tutorial certainly sent me scuttling off to have a look at it. Whilst it is not a system that I would rush to use, it does allow the insertion of all those other bits of information that you pick up in research that do not seem to fit into the more familiar family tree mode. Anyway, Anne has tried using it and wondered if anyone else had as she would like to get into a sharing partnership of mutual advice and help.



Bruce Grindley in Nova Scotia wanted some advice on a suitable Family History Programme. As might have been expected there was as much advice on different programmes as there were people present. Family Tree Maker is a favourite and the 2005 version is one that I used happily for many years until I had to change my computer and Windows 10 did not accommodate it. I now have Family Historian 6 and still trying to get used to it. Prior to buying FH6 I looked at a number of options and generally find that there are so many features in all of them that it can get baffling. Still, it passes the time if nothing else!!



Dave Hartley shared a puzzle that had occupied his research for some time involving a marriage where both of the couple had been married previously. Not unusual in itself although in terms of research it presents a whole other set of parents. The problem for Dave was that on the death certificate of this couple, (and of course we all know that Scottish death certificates are great sources of information) the parents mentioned did not match the parents mentioned in the marriage certificate. The reason for this may have been the fault of the registrar or the ignorance of the informant. Whatever, and fortunately for Dave, there were eventually sufficient clues in the records for him to reach a conclusion that was satisfactory. It is a lesson that sometimes in our research we have to be content with a conclusion being the balance of probabilities.

Generally a great gathering with shared issues being met with helpful advice, and if not, nods and grunts of sympathy! Branch meetings with speakers are always a boon but sharing day to day problems in research is rather uplifting. Having shared the brick walls, we look forward to our Branch meeting later this year when we share our breakthroughs.



Well done Ina!! You may recall that back in the August 2020 newsletter we mentioned the research being carried out by



our intrepid Ina Penneyston on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Ina was asked to check up on the CWGC gravestone for Norman Stott of the RAF, buried in Rochdale cemetery. Ina eventually found the family grave but no mention of Norman on the inscription, only his parents. Enquires of the cemetery office confirmed that Norman was buried in the grave, but clearly, he had not been identified as such. Ina informed the CWGC and Norman's place in the cemetery is now marked. Success.



Just a snippet: as I was tuned in to the SAFHS Conference on Saturday last a presentation by the Highland Archive Service included reference to some census material. Alongside details relating to one particular family was the reference to "boarder" next to the names of two children within the family unit under the heading of "relation to head of family". Now I always presumed when I saw this that the people referred to were temporarily lodging with the householder and paying rent. However it was pointed out that "boarder" could refer to a person (or in this case, two children) seeking Parish relief and placed within this household by the Parish. Opens up a whole new understanding when looking at the census material.

Scotlands People and Kirk Session Records: by now I expect that we are all up to date with the recent announcements about the release of - at least some - of the Kirk Session Records by Scotlands People. It remains a work in progress so not all areas of Scotland are covered. For those who were able to “Zoom” in to the Scottish Association of Family History Societies’ Conference last Saturday you will have been able to listen to the very helpful and informative talk by Emma Maxwell on “Understanding Kirk Session Records”. For those who did not manage to be there, or for those who want a refresher, all the talks are available— **but just for this week!** ([Click here](#))



National Library of Scotland: have announced in their recent newsletter that they are re-opening on the 27th April. For most of us that announcement will not make a great deal of difference given current restrictions, but the same newsletter does let us know of continued developments and offers on the NLS web site, including:



Maps website spring clean and new 20th-century maps: in response to feedback the NLS have updated the map homepage and viewer making it easier to search and navigate the online maps. Three new sets of maps covering Scotland and Great Britain during the 20th century have also been added. Links to the maps can be found here: [OS Half-inch, Scotland, Outline Edition, 1942](#): [OS Quarter-inch, Scotland, 1901-1960](#)
[OS One-inch, Great Britain, 1952-1970](#)

Digital Resources and e-Resources beta site: includes digitised books, periodicals and manuscripts spanning over five centuries, together with online databases, journals, reference works and more. Sadly the announcement about the development of digital resources offered by the NLS does not extend to those of us living outside of Scotland. You can get into the site and see all the wonderful items on offer, but, like the closed sweetie shop, cannot access them. I have emailed the NLS to see if there is a way around this and will let you know.

Retour: the latest newsletter of the Scottish Records Association has just been released and can be accessed here ([click](#))

MLFHS Branches: access to the Branch web sites can be found here - [Bolton](#); [Oldham](#); [Manchester](#); where you can find out all that is going on and planned including access to their newsletters if you are a Society member.

Book Shop: don't forget to have a browse around the Society bookshop [here](#) where you will find a selection of books to help broaden your research as well as the favourite Record Book at a miserly £4. Some of the publications are able to be downloaded which makes them much cheaper. So have a look.

Anglo-Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday, 15th May, 2.00 p.m.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland

We are very pleased to be able to have booked Sue Whitaker to talk to us about this fabulous Tapestry. Created by hundreds of volunteers throughout the length and breadth of Scotland the Tapestry depicts 12,000 years of Scottish history and development in 160 panels

Sue Whitaker worked on Panel 116 and will talk about the creation and stitching of the tapestry, supported with photographs, and also the complexity of managing and volunteering in such a large project, something which, we suspect, might not always have been plain sailing! This promises to be a talk that will appeal to many of us, from historians and project managers to artists and embroiderers.



As has been the case now for several months, this will be a Zoom gathering but should still be booked through **Eventbrite**. This enables our intrepid organiser to know how many attendees to expect but, more importantly, provides the contact details for sending out the necessary link to Zoom. Look forward to seeing you all.