



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 June edition of the newsletter. In our part of the world summer is here at last. May was awful but June has made up for it - so far. We all continue in some degree of lockdown, but let us not dwell on that since the situation is slowly improving - we hope. Our main topic this month is a Zoom visit by Dr Irene O'Brien who is revealing to us some of the enormous content of the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. As usual we also include some information that we hope will inform your Anglo Scottish research. In the meantime, continue to take care and be safe.



Editor.

The Mitchell Library and its Holdings

We were pleased to welcome Irene O'Brien who spoke to us from her home in Glasgow via Zoom. Irene is well known on the Family History circuit and well informed on a number of topics. However her main role is as chief archivist at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow where she has been for many years. For the first time we were able, and permitted by Irene, to record her talk. Consequently, once we have made appropriate editorial links the recording shall be placed on the Anglo Scottish Branch web site for members to view at their leisure, so keep an eye out for this. In the meantime I offer you some of the highlights that caught my attention.



Glasgow is the largest local authority in Scotland and they are proud that the Mitchell Library is a one-stop venue for Family History research. Apart from all the records that they have related to Glasgow and many parts of the West of Scotland the library is also a Local Family History Centre for ScotlandsPeople with all the advantages of logging into the ScotlandsPeople web resources for £15 per day without having to travel to Edinburgh. However the library does have resources that the ScotlandsPeople site does not have and an example of this was the valuation rolls for the whole of Glasgow for every year and not just every 10 years as offered by ScotlandsPeople.

Glasgow of course was, for a time, part of the Strathclyde Region, and during that time the library acquired several records relating to other regions of the West of Scotland including some of the isles. The advice was then to contact the library and ask if they have any records relating to your area of interest even though outside of Glasgow.

The primary focus of Irene's talk was the Poor Law Records held by the library. We were told that Glasgow is the only major city in Scotland to have retained its Poor Law Records and again these cover not only Glasgow city but South Lanarkshire and Dunbartonshire. As an example of the wealth of information contained in some of these records we were shown a sample of a few and it was indeed astounding the amount of information they contained. What a find for a family historian if your ancestor was unfortunate enough to need assistance from the Parish. In Scotland such help was offered through Poor Houses and not Workhouses as in England and dates from 1845. That said the criteria for assistance was not so different from south of the border, being, not for the unemployed, but for the destitute and disabled. The records reveal a larger proportion of women with children seeking help which is perhaps not surprising but from 1870 "indoor relief" was offered only to women with illegitimate children or widows with children who might be at risk.

Mitchell Library (cont.)

The amount of information in these records is extensive and includes not only names and dates of birth but details of marriages, names and dates of children and all previous addresses. The latter can be useful in locating possible ancestors who seemed to get "lost". As elsewhere the address information was also used to ascertain if the applicant was entitled to Poor Relief from Glasgow City or needed to be referred to some other parish.

The library also has an extensive collection of school records from 1873, the year after the Education Act in Scotland. The main feature are the log books compiled by headteachers that amount to a diary of events in the school. So they contain the names of teachers and also of pupils who may have been absent for some reason. There are also Admission Registers with the names not only of the children but also of the parents.

A notable collection in the library are Employment Records of various professions including teachers, firemen and policemen. Referring to the latter Irene pointed out that the Glasgow Police Force is the oldest in the United Kingdom having been established in 1800 and so several years before Robert Peel's Police Act of 1829. When the Glasgow police force was established many Highlandmen and Irishmen applied and so, again, a good source of research for any ancestor from those areas.

The meeting was informed of many more records held at the library including burial/lair records, Church records, (including a large collection of Episcopalian Church records not available on ScotlandsPeople) many Kirk Session records and NHS records. Some of these are being made available on ScotlandsPeople but for a local collection many more are readily available at "The Mitchell".

As has been said, Irene was good enough to allow us record her talk and to make this available to our members. Some work has to be done to trim the recording to make it compatible but do keep an eye on the Anglo Scottish web site so that you can enjoy what was a very informative and enjoyable session.

Bits and Pieces: Just to share with you some of the tips and ideas that have been sent to us by other readers in the hope that you might find them useful;

The National Archives: I know that we are an Anglo Scottish Society but no harm in pointing occasionally in the direction of our fellow Gaels over the water. On the 30th June the National Archives are offering, for free, access to a presentation on the **lost records of Ireland**. Their blurb states;

"On 30 June 1922 the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin was destroyed in the opening battle of the Irish Civil War. On the 99th anniversary of this tragic event, we invite you to a virtual research showcase on the reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, in a series of presentations."



Registration for the event can be accessed here. [\(Click\)](#)

Glasgow Archives: our main feature was directed at the marvellous collection of the Glasgow Archives based in the Mitchell Library. We have just heard that they have recently released the [Absentee Voters List for 1920](#), a great extra resource for tracing those Glasgow ancestors involved in the Great War. Access to the Glasgow Archives Family History site can be found here [\(click\)](#).



Angus Antiquarian Burial Grounds: I know I am always going on about Dundee, but someone else sent this in as a great site worth exploring so I exclude myself from any bias. [\(Click here\)](#) to access the site that offers monumental transcriptions to some Dundee graveyards and is also extending out to include graveyards in Angus. So if you have any family connections with that area, have a look.



Exchange Journals: a reminder to members that the journals that we exchange with other Family History Societies can be accessed on the Society web site after you log in. Just scroll down the welcome page and the Exchange Journal section is there under "Exchange Archive". Both Orkney and Aberdeen have lodged their latest journals and are well worth a look. The Aberdeen journal has an interesting short article about the process of reception for immigrants landing in New York via Ellis Island if you haven't explored that before and Orkney offer a guide to the use of their Old Parish Records.

Scottish Indexes Conference: the next Family History Conference freely provided by Scottish Indexes is listed for **Saturday 10th July**. This is the 11th conference that Graham and Emma Maxwell have so generously provided via their web site www.scottishindexes.com. There you can access more information about the conference, the list of speakers and how to access the conference from whatever part of the world you live in.



A Bout of Pugilism: we are not normally given to promoting/advertising private projects unless they have some connection with family history research. This request from Tony Gee seemed to fit the criteria, so we put it before you:

"I wonder if it would be possible for you to insert something in your Newsletter relating to my current project. I am a prize-winning historian in the process of writing a book on 18th and 19th century pugilism in Scotland. I would therefore be extremely grateful for any information which your members might be able provide on the sport in Scotland in these centuries, and obviously I am particularly desirous of making contact with any descendants of Scottish pugilists who fought pre c.1900. (Copies or photos of any items relating to early boxing in Scotland would be especially appreciated.) Anything of help would be acknowledged accordingly. Very many thanks. Tony"



A quick search indicates that Tony Gee is a genuine historian and researcher but of course the decision to contact must be your own. He can be contacted at this email address: tonypriest@gmail.com

Society Branches:

Bolton: www.mlfhs.uk/bolton next meeting 7th July looking at the career of Jerome Caminada, the famous Manchester detective.

Oldham: www.mlfhs.uk/oldham: next meeting 10th July taking you on a trip on the Canals around Oldham and Manchester.

Manchester: www.mlfhs.uk/manchester: next meeting 26th June on the Pit Lasses/Female coal miners of 1842.

All of these events are of course free to members booked through **Eventbrite**, but do have a look at the various Branch web sites where there is a great deal more local information and records available for you to use.

MLFHS Shop: www.mlfhs.uk/shop: for many of your Family History research needs and covering all the Branches of the MLFHS.



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting - Saturday 17th July 2.00 - 3.30 p.m.

Fancy a walk around some of the famous sites of Manchester
without having to worry about footwear or weather?



Then please join us on our Branch outing in our "Gems of Manchester" walking tour via Zoom.

Led by local historian, Jonathan Schofield

Our Branch meeting in July is traditionally an organised event to a place of interest and we have taken in such highlights as The Portico Library; Gaskell House; Rylands Library; the Workers Museum and Cheetham's. Last year was the first year that we did nothing but we were determined to remedy that this year, even though it might mean only via Zoom. We had hoped, even until very recently, that we might be able to have this event as our first get-together, but it was not to be. No matter. You can join in this walk from your armchair and with a cuppa, or something stronger, in your hand.

The event costs £150 but the committee has decided that the Branch will meet the full cost of this, so this makes attendance all the more palatable.

Jonathan Schofield is a well known and respected tour guide in Manchester and very knowledgeable about all things Mancunian. A flavour of some of his offerings can be sampled on his web site www.jonathanschofieldtours.com

As usual booking is essential through **Eventbrite** since this gives our chairman the opportunity to email you the Zoom link which is necessary if you want to take part.

Do join us for this great event. Look forward to seeing you all.

