



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society



Welcome: to the March 2023 edition of the newsletter. With the expectation of spring it is snowing outside as I write. However nothing compared to as it was when I were a lad when we had to dig ourselves out of the snow!!!! Our Branch meeting this month was a happy get-together with an opportunity to share tales and raise issues relating to the brick walls, or indeed, breakthroughs, that we have come across or managed to make. For those of you close enough to take it into account, can we draw your attention to the upcoming Society Fair poster with information about the Fair on the 25th March. Please join us if you can. We would love to see you there. Take care. Editor.

Knocking Down Those Brick Walls in Research (and finding solutions!)



There were 15 of us gathered for this get-together which gave plenty of opportunity to share and listen.

A marriage search: George was first and asked for any advice in trying to find the marriage of his great-grandparents who came from Glasgow and moved down to Manchester in around 1866. George has evidence of his great grandfather in Glasgow but has been searching for his marriage for many years. He has even spent a whole week at the National Records Centre in Edinburgh which, even with staff assistance, produced nothing. His grandfather was born in Salford in 1867 but there is no record of his parent's marriage in England around this time. The speculation was, therefore, that they married, if at all, in Scotland prior to moving down to Manchester. However there is no record of a marriage in Scotland either. Whilst various bits of advice were offered, George was primarily reminded of the three forms of "Irregular Marriage" that were commonly practiced in Scotland, were perfectly legal although frowned upon by the Kirk, and, almost by their nature, never recorded. There was the marriage "by habit and repute"; a marriage proclaimed before witnesses, (although anyone could be a witness not just a minister of the Church or a civil authority) and marriage by public proclamation followed by consummation. If George's ancestors were married by any of these means then it is likely that there would be no record yet the couple would consider themselves properly married. Not the best resolution of course but perhaps in this case there is none.

Web-site Lesson: following a rather successful workshop about the Society Website, "**Manchester Ancestors**" Hilary Hartigan led a workshop demonstrating all the features of the AngloScottish Branch site. Whilst the Society web site has been functioning now for some time there are so many features, and such a wealth of resources that it is often difficult to discover, let alone make use of them. The same applies to our own Anglo Scottish Branch site. The breakthrough for me was to realise that, having logged in as a member and clicked on the Anglo Scots Branch site, to search the whole site from there rather than using the features on the orange strip along the top. Under the box listed "*Branch Events*" for example, clicking on the "*Calendar of Events*" revealed a whole host of features, not only forthcoming events but also access to the "*Speakers Notes and Videos*". A much simpler and fulsome way to access information. By the way, in the same "*Branch Events*" box is "*Meetings*" and in there you will find the Branch report for last year prepared by our chairman. I take this opportunity to point out also that within the box headed "*About Branch*" there is "*What we do*". By scrolling down you will find a recently added feature, "*Scottish Archives Journal*". Whilst we have access to the Scottish Records Association newsletter, "*Retour*" in the "*Exchange Journal*" section, this gives access to the archive of the SRA Journals. These are produced annually and contain more learned and substantial research articles. Well worth a look for a more in-depth examination of topics. You might find something there of interest.



Knocking Down Brick Walls (cont.)

Michael shared with us a breakthrough that he had searching for an ancestor. The elusive character was Edward or Arthur Runacres. Runacres is Michael's mother's maiden name and anyone would be forgiven for considering it a rather unusual surname, although not apparently in Suffolk. What was interesting about Michael's breakthrough was the means he used to break that wall down. Despite having Edward's date of birth - 12th January 1903 - he couldn't be found in either of the census' of 1911 or 1921. So, using Free BMD he decided to search for both an Edward Arthur and an Arthur Edward leaving out the surname but inserting the March quarter of 1903 and in Suffolk. The first name on the list was an Edward Arthur Alden in Wangford, Suffolk. Michael searched for this person in the 1911 and 1921 census' and sure enough there he was listed as "step-son" of Harry Runacres. The rest, they say, is history. You certainly have to be imaginative and think outside the box in this family history game!

Notable Additions to MLFHS Web Site: some of our readers may not be linked in to the Society **"Forum"** pages. In which case you would have missed an email from our website guru, John Marsden, announcing a new data base that he had added to the web site. John wrote;

Hi All

I have added a new section to the mlfhs.uk web site under the main public menu - Research/Research Library. This will be the place where in future public reference documents will be placed. It contains (initially) three documents:

Census Details

The dates of each of the decennial censuses from 1801 to 1931 and a summary of the details which were requested for each.

Civil Registration Key Dates

A list of key dates for civil registration including dates at which the Manchester Registration District was reorganised.

Manchester 60 inch OS Map Index

An index to the 60 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey maps for Manchester and the surrounding district. Clicking on any street name will link to the area of the appropriate map on the National Library of Scotland web site, with the selected place at the centre of the page. Created by Chris Willis.

Chris's street index is particularly interesting. It parallels the information for the 60" maps in the Godfrey Map index but covers a wider area around central Manchester. Also, it links to the NLS online maps so you don't have to buy a map to make use of it.

Hoping you will find this useful.

John

I've had a look at these and they are certainly worth a browse. The first two are instructional and useful points of reference. The map site however is very interesting. Well, you know my thing about maps, but if you have any links with Manchester at all this is a great site for a close-up view of the area and streets of Manchester and surround. As John states, the resource is open to the general public, not just members (yet another freebie from the Society) but you are privy to the fact that the resources are there. Access the material by logging into the Society web site, click on the "Research" option along the top and under the heading of "Reference" click "Reference Library". Enjoy.

Speaking of Maps!: I know I promote maps regularly but not only are they fascinating (to me anyway!!) but they often really do add meat to the bones of our family history research. They enable us to see where our ancestors lived and worked. The villages, town, cities that they encountered and then by linking historical maps with current maps we can find out if the places still exist and how. I insert this topic because the **National Library of Scotland**, in their most recent newsletter, have announced yet another newly developed map. Under the heading **"More maps land on our website"** they write;

"More new additions! Explore [land use in England and Wales in the 1930s](#) with striking maps that colour-code land utilisation. [You can compare them with modern maps to see land use over time.](#)

We've also added [Agricultural Land Classification maps](#) showing the farming potential of land in England and Wales in the 1960s.

Search our [Ordnance Survey Town Plans of Scotland](#) more easily. We've added new map outlines to identify each map sheet. The maps show 62 Scottish towns from the 1840s to the 1890s"

Of course you can search all the new map additions on the site [here](#). I hope you find something useful.

Early Warning - Scottish Indexes Conference 15th April: an alert to the forthcoming Scottish Indexes Conference. Most will know by now that the web site "[Scottish Indexes](#)" is operated by Emma and Graham Maxwell. Their web site is always worth having a look at and they continue to, generously, host a Zoomed conference free of charge, although donations are of course always welcome. There are no details yet of the speakers at the April conference but we will keep you updated next month.

As you will see from the information about our Scottish Branch meeting in April, we are fortunate to have Emma Maxwell as our speaker about prison records. Hope we see many of you at it.

What's on in the Society: all of this information can of course be found on the Society web page, but just a short reminder of what you might find within the various Branches:

Bolton: the Branch has a double bill. It seems that Hilary Hartigan's presentation at the beginning of this month exploring your DNA was visited by a couple of internet gremlins for some people. Also, there was so much to digest that the Bolton Branch have decided to repeat the event. It is to be held **this Wednesday, 15th March at 19.30 via Zoom only** and Hilary will be live again to advise and take any questions.

Bolton's offering for April is "**Document Preservation, Conservation & Digitisation**". It is a "hybrid" meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5th April at 19.30 BST, so whilst locals can enjoy the space, those further afield can join in. The presentation is by Mark O'Neil of the Lancashire Archives in Preston and speaking on a topic that we all depend upon as we delve into past records. Attendance in Room or by Zoom is free for MLFHS Members, £3 for non-members of MLFHS. Tickets are not required for Room Attendance but are necessary for Zoom attendance so that the link can be sent out to you.

Oldham: on **Saturday, 8th April at 1400 hrs** Oldham Branch are treating us to a review of a world famous aircraft design and manufacturing company based throughout the Manchester area, AVRO Industries. Founded in 1910 they designed and made aircraft used in the 1st and 2nd world wars and later. It is an illustrated talk by Frank Pleszack and is to be held in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

Manchester: the focus in Manchester is on the Society Fair to be held at Manchester Central Library on the 25th March. See the poster at the back of this newsletter for details. Please do come along if you can.

Society Shop: a browse through the shop reveals a load of bargainous items, books, maps, CD's and items to aid your family history research. We mentioned last month though that, given that there is a move away from CD facilities on modern computers, we have digitised many of the CD's and some books that are for sale and these offer the option of downloading straight onto your computer



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting Saturday, 1st April, 1400 hrs. by Zoom

"Prisons and their Records"
A presentation by Emma Maxwell



As a large proportion of the 'working class Victorian population was in prison at one point or another, there is a high chance that one of your ancestors will appear in a prison register. Most Scottish prison records are held by the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh and over 23,000 records have now been indexed.

Emma Maxwell will discuss the nature of these records and give us an insight into peoples lives as well as the details of their time in prison. Emma of course is well known to us through the Scottish Indexes web site and Conferences and she has carried out a lot of research of this area. Promises then to be both informative and entertaining.

Since this is a Zoom meeting we can accommodate more attendees, particularly our members and others from other parts of the UK and outside of the UK. Nevertheless it is important that you reserve a place [via Evenbrite](#), if for no other reason than it enables our organiser to send you the internet link well in advance of the meeting.

MANCHESTER & LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

presents

DISCOVERING FAMILY LIVES

Ever wanted to
trace your
Family History?

Societies from the
local area will be
on hand to offer
practical advice
and guidance

This is an
opportunity to meet
experts in the field
of Family History

For complete
beginners to those of
you who are looking
for more resources in
tracing your ancestry

Our friendly team of staff and
volunteers on the helpdesk will
also be available to answer any
queries you may have

FREE ENTRY

For a list of societies attending, please
visit our website: www.mlfhs.uk

or scan the QR CODE below:



MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY
SAT 25TH MARCH 2023
10AM - 3.30PM

THE EVENT WILL BE OPENED BY THE
LORD MAYOR OF MANCHESTER



MANCHESTER
ANCESTORS

