



e-Scotia



Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the April 2023 edition of the newsletter. In this neck of the woods spring is in the air and a shimmering of green is beginning to show on the trees as life re-emerges. Great to feel some warmth again. However we are aware of our members in the southern hemisphere whose seasons are going in the opposite direction to us. Enjoy your Autumn!!!!. For this month's meeting we were pleased to welcome back to our gathering, Emma Maxwell, as our main speaker on the subject of Scottish Prison records. Speaking of members in the southern hemisphere, we welcomed two from Australia who were interested enough to join us in what was the middle of their night. Such dedication. Again we offer some other topics that we hope might be of value to you in your Anglo-Scottish research. Good luck and take care. Editor.



Scottish Prisons and their Records: Emma Maxwell.

This was a gathering by way of Zoom and Emma was kind enough to allow us to record her presentation. We alert you to the fact that this is available for members of the Branch only and is time limited so if you want to access it do so as soon as. Access it in the usual way, viz. *log in as a member / under the heading "Branches" click on Anglo Scots / under "Research" click on "Speakers notes/videos". / then members videos.*



Old Edinburgh Tolbooth

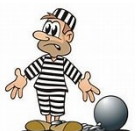
Given that the presentation is available for you to watch I offer only some headings and references that I found useful. Emma began with a brief history of the prison system in Scotland that started with the use of Tolbooths. These were multi-purpose buildings with "prison" facilities usually in the cellars whilst Borough business was carried out in the upper quarters. The first reference we were offered was the oldedinburghclub.org.uk, the Old Edinburgh Club being essentially the local history society of Edinburgh. It produces a series of volumes many of which are online. There are many interesting historical topics, including articles on Tolbooths and prisoners and not just pertaining to Edinburgh.

In pursuing resources it is important to remember that in Scotland women always retained their maiden name so that even women offenders are listed by their maiden name as well as any married name. A great help of course.

Two primary sources were at the fore of this presentation. The first of course being the [National Records of Scotland](#). Browsing their catalogue, even inserting the word "Prisons" into the search box provides a lot of records. However the main reference for prisons is the HH section. Plough through this and you are bound to find some source of value. An example is the reference HH/11 which is the "Edinburgh Tolbooth Warding and Liberation Books 1657-1816" and we are given the information "The Edinburgh Tolbooth was used as a prison from the 15th century until it was replaced by the Calton Jail HH21/6 in 1817. The Warding and Liberation Books contain the names and designations of prisoners, the dates of incarceration and release and details of the warrants of commitment and release." You will note the useful additional reference to the Calton Jail source.

Again the reference HH21 offers up the prison registers of several prisons in Scotland from 1798 - 2000.

"These registers were maintained by each prison in Scotland and generally contain the following details relating to prisoners in custody: name, date of admission, committing magistrate and court, age, height, where born, nationality, occupation, religion, health, offence, particulars of trial, sentence if convicted, and date liberated or removed." A great source therefore.



These records can however only be searched in-situ at the National Library and we were reminded by Emma that many of the records are stored "off site" and need to be ordered in advance so give plenty of notice before visiting.

Scottish Prisons and their records (cont.)

We were reminded also not to forget about the [ScotlandsPeople sources](#) that include prison registers and Kirk Session records. Apart from everything else they did, the Kirk Session often also dealt with community misdemeanours, so worth a look

Emma also drew our attention to the resources on the website created and operated by Emma and her husband, Graham. We have referred to it many times in the past, viz, "[Scottish Indexes](#)". Emma and Graham promote family history research in many ways particularly through the conferences they organise, but a click on their "[Record Sets](#)" reveals a great deal more. Amongst these is the "**Scotland's Criminal Database**". This provides a search page where you can insert the name of anyone you are researching. However clicking on the [coverage pages option](#) then the criminal database displays all the records that are available in this section. Attached to this section are a couple of You Tube videos about High Court and prison records which are great learning tools. This led neatly to a reference to the "**Learning Zone**" available on "Scottish Indexes" that provides a host of learning tools.

It was great to have Emma with us again and the feedback from those attending confirmed that she is very clear and informative in her presentations. So, a thumbs up all round 👍

SSFHS 2023 Conference - "Haste Ye Back" - Saturday 22nd April 2023



Haste Ye Back!

SAFHS Conference, Saturday 22 April 2023

An online day-conference on emigration and return

- Prof. Marjory Harper – Emigration, emigrants and returners
- Dr Jackson Armstrong – Aberdeen's medieval city records
- Dr Tom McKean – Family history and recorded history
- Nicholas Le Bigre – New family traditions in the North-East
- Alasdair Macdonald – Using DNA in family history research
- Ken Nisbet – War brides
- Alison Spring – Where did my Scots ancestors go?

To attend on Zoom, register at:
safhs2023.anesfhs.org.uk

Co-ordinated for SAFHS by Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

'Haste Ye Back' is the theme of the SAFHS 33rd annual one-day conference, which will take place as an **online event** on Saturday 22 April 2023. The conference is being hosted on behalf of SAFHS by the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society (ANESFHS) in partnership with the Elphinstone Institute of the University of Aberdeen and it will explore different aspects of settlement and migration in the north east with reference wherever possible to considerations and resources for family history research

The underpinning theme is the settlement and movement of peoples through the north east and, by extension, Scotland. The theme of '**Haste Ye Back**' encompasses not only the conditions that provide the impetus for migration or resettlement but also the ways that the telling and recording of family histories enrich a culture. The papers will consider diaspora through emigration and war, etc and then revitalisation through returning settlers and new Scots. Family History as a pursuit is a great example of that revitalisation of engagement with the past and with our heritage. We think this theme will be particularly topical at a time when more folk contemplate resuming long-distance travel to maintain family connections and pursue family history. Planning is well advanced for the conference with seven speakers and topics confirmed: Prof Marjory Harper (University of Aberdeen) – Emigration, emigrants, and returners Dr Jackson Armstrong (University of Aberdeen) – Digitising Aberdeen's medieval city records Dr Tom McKean (University of Aberdeen) – Family history interfacing with recorded history Nicholas Le Bigre (University of Aberdeen) – New family traditions in the north east Alasdair Macdonald (University of Strathclyde) - Using DNA in Family History Research Ken Nisbet - (SAFHS/SGS) – War Brides Alison Spring - Where Did My Scots Ancestors Go? The website <https://safhs2023.anesfhs.org.uk> will manage registrations for the event. Various family history-related Facebook pages will help generate advance publicity for the event. The conference team members are keen to liaise with individual Societies to optimise the cascade of information and also to include Information about local Family History Societies in the conference online documentation and as scrolling screen shots between the papers.

For more information, please contact elaine.petrie@asnesfhs.org.uk or ivor.normand@asnesfhs.org.uk

It is only a couple of weeks off so please register soon.



National Library of Scotland On-Line Workshops: in their most recent newsletter the NLS announce a series of on-line workshops that they have organised throughout the month of April. From what I can see, all but one are free - so bargainous!! Have a look [here](#) to see if there is any that you fancy tuning into. You can ignore the reference to the "Maps for Family and Local History". That workshop has happened. Never fear though, our Branch has its own workshop on this theme later this year.



The NLS also announced the first digitising and uploading of some of the many Scottish local newspapers that are languishing in the archives and in danger of deteriorating beyond use. The first papers now available on the NLS website date from 1848 to 1926 and titles include the 'Clydebank Leader' and the 'Aberdeen New Shaver'. See them on the website [here](#). This is an ongoing project and there is a request for financial support to continue with it that can be done through [this route](#).

Declaration of Arbroath: information received from ScotlandsPeople alerts to an exhibition at the **Museum of Scotland** of the Declaration of Arbroath. A rare opportunity, if you are in the area, to see this crucially important Scottish document. The exhibition runs from the **3rd June until the 23rd July** and is free. The "Open Book" section of the National Library of Scotland is also offering a talk on the Declaration by Dr Alan Borthwick, an acknowledged expert on the history of the Declaration. You can access the talk from this site [here](#).



Scottish Indexes Forum: we have mentioned this in previous newsletters but another reminder came our way at the end of last month. The **Forum** is part of the service offered by the **Scottish Indexes** web site. You have to sign up for it but it is free. You can access it [here](#). It is a great way to get advice and help on Scottish research. I have used it and am grateful for the advice offered, so sign up and have a go if you have a naughty family history problem that you are stuck with.

Society Family and Local History Fair: under the theme of **"Discovering Family Lives"**

this Fair was held on Saturday, 25th March at Manchester Central Library. We had 21 exhibitors representing a variety of Societies and Family History Groups. The picture shows the Anglo Scots table. Last year was our first attempt at a Fair and we learned a lot that we brought to this event.



Feedback from all was very positive and we have declared it a great success. Prompts us to consider repeating the event next

MLFHS News and Events: Don't forget over this Easter holiday period to have a look at the various Society Branches and see what is on offer. [Bolton](#), [Oldham](#), [Manchester](#), and of course, [Anglo Scots](#). All of the Branches have a lot to offer and to share so please do have a look at their web sites.

Scottish Marriage Index: a quick reminder about this great resource that is part of the offer on the Anglo Scottish web site. [Click here](#) for access. It is open to all, including non-members, to explore and to add to. It has been compiled over many years by people from all over the world so have a look and see if your family is included. Better still, why not add your family to it. The opportunity to do so can be found if you scroll down the page and click on "Submit a Marriage".



Anglo Scottish Branch Meetings

Just to remind members that there is **no Branch meeting in May**. Our meeting day - the 1st Saturday of the month - co-incides in May with the Coronation of Charles III. I will point out that we were not consulted on this event and we would have raised objections if we had been!!! So we deemed it wise to cancel our meeting in order to allow the royalist and curious amongst us to witness the event.



We will return to normal on the 3rd June when we have a Zoom presentation by Sue Gibbons of the Society of Genealogists. However, more about that next month.