



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 January 2023 edition of the newsletter. Another year stretches before us and we approach it in hope and expectation. We wish you every good wish and “lang may yer lum reek”. In the absence of a Branch meeting in January I share with you some tips I got from Scotlands People. I may have shared these with you previously but I think they are always worth repeating. Once again we add some reflections and resources that we think might help your research and we have a couple of items shared with us by readers that you may find of interest. Take care. Editor.



Five Ways to Save Credits with ScotlandsPeople:

Only ScotlandsPeople gives online access to civil registration, Church of Scotland parish records and Scottish census record images. We all know how important it is to view these original documents to make sure our research is accurate but the costs can soon mount up if we keep viewing the wrong records. Here are five tips to help you pick the right record the first time.

Post-1855 Death Records: Cross-reference death records using a woman's surname. In Scotland, deaths of married women are indexed under all the names she used during her lifetime (or at least all the names the person registering the death knew about). Let's say your ancestor was born Janet Porteous and she went on to marry a Thomson. There will be a lot of Janet Thomsons, so use the surname Porteous to narrow down your search. On the search page look out for “**Other surname**”. It doesn't matter which way round you put the surnames. Put Thomson in one and Porteous in the other and it will narrow down your search.

Birth Records from 1855 to 1874. The International Genealogical Index (*IGI*) includes most Scottish civil registration births from 1855 to 1874. Unlike the index on ScotlandsPeople, the IGI includes the names of both parents. This enables you to narrow down your search then view only the correct entry on ScotlandsPeople. This index is available on **Ancestry**, **Findmypast** and **FamilySearch**.

Census Records 1841 to 1901. Use an index to the 1841-1901 census you already have access to. **FreeCen** gives access to a free indexed transcription of many Scottish census records from 1841 to 1901 (it is particularly so for the earlier years) and it's a great way to find the right household. Then you can simply go to ScotlandsPeople to view the original. You may also have access to the 1841-1901 census as part of your Findmypast or Ancestry subscription or you may have free access through your local library.

Church of Scotland pre-1855 Births and Marriages. Although the images are not available, indexes to the Church of Scotland pre-1855 births and marriages found within the Old Parish Registers (OPR's) are available in various places. As with the 1855 to 1874 civil registration birth records, you can find indexes available on Ancestry, Findmypast and FamilySearch, entitled “Scottish Church Records”. **Again a feature is that you can search by parents' names.** At first glance this feature is not available on ScotlandsPeople but it actually is! Enter your search criteria and click search in the usual way. When your results appear you will see new search options. You can now add “1st Parent Name” and “2nd Parent Name”. This enables you to narrow down your search. Search by the surname of the child and the full name of the parents and this will show all children born to that couple.

1911 Census: As only ScotlandsPeople gives access to the 1911 census for the whole of Scotland there is a need for a bit more savvy. Use the reference facility to group family members together. Let's say I am looking for a "Scott" family in the parish of Annan. I will see a lot of entries. For example there are four Agnes Scotts in the parish of Annan in 1911. In the free index on ScotlandsPeople I am also given the reference ("Ref"), which is key. I can see, for example, that there is an Agnes Scott, aged 48, with the reference "812/5/10" and another Agnes Scott aged 49 with the reference "812/2/10". This reference can be broken down. 812 is the parish number for Annan. 812/2 means enumeration book 2 in the parish of Annan and the 10 refers to the page number in the enumeration book. This means that I know these two Agnes Scotts are not in the same household. Looking through the other "Scott" entries for Annan I see that there are the following entries with the reference "812/2/10". I can see James Scott aged 51, Robert Scott aged 20 and George Scott aged 17. Now I have a family group and this should be enough to tell me I have the right family or that it is the wrong family and I don't have to waste my credits.

Wood Carver—Robert Alexander McFeeter

We received an interesting request to the Branch for help from member, Mary Keenan. Her request ran thus and I include most of the detail in case there is any reader who has knowledge and information that might help Mary. I have her permission to include this:



"I don't know if you can assist me, but I am trying to find the early Scottish history of a woodcarver whose amazing pear-wood carving of a Bramble branch was bequeathed to National Trust Rufford Old Hall, Lancashire in 1973 by Geoffrey M. Brown, a solicitor living in Southport. I have researched and found who the carver was and the general history of him and his family, but am struggling to find where his mother was born, where his father was born, where they were married, and when they moved from Argyllshire / Lanarkshire to Lancashire some time after their marriage and birth of their son in 1850. The woodcarver was named Robert Alexander McFeeter. His mother Flora was born in Argyllshire about 1821 – 1823; his father Andrew McFeeter was born in England. Robert Alexander McFeeter was born in Glasgow about 1850. They moved to Lancashire and Andrew's death was registered at Ormskirk in 1858. Flora re-married in 1859 to John Ashton, and Flora, John and Robert lived at 11 Anchor street in Southport until at least 1881. In 1891 Robert lived at the same address on his own, so presumably Flora and John had died. Robert married Phoebe Protheroe in 1896 and moved to Scarisbrick New Road in Southport. Robert died in Liverpool in 1924. Phoebe died at Merthyr Tydfil in 1944. Robert, Phoebe and Flora are buried at Duke Street Cemetery in Southport, but no date for Flora's death. The house in Scarisbrick New Road where Robert and Phoebe lived is next door to the Baptist Tabernacle where they were married. The house is called "Glenorchy", so I am thinking that Glenorchy was a special place to Robert and perhaps where he, Flora and Andrew had lived near to. I am now trying to find Flora's maiden name. I don't know where else to look. I have contacted Glenorchy Church but the records are rather scant and there is no mention of any Flora's or McFeeter's. I wondered if you could please give me some advice on where I should best be looking for Flora's maiden name, when she married and subsequently when the family left Scotland for Southport after her son was born."

There is no doubt that the wood carving pictured above is exquisite and the Robert McFeeter was an outstanding wood carver. It is understandable therefore that Mary should wish to explore who this man was and his family history and she had spread her net wide. However, as is so often the case with all of us in researching, Mary seems to have got lost in the detail and made assumptions that led to a cul-de-sac. She knew that Robert McFeeter was born in Glasgow around 1850. However she knew little about his parents' history including his mother, Flora's, maiden name although census returns (1881) did indicate his mother was from Argyle. Mary thought that his father, Andrew, was born in England but there is no evidence for this. However, Robert's subsequent marriage does indicate that his father, Andrew McFeeter, was a cabinet maker.

Some of Mary's questions we could answer. A quick search of **Lancs BMD** revealed that Flora and John Ashton were married at Manchester Cathedral. A copy of this certificate dated 1859 showed Flora "McFeters" marrying John Ashton and Flora's father as Donald Douglas. We can speculate therefore, given Flora was from Argyle, that her family name was Douglas. We can further speculate that since Robert McFeeter was born in Glasgow, that at some stage in Scotland Flora Douglas married Andrew McFeeter on or before 1850. There is no indication of a marriage in England and Wales for a Andrew McFeeter and Flora Douglas. It was thought by Mary that Flora and John Ashton died between 1881 and 1891, but this was incorrect as the 1891 census of Southport shows them very much alive. The **Family Search** site gives John Ashton's death as 1891 at the age of 77yrs and Flora in 1896, both in Ormskirk district.

From this point research becomes more difficult given that any further progress would require searching the Parish Records in Scotland, civil registration not beginning until 1855. A quick glance at the Scottish Parish Records on **ScotlandsPeople** and **FamilySearch** did not produce any results for a marriage between Flora Douglas and Andrew McFeeter nor indeed a baptism for Robert McFeeter. However at least Mary now had Flora's maiden name and the name of her father. Given Robert McFeeter's standing as a wood carver, I encouraged Mary to contact **ScotlandsPeople** for advice given that not all Parish Records are yet digitised and they may be able to advise. I advised her also to contact the Glasgow and West of Scotland FHS who might have some information.

This was a really interesting piece of research on a very talented wood carver from Glasgow and it is great that Mary has taken on the task of finding out more about him and his family. Should any readers have any insights or information that might progress the search for Robert McFeeter then please do get in touch via the email address angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk and we shall pass the information on to Mary.



Are you linked with Clan MacGillivray?

With their wonderful motto "Touch not this cat"



We were recently contacted by our member, Martin Briscoe, from his abode in Fort William. Martin is a prolific contributor to the Society Forum and I am sure that many members have been assisted by his contributions over the years. It was such an entry on the Forum that prompted me to pursue it with Martin.

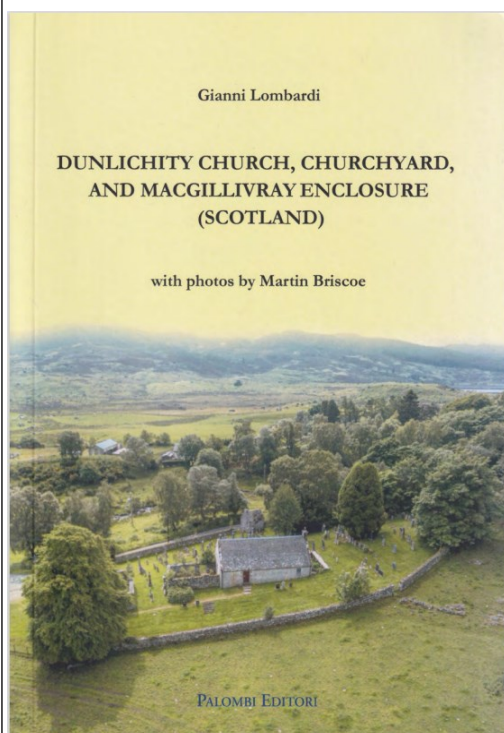
Martin tells us that during the Covid lockdown he was contacted by an Italian, Gianni Lombardi, who was doing some research on the MacGillivray family and asked Martin's permission to use some photographs Martin had taken of Dunlichity Church and Churchyard in his forthcoming book. This prompted Martin to go and take some fresh and better photographs of the site. Martin has kindly made them available to us and they can be [viewed here](#).

Now I knew nothing of this area, or indeed anything of the MacGillivray Clan, and in light of this I was prompted to have a look at both the area and the clan. According to my book on Scottish Clans it turns out that the MacGillivray Clan is one of the more ancient clans and a sept of Clan Chattan. My book tells me also that during the high period of emigration from Scotland, MacGillivrays were prominent, particularly heading towards Canada, so it may well be that there are many descendants of those emigrants still living in Canada. As for the area, it lies about 15 miles south of Inverness and on the eastern side of Loch Ness. The area and indeed the Church have always had very close links

with the MacGillivray Clan and many MacGillivrays, including those who fell at Culloden, are buried in the churchyard. Other notable features at Dunlichity include the marks on the wall where swords were sharpened and the old Watch house, built in 1820 for the guarding of the graves.

So, what is the point of all of this. Well, by way of thanks to Martin for his assistance, Gianni Lombardi sent Martin a copy of his book, the frontispiece of which is given here. As well as this he also included several spare copies and Martin is offering these, free, to anyone who has a connection to the name MacGillivray or to the Dunlichity area.

Should you fall into either category and would like to have a copy of the book you can, with Martin's approval, contact him directly with your details and he will forward you a copy. (Whilst Martin has not asked, I think some kind of contribution to postage would be appropriate.) You can email Martin at martin@mbriscoe.me.uk. Given Gianni Lombardi's research interest, it may be that you want to explore this further. If so you can email Gianni directly at proflombardi@yahoo.it



What's on in January?

Scottish Indexes Conference - 1921 Census: don't forget the Scottish Indexes Conference scheduled for Saturday, 14th January when they are going to focus on the 1921 Census, as well as other topics. You can get more details [here](#).



Manchester: on Wednesday, 18th January, Manchester offer an interesting presentation that focuses upon the centre of Manchester under the title of "*Manchester's Lost District - Life before the Arndale*". For readers not familiar with the geography of Manchester, the "Arndale" is the large shopping precinct smack in the centre of the town. To accommodate it of course, much of "old" Manchester had to be demolished. This presentation explores what the centre of Manchester looked like before this "development". This photograph of the front of the Arndale, (compliments of Google maps) is of the Arndale from Cross Street. This is where the IRA bomb exploded in 1996 at the post box on the bottom left of the picture. Much of the area was devastated. The post box survived intact. Again details of this can be found on the Society web site.



Oldham: sadly, on the same day as the Scottish Indexes Conference, Saturday, 14th January, Oldham Branch are presenting a view of "How we used to live", a PowerPoint jaunt down memory lane drawing on your own memories of how things were. Never mind, it doesn't start until 1400 hours so perhaps you can take a break from the Conference! On Saturday, 11th February, the "how we used to live" theme is taken to another level with a presentation about the women who worked down the coal mines "Pit Lasses - the female miners of 1842". Again details of all of these events can be found on the Oldham web site.

Bolton: by the time this newsletter goes out Bolton's January offering will have been held. However on the 1st February they are offering a presentation that is looking at hints and tips on dating photographs. So dig out all those old photographs of granny and uncle Harry and cousin Norbert and get some free advice. Details of the event can be found on the Bolton web site.



Anglo Scottish Branch Web Site. It is now a couple of years since the Society's new web site was inaugurated. This was not however a static event since our two computer wonders, John Marsden and Hilary Hartigan, are always working to improve how the material is presented. Why not take a look at our own Scottish Branch web site <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>. Hilary is always modifying it to make it easier for you to access material. So do have a look. If you have any questions or suggestions for further improvement then please do let us know via our email address. angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk

Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting - Saturday, 4th February 2023, 1400 hrs

An on-line Zoom talk by Kate Keter.

"Mother dead, father in prison"

Kate Keter is a genealogist, family historian and tutor in Family History at Strathclyde University with a specialism in Scottish research. In this talk Kate will show us how a single entry in a school admission register led to uncovering the stories of three generations of one family.

Again this is a Zoom presentation and, hopefully, we will be able to record it so that those of you who are members and not able to join us will not miss out

Please register and reserve your place in the usual way via **Eventbrite** entering your email address so that you can be forwarded the link-in details.

