



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society



Welcome: to the December edition of the newsletter. Apologies that this version is quite short but I want to get this newsletter to you all before Christmas. Our main event was a talk by Dr Michael Winstanley on the subject of the Highland Clearances and there is access to a recording of his talk for members. As usual there is again some general topics and information that we hope will take you a little forward in your research. For those of our readers in the northern hemisphere, please take care as this very cold spell hits us all. For those in the South, what else can we say but enjoy the warm and the sun!!!!

Editor.



**We wish you every peace and joy
and**



The Highland Clearances: a presentation by Dr Michael Winstanley.

The “Highland Clearances”, an event that has been examined, explored and studied by many authors over many years. In some ways it has become such a familiar topic to those interested in Scottish history that, almost inevitably, a whole series of myths and legends have grown around it. Of course it was never just one “event” but a series of events over a number of years and the clearance of peoples in Scotland was not of course restricted only to the Highlands but also to the Southern Uplands of Scotland.



Michael Winstanley's presentation to us challenged some of the preconceptions that some of us may have had as to the nature of the clearances and who the victims and villains were. The popular view tends towards the clearances being forced and cruel removals with the erosion of a whole way of life. Some of this was undoubtedly true. However, taken as a whole and within the context of the times, what were the alternatives open to people? That was the primary question posed by Michael Winstanley. The period covered by the clearances is from the mid-eighteenth century to the end of the 19th century in different phases. There is little doubt that the consequences of Culloden in 1756 played an important part but just as important were issues such as cultural factors, economic factors and the opening up of the country with improved road systems. Whilst there was undoubtedly forcing off the land, we were provided with evidence also that indicated that people wanted to move for a better life. We can romanticise too much about highland life, but life was very basic and tough. Michael quoted from some of the entries in the “Statistical Accounts” where local ministers referred to the struggles of their people. Scotland was of course also hit with the potato blight in the mid-1800's. Confronted by these circumstances and with the offer of a new life in a new land offering not only land but also independence, who would not want to choose this option, and many did.

In summary, without in any way disparaging the popular image of the Clearances, Michael challenged us to look at other factors and to ask the question, what else could have happened?

Michael was good enough to allow us to record his talk and this is available to members of the Society. It can be accessed in the usual way: [Log in/Branches-Anglo Scots-Research/Speakers Notes/Videos/](#) and you will find it headed Anglo Scottish Meeting Videos (Members Only). Do have a look at it. Michael is a good, clear and informative speaker.

Well, it's here



Census 1921



At last!!

Yes, we have waited for some time for the compilation and release of the 1921 Census for Scotland, but it is here at last. Some time has lapsed since the release and I am sure many of you have already delved into it. I wonder how you found it? There was some hype about searching issues but I didn't find any difficulty. That said, whilst I have managed to find my parents without difficulty finding other relatives is proving to be a problem. One of the names is “Hennessey”, a notorious name for multiple spellings but I have tried them all including wild cards but without success. The challenge continues. Might contact *ScotlandsPeople* for advice. They are usually generous that way.



Following the release of the census several options have arisen to help us all get the most out of the census and one major free offer is given here.



Scottish Indexes

Scottish Indexes Conference - 1921 Census: the Family History research web site, **Scottish Indexes**, ([Scottish Indexes - Helping you trace your Scottish family tree](#)) founded and operated by Emma and Graham Maxwell are using their next, free, conference on **Saturday, 14th January 2023** to focus on the 1921 Census, as well as other topics. An email recently sent to us from Emma highlighting the conference content read thus:

I am emailing to let you know about a free online event featuring the 1921 Scottish census which is taking place on Saturday 14th January 2023. Tessa Spencer, Head of Outreach and Learning at the National Records of Scotland, will join the Scottish Indexes Conference in January to present 'Secrets of the 1921 Scottish Census'. People can join on Zoom or watch in the Scottish Indexes Facebook group, both are free.

As well as Tessa's presentation on the newly released 1921 census we will have the following presentations:

- *'School Records for the Family Historian' by Dr. Irene O'Brien, archivist in Glasgow City Archives*
- *'Cracking the Code: deciphering old Scottish handwriting' by Margaret Fox, Archivist at Traquair House*
- *"The Scotch Colony" of New Kincardineshire (From Kincardineshire to New Kincardineshire 1873) by genealogist Lorraine Stewart*
- *'The Real Brigadoon Villages' by Andrew Armstrong, genealogist at [relativelyscottish.com](#)*
- *Scottish Genealogy Q&A session*

The Scottish Indexes Conferences are always popular, and understandably so given their varied content but this one seems particularly apt. You can register for the Conference via the web site given above.. We were sent a poster detailing and advertising the event and this is attached to this newsletter.

Exchange Journals: please never forget to make use of the Exchange Journal facility on the Society web site. It is yet another of the great options open to members of the Society. You access by logging in then simply scrolling down to the Exchange Journal Archive. On many occasions you will find that our fellow family historians offer information and advice on their local area as well as information about other web sites that might be of value. A classic example is the entry in the most recent Journal from **West Lothian**. They give a couple of web site links that you might find useful. <https://www.ryersonindex.org/> The **"Ryerson Index"** is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the Sydney Gazette of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries. The other link referred to is perhaps more familiar, namely, the [Scottish Post Office Directories](#) site that can be found on the National Library of Scotland pages.



Find My Past Friday Blog: on these dark and cold days what better way to pass the time than by tuning in to the [FindMyPast Friday Blog](#). They are forever updating the content of the site and the latest additions can be accessed [here](#). Short days, long nights and cold weather are always good opportunities to catch up on what is available.

Forthcoming events 2023: time now to look ahead to some of the events that are ahead of us next year.

Bolton: the Bolton Branch are ignoring the practice of keeping January quiet by continuing to meet at their usual venue of Bolton Golf Club. A little bird tells me that the room where they meet includes a bar. What else can you ask for? The January meeting is on Wednesday 4th January at 7.30 with a presentation by **“Cath Cole - authoress, educator, nurse”**. Sounds intriguing. The event is a hybrid gathering and zoom event and full details can be had on the Bolton web site

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”. Again details of this and other events can be found on the Society web site.

Oldham: on 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. Gosh, does this mean we are old enough now to be part of history!!! Details on the Society Branch web site.

SAFHS: regular readers will be aware that our Branch is a member, indeed a founder member, of the **Scottish Association of Family History Societies** and each year a major conference is organised hosted by one of the member societies. Sadly the SAFHS web site does not appear to have been updated, but in 2023, the annual conference is to be held in Aberdeen, hosted by the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society on Saturday, 22nd April. The theme of the conference is “Haste ye back”. Notification from Aberdeen informs that;

The conference will explore different aspects of settlement and migration to and from Scotland. There will be plenty of hints and tips about resources for family history research and some thought-provoking perspectives. We think this theme will be of particular interest at a time when more folk contemplate resuming long-distance travel to maintain family connections and pursue family history

I can’t yet refer you to a web site for more details as it is still under construction but already 7 workshops with speakers have been arranged with attractive titles. The conference is a zoom event so open to a world-wide audience. More information as it becomes available.

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society Spring Fair - Saturday 25th March 2023

So successful was the Fair that we ran in March 2022 that we have decided to repeat the exercise. This is just the first of several announcements that we will be making over the coming months and to alert you to the event so that you can pop it in your diary.



REMEMBER: there is no Anglo Scottish Branch meeting in January. We normally had our Christmas party and quiz in January, but since shifting things around a bit, January and not December, is now the “free” month. A good idea as it gives us all time and opportunity to recover!!!

Our next gathering will be the first Saturday in February with a talk delivered by Kate Keter on the topic of “Mother dead. Father in prison”. More about this in our January edition of the newsletter.

If you want to you can find out what is planned by way of talks and events at the Anglo Scots Branch by having a look at the web site. What is planned so far is all listed there so you can plan your attendance in advance.



Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2023



Tessa Spencer, Head of Outreach and Learning at the National Records of Scotland, will join the Scottish Indexes Conference on Saturday 14th January to present 'Secrets of the 1921 Scottish Census'.

Come along to this free Zoom event. Scan the QR code to register or visit www.scottishindexes.com to find out more.

'Secrets of the 1921
Scottish Census'

Scan to register



www.scottishindexes.com