



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society



Manchester Art Gallery

Welcome: to the July edition of the newsletter. As part of the summer break our July Branch meeting traditionally arranges a visit to a place of interest. This year it was a visit to Manchester Art Gallery with a planned tour provided focusing on Scottish painters. Or so we hoped. As usual, in this edition we draw your attention to other sources for research that have come our way and we hope that you find these helpful. If you are due to go on holiday soon, enjoy and take care. Editor.

A Visit to Manchester Art Gallery: despite it being the holiday period, 15 members of the Branch joined together to enjoy this excursion to the prestigious Manchester Art Gallery. Built in 1823 to a design by Charles Barry to a Greek style it contains a collection of over 25,000 items many by world renowned artists. Our interest of course was art and artists with a Scottish theme. I have seen some of these on previous visits to the Gallery, mostly depicting wild Scottish landscapes. Sadly our visit commenced with our guide, Isabelle Killicoat, informing us that due to a recent reorganisation of the exhibits in the Gallery the Scottish works had been removed into storage to allow for other art works to be shown. With that apology ringing in our ears, Isabelle led us on a very interesting and varied tour of a selection of works depicting social and family history.



The first image we were shown was titled "The Moor" and is the first painting acquired by the Gallery. It depicts the actor, Ira Aldridge, an American who came to Britain to escape prejudice. He was the first black man to play Shakespeare's Othello and the painting, completed in 1826 by the artist James Northcote, celebrates this.

I suppose the highlight of the visit for me was the talk on the painting "Work" by Ford Maddox Brown. I have spent many a happy time looking at this but to have someone talk to it was a bonus. Given the disappointment in the lack of a Scottish theme to the visit a bone was thrown in this painting given the presence of Thomas Carlyle incorporated into the painting by Maddox Brown given Carlyle's philosophical influences regarding the common man.



Another artist that was drawn to our attention was Adolphe Valette and his technique in achieving his atmospheric views of Manchester. It appears that part of his regime was to pain on jute in order to achieve the detail he wanted. I was rather perplexed by our guide's assertion that Valette acquired the jute in Manchester. Surely everyone knows that the heart of juteopolis was Dundee!!! Unlikely that the city that was the heart of the cotton industry was weaving jute, but.....

Following on then from an initial disappointment at not being able to enjoy Manchester Art Gallery's extensive Scottish collection, we were thoroughly entertained and informed by our learned guide and had a great visit. Should you want to view the Scottish collection at the Art Gallery then you can log into the web site at <https://manchesterartgallery.org> and under "Collections" search for "Scotland". There is quite a collection worth looking at.

National Records of Scotland: my attention was drawn by a reader to the offer from the NRS of a free online guide to reading the early documents in the Scots language. The guide has been put together by the NRS in conjunction with the Scottish Records Association and "includes explanations of spelling, contractions and abbreviations." They say it is a must if you have Scottish roots, and I am sure they are right. The guide can be found [here](#).



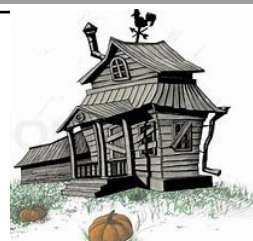
Whilst I was having a look at this I was reminded of the amount of useful information is made available by the NRS on their "[Learning and Publications](#)" site. Always well worth a look.



Canadian Records: I don't know how many readers make use of the Society Forum but it is a very useful source for information and help from fellow researchers. A recent entry informed us that the 1931 Census of Canada has been released - [see here](#). - although at the moment a search has to be carried out via districts and sub-districts. If you know where someone lived then you can find them using the filters. However they are in the process, with the help of Ancestry and FindMyPast, of indexing by first and surname fields then the 1931 Census will join the Census collection. As with all the Canadian census records, it is **FREE!!** Perhaps there is a principle here that we as a nation should consider and follow. That aside, access to all the Canadian census records can be accessed [here](#) together with a whole load of information about the census and its contents.

Whilst on the subject a perusal of the [Canadian Government's Library and Archives of Canada](#) is well worth a look if you know or think you know of any ancestors that went to Canada, and of course, many Scots did one way or another. I scrolled down their collection to the section on "Genealogy and family history". Amongst the fantastic collection of records there I came across a [podcast](#) about Home Children sent over from England Wales and Scotland to Canada. Do have a look at the site. If you have any connection with Canada you will spend many a happy hour there.

Tracing the history of your house: recently the **National Library of Scotland** offered a Zoom gathering looking at resources that would help you trace the history of your house. Sadly I missed that but it prompted me to look at what digital resources are available at the NLS in any event to help with the same project. [This section](#) of the map set provided what you would anticipate would be of value. Of course combining this source with the sources provided by such as [ScotlandsPlaces](#) and the [Statistical Accounts of Scotland](#) would provide a very sound foundation for any research that you wanted to do.



National Library of Scotland - Maps Help: continuing on the theme of maps the latest newsletter from the National Library of Scotland gives a link to a help page that I found particularly useful, and so share with you. You will know of my love of the NLS map site but I must admit that since they upgraded it and keep adding to the resource, I have found it increasing difficult to find my way around, particularly the geo-referenced maps. [This link](#) provides all the advice and help that you might need to get the most out of the site. There is even a well-constructed video about georeferenced maps and how to use the site. There is a great deal of information there and you will need to spend some time getting the most out of it. However it is in effect a course on how to use the map site and well worth the effort.



Scottish Red Books: for those amongst us with more notable ancestors, the Red Books are a source that is available to discover more details about your family. The relevant web site can be found [here](#). However, **Ancestry** have just announced that they have added [Scotland, Red Books, 1600-1939](#) to their web site. You do need to have at least the Premium Membership to access the records, but they may be available at the various library versions of Ancestry. Worth a look.



Anglo Scottish Branch Family History Society



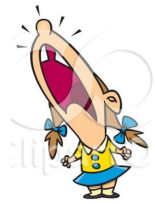
Please remember that there is no Branch meeting in August

Worse still, there will be no Newsletter either!!!

What will you do?

Well, I suggest that you just go on holiday and comfort yourself that way.

We will be back in September.



What's on in the Society: although this is the holiday season there is still a fair bit going on in the Society.

Bolton: on Wednesday, 2nd August, Bolton Branch are offering a talk entitled "Lives and Times of Smithills Estate" to be given by Tony Greenwood, a volunteer with the Woodland Trust who own and manage the Estate. Parts of the Hall and Estate date from the 14th century and have had several owners, the last being the Ainsworth family. Lots of history attached to the Estate so promises to be a great event. Register on the Branch web site using **Eventbrite**.

Oldham: on Saturday 12th August Oldham Branch are presenting a talk on "Joseph Healey of Lees". Not a name that leaps out at me but he is a notable member of the Peterloo assembly for which he was imprisoned.

The radical quack doctor Joseph Healey must be the oddest hero of Peterloo. Healey led the Saddleworth and Lees contingent with its controversial banner 'Equal representation or death!', and was gaoled for a year as a result. Samuel Bamford of Middleton wrote warmly of his brave and hilarious comrade, and of their eventual falling-out. Thanks in part to hostile spies we know a surprising amount about 'Doctor Healey', and this talk will bring him roaring back to life.

The talk is to be given by Prof. Robert Poole. Details of how to register can be found on the Branch web site.

Manchester: Wednesday, 19th July, is the occasion of the Society's quarterly meeting and starting at 10.30, the Society offer two presentations. The first is a talk by Paul Hindle, chairman of the Bolton and Bury Canal Society. Paul will be talking about the history and development of the canal. Then in the afternoon, at 1.00 p.m. Michael Billington will be speaking about the Manchester areas of Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme making use of postcards. If you have any links with these areas, or just interested in the history of the postcard, come along. More details and registration as usual via the Society web page and **Eventbrite**.

Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday, 2nd September, Manchester Central Library, 1400 hrs

"Mining in Canada"

Followed by social gathering sharing breakthroughs, brick walls and sources.



This is going to be an intriguing, informative and challenging gathering looking at an area that few of us might have considered previously. Earlier in this newsletter reference was made to the family history sources available on the Canadian Government web site that includes emigrants going to Canada. Many of course went for work opportunities and some of these were miners. This then lifts a corner on the vast topic of Canadian immigration focusing on one particular type of employment.

After this presentation we will move on to sharing with one another our breakthroughs, brick walls and resources that we have found helpful and can share. As usual booking a place at this event is to be done via **Eventbrite**. Next month an email from our chairman will be sent out advising you when and how to reserve a place. Hope to see you there.