



e-Scotia



Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the October edition of the newsletter. In our part of the world, with the arrival of autumn, the darker nights are drawing in which means that our clocks go back one hour later this month. This practice has been a bone of contention for some, particularly south of the border. However, not changing the clocks in this way would mean that those living in the north of Scotland, who benefit from longer daylight hours in the summer period, would be going to work and school in the dark and returning home in the dark. So a minor inconvenience for us all to benefit others. Continuing the topic of geography, at our Branch meeting this month we indulge our interest in all things maps with a presentation from Laragh Quinney from the National Library of Scotland. Further, we again provide some information that we hope will benefit you as you continue your Anglo-Scottish research. Take care. Editor.



Exploring National Library of Scotland Maps: It is a source with which most family history researchers are familiar although not so for those who are starting out. Working on the Society help desk at Manchester Central Library it is always a pleasure to introduce people to this marvellous resource. It has to be admitted that all who use the site continue to be amazed by two facts, one, that it is a free resource, and two, that it is a resource covering the whole of the UK, Ireland and abroad that is provided by the Scottish National Library, something of which all Scots should be rightly proud. As an indication as to how popular the map site is we were pleased to welcome over 60 attendees at the presentation from all over the UK and from the USA, Canada, Australia and Germany.



Laragh Quinney is the maps reading room manager at the NLS and so very familiar with all that the NLS map site has to offer. There is little point in going into detail about the presentation since there is to be a recording available in the near future and a comprehensive handout available to all, members and non-members alike, on the Anglo Scots Branch web site. However I make mention of and share couple of points that struck me.

Focusing on the NLS home page ([here](#)) Laragh's presentation was in two parts. Firstly she demonstrated some of the major map resources held by the NLS that can be explored through the option of "Maps of Scotland". Given that the Library has over 2 million items in their collection a cursory glance was all that could be expected. Of that 2 million, 200 thousand items have been digitised and are available on site leaving a lot to contemplate visiting the Library to see.

For those of us interested in Scottish family history the various maps of Scotland were explored. There are of course many ancient maps of Scotland but the first survey of Scotland producing what we would recognise as a map, carried out in the mid 18th century, took 40 years to complete and these were maps in the scale 6 inches to the mile great for exploring an overall view of the country. There are similar size scale maps of England and Wales. Should you have any interest at all in maps you will spend many a happy hour on this resource. That said they are great for anyone doing family history to discover where their ancestors came from and, using the Estate Maps, perhaps be lucky to see in detail where the ancestors lived and worked.

Exploring NLS Maps (cont.): the second part of Laragh's presentation focused upon how to actually use the map site and how to get the most out of it. This I found particularly helpful because, although I use the site often I have become increasingly confused as the content of the site has increased and the structure developed.



If you are in any way new to the site, or simply want a refresher, then the place to start is the orange button on the left "Guide to this website". This gives a brilliant step-by-step guide to how to use the map site and includes a video of the map site. The dark blue button above the orange button indicates the latest editions to the map site, at the moment emphasising the new edition of Irish maps but always worth keeping an eye on. The light blue buttons are self-explanatory but what I didn't realise is that by calling up a map on one of the categories you can then switch between the categories and the same map will appear.

Finally, whenever you log in to one of the four major offerings, "Map Finder with marker pin" or "Map Finder with Outlines" etc., you are presented with a white box that gives you the option of accessing the "help video" for that particular feature in more detail.

Altogether a very interesting and valuable presentation by Laragh and one that was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all the attendees. For those not able to attend a recording of the presentation will be made available soon on the Anglo Scottish web site. In the meantime a work sheet prepared by Laragh and highlighting all the references she made is available now.

1st World War: as we approach the month of November our minds turn to the events of the 1st World War and its aftermath. We have been informed by two Society members via the Society Forum of an event being hosted by the Highland Archive Service "The War to end all Wars - a Highland perspective" It is a Zoom event and to be held on Monday, 13th November 2023 at 1900 hours GMT.

"The events of 1914-1918 were to change the world forever. Join High Life Highland's Family Historian, Anne Fraser, and Archive Community Engagement Officer, Lorna Steele-McGinn, to learn about the impact on the Highlands. Using original archive material we will look at the way lives and landscapes were changed, and will focus on some particular case studies of Highlanders at war."

The event is free, although a donation would be appreciated.

If you are interested in being included in this event, more details can be found [here](#) and booking is through Eventbrite.



Scottish Indexes: we regularly feature this web site that can be found [here](#). Operated by the husband and wife team, Emma and Graham Maxwell, they provide many Scottish research resources as well as hosting the free and ever popular "Scottish Indexes Conference". The web site is worth exploring in itself but they also host a forum under the heading of "**Scottish Indexes Group**". Anyone can register for this and it gives an opportunity to mention resources and/or seek help/advice. In the most current group entry mention is made of a resource that I did not know so share with you. It appeared under the heading of "**Five ways to find pre-1855 Scottish Death Records**". Finding any Scottish ancestral records pre-1855 can be fairly daunting but this contributor pointed in the direction of a resource at the [Scottish Genealogical Society](#). They have an amazing number of resources and worth a look but under the heading of "Downloads" on their web site there is reference to "The Black Book" and this can be accessed [here](#). To quote the SGS;

"The Black book contains details of all the Scottish Genealogy Society's holdings relating to Scottish deaths and Scottish burials. The collection is made up of the old parish death registers, lists of monumental inscriptions, some obituaries and a growing library of transcripts of Scottish death, burial and mortcloth accounts lists. The years given indicate the period covered, but there may be blanks in the record between these dates. Many of the monumental inscription lists and OPR transcripts are available for sale through the Scottish Genealogy Society's online shop.

In addition the Scottish Genealogy Society holds monumental inscriptions for Cumbria and Northumberland. "

It is worth remembering that this is "only" an index of all the relevant records that the SGS hold in their library on the subject. It does not give names of individuals but does list all the cemeteries in a particular area and the dates that the records cover. I did email the SGS to see if they would carry out searches on request particularly relevant to those who live some distance away from Edinburgh. They don't but this was the helpful response from Jan Rea;

Thank you for your enquiry. The SGS does not carry out personal searches but if we are presented with an enquiry we will guide and advise. There is also the Association of Scottish Genealogist and Researchers in Archives you can find them at www.asgra.co.uk and there is a fee, I believe it is reasonable. Please send any queries to me (by email) to enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com and we will help if we can.

As a by-the-by whilst "Googling" the SGS I came across this web site ([click here](#)) What an array of resources for all things "Scottish" in research. Great for a rainy day!!!



Alva Connections?

To be honest I had to look at Google Maps to see where Alva was. I knew it was north of the Forth and thought it was in Fife. Correction! It is in Clackmannanshire just a few miles north east of Stirling. The reason I draw Alva to your attention is that, some years ago, our chairman, David Muir, carried out a short survey of Alva and produced the following;

- a list of small pox victims in Alva in 1792
- a list of small pox victims in Alva in 1797
- a list of parishioners on the Congregational Roll of Alva mid-1830s
- a list of Heads of Family for Alva 1834
- a list of the early manufactories in Alva

This is the kind of local and focused information that is always useful to have and we intend to place it in the Anglo Scots Branch web page for consultation by anyone. It is the kind of information also that perhaps you have collected and thought that it pertains only to you and that no one else would be interested. David has been brave and gracious enough to share his own research with us so that others might benefit. He writes;

"Alva, a place I have visited a couple of times when in the region, is also a place where my great, great grandmother, Ellen/Helen McFarlane spent her last years as a house-keeper at an address in Alva. She had travelled alone as an 18 year-old from Helensburgh and Glasgow to Southampton in 1859 to board the newly commissioned steamship, Ceylon for a voyage to Alexandria before travelling on across the

Egyptian desert to Port Said boarding a further ship to Singapore. From Singapore she went forward to Batavia, modern day Djakarta, and a journey inland to a calico plantation where she worked as a governess to the children of the plantation owner. When the owner fell ill into his final illness, she returned home to Polmont, Falkirk via ships to the Mediterranean and rail across France and the Channel. [On her return she married Archie Moir, my 2xg grandfather. Her father was Peter McFarlane, who held a Master's Ticket, commanding steamships around the Clyde and the Clyde/Forth Canal. He went overboard south of Cape of Good Hope, when a steward en route for Australia with his son Malcom in 1869.]"

As in David's case, our own research often uncovers gems of information over and above what we are looking for and that others might find useful, if not at least interesting. Indeed if you want to pursue David's research he has written a couple of articles for the Society Journal, "*The Manchester Genealogist*" and these can be found in the following editions;

Vol 39 No 3 p.201 "Trains & Boats & Donkeys"

Vol 39 No 4 p. 354 "A Charming Spot in Stirlingshire"

If you have any similar research please do consider sharing it with us via the email address. Better still, why not write an article for the Journal?



What is forthcoming in the Society Branches: given where we are in the year most Branches of the Society have sorted out their conferences for 2024. This includes our own Anglo Scottish Branch and we hope to publish this in the next newsletter so that you can fill in your diary. But 2023 is not finished so what is on offer:

Bolton: on Wednesday, 1st November, Bolton Branch take up the 1st World War theme and have an offering entitled “*Researching First World War Soldiers - using the example of the William Harcourt Diary*”. As is now fairly well established with Bolton Branch, this is a hybrid meeting offering attendance either at their venue at Bolton Golf Club or, for those not able to attend, via Zoom. Full details are to be found on the Bolton Branch web site.

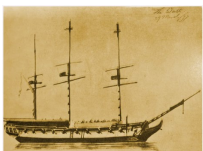
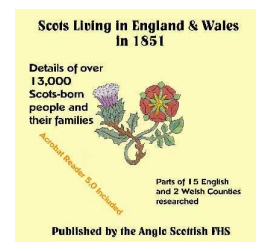
Oldham: on Saturday, 11th November, Oldham Branch are taking a look at a very interesting religious community project that was established and developed in East Manchester, the “Fairfield Moravian Settlement in Droylsden”. If you would like to pursue this topic, reference is made to the admissions to this community in the Great Database on the Society web site and an article appears in “*The Manchester Genealogist*”, Vol.9, 1973, Issues 2 and 3.

Manchester: on Wednesday, 25th November, at Central Library, Manchester are looking at marriage, its customs, settlements, and allegations under the title of “*The road to the aisle.*”. The talk is being given by Rita Greenwood, a leading member of the Bolton Branch. Rita has been involved in the teaching of family history for many years and she is able to present her subject in a fashion suitable for all levels of family history expertise.

Reserving a place at all these events is recommended and is done by way of **Eventbrite**.

Newsletters: please remember that all the Branches publish their own newsletter that highlight all that is going on in family history in the local area. These newsletters are accessible on the respective Branch web site.

Shop: I notice a number of “Sale” items in the Society shop as well as an increased number of books and CD’s that are now “downloadable”. This means that they are cheaper to buy and you do not have to wait for them to be delivered to you. Amongst them is a series of Scottish interest CD’s including the one illustrated. So if you wondered where your Scottish ancestor disappeared to prior to 1851, have a look at this. They may be in England and Wales.



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday, 4th November 2023 @ 1400 hours by Zoom

“Banishment and Transportation” with Ken Nisbet



Ken Nisbet is well known to the Branch and it is a delight to welcome him once again to our meeting

Should we ever be fortunate enough to trace our ancestry back far enough, sometimes they just seem to disappear from the scene. To explore some solution to this we explore the option that they may have run foul of the law and been dealt with by way of banishment and transportation. Ken will lead us in this by addressing such questions as;

- When and why were people banished?
- How far away were they sent, for how long and for what crimes?
- How many Scots were transported?
- Are there any records?

Whether you have ancestors in this category or not, this promises to be an interesting exploration of an all too familiar form of punishment. It will be a doubly interesting topic for our members in Australia, Canada and the USA where many “offenders” were sent.

Ken will be speaking to us from Scotland so the meeting is by way of Zoom

Please still register your interest in being present through **Eventbrite** as this gives our chairman the email address to send out the Zoom link. Reminders of the session will be sent out so please keep a watch out for these.