



# e-Scotia



## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the November 2023 edition of the newsletter. This month we were pleased to welcome once again Ken Nisbet, a font of knowledge on matters Scottish Family History. The topic was Banishment and Transportation, a development on the more frequent theme of emigration. I wasn't able to attend this gathering visiting as I was sisters in storm-tossed Bognor Regis. I am therefore grateful to my colleague, Hilary Hartigan, who has provided a summary of the presentation as a prelude to you tuning in to the recording and the notes provided by Ken.

We have been contacted by a few persons asking us to pass on information that you might find, if not useful, at least interesting. As usual we add some references that will hopefully supplement the sources you already have for your Anglo Scottish research.

Enjoy. Editor.

**Banishment and Transportation:** this was a Zoom gathering, Ken speaking to us from his home in Scotland. To help us tune in to the theme Ken began with a couple of definitions.

Banishment means to expel or relegate to another place by decree. It is the decree that is important. Banishment was a legal punishment proscribed by Scottish Courts and was a more humane option than hanging, which the Scottish Courts wanted to avoid. The term "Transportation" we are more familiar with also a sentence of the Courts and a more serious form of punishment.



Ken Nisbet



One of the problems for Scotland in the 16th-18th centuries was that it did not have prisons. There were Tollbooths such as the Tollbooth outside St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, but these were local lockups, not suitable for holding prisoners long term. Banishment was a time limited punishment, typically for seven years at the end of which the banished person could return. People could be banished from a particular area like a County, or from Scotland itself. The problem with the latter was that they could simply cross the border into England and become a problem not only for locals in England but also for the Border authorities whilst being beyond the control of the Scottish authorities. Some case studies have shown that in 1609 banishment was the best alternative to something much worse but by 1670 transportation had become the norm. The West Indies and the American colonies, all controlled by Britain at this time, became the focal points for transportation by Cromwell and these were in effect slave labour. Once their term of punishment had been served they could return to Britain if they could finance their journey. Many of course stayed and established themselves there. Australia and New Zealand became alternative venues as the situation in America changed with a similar arrangement.

For those able to get there, relevant Privy Council minutes are in bound volumes at Edinburgh City Library but the National Library of Scotland also have records of offenders banished and/or transported. Simply putting "Banishment and Transportation" in the search box produces 64 records relating to those banished and transported covering the late 18th and early 19th century periods.



Having Ken speak to us never disappoints and this presentation was not only entertaining but also informative. The notes for Ken's talk are already available on the Branch web site as will be the recording of the talk in the near future. Keep looking.

**Do you have links with the Clan Munro (Munroe)?** We recently received an email from Margaret Bardin, one of the founding group administrators of the Munro DNA project in the USA. Their web site can be found [here](#). She writes;



*Greetings to Munros in Scotland,*

*Members of the Clan Munro Association, USA are eager to learn about their Scottish heritage. During earlier times of hardship in Scotland their ancestors immigrated to America between the 1700's and early 1800's seeking a better way to provide for their families. Members of CMA-USA desire that Scots carrying the Munro surname will agree to do Y-DNA testing with the hope that the information learned will further their family research. Money has been budgeted for Y-DNA testing of 8 Munro men. Because the test will be paid for by CMA-USA, there are guidelines that must be followed.*

*The prospective applicant must:*

- *have a working knowledge of his Munro paternal line and where they lived going back 3 – 4 generations.*
- *be willing to have that information shared with his close DNA matches.*
- *have a Scottish postal address.*

*The participant is welcome to correspond with those who match him closely, but that is not a requirement. The test management company for the Munro Project is Family Tree DNA based in Houston, Texas. The DNA test is saliva based, facilitated by a scraping of DNA from each cheek using 2 small, soft brushes. If you wish to explore the Munro Project public website, log onto <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/munro-dna>.*

*There are 40+ Munro groupings in the Munro Project. The 3 largest are as follows:*

- *the Foulis Munros*
- *the Loch Fyneside Munros who hailed from the area around Inveraray in Argyll*
- *those descended from John Munro, a prisoner of war after the Battle of Worcester. He was banished to the colonies, settling in Bristol, Rhode Island. He is the ancestor of Marilyn Monroe.*

*As mentioned, money has been budgeted for Y-DNA testing of 8 Munro men. Plans will move forward with the first 8 who meet the criteria. If you are interested, please contact the co-group administrators:*

*Margaret Bardin*      [mbardin731@comcast.net](mailto:mbardin731@comcast.net)

*Mark A. Monroe*      [markamonroeftdna@gmail.com](mailto:markamonroeftdna@gmail.com)

Great opportunity for any reader with Munro links or from one of the septs of the Monros.

**The trials and Tribulations of early registrars:** I came across this in the Scottish Indexes Forum Group and thought it not only amusing but also informative as to the reason why so many records might be “missing” as we carry out research. It was sent in by George MacKenzie to whom my thanks go. George writes;

“If you have ever fretted over failing to find a baptism in the kirk session records, spare a thought for Alexander Dow, session clerk in Kilbrandon, Argyll, who in March, 1759 lamented:

*“The same day I represented to the session that it was impossible for me to keep a full or true Register of the Baptisms as they never come to acquaint me either of the time of their birth or when they were baptised and that I did not think it a duty incumbent on me to go about and inquire when this or that child was born or baptised. But I got no great hearing, only the minister told them from the pulpit some time thereafter that I gave in a complaint to the session that there was none of them went to get their children's names recorded. However there was never any came yet which is the reason that so few are registered” (CH2/209/1, f.41r)*

Mr MacKenzie takes the opportunity to throw in his own reflection on the cause of the headmaster's difficulties;

*“It didn't help that Dow, who had only lately been appointed schoolmaster and session clerk had come from Banffshire”*

I suppose you have to be local to understand and appreciate that one!!

**Scottish Indexes Conference:** whilst on the topic of the [Scottish Indexes](#), just a reminder that the 22nd Scottish Indexes Conference is due to be held on **Saturday, 25th November**. Accessing the web site gives full details on how to register but in summary there are presentations by;

**Chris Paton**, genealogist at Scotland's Greatest Story, will present 'Discover Scottish Civil Registration Records'. This presentation will give an overview of Scottish civil registration records which are the basic building blocks of our Scottish family tree.

**Lorna Steele-McGinn**, Community Engagement Officer for the Highland Archive Service, will present 'Placenames'. This presentation will look at some of the placenames in the Highlands & Islands where English, Gaelic and Norse come together with other languages to populate the maps with fascinating insights into our history and culture.

**Kay Williams** of The Past and Other Places will present 'The 'peculiar position' of housing the farm worker (1900-25)'. This talk will focus on the main systems for housing farm workers in different parts of lowland Scotland between 1900 and 1925.

**Chris Fleet**, Map Curator at the National Library of Scotland, will present 'Getting the best from the NLS maps website for family history research'. This talk will initially provide an overview of how to find and view the most useful maps for family history research online. It will then cover some of the new maps, tools and resources that are now available, including new historic gazetteers, improved tools for tracing, saving and re-using features, new tools for printing and saving images, and for showing heights and elevations. It will also briefly cover researching changing parish and county boundaries in Scotland, and the Boundaries Viewer.

**Caroline Brown**, University Archivist at the University of Dundee, will present 'Medical Matters: discover the wealth of information that hospital and asylum records hold'. This talk will take you into the world of 19th and 20th century medical records. Using hospital and asylum records from the University of Dundee Archives, Caroline will explain what fascinating stories they can reveal about your ancestors and the lives that they led.

**Ashleigh Thompson**, Records and Archives Officer at Edinburgh City Archives, will present 'Edinburgh City Archives'. This presentation will focus on the most popular collections at Edinburgh City Archives and how we can use these for our research.

There will also be a two hour-long Q&A sessions where you can ask a question on any Scottish genealogy topic.

It looks an inspiring collection of talks and once again a big thankyou to the Maxwells, the owners of "Scottish Indexes", who generously organise and provide this Conference free of charge. Donations of course are always welcome.

**New Meetings Added for 2023!!!** The Society, through its various Branches, has a whole programme of talks throughout the year. Perhaps it is the effects of the shorter days and colder weather here in the northern hemisphere but some of our members were prompted to band together recently and offer an additional set of talks throughout the week commencing 13th November to inform your family history research. The talks on offer are;



Monday, 13th November: a talk by Hilary Hartigan on **"DNA and Ethnicity"**

Tuesday, 14th November: **"My grandad and the Black Harry Tunnel Disaster"** is a presentation by Carol Lee.

Wednesday, 15th November: a presentation by Hilary Blanford on **"Convicts Galore"**.

Thursday, 16th November: Carol Lee speaks about **"An Irishman lost in Manchester"**

Friday, 17th November: Hilary Hartigan tells us about **"James Nasmyth, inventor of the Steam Hammer"**

The talks are all ONLINE via Zoom, so available for everyone everywhere. **They all begin at 1930hrs GMT** and they are **free** to members and non-members alike. **You will have to book so that you can be sent the link.**

So grab that cup or glass of whatever and book your place with us in this cornucopia of information by logging into

[Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society - Meetings \(mlfhs.uk\)](https://www.mlfhs.uk)

**National Library of Scotland Maps:** the latest information from the NLS map section can be found [here](#) and includes Ordnance Survey One-Inch Ireland engraved maps (1850s-1910s) The latest newsletter also tells us that they have added a new maps layer to the website, which uses over 7,000 maps of the Ordnance Survey's Six-Inch to the mile series (1840s–1880s). Roads, railways, fields, fences are shown, as well as buildings such as churches, schools, hospitals and houses. The layer gives more insight into the mid-19th century landscape and is of great value for local and family history.



**Can you help?** I notice in the recent “*Scottish Indexes*” blog that Chris Paton is asking for anyone who purchased his recent book “Tracing your Belfast ancestors” to put an honest review of it on Amazon. So if you have bought it, why not share your impressions. Chris also operates a blog “Scottish Genes” that contains lots of UpToDate information and is always worth a look. It can be accessed [here](#).



**Scottish Records Association Conference:** as members of the [SRA](#), our Branch has been notified of the forthcoming SRA Conference to be held on **Thursday 23 November 2023 at the A K Bell Library, Perth**. The conference title is 'The Body as Evidence' and hopefully any of our members in the vicinity will be able to attend. There is a conference leaflet with details and costs that can be found [here](#).

The conference topics and speakers look very interesting but, clearly, geographically out of reach for most of our membership. I have emailed the secretary to ask if consideration has ever been given to a hybrid Zoom conference to facilitate our involvement and await the reply. Unlikely this year but I will let you know.

A hybrid option is evidently available to the SRA since informing us of the AGM we are told;

*Members are also advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Records Association will take place online via Zoom on Thursday 14 December at 12.30pm. The agenda and papers will be distributed with the Autumn issue of 'Retour', and the meeting is expected to include a talk by the winner of the 2023 Tunnock Prize essay competition. If you wish to attend, please notify the Secretary, Anne Cameron (anne.m.cameron@strath.ac.uk), no later than Tuesday 12th December to receive the Zoom joining instructions.*

Perhaps some of you might be interested in attending the AGM. We are members and it would be useful to keep up to date with what is developing.

**Buried in Dundee?** well, if you can't have the privilege of living there I suppose being buried there might be the next best thing!!! As a native of Dundee I am grateful to my colleague in Bolton for alerting me to this piece of news that appeared on the Tay Valley facebook site and may be useful to anyone with links to Dundee who wants to search deaths and burials. It is information from the Parks and Burials Dept. of the city as follows;



*“Please Note: due to the high demand for burial family history research, as from April 2023, all burial history requests are now being done online. Furthermore, all information relating to burials within the City of Dundee is kept in the Council's lair books which date back to the late 1800's, Unfortunately, due to the age and condition of these books, they are not accessible to members of the public to conduct their own research.”*

The relevant web sites for any further enquires are to be found [here](#) for research and [here](#) for bereavement enquiries.

**Spare a Thought for the Exciseman: Looking at the Social World of Whisky Smuggling:** always good to hear from our member in Fort William, Martin Briscoe, who lets us know of this presentation from the University of the Highlands and Islands. It might appeal to any readers with a taste for the golden nectar. It is a presentation by Dr Darroch Bratt, who is said to be not only an expert on the history and archaeology of whisky distilling but also an expert on illicit distilling. I am sure the current tax inspectors will be interested!! Anyway, the presentation was held in October but there is a recording of it that can be accessed [here](#). Just scroll down the page to the video. Enjoy! Me, I prefer a cup of tea!!!



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday, 2nd December 2023

Manchester Central Library, 2.00 p.m.—3.30 p.m.



## It is near Christmas and time for our Christmas get-together

Yes, it is Christmas and we are holding our Branch Christmas gathering hosting a quiz and social at Manchester Central Library. Please come and join us.

### Shared Table.

Please bring along some food item that we can share.



### Who is it?



Bring along a photograph of yourself when young.

We will mix these up and have a competition to see who can identify the most people.

### Quizzes and prizes

We have our favourite event of quizzes that test both general and Scottish knowledge, although this year there will be a twist

Given how seriously we take this!!!!!! there will of course be astonishing prizes for the brightest amongst us - and for those of us able to score lowest.

We are all winners



If you are able to, please come and join us. It is a great opportunity just to spend time with one another and have some fun. Drinks will be provided.

