



e-Scotia



Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the March 2024 edition of the newsletter. March is the month of the Branch Annual Meeting (for some reason we can't/don't now call it the AGM!!) when our chairman gives his report and there is the opportunity for new members to join the executive committee. For our main presentation we welcomed once again Ken Nisbet who spoke to us about his interest in things military, particularly WW1 and the work of the CWGC.

We take this opportunity once again of reminding you of the Society 60th Anniversary from its humble beginnings at the Gardener's Arms pub (picture) and to join us. Full information is attached to this newsletter. As usual we offer some hints and information that we hope will inform your Anglo Scottish research and hope that you find this useful.



Take care.

Editor.

Commemoration and Remembrance: we were pleased to welcome a regular contributor to our Branch, Ken Nisbet. For members not able to attend Ken allowed the talk to be recorded. This will be available on the Anglo Scottish web site for 30 days. Ken is an active member of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the focus of his talk to us was the history and development of the commemoration and remembrance of the war dead from the 19th century until after World War 2.



Culloden Moor

The use of headstones to mark/remember those killed in battle goes back many years. The marker stones at Culloden are indicative of this. However they also indicate a regular practice of the time, namely, the use of burial pits rather than individual graves. The disposal of bodies after a major battle was an issue and apparently, after the battle of Waterloo there is the suggestion that some bodies were in fact burned.

It was following the Boer War that there was a transition away from mass graves to individually marked graves as in the picture of Majuba cemetery in South Africa. This was accompanied by the practice of erecting memorials that gained friction at home as well as abroad and such memorials we are well acquainted with. This practice of memorials especially gained a pace after the 1st World War.



It was during the 1st World War that the idea of the CWGC was born. The brainchild of Fabian Ware he noticed on the battlefields that many of the dead were being buried by local people but without any identification as to who they were. In 1916 a Department of War Graves was established that, a year later, became the Imperial War Graves Commission and it was this that morphed into the CWGC. Ken gave many interesting facts about the commission and its work including the fact that all military dead in WW1 are commemorated even those with "No known graves". The work of the Commission continues through the preservation of War Cemeteries but also through involvement in the discovery of bodies in war zones. Ken's presentation is well worth watching and is to be recommended.

There is no handout with this event but I do refer you to a handout that Ken supplied us with a few years ago about the best web sites for WW1 research. This can be found [here](#).

Scots and the East India Company: Just finished reading John Keay's book about the history of the English East India Company entitled "The Honourable Company". I recall being taught at school in Dundee about the East India Company and, in particular, "Clive of India". He was presented as something of a hero of the British Empire, but I have since found that, like so many of our heroes, he was seriously flawed to say the least. Co-incidentally I discovered that he attended school round the corner from where I currently live. Anyway, the reason I mention this is that in the Epilogue to the book Keay comments that any conclusion that the East India Company was;



"...A body of English merchants trading with India....would be wrong for (by 1800) the men within were not merchants....and they were not all English. Indeed.....with India itself awash with Campbells, Macleods, Macphersons and Mackenzies.....it was as if Hastings and Raffles were the only Englishmen around."

Confirmation, if any were ever needed, that the Scots were never slow to get involved in world trade.

The National Archives: Using [Discovery](#), The National Archives' Online Catalogue

In their latest newsletter the National Archives have announced an interesting presentation on how to make full use of their Online catalogue, "**Discovery**". This is the recently developed search facility that allows you to search the entire catalogue of the National Archives. Whilst it is some way off the event is worth putting into your diaries since it is likely to open up a whole new scenario of research.



The event is on Friday, 7th June 2024 at 14:00. Tickets are free and can be obtained here through [Eventbrite](#).

"Join us to learn top tips for using Discovery, our online catalogue which allows you to download 100 free records a month. You will come away with all of the tools needed to make the most of the catalogue for your research, whether you are a new user or an experienced researcher."

Another development by the National Library of Scotland - Map Collection: in their latest newsletter the NLS announce yet more development in their mapping of Scotland under the heading of;

Hand-coloured maps of Scotland and more

"New online! We've added a set of maps showing [detailed land-use for parts of Scotland](#) in the 1960s. The maps were hand-annotated by volunteers to colour-code the landscape. Compare these maps to present-day land use using our [Side by side viewer](#).

In other map news we've added a [georeferenced layer of detailed maps covering all of Ireland](#) (1888–1915). We've also [updated our LiDAR imagery for Wales](#). This lets you take a highly detailed look at modern-day terrain."

Well worth a look. Just hold down the Ctrl key on your keyboard and click the blue references.

Scottish Indexes Conference - Saturday, 23rd March 2024



Most readers will be familiar with the Conferences established and run by Graham and Emma Maxwell whose web site, [Scottish Indexes](#) can be accessed here. They have announced their latest conference to be held later this month. As usual the quality of speakers and topics is high. Chris Paton, well known to Scottish family history researchers is speaking on "Understanding Scottish Inheritance Records". Sadly not a topic that will enhance my life a great deal but if you think you might have a castle in Scotland somewhere, this is for you. Also on the speaker list is Lucy Gibbon, the archivist for Orkney who will be giving a tour of Orkney's archive collection. There are other speakers and you can find out more by looking [here](#).

As usual, attendance at the conference is free thanks to the generosity of the Maxwells, although a donation through their web site is always appreciated.

[Register Now on Zoom](#)

Five ways to Save on “ScotlandsPeople” Credits: this information has been shared in this newsletter before but since then we have had several new members join us so I think it worth sharing again. I cannot recall where I got this from, but wherever it was I am grateful to them.



1. **Post-1855 Death Records:**

Cross-reference death records using a woman's maiden 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 us say your ancestor was born Janet Porteous and she went on to marry a Thomson. There will be a lot of Janet Thomson's, so use the surname Porteous to narrow down your search. On the search page look out for the “*Other Surname*” option. 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.

2. **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.

3. **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 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.

4. **1911 Census:**

As only ScotlandsPeople gives access to the 1911 census for the whole of Scotland we need to be a bit more savvy, so use the reference 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 a reference (“Ref”) which is key. I can see, for example, that there is an Agnes Scott aged 48 years with the reference “812/5/10” and another Agnes Scott aged 49 years with the reference “812/2/10”. Let's break the reference down. 812 is the parish number for Annan. 812/2 means enumeration book 2 in the parish of Annan. The 10 at the end is the page number. 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 years, Robert Scott aged 20 years and George Scott aged 17 years. Now I have a family group. This should be enough to tell me I have the right family or, in fact, that it's the wrong family and I don't need to waste my credits.

5. **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. I like to search by the surname of the child and the full name of the parents, which shows all children born to that couple.

Advance Warning!!! Whilst we are currently promoting the Society's 60th Celebration (promotion poster attached) we want to alert you to our forthcoming **Family History Fair at Central Library on Saturday, 13th April**. This will be the third fair that we have organised and it is built on the success of the previous two. More information about this event in the next newsletter but, if you are in the area, please put it in your diary. We would love to see you.



What is on at MLFHS? Now that the year is really in full swing, so also is the Society with its Branches offering the fruits of their inspiration:

Bolton: Bolton Branch always hold three meetings on the first Wednesday of the month so we have just missed the March offering. The next gathering is on Wednesday 3rd April and is "Henry Dawson's presentation album and T. Taylor Ltd of Bolton". As is the usual format for Bolton Branch, this is a hybrid meeting, welcoming attendees but also allowing those further away to join in. You can find out more about this event by logging in to the Bolton Branch web site.

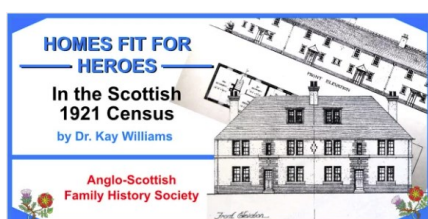
Oldham: Oh eck!!! I see that the Oldham Branch meeting is tomorrow, Saturday 8th March. It is in the afternoon so if I can get this newsletter out promptly then perhaps you will be able to attend. The topic looks interesting, "Life and Work in Cotton Lancashire 1830 -1914". Interestingly we are in the process of uploading on to the web site the review by the House of Lords into the condition of children in the cotton mills between 1800 and 1830. Makes harrowing reading. For the Oldham Branch meeting you will get details on their web site.

Manchester: two major events for the Society in Manchester Central Library, the 60th Anniversary Celebration on the 13th March and the Society Family History Fair on the 13th April. You will find details on the Society web site.

Shop: don't forget the shop that has a whole load of books, CD's and other items that you will find useful in your research or just wider reading. There is the opportunity also of tapping into the "Downloads" option and this offers a number of items at amazing discount prices.

Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday, 6th April, 1400 hours, online via Zoom



"Homes fit for heroes" The 1921 Census in Scotland with Dr Kay Williams

In November 1918 Prime Minister Lloyd George promised to make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in. The 1919 Acts which followed required local authorities to assess housing need and enabled them to provide homes subsidised by central government. Many of the council schemes built were low-density developments influenced by Garden City ideas. This talk takes a look at some examples of homes built under Scotland's 1919 Act at the time of the 1921 census.

Kay Williams has a doctoral degree in urban historical geography. She has returned to historical research in retirement following many years working in learning development in higher education.

In an attempt to get away from simply researching names and dates it is always useful to spend some time thinking about the society that our ancestors lived in. This talk will be looking at a time of the parents of some of us and certainly grand-parents.

As is usual, booking will be by Eventbrite and cost is free to members and £5 to non-members. When booking you will be required to give your membership number, so please have it to hand. We look forward to seeing you.

SHOWCASING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR SOCIETY AND OUR 3.4 MILLION RECORDS



A Celebration to be held at
Manchester Central Library on
Wednesday, 13th March from 11.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
Please join us to mark this significant milestone.

Follow the development of the Society through a timeline of events and achievements
to find, save and transcribe records for present and future generations of
family history researchers.