



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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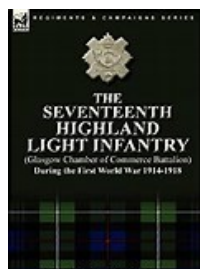
Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the June edition of the newsletter. Trust that we are still all getting on alright and coping with the required distancing issues. There are mutterings about easing but we still have to be careful. There is no word yet about Manchester Central Library opening, associated with all the obvious issues with distancing. However it has helped that, like many other libraries, they have made access to Find My Past and Ancestry available via your library membership card. However the Ancestry version they offer is only the Library version so has limits but it does allow access to all the Lancashire Parish Records. So I hope you have been able to make use of these. I have certainly made full use of the Find My Past site, although, again, there is a limit to the amount of monthly usage you can have. Sill, "better than nowt" as they say. Hope you find the content of this edition of the newsletter useful. Many thanks to all of those who responded to my request for information on books that they have found helpful in their Scottish research and prepared to share with the rest of us. Enjoy and take care. Editor.



Books that Helped: In the May edition of the newsletter I shared some books that I found helpful in informing and broadening my family history research and asked you to share some of the reading matter that has helped you. The following were sent to us and I pass them on to you:

"She was Aye Working" by Helen Clark and Elizabeth Carnegie. The subtitle of the book is *"Memories of Tenement Women in Edinburgh and Glasgow"*. The book was referred to us by Hilary Hartigan who writes: *A book I bought in Edinburgh when I was working there for a few days, I thought it would be interesting to read in the evenings. It was a good enough social history; what the women's lives were like in the tenements of Edinburgh and Glasgow. I wasn't into family history then, just inquisitive. The first thing I turned to was the index - no names. Not to worry, there was a useful glossary instead. I now know that the Buroo was the Labour Exchange, a lair was a burial space, and a tumshee was a turnip. Don't be put off, though, it was a cracking good read and I've delved into that book a few times since; the memories of those women certainly brought to life the reality of life in the tenements, and how hard the young girls worked before they were allowed to into town with their friends on a Saturday night - not until they'd finished all their chores for the day!*



"The 17th Highland Light Infantry (Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Battalion)": by John W Arthur and Ian S Munro. This book was referred to us by David Muil who was researching his grandfather and writes; *"(This book) is 130 pages outlining the history of the unit during WW1. As you might expect, only names of officers appear in the book alongside the battalion's engagements during the war. I was prompted to look elsewhere for enlistment records. Fortunately, there are a number of sources and the one I followed up can be freely downloaded online from the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Entitled Highland Light Infantry - Glasgow Battalions, this record relates to the war service of enlisted men of the entire Glasgow units of the HLI. Apart from name, rank and serial number the spreadsheet contains details of the soldier's religion, height, boot size and cap size. Alas, my grandfather's name does not appear among them and I now have to look elsewhere and other years for evidence to support my father's claim. Happily there are several other sources on offer. Even so, the Gutenberg book and the Mitchell database are good sources for anyone researching the HLI ancestor. I hope this will be of interest to others"* If you are interested in this book you can access it via this [link](#) then scroll down to the option to read the book online or download it as a pdf. The book is full of great pictures of the regiment.

"A Dance called America" by James Hunter. The book is subtitled "The Scottish Highlands the United States and Canada" which gives a good indication as to what the book is about. It was referred to us by Heather Nicmillan who writes; *With so many new books to read, not least some by the redoubtable Tom Devine, and a number waiting to be read, the thought of re-reading struck me at first as a luxury I couldn't afford. However, as I was doing the washing up, the title that came to me was a book that I first read some 10 years ago, James Hunter's magical, 'A Dance Called America', which carries the story of the Highland Clearances on and looks at the impact of the emigrants from the Highlands and Islands who went to the United States and Canada from the 1750's to the early years of the twentieth century and a truly remarkable story it is of community, courage and endurance, often in the face of seemingly impossible odds, of lands 'tamed by enterprise and the power of dreams'. It has a special resonance for me, since emigration is very much a part of my family's story and it seems to have come at a singularly opportune moment when I think I am looking for a focus for my genealogical studies and I now feel that I have found it."*



Heather is right. This is a great book, well told, easy to read and with plenty of interesting information. An example of the latter is that the last recorded Highland Charge took place at the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in 1776 in North Carolina. As Heather also pointed out in her email, there was indeed, during this period, a dance called "America". It was "performed" by people in the Western Isles and is referred to by James Bosworth in his journeys with Samuel Johnson. What that music and dance was like we may never know but for anyone interested, there is a song of this title composed and performed by the band, "Runrig" that can be heard here ([click](#)).



"Scotland's Hidden Harlots and Heroines" by Annie Harrower-Gray. An intriguing title, this book was pointed out to us by Yvonne Gill-Martin. As with all of our recommends, Yvonne points out that whilst this book will not help with specific family research, it does broaden our understanding and perspective of the position and role of some women in the 300 years 1690—1969. As the publicity points out; *"The book uncovers 'the harsh realities of life for women at a time when they had no possessions of their own, no vote and few career options'."*

These then are a few further suggestions for reading during this time of lockdown that we think are not only helpful for informing research but really good reads. Some you can read for free but others are not too expensive and can be bought on offer. So please have a look. Again, many thanks to those who sent in suggestions. Please, if you have any books or articles that you found helpful and you would like to recommend, let us know and we shall pass them on. It is how we all learn.



Olive Tree Genealogy: ([click here](#)) on the theme of emigration I would remind readers of this web site that has a vast amount of information relating to ships passengers lists. It is a generic web site for genealogy in general and its contents and databases are largely free. Its passenger lists cover ships that sailed not only to America and Canada but also to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. What is interesting also is that it includes passenger lists for ships that sailed from America and Canada to the UK so that there is a chance of finding someone who emigrated but then returned. A further feature is that you can search for an ancestor, not only by the country the went to but also the year of arrival.

Highland Cathedral: now for a little self-indulgence. Many will be familiar with the melody, "Highland Cathedral" (composed by the way by two Germans) since there have been many renditions of it. Every now and then I play it - with earphones on and turned up loud - to indulge in a little nostalgia and to stir the blood! During this difficult period, I offer you what I consider to be the best version of this melody. It is played by Andre Rieu and can be watched on this YouTube site: <https://youtu.be/tAsdo0zMUYA>. From the expressions of many in the audience, I am not alone in being moved by this. If you haven't heard it you are in for a treat - and get those hankies ready. If you are familiar with it, just treat yourself to another viewing.



(NB as with all YouTube downloads it starts with some adverts. Just suffer these if you can)

National Library of Scotland: I am always recommending the NLS to readers together with their monthly newsletter. You can sign up to have it emailed to you from this site. ([click here](#)) This month has articles covering the NLS request for help, the latest information about developments in the map section and a variety of videos to watch. However I was particularly interested in the item this month about potato

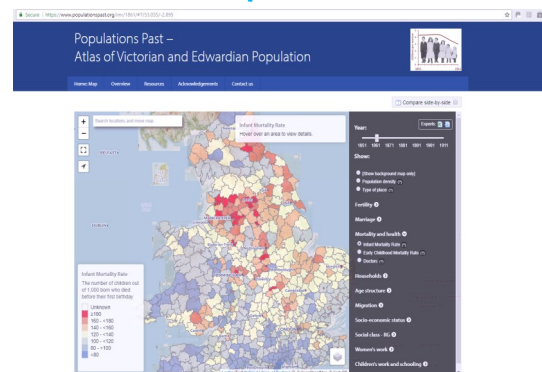


picking - or tattie howking - by school children just after the 2nd World War. What is amazing by today's standards is that the schools, with the encouragement of government, were involved in this child labour. My older brothers and sisters will remember doing this. It was a "joy" reserved for secondary school children in 3 weeks of October called the "tattie holidays". You could go with the school, in which case you travelled by bus and a hot meal was provided at dinner time, but you were paid 15/-, or you could go with a "private" company when you were loaded onto a lorry and had to provide your own meal but were paid £1 per day. That extra 5/- made it a no brainer as to what route you took but it was a long day - 6.30 am collection until 6.00 pm return home. This wonderful archive film ([click here](#)) by the NLS gives a good idea of what was involved, why, and the, even then, questions asked as to the use of child labour.

Find My Past: even if you do not subscribe to Find My Past you can always access their Facebook via the web site. Just log into FMP, scroll down to the bottom where you will see the various media options, and click on the Facebook icon. There is usually a lot of useful hints and advice and this month they have the following helpful outline of the census dates.

Find my past The Census in Britain 1801-1911	
1801 - 10 March First census of Britain, but didn't record individual names	1811 - 27 May Details were recorded for each parish, township or place
1821 - 28 May Population increased by 1.8 million since 1811	1831 - 30 May Detailed breakdown of occupation of males over 20
1841 - 6 June First census with questions about individuals, and to survive almost entirely	1851 - 30 March Included marital status, place of birth and relationship to head of household
1861 - 7 April Included if a house was inhabited	1871 - 2 April Extra options for physical and mental disabilities
1881 - 3 April Information collected was the same as 1871	1891 - 5 April Added number of rooms occupied and if someone was an employer
1901 - 6 June Included if someone was working at home and language spoken for Isle of Man & Wales	1911 - 2/3 April Included length of marriage, number of children, trades and employment status

Interactive Atlas of Victorian and Edwardian Population



You may recall that at the Branch meeting in May 2018 we had as a speaker Dr Eilidh Garrett from the University of Essex who spoke to us about the value of death records in family history research. At the end of her talk Dr Garrett referred us to a project being carried out by the University of Cambridge looking at the structure and variation in the population between 1851 and 1911. The site can be entered here www.PopulationsPast.org It is fully interactive allowing you to compare figures between 1851 and 1911. The areas covered include household and age structures; migration; marriage; and mortality and health. The statistics refer only to England. Dr Garrett did say that the University did hope to extend the research into Scotland but I see from the web site that this has not happened. However, given the time we have on our hands at the moment, it gives you a chance to play around with this resource.

Ayrshire Roots: for anyone from Robert Burns territory, a great looking web site that has been drawn to our attention by a reader. ([click here](#)) The site is free and not only interactive, but you are encouraged also to add to the amount of data on it. You can search by name or place and there is much more information besides. Someone has put a lot of work into this and deserves the thanks of all of us for doing so.



In the style of Robert Burns; Coronavirus Poem: The following poem was sent to me recently and I thought I might share it. Some of you may have seen it already. I don't know who Willie Sinclair is but he has a way with words.

Tae A Virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken
your name or ocht about ye.
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.

Yer spreading rate is quite immense,
yer feeding like a gannet.
Disruption caused is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes.
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear.
These days are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns or peckin lips,
it whit they awe advise.
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that how we'll awe survive.

Just stay inside the hoose ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls.
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take your loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet 2 patter

Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle 'doon the waater'.

Canary isles, no for a while.
Nae need for suntan cream.
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be 19.

The boredom surely will set in
But have a read, or doodle.
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice.
We've beans and pasta
By the ton and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think ye'll wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died.
Bubonic, bird flu and Tb
They came, they left, they tried.

Ye might be gallus noo, ma freen,
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up.

Willie Sinclair 2020

Virtual Help Desk: during this time of lockdown it is always important to keep an eye on the sources that are available to all of us through the Society and Branch web site. Some of you may not be aware that whilst Manchester Central Library is closed, and so there is no access to the Society Help Desk, a **virtual Help Desk** has been set up on the Society web page. It is open to all, members and non-members alike so you can let friends know about it. Simply log into the MLFHS web page and follow the links from there. Should you have an enquiry with a particular Scottish theme then you can go via this route or email us at the Branch and we will get back to you and gladly assist if we can.



Please know also that the **Family History Newsletters of Central Scotland** have been added to the Exchange Journal database in the MLFHS web site. Access these in the usual way.