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Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the August edition of the newsletter. Well, I suppose under normal circumstances most of us on this side of the hemisphere would be looking forward to holidays. Given that this is unlikely at the moment, as an alternative I attach a photograph I took a couple of years ago from our (rented) apartment whilst on holiday in beautiful Italy with San Gimignano in the background. We might not be able to travel far, but we can dream and remember. During this period of largely online resources items have been put together that hopefully will help your research or just



be of interest. To keep you puzzling during these down times there is a clan wordsearch for you to have a go at. Last but not least is the solution to last month's crossword. Good luck. Editor.



Podcasts: I must admit that if any good has come out of this social isolation experience one such is that it has encouraged me to explore new (to me) ways of learning. Over the past months we have shared with you some Youtube and other video resources. Well now, popping up in my in-tray is a whole series of Podcasts. Here are three main offerings.

Family History Federation: we are members of the Family History Federation and as such have access to their resources. You can find their website (here) where there is information about all the resources, past, present and planned, that are available. However the Federation



recently got in touch with members to announce the intention of establishing a family history podcast. The intention seems to be to set up "Family History Question Time" scenario similar to the BBC "Gardener's Question Time" format with a panel of "experts" ready to answer questions sent in by listeners. Sounds like a great idea. It is still in the development stage but when it is up and running we will let you know. Whilst this idea is a response to the current lock-down scenario, I understand that the intention is to continue it as a resource.



National Library of Scotland: always a good centre to keep exploring and they too have a whole series of podcasts that are available. You can access their podcast site (here). From the few that I have listened to they appear to be soundtracks from exhibitions that the NLS have held so that, in a sense, you are taken through the exhibition. The topics covered are wide from the plague in Edinburgh and the 1715

Rebellion through the David Livingston exhibition and Lunatic Asylum Records from British India. Quite a spread that is well worth exploring and listening to. You are sure to find something of interest.

The National Archives: hopefully you will be aware that the National Archives are offering free downloads of their digitised resources during this time of lockdown, so make use of it. My own search of this led me to the extensive podcast material that is available, including several relating to Scottish history. You can access the resource (here). Some fascinating topics including the Naval Policy of the Free Church of Scotland!!



Scottish Indexes Conference: Sunday, 30th August. I am grateful to Yvonne Gill-Martin for bringing this to my attention. There have been a series of these conferences already, but we are usually too late to let you know about them by the time we send out this newsletter. Not so this time - if you are quick!!

If you go onto their website (click here) you will get all the information that you need to access the conference. Attendance is free but they do ask for a donation. On the site you will see a programme of events and there are several workshops by well-known speakers. What is particularly worthwhile on the site is access to previous conferences with topics and speakers and a question and answer session. Well worth a look for that alone, but perhaps you would also like to participate in the upcoming conference.





The Marches: I was sent this map by one of our readers and it shows the border area between Scotland and England from 1500 - 1600. Readers will know that I am a sucker for maps and receiving this example led me to (this site) "The Map Archive". A fascinating site, particularly if you have a look at their "Blog". The company clearly deals with all kinds of maps but the blog links maps with historical events. For example there are maps as varied as the French Revolution, the scramble for Africa, the Battle of Ypres and the Gallipoli Campaign, all with short historical notes. You can spend hours on this site.

What this featured maps shows us however is how fluid was the border between Scotland and England for the families that dominated the area. This was the age of the Reivers of course that only came to an end when James VI and 1st ascended the throne and had them routed.

Leith Improvement Scheme Photographs: I can't remember now how I came across this story or what attracted me to it since I have little connection with Leith. It is a tale we come across now and then of a fascinating piece of historical interest about to be discarded in a skip. You can read the story of their recovery (here) along with some of the photographs. The collection is now in the care of the Digital Imaging Unit of Edinburgh University Library. Reluctant as I am to wax lyrical about photographs, I must however say that I am blown over by the quality of these particular photographs. Perhaps it is because we have become accustomed to the pixilated digitised images common to us these days, but of course when these photographs were taken the old medium was in play. The clarity and detail of the images is amazing. This site (click here) gives the opportunity to view the whole

collection. If you then click on the individual photograph there is the facility of enlarging the image. As I say, even when you do this the clarity of the image is fantastic showing the detail of individuals and buildings.

However, the Digital Imaging Unit site is a source that just keeps on giving. If, when you have exhausted the Leith photographs, you click onto their "Collections" tab, you will discover a whole new world of images for loads of subjects from art to anatomy. I cannot recommend the site enough.





Anglo Scottish Member rectifies Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry

You will be able to read about this story in more detail in the Anglo Scottish section of the next edition of "The Manchester Genealogist" but our intrepid researcher, Ina Penneyston made a discovery that led to



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the CWGC changing its records. Briefly, Ina does research for the British War Graves researching the background of men and women killed in the wars. The task often involves her trudging around graveyards so if you see such a figure, do not be disturbed!! Anyway by way of her research Ina came across information that contradicted information put out by the CWGC. How she

went about this and the outcome, you will have to read in the MG. Look out for it.

How about a Zoom Meeting? During this period of lockdown and social isolation it has meant that we have not been able to enjoy our monthly Branch meetings: the social get-together and the speaker. In this of course we are no different from everyone else. However various agencies have addressed the issue by having virtual meetings and they are becoming increasingly popular. I must admit to personally struggling with them, but practice makes perfect, and it is certainly better than no contact at all.



Recently many of us received a letter from our chairman, Michael Couper, inviting us to consider holding Branch Zoom meetings that would include an invited speaker. Don't worry if you don't understand the first thing about Zoom. It will all be done for you and all you have to do is click onto a link in an email sent to you. So, if you would like to see us all again and enjoy a speaker then let Michael know ASAP by way of the email address (angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk)



Manchester Central Library: a message for all our members who are within striking distance of Central Library. Like everywhere else, the Library has been closed during this period of lockdown. However they are now in the process of reopening, which is great news, and they have produced a Youtube video about the reopening. In case you did not know about this, I thought you

might like to have a look at it. https://youtu.be/PNBXxgOCws8

ScotlandsPeople Tip: I am grateful for this tip found in the editorial of the Aberdeen and North East Scotland FHS magazine. I am sure they will not mind me copying and pasting it as it is since I couldn't put it better myself.

I recently stumbled across a handy feature of the <u>scotlandspeople.gov.uk/</u> search screen that I'd not known about. Say you're in the Statutory registers, and you've found a death entry and now want to check for any marriage. Instead of paging back up and selecting "Marriages" and retyping details of the name, just go to the bottom left-hand corner of the screen. Below the search "buttons", there are options to search other parts of the Statutory registers. Select "Search Marriages records" – and it will display and will search on the *name* details that you'd last keyed in (though you still have to refine by county, date etc.). The same applies *within* pre-1855 Church registers. It can save you some time.

Many thanks for this. I didn't know about this either.



Find My Past: I am grateful to a reader for bringing to my attention the latest additions by *FindMyPast* to their web page. They have added to the number of entries to the London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Dublin Gazettes. The reader says that he finds the FMP source of these Gazettes is easier to navigate than the Gazette site itself. Access to these records can be found (here) and a whole series of Youtube videos about the value of newspapers in family history research and many other topics can be accessed (here). Do have a look. You are sure to find something of interest to you. I even found a Youtube video done by them about Dundee!!

CLAN WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

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Answers to July Crossword

Here are the answers to that crossword. Hope you enjoyed it. No prizes I'm afraid apart from that of satisfaction!!

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