

e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: our main feature this month is the talk on maps given by Paul Hindle. Paul lectured in geography at Salford University and has written many books about maps. In light of this we thought it an idea to make maps the theme of our Newsletter this month. Some of the sites we mention will be very familiar to many of you, but for the newer readers, why not have a look and see what you find. Also included are some references to sites that you may find helpful. Enjoy.

The Editor

MAPS FOR HISTORIANS.



Paul Hindle with committee member
Yvonne Gill Martin

This topic was the theme of our February gathering and focused on the use of maps to advance/enhance our family history research. Over 30 people attended including some who were not members of the Anglo Scots Branch but attracted by the topic. Always good to welcome new faces.

Paul pointed out that there are essentially five types of map; County, Rural, Town, Transport and Ordnance. For the family historian some are better than others but all can be useful if you know how to make use of them. An important point was to remember that all maps have a context. They were prepared by someone for a specific purpose. When referring to a map therefore the questions always needing to be asked are, who ordered this, and for what purpose. Some maps such as Tithe Maps were interested only on fields rather than building and people since the purpose was the imposition of taxes. Others such as County maps mark out fields and include the name of the landowner. This can be useful if your ancestor was a farmer or farm labourer. In the 1830's Dr John Snow initiated health mapping when he detailed the preponderance of cholera within a certain area of London linked with a particular water pump. Again an opportunity to assess the risk your ancestors faced if they happened to live in that area. William Booth's

social maps illustrated how closely together the rich and poor actually lived in the mid-1800s and Paul produced some very interesting examples of this. We were also shown some "Drink Maps" produced by the abstinence lobby to illustrate the number of drinking houses. Examples from Liverpool and Manchester were enlightening.

Paul warned about taking as fact some of the details on some maps. When a new road, railway or canal was proposed then a map was normally prepared to illustrate its line. These maps indicate the land through which the line would take and by cross-referencing the numbered fields with the land registry the names of the owners can be found. What was interesting however was the fact that if this proposed line was passed by Act of Parliament, then the line achieved legal status, even though, in some cases, the proposed line was never built. Hence some maps show roads or canals that are not and never were there. Now I never knew that. Something else I didn't know was that the numbers frequently seen on roads in older maps indicate the gradient of the road up or down hill. This is because these maps were prepared for sanitary engineers who had to work out the line that drainage would have to take. Another puzzle solved for me. Reference was of course made to Ordnance Survey maps. These were initiated for military purposes and triggered essentially by the 1745 Rebellion. For a good read about the emergence of Ordnance Survey I could do no better than to recommend Rachel Hewitt's book "Map of a Nation" Fascinating and very informative.

Altogether, a good talk, well illustrated, well delivered, well received and appreciated.



Map Resources:

In light of the theme of maps we thought that you would like to be reminded of the resources available for access to maps relating particularly to Scotland. It was interesting that Paul Hindle indicated that the best resource for historical maps of England is in Edinburgh.

National Library of Scotland: (<http://maps.nls.uk/>) This has to be the first port of call for maps. A great site covering the whole of the UK. It not only gives you current maps but you are able to parallel them with 19th century maps. I notice that they have changed the desktop so makes it a bit easier to find what you are looking for.

CAIRT: (<http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/cairt>)

This is the newsletter of the Scottish maps forum. Useful because it lets you know what resources are available by way of maps of areas with online references and links to other resources.

A Vision of Britain through time: ([www.visionofbritain](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk))

This is a site that I have used occasionally for more general historical maps of Britain. It is part of the Ordnance Survey collection.

Old Maps Online: ([oldmapsonline](http://oldmapsonline.org.uk)) This is a useful site that I found recently. Although its front page looks like a world search, when you click into "Browse the old maps" it takes you to the UK. You are able then to insert in a search box the place you are looking for. It tends to feed heavily on the NLS site resource, but also gives the option of other maps. For example when searching "Manchester" the options included the Goad insurance maps of 1902. Well worth a look.

The Glasgow Tenement:

We received the following poem, and the picture, from Dan Muir. Dan cannot recall the source of the poem but thought it worth sharing with us. (Translations available if necessary!)

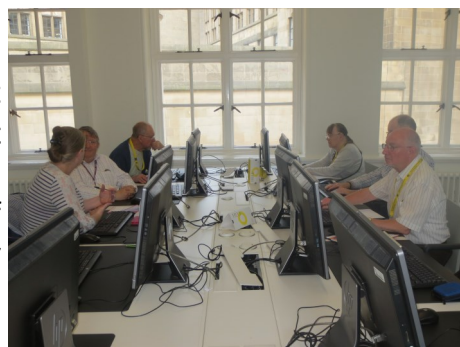


*The Gaur has disappeared for good,
A car park where the chippie stood,
The auld Toonhead a windswept wreck,
The tally shop a discotheque.
Now as I reach my final page,
I look back on a bye-gone age.
"Ben the room" and "coorie doon",
Children of old Glasgow toon.
Close the book my muse is spent.
Nostalgia of the tenement.*



Free Offer: Many of you will be familiar with **The Scots Magazine**. Wikipedia tells me that it is the oldest magazine in the world still in publication. Quite an achievement. It was first published in 1739 and whilst it has had a bumpy ride since then, it has been in continuous publication since 1922. Anyway, the point of all this is that at the Anglo Scots Branch **we have a full set of the magazine from 1989-2013** which were kindly donated to us by a society member. We offer these magazines **free** to whoever would like them, either as individual magazines, or in any number you wish. The only stipulation is that you would have to collect them from Manchester Central Library as the cost of postage would be prohibitive. If you want them please get in touch via the e-mail address: angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk

Don't forget!! There is the **help-desk facility** available to all from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm prior to the Anglo Scots branch meeting on the third Saturday of each month. Experienced members will be there to offer help and advice. The next session will be on Saturday, the 18th March. Why not come along? If you can't manage to visit us, but have a question or topic you need help with, why not e-mail us or write in with it and we will try and help. We note that we have some readers of the newsletter from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US as well as other countries of Europe. If you would like us to do any local research for you, let us know. If we can help we will.



Anglo Scottish Branch Annual General Meeting—Saturday 18th March



The next Branch meeting on **Saturday 18th March** will be our annual general meeting. It will be followed by an opportunity for members to share with us any “family heirlooms” that have helped them to forward their family history research.

At the Branch Meeting there will be the nomination and election of the Branch Committee members. The current members are: Michael Couper (Chairman); David Muir; Ina Penneyston; Yvonne Gill Martin; David Hartley; Mark Campbell. Our long-serving member, David Kirkpatrick, is stepping down in retirement, (more about that in the next newsletter) but so far all other members appear willing to continue serving the Branch. However we are always looking for new people to get involved, so if you would like to be considered, or have someone in mind that you would like to put forward, then please get in touch with the chairman, Michael Couper, via the e-mail link to the Branch. (anglos Scots@mlfhs.org.uk)



Now let's face it, meetings like this can be dull and boring and members can feel a bit distant from the organisation and running of the Branch. Perhaps you cannot find the time to get more involved, but you can give some thought to how the Branch fulfils what you are looking for, and how it might help in the future.

So at the meeting there will be the opportunity to share some ideas. For example, are there any topics that you would like to be addressed via speakers at the Branch meetings? Perhaps you have come across a topic in your research that you know little about, for example, Scottish regiments and their history; rate books and valuations rolls; or how to research Scottish Church registers. In the committee we try to anticipate what might be useful for your research but we would love to hear from you what you would like. ***So please give it a thought.*** No idea is too crazy and you might be voicing what someone else wants.

Bits'n'Pieces: had news of the following web site passed on to me: www.historic.uk. Whilst the site covers the history of the whole of the UK, as the title would suggest, this particular link takes you to the Scottish section. Loads of interesting historical articles and reviews. Well worth a look.

Please don't forget to have a look at the **Exchange Journal** section of the MLFHS website. Quite a number of Scottish family history societies send us their journals and these can be accessed there. Highland have just put their January 2017 Journal on the system as have Lothian and the Queensland Genealogical Society.



I mentioned last month that all the back issues of **The Manchester Genealogist journal** are now uploaded and available to be read on the MLFHS website. There is a wealth of information available within the walls of these journals and I hope to be able to go through some of them and highlight for you some issues that you may want to look at. If any of you have come across any back articles that you think might be of interest to us, please let us know.