



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: to our June issue of the newsletter. Our Branch meeting this month focused upon various experiences members had in tracing ancestors on various sites and resources. We have also put together some references that you might want to follow up and a few reminders of what is available to you through the Society site. Enjoy.

Editor

Ancestral Workshop: Manchester has a reputation as a city not overly deprived of rain. Not so for the past few days and on one of the hottest days of the year so far a dozen or so members braved the heat to come and share their experience in tracing ancestors and to learn from others how to make those all important breakthroughs.

As might be expected with members sharing their varied experiences, topics of discussion were wide and various. The value of Bishop's Transcripts were touched upon, these being copies of Parish Records sent to the diocese. Should the parish record be lost or damaged, then a look at the Bishop's Transcript might provide the information. Parish records in Scotland are of course different and a full explanation of what is available and how to research them is available on the ScotlandsPeople web site.



Someone also mentioned their interest in the MacGregor clan, also acceptable as Clan Gregor. Some difficulties arose in researching parish records of the MacGregor family given that the clan name was proscribed during various periods of history because they were so, shall we say, "disruptive". The use of surnames at that time was of course very different from how we regard surnames today. Nevertheless individuals who associated with the MacGregor name had, on these occasions, to identify with other surnames, the most famous being Rob Roy MacGregor who often made use of his mother's maiden name, Campbell. One of the issues raised in this connection was the frustration experienced in attempting to trace family through surname web-sites and how frequently it was found that email addresses of originators of information were out of date so that contributors of information could not be contacted. For a useful surname database [click here](#)

One source identified as useful in research are the Kirk Session Records. After the Reformation of 1560 and the formal break with Rome and Roman Catholicism, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland formed congregations with each having a Kirk Session, this being the lowest local Court of the Church. The records of these Kirk Sessions detailed in their minute books many areas of everyday life including Church non-attendance, sexual matters such as bastardy and illegitimacy as well as frequently listing holders of positions of responsibility such as headmasters and Church elders. There are various web sites that enable research of Kirk Session Records, including [Family Search](#) and [Genguide](#). This latter gives access to various Scottish resources but does include Kirk Session Records.

As an illustration of how varied the discussion was, one member researching their family tree wondered why it was that a resident of Rosskeen, Ross & Cromarty, had to travel all the way down to Sheffield to enlist in the Royal Artillery? Perhaps a reader has the answer. If so, let us know.

All in all, despite the attraction of good weather, the discussion was still in full flow when the meeting had to close at 4.00 p.m. It was a most interesting and valuable exchange of information for which everyone expressed satisfaction, particularly since the input covered such a wide range of interest.

Many thanks to all who attended.

Worth a look: the following article was sent into us by Dave Hartley. It is not connected with Scottish Genealogy specifically, but it is really interesting and we thought you might like to have a look at it..

“Watch the British Library Digitize one of the World’s largest books”

Most experienced genealogist are familiar with over-sized books. Vital records, deeds, maps and more are often published on larger-than-normal pages. Digitizing those books can be a challenge although several companies have already done a great job at digitization.

However, how do you digitize a book that is nearly six feet by seven and a half feet when fully open? It is so big that it even has wheels fixed onto it to make it easier to move around.



The British Library has faced the problem and has digitized the 1660 Klencke Atlas, one of the world’s largest books.

You can watch a time-lapse of the multi-day digitization process in this video in the Hyperallergic.com web site. [\(Click Here\)](#)



Family History Society Exchange Journals;

To let you know that the latest version of the Caithness Family History Society Journal and the Lanarkshire Family History Society Journal are both available to read in the MLFHS web site. Access via the membership page and clicking the “Exchange” button on the toolbar.



Free ScotlandsPeople credits: just in case you haven’t picked up the news, ScotlandsPeople are offering 24 credits free to those registered on the web site. To claim these simply log into **ScotlandsPeople** then click onto the “**Our Charges**” button on the toolbar. Once on that page, on the top right is a box with three options. Click the “**Redeem Voucher**” option. In the designated box type in **summer 17**. I trust the offer is still available. Good luck.

Record of the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta.

We have culled the following from the spring edition of **Retour**, the newsletter of The Scottish Records Association. **Retour** is only available to members of the SRA, however this edition can be viewed by members of MLFHS, along with other exchange journals, in the Society's resource cabinets at Manchester Central Library. These are located close by the Family History Help Desk in Archives+. The Help Desk team on the day will be glad to meet a request to inspect the newsletter.



"Volunteers from the Friends of Dundee City Archives (FDCA) www.fdca.org.uk are collaborating with the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust [KSHT], another Scottish-based charity, in checking the datasets created from the original registers for the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta. The Scottish Cemetery in Kareya Road [dating from 1826], earlier known as the Scots and Dissenters' Cemetery, Calcutta, is now under the supervision of St Andrew's Church, Dalhousie Square. Conservation work on the fabric has been carried out by KSHT since the cemetery was threatened by development in 2008."

Thanks to David Muil for drawing this to our attention. Apologies to readers who are not able to get into Manchester Central Library to consult the article. However, following this notification, I was prompted to "Google" "**Scottish Cemetery Calcutta**" and a very interesting and full article is produced there. Those out there appear to have been linked with the British East India Company. I also found it particularly interesting because it involved people from Dundee who had gone out to India in the 19th century and were associated with the jute trade, a major industry in Dundee well into the 1960's. To have a look at the history [click here](#).

Who Do You Think You Are Magazine: the July edition of the "Who Do You Think You Are" magazine has a feature listing 50 free online Scottish resources for family research. Looking at the article, some of the suggestions will be very familiar including ScotlandsPeople and Family Search. However some are more obscure, or were to me, and prompted me to have a look at them. There are suggestions for Burial Records, Property Records and Maps as well as occupations. It is all well worth browsing through and you may find a source that you hadn't come across before. As an aside, if you are a member of Manchester Central Library you can download their **Zinio.com** app which gives you free access to all the magazines that the Library receives, and this includes, "Who Do You Think You Are". What is not to like?

Anglo Scots Branch Meeting—15th July 2017 Visit to The Portico Library



Our July Branch meeting will be a visit to **The Portico Library** on Mossley Street. Because of the opening hours of the Library (they close at 3.00 p.m.) we are having to meet a little earlier than usual, at 1.15 p.m. for a visit commencing at 1.30 p.m. In case you are not sure where it is, it is on Mossley Street between the Manchester Art Gallery and Piccadilly Gardens. I attach a picture of it but if you are anything like me (God forbid) then you have walked passed it many times without realising what it was. The intention is that we all meet outside **The Portico Library** at 1.15 p.m. **This is a members only visit.** The

Library makes a charge for these tours but the Branch will meet these charges for members. For this reason, and because we anticipate the visit will be a popular one, it is essential that you reserve a place for yourself via **Eventbrite** on the MLFHS webpage. If you are unsure about how to do this then telephone the Society help desk at Central Library (0161-234-1060) with your membership details and they will do it for you. **Please remember that on the 15th July our usual helpdesk facility will be available on the third floor at Manchester Central Library prior to the visit, from 10.30 a.m. and go on until 12.30 p.m.**



Remember that there is no Anglo Scots Branch meeting in August. For some reason people want to go away on holiday!!! If you are, have a great time and a deserved rest.

