



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: to the August edition of the Newsletter. In view of the holiday season there was no Branch meeting this month. We therefore take the opportunity to share with you some of the experiences members of the committee had when attending the SAFHS Conference in Fife in June. As usual there are also some references to web sites that you might find helpful in your ongoing research into Anglo-Scots family history. Enjoy.
Editor.

Scottish Family History Society (SAFHS) Conference 2017

We covered this event in our May issue of *e-Scotia* but we did not get the chance to share with you a “sense” of the gathering our representatives had. The title of the Conference was “Building Bridges—Making Connections” tying the Conference in with the building of the new Forth Road Bridge. It had been hoped that the bridge would be completed by the Conference date, but that was not to be and the current road bridge had to suffice. There does not appear to have been any significance in the Conference being held in Kinghorn, albeit the importance of the town to Scottish history. Folk will recall that King Alexander III of Scotland met his untimely end whilst riding from Edinburgh Castle to be with his new wife, Yolande of Dreux, who was at the royal manor in Kinghorn. On Monday, 18th March 1286, he had been at a meeting all day in Edinburgh which finished late and all he wanted to do was get home. Can we not all identify with that feeling! However it was a stormy night and not conducive to travel. He seems to have sailed across the Forth alright between Dalmeny and Inverkeithing, (interestingly both are the stations on either side of the Forth Rail Bridge, sadly not then available to Alexander) which couldn't have been pleasant but it was whilst riding along the cliffs near Kinghorn that his horse stumbled and he was sent over the top. However no such hazards confronted our representatives who did manage to find time out of the Conference to visit and photograph some interesting monuments by the sides of the Forth Bridges.

This two-sided memorial stands on the south bank of the Firth of Forth within sight of the Forth Railway Bridge and commemorates the 54 men known to have died during the building of the Forth Bridge. The photograph was taken by David Muil who also noted all the names ages and occupations of all the men listed. If anyone would like a copy of this let us know and we will send you one.



This is a memorial to the Minesweeper Service. For many years, Port Edgar, on the south bank of the Firth of Forth was also known as HMS “Lochinvar” and was home to destroyers and minesweepers from the First World War up until the Cold War. This memorial marks the spot of the naval base and commemorates the many sailors who saw service here. The memorial is headed “Let there be a way through the water”. For more details about this memorial see [\(here\)](#). Again thanks to David Muil for the photograph.

It can be seen then that attendance at the Conference wasn't all hard work although there was that too with attendance at the various workshops as well as attending the Anglo-Scots stall and dealing with visitors. One of our committee members, Yvonne Gill-Martin, has written a couple of articles from the work-shops she attended. One is about the origins of the phrase “Gordon Bennett” which is more intriguing than you might think. The other is about the Scottish records available in *Find My Past*. Both articles will appear in the next issue of the Manchester Genealogist, so look out for them.

ScotlandsPeople and the Census:

I recently had cause to contact **ScotlandsPeople** to ask if it was possible to search their Census database using Registration and Enumeration District references. Readers will be familiar with the ability to carry out such a search in the Ancestry site. **ScotlandsPeople** do have a search by “Places” facility. They also have an extensive record of street indexes. It occurred to me that combining these two facilities would enable a search of, for example, a street address, rather than a person search. Initially the reply I got from their archivist directed me to the instructions on their “Places” site indicating that a search can be made for the district. However this is a rather broad brush stroke and I wanted something more specific. A second response from their “head of digitisation”, Robin Urquhart, was more helpful. He stated that “we are looking at a search by reference (including registration districts for statutory registers and enumeration districts for census returns)” However he went on to say that this work is not scheduled to start until new areas of the ScotlandsPeople site are developed. So nothing in the near future then, but it is good to know that they are considering it and prepared to offer it as an option.



Future Learn: ([Click here](#)) some of you may know about this already but for anyone else, **Future Learn**, is a digital education platform founded in December 2012 and is wholly owned by The Open University in Milton Keynes. All the courses offered are free and are administered through various British universities. The courses are designed in the form of modules to be completed each week although you can take as long as you want to do so. If you want you can “join a group” of fellow internet students and discuss aspects of the course, but this is not essential. Last year, to try it out, I took up a course headed “*Genealogy— Researching your Family Tree*” offered by the University of Strathclyde. It was over six weeks and although interesting, I found it fairly basic, but a great foundation. **Future Learn** are now offering a course on “*Early modern Scottish Palaeography*” with the invitation to “travel back in time through Scottish history by examining early modern Scottish handwriting”. The course is organised by Glasgow University and runs for three weeks. Whilst palaeography does not immediately rock my boat, I was intrigued enough to have a look and was so impressed by the content that I have signed up. Have a look at the site and see what you think. I am giving you the link to the history section of Future Learn which is where the two courses that I have referred to are to be found. ([Click here](#)) **Future Learn** is a great site and well worth keeping an eye on for the variety of courses that they offer.

Charlie and Dundee: this is Bonnie Prince Charlie of course and whilst there is no evidence he ever went to Dundee, I have alerted you previously to some of the effects that his Rebellion had on the general population. (see [e-Scotia](#) newsletter number 6) I was up in Dundee again recently and whilst visiting a hostelry in Broughty Ferry (it was *The Fisherman's*) I came across this plaque on the wall that I had never noticed before (going in or coming out!!). It states that:



“Near this spot, in 1746, the Chevalier de Johnstone, an officer in the army of Prince Charles Edward Stuart sought help at a local alehouse as he escaped the disaster at Culloden. The landlady’s daughters, Molly and Jenny Burn, aided his escape over the Tay and were commemorated in his memoirs. “If it should be my lot to return, I shall certainly be at Broughty expressly to see them. We remember the bravery of all who supported Scotland’s Royal House”

I was intrigued by this and “Googled” the Chevalier de Johnstone. An interesting chap who, despite his title was born James Johnstone in Edinburgh. If you are equally intrigued, have a look at the facts about him on the Friends of Dundee site. ([Click here](#))

Hints from Find My Past: in the opening article in this newsletter I made reference to the fact that Yvonne Gill-Martin has written a couple of articles for the Manchester Genealogist. One of these concerns Scottish research in the Find My Past website. Having referred you to the magazine, I couldn't resist sharing a couple of hints that Yvonne noted;

*Hint 1. When doing Scottish research in Find My Past **always** use the word "Scotland" and **never** "Scottish" as a search term.*

Hint 2. Different search strategies will bring up differing results because of the varying input criteria. Therefore it is always beneficial to try various approaches in research.

World War I Pension Appeal Tribunal Records: the following heads-up was sent to us by Dave Hartley who sourced the information from the WDYTIA magazine. Thanks and acknowledgement to them for this. The whole article appears in the February edition in case you want to pursue it, and is based upon an article written by Janet Bishop, chair of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS).

Janet Bishop writes; "This collection will be of great interest to people researching ancestors who survived the war but suffered ill health or disability in later years. The tribunal was set up in 1919 as part of the court of sessions responsibility, in accordance with the War Pensions Act of 1919. The documents relate to appeals made by WW1 servicemen, who having made a claim for a war Pension, had received a rejection. **The documents are held by the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh and cover the period from 1919-1932.** They include details of residence, occupation, a complete service history and a complete medical history. The majority are for servicemen but there are a few cases of appeals by wives and widows.

The collection is not currently available online. The records from 1919 - 1932 (PT6/1-274) are open but they need to be ordered from the NRS as they are housed off site. The records are not indexed so it is important to be as specific as possible with regards to dates.

The image opposite is again courtesy of WDYTIA. Whilst not very clear I attach it to give an idea of the format. Prompted by this article I had a look at The National Records of Scotland website relating to appeals generally. This part of the site ([NRS site](#)) relates to appeals by men who did not want to serve in the services in WW1. Again the appeals are not indexed but the grounds of appeal are detailed. Whilst this particular site refers only to Edinburgh City, Lothian and Peebles, it does give a fair indication of what was required and how to go about accessing the records.

The image shows a form titled "PENSIONS APPEAL TRIBUNAL" with the following sections:

- PERSON OF CASE FOR DECISION:** Includes fields for Name, Date of Birth, Date of Appeal, and Date of Decision.
- Service:** Includes fields for Service, Rank, and Date of Discharge.
- Medical History:** Includes fields for Medical History, Date of Onset, and Date of Discharge.
- Residence:** Includes fields for Residence, Date of Onset, and Date of Discharge.
- Occupation:** Includes fields for Occupation, Date of Onset, and Date of Discharge.
- Appeal:** Includes fields for Appeal, Date of Onset, and Date of Discharge.

Events on: speaking of the National Library of Scotland, (was I?) if you plan to be in Scotland over the holiday period (July to September apparently) then the NLS has a few suggestions to tempt you should you be in the area of Edinburgh or Glasgow. Have a look at the general site to see if anything is there for you. ([Click here](#))

Branch Meeting, Saturday 17th September 2017

Remember that we begin our Branch meeting again in September. As usual it will begin at 1.30 pm at Central Library. However we will also be recommencing our help desk facility on Saturday, 17th September, beginning at 10.30 a.m. so come along if you think you need some help. Our theme for the Branch Meeting is a sharing of our own research. Most of us think that we have not a great deal to offer but often it is the little breakthroughs that you made, or the resource you found, that is of benefit to others.

