



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: to the September edition of our newsletter. Our Branch meeting this month again focused upon the breakthroughs that members had made in their family history research. These sessions have been popular mainly because the rest of us benefit so much from the efforts and ingenuity of colleague researchers. Then, once again we suggest various sites to you that have been recommended to us and that you may find useful in opening doors to your research. Enjoy.

Editor.

September Branch Meeting: Ancestral Breakthroughs.

Since I have been on holiday, I am indebted to fellow committee member, Yvonne Gill-Martin for providing the main article for the newsletter this month which summarises some of the revelations members made at the meeting as they shared their ancestral breakthroughs. I found the sharings so fascinating and informative that I am including all of them, although it makes this main article longer than usual.



Mike spoke about tracing his late wife's family history which took him through Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Carlisle, Halifax and Huddersfield. His wife Sylvia was adopted by the Farifoull family. She was one of twins, but finding the other twin proved difficult. Through using Facebook, an older sister was located, but it transpired that she knew nothing about the "missing twin". However, useful information came by dint of using various Scottish websites that showed pictures of gravestones. (We did make reference to such a website in an earlier Newsletter (scottishmonumentalinscriptions.com) Ed.) Various relatives were listed on one gravestone, including some who had died in South America and Australia. The "streetview" facility on Google Earth enabled locations to be "visited" without the need for travelling. Mike's message to the group was "Don't give up and it is amazing what can be found without leaving your home."

Douglas, who has been researching his family history since 2003 told how Valuation Rolls (now available on ScotlandsPeople) had provided him with useful information. One of his ancestors went to India as a missionary (see the free forthcoming workshop at Manchester University on the 29th September on "Oral History and Post-Colonial Archives in India" to be booked through Eventbrite - Ed) Through Mersey Archives, (unfortunately closed at present) nautical information on a Douglas MacPherson, who worked for the Brocklebank Line, was found. In 1913 he worked between Liverpool, Calcutta and Dundee. In 1914 he left to join the army, but by the 1920's he was back with the Brocklebank Line. Once again, be persistent.

Enid has been researching her family history for 40 years. With the plethora of archive material in other countries becoming available online, a significant breakthrough was made. A South African death certificate provided those elusive details about her grandfather.

Linda shared with the meeting an unusual coincidence. An ancestor, who was a coastguard, was listed on a census as born in "Newhaven, England". However the remaining family members were down as having been born in "Newhaven, Scotland". Was this a clerical error? Unlikely as it may seem it transpires that it was not and he was indeed born in England. The moral here was "Don't dismiss information that doesn't fit" without double checking. Linda also spoke of the difficulty in locating specific streets. Her challenge was to find "Union Place, Leith". With the help of locals whilst on a visit there, it transpired that the street had been renamed "Star Bank", but closer inspection of a nearby house showed the original name carved into the wall. Again, persistence paid dividends.

Ancestral Breakthroughs (cont.)

Simon started research on his mother's family in 1987 and told of difficulties he faced with alternative spellings of surnames. These included 'Dunn', 'Dune', 'Dunne', 'Donne', and 'Done'. Adding to the confusion were 'Jane' and 'Janet' the same person? This made it difficult to trace the marriage of William Harris to 'Jane Dunn/Dunne/Donne/Done'. Some 20 years ago there was an article in the "Journal of Historical Geography" about migration. After much searching via Dundee University and the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, a copy of the magazine was located. It stated that many people went from Ireland to Dundee prior to 1821. This pointed to a possible marriage in Ireland and, lo and behold, the marriage was found to have taken place in 1820 in Ireland, hence the details not showing up on the census. Another member of the family, a girl by herself, showed up on the 1881 census in Ardrossan. This enabled different parts of the family to be joined together. Persistence in research does indeed pay off.

David spoke of the pitfalls in relying on catalogue information. On a recent visit to Greenwich to use maritime material he found that the material that he wished to use had been moved off-site but this was not shown on the catalogue record. Since he was not able to follow the usual procedure for accessing this material, i.e. ordering a week in advance, the staff pulled out all the stops and the material was brought back on-site to be consulted. The message here? Forward planning for any visit is essential, but be prepared for the odd setback!

In summary then, a very fruitful and encouraging Branch meeting with lots of interesting hints that members were able to take away and apply to their own research. I always think of a terrier chasing a bone is a good image for family researchers.



A Readers Response: Following our main article in the August edition of the Newsletter which included photographs and information about the memorials on the south side of the River Forth, one dedicated to the men who died during the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and another to the crews of the minesweeper service. One of our readers was good enough to send us information about a "memorial" on the north side of the river. She writes:

"Another historical sight is on the north side of the Forth on the outskirts of Aberdour. This is the remains of an important naval testing station where experiments were carried out that were amongst the first steps in developing the Sonar System." The link ([HMS Tarlair](#)) gives details of a book telling the story and this photograph is taken from this.



Opening HMS Tarlair 1915

This was of course a facility in the 1st World War and it appears that very little remains of the site. However, the local historical society is researching the facility and is keen to hear from anyone who may have information about it, or, better still, had a family relative who was based there. If you do have any information that might promote the research then go on to the website. ([Click here](#)) They would love to hear from you.

Who Do You think You Are: It has been brought to our attention that the September issue of the WDYTIA Magazine has an article on Scottish death records. It is written by Janet Bishop, chairman of SAFHS and of ASGRA. As an introduction to the content and value of Scottish death certificates it is a great article covering the history of registration and their unique content. However Janet addresses also how to go about getting information prior to registration in 1855 with reference to old parish and kirk session records. There is also a useful summary of what information is available to us online with web sites highlighted. Well worth getting hold of if you are able to.

Do you know any Kennedys? Some weeks ago there was a request in the Society Forum for help in tracing some Kennedy ancestors. Having nothing to offer I would normally not pursue this but the story appeared so intriguing that I contacted the person concerned, Susan Kellerman, and asked her for some more information and permission to put it into the Newsletter. She did both. Susan tells me that she is researching the Kennedy family and in particular one John Kennedy who she believed was linked with a Mr Kennedy who worked as a gardener at Drummond Castle near Crieff. (If you go onto the Drummond Castle website it appears that the gardens there continue to be something of an attraction and it may be that Mr Kennedy was a contributor to this.) However Mr Kennedy was also a Papist ([information gleaned from papist returns](#)) and was associated with the Jacobite cause both in 1715 and 1745 through his employer, Lord Drummond. ([An interesting website here about Jacobitism in Perthshire that is worth a look.](#)) After the '45 Rebellion this Kennedy moved to Co Durham in 1748 and then on to Yorkshire from 1771-1790. His employers in Yorkshire were Catholics, the Gascoigne family, who gave succour to Catholics in difficulties. Mr Kennedy wrote a book about gardening and is apparently rather famous in gardening history right through to the late 1800's. I thought the story an interesting insight into the turmoil suffered by one man and his family in Scotland during the period of rebellion and religious intolerance as well as throwing up previously unknown websites. If the story rings any bells for anyone, or you are interested in knowing more then email us and I will pass your request on to Susan.



Catholic Records: the reference to Catholic research reminds me that I was alerted to the fact that **Find My Past** has uploaded a vast quantity of previously undigitized Roman Catholic records, including several related to Scottish research. ([Click here](#))

News from Orkney: to let you know that the latest edition of the Orkney Family History Society Newsletter, "**Sib Folk News**" is now available to read. ([click here](#)) Remember that copies of the magazines of many Scottish Family History Societies are available in the member area of the Society website.



Do you have ancestral links to India? In a previous newsletter we made mention of the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta (I know it isn't in India now but it was then!) linked with Scots who went out there in association with the British East India Company. There are of course many resources within *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* in which to search for ancestors who may have been based in India in various capacities. However we have been notified of the following website that you might find helpful in developing any research that you have in this area. The organisation is called "**Families in British India Society**" ([FIBIS](#)). It charges an annual membership of £15, but they appear to have a number of searchable resources that may aid research, including censuses, cemeteries and monumental inscriptions, civil service records and the like with a name search facility. Worth a look if it applies to you.



NEW
(NOT OFF THE PRESS)
112,987
NEW PAGES ADDED THIS WEEK

News from "The British Newspaper Archive".

The "news" is that they have added significantly to their titles available digitally online. The latest updates saw 112,987 new pages in nine existing titles. They have also published a three-year period (1890-1892) of the Scottish newspaper, "**The Brechin Herald and Angus and Mearns News.**" The paper covers the historic eastern counties of both Angus and Kincardineshire. The paper is now defunct but I am sure is a riveting read! Whilst it is now available on *The British Newspaper Archive* site, it is also available to anyone who has access to *Find My Past* so even less reason to resist a read.



The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society is looking for a membership secretary.

Can you help? Is this role for you?

The Society is seeking a volunteer to fill the important role of Membership Secretary. The role involves the management of the Society's Member database, to provide timely management reports on membership numbers and work alongside our experienced team of "Daily Post volunteers", which administers all membership applications, renewals and cancellations. The principal tasks include:

- managing the members' database,
- preparing regular reports to the Executive Committee of Trustees
- Working with the webmaster to introduce enhancements to the system
- Complying with data protection legislation
- Liaising with the officers on recruiting strategies, payment arrangements and classes of membership.



To assess if it is for you, it is expected that you can demonstrate a working knowledge of database management in an office-working environment. **Training in the use of the database will be given.** The role requires a presence in the Society office for about one day a week. For further details (including a draft role description) and to register your interest please contact;

Elsie Lowe, general secretary via e-mail: office@mlfhs.org.uk or David Muil, chairman, via e-mail: dmuil1943@gmail.com

October Branch Meeting: Saturday, 21st October 2017:

Dr Laura Stewart, who will be speaking on **'The National Covenant and the Scottish People'**.



The National Covenant of 1638 is one of Scotland's most controversial documents: for some, an expression of the people's right to choose their own religion; for others, a statement in religious intolerance whose influence has lasted into modern times. Although the text has been heavily debated by scholars, very little attention has been given to its reception. This talk examines for the first time how the Covenant was accepted by the people in the parishes and reflects particularly on the ambiguous status of women. By considering the Covenant as a material object, as well as a text, Dr Stewart sheds new light on the Covenant's contested meanings and offers fresh reflections on its significance for understanding Scottish political identity.

Dr Laura Stewart completed her PhD at the University of Edinburgh (2003). She taught British History at Birkbeck, University of London, for over ten years, before moving to the University of York in 2016. She has published many articles and essays on early modern British history, the Anglo-Scottish relationship, and the civil wars of the mid-seventeenth century. Her second book, *Rethinking the Scottish Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1617-53*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2016.

This will be a very popular event and, as usual, is open to all Society members. It is therefore essential that you book your place in advance. Entry to the talk will be ticketed, using the Eventbrite button on the Society website.

Remember!



The AngloScots helpdesk is available to you from 10.30—12.30 on the Saturday of the Branch meeting. We meet on the third floor of the Central Library. Just take the lift to the third floor and you will see us there ready to welcome and help you.

