



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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**Welcome:** to the October edition of our newsletter. Summer has gone. The leaves are golden. Winter is waving over the horizon. The main topic this month is a tour of the resources of Manchester Central Library. Sadly I missed it as I was visiting family in Scotland but details of the event are very well covered by fellow committee member, Hilary Hartigan who also sees to the AngloScottish section of the Manchester Genealogist. My trip to Dundee also explains the late arrival of the newsletter and for this I apologise. As usual we include references to sites that you may find helpful in your Anglo Scottish research. Enjoy. Editor.



**Manchester Central Library:** for those of us doing Anglo Scottish Research and fortunate enough to live within visiting distance of Manchester Central Library, there is the risk that we take it for granted to the extent that we fail to appreciate the resources that they might have to assist us with our study and research. To this end, and an opportunity to see "behind the scenes" we asked the library archivist, Larysa Bolton to show us what is available. Hilary Hartigan compiled this report of the visit:

*"The Archives meeting was very interesting and we all enjoyed it immensely, although it was not quite what we hoped for, either. This was largely down to the fact that they appear to have relatively few Scottish-related items, which is perhaps to be expected. Several red bound books were produced that were bound volumes of political tracts, and these turned out to be quite fascinating, if not overly useful in terms of personal research. They did give an insight into the social issues of the day, and I found an article where some poor widow was appealing for relief but hadn't been in Glasgow the requisite five years and so was entitled only to occasional outdoor relief. Some of these books had indexes and so were very interesting as reference works, but I think you would have to spend a few weeks in research in the hope of finding something specific."*



*The group was then introduced to the archives proper; the reading room, the business floor and finally a look at the historic stacks, those temptingly interesting shelves behind the glass walls. If only the opportunity was there to browse amongst these volumes at leisure to discover what gems they hold. So the tour came to an end. Considering that there was no amazing revelation from some unbelievably rare document or book, everyone absolutely loved it!*

**Scottish Document Collection:** speaking of research resources, please do not forget what is on our doorstep in the Member Area of the MLFHS website. Simply by logging into the website with your membership number and going to the Member Area Main Menu you will access the Scottish Document Collection and you have access to all of the sources highlighted there.

Member Area	
Please note that some of these documents are large and may take more than a minute to download on slow internet connections.	
The following documents are available:	
SCOTLAND Records	
<b>Birth, Marriage, Death and Burial</b>	
<b>Presbyterian Baptism Rolls</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) This register records the baptism of 10,000 children (and a few adults) taken from the registers of 15 Presbyterian churches from 1802 to 1970. The date and place of birth are recorded as are the names of the parents, the maiden name of the mother (in most cases) and the occupation of the father.	
<b>Presbyterian Communion Rolls</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) It was the custom of the Presbyterian Church to record the attendance of each member at the communion service held 4 times in the year. This is the main register in the collection containing 78,000 records taken from 19 churches. The records cover a period from 1808 to 1979 and include the names and addresses of each member and adherent.	
<b>Scottish Baptisms in Wigan</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) A list of baptisms between 1800 and 1836 at St Paul's Independent Church in Wigan of the children of Scottish people who had married local girls. Compiled by Mark Campbell.	
<b>Rate Books, Poll Books and Other Lists</b>	
<b>Paisley Voters in 1847</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) Reprinted from Manchester Genealogist Volume 33 Issue 2 (1997). Includes names, occupations and addresses of over 1000 persons registered to vote at Paisley in 1847.	
<b>Military</b>	
<b>Wellingtons Forgotten Men</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) This listing of Scottish-born soldiers was compiled by the late Jim Beckett and published in four parts in Volume 28 of the Manchester Genealogist in 1992. Extracted by Mark Campbell.	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<b>Diary of a Voyage</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) Diary of the Voyage of John Hart of Perth, Ontario who left Glasgow, Scotland, with his family on the 15th April 1842 on the Sailing Vessel <i>Carton</i> arriving in Quebec on 5th June 1842. Transcribed by Mark Campbell	
<b>Royal Family of Scotland</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) Published in 1776 this book provides genealogies of the Scottish Kings from Kenneth I. This scanned book is a large 450kb file and may take a little time to download.	
<b>Scots and Manchester After the '45</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) Presence of Scots in Lancashire after the 1745 rebellion. Includes many names and some biographical information. Article by Thomas Crofton digitized by Mark Campbell	
<b>Scottish Emigrants</b> (Not included in miscellaneous database) An index of over 5,000 Scottish-born people found in records outside Scotland.	
Amended 1 August 2017 - John Marston	

**Scottish Maps:** every now and again we highlight some development in the availability of different maps made available through the National Library of Scotland. Recently a long-standing member of the Society, and reader of this Newsletter, Martin Briscoe, placed on the Society "Forum", information about a new set of maps that have become available. For those of you who do not access the "Forum" I am sure that Martin will not mind me reiterating the content of his contribution that explains the background to the map collection. Martin writes:



*"We had an interesting talk today at the Highland Archaeology Festival conference about estate plans. Someone from NOSAS (North of Scotland Archaeology Society) was investigating a site and it was suggested he look at the Lovat Estate maps. Their estate office is near him in Beaulieu so went around to ask about access. He had to try several times but they let him use their library where he studied the 1757 Peter May map. He looked around the library and they had lots of maps. They were happy to allow him to catalogue them so he spent a couple of weeks doing that. He asked around about digitisation and it was suggested he speak to the Dumfries group. Their local archive hired an A0 scanner and collected together estate plans from many estates in their area. The local group provided the manpower to scan them. They came to a similar agreement in Beaulieu with the Lovat maps. It suited the estate because they were moving into smaller premises. All the scanned maps have gone to the Highland Archive except one or two needed for legal reasons. The files were 500MB TIFs. They could not manage stitching them together on their computer but NLS did that for them. The combined files are about 2GB. The maps are now being made available on the NLS website and all will be there by the end of the year. Estates in other areas of Scotland are also there."*

The story about the digitising of the Lovat Estate maps can be read here ([Lovat Estate](#)) on the NOSAS website together with other information about that Society. Access to the maps referred to at the NLS are available here ([Estate Maps of Scotland, 1750s-1900s](#)). As stated by Martin, the maps currently available cover estates in only part of the country, namely, Edinburgh, Dumfries-shire, Lanarkshire, Sutherland, Wigtownshire, Inverness-shire and Kirkcudbright but others are to follow. Worth keeping an eye on this development.

It is not out of place to thank all those involved in making this resource available to us all, particularly the volunteers at the Dumfries family history group who scanned the images. Many thanks.

**Scottish Indexes:** ([scottishindexes.com](http://scottishindexes.com)) that wonderful resource for unusual genealogy resources owned by the Maxwells, has just announced that it has uploaded onto the site the **Sheriff Court Paternity Decrees**. This is a searchable data site but remember that most of the resources referred to cover only the area south of the Clyde and Forth, that is, mainly the Border region. However if your area of research is there, then definitely worth a look.



**Scottish Records Association:** if you happen to be in Edinburgh on Saturday, 17th November then this sounds a like worthwhile conference to attend. You can access the SRA website here ([click](#)) and find full details of the conference here. ([click](#))

When I am putting together these articles, it gives me the opportunity to have a good look at the various web sites that I recommend more than I would normally do, and I am regularly surprised by the amount of information around that I, for

one, know little about. An example was under the "Events" section of the SRA web site where mention is made of a visit to the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland centre. Whose heard of that? Well now you can have a look at their web site here ([click](#)). Whilst this site covers current activity, they do also have an archive site that I found really interesting. Given that the Society was founded in 1784 to help develop Scottish agriculture, particularly in the Highlands where there was so much disruption following the 1745 Rebellion, the content of some of the archives gives an insight to the conditions that pertained then. They not only dealt with agriculture but also worked to improve roads and bridges to ease transport. The archive has been digitised and can be accessed here ([click](#)).



## Bits'n'Pieces of Sources:

**Find My Past:** announced the following recently;

### Scotland, Edinburgh & Lothian Birth and Baptism Index

Search through this index of more than 4,000 Scottish birth and baptism records spanning the years 1747 to 1855. Each result includes a transcript that will enable you to discover the names of your ancestor's parents and read the full entry as it appeared in the original register.

### Scotland, Edinburgh & Lothian Death and Burial Index

Explore your Scottish ancestry with more than 89,000 burial records from Edinburgh and Lothian. These transcripts will reveal when your ancestor died as well as the location of their final resting place. Some may also provide you with the names of your ancestor's spouse or parents.

I got quite excited about this as some of my ancestors were from Edinburgh and I have struggled to find them. However when I looked into it via the FindMyPast website I discovered that only a few local parishes are included in the birth and baptism index. We are told that "*The Scottish Genealogy Society*" transcribed from the following parishes: Dalkeith Free Church baptisms 1843-1854; Gaelic Church Edinburgh baptisms 1852-1855; Edinburgh Lothian Road Associate Congregation baptisms 1827-1855; Roslin Free Church baptisms 1843-1854; Dalkeith Burgher Congregation Baptisms 1747-1763; Baptismal records of Bristo Church of Scotland. My initial excitement was therefore dented. I tried the death and burial index but found nothing and the area being covered is not given. However, perhaps some of you find the entries of relevance. For the rest of us, perhaps there is more to follow.

**The Scottish Military Research Group:** ([click here](#)) information about this site was passed on to us and is particularly relevant given that we are coming to the conclusion of the anniversary of the 1st World War. The site informs us that the Group is a registered charity "*with the purpose of educating and informing the public about how to research their Scottish military ancestors.*" Details of their projects are given and there is a great collection of military photographs to look at.



**The National Mining Museum of Scotland:** ([click here](#)) for anyone who has had an ancestor involved in the coal mining industry, this looks a great site. The museum is near Dalkeith and appears to offer a great programme of education and information about the history of the industry. However they are contactable via the web site and give recognition to the fact that many family historians contact them for information relating to ancestors who were in the industry. Whilst I am sure that they would answer individual queries, they have produced a booklet to assist family historians called "*Between a rock and a hard place; Your Scottish coal mining ancestors*" The booklet has been digitised and can be downloaded here. ([Click](#))

**Scottish Record Society—Finding Guide:** (or "*Genealogy—Beyond the BMD*"): despite the title, this has nothing to do directly with the Scottish Record Society. Details about this site were passed on to me with the suggestion that some of you may find it useful, if you do not know about it already. It is new to me and the article referred to is part of a blog set up by Dianne Nolin, a Canadian, who lives on Vancouver Island. It really is a mine of information and sources to aid research.

This particular blog entry relating to the "*Finding Guide*" is dated September 2015 ([Click here](#)) but within it you will see that Dianne Nolin refers to an article she wrote in August 2015 relating to "*Scotland Genealogy Resources*". By opening this link a whole treasure horde of resources are displayed covering trades, crafts, Church records, medical directories and immigration records to mention just a few. All of them are searchable. It must be admitted that many of the sources referred to relate to her own family history research and the areas that her ancestors came from; Aberdeen; Edinburgh and Glasgow, but it represents a powerful amount of work to put the resources together and to make them available to whoever wants to use them. Whilst the blog referred to is dated 2015, there are many other entries including current blogs. So, a big thankyou to Dianne Nolin. Well worth a look. You will spend ages working your way through it.





## Dundee V&A: Design Museum

I have to include this!! Visited my home town of Dundee a few days ago to see family and took the opportunity to visit the new V&A. Much has been broadcast about this on national news and I just had to see it for myself.

Impressions! The building is spectacular. Although it looks black/grey, the stonework is actually composed of trapezium shaped blocks of concrete. There are two parts to the building. The one on the right is largely reception area/shop/café/restaurant. The part on the left comprises two large exhibition areas. I must say I was surprised at how small it all was inside, although again the design is impressive with relatively small windows inserted into the wall that give views overlooking the River Tay and the road and rail bridges. Almost pictures in themselves. When I was there the place was extremely busy and this did not help, although for the exhibitions, these are timed entries so that there is not the crushed/rushed feel with plenty of time and space to enjoy the exhibits. Conclusion? Well worth a visit if you are in the area, - with the added opportunity to board Scott's "Discovery" - a great experience in itself. No! I am not being paid by the Dundee Tourist Board!!



The V&A building with Scott's ship Discovery moored next door.

## Bolton Family History Society Open Day: Saturday, 3rd November 2018, 10.30 am-3.00 pm

We have mentioned this in an earlier newsletter, but it is now drawing close and we want to remind you.

The event will be held at *The History Centre; Bolton Central Library; Le Mans Crescent, Bolton*. There are two free lectures, one covering life in the workhouse and another helping us to interpret old photographs using photographs submitted by members earlier. There are specialist help desks, including one by the Anglo Scottish Branch, so come along. We would love to see you.



## Anglo Scottish Branch November Meeting

Saturday, 17th November 2018, 2.00 pm—Ancestral Breakthroughs

The topic of the meeting will be a sharing of research experience and treasures that you have uncovered that have enabled you to break down those brick walls that we are all familiar with. These meetings with members can be just as fruitful, and some would say, more fruitful, than the more specialist talks we arrange. So why not dig out the research that you have done, perhaps so long ago that you have forgotten it, and bring it along to share with us. Your experience can be a great help to the rest of us.



## Don't Forget the Help Desk Facility:

this is available on Branch Meeting days from 10.30 - 12.30. We have the batch of computers on the 3rd floor of Manchester Central Library and there are always members present to advise and assist you in your research or to point you in the direction of alternative sources. So why not come along. We would love to see you

