



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society



Welcome: To our December edition of *e-Scotia*. This edition comes with greetings at this Christmas time and every good wish for the New Year, 2020. Given that we had no meeting this month, and so no speaker, I take the opportunity to share the results of the ancestral survey to which some of you kindly contributed. It occupies more space than usual but I thought the information given was too good not to share. I hope you agree. Also we draw to your attention some resources that you might find useful in your AngloScottish research. Enjoy. Editor

**THE COMMITTEE WISHES YOU ALL THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS
AND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR THE NEW YEAR**



Manchester's Crib in St Anne's Square



The year you stop believing in Santa Claus
is the year you start getting clothes for Christmas.





Anglo Scottish Ancestral Survey



You will recall that some months ago I put out a request for information about reader's ancestors who had emigrated from Scotland. Given that, by the nature of our Branch, we are all likely to be the descendants of immigrants I was interested to discover, primarily, where people had come from and where they went to, but also when they left Scotland, at what age, alone or as a family and, if possible, why. Well I received 27 replies to my request, so thank you very much to all of you who took the trouble to write. These 27 readers identified 54 individuals who took the risk to move away from home and to a new life elsewhere. The information shared also revealed some very interesting stories, but before we hear of these, some facts emerging from the survey:



The geographical spread of emigrants was broad detailing 18 different counties from Banffshire in the north to Dumfriesshire in the south. Predictably, most migrants to England came from the Dumfriesshire area. There was a similar number of migrants from Edinburgh, but this was made up by one family, but more about that later.

The age ratio was also broad, from 14 years to 51 years of age although the main age group of the migrants was in their early to mid 20s with another peak in the early 30 age group. This is probably predictable given that it is the age range with the greatest incentive and ability to move on.



The year that most of the people left Scotland peaks in the early 1840's with another peak in the 1850's and 1870's. The 1840's we know of as a time of famine and social upheaval. Those peaks aside there appears to have been a regular trickle of emigration throughout the 19th century.

Again as expected, most of all those who left were male. The women who did emigrate were mostly married or members of families. Some single women did move however including one who left Edinburgh and went off to New Zealand.

So, where did these emigrants go to? Well, by far, most of the responses we got, perhaps not surprisingly, showed a move to the Manchester area, with Australia being the next most popular. Salford is also highlighted but there is a fair spread throughout the North West. One reader tells the tale of her ancestor leaving Scotland to go with her husband and children to America, but when they got to Liverpool to board ship, she changed her mind and the family moved to Manchester. Australia and New Zealand were popular destinations with a couple of people going to the USA and Canada.



With regard to the latter, I must relate the story that one person in Canada sent to us about his family's move;

My grandfather, John Robertson and his wife Margaret (nee Turner) were from Palnackie near Castle Douglas, Dumfriesshire. He was a coachman on the Munches Estate. He was given a sum of money on the demise of his previous employer and, with my father, aged 2 yrs., and his infant brother, they embarked on the Empress of Ireland for Canada in early 1907. Margaret and the boys went 2nd class and John rode in steerage, so they did not meet up until they docked in Quebec City. They then took a train ride across Canada to Sicamous BC and in a short while he purchased 30 acres of land and had a one room shack built to live in for the first few years till a home could be built. His brother joined them that summer and lived with them till he married a local girl. My grandfather bought draught horses and hired them out as well as farming and gardening while they worked to clear the land. They eventually cleared the land and between chicken eggs and Jersey cows they managed to prosper. Margaret was the "boss" and all money was given to her and she decided what was to be bought and acquired.

An interesting feature is that more people emigrated as family units, be that as husband/wife, parents with children, or with siblings, as emigrated on their own, although the numbers are close. It would appear also that when one member of the family emigrated it prompted others to do so also even if they were generations apart. An example is an extended family from Dumfriesshire named Adamson. In 1815 John Adamson, aged 24 yrs., left Annan with his wife

and children and emigrated to Nova Scotia where he continued his occupation as a farmer. Almost as though a seed had been planted within the family, over the next several generations between 1840 and 1903, several other extended family members emigrated, some to Canada, some to Australia and New Zealand and others into England.

There was also the James family from Edinburgh who had seven members of the family emigrate, five to Australia and New Zealand and two to Manchester and Cheshire respectively.



With regard to employment I was interested to know the occupations of those who emigrated and whether they managed to continue with that employment when they reached their destination. The brief answer is yes. By far most of those who emigrated continued with the occupation that they had in Scotland. The reason was probably that most of those who emigrated were tradesmen and craftsmen with a few who were dentists, scientists and engineers. Few were labourers. Two were in the military. What is interesting is that many of those who emigrated outside of the UK took up farming.

The stories that people shared about their ancestor's journey can only be a cause of admiration. There was John Ditchburn from Dunfermline who in the 1820's moved to Manchester with his wife and 5 children. He was a millwright in the coalfields and perhaps the prospect of better wages brought him south. However the mechanics of moving must have been great. No railways then so they may have travelled by sea.

Another story reveals how people may have managed to get the wherewithal to emigrate. Judy Thain in Australia tells us that her g-grandfather, Hugh McDonald, was born in Urray, Rosshire in 1832. Hugh emigrated to Australia in 1854, aged 21 on a ship the "Marion" sailing from Liverpool. The emigrants on this ship were all hand-chosen by Donald Gollan, a prominent landowner in South Australia, to become part of his labour force in the colony. The emigrants had free passage as Gollan paid their deposit and arranged everything through the Colonial Land and Emigration Office.



People's reasons for moving out of Scotland were many and various. At least two were in the military and transferred into England from Scotland with their regiment. New found relationships were also a reason. Auriol Carney tells us that her father, born in West Lothian, met her mother whilst on holiday in Blackpool and moved to England after their marriage. Yvonne Gill-Martin's parents were similarly influenced but the other way around. Yvonne's father was stationed in Kincardineshire during the war where he met Yvonne's mother and after the war they moved back to her father's homeland of Northumberland.

There are of course those who emigrated from England into Scotland. My own family story includes such a move. My mother's grandfather was born in London, though his parents were Irish. He eventually moved through Leicester and Newcastle to Dundee. Auriol Carney also has an ancestor, born in Woolwich, who ended up in Greenock, again with a military connection. Susan Anson had an ancestor who moved from Stockport to Aberdeen in the mid-1860's. Ten years later however they were back in the Ashton area.

What then of the "why" did people move. The 18th and 19th Centuries in Scotland witnessed massive change and upheaval. The de-population of the rural areas both in the Highlands and the Lowlands was countered by the developing industrialisation of the Country and the consequent increase in City populations. There was therefore much internal movement of population within Scotland. However, as we have seen in our own little survey, there was also a move out of Scotland. Whilst we might never know why or what prompted these ancestors to move, Tom Devine, in his latest and detailed work on the Scottish Clearances, makes the following observation; *"..... the fundamental point (should not) be forgotten that many people in the countryside, and perhaps the majority, left for the towns and overseas, not because they were forced to do so, but because they saw there greater opportunities for advancement and a better standard of living."* From the stories that have been shared it would appear that this particular motive of betterment, amongst others no doubt, played an important part in prompting people to take the risk, move away from home, and start anew.



The Annie Jane Tragedy: on the subject of emigrants a posting from one of our regular readers, Martin Briscoe in Fort William brought this to my attention. An introduction on this website ([Click here](#)) tells us



The Annie Jane was an emigrant ship with over 450 people aboard that sailed from Liverpool on the 9th of September 1853 on a voyage to Quebec. The ship was dis-masted three days out but still attempted to carry on against the wishes of most of the passengers. Caught up in a number of storms the vessel was eventually wrecked on the tiny island of Vatersay one of the Outer Hebrides on the West coast of Scotland. The casualties amounting to over 350 were interred in two mass graves somewhere in the sand dunes of the island; the location sadly lost. The 102 survivors did not meet with much hospitality as resources were limited on the island; some of them taking a month to return to their homes.

There is a monument to the tragedy on the island of Vatersay and the local people want to restore it and list the names of all those who lost their lives. As part of the project they would like to hear from anyone who may have had an ancestor on board the ship. A list of all those who died as well as those who survived is available to see on the web site and you are asked to have a look at it and if you recognise any names, then get in touch. The site, not to say the story of the tragedy with an accompanying video, is interesting enough in itself, but why not have a look and see if you recognise an ancestor. The people of Vatersay would love to hear from you.



Scottish Shipwrecks: whilst looking into the wreck of the Annie Jane I came across this web site. ([Click here](#)) Some of you may know of it already but if not, then have a look at it. It is a web site put together by a couple of divers with a passion for finding wrecks around Scotland. Amongst other things they list all the wrecks that they have found, numbering, amazingly, some 20,000. The purpose it may serve for family historians is that if you have the name of the ship that your ancestor signed up to in order to emigrate but then cannot find them, have a look here and see if the ship is listed. It also lists Royal Navy shipping so if your ancestor was in the navy there may be some additional information to glean from this.

Find My Past focus on Dundee and Angus

A reader alerted me to this and of course, my prejudice coming to the fore, I am only too pleased to pass it on.

Find My Past must be on holiday in Dundee just now because this is the second lot of downloads of the city and county that has been produced lately. So for those of you who do not receive the *Find My Past* newsletter, and have an interest in the Dundee area, here are the details. ([Click here](#)) for access to all of them, but remember you will need to have a *Find My Past* account to access them.



Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Births & Baptisms 1562-1855: This collection has more than 197,000 parish birth and baptism records.

Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Marriages 1562-1855: Over 153,000 parish marriage records to discover Scottish ancestors that came from Dundee and Forfarshire (Angus).

Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Deaths & Burials 1562-1855: The most comprehensive index of Dundee & Forfarshire deaths & burials available online, with over 56,000 records to search.

They also advertise Valuation Rolls and Electoral Registers for similar periods. However, not to appear overly prejudicial, the latest newsletter also indicates the following inserts;

Renfrewshire Death & Burial Index: Over 26,000 new records covering 10 locations across Renfrewshire.

Stirlingshire & Perthshire Burials 1755-2019: This index of more than 83,000 burials covering the years 1755 to 2019.

These can be accessed ([here](#)) with a similar proviso.

The Declaration of Arbroath and DNA

Now there is a tantalising title for an article. Signed in 1320, next year is the 700th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath and it has come to our attention that the University of Strathclyde would like to hear from anyone who might be descended from one of the 48 men who signed the declaration.



There are various web sites covering this project but the most informative I found is here. [\(Click here\)](#)

The University blurb says;

Genealogists at the University of Strathclyde are seeking descendants of the Declaration of Arbroath's signatories, ahead of the historic document's 700th anniversary next year. Researchers are exploring the lineage of the people who are named in or placed their seals on the 1320 Declaration, which asserted Scottish sovereignty. Identified male-line descendants are being invited to take DNA tests to confirm their heritage, alongside documentary evidence discovered by the researchers.

So, if you are a Keith, a Maxwell, a Leslie, or a Seaton, or if you think you are descended from Earls of Moray, Fife or Sutherland, then do get in touch with the University. Descendants of Robert the Bruce (and who isn't) need not bother as he did not sign it!! If you wonder if your name might appear on the Declaration, then Wikipedia kindly lists the names of all the signatories [here](#).

Anglo Scottish Branch Survey: a gentle reminder to folks about this. Last month you would have received from our chairman, Michael Couper, a request to complete a survey to help the committee in its planning for the future of the Branch. So far only 6 have replied!!!!



We cannot emphasis enough how helpful your response to this would be to us. Amongst other things it helps us plan the structure of the Branch and determine speakers that you would find most helpful in your research. So, over this Christmas period, when you decide you need a quiet moment with a mince pie and a glass of something, why not have a go at the survey. It will be a happy distraction and a great help to us on the committee. Return it to us by email as soon as possible please. Thankyou.



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday 18th January 2020



Yes, it is that time of year again when as a Branch we just waste time together. Well, it is not altogether a "waste" because our intrepid quiz masters (or should I say mistresses) Ina and Yvonne, are at this very moment putting together the challenges of a lifetime in the form of a Scottish-focused quiz and a general knowledge quiz that will challenge, yet enlighten.

If you are going to manage to join with us, we celebrate food and drink ways by way of a shared table. So, apart from yourself, bring something along to put onto the table for us all to enjoy.

