



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: To our April edition of *e-Scotia*. The weather is getting warmer. The birds are singing. The trees are getting greener and the flowers are beginning to show their shoots - so long as you are not a daffodil, then of course you are on the way out!!! Enough of this frivolity brought on by the surge of new life all around. Our Branch meeting topic this month is interesting and will hopefully be of value to you. Next month of course is our big event. More information at the back of the newsletter. As usual, we include reference to sites that others have sent in and you may find useful in your research. Enjoy. Editor.



Our Favourite and most useful Web Sites:

Most of us are familiar with the more popular web sites for family history research, viz, Ancestry, Find My Past and Family Search to name just three. However, in general discussion one day we realised that some of us were talking about web sites we used and found helpful that others knew nothing about. The solution? Let's have a session where we are able to share this with one another. Hence, this month's Branch topic. And very useful it was too. Here is a summary of some of the sites brought to our attention. Just click on the headings for access.

Isle of Islay: Douglas Hamilton drew our attention to this site as it featured in his most recent research into his mother's family tree. Douglas had had an inkling of a connection between his mother's family and the island of Islay through a surname of MacMillan. He contacted the Glasgow family history society and they were able to confirm a connection between this surname and the island. A couple of lessons here for me. Firstly, not to be afraid to contact the local family history societies for help. They know the areas better than us and they are usually prepared to share their knowledge and expertise, particularly to a specific question. Secondly, a reminder that most of the Scottish islands do have their own, and often quite extensive, family history research centres that are worth looking at if your family has any connection with the Islands at all.

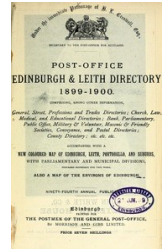
Deceased on Line: this site was brought to our attention by Michael Couper who has found it invaluable in his own family history research. This is a pay per view site, but basic index information can be searched for free. It makes sense to register with this site as you can access slightly more information, and registration is free. In the "free" section you can search by name of the deceased. To search by name and country, region, county, burial authority, cemetery or crematorium you have to have both registered and bought a "pay per view" voucher. The minimum is £5, but for that you get access to all the sources, and, if you are fortunate, information regarding your ancestor, where they are buried, and, perhaps, for a small additional sum, a photograph of the grave stone. Much cheaper than buying a death certificate! Bargainous!!! The site consists of information downloaded from municipal authorities graveyard and crematorium registers. A quick glance through the authorities covered indicates a very wide and inclusive number throughout the United Kingdom. With regard to the Scottish collections, there has been some link up with the [Scottish Monumental Inscription](#) database and so this extends the range of places covered. I was very impressed with this site and would recommend that you have a look at it.



Web Sites (cont.): the next few sites were shared with us by Yvonne Gill-Martin who whetted our appetite by pointing out that they were sites, not only to search for ancestors, but worth spending time on simply because of the amount of fascinating information contained in them.

Happy Haggis: as the site itself declares, *“Everything in this website is free, and much of it is unique, such as the many war memorial inscriptions, cemetery inscriptions and newspaper notices”*. The site offers a number of sources but it was the birth, marriage and death notices in the newspaper archive that Yvonne had found most helpful and useful. A great, and free, site. Have a look.

Scottish Post Office Directories: a new site for me and when I first heard it I immediately thought, foolishly, that it was linked with telephone directories. But no. As the web site states, *“Scottish Post Office directories provide a perfect basis for researching Scotland's family, trade, and town history”*. I am not going to say much about this site. It is so interesting and you can spend ages just searching through its resources. Just have a look at it to see if it will be of value to you.



Freecen: as the name suggests this is a site that gives free access to the UK census'. It is a site that many of us will be familiar with as it has been going for some time and is linked with Free BMD philosophy. Having had it drawn to my attention again, I was looking around it and found that there is a Scottish version [FreeCen Scotland](#).

Scotland BMD: this is an interesting site. It consists of births, marriages and deaths that people have submitted for the benefit of other researchers. To that extent it is rather similar to our own [Scottish Marriage Index](#). The site defines itself as *“Scotland Births Deaths and Marriages ~ a free resource for Scotland genealogy and Scottish family history. For anyone researching their family history in Scotland, the aim of the Exchange is to provide a free resource for sharing information about ancestors found in Scotland.”* It is a fairly simple search process under a variety of headings. One good point though is that if you find someone relevant to you then there are contact details for the person who submitted the information.

Find a Grave: similar to Deceased on Line, but more international. Yvonne was able to find the graves, including photographs of gravestones, of ancestors who had gone to Canada. The information on these grave stones of course, as is often the case, identified other family members previously unknown.

Statistical Accounts of Scotland: David Muil reminded us of this site that we have referred to in previous newsletters, but not to be ignored for all of that. The accounts fall into two categories named *“The Old Statistical Account”* covering the period 1791 - 1799 and *“The New Statistical Account”* that covers the period 1834 - 1845. The accounts were compiled by local Church of Scotland ministers and detail social conditions in Scotland. They are a must read to put your ancestors into context and to discover more about the parish that they lived in.



DNA: our session ended with a presentation by Hilary who demonstrated through reference to her own DNA site, how the results of DNA testing are to be understood and how they can point in the direction of possible linked family members. As we were running out of time this was a very curtailed presentation and needs to be picked up again.

Groomes's Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland: another opportunity to explore the details of the areas our ancestors came from.

The Branch meeting was well attended and most people appeared to find it helpful. It was a test run by the committee to see if there was any interest in the topic and clearly there was.



“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring and close-knit family - in another city.” George Burns

Maps: I love maps. Not only to see where I want to go, but also to remember where I have been. Maps are of course very useful for us as family historians, not only because we can see where our ancestors came from and lived but also to put their lives into a broader perspective. This is why we have, in previous newsletters, made you aware of the vast array of maps available, particularly via the National Library of Scotland's sources. On a more local note the following site was brought to our attention that focuses upon the mapping of Manchester.



Online Map Collections It is a series of maps held at the library of the University of Manchester that have been recently digitised and made available to all for research, and interest. The maps date from 1750 onward. I was intrigued to see on the site reference to Soviet Military Maps of Manchester emanating from the cold war period. Presumably these identified targets more than the best way to get down Deansgate in the rush hour!!!!

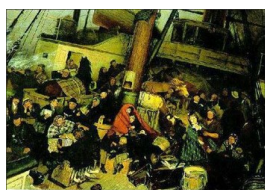
Bits'n'Pieces:

Any of you with **Aussie links** will be interested in this item that was brought to my attention. It is the journal of the **[Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra](#)**. We do quite well for journals from Australia and New Zealand. I counted nine that can all be accessed in the "Exchange" section of the Society web site.



[Ryerson Index of Deaths](#): staying in Australia for a bit, this site will be worth a look if you have any ancestors who moved to Australia, and died there. One colleague found three ancestors of her husband who had moved out there. (The ancestors, not her husband!!) It is a well produced site and is based upon newspaper death notices and obituaries. It seems to cover the period 1803 until 2019 which is amazing. In 1803 we (I use the term guardedly) were still sending convicts out to Australia. As I have said before, whilst I may not have any personal link with some of these sites, they do prompt me to search around just out of sheer historical interest, and on this occasion I came across this site about the transportation of convicts (**[convict records](#)**) and pass it on to you for interest sake.

[Scottish Emigration Database](#): The University of Aberdeen has recently released this *Arts and Humanities Research Council* funded project. According to the site:;



"The database seeks to identify patterns of movement from Scottish ports between 1890 and 1960 using information transferred digitally from the passenger manifests of the Board of Trade's Statistical Department (BT 27) held at The National Archives in Kew, London. It contains the records of 21,090 passengers and adds a unique quantitative dimension to the scholarship of the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies."

I don't have anyone who was adventurous enough to make that choice - clearly Dundee was too attractive an option - but I had a play with the database and it does give a fair amount of information. Worth a look.

[Nairn War Memorial](#): Once again we are grateful to our reader in Fort William, Martin Briscoe, for sending us this resource of photographs of the Nairn War Memorial detailing all the men listed there. Many thanks Martin. If any of you have links with Nairn and the surrounding area, have a look. You may find someone.

Find My Past: announced a couple of new uploads that will be of interest to Scottish research. The first concerns the 1835 census for Dalkeith in Midlothian (**[Click here](#)**) and the second is the Criminal Database for Scotland 1801—1917. (**[Click here](#)**) Now both of these sound really interesting. I did try and have a look at what they contained but of course you have to log into the FMP pay site, and I am not a member of this. However I shall have a look when next in Manchester Library where we can access the site for free.. Anyway, if you have FMP, then have a look and let us know what it is like and if it proved fruitful.

[National Library of Scotland](#): I know that I keep pushing this site but for good reason. There is just so much good information available. In particular their March Newsletter is full of interesting developments. If you haven't done so already, please do sign up for their newsletter. It is free!!!!

Our big event -- the visit by Scotlands People and the National Records of Scotland

Booking for this event is now open and already places are being snapped up. So if you want to attend please go and book now. Place numbers are limited by the Library, so once they have gone, they have gone. Go to the Society web page here ([MLFHS](http://www.mlfhs.org.uk)) and book through *Eventbrite*. Its easy!!! Don't miss out.



Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Presents

“Scottish Heritage Day”

with a special visit by

Scotland's People and the National Records of Scotland

at

Manchester Central Library

Thursday, 16th May, 10.15 - 3.30

Society Members - Free. Non-members - £3

Programme

10.15. **Registration and Reception**

10.45. **Secrets of the Royal Mile** - a history of Edinburgh by Ed Glinert who will walk us through some of the historical secrets of Edinburgh by way of the alleys and back streets of the town.

12.00. Lunch Break

1.00. **Scotland's People** - a talk by Iain Ferguson, Scotland's People manager, giving hints and tips on how to get the most out of the website

National Records of Scotland - a talk by Tessa Spencer, Head of Learning, National Records of Scotland looking at some of the many and varied records held from Court records to Parish records

(Following each talk there will be the opportunity for questions of the speakers.)

Booking essential: only via *Eventbrite* on MLFHS web site; www.mlfhs.org.uk. after 6th April 2019



Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society

