



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: [www.angloscots.mlfs.org.uk](http://www.angloscots.mlfs.org.uk)

E-mail: [angloscots@mlfs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfs.org.uk)

Newsletter: [scotia@mlfs.org.uk](mailto:scotia@mlfs.org.uk)



Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** To our July edition of **e-Scotia**. Our main topic relates to the Branch annual outing, this year to the People's History Museum in Manchester. As usual it was a members only event subsidised by the Branch. Once again we include some help and tips to assist you in your Scottish research, including, this month, an article regarding the use of DNA in your research. There is also a plea for your help in arranging future Branch meetings.

Enjoy. Editor.

### Branch Visit to the People's History Museum.

The museum is a national resource that charts the history of the struggle in Britain for democracy. Whilst the notion of the "class" struggle was somewhat off in the future, the struggle was between the working people and the landed gentry.

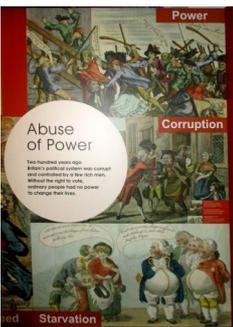


The group were welcomed by our guide who was well versed in the exhibits that the museum had to illustrate the development of social democracy in this country and she chose some of her favourite examples to demonstrate this.



The People's History Museum

For anyone wishing or able to visit the museum, it is significant that the exhibition begins with this powerful effigy illustrating the workers chained to and being slaves to time. The sculpt is next to a clocking-in machine to emphasise the message.



The exhibition covers a period of 200 years, in effect, from the Peterloo massacre and the events and social and political movements leading up to this. The image on the left represents a series of cartoons produce at the time by various publications and used to illustrate and emphasise the disparity of power and resources within society.

This gave rise to the many calls for social and political reform and the response of the Government of the day to this was often brutal. The lessons of the French Revolution still fresh in the memory resulted in grave concern over any large gatherings of people and these together with attempts to form unions, were banned.

The desire for social reform was not of course limited to the working people although they were the energy behind the cause. Galvanising the movement however was achieved by the more socially informed men of learning and the emerging middle classes. Together these eventually brought about influence upon Parliament and the passing of various Reform Acts. Initially however, positive change was focused only upon men, with women continuing to be ignored despite being in the forefront of many of the early social reform movements. The emergence of the suffragettes at the end of the 19th century was an almost inevitable development from this although they were not to realise their ambition until some decades later.



A good day was had by all and was completed by a tea at the Museum which was greatly appreciated.

## The Peterloo Event—Manchester Central Library Wednesday 17th July

I mentioned this event in the June newsletter in the hope that some of our readers who are “local” might manage to attend it. There are a number of Manchester events addressing Peterloo, but this was the Society contribution and I can report that it went off really well. It was planned to coincide with the Society Quarterly Meeting and began with a talk by Chris Makepeace about the



Peterloo Massacre. Over the lunch period we were entertained by the Oakenhoof Friends, a clog dance troupe from Littleborough. In the afternoon there was an exhibition of items relating to Peterloo, but focused on the cotton trade that was so important to Manchester. There will be more information about this whole event in the Manchester Genealogist Journal, but the reason I touch on it again is that I was sent the following attachment about the Peterloo Massacre that you might find interesting. I did. ([click here](#)) Enjoy.

**Social Reform in Scotland:** with all this attention on Social Reform and the Peterloo massacre, I was led to wondering what was going on in Scotland around the same time and were events replicated there. Clearly the union of the parliaments in 1707 and the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 were decisive factors in the 18th century but none of them moved on the demand for social reform that was prevalent throughout the Kingdom. In his book about the history of Scotland, Michael Lynch refers to the “Radical War” of 1820. This was a five-day protest by cotton mill workers and weavers in Glasgow who marched to Falkirk to try and take over the iron works there and get some cannon. At Bonnymuir near to Falkirk they were confronted by a unit of cavalry and mown down. This “battle of Bonnymuir” did not have the peaceful elements of Peterloo since some of the protesters were armed. After the event many were arrested and an article from the National Library of Scotland ([click here](#)) details the event and lists the names of those killed, injured and arrested. Well worth reading and gives a good understanding of the social disruption going on in Scotland as part of the overall demand for reform.



**Facebook help in Scottish Research:** whilst not a natural supporter of social media networking I am trying to educate myself as to some of its advantages. Somehow I happen to have a facebook account prompted by some family members and this results in my receiving unsolicited requests from several sources who seem to want to be my “friend”. Anyway, amongst these were several “platforms” relating to Dundee sites. I still do not understand how they knew of my interest in Dundee, but these coaxed me in. What a wealth of very interesting information including photographs submitted of old Dundee and old school photographs. The source isn’t restricted to Dundee of course. People from all over Scotland have posted photographs and stories. Seems a great resource for finding people and places in our family history searching. To remind you too that the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) also has its own Facebook page and this can be searched here. ([click here](#))

**On holiday in Scotland?** If you intend to be, or hope to be, in Scotland over the next couple of months then be aware of what is on offer from the National Library of Scotland. Their website gives a “what’s on” section that lists a number of events around Scotland that you might find interesting and useful. ([Have a look here.](#))

**Statistical Accounts of Scotland:** news that the Statistical Account have revamped their web page and the content. The site uniquely hosts a complete digital collection of the late eighteenth - and early nineteenth-century Statistical Accounts of Scotland – rich and detailed parish reports for every parish in Scotland, offering a fascinating picture of local life at key points in Scottish history. Topics covered include agriculture, local history, education, trades, religion, folklore and social customs. Apparently the updates make it easier to search the site and to filter the information being sought. They also incorporate enhanced maps from the National Library of Scotland. ([click here](#))



## Interested in DNA Testing as part of your family history research?



I was sent the following short article by a reader who has carried out her DNA research and, more importantly, understands it - which is more than I can claim for myself. The article is headed "Ancestry DNA - groups and notes"

*Ancestry have been rolling out some improvements that can help you to sort out those 40,000+ matches and get them organised. When you click on 'View all DNA matches' there are three search boxes at the top of the list – Groups, Filters and Search. Try the surname Search first by searching for an ancestor with an uncommon name. Let's say you get six results. At the end of each match it says '+ Add to group'. This is the great innovation. Go ahead, you can give your group a name and allocate a colour. That coloured dot stays with that match. Add the other five results to the same group. Now try searching in the 'birth location' Search box – a village is good to start with. Let's say you get three results. Create a new group for this place and add all three results to the group. The coloured dots are easy to pick out. I like to choose surnames from a husband and wife in my tree and a birth location that suits one but not the other – some matches eventually acquire a number of coloured dots next to them which suggests matches from a particular branch of my tree.*

*Opening a match gives you another option – under the profile you can see the coloured dots for the groups and an invitation to 'Add note'. Some of my notes say "no tree, no matches, no clue" – which reminds me not to waste my time searching that match again, but I do note the Common Ancestors, a great time saver. Finally, have a look at the Shared Matches of one of your new 'grouped' matches – they may not contain the surname or the birth location that you searched for earlier, but they will be matches, so set up a new group for everyone who matches that person. It can be addictive, but it is a great way to identify and organise the DNA matches. You can view any of your groups from the 'Groups' box, which also includes the 'New Matches' option, which will highlight any new close relatives.*

I am grateful for the article and include it because I know that there are some of you who are very much into DNA profiling. I consider myself something of a dinosaur with regard to this however, although, being prompted by this submission I did do a bit of research to try and educate myself and came across this article written by Dr Bruce Durie which I recommend if, like me, you are something of a novice. ([click here](#)) However I particularly enjoyed the following extract from the article;



*"Finally...Will DNA testing tell me if I'm descended from Robert the Bruce?*

*Don't worry – you probably are. Because we ALL are. At its simplest, the argument goes like this:*

*Robert Bruce had at least 12 children.*

*Assume each one of them had an average of 2 children, in every generation.*

*700 years = 28 generations, which means  $12 \times 2^{28}$  descendants today.*

*That's about 3.2 billion descendants – take out India and China, and it's almost everyone else on the planet!"*



**Ancestral Survey:** In the June newsletter I indicated my interest in carrying out a little survey of the Scottish origins of our Branch members and asked you to send me some basic information;

- 1. Name (optional but a surname would help)**
- 2. Where in Scotland they came from.**
- 3. The year they left.**
- 4. Their age**
- 5. Alone or as a family member.**
- 6. Where they moved to in England/Australia/Canada etc.**
- 7. Their occupation.**

I want to thank those of you who took the trouble to respond. Altogether, 20 members have shared their details including some from the antipodes. Perhaps there are others who have not yet got round to it and will do so with this little reminder. That would be great. I intend to wait a couple of months before analysing the information. I shall then put it into one of the forthcoming newsletters. Already it looks really fascinating. Many thanks again.

**Scotland's People:** in the March edition of this newsletter I let you know about a discussion I had with Scotland's People to clarify some claims that they made on their web site relating to searching OPR's. Another issue came up for me that led to further discussion. It is the claim they make that you can search the 1881 LDS census by address. This would have been useful for me since I am searching for an ancestor in Edinburgh and have an address in 1880. Being familiar with Find My Past's address search option with census' where you can search by address only, I presumed the Scotland's People facility would be similar. Not so. A name has to be inserted in the search boxes which tends to miss the point. It was suggested that I make use of the street indexes, but that is such a convoluted way to try and find an address. The rate books were also suggested but the years they cover are too far away from the period I want. Anyway, they were helpful with suggestions and, in light of my observation to them about the Find My Past facility, indicated that they are in the process of re-indexing the census', so we never know. No we don't but what we do know is that you cannot really search by address only. However, perhaps some of you have been more successful. If so, let us know.



### Anglo-Scottish Branch Meetings:

We are now half way through the year and we have had some interesting events that we have enjoyed. Whilst there is no meeting in August or December, the other three months of this year have three presentations that should interest most of our members. In September we have a presentation entitled, "Bridgescapes". In October we have arranged for a visit by Chris Paton looking at being "Down and out in Scotland". Then in November we have a meeting focusing on Irish Ancestry with an emphasis on the practical application of the sites available. More about the details of these meetings will be given in future newsletters, but just to give you a taster of what to expect and to make sure that you are free to attend.



The Committee are already well on the road to planning and organising the Branch meetings for 2020 with what we think is, again, an attractive list of speakers and topics. However, putting together a programme of events quite often means second-guessing what our members want or would like. In this regard we would like your help. Now we know that not all the members who receive this newsletter attend the Branch meetings. Nevertheless everyone can be involved in giving some thought to what would be useful/helpful/interesting topics if you had carte blanche.

It does not mean of course that we would be able to organise such speakers or events but given that we are an Anglo Scottish Branch it follows that most of our interest would be focused on north of the border and involve us getting speakers down from Scotland and we frequently do this.

**So please**, give some thought to what you would like to hear, see or do in light of your own research experience. Perhaps you want to hear about a particular place in Scotland or a particular period that your ancestors lived through. Brainstorm and send us an email to [angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk) with the ideas. Even if you can never attend the meetings you might be aware of an area that would interest others.



**Remember!** There is no Branch meeting in August. We recognise it as a month when most people want to go away on holiday. If you are in that category then please have a great time, a pleasant rest and a safe return. We hope that the sun shines on you, but not too hot. When I was in France last month the temperature reached 40 degrees. Too much!!

Our September Branch Meeting is a talk by L Bruce Keith entitled "Bridgescapes" The clue to the content is in the title, but more about this in the August newsletter.