



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** To our November edition of *e-Scotia*. I trust that the newsletter goes some way to brightening up your day particularly as we have incessant rain causing flooding of biblical proportions in parts of the country and fires and storms in other parts of the world. If one of you is suffering from such a tragedy, please accept our condolences. Our main topic this month is a practical look at Irish family history research. (We are very catholic in the AngloScottish Branch!!) Again we include some references to web sites and articles that you might find helpful in your research. Enjoy. Editor.

**A practical guide to Irish Family History Research:** Our speaker this month was Carol Wells. Having spent many years researching her husband's Irish ancestry, Carol had a lot of practical experience in how to search, what turns out to be, a plethora of Irish resources. In this session Carol used "real life" searches, some from her husband's family tree, others from individuals who have approached her at the Society's help desk, to demonstrate the resources and how to get the best out of them. These included civil records, parish records, townlands and Griffith's Valuations as well as several other valuable resources. The handout of relevant web sites that Carol made available is attached at the end of this newsletter but here are a few of the highlights.



Carol first clarified the erroneous belief that there are no, or not many, Irish records because of the Post Office fire in 1916. This is far from true. The only records destroyed at this time were the records of the National Church of Ireland. All Roman Catholic records are extant and, apart from this, the Irish Government is very keen to digitise and make available to view **for free** many of the records that family historians would find of interest.

The first site that we were directed to was the Shane Wilson site at [www.swilson.info](http://www.swilson.info). This is a wonderful site for discovering and exploring County Maps, Townland Maps and Parishes within Ireland. Of particular help is the surname distribution facility that helps to identify the primary area that a family came from. Useful if you are starting from an "Ireland" reference in a UK census as a place of birth.

The next site was [Townlands.ie](http://Townlands.ie). Carol went to some length to stress the importance of townlands in Irish research and this site is wonderful for identifying all of the townlands in Ireland by County. A bonus is that, once identified, you are shown a map of the townland and its environs.

The [Irish Genealogy Tool Kit](http://IrishGenealogyToolKit) website was given as a helpful general overview of Irish research and resources. There are several free family history aids such as maps and charts.

The last site I shall refer to here is the National Archives of Ireland site - [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://IrishGenealogy.ie). This is the most well known site and hosts the Irish State birth, marriage and death records as well as Church records. Carol had a couple of tips for us on how to get the best out of this site, but for me a key one was to be aware that some ancestors have no first name in the records. Instead the records indicate "unknown" where the first name should be. It is useful therefore to put "unknown" in the first name box when searching otherwise often no record is indicated.

This was a very informative and useful workshop and was much appreciated by a large audience. That the information given by Carol was rooted in practical experience was a great help. Much more was given in the workshop - indeed some attendees indicated that there was sufficient for two workshops - but more detail will appear in the Anglo Scottish section of the Manchester Genealogist, so look out for it.



**Bits and Pieces:** a chance to share some of the items that have been referred to me by members to share with you.

**Portpatrick:** ([Click here](#)) is on the extreme south west coast of Scotland, and about as near to Ireland as you can get. For this, as well as other reasons, it was a very important port in its day. I was sent this web site which is of interest, not only because of its information about Portpatrick, but because of a very interesting and informative interactive map of the old parish church graveyard. Now I have no association at all with this area but I found what had been achieved in terms of enabling a search of individual grave stones truly fascinating. If only this could be done with all graveyards. Dream on!!

**Scottish Ancestral Records:** in association with Lisa May Young, a Scottish author and broadcaster have released a couple of podcasts ([click here](#)) about ancestry research. The interviews are with Ken Nesbit, who we have been pleased to welcome down here in Manchester. One of the interviews is about Ken's introduction into family history, but the other offers advice and tips on how to begin your ancestor research - should any of you consider that this is where you are. Both podcasts begin with an advert that last about 20 seconds. Don't be put off by this. I suppose someone had to fund the podcast!



**Family History Journals:** you will know by now that various Scottish Family History Societies send us digitised copies of their journals. These are all able to be viewed by members of the Society on the Society web site under the heading of "Exchange Journals". We can let you know that the latest Society journals to be uploaded are from **Aberdeen and North East Scotland; Dumfries and Galloway; Lothians; Caithness and Highland** Family History Societies. Remember, if your ancestors are from around those parts and you want some help/advice, contact them. They will be only to pleased to help.

In this regard we recently received an email from **Glasgow and West of Scotland** Family History Society. We had not heard from them for many months and they explained that the Society had been going through a difficult patch linked with a reduction of volunteers who did essential tasks for the Society. This is an issue that we all face. Happily they are getting back on their feet and are in the process of reinstating their web page and journal. We have been sent a few journals for 2018 and 2019 and these are on the Exchange site.

**Scottish Association of Family History Societies: SFHS** - also produce a bulletin ([Click here](#)) that gives an oversight of all of the Scottish Family History Societies who are members. Useful if you want to know what is going on throughout the family history world in Scotland.

**National Library of Scotland Newsletter:** for those of you who do not receive this newsletter, just to let you know that in the latest edition the NLS continue to develop their wonderful map site. ([Click here](#)) They tell us:

#### **Explore Scottish geology and topography with new map layers**

"We've recently added new georeferenced layers that allow you to explore geology and topographic maps covering Scotland in the early 20th century. The one-inch to the mile Geological Survey maps are beautifully coloured and can be directly compared to present-day and historical maps. You can also view the positions of former mines and shafts on more detailed six-inch to the mile geological maps.

Finally, we've added an early 1940s military map layer covering all of Scotland, which is excellent for showing late 1930s mapping updates."

[View one-inch coloured geology layer](#)

[View detailed six-inch uncoloured geology layer](#)

[Compare mines and geology to the present day landscape](#)

[Compare 1920s and 1940s one-inch map layers](#)

I admit to loving this site and can spend hours searching the maps. Have a go. You might find something for you.

**Scottish Orphanage Records:** I am aware that some of our readers are not members of the Society and that even some who are do not or cannot access **The Forum**. It is a very useful platform available to members for the sharing of problems and resolutions to do with family history research and I can only recommend it. Recently there has been a thread of enquiry and information-giving that I thought useful enough to share with you. It concerns Scottish Orphanage Records extending to those children sent abroad from various care homes. The following web pages were suggested for [Quarriers](#) in Glasgow and a couple of useful articles [Child Immigration](#) and [Children transported to Canada](#). A member also indicated that they had asked at the National Records of Scotland and were told that they had two groups of records listing the names of children. Worth an enquiry therefore. Better still, join the Society and access **The Forum**. Lots of people with expertise to help you in your research.



**Anglo Scottish Branch Survey:** you will all by now have received from our chairman, Michael Couper, an AS Branch Survey. Please take the time to complete it. It really will help those of us on the committee to plan, organise and form the Branch in a way that best assists members. Whilst the survey does ask about meetings and venue it is not only for members who are within striking distance of Manchester. Those members who are outside of the North West area, including those who are outside the UK, (and you constitute about half of the membership), your views are also important because we recognise that we serve a wider audience in Scottish Family History research than those around Greater Manchester. One member did send us a list of topics that she would find of interest in her wider research and we are grateful for this and will make use of it

### Please Remember:

**there is no Anglo Scottish Branch meeting in December.**



By way of consolation, and to keep your spirits up, we offer you the programme arranged for 2020

- January 18th:** *Christmas Social and Quiz*
- February 15th:** *"Crossing the Solway; Tracing the Rickerbys of Dumfriesshire and Cumbria" Speaker; Alan Crosby.*
- March 21st;** *Anglo Scottish Branch AGM followed by "Members Heirlooms"*
- April 25th:** *Ancestry Workshop*
- May 16th:** *"The Great Tapestry of Scotland" Speaker - Sue Walker.*
- June 20th:** *Your favourite sources of information.*
- July 18th:** *"Gems of Manchester" A walking tour taking in the Free Trade Hall; Midland Hotel and the Refuge Building led by Jonathan Schofield.*
- August 15th:** *No Meeting.*
- September 19th:** *The Mitchell Library, Glasgow and it's holdings. - Speaker, Irene O'Brien.*
- October 17th:** *Ancestral Breakthroughs.*
- November 21st:** *Two talks, including "Tracing the Irish in Scotland" - Speaker Chris Paton.*
- December 19th:** *No meeting.*

More details of these meetings will of course be given in future newsletters but do make a note of them.



Our next Branch meeting will be on **Saturday 18th January 2020** when we will be having our annual Christmas Social and Quiz.



# Irish Family History Research Resources

<https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com>



**Genealogy**- hints on searching civil records

**Names** - insight into Irish names, origins, spellings,

Irish naming patterns etc

<https://www.swilson.info>



Use for surname search circa 1850

Registration districts for a county to help with searches of civil records.

Roman Catholic Parish Map search and much more.

<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie>



Civil Records- search using **one** Christian name and surname.

If you know county find registration districts on <https://www.swilson.info/>

Before searching: remember some records have no Christian name- these are indexed as

'unknown' eg unknown Turner. Ancestry has recorded these as male or female which is more useful.

<https://www.townlands.ie>



Use to find townlands

Has links for that townland to 1901 & 1911 census and also Griffiths Evaluation

Can help you locate townland on Griffiths valuation map

Also helps finding parishes

Has links to Open street map

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>



Taken between 1848 and 1864

Could help you to find out where your Ancestors originated from.

It can be searched by place or name.

Click on detail button to find out what year the record you are looking at was taken.

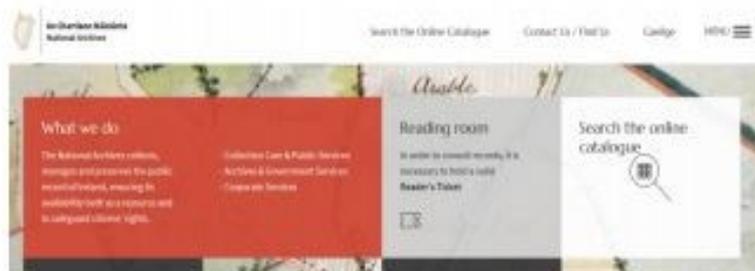
<http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/>



Search census, wills, tithe applotment books, valuation office books and more from this website.

This is the main Genealogy website for Ireland's National Archives and they will be adding more records in the future. To return to main page after looking at a record click on **Genealogy**

<https://www.nationalarchives.ie>



Search for probate after 1922. If you find a record there is a link to apply for a copy of the will.

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/>



Click on **about** button drop down box appears

Click on RCB library then on the left 'list of parish registers' this opens as a PDF.

There are also links to some parishes that have been indexed on genealogy page.

<https://irishdeedsindex.net/search/index.php>



Search by name or in the title box you can put an occupation farmer, butcher, pipe maker, merchant, labourer etc

You can also browse for a name. If you find a record click on the memorial number then go to the bottom of the page where there will be a link to the actual document. Before you do this, make a record of the memorial number, page and date of the memorial. It opens in Family Search and you will need to

register to look at it.

<http://www.rootsireland.ie/>



Worth registering to look at the information they have on each county. Click on search by county. Click on county on map. Most counties have information about family history.

They also have an online magazine with up to date genealogy news. Click on Blog & News

<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>



Look at building survey to see houses, businesses and more for each county.

Also worth looking at, the building of the month archive.

<http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/isp/>

Information about landed estates the families who owned them and their houses.

<https://www.nickreddan.net/>

Newspaper extracts and you can also look at some of his presentations.( I found an interesting newspaper article connected to Manchester).