



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the September edition of the newsletter. Once again I trust that you are all maintaining calm and equilibrium during this crazy time of lockdown. Surely the face mask has to be the icon of our times. 

Talking of icons, the main piece of news has to be the new Manchester & Family History Society web site, now renamed "Manchester Ancestors". This of course also means that the Anglo Scottish Branch site is also presented in a new light and we have a look at both. We have a few items to share with you to help you in your research and some curious ones to entertain.

Editor



WELL, IT'S HERE! - and with its brand new logo. The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society web site is now called "**Manchester Ancestors**" but it can be accessed through the usual channel of the Society website at www.mlfhs.uk. It is a great site, bright, attractive and inviting. However, if you are accustomed to searching in the previous site, it may take a bit of getting used to. However, be patient. It will pay dividends. Furthermore, although the site is up and running it is still a work in progress and the Society stalwarts who have been working with the web designers are to be congratulated for their work and ongoing tweaking of the system.. Not only is the web site more attractive it also gives you much more control over your personal information so have a look at that and make sure that all the information you want the Society to know about you, like contact details, is there.

The redesign of the Society web site of course means that our [Anglo Scottish Branch](#) also has a new look. Again, though, finding familiar things might need a bit of perseverance. Let me show you how to get the Scottish document collection. Remember that you need to be a member of the Society to access the many records that we have. Firstly, sign in as a member. You will then have your very own welcome page. Amongst the various windows on that page there is one headed "Document Collections" with a "Browse Documents" button at the bottom. Click this and you are presented with a page listing, on the left, the document collections of each of the Branches, and on the right, all the documents available within the Society. Click on the "Scotland Records" category and you will have access to all of the records that we have accumulated to inform our Scottish research. Have a play around and ask if you get lost. Someone will always come to find you!



I recently attended a sports event and came across a man carrying a long pole.
So I asked him "Are you a pole vaulter?"

He said "No, I'm German, but how did you know my name was Walter" (With thanks to Chic Murray)

2021 Census moved to 2022 in Scotland: the Scottish Government have announced that the census due to be taken in 2021 is now moved to 2022. in view of the Covid 19 epidemic. The statement issued by the Scottish Government states:

"Following careful consideration and on recommendation of National Records of Scotland, Ministers have informed the Scottish Parliament of their intention to move Scotland's Census date to March 2022. This reflects the unprecedented impact which COVID-19 is having across a wide range of sectors.



As far as is known currently, the census throughout the rest of the UK will be in 2021 - but watch this space!! There have been so many U-turns recently that dizziness is setting in.

The Scottish move marks an interesting development. Apart from no census being taken in 1941 because of the war, this will be the first time that a census has not been held on the second year of a decade. Yet the fact that census' are taken in the "01" years is the result of a purely administrative matter. That a regular census be taken at all was the result of much argument in Parliament in the 1790's when it was realised, against the backdrop of the French Revolution, that little was known about the population of the UK. A Parliamentary Bill legislating for a decennial census was eventually passed in December 1800 determining that the first census be held the following year. Hence we got to having the census taken every decade on the "01". On the subject of the census in general I came across an interesting site on the Vision of Britain series ([click here](#)) which details as much of the history of the census that you are ever likely to need. What is really useful is that they provide a search box into which you can put any place name (I of course put in Dundee to test it) and choose any or all census' between 1801 and 1971,

BBC iPlayer - Blood of the Clans



For those of you who are able to get it, BBC iPlayer currently have a very interesting and informative series worth watching called ~ Blood of the Clans. It is presented by the populist historian, Neil Oliver and covers the period from the 1640's to the Battle of Culloden in 1745. Whilst it covers much of Scottish history that many will be familiar with, what it manages to convey within the narrative is the nature and importance of Clanship. I am afraid that my own clan, Campbell, is here, as usual, never portrayed in positive light but then the brutality of inter-Clan feuding throughout the period also comes across strongly. The programme is a three part presentation with the middle one being a, somewhat curious, focus on

Rob Roy MacGregor. The other two however take a broader view and give a real taste of the circumstances of the time. If you can watch it I would encourage you to do so as it gives a very good glimpse into the world of our Scottish ancestors and the issues they had to face in a very succinct way. ([Click here](#))

The Ultimus Haeres Unit: I came across this article on the BBC Scotland News the other day that really intrigued me ([Click here](#)) and it concerns the process that is brought into play when someone dies without any known relative or a will. I had never heard of this before let alone that there was a whole unit dealing with it, so I had a little dive into researching it. It transpires that Ultimus Haeres (the last heir) is a peculiarly Scottish concept. An entry in the NRS on the subject ([click here](#)) says this:



If an individual died without leaving a will and there was no known heir, the property simply fell to the Crown as Ultimus haeres ('the last heir'). The estate would be advertised, and the Treasury might make payments to people with a moral if not a legal claim on the estate. Otherwise the residue was not held indefinitely, but was taken by the state as 'the Crown's share' and the case closed. The NRS eventually gets the records that are created in cases of bona vacantia and Ultimus haeres and these are kept in the series of Exchequer records. The Crown Office, 27 Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LB deals with current business of this sort. In practice, few estates falling to the Crown as bona vacantia or ultimus haeres have been of significant value and certainly none match the expectations and myths that have grown up about them.

Whilst accepting the caution indicated by the NRS it is acknowledged that with the increased interest in family history with the concomitant DNA research that there may be many more applications from individuals seeking redress from the estate of a previously unknown ancestor. This of course is the field of "Heir Hunters" but it is a topic that family historians should be aware of. I was amazed, for example, to discover in the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR) site ([click here](#)) a list of over 500 unclaimed estates with reference also to current estates recently added. Worth a look?

Bits'n Pieces: lots of bits of information come our way from a variety of family history sources. Some you will also receive, and if you do, then apologies for repeating them. But for those who may not get the information, then we share it with you here;



London On-line Family History Show; Given the current lockdown issues, the Annual Family History Show in London is to be held on-line on Saturday, 26th September 2020, so you will have to be quick. ([click here for details](#)) Tickets are £6 for now but rise to £8 if bought on the day. If you have a look at the web site there is a short video highlighting what is on offer. It all looks pretty good with talks and Q and A's

WW2 RAF ancestors: there has been a fair bit of attention being given recently focusing upon the efforts of the RAF personnel during the 2nd World War. The National Archives have been working with "The Genealogist" to digitise and make available the operation record books of the RAF but when available through "The Genealogist" access will be quite pricey. If you did have an ancestor in the RAF from its inception, not just during WW2, then why not go directly to the National Archive site. Currently access to these records is free ([click here](#)).



By the by, on the subject of the National Archives, they do produce a great amount of online material that looks worth exploring ([click here](#))

Scottish Family History Research: a video offering from Find My Past and presented by Myko Clelland. It can be accessed [here](#) and is well worth a look. I think I have mentioned before that Find My Past have a weekly blog every Friday where they present their latest offerings. It can be viewed [here](#) and explored. There is also an interesting offering on Scottish Naming Patterns ([here](#)).

RootsTech: Already the Family Search Roots Tech Show is being advertised for next year. It is a virtual event that you can register for now and participation is free. The show will be streamed (I can't believe I am using this language, virtual and streamed!!!) from Salt Lake City on the 25th - 27th February 2021. As usual it promises to be informative. Past Roots Tech videos, covering many topics, can be accessed [here](#). Well worth a look when feel the need for a little inspiration on a rainy day.



We know of as a great source of material for family history. They have now posted information about how to trace your ancestors occupation. ([click here](#)) Actually the article has a wider purpose as it addresses the importance of occupations in general in learning about how we and our ancestors lived and worked. So not only are their tips on how to research ancestor's occupations, they also invite you to submit information about your own occupation. Presumably this is about building up a database of information to inform future generations when we ourselves become "ancestors". A sobering thought indeed.

The Blitz: The National Archives have been advertising a project in conjunction with **Ancestry** about the commissioning of art works to celebrate the Civil Gallantry Awards. You can search the Ancestry database ([here](#)) should you think you may have had an ancestor who was so awarded and can access the art exhibition ([here](#)).



The **National Records of Scotland** also have an interesting record of the blitz and its effects within areas of Scotland in particular of course, Clydebank. Any with links to the Glasgow area and Clydebank might be interested in the NRS article ([click here](#)) There is an interesting illustration of the numbers made homeless and the areas in Clydebank most effected by bombing. The names of streets are given so another helpful piece of information for tracing family.

Back to School:: given the time of year with the return of children to school, the NRS have uploaded a number of archive films as part of their "Moving Film Archive". Associated with school and school life in Scotland. Some of the films link with the more remote areas of Scotland and give an insight into life there even not so long ago. One I liked is entitled "The Headmaster". Children in very remote areas are collected by a car provided by the School and when it arrives at school, 8 children get out. So much for health and safety then!! Anyway, [click here](#) for the show!



Exchange Journals: on the new web site the Exchange Journals have their very own window on the main page when you log in, so much easier to access. A reminder then that, despite the viral onslaught, our family history colleagues throughout the country continue to prepare and send out their journals. We have had recent notification from the following Society since our last newsletter:

Orkney FHS: what I find interesting in this journal is the description of a very different way of island life that emerges from the stories people tell. It made me go and look at where these islands were that people referred to.

Manchester Central Library Help Desk to re-open

Some who live more locally will have heard that Manchester Central Library opened its doors again some weeks ago, albeit in a limited and controlled fashion. This was a valiant effort to begin to bring some kind of normality back into the lives of those of us who value this resource. Although the library has re-opened the Society help desk has remained closed. Up until now that is.



Following discussions between the Library and Society representatives it has been decided to re-open the help desk in a very limited and phased way. We are all very conscious of the inhibiting effects of this pandemic and the understandable reluctance that many have to venture out into the wider community. Nevertheless the Library staff have, since they have re-opened, had several callers seeking help with family history so it appears that the need may be there. We have little idea of the extent of this and so this phased opening is a way of testing the waters.



The Central Library Family History Help Desk will open, initially, for one day per week only, beginning on Monday, 5th October and every Monday thereafter. The hours of opening will be from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. giving time before and after for appropriate cleaning of the search areas. Social distancing rules will be strictly followed and this will mean less computer stations than usual. Volunteers will be available to assist and advise. This is a very tentative foray that may develop or not dependant upon factors outside our control, but we want to give it a try.



Anglo Scottish Branch Zoom Meeting Saturday 21st November, 2.00p.m.



This is just a brief note to alert you to this forthcoming event.

A few weeks ago our chairman, Michael Couper, contacted all of us to sound out who would be interested in taking part in a Branch Zoom meeting given the current restrictions regarding travel and people getting together. It was heartening that several indicated that they would be interested in such a meeting so, in light of that, it has been decided to hold a Branch Zoom Meeting on what would have been the date and time of the Branch November meeting. The topic will be on DNA research.

More details about this will be coming to you but we would ask in the meantime that if you are interested, **could you please email us your name and email address.** With this information we will be able to email you nearer the time with the link to the Zoom site which you will just have to click on to join us.

This has the potential to be a very interesting get-together since it means that our readers outside of the UK, viz, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and elsewhere, will be able to join us - time zones of course allowing - and we could have loads to share and ask about.



I understand that there is a limit of 30 persons, so if you do want to take part, even if you have let Michael know previously, could you please send him your name and email address.