



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the August edition of the newsletter. Traditionally a rest month for our Branch with the opportunity to take deep breaths and enjoy the sun. Well, one out of two isn't bad!! If any have managed to get away for a break we trust that you are able to enjoy it without too much interference. Given that we have no feature topic this month our main article is feedback from the Find My Past event. Also managed to put together some features that might help you occupy a few hours in your Scottish research. Whatever else is going on, stay safe.



Editor.

**Find My Past Record Launch:** last month we informed you of the launch by Find My Past of a whole bunch of new Scottish records and posted an invitation to join in. I hope that some of you were able to take advantage of this special invitation. For those of you who did not manage to attend, FMP have issued a press release detailing what is now on offer, and it can be summarised thus:

### **Explore four centuries of Scottish baptisms, marriages and burials**

*Dating back to 1561 and spanning 450 years of Scottish history, the new collection contains more than 10.7 million historical documents chronicling baptisms, marriages, burials and more. This vast new online resource will allow family historians across the globe to uncover rare details of their ancestor's lives and the stories behind major life events.*

*This ground-breaking new resource is the result of FindMyPast's close collaboration with local family history societies, archives and volunteers from across the country. It brings together a wide variety of important historical records, many of which were previously inaccessible to the public and are now fully searchable in new ways for the first time.*

*This includes records that not only reveal vital information on Scottish ancestors, but also provide valuable insights into parish life, including; Records of non-conformist churches including the Episcopal, Free Church, United Free Church and more, fully indexed and searchable for the very first time*

*Newly published 20th century records (current online collections stop at 1855) that provide vital details of more recent ancestors, allowing users to uncover the details of previous generations and trace their family tree back from there Rare "Irregular Marriages" from Kirk Sessions (those not officially recorded by the parish registers and conducted without a ceremony)*

The event was well attended with about 250 attendees from various parts of the world. They had three guest speakers sharing their particular expertise on family history. The first was Brian Cox who shared about his family coming over from Ireland and the struggles that they had in their home town of Dundee. I suppose that by now my own links with Dundee are well known but as a claim to fame I can acknowledge that the Cox family lived in the next street to us. The second speaker was Tahitia McCabe lecturer in genealogy at the University of Strathclyde and part of her contribution was to tell us about her heroin, Frances (Fanny) Wright. Fanny was born in (wait for it!!) Dundee, in 1795 and emigrated to America where she became a US citizen in 1825. She was a great social reformer and you can read about her on this [Wikipedia entry](#). The final speaker was the actor Colin McFarlane who also spoke of the impact that involvement in family history had on his exploring and discovering his roots and the importance of this. It led to his setting up a programme to involve children and young people in family history research to enhance their appreciation of their personal history. The website is called [makinghistory.com](http://makinghistory.com) and is well worth a look.

## FindMyPast Record Launch (cont.)

In summary? Well I thought it an interesting session although there was less information about the records than I expected and wanted. There was a fair bit of verbal razzamatazz surrounding the whole event and the guest speakers were somewhat unnecessary if interesting. However, the hyperbole to one side, it was an interesting if, for me, limited demonstration of what is now on offer. One interesting piece of information that I did come away with was the fact that, in the Parish Records, you can now search them using just the parent names. This seems to me to be a very welcome development and one I shall certainly be putting to the test to try and shift some of those brick walls.



### Society Help Desk - Manchester Central Library

**We are re-opening from Monday 13th September, 11.00 'til 2.30**



Throughout this pandemic some of our dedicated helpdesk volunteers have been available "virtually" to respond to calls for information and assistance and remain so at [this address](#)

Now!! As things slowly get back to some kind of normality Manchester Central Library is now fully open to the public and the Society is once again able to offer the Help Desk to all comers interested in researching their family history. By way of being cautionary however, for the remainder of this year, we are offering a restricted service. Normally the Help Desk is available from 10.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Whilst the days remain the same the new hours will be from **11.00 a.m. until 2.30 p.m.** Hopefully fate will not be overly tempted and if all goes well we intend to open fully at our usual times in January 2022.

This is great news and a great opportunity for us all to begin to meet up again. Of course we shall continue to be careful with a one metre distance being maintained and face coverings worn for those who choose to do so. Also computer stations will be wiped down regularly. All that said though, for those of you who are near enough to visit, or would like to visit, then we are setting up shop again and look forward to seeing you.

**The Mitchell Library and its Holdings:** you may recall that our June Branch meeting welcomed Dr Irene O'Brien, the chief archivist of the Mitchell Library in Glasgow who described to us the many rich resources available for those doing family history research, particularly in the Glasgow and surrounding area. Well, Dr O'Brien was good enough to allow us to record her talk and this is now available to Society members to watch. So if you were not able to attend the meeting or would like to have another listen to Dr O'Brien then tune into the video. You can access the video by following these steps:



*Log in as a member/ go to Branches/then choose Anglo Scots. On this page scroll down, and under the heading of "Research", click on "Speakers' notes/videos". One of the options there is to see the videos.*

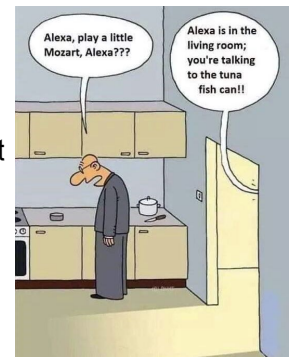
This seems a rather complex way of entering the site so even if you do not want to see this particular video, try it out, because we shall be developing the site for a video collection.



**"Talking Scot" web site.** I had cause to refer to this web site recently. It is one that I have drawn to your attention previously, but it is worth a reminder and another look. It is free to register for the site and once an acknowledged member all the site's facilities are open to you. It has a very useful forum

where you can share information or ask advice and help from other members, some of whom we are assured are "experts in their own field". It is the forum that I had recourse to and received some helpful information in return. The site also gives a list of all the family history societies in Scotland and those outside of Scotland who have an interest in Scottish research so if you need to contact any of them all the details are there. Glad to say that our Anglo Scottish Society is amongst those listed.. It also gives links to various family history relevant web sites, including "The Ships List", a very informative site if a family member emigrated.

**Bits 'n Pieces:** happily, over several months, we have attracted some new members from both the UK and overseas. Somewhat ironically, this increase in membership has been assisted by this awful Covid epidemic which forced many organisations and societies, including our own, to develop new ways to reach out to members. Technology, in particular Zoom meetings have played a great part in this and has enabled the Society and Branch meetings to be attended and enjoyed by members in other parts of the country and the world. There is no doubt that using these mediums has taken us some time to come to terms with, but we now consider that they are part of our repertoire and it is our intention to continue to make full use of them even when some form of “normality” emerges.



Over the 5+ years that we have produced this newsletter we have drawn attention to some of the resources that are available to members on our web site and elsewhere. Newer members of the Branch may have missed out on this information and so there is value in once again, drawing attention to them.

**Scottish Marriage Index:** One of the stumbling blocks for any family historian is when ancestors have emigrated or married away from their birth parishes. Whether you are tracing a sibling of your ancestors from the UK, or tracing a line back to the UK, the problem is the same. The Scottish Marriage Index (SMI) is built around a marriage where at least one spouse is Scots born. An entry in the index will usually give four family names. Most marriages listed took place outside Scotland, but some Scottish marriages are included where one spouse is well away from the parish of birth. You do not have to be a member of the Society to take advantage of the Index either by way of searching it or adding to it, so please have a look at it and if you have any ancestors who fall into this, rather broad, category, then please contribute the information to the Index. Whilst the index gives basic but useful information, some contributors have sent in background information about the family and this is available on request to the site manager. You can



access the site and how to get the most out of it by logging in [here](#)

**Scottish Document Collection:** if you are a member of the Society then you can access many thousands of records on the Society web site, amongst them, the Scottish Document Collection. This can be accessed from the login “Welcome” page. Scroll down to “Document Collection” and click “Browse Documents”. The “Scotland Records” listed on the left include baptism and marriage records from various Scottish Presbyterian Churches in the North West of England, military pension records relating to Scots who fought with Wellington at Waterloo, as well as access to speakers notes and videos.

**Exchange Journals:** as a member of the Society you will receive, quarterly, the Society Journal, “*The Manchester Genealogist*”. The Society has an arrangement with several other family history societies throughout the country and the world to exchange Journals. This of course includes many Scottish family history societies. The “Exchange Journal” site can be accessed from the same “Welcome” login page. Scroll down to “Exchange Journals” and click the “Exchange Archive”. Journals are listed alphabetically according to the name of the FH Society. If you have an ancestor from a particular part of Scotland then these local Journals are a useful source of information and of details of how to make contact to seek advice.

**The Manchester Genealogist:** the quarterly Journal issued by the Society to members is archived on the website back to the first issue in 1964, and the contents now fully digitised and searchable by topic and author. Whilst full of useful family history information and research, readers will be aware that our own Anglo Scottish Branch has a section where we address topics and issues relevant to us. Since the articles composed by past members deal with historical events many of them remain pertinent today as background material for any family history research. To access this resource members simply log in to the “Welcome” page then scroll down to the Manchester Genealogist option and click on “Archive”. By the way, we are always looking for material for the Journal so please consider some of the research that you have carried out, successfully or otherwise, on your family history and share it with us. It doesn't have to be a huge article. A paragraph of information will do.



The invitation then is for maximum use to be made of the Society website. As the caption says, it is full of 2.8 million records unique to the Society. If you cannot find something you are looking for, then please ask via the Society office ([office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)) or via the Society Forum which is populated by members like you who have acquired some expertise and are willing to help out and share.

## 1921 Census Project



We are now only a few months off the release of the 1921 Census. It is being digitised by *FindMyPast* and, hopefully, will be released early in 2022. Apart from allowing us to fill in some gaps in our research it will indicate some of the family consequences of the 1st World War. For those of us with a Scottish connection we shall have to wait a bit longer, the Scottish Government having not yet indicated when the Scottish census will be released. That aside, if you have been keeping an eye on the Society website you will have found a fantastic array of videos, podcasts and Blog articles ([click here](#)) that bring to life what was going on in the country in 1921. Do have a look because you may pick up a few hints as you prepare for the census release.



One of the major events that occurred in 1921, reflecting to ongoing relationship between the United Kingdom and Ireland, was the signing of the **Anglo Irish Treaty on the 6th December 1921**. To mark the centenary of this event the Society has arranged a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, 8th September at 1900 hours GMT**. The talk will be given by Dr. Eamon Pheonix, a prominent Irish historian. For more information about the event and to reserve a place, go to the Society web page and book through **Eventbrite** ([click here](#)) The talk is free from members. £3 for non-members.

### MLFHS Branch Activities:

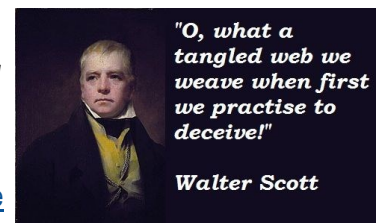
**Manchester:** "The Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921" Wednesday, 8th September 1900 hours GMT

**Bolton:** "Researching Illegitimate Ancestors" Wednesday, 1st September 1930 hours GMT

**Oldham:** "A History of the Co-operative Movement" Saturday, 11th September 1400 hours GMT

All meetings are via Zoom and registration can be done via **Eventbrite** on the web site where you can also access all the treasures that the Branches have to offer.

**Sir Walter Scott:** now don't say you are not introduced to culture in this newsletter! The 15th August was the 250th anniversary of the birth of Walter Scott and to mark it *The National Library of Scotland* uploaded and made available [the following video](#). I must admit that I did not realise that the famous quote about tangled webs was conceived by Walter Scott, but indeed it was in his epic poem "Marmion" which, for those of you so inclined, can be [read here](#) via the good services of the Gutenberg web site.



### Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

**Saturday, September 18th, 1400 hours GMT via Zoom**

**"Buckled for Life"**

**A review of Scottish marriage customs by Chris Paton.**

We have all heard of some of the marriage customs in Scotland that proved attractive to couples from various corners of the land who wanted to make use of the comparative liberal requirements. Chris Paton is well known to the Branch and to the Family History circuit generally and has a great knowledge the subject. So, whether it is new to you or you would like to brush up on the marriage customs, now is your chance.

The presentation will be delivered by Chris via Zoom. Registration is crucial via **Eventbrite** and as usual, attendance is free for members and £3 for non-members.

Please reserve your place early ([click here](#)) and you will be sent log-in details by our chairman close to the date.

