



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the February edition of the newsletter. This was the first occasion of our new Branch Meeting day, the 1st rather than the 3rd Saturday of each month and the number of attendees for the meeting, 55 in total, is an indication that the change did not cause too much disruption. Given the popularity of the topic we were able to welcome again members from Canada and the US. Great to see you. We did have one person booked in from Australia until he realised the time differences meant he would have to be up in the early morning hours and so, sensibly, withdrew.

The main topic of our meeting was the second in our three-part exploration of the Kirk Session Records and we were fortunate to have this session led by Emma Maxwell. Many of us know Emma and her husband Graham through their family history web site, [Scottish Indexes](#) (click to access) and also the monthly conferences that they have been organising via Zoom during this period of pandemic for which all involved in Scottish Family History research.

As usual we point out some resources that you might find useful in your research. In particular (for those living close enough for it to matter) we draw your attention to the Family and Local History Fair that the Society has organised. We hope that you can join us. Enjoy. Editor.

### Kirk Session Records: a detailed exploration with Emma Maxwell

Emma was good enough to allow us to record her presentation and to make it available on the member pages of the Society web site, so if you missed it, would like to refresh your experience, or, if you live in Australia/New Zealand, it is available to you for the next 30 days.



Emma began the talk by giving a general background to the Kirk Session Records and the purpose they served in terms of poor relief, providing education and monitoring behaviour. Although probably familiar to most this context is important to understanding who created the records and why, essential elements in family history research. However, given the availability of the presentation, I share with you a couple of the highlights that peaked my attention.

- Why are some parish baptisms and marriages not in the Kirk Session Records? For smaller parishes the parish clerk probably had only one record book and recorded everything in this so that baptisms and marriages as well as jurisdictional matters were all lumped in with parish accounts and miscellaneous topics. For this reason finding these parish records via the National Records of Scotland archive is essential and requires just ploughing through them.
- Parish clerks moved parish. It is understood that the property that was the Kirk Session Record belonged to the parish clerk and if and when they moved they often took the records with them. Consequently the Session Records of one parish could be contained in the Session Records of another parish. To find them, rather than "follow the money" you should "follow the Parish Clerk".
- Census records. Whilst the main census records used by family history researchers begin in 1841, the first census was taken in 1801. Whilst limited, the details of these census - who arrived in the parish and who left etc. - are sometimes contained in the Kirk Session Records for those years. Worth a look.

## Kirk Session Records (cont.)

- Kirk Session Records can be used to solve identity of father: we have all come across the situation of a birth certificate with no father indicated. Certainly in my case I have assumed that identifying the father would be impossible. Yet here we have a solution by making use of the Kirk Session Records since, armed with the date of birth, the Session Records for that particular parish could be checked to see if the mother appeared before the elders by way of a reprimand or, indeed, to seek poor relief. In either case, the name of the father would be sought, and likely, given.

This was a great session enjoyed by everyone. If you were not able to attend for whatever reason, remember the presentation is available for members on the Society web site but for a limited time. Just to remind you how to find it;

1. Log in to the Society web site as a member.
2. On the "Welcome" page, scroll down to "Speaker's Notes and Videos".
3. Select "Anglo Scottish" then choose
4. "Anglo-Scottish Meeting Videos (Members Only)"

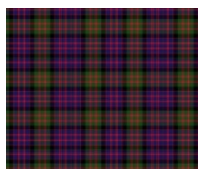
There are a number of videos there and Emma's is the first. The video will be removed around the 5th March, so have a look at it - or even another look at it - as soon as you can.

There is of course also the presentation **handout** prepared by Emma and available to members. To get a copy, log in as above and follow the same process until step 3, then choose "Anglo-Scottish Meeting Reports"

**1921 Census:** on the subject of videos available to members. You may recall that the Society arranged for a presentation of the 1921 Census by Myko Clelland of *FindMyPast*. This was so popular that two sessions had to be arranged and both were fully booked. If you were not able to get a place on either presentation, or would like a "refresher" then a recording of the talk is available on the Society web site. This is available to members only and to be found on the "Welcome" page. It is the first item and headed "Meeting with Myko Clelland". Again the availability of this presentation has to be time limited and will be removed on the 18th March.



**Clan Donald Family Tree:** our reader in Fort William sent us this cutting from the local paper detailing work that



has been done by the Glencoe Folk Museum in digitising the Clan Donald family tree. Given my own pedigree I should approach this achievement with some humility given that the Campbells tried to obliterate the Glencoe sept of the Clan. Today however we can only rejoice that the work is done and can be viewed here <https://glencoe-museum.com/klan-donald>

CATALOG FOR YOU MORE ▾

The Oban Times  
3 Feb 2022

# Glencoe museum digitises Clan Donald family tree

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@lochabernews.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@lochabernews.co.uk)

## Genealogical chart will be available online for anyone to see

A significant piece of Scottish history is now accessible online for the first time, thanks to a grant from the Institute of Conservation, supported by the Radcliffe Trust.

Glencoe Folk Museum was thrilled to be successful in obtaining funding to digitise its Clan Donald Genealogical Chart last year.

Compiled in 1814 by John Brown, the chart records the descent of various branches of Clan Donald – as well as the line of the Kings of Scotland – from the 10th century onwards.

It is beautifully illustrated and features well-known names such as Robert the Bruce, Flora MacDonald and Alexander 'MacIain' MacDonald, the 12th Chief of Glencoe, who was murdered during the infamous Massacre of Glencoe in 1692.

It is a rare object, with only a few known to exist.

The chart was damaged by smoke



Far left: Photographer Jim Dunn taking high quality photographs which captured the tiny writing and intricate details of the chart. Left: Paper conservator Richard Aitken inspects the previous restoration work.

the museum's website, where viewers can zoom in on smaller details, read names and study information.

Up until recently, the chart was only accessible to those visiting the museum; now it can be viewed online from anywhere in the world.

Museum curator Catriona Davidson explained: "The restrictions on physical visits to the museum caused by Covid and the resultant lockdowns made us realise that we needed to make some of our collections accessible remotely.

"The chart is such a valuable piece of Scottish history, both for academic and personal research, and we are so excited to have finally made this beautiful object available online."

The digitised chart can be viewed on the museum website at [www.glencoe-museum.com/klan-donald](http://www.glencoe-museum.com/klan-donald) or can be seen in person when the museum reopens for the season in April.

and water in 1984 when an arsonist set fire to the museum's heather-thatched roof, but was later restored thanks to a grant from the Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust.

As part of this recent project, Glencoe Folk Museum enlisted paper conservator Richard Aitken to inspect the previous restoration work, assess the chart's current condition

and make recommendations for the future. He also assisted with handling the large document and reframing it appropriately once the photographs had been taken.

Photographer Jim Dunn took high quality photographs which captured the tiny writing and intricate details of the chart.

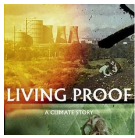
Each section was uploaded onto

**Scotland's Census:** No, not that one I'm afraid. We have still no information as to when Scotland will release the 1921 census data, but the National Records of Scotland have this site that details the plans and purpose of the 2021 census that the Scottish Government decided to postpone until 2022 because of the covid situation. The process will begin on the 28th February with the census being carried out on Sunday, 20th March. Details of it and much more information can be found [here](#).



On the more general topic of the Scottish census' there is an interesting and informative section of the NRS that gives the history of the census and some of the more interesting facts that emerged from them. [\(Click here\)](#)

Remember too that whilst there will be no 1931 Census for England and Wales, the 1931 Scottish Census did survive, being as it was, stored in Edinburgh, and will be released - who knows given the delay in the 1921 census - but we live, as always, in hope and expectation.



**Living Proof:** this is a recommend about a film that I came across advertised on the National Library of Scotland web site. The picture on the left is the poster advertising the film. It is subtitled, "**A Climate Story**", a rather deceptive title although, I suppose, taken as a whole, it is a story of the development of climate change in Scotland, but it is much more than that. Possibly coming to it from a family/social history standpoint I saw the film as an exploration of the changes in the lives of Scottish people following various developments after the wars. According to the NLS web site, "Living Proof" *"is a new touring film that explores our historic relationship to the causes of the climate crisis. It invites viewers to revisit the promises of the past and consider how they relate to our future on this planet."* In "visiting the promises of the past" there is some fantastic film depicting life in some areas of Scotland that is certainly worth viewing.

It is indeed a film that has toured Scotland but there is the opportunity to watch it online using the Screen Argyll web site [\(click here\)](#) Using this resource, you are in fact "renting" the film, but it is free. Just click on one of the posters and this will take you to a screen where you have to enter some details, like email address. Once registered you are able to watch the film at your leisure, which is just as well given it is an hour and a half long. Worth watching though.

**Exchange Journals:** don't forget to visit the Exchange Journal option on the Society web site. Remember, you access it from the "Welcome" page when you log in. Caithness and Orkney have added recent editions to their site. Have a look in particular to the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) newsletter which gives details of the annual conference to be held in April.

**Anglo Scottish Society Branch Meeting**  
**Saturday, 5th March, 2.00 p.m.**  
**Banking Records In Scotland - Sian Yates**



Sian Yates is the archivist for the Museum on the Mound and her presentation will centre on the banking records that exist for Lloyds Bank.

We use banks all the time but can sometimes forget that Banks too have a history and often that history reflects social history and the way our ancestors managed what resources they had. How much that might be the case and its relevance for us as family historians, we shall just have to "save" our curiosity and our "interest".



For the moment our meetings continue via Zoom and as usual, reserving a place and meeting up with the rest of us has to be done through [Eventbrite](#). [\(click here\)](#)

The Zoom invitation will be sent to those who have booked at 6.00 am on Friday 4th March. If you do not receive your invitation at that time please contact [angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk)



**Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society**

**SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH 2022**

Manchester Central Library 10.00am - 4.00pm

Showcasing the wealth of expertise available to family and local historians within the Cities of Salford and Manchester and the boroughs of Trafford and Tameside.

**Film - Archives - Displays**

Talk to the people who preserve our records, transcribe lists, look after our heritage, our buildings, canals, and cemeteries, who curate personal stories and oral histories. Ask the experts from your area of research, join their societies, become volunteers and get as much out of your family or local history interests as you wish.

Manchester  
Military History  
Society

Archives+  
Manchester  
Central Library

MLFHS  
Manchester  
Ancestors

Salford  
Cemeteries  
Trust

GMP Fraud  
and Scam  
Prevention

Greater  
Manchester  
Police Museum

Anglo Scottish  
Family History  
Society

Oldham &  
District Family  
History Society

Bolton Family  
History  
Society

Manchester,  
Bolton & Bury  
Canal Society

Victoria  
Baths

North West  
Film Archive

Salford u3a  
Local History

Family History  
Society of  
Cheshire

Tameside  
Local & Family  
History

