



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the May edition of the newsletter. Trust that you are all keeping safe and well.

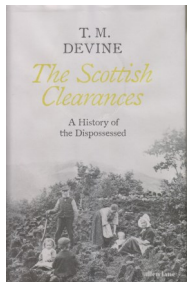
Within this very curious time in which we are living there has been much to celebrate and rejoice over and we are grateful for that. Once again we attempt to offer you some resources and information that can help you in your research. Whilst by the nature of our Branch our reach is international with readers in Australia, New Zealand, United States and Canada, our offerings aim to help all readers focus on our common roots in Scotland. Some of you may be aware of these resources, but others may not and it is good to disseminate them.

I hope that you managed to have a go at the crossword last month. The solution is at the end of this newsletter.

*There's always hope*



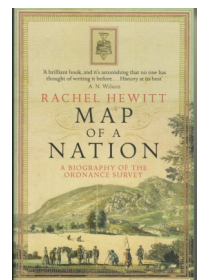
**Matters Literary:** in last month's newsletter we let you know of a web site that offered free books. Hopefully you found something there that interested you. It led me to think it might be an idea to share some of the books that I have taken down from the shelf and reread during this period of lockdown. Reading historical works allows us to understand the context in which our ancestors lived and to influence the decisions that they made. These are works that have helped me explore and understand the issues surrounding family history research.



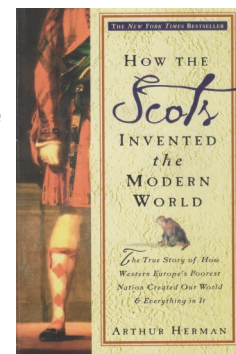
**"The Scottish Clearances"** by Tom Devine. Not a riveting read, more an academic work, but puts our knowledge of "the clearances" into a very different context. We have all absorbed the mythic view of the highland clearances marked by cruelty and indifference. Whilst acknowledging that this certainly happened, Tom Devine presents a more nuanced view of events, for example that many left the highlands by choice following the collapse of income sources and, in particular, the potato famine between 1845 and 1852. He also does an interesting contrast between the clearances in the Scottish Borders and the clearances in the Highlands. Similar forces certainly led to clearances in

the Borders (something I did not appreciate) that brought about the clearances in the Highlands, but the reaction and consequences of these was quite different. Well worth a read to get a fuller picture and appreciation of events that may well have led to some of our own ancestors moving out of Scotland.

**"Map of a Nation"** by Rachel Hewitt. I have shared several times my love of maps and so I was immediately attracted to this marvellous book about the development of the Ordnance Survey. It is a unique service of which this country can be truly proud. Its roots as we all know lie in the aftermath of the 1745 rebellion when the British troops realised that they had little geographical knowledge of Scotland and none at all of the Highland region. Sadly then the Ordnance Survey arose out of the need to control. This book however not only addresses the birth of the Ordnance Survey but takes us through the development of the mapping of the United Kingdom and Ireland. As the author says, "the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion vividly revealed the lack of, and need for, a complete and accurate map of the whole island of Britain." The task of carrying out this survey fell to two Scots, David Watson, born in Edinburgh, and William Roy, born in Lanarkshire. How they went about this task is the subject of the book and to be greatly recommended.



**“How the Scots invented the Modern World”** by Arthur Herman. Herman is an American who admits to having no Scottish roots which in some way makes his claims all the more laudable. It is a book published in 2001 and which I have had on my shelf for some time. What prompted me to get it was that, despite my Scottish leanings, this title just sounded so pretentious that I just had to have a look at it. It is in fact a very interesting work that claims that many of the principles that underpin modern western society are drawn from the very character of Scots. He maintains that theirs is the very nature and character rooted in the philosophy of “common sense” that gave birth to the democratic capitalist system that underpins western society. If you are interested in knowing a bit more but don’t want to buy the book there is a video lecture given by Arthur Herman ([click here](#)) to the St Andrew’s Society of Washington where he talks about the book and covers all the main points.



Have you been delving into books that you enjoy and could recommend to us? Why not let us know and we will pass it on through this newsletter. It doesn’t have to be family history related directly. Remember that any social, economic or broadly historic work informs our better understanding of the world that our ancestors lived in. So, go on, send us an email to: [angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk)

**British History Online:** are offering free access to all of their records until the 31st July.

Their home page can be found ([here](#)). The site is fairly simple to navigate and contains an enormous body of work. Again great for adding historical depth to our family research but it also includes a section of maps - always a great weakness for me. The site has a very useful search facility where you simply insert what you are looking for and they call up anything relevant. Well worth a look - but before the end of July if you want to test it out.



**Carney Heritage Productions:** yet another company offering free access to their resources during this period of lockdown. Whilst no doubt a kind offer it is not an easy offer to take up since the company maintain quite firm control. Going to their web site ([here](#)) brings up access to their digital index of films. However to view the film you have to email them with a request and they then upload the film onto their *You Tube* channel where you can view it for free. It does mean that they then have your email details - for future advertising perhaps? Anyway, if you do not mind this, they do indeed have a rich resource and you might want to explore it.



**Scottish Local History Forum:** this was a new site brought to my attention that you might want to have a look at. ([click here](#)) The home page is fairly self explanatory about what the Forum is about but it also gives access to their newsletter “Clish-Clash” and all the back issues as well. The latest issue of “Clish-Clash” was produced during this time of isolation and encourages us to start writing our own local history. That aside, the newsletter looks great for letting you know what is going on, or due to go on, in areas throughout Scotland. Worth a look.

**National Library of Scotland newsletter:** I cannot recommend enough the May edition of the NLS Newsletter ([click here](#)). There are fantastic stories for children to listen to, there are puzzles and crafts to occupy the time. For me though the best feature is news about further inroads they have made



into the world of maps. They entitle it **“Touring Scotland with early 20th century maps”**. Despite the title there are some mid 19th century maps, but most indeed concern the early 1900’s. The maps are very detailed. I had a look at the Glasgow City maps in the mid-1800’s and if you are familiar with Glasgow at all they will be enlightening.

**Latest additions to Exchange Journals:** we like to remind you of this resource that is available to all members of the Society by logging into the Society web page. Whilst many Family History Societies have put a hold on producing a Journal in these times, the following have come to us;

Dumfries and Galloway  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Aberdeen and NW Scotland.

**Scottish Records Association:** the latest edition of the SRA newsletter "Retour" is available to read. ([click here](#)) It confirms the cancelation of the Declaration of Arbroath exhibition that was to be held in Edinburgh (why not Arbroath?) although they hope to put it on later in the year or early next. I enjoy this newsletter because it always has an unusual item in it that intrigues me. It is similar to the occasion I was in W H Smith's and on a spur bought a Railway Magazine. I have no interest at all in railways apart from travelling on them but I know that lots of people do have this hobby and wanted to know what the draw was. The magazine did not help!! Anyway the article in Retour that falls into this category is "The American Roller Rink Craze in Scotland 1908 - 1911". Now you have to read that don't you?



**Millions of U.S. Yearbook Records Now Free and in Colour on "MyHeritage"!**  
I was sent this by the MyHeritage web site. It is an offer that ends on the 23rd May, so you will have to hurry. Of little use to us in the UK I suppose but we do have readers in the States who might be interested. I sent the notification to my wife's cousins in Massachusetts and they were interested to see if they were included. ([Click here](#))

### The Preparation of Records for Deceased Online

I was sent this information from the Deceased Online database and found it interesting so thought I would share it. ([click here](#)) It not only explains the background to the project but also gives details about how they go about conserving the records that they find. Many of you will be familiar with the site itself and how useful it can be in tracking down elusive ancestors.

### Family History Crossword Solution

Across	Down.
4. Bolton	1. Ancestry
5. Discovery	2+9. Brick Walls
10. Arbroath	3. Chris Paton
12. Ever to Excel	6. Walter
13+31. Border Reiver	7. Niece
15. Scotlands People	8. Manchester Genealogist
18. PRONI	11. Bridgescapes
19. Killiecrankie	14. Family Tree Maker
22. Dundee	16. Spider
23. Glazebury	17. Stewart
24. The Gardeners Arms	20. Oldham
25. Heirlooms	21. Anglo Scots
27. Lancashire	26. White
28+32. Northern Lights	30. Eigg
29. Perth	

**VE Day:** at home, and indeed around the world, we have all been remembering VE Day - the day war ended in Europe in May 1945. Within the rejoicing we remembered those men and women who fought for us. Some did not return and some returned to a life that could never be the same. Thinking of this I was reminded of the poem by **Robert Burns** "The Sodger's Return", the last verse of which goes;



*For gold the merchant ploughs the main,  
The farmer ploughs the manor;  
But glory is the sodger's prize;  
The sodger's wealth is honour;  
The brave poor sodger ne'er despise,  
Nor count him as a stranger;  
Remember he's his Country's stay  
In day and hour o' danger.*