



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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**Welcome:** to another edition of our Newsletter. We notice from our distribution site that we have an international readership with readers in Canada, the United States, Australia and France. Welcome all. Given our main topic at the Branch meeting held on the 17th September and so our main Newsletter feature this month, you may be able to help us with some information. The theme of the meeting was "Ancestral Breakthroughs" but with a particular focus on emigration. Perhaps you have some stories of escapades of your own ancestors that you can share with us. As usual however we include in the Newsletter several indications of resources that we have come across that might be new to you, and important in your research. Enjoy.

The Editor.

### Ancestral Breakthroughs— Maritime sources.

At the Branch meeting on Saturday, 17th September, the topic was "Ancestral Breakthroughs" focusing particularly on maritime resources available to aide research. The group was guided by David Muil, who has an extensive knowledge of the topic. David pointed out that people were emigrating from Scotland in large numbers from the mid-18th century. Some of the causes were military, with many Scots joining the British forces after the '45 Rebellion and serving overseas, particularly in America and Canada. Some were indeed convict transportations, but the great majority were just people seeking a new life in new countries. Whilst some of these were as a result of forced Highland clearances, there were others who responded to offers of assistance to journey to new lands with the promise of land and employment. Reference was made to the Highland and Island Emigration Society (HIES) that was established to assist passage and resettlement to those who wanted to emigrate. This has its own webpage and can be accessed here. ([HIES](http://www.hies.org.uk)) The main reason given for exodus was frequently and simply "bread", but other reasons such as religion were also motives. Surprisingly, it was pointed out, that in the early part of the 20th century (1904-1913) more people emigrated from Scotland than from Ireland and Norway.



David Muil

Interest was expressed about the ports of departure for all of these emigrants. It was pointed out that, given the period of interest, almost anywhere where a ship could dock was available, and used, to transport people. Obvious places such as Glasgow, Dundee, Galloway and Leith were highlighted, but also less well known places such as Cromarty, South Uist and Loch Loxford. It is also known that the Hudson Bay Company recruited many of its workers from Orkney and sheep farmers recruited shepherds for destinations as far away as Patagonia.

For those seeking resources to trace ancestors who may have emigrated, David proposed looking at ship's passenger lists, in early days referred to as "ship's manifests". These early manifests were captain's records of arrivals at the port of destination when any passengers were considered "cargo". David produced a very useful two-page handout listing various sources and websites for research. This also listed sites for researching crew lists, wills and written sources. **If anyone would like a copy of David's handout e-mail us and we will send you a copy.** ([anglo-scots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:anglo-scots@mlfhs.org.uk))

Whilst passenger lists and crew lists may be the first port of call (excuse the pun!) David emphasised that there are other sources not to be ignored such as newspapers both at home and abroad. These frequently listed the ships departing and arriving and this is a clue to the name of the ship. Newspapers also often carried copies of letters sent by individuals who had emigrated and had written to "folks back home" assuring them of a safe arrival.

Altogether an informative session helped by the input of members who were able to relate their own experiences and confirm much of what David was telling us.



## Additions to the Anglo Scots Website ([www.anglos Scots@mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.anglos Scots@mlfhs.org.uk))

In the last edition of *e-Scotia* we drew attention to the development of the **Scottish Marriage Index**. Now further sources have been added to the Anglo Scots webpage and we encourage you to have a look at them. They can be located in the Scottish Document Collection in the Members area of the MLFHS website. ([www.mlfhs.gov.uk](http://www.mlfhs.gov.uk))

**Scots Baptisms at St Paul's Church, Wigan (1809—1836):** In the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries there is evidence of a number of Scots, particularly, but not entirely, from the Scottish Borders, moving down to the Wigan area. It is possible that they were recruited to work on the estate (coal mining and iron works) of the Earl of Balcarres who occupied Haigh Hall near Wigan. Balcarres in Fife was and is the Earl's Scottish family seat although he had properties also in the Borders. At Haigh Hall near Wigan he assumed his English title of Earl of Crawford. Being Presbyterian by affiliation, many of the Scots chose to worship at St Paul's, Wigan, designated an "Independent" Chapel and which stood in Standishgate in Wigan. One of the ministers of the Chapel was one Alexander Steill. He was born in Portsmouth but, being of the Calvinistic tradition, moved to St Paul's, Wigan, to minister to those he considered required his services. Historical notes indicate that around 1796 several members of this congregation left the Chapel "taking exception to the hyper-Calvinism of the minister, Alexander Steill". As is evident from the baptismal records, the Scots were not amongst those who took such exception. If you live in the Wigan area, or had ancestors from the Borders, have a look. The information is already available in the "Scottish Emigrants" document also in the Scottish Document Collection, but this is a vast collection of names and I have extracted these baptismal details from the original documents for simplicity in searching.

**Paisley's Electoral Roll 1847:** this list was recently rediscovered in a "Manchester Genealogist" magazine from 1997. The information contained therein is considered too useful to be shut away on a shelf and so John Marsden extracted it and has placed it on the Anglo Scots web page. If your family hailed from the Paisley area, have a look. The list contains names and addresses of 1,050 people. You might find some family members amongst them!

## Information from *ScotlandsPlaces* website: ([www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk))

The following is an announcement on the **ScotlandsPlaces** webpage which is good news for us all.

*"From 4 October 2016, all resources on ScotlandsPlaces will be available free of charge. New subscriptions are no longer available to purchase from now until then. If you have an existing subscription, this will allow you access until then."*

If you have any enquiries of them regarding this, there is an enquiry form on the site under the heading of Subscriptions.

**Ancestry:** have just put onto their website the Electoral Registers for Glasgow covering the period 1857-1962. The following is an extract from the librarian in the Special Collections department of The Mitchell Library in Glasgow:

*"Searching [Glasgow's Electoral Registers](#) just got a whole lot easier. Over 100 years of electoral registers (or voters rolls) from the Mitchell Library's extensive family history collection have been digitised and made available on Ancestry. The inclusion of the registers from 1857 to 1962 will make a huge difference in terms of undertaking both local history and family history-related research. Previously, we were only able to search through our holdings of printed registers by using the street indices – it was not enough just to know a person's name, but it was necessary to know what street or what ward they lived in before you could find them. Now, the digitised records will give us yet another tool in our kit with which to assist the public in their research. Being able to search by name alone, means that you can use the digitised registers for the sheer pleasure of people-spotting! ."*

Unfortunately it is a pay-per-view site. But for those fortunate enough to have a local library access, then it should be available. To access the site you have to click the "Search" button along the top of the page, then the "Card Catalogue" option. In the box marked "Keywords" enter *Glasgow Electoral Registers*. You will then have access to the site. Good luck and enjoy.

**Other useful sites:** Two other web sites were brought to our attention that you may find useful:

**Ross and Cromerty Roots:** ([rosscromertyroots.co.uk](http://rosscromertyroots.co.uk)) this is a website set up by Roddie McPherson who, with a team of volunteers, has visited and photographed all of the cemeteries in the county including all of the monuments and their inscriptions. It is a vast site and very useful if you have any ancestor from that area. He has also carried out the same survey in Skye and this is accessible on the same web site.

**Irish Free Website:** for those of you with Irish ancestors you may already know about this site ([www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)) It has been up and running for some time, but now it is free. It is a site set up by the Government of Southern Ireland and allows for the searching of births, marriages and deaths of the General Register Office. The better news is that, where available, you are able to download and print off copies of the certificates. Well worth a look.

**Has anything changed—really?** Found myself in the library the other day reading through some articles referring to the Jacobite Rebellion. I was really looking for material about the Jacobite Army passing through Manchester, but in "The Manchester Magazine" dated Tuesday, December 17th 1745, I came across the following report. By this date the Jacobite Army was of course in retreat and this report relates to a period when they were in and around Perth and heading north to the fateful encounter at Culloden. The report quotes from a letter written by someone, evidently not a supporter of the Rebellion, living in Angus to a friend living in Manchester. Being as I am from Dundee gave it an added interest. It gives another perspective on the '45 Rebellion and it prompted me to consider the atrocities committed against civilians in all wars. When reading this remember that what look like the letter "f" reads as "s".

*Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of undoubted Credit  
in Angus Shire to his Friend in this City.*

‘ Perth, Dundee, and the Country around, are one  
‘ Scene of Horror and Oppression; Robberies are perpe-  
‘ tual, and many of them in open Day, in the publick  
‘ Streets, in the Sight of all Men, and of their own  
‘ Officers. In Strathmore they have attacked many of the  
‘ Clergy, and robb’d them, with great Insults, of confi-  
‘ derable Sums.

‘ In a late Rejoicing at Dundee, for a French Land-  
‘ ing at Montrose, it was proclaimed that every House  
‘ should testify their Joy by illuminating their Windows,  
‘ or be subject to a Fine of 20l. Scots, a notable Way of  
‘ pointing out to the Highland Executioners, the Families  
‘ who would not rejoice on this Event. The Presbyterian  
‘ Ministers, it seems, could not on that Occasion tempo-  
‘ rize with them: The Effect was like to be unhappy,  
‘ their Windows were broke, and at last they fired sharp  
‘ Shot into their Houses.

‘ In short, our Case grows worse and worse. The In-  
‘ stances of Oppression are so multiplied, that People grow  
‘ weary of complaining, or of even repeating the Particu-  
‘ lars, the least of which under King George’s Govern-  
‘ ment, and by his Soldiers, would fill City and Country  
‘ with Noise for many Days; and if an End is not soon put  
‘ to these Distresses, the Calamity, through Loss of Trade,  
‘ Robbery and Bloodshed, will ruin us altogether.’

It is these little details that give us a different insight into the course of the rebellion and how it was received and experienced by some of the ordinary people in Scotland. Speaking of little details, in the same magazine I also came across the following two advertisements that must have arisen out of action taken by locals in Lancashire against the retreating Highlanders in marked contrast to how the Highland army was treated as it marched south only a few weeks previously.

*Taken at Preston, a black Mare about 14 Hands high, between three and four years old, two white feet behind and the fore foot before white, with a little white in the face. Whoever owns the said Mare may repair to Thomas Anderton of Hindley, in Lancashire, where they may have her again, on paying all charges.*

*Whereas a young Galloway, between three and five years old, was lately taken from one of the Rebels. Whoever can prove his property in him may receive some further information from Mr Richard Hill in Church Lane, Rochdale.*



## October Branch Meeting—THE LORD LYON—KING OF ARMS OF SCOTLAND



The next Branch meeting in October, (Saturday, 15th October) we will have a visit from Dr John Morrow, the Lord Lyon—King of Arms of Scotland. He will be talking with us about his role and the history of the Office of the Lord Lyon.

It is anticipated that this will be a well-attended meeting. It is important therefore that if you intend to come that you book your place well in advance. You can do this through the Eventbrite site on the MLFHS web page. <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk> Admission is free for members.

If you are new to the *e-Scotia Newsletter* and would like to receive a copy regularly then why not register for one. It is simple to do. Go to the Anglo Scots web site, <http://www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk>. The Newsletter tab is on the menu bar. Click this and you will have access to current and back numbers of the Newsletter. If you want to receive a copy of the Newsletter each month then register using the form on that page. This submits your e-mail address to our main office and will include you amongst the many other recipients of the Newsletter. In the alert letter that will be sent to you each month there is the facility for you to de-register at any time.



### Search Tip

We have included this before, but some tips are always worth repeating. For those of you with access to Ancestry (there are other search sites available!!) try this quick way to access their Scottish resources. Instead of going into the Ancestry site in the usual way, "Google" "**Ancestry Scotland**". In the selection offered choose, **Scotland Genealogy & Scotland Family History Resource—Ancestry**. This takes you into the Ancestry site, but focusing upon all their Scottish resources including the ability to narrow your search by County. Enjoy

**November Branch Meeting.** Just some forward notice of our Branch Meeting in November (Saturday, 19th November) This meeting is designated a "Workshop", so we have asked the MLFHS Chairman, John Marsden, to lead a workshop on Military Records. John has a vast knowledge of military records and hopefully he can guide us towards Scottish Military Records as well as Military Records in general. If you have any ancestor who served in the military, and given the number of wars in the 19th and 20th century, most of us do, then perhaps you could bring along some of your research, be that a breakthrough that you had in finding an ancestor or a brick wall you have hit. It all helps us in our own research.