

e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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WELCOME: At our October branch meeting our guest speaker was Dr John Morrow, the Lord Lyon— King of Arms of Scotland and his visit and talk make the main topic for our newsletter this month. I include an article about “The Mars” training ship that was moored in the River Tay at Dundee. Well I did warn you that I would bore you with information about Dundee if no one sent research tips for your area of research. Also some more hints and tips regarding some new resources put online. Enjoy.

The Editor

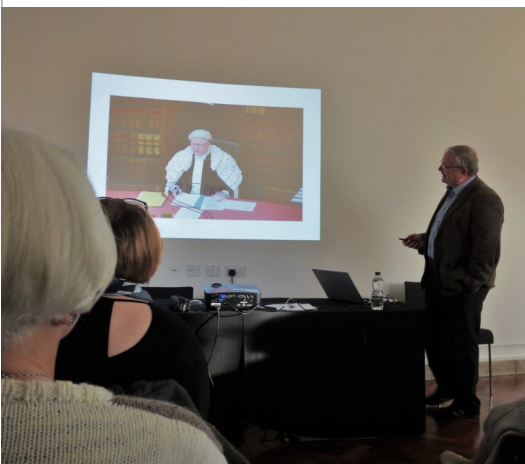
Visit of The Lord Lyon—King of Arms of Scotland:

At our Branch meeting this month we were honoured with a visit by Dr Joseph Morrow, the Lord Lyon, who spoke with us about Heraldry, its history and function, and his role in overseeing this. The office of The Lord Lyon is a very ancient one, dating back to as far as 1313. It is a Crown appointment and part of the duties of the Lord Lyon is to oversee Royal ceremonial in Scotland. In early days the office holder was expected to be able to recite the genealogy of the monarch to 9 generations in order to bolster the claim to the throne. Heraldic Arms were crucial in years past as they identified the bearer, particularly in battle or in disputes. Hence Heraldic Arms are linked with family names, and to individuals within that family, usually the family head. Thus clans do not have a coat of arms. They are the arms of the clan chief personally and anyone of that clan can claim allegiance to that chief's coat of arms.



Dr Morrow with the Branch chairman, Michael Couper.

Heraldry is part of the law of Scotland and the role of the Lord Lyon includes presiding in the Court of the Lyon where any disputes and clarifications about the right to bear heraldic arms are resolved. For this reason the Lord Lyon has to be a barrister at law. (The current Lord Lyon also presides as a judge in the Scottish Courts.) The Court of the Lyon holds public records of heraldic arms that go back to the 16th century and these are open to the public by arrangement. The records prior to this were removed by Oliver Cromwell during his invasion of Scotland. In his talk, Dr Morrow illustrated several coats of arms and explained how much can be told about the holder from the content of the heraldic design. Obtaining a coat of arms is open to anyone with a Scottish link on application to the Court of the Lyon. Suggestions as to what the arms might contain are welcome but the ultimate design and content is the prerogative of the Lord Lyon.



Dr Morrow detailing part of his role as adjudicator at the Court of the Lord Lyon.

The question and answer session proved popular with some asking the procedure for designing and obtaining a coat of arms. Perhaps we should look out for a whole new series of armorials!!

THE MARS TRAINING SHIP—DUNDEE

HMS Mars was a Royal Navy warship launched at Chatham dockyard in 1848. By the time she was launched much of her technology was out of date. She did serve for a few years in the Mediterranean but she was eventually decommissioned in 1863 and marked for disposal. Around this time consideration was being given to establishing training ships for Royal Navy recruits. Simultaneously talks were going on in Dundee Council about the problem of abandoned and delinquent boys and what to do with them. The decommissioned HMS Mars; the idea of training ships for the Navy and Dundee's problem coalesced into the plan to sail HMS Mars to the River Tay at Dundee and to use her as a training vessel for unruly boys. She arrived at



Dundee in 1869 and continued in her role as a "Training Vessel" until the idea of such was abandoned in 1929. The "Mars" was a formidable presence in the River Tay, readily seen from the city, and the favourite threat of parents and others to unruly offspring was "We'll send ye tae the Mars".

My own interest in "The Mars" arose in part of my search for my grandfather, James Campbell. In 1901 he would have been 14 years old, and being unable to find him in the 1901 Scottish Census I started searching institutions. I found a James Campbell, of the right age, on "The Mars", but wanted to explore this more to ensure I had the right boy. Fortunately the admission and discharge records for HMS Mars are available and kept at the **Newport Library and Heritage Centre, Blythe Hall, Scott Street, Newport on Tay.** www.newportlibrary

When I visited Blyth Hall the staff were very helpful and produced all of the books in their search room. Unfortunately I did not find my grandfather (wrong James Campbell) but I did find a great-uncle, David Campbell. The admission books detail all family members and addresses, and so I was able to identify who "belonged" to me. David was sent to "The Mars" in 1893 by the Dundee Sheriff Court. His offence? "Wandering"!!!! He was aged 11yrs, was 4ft 2ins and was to remain on "The Mars" until he was 16 yrs. old. His mother had died in 1892 in childbirth and David, the second of four children, was possibly out of his father's control and taking to "wandering" the Dundee streets late at night.

If anyone is interested in the history of "The Mars" I can't do better than recommend the book produced by Gordon Douglas, entitled "We'll Send Ye Tae the Mars" with a subtitle "The story of Dundee's legendary training ship". It is a very informative book, full of stories and pictures. Although the ship was moored in the Tay the "trainees" came from many parts of Scotland, not just Dundee—although this was a rich source in itself. The ship was licensed to carry 400 boys at any one time and by the time the last boy was admitted in 1929, more than 6,500 boys had passed through the training programme. So if, like me, you can't find a male relative "under the age of fourteen years" (this being the maximum age for admission according to the Industrial Schools Act, although they could be retained until aged 16 yrs.) between the years 1869—1929 then consider having a look at "The Mars" admission and discharge books. When I contacted staff at the Newport Heritage Centre they were prepared to do a search for me, but as I was going to be in Dundee anyway I decided to search for myself.

Steuarts of Steuarthall: We received the following e-mail from a reader in the USA;

"I am a direct descendant of the Steuarts of Steuarthall near Stirling, Scotland, and am interested in selling a large archive of family papers dating from 1511 to 1941. I'd like to let your members (especially the Anglo Scots Society) know about this and would like to know how best to do it. Your advice would be appreciated. Here is an address for our website to see more information about the archive: www.steuarthall.com. Thank you for your assistance. Bob Hower."

Have a look at the website. Some very interesting archives there. If you have any advice to offer to Mr Hower, then get in touch with him. I am sure, for example, that the National Library of Scotland would be interested in such an extensive archive.

Exchange Journals: can we remind you of the Exchange Journal site on the MLFHS webpage. There are journals sent to us from several Scottish Family History Societies including Caithness, Dumfries and Galloway, Lothian, Orkney, Highland and Central. There are also journals from international societies including Queensland, Australia, and New Zealand. The latest contribution is from Orkney and is their September issue. Lots of good articles in all of these journals that could help with your research, so have a look and see what you might find.

ScotlandsPeople: As we informed you in our August Newsletter, the **ScotlandsPeople** site has changed hands. Having shut down to enable various changes, it is now back up and running. The layout of the site is markedly different and will take a little bit of getting used to. The basic system remains the same with registration for the site being free and payment for access to census and statutory records by way of purchased credits. The good news is that access to the index of possible searches is free whereas previously this cost one credit. However downloading a census or certificate is increased from five to six credits. An example of give and take which does have benefits for researchers. The cost of credits is increased from £7 to £7.50p for 30 credits. Unfortunately the availability of discounted credits to family history societies has ceased. Previously the 30 credit card normally £7 was available to family history societies for £6. Whilst withdrawing this arrangement with family history societies the new company has indicated that it will honour any of the previous cards already purchased. The Branch still has a few £6 credit vouchers for members, so if you want one, get in touch. Entering the voucher code is now different. Earlier vouchers have a 15 digit hyphenated code. When entering the code using these cards it is necessary to input only the code prior to the hyphen and ignore the rest. Generally I like the new site. I think it is a bit more user friendly, but have a go yourself. **Remember, if you are stuck we are always contactable to help, and the monthly help desk at the Branch meetings is always available.**

Find My Past: have announced several new additions to their site that will be of interest to Scottish family history researchers.

Scotland Monumental Inscriptions Index: an index covering 209 burial grounds over 14 counties.

Scotland Deeds Index 1769: over 1,000 records of deeds registered at the Court of Session.

Scotland, Paternity Decrees 1750-1922 over 25,000 records listing paternity disputes heard at the Sherriff Court.

Scotland Pre-1841 Censuses and Population Lists over 3,500 records covering the period prior to the 1841 census.

Access these and other additions on the Find My Past website.

ScotlandsPlaces Records now free: As reported in last month's [e-Scotia](#) all resources on the ScotlandsPlaces website are now free. An e-mail received from one of our readers, Martin Briscoe, who hails from Fort William, (thanks for the news Martin) alerted us to this information in the "British Genes Blog". www.britishgenesblog Have a look at this site. It gives some useful information about the ScotlandsPlaces site and details, in a helpful list, all the records that are now free to view.

Scottish Catholic History: anyone interested in Scottish Catholic History, and who happens to be in Edinburgh later this month, might be interested to know that the Scottish Catholic History Association are holding their annual conference on Saturday, 29th October, at Lauriston Hall, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh. If you are interested and will be in the area, click here [conference](#) for more information and an application form.

Volunteers Required the Anglo Scots Branch is in need of some volunteers to help us. There are some specific tasks available. If you would like to know more then please e-mail us, or speak to one of the committee at the next Branch meeting.

Ancestral Breakthroughs—Maritime sources: our main feature in last month's *e-Scotia* was a talk by David Muil looking at Scottish emigration and the maritime ports from which they would have sailed. Part of the discussion that followed from David's talk focused upon some of the motives that prompted emigration. One query in particular prompted David to some further research, and he has sent the following article to the Newsletter:

Postscript to Emigration from Scotland

In the Q & A session that followed my talk in September, Isobel Muir highlighted religious persecution as a significant factor behind emigration by many Scots especially after the Napoleonic Wars. Although I knew this I did not list it when considering the causes of emigration, viewing the topic as too wide a subject to deal with in a fifteen minute talk. However, I am grateful to Isobel for raising the matter which prompted me to revisit the issue and I think it is worth relaying the results of my further enquiries.

- the failure of Jacobite risings in 1688, 1715 and 1745 caused many Highland Scots to emigrate to Canada in search of political and religious freedom
- for some decades after this, emigration was discouraged, though military activity during the American Revolutionary War, the war with France over possessions in America and later the Napoleonic Wars ensured that many Scots became acquainted with the lands of North America. As the Napoleonic Wars came to an end a surge of emigration took place from both Scotland and Ireland, prompted principally by economic factors but often with religious overtones
- more than 4.7 million Canadians now claim descent from Scottish parentage - 15% of the nation's total population in 2006 according to the Census of that year.
- in addition another 5 million Canadians claim descent from Scots-Irish lineage, a term only in use in North America. These are descendants from Lowland Scots and Northern English people via Ulster, and are generally referred to in the UK as Ulster Scots.

For those who wish to read further about this subject there are a wide range of authorities. However I found the following two sources, (both available on the Internet), assembled the key facts in an interesting way:

1. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Canadians
2. Loch Laxford to the Zorras - Sutherland Emigration to Upper Canada (Scottish Tradition XVIII 1993 - an article by Alexander M Ross, Professor Emeritus, Department of English, University of Guelph).

David Muil, (13008)



Our November Branch Meeting:

will be on **Saturday, 19th November**. The theme for this meeting will be Military Records, with particular focus on the 1st World War and will be led by the chairman of the MLFHS, John Marsden. John has an extensive knowledge of military history so it is a great opportunity to come along with any queries or issues that you have encountered in your own research and perhaps find a solution.

However, whilst John will be the main speaker it is hoped that those of you who have had some breakthroughs in your military history research—in whatever war— will be prepared to share these with us. The Military History session will begin at 2.00 p.m. but do remember that the Anglo Scots Help Desk is available on the 3rd floor of Central Library from 10.30 a.m.