



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: to 2017 and we wish you all the best for the coming year. Our programme of events for 2017 was published last month and I am sure you will agree that there are some interesting topics to be covered. There are also one or two speakers to be finalised and we will let you know about these as soon as we can. Our January meeting was our opportunity as a Branch to welcome those close enough to visit and to bid farewell to the Christmas season with our annual party. This was a shared table event and was well attended. A report and some photographs below. In this edition we draw attention to **The Manchester Genealogist** and to the work that has been, and continues to be, done to digitise the contents. Please remember that any comments that you have or suggestions for the newsletter are always welcome. Contact details are above. Enjoy. The Editor.

Anglo Scottish Branch Christmas Gathering

Awaiting arrivals



The January Branch gathering was our chance to celebrate Christmas together. It was a shared table event and perhaps it was not too surprising that a large selection of butter shortbread appeared—amongst the more savoury items of course.

The “celebration” was held in the chief librarian’s conference room at Central Library, a rather grand affair that suited our purpose completely. Around 19 members were able to attend, fewer than expected because of illness etc. Following a short business meeting the group moved on to try the quizzes prepared for us by our two stalwarts, Yvonne and Ina. Yvonne’s questions tested our knowledge of Scotland—always a threat given our claims to be anglo-scots. There were four sections with five questions in each. Prizes were given out, one to the one with the most correct answers (sadly not very high but higher than most) and one to the one with least. For those who are interested, I have attached the questions (together with the answers) to this newsletter so that you can have a go and test your own knowledge.



Ina asks her questions.

Ina was much more demanding in her set of questions. We all balked a bit when we learned that the first set was taken from the GCHQ IQ test. Nevertheless results were more promising so perhaps we ought to apply!!! Again prizes were allocated to both the highest and lowest amongst much banter.

Altogether a pleasant couple of hours spent sharing and catching up with a little business thrown in. Some new members joined us and it was good to have them. To those of you who called to say you couldn’t attend because of illness, we wish you well and hope to see you back soon.



Only the clearing up left to do.

Volunteers sought for transcribing:

Various organisations are looking for volunteers to act as transcribers, working from home, and we highlight two.

ScotlandsPlaces: The “**Transcribe ScotlandsPlaces**” project is encouraging members of the public to help create transcriptions of various resources in the website. These resources are images of historic archives which contain handwritten information about the people and places in Scottish history. We welcome you to take a look at the work that's been done by the various individuals taking part in the project. We also welcome you to register, join a group, and begin transcribing today.



Registering for “**Transcribe ScotlandsPlaces**” and giving between 1 and 2 hours per week of your time gives you free access to the entire site resources. If you are interested, have a look at their website here; www.scotlandsplaces

Familysearch: We are all familiar with this site and am sure we have all made great use of it over the years. Like everything else of course, such helpful information is only available because someone somewhere has given of their time to transcribe it. “Get Started with Indexing” is the latest call from Familysearch for volunteers to transcribe. They say; “Indexing is the process of entering information from historical records into an online, searchable database. In 2006, the call went out for volunteers to help in this unprecedented, global cause. And the online community responded. In fact, in just 10 years, over 1.2 million volunteers worldwide have joined the cause and continue to donate much needed time and talent to help index the world's historic genealogical records. Over the next few months we plan to publish accounts from various members of how they have been able to get involved in this massive contribution to conserving and preserving data recorded from times past, and making it accessible for us all even freely or by subscription”. If you are interested have a look at their site. Familysearch/transcribing



National Archives “Discovery”: the National Archives (in London that is not the Scottish Archives) have produced a you-tube presentation showing how to use their new search tool “DISCOVERY” It lasts just over an hour and is well worth a look. The introduction describes the presentation as a “webinar”, a new word for me but I get the gist being more familiar with seminars. Put it down to age!! The presentation deals with the value of “Discovery” in family history research and indicates the vast resources in the National Archives and how best to access them. [The link is here](#) Have a look.



Many of you will have received John Marsden's notification in the member's forum regarding new items that have been put onto the member's web page. Amongst the new additions is the digitising of the entire library of “**The Manchester Genealogist**” since it's inception in 1964. This is a vast collection and the earlier magazines are almost historical documents in themselves. However I was particularly interested in the Anglo Scottish input to the “Genealogist”. Whilst there are various articles scattered throughout the magazines from the outset, it isn't until the July 1983 **Genealogist** that the “Anglo Scottish FHS Section” in the magazine appears. In case anyone is interested, I append a copy of that first article at the back of the Newsletter but of course the original can be read on the MLFHS webpage. From 1983

onwards there are numerous very useful articles relating to Scottish research and, given that they refer to historical documents, they are not out of date and continue to be useful for reference. A cursory glance through the magazines indicates that amongst them is an article in the October 1991 magazine by Dr Ian Whyte with the title “*Invisible Immigrants*”. Another is an article in the January 1992 edition by Dr A. H. Smith entitled “*The North-west. A magnet for migrants 1750-1914*” Both articles give an excellent overview of the influences that fed the transition of Scots into England, and particularly, the North West. As background reading for understanding why our ancestors may have made the journey south, they are essential.

The digitised “Genealogist” is “searchable” but you have first of all to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader programme onto your computer. This is free. Once installed the Acrobat Reader option appears on the “Genealogist” and when you open the magazine with Acrobat, you are able to do a search.

October 2017 Branch Meeting: although some time into the future this year, we thought we would let you know that we have clarified and confirmed an interesting presentation at the October Branch meeting. It is a presentation by Dr Laura Stewart of York University on the topic of **"The Scottish Covenant"**. Although not directly related to family history, it is an important topic in that it considers an issue that would have been of crucial importance to our Scottish ancestors. It will be a very interesting topic so make sure you have the 21st October 2017 marked in your diary. We will be giving more information about the event closer to the



Wills and Testaments: striding the Scotland/England divide: at the last MLFHS quarterly meeting one of the presentations was about Wills and Testaments, and very illuminating it was too. However one of the questions put to the presenter at the end related to the issue of the validity of cross-border wills and testaments. Is a will made in England valid in Scotland and vice versa and what steps have to be taken to validate such a will? **"ScotlandsPeople"** have the following information on their website:



English probate recorded in Scotland

Probate or Letters of Administration are words for documents in English law relating to wills. In the registers of testaments they relate to Scottish people who died in England or British colonies abroad. If they left a will probate was granted by the English courts. If they died intestate letters of administration would be issued by the court for the appointment of executors. These documents occur mainly in the registers of Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Some are copied into the register, but others are merely noted as having a copy lodged with the court. These copies, starting in 1858, are in the records series of Copy

Probates Resealed in Edinburgh Sheriff Court (National Records of Scotland, SC70/6), which have also been digitised.

The words 'non-Scottish Court' in the Court column of the results show that a copy probate exists for that person.

Perhaps there is one of our readers in Scotland (or anywhere else for that matter) who has experience of this situation and can let us know. If anyone clarifies the issue we shall put it into the next newsletter.

Sundry Information: a couple of articles were brought to our attention that you might find helpful.

The first relates to the revamped **"ScotlandsPeople"** and refers to the 150,00 baptism entries from the Scottish Presbyterian Churches that have been added to the site. These are additions other than the Old Parish Registers (OPR's) of the Church of Scotland.. There is the promise that more of these records will be added in the coming months. Apparently also records currently held by the National Records of Scotland, such as Kirk Sessions and Church Court records are to be added. So it is worth keeping a look out on the site.

The second relates to the Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Service. They are adding new material to their site, (www.liveborders.org.uk/archives) so if you have Borders connections, have a look. You might find something of interest.

Branch Meeting Saturday February 18th.

A reminder for everyone that our February Branch Meeting will be a talk entitled **"Maps and Family History"** and will be given by Paul Hindle. I understand that Paul has spoken on this topic at various family history societies in the area and they all speak well of it. We are all aware of the map resources in the Scottish National Archives and am sure that we have made use of these. I do not think Paul will be referring directly to these, but it will be interesting to hear about what information we can glean from maps in general and relate it to the lives of our ancestors.

It promises to be a popular talk so we advise that you book in advance as numbers will be limited. Book through the Eventbrite resource on the MLFHS web page or try clicking through here (www.eventbrite)

Appendix 1: Extract from The Manchester Genealogist of July 1983—the first article of the Anglo Scottish Branch

THE ANGLO SCOTTISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY.

(Mrs. D.F. Ramsbotham, Hon.Sec., 10 Blantyre Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 1ER).

Since its inception in November 1982 the Anglo Scottish FHS has attracted widespread interest and membership. Good wishes have been received from the Scottish Genealogy Society and several Family History Societies throughout Scotland. There are members, like myself who are yet to establish a foothold in Scotland and when that often-elusive day dawns and "born in SCOTLAND" becomes a reality, in PERTH, GLASGOW or KIRRIEMUIR, then those Scottish FHS will have an increasingly important role to play for our members, as witnessed by some of them already joining. Journals have been exchanged with some areas and we hope co-operation will be extended to the benefit of all concerned.

Our postal members do not have the benefit of meeting together but we shall do our best to help them with their research in whatever way we can.

Useful and interesting meetings have been held monthly at the Society Library, Piccadilly, Manchester, on Sunday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. Several members have been busily engaged on various projects and Vanessa DIXON, Projects Secretary, has reported considerable progress particularly with the transcription of the Manchester Peter Street Scottish Church registers. Information on baptismal registers include the father's occupation, the address of the parents, and usually the maiden name of the mother. Frequently the corresponding marriage is to be found in the Society's marriage indexes and/or Mormon Microfiche. Other areas will include Liverpool, records of which are readily available in the Manchester Central Library, e. g. Newington Chapel MF275.

We hear from Esme CHAPMAN that her Scottish ancestors attended the CHALMERS Scottish Presbyterian church, Mill Street, Ancoats, which opened in the 1840's. We understand that registers are now kept by The United Reformed Church History Soc., Tavistock Place, London, and that appointments to view can be arranged. As congregations dwindled by the present century Scottish churches might well have merged with other non-conformist chapels - a matter which the group will be investigating fully.

The importance of locating and preserving all Scottish Church registers "South of the Border" cannot be overstressed, particularly after 1837. Prior to that year most of these churches appear to have complied with the order to surrender non-conformist registers to Somerset House, later transferred to the PRO, St. Catherine's House, London. Fortunately, microfilmed copies of these registers have been acquired for most counties and can be used in our transcription programme.

Others of the group are extracting Scots from Census Returns, locally these include Ancoats, Ashton-under-Lyne, Eccles, Irlam & Cadishead, Manchester and Salford.

Transcripts should greatly augment information in the Society's Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants into England & Wales which is now being extended by a concerted effort nationally. The Secretary (D.F. R.) would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to contribute persons and families of Scottish origin to the Dictionary - so vital to those who have yet to establish a foothold in Scotland'. Liverpool is perhaps the most fruitful area for people described as "born SCOTLAND", indicating perhaps that pre-1840 many Scots landed there by sea, gradually moving inland towards Warrington, Manchester and beyond.

Members have related their experiences researching at NEW REGISTER HOUSE, Edinburgh (most recently Ian DUNCAN in March). - the Scottish equivalent to St. Catherine's House with added advantages, including permission to consult Civil registers. The charge of £6.50 for a day inclusive search was thought to be good value. Besides the conventional Births, Marriages and Deaths, and other minor records, the searcher has access to over 900 pre-1855 Scottish parish registers and Census returns from 1841-1891. The charge for searching Census or Old Parish Registers only was £3.50 full/part day.

Monumental Inscriptions form an important part of Scottish records. Before 1855 burial records were scant and badly kept so we are indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell and others, for their sterling work researching such records for publication. These Scottish Genealogy Society publications are made available to members at monthly meetings. Mort Cloths were generally used for burials and it is possible to trace records for the hiring of these strong cloths in which bodies would be carried.

The importance of The Scottish Record Office and The National Library, Edinburgh, should not be overlooked by researchers. More about this at a late date.

Members (and prospective members) are specially invited to the next two meetings at CLAYTON HOUSE, 59 PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER - on the Woolworth's side of the gardens, facing Portland Street. There is a bell-push but people will be welcomed at the door. SUNDAY - 14th August, 1983, and 18th September, 1983 - at 2.00 p.m.

Evidently written before the age of computers and when a £1 was worth a bit more than now. The references to the various records however is an indication of the amount of transcribing carried out by members at a time when "research" meant more than sitting at a computer. We are grateful to them all.

Appendix 2 Scottish Quiz

General:

1. What is the name of the Church of Scotland's major annual conference?
2. Which is Scotland's oldest "New Town"?
3. How did the Scots secure English soil in 1977?
4. In March 1987, how did Scotsman Sylvester McCoy follow in the steps of Colin Baker?
5. The Ayrshire village of Dunlop has given its name to what type of food?

Great Scot:

1. Which standard unit of power is named after a Scottish engineer?
2. Which youth organisation was founded in Glasgow in 1883 by Thurso-born William Alexander Smith?
3. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote; " O Leerie, I'll go round at night and light the lamps with you". How were four generations of Stevenson's relations responsible for lighting the night?
4. We know that Robert Burns was born on January 25th 1759. but where is he buried?
5. Who invented the pedal bicycle?

From A' The Airts:

1. When is the Selkirk Grace traditionally spoken?
2. What kind of musical instrument is a Clarsach?
3. Who wrote the book "Ring of Bright Water"?
4. In which city is the Tron Theatre?
5. Which famous musical is centred on a Highland community which came to life once every 100 years?

History:

1. Place the following in chronological order; Mary Queen of Scots; Robert Bruce; James VI.
2. Where are the Scottish Crown Jewels kept?
3. Whom did the monks of Iona refer to as "Gentiles"?
4. Which city owed much of its expansion to the tobacco lords?
5. Which clan traditionally held the title of "Lord of the Isles" and which island was their power base?

Answers

(As they say "all answers correct at the time of going to press)

- General:

 1. The General Assembly
 2. East Kilbride in 1947.
 3. Scottish football fans invaded the pitch at Wembley.
 4. By becoming the BBC's new, and 7th Dr Who.
 5. Cheese
- Great Scot:

 1. The Watt, after James Watt 1736-1819
 2. The Boy's Brigade.
 3. They designed many of Scotland's lighthouses.
 4. St Michael's Kirkcaldy, Dumfries.
 5. Kirkpatrick MacMillan in 1839. He was a blacksmith born at Keir Mill near Thornhill, Dumfries and Galloway. 1812-1898
- From A' The Airt

 1. At Burn's Supper
 2. A harp
 3. Gavin Maxwell
 4. Glasgow.
 5. Brigadoon (First performed in 194
- History:

 1. Robert the Bruce; Mary Queen of Scots; James VI.
 2. Edinburgh Castle.
 3. Vikings. (Foreigners of a different religion).
 4. Glasgow
 5. MacDonalds and Islay.