



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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**Welcome:** the Anglo Scots Branch meeting this month comprised the Annual Meeting at which the Branch Executive Committee was elected for another year. It was also an opportunity for members to bring and share mementoes linked with their family research. Details of these form our main feature. We also include several suggestions of sites that you may find interesting and useful in your own research. Enjoy. Editor.

### Branch Meeting

The Branch Meeting opened with the Annual Meeting of the Branch. The first item was the election of the Branch committee. David Kirkpatrick retired from the committee (more about this below) and remaining members agreed to continue in post. This was approved by the Branch as was the election of Linda McInnes to the committee. The picture opposite shows committee members (from l to r) Mark Campbell; Linda McInnes; Yvonne Gill-Martin; Ina Penneyston; David Muil and Michael Couper. The other committee member, David Hartley, was not present. Views were sought regarding topics that members might wish to be covered by way of speakers during the year. Nothing was forthcoming and it was accepted that members were content with the efforts made by the committee in this regard.

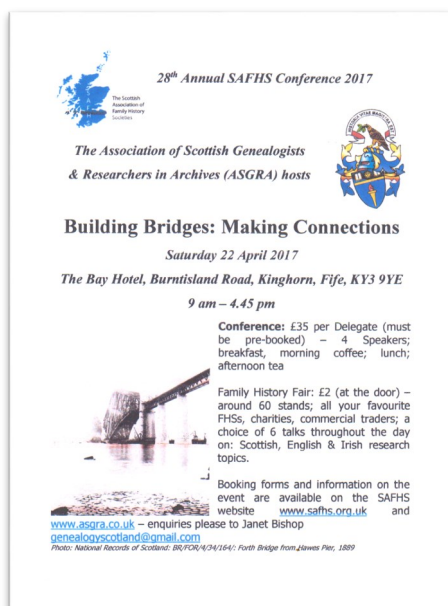


The committee also bid farewell to David Kirkpatrick who retired from the committee after many years of service to the Society and the Branch. David hails from the Borders of Scotland and so the focus of his research was the Dumfries area. He was a fund of knowledge of the area and of Scottish research generally. His contribution to the Branch and Committee will be missed. By way of thanks the Committee was pleased to present David with a bottle of his favourite tipple. He said he would try his best to enjoy it. He also promised to continue attending Branch meetings and we look forward to that.

The photograph shows David being presented with his "award" by Michael Couper, branch chairman.

The Branch meeting continued with some members sharing the fruits of their research. **Michael Couper** spoke of his 2 x great grandfather, Thomas Couper, Colour Sergeant, Royal Engineers who began his career in 1845 by joining the 13th Home Survey Company. Such was his reputation amongst his colleagues that he was presented with a wooden box containing the most exquisite set of ivory drawing tools that Michael has inherited. Thomas was involved in drawing maps of various cities, amongst them Southampton of which Michael had beautiful copies to show the group. A very informative talk. Also sharing was **Hilary Hartigan** who also spoke of her 2 x great grandfather, George Braidwood, who moved from Scotland to Liverpool in the mid-1800's. George became a skilled metalworker and Hilary showed the group a beautifully made oval copper jewellery box that she has inherited. She was unsure of the context of the box and a group member helpfully suggested that it may have been an apprentice piece made by George at the conclusion of his apprenticeship to demonstrate his skill. It most certainly did that and was admired by the group. **Linda McInnes** shared the tale of two brothers who joined the Gordon Highlanders during the 1st World War. One, aged just 18 yrs. was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The other, an accomplished piper, survived and moved to Canada after the war and was renowned for his piping skills. Their story only came to light with the discovery of photographs in a box found in the attic that led to some research being carried out. Don't we all dream of finding an old box of photographs in the attic? Finally **George Dawes**, on a theme of serendipity, spoke to the group about a trip he made to Scotland with a brief stop in Moffatt. George meandered into the local graveyard and came across two adjacent graves marking the resting place of two mailcoach men who, in 1831 tried to travel from Moffatt to Edinburgh in a snowstorm but died in the attempt on the notorious Ericstane Brae. Ironically, buried only a few graves away is the resting place of John Macadam, the great engineer and road builder who did so much to improve the road conditions in Scotland. George was intrigued by the fact that in this small graveyard lay three men whose lives were so dictated by the history of roads. Altogether a very informative and entertaining Branch meeting.

**SAFAS Conference:** We have mentioned this before but here are the details again in case you are lucky enough to be in or near the beautiful Kingdom of Fife and would like to attend. The cost is only £2 at the door and for that you get a whole day of enlightenment and entertainment. The MLFHS Anglo Scots Branch will be represented at a stall at the Conference by four members of the committee, so go up and say hello.



## Some more possible sources:

**British Newspaper Archive:** The “*Rosshire Journal*” and “*Linlithgowshire Gazette*” are now on BNA. There are 92 Scottish newspapers on BNA. Just type in “Scottish Newspapers Titles” to reveal the full list of what is available.

**SSPCK Schools and Schoolmasters:** some of you will know that the SSPCK is the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge and is part of the Church of Scotland. This particular source was recently brought to my attention. The website belongs to a private genealogist who carries out research—at a price. However she has put this article onto her webpage. I won’t insert it in the newsletter in case there are copywrite issues, but you can have a look at it. It is information that this lady has extracted from the Nation Library of Scotland and, generously, put it onto her webpage. ([Click here](#))

**Scottish Soldiers in the American Civil War:** You might like to have a look at a source that has been drawn to our attention and refers to Scottish immigrants to the United States who joined the Northern Army during the American Civil War. It appears on the Facebook page of the Scottish Genealogical Society. The link is via the same SGS site and clicking onto their Facebook link. It is a fairly lengthy article and deals with letters sent home by a young man at the front to his wife and children in New York although the article includes a background to his birth and marriage in Scotland. Really interesting and worth a look.

(This painting depicts the uniform worn by many of the Scottish recruits who joined the New York brigades)



**Scottish Marriage Index:** don’t forget to make use of the Index. It is getting added to all the time. To those in far flung locations who get this Newsletter, many thanks for your continued contributions

**MLFHS Website:** why not have a look at and make use of the load of information on the Society website. I was speaking with a Society member the other day at the helpdesk and they were amazed at what was on the website, admitting that they never used it. We get so used to referring to the major search engines, forgetting about the mass of information that is at our own door. John Marsden has recently added a new search facility on the site called “**Search ALL (name) databases**”. As the title suggests this enables you to search all of the information held on the website by the name of interest (over two million names in all) which then refers you to the various databases where that name is to be found. A great facility well worth a look. And of course the site contains a number of databases of interest to those with a Scottish background. Have a look. Perhaps you will find someone.

**Sources:** some sources that you might find useful.

**FindMyPast:** have announced that they have added Scotland’s Business Directories and 320,000 of Scotland’s Post Office Directories. Might be worth a look, but of course you have to have access to FMP. For those of you in the Manchester area, FMP is of course freely available at Central Library.

**Ancestry:** are making reference to a site that covers the electoral roles of male heads of families from 1834 –1842. Accessing this information through Ancestry ultimately transfers you to the original site which is “Old Scottish, Genealogy and Family History”. ([Old Scottish](#)) Don’t know how useful it will be but have a look. ([Ancestry: male heads of families](#))

With regard to **Ancestry** we would remind you of the direct route to the entirety of their Scottish resources by accessing ([Ancestry-Scotland](#))

**Scottish Genealogical Society:** ([click here](#)) a site worth looking at. They run courses and have resources that you might find helpful. More to the point, as Branch members you are also members of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) and as such can use the facilities of the SGS in Edinburgh. So if you are ever in the Capital, know that as well as accessing the National Records Library you can also call in and use the records of the SGS. Their details are on their website. If you do go then identify yourself as a member of the Anglo Scots Branch and not a member of the MLFHS. Only the Branch is affiliated. If you are not able to travel up there the SGS do have a Network Site that hosts their online collection. ([Click here](#))

**Advanced Warning:** OK, I know it is some time off and the shops haven't got rid of their Easter eggs yet, but we thought we would alert you to the details of our October speaker;

**Dr Laura Stewart**, who will be speaking on '**The National Covenant and the Scottish People**'.

*The National Covenant of 1638 is one of Scotland's most controversial documents: for some, an expression of the people's right to choose their own religion; for others, a statement in religious intolerance whose influence has lasted into modern times. Although the text has been heavily debated by scholars, very little attention has been given to its reception. This talk examines for the first time how the Covenant was accepted by the people in the parishes and reflects particularly on the ambiguous status of women. By considering the Covenant as a material object, as well as a text, Dr Stewart sheds new light on the Covenant's contested meanings and offers fresh reflections on its significance for understanding Scottish political identity.*



**Dr Laura Stewart** completed her PhD at the University of Edinburgh (2003). She taught British History at Birkbeck, University of London, for over ten years, before moving to the University of York in 2016. She has published many articles and essays on early modern British history, the Anglo-Scottish relationship, and the civil wars of the mid-seventeenth century. Her second book, *Rethinking the Scottish Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1617-53*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2016.

This will be a very popular event and, as usual, will be open to all Society members. Entry to the talk will be ticketed, **available from 17<sup>th</sup> September** using the Eventbrite button on the Society website. We will be alerting you to this event again nearer the time, but for now, why not put the 21st October Branch Meeting in your diary?

### **The Jacobite Trail—A Tale of Strange Bedfellows:** (submitted to the Newsletter by David Muil)

I recently read a report in *The Scotsman* that Scotland's Tourist Agency has established a new trail chronicling key sites connected with Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites during the 1745 rebellion. The unveiling of the network coincides with the 229<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Young Pretender [31<sup>st</sup> January 1788] and involves more than two dozen locations closely related to the Jacobite Rising. These range from Dumbarton Castle on Clyde-side to Brodie Castle in Morayshire. For more details follow the link on the Society *facebook* page or search on *the Jacobite Trail* on Google.

Whilst the locations and facts unearthed in this article are fascinating I am, as a Lancashire-based Anglo-Scottish family historian, more interested in another trail – that is the route taken by the bonnie prince and his army on his progress to and return from Derby.

This has reminded me that some months ago whilst visiting my brother who lives in Oxenholme on the way into Kendal, I spent some time with a camera on Stricklandgate and came across the interesting building pictured.

*Now called Charlie's Cafe Bar this 17<sup>th</sup> century building on Kendal's Stricklandgate has been preserved by the Kendal Civic Society. Its owner at the time of the Jacobite Rebellion 1745 was Justice Thomas Shepherd. The plaque affixed to the wall [underneath the flower basket] has a legend that Charles Edward Stuart slept here during his advance on London and again during his retreat. His pursuer, the Duke of Cumberland, slept in the same bed on the following night.*



*The plaque goes on to say that 'in an exchange of fire on the following night with the retreating army a highlander and a local farmer were shot.'*

What has always interested me is the affect the travelling armies had on the local population, not only here in Kendal but in Manchester, Preston and Lancaster and elsewhere en-route. I suspect that more than one maiden fell to the blandishments of one of the soldiers with serious consequences for her family historian. More than one soldier failed to make it home across the border because of the lure of a local lass. Yet I have never come across a family historian who has admitted as much in a family history. Someone might tell me differently.



**PLEASE REMEMBER!** there is no Branch Meeting in April. Our normal Saturday this year co-incides with the Easter Week-end and also with the WDYTIA exhibition at the EC. So we take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful Easter.

A short plug however for our May branch meeting that you may want to put into your diaries. Our speaker will be Andrew Lowes who will be speaking on "The Reivers Survival—Terror and Politics 1286—1610". More about this in our April newsletter.