



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: [www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk)

E-mail: [angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk)

Newsletter: [scotia@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:scotia@mlfhs.org.uk)

**Welcome:** to the July edition of the Newsletter. Our main feature this month is the Branch visit to *The Portico Library* in Manchester. The maximum number of 18 places were soon occupied by members of the Branch and the Society generally. A more fulsome report below. Again we include in the newsletter some web sites that you might find useful in your research together with one or two discoveries that have been made. Enjoy.

Editor

### Portico Library Visit:



On Saturday 15th July members enjoyed a guided tour of the Portico Library in the centre of Manchester. Our tour was conducted by the librarian, Emma Marigliano, who made us most welcome. The library was established in 1806 and inspired by the literary facilities at the Atheneum and Lyceum in Liverpool. One up for Liverpoolians then! However the Portico outlived them all. The original Portico Library was as can be seen in the photograph above, with its Grecian columns and architecture. However today the front part of the building is the entrance to a public house which occupies the whole of the ground floor. The entrance to the library is the small door that can be seen on the side of the building with the library itself occupying the second floor. The loss of so much of the building was due to the need to find ways to continue subsidising and maintaining the library over the years.

The library was established as, and remains, a subscription library, although, open to all. From the moment of its opening it was a great success, although the introduction of "free libraries" in the 1860's proved a jolt. Nevertheless, some famous past members included John Dalton, Peter Roget (of Thesaurus fame), Rev. William Gaskell, (husband of Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist, who was apparently greatly miffed that the Portico was a male preserve and she could not access the

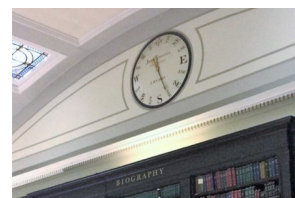
books) Sir Robert Peel, and more recently, Tony Booth (actor) and Eric Cantona (for the enlightenment of our overseas members, one time footballer)

The interior of the library is a wonder with a balanced design,



Librarian Emma Marigliano introducing the library to members in the main arena

the architecture on one wall mirrored on the opposite wall. The mirror for the clock that can be seen at the top of this photograph was a weather indicator, the idea for which was copied from the Lyceum in Liverpool where it served a serious purpose for businessmen there who were deeply involved in shipping. Not so in Manchester, nevertheless, they had to have one also.



Bookcases are headed by subject, the main one being headed "Polite Literature", a delightful term indicating the topics of poetry, drama, novels, fine arts, philosophy and so on. A very Georgian approach to the Enlightenment that was of major interest to library members during that period.

The librarian was good enough to look out some of the books that they have in their collection with a special Scottish theme. These included several travel works, including one written by Queen Victoria, and works by Walter Scott.



The "Scottish" window in the glass dome.

Many items in the collection are particularly beautiful including examples of "nature printing" whereby plants were printed in relief and so have the "feel" of actual pressed plants.

Altogether a very enjoyable and informative visit that everyone appeared to enjoy. Whilst it is a "members" library, anyone can visit free of charge and have a look around. So the next time you are in Manchester, or plan a visit, put "The Portico" on your itinerary. They serve a mean cup of tea and delicious cake—at a cost of course— but well worth it.

**Retour:** the newsletter of The Scottish Records Association. The Branch subscribes to this and last month we referred you to an article in "Retour" regarding the Scottish cemetery in Calcutta. However access to our copy of "Retour" could only be had by a visit to Manchester Central Library since we only received "hard" copy. I can tell you that we have now arranged to receive digitised versions of "Retour" and these can be found in the "Exchange" section of the MLFHS members web page. I draw your attention particularly to the Spring 2017 edition of "Retour" which gives a very interesting article about a particular aspect of a Scottish Will known as an "Eik". Want to know what it is? You will have to go and look at the article. Of keen interest to me is an article about the Campbell clan and two new books that have been written about them and their role in the '45 rebellion. Well worth a read.

**Highland Family History Society:** we have been alerted by Ina Penneyston to the fabulous Burial Index on the Highland Family History Society web site. [\(click here\)](#) Ina has family history interests in the Inverness area and she managed to find some graves in the monumental inscription site. See if it helps you.

**The Genes Blog:** on the subject of helpful websites, maybe you could have a look at [The Genes Blog](#) site. We have referred you to this site previously but the author of the site, Chris Paton, very kindly allows reference to the contents and there is usually a lot of helpful material in there covering Scotland, but also Ireland and England and Wales. In the current blog he makes reference to the upgraded map service provided by the National Library of Scotland. A site we are all familiar with but it is useful to keep up to date.

**ScotlandsPeople:** in case you haven't heard, over the last few weeks **ScotlandsPeople** have released 36,000 further Presbyterian records on their site.

**National Library of Scotland:** whilst the Scottish independence issue may have subsided for the time being following the recent election, nevertheless it is going to be live for the foreseeable future. The following batch of articles on the [National Library of Scotland](#) site was brought to our attention and we pass it on to you. Lots of interesting publications and articles from the 1707 period on the issue of independence/union. Well worth a look, and a read.

**Holiday visits:** under the heading of [Ancestral Tours](#), the **Old Scottish** website has an offer on for anyone who might be on holiday in Scotland this year and who might want to explore some of the areas of interest in their particular family history search.

**Bug fixes at ScotlandsPeople:** no they haven't found the answer to the menace of the Scottish midge! This is a report, again by the ever helpful **Old Scottish** website, about corrections that the ScotlandsPeople site have made to some of their search facilities. Have a look at the article ([click here](#)). Lots of interesting stuff, but the heart of this article is as follows;

The [announcement](#) of the fixes reveals that two of the biggest gripes Scottish genealogists have had with the new website have at least been fixed:

- **Marriage searches:** finally it's now possible once again to search for a marriage using two surnames (one for the bride and one for the groom). This is a major improvement on the initial version of the revamped site, and one which genealogists will warmly welcome.
- **Marriage results:** related to the marriage-search fix, marriage searches now show both parties' names on the results page. This is another big improvement on what went before, when you had to click on a link to get a pop-up showing the spouse's name. That was fine if there were only a few results of your search, but quickly became tedious if there were more than a few results.
- **Death searches:** You can now search death records using an approximate birth year. This is another important change, making it far easier and a lot less hassle to find the death your looking for. We understand from our discussions with the National Records of Scotland that this was a particularly tricky problem to resolve, as the searches were behaving in unpredictable ways. This problem now appears to have been resolve successfully.
- **Search forms:** The labels and column headings have been improved.



**Bonnie Prince Charlie and Manchester:** ok, call me naive but when I think about Prince Charlie marching down through England I think only of him being followed by a large contingent of highland clansmen. But of course he had a proper army, with cavalry and cannon as well as the ubiquitous foot soldier clans. I came across this plaque on a wall in Byrom Street, Manchester at the corner with, appropriately named, Artillery Street, that informs us that in November 1745 the forces of Prince Charlie parked their artillery in the fields in that area. Of course Byrom Street is now in the centre of



Manchester, but then it was nothing but fields. This is the view now. Don't think the double yellow lines would have inhibited them!



Talking about Bonnie Prince Charlie, I see that the **National Museum of Scotland** ([www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)) have an exhibition entitled

#### **“Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites”**

The subtitle invites us to “*Discover a compelling story of loss, rebellion and retribution.*” The exhibition runs from the 23rd June until the 12th November 2017. So if you plan to be in the Edinburgh area during this period why not drop in.



**Remember:** there is no Anglo Scots Branch meeting in August. Holiday time calls. Our next gathering will be the September meeting on the 16th September. The usual help-desk facility will be available for those of you who want to make use of it to crack those brick wall, beginning at 10.30 a.m. and going on until 12.30. The topic for the Branch meeting in September will be an exploration of Scottish Resources to assist ancestral breakthroughs.