



# *e-Scotia*

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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**Welcome:** to the November edition of the Newsletter. Our main feature this month is the talk given by Ina Penneyston addressing the ScotlandsPeople website. Many of us will be familiar with the basic outline of the site but it is the small details that can often offer the breakthrough. Again we also offer you some sites that you might find helpful in your research, some new, some well known, but always worth a reminder. Enjoy. Editor.

**ScotlandsPeople Revisited:** given the various changes and additions that have been made with ScotlandsPeople, we thought it a good idea to have a rerun through the site. There are also various members of the Branch who are just starting out or are relatively new to the site, so we all benefitted. Ina Penneyston, a long-time member of the committee and Scottish researcher led us in a search of the site.



Ina Penneyston

Ina began with a history of the records office in Edinburgh and the morphing, in 2011, of the National Archives of Scotland, (that dealt with all historical records) and the General Register Office (that dealt with the births, marriages and deaths) into the National Records of Scotland. Those of us who are a bit long in the tooth were reminded that prior to the 1970's a request to see a birth/marriage/death entry was met by the bringing of the original register. From the 1970's the records were on microfilm and microfiche which you searched for yourself. Now, of course, it is all digitised and all you need to do is sit at a computer. The fun of searching has largely gone but it is much more convenient.

All of this of course took place in Edinburgh. However Ina let us know that various hubs have been established throughout Scotland that enables researchers to access all the computerised facilities of the ScotlandsPeople Centre without having to travel to Edinburgh. These are established in Kilmarnock, Alloa, Hawick, Inverness and The Mitchel Library, Glasgow. The main benefit of course is that for a one-off payment of £15 for the day there is access to all computerised records. Why hasn't Dundee got this I ask? Must make enquiries the next time I am up there.

On the topic of saving money, it seems that if when you download an image that is of poor quality, notifying ScotlandsPeople will result in them re-digitising the image from the original register and refunding your costs so that you can download the re-digitised image. Also, if, as occasionally happens, an entry on a census image goes over onto the next page so that you have to download two images, contacting ScotlandsPeople will result in them refunding you for one page. Good customer service.

Ina then took us through the ScotlandsPeople site and the census information. There are other web sites that detail the content of census material such as [FreeCen.org.uk](http://FreeCen.org.uk) (who have also updated their site which is worth a look), and, some that have downloaded material prior to 1841 such as the, rather specific, area of Dallas, in Morayshire ([click here](#)).

With regard to births, marriages and deaths, an example of a birth registered in the first year of registration, 1855, showed the greater amount of detail it contained, including the place and date of birth of both parents and the details of other children already born to the parents. Sadly this was much curtailed in subsequent birth certificates, including the date of the parent's marriage although this was reinstated in 1861. Whilst speaking about death records Ina showed us an example of a Register of Corrected Entries pertaining to a man's death which gave more detail of how he died. It reminds us that the R.C.E. is well worth keeping in mind.

The presentation included references to Parish Records, including OPR's, Catholic Records and "other" and also to Valuation Rolls. There was also a trot through searching through the "Places" option and a look through the "Image Library". Altogether a comprehensive coverage of the ScotlandsPeople site that was greatly appreciated by all.

**Scottish Indexes:** can we once again draw your attention to this great website operated by the Maxwells, in particular, their blog site. ([scottishindexes/blog](http://scottishindexes.blog)) They introduce it with the following outline;

*"As genealogists, we're constantly learning new things about the past - both on a grand and an intimate scale. We chat about some of these discoveries on our blog. Here, you'll find 'how to' guides for our site and for various Scottish archives, snippets of Scottish history, interesting discoveries in the archives, company updates and news on what's happening in the Scottish genealogy world. Our main contributor is genealogist Emma Maxwell with occasional guest bloggers also writing for us on a number of topics"*

There then follows a list of topics that you can explore. I am aware that many of those listed turn out to be pay-to-view sites, nevertheless it may introduce you to an area of research that you had not thought of before.

**Newspaper Archives:** information received from a reader prompted this reminder.

Dave Hartley's wife was skimming through a newspaper archive when Dave's attention was drawn to a reference to Muirkirk in Ayrshire, the home of some of his ancestors. A fortunate discovery you would agree, but even more so when you know that the newspaper concerned was the "Bury and Norwich Post". The "Bury" referred to is Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, so the paper wanted to cover the county of Suffolk and neighbouring Norfolk, areas, as Dave points out, 300 miles away from Muirkirk. So, what was the news being reported? Well, read it for yourselves;



of 4 Article: Or, SUFFOLK,. NORFOLK. E^EX. \_2^/\^k<^aig

property of the 17th, have been buried in England, and are an object of great curiosity to the Gentlemen of the Turf.

A respectable farmer's wife in the neighbourhood of Muirkirk, was sometime ago missed by her friends, and after many fruitless searches, she was at last discovered by her cries at the bottom of an old coal-pit, where she had been for 17 days and nights. She, as yet, can give little account how she fell in, or how she, in so dreadful a situation, was sustained for so long a period.— There are hopes of her recovery.

**BANKRUPTS.**

**TUESDAY, NOV. 8.**—Stephen Faulkner, Manchester, cotton-manufacturer.—Richard Moore, Hales-

Such an item should encourage us not to give up on newspaper archive research and also not to be limited by geography. Most newspaper sites do have index searching facilities by name of person and/or place. *Ancestry* of course have Newspapers as do *Find my Past*. There is also the *London Gazette* which is great for bankruptcies and gallantry awards as well as probate. (<https://m.thegazette.co.uk>) I am reminded also that many local libraries have internet access to e-magazines by logging into their website and entering your library card number and password. There is of course the British Newspaper Archive and the FindMyPast site that collaborates with them. For those with access to FindMyPast their newspaper archive is growing all the time with a great filtering system to identify individuals or places.



**HappyHaggis**

Keeping  
genealogy  
free since  
2002

We have been alerted to this web site ([happyhaggis](http://happyhaggis)) and thought you might be interested in giving it a go. I have had a quick search through its contents and they look really good. It gives a very readable history of registration in Scotland as well as other topics such as religion and the development of the professions. Indeed there is a vast array of topics with references and links to follow. I am so impressed with the site that I was looking to see who produces it, but without success. There doesn't seem to be a "contact" facility either. So no opportunity to thank and commend whoever it is. If anyone does know, could you let us

**Chasing Scots:** you may recall that in the October edition of *e-Scotia* I pointed you in the direction the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry project which invited any group with Scottish roots to contribute an offering to the project. I was reminded by a reader that she had previously informed us of a contribution by our own local societies, comprising, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and North Wales. I had saved the contribution but lack of space meant I could not include it. I do now most readily. A handsome depiction of a couple doing highland dancing. However I note on the Federation's website that whiskey sampling also features in their activity. Where is that depicted!!!!!! Anyway many thanks to our reader for reminding us.




**Lost Cousins Newsletter:** ([Click here](#)) I have referred you to this site in past newsletters but do so again because there are a couple of interesting articles in this week's offering that I think you would enjoy. The author of the newsletter, Peter Calver, asks that articles not be copied but that others be referred to the newsletter for access. I therefore bow to this request and urge you to have a look. The articles I found most helpful were the one referring to newspaper archives (tying in nicely with our own reference to newspapers) and a rather fulsome masterclass on how to get the most out of FindMyPast research.

**FindMyPast additions:** Speaking of "Findmypast", they have added over 400,000 records related to the British Army. They include First World War Soldiers' Medical Records; records of The Royal Welch Fusiliers 1807-1948; the Portsmouth Military Tribunals 1916-1919; the digitising of Military Historical Society Bulletins; First World War Casualty Lists, and Prisoners Of War 1715-1945.

**Scottish Indexes Blog:** again this is a site that we have referred you to previously. However looking at the blog site ([click here](#)) reveals a number of very interesting articles related to Scottish Family History research. It includes an interesting review of Kirk Session Records amongst others.

**Links with New Zealand?** We do have some New Zealand recipients of *e-Scotia*, but there may also be some of you with ancestral links to New Zealand through emigration. Well we have been notified of the following web page ([click here](#)) which appears to be an effort to digitise the New Zealand records, hopefully, including records that might be of value to family history researchers. We presume that our New Zealand readers are already aware of this project and perhaps they can let us know if it is of value.

**Calendar for 2018:** yes I'm afraid it is that time of year again when the future is laid into our lap and we have to look it in the face and make our choices. (Sorry got a bit carried away there.) Anyway, we have put together a programme for the Branch for the whole of next year remembering that **we meet on the third Saturday of every month:**

January 20th.	Quiz and Social	
February 17th.	DNA, its history and the U.K.—a talk given by Dr. Jerome de Groot.	
March 17th.	AGM followed by a sharing of members heirlooms.	
April 14th.	Everyday life for our Scottish ancestors.—a talk given by Jennifer Birch, Quarry Bank, Styal.	
May 19th	Connecting to life through death: what death certificates can tell genealogists, historians and demographers. A talk given by Dr. Eilidh Garrett.	
June 16th	Ancestry workshop—questions and answers.	
July 21st.	Branch visit to Elizabeth Gaskell's house in Manchester.	
August 18th.	No Meeting.	
September 15th.	WW1 research. Talk given by Ken Nesbit. Marks the anniversary of the end of WW1.	
October 20th.	Scottish resources at Manchester Central Library. Guide by Larysa Bolton Heritage collection officer.	
November 17th.	Ancestral Breakthroughs	
December 15th	No Meeting.	

So why not mark the dates in your diaries to make sure you do not miss anything.

**Remember!** There is no Branch meeting in December. Something to do with Christmas I believe. We shall of course be producing a newsletter albeit that it may be rather sparse.

Our next Branch meeting will be on January 20th when we shall be holding our Branch Christmas Party. More about that next time.

