



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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**Welcome:** to the March edition of the newsletter. March is the month of the Branch meeting when the committee is elected/re-elected/or varied. The result of the nominations and elections is detailed so that you can have an idea of who are elected committee members. The meeting also shared members heirlooms and this is included. We also, as usual attach some references to web sites that you might find useful for your research. Enjoy. Editor.

**Anglo Scots Annual Meeting:** our gathering this month focused upon the election of the Committee. The result was:



Michael  
Couper  
Chairman



Yvonne  
Gill-Martin



Dave  
Hartley



Hilary  
Hartigan



Ina  
Penneyston



David Muil



Linda  
McInnes



Mark  
Campbell

We welcome a new member of the committee, Hilary Hartigan. Hilary has agreed to jump in at the deep end and to act as the Anglo Scots representative with *The Manchester Genealogist*. This is a great help to the Branch as it is important for us to continue to make a contribution to the *Genealogist*, making known to the wider MLFHS the research and resources available in Anglo Scots family history. With the committee elections dealt with the chairman, Michael Couper, summarised the activities of the Branch throughout the previous year highlighting the great speakers we managed to arrange, thanks to our speakers organiser, Yvonne Gill-Martin. An onerous task for which we are all grateful. One major achievement in the year was the MLFH Society agreeing to allocate a budget to the Branch. This frees us up considerably to be able to plan and manage our activities throughout the year. The Branch's **Scottish Marriage Index** continues to grow and thrive, with its new and more user friendly interface and with many contributions as well as queries from our members in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Many thanks to them. This Newsletter got a mention and appeared to be appreciate. Our representation at various Family History Fairs as part of the MLFHS was also noted.

With the formal business of the Branch dealt with we moved on to the sharing of heirlooms brought by members. As usual this proved a popular and helpful part of the meeting, the items shared acting as platforms to outline research undertaken and breakthroughs made. Michael produced a box recently discovered that contained a brace of WW1 medals that belonged to his grandfather. Yvonne spoke of her father's farm in Northumberland and produced a watch that is a family heirloom but without and clear indication of its place within the family. Her research in this area continues. Hilary produced a piece of silica rock from the Welsh village where she was born and which she found amongst her father's possessions. Again this acted as a trigger to further research.

A great deal more was shared and a longer and more detailed article with photographs, is to appear in the next issue of *The Manchester Genealogist*. Look out for it.

**BBC Radio 4:** the other day I heard a very interesting programme on BBC Radio 4 hosted by Melvyn Bragg. It was a discussion about [The Highland Clearances](#). The panel consisted of eminent scholars, Tom Divine, Marjory Harper and Murray Pittock. They were able to place the event of the clearances into a context that I was unaware of and with a background history that was fascinating. Whilst not undermining the traumatic event that the clearances represented, the panel, for me, questioned some of the myths that tend to surround the event. They placed the clearances within the context of the clan system and the attachment to the land. Whilst not all who were cleared from the land objected to it, for many the clearances represented the very soul of betrayal by those to whom they looked for leadership and protection. They mentioned too the effect of the potato famine in the 1840's We are very aware of the effect of the potato famine in Ireland, but the blight spread also to Scotland and lasted a great many years longer there. One panel member even suggested that the Scottish potato famine was the basis of the demise of the crofting system. Anyway, have a listen to it. It does last about 45 minutes, but it is well worth it, and most enlightening.



**Erskine Care Home:** we have had drawn to our attention the fact that Erskine Care Home for war veterans has digitised and uploaded the admission registers for 1916—1936. Access is through their [website](#). It was a joint enterprise with Glasgow University and access to the records is via a simple search box. I had no one to search for but to test out the system inserted the surname Campbell, (what else!). This displayed records that gave such information as address and occupation prior to enlistment; regiment, regimental number and injury. A very useful resource should you think you may have had an ancestor there. It is unusual to have resources that can be applied to those who survived the war, albeit, with very bad injuries. Well worth a look.



### Publications



**Publications Received:** since the last newsletter we have received publications/newsletters/digital magazines from Orkney, Lothian, and Dumfries and Galloway. As usual these, and others, can be accessed by going to the MLFHS webpage and clicking on the “Exchange” button once you have logged into the member’s site. We have also started to receive the journal from the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society. This can be accessed in the same way.

**Are you Young?** We recently received a letter from previous members, Mike and Sheena Young, (she is 50% Scottish and he is 25% Scottish—so they qualify!!!!) to let us know, and to pass on, the news that they have established a family website detailing their family history. It can be accessed via [www.youngfamilyhistory.net](http://www.youngfamilyhistory.net). Whilst they have primarily done this for their own offspring, they would like others to have a look at it and, if you are Young, perhaps you fit in.

**Abertay Historical Society:** being a Dundonian by birth I know I can go on a bit about Dundee and its surrounds but I was sent information about this Society and its website and I think it is worth a look.

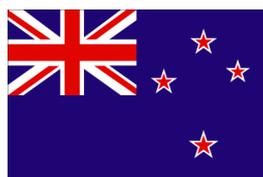
([abertay.org.uk](http://abertay.org.uk)) This address gives access to the whole site, but what I was sent ([abertay/downloads](#)) referred specifically to a project that the Society has recently completed. The site refers to a series of publications that the Society has recently digitised, meaning that they are now available to access online. They include such publications as “Dundee and the American Civil War 1861—1865” “Highland communities in Dundee and Perth 1787—1891” and “Dundee and the Reformation”. There are many other titles and they offer a great opportunity to add context and background to any family history research in the area. So if you are linked with Dundee, and indeed, the surrounding areas, do have a look.



**Glasgow's City of the Dead:** to balance East Coast Dundee we include West Coast Glasgow in our offerings. This website ([thebritcrowd.com](http://thebritcrowd.com)) offers a view of Glasgow centred on the necropolis. Next to Glasgow Cathedral, it is a must see if you are in Glasgow, no matter how odd that may sound. Anyone who was anyone in Glasgow in the Victorian period is buried there. Being built on a hill it does give panoramic views of the city. Have a look at the website, and if you are in Glasgow anytime, do take the chance to look around. However, winter is not a good time to do so! Wait until it is fairly warm.



**Have you links with New Zealand?** as a Branch we do have members in New Zealand so they may be well aware of this site. ([digitalnz.org](http://digitalnz.org)) Notification of it was sent to me recently and it looks ok. It is a New Zealand government site in which they are in the process of systematically digitising resources from several different departments; museum, library, newspapers, etc. It is obviously a massive task and so will take a fair amount of time to make a dent, but they have started. They are asking for feedback on the ease of use of the site, so if you have any connections with New Zealand, have a look at it, and give feedback if it seems appropriate. Perhaps some of our New Zealand readers will have a look at it and let us know how useful it is for family history research?



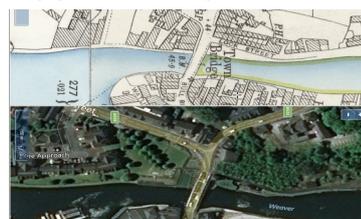
**Family Search Update:** as I am on the Family Search e-mail list I was sent this information last month. When I mentioned it to colleagues on the MLFHS helpdesk they all seemed to know about it already, so hey, how behind the times am I? Anyway, in case there are any others like me who have not kept up to date with all the new information and changes on the FamilySearch web site, can I recommend that you have a look at this. The information relates to the "RootsTech" exhibition and lists all the latest developments in Family Search. There is a video to watch which is really entertaining and well put together and I particularly like the one about finding elusive family records. Have a look at it [here](#) and see what you think.

**National Library of Scotland:** for those of you who do not receive the newsletter of the NLS (it is worth getting and it is free, so why not register for it?) the latest edition highlights the following;

#### **Explore Great Britain from a century ago**

*A few months ago our maps department completed our largest ever map georeferencing project - the Ordnance Survey's 25 inch to the mile maps, 1892-1914. The set is made up of 56,747 sheets which, if laid out alongside each other, would cover 35,302 square metres, or 135 tennis courts. These maps depict over 85,000 square miles, covering all the built up parts of England, Scotland, and Wales. The maps allow practically every feature in the landscape to be shown from a century ago, and are especially good for viewing the detail of all houses, gardens, industry, streets, railways, parkland, farms, woodland, and rivers.*

- Explore the maps as a georeferenced overlay with a transparency slider
- View side-by-side comparing the old maps to modern satellite imagery
- Enjoy the layer in our Spy viewer or 3D viewer
- View individual sheets as high-resolution zoomable images



Many of us will be already familiar with the brilliant NLS map site and this appears to update it. I have to admit to struggling a bit with the mechanics of using these upgrades, but eventually got the hang of it. Anyway, have a look and see what you think. ([click here for the site](#))

### **Anglo Scots Branch April Meeting**

Please note that our April Branch meeting has changed date from the normal third Saturday of the month to the second Saturday of the month—the **14th April**. The theme of the talk is “**Everyday life for our Scottish Ancestors**” and will be given by Shan Bristow from Quarry Bank Mill. The talk will include the history of Quarry Bank Mill but it appears that the apprentices at Quarry Bank Mill were drawn from all over the country, including Scotland. It promises to be an interesting talk. Remember please to ensure and reserve your place through **Eventbrite** on the MLFHS web site. The help desk will be available as usual from 10.30 a.m.

