

e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Welcome: to the April edition of our newsletter. Our main feature is the talk at the Branch meeting on Saturday 14th April. The talk was given by Sian Bristow who is a volunteer at Styal Mill. We also include our usual variety of web sites that you might find helpful for your research. Enjoy. Editor.

Everyday life for our (Scottish) ancestors: the talk was given by Sian Bristow who has worked at Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, for some 14 years. For those of our readers unfamiliar with Quarry Bank Mill have a look at their website ([here](#)). Sian delivered her talk dressed in the costume of a worker who served in the Apprentice House. Whilst the talk focused largely upon the establishment and running of Quarry Bank, Sian did manage to present us with a Scottish connection, given her audience.



The Mill was established by Samuel Greg (1758-1834) who was born in Belfast, as was his father, but his grandfather, John Greg, was born, in 1693, in Ochiltree, Ayrshire and moved to Belfast in 1744 during the religious persecutions at the time. Although the records are unclear, it is thought that John might have been a blacksmith. This link with Scotland was a welcome surprise to the meeting as we had anticipated the "Scottish connection" to be of a different kind, namely, of children brought in from Scottish workhouses, for which no evidence was presented at the meeting. Samuel, however, probably felt more English than either Irish or Scottish, as he was sent from Northern Ireland to England when he was eight years old to be brought up by his uncle who both educated him and introduced him to the textile business and who left him sufficient capital and contacts to quickly establish himself, as a young man, in business.



Samuel married Hannah Lightbody of Liverpool, an exceptional, well educated, free thinking woman who was well connected in her own right. Hannah was concerned about the way in which workers were treated and it is believed that she was very influential, when her husband established Quarry Bank, in working with him to ensure that the workers and Apprentices were treated well and that the apprentices received an education. The impact of these enlightened views were evident as Sian talked us through the lives of the Apprentices, balancing the good aspects of life, - escape from the grime of Manchester; free time; three meals a day; a trade for life, the services of a doctor; education, and more, - against the obvious hardships of long hours of work; a rather restricted diet and rooms that were cold in winter. Some of these children had been taken from their parents in the workhouse. Whilst difficult for the parents to lose their children in this way they surely also felt that this opportunity provided a better chance in life for their children than one spent in the workhouse.



This was an exceptionally interesting talk that gave a real insight into some of the issues facing parents who were poor with children and how they tried to resolve it. It also highlighted some of the more "enlightened" thinking of the time that tried to address the conditions of the poor albeit to the detriment of the parents who in effect, lost their children, and children their parents.



Earwaker Prize Award: the Branch meeting was pleased to witness the awarding of the Earwaker Prize. (If like me this name is unfamiliar to you, just to let you know that it is pronounced *Eriker!!*) This presentation normally occurs at the Society General Meeting in April, but on this occasion the winner was not going to be in the area and so the Branch benefitted. It was apt also because the winning article had a Scottish theme. By way of explanation and presentation, the Society chairman David Muil, said;

“The Society launched the Earwaker Prize in the spring of 1991. The prize, named for a 19th century Manchester antiquarian, John Parsons Earwaker, awards a book token to the author of the best article in the four “The Manchester Genealogist” journals published in the previous year.

*Following consultation and nominations, the judging panel has decided that the winner of the 2017 award is Douglas Hamilton’s article entitled **Archibald Hamilton 1898-1916: The Highland Cycle Battalion and the Highland Light Infantry**. This appeared in volume 53, no. 2 in 2017.*



Douglas (on left) receives his prize from chairman, David Muil

Douglas will not be available to receive his award at the Annual General Meeting later this month, and so it is my pleasure to present a £50 book token to Douglas and pass on the congratulations of the trustees and the judging panel.

Congratulations indeed to Douglas, and may he continue to inform and entertain us with his research and writings.

This is a timely reminder also to all our readers who may have a story to tell that you too can provide us with information about issues that arise from your own research. I am particularly thinking about our readers in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand who surely had ancestors who made their way from the UK to start a new life. Why not let us know their story and have the article published in ***The Manchester Genealogist?***



The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: ([click here](#))

this link was sent to me just in case any of our readers has an ancestor who was in the medical profession and trained in Edinburgh. It is not an area I am familiar with (apart from when I had my appendix taken out!!) but it provided a chance for some fascinating reading. The site is the library and archive site for the Edinburgh College of Surgeons and even if you don’t have anyone to research, it covers a range of interesting topics from body snatching through surgical breakthroughs to the struggle that women had to be recognised in the profession and those who pioneered the women’s struggle. Well worth a look.

Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations:

I was sent this link ([click here](#)) a few days ago. It is of limited value given that it is an advert for a *Google Books* publication by Dr David Dobson, of St Andrew’s and Aberdeen universities. His speciality is Scottish history, and in particular Scottish emigration and maritime history and links between Scotland and the Americas, North and South.

I nevertheless inform you of it because the link does offer some pages

(by way of a taster) listing the names of men and women sent to the colonies, as were, for various crimes, including of course, involvement in the two rebellions of 1715 and 1745. An e-book version is advertised for a mere £10, so not bad. However I was interested, looking at Dr Dobson’s web site, to see that he has written several books linking Scotland and America, including at the time of its foundation. If you have an interest in this period and area, then he seems to be for you.



National Library of Scotland Website: recent additions to this site were brought to our attention by one of our readers, Martin Briscoe, from Fort William. The NLS writes:

New Administrative Boundaries Viewer and Information

Our new interactive [Boundaries viewer](#) allows counties and parishes from the 1950s, and unitary authorities, districts and boroughs from 2017, to be viewed on a range of different map backgrounds. You can zoom in on any location, click on your point of interest, and the county, parish, or unitary authority that covers the point you have clicked on is shown. These administrative jurisdictions, especially parishes, have many other family and local history records associated with them, and viewing their location and extents is therefore important. The new viewer is accompanied by detailed information on the [history of these administrative units](#), significant [legislation](#) that has affected them, and [cartographic information sources](#) which show the development of these units over time.



<https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html>

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/boundaries/#zoom=7&lat=57.5169&lon=-4.7516&point=56.9101,-5.6195>

Glasgow City Archives Facebook Page: given the furore surrounding *Facebook* I was hesitant in sending this link that was recently forwarded to me but here you are. [\(Click here\)](#) It seems that the Archive is looking for help to choose a new cover picture for their *Facebook* and *Twitter* accounts given that their “followers” have grown exponentially since the Archive joined in 2017. They have submitted three photographs of Glasgow and ask you to “like” one of them. This will then be the front cover of the site. My own preference is the Cathedral and Necropolis. This could only be Glasgow. The charabanc and trams are interesting but could be anywhere. Anyway, have a look yourselves, and if you have an interest in Glasgow, send in your choice. The site also has a variety of links to different aspects of the Archive and is worth looking at in its own right..

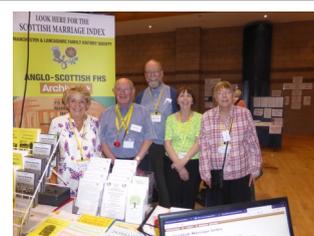


Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) Conference:

this was held in Glenrothes, Fife, on Saturday, 17th April. The Anglo Scots Branch was well represented by five members of the committee. It was a one-day event and, by all accounts, well attended. There were a lot of enquiries, particularly about the Scottish



Marriage Index that we manage. Apart from exhibition stalls there were also a number of workshops. One of these concerned ancestors who were convicts. This was attended by committee member, Yvonne who has written, “*Have you ever wondered how big your ancestors’ feet were? Amazingly you may find out if they were involved in a court case! More details next month*” Sounds intriguing and we look forward to that..



Anglo Scots Branch Meeting, 19th May 2018. our topic is :

“Connecting to Life Through Death: What Death Certs can tell Genealogists, Historians, and Demographers”

Our speaker is Dr Eilidh Garrett, a graduate of St Andrew’s University and who specialises in the historical demography of the British Isles in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.



This is likely to be a very popular programme, so please remember to reserve your place on [Eventbrite](#) on the MLFHS website or phone the office. Our helpdesk will also be available as usual from 10.30 am until 12.30. for anyone who wants some help with their research.