



# e-Scotia



## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the June 2023 edition of the newsletter. As the northern hemisphere summer walks towards us, do we slow down in our family history research preferring to leave it to the colder, darker, wetter winter months? Perhaps rather we are lured out to visit and research cemeteries or travel to research centres to seek help with those brick walls encountered. At the Society help desk here in Manchester we have certainly seen a rise in visitor numbers. At this time of year we frequently welcome visitors from Canada, the USA and the Antipodes, but none so far. We look forward to it.



Our Branch presentation this month is an exploration of what Scottish family history resources are to be found in the collection owned by the Society of Genealogists. As well as this we again offer some ideas of other resources available to you. Take care.

Editor.

**Scottish resources at the Society of Genealogists:** For quite obvious reasons it is assumed that most records relevant to the study of Scottish family history are to be found in ScotlandsPeople and/or the National Records of Scotland. However we know that there are other depositories available and we explored one of these today. We were pleased to welcome Sue Gibbons, a member of the Society of Genealogists (SOG) who shared with us the Scottish Resources held by the SOG. Much of what is available requires a visit to the SOG in London to consult but you can consult the digitised index of their resources online, one, to see if they have anything that would be of value in your research, and, two, if you find something and cannot manage a trip to London, their researchers will copy it and send it to you - for a fee of course. The surprise at the volume and scope of Scottish-relevant records held by the SOG was a common experience of those attending. To quote a couple of views;

*We were amazed by the volume of Scottish Records held, some free and some require £ to see the detail, but note that you search the 'catalogue' for things that have been indexed and search the Documents for data. Some holdings are shared with the usual genealogy companies but there are some real gems in old Scottish records including family details in wills.*

Some of the same views are shared with this attendee;

*I was struck by the vast and diverse array of material available at SOG. Info on Apprentices, Wills, Poll books and Boyd's Family Units to name but a few. If one were planning a trip to The National Archives it might be worthwhile to add an extra day and visit the SOG's premises. (NB make sure it is a Wednesday, as current opening hours are restricted, until the new premises are available in late 2023/24) Membership at £54 did not seem unreasonable, plus much of their holdings are searchable free of charge from home. My favourite snippet was the 'Civil Service irreplaceable evidences of ages', where one piece of information was recorded on a desk lid!*

The source is particularly good for earlier periods - 16th, 17th and 18th century documents. Whilst these largely pertain to land ownership, if your ancestor worked on any of these estates then they may well get a mention. Worth a look.

If you want to know more, **members** are able to get hold of a handout that Sue generously made available. Get it in the usual way, viz, **log in/go to "Branches"/select "Anglo Scots"/ under the "Research" heading choose "Speaker's notes/videos"** You will find it in the "Anglo-Scottish Meetings Reports" section.

If you missed the talk altogether, (and we know that there was a rather important sport's event being held at the same time as the presentation), then we remind you that the talk was recorded and will be available very soon. Follow the same route but choose the "Anglo-Scottish Meeting Videos" section. Sue has said that we can make this available for **two weeks**, so if you want to see it you will need to be quick. We have to take it down after this.

**National Library of Scotland:** more news from the NLS in their latest newsletter that may be of interest. For those who do not receive it, you can subscribe for it [here](#). It is free.



**Broadcasting Stories:** this article referred to the “Festival of Scottish Broadcasting” which recently celebrated its centenary with a number of workshops and exhibitions at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. I wasn’t initially attracted to this but decided to have a look at the [You Tube channel](#) referred to that offered some of the highlights of the event. Skimming through this I came across some information that I didn’t know. For example that the **National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive** is held at the Kelvin Hall. We know that some of the archive has been digitised and is available to download, but the whole archive is available at the Kelvin Hall and if you are ever in the area you can call in there and ask to see any of the items that they have. Wondering if there was a Moving Image catalogue and searched [here](#) and came across an image of Cliff Richard in a kilt!! What else can you want? However moving on to the “search” option takes you [here](#) where there is indeed a catalogue of all the images/films available to view. A great resource.



The main NLS site can be accessed [here](#) and it is a great page to start on. It is there that you can access their contribution on how best to carry out your family history research - a must for anyone starting out on Scottish Family History. There is also the option of viewing what resources have been digitised and are offered online. You can access the Moving Image Library from there, but beware, you will spend hours flicking through the offerings. There is a lengthy film about the Govan Fair which I enjoyed having worked there for some years.



My interest in maps and mapping is known but I was interested in the access to Maps and Mapping on this site as it gives a different perspective on the maps offerings than accessing maps through the usual route. Do have a look at it. You may find something useful for your research, or general interest.



on the subject of researching family history, I came across an intriguing research option in Find My Past that I hadn’t realised was available. We are told that there are always many ways to search in the various genealogical web sites and I suspect that the most often used means of searching the FMP site is either to use the “Search all Records” option on the welcome page or to choose the “Search” button and select one of the options there, be that BMD or Census etc. However choosing either of these routes does not offer the most options for research. I always find it more fruitful to choose the “All Record Sets” option. Using the filters on the left side of the page you can select the country and county of your choice and I find that this makes available all the sources that FMP have pertaining to that area. However, here is the anomaly. Should you select “England” in the filter, you get records pertaining to England as you would expect. If instead you insert “Scotland” you initially appear to get the same selection of sources as the “England” filter. To find specifically Scottish records you must first insert “Scotland” then a county, e.g. in my case, “Forfarshire” as Angus was then. However that is not it all. It is apparent that selecting a different county gives a different set of records, or, more correctly, the same selection of records but in a very different order. For example, by selecting “Forfarshire” I am presented with the first two dataset options as “Scotland, Parish Births & Baptisms 1564-1929” and “Scotland, Parish Marriages & Banns 1561-1893” It then goes on to specifically Dundee records but the first two generic options are attractive. Filter by Glasgow, Edinburgh or Aberdeen however and you are presented initially with a totally different set of search options. With “Edinburgh” the parish births & baptisms are there but for the marriages you have to scroll on to the second page. A “Glasgow” entry is even more confusing with the births and marriages secreted on to the second page and well after “People in the News” and “British and Irish Roots Collection”. The “Scotland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms” are not to be found until the 3rd page and after “Surrey Burials”!!



There is no doubt that FMP have a great selection of Scottish Records. It would seem however that they have to give some attention to how the Scottish resources are catalogued and listed. Until they make it more user friendly the tip is not to give up but to search through all the options offered over many pages to find what you want.

**ScotlandsPeople:** have announced that they have “released” (if that is an appropriate term”) the records of the Edinburgh and Largs prison registers. They announce;

*“More than 80,000 new entries into the prison registers for three historic Scottish jails can now be searched on ScotlandsPeople website. The records of Bridewell and Calton jails in Edinburgh and Largs jail in North Ayrshire, collectively span more than 50 years from 1798 to 1853. Prisoners can be searched by forename, surname, age and country of birth in the indexes. Further information including crime, sentence and a description of their health is available in the scanned images of the handwritten prison register pages.”*

Our Branch was a bit ahead of the curve on this given that our Branch presentation in April with Emma Maxwell explored this very topic. Should you wish to delve into this resource some more ScotlandsPeople also offer a [guide](#) to what you can find in these records.



**Declaration of Arbroath:** I have just spotted in the news that the “Declaration of Arbroath” is to be exhibited at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, from the 3rd June until the 2nd July. Given that this is the holiday time, if you are in the Edinburgh area, surely a visit is a must. An important document whose principles have inspired many individuals and countries. See the NRS history of it [here](#).

**What's on in the Society?** What can you enjoy from the various Branches of the Society in the next few weeks?

**Bolton:** on Wednesday, 7th June, at Bolton Golf Club, Bolton Branch are considering the Barlow Family and their contribution to Bolton's Egyptology collection. Go along. You may find some really old ancestors!! Details [here](#).

**Oldham:** on Saturday, June 10th, at Gallery, Oldham, the Branch are offering a presentation on the “History of Royton Hall”. It starts at 1400 hours and admission for members is free. Full details [here](#).

You can access the full programme of events planned by the Society for the whole year by going [here](#). No need then to miss anything.

**Shop:** again, do keep your eye on the shop. There are always new additions and several sale items. Look on the “download” section as well. Items are always being added to this. They are cheaper and you don't have to wait.



## Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting Saturday, 1st July 2023 Visit to Manchester Art Gallery

(Images courtesy of Marketing Manchester and Tagvenue.com)



July is the month when the Branch let's its hair down and we spend time together visiting a chosen venue, not always linked with Family History, but always designed to entertain and inform. This month we have decided to extend our cultural interests and have arranged a visit to the magnificent Manchester Art Gallery. There will be a guided tour of the Gallery, and, just to mark the specific focus of our Branch, there will be special reference to works by Scottish artists. The event is free, the cost being met by the Branch.

Now this is likely to be a very popular event and the Art Gallery place a restriction on our numbers. **For this reason the event is limited to Branch members only.** Nevertheless, it is essential that members who wish to attend reserve a place as soon as possible. To assist this process the event is already available on our web site. As usual you book through [Eventbrite](#) but in view of the restriction on numbers, as soon as the number allowed is reached the event will be closed.

Booked attendees can either, gather in the main entrance at Central Library at 1.30pm or just inside the Art Gallery at 2.00 pm. The Art Gallery is only a few minutes walk from Central Library. The tour is scheduled to end by 3.30 p.m.

Those familiar with the Gallery will know that there is a decent tea room to which those so inclined can retire afterwards and share experiences. We look forward to seeing you - **but book now!!!!**