



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: www.angloscots.mlffhs.org.uk

E-mail: angloscots@mlffhs.org.uk

Newsletter: scotia@mlffhs.org.uk



Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the September edition of the newsletter. As we head towards Autumn in the northern hemisphere we trust that those that were able to had a decent holiday break. To our readers in the southern hemisphere, here's to a promising Spring with all the hope that brings. That said, it seems that worldwide the weather has been playing havoc with expectations and experiences. Parts of the world are ablaze whilst other parts are awash. We really must get on with doing something. At our help desk at Central Library we have been pleased to welcome, as is often the case at this time of year, researchers from Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Always great to meet up with them. For members of the Society of course you can save on the air fare and make use of the Society Forum to ask for help and information. As well as reporting on our Branch meeting this month we again pass on hints and tips of resources that you might find helpful as you continue your research of AngloScottish ancestors. Take care, Editor.

Branch Meeting, Saturday 2nd September: we were fortunate enough to enjoy two presentation on this occasion, one cautioning research practices and the other about emigrants to Canada.

Seek the original sources and verify your findings: this was the message from our chairman, Michael Couper, and a pertinent reminder to us all of how important it is not to be lulled into accepting unverified information no matter how keen we are to fill in those gaps. This matter came to a head for Michael when he was sent an entry from the 1939 Index from a member of the one name studies group purporting to be Michael's parents. Whilst most of the information was correct the year of his mother's birth was not. It showed 1909 and not 1908 which Michael knew to be correct. All of us involved in family history research are of course familiar with the issue of transcribing errors and a short article that appeared in *The Manchester Genealogist* (Vol.53, No1, 2017) illustrates some of the issues we might encounter. Fortunately, in Michael's case, he had access to original documents that supported what he already knew. It led him, however, on a search of other examples within his own family history research. One of the most glaring was from the government web site, the GRO indexes of births and deaths. For one of the birth entries for an ancestor, the maiden name of the mother was in fact the name of the grandmother, probably the person who registered the birth. Again, if Michael had not had alternative sources, this could have proved a very confusing entry. It shows that even government sites make errors. The final message from Michael? Always check and verify with original documents if possible.

Missing in Canada. This was a presentation by Hilary Hartigan and focused on men (and by association, their families) who were employed in the mining industry and who were recruited for their skill and expertise by mining companies in the USA and Canada. One of Hilary's ancestors, Thomas Belton, was one such and by dogged determinism, Hilary was able to trace his journey, and demise, in the Extension mining fields of Nanaimo, British Columbia. In 1899 there was a devastating explosion at this mine resulting in the death of Thomas Belton. However if there is any interest in following through on this story, Hilary submitted a detailed article about this in *The Manchester Genealogist* (Vol. 59, No1, 2023). Also provided in this article is an extensive list of sources with references to lists of the men who dies. Hilary has also provided a handout of her presentation that can be accessed by members on the Anglo Scottish web site under the heading of "Speakers notes and videos". Well worth a look.

ScotlandsPeople - Register of Lighthouse Keepers

Those of you who receive the ScotlandsPeople newsletter will have heard of this most recent release of records. Although rather niche, it is an important source for those who did have (I believe there are few if any lighthouse keepers now) ancestors who maintained the lighthouses around this island. According to information released, the records consist of four volumes, spanning 84 years (1837-1921), from the **Lightkeeper registers of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses** with 2,047 images capturing the entries of 1,363 lightkeepers. You have to of course sign in to the ScotlandsPeople web site then the registers can be accessed [here](#) Lightkeepers can be searched by name, age and the year they entered service. Alternatively, searches can be undertaken by searching for the name of a specific lighthouse, the county or locality. If you meet the necessary criteria, here's hoping it throws some light on your research!!



The British Newspaper Archive: the BNA, in partnership with Find My Past have recently announced the addition of further copies of **The Scotsman** newspaper to the archive. This substantial addition means that the archive now covers the years 1817 to 2002. I have to admit to having never read **The Scotsman** in my life but I have made use of the Newspaper Archive as I am sure many of our members have. I found it particularly useful in researching my grandfather's entry into the 1st World War and his subsequent death in 1915 in the local Dundee papers. The Archive is a subscription driven resource if you use it at home but fortunately there is an agreement with local libraries (at least here in Manchester) that, whilst you still have to register in your own name, you can use the resource for free. So, if you have not already done so, why not register with the BNA, then the next time you are in your local library, have a look at what is on offer.

CAIRT - the Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum: just to alert you to the fact that the latest edition of CAIRT is available. [You can access it here.](#) You will notice that at the end of this newsletter, we announce that our next Anglo Scottish Branch meeting in October is delighted to have the topic of the National Library of Scotland Maps. On the subject of newsletters and Journals please do not forget to make use of the **Exchange Journal site on the Society Web site**. The Society exchanges Journals and Newsletters with over 50 other Societies throughout the UK and abroad and they are a great way if keeping up with what is going on elsewhere. All of them also have some research that is carried out in their local area that could prove useful. You access it by logging in to the Member Area then scrolling down to the "Exchange Journals".



Free online Event

Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

FAMILY

Learn how to trace your Scottish family tree

www.scottishindexes.com

"The People of Cross House" by Kate Keter

Apologies for the late notification about the next Scottish Indexes Conference with is on the 9th September.

You can find out more information about the Conference by logging into the Scottish Indexes web site [here](#)

The Hector: I was contacted by a reader who informed me about the celebrations organised by the *Hector's Descendant Project* in Pictou, Canada, to be held sometime in September. The "Hector" was a transport ship that carried Scottish emigrants to Canada in 1773. I knew nothing of the "Hector" and so this information prompted me to have a look and see what information was around. I can recommend the oft-consulted Wikipedia that has a good overview of the ship and it's history [here](#). I understand that some members of the Project are visiting Scotland on a sort of pilgrimage. If anyone knows anything about this event I would like to know and include it in a forthcoming newsletter.



What is on offer at MLFHS?



Now that the holiday season is coming to a close the various Branches of the Society have returned to courses and talks to members.

Bolton: on Wednesday 4th October the Bolton Branch have a presentation by Paul Salveson on the topic of "Lancastrians, Mills, Mines and Minarets". The event is held at the Branch venue, Bolton Golf Club, and also via Zoom for those not local who would like to tune in. Full details on the Branch web site.

Oldham: tomorrow, 9th September, the Oldham Branch are taking us up the chimneys with a presentation by Claire Moores 'Chimney Stacks and Climbing Boys': the art and mystery of Chimney Sweeping. An illustrated presentation" The event is at 1400 hours at the Performance Space in Oldham Library.

Manchester: on Saturday, 23rd September there is the opportunity to further explore your research methods in a presentation by Barry Henshall and Hilary Hartigan entitled "Deep Dive your Family History Research". Deep-dive is a fashionable term for taking your family history research to another level, searching deep into archives and online collections. Full details and information on the Branch web site.

Then, a one-off event: if you are in the area, **Visit our Helpdesk Team at Quarry Bank Mill Heritage Open Day** This is on Sunday, 17th September. Again, full details available on the Manchester Branch web site.

Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

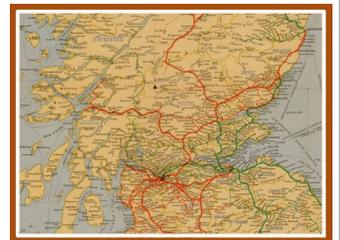
Saturday, 7th October 2023 at 1400 hours by Zoom

National Library of Scotland Map Resource - presented by Laragh Quinney

Laragh is "Maps Reading Room" manager for the National Library of Scotland, where she oversees the Maps Reading Room and enquiry services.

According to the NLS blog, "...she loves working with the two million maps and atlases held by the Library, and helping others discover and explore this wonderful collection."

Just what we need and enjoy. My own keen interest in maps and mapping means that I am really excited about this event.



The fact that it is a Zoom event means that our members in other parts of the world can join us and we look forward to this as usual.

Details of the event will be sent out shortly by our chairman and whilst it is a Zoom meeting, and so not so restricted with regard to numbers, it is important that you register for the event in the usual way through [Eventbrite](#) so that you can be sent the necessary link.

We look forward to you joining us.