



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

Welcome: to the February 2024 edition of the newsletter. For those to whom it applies, we trust that you have survived the floods that have devastated some areas of the country and the cold which has been pretty unrelenting over recent weeks. However, with the days slowly lengthening hope of better times comes with it.

In this month's newsletter we raise before you again the Scottish Marriage Index. This is a great and unique resource open to all and to which any can contribute their relevant family details. Currently there are over 4000 marriage entries contributed by people from all over the world. We would like this to grow, so please read the article and, more importantly, contribute your family details if you have not already done so.

For those of you close enough to Manchester, we draw your attention to the poster announcing the celebration being arranged to mark the 60th anniversary of the Society. Do join us if you can. As usual we open the newsletter with a resume of the presentation by our invited speaker, on this occasion, Lorna Kinnaird, on the topic of Scottish Asylum Petitions and continue to offer some suggestions that might inform your Anglo Scottish research. Take care. Editor.

Caledonian Asylum Petitions: Lorna's discovery of these registers arose out of her passion for the Scottish servicemen at the Battle of Waterloo and extended to the families of army and navy men who were killed in service or unable to work again and whose children needed a place of safety and education.

It was whilst carrying out research of these general topics at the London Metropolitan Archive that she came across these "Registers of Petition".



These registers were drawn up by the "**Highland Society of London**". The history and purpose of this Society can be seen on its web site ([here](#)) where a short reference is made to the fact that "*In 1815, the Society established the Royal Caledonian Asylum (now Royal Caledonian Schools), to educate needy children of Highland descent living in London.*"



The Society was founded in 1778 by Highland Gentlemen living in London including many noble and influential Scots who provided substantial funding for the Asylum. Whilst we may associate the word "asylum" with mental illness, the word actually refers to a "place of safety". After the Napoleonic wars members of the Society became aware of the drastic needs of many Scottish servicemen and their families discharged after the war and left to fend for themselves. Assistance offered by the Society was indeed to ex-servicemen but also to the children of impoverished Scottish parent living in London who would not have been entitled to parochial relief. The primary focus of assistance was the education of the children.

The records start in 1819 and, under a somewhat different format, continue up to the present day. From the outset, to be accepted by the Society for assistance a great deal of information was required. Firstly the applicant had to be presbyterian and evidence of this by way of baptism certificate and marriage certificate was required. The records of the children include not only name, date and place of birth but also the name and age of parents including the mother's maiden name and the circumstances of the family that led to them seeking assistance.

Lorna is in the process of digitising these records and spoke of the task ahead of her which is likely to take many years given the quantity of information. It is clear however that these records are going to be a great asset to Scottish family history research particularly since they cover most of the 19th century. **Lorna's talk is available to members via the Branch web site and is to be recommended.** A handout will be made available in the near future.



Anglo-Scottish
Family History Society



Scottish Strays

The Scottish Marriage Index

The Anglo-Scottish Family History Society **unique** database
which lists Scots-born people who
married away from home,
especially outside Scotland

Consult it free online at

www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk

Contribute to it.

If you have a Scottish ancestor in your family tree who married outside of
Scotland others may be searching the same family line.

Contribute via the web page.

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The Scottish Marriage Index: Every now and again we like to remind you of this unique resource that is offered by the Anglo Scottish Branch to all and any with links to Scottish ancestors.



One of the stumbling blocks for any family historian trying to trace Scottish ancestors is that when those ancestors have emigrated, or it is suspected that they have emigrated, then the trace could be lost. Or it could be that the descendants of someone outside of Scotland are trying to trace the family back in Scotland.

The Anglo-Scottish FHS has built an “emigrant” database based on a marriage, because recording details of the couple and their parents, gives, in most case, four family names, the place where the Scot was born, the place where they were married and the dates of the events. This database is called **The Scottish Marriage Index**.

Referring to the Index as an “emigrant” database is something of a misnomer because, although the majority of the marriages listed in the Index took place outside Scotland, it is not confined to Scots who married abroad; it also includes those who married well away from the family home in Scotland. Many contributors in Scotland have sent in details of marriages in their family tree, because they cannot trace some of the children of those marriages and suspect that they may have emigrated.

A benefit of the **Scottish Marriage Index** has been that many a researcher has spotted a name in the Index for which they were looking, and a connection has been made. In a similar way family historians in England, Wales, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand the other USA and other parts of the world, who have contributed to the Index and have included what they know of ancestor in Scotland, have been connected to others researching the same family.

The table below illustrates the format of the data provided by the Index:

Forename	Surname	When born	Where born	Parents	Spouse	Marriage place	Marriage Date
Helen or Ellen	McGee or McGhee	12 January 1855	Edinburgh	Francis McGee Helen Cassidy	Bernard Smith	Dundee	1st January 1877
Bernard	Smith	10 June 1847	Southwark London	James Smith Sarah Quinn	Helen or Ellen McGee	Dundee	1st January 1877

The information given here is of my own grandparents and indicates a move from England to Scotland by Bernard who marries a lass born in Edinburgh in Dundee. We are an Anglo Scottish Branch after all!!

The Anglo-Scottish FHS would like to invite you who have ancestors that emigrated and/or married away from home to contribute to this Index.

If you would like to have your family details listed then please go to the web site to be found at:

[Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society - Scottish Marriage Index \(mlfhs.uk\)](http://mlfhs.uk)

There you have the option of searching the database and also of adding your own information.



A word about privacy and security. By entering information you are of course making this available to others to search. One of the intentions of the Index is the hope that some distant member of your family will find this information and want to make contact with you. In order to offer a degree of protection the norm is that any such enquiries go first to the Society Index co-ordinator who will consult your entry and make contact with you through the means you have indicated, preferably, email. It would then be for you to pursue this enquiry as you choose. Alternatively you will note on the submissions form that you have the option of indicating that you do not mind enquirers contacting you directly via email. It is a matter for you whatever suits you best.

What's on in Manchester MLFHS:

Wednesday 13th March @ Manchester Central Library:

A celebration of 60 years of the Society's commitment to supporting family history research and researchers.
See poster attached.

Bolton: on Wednesday, 6th March the Branch are offering a presentation by Ray Jefferson on the story of the Bridgeman family. The story tells how the Bridgeman family (later elevated to the Earls of Bradford) were involved in the story of Bolton over a period of 350 years. Clearly a treasure chest for all Boltonians and anyone with Bolton links. Details of the venue and how to reserve a place can be found on Bolton web site.

Oldham: on Saturday, 9th March Bolton Branch extend their field of interest to include the whole of Manchester. A talk by Brian Groom looks at the history of Manchester and its surrounds and the influence it had on the development of Britain and indeed the wider world. More information about the event and how to register can be found on the Oldham/events/meetings page of the web site.

Manchester: the Society always offers a wealth of information and support at Manchester Central Library and the next few weeks are no exception. On Saturday, 17th February at 10.30 a.m., Hilary Hartigan is presenting a talk covering some of the basics of family history research under the title of "Getting It Right - Starting Your Family Tree". As well as helpful advice on how to go about starting your research and, very importantly, how to record and store your information, there will be experienced members of the Society present to join in discussion afterwards and offer advice. All information about the presentation and how to register to be found on the Society web site.

Web Site: we frequently make reference in this newsletter to the Society web site but sadly the evidence seems to be that few members of the Society use the web site apart from perhaps registering to join a meeting. We encourage you to spend a bit of time just exploring the site. The Society has almost 3.5 million national and international records on the site so there is likely to be something there for all. It is recognised that finding some records can be difficult and we hope to address this in the near future. In the meantime, please do have a search around.

Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting

Saturday, 2nd March 2024 @ 1400 hours via Zoom

Annual Meeting + talk on the CWGC by Ken Nisbet

Our meeting will begin with our annual review of the Branch with a report from our Chairman and the opportunity for members to comment and make suggestions for meeting content as we go forward.



We then welcome a well-known companion to the Branch, Ken Nisbett, who will speak to us about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Established in 1917 the CWGC emerged out of the experience and vision of Fabian Ware, an ambulance driver during the 1st World War. Ken has been long associated with the CWGC and is well versed in its work both at home and overseas

Since Ken will be speaking to us from Scotland, this is a Zoomed gathering. It also allows our members elsewhere in the world to join us and it is always great to have them.

Please reserve your place as usual via [Eventbrite](#).

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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
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SHOWCASING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR SOCIETY AND OUR 3.4 MILLION RECORDS



A Celebration to be held at
Manchester Central Library on
Wednesday, 13th March from 11.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Please join us to mark this significant milestone.

Follow the development of the Society through a timeline of events and achievements
to find, save and transcribe records for present and future generations of
family history researchers.