



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

Website: [www.angloscots.mlfs.org.uk](http://www.angloscots.mlfs.org.uk)

E-mail: [angloscots@mlfs.org.uk](mailto:angloscots@mlfs.org.uk)

Newsletter: [scotia@mlfs.org.uk](mailto:scotia@mlfs.org.uk)

**Welcome:** to the September edition of our newsletter. As indicated last month, there are several events going on to mark the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the 1st World War in 1918. Our own Branch contribution to this memorial is a talk given by Ken Nisbet and this forms the main article this month. Included are some of the web sites that Ken proposed would be of value in any research. Again we add some other sites that you might find helpful in your research as well as general information pertinent to your Scottish research. Enjoy.

Editor.

### Exploring your First World War Family History

For this workshop we were delighted to welcome Ken Nisbet who travelled down from Edinburgh to join us. Amongst his many roles and interests, Ken is secretary of both of the Scottish Genealogy Society and of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS). He also represents SAFHS at ScotlandsPeople. He has had a keen interest in Military History and has carried out much research in this area.



Ken Nisbet with committee member  
Yvonne Gill-Martin

The format of Ken's talk was in the form of headings that we should consider when researching our family involvement in the 1st World War. So, what was covered;

**Photographs:** check what you have at home and dig out any old photographs of soldiers. Examine uniforms carefully. Look at sleeves; small stripes on sleeves represent wound stripes. Inverted chevrons are long service stripes whilst others represent overseas action. Cap badges are a well known source of information, but also look at footwear. If, for example, the soldier is wearing spurs then he is not infantry but a cavalry regiment.

**CWGC website:** if you manage to find any information on this site about your ancestor, read the documents closely. There are often references on the documents as to where the person was killed and where the body was found. The medal cards have to be interpreted. For example, the 1914 Star indicates that the person served in France or Belgium between August and November 1914 so gives an indication as to when a man joined the army. A very good web site for much of this I found is this ([www.researchingww1](http://www.researchingww1))

**Women's Service and Nurses:** a fair bit of information about this and can be researched on such sites as the Red Cross ([vad.redcross.org.uk](http://vad.redcross.org.uk)) and the Nurses Gazette which is apparently online.

**Pension Record Cards:** currently these are only available at the National Archives but we were informed by Ken that they are due to be digitised later this year. It will list those eligible for a pension who were killed or wounded. Since it is not known what is available amongst this information, it is potentially a great resource. On the subject of who was eligible for a pension it was explained that there were criteria, but the main one was that the recipient, the man or his family where the man had been killed, had to apply for it.

**Scottish Research:** in terms of organisation of the war, there was no particular distinction to be made between Scotland and the rest of the UK. The primary web site resource for Scottish Military is this site. ([click here](#))

**Trench Maps:** ([click here](#)) from the National Library of Scotland web site. If you know which battles your ancestor was involved in there is the opportunity to look at the lay of the land.

**Australian and Canadian WW1 Records are on line and free:** great news for our Australian and Canadian readers but also good for UK research as these records frequently contain details of troop positions that might clarify your own research.

**ScotlandsPeople:** have information linked with soldier's wills. If you are fortunate enough to find one relating to your ancestor this is the only time that you will see his handwriting because the soldier completed the will himself.

**Prisoners of War:** ([click here](#)) this is a site offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross and offers information on prisoners of war from all countries. It is a wonderful site to explore whether you have a personal interest in it or not. Loads of information about individuals, camps and with maps of where the camps were.

**Ancestry/FindMyPast:** records for both these companies are of course mostly pay to view. However they do have some interesting records worth looking at. FindMyPast for example have soldiers medical records from the 1st World War and, according to Ken, these give admission and discharge dates as well as information as to the arena of war they came from and where they were subsequently sent to. Ancestry for their part have information about soldier's effects. By clicking ([here](#)) you will see the index of the vast quantity of information Ancestry has, - but at a cost.

**Erskine Hospital Records:** we have mentioned these in an earlier edition of *e-Scotia* but it is worth mentioning again. These are free to access and can be found ([here](#)).

**Newspaper Archives:** a much neglected source of information can be explored in the British Newspaper Archive. Recently, and without much enthusiasm, I looked at the Dundee papers for 1915 when my grandfather died and there found a short article about his death and the notification of it passed to my grandmother. It even had a declaration from his sergeant major as to his character. So, well worth a look at your local papers.

Altogether a great talk by Ken, greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended. Loads of questions afterwards that clarified many topics for individuals and the group.



### 1st World War Workshop: Friday 12th October 13.00— 15.00 BST

a special workshop at Manchester Central Library has been organised by the MLFH Society to mark the end of the 1914-1918 War. It is a "hands-on" and "directed" workshop by Frank Harrop. Frank is a member of the Society and has a fulsome knowledge of the 1st World War. He will give a PowerPoint presentation followed by guided and assisted research on computers that have been set aside for the purpose. A great opportunity for information and personally directed research.



#### Not to be missed:

- *Every attendee will receive an information pack and a copy of the DVD The First World War : Life on the Home Front in North West England.*
- *You will need to bring as much information as you have about your ancestor.*
- *You will also need to be able to use a computer.*

Meet on the third floor of the library, at the bank of computers by the lift, at 1pm. However spaces are very limited so it is essential that you reserve your place via [Eventbrite](#) on the MLFHS web site as soon as possible.



This is the right of my race, the heritage won by my fathers.  
Theirs by the years of fighting, theirs by the price they paid,  
Making a son like them, careless of hell or heaven,  
A man that can look in the face of the gods and be not afraid.

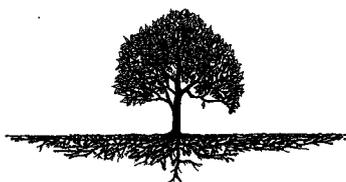
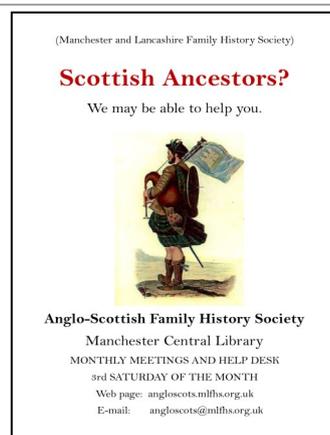
Ewart Alan Mackintosh poem - A Creed.



**Anglo Scottish Branch promotion:** recently the Branch committee decided on a promotion drive for the Branch as a means of, not only attracting new members, but also to let people know that we exist and that we might be of use to them should they have any Scottish ancestors that they would like to explore.

We therefore produced and, with the support of the Central Library, sent out to all the local libraries in Manchester the poster on the right with the request that they display it on their noticeboard. If you are near to a library in Manchester, could you have a look and see if the poster is displayed?

On the subject of promotion, if you can think of any way that we might be able to promote the Branch more successfully, we would love to hear from you, perhaps at the next occasion you are at a Branch meeting. If not, why not drop us an email at the email address heading this newsletter.



### Roots of the Branch:

I was prompted the other day to have a look at a book I rescued some time ago related to the history of the Society and entitled "Forty Years with Family History" by David Vaughan. It covers the history of the Society from 1964 - 2004. What I was particularly interested in of course was the story of the Anglo Scottish Branch and I got the following;

*"In his editorial in the first issue of the journal (The Manchester Genealogist) of 1977 Mr Beckett said he was compiling an Index of Scottish Emigrants in England, and asked members to let him have records of those born in Scotland before 1855 but who lived, married or died in England. He suggested that enough interest might be stimulated to form an Anglo-Scot Society" Later on in the article it states; "In the first issue of the Members' Interests Directory published by the Society in 1976-77, only 11 out of 125 members listed ancestors from Scotland."*

It appears then that these are our roots although it was not until 1982 that the Society Committee agreed to the establishment of an Anglo Scottish Branch and at its first meeting in November 1982, 15 members were present.

### Anglo Scottish Branch October Meeting

Saturday 20th October, 2.00 p.m.

### Scottish Resource Material at Manchester Central Library



Ever wondered if Manchester Central Library has any resources particular to and helpful for Anglo Scottish Research? Well, now you can find out.

We have arranged to have the library archivist, Larysa Bolton, pull out and show us some of the resources that are not obviously available or which we might not know about and which might be of added benefit to our Anglo Scottish research. Materials will include books and maps and attendees will have the opportunity to handle these. Handouts will accompany the talk so that you will be able to locate the resources at a later date whenever you think they might be of value.

(N.B. Time allowing, there may be an additional "treat", but more about that on the day.)



**Don't forget**—the Help Desk is available to you prior to the Branch meeting.

We have the batch of computers on the 3rd Floor of Central Library available for our specific use from 10.30 until 12.30. There is always assistance available from either one of the committee or another member of the Branch and it is an opportunity to share your research and/or find a way through some issue. Sharing your research is a good way for the rest of us to learn about resources we might not have considered.