



# e-Scotia

## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to our August edition of the newsletter. If you are on holiday when you receive this I trust that you are relaxed and have a glass of something or other in your hand. You will know by now that the Branch has no meeting in August and to that extent things are a bit more quiet. Nevertheless I hope that the information we do put together for you in this edition continues to assist you in your research. Can I draw your attention however to the next three monthly meetings which are full of promise and interest. So make sure that you reserve yourself a place at our meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month - always via [Eventbrite](#). By the way, I regularly monitor the readership of the newsletter and I note that in July five new members enrolled to receive *e-Scotia* taking our total readership up to 164. So welcome to you if you have just enrolled and hope you find it useful.

Enjoy. Editor.



**Scottish in-house resources for research:** understandably when we have “been at” tracing our ancestors for some time we are always on the lookout for some new resources to help us get over, under, through those brick walls. In *e-Scotia* we try to address this by indicating resources that are made known to us. *(By the way, if you have found some resource helpful please do let us know and we will pass it on to others)* However, there is a danger that in looking for the new we ignore the many resources that are already available to us. Let’s remember some of them:

**Manchester Genealogist Back Issues:** most of these have now been digitised and can be accessed via the Society web site. Dealing as they do with historical matters, they do not of course go out of date but may be developed. The magazines run from 1964 until 2019. However you do not have to plough through them to find some topic of interest because there is an “index search” option. If for example you type “Scotland” into this search box you are presented with a number of relevant topics together with details of the magazine in which they appear. I would draw your attention to two contributors in particular, Dan Muir and Jim Beckett. These were stalwarts of the Society generally, but of the Anglo Scottish Branch in particular and wrote some really interesting articles based upon meticulous research that is still valuable today. Have a look at them all and expand the knowledge base of your research.

**Scottish Document Collection:** logging into the **member area** of the Society web site provides you with a list of options amongst which is the Scottish Document Collection. There is access to Church records of baptisms, marriages and burials. The Presbyterian Communion Rolls contain a list of 78,000 records from 19 different Churches, so a phenomenal collection. There is the Paisley Voters List of 1847 with details of over a 1000 persons with the right vote. So if you are from the Paisley area you are on to a winner. However, as well as documents with lists of names and addresses, there are a number of articles that broaden the research possibilities and which are well worth a read to savour how our ancestors lived.

**“WITHOUT SOCIAL HISTORY, GENEALOGY IS JUST A LIST OF NAMES.”**



**Scottish Court of Session Archive:** I am grateful to the author of the “Lost Cousins Newsletter” for drawing this to my attention. This is a very interesting newsletter that contains many little gems of information about family history, and well worth signing up for ([here](#))

Anyway, regarding this Archive. The National Records of Scotland do hold all the archive of the Scottish Court of Session, but you have to visit the National Library to view them. Now the University of Virginia Law Library has digitised all the records from the 18th and 19th centuries and the site can be accessed ([here](#)) It is a simple search box method and deals with persons and places. By way of explanation of the site the authors tell us;

*“The Court of Session in this period held jurisdiction over contract and commercial cases, matters of succession and land ownership, divorce proceedings, intellectual property and copyright disputes, and contested political elections. Scottish women, Virginia merchants, aristocratic Highland proprietors, famous authors, enslaved laborers, soldiers, American Loyalists, and many more individuals sought justice before the Court of Session in this era.”*

Sounds as though it might all be beyond my humble family but the site you are taken to initially is the general “search” facility where you can put in who or what or where you want. To try it out I put in “Campbell” as a test and learned about a Court case where one Campbell sold another Campbell a horse that turned out to be lame. So you see, it wasn’t only with other clans that my clan was devious and untrustworthy!!!! However if you select the “Explore” button on the top right of the page you are taken to a selection of possible entry points for research. I got a little excited about the prospect of the video option to show how the site works (I love to be shown how to work things) but sadly it does not appear to be up and running yet. Anyway, have a look. You may find something to whet your appetite - especially our American readers.

**Local Family History Fair - Stretford:** For those of you who are close enough to be interested and willing, just to let you know that the annual “Family and Local History Fair” is being held at St Matthew’s Church Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 9AJ on **Saturday 7th September, from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm.** Admission is £2 which seems bargainous. We, the AngloScottish Branch, shall be there under the umbrella of the MLFHS banner but with all the help and assistance you might want. If you want more information about the day and venue you can access the web page ([here](#)).



**Scots Origins of Place Names:** some of you might be interested in this. I was mulling the other day about the meaning of the word “Loan” since in Dundee we had a number of “Loans”, e.g. Mains Loan; Butters Loan etc., and I never gave it much thought until now. Doing a bit of research I came across this interesting document prepared by the Ordnance Survey and entitled [“The Scots Origins of Place names in Britain”](#). Apart from many other definitions it tells me that a “Loan” was a right of way for animal stock to a common grazing area. It also says that a “Mains” was a home farm on an Estate, so “Mains Loan” in Dundee was presumably the right of way to common grazing by the farm. So we learn something every day. Have a look and see if you can find the meaning to some of the names you were familiar with.



**Oh No!!** We received the attached message from one of our readers, Judith Redfern.

*“Some of Scotland’s precious and irreplaceable historical records have been damaged after torrents of rain leaked in through a dome which has needed repair work for a number of years. The damage to a host of documents, including marriage and death certificates dating from 1800 occurred last Tuesday night at the National Records of Scotland on Princes Street following hours of torrential rain as thunder storms swept large parts of Scotland.”*

Sad news and we can only hope that the records can be recovered and restored. From a practical perspective, if you plan to visit the National Archives any time soon - take an umbrella.

**Scots in the Caribbean:** I am grateful to one of our readers, Dave Hartley, for pointing us in the direction of this resource. Dave came upon it whilst researching some of his own family tree. He was looking for an ancestor who made his way to Tobago and died there. In carrying out the research Dave came across a vast amount of information relating to the movement of a great number of Scots to the West Indies. As Dave points out, if you find that your Scottish ancestor suddenly disappears from records at home, then have a look at some of these. They may have sailed West.



As is so often the case, once you open a tin of research it is amazing what you find. Dave found this link in Google books detailing the deaths of Scots in the West Indies. The information is taken from a book “Scots in the West Indies, 1707—1857” by David Dobson. 1707 of course was the year of the union of the parliaments, one of the benefits for Scotland being that English markets were opened to Scottish business. The information available can be read here [\(Click\)](#) but helpfully **Ancestry** have digitised all of the extracted material relating to individuals and this can be searched here. [\(Click\)](#) On a similar theme there is an article produced by the Scottish Records Association that considers archival material relating to Scottish activity in the West Indies and this can be accessed here. [\(Click\)](#) Most of us have individuals that seem to disappear from records, and this is simply one other source to explore.

**Scottish Emigration Database:** [\(see here\)](#) continuing on this theme of Scots going abroad, the University of Aberdeen have made available this digital site detailing emigrants gleaned from various passenger lists. There is a straightforward database search facility but an added bonus is that you are invited to add to the database with any extra information about any of your own ancestors who are listed on the database.

The site also has links to other relevant web sites including emigration from other countries for comparative purposes and access to “The Ship’s List” which gives details of all the ships that were involved in the emigration of peoples from Scotland.

**Ancestral Survey:** a continued thank you to all of you who have sent in information for my little project. They keep coming in and I am grateful. For anyone still not sent in anything there is plenty of time so please give it a thought. I must say that some of the stories attached to the information people have sent in have been quite astonishing in themselves and I hope to share some of them with you - with discretion of course.

## Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting Saturday 21st September 2019

### “Bridgescapes” with L Bruce Keith

A treat is in store for all of us who are able to attend this Branch meeting. We have L Bruce Keith giving us a talk on the history, significance and influence of bridge building in Scotland. Bruce has written a book “Bridgescapes” in which he narrates his personal journey through Scotland’s history using bridges as the focus of his exploration. He will be sharing this with us and, hopefully, copies of his book will be available to any of us who want to explore the topic further.



Tay Rail Bridge, Dundee

The talk will begin at 2.00 pm. We anticipate it being a popular event so please ensure that you have a place by booking your place via the **Eventbrite** tag on the Society web page.



The Three Forth Bridges

Don’t forget also that the **Anglo Scottish help desk** is available again with a start time of 10.30 am on the day of the Branch meeting. We are on the 3rd floor of Central Library, so come along. We will be happy to help with any queries.

