



March 2021

Greetings to all our members and friends, hope everyone is well and close to a vaccination. It's a lucky thing that we have the Internet, and enjoy a hobby in genealogy, there is so much to find from 'the web'; we shouldn't be bored, just frustrated that we can't get out to the archives and meet with others at the society.

Following on from our new Website, you will notice some changes in the latest e-News, as a new Editor has been encouraged to take on the monthly task. Issues will be archived on the website for Members to refer back to. I hope that readers will consider dropping, a line through the Contact form on the website, or direct to [enews@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:enews@gwsfhs.org.uk), with feedback, and suggestions on links to useful resources they have discovered. As well as the Society news, there are some ramblings, introducing :- The National Archives, The Peoples History of Glasgow and the Trades House Library.



## Society News

- **Meetings** - Members please register on the website for the Next Meeting(s) :-

**My Ancestor Got into Trouble** - Monday 8 March 7.30pm

Zoom Presentation by **June Wiggins**

This is your second chance to hear talk given in February, apologies to those who were locked out last month.

**Scottish Research Before 1855** - Monday 15 March 7.30pm

Zoom Presentation by **Alison Spring**

With over 40 years' experience in genealogical research, Alison Spring specialises in Scottish family history. She is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists, with a Master's degree in Family & Local History from the University of Dundee.

- **Opening Hours**

Sadly we can't predict when we will be able to open the premises to members. Consequently we have limited news to report on new library and database additions.

- **Journal**

Look out for your Journal later this month with some interesting articles to take you round the world. Life and career of a schoolmaster from Stranraer to Glasgow. The story of emigration from Ireland to turbulent times in the US, and sad tales of emigrants from Cathcart to New Zealand. For those who couldn't attend, two useful reports of recent talks, given at the society, on Paisley and Glasgow records.



## News from elsewhere

- Strathclyde University is offering free online course 'Genealogy : Researching your Family Tree' with 8 weekly subject areas, starting 8 March 2021. Register at their FutureLearn portal <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy> . Very favourable reviews of earlier course – seems to go beyond the beginner level they target.
- Ancestry announced some additions which may interest members in our area :-  
World War I Pension ledgers and index cards 1914-1923  
World War II Allied Prisoners of War 1939-1945
- Findmypast have partnered with 10 other Scottish family history societies to include their monumental inscriptions on their site
- ScottishIndexes Webinar IX is announced for 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 with lots of interesting speakers on zoom, and very useful Q & A session – register at their website [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) for a whole day of webinars. Free, but they do suggest a donation, and it is well worth it.
- Renfrewshire FHS [www.Renfrewshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.Renfrewshirefhs.co.uk) ran their first zoom meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month) with a talk by Myko Clelland of FindMyPast. It was a great success, they kindly did not complain when I gatecrashed!! Keep an eye on their website – next talk is planned to be “Windyhill – the saving of a Mackintosh masterpiece..” check their website for update and zoom link
- Chris Paton's blogspot <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/p/links.html> has noted that 'Black's Surnames of Scotland ..' has been scanned and is available at <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001598191> thanks to University of Michigan. It is rather slow to load, and can't be downloaded, but the search efficiently finds entries and allows you to jump to pages found.
- A three day seminar by Family Search and the LDS organisation in February at [www.Rootstech.org](http://www.Rootstech.org) had so many webinar talks that you couldn't possibly have listened to them all in the time – amazingly they are going to be available free on their site for a whole year. There is no need to register unless you want to create a playlist (it is too late to join live Q&A!). Clicking 'Sessions' takes you to hundreds of talks from all around the world – not all American biased – searching for Scotland or Ireland gives a list of interesting talks on all sorts of topics, there are useful DNA talks, and searching 'Demo Theater' has overview of how to use many commercial products. Well worth a browse on rainy days.



## Ramblings

Since we are all stuck inside, the following items concentrate on a few items available to all on the internet – in future we can maybe spend more time looking at the resources in the society library for members, but, for now we can't get access.

## ● The National Archives

I was recently searching on The National Archives (TNA) website, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) to follow up on some old soldiers who were seen in Necropolis transcriptions – sadly unsuccessfully. It is a convenient time to write some notes on TNA since they still offer free of charge downloads of scanned documents, at the end of the lockdowns the charges will surely come back. You may say, TNA at Kew near London – that's England, – well its also GB and UK, so gathers many records of Scottish subjects – principally all the service records are centralised there, and there are many others who had connections in England.

Like many other internet resources the volume of data indexed is massive, so it is worth saying a few things on how to reduce number of search results somewhat. TNA is guardian of untold masses of documents covering government, legal, military and personal matters – the paper files can only be viewed in person, but a growing number of collections have been scanned. Much of the copying has been on microfilm, later scanned to pdf's, in association with Ancestry and FindMyPast. Indexes by these organisations are free to access; images and transcripts can be seen when you visit in person, and on their sites by subscription for everyone else. A number of collections are indexed by TNA and images are (currently) free to download, Medal Cards, Service Records for instance, and PROB probate records which hold many wills of Scots, in the military and with English connection.

Finding something useful is pot luck, but it is always worth a look since its free, for download you must have registered and log in to pay £0 (at present).

At [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) there are a large number of useful research guides through the 'Help with your research' link – remember it's a different English legal system for courts, and BMD's, Census, 1939 register etc, but military, naval etc collections cover the whole country (from 1707). 'Search the catalogue' takes you to their 'Discovery' basic search, or 'Advanced' where you can specify record set. Discovery integrates catalogues from many other public and private record offices, so throws up a huge number of hits, so you have to think about how to reduce number of hits, and here we concentrate on downloadable files which are free at present.

For example, worst case, look for John Smith and it finds 86,000 johns and smiths, John Smith Scotland finds 898 which could be of interest to us, "John Smith" Scotland, catches 152 of only JohnSmith, the quote marks get rid of other smiths and johns – still not manageable. At the left you can filter by date, or, if you are lucky 'Available for download only', which you can do for free rather than £3.50, here's an example of an entry with downloadable Continuous Service record, from the ADM (Admiralty) series:-

### Name Smith, John Place of Birth: Glasgow, Scotland Continuous Service...

Reference:	ADM 139/389/38878	
Description:	Name	Smith, John
	Place of Birth:	Glasgow, Scotland
	Continuous Service Number:	38878
	Date of Volunteering:	14 September 1858
	Date of Birth:	04 August 1833
Date:	[1853-1872]	
Held by:	<a href="#">The National Archives, Kew</a>	

#### Ordering and viewing options

£3.50 - [sign in](#) to get this free

Download format PDF  
Approximate size 5 MB

[Add to basket](#)

Order up to 10 items per basket, and up to 100 in a 30 day period.

At the right you can see the request to download, you must be logged in. Even if you are unlucky with download you can often get quite a lot of detail from the catalogue entry, sadly it might be frustrating that more detail would need a trip to London.

If you are looking for a soldier or a sailor you can narrow things down by going to Advanced Search at top left, and fill in 'any of these references' with document series - which you just have to know!!! ADM is Admiralty for sailors, WO is War office for soldiers, BT is Board of Trade for merchant marine, PROB for probate and Wills (sailors all had to make a will before they shipped out)... and a hundred more. Don't narrow down too much - better to browse to start with.

Where you don't find anything downloadable you may still get leads without a trip to London, some collections which have been scanned by Ancestry or FindMyPast are only available on their sites and paper copies have gone to deep store. For instance here is result for a guy who served in the Dublin Militia and 27<sup>th</sup> foot, his Chelsea Pension record in WO121 series, sometimes it can be full service record, or maybe just a statement of where his pension was paid !!:-

### JOHN FRAZER alias JOHN FRASER Born GRENOCK [GREENOCK], Scotland Served in Dublin...

Reference:	WO 121/170/137
Description:	JOHN FRAZER alias JOHN FRASER Born GRENOCK [GREENOCK], Scotland Served in Dublin Militia; 27th Foot Regiment Discharged aged 50 after 26 years 4 months of service Residence or place where pension paid stated in document. See film image 375
Date:	1808
Held by:	<a href="#">The National Archives, Kew</a>

This is available to download from [Findmypast](#)

Partner websites are free to search but there may be a charge to view full transcriptions and download documents. Other services may also be available.

[Visit Findmypast](#)

Even if you don't have a FindMyPast subscription (check if your local library has) you can often learn quite a lot for the catalogue entry. Sometimes it may only be a Medal Card captured on Ancestry, but even just the service number can be a key to getting other documents. Give it a try.

- [The Peoples History of Glasgow](#)

One of our members spotted an online scan of 'The Peoples History of Glasgow', you can browse from the following link or download in various formats, pdf, epub, kindle etc,

<https://archive.org/details/peopleshistoryof02mdow/page/10/mode/2up>

Collected by John K. McDowell in 1899, it is full of brief descriptions and lists about Glasgow - history of - bridges, origins of streets, markets - who knew there was a bird market!, foundation of the great Mitchell Library, list of people executed... An easy read, or just something to dip into for a taste of old Glasgow.

- [The Trades House Library](#)

Interesting that the book above has a Glasgow second hand bookseller label, but it is scanned by a University in Ontario, Canada. If you do a Google search you can also find it in the digital collection of books at [www.TradesHouseLibrary.org](http://www.TradesHouseLibrary.org). On that site at the Glasgow\Places tab you will also see many Victorian histories of Glasgow and suburbs, Maryhill, Kirkintilloch, Neilston for example. Under Glasgow\Genealogy tab you can find scans of the membership rolls of the Trades Societies in Glasgow, as well as some modern lists created by their archivist, such as 'Trades House Hospital Admissions 1612-1775'.

- **Parish Map**

On Scottish Indexers facebook site a useful parish map was highlighted from the NLS site at <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/boundaries/> , to see Parish boundary, just click, or search, to see outline overlaid on the 1857 OS map. However be careful there may be errors - for example "Glasgow" is actually showing boundary of Barony Parish!! Remember, on the website, members can see parish maps for our area, in scanned back copies #4 - 13 of the Journal.

- **Answers to Quiz in last Newsletter.**

**Famous Scots**

Thomas 'Sean' Connery  
Adam Smith  
Alexander Fleming  
Mary Queen of Scots  
Flora MacDonald  
Chris Hoy  
Alexander Graham Bell  
Eric Liddell  
Arthur Conan Doyle  
Henry Campbell-Bannerman

**Songs**

I Love a Lassie  
Dignity  
I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)  
Flower of Scotland  
The Jeely Piece Song  
Caledonia  
Donald where's yer troosers?

**Islands**

Islay  
Jura  
Westray to Papa Westray  
Staffa  
St Kilda

How did you do?

To be in contact with others you can go to :



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