



November 2021

Greetings to all our members and friends, hope everyone is well protected against all the nasty bugs around, keep to the Scottish rules and wear a mask in busy areas. Now the clock has changed, dig out your woolly jumpers, and that can be some of your contribution to saving the planet. Some of our archives are opening again, so we can start to get back to some researching that doesn't need a keyboard.



Society News

- **Meetings** - Members please register on the website for the Next Zoom Meeting :-
15th November at 7:30pm **Ghost Signs of Glasgow** by Merryn Kerrigan (Glasgow City Trust)
When you have registered click <Add to Calendar> and select (Google, Outlook etc) whichever is yours, Save it to your calendar and it will set a reminder before the meeting
- **Opening Hours**
Saturday afternoons to start with. Telephone 0141 339 8303 Saturday 2-4pm to make a booking. The Website and Journal announced that we have at last started opening the premises for research on Saturdays. The last few weeks we have welcomed a few members to meet 'mask-to-mask' for research sessions. Check out the website for conditions at :-
www.gwsfhs.org.uk/2021/10/22/research-centre-opening-30th-october
- **Journal**
The October Journal should soon be in your hands, the Editor will be pleased to hear your comments on the content. Any contributions, whether relating to the theme or any other subject will be considered by the Editor.
- **Library New project**
Diana was pleased to receive some suggestions to be added to her list of informative museums and heritage centres to visit on-line or in person. She is focusing initially on speciality museums that might give family historians an insight into specific aspects of their ancestors' lives - occupations, homes and schools, etc - which are not place-specific.
Further suggestons to enews@gwsfs.org.uk with subject 'Museums List', will be noted.
- **Website**
Another informative article, in the series on interpreting old photos - 'Photo-sleuthing - 'The Gamekeeper's Wife' is newly uploaded, check at the 'Articles' tab on our Website.



News from elsewhere

- Once again Christine Woodcock's Canada/Scotland Special Interest Group has kindly opened their talks to our members, all at 3.00pm our time, next talk with Zoom web link to register :-
November 18th - **Scottish Marriage: Instantly Buckled for Life**, Chris Paton
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqdOCopzsoE90WvQhhSX5IH5LLnrQDkp_i

November 24th - **Emigration from Scotland**, Christine Woodcock
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrfuqqqjMoGdYCxJ3h2WNsTKaxwVsl6oGm>
- Ancestry
A 'US Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America 1625-1825' has been added to their site. This appears to be extracted from David Dobson's series of books of the same name.
- FindMyPast (FMP)
Many will have seen publicity from The National Archives reporting plans for release of the **English** 1921 census on 6 January 2022, exclusively on FindMyPast, highlighting the work done by FMP in filming and indexing the records. Charges for 1921 purchases don't seem to be published yet. Sadly the Registrar in Scotland hasn't contracted to get the indexing done yet, so there is a wait before we see the images for Scotland!!
If you managed to catch Myko Clelland's presentation in October, you should have learned a lot about the resources available from FMP. Members have the chance to view again, after logging in on the website.
- ScottishIndexes
The October Conference was again a feast of information from speakers on education, Wales, Irish, Maps and hidden resources, as well as update from Emma on indexing of Sheriff Court procedure books. The handouts of links are available at www.scottishindexes.com .
The 14th Conference, will take place on 5th December.
- Chris Paton's blogspot at <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com> always has useful news for Scottish and Irish researchers.



Ramblings

Clocks have changed here and it is starting to get colder in the Northern hemisphere, so now we have more time to look back at links to play with on the computer. I have picked up a few hints from recent talks which may be useful to others. Sorry if it is a bit Glasgow-centric, but the maps investigation is relevant to all, and it may get a bit technical at the end.

- **Glasgow Herald**
In his talk at ScottishIndexes, Chris Paton mentioned that the scans of the Glasgow Herald at the British Newspaper Archive (BNA), (also through FMP), only covered up to 1900, but (the) Glasgow Herald collection at <https://news.google.com/newspapers> covers right up to 1990. If you have a specific date to search after 1900 this is very useful information, HOWEVER, the

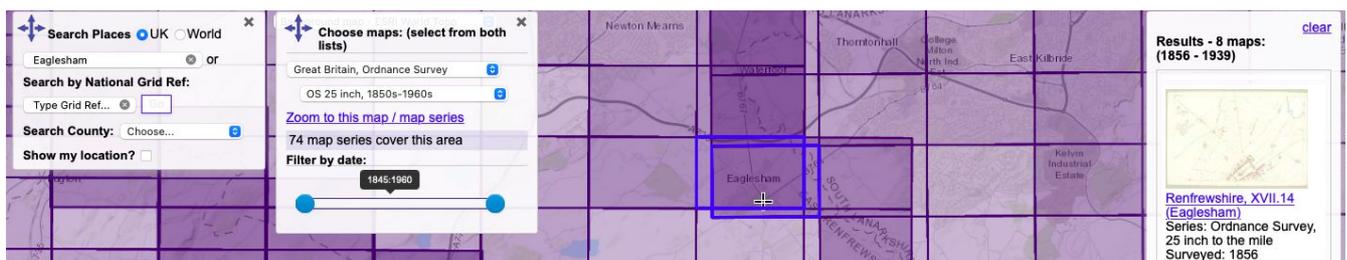
downside of the Google datasets is that they are only image scans, with no OCR search ability. The BNA collection is searchable, although BNA scans appear better than Google, it is still not good enough for completely accurate text to be recovered, and consequently search can be quite variable with strange matches and probably quite a lot of missed matches, but a great help.

- **Maps at National Library of Scotland (NLS)**

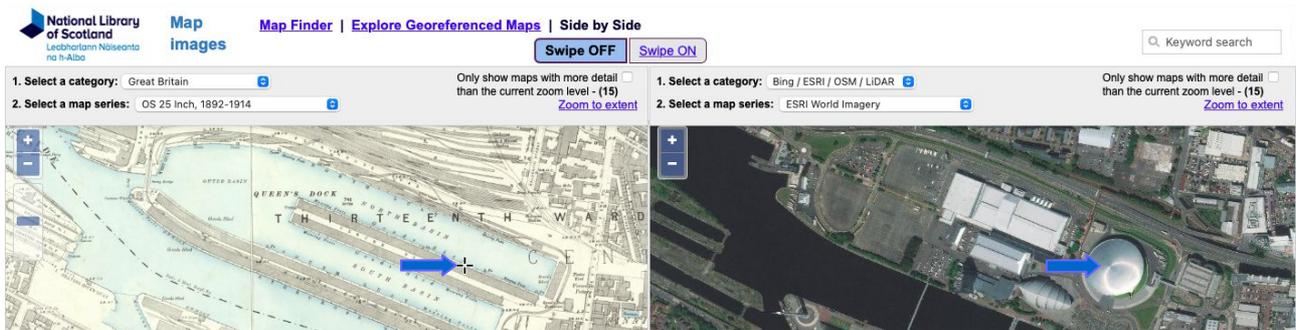
Another highlight talk was by Chris Fleet of NLS who taught me some new tricks on their site for viewing the tremendous collection of scanned maps. I have often used the Ordnance Survey (OS) detailed maps to identify streets and farms. We are lucky in the west of Scotland that the 1st edition, which surveyed populated areas in the 1850s, was at 25 inches to the mile, or 1:2500 scale, where Edinburgh was first surveyed at smaller 6-inch scale then 25 inch came with the second edition only in the 1890's. The NLS have completed scanning all the sheet maps they hold for Scotland, and are moving on to scan the maps holdings for England, and in a few years also Ireland. Opening the website at <https://maps.nls.uk> gives access to all the sheet maps for Scotland. Not only OS maps but Town Plans, Estate Maps, aerial photo mosaics from the 1940's and many other series, as you see from the left hand selector bar, including a Guide to the site.



I have been playing with viewers for the OS series. If you want to see maps for different periods you can start with the Map Finder, enter the town or street you seek into the place box at top left, here Eaglesham village south of Glasgow, then for most detail, set 'choose map' (normally at bottom left) to OS 25 inch, when you zoom out and select a rectangle, you will see all the maps for that area at the right hand side. This area has two overlapping boxes because Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire sheets cover the area, the top entry, at right, is Renfrewshire sheet XVII.14, for 1856, clicking on that brings up the full sheet and you can zoom in to see individual buildings.



It is more fun to start with Explore Georeferenced maps - this opens the historical map layer on top of a modern map or satellite image, and you can swipe between the two images. This starts with the second edition maps from the 1890's and has an extra search 'Places' box with all names from the historical 6 inch OS map; if a name has disappeared from the modern map it may be found in historic list. Here selecting Finnieston area of Glasgow and once again 25 inch OS you will see some of the many docks in Victorian Glasgow, if you go the bottom left and slide 'change Transparency' to the left, the modern satellite image will appear and show a image that should be familiar to anyone who had been watching the COP26 news reporting - the conference site. The background map can be changed from the ESRI World Image to other street maps, but the satellite is the most interesting. When you click Side-by-Side at the top of screen you can get a comparison view and move your cursor to see the relative position today.



If we change the top setting to Swipe-ON then images are superimposed and we can drag the little button at the top of the mid boundary left or right to cover or uncover either side. Another area of change which may be of interest is where you wish to identify lost graveyards in Anderston. Below is an example of using the same method to identify North Street and Anderston Burial grounds, which no longer exist. North Street still exists, with the Mitchell Library, but the south part where the graveyard was situated no longer survives because:-



a muckle great motorway was driven straight through the middle of it! As stated the georeferenced views are based on the 2nd series OS maps from the 1890's, to see the sheet number click back to 'Explore georeferenced' at the top of screen, and see the full sheet with detail 'Lanarkshire VI.10, Revised 1893' at bottom of the screen. With that sheet number you can look for the 1st edition from 1856 by going to 'Home\Ordnance Survey\25 inch(1st ed)\by sheet number' and selecting Lanarkshire VI.10, you have the Burial Ground looking much the same (right), and on the same sheet you see



Finnieston (left) before the docks were created. If you are keen on maps, this little overview may have caused a problem, because you may not be able to drag yourself away from this site as it has so many fascinating maps.

Acknowledging:

- Screenshots of OS maps and website courtesy of the National Library of Scotland, and
- ESRI.com for satellite imagery used in overlays.

● Rockfield Centre – a notice of upcoming Exhibition

Some seven years ago, the community of Oban and surrounding district decided to save the former Rockfield Primary School from demolition and set about fundraising to achieve that goal. Five years on, we had raised, through generous funding, grants and donations, the magnificent sum of almost £3,000,000. £200,000 of that was achieved by a share offer, handsomely

supported and generously backed by local individuals and businesses as well as folk further afield.

One of the four main themes the community identified as being necessary to the success of the project was History and Heritage, and here we are preparing to hold our first exhibition as a thank you to all those who helped us achieve our dream and see the project through.

We have received many donations by way of photographs, artefacts, sound recordings and a wealth of goodwill which allows us to host :

'Down the Town- Oban's shops and businesses through the years.'

The exhibition will be held to coincide with Oban's Winter Festival which is on from Saturday 20th till Sunday 28th November.

Our opening hours will be:

Sat. 20th 11-3

Tues. 23rd 11-3

Thurs. 25th 11-3 and 6-8pm.

Fri. 26th 11-3

Sat. 27th 11-3.

Our knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to discuss the exhibition and answer any questions people may have, and look forward to contributions from visitors who may remember information we have overlooked or forgotten.

We hope as many people as possible will be able to attend and look forward to welcoming you to The Rockfield Centre, which is situated in Stevenson Street in the centre of town, has a car park and is accessible to all. Full Covid precautions will also be in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Mhairi Ross. Rockfield Heritage Hunters.

● **Hyperlinks and URLs**

Very often we see blue underlined hyperlinks to take us to related information on the internet.

Members may have noticed some very long links in the Journal taking up many lines and looking clumsy. Going forward we are looking to make more use of 'hyperlinks' to tidy this up.

Hyperlinks are document references - typed out in full, attached to an image  , behind descriptive names like [GWSFHS](#) or behind anonymous words like click [here](#) for our website.

They can also be used to jump to a different place in the same document. On a computer, when you hover your pointer over the hyperlink, a bubble will normally pop up to show you the full link path - and clicking, or CTRL-click (CMD-click on Apple), will take you to the destination, click type depends on your browser (Explorer, Edge, Chrome etc) and its settings. If you want to use the link you will normally be on a computing device, so you don't actually have to see the full path as you won't be manually typing it in. In a few cases you may wish to see the details - if it is broken you may wish to enter the root address before any slashes (or oblique strokes) to try and recover, you may want to see what else the site has by starting at the root home page, or just want to know where you are going. The URL (Universal Resource Locator) is the address on the internet, it will normally start with [http://](#) or [https://](#) (for secure) then the domain name like [www.gwsfhs.org.uk](#), if you are manually entering the name in your browser, you can normally miss the [http](#) prefix because your browser can work out the correct version, typically you can miss off [www](#), but, stick to the reference you are following as it is possible to have two different sites with and without [www](#).

● **Security**

Thinking back to last month's comments on fake phone calls, you also have risks on the internet, and it is worth paying special attention to the previous descriptions when you get an unexpected message asking you to click a link, even when it looks to have come from genuine sources like a Bank or Royal Mail. This is a time that it's important to look at the detail of the Domain name

pointed to by the Hyperlink before clicking through. Check that the name looks correct with no strange destination or extra hyphens, numbers etc. Where you are passing any personal information it must be on a secure site starting <https://>, this will show as a little padlock in the address line of your browser.

- **Late News from Elsewhere**

FindMyPast Fridays announcement.

Their 1939 register for ENGLAND has just opened 57,000 previously redacted entries (of people less than 100 years old), and they have added new features to the search screen to allow filtering by evacuees etc. It can be useful to us in Scotland because there was lots of migration in both directions across the border. The register was created to produce national identity cards, it is not a census, however does show people grouped in households, but does not give relationships. It is particularly important in England because their 1931 census was destroyed by a fire in 1942, and there was no 1941 in WW2 census. No military are recorded, unless home on leave, but full conscription in wartime was not in place until 1942, so there are still many people still at home. The Scottish 1931 Census is safe, at least we will see in another 10 years! The Scottish 1939 Register is not open to public (they say because of its use as National Health record?), you can only get information on application with specific detail and paying a fee.

Where anyone has comments or corrections, don't be shy, and send a note to enews@gwsfhs.org.uk, thoughts can be included next month. Also let us know of any other suggestions for less obvious resources which may be of use to other members.

Ideas, opinions and techniques from contributors to e-News, are for information of readers, they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or recommendations of the Society.

To be in contact with others you can go to :



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