



March 2022

Greetings to all our members and friends. Many readers will have noticed that last e-News did not immediately open on your click, but downloaded into a folder, or sometimes disappeared. Hopefully a new transfer link has solved the issue.



Society News

- **Meetings** - Members please register on the website, and put a reminder on your calendar, before the Next Meeting:-

Digging deeper into our ancestry with Y-DNA testing by Chris Menzie 21 March 21 at 7.30pm

- **AGM**

In the March Journal you will receive notice of our AGM (and a short Extraordinary General Meeting) on Monday 25 April 2022, starting at 7.30pm on Zoom. This will be followed by a talk on Glasgow High Kirk Burying Ground. There will be 4 vacancies on the Council, and office bearer positions to elect. Everyone on Council is a volunteer, and welcomes new members to come forward to bring new ideas. If you are interested, a member of the Society, and can spare some time for a meeting once a month, by Zoom, why not submit your name and membership number to secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk.

- **Opening Hours**

From Saturday 19th February afternoons, Telephone 0141 339 8303 from 2-4pm on Saturday to make a booking. Check out the flash screen on the website for conditions, and at :-

<https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/2022/02/14/research-centre-open-19th-feb-22/>

Extending opening to Thursday afternoon is being discussed, watch the website or call during Saturday hours for update. Any member interested in volunteering for Saturday or Thursday research sessions at the society premises, please contact secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk .

- **Journal**

Members can expect latest edition of the Journal imminently, the good work of the Editor and her team has already gone to the printers. We can look forward to seeing articles on the diaspora theme, with stories of travels from home to Canada, Australia and others, and also investigation of helpful guides to resources in America and New Zealand. After seeing members stories, why not give it a go yourself and send a submission with a colourful illustration to editor@gwsfhs.org.uk, we all have stories to tell which can often give research suggestions to other readers, not only on the next themes which you will see mentioned at start of next Journal.

- **Kilted Ancestors**

In support of the Scotlands Year of Stories 2022, Clare Wilson of Treehouse Genealogy and her colleagues at Kilted Ancestors Facebook Group, have put together a quarterly '**Kilted Kulture Virtual Conference**', with talks on a wide range of interesting subjects in each session. Not only stories from within Scotland but also the Scottish diaspora especially across the Atlantic to Canada. For full details refer to www.genealogyvic.com or <https://www.treehousegenealogy.co.uk/kilted-kulture-conference-ys2022> .

- **The Scottish way of Birth and Death**

Our member Morag Fyfe pointed out a very instructive site from the University of Glasgow <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/research/economicsocialhistory/projects/scottishwayofbirthanddeath/> . This project by the Centre for the History of Medicine investigates, in some detail, the background for BMD and Divorce certification as well as some studies of Health and Vaccination, with a 10 page bibliography for further reading.

Each of the topics is discussed under a separate link in the left margin. Just jumping in at random caught some interesting items about registration - there's a lot more to read. From Jan 1855 there was a years grace for anyone to had missed vital events that had been overlooked, to have them entered retrospectively in Parish Registers, then from 1860 it was possible, thorough the Sheriff Court to have a missed event from 1800 entered in a Register of Neglected Entries. After 1919 birth certificates which had been marked 'illegitimate' could be re-issued without the marking. Another embarrassment was birth in the poorhouse, after 1913, the street address of institutions was to be entered rather than institution's name.

Until Civil marriage was introduced in 1939, the various forms of 'irregular' marriages could be registered via the Sheriff Court, it is stated that Registrar could not estimate figures for registration of 'irregular' marriages.

Registration of Deaths was promoted to help in public health recording. In England registration was originally not compulsory, but burial was not possible without death certificate, so registration was compulsory when Scottish registration started. In 1893 a Parliamentary Committee estimated that cities found 97% of medically certified deaths, but in Inverness and the countryside only 42% of deaths were not certified by a doctor. Even by the end of the century registration of deaths were still causing concern. There are many other papers on health, disease, vaccination, and national registration.

- **Institution addresses in Glasgow**

Following on from the 1919 change to anonymise poor houses and hospitals on certificates by entering only an address, there is a few interesting site which list institutions and their addresses for these places in Glasgow, and around Scotland.

- **Workhouses**

A site expanding on the fate of the Victorian poorhouses covering the UK, with a Scottish section is at <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland/UnionsScotland.shtml> , here you will find details of poorhouse locations and conditions in all counties of the country.

- **Children's Homes**

Another excellent sister site by Peter Higginbotham, lists Children's Homes, it also includes Women's Refuges, is at <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/list/Lanarkshire.shtml> . Most of the institution links expand to give background history, a very valuable site. Peter is now starting a similar project on prisons at <http://www.thepreison.org.uk> .

- **Hospitals ?**

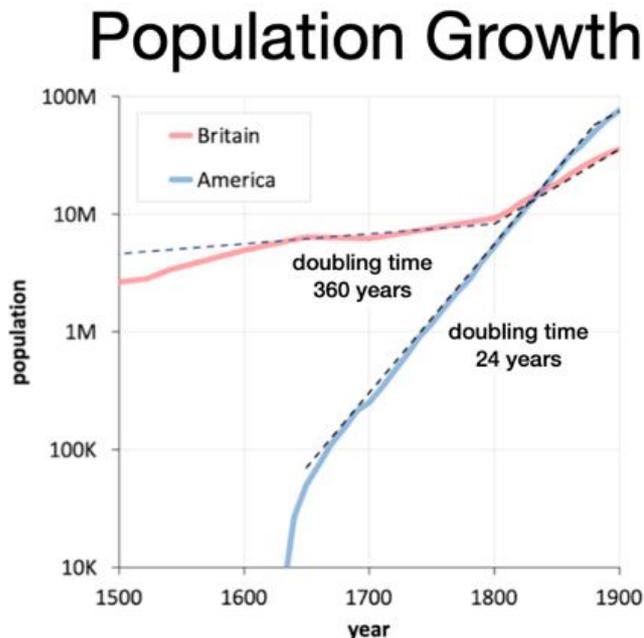
It would be useful to have a similar list of Hospitals in various regions, with their addresses, that would be another place to search for unidentified certificate addresses. Does anyone know of a similar list of hospitals with addresses? Let us know at enews@gwsfhs.org.uk for the next issue.

- **RAF Operations Record Books - The Genealogist**

A new collection of fully indexed scanned images, from series AIR 27 at the National Archives, has been announced by The Genealogist site <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/#latest>. I have not used these, but when you view the video, you see that they are daily diaries of RAF operations, with numbers of personal names, historically interesting, but names mentioned are more likely to be the leaders of missions, rather than everyone involved. Since they are fully indexed it is worth a look at the free index if you know that your ancestor was involved with RAF from 1911 - 1963.

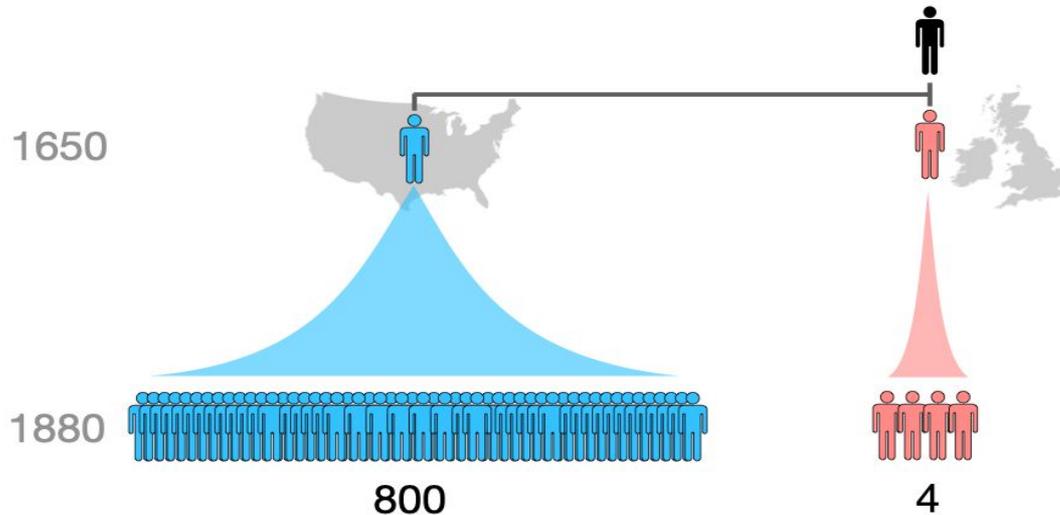
- **Number of DNA hits from America**

During a RootsTech talk on expanding DNA Horizons by Rob Spencer, he gave an explanation of why so many American 'relatives' appear compared to European. You may be sceptical about actual figures, but his theory does perhaps go some way to explaining the discrepancy in numbers. He reminds us that matches from autosomal DNA only reach back to about 1800. He cites a graph, (with a link which no longer works), from a 'Children & Youth in History' site at <https://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/index.html>, it has some interesting primary-sources from around the world - but the graph below can't be found.



The postulation is that huge growth in America is attributed to increased birth rate, with 4.7 surviving children per couple in America compared with only 2.1 in Britain. The leading causes of death in 16-19th century were mostly urban diseases - plague, smallpox, typhus, cholera - which were not as severe in the colonies, although life was hard opening up America. It is not clear how this takes account of immigration to North America, but the huge growth in population, essentially from Europe, is obvious, whether by immigration or procreation. Viewed in a different way the speaker illustrated descent from two brothers separated in 1650, below.

Two Brothers' Descendants



A 1650 emigrant will have **200-fold** more descendants than a sibling who stayed in Europe.

This, plus DNA testing bias, is why an American DNA tester will seldom find a European connection.

The conclusion may be exaggerated, but does show that increased number of Americans is not only because of earlier adoption of DNA testing, American test companies, and number of 'immigrants' seeking their lost roots.

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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