



# e-Scotia



## Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society

**Welcome:** to the April 2024 edition of our newsletter. Whilst as family historians we do expend a lot of energy finding people, places and dates it is also useful, indeed necessary if we are to get into the shoes of our ancestors, to explore the world in which they lived. This was the purpose of our main offering of speaker at the Branch meeting this month. We were pleased to welcome Dr Kay Williams who has a doctoral degree in historical geography with a special interest in the development of housing in Scotland. For our purposes her focus was on the development of housing particularly following WW1 and the 1919 Housing Act.



As usual we make mention in the newsletter of some items that we hope might aid your Anglo Scottish research. For those of you close enough to Manchester to benefit from it we draw your attention to the poster at the end of the newsletter announcing the MLFHS Fair at Manchester Central Library on Saturday, 13th April. We are sure that you will enjoy it and hope that you can join us.

Editor

### “Homes fit for heroes” in the 1921 census:

The reference to “homes fit for heroes” formed part of a speech given by Lloyd George in Wolverhampton at the end of World War 1 in 1918. His actual words were “What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in.” His sentiment led to the passing of the 1919 Housing and Town Planning Act.

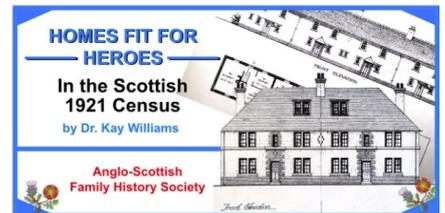
In her presentation Kay presented some of the background to this Act and its consequences evidenced partly in the 1921 census. Her very well evidenced presentation was recorded and is available for members on the Anglo Scots web site. Of particular interest to me was that part of Kay’s research was carried out in Dundee so rather than try to summarise Kay’s input given that it is available for members to view, I presume to share how some of the information that she was referring to sparked memories of how it applied to my family in Dundee.

Kay referred to the housing situation in Dundee prior to the 1919 Act consisting largely of huge tenements comprising one or two rooms. I recall visiting my grandparents who lived in a “single-end”, a one-roomed dwelling with an alcove for a double bed. It was lit by gas lamps attached to the wall with a small sink by the window and a range that served heating and cooking. Toilets were in the common area off the stairwell. They lived in such accommodation for most of their lives.



As a result of the Housing Act new housing estates were built including Logie, where Kay carried out much of her research, and Mid Craigie, pictured, where I grew up. My parents moved from an attic room in a large tenement in the centre of Dundee to this housing estate in 1938 and thought it wonderful. It was situated in the countryside about 3 miles outside of Dundee centre. Few relatives visited considering it too far away!! All of the area around Mid Craigie has since been built on and in 1957 my grandparents were moved from their single-end to a two bedroomed house in Mid Craigie. With so much space and being so far away from the centre of town they were lost and largely miserable. Having fought in Gallipoli and Ypres and survived, I am not sure that my grandfather appreciated Lloyd George’s declared policies.

This was a very interesting presentation and already I notice that it has engendered some response in the Society Forum. To inform your understanding of any Scottish ancestors and their living conditions, I recommend that you view the recording.



## Anglo Scottish Branch Web site: [log in here!](#)



On the subject of access to the recording of our most recent presentation members are referred to the Anglo Scottish web site. We take this opportunity to encourage everyone to look at the Anglo Scots web site. It is continually being updated and perfected even for non-members with access to information and resources, particularly the ever popular "Scottish Marriage Index." We did a whole feature on the SMI in a recent newsletter and that seemed to prompt a few readers to send in the relevant marriage details of their ancestors. Many thanks to you for doing so. Have a look at the sections on databases and documents. These give an indication of some of the many resources that we have to inform your research, particularly relating to Scots who came down to England in the 18th and 19th centuries for work and made their homes here often marrying locally. To access these records you do of course have to be members, but perhaps when you see what is available you will be encouraged to apply for membership.

## Scottish Indexes: for the benefit of our new readers, a reminder that the web site "[Scottish Indexes](#)"



is the work of Emma and Graham Maxwell and is worth an explore. They are already announcing the commencement date of their next conference, Saturday, 7th September 2024, with the promise of the speakers to follow soon. Some way off but worth making a note in diaries. What is current is the handout from the March conference which we are kindly encouraged to offer [here](#). This gives a summary of all the presentations from the day and worth getting hold of.

**Scotland's Criminal Database:** staying with the Scottish Indexes web site I was reminded that they announced a recent addition to their "Scottish Prison Register Index":

*It was announced at our November conference that over 180,000 prison register entries from 10 Scottish prisons had been added. This means you can now search over 500,000 prison register entries on our website. ([Here is a link to the coverage page.](#)) This gives a breakdown of everything you can search in Scotland's Criminal Database.*

I made use of this resource having found in the index the name of a woman who might have been my great grandmother. Sadly it turns out it was her being in and out of Court for drunkenness and fighting. Sorry I asked now!!! Anyway, a great resource and well worth scouring - just in case. An added bonus is that Emma Maxwell gives a presentation of the Criminal Database on [You Tube](#).



## Screening for "The Celtic Curse" - genetic haemochromatosis:

Somewhat belatedly I draw readers attention to an item sent to us in February by Martin Briscoe in Fort William who considers that any of us with Scottish, or indeed Irish, blood might be interested in an article that appeared on the local BBC news. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-68155683> The condition causes too much iron to build up in the body and if not treated can be fatal;

*"The iron overload condition, which is caused by an inherited genetic mutation, is common in people of Scottish and Irish ancestry and is often called the Celtic Curse."*

Martin sent the reference via the Society Forum and we thank him for this. It was met with a response from two members of the Society who have encountered the disorder and who spoke encouragingly of the fact that the condition is treatable although it only came to light following blood tests. Worth thinking about?

**Free seminar from the National Library of Scotland:** make a note in your diary because it will be too late when the next newsletter comes out. Friday, 3rd May, 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. Online for those of us not in or near Edinburgh. It is being organised by the **Scottish Map Forum** and details and reserving a place can be found here; [The Premodern Scottish Place Tickets, Fri 3 May 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

**Find My Past: New Scottish Criminal Records—and more.** It was brought to our attention that Find My Past have recently added over 1 million new Scottish records linked with prisons, mental health institutions and poor law records. Information about these can be found [here](#) and is part of their “Friday” seminars. There is also a video recording you can watch that details the records and how best to access them.

**What is on in the Society?** over the coming weeks the Society and its Branches continue to offer members, and non-members, an array of presentations worth thinking about. Whilst here we focus on talks being offered by the Branches, their web sites contain a great deal more information of the locality so please do explore them.

**Bolton:** on Wednesday, 1st May, Bolton Branch offer a presentation on “Catholic Research in East Lancashire” to be given by Kate Hurst. Given the demise of the Catholic Records Society (and the transfer of all their records to MLFHS) this is a great opportunity to tune in to what is available and how to access it. This is a hybrid meeting. See the Bolton Branch web site for details and how to book a place.

**Oldham:** on Saturday, 13th April, Oldham Branch are looking at “The Great War - how it touched lives in Oldham”. It is a great example of moving from the general to the specific and is being presented by Society member, Sheila Goodyear. This is a hybrid meeting and details can be found on the Oldham web site.

**Manchester:** the major event in Manchester is of course the Society Family History Fair on Saturday, 13th April, and details can be found at the end of this newsletter. Ideally situated at Central Library in St Peter's Square with a tram stop right outside, this is the perfect opportunity to see what we have to offer to family historians and genealogists. Not content with that, we will once again fill the Performance Space area with stalls and displays from other societies and organisations in the area. We would love to see you.

**Volunteers:** if you make use of the over 3.5 million records on the MLFHS web site then know that many of them only got there through the work of volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers and there is a myriad of opportunities to get involved in. If you think you would like to explore the option have a look at the [volunteer section](#) of the web site and/or come along to the Fair and speak to a member of the Society.

## Anglo Scots Branch Meeting

Manchester Central Library, Saturday, 4th May, 1400 hrs.

Who are the Scots? What is a Clan?

Why are we not Celtic?

by Bruce Durie



There seems little doubt that the image conjured up by the average non-Scot to the question “Who are the Scots?” would result more in the images on the left than on the right. Scots play bagpipes and wear kilts. Of course we in the Anglo Scottish Branch know better but just how much do we know of our cultural past and the tribes and families that we came from. More surprisingly perhaps is the question posed by Bruce Durie, “Why are we not Celtic” (the first ‘C’ pronounced as a ‘K’ of course and not an ‘S’) Well here is our chance to find out.

We have welcomed Bruce Durie previously and he is a very interesting and entertaining speaker. Our meeting this month is being held in person at Manchester Central Library and booking is by [Eventbrite](#). Keep your eye on the web site for booking details.

# Looking forward to seeing you all at our **FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**



Always  
wanted to  
research  
your family  
history? Now  
you can

A chance to meet  
the experts. Our  
help desk will be  
open.

From  
complete  
beginners to  
the more  
experienced

Many Societies  
from the  
surrounding area  
will be  
attending.

A craft area for children  
and big kids.  
The Scam squad  
Victoria Baths  
Elizabeth Gaskell House  
Museum of Transport  
and many more

**FREE**

No need to book

**Saturday 13th April**  
**10-00am to 3-00pm**

**Manchester Central Library**  
**Manchester and Lancashire FHS**