

Spring 2024 (Mar-May)

The Lothians Family History Society

Quarterly Newsletter

Chairman's Welcome:

A warm welcome to our existing members and our new members going into Spring 2024. It is great to see so many at the *Lasswade Centre* each Wed and at the *Loanhead Library* the third Thurs of the month. Check new things on our website and keep up to date with news in the Members Area.

Your amazing committee have been working very hard as always and have superb speakers planned. *It is important as always that we continue to support our speaker evenings with good attendance*.

Contact Us:

EMAIL: **lothiansfhs@hotmail.com**

Your Committee:

Lorna Kinnaird Chairman: **Deputy Chairman: Gordon Stevens Secretary:** Christine Hannan **Treasurer:** Anne Wood **Membership Secretary:** Sheila Petrie **Enquiry Coordinator:** George McLeod **Speaker Coordinator:** George Nairn Committee: May Wilkins

Roy Murray

Speaker Evenings:

Wed 12th June: Roy Johnstone: *The Cuban Crisis* Wed 11th Sept: Phil Dodsworth: *Blood Bikes Scotland*

Wed 9th Oct: George Nairn: Post Cards

Wed 13th Nov: Lorna Kinnaird: *Military Service Appeal*

Tribunals WW1: What can they tell us?

Loanhead Library:

MAR – 21st Mar from 10.30am-2.30pm **APR** – 18th Apr from 10.30am-2.30pm **MAY** – 17th May from 10.30am-2.30pm **JUN** – 20th June from 10.30am-2.30pm

Members Help:

If you have a problem in your research that you think other members might be able to help you with – let us know and we can pop it into the Newsletter. Send to lothiansfhs@hotmail.com.

Member Help Requests:

Permission received to release address:

Chris Martin, 122 Hawksworth Road, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 4JJ

The Question – I am trying to find more about Jane or Janet Ebourne [maiden name unknown], date of birth approx. 1794 and died 1879
I am the 3x Great Grandson of Thomas Ebourn (1773-1840) [variant surname forms – Ebourne and Eborne] and his [presumed] wife, Jane or Janet. I am trying to track down Jane or Jannet's maiden name, her place of birth and the place and date of Thomas and her marriage. All I know is that she was born in Scotland in about 1794. I am wondering whether anyone can give me some pointers as to how I might find more about her?

Background Information about Jane/Jannet

I already know that by the 1841 Census that she was living in Northampton, England, but is recorded in the Census as not having been born there. I can see from subsequent censuses (1851, 1861 and 1871) that she was widowed and continued to live in Northampton, but had been born in Scotland, though, unfortunately, no more specific place is mentioned. I can see that she and Thomas had nine children, baptised between 1817 and 1837, all of whom were baptised in Northampton and I have found all the baptism records. Confusingly her name is sometimes recorded as Jane and sometimes as Jesse. I know her last place of residence (1871 Census) was in the St. Giles Street Almshouses, Northampton, confusingly under the name 'Mary'. I know that she died on 18 April 1879 in Northampton and I have her death certificate. The age given for Jane in the Censuses and on her death certificate are not consistent, but the inference is she was born in the period 1790-1795 - perhaps most likely 1794.

How did Jane/Jannet/Jesse meet my 3x great Grandfather, Thomas Ebourn?

Thomas was the son of Joseph and Mary Eborne and baptised at St. Nicholas Church, Kenilworth, Warwickshire on 9 January 1774. He died 17 April 1840 at Alfred's Place, Castle Street, Northampton and was buried on 21 April 1840 at All Saints, Thomas was a Sergeant in the Northampton. Northamptonshire Militia, having previously been a Sergeant in the Royal Marines. I have found his military service record in the National Archives and know that he served in the Royal Marines from 1793-1802. I know that he served in the Northamptonshire Militia between 1803 and 1826 and subsequently became a 'Chelsea Pensioner'. I know that he married at least twice - first to Charlotte (surname unknown). most likely in Warwickshire in 1792. I know that he married Catherine Gillison, at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1806. I have found both these marriage records. However, for a long time I was puzzled as to how he even managed to meet Jane/Jannet, his third 'wife', and my direct ancestor, given that she was born in Scotland and he was born in Warwickshire and lived and was connected with Northamptonshire! I now think I have the answer, set out below:

The Scottish connection, but there are no marriage records!

I know from a couple of books about the Northamptonshire Militia that they were sent to serve in Ireland in June 1811, quartered at Armagh by November 1811, where they stayed until May 1813. Early in May 1813 the regiment left Armagh and probably marched to Belfast, and thence, I think, to Donaghadee, where they sailed to Portpatrick (in the Rhinns of Galloway, Scotland). They landed at Portpatrick on 3 or 4 May 1813 and then marched to Edinburgh Castle, arriving on 17 May 1813. I have seen contemporary reports that place the Militia in Edinburgh during 1813 and 1814. The Militia finally left Edinburgh Castle on 11 June 1814, marching to Leith, where they embarked for Hull. They arrived back home in Northampton on 28 and 29 June 1814. Surely it is during his period of service in Scotland that Thomas met Jane/Jannet? Did they meet in Edinburgh? Did they meet in a village or town on the route where the Militia marched on the Military Roads through from Portpatrick to Edinburgh? Marriages take place between members Northamptonshire Militia and local women while the Militia was stationed in Edinburgh. There is a question posted on www.british-genealogv.com in January 2007 from a person trying to trace a Thomas Worrall, born 1793 in Arley, Warwickshire. The questioner refers to the fact that he married Alison Alexander in Edinburgh in 1813 and he was a soldier in the Northamptonshire Militia, who were stationed at Edinburgh Castle. In addition, on www.rootschat.com someone report a marriage in Edinburgh Castle in 1813 (Canongate Parish) and the man was serving in the 27th Regiment, but previously before 1 April he had been in the Northamptonshire Militia. However, and unfortunately, in the case of Thomas I can find no marriage record. In Findmypast I searched all marriages in Edinburgh or anywhere in Scotland and other records for the period 1813 (+/- 2 years) for Janet/Jane and Thomas. I could also find no cases with using just the Ebourn (and variants) surname as the search term. I have carried out many searches on scotlandspeople.gov.uk. Looking for any marriage in any church in 1813 or 1814 in all of Scotland with the groom's name of 'Thomas' and the bride's name of 'Jane' reveals 32 results, but no 'Thomas' has an Ebourn surname and nothing remotely similar. A second search for any records with 'Ebourn' as a surname reveals nothing. There is also no marriage listed on the Northamptonshire Family History Society's list of 'stray marriages' (i.e. marriages of a person from Northamptonshire taking place in other counties). Finally, I also searched for a marriage of Thomas Ebourn in England. However, a search on

findmypast.co.uk for any marriage of a Thomas Ebourn (and variant names) in the period 1809-1819 anywhere in Britain came up only with one Thomas 'Eabourn', but that was a marriage on 2 February 1813 with Elizabeth Broughton, Enderby, in Leicestershire. A similar search for marriages anywhere in Britain between 1810-1820 on ancestry.co.uk also found only the Enderby marriage, or a marriage on 23 January 1814 of Thomas Ebourn and a Mary Osmus at Handsworth, Birmingham. A search for the period 1810-20 on thegenealogist.co.uk found no marriages with the name Thomas Ebourn or variants. So, we can find no obvious record of marriage between Thomas and Jane.

I'd really appreciate any pointers to how I might find out who Jane/Jannet was, where she was from and when she and Thomas married (presuming they did). I'd really appreciate any pointers to how I might find out who Jane/Jannet was, where she was from and when she and Thomas married (presuming they did).



ALASTAIR YOUNG: info@broadsidecca.co.uk

I wonder if I could ask your help with this photo. When my grandfather died in 1983, he gave my uncle this photo. We do not know how reliable the information received by my uncle Fergus would have been. Fergus Young is my Dad's brother and was the last one to see his Dad alive. Indeed the photo may not even be of our family for all I know but he wrote the letter below saying:

'Dear Alastair

My Grandfather is on the left of the picture (Francis Young Jnr), My Gt Grandfather (Francis Young Snr) is at the top and the woman beside is his wife, could be his second wife, as the man on the left is my Grandfather's half-brother"

I assume he got the information from my grandfather's new family as my Dad had nothing to do with his father, so I only met him briefly when he was too ill to speak.

Someone I sent the photo to said it appears to be from the 1890's. My own father was born in Paisley (Seedhill Rd), before that the Young's lived in Glasgow, and before that <u>Dalkeith</u>. I do know my Gt Grandfather Francis Young was married to Mary McDonald 1893 April 18th in Glasgow. So the photograph could have been taken there.

Could you ask if any of your membership recognises any of those sitting or standing in the photograph, or at least would have any inkling from the backdrop which studio was used for this photograph?

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

ALASTAIR YOUNG: info@broadsidecca.co.uk

David Roger Fulton

My cousins in Australia have unearthed a lot of data on our Great Uncle (uncle to our Grandmother Rachel Roger – nee Fulton – Young) that is an interested tale of an adventuring soul. Born 150 George St, Paisley, Renfrewshire, 31st March 1885 to James and Rachel Roger Fulton (our grandmother was named after her) Aged 17, David joins the 3rd Battalion of Highland Light Infantry (service No 2341). He was engaged in the Boer War, being sent to South Africa in 1901 and served there for 227 days.

He was discharged in 1905, and in 1909 emigrates to Australia on the vessel Ayrshire.

He met a lady called Elsie (born Georgina) Victoria Wellington. In 1910 they moved to Sydney and got

engaged. There, she worked as a barmaid-waitress and David as a barman-cellarman. David sees Elsie speaking to another man. She had promised to marry David but then refused to do so. Long story short, he gets upset, asked her to discuss it later at Centennial Park, where he accuses her of going with another lover, and shoots her in the shoulder. She survives the shot and reports it to the police, and he gets arrested at home whilst asleep and most likely still in a drunken stupor. David, now aged 27, gets taken to jail. Over 50 of the Australian papers reported on it (but so far, no photo located) with headlines such as:

'LOVER SHOOTS GIRLDFRIEND', 'SHE'S DRIVING ME MAD', or the best one,

'I SHOT HER, THEN MARRIED HER' as indeed, after this event she married him (18th Sept 1913 in Woollahra, N.S.W.) and of course she declined to give evidence against her husband, so case closed.

In April 1915 David enlists in the 20th Battalion of Australian Imperial Force, and they are sent to Egypt for training, arrives at ANZAC Cove, in August, arriving in Gallipoli just as the August offensive has petered out. His troop was responsible for the defence of Russell's top. Like many ANZAC troops out there, David succumbed to disease and was hospitalized for malaria and dysentery. He was sent to Malta for treatment, then later to England. He spent 6 weeks at Western Hospital in Cardiff.

David joins the British Expeditionary Force 24th March 1916 and heads to France. On 26th July 1916 David goes AWL till noon 27th of July. He was arrested and forfeited 2 day's pay. In September 1916 the 20th Battalion is in Belgium. By December David is admitted to a field ambulance for Debility (weakness of a person's body or mind)

On 6th November 1917 the Canadian Forces had taken Passchendaele, and on that night the 20th Battalion has send 2nd Lt. David Roger Fulton on a mission with a party of 60 men to carry rations and supplies to the front line of the 17th Battalion Headquarters. While engaged in this work David was killed when a shell exploded near him, killing him instantly. David was buried where he fell by his men. His, being one of 55,000 men, whose bodies were never recovered and are engraved on the walls of the Menin Gate, Belgium.

He was awarded the Queen Victoria South Africa medal, the 1914-15 Star Medal Gallipoli KG, British War Madel 1914-18 KG, & the Victory Medal, KG

My cousin Noel found out by chance that these medals were auctioned in July 2022 in Sydney. They were given contact details of the buyer, who kindly agreed to sell them to my cousin Bill Richardson for little more than he paid for them.

Here is a photo of the original buyer (on right) with my cousin Billy and Aunty June on the left holding the medals.



His poor wife Elsie , was also killed instantly on the 17th October 1944, when a fastmoving car knocked her against a tram at the intersection of Oxford and Williams St, Paddington, N.W.S. We would love to find a photo to go with this story. Can any of your Members help?

If any Member of the LFHS can assist with this enquiry, please let us know. There are other attachments with more information that can be provided. The emails that were received from Alastair Young have been printed out with the attachments and can be found in the Green Folder in the Research Room at the Lasswade Centre.

Journal dated 1852

By Barbara Petrie

DANIEL RITCHIE 1816-1865 A Scots dynasty in Victoria, Australia

Daniel Ritchie was born in Blyth, Peeblesshire, the fifth child of a sheep farmer, James Ritchie, and Lillias Linton. After studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh, he joined the Royal Navy as a Surgeon. He served in the West Indies, the Baltic Sea during the Crimean War and the penal colonies of Hobart and Freemantle. He became a vociferous critic of the slave trade and wrote several articles condemning the practice. He wrote a unique journal, "The Voice of Our Exiles or Stray Leaves From A Convict Ship" of one of his journeys to Van Dieman's land (Tasmania), on the convict ship, the "Pestonjee Bomanjee" in 1852, describing life and the conditions on board that he endeavoured to uphold, but more than this, he demonstrated compassion for the men under his supervision with a fervent religious belief in the capacity for change when the care and treatment of the convicts was fair and just. He held high expectations of behaviour but believed in positive methods of encouragement and reward, (a rather modern belief not widely practised until the Behaviourist psychology movement started by B.F.Skinner in the 1950's) rather than fear and punishment. Health, hygiene, fresh air and education were of great importance to maximise the work and life opportunities for the men once they reached their destination. He travelled to Victoria, Australia with his new wife, Janet Roy, in 1857 on the death of his brother James, who had died there unexpectedly. James had emigrated to Victoria in the 1840s with his brother John where he purchased land which became known as the Blackwood Forest estate. Daniel subsequently developed the land further and helped to establish the first Presbyterian church and State school there. Daniel and Janet had four of their five children in Blackwood, one of whom, Robert Blackwood Ritchie became an influential businessman and magistrate and was elected to the Victoria Legislative Assembly. Continuing the family tradition of philanthropy, Robert Blackwood Ritchie donated £30,000 to the University of Melbourne to establish a Research Chair in Economics in 1927, an enduring gift. The extensive Ritchie papers were donated to the University library. His elder son Robin was tragically killed in the first world war at the Somme but Robert's work was continued by his remaining son, Alan

Blackwood Ritchie, who had graduated in Economics from the University of Cambridge.

Alan Blackwood Ritchie became an influential businessman in economics and politics, corresponding with prominent people, such as the former Prime Minister, Stanley Melbourne Bruce, for whom Alan wrote political speeches. The business was continued by Alan's sons and grandsons and after five generations, it was sold for £15 million in 2014. Daniel died whilst visiting Edinburgh in 1865. There are three grand Ritchie graves in close proximity in Grange Cemetery: Daniel Ritchie buried with his wife Janet Roy, his son Robert Blackwood Ritchie, grandson Robin Blackwood Ritchie, brothers Simon Ritchie and Alexander Ritchie, sister Agnes, and there is a memorial to James, (buried at Blackwood) who founded the Ritchie dynasty in Blackwood Victoria. They came home to rest, having made a lasting and significant legacy in Australia.

Facebook

We still get enquiries through the LFHS Facebook site which are forwarded to the Chairman. All enquiries should be forwarded to lothiansfhs@hotmail.com as Facebook is not always monitored.

Lasswade Centre Room

We are pleased to announce that the LFHS now has the research room back in the Library which will allow us access to our collections. If you would like to do some research on a Wednesday, please write this down on the Attendance Register and details of what you would like to look at and a Committee Member will then look out this material for you the following week. We have a change to our hours. The *Research Room* is available from 6.30pm (by appointment please) to 9pm each Wed to members to allow them to carry out research within our collections.

Minutes of the Committee Meetings can now be viewed in the Green Folder which is kept on top of the Filing Cabinet.

Interviewing Guide:

The Lothians Family History Society received an email from Sarah Moore, Marketing Specialist of OurPublicRecords relating to a guide to help people interview their elderly family members for genealogical research, and how to get the best experience and understanding from those interviews. You can view the Guide and other good pieces of information: https://ourpublicrecords.org/interviewelderly-relatives/

ScotlandsPeople Centre

Seat Bookings at the SPC were advertised by the NRS to rise to £20. However, that does not appear to have actually happened as the online payment system still has this cost at £15.

Edinburgh Local Heritage Network (ELHN):

Update:

Meetings will be quarterly either over Teams or in person. At the moment, ELHN is facilitated by Council staff but it is hoped that eventually the Network members will take over responsibility for the Network's overall direction. *Thanks to Sheila Petrie and Roy Murray (Committee Members).*

Scottish Indexes

Keep up to date with new Zoom presentations and conferences with the Scottish Indexes website: https://www.scottishindexes.com/conference.aspx#c4

Our Member Chats:

Name: Lorna Kinnaird Role: Chairman

My Family History Journey

It was my late father (Robert Thomas Muat) who was instrumental in encouraging me in 1986 aged 17 years old, to find out about our Muat surname which he said had a connection to Haddington (East Lothian). I had been pestering my Dad for some time about where we came from - as I felt out of place with our surname –

MUAT (pronounced *Mew-it*). I was always bullied about my surname. My Dad had received a letter from a Lieutenant Daniel T Muat the 3rd from California that he wanted me to explore - and suggested that I visit The General Registrar in town (then called GROS). That was when research required you to consult an index of all BMDs - which were on microfiche (you could only order out three at a time) and then look at the record, transcribing as you went. By the end of the day your legs felt like you had walked 500 miles - but that was what was needed in order to access the information. For the next ten years (whenever I could) I would book my seat and carry on consulting the indexes and ordering out the records to transcribe. I loved it! I was able to take my family from my birth in 1969 back to the 17th century on both my paternal and maternal lines. I have uncovered bigamy; court cases; military careers; scandals and strong family lines in many branches. Every time I was researching felt like a school day where you learnt to interpret what the document was actually telling you, looking for clues about where you could look next and asking the archivists questions. I amassed a lot of paperwork on my early ancestors; learnt how to expand on the research and how to record the information I had found. 2002 saw the first computers with the new ScotlandsPeople Centre indexes – and for the first time we could work through indexes and then actually view the documents. It was revolutionary. New skills and new finding aids were learnt without even moving away from your seat! Jared Squirrel (ScotlandsPeople Centre) used to cringe when I was in as I would ask him all sorts of questions and he would have to go and find the answers for me. Over twenty years later, we are still very good friends and share a mutual love of Reiver ancestry and any Scottish history. Fast forward to 2010 when I embarked on a certified genealogy course with IHGS (Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies) at Canterbury (Kent). During that time I met some amazing people that have quite literally become my genie family (we meet for a long weekend every year as a catch up in the home towns of our group). During my course, the ScotlandsPeople Centre evolved and more records were digitised and became available online on their inhouse platform. I qualified with IHGS in 2013 and Jared was there to present my certificate. I then completed the Postgraduate Diploma with Strathclyde University in 2014 – during which time I also became a probationer with ASGRA (Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) and was a

fully accredited Member a year later. I have loved my family history journey and linking the letter my Dad had to the USA Muats', and I take great pleasure in helping others on their journey to uncover their heritage. With having Midlothian, East Lothian and Edinburgh ancestors – being a part of the LFHS is very important to me. Not just because being with the Society is incredibly enjoyable and members and committee are just amazing with their own knowledge base and stories - but it is finally feeling a sense of belonging to a group that appreciate my expertise and rather idiosyncratic personality. In a world that is running towards being AI controlled, it is refreshing to still be able to consult in-person Scottish historical documents and to get a real sense of what it is to be a traditional genealogist. We need researchers to regularly use archives and fill the empty seats - not to relying on online sources unless it is from the ScotlandsPeople Centre. If we don't use our archives, they will be closed, and that would be an utter tragedy. With around 17% of Scottish archive material available online, I'm always interested in the other 83% that isn't! Caution should always be exercised when someone has found all their sources online. How can anyone say for sure that they have researched their family history if all they have done is rely on online sources? Real research requires the leg work, careful analysis of what you find and the need to be very careful where you post that information - and I have not changed my view in over 30 years on that. My passion with family history and genealogy has turned into a career which is very busy indeed - and I wouldn't want to do anything else.

Any advice to members? Use online catalogues of archives that you plan to visit - to survey what sources are available on site or may have to be ordered in. Always be prepared before an archive visit so that you maximise your time there. Each archive has Research Guides which detail and explain sources. The *National* Records of Scotland, The ScotlandsPeople Centre; City Archives and The National Library of Scotland have some of the best Research Guides I have ever seen. Download them to your computer and refer to them often. Many of your initial questions I am sure will be answered this way. When you know and understand what the source is, you have a better working knowledge of how relevant it could be to your research. If you do use online platforms to store and share vital information, be mindful that once it is 'out there' it will

be there for ever!

Lorna Kinnaird (Chairman)

Our Public Records:

https://ourpublicrecords.org/europe-familyrecords/

Joe Laurel, Marketing Specialist of *Our Public Records*, has created an excellent guide to help people who are getting started in tracing their European roots, with resources for each country to help with the search. The *Lothians Family History Society* are going to add their website to this list for Scotland.

https://ourpublicrecords.org

The Lord Lyon Society:

https://lordlyonsociety.org.uk/

The Lord Lyon Society was set up by the present Lord Lyon, Dr Joe Morrow CBE QC FRSE, to support the Court of the Lord Lyon and to further enliven the promotion of Scottish Heraldry.

- To promote Scottish heraldry, genealogy and related arts, heritage, and culture.
- To advance heraldic, genealogical, and Scottish heritage through education and engagement with young people.
- To aid and support the protection and preservation of the records, archives and collections of the Court and Office of the Lord Lyon.
- To aid and support the digitisation of those records and to make them accessible to the public at no cost.
- To support and promote the contribution by the Scottish diaspora, especially within the Commonwealth, to heraldic, genealogical, and cultural education.

A great opportunity to learn all about Scottish Heraldry from the experts. Please consider supporting the Society.

Members Interests:

Members are encouraged to submit to the society *any Lothians surnames* that they would like help with. Log into the Members Area and look at who is researching what surname and in what area. It is a great opportunity to share information too between members.

Membership of the Lothians Family History Society:

Members can join through the LFHS website or leaflets found at the Lasswade Centre or the Loanhead Library. The Society has publications for sale on Burial Indexes, Monumental Inscriptions, Books etc.

Link: https://genfair.co.uk/supplier/lothians-family-history-society-1129/ for a full list of available items.

For access to the Members Area on the LFHS website - members need a username and password for entry. If a reminder is required for these formalities, members should contact the Society via email on lothiansfhs@hotmail.com and these will be forwarded.

UK/Overseas Exchange

The LFHS exchanges our Newsletter with a number of other UK and overseas Family History Societies. These are made available in the Members Area for you to look at if they are e-journals or e-newsletters. Below is a list of those that are currently on the exchange platform:

Waltham Forest FHS

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/people/Lothians-Fhs/100009903970976

Research Enquiries

Send your request direct to: lothiansfhs@hotmail.com

Once your request has been received and logged, one of our volunteers will be in touch with you about how best to proceed.

Limitations to research requests:

- Volunteers are restricted to answering requests within 1-hour free research
- Enquiries deemed to be in excess of 1 hour may require assistance from a genealogist who will be a member of the society (additional costs or expenses may apply)
- As a non-profit society, all donations from research enquiries will be gratefully appreciated.

 Donations can be arranged through the Secretary via lothiansfhs@hotmail.com.



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