

Newsletter no. 4 – January 2014

Scotland and the Flemish People

This is the fourth newsletter aimed at providing an update on progress with our project on *Scotland and the Flemish People*.

Blog up and running

The blog foreshadowed in the September newsletter is now up and running. New items are added weekly during the university semester. The blog addresses a wide range of issues that have come up in our work to date. The goal is both to inform and stimulate discussion and debate. Topics covered so far are:

- The influence of Mainard the Fleming on the Character of St. Andrews
- The Queer Folk o'the Shaws: Flemish immigrants in Pollockshaws
- Flemish Rooted Names in Scotland: the Key Issues
- John Crabbe: Flemish Pirate, Merchant and Adventurer
- My Flemish Ancestry (F. Lawrence Flemings account in two parts)
- Crowsteps in Fife: the Flemish Connection (in two parts)

The link to the blog is: <http://flemish.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>

Doctoral Research Underway

Two doctoral students working on the project are examining the medieval period that was the most significant period of Flemish involvement in Scotland.

Amy Eberlin is focusing on the Scots who participated, whether as merchants or ambassadors, in Scotto-Flemish relations in the later medieval period. During this period, the relationship between Scotland and Flanders was based upon the wool trade and Scotland's exportation of its wool to Flanders. Even though the Scotto-Flemish wool trade was the lynchpin of the Scottish economy, little research has concentrated on its importance to the Scots. Her work endeavours to provide a new perspective on Scottish involvement in trade and diplomacy with Flanders by examining the shifts in the control of Scotland's export industry, and the social networks of merchants and ambassadors. In particular she is examining what happened to trade and cultural exchange after the Flemish were banished from Scotland under legislation introduced in the early 14th century.

Morvern Dunsmuir is working on the cultural connections forged during the period 1100-1550 between Scotland and Flanders, Scotland's principal trading partner, using material sources as well as the written record. The textual basis for the material findings

will comprise evidence from customs records, port books, burgh and guild records, charters and ledgers. The material evidence will be used to create a cultural biography. Archaeological and treasure trove finds, architecture, and pictorial art will also be used to create a fuller picture of Flemish cultural influence in Scotland.

Work by both students will, we hope, shed new light on important phases of Scotland's relationship with Flanders.

Regional studies

Work undertaken on Berwick-upon-Tweed, Fife, Atholl/Glenshee and Dundee is continuing and it is hoped that we can report on findings on the blog over the next few months.

Paths of Flemish Immigration to Scotland

In the September newsletter it was reported that David Dobson has been engaged by the project to undertake a study of the immigration to Scotland by Flemish people over the period 1550 – 1800. The first results of his work will be posted on the blog on 17 January 2014.

Events in the planning stage

The project will enter a new phase in June 2014 when the Institute is planning to host a workshop in St. Andrews that will bring together leading academics from Flanders, Scotland and beyond who have an interest and expertise in the relationship between Scotland and Flanders. The hope is that we will be able to mobilize interested experts to contribute inputs to the project.

An international conference that will showcase the findings of the project is being discussed but the timing of this is yet to be established.

DNA component of the project

A number of people have joined the DNA project since the September newsletter was published. However we still need to attract more people both with the name Fleming (and its variants) as well as people with other names thought to be of Flemish origin.

Please consider taking part in the project if you have not done so already. The DNA test involves a simple swab on the inside of the cheek. There are two levels of test for genealogical research. We recommend you purchase the 37 marker Y-DNA test as the minimum for surname research which may well identify distant relatives within FTDNA's extensive database. The 67 marker test provides extra data that will help us in our analytic work. The test kit can be obtained direct by contacting Alasdair Macdonald

or via the join tab at http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Flemish_in_Scotland There is a small discount by ordering through either route (£13-£20 or \$20-\$30).

Contacting us

We can be contacted by Email at the following addresses where we would be happy to receive any questions or comments:

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Project websites

Project <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/ishr/Flemish/index.htm>
Blog <http://flemish.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>
DNA Project http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Flemish_in_Scotland