

Newsletter no. 6 – March 2015

Scotland and the Flemish People

This is the sixth newsletter reporting on progress with the *Scotland and the Flemish People Project*.

BBC and Scotland's People publicity

The BBC, in its magazine “Who do you think you are?”, featured the Project in a one page spread in a recent edition. The Scotland's People website also had a reference to the Project in its February Newsletter. The result has been expressions of interest in the Project from numbers of people around the world.

The Fleming Family Charter Collection

Recently a Mr. Eric Robinson made a donation to a Toronto library of 60 medieval Charters pertaining to the major Fleming family of Biggar and Cumbernauld. They had been in his possession for many decades having acquired them as a young man from an Edinburgh bookseller. This find is of great interest to academic and local historians as the Charters may shed new light on an important phase of Scottish history. Just how significant the find may be must await their digitization and translation. This Fleming Family Charter Collection is the subject of a blog posting that will appear on Friday, March 13th. See <http://flemish.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>

PhD research

The PhD research being undertaken as part of the Scotland and Flemish People project is evolving well. *Amy Eberlin* (now in her 3rd year) is examining the Scottish involvement in trade and diplomacy with Flanders over the period 1320-1513. *Morvern French* (now in her 2nd year) is focusing on Flemish material culture in Scotland, that is Flemish materials—tapestries, paintings and munitions, for instance—that have been imported to Scotland roughly between 1300 and 1550. Their work is described in more detail in the blog posted on 20 Feb 2015. We are grateful for the support of

P F Charitable Trust that has provided partial scholarships for the two students.

Small studies and the blog

Since September a number of small studies have been undertaken on different aspects of the Flemish involvement in Scotland. The results have been reported on the blog. These have included studies on the involvement of Flemish people in different regions of Scotland, including the areas around the Tay and Forth rivers as well as Aberdeen. Other topics have included the impact of the Flemish on Scottish art and architecture, Scottish families that may have Flemish blood (Armstrong, Dowie, Sutherland), the changing borders of Flanders, the historical significance of the Flemings of Biggar, and the trading relationship with Flanders.

The project team is grateful to all the authors who have contributed to the blog over the last six months. We are also grateful to Amy Eberlin and Morvern French who have diligently prepared the material for posting each week.

There are a number of studies in the pipeline that will deal with issues such as the formation of surnames in Scotland, the branching of the main Scottish families with the name Fleming, and the relationship between various Flemish origin families. Additional Scottish families with Flemish roots are also being examined.

Recent developments in the DNA project

We are delighted to announce that Janet Flemming has agreed to join our DNA project as a co-Administrator. Janet's interest in genealogy dates back to 1980. She has been an Administrator of a DNA Fleming project at Ancestry and more recently at FTDNA. She is now a self-confessed genealogy addict with a consuming interest in all things Flemish! Janet will help us publicize and grow our DNA project.

Following the publicity generated by the BBC and Scotland's People articles and the closure of all the Ancestry Y-DNA projects there was an uptick in membership of our project. However we still need to attract more people both with the name Fleming (and its variants) as well as those 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. We recommend you purchase the 67 marker Y-DNA test as it will help identify your distant relatives within FTDNA's extensive database as well as providing 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.familytreedna.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 http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Flemish_in_Scotland