

Newsletter no. 5 – August 2014

Scotland and the Flemish People

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

Project workshop

The main development since the last newsletter (January 2014) was the staging on June 5th of a workshop that brought together experts on Scottish, Flemish and Low Countries history. Also present were specialists in genealogy and genetic genealogy. The event took place in St. Andrews. The workshop helped the project team identify areas where there were gaps in knowledge on the Flemish presence in Scotland. These areas will be pursued in the coming months. A summary of the outcome of the workshop can be found in the blog at: <http://flemish.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>

The Blog

Since the turn of the year the blog has been very active with weekly postings on a range of topics. Following the university's summer break postings will resume on September 12th. The project team is grateful to a number of authors who have contributed to the blog since January. These are, in order of appearance of their posting: David Dobson, Jim Herbert, George English, Alasdair Macdonald, John Irvine, Peadar Morgan, Charles Rigg, John Ballantine, David Strachan, Chris Robinson and Adam Smith. Mention should also be made of Amy Eberlin and Morvern French who have diligently prepared the material for posting each week.

Over the coming weeks a particular focus of the blog will be Scottish families that, research suggests, may have Flemish roots. If you are a member of a family or are familiar with the history of a Flemish rooted family please contact Alex Fleming at the EM address shown below so that we can prepare an article on it for posting.

Regional studies

Research has been undertaken on the Flemish involvement in a number of different parts of Scotland. The results of the work have been reported on the Blog site. The areas covered to date are Berwick-upon-Tweed, Glenshee, Dundee, Upper Clydesdale and Cumbernauld. Work is underway on the Forth estuary and Aberdeen. Research will also be commissioned shortly on Perthshire.

DNA component of the project

Membership of the DNA project has continued to grow. 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. 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.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 Project http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Flemish_in_Scotland