

Newsletter no. 7 – September 2015

Scotland and the Flemish People

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

Concluding Conference

The planning for the international conference—that will take place on Thursday, June 16th and Friday, June 17th, 2016 in St Andrews—is well underway. The search for sponsorship of the event has now been completed. We are grateful to the Government of Flanders, the P F Charitable Trust and the Wyfold Charitable Trust for their generosity in supporting the conference.

As noted in our blog dated May 15th the conference will be open to the general public. It will be of interest to academic and local historians, family historians, genealogists, and genetic genealogists. There will be two tracks within the conference so that participants will be able to choose the sessions they want to attend.

A website that will handle registration for the conference is under construction at present and we will notify all readers of our newsletter and blog as soon as it is goes live. An organizer for the conference will shortly be appointed and announced.

Some key speakers have already been identified but there is still time for readers of this note to suggest topics that might usefully be addressed. Please let Alex Fleming (Af87@st-andrews.ac.uk) know if you have ideas you would like to share with us.

The Fleming Family Charter Collection

As noted in our blog dated March 13th and 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. As evidenced by our later blog dated May 7th these Charters are already shedding new light on this fascinating medieval Fleming family. The Toronto library has now

completed the digitization of the Charters and they will shortly be made available to researchers in the University of St. Andrews Special Collections section. Grants from the P F Charitable Trust and the Wyfold Charitable Trust will permit the translation and summarization of the Charters.

The blog

Since the March newsletter 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. Topics covered included: research on the Moray Flemings and the relationship between some of the key families in that area; evidence that the Frame and Cant families had Flemish roots; surname formation with special focus on the name Fleming; the Flemings of Pembrokeshire; the Aberdeen Flemings; the Brabanters in Scotland; the links of the “stranger churches” to Scotland, and as noted above; the Fleming family Charters.

The project team would like to thank 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.

We have developed a pipeline of topics for the blog through to Christmas, including a number of family studies. We will then suspend the blog as a vehicle for reporting on research and use it solely to announce new information on the upcoming conference.

The DNA project

Since Janet Flemming has joined the DNA project as co-administrator there has been an uptick in the number of people testing with us. Janet is preparing an article for our blog that will be published shortly. This will discuss progress so far with the DNA project and what will happen next.

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.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 http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Flemish_in_Scotland