

Newsletter no. 2 – May 2013

Scotland and the Flemish People

This is the second newsletter aimed at updating you on progress with our project on *Scotland and the Flemish People*.

Additions to the Project Team

Since the last Newsletter in January two additional members have been added to the project team. In the Institute of Scottish Historical Research at St. Andrews University Dr. Alex Woolf has joined the project. Also, a new Doctoral student has been chosen and will start work in September 2013.

DNA project

Background: The DNA component to the project, mentioned in Newsletter No. 1, is now up and running. This will be an important complement to the historical work. There are two key issues that DNA analysis could help address. First there are a significant number of potentially Flemish origin families in Scotland (that do not have the name Fleming). In many cases genealogical research cannot trace these families fully back to Flanders. As the techniques of DNA analysis are becoming more refined it is becoming possible to more accurately pinpoint the geographic origins of a family. The other key issue relates to the name Fleming itself. Were all people named Fleming descended from one early Flemish immigrant to Britain or did some families simply adopt the name Fleming when arriving in Scotland? Again, DNA analysis can help shed light on this issue.

Who should join: Our project is focusing on Scottish families that believe they may have Flemish roots. If you have a name that appears on the attached list or if your name is not on the list but have reason to think that it should be, please consider joining the project.

How to participate: The Y-Chromosome is carried only by men who inherit it from their fathers. As surnames in Europe are typically patrilineal in descent the Y-Chromosome can be used to identify men who share a common ancestor. As women do not carry a Y-Chromosome, females who wish to participate require a male family member to participate who bears one of the project surnames.

The DNA test itself 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 and will help us in the analytic work described above. This test may give you an indication of your "deep ancestry" by matching with other participants who have been found positive for advanced "deep ancestry" markers. These advanced markers can be ordered at a later date if required. 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).

Administration: The project is administered by Alasdair Macdonald from the University of Strathclyde (Department of Genealogical Studies). He is a leading authority in Scotland on DNA. Should you have any questions please contact Alasdair at scottishdna@strath.ac.uk. Alternatively feel free to contact co-administrator Alex Fleming referenced at the end of this newsletter.

Scottish regional case studies

We are working on a series of case studies in areas where we believe there has been a significant Flemish influence. Our first case studies cover Fife and the Glenshee area of Perthshire. Over recent months we have been talking with the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust about a ruined settlement, believed to be Flemish, in the south of Glenshee. Starting in June the Trust will begin work on the site with a view to determining when the settlement was established, its structure and uses, and provide confirmation that it was indeed Flemish.

If any of our readers have knowledge of particular areas in Scotland where there is historical evidence of a Flemish presence and would be prepared to assist us in the development of case studies, please let us know.

Website

Our new website is almost complete and we furnish more details about this in the next Newsletter.

Contacting us

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

Mr. John Irvine: johnwirvine@aol.com
Dr. Alex Fleming: aefleming007@comcast.net

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