



*George's Combat, 1745, Library of Congress, 2002699083*

# The English Diaspora Project

Christmas Newsletter, December 2013

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



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# Welcome & News



## Welcome to the English Diaspora Christmas Newsletter!

It has been an exciting few months since our last Newsletter, with team members pursuing their research and uncovering many new facets of English life and culture in North America. We have also carried out our key public engagement events here in the UK and in the US.

### Icons of Englishness

We held this series of lectures at the Lit & Phil in Newcastle in April 2013 leading up to St George's Day. Our aim was to provide some international perspective on definitions of Englishness by English immigrants and their descendants in North America in these times of devolution and referendums on breaking up the UK. The lectures included:

- Dr Joanne Parker (Exeter University) on King Alfred
- Dr Mike Sutton (Visiting Fellow at Northumbria) on the English Morris tradition in transatlantic context
- And a joint presentation by Professor Don MacRaild, Dr Tanja Bueltmann, and Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable on 'Global St. George.'

## English & English Culture in North America

At the end of May 2013 we opened our exhibition 'England, the English & English Culture in North America' at the Addlestone Library at the College of Charleston. The exhibition ran until mid-June 2013, but will be available permanently through the Lowcountry Digital Library. The opening featured a performance by the Hexham Morris troupe, a group of 32 folk dancers and musicians from the Northeast of England. The group also performed as in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, bringing English culture to many a festival goer.

In September we were pleased to welcome back to England one of our associated colleagues, Prof William Van Vugt of Calvin College, USA.

We are now going into our final project year and are looking forward to bringing the different project strands to conclusion. Thank you for your continued interest in the project. We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events, or meet you virtually online. Merry Christmas and all the best for 2014!

The English Diaspora Project Team

# Charleston Exhibition



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For more please check out our vimeo channel at:  
<http://vimeo.com/englishdiaspora>

# Upcoming Events



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**End of project Conference, 17-18 July 2014, Northumbria University**

## **The Global English: Historical Perspectives**

### **Call for Papers**

Whilst most European Diasporas have received considerable attention from scholars, the English Diaspora has received virtually none. Since 1600, however, the English have been one of Europe's most migratory peoples. They contributed considerably to the British Empire in values, ideas and personnel; provided core human migrations for the re-peopling North America and the colonial parts of Africa and Australia; and left a heavy imprint even where they did not colonise, particularly in Asia and the 'informal Empire' elsewhere.

The AHRC 'Locating the Hidden Diaspora' research team invites contributors to an international conference that will explore the global English from a variety of approaches, covering the period from 1600-1950.

Though by no means exhaustive, and not restricted to any particular geographical territory, themes for consideration could include:

- English migration to the colonies
- English culture and customs overseas
- English organisations, clubs, societies and associations
- The political culture of the English
- Problematizing English 'Diaspora'
- Britishness and Englishness
- Symbols of Englishness
- Relations between English and other immigrants

Those wishing to offer a paper should send a title, a 200 word abstract and a brief CV by 31 January 2014 to [conference@englishdiaspora.co.uk](mailto:conference@englishdiaspora.co.uk)

# Recent Digital Community Stories



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- November 2013 [Uncovering the Origins of ‘English-Style’ Hunting and Equestrianism in Rural Virginia](#) In this latest post team member Dean Allen explored the history of English-style hunting and equestrian pursuits. While forms of modern sport became entrenched within American society during the mid to late 19th Century, equestrian sports and hunting with hounds in the traditional English manner were established much earlier in Colonial Virginia.
- October 2013 [English and Scottish Ethnic Associations in North America: A Comparison](#) Emigrants carried a rich array of associations with them to the new worlds in which they settled, often coming together along ethnic lines shortly after first foot fall. While Scottish associationalism, though understudied, has at least been an acknowledged feature of the Scots’ ethnic behaviour abroad—kilted lads and bagpipes providing a suitable iconography here—English associations have not been viewed in the same light: they have largely been dismissed, for instance by Charlotte Erickson, as elitist and out of touch with the larger immigrant community. Project Co-I Tanja Buelتمان compares the activities of the English and Scots in this post.
- September 2013 [The Anglo-American Rapprochement](#) In this post Stephen Bowman, PhD student with the project, investigates the history of that rapprochement. The apparent unpopularity of the English in America makes all the more striking the appeals to a shared Englishness that so marked the rapprochement that occurred between Britain and the United States from the late-1890s. This improvement in official relations between the two states has been typically observed in British support for America during the latter’s war with Spain in 1898 – a favour largely reciprocated during Britain’s war in South Africa – and in the gradual resolution of outstanding disputes between the US and the UK in the early years of the twentieth century.
- August 2013 [Dancing up the Sun](#) Team member Mike Sutton in this post investigates the transmission of Morris dancing from England to America, exploring May Day celebration in the US by current Morris groups.



# Research Areas

The overall aim of all project research strands is to challenge the existing historiography of English ethnicity in North America which explicitly dismisses it as weak and denies the relevance of 'diaspora'. Members' research areas are:

- **Don MacRaid** and **Tanja Bueltmann** are working on a history of English associationalism in North America, exploring the development, membership and activities of English ethnic clubs, including St George's societies and the Sons of England. The study will generate significant new knowledge of untapped records relating to the St George's and other societies established by the English in North America, as well as a vast quantity of newspaper reportage on their activities.
- **David Gleeson** is exploring the English Diaspora in North America to better understand concepts of American identity and nationality in the nineteenth-century, especially the interactions between British, US and Canadian political cultures in republican and imperial contexts.
- **Joe Hardwick** is investigating the overseas development of the Church of England and the contribution it made to the development of expatriate civil societies, interrogating the idea that the Church overseas was an 'English' institution.
- **James McConnel's** interest in the English Diaspora stems from his wider research project on the co-commemoration of 5 November in the nineteenth century Anglophone World. His main contribution to the project is research into 5 November in colonial and post-revolutionary America in comparison to commemoration in Canada.
- **Monika Smialkowska** is working on the reception of Shakespeare in America, for instance during the 1916 Shakespeare Tercentenary celebrations, assessing how Shakespeare was adopted for American audiences.
- **Dean Allen** is interested in the English Diaspora because of the profound influence the English have had on the introduction and development of sport and leisure throughout both the British Empire and the modern world.
- **Mike Sutton** is an active member of the Hexham Morris, thus pursuing his interest in English folk culture and music and supporting the project's community outreach activities.
- **Lesley Robinson** is working on English identity in the 'near Diaspora'.
- **Stephen Bowman** is investigating the Pilgrims Society.

# Contact Us



There are a number of ways to get in touch with us:

- send an email to [mail@englishdiaspora.co.uk](mailto:mail@englishdiaspora.co.uk)
- Twitter: @englishdiaspora
- use our website contact form: <http://www.englishdiaspora.co.uk/contact.html>

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