



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

The English Diaspora Project

Newsletter, May 2012



Contents

- Welcome & News 3-4
- Publications 5-6
- Royal Jubilees
and the English Diaspora 7-8
- Research Areas 9
- Contact Us 10



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Welcome & News



Welcome to the first English Diaspora Newsletter of 2012!

Several activities have taken place since our last Newsletter, and both English Diaspora team members and PhD students have made great progress with their research. We hope you will enjoy reading our Diamond Jubilee Newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events, or meet you virtually on one of our different online platforms.

The English Diaspora Project Team

English Diaspora Colloquium

At the end of February we welcomed distinguished Professors Donald H. Akenson and David Haglund (both of Queen's University, Ontario) at Northumbria University for the English Diaspora Colloquium. Members of the English Diaspora group had an excellent discussion of their research with Professors Akenson and Haglund. Doctoral candidates Stephen Bowman and Lesley Robinson gave excellent outlines of their research to date and benefited from suggestions and advice from the two visitors. Professor Akenson gave a short presentation outlining some of the ways in which the two universities might collaborate in future projects, and Professor Haglund contributed significantly to an exploration of how diplomatic, social and cultural history might come together around questions of ethnicity and diasporas.

In Search of the Missing England

On St George's Day 2012, the English Diaspora team and the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society (NDFHS) organised a half-day session for those interested in tracing their English ancestors. The session was opened by Don MacRaidl. He spoke about English emigration across the world. Then Dr Brad Patterson of Victoria University, Wellington, spoke on the English in New Zealand, giving a fascinating lecture which examined four major phases of emigration to Britain's farthest colony and also described the types of sources which family historians use to uncover their ancestors. John Stobbs of the NDFHS then gave one of his characteristically knowledgeable lectures on the sources available to family historians wanting to study the English across the world.

The attendance was much smaller than we usually get for an Irish family history day, but attendees travelled from as far afield as Edinburgh and there was a good discussion.



IN SEARCH OF THE MISSING ENGLAND
21 April 2012, 1-4pm
Northumbria University, Lipman Building
Hosted by Northumbria University and the
Northumberland & Durham Family History Society



Welcome & News



4

Publications

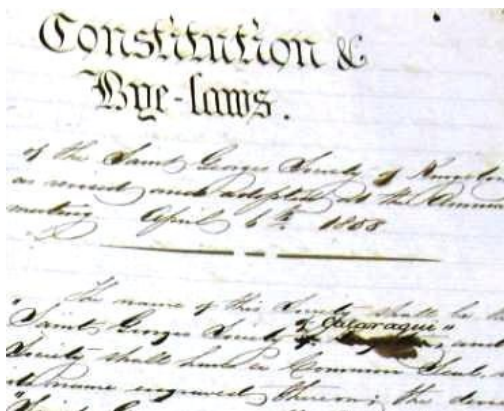
Tanja Buelmann and Don MacRaid published their article entitled 'Globalizing St George: English associations in the Anglo-world to the 1930s' in the *Journal of Global History* in February. We are also pleased to announce the imminent publication of the *Locating the English Diaspora* edited collection. Please see the Publications' section for details on both publications.

Research

Tanja Buelmann spent late April and early May in Canada and the United States, carrying out English Diaspora research in a number of different locations. In particular, Tanja was looking at records of different English societies, including St George's societies and the Sons of England. The material gathered will feed into the monograph on English associations that Tanja is co-authoring together with Don MacRaid.



During her research trip, Tanja also met with the Executive Director and other people involved in the New York St George's Society while conducting research in the city. The New York St George's Society is among the earliest English associations that were established in the United States, having been founded to provide 'advice and relief' to Englishmen in distress in 1770. To this day the Society lives up to its philanthropic heritage, continuing its charity work, but also still offers a social component. The English Ball, which was hosted in early May, combines the two elements, having developed into a major fundraiser that, as the Society's website explains, 'enables the Society to fulfil its historical mission of giving advice and relief to those less fortunate British and Commonwealth citizens in the New York area.'



Publications



5

'Globalizing St George'

While English nationalism has recently become a subject of significant scholarly consideration, relatively little detailed research has been conducted on the emigrant and imperial contexts, or on the importance of Englishness within a global British identity. This article demonstrates how the importance of a global English identity can be illuminated through a close reading of ethnic associational culture. Examining organizations such as the St George's societies and the Sons of England, the article discusses the evolving character of English identity across North America, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Antipodes. Beginning in the eighteenth century, when English institutions echoed other ethnic organizations by providing sociability and charity to fellow nationals, the article goes on to map the growth of English associationalism within the context of mass migration. It then shows how nationalist imperialism – a broad-based English defence of empire against internal and external threats – gave these associations new meaning in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The article also explores how competitive ethnicity prompted English immigrants to form such societies and how both Irish Catholic hostility in America and Canada and Boer opposition in South Africa challenged the English to assert a more

robust ethnic identity. English associationalism evinced coherence over time and space, and the article shows how the English tapped global reservoirs of strength to form ethnic associations that echoed their Irish and Scottish equivalents by undertaking the same sociable and mutual aspects, and lauded their ethnicity in similar fashion.

Tanja Bueltmann and Don MacRaid, 'Globalizing St George: English associations in the Anglo-world to the 1930s', *Journal of Global History*, 7:1 (2012), pp. 79-105.



Publications



Locating the English Diaspora, 1500-2010

After 1600, English emigration became one of Europe's most significant population movements. Yet compared to what has been written about the migration of Scots and Irish, relatively little energy has been expended on the numerically more significant English flows. Whilst the Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Jewish and Black Diasporas are well known and much studied, there is virtual silence on the English. Why, then, is there no English Diaspora? Why has little been said about the English other than to map their main emigration flows? Did the English simply disappear into the host population? Or were they so fundamental, and foundational, to the Anglophone, Protestant cultures of the evolving British World that they could not be distinguished in the way Catholic Irish or continental Europeans were? With contributions from the UK, Europe North America and Australasia that examine themes as wide-ranging as Yorkshire societies in New Zealand and St George's societies in Montreal, to Anglo-Saxonism in the Atlantic World and the English Diaspora of the sixteenth century, this international collection explores these and related key issues about the nature and character of English identity during the creation of the cultures of the wider British World. It does not do so uncritically.

Several of the authors deal with and accept the invisibility of the English, while others take the opposite view. The result is a lively collection which combines reaffirmations of some existing ideas with fresh empirical research, and groundbreaking new conceptualisations.

English Diaspora team member contributors to the volume include:

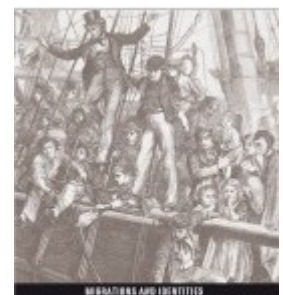
Tanja Buelmann, David Gleeson and Don MacRaild, 'Introduction: Locating the English Diaspora: Problems, Perspectives and Approaches'.

Tanja Buelmann, 'Anglo-Saxonism and the Racialization of the English Diaspora'.

Joe Hardwick, 'An English Institution? The Colonial Church of England in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century'.

Monika Smialkowska, 'An Englishman in New York? Celebrating Shakespeare in America, 1916'.

Tanja Buelmann, David Gleeson and Don MacRaild (eds), *Locating the English Diaspora, 1500-2010* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2012)



Locating the English Diaspora, 1500-2010

EDITED BY TANJA BUELMANN, DAVID GLEESON AND DONALD MACRAILD

Royal Jubilees and the English Diaspora



This year's Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne marks an important moment not only in the history of the United Kingdom, but also in that of the many countries overseas where, whether officially or unofficially, the Queen is an important public symbol. Republican tendencies there may be in many a place, but the monarchy remains one of the strongest icons of identity in the wider British World to this day.

It was in the latter half of the nineteenth century that forms of monarchical ceremonialism were turned into imperial events. On a larger scale this first occurred when Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli orchestrated the 40th anniversary celebrations of Queen Victoria's reign. By the 1890s, royal jubilees, coronations, funerals, and royal visits had become inherently imperial occasions. When Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897, even the republican United States were part of the celebrations, joining the 'Wave of Song' that had been organised by the Sons of England Society from Canada. Designed to traverse the globe as a 'Jubilee Service of a continuous anthem around the world', the 'Wave of Song' could be heard from the Antipodes to the Canadian prairies. In North America, and as was explained by the Sons of England, 'our own brethren in Newfoundland and Canada and patriots in the United States took the service up with energy and enthusiasm'. British Americans in Milwaukee followed suit, as did British subjects in Galveston, who accompanied the anthem with cricket and other sports. In Charleston, South Carolina, the anthem was sung in the afternoon, and a dinner, jointly organized by the St Andrew's and St George's societies, was held in the evening. As the Rev Dr Milburn, Chaplain of the Senate, had noted in an invocation in Congress earlier in the year, 'the long and illustrious reign of the gracious lady, Victoria, ... have shined her into the hearts and reverence of true-hearted men and women around the world.' [To learn more about the Sons of England and the 'Wave of Song', read 'Globalizing St George'].



Sons of England Record, no. 1, vol. II, 15 June 1897.

The Record provides details on the 'loyal and patriotic address' dispatched to Queen Victoria by the Supreme Grand Lodge of the Sons of England.

The English Christmas



8



The New Zealand emblem created in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II

While no similar 'Wave of Song' is planned to mark this year's diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the jubilee will be celebrated throughout the world. In Australia, Royal Australian Mint has released a 50c uncirculated coin to mark the Jubilee, and a beacon will be lit on Parliament House on 4 June. On Barbados HRH the Earl of Wessex unveiled a commemorative plaque on his recent royal visit, while New Zealand released a special Jubilee emblem. An emblem was also created in Canada, as was a commemorative medal. The medal will be awarded to 60,000 Canadians during the year of celebrations, highlighting that the most extensive celebrations outside of the United Kingdom are taking place in Canada.

Other Jubilee Activities

But activities in the English diaspora are by no means restricted to official events and material commemorations. St George's societies throughout the world are also actively celebrating the Jubilee. In Toronto, the city's English will gather for a cocktail party, while the New York St George's Society lives up to its philanthropic heritage, having designated its annual fundraiser as a Diamond Jubilee Bash. As the New York Society explains on its website, 'the Diamond Jubilee is a source of immense pride and historical relevance'. Elsewhere in the English Diaspora, however, the Jubilee celebrations are complicated by political undercurrents, for instance in Gibraltar.

At home in the UK, the Jubilee appears to have contributed to a surge in support for the monarchy. As a recent Guardian/ICM poll reveals, nearly 70% of the respondents feel that Britain would be worse off without the monarchy. The number of Jubilee events over the Bank Holiday weekend is also staggering, with tens of thousands of events planned, including 'funfairs, tea dances and even frozen-sausage tossing'.

What does Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee mean for you? What did you do for it? We would love to hear your story – leave it on our Facebook or our Digital Community site.



The Canadian emblem created in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

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 Anglo-Saxon rapprochement.



Contact Us

10

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

- send an email to mail@englishdiaspora.co.uk
- use our website contact form: <http://www.englishdiaspora.co.uk/contact.html>

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