

Scotland

Research Outline

This outline introduces you to records and strategies that can help you discover your Scottish ancestors. It describes the content, use, and availability of major genealogical records. Generally, *you must know the specific parish or town in Scotland where your ancestor was born* before beginning research in Scotland.

Step 1. Identify What You Know about Your Family

Begin your research with family and home sources. Look for names, dates, and places in certificates, family Bibles, letters, obituaries, diaries, and similar sources. Ask your relatives for any more information they may have. It is very likely that your second cousin, great-aunt, or other relative already has some family information. Organize the information you find and record it on pedigree charts and family group record forms.

Step 2. Decide What You Want to Learn

Select a specific relative or ancestor born in Scotland *for whom you know at least a name, the town or parish where he or she lived in Scotland, and an approximate date when he or she lived there*. It is very helpful to also know his or her religion and the names of other family members born in Scotland.

Step 3. Select a Record to Search

Read this outline to learn about the types of records used for Scottish research. To trace your family, you may need to use some of the records described in each section. Several factors can affect which records you search. This outline can help you evaluate the contents, availability, ease of use, time period covered, and reliability of the records. Use the “Records Selection Table” to decide which records to search.

First obtain some background information. Then survey previous research. Finally, search original documents.

Background Information Sources. You may need some geographical and historical information. You can save time and effort by understanding the events and places that affected your ancestors' lives.

- *Locate the town or place of residence.* Examine maps, indexes to place-names, gazetteers, and other place-name finding aids to learn as much as you can about each of the places where your ancestor lived. Identify the major migration routes, nearby cities, county boundaries, other geographical features, and government or ecclesiastical jurisdictions. Place-finding aids are described in the “Maps” and “Gazetteers” sections of this outline.

- *Review local history.* Scotland's history has greatly affected the development of records of genealogical value. If possible, study a history of the areas where your ancestors lived. Look for clues about the people, places, religions, and events that may have affected their lives and the records about them. Records with information about migration and settlement patterns, government jurisdictions, and historical events are described in the "Church History," "Gazetteers," "History," and "Emigration" sections of this outline.
- *Learn about Scottish jurisdictions.* You will need to know about how Scotland is divided into counties and parishes. See the "Historical Geography" section of this outline.
- *Use language helps.* The records and histories of places will usually be written in English, Latin, or the Scottish variation of English. Some helpful sources are described in the "Language and Languages" section of this outline.
- *Understand naming patterns.* Some families in Scotland followed distinct patterns when naming their children. Understanding these customs may help you find missing ancestors. See "Names, Personal" section of this outline for more information.

Previous Research Sources. Most genealogists do a survey of research previously done by others. This can save time and give you valuable information. Look for the following types of information:

- Printed family histories and genealogies
- Biographies
- Local histories
- The International Genealogical Index
- Ancestral File
- Scottish Church Records

Records containing previous research are described in the "Biography," "Genealogy," "Periodicals," and "Societies" sections of this outline. Remember that the information in previous research sources may contain some inaccuracies. Therefore, you will want to verify the information you find in such records with other records.

Original Records. After surveying previous research, you will be ready to begin research in original records, many of which you can find on microfilm. These documents can provide primary information about your family because they were generally recorded at or near the time of an event by a reliable witness. To do thorough research, you should search records of:

- Each place where your ancestor lived.
- Each parish of your ancestor's religion in each place of residence.
- The time period when he or she lived there.
- All jurisdictions that may have kept records about him (town, parish, county and country.)

Many types of original documents are described in this outline.

For each record type, *the paragraph heading used in this outline is the same as the topic used in the Family History Library Catalog.*

Step 4. Find and Search the Record

Suggestions for Obtaining Records. You may be able to get the records you need in the following ways:

- *Family History Library.* You are welcome to visit and use the records at the Family History Library. The library is open to the public. There are no fees for using the records. If you would like more information about its services, contact the library at the following address:

Family History Library
35 North West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

Telephone: 801-240-2331

Fax: 801-240-1584

- *Family History Centers.* Copies of most of the records on microform at the Family History Library can be lent to Family History Centers worldwide. There are small duplication and postage fees for this service.

- *Photocopies.* The Family History Library and many other libraries offer limited Photo duplication services for a small fee. You must specify the exact pages you need. Books protected by copyright cannot be copied in their entirety. However, a few pages can usually be copied for personal research.

- *Archives and local churches.* Most of the original documents you will need are at government, church, and local archives or in local parish offices. While the Family History Library has many records on microfilm, other records are available only at these archives. You can request searches in their records through correspondence (see the "Archives and Libraries" section for more information).

- *Professional researchers.* You can employ a private researcher to search the records for you. Some researchers specialize in Scottish records. Lists of qualified professional researchers are available from the Family History Library. Some archives and record repositories also have lists of researchers who make searches in their offices.

When requesting services from libraries or professional researchers through correspondence, you are most likely to be successful if your letter is brief and very specific. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing within your own country. When writing to other countries, enclose international reply coupons (available from large post offices) in place of stamps. You will usually need to send a check or money order in advance to pay for photocopy or research services.

Suggestions for Searching the Records. You will be most successful with Scottish research if you can examine the original records (on microfilm). In some cases, handwritten transcripts of the original records are available. These may be easier to read, but may be less accurate than the original records.

Follow these principles as you search for your ancestor:

- *Search for one generation at a time.* Do not try to connect your family to others who have the same surname who lived more than a generation before your proven ancestor. It is much easier to prove parentage than descent.
- *Search for your ancestor's entire family.* The records of each person in a family may contain clues for identifying other family members. In most families, children were born at regular intervals. If there appears to be a longer period between some children, reexamine the records for a child who may have been overlooked. Consider looking at other records and in other places to find a missing family member.
- *Search each source thoroughly.* The information you need to find a person or trace the family further may be a minor detail in the record you are searching. Note the occupation of your ancestor and the names of witnesses, godparents, neighbors, relatives, guardians, and others. Also note the places they are from.
- *Search a broad time period.* Dates obtained from some sources may not be accurate. Look several years before and after the date you think an event, such as a birth, occurred.
- *Look for indexes.* Some records have indexes. However, many indexes are incomplete. They may only include the name of the specific person the record is about. They may not include parents, witnesses, and other incidental persons. Also, be aware that the original records may have been misinterpreted or names may have been omitted during indexing.
- *Search for prior residence.* Information about previous residences is crucial to continued successful research.
- *Watch for spelling variations.* Look for the many ways a name could have been spelled. Spelling was not standardized when most early records were made. You may find a name spelled differently than it is today.

Record Your Searches and Findings. Copy the information you find and keep detailed notes about each record you search. These notes should include the author, title, location, call numbers, description, and results of your search. Most researchers use a research log for this purpose.

Step 5. Use the Information

Evaluate the Information You Find. Carefully evaluate whether the information you find is complete and accurate. Ask yourself these following questions:

- Who provided the information? Did the person witness the event?
- Was the information recorded near the time of the event, or later?
- Is the information consistent and logical?
- Does it suggest other places, time periods, or records to search?

Record Your Searches and Findings. Your family's history can become a source of enjoyment and education for yourself and your family. Contributing your information to Ancestral File is a good way to share information. See *Contributing to Ancestral File* (34029) for more information. In addition, you may want to compile your findings into a family history. You can share copies of your history with family members, the Family History Library, and other archives.

If you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, be sure to submit information about your deceased family members so you can provide temple ordinances for them. Your ward family history consultant or a library staff member at the Family History Library or your Family History Center can assist you. You can also use *A Member's Guide to Temple and Family History Work* (34697) to learn how to submit the names of your deceased ancestors.

RECORDS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Microform Records

The Family History Library presently has microfilms and microfiche containing information about people who have lived in Scotland. Most of the library's records have been obtained through an extensive (and ongoing) acquisition program. The library has microform copies of records found in government archives, church archives, and private collections. These records include:

- Birth, marriage, and death records from churches and civil officials.
- Land records.
- Census.
- Probate records.
- Military records.

However, the library does not have records for every time period or every place in Scotland.

Printed Records

The library has volumes of books and other printed materials helpful for Scottish research.

Copies of some of these books are available in microform. These include such books as:

- Atlases and maps.
- Histories.
- Family histories.
- Gazetteers.
- Handbooks and manuals.
- Periodicals.

An index to many of the books and microfilms in the Family History Library is:

Smith's Inventory of Genealogical Sources: Scotland. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Family History Library, 1994. (FHL book 941 D23s; fiche 6110528.)

FamilySearch™

FamilySearch™ is a collection of computer files containing several million names. It is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original records.

Once you select a file and type in a name, the computer searches the file and finds any names that match. The computer even finds last names that are spelled differently but sound the same. You can then view a full screen of information about the individual, including dates and places of birth, marriage, and death and names of parents, children, and spouses.

FamilySearch™ is available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah; at Family History Centers worldwide; and at some public and private libraries in the United States, Canada, and a number of other countries.

The FamilySearch™ files useful for Scottish research include:

- *Ancestral File*. Ancestral File contains family history information gathered from family group records and pedigrees that have been contributed since 1979. The file already contains millions of names. You may contribute your family history information to Ancestral File. For more information, see the publication *Contributing Information to Ancestral File* (34029), available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

- *Family History Library Catalog*. The Family History Library Catalog on FamilySearch™ is an automated edition of the Family History Library's catalog. The automated edition allows you to quickly find information about sources available through the library and obtain the library call numbers.

- *International Genealogical Index*. The International Genealogical Index provides the names and vital information—including birth, christening, or marriage dates—of deceased people who lived in Scotland. The index includes names extracted by volunteers from parish registers and civil registrations and names submitted by other researchers. The International Genealogical Index contains so much information about people from Scotland that it is important to search this file when beginning research on any name.

- *Scottish Church Records*. Scottish Church Records is an automated index to the christenings and marriages of the Church of Scotland. It dates from early times up to the end of 1854. The Family History Library also has microfilm copies of the original records.

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The key to finding a record in the Family History Library's collection is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes the library's records and provides the call number and floor location. Microfiche copies of the catalog are at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center. You can also search the catalog on computers at the library and at some centers.

The Family History Library Catalog on microfiche is divided into four major searches:

- Locality Search
- Surname Search
- Subject Search
- Author/Title Search

The Family History Library Catalog on compact disc, which is part of FamilySearch™, has four searches:

- Locality Search
- Surname Search
- Film Number Search
- Computer Number Search

To find the call numbers of the records described in this outline, you will most often use the Locality Search. The *section headings* in this outline that describe types of records (such as "Church Records") are the same as the *topic headings* found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists records by the area they cover.

- To find records that contain information about people from more than one part of the British Isles, such as military records, look under *Great Britain*.
- To find records that relate to people from Scotland only, look under *Scotland*.
- To find records that apply to a county in Scotland, look under *Scotland* and the name of the county.
- To find parish and city records, look under *Scotland*, the name of the county, and the name of parish or city.

You may need to look at each geographic level (Great Britain, Scotland, county, city, and parish) to find all records that apply to the place in which you are interested.

For example, look in the Locality Search for the following:

- The *place* where an ancestor lived, such as:

GREAT BRITAINSCOTLANDSCOTLAND, AYRSCOTLAND, AYR, MUIRKIRK

- Then the *record type* you want, such as:

GREAT BRITAIN - MILITARY RECORDSSCOTLAND - GENEALOGYSCOTLAND, AYR - CHURCH RECORDSSCOTLAND, AYR, MUIRKIRK - MAPS

- The record type, or subject, may be further subdivided, for example:

[LOCALITY] - GENEALOGY - HANDBOOKS AND MANUALS[LOCALITY] - CENSUS - 1851 - INDEXES

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

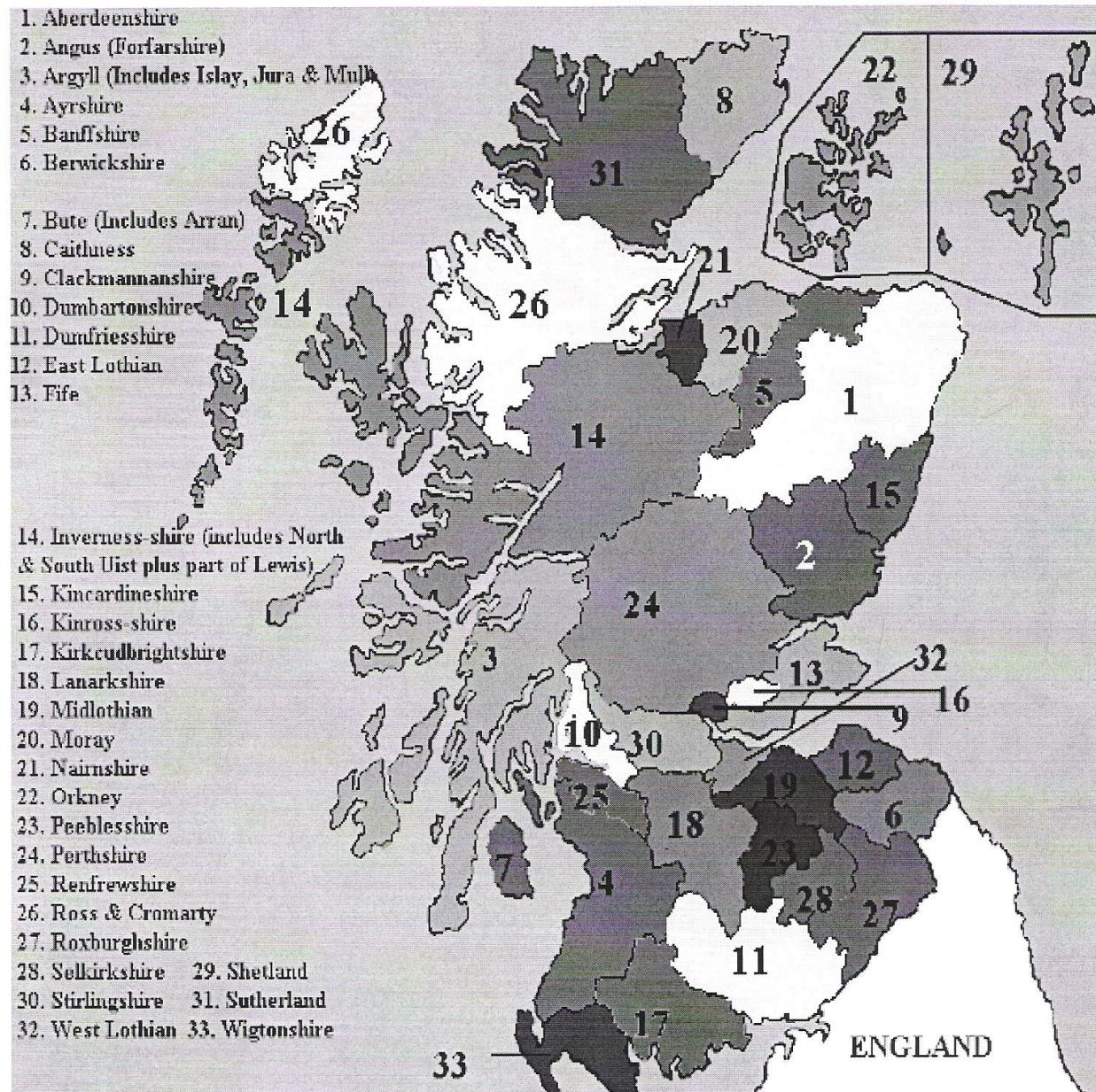
Records Selection Table: Scotland

The table below can help you decide which type of Scottish records to search. Similar types of records in the country to which your ancestor immigrated may provide the information you need. Column 1 lists types of information you may need. Column 2 lists the sections of this outline that discusses the records that are most likely to have the information you need. Column 3 lists other sections that may be useful. The section headings used in columns 2 and 3 are the same headings as those used in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Census, Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Military Records, Biography
Birth date	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Genealogy, Military Records, Newspapers, Occupations, Biography
Birthplace	Census, Church Records, Civil Registration,	Cemeteries, Genealogy, Newspapers, Military Records, Occupations, Biography
Boundaries of parishes, districts, and counties	Gazetteers	History, Maps
Death	Cemeteries, Church Records, Civil Registration, Newspapers	Court Records, Probate Records, Land and Property, Biography
Historical background	Genealogy, History	Church History
Emigration date	Emigration and Immigration	Church Records
Language helps	Language and Languages	
Living relatives	Civil Registration, Directories, Census	Newspapers, Periodicals, Societies, Biography
Maiden name	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Census, Land and Property, Probate Records, Biography
Marriage	Church Records, Civil Registration,	Biography, Genealogy, Newspapers, Nobility
Occupation	Church Records, Census, Directories, Civil Registration, Occupations,	Court Records; Poorhouses, Poor Law, Etc.; Land and Property, Biography

	Probate Records	
Parents, children, and other family members	Census, Church Records, Civil Registration, Probate Records	Cemeteries, Land and Property, Schools, Biography
Physical description	Military Records, Court Records	Biography, Newspapers, Occupations
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps	Directories, History, Historical Geography, Land and Property, Periodicals
Places of residence	Census, Church Records, Civil Registration, Directories	Land and Property, Probate Records, Biography
Place of residence when you know only the county	Civil Registration, Church Records, Land and Property, Probate Records, Taxation, Census	Cemeteries
Previous research (compiled genealogy)	Biography, Genealogy, Societies	Nobility, Periodicals
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries, Genealogy	Periodicals, Societies
Religion	Biography, Church Records, Civil Registration	Census, Cemeteries, Genealogy, History
Understanding names	Names (Personal)	

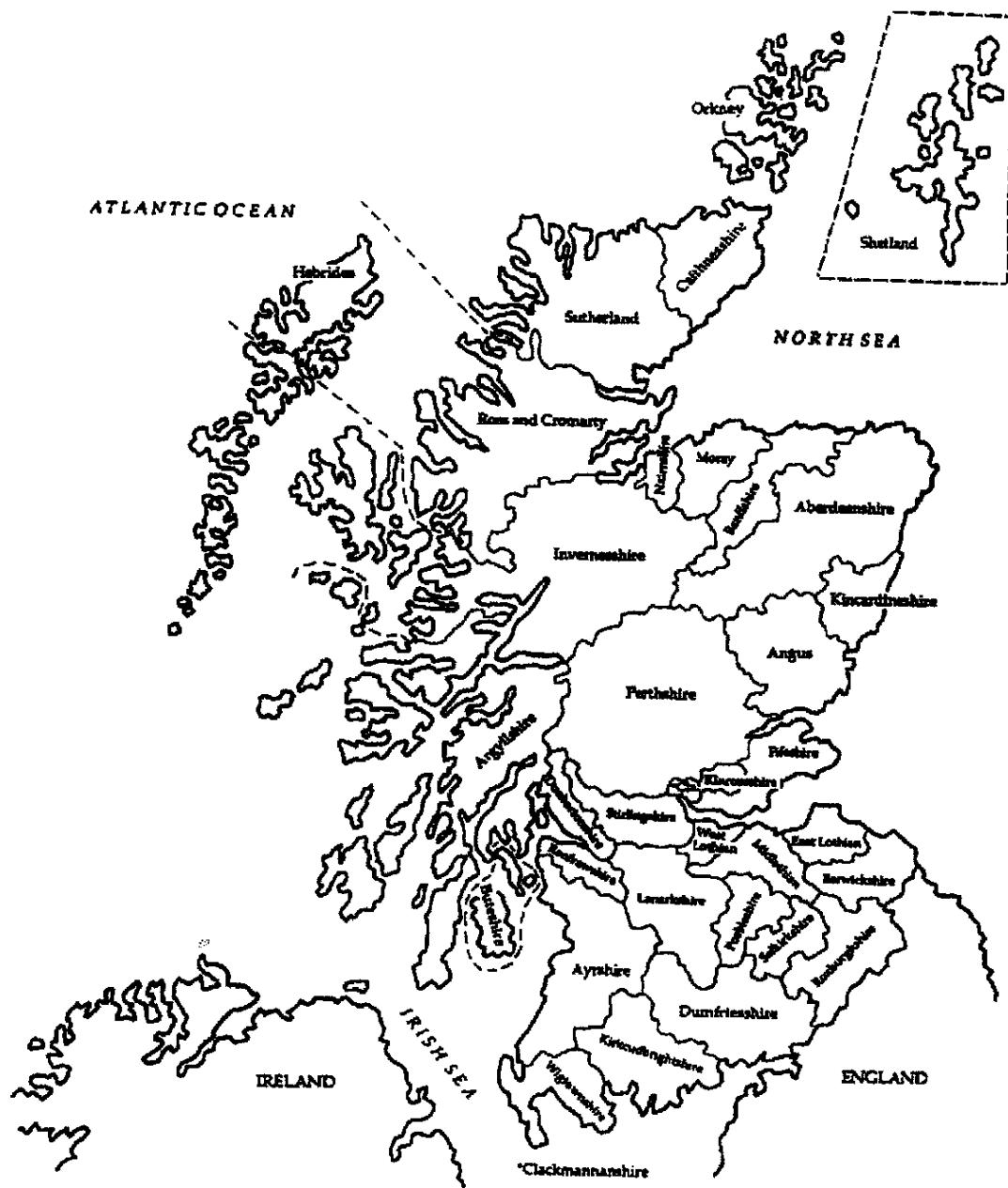
County Map of Scotland





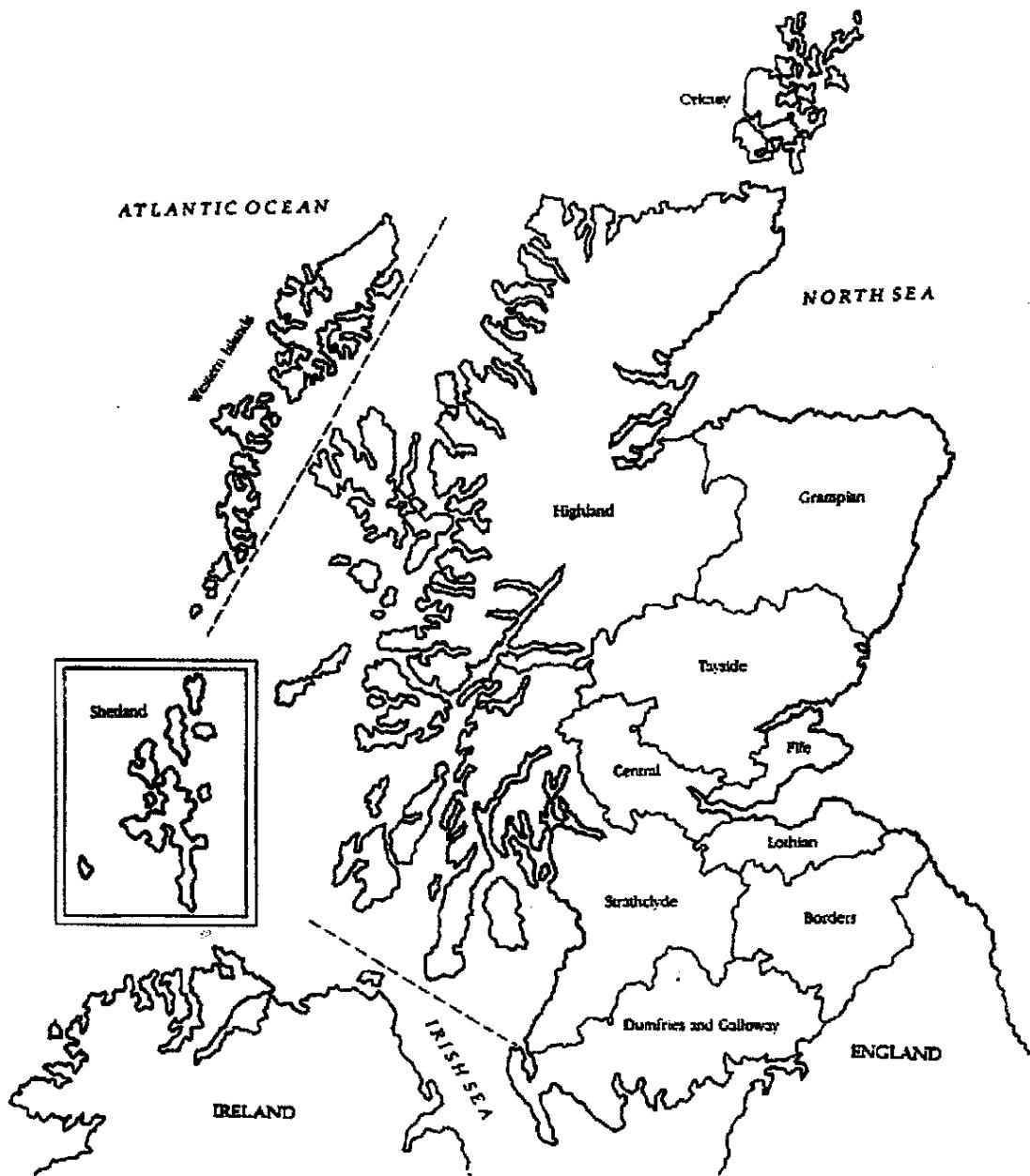
Scotland

(Boundaries Before 1974)



Scotland

(Boundaries after 1974)



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County Changes Made in 1974

In 1974 the British government reorganized the counties of Scotland. Twelve areas called *regions* were created from the original thirty-four counties. See the maps of this outline for the county changes.

These changes should not seriously affect genealogical research, but be aware of the following issues:

- Current maps show the new boundaries.
- Current addresses are located in the new counties. The addresses in this outline use the current county structure.
- If you are looking for a parish, city, or regional office that houses records, you will need to know the current address and the areas covered by the repository.

You should still begin with the pre-1974 county name when you start your genealogical research. Below is a list of the new counties with an indication of the old counties they cover.

New Region

(County)

Old Counties

Borders Berwick, Peebles, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and a small part of Midlothian
Central Clackmannan, parts of Perth and West Lothian, and most of Stirling

Dumfries and

Galloway

Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Wigtown

Fife Fife

Grampian Aberdeen, Kincardine, Banff, and most of Moray

Highland Caithness, Nairn, and Sutherland and most of Argyll, Inverness, Moray,
and Ross and Cromarty

Lothian East Lothian and most of Midlothian and West Lothian

Strathclyde Bute, Dunbarton, Lanark, Renfrew, Ayr, and parts of Argyll and Stirling

Tayside Angus, Kinross, and part of Perth

Island Areas Old Counties

Orkney Orkney

Shetland of Zetland (or Shetland)

Scotland, Historical Background

Introduction

Effective family history research requires an understanding of the historical events that affected your ancestors and record keeping. Learning about wars, local events, laws, migrations, settlement patterns, and economic or religious trends may help you understand family movements. These events may have led to the creation of records that mention your ancestors. Your family history research will be more interesting if you learn about the events that shaped your ancestors' lives.

General History

Some key dates and events in Scottish history are:

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 843 | Kenneth MacAlpin became king of the Picts and Scots. This marked the first united kingdom in Scotland. |
| 1174 | William the Lion surrendered the independence of Scotland to Henry II in the Treaty of Falaise. |
| 1306 | Robert Bruce assumed leadership of a rebellion against English rule. |
| 1314 | Robert Bruce defeated the English in the Battle of Bannockburn, maintaining Scottish independence. |
| 1325 | The English recognized Robert Bruce as King Robert of Scotland. |
| 1514 | The recording of testaments (wills) began in Scotland. |
| 1600 | The calendar changed from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. See also Calendar Changes. |
| 1603 | The crowns of England and Scotland were united. |
| 1608 | The Plantation of Ulster in Ireland was established to prevent Irish revolts against English rule. By 1640 there were 40,000 Scots in northern Ireland. |
| 1707 | The Act of Union between Scotland and England created Great Britain. |
| 1715 | Thousands of Scots supported James Edward Stuart, the "Old Pretender," in his efforts to obtain the crown of Great Britain. This was the first Jacobite rebellion. |
| 1745 | Many Scots supported James' son Charles Edward Stuart, also called Bonnie Prince Charlie and the "Young Pretender," in his efforts of obtain the crown of Great Britain. This was the second Jacobite rebellion. |
| 1746 | The English defeated the forces of Charles Edward Stuart in the Battle of Culloden. After this battle, the English executed many clan chiefs and outlawed kilts and bagpipes. These restrictions were removed in 1782. |
| 1779 | The Industrial Revolution began to affect Scotland. |
| 1841 | The first census of genealogical value was taken. |
| 1855 | Civil registration of all births, marriages, and deaths began. |

Other Resources - Scotland

Parish Maps in Each of the Counties of Scotland
<http://www.scotlandsfamily.com/parish-maps.htm>

Register of births, marriages and deaths of Scotland, 1855-1956
Film Number (0599269)

Index to the parishes in Scotland : alphabetically arranged : selected from "Detailed list of the old parochial registers of Scotland"
Film Number (6020420)

A street index compiled from the 1851 census returns of cities in Scotland
Film Number (599787)

Introducing Scottish genealogical research Whyte, Donald.
HBLL Call number CS 463 .W45 1979

Researching Scottish Ancestors: How the General Register Office for Scotland can help research Scottish ancestors
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/famrec/>

Scottish handwriting, 1150-1650 : an introduction to the reading of documents Simpson, Grant G
HBLL Call Number Z 115 .S3 S55

Scottish History Timeline
<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/usfeatures/timeline/index.html>

National Library of Scotland
<http://www.nls.uk/index.html>

Scotch-Irish family research made simple Campbell, R. G.
HBLL Call Number CS 49 .C35

•GENUKI

<http://genuki.org.uk/>

A cooperative effort made by many genealogical and historical societies to list databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for parishes and counties

National Library of Scotland. This library houses manuscript material relating to Scotland, such as historical documents, family papers, and archives of organizations. A reader's ticket is required.

National Library of Scotland
Department of Manuscripts
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW
Scotland

The Registrar General. This office contains records of births, marriages, and deaths from 1855 to the present; census; and the Old Parochial Registers.

The Registrar
General Search Unit
New Register House
Edinburgh EH1 3YT
Scotland

The Public Record Office. This office collects records of the British government (such as parliamentary papers) and law courts from 1086 to the present. It is in England but has many Scottish records. You need a reader's ticket to use its collection.

The Public Record Office
Ruskin Avenue, Kew
Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU
England
A guide

University Libraries

University libraries house family papers, estate records, and other historical and genealogical material. Three main ones are:

Aberdeen University Library
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/index.php>
Manuscripts and Archive Section
King's College
Aberdeen AB9 2UB
Scotland

University of Edinburgh Library
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/>
George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LJ
Scotland

University of Glasgow
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/archives/>
Archives
The University
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Scotland

CEMETERIES

Tombstone inscriptions are an important source in family history research. They may include birth, marriage, and death information. They sometimes give more information than the parish burial register or civil death certificate, such as military service, occupation, or cause of death. Tombstone inscriptions are especially helpful for identifying ancestors not in other records. Since relatives may be buried in adjoining plots, search the entire record.

To find tombstone inscriptions, you need to know where an individual was buried. The person may have been buried in a church, city, or public cemetery—usually near the place where he or she lived or died. You can find clues to burial places in church records, death certificates, or family histories.

Tombstone inscriptions might not always be correct, but they often gives clues to other records to search.

Many Scottish tombstone inscriptions have been recorded and published in printed form. The Family History Library has many of these publications. To find a book or microfilm call number, look in the Family History Library Catalog under:

SCOTLAND - CEMETERIES
SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
[COUNTY], [PARISH] - CEMETERIES

Local libraries of the area might also have tombstone transcripts. Since burial records in Scotland are scarce, tombstone inscriptions are important. Even when burial records exist, tombstone inscriptions might provide information that the burial record does not.

Most cemeteries before 1850 were connected to the Church of Scotland. Even people who were not members were buried in church cemeteries of the parish in which they lived.

Sometimes a family in Scotland purchased a *lair* (burial plot). Some of the registers that record these purchases still exist. They may provide valuable information such as the owner's name and address, date of purchase, names and dates of the deceased, and the relationship to the owner. You may find these registers at the local church; the local registrar of births, marriages, and deaths; a local history library; or the council archives.

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population. Census records are a valuable source of genealogical information for Scotland, giving names, ages, and places of birth.

Various types of censuses have been taken by different British authorities for their own purposes. This section only discusses censuses intended to include the whole population.

Understanding the Census

The Scottish government has taken a census every ten years since 1801 except in 1941. The censuses from 1841 to 1891 are available for public use.

Census takers were instructed to list only those persons who spent the night in the household when the census was taken. People who were traveling, at boarding schools, or working away from home are listed where they spent the night. For example, night watchmen are often listed at their employer's business address rather than with their families.

You will find the following information in censuses:

1801 to 1831. These censuses contain only statistical information. However, some parishes compiled lists of names when they gathered the information needed for the census.

1841. The 1841 census was taken on 7 June 1841. It lists each member of every household with their name, sex, address, occupation, and whether or not they were born in the county.

The census takers usually rounded the ages of those over fifteen down to a multiple of five years. For example, someone who was actually fifty-nine would be listed as fifty-five.

1851 and Later. From 1851 to 1931, censuses were taken between 31 March and 9 April. These censuses list the names, ages, occupations, relationships to the head of the household, and parish and county of birth (except foreign births, which give country only) of each member of the household.

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

<http://www.familysearch.org/> 1881 census, 1841-1861

<http://www.findmypast.com/> 1841-1911

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

A church directory lists church ministers and parishes and other ecclesiastical jurisdictions, such as presbyteries, dioceses, and so forth. Directories can provide important information, including:

- Addresses for church officials.
- Lists of church jurisdictions and headquarters.
- Chronological lists of principal church officials.
- Brief biographies or career summaries of current ministers.
- Addresses of church schools or other institutions.

Directories exist for many denominations. To find the call number for a directory in the Family History Library, look in the Family History Library Catalog under SCOTLAND - CHURCH DIRECTORIES.

You can also find directories in other libraries, archives, and repositories.

CHURCH HISTORY

Effective research in church records requires some understanding of your ancestor's religion and the events that led to the creation of church records.

The following major events affected Scottish church history and records:

1552 Roman Catholic parishes are ordered to keep a register of baptisms and banns of marriage.

1560 Protestantism is established and the authority of the pope abolished.

1592 The Presbyterian Church is formally established.

1600 Scotland changes from using the Julian calendar to using the Gregorian calendar .

1610 James VI establishes the Episcopal Church.

1638 The Episcopal Church is abolished by the General Assembly of Presbyterians at Glasgow. Although the government did not recognize this move, Episcopalians were persecuted. They sometimes hid or destroyed their registers or did not keep them at all.

1640 An estimated five percent of the parishes of the Presbyterian Church are keeping records by this date.

1641 Charles I and the English Parliament acknowledge the Presbyterian Church in Scotland.

1661 The Episcopal Church is reestablished under Charles II.

1690 The Presbyterian Church is permanently restored and becomes the Church of Scotland.

1733 Four ministers break away from the Presbyterian Church and set up the Secession Church.

1745 The Secession Church divides. The new denomination is known as the Anti-Burgers Church.

1752 Three ministers secede from the Presbyterian Church and form the Relief Church. By 1790, this church has about 150,000 members. The Relief Church keeps its own records.

1783 The government imposes a tax on every christening, marriage, and burial entry recorded in church records, causing many entries not to be registered.

1792 The laws against Episcopalians are repealed, allowing them to worship and keep records.

1700s During the eighteenth century, particularly after 1730, many nonconformist groups form. Many preachers come from England, but they usually keep only personal records of conversions, and many conversions are not recorded locally. Prominent among these groups are the Baptists, Methodists, and Congregationalists (Independents).

1820 Parishes are required to keep register books.

1829 Roman Catholics are permitted by law to buy and inherit property and keep records.

1843 Ministers break away from the Presbyterian Church and form the Free Church.

1847 The Secession and Relief Churches combine to form the United Presbyterian Church. At that time, the Free Church had five million members, and the United Presbyterian Church had two million members.

For more information on church history or the history of a particular denomination, see the Family History Library Catalog under:

SCOTLAND - CHURCH HISTORY SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - CHURCH HISTORY

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records are an excellent source for accurate information on names, dates, and places of birth, marriage, and death. Most people who lived in Scotland before the midnineteenth century are listed in church records. Since civil authorities did not begin registering vital statistics until 1855, church records are the best source of family information before this date.

Church officials record christenings, marriages, and burials in registers. These are generally known as *parish registers*. Parish registers may also give birth or death dates. In addition, church officials kept other types of records such as kirk session (parish court) records.

It is helpful to know the parish where your ancestor was born, married, or died so you can search parish registers. If you do not know the parish but know the name of a village or town, you may use a gazetteer (see the “Gazetteers” section of this outline).

Maps that show parish boundaries can help you determine which parish records to search and identify neighboring parishes. The following books contain maps that show parish boundaries

Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland) Records

The Presbyterian Church has been the state church of Scotland since 1690.

The organization of the Church of Scotland is as follows:

- The General Assembly is the highest governing body.
- The synod governs several presbyteries.
- The prestery governs several parishes.
- The parish is the lowest governing body.

Each local parish (*pairish, parochin*) keeps records. *Quoad sacra* parishes are those set up for ecclesiastical purposes to take care of those people who could not conveniently attend the parish church. To find records of people living in *quoad sacra* parishes, you must search the surrounding parishes.

The amount of information in registers varies from parish to parish. Later records generally give more complete information than earlier ones. Some early parish registers may be in Latin.

Scotland has its own version of English, so you may need to use a dictionary to understand some words (see the “Language and Languages” section of this outline).

Most parish registers begin after 1650. Some kirk session (parish court) records begin earlier than the parish registers. Kirk session records have some christening, marriage, or burial records in them.

The International Genealogical Index and the Scottish Church Records are important sources to use before searching parish registers.

Christenings (Baptisms)

Children were usually christened (baptized) within a few days or weeks of birth. Christening records give at least the infant’s name and the christening date. You may find the father’s name and occupation, the mother’s first name and often her maiden name, the child’s birth date and legitimacy, the family’s place of residence or street address, and the witnesses.

Marriages

Marriages usually took place in the bride’s parish. Often marriage records only give the marriage date and the names of the bride and groom. The records may include the marital status and parish of residence of both parties, groom’s occupation, and bride’s father’s name.

You may find records that show a couple's "intent to marry," also called the *proclamation of banns*. Usually the intent to marry was proclaimed in the parishes of both the bride and groom. The marriage was usually recorded only in the parish in which the marriage actually took place. The proclaiming of banns is not proof that the couple married.

Burials

Burial records usually give the deceased's name and burial date. Sometimes they give the age, the name of the spouse, or the names of parents. However, few burial records were kept before 1855. It is also important to know that many women when their husbands died reverted to their maiden names and were buried under that name.

Instead of actual burials, the parish registers often list people who paid mortcloth dues. The mortcloth was a cloth used to cover the body during the burial ceremony. However, these lists do not mention everyone who was buried. The rich who donated the cloths to the church and the very poor did not have to pay to use the mortcloth.

If you cannot find burial records, try to find tombstone inscriptions. See the "Cemeteries" section of this outline for more information on tombstone inscriptions.

Finding Parish Registers

The Church of Scotland sent all of its known registers up to the year 1855 to the Registrar General (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for the address). The registers have also been microfilmed, and you can use the films at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

To find microfilm numbers for the registers, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under SCOTLAND, [COUNTY], [PARISH] - CHURCH RECORDS.

Scottish parish registers were microfilmed twice. In the first filming, some information in the margins of the registers is not readable on the film. The second filming corrected this problem. The later filming also has frame numbers to help you find an entry that was extracted.

Indexes

Before searching the original records, it is good to search an index. The Genealogical Society of Utah has created three important indexes for Scottish church records:

- Index to the Old Parochial Registers of Scotland.
- Scottish Church Records.
- International Genealogical Index.

These indexes are described in detail below.

If you do not find the people you are looking for in these indexes, consider the following possibilities:

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

<http://www.findmypast.com/>

<http://freepage.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hughwallis/>

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/>

HISTORY

Effective family research requires understanding the historic events that affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, local events, laws, migrations, settlement patterns, and economic or religious trends may help you understand family movements. These events may have led to the creation of records, such as poor law records or military records, that mention your family.

Your ancestors will be more interesting if you learn about the events that shaped their lives. For example, a history may tell you what events occurred in the year your ancestor married and how those events may have impacted their decisions.

Some key dates and events in Scottish history are:

843 Kenneth MacAlpin becomes king of the Picts and Scots.
This marks the first united kingdom in Scotland.

1174 William the Lion surrenders the independence of Scotland
to Henry II in the Treaty of Falaise.

1306 Robert Bruce assumes leadership of a rebellion against
English rule.

1314 Robert Bruce defeats the English in Battle of Bannockburn,
maintaining Scottish independence.

1325 The English recognize Robert Bruce as King Robert of
Scotland.

1514 The recording of testaments (wills) begins in Scotland.

1552 The General Provincial Council orders each parish to keep a
register of baptisms and banns of marriage.

1560 Protestantism is established. The authority of the pope is
abolished, and celebrating mass becomes illegal.

1592 The Presbyterian Church is formally established.

1600 The calendar changes from the Julian Calendar to the
Gregorian Calendar.

1603 The crowns of England and Scotland unite.

1608 The Plantation of Ulster in Ireland is established to prevent
Irish revolts against English rule. By 1640 there were 40,000
Scots in northern Ireland.

1690 The Presbyterian Church is permanently restored and becomes the Church of Scotland.

1707 The Act of Union is formed between Scotland and England, creating Great Britain.

1715 Thousands of Scots support James Edward Stuart, called “Old Pretender,” as the king of Great Britain. This is called the first Jacobite rebellion.

1745 Many Scots support James’ son Charles Edward Stuart, also called Bonnie Prince Charlie and the “Young Pretender,” as the king of Great Britain. This is called the second Jacobite rebellion.

1746 The English defeat the forces of Charles Edward Stuart in the Battle of Culloden. After this battle, the English executed many clan chiefs and outlawed kilts and bagpipes. These restrictions were removed in 1782.

1779 The Industrial Revolution begins to affect Scotland.

1829 Roman Catholics are permitted by law to buy and inherit property and keep records.

1841 The first census of genealogical value is taken.

1855 Civil registration begins.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

Civil registration is the government records of births, marriages, and deaths. Civil registration records are excellent sources of names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Since they are indexed and cover most of the population, civil registration records are important sources for genealogical research.

General Historical Background

Before 1855 only churches recorded birth, marriage, and death information. Civil birth, marriage, and death registrations for Scotland began on 1 January 1855.

After that time, individuals had to report all births, marriages, and deaths to the registrar. A penalty was imposed for failure to register.

Local registrars were appointed in virtually every parish in Scotland. The local registrar kept two registers of all of the births, marriages, and deaths registered in his district. The District Examiner annually examined the registers and sent one copy of the register to Edinburgh. The other copy remained with the local registrar.

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of civil birth, marriage, and death records for the years 1855 through 1875, 1881, and 1891. To find these records, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under SCOTLAND - CIVIL REGISTRATION.

Records in Scotland

In Scotland, civil registration records are kept at the local registrar's office.

Duplicates are kept at the New Register House in Edinburgh. These are open to the public, but you can only have access to the specific records you request.

You can obtain certificates by mail from the New Register House in Edinburgh (see the "Archives and Libraries" section). If you request a certificate by mail, bear in mind that it may take several weeks to obtain a reply. When you write, send:

- A check or money order in pounds sterling for the current certificate fee or credit card information.
- The full name and sex of the person sought.
- The names of the parents, if known.
- The approximate date and place of the event.
- Index reference, if available.

COURT RECORDS

Court records are a very useful but complex source of information. There are many different courts and courts within courts.

Your ancestors could have been litigants in cases that were brought before any of the courts described below. However, if your ancestors were involved in a court case, it was most likely in the Court of Session (described under “National Courts”) or the sheriff courts (described under “Local Courts”).

Types of Courts

National Courts

Court of Session. The highest civil court in Scotland is the Court of Session. Its records, dating from 1478, are vast and complex and include Registers of Acts and Decrees (the judgments), minute books of the same, extracted and unextracted processes (filed claims that may or may not have gone to trial), and productions (recorded evidence).

Checking the minute books is one way to find information in national court records. There are two types of minute books:

The general minute books list all cases that came before the court.

Particular minute books list cases before a particular office within the court.

The minute books are arranged chronologically and list each legal action by the surnames of the opposing parties. They give enough details about a case to let you know whether it is of interest to you. The minute books are in manuscript form before 1782 and printed form after that date. The printed minute books are indexed and have been published annually.

Privy Council. Until 1707, the Privy Council dealt with high-profile cases sent from the Court of Session. Since 1707, the Privy Council has served only as administrator of the Court of Session.

Admiralty Court. The Admiralty Court had jurisdiction over all maritime and seafaring cases, both civil and criminal, until 1830, when its civil jurisdiction was transferred to the Court of Session.

Court of the Exchequer. Between 1708 and 1856 the Court of Exchequer dealt with revenue cases, including debts to the crown. After 1856, its jurisdiction was transferred to the Court of Session.

Local Courts

Sheriff Courts. Each county in Scotland falls under the jurisdiction of at least one sheriff court. A sheriff court may have jurisdiction over all or part of a county. Sheriff courts deal with local civil and criminal matters. Since 1823 they have also dealt with executory matters. Each sheriff court keeps its own records and maintains a repertory, or inventory, of records, and minute books.

Commissary Courts. Commissary courts dealt with executory and civil matters until 1823. Most of the civil matters concerned debt.

Burgh Courts. Burgh courts tried minor offences within the royal burghs.

Justice of the Peace Courts. Justice of peace courts had both civil and criminal jurisdiction but were not used as often as the sheriff courts or the justiciary courts. Surviving records are

sparse.

Franchise Courts. Franchise courts, which include regality, barony, stewartry courts, were those granted by the crown to specific landowners who could hold court in their own lands and administer justice over their own tenants. Most were abolished in 1747. Surviving records are unindexed and difficult to use. The Stair Society has published justiciary court records for Argyll and the Isles for 1664 to 1742, and barony and regality court records for Falkirk and Callendar for 1638 to 1656. (941 B4st vols. 12, 25, and 38. The first two volumes also on microfilm 0990279 item 3.)

Criminal Courts

Criminal cases are tried by either the High Court of Justiciary and its circuit courts (with records dating from 1488) or by one of the local courts, depending on the nature of the case (see the previous section, "Local Courts," for information about these courts).

An important type of criminal record is *precognitions*, which are the statements of evidence from witnesses. Precognitions for more serious crimes are preserved among the Lord Advocate's records, but few survive before 1812. They are indexed to 1900.

The High Court and circuit courts also have minute books, which report details of the trials. Records of criminals who were transported are among the justiciary court records.

Divorces

Divorce has been possible in Scotland since 1560. Until 1830, divorce fell under the jurisdiction of the Commissary Court of Edinburgh. You can find an indexed catalog of divorce cases in:

Scottish Record Society. *Commissariat of Edinburgh: Consistorial Processes and Decrees, 1658-1800*. Edinburgh: J. Skinner, 1909. (FHL book 941 B4sr vol. 34.)

The actual records are at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh. Indexes for 1800 to 1830 are also available at that office.

Since 1830, the Court of Session has had jurisdiction over divorce. These records are available at the Scottish Record Office and are open to the public to 1912. There are minute books and indexes to the records.

The Family History Library does not have divorce records for Scotland.

Finding Court Records

The Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh has most of Scotland's court records. Many of the records are indexed or otherwise inventoried. The records, indexes, inventories, and minute books are open to the public up to about 1912.

The Family History Library has copies of published and microfilmed minute books, repertories, and so forth. These include such records for the Court of Session (for 1805 to 1955) and some of the sheriff and burgh courts.

To find court records look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

SCOTLAND - COURT RECORDSSCOTLAND - COURT RECORDS -
INDEXESSCOTLAND [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDSSCOTLAND [COUNTY]
- COURT RECORDS - INDEXES

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Emigration and immigration records are records of people leaving (emigrating) or coming into (immigrating) Scotland. Records include passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, records of passports issued, list of transported prisoners, or registers of assistance to emigrate. These records may contain the name, age, occupation, destination, place of origin or birthplace, and date and ship of arrival. Names of fellow passengers may help construct family groups or provide hints on place of origin or destination.

The publication *Tracing Immigrant Origins* (34111) contains more information and strategies for finding immigrant ancestors.

General Background

Beginning in the seventeenth century, Scottish people began emigrating to the United States, India, Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and elsewhere in the British Isles.

Emigration increased in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of political unrest and again after 1815 as a means of poor relief, particularly from the Highlands.

The British government did not bother to document emigrants leaving its shores until the Passenger Act of 1803. Even after that, the records were very incomplete.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commission (1841 to 1872) and the Board of Trade (1873 on) kept records of departing emigrants, but the records have been destroyed up to the 1890s.

Emigration from Scotland

There was no systematic, official method of emigrating from Scotland. The following types of emigrants account for most persons who left Scotland.

- Free emigrants*. Beginning in 1630, emigrants left Scotland to promote trade or set up military outposts and way stations for merchant ships. Later, free emigrants sought opportunity in a new land or fled poverty or oppression in Scotland.

- Assisted emigrants*. From 1815 to 1900, qualified emigrants received passage money or land grants in the destination country as an alternative to receiving poor relief. Many Scots from the Highlands emigrated to Canada in this manner. After 1840, New Zealand and Australia offered money for land grants to skilled workers to encourage immigrants.

- Latter-day Saints*. Beginning in about 1840, many Scottish Latter-day Saints emigrated to the United States. Most settled in Utah. For more information, see the *Utah Research Outline*.

Emigration from Scotland to Other Areas in the British Isles

Emigration from southern Scotland to England has always occurred, though in small numbers. Emigration from Scotland into Ireland occurred beginning in the early seventeenth century. No government records, such as lists of emigrants, were kept of these movements within the British Isles.

British Records of Emigration

To search emigration records effectively, you should know the approximate date of emigration, the name of the ship, the type of or reason for emigration, or the emigrant's previous residence in Scotland. If you know the ship's name, you might find additional details on the ship, including ports of embarkation and arrival in:

Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping. Fiche ed. LaCrosse, Wis.: Brookhaven Press, 1981. (FHL fiche 6024581-6025295; does not circulate to Family History Centers.)

Passenger Lists. Port records listing the names of departing or arriving passengers are called *passenger lists*. Pre-1890 passenger departure lists are rare. Post-1890 lists are arranged chronologically by port of departure. These lists—which usually give the emigrant's name, age, occupation, address, and sometimes destination—are kept at the Public Record Office, Kew (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline).

Assisted Emigrants Registers. Persons who applied for assistance to emigrate were recorded in *assisted emigrants registers*, which often contain name, age, occupation, residence, destination, name of sponsor, address of relative, and size of family. Those available at the Family History Library appear in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

[DESTINATION COUNTRY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
ENGLAND -
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
GREAT BRITAIN - EMIGRATION AND
IMMIGRATION
SCOTLAND - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Probate Records. Probate records may mention relatives who emigrated. Probates of persons who died overseas who owned property in Scotland should have been proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (until 1858).

Records of Scottish Emigrants in Their Destination Countries

Usually, it is easier to find information about your immigrant ancestor in the country he or she immigrated to. You may find the emigrant's name, place of origin, occupation, and age.

Knowing an approximate date and port of arrival or ship name will probably help you search immigration records.

Naturalization records in the destination country may be an excellent source for determining your ancestor's place of origin. See the "Naturalization and Citizenship" section of the research outline of the destination country.

The Family History Library Catalog lists most of its immigration records in the Locality Search under [COUNTRY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

United States

Immigrant lists are the main source of information about an immigrant's arrival in the United States. More than 1,000 published lists are indexed in an ongoing series:

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1981. (FHL book Ref 973 W32p.)

The Family History Library has post-1820 government compiled passenger lists for most U.S. ports. Many are indexed. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information.

Canada

Scottish people settled in Canada during the early 1800s, but few pre-1865 passenger lists exist. Before 1900, most immigrants arrived at Quebec City and Halifax. The Family History Library has copies of passenger lists from 1865 to 1900. See the *Canada Research Outline* (34545) for more information.

Many books have been published about Scottish emigrants to North America. Some of these are:

Dobson, David. *Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America 1625-1825*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1984. (FHL book 970 W2d.) This author has published several other books on Scottish emigrants to America.

Tepper, Michael. *New World Immigrants: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from Periodical Literature*. 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979. (FHL book 973 W3tn.)

Whyte, Donald. *Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the U.S.A.* 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981. (FHL book 973 W2w.)

Whyte, Donald. *Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation*. Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1986. (FHL book 971 F2wd.)

You can find bibliographies of published passenger lists in:

Whyte, Donald. "Scottish Emigration: A Select Bibliography," *Scottish Genealogist* 21, no. 3 (1974): 65-86. (FHL book 941 B2g vol. 21 no. 3.)

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography 1538-1900*. 2nd ed. Detroit: Gale Research Co, 1988. (FHL book 973 W33p.)

Australia

Australia was founded as an English penal colony in 1788, but many free people also emigrated to Australia.

Immigration records vary by state in content and coverage. Some list the immigrant's birthplace, residence in Scotland, and education; his or her mother's maiden name; and his or her father's name, occupation, and residence. Some records are indexed. You might find the ship and arrival date in death certificates or published sources.

The Family History Library has many pre-1900 records. To find them, use the Locality Search of the catalog under:

AUSTRALIA - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATIONAUSTRALIA, [STATE] -
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

New Zealand

The British began colonizing New Zealand in 1840. Immigration records usually give settlement details and the wife's and children's names and ages. Most immigrants received assistance from either the New Zealand Company or from a government or church association formed to encourage immigration.

The Family History Library has many of these records. You can find them by looking in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

NEW ZEALAND - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATIONNEW ZEALAND, [PROVINCE] -
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Immigration into Scotland

Immigration into Scotland has included people from elsewhere in the British Isles and from Continental Europe. Specific immigrant groups include refugees from wars (such as the French Revolution) or from religious persecution (such as Huguenots and Jews). Throughout the nineteenth century in particular, immigration into Scotland was influenced by industrial development and by the Irish Potato Famine, bringing many Irish into Scotland.

No regular series of arrival records survives prior to 1836. The few surviving pre-1836 immigration records are not indexed.

The following types of records may help you find information about an ancestor who immigrated into Scotland:

- *British denization and naturalization records.* If your ancestor immigrated to Scotland before 1836, check British denization and naturalization. *Denization* granted limited subject's rights, and *naturalization* granted full subject's rights. However, most foreign settlers did not bother to go through the legal formality and do not appear in these records.

Denizations are indexed for the years 1509 to 1873 and naturalizations for 1509 to 1935. The indexes are included in the "Kew Lists," class HO1 (FHL book Ref. 942 A3gp; fiche 6092334-5).

- *Certificates of aliens.* The British government began registering foreign-born aliens living in the British Isles in 1793, but the records to 1836 do not survive. Beginning in 1836, certificates of aliens are arranged by port and list the name, nationality, profession, date arrived, country last visited, and signature of each passenger.

- *Passenger lists.* Starting in 1878, lists of incoming passengers give name, birthplace, last residence, and sometimes address of relative in country of origin. However, passengers from Europe or the Mediterranean did not have to be listed.

You can find the above records at the Public Record Office, Kew. The Family History Library has very few records of immigration into Scotland. To find microfilm numbers for the records that are available, look in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GREAT BRITAIN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATIONSCOTLAND - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Since so few British immigration sources exist, you may need to search the emigration records of the country your ancestor moved from to Scotland.

Unique Family History Library Indexes

The library has several sources that contain genealogical information gathered by others and can lead you to others who are interested in sharing family information. These include:

- *International Genealogical Index (IGI).* Deceased individuals who were born or married in Scotland are listed in the International Genealogical Index. Names are added continually to the index.

- *Ancestral File.* The Family History Library has developed a computer database of family information called *Ancestral File*. You are invited to contribute information or corrections to Ancestral File. For more information, see *Using Ancestral File Resource Guide* (34113) and *Contributing to Ancestral File* (34029).

- *Family Group Records Collection.* More than eight million microfilmed family group record forms are in the Family Group Records Collection, including many Scottish families. The collection has two major sections: The Archive Section and the Patron Section. You can find the film numbers for both sections in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog on microfiche under **FAMILY GROUP RECORDS COLLECTION**.

- *Smith's Inventory of Genealogical Sources in the Family History Library: Scotland* is a subject index to items likely not listed in the Family History Library Catalog but which can be found in selected periodicals, books, and films in the library's collection (FHL book 941 D23s, 34 vols; fiche 6110528 in 18 parts).

Family Histories

The Family History Library has many Scottish family and clan histories, published and unpublished, and newsletters that may contain genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other valuable information.

You will find many Scottish family histories listed in:

Ferguson, Joan P.S. *Scottish Family Histories*. Edinburgh: National Library of Scotland, 1986. (FHL book Ref. 941 D23fj.) This book lists over 3,200 family histories.

You can also find family histories by using the Surname Search of the Family History Library Catalog. However, the catalog lists only the major surnames discussed in each history.

The Family History Library has some genealogical collections for Scottish families, including published and unpublished collections of family histories and lineages, research files of prominent genealogists, and a few surname indexes. You can find other genealogical information on families by using the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Look under the following headings:

GREAT BRITAIN - GENEALOGYSCOTLAND - GENEALOGYSCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY

Research Coordination

The following publications show names and addresses of individuals and the family names they are researching. Using them may help you coordinate your research efforts. Search several editions since they are published yearly, and specific family names may appear in only one edition.

Caley, Iris Louise, ed. *1993 National Genealogical Directory*. Stoke St. Michael, Somerset: National Genealogical Directory, 1993. (FHL book 942 D24na.)

Johnson, Keith A., and Malcolm R. Sainty. *Genealogical Research Directory*. Sydney: Genealogical Research Directory Editors, 1996. (FHL book Ref 929.1025 G286grd.)

Federation of Family History Societies. *British Isles Genealogical Register* ("The BIG-R"). 1994. (FHL fiche 6344825.)

The Guild of One Name Studies publishes the following list of organizations that study specific surnames:

Register of One Name Studies. 7th ed. Solihull, England: Federation of Family History Societies, 1996. (FHL book 942 D24re 1996.)

Since most persons with the same surname are not related, you will need to determine whether a name listed in one of the above sources belongs to your family. You might have to do some research in original records to connect your family to a family listed in one of these sources.

HERALDRY

Heraldry is the designing, use, regulation, and recording of *coats of arms* and related emblems. Originally, the crown granted coats of arms to individuals—not families or surnames—to identify them in battle. A person entitled to bear arms is called an *armiger*. An armiger's legitimate male descendants can inherit the right to use his coat of arms. Most Scottish ancestors did not have a coat of arms.

The crown awards the right to use a coat of arms to persons who perform a heroic deed, make a notable achievement, or hold a prominent position. Such grants are recorded by representatives of the crown called the King's *heralds*. In Scotland the heralds work under the direction of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, who is responsible for rights to arms and pedigrees. Heraldic records are housed at the following address:

Court of the Lord Lyon

New Register House

Edinburgh

EH1 3YT

Scotland

In the sixteenth century, heralds visited all parts of Scotland to discover who was using coats of arms. They asked for proof of male descent from the original grantee. These heraldic *visitations* were recorded in *Public Register of all Arms and Bearings*, which continues to be expanded and is available at the above address.

Heralds developed terms to describe the records they kept. *Armorials* are alphabetical lists of names with a description, or *blazon*, of the arms. *Ordinaries* are similar books that describe coats of arms and arrange them according to design. Some minor armigers are not included in any books.

The Family History Library has many books on heraldry, including armorials and ordinaries, laws of heraldry, and explanation of terms. To find their call numbers, look in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

SCOTLAND - HERALDRY
GREAT BRITAIN – HERALDRY

Calendar Changes

In 1600 Scotland changed from using the Julian calendar to using the Gregorian calendar. The Julian calendar began the calendar year on 25 March and ended the year on 24 March. The Gregorian calendar started the year on 1 January and ended the year on 31 December. Thus, before 1600, January, February, and the first twenty-four days of March came at the end of the previous year instead of at the beginning of the next year.

The year 1599 consisted only of nine months: January, February, and March (1-24) 1599 became January, February and March (1-24) 1600.

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land records can help you determine where and when your family lived in a specific place. Sometimes these records will be based on inheritance, and such records will often mention two or more generations of a family. In Scotland the land system had feudal roots in which the crown owned all of the land.

In general, there are two types of Scottish land records:

- The *general register* usually contains land transactions that involved more than one burgh or county. They also recorded land transactions that affected Scottish interests in other countries, such as Nova Scotia.
- The *particular register* usually contains land transactions that involved a single county or burgh (city).

Sasine Records

The principle way of recording land transfer was through a document (sometimes referred to as an *instrument*) called a *sasine*. The sasine was proof that a change of ownership had taken place.

General Sasine Records. Before 1617 some general sasine records were kept in the Notorial Protocol books (registers kept by notary publics of the legal transactions they recorded). These are at the Scottish Record Office.

Between 1599 and 1609, the Secretary of State kept some general sasine records in the Secretary's Registers. Only seven of the original seventeen districts still exist. The Secretary's Registers are indexed. Both the Scottish Record Office and the Family History Library have the original records and indexes (FHL book Q941 B4sp vols. 7, 16, 18, 23, 47, 55, 61; films 896586, 896590-1, 896593, 896602, 896604, and 896606).

From 1617 to 1868 general sasine records were kept in a register called the Old General Register.

From 1869 on, sasine records have been kept in the New General Register. This is available at the Scottish Record Office.

You can find Family History Library microfilm numbers for general sasine registers by looking in the Locality Search of the catalog under SCOTLAND - LAND AND PROPERTY.

LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Most records used in Scottish research are in English. They may, however, be difficult to read because of unique Scottish words, Latin words, or different handwriting styles.

Unique Scottish Words

Some words you will see in Scottish records are not used in English. The following list contains some of the more commonly used Scottish words:

Scottish English

Aith- oath

Ane-- one, an

bairne, bairn --child or baby

bairnis --baby's

Baptist-- baptized

Beand-- being

befoir ---before

befeir---- before

burgh borough, ---town

callit --called

compear ---appeared

deponit deponed--- (witness)

do ---ditto

doits ----money (coins)

fay, fayr ---father

haid---- had

ilk ("of that ilk") having a surname of the same place

kirk, kyrk ---church

laird ---title of landholder

lawful ---legitimate offspring

miln, myln--- mill

main bairn--- boy child

maid bairn ---girl child

mortcloth cloth ----covering body during burial

ceremony

moy, moyr ----mother

natural -----often refers to illegitimate off-spring

but could be used for legitimate

offspring as well

nevoy ----nephew

new born usually---- unbaptized child

pns ---presence (of)

producit ---produced

putit--- presented

pwir ----poor

quwh ---(such as who)

quahe ----who

qlk, quilk, quhilk, quhilck which
quaifoir ---wherefore
raiefeit ----ratified
relict---- widow, widower
resile, resiled ----withdrawn (such as an offer of
marriage)
schew --show
seik---- sick
siclike, sicklike, syklyk---- likewise
stillborn ----born and died same day
unquhile, umquil ----late, former, deceased
varnit ----warned
vide ----see (such as, *see page*)
wreitting ----writing
wmquil, umquil, wmqUIL,
umquil
now- deceased

MERCHANT MARINE

A *merchant marine* is a person who worked aboard commercial ships. You may want to search merchant shipping records if you find one of the following terms in census, church, or civil records: *captain, mariner, seaman, mate, bowson (bos'n, bosun, boatswain, bo's'n), or super cargo*. Merchant marines were under control of the British government, so most of the records, including those for Scottish merchant marines, are listed under Great Britain in the Family History Library Catalog.

Types of Records

Ship's Muster Rolls and Agreements and Crew Lists. The ship master had to carry a written agreement with every crew member stating his wages, the capacity in which he was serving, and the nature of the voyage. These records were kept from 1747 to 1860. Pre-1854 records are arranged by port and ship number. Post-1854 records are arranged by ship number. *Lloyd's Marine Collection* can provide the ship number.

Lloyd's Marine Collection. This collection contains several types of records, including captains' registers, 1869 to 1947. These show the captain's birth date and place, certificate number, examination date and place, the vessels on which he served, and death date. More information about this collection is in:

Hall, Christopher A. *A Guide to the Lloyd's Marine Collection at the Guildhall Library*. London: Guildhall Library, 1985. (FHL book 942.1/L1 A3hc.)

Register of Seamen. This register contains copies of the certificates issued to individuals authorizing them to serve on a ship. The registers exist for the years 1835 to 1856. They give the man's age, birthplace, date of first going to sea, rank, service record, and the ship name. Those from 1844 to 1856 give a physical description of the man. The registers for some years are indexed.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages Occurring on Board British Merchant Vessels. Shipboard events were recorded in a ship's log. They cover the years 1854 to 1890. Some of these records are indexed.

Surname Index to the 1861 Census Returns of Ships. This is an alphabetical list (FHL fiche 6025598, 8 fiche) of all people who were on board naval, merchant, and smaller vessels when the 1861 census was taken. These ships are not emigrant ships. The few passengers listed are usually family members of the crew. The information includes name, age, occupation, birthplace, name of the ship, and reference numbers for finding the records either in the Family History Library or the Family Records Centre.

The address for the Family Records Centre is:

Family Records Centre
Myddleton Street
London EC1R 1UW
England

Census returns for other years include lists of persons on board ships. Some years are filed with the returns of the port city where the ship was docked. Other years are filed together in a group themselves.

Trinity House Petitions. These appeals for relief from poverty-stricken merchant seamen or their widows exist for 1780 to 1880 and often include birth, marriage, and death information. Some of the records are indexed.

Certificates of Competency and Service: Masters, Mates, and Engineers. If a man wanted to become a master or mate, he had to take an examination. A certificate showing name, birthplace, birth date, and the date and place the certificate was issued and given to the man after the exam. Registers were kept of these certificates. They start in 1845, but few were kept until compulsory registration in 1850.

Foreign Consular Records. Foreign consular records, found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under GREAT BRITAIN - CIVIL REGISTRATION, record seamen who died at sea. The place where the seaman came from is often included.

How to Find Records in the Family History Library

The Family History Library Catalog lists merchant marine records in the Locality Search under: GREAT BRITAIN - MERCHANT MARINESCOTLAND - MERCHANT MARINE

For Further Reading

For more information about merchant marines, see:

Dobson, David. *Scottish Seafarers of the Seventeenth Century*. [Edinburgh]: Scottish Association of Family History Societies, 1992. (FHL book 941 U2dd.) Seafarers between 1600 and 1700 are listed alphabetically by surname.

Records of the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen. London: Public Record Office, 1993. (FHL book 942.1/L1 A3pa 1993 no. 5.) This pamphlet discusses records available at the Public Record Office, Kew.

Watts, Christopher T., and Michael J. Watts. *My Ancestor Was a Merchant Seaman: How Can I Find Out More About Him?* London: Society of Genealogists, 1986. (FHL book 942 U37w.) This guide explains contents of a variety of records as they relate to the merchant

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify individuals who either served or were eligible to serve in the military. Before 1707 Scotland had its own military. During that time, people were only called up when needed. They were dismissed when the need was met. Few records were kept during this time. In 1707 the governments and militaries of England and Scotland united. Most records from this time forward are housed in the Public Record Office in England. The information contained in the records varies depending on the record, but you will generally find the following information in military records: date of enlistment, date of release, record of service, age, place of birth, residence, spouse, and children.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the military had the following branches: army, navy, militia, fencibles, yeomanry, territorial armies, coast guard, and royal marines.

To find a person's military record, you must know the regiment or ship on which the person served. You can often find this information in home sources, certificates of births, marriages, and deaths, census records, or other types of records created over the life of your ancestor.

Military service (other than the militia) was usually a lifetime career. Officers came from the upper classes and soldiers often came from the working class. Compulsory draft was generally not used except in times of greatest need, and people could purchase substitutes if they did not wish to serve.

The navy sometimes used to force men to serve on their ships. This was called *impressment*. The navy stopped this practice in 1815 when it became illegal.

Army

Pre-1872 army records are organized by regiment. Most regiments have published histories which tell the places they served and the battles they fought. A bibliography of these histories is: White, Arthur S., comp. *A Bibliography of Regimental Histories of the British Army*. London: The Society for Army Historical Research, 1965. (Not at FHL.)

To find military histories at the Family History Library, look in the Locality Search of the catalog under GREAT BRITAIN - MILITARY HISTORY.

Records of officers and enlisted men are usually separate. Records of officers usually include only commissioned officers, which were field marshal, general, lieutenant-general, major general, brigadier, colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, captain, lieutenant, ensign, cornet, paymaster, adjutant, quarter-master, surgeon, assistant surgeon, chaplain.

Types of Records

Army records include the following:

Chaplains' Returns. Army chaplains throughout the British Empire kept records that list the baptisms, marriages, and burials by regiment. These returns (from 1796 to 1880) are indexed and available at the Family Records Centre in London.

Lists of Officers. Published annually, these records give the name, rank, and regiment (FHL book 942 M25g; film 856427-452).

Muster Rolls. Records usually list name, age at enlistment, date, and place of enlistment. Army musters exist from 1760 to 1878.

Pay Records. These include pay lists, warrants, and ledgers.

Pension Records. Pensions were available to officers, their widows, and children. The earliest of these records date from 1713 and include both service and personal information.

Records of Service. These records are for officers and were kept from 1771 to 1911.

Regimental Description Books. These books include name, age at enlistment, birthplace, previous trade, and physical description. Most books start about 1805 and continue to 1850.

Regimental Registers. These are registers of births, baptisms, marriages, and burials of soldiers or members of their families that were compiled by regiment. Baptisms are indexed. Marriages and burials are partially indexed. These records (1761 to 1924) are available at the Family Records Centre.

Soldiers' Documents. Since military service was usually for one's lifetime, discharge was often due to wounds or other physical impairment. Soldiers were discharged through an Army hospital, such as Chelsea. These records are available only for those soldiers who were discharged to pension. They have various arrangements depending upon the time period. Records exist from 1760 to 1914.

Location of Original Records

The above records are at the Public Record Office, Kew, unless stated otherwise. Pre-1707 records are at:

Scottish Record Office
P.O. Box 36
HM General Register House
Edinburgh EH1 3YY
Scotland

Post-1914 records are at:
Army Records Centre
Bourne Avenue
Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1RF
England

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has:

- Soldier's documents.
- Regimental description books.
- Lists of officers.
- Records of service.

You can find military records by looking in:

Army Records. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL book 942 M2A; film 990313 item 5.) This is a typescript list of army records in the Family History Library's collection.

You can also find them by looking in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under either SCOTLAND or GREAT BRITAIN and the following topic headings:

MILITARYMILITARY HISTORYMILITARY - ARMY

Navy

Numerous navy records were kept after the union of England and Scotland in 1707. However, unless you know the name of a ship, they may be difficult to use. Many are available only at the Public Record Office.

Records for officers and seaman were generally kept separately. The ranks of officers were as follows:

Commissioned officers include:

- Flag officers—admiral of the fleet, admiral, vice admiral, and rear admiral.
- Ship officers—captain, commander, lieutenant.
- Posts for men aspiring to be commissioned officers—first class volunteers, midshipmen, executive mates.

Warrant officers include:

- Wardroom rank—master, surgeon, purser, chaplain, schoolmaster, cook.
- Not of the wardroom rank—gunner, boatswain, carpenter.

Many sources list navy ships with descriptions, dates, and places of service. A good example is: Colledge, James J. *Ships of the Royal Navy*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1987. (FHL book 942 M3c.)

Official list books, available from 1673, give ports of call for ships during each year.

Types of Records

Navy records include:

Officers Service Records. These date from about 1795 and list officers' service information.

Navy Lists. Starting in 1782, these lists contain seniority lists of officers from lieutenant upwards.

Succession Books. Arranged by ship, these books give the successive appointments to each position on the ship.

Musters and Pay Books. These are lists of the ship's company and give information such as appearance, whether or not pressed into service, age, birthplace, and discharge.

Certificates of Service. Starting in about 1790, certificates were needed to support a claim to receive a pension.

Continuous Service Engagement Books. From 1853, navy ratings (seamen) were assigned continuous service numbers. The records give name, birth date, birthplace, description, and ship. From 1872 to 1892, merchant seamen were included.

Registers of Service. There are several different types of service registers with the earliest dating only from the 1840s and pertaining to officers. Before that time, officers were issued certificates of service only when they needed to prove qualifying service. The earliest service registers for ratings (seamen) are for those entering the service from 1873.

Bounty Papers. These give the name and address of the relation to whom bounty is to be paid in case the seamen is killed in action or dies. They include baptismal and sometimes marriage certificates of next of kin.

Lieutenant's Passing Certificates. Registers of those young officers or gentlemen examined for promotion to Lieutenant in the Navy from 1691 to 1848. From 1789 onwards baptismal certificates were attached to them. They are indexed to 1832.

Location of Original Records

Pre-1914 navy records are at the Public Record Office, Kew.

Post-1914 navy records are at:

Ministry of Defense

Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB

England

The Family History Library has

- Continuous service engagement books.
- Indexes to commission and warrant books.
- Bounty papers.
- Some navy lists.

You can find records at the Family History Library records in the Locality Search of the catalog under either SCOTLAND or GREAT BRITAIN and the following topic headings:

MILITARYMILITARY HISTORYMILITARY - NAVY

Militia

Militia units were generally raised on a county basis. Each unit kept its own records. Lists of eligible men were compiled, and compulsory draft was used as needed. The decision of who would serve in the militia was usually left up to the individual parishes.

Location of Original Records

Records of muster up to the Act of Union of 1707 are kept at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh. A list of these records is in:

Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls. Birmingham: Federation of Family History Societies, 1989. (FHL Ref. 942 M2gj.)

To find post-1707 muster lists held by the Scottish Record Office and other Scottish archives, see:

Militia Lists and Musters 1757-1876. Birmingham: Federation of Family History Societies, 1989. (FHL Ref. 942 M2gmm.) This source also lists regimental returns for the reestablished militia from 1798 onwards, which are at the Public Record Office, Kew.

Some militia records are found with the army records mentioned previously, particularly the records of service of officers and the soldiers' documents.

Records at the Family History Library

Many militia records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library.

The Family History Library Catalog lists militia records in the Locality Search under:

GREAT BRITAIN - MILITARY RECORDSSCOTLAND - MILITARY

RECORDSSCOTLAND [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS

Other Branches of the Military

The following other military branches have separate records:

- *Fencibles* were army units raised for home service only. Fencibles were usually classed with the militia, and records are kept with militia records.
- *Yeomanry* were volunteer regiments, records of which often do not survive or are not very complete.
- *Territorial armies* were forces raised in other countries. Records of these forces are usually in the country where the forces were raised. A notable exception is the Indian Army, for which many records are held at the India Office Library.
- *Coast Guard* (1816-1923) and *Royal Marines* (1790-1914) kept their own records, including pension, description, and other records.

These records are at the Public Record Office, Kew.

For more information on military records for branches of the service other than navy or regular army, see the military record handbooks listed next.

Handbooks on Military History and Military Records

Because the records are vast and varied, it would be useful to read some of the following books to learn more about the military and what is available for each branch of the service:

Barnes, R. Money. *The Scottish Regiments: Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, 1625 to the Present Day*. London: Seeley Service, 1956. (FHL book 941 M25b.)

Calder, Jenni. *The Story of the Scottish Soldier, 1600- 1914*. Edinburgh: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1987. (FHL book 941 M2c.)

Fowler, Simon. *Army Records for Family Historians*. London: Public Record Office, 1992. (FHL Ref 942 M27f.)

Hamilton-Edwards, Gerald. *In Search of Army Ancestry*. London: Phillimore & Co., Ltd., 1977. (FHL book 942 M2ha.)

Higham, Robin. *A Guide to the Sources of British Military History*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1972. (FHL book 942 M2h.)

Kitzmiller, John. *In Search of the Forlorn Hope*. Ogden, Utah: Manuscript Publishing Foundation, 1988. (FHL book 942 M2kj.)

Records of Officers and Soldiers Who Have Served in the British Army. London: Public Record Office, 1984. (FHL Ref. book 942 M23gb.)

Rodgers, N.A.M. *Naval Records for Genealogists*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1988. (FHL book 942 A5p no. 22.)

Swinnerton, Ian. *The British Army: Its History, Tradition, and Records*. Birmingham: Federation of Family History Societies, 1996. (FHL book 942 M2si.)

Swinson, Arthur S., ed. *A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army*. London: Archive Press, 1972. (FHL book 942 M2am No. 1.)

Thomas, Garth. *Records of the Royal Marines*. London: Public Record Office, 1994. (FHL Ref 942 M27tg.)

Watts, Michael J., and Christopher T. Watts. *My Ancestor Was in the British Army: How Can I Find Out More About Him?* London: Society of Genealogists, 1992. (FHL Ref 942 M27wm.)

NAMES, PERSONAL

Understanding given names and surnames can help you trace your ancestors. This is particularly true once the origin of the name has been established.

Surnames

The nobility and wealthy land owners first began using surnames. Merchants and townspeople adopted the custom, as eventually did the rural population. This process took several centuries. Surnames developed from several sources and include the following types:

- *Occupational* (based on a person's trade, such as Carter or Smith)
- *Geographic* (based on a person's residence, such as Drayton or Debenham)
- *Patronymic* (based on a person's father's name, such as Robertson, son of Robert or MacPherson, son of Pherson)
- *Descriptive or nickname* (such as Joy or Child)

Many books discuss the origin of Scottish surnames. One of the better books is:

Black, George Fraser. *Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning, and History*. New York: New York Public Library, 1946. (FHL book 941 D4b.)

After the Battle of Culloden in 1746 and the subsequent restrictive acts against the Highland clans, many people changed their surnames from clan names to less Gaelic names to avoid being punished by the British government for being associated with clans in disfavor with the crown. Sometimes several generations used a different surname before changing it back to the original clan name.

Patronymics

Patronymics is the custom of deriving a surname from the name of a father or male ancestor. In the Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, and many parts of northern Scotland, many people use patronymic names.

The use of patronymics in Scotland was in part a result of early Scandinavian settlement into Scotland, which influenced naming patterns for centuries. While the common use of patronymics eventually died out, their influence is still apparent.

Given Names

The Scottish, for the most part, had a naming pattern which can be seen in many families. The pattern generally went as follows:

- The first son was named after the father's father.
- The second son after the mother's father.
- The third son after the father.
- The first daughter after the mother's mother.
- The second daughter after the father's mother.
- The third daughter after the mother.

Sometimes when a child died, the next child of that gender born into the family was given the same name as the deceased child. Occasionally two or more living children in the family were given the same given name. When they were christened, children were usually given one or two given names.

NEWSPAPERS

The first Scottish newspapers of any significance and continuance were the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* (1718) and the *Caledonian Mercury* (1720), which were national papers and gave little local news.

The first regional papers were the *Glasgow Journal* (1741) and the *Aberdeen Journal* (1748).

The first paper that gave substantial coverage to local news was the *Glasgow Mercury* (1778).

Many more newspapers came into being after the French Revolution. You may find information such as local events; births, marriages, and deaths; obituaries of local worthies; and advertisements. Information taken from newspapers may be indexed to varying extents.

You can find copies of newspapers in the collections of the Newspaper Library section of the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, and local Scottish history libraries. For a comprehensive list of Scottish newspapers and their locations, see:

Ferguson, J.P.S. *Directory of Scottish Newspapers*. Edinburgh: National Library of Scotland, 1984. (FHL book 941 B3f.)

Other lists of holdings of Scottish newspapers include:

Catalogue of the British Newspaper Library, Colindale. 8 vols. London: British Museum Publications, 1975. (FHL book Q 942 A5cn.)

Ferguson, Joan P. S. *Scottish Newspapers Held in Scottish Libraries*. Edinburgh: Scottish Central Library, 1956. (FHL book 941 B3f; film 924676 item 4.)

North, John S. *The Waterloo Directory of Scottish Newspapers and Periodicals, 1800-1900*. 2 vols. Waterloo, Ontario: North Waterloo Academic Press, 1989. (FHL book Ref. 941 B33n.)

Crane, R.S., and F. B. Kaye. *A Census of British Newspapers and Periodicals, 1620-1800*. 2nd ed. London: Holland Press, 1966. (FHL book 942 B3ce.) This lists holdings in major U.S. libraries.

The Family History Library has no Scottish newspapers, but it does have some indexes and other related materials. You can find them in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

SCOTLAND - NEWSPAPERS
SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS

NOBILITY

The nobility is a class of people who had special political and social status. Nobility is inherited or granted by the crown as a reward to persons who perform a heroic deed, have a notable achievement, or hold a prominent government position.

British nobility has a well-defined order. The highest noblemen are *peers*, which include the titles (in descending rank) duke, marquis, earl, viscount, and baron. This is followed by the *gentry*, whose titles are baronet, knight, esquire, and gentleman. Both peers and gentry are entitled to bear coats of arms.

The noble class forms less than five percent of Scotland's population. Scotland limited the growth of the noble class. The eldest son inherits the father's title, and younger sons may or may not have lesser titles. When a nobleman dies without sons, the title lapses unless the crown awards the title to a daughter's husband.

Most family traditions of having a noble ancestor are not true since most noblemen did not emigrate. Contrary to popular belief, few nobles were disowned by family members for unacceptable behavior. Thus, most traditions of an ancestor being "erased" or "eliminated" from all records are unfounded.

Illegitimate children were not entitled to noble status and are often not shown in family pedigrees. They may, however, have been granted a title and variation of the father's coat of arms.

Younger sons had the right to use the father's coat of arms altered with *cadency*, a mark showing birth order.

The records of peerage creations and related documents are kept at the Lyon Office (see the "Heraldry" section of this outline).

There are many original records for noble families. These documents often are not available to the public, but you can accomplish most nobility research in secondary sources.

Noblemen were anxious to preserve their identity. Therefore, many kept records of their ancestry, some of which have been published. A number of published family histories also contain information about Scottish nobility. Use the Surname Search of the Family History Library Catalog to find references to family histories at the Family History Library.

A good source for information on Scottish families is:

Paul, Sir James Balfour, ed. *The Scots Peerage*, 9 vols. Edinburgh: David Douglas 1904. (FHL book 941 D22p).

The Family History Library has many records of noble families other than family histories listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

SCOTLAND - NOBILITY
SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - NOBILITY
SCOTLAND - GENEALOGY
GREAT BRITAIN - NOBILITY

OCCUPATIONS

Knowing an ancestor's occupation can help you distinguish him from other individuals with the same name. The records associated with your ancestor's occupation could provide information about his or her life and family.

In Scotland, the cities and towns, or *burghs*, were often established by royal charter, in which case they were called *royal burghs*. Craftsmen and tradesmen who lived and worked within the burghs were called *burgesses*. The burgesses would often band together into guilds to regulate trade and to protect their members' interests. A person could become a member of a guild of burgesses by completing an apprenticeship, by being the son of a burgess, or by marrying the daughter of a burgess. The guilds could monopolize business in the burgh and they kept careful records of their members. Records of tradesmen and craftsmen living outside of the burghs generally were not kept.

The Scottish Record Society has published lists of burgesses and guild brethren for Edinburgh, Canongate, Glasgow, and Dumbarton as well as the apprentices for Edinburgh (FHL book 941 B4sr). Burgh records are held by the Scottish Record Office and by local record offices, but most are not indexed.

In addition to burgess and guild records, the Scottish Record Office also has records of doctors, lawyers, architects, railway men, schoolmasters, coal miners, and other occupations. A guide to the holdings of the Scottish Record Office is found in:

Sinclair, Cecil. *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: A Guide to Ancestry Research in the Scottish Record Office*. Edinburgh: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1990. (FHL book 941 D27s.)

The Family History Library has no original occupational records but has many works and indexes relating to occupational records. Look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under SCOTLAND - OCCUPATIONS.

Look also in *Smith's Inventory of Genealogical Sources Scotland*. This is a subject index to items found in selected periodicals, books, films, and so forth in the Family History Library's collection. See the section "Records at the Family History Library" in this outline for more information.

A useful source in helping to locate occupational records is:

Raymond, Stuart. *Occupational Sources for Genealogists: A Bibliography*. 2nd ed. Exeter, Devon: Federation of Family History Societies, 1996. (FHL book 942 U23rs 1996.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records are court records dealing with the distribution of a person's estate after death. Information recorded may include the death date, names of heirs and guardian, relationships, residences, inventories of the estate (including household goods), and names of witnesses.

These records are very helpful because probate actions were recorded long before birth, marriage, and death registration.

Probate records were not created for every person who died. They were made primarily by the middle and upper classes, most of whom were nobility, gentry, merchants, or tradesmen. However, probate records are a very valuable source not to be overlooked.

General Historical Background

In Scotland before 1868, it was not possible to leave land to a person by using a will. It was only possible to give other types of property, known as *moveable* property, by means of a *testament*. There are two types of testaments:

- If a person died leaving a testament that named an executor, the document confirming that executorship and the attached testament is called a *testament-testamentar*.
- If a person died without leaving a testament and the court appointed an executor to administer the estate, then the confirming document is called a *testament-dative*.

To inherit *unmovable* property such as land, heirs had to prove in court their right to inherit. The records granting these rights are called *services of heirs*. Records of actual transfers of land are called *sasines*. You will find more information about these records in the “Land and Property” section of this outline.

Determining the Court

Before the Scottish Reformation and the establishment of the Presbyterian Church in 1592, confirmation of testaments was the prerogative of Episcopal (bishop's) courts. Their subordinates, called *official* or *commissariat courts* actually carried out the probate function. After the reformation in 1560, fifteen commissariats were established by royal authority. The principal commissariat court was in Edinburgh, and it had both local and general jurisdiction. The territorial extent of the commissariat courts paid little attention to county boundaries. To help you determine which commissariat court had jurisdiction over which parishes and counties, see the following guides:

Testaments and Commissariat Records of Scotland. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972. (FHL book 941 P2gs; fiche 6054479.)

Cecil Sinclair. *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: A Guide to Ancestry Research in the Scottish Record Office*. Edinburgh: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1990. (FHL book 941 D27s).

Finding Probate Records

The original records of the commissariat and sheriff courts are housed at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh (see the “Archives and Libraries” section for the address).

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the commissariat court records to 1823 and some sheriff court records. To find these records, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

SCOTLAND - PROBATE RECORDS
SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS

Indexes to Sheriff's Court Records

1824 to 1845. Indexes for sheriff court records for these years are available only in Scotland at the Scottish Record Office (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for the address).

1846 to 1867. For indexes to sheriff's court records from 1846 to 1845, see:

Indexes to Personal Estates of Defuncts. Edinburgh: Scottish Record Office, 1985. (FHL films 1368215-17.) These are indexes to the inventories of the estates of the deceased.

When you find a reference to an inventory, you can find a Family History Library microfilm number in:

Testaments and Commissariat Courts of Scotland. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972. (FHL book 941 P2gs; fiche 6054479.)

You can also use the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog to see if the library has any records for your county of interest.

If the Family History Library does not have any records for the county you want, you will need to write to the Scottish Record Office to determine if a testament exists and to obtain a copy.

1868 to 1875. Indexes and probate records for these years are available only at the Scottish Record Office.

1876 to 1959. There is a series of annual printed indexes called:

Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories. Edinburgh: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, n.d. (FHL book Q941 P2s; films 990433, 990447-68, and 1440931-6.) The library has the calendars for 1876 to 1936. If you find a reference to a probate record in the calendars, you will have to write to the Scottish Record Office to obtain a copy of the probate record.

Difficulties in Finding a Probate Record

If you have difficulty locating a probate record, keep these points in mind:

- Only a small percentage of the population of Scotland left testaments.
- A person's pre-1823 testament could have been proved in the Commissary Court of Edinburgh even though he or she lived elsewhere in the country.
- A person's post-1823 testament could have been proved in the Sheriff Court of Edinburgh even though he or she lived elsewhere in the country.
- A person who died outside of Scotland but who owned property within Scotland would have his or her testament proved in an Edinburgh court or the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.
- Testaments for women may be under their maiden name.

POORHOUSES, POOR LAW, ETC.

Before 1845

Heritors were the landowners of the parish. They were responsible for maintaining the church, the dwelling house of the minister, and the school. Until 1845, they were also responsible for caring for the poor in the parish . The heritors worked with the Kirk Session (parish court), but the heritors were more involved with the disbursement of parish funds.

Heritor records vary in the type of information they contain, but almost every family in the parish shows up in them at one time or another. Because the parish received its funds by assessing (taxing) the heritors, these records also contain assessment rolls that list the land owners and the value of their property. You will also find lists of inhabitants and poor persons. Heritor records are at the Scottish Record Office. You can find a list of them in the *Scottish Record Office Finding Aids* included in:

Index to National Inventory of Documentary Sources. London: Chadwyck-Healey, 1986-. (FHL fiche 6341118; FHL compact disc 1313 no. 10.)

After 1845

In 1845, a new law set up a parochial board to oversee the care of the poor.

One of the main records created by the parochial board is the *General Register of Poor Belonging to [Parish]*. These registers contain information such as name, age, residence, amount of relief, and country and place of birth. If the person was born in Scotland, the record also gives the parish of birth. The column “Change of Circumstance” often contains information such as an illegitimate birth.

The registers of the parochial board are mostly found in the regional archives and local libraries. However, you may find some among the heritors’ records in the Scottish Record Office.

The Family History Library has very few of these registers. To see if the library has records for the parish you are interested in, look in the Family History Library Catalog under SCOTLAND, [COUNTY], [PARISH] - POORHOUSES, POOR LAW, ETC.

To find out more about the records of the parochial board, read:

Withers, Charles W.J. “Poor Relief in Scotland and the General Register of Poor.” *The Local Historian*. 17 no. 1 (Feb. 1986): 19-28. (FHL 942 B2ah.)

Applicants who were denied relief by the parish could take their case to the sheriff courts, so you may find information on your ancestor in the records of the sheriff’s court. Some of these records are at the Scottish Record Office. Some could still be with the sheriff’s court or in the regional archives or local libraries.

For more information or other records on the poor, look in the Family History Library Catalog under:

SCOTLAND - POORHOUSES, POOR LAW, ETC. SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] -
POORHOUSES, POOR LAW, ETC.

SCHOOLS

If your ancestor went to one of Scotland's colleges, universities, or schools, he or she may be in the institution's enrollment records. Some of these records have been published, notably for the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

These records may contain valuable information about your ancestor, such as name, birthplace, residence, father's name, and other biographical details.

The Family History Library has very few Scottish school records, but there are some records for larger cities such as Edinburgh and Glasgow. You can find school records in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

SCOTLAND - SCHOOLSSCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLSSCOTLAND, [COUNTY],
[CITY or PARISH] – SCHOOLS

SOCIETIES

Scottish societies and organizations may have information of value to your genealogical research. Some are set up on a regional basis, others on a countywide basis, and others are only for a portion of a county. Most publish helpful journals, transcripts, and compiled genealogies. They may have ongoing projects searching and indexing records which are of genealogical value. Some publish queries about Scottish ancestors or maintain lists of member research interests.

You may want to join one of these societies and to support their efforts. This section of the outline discusses only Scottish societies, but do not overlook other societies in Great Britain and in the country to which your ancestors immigrated.

See the "Periodicals" section of this outline for more information about the journals and News letters published by these societies.

Family History Societies

A coordinating organization for many societies is the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS). The society publishes *The Scottish Association of Family History Societies Bulletin*, which contains news and updates on its member societies. For information about this organization, write to:

Scottish Association of Family History Societies

51/3 Mortonhall Road
Edinburgh EH9 2HN
Scotland

Local History Societies

Many societies study local history and publish journals on the subject. A coordinating organization for local history groups is the Scottish Local History Forum. They publish *Scottish Local History Journal*. You may write for information about this association to:

The Honourable Secretary
Scottish Local History Forum
c/o National Museums of Scotland
York Buildings, Queen Street
Edinburgh EH2 1JD
Scotland

One-Name Groups

Some organizations gather information about all individuals with a particular surname. If you are interested in such an organization, contact:

Guild of One-Name Studies
Box G
14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road
London EC1M 7BA
England

Finding Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has copies of many records compiled by these societies. To find them, look for the society's name in the Author/Title Search of the catalog on microfiche. Or, look in the Locality Search under:

SCOTLAND - SOCIETIES SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES

The Locality Search also lists some records gathered by societies under the record type. For example, cemetery transcripts done by a local family history society are listed in the Locality Search under SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES.

You can also use the Locality Search to find lists and guides that describe societies' collections.

Search under:

SCOTLAND - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
SCOTLAND - [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
SCOTLAND - [COUNTY] - [CITY, TOWN, or PARISH] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

TAXATION

Various records exist for taxes levied throughout Scottish history. Originally, government revenues came from property owned by the crown. The government levied small-scale, national taxes during times of specific financial need. National taxes were separate from the local taxes, or *rates*, which were collected by the parishes for local services and poor relief (see the “Church Records” or “Poorhouses, Poor Law, etc.” sections of this outline). Separate records may have been created for the assessment and collection of the taxes.

After England and Scotland unified in 1707, Scotland had many of the same taxes as England. However, not all English taxes were levied on the Scottish at the time of union.

Types of Tax Records

Some Scottish taxes include:

Apprenticeship Tax. From 1710 to 1811, a tax was assessed on the money a master received for an apprenticeship indenture. The tax was due within one year after the term of indenture expired. Apprentices put out by a parish or charity were exempt from the tax.

The records contain the master’s name, address, and trade and the apprentice’s name and date of indenture. There are indexes for 1710 to 1774 only (FHL films 477624-477637). The original records are housed at the Public Record Office, Kew. For more information on apprenticeships, see the “Occupations” section.

Hearth Tax. A tax of a shilling for each fireplace or stove (except those of paupers) was collected between 1690 and 1695. The records are housed at the Scottish Record Office. They give the name and number of hearths. This tax indicates the size of the house. Not all counties are represented in the available records. You can find these records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library under SCOTLAND, [COUNTY] - TAXATION.

Poll Tax. This tax was levied annually on all males except beggars and monks. The records exist between 1694 and 1699 and are housed in the Scottish Record Office. The records are arranged by county. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of these records (FHL film 559527-559528).

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed copies of some of the original tax lists. Look in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

SCOTLAND - TAXATIONSCOTLAND - [COUNTY] - TAXATIONSCOTLAND -
[COUNTY] - [PARISH] - TAXATION

OTHER RECORDS FOR SCOTLAND

Other types of records for Scotland are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Though not discussed in this outline, the following topic headings may be useful to your research:

BIBLIOGRAPHY BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE
DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL DWELLINGS
ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES HANDWRITING
HISTORY FOLKLORE
JEWISH HISTORY LAW AND LEGISLATION
MANORS MEDICAL RECORDS
MIGRATION INTERNAL MILITARY HISTORY
MINORITIES NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL
NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP OBITUARIES
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES POPULATION
PUBLIC RECORDS VISITATIONS, HERALDIC
VOTING REGISTERS