



FINDING YOUR SCOTTISH ANCESTORS



MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER

WHERE TO START

Find immigrant ancestor
 ✓ Full name
 ✓ Date arrived
 ✓ Place of Origin

- ✓ Exhaustive search for all records where your ancestor settled
- ✓ FAN method
- ✓ Utilize Social Media (Scottish research groups)
- ✓ Immigration patterns may help narrow location

SCOTTISH IMMIGRATION 1600-1700

- ✓ Beginning of immigration
- ✓ Most came after 1650 when Oliver Cromwell defeated Scottish troops and sent them to America
- ✓ Later, free Scots came settled in New Jersey and the Carolinas
 - ✓ Highland Scots - frontier regions
 - ✓ Lowland Scots - urban centers

Philadelphia common port of entry

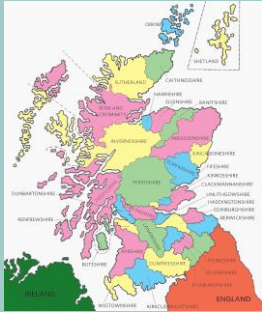
SCOTTISH IMMIGRATION 1800-1900

- ✓ Less immigration during the early period (War of 1812, Napoleonic Wars)
- ✓ Lost most of its population (second half of century)
- ✓ Second half single men and women work in factories (Industrial Revolution)

Most came in family groups and became farmers

SCOTLAND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

- ✓ Counties/Shires
- ✓ Burghs
- ✓ Parishes (critical)
- ✓ Registration Districts
- ✓ Estates
- ✓ Farms



Family Tree Magazine, "A Map of Historical Scottish Counties," digital image, Family Tree Magazine, accessed 1 February 2023, <https://familytreemagazine.com/heritage/scotland/scottish-counties-map/>

SCOTTISH GIVEN NAME PATTERNS

- ✓ First son after paternal grandfather
- ✓ Second son after maternal grandfather
- ✓ Third son after father
- ✓ First daughter after maternal grandmother
- ✓ Second daughter after paternal grandmother
- ✓ Third daughter after mother

SCOTTISH SURNAMENES

- ✓ Around time of David I (1124-1153)
- ✓ Spellings not fixed
- ✓ Taken from the lands families occupied (Bruce, Graham)
- ✓ Patronymics
 - ✓ (son of William) Williamson or Williams
 - ✓ (son of Cormack) Mc/MacCormack
- ✓ Clan name, occupation (Weaver), locality (Douglas--loch), nicknames (Long)

TYPES OF SCOTTISH RECORDS

- ✓ Civil Registration
- ✓ Church Records
- ✓ Census Records
- ✓ Wills and Land Records
- ✓ Miscellaneous Records

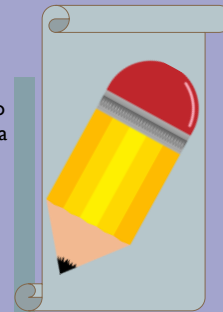


FINDING ANCESTORS BEFORE 1855

- ✓ Civil registration begins in 1855 so before that:
 - ✓ Civil registrations do include parents' names while some birth records after 1860 give parents' marriage date and place
 - ✓ Census records from 1801 (every ten years) to 1911
 - ✓ Church records
 - ✓ Probate, land, and military records

HANDWRITING

- ✓ Old handwriting styles prior to 1750 – Italic and Secretary or a mixture of both
- ✓ Online tutorial at: www.scottishhandwriting.com
- ✓ Seventeenth century parish records at FamilySearch and Scotlandspeople



*Mr Robert Innis writer to Her majesties Signet & Sophea Smith
A.D.N. Matellana. W. William Montgomerie merch
Lait Baillie George Kinnaird merch Robert Matlock
merch George Porteus Herald Painter Alex Innis his brother
born Wednesday 12 Aprill instant born forenoon &
baptized afternoon W[ednes]day 12 Aprill instant*

National Records of Scotland, "Old Parish Registers, Births, Edinburgh, 1693," digital image, ScottishHandwriting.com, (Births 08501 0120 0072), accessed 1 February, 2023.

TRANSCRIPTION: Mr Robert Innis writer to Her majesties Signet & Sophea Smith A.D.N. Matellana. W. William Montgomerie merch[an]t Lait Baillie George Kinnaird merch[an]t Robert Matlock merch[an]t George Porteus Herald Painter Alex[ande]r Innis his brother Baptized and born on Wednesday 12 Aprill instant born forenoon & baptized afternoon W[ednes]day 12 Aprill instant

HANDWRITING EXAMPLE

CIVIL REGISTRATION RECORDS

- ✓ After 1855 required
- ✓ Registration district
 - ✓ Found at FamilySearch
 - ✓ Ancestry LE
 - ✓ FindMyPast LE
 - ✓ ScotlandsPeople (\$)



Andrew L. "A Man Playing Bagpipes," digital image, Pixabay, 28 November, 2011, pixabay.com, <https://www.pixabay.com/photos-man-playing-bagpipes-1029000/>



CIVIL REGISTRATION RECORDS

- ✓ **Birth:** child's name, place, date, time of birth, parents, father's occupation, mother's maiden name, parents' marriage place, month, year
- ✓ **Marriage:** couples' names, ages, occupations, marital status, marriage location and date, religion, parents' names, fathers' occupations, mothers' maiden name
- ✓ **Death:** deceased's name, gender, age, occupation, marital status, parents' names, father's occupation, mother's maiden name, spouse, cause of death

CHURCH RECORDS



Adrian Orlison, "Clear Blue Sky over Glasgow Cathedral," digital image, Novels, 11 August 2022 published, <https://www.paveah.com/photo/view-from-the-castle-on-the-granary-and-the-church-at-holy-rude-sterling-scotland-13446137/>

- ✓ Church of Scotland – main denomination
- ✓ Called Old Parish/Parochial Registers (OPRs)
- ✓ Many did not keep records until 1800s, some 1553
- ✓ No standard format - in English
- ✓ ScotlandsPeople (\$), Ancestry Library Edition, FamilySearch
- ✓ Kirk session (church administrative) records
 - ✓ National Records of Scotland & FamilySearch

CENSUS RECORDS



Gene Taylor, "Man in Red, Black, and White Plaid Traditional Suit on Yellow Flower Field," digital image, Novels, 12 September 2022 published, <https://www.paveah.com/photo/view-from-the-castle-on-the-granary-and-the-church-at-holy-rude-sterling-scotland-13446137/>

- ✓ Every ten years since 1801 (except 1941)
- ✓ 1801-1831 only head counts
- ✓ After 1855 heads of household filled out a form, only include those physically present
- ✓ Latest available to the public 1921
- ✓ FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast (indexes) and ScotlandsPeople (images \$)

WILLS



Adrian Orlison, "View from the Castle on the Granary and the Church at Holy Rude, Sterling, Scotland," digital image, Novels, 2 August 2022 published, <https://www.paveah.com/photo/view-from-the-castle-on-the-granary-and-the-church-at-holy-rude-sterling-scotland-13368196/>

- Two types of property:
- ✓ Heritable (land, building, titles) – preference to direct descendants
 - ✓ Moveable (furniture, cattle, crops) – divided into thirds: widow's, children's and whomever the deceased chooses

WILLS



Adrian Orlison, "View from the Castle on the Granary and the Church at Holy Rude, Sterling, Scotland," digital image, Novels, 2 August 2022 published, <https://www.paveah.com/photo/view-from-the-castle-on-the-granary-and-the-church-at-holy-rude-sterling-scotland-13368196/>

- ✓ Testamentary index at ScotlandsPeople (1513 to 1925), FamilySearch and Ancestry
- ✓ Images at ScotlandsPeople (\$); no digital images after 1925

LAND RECORDS



Adrian Orlison, "View from the Castle on the Granary and the Church at Holy Rude, Sterling, Scotland," digital image, Novels, 5 August 2022 published, <https://www.paveah.com/photo/view-from-the-castle-on-the-granary-and-the-church-at-holy-rude-sterling-scotland-13368196/>

- ✓ Feudal system until mid-20th century
- ✓ Crown owned all, delegated to vassals, etc.
- ✓ Services of heirs and retours
- ✓ Indexes and some images at FamilySearch and Ancestry



LAND RECORDS



Adrian Clifton, "Index to Glenferrie, Scotland," digital image, Peab, 5 August 2022 published, <https://www.peab.com/photos/index-to-glenferrie-scotland-124872/>

- ✓ Sasines – actual land transfer (register)
- ✓ Abridgements (summaries) – original source register; minute books of registers, and search sheets
- ✓ Indexes at FamilySearch; images at National Records of Scotland (\$)



"Sam in doorway," digital image, Peab, accessed 1 February, 2023

- ✓ Military
- ✓ Occupational
- ✓ Tombstones
- ✓ Electoral Registers
- ✓ Poor Law
- ✓ Land Taxes
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Family Histories
- ✓ Deeds
- ✓ Directories

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

EXAMPLE – VALUATION ROLLS

- ✓ Local tax records (1855-1996 at ScotlandsPeople (\$))
- ✓ Lands Valuation Act 1854 established a uniform valuation of landed property
- ✓ Assessor in each 35 counties and 83 burghs
- ✓ Updated annually after 1855
- ✓ Compiled names of owner, tenant/occupier and annual rateable value (annual rent value)

EXAMPLE – VALUATION ROLLS

- ✓ Find someone between census years (Not list all members of household)
- ✓ Wife or head of house
- ✓ Owned or rented
- ✓ Use for history of buildings
- ✓ ScotlandsPeople searchable index:
 - ✓ Year, Surname, Given name, Group, Status (tenant, occupier), County/city, Parish, Burgh/city, Place

EXAMPLE – VALUATION ROLLS

- Before 1855, few records survive; substitutes include:
- ✓ Poll and hearth taxes levied at the end of the 17th century at ScotlandsPlaces website
 - ✓ In 1667, Land Tax
 - ✓ Surviving records at the National Records of Scotland

VALUATION ROLLS

VALUATION ROLL for the Burgh of EDINBURGH, for the YEAR 1915-1916. Parish of the CITY OF EDINBURGH.

NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	CLASSIFICATION	VALUATION	REMARKS
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

National Records of Scotland, "Valuation roll, burgh of Edinburgh, 1915," digital image, National Records of Scotland, accessed 1 February, 2023.




ONLINE RESOURCES

- ✓ ScotlandsFamily.com
- ✓ ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk
- ✓ National Library of Scotland (<https://www.nls.uk/>)
- ✓ ScottishDocuments.com
- ✓ Nationalarchives.gov.uk
- ✓ Ancestry
- ✓ FamilySearch
- ✓ Findmypast

FINDMYPAST



- ✓ Birth, marriage, and death records
- ✓ Census records
- ✓ Military records
- ✓ Historical newspapers
- ✓ Travel and migration records
- ✓ Prison registers
- ✓ Catholic records (all 8 Roman Catholic dioceses)

FINDMYPAST – EXCLUSIVE RECORDS

- ✓ Catholic records
- ✓ Scotland Monumental Inscriptions
- ✓ Glasgow & Lanarkshire Death & Burial Index 1642-1855
- ✓ Highland Free Church Birth & Baptism Index
- ✓ Edinburgh & Lothian Death and Burial Index
- ✓ Jacobite Rebellions 1715 and 1745
- ✓ Fife Death Index 1549-1877


FINDMYPAST

Scotland Monumental Inscriptions

- ✓ Transcript and some images

May include:

- ✓ Name, death date, denomination, graveyard, place and county, inscription, etc.



RESOURCES: BOOKS, PERIODICALS




- ✓ *Scottish Genealogy*, by Bruce Durie
- ✓ *The Family Tree Scottish Genealogy Guide*, by Amanda Epperson
- ✓ *Tracing your Scottish Ancestors*, by Ian Maxwell
- ✓ *Tracing your Scottish Ancestors* by National Archives of Scotland
- ✓ *Central Scotland Family History Society Newsletter* (Central Scotland Family History Society)
- ✓ *Highland Clann Trails* (North Carolina Scottish Heritage Society)

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