

SCOTLAND RESEARCH STRATEGIES

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Focus

Learning how to work through a family legend and then proceed onto the “rest of the story” through the various record sets available for research in Scotland.

Types of Records

Censuses: 1841-1911	Land Records
Statutory Registers of Births, Marriages, Deaths: post -1855	Deeds
Old Parish Registers: pre-1855	Poor Law Records
Wills and Testamentary Records: post-1513	Military Records

Additional Strategy Tools

Record Selection Table	Drop-line pedigree charts	Timelines of life events
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Strategy Processes

“ Four Whats”

1. What you know
2. What you think you know
3. What you don't know
4. What you want to know

What you know

List all known facts of ancestor being researched

- Any birth, marriage, or death details
 - a. Any individuals who are connected to the ancestor; ie. spouse, children, etc.
- Any events in their lives
 - a. Were they in the military?
 - b. Where did they live?
 - c. What was their occupation?
 - d. Are there any photos or any other identifiable artifacts?

What you think you know

- Write down any stories of information that would aid research that has been passed down through the generations of time.
- Review any notes or previous research on this particular ancestor

What you Don't know

- List all the unknown facts where there is missing information in current possession

What Do You Want to Know

- Create a list of what is needed to fill in the missing information listed in the previous item
- Identify the main questions

- Determine which records will provide the missing information

Begin Research

- Thoroughly search each identified record to build your family.

Census	Military	Civil Registration
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- Write down findings from each record (even if nothing was located)

What Was Learned from the research?

Summarize:

- Was the information needed located?
 - Update your records with any new information
- Are there additional records that need to be reviewed?
- Write down next set of records to be looked at for a new plan of action
 - Passenger lists?
 - Naturalization records?
 - Additional censuses records?
 - More civil registration records?
 - Are there new locations to search?

Identify Records Sources and Locations

- Family History Library
- Local Family History Centers
- National Archives & Libraries
 - National Archives of Scotland (NAS): <http://www.nas.gov.uk/>
 - National Library of Scotland (NLS): <http://www.nls.uk/>
 - General Register Office of Scotland (GROS): <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/>
 - Scottish Archives Network (SCAN): <http://www.scan.org.uk/>
 - The National Archives (UK): <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
 - National Archives (Archon): <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/searches/locresult.asp?lctrGy=Scotland>
- Regional, County and Local Archives & Libraries
 - Scottish Record Offices and Archives on the Web arranged in alphabetical order by county: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/statutory-registers/registration-districts>
- Online Resources
 - Genuki: <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/Archives>
 - ScotlandsPeople: <https://www.scotlandspeople.co.uk>
 - Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com>
 - Scottish Archive Network: <https://www.scan.org.uk/>
 - Scottish Documents: <https://www.scottishdocuments.com/authenticate.aspx>
 - Scottish Church Records Union Lists: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Church_Records_Union_Lists#Accessing the Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Church_Records_Union_Lists#Accessing_the_Records)
- FamilySearch Research Wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Genealogy
- Investigating Record Types:
 - **Statutory Registers: 1855 to present**
 - The official civil registration records in Scotland for births, marriages and deaths.
 - Replaced OPRs, compulsory and only available at ScotlandsPeople for a fee
 - Birth Records Information

- Full name, age, place of birth, sex, parents' names, mother's maiden surname, father's occupation, and location.
- Marriage Records Information
 - Full name, age, marital status, occupation, usual residence, date, marriage place, name and occupation of father, mother's name and maiden surname, witnesses, and location.
- Death Records Information
 - Full name, age, marital status, occupation, time, place & date of death, cause of death, informant, residence, place of birth, spouse's name, and parents' names, occupations and whether deceased.

Old Parish Registers: 1553 to 1854

- Births & baptisms, banns & marriages, deaths & burials maintained by parish clerks
 - Online at [Scotlandspeople.gov.uk](https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk) for a fee
 - Baptisms and Marriages (not burials) available at the FHL
 - Most OPR entries are also listed in the IGI

Wills & Testaments

- Testament – Confirmation of executor of will
 - Testament testamentar – deceased died testate
 - Testament dative – deceased died intestate
- Two types of property
 - Heritable – land, buildings, etc.
 - Moveable – anything that could be moved
- Inventory – list of moveable property
- Courts: Note that there is some overlap of dates between these two courts
 - Pre-1823 – recorded in Commissary Court
 - Post-1823- recorded in Sheriffs Courts

Land & Property Records

- Remember most individuals were tenants and not land or house owners until the 1950s
- Property ownership lists owners only
 - After 1858 some renters are listed on long leases in the Sasine Registers
- **3 Types of Land Records**
 - Service of Heirs or Retours: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Service_of_Heirs_or_Retours
 - Sasines: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sasines>
 - Deeds: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Deeds
- **Poor Law Records**
 - Heritors owned land and were responsible for poor law relief prior to 1845. Heritor records are assessment rolls listing the land owners, inhabitants and the poor people. These are housed at the Scotland Record Office.
 - Registers of the Poor cover post 1845 and are also housed at the Scotland Record Office. The Family History Library does not have many of these records on film.
- **Military Records**
 - Pre-1707: Scotland had its own military and little records exist
 - Post-1710: Combined with England and records are housed at the National Archives
 - Two groups generate all records
 - Officers: Upper Class
 - Soldiers: Working Class
 - Greater details refer to the Wiki at
 - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Military_Records

Facts to be aware of:

Naming pattern sometimes used

- Eldest son named after paternal grandfather
- Eldest daughter after maternal grandmother
- Second son named after maternal grandfather
- Second daughter named after paternal grandmother
- Third son named after her father
- Third daughter named after her mother

Name Problems

- Transcription errors
- Nicknames
- Abbreviations
- Gaelic

Place-name Problems

- Name changes
- Boundary Changes
- Use Gazetteers and maps

Non-Conformist

- Any religious group outside of the Church of Scotland
- Use gazetteer and Statistical Accounts to discover what churches were in the area
- Ref. FHL 911 B4sa
- <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>

Missing Records

- Verify they are definitely missing
- Check with record repository
- Check mailing lists
- Contact local historian or clergy person
- Check for local and unusual records

Share and Ask

- Talk to other researches
- Ask for hints, ideas
- Share what has been checked and see if something has been missed
- Use community message boards and post queries
- Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, FindMyPast, Genealogy.com, Rootsweb.com
- Cyndi's List, FamilySearch Wiki
- Social Media
 - Family History and Genealogical Societies: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/Societies/Scotland>
 - Genealogical Facebook Research Community
 - Researching Scottish Family History

*Recommend Ancestral Quest, ancquest.com, use Code TIMELESS for \$5 discount on cost.