

## Tracing your Scottish Family History

While the principles of researching Scottish family history are similar to England and Wales, Scotland has its own laws and therefore different and more appropriate websites should be used.

1. New Register House in Edinburgh houses the bulk of Scottish records and has been described as one of the world's largest resources of genealogical information and one of the largest single information resources online. The best place to start is [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) where you will find
  - Statutory records of Births, Marriages and Deaths Records from 1855. BMD records contain useful information on parents.
  - Church registers of births (or baptisms), marriages, deaths(burials) from 1553
  - Scottish census returns from 1841-1911
  - Valuation Rolls - lists owners and occupiers of buildings in Scotland from 1855
  - Legal Records -wills & testaments, coats of arms, soldiers' wills (mainly WW1 but some WW2) and records of Scottish military service appeals tribunals

Criminal Records are also available at New Register House, Edinburgh but may need to be pre-ordered.
2. [www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk) – maps, photographs, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century tax Rolls and Ordinance Survey Name books. It is searched by county or burgh and draws from three Scottish national resources:
  - Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has records relating to Scotland's architecture and archaeology. [www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)
  - National Records of Scotland (NRS) produces information about Scotland's people and history [www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)
  - National Library of Scotland (NLS) is Scotland's legal deposit library for books, journals, newspapers and music. [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)
3. Scottish Association of Family History Societies accessed from [www.SAFHS.org.uk](http://www.SAFHS.org.uk) where you can find family history societies from the local area you wish to research. Individual societies have a wealth of knowledge and can give help and advice, and produce publications on e.g burial grounds. Some local groups have Facebook pages.
4. Scottish Genealogical Society – [www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com) has a wealth of information in their Edinburgh premises e.g. trade directories, old telephone books, electoral rolls etc. SAFHS and the Scottish Genealogical Society jointly hold an annual conference & fair in Scotland.
5. The old & new Statistical Accounts of Scotland. These contain unique descriptions of parishes prepared by their parish ministers throughout Scotland in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Free access is available at [www.nls/family-history](http://www.nls/family-history)
6. Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae - A comprehensive account of the register of ministers of the Church of Scotland since the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It records in detail the family, career and writings of the lives of ministers, chaplains, and university staff associated with the Church of Scotland. Other Presbyterian Churches in Scotland also have their own Fasti.
7. Local council libraries and archives may have local family history information on e.g. school records, voters roll, poor law records, hospital records. University archives may also have information particularly on alumni.
8. British Army Personnel Records from 1920 onwards are held at APC Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX Tel: 0845 600 9663

