SCOTTISH GENEALOGY

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Genealogy Department
**HOW TO BEGIN**

Many Americans have Scottish roots, whether they descend from 18th and 19th century settlers emigrating directly from Scotland, or from Scots-Irish emigrants from Ulster. In either case, successful research in Scottish records will depend upon determining an approximate date of birth or marriage for the Scottish-born ancestor and identifying the place of origin. This task is easier for the 19th century emigrant because of the abundance of resources in Scotland, including civil registrations of vital records from 1855. Those searching for earlier emigrants have fewer sources available and must rely on church books, legal records, and other public documents. Sometimes members of the same parish in Scotland settled together in the New World; thus, beginning researchers should also fully examine American records, such as county histories, death certificates, obituaries, church registers, and family Bibles for clues.

**USING THE DEPARTMENT CATALOGS**

There are several ways of identifying books on Scotland and the Scots in the library’s online catalog found at www.ACPLLib.in.us. Look under Scotland followed by the name of a record type; for example: Scotland. Directories. One can also look under a subject, or under a specific place, author, or title, if known. An extensive collection of Scottish records is found under the heading, Scottish Record Society. The online catalog allows for flexible keyword searching, and includes most all of the department's book collection. Dial-up access is available at (260) 489-7087. One should also check the Family History Library Catalog at www.FamilySearch.org for other references. Researchers with further questions about the collection or catalogs should ask a librarian for assistance.

**RESEARCH GUIDES**

The Genealogy Department contains a large collection of guides for doing Scottish genealogical research. Many include helpful bibliographies for further study.


**GAZETTEERS & MAPS**

Gazetteers are useful for locating places in Scotland and determining the relevant record-keeping jurisdictions to which they belong. The following list of sources can help the researcher obtain more information about the ancestral place of origin, once it is determined.

Bigwood, A. Rosemary. *Index to Parishes (with Related Sheriff Courts, Commissary Courts and Burgs).* Edinburgh: The Author, 1993. /Gc 941.0004 P488i/ Lists all parishes and includes information about where the associated court records can be located.


*Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, Scotland: Indexes to the 1/2500 and 6 Inch Scale Maps.* Kerry, Wales: David Archer, 1993. /Gc 941.003 G79or/

There are also a number of very good Internet sites for locating town and parish names. The UK and Ireland web page is one such site: www.genuki.org.uk/big/parloc/search.html.

**PASSENGER & EMIGRATION LISTS**

Numerous directories of Scottish immigrants have been compiled for the United States and Canada. Many of these provide clues about places of origin in Scotland. In addition, passenger lists from U.S. ports, beginning in 1820, are relatively complete and available on microfilm.

Cameron, Viola Root. *Emigrants from Scotland to America, 1774-1775.* Baltimore: Southern Book Co., 1959. /Gc 929.122 C14e/

Dobson, David. *Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations, 1650-1775.* Baltimore: Clearfield, 1990. /Gc 929.122 D65d/ More than forty volumes of reference material on Scottish immigrants have been compiled by David Dobson. For additional titles, check the online catalog under his name and limit the search to the Genealogy Department.


_________. *Scots on the Chesapeake, 1607-1830.* Baltimore: G.P.C., 1992. /Gc 975 D64s/


**VITAL RECORDS**

Many Scottish vital records before 1855, including church records and tombstone inscriptions, have been indexed and published. In addition to the records listed below, church registers from Melrose, Linlithgow, Durness, Dumbarton, and Dunfermline, and marriages in Edinburgh, 1595-1800, have been published in the Scottish Record Society series (Gc 941.0004 Sc087s).

*International Genealogical Index.* Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. /www.FamilySearch.org/
Maxwell, Archibald S. *Scottish Society of Friends, "Quakers": Register of Births, Proposal of Marriage, Marriages, and Deaths, 1647-1878*. Aberdeen: Genealogical Research Services, n.d. /Gc 941.0004 M45s/

*Pre-1855 Gravestone Inscription Series.* Scottish Genealogy Society, 1969-. /various call numbers/ An extensive collection of tombstone inscriptions, available at present for the following areas: Angus, Kilmarnock, Spey, Upper Donside, Upper Deeside, Kincardineshire, Sutherland, Berwickshire, Dumbartonshire, Isla Munda, Peebleshire, West Lothian, Perthshire, Fife, Stirlingshire, Kinross-shire, Clackmannanshire, and Lanarkshire. Check the catalog under the name of the shire or place.  

*Surname Index to Christenings/Marriages in Old Parochial Registers to 1855 (O.P.R.).* Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Department. /microfiche/ An extensive index to baptisms and marriages from Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) church registers to 1855.

**PROBATE, LAND & LEGAL RECORDS**

The Scots were not permitted to dispose of their real property through wills until the last half of the 19th century. Instruments for disposing moveable property were called "testaments" and include the *Testament Testamentar*, when one died intestate, and *Testament Dative*, when one died testate. Testaments were probated in a specific Commissary Court before 1823. To determine the proper jurisdiction, consult the following:


Indexes to many testaments before 1800 have been published in the Scottish Record Society Publications (Gc 941.0004 Sco87s). Included are testaments from the following areas: Edinburgh (1601-1700); Aberdeen (1715-1800); Glasgow (1547-1800); St. Andrew's (1549-1800); Argyll, Caithness and Peebles (1674-1800); Brechin (1576-1800); Dumfries (1624-1800); Dunblane (1539-1800); Dunkeld (1682-1800); Lauder (1561-1800); Lanark (1595-1800); Moray, Orkney and Shetland (1684-1800); Stirling (1607-1800); and Wigtown (1481-1800).

Because real property could not be inherited through wills, heirs had to prove their right to the land. The act of proving this right, or of transferring the land to another grantee, is known as a *sasine*. Many sasine records before 1780 have been indexed and published in a series of volumes by the General Register House (Gc 941.0004 Sc084i). The following areas are included: Argyll, Dumbarton, Bute, Arran, and Tarbert (1617-1780); Berwick and Lauderdale (1617-1780); Banff (1600-1780); Aberdeen (1599-1660); Lanark (1618-1780); Kincardineshire (1600-1657); Dumfries, Kirkcudbright and Annandale (1617-1780); Ayr, Kyle, Carrick, and Cunningham (1599-1660); Caithness (1646-1780); Edinburgh, Haddington, Linlithgow, and Bathgate (1599-1660); Elgin and Nairn (1617-1700); Fife and Kinross (1603-1660); Inverness, Ross, Cromarty, and Sutherland (1606-1780); and Forfar (1620-1700). A yearly index to Scottish deeds (1663-1694) is included in this series. Several other useful compilations of probate, land and legal records have been published:


A List of Persons Concerned in the Rebellion ... 7th May 1746. Edinburg: Scottish History Society, 1890. /Gc 941.0006 Sco1p, volume 8/ A list of rebels from the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, with occupation, residence, acts of rebellion, and legal disposition. An important volume, since many rebels emigrated to America.

Scotland Owners of Lands and Heritages, 1872-1873. Edinburgh: Murray & Gibb, 1874. Murray & Gibb, 1874. /Gc 941.0004 Sco8s, oversize/ Lists all owners of one or more acres of land in 1872.

SURNAMES, CLANS, NOBILITY & HERALDRY
Some of the guides below discuss the history of clans and the use of heraldry. They may help the researcher narrow the geographic area of search in Scotland for an uncommon surname. Check the Genealogy Department's catalogs under the name of the family for previously compiled genealogies on individual Scottish families.


Paul, James Balfour. Ordinary of Arms Contained in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. Edinburgh: W. Green, 1903. /Gc 929.80941 P28o/


PERIODICALS
The Genealogy Department houses a collection of some Scottish and Scottish-American genealogical periodicals. Check the *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* under the name of the Scottish family or locality for citations to relevant articles. Most periodical titles are now listed in the online catalog. A useful guide to serial publications is the following:


AUDIO CASSETTES
Audio cassettes of Scottish lecture subjects at national genealogical conferences can be checked out at the Genealogy Reference Desk by any patron. Check with a librarian if you want to know about these tapes.

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