

HERITAGE HUB SOURCE LIST

Family Name: Scott

Background to the name

One of the most powerful of the Border families, the name is reputed to derive from the Scots who migrated to Dalriada (Argyll) from Ireland and the surname is found in all parts of Scotland. The origins of the name must nevertheless remain obscure and the subject of fable and speculation. We are on firmer historical ground with the first record of the name Scott in 1120 when Uchtred filius Scot witnessed the foundation charter of Selkirk in 1120. The Christian name 'Uchtred' is in fact a Germanic name, most probably in circulation in the Scottish Borders because of the widespread influence of the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria. A charter by David Early of Strathearn was witnessed by Henricus le Scotte around 1195. A famous member of the Scott family was the purported wizard Michael Scott; he was from the Tweed Valley, but lived in Fife where he gained his reputation for magical skills.

In the Ragman Roll (all nobles and landed gentry were required to sign by Edward I in 1296) there are six Scott lairds. One of these, Sir Richard le Scot of Murthoxton (now Murdostoun) in Lanarkshire may have acquired those lands by marriage—he also had estates in Selkirkshire. It is his line which became established and spread out between Ettrickdale and Liddesdale. Sir Michael Scott, 2nd Laird of Buccleuch was a staunch supporter of Robert the Bruce and distinguished himself at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333. The Lanarkshire estate was exchanged for Branxholm in Selkirkshire as the family became more and more established in the Borders.

In the 15th century, as was common in the Borders, the Scotts quarrelled frequently with their neighbours, particularly the Kerrs. The feud caused the deaths of both chiefs and was only resolved by marriage during the chieftainship of the 10th Laird. The 13th Baron was created Lord Scott of Buccleuch by James VI and in 1619 Lord Scott was created an Earl. The male line failed and Anne, Countess of Buccleuch married the illegitimate son of King Charles II, the Duke of Monmouth. Charles created the couple Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch but the Duke supported the protestant cause and at one stage led an unsuccessful rebellion against King Charles. The third Duke of Buccleuch married the heiress of the Duke of Queensberry (the Douglas family) and became one of the richest men in Britain. In the 19th century, Sir Walter Scott (from a junior branch, the Scotts of Harden) changed Scotland's image forever. The Duke of Buccleuch today is one of the largest landowners in Scotland and the art collections at the family's great houses of Drumlanrig, Bowhill and Boughton are internationally famous.

Original Historical Records held at the Heritage Hub

Dates and names provide you with the backbone of your research, but finding out details about your ancestors (e.g. their family, where they lived, working life, social life and the environment they lived in) can be even more rewarding. At the Heritage Hub we hold a vast amount of original historical records including some on Scotts. We have listed some examples below. Remember most Scotts will not have the same family connections to the ones written about in books and studies already done – the challenge is to find your own Scott story!

Scott's hidden in records

Some of the most important references to your Scott family may be found in series of records for the council, parish, local society, legal records, records of law and order, poor relief or the records of a business or place of work. For example Scotts will be listed in records of those receiving poor relief, criminal and police officer registers, wages and salary books, minutes of town and local councils – if they were a councillor. Newspapers are another good source for events and

listing of people involved in local organisations such as churches, clubs and societies. We also have some records for these. Newspapers can also list obituaries. A good source for the 1820s are the Wood Maps for Border towns. These maps have who owns each plot of land in each town. Further land owning records to look at are Sasines, title deeds and land transactions, and valuation rolls.

Some examples of Scott Records at the Heritage Hub

SBA 499	Collection relating to Buccleuch lands and farms, and rentals of Langholm and Castleton	early 19th C.
SBA 500	Duke of Buccleugh No 2' (Buccleuch) 'Waste Book, from 4th September 1766' Contains list of payments, sums paid, and received, and place and people's names. Includes: farm rentals, masons work and Newstead, salary for Schoolmaster of Selkirk, Customs of Langholm Castle, various writs etc. 210 pages. Inclosure: SBA 500/2 Rental book – monies received and paid – customs, school salary, house repairs, farm rentals	1765-1793 1757-1761
SBA 501	Collection relating to Roxburgh, and lands of Buccleuch (5 bundles)	1680-1890s
SBA 502	Collection relating to Roxburgh, and lands of Buccleuch Approximately 20 bundles of material, plus notebook The Heritors of the Parish of Wilton and James Shiel their clerk including tradesmens accounts and bills, Heritors 'Collection Book', newspapers, Church bills and manse, two architectural drawings for new school dated 1847 plus site plan, 1829 school salary lists, minutes of meetings etc.	19 th century
SC/S/3/90	Voucher: James Scott for work for Selkirk Burgh	1803
SC/S/91	Voucher: Widow Scott for Poor Relief from Selkirk Burgh	1803
SC/S/5	2 letters of Sir Walter Scott	1812 & 1826
SC/S/10/2/2	Letter from James Hogg to Thomas Scott esq., apologising that he is unable to keep an appointment with him, and making arrangements to meet him at a later date	No date
SC/S/10/9/17	Photocopy of Scott Family Tree	No date
SC/S/11/2	Correspondence, speeches, lists of guests, programmes on the giving of the Freedom of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch	1962-1964
SC/S/12/18/3/1 6 and 17	Letters from Tom Scott, Mashonaland with subscription for the construction of a memorial to the Battle of Flodden	Oct 1912
SC/S/12/19/1	Correspondence of Sir Walter Scott created through his work as Sheriff	1800-1829
SC/S/28/1/2 and 3	Catalogue and Newspaper Article of an exhibition of Tom Scott paintings	May 1963
SC/S/48/3	Lybell. The Procurator Fiscal against James Scott. Attempted Rape	1713
SC/S/48/6	Marriage Settlement. James Fairbairn, tenant in Midlem and Betty Scott	1742
SC/S/63/13	Sale of stock. Henry Scott of Lewingshope	1813

SC/S/69/22/7/4	William Scott of Howford. Question for the Farmers Club on Drainage. Argument with covering note to John Lang esq.	16 Jan 1866
SC/S/69/24/11	Letter from Robert Scott, Spylaw, Kelso	No date
SC/S/81/6/1	Disposition to Scott of _____ of a land and yard at Selkirk	1641
SC/S/81/6/3	Disposition, Scott of Johnstoun to Peter Watsone	1655
SC/S/81/6/6	Bond and Assignation in security by George Scott, Innkeeper in Galashiels to Mrs Elisabeth Feron	1820
SBA/99	Copies of journal of George Scott, born Roxburghshire 1832	
SBA/370	Book of psalms by Henry Riddell Scott in lowland scotch	1857
SC/S/19	Book belonging to John Scott of Galashiels	1679
SBA/72	Indexed register of feuing, Selkirk, Scott Mortification Trust	1836-1972
SBA/264	Gleanings from grandfather's attic - life in Peebles 1830s-1880s by Sheila Scott	

Books

FRASER, William The Scotts of Buccleuch
OLIVER, J. Rutherford Upper Teviotdale and the Scotts of Buccleuch
TAYLOR, James The Great Historic Families of Scotland
FRASER, William The Scotts of Buccleuch
FRASER, William The two heiresses of Buccleuch
HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION Report on the manuscripts of the Duke of Buccleuch
HYSLOP, John Langholm As It Was
LEE, Maurice The heiresses of Buccleuch
NAYLOR, Iain Historic Border Families and Houses
TAYLOR, James The great historic families of Scotland
LEVER, Tresham Lessudden House, Sir Walter Scott and the Scotts of Raeburn
MCCALL, H.B. A genealogical history of the Family of Scott of Thirlestane
FRANCIS, Master of Napier Some notes on the Scotts of Thirlestane
WEBLEY, John The Scotts of Thirlestane - the story of John Scott
DUNLOP, Jean The Scotts
CARRE, Walter Riddell Border memories
MCNIE, Alan Clan Scott
ROGERS, Charles Genealogical memoirs of the family of Sir Walter Scott
SCOT, Capt. Walter A true history of several honourable families
SCOTT, Keith S. Scott 1118-1923
STEWART, Kathleen W. A History of the Scotts of Milsington
TAYLOR, James The great historic families of Scotland
BARBOUR, G F Katherine Scott: a memoir and other records
STRICKLAND, Geraldine Sister Margaret of St Denys Katherine of Wauchope
WEDDELL, Bowmont Life of James Scott, the Selkirk mason-astronomer
COLTMAN, Marjory H. Tom Scott, R.S.A. The Scottish Borders Artist

Example of a Scott story

Janet Scott, Jedburgh Union Poorhouse Register, 1871

Janet Scott is one of the many names preserved in the poor law records.

She first appears in the Jedburgh Union Poorhouse Committee as an applicant for parish relief in 1871. A single parent, poor, and moving from farm job to farm job, she was obliged to seek support from the parish when a horrific accident left her disabled.

However her story also demonstrates her resilience: she was able to endure the inevitable conditions and stigma of being a "pauper" and make an independent life for herself and her family afterwards.

Although the union poorhouses were built with the intention of relocating the unemployed to towns to find jobs, many of the unfortunate people who were forced to apply to them for relief were physically disabled or elderly, with little or no hope of being able to work. Often deserted wives or single women with children turned to the parish for support - usually as a last resort.

The admission record of Janet Scott gives us a glimpse of the desperate situations in which applicants to the poorhouse found themselves. A single mother of two children and a baby, she applied to the Jedburgh poorhouse as a result of being 'wholly disabled' by a cart falling on her. The record shows she was on parish relief for at least three years.

However, the census records show that she managed to move on from parish support and even have another child. By 1881 she was living in a cottage in Eckford, and she and her two eldest daughters were earning their living as agricultural labourers.

Janet Scott's entry in the Jedburgh Union Poorhouse Register 1871

Ref: R/PR/1/10/18

180 GENERAL REGISTER OF POOR BELONGING TO				THE PARISH OF <i>Jedburgh</i> 181			
Name <i>Janet Scott</i>		Name <i>Janet Campbell or Douglas</i>					
Residence <i>Northm, Cairns</i>	Earnings, Means, and Resources, besides Parochial Relief <i>None</i>	Residence <i>Northm, Cairns</i>	Earnings, Means, and Resources, besides Parochial Relief <i>Singular & small</i>				
Age <i>28</i>	Nature of Settlement <i>Rural</i>	Age <i>32 years</i>	Nature of Settlement <i>Husband's Birth</i>				
Date of Minute of Parochial Board or Committee admitting Liability and authorizing Relief <i>7 December 1871</i>	Name and Age of Wife, Child, or Children living in Family <i>James 11 years Sarah 8 1/2 do James 1 year</i>	Date of Minute of Parochial Board or Committee admitting Liability and authorizing Relief <i>7 December 1871</i>	Name and Age of Wife, Child, or Children living in Family <i>Elsie about 10 Rachel and Agnes 1 1/2 years</i>				
Amount and Description of Relief authorized <i>2/- per week</i>	Name, Age, and Weekly Earnings of Husband, Wife, Child, or Children not living in Family and their Circumstances	Amount and Description of Relief authorized <i>2/- per week</i>	Name, Age, and Weekly Earnings of Husband, Wife, Child, or Children not living in Family and their Circumstances				
Country and Place of Birth, and, if in Scotland, Parish of Birth <i>Scotland Jedburgh</i>	Religious Denomination, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic <i>Protestant</i>	Country and Place of Birth, and, if in Scotland, Parish of Birth <i>Scotland on Roadside</i>	Religious Denomination, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic <i>Protestant</i>				
Condition - If Adult, whether Married or Single, Widow or Widower <i>single</i>	Condition - If Adult, whether Married or Single, Widow or Widower <i>Married</i>	Condition - If Adult, whether Married or Single, Widow or Widower <i>Married</i>	Condition - If Adult, whether Married or Single, Widow or Widower				
If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or separated from Parent	If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or separated from Parent	If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or separated from Parent	If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or separated from Parent				
Trade or Occupation <i>Cow Milk</i>	Trade or Occupation <i>Hawker</i>	Trade or Occupation <i>Hawker</i>	Trade or Occupation				
Wholly or Partially Disabled <i>Wholly</i>	Wholly or Partially Disabled <i>Partially</i>	Wholly or Partially Disabled <i>Partially</i>	Wholly or Partially Disabled				
Description of Disablement <i>Injuries from a cart falling on her - Wholly</i>	Description of Disablement <i>Wound to maintain</i>	Description of Disablement <i>Wound to maintain</i>	Description of Disablement				
Wholly or Partially Destitute	Wholly or Partially Destitute <i>Partially</i>	Wholly or Partially Destitute <i>Partially</i>	Wholly or Partially Destitute				
Other Information not stated above	Other Information not stated above	Other Information not stated above	Other Information not stated above <i>Husband was tried by the Sheriff of Edinburgh or about the 30th July and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment</i>				
DATE. Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.	DATE. Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.	DATE. Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.	DATE. Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.				
<i>1872 April 11 Reduced to 2/- per week</i>	<i>1874 Aug 18 offered Poor House being at Forrington off Mill</i>	<i>1872 20 July Husband released from prison - removed from roll</i>	<i>1873 Jan 19 again chargeable at Jedburgh - Husband being again in jail - ceased to be chargeable - Note Minute by Dismissed</i>				

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