

HERITAGE HUB SOURCE LIST LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY WEB SITES

Some key websites are listed here - some are free, others pay-as-you-view or by subscription. They provide indexes and transcriptions and offer a major advantage in the ability to do national searches. However you are always advised to check the original records wherever possible.

Please note Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Service is not responsible for the content of the websites and external links.

SCOTTISH SITES

General Register Office of Scotland - www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Information on the registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions, the 10 yearly censuses and detailed statistical information about population, households and names. *Note: Registration became compulsory in Scotland in 1855.*

Scotlands People - www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

The official online pay-as-you-view genealogical database of the GROS, with searchable index of Scottish births 1553 -2006, marriages 1553–2006, deaths 1538–2006, census returns 1841-1901, Catholic Parish Records 1703-1955, wills & testaments 1513-2006 and coat of arms 1672-1907. Digital images of many records available, plus research tools including a glossary of occupations, medical terms, Scots language, money values and unusual words.

The National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh – www.nas.gov.uk

NAS holds records relating to every aspect of Scotland's history, including those of the non-established churches (Episcopalian, Methodists, Catholic, United Presbyterian etc.), also Kirk Session records, records of civil and criminal courts, wills & testaments, family & estate papers, land records etc. On-line catalogue and useful guides e.g. to military records, records of the poor, emigration.

National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS) - www.nas.gov.uk/nras/

Database of private collections, registered by the NRAS, some of which are still held privately and others are held by archival institutions. Includes the records of landed estates, private individuals, businesses, law firms and societies.

Note: NRA does not hold records itself, but acts as a signpost to where they are held. Access to the collections is at the discretion of the owners

National Library of Scotland - www.nls.uk

Online catalogue to books, manuscripts and maps reflecting Scotland's history and culture. The collection of online maps is a particularly useful tool.

Scottish Handwriting – www.scottishhandwriting.com

Offers online tuition in paleography - the reading of manuscript historical records written in Scotland in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) – www.scan.org.uk

A joint initiative to provide a single electronic catalogue to the holdings of more than 50 Scottish archives, with an ongoing digitisation programme. Also features a glossary of the Scots language, and a Scots currency converter.

SCRAN – www.scran.ac.uk

A learning resource base with 336,500 images, movies and sounds from museums, galleries, archives and the media. Free use of thumbnail images with other features and tools on subscription. No charge for access in Scottish Borders libraries.

Scotsman Archive - www.archive.scotsman.com

Free searchable index covering the years 1817-1950. Access to the full article is by subscription.

Statistical Accounts – www.edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot

The 'Old' and 'New' Statistical Accounts of Scotland, 1791-1845 provide detailed contemporary parish reports - and in the case of the 'New', county reports - for the whole of Scotland, covering a wide spectrum of subjects including agriculture, education, trades, religion and social customs. A subscription site.

Borders Family History Society - www.bordersfhs.org.uk

BFHS maintains listings of members' interests and collects family trees, so can be helpful in making contact with people researching the same names. It also publishes a magazine and a series of booklets on monumental inscriptions, which can be purchased online. The website features indexes to magazine articles, family trees and gravestones.

Scottish Genealogy Society - www.scotsgenealogy.com

A charity serving anyone with an interest in Scottish genealogy. Its website includes an index to family histories and an online shop of over 1400 publications.

Association of Scottish Genealogists & Researchers in Archives - www.asgra.co.uk

A listing of professional researchers, many of whom will also undertake Scots and Latin transcriptions.

Scottish Architects – www.codexgeo.co.uk/dsa

A database providing biographical information and job lists for all architects known to have worked in Scotland during the period 1840-1940, as principals, assistants or apprentices.

Royal Commission on Ancient & Historic Monuments of Scotland – www.rcahms.gov.uk

A searchable database of the country's monuments.

Historic Scotland – www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Information on more than 300 properties, listed buildings and ancient monuments.

UK/NATIONAL SITES

National Archives – www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Previously the Public Record Office, Kew, NA is the UK government's official archive holding records from 1085 to the present. Website features a search catalogue, documents online (including the Domesday Book), series of research guides and an internet bookshop. 34,000 results for a search on the Scottish Borders. Key source of UK military and colonial records.

National Register of Archives - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra

The NRA is a central point for the collection and dissemination of information about the location of manuscripts relating to British history. It describes archival holdings in the United Kingdom and overseas. Like the NRAS (see page1) it offers a signposting service to where records are held.

Family Record Official Sources – www.familyrecords.gov.uk

An umbrella of other websites, it aims to help find the UK wide government records and other sources needed in family history research. With useful "topic" guides e.g. on emigration, military records, adoption.

OTHER FAMILY HISTORY SITES

www.genuki.co.uk

One of the most comprehensive introductory sites – a "virtual reference library" of genealogical information and primary historical material. Covers every county in the UK with information on parishes, churches, libraries, family history societies, registrars, etc.

www.cyndislist.com

Major gateway site, with a good listing of Scottish websites.

The general sites listed below give access to a wide range of indexes, transcriptions, message boards and family tree facilities. You are best browsing through them to see which best suits your needs. Many are subscription or pay-as-you-view sites.

www.ancestry.co.uk - The only site (apart from ScotlandsPeople) that currently features Scottish census returns. Strong on emigration and military records.

www.findmypast.com – includes search facility for living relatives.

www.thegenealogist.co.uk – includes electoral rolls, and non-conformist records for England.

www.genesreunited.com – a sister site to Friends Reunited allowing users to share information.

www.freecen.rootsweb.com – census transcriptions including parts of Scottish Borders (in progress)

www.freebmd.rootsweb.com – births, marriages & death indexes for England & Wales (in progress)

www.rootsweb.com – a way to join a mailing list and meet fellow researchers

www.familysearch.org - online version of the International Genealogical Index (IGI),

SOME SPECIALIST SITES

Passenger Lists – www.ancestorsonboard.com

A searchable database of passengers (emigrants, businessmen, tourists, diplomats etc.) on ships sailing from Britain to destinations worldwide 1890-1960.

Emigration to USA - www.ellisland.org/

Searchable database of passengers entering USA via Ellis Island & Port of New York 1892-1924. See Also: www.ancestry.com

See Also: the separate Source List on Emigration Records.

British Newspapers - <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs>

49 titles of local and national newspapers online, including the Caledonian Mercury (Edinburgh) and Glasgow Herald. Covers period 1800-1900. A subscription site.

Poorhouses - www.workhouses.org.uk

Looks at the operation of the poor law, buildings, inmates, staff and administrators. Includes pages with census returns on Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso and Peebles Poorhouses.

Victorian Life – www.bbc.co.uk/history/British/Victorians

Provides useful background to the 1841-1901 census information.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission – www.cwgc.org

The starting point if searching for a wartime casualty. The Debt of Honour Register offers a free search facility, with details on the scene of war and place of burial.

Relative Money Values – www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/

Provides calculations on relative money values across the centuries.



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