

## **HERITAGE HUB SOURCE LIST MILITIA RECORDS**

### **BACKGROUND**

- In 1794 with the threat of a French invasion, permanent lieutenancies were established by a royal warrant, which ordered the development of volunteer forces for the defence of Scotland. The forces were county based and led by a lord lieutenant who was appointed by the monarch. The lord lieutenant in turn appointed deputies. The duties of lieutenants included provision for the protection of their counties in the event of invasion, threat or civil uprising. They directed volunteer forces and, after the 1797 Militia Act (37 Geo. III, c.103), were empowered to raise militia forces. After 1802 only a landholder who held or was heir to property worth £400 Scots was eligible to serve in the lieutenancy.
- Men between the ages of 18 and 45 were liable to be called on to serve in the Militia. Country parishes had a ballot system to fill the ranks when there were insufficient volunteers. If a man had the means, it was possible to pay for a substitute to take his place.
- Often the records list men whose existence otherwise was not recorded. Other family details are sometimes included, as the wife and children (under 10) of a man serving in the Militia were eligible for an allowance.
- The early records are valuable to family historians, as they pre-date the first census of 1841.
- The National Archives of Scotland ([www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)) holds a large collection of militia lists, including material on Peeblesshire

### **BERWICKSHIRE**

B/LR	<p>Berwickshire Lieutenancy Records include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lieutenancy roll of 1798 – a listing by parish of men in the militia, giving name, age, occupation and abode.</li> <li>▪ Minutes of general meetings, 1808-1831</li> <li>▪ Minutes meetings of the sub division of Dunse, 1802-1831</li> <li>▪ Decree of division of Duns common, 1786.</li> <li>▪ Record of the Proceedings of the Lord Lieutenancy of Berwickshire, 1797-1810</li> <li>▪ Accounts of fines and penalties, 1809-1812</li> <li>▪ List of deficiencies, 1825</li> <li>▪ Correspondence, 1809-1816, including letters from Deputy Secretary of War</li> </ul>
SBA/186/1	<p>The Volunteers of Berwickshire. includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extracts from Army Lists 1798-1825</li> </ul>
Search Room Reference Section	<p>Militia Lists feature in the series of Monumental Inscription books for certain parishes in Berwickshire, published by the Border Family History Society (<a href="http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk">www.bordersfhs.org.uk</a>)</p>

## ROXBURGHSHIRE

R/LR	<p>Roxburghshire Lieutenancy Records include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Minute Book: Aug 1797-July 1802 with a list of men organised by parish. This volume has been digitised and is available online at <a href="http://www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/lieutenancy.htm">http://www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/lieutenancy.htm</a></li><li>▪ Letter Books.</li><li>▪ Regulations and Acts.</li><li>▪ Correspondence, circulars, certificates, and minute books.</li><li>▪ Nominal roll of 1<sup>st</sup> Roxburgh Rifle Volunteer Corps, 1879-1892.</li></ul>
SBA/448	<p>This Roxburghshire collection includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Militia lists for Ancrum, Crailing, Bedrule, Hawick, Hobkirk, Jedburgh, Melrose, Minto, Oxnam, Southdean, 1804-1831.</li><li>▪ Circulars, returns, correspondence.</li></ul>
Search Room Reference Section	<p>A photocopied list from the Kelso Archives (SBA/183) of men enrolled in the militia, subdivision of Kelso, 1807-1809, 1816-1825, and 1831. Covers Eckford, Ednam, Hownam, Kelso, Linton, Makerstoun, Morebattle, Roxburgh, Smailholm, Sprouston, Stichel, and Yetholm.</p>
Search Room Reference Section	<p>Militia Lists feature in the series of Monumental Inscription books for certain parishes in Roxburghshire, published by the Border Family History Society (<a href="http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk">www.bordersfhs.org.uk</a>).</p>

## SELKIRKSHIRE

S/LR/1/1-5	<p>Selkirkshire Lieutenancy Records include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Minute books that include militia lists and muster rolls of the first Selkirkshire Rifle Volunteers, 1807-1831</li><li>▪ Deputy Lieutenant's Minute Books, 1797-1831</li><li>▪ Volunteer returns, 1803-1903</li><li>▪ Letter books, 1804-1974</li></ul>
D/42/6-7	<p>Militia lists for Ettrick, Galashiels, Robertson, Selkirk and Yarrow, 1807 &amp; 1808</p>
D/42/16/3	<p>Return of men between the ages of 18 and 45 in the county of Selkirk, 1808</p>
D/42/16/7 & 13	<p>Pay lists of the Selkirkshire Yeomanry Calvary, 1809, 1812.</p>
SC/S/12/36/1	<p>Enrolment Book of the Second Selkirkshire (Ettrick Forest) Rifle Volunteer Corps 1860-1904</p>

