

HERITAGE HUB SOURCE LIST

TRACING SCOTTISH BORDERS ANCESTORS

INTRODUCTION

- Tracing your family history is a journey of discovery which leads you to explore the lives and times of your ancestors. Visiting the Scottish Borders in the footsteps of your family can be a rewarding experience, enabling you to find out more about your ancestral homeland and gain a sense of “place”.
- This source list points you to the key areas of information. By using these records, it should be possible to trace a Scottish Borders family relatively easily back to the beginning 19th century, if not earlier. It is in the nature of a detective story, working systematically backwards from one known fact to another, always verifying and not relying on one source.
- Family history is more than just dates and names, and can lead you into local history and social history – where did your ancestors live, how did they live, what did they do? You might like to explore issues of name patterns, occupational patterns, child labour, living conditions, place names, house history etc. The collections at the Heritage Hub can help you in this.

FIRST STEPS IN FAMILY HISTORY:

- Start with what you know about your parents, grandparents and other family members.
- Gather birth, marriage and death certificates, old photographs (label them in pencil on the reverse with names and dates), old letters, newspaper cuttings, medals, documents, memorabilia etc to see what they can tell you about your family’s past. Family Bibles may also contain valuable information, but sometimes they were filled in years after an event took place.
- Talk to older relatives to see what they know. Different people remember different things and you may get conflicting information. Do not be tempted to bend the facts to fit family legends or theories.
- Draw up a simple family tree with names, dates and places to help you identify what you know and what you need to find out. Start with yourself, then your parents and grandparents, working back a generation at a time. It helps to concentrate on one line i.e. your father’s or your mother’s family.
- Move onto the key sources of information outlined below.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

- If you plan to make a special trip to the Scottish Borders to research your family history, do come prepared. This will save you valuable time once you are here and help ensure that you find the information you are looking for. Bring photocopies of all information and a basic outline of your family tree, with names, dates and places
- Look up the website www.ancestralscotland.com to find information on exploring your Scottish roots, with details of family names and suggested itineraries.
- *Note:* the Scottish Borders covers the four counties of Berwickshire, Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

- From 1855 it was compulsory in Scotland to register births, marriages and deaths – later than in England (1837) but the Scottish certificates, are particularly informative in that they give the names of both parents (including mother's maiden name) on birth, marriage and death certificates. For instance a death registered in 1860 will give the deceased age e.g. 75, and names of both parents and so takes you back a generation and into the 18th century.
- *Note:* Birth, marriage and death certificates are in the care of the General Register Office of Scotland and are not available at the Heritage Hub. All local Registrars in the Borders can search records for the whole of Scotland. See the contact list on page 6 for details. There is a charge for this service.
- Records can also be searched online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk - the pay as you view genealogical database of the General Register Office of Scotland.
- Use the certificate information to step back through the generations.

CENSUS RETURNS

- Census returns are some of the most informative records for genealogical research, as they list everyone staying at a particular address on census night, including servants and lodgers, with details of age, marital status, relationship to head of household, occupation, and parish of birth. The age information means you can estimate year of birth; marriage was generally in the year before the birth of the eldest child and the records can often bring to light details of unknown family relatives. *Note:* censuses do not give a wife's maiden name.
- Censuses take place every 10 years. 1841 is the first census for which records survive and is less detailed than later editions. With a 100-year closure on access, the 1911 census is being released in April 2011, but will only be available online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk .
- To trace an ancestor, you do need to have a good idea in which parish they were living. It is often said that people did not move around much in the past. This is not always true, as farm workers often moved from farm to farm, and, if their homes were near parish boundaries, you may need to check several parishes to find them.
- The Heritage Hub at Hawick holds on microfilm all censuses for the Scottish Borders 1841 to 1901, with many indexed.

OLD PARISH RECORDS

- These are records of christenings, marriages and burials in the Church of Scotland and the main source of genealogical information prior to 1855. It is important to remember that the other churches kept their own records and these are mainly held at the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh.
- Prior to 1855, there was no statutory register of births, marriages and deaths. The responsibility for recording these events lay within the church, but it had no legal obligation to do so. Old Parish Records date from 1553, though few survive before the 1640's. The accuracy or otherwise of these records depended on the diligence of the minister or session clerk and many registers are missing, incomplete or were badly kept. People had to pay to register so often did not bother, particularly if they were moving around. Most entries contain relatively little information by comparison with the statutory registers and the writing can often be difficult to decipher. There is, however, a fascination in seeing an original record naming your ancestor - albeit on microfilm. *Note:* Old Parish Records are not available at the churches themselves.
- The Heritage Hub at Hawick holds microfiche indexes to christenings and marriages in the Old Parish Records for each county in Scotland, with microfilm copies of the actual records for the four Border counties. There is no similar index to burials.

- The Index is the first searching tool to use – the more unusual the name, the easier the task. All variations on the spelling of a surname should be checked e.g. Mathieson/Matheson, Glendinning/Glending.
- Recorded in the index is the date of the event and the parish in which it took place. It not unusual for the mother's name to be omitted from christening records. The date of proclamation of marriage was often recorded rather than the actual ceremony. If the bride and groom lived in different parishes, the proclamation may be recorded twice.
- Having found the names of parents of an ancestor, it is useful to go through the index and identify other children born to these parents.
- As it was not compulsory to register, you may well find no trace of an ancestor and many researchers find they come to a halt at this point and have to think of other possible sources to check.
- Again searches can also be made online at: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

OTHER RECORDS AVAILABLE AT THE HERITAGE HUB, HAWICK

- *Archive Collection* – the collection includes original records of clubs, societies, mills, businesses, farms, estates, parishes, pre-1975 county council records and material such as valuation rolls, school records and poor law records described below.

Note: data protection laws may mean that there are limitations on accessing some more recent material – staff will be pleased to give advice on this.

- *Valuation Rolls* were compiled annually from 1854-1974 for all heritable property in Scotland, with the Hub holding a considerable collection of the county records (less so for the burghs). Names are given only of the proprietor, tenant and occupier of property – all the residents are not listed.
- *Poor Law Records* - The Poor Law Act of 1845 established parochial boards to administer poor relief. A large collection of documents is held relating to poor relief with registers of poor, minute books etc. Many records up to 1900 have been digitised.
- *School Records* – Log books, admission registers, and minute books of schools are held, primarily for schools that are now closed, with records dating from around 1873 and the introduction of school boards. Many records up to 1900 have been digitised.
- *Militia Lists* - a volunteer force for the defence of Scotland was drawn up in 1794 with the lists providing valuable information on young men in the parish.
- *Monumental Inscriptions* on gravestones can be a key to identifying not only dates of death but also several generations of a family. To search for a specific stone in graveyard is a daunting task and you are advised to consult beforehand the many listings available of monumental inscriptions. The Heritage Hub holds a large indexed collection, though not all parishes have been surveyed.
- *Deaths and Burials* – records from the pre-1855 Old Parish Records for Border parishes are being transcribed as part of a local project. *Note:* Burial and Lair Records from mid 1850's are held at Scottish Borders Council offices at Duns, Galashiels, Hawick and Peebles. To find online the location of local cemeteries, look up www.scotborders.gov.uk/localview.
- *Directories* over a range of years gives lists of nobility, gentry, professions, societies, institutions, manufacturers, shopkeepers, tradesmen, carriers etc. – often with advertisements.
- *Statistical Accounts of Scotland* are important contemporary source material, with parish descriptions of topography, climate, agriculture, population, schools etc. The First Account was published 1791-1799 with the second ("New") in the 1830s -1840s, and the third 1960s-1990s.
- *Newspapers* –The Heritage Hub holds on microfilm 25 local titles, including a complete run of the Southern Reporter from 1855, with the oldest newspaper the Kelso Mail of 1804. Galashiels Library and Hawick Library hold microfilm copies of earlier editions of the Border Telegraph and Hawick News.

Note: the newspapers are not indexed. Knowing at least a month and year of an event will make your search much easier.

- *Maps* – the collection includes the Ordnance Survey 25 inches to the mile c. 1898-1908 and the Ordnance Survey 6 inches to the mile c. 1865 for the four Border counties. Many can be accessed online at www.nls.uk/maps/. For modern maps online, see www.scotborders.gov.uk/localview. This offers current maps and allows you to pinpoint a locality to find information on local services and amenities.
- *Postcards* – The large indexed collection of postcards dates from the early 20th century and features churches, streets, shops, houses, etc. Many postcards are now available at the Hub in digitised format.
- *Military Ancestors* – A CD Rom offers a searchable database into soldiers who died in both world wars. These can also be searched on the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at www.cwgc.org.
- *Book Collection* – includes definitive histories on towns, villages and counties, many dating back to the 19th century. They are valuable in giving background information to family history.
- *IGI – International Genealogical Index* is a microfiche index to christenings and marriages in countries around the world, compiled from official records and from individuals submitting details to the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Also available on www.familysearch.org. You should always aim to go back to the original record wherever possible to confirm details, as the submitted information can be variable in quality and reliability.

SEARCHING ONLINE

- The Heritage Hub provides public access computers for local and family history.
- The internet has revolutionised family history research with a wealth of sites to help you – some free, other subscription or pay-as-you-view. Ask about the Heritage Hub's separate Source Lists on *Local & Family History Websites* and on *Emigration Records* for information on helpful sites.
- The prime pay-as-you-view site is www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. It contains over 50 million index entries to the registers of births/baptisms for the years 1553 to 2006, marriages 1553 to 2006 and deaths 1538 to 2006; also to the censuses of Scotland 1841-1911, wills 1513-1901, and coat of arms 1672-1907. Digital images of all but the more recent records are also featured.
- The Scottish Archive Network site operated by the National Archives of Scotland provides internet access to the written history of Scotland at www.scan.org.uk.

OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- *General Register Office of Scotland, Edinburgh* is the main source of family history records in the country. Website: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk
- *The National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh* – holds records of the non-established churches (Episcopalian, Methodists, Catholic, United Presbyterian etc.), also kirk session records, records of civil and criminal courts, wills & testaments, private archives etc. Website: www.nas.gov.uk
- *National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS)* was established by the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) in 1946 to compile a record of papers of historical significance in private hands in Scotland. The Register now contains over 4,100 surveys of private papers including the records of landed estates, private individuals, businesses, law firms and societies. Collections can be searched online at www.nas.gov.uk/nras/
- *The Borders Family History Society* – collects family trees from members and maintains listings of members' interests, 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. The website www.bordersfhs.org.uk features indexes to magazine articles, family trees and gravestones.
- *National Archives, London* – the official archive for England, Wales and the central UK government, and the main repository for military and colonial records for the whole country.

- *Other Contacts:* The Heritage Hub maintains a comprehensive contact list to put you in touch with other archive centres both national and local, and with family history societies across the country.

NAMES

- Do check on all spelling variations of a specific name. There was little difference between Dalgleish, Dalgliesh, Dalglesh and Dalglish, Thomson and Thompson, Rutherford and Rutherford. Many names, such as, Janet, Jean, Jane, and Jennet, were used interchangeably. People often used diminutive forms of a name as well: Elizabeth, Beth, Lizzie, Betty, Betsy for example.
- In Scotland and the north of England, the tradition was to name the eldest son after the paternal grandfather and the eldest daughter after the maternal grandmother. The next son was named after the maternal grandfather and the next daughter after the paternal grandmother. Subsequent children were often named after parents, aunts, uncles etc. This pattern of naming can often help to determine who belongs to which family.
- A list is given below of some popular Border surnames

Aitchison	Dalgleish	Johnson	Renwick
Anderson	Darling	Johnstone	Riddell
Armstrong	Dickson	Kerr	Robson
Baillie	Dodds	Laidlaw	Roxburgh
Baptie	Douglas	Liddell	Rutherford
Beattie	Elliott	Lillico	Scott
Bell	Fairbairn	Lindores	Tait
Bouglas	Gowanlock	Little	Telfer
Borthwick	Graham	Maxwell	Thomson
Brydon	Henderson	Moffat	Trotter
Burn	Hilson	Nisbet	Turnbull
Chisholm	Hobkirk	Nixon	Waldie
Cockburn	Hogg	Oliver	Whillans
Craig	Hume/Home	Pringle	Wilkie
Cranston	Irving	Purves	Young
Craw	Jardine		
Croser/Crozier			

RECORDING RESEARCH

- It is all too easy to rush in enthusiastically and scribble down findings, which later might not make sense; also to forget what had already been checked. Keep a careful record of the searches you have made (with references) even if you found nothing. It will save you searching the same source again in the future.
- Do not rely on one record – always double check. You may find conflicting evidence of age and birthplace across different censuses. Errors can also occur as records are transcribed. Make sure you that you are following the “right” family, especially with names common across the Borders. Bear in mind that “missing” families may well have crossed the border into England.

REMOTE RESEARCH

- If you are unable to visit us, you may wish to take advantage of our Enquiry Services where you can choose from a number of options. We offer an initial free 30 minute enquiry service, with a paid remote research for more in depth work. Contact archives@scotborders.gov.uk or view www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub for details.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR RESEARCH!

USEFUL CONTACTS

HERITAGE HUB

Kirkstile, Hawick , Roxburghshire TD9 0AE. Tel: 01450 360699 E-mail: archives@scotborders.gov.uk
Website: www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub
Follow us on Twitter at [@SBC_Archives](https://twitter.com/SBC_Archives) Read our Blog at <http://heritagehub.tumblr.com/>

The Heritage Hub is home to the Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Service whose aim is to collect, preserve and make available the documentary heritage of the Scottish Borders. Everyone is welcome to consult the sources of information free of charge and friendly, knowledgeable staff are at hand to assist and advise you. Information sheets are also available on specific topics:

Please contact us ahead of a visit to book a microfilm reader/printer or space in the search room. The Centre is open all year Monday to Saturday, with late opening on Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday is reserved for pre-booked tours and talks.

We offer a free initial half-hour response time to written and telephone enquiries with a paid remote research service for longer, more in-depth work.

REGISTRATION SERVICE

The service now offers a dedicated genealogical service for the whole of Scotland at the Borders Textile Towerhouse (opposite the Heritage Hub, Hawick). Please note there is a charge for this service.

Opening times are:

April to October: Wednesday 9.30am-1pm. Thursday and Friday 9.30am-1pm, 2pm-4.30pm

November to March: Wednesday 10am-1pm. Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm, 2pm-4pm

Tel. 01450 378118 E-mail: registrar.genealogy@scotborders.gov.uk

Local Registrars:

Coldstream: Registration Office and Marriage Room, 73 High Street, Coldstream, Berwickshire TD12 4AE.
Tel. 01890 883156.

Duns: The Registrar, 8 Newtown Street, Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3DT. Tel. 01361 886110.

Eyemouth: The Registrar, Community Centre, Albert Road, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5DE.
Tel. 01890 750690.

Galashiels: The Registrar, Library Buildings, Lawyers' Brae, Galashiels. Selkirkshire TD1 3JQ.
Tel. 01896 752822.

Hawick: The Registrar, Council Offices, High Street, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 9EF. Tel. 01450 364710.

Kelso: The Registrar, The Town House, Kelso, Roxburghshire TD5 7HF. Tel: 01573 225659.

Melrose: The Registrar, Market Square, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9PG. Tel. 01896 823114

Peebles: The Registrar, Chambers' Institute, High Street, Peebles, Peeblesshire EH45 8AG.
Tel. 01721 723817.

West Linton: The Registrar, Council Offices, West Linton, Peeblesshire EH46 7ED. Tel. 01968 660267.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

All Borderer enquiries on burials and lairs from c.1855 should be made to:

Diane Munro, Heatherlyett Cemetery Office, Heatherlyett, Galashiels TD1 2JL. Tel. 01896 753856.
Email: dmunro2@scotborders.gov.uk Website: www.scotborders.gov.uk
Please note there is a charge for this service.

To find online the location of local cemeteries, look up www.scotborders.gov.uk/localview. This offers current maps and allows you to pinpoint a locality to find information on local services and amenities.

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk – with e-mail enquiry contact form.

The Society holds regular meetings in Melrose, and publishes, 3 times a year, a magazine featuring articles and queries from members. The Society's Library and Search Room is based at Old Gala House, Galashiels and is open April to October on Tuesdays and Thursdays, (additionally on Sundays in July and August) from 1.30pm-3.45pm..

VISITSCOTLAND

Tourist Information Centre, Murray's Green, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire TD8 6BE
Tel: 01835 863170 Email: info@visitscotland.com Website: www.visitscottishborders.com

For information on accommodation, attractions, activities and events etc. across the Scottish Borders. Other local tourist information centres are at Hawick, Melrose and Peebles (open all year), with Eyemouth Kelso, and Selkirk seasonal.

SCOTTISH BORDERS ATTRACTIONS

The following visitor attractions will be of interest to see what life was like in the past. Further details from any Tourist Information Centre in the Scottish Borders or online at www.visitscottishborders.com

In Berwickshire:

Ayton Castle, Ayton
Coldstream Museum, Coldstream
Eyemouth Museum, Eyemouth
Greenknowe Tower, Gordon
Manderston House, Duns
Mellerstain House, Gordon
Paxton House, Paxton
Thirlestane Castle, Lauder

In Peeblesshire

John Buchan Centre, Broughton
Neidpath Castle, Peebles
Robert Smail's Printing Works, Innerleithen
St. Ronan's Well Visitor Centre, Innerleithen
Traquair House, Innerleithen
Tweeddale Museum and Gallery, Peebles

In Roxburghshire

Abbotsford House, near Melrose
Drumlanrig's Tower Visitor Centre, Hawick
Dryburgh Abbey, St Boswells
Floors Castle, Kelso
Hawick Cashmere Visitor Centre, Hawick
Hawick Museum & Scott Art Gallery, Hawick
Hermitage Castle, Newcastleton
Jedburgh Abbey, Jedburgh
Jedburgh Castle Jail & Museum, Jedburgh
Johnnie Armstrong Gallery, Teviothead
Kelso Abbey, Kelso
Liddesdale Heritage Centre and Museum, Newcastleton
Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre, Jedburgh

Melrose Abbey, Melrose
Smailholm Tower, Smailholm

In Selkirkshire

Bowhill House, near Selkirk
Halliwell's House Museum and Robson Gallery, Selkirk
Lochcarron Cashmere Visitor Centre, Selkirk
Old Gala House Museum, Galashiels
Robert D Clapperton Photographic, Selkirk
Sir Walter Scott's Courtroom, Selkirk

SCOTLANDSPEOPLE CENTRE

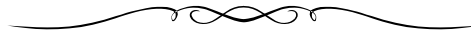
General Register Office for Scotland, New Register House, 3 West Register Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT
Website: www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk
To book a seat, tel. 0131 314 4300 or use online bookings form.

General Register House and New Register House have combined facilities to create this new purpose-built family history centre, opened in August 2008 – open Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm. Visitors can gain access to key Scottish resources such as birth, marriage and death records, wills, census records and coats of arms, going back almost 500 years. Everything has been digitised so all the records are available on computer screens at your desk.

Visitors can pre-book £15 per day search places in the search rooms. It is also possible to pre-pay, which will allow you to go straight to your seat. One free two-hour taster session is available to new users.

NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND, General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY
Tel: 131 535 1314 E-mail: enquiries@nas.gov.uk Website: www.nas.gov.uk

From 1 April 2011, the National Archives of Scotland merged with the General Register Office for Scotland to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS). A new joint website will be launched in due course. The organisation 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.



*Heritage Hub, Kirkstille, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 0AE.
Tel. 01450 360699 E-mail: archives@scotborders.gov.uk
Website: www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub*

*Follow us on Twitter at [@SBC_Archives](https://twitter.com/SBC_Archives)
Read our Blog at <http://heritagehub.tumblr.com/>*

November 2011