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Use the [SAFHS Membership page](#) to find societies that match your area of interest, or alternatively, use the [Search page](#) to find societies that have an interest in the same subject, surname or topic. See the [Publications page](#) for details of our list of useful publications. Read our current and past [bulletins](#) which contain news from our member societies. SAFHS is an umbrella association of Scottish Family History Societies, and individual direct membership is not possible. We welcome new members, please see the [Join Us page](#), for more information.

<http://scottishprisonersofwar.com/> This is the web/blog site for the Scottish prisoners of war from the Battle of Dunbar on 3 Sep 1650 and the Battle of Worcester on 3 Sep 1651. These battles took place on the same day, just one year apart. They are two of the battles fought during the [Third English Civil War](#) (1649-1651). If you have an ancestor who fought in one of these battles, be sure to check out this website.

<http://www.highlandfhs.org>
The Highland Family History Society was established in September 1981 to promote the study of genealogy, family history and related subjects in the Highlands of Scotland. The areas covered include the old counties of Sutherland, Ross, Inverness and Nairn They also retain interest in and information about Caithness and the northern parishes of Argyll

and Perth, though they now have their own local history groups. They try to help anyone researching their family history in the Highlands by providing help and advice to those just starting their research and by encouraging researchers to join the society and share with other members through their monthly talks, website and a quarterly journal. Links to other helpful websites can be found on their website as well.

The following websites may help if you need to do some research on this side of the water first:

www.familysearch.org. This is the website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints and is a "nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations". Their records also cross the ocean.

www.ancestry.com A paid subscription website that offers some free searches and a short free trial.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/> Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 20 years. Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

<http://www.ancestralfindings.com>
Ancestral Findings is a free website offering free genealogical lookups for birth, death and marriage records, census, land records, military records, state record lookups and passenger & immigration lookups. It also offers a free newsletter with helpful hints to help you with your research.



Researching your Scottish Ancestors

The information below is from scotlandspeople.gov.uk with their permission.

Introduction

Many people are interested to know where they came from and thanks to the Internet, researching your family history is now so much easier. To trace your Scottish ancestry and find out when, where and how your relatives lived, follow the advice below and enjoy this fast growing and increasingly popular hobby.

Success/failure - Determining Factors

How successful you are in researching your Scottish family history is determined by a number of factors, many of which are out with your control - the survival of records, how common your surname was, your family's mobility, their social status and level of literacy, and the possibility of transcription errors. However, success can also depend on your own tenacity. Any information that can be gathered from within the family can help to establish a foundation on which to build your family history. Keeping an open mind and not taking anything for granted, being methodical, approaching a problem from more than one angle and corroborating any evidence you may find.

What Do You Want To Achieve?

Before you begin your family history research, it is a good idea to focus on what you want to achieve. Do you wish to pursue the paternal (male) line with its continuity of surname, or the maternal (female) line, or perhaps even verify a family legend? You may find that the decision is made for you, if the research proves difficult. If, however, you decide to pursue more than one line, always file the results separately to avoid confusion.

Family History Begins At Home

The golden rule in family history research is to try to work backwards from what you already know. As such, family history truly does begin at home and you may be surprised at how much you already know or have access to within your own extended family. It is not necessary to have a lot of detail to start, but it makes sense to log whatever information is readily available and to seek out further details from relatives.

You

Begin by recording your own details - date and place of birth, marriage, spouse, children - then the details of parents, grandparents and so on as you recall them.

Relatives and Anecdotal Evidence

Information from relatives can increase your knowledge of the family, but a patient and tactful approach is required. Family anecdotes can become distorted with the passage of time, but should still be noted for later verification.

Documents, photographs

Most families can lay their hands on old documents or photographs, which can be of use to the family historian. Examples of things you might find are:

Birth, marriage or death certificates, obituaries, family bible, school leaving certificates, apprenticeship papers, university/college graduation certificates and awards, military service records, business papers, immigration papers, diaries, address books, birthday books, letters, postcards, newspaper cuttings, memoirs.

Old photographs may jog the memory of an elderly relative, and it is important to ask them to identify as many faces as possible, so that this information is preserved. Any information that can be gathered from within the family can help to establish a foundation on which to build your family history.

Read Up on Family History, Join a Society

Libraries and bookshops stock a range of material on family history. Look for books that concentrate on sources for Scottish research, which differs markedly from that in England. You may want to consider joining a family history society in your area. For a very small annual fee you will receive all the benefits of membership (magazine, research facilities, well-stocked libraries, research services, ready advice) and meet like-minded individuals. Consider also joining a society in the area in which you are conducting research. See www.safhs.org.uk for details of and links to Scottish family history societies.

Scotland's People databases are organized as follows:

Statutory Registers: Births, Marriages, Deaths

Old Parish Registers: Births & Baptisms, Banns & Marriages, Deaths & Burials

Catholic Registers: Births & Baptisms, Banns & Marriages, Deaths & Burials, Other Events

Census Records: 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1881(LDS)

Valuation Rolls: 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915. 192 , 1925, 1930

Free Search Records: Military Service Appeals Tribunal, Soldiers' Wills, Wills & Testaments, Coats of Arms

Other Helpful Websites

www.safhs.org.uk The Scottish Association of Family History Societies promotes and encourages the study of Scottish family history, and provides a forum for the exchange of information among members.

Membership includes all established family history societies in Scotland, as well as several national and regional bodies throughout the world. [The Federation of Family History Societies](#) has over 160 member societies, all helping their own members to research their ancestors in England, Wales and Ireland. The Federation strongly advises you to join the societies covering the areas of your research.