ANCESTRAL RESOURCES: NATIONAL

If you are tracing a Scottish ancestor, you are in luck; Scotland has among the most complete and accessible family records in the world and more and more of them are available online. Here are some of the main resources.

OFFICIAL RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

ScotlandsPeople
General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh, EH1 3YY
The best starting point for Scottish family history, holding all the main official records: parish registers, birth, marriage and death records, census records, valuation rolls, and testaments (wills).
Mon – Fri: 9am-4.30pm
T: 0131 314 4300
E: enquiries@scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk
W: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

ScotlandsPlaces
Companion site to ScotlandsPeople, holding historical information about places in Scotland, including maps and plans, photographs and historical tax records.
W: www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk

National Records of Scotland
General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh, EH1 3YY
Scottish public records and extensive collection of private archives: registers of sasines (property ownership), deeds, records of civil and criminal courts, government files, estate records, and maps and plans. Accessing the Historical Search Room requires proof of ID and two photographs.
Mon – Fri: 9am – 4.30pm
T: 0131 535 1334
E: historical_enquiries@nrscotland.gov.uk
W: www.nrscotland.gov.uk

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh, EH1 1EW
The library holds family and clan histories, memoirs, street directories, newspapers, and private family archives.
Opening times:
www.nls.uk/using-the-library/opening-hours
T: 0131 623 3700
E: enquiries@nls.uk
W: www.nls.uk

Statistical Account of Scotland
Detailed snapshot of life in Scotland in the 1790s and 1840s. The minister of every parish in Scotland made a return about the state of his area, with unique information on population, agriculture, trades, education and religion.
T: 0131 650 3302
E: edina@ed.ac.uk
W: www.edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot

Scottish Genealogy Society
15 Victoria Terrace
Edinburgh, EH1 2JL
Large collection of monumental (gravestone) inscriptions, family histories and research notes, journals of the Scottish family history societies, microfilm copies of original records, and subscriptions to some online genealogy services. Offers friendly advice on Scottish family history.
T: 0131 220 3677
E: enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com
W: www.scotsgenealogy.com

VISITSCOTLAND.COM
OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

Newspapers
A great source of information you cannot get elsewhere. Some Scottish newspapers have their own online services, and for the widest coverage try the British Library online archive.
W: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

SCRAN
(Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network)
Images and information on a wide range of subjects from Scottish museums, libraries and archives, including some family history.
W: www.scran.ac.uk

Historic Environment Scotland
Has a collection of photographs and archives about historic places and buildings in Scotland.
W: www.historicenvironment.scot

National Trust for Scotland
Hermiston Quay
5 Cultins Road
Edinburgh, EH11 4DF
Special Collections consisting mainly of single items, manuscripts, drawings etc. The Trust also holds collections of archives deposited by members of the public. Most of these deposits relate to Trust properties and/or the families associated with them.
Mon – Fri: 9am-5pm
Visit by appointment only
T: 0844 4932474
E: itchenies@nts.org.uk
W: www.nts.org.uk/CollectionsArchivesLibraryServices

Family Search Scottish Wiki
Lists the main Scottish records and where they can be found online, including what’s on the Ancestry.com and FindMyPast.com websites.

ANCESTRAL WELCOME SCHEME

Ancestral tourism is an important market for Scotland, with an estimated 50 million people worldwide claiming Scottish ancestry. The Ancestral Welcome Scheme has been created by VisitScotland, in partnership with the Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group, for visitors with an interest in ancestral research. The scheme helps to clearly identify those businesses and individuals who are knowledgeable, passionate and committed to meeting and exceeding the needs of ancestral tourists. Membership is open to frontline tourism businesses, such as accommodation providers, restaurants and visitor attractions, as well as professionals in the industry, and associated businesses, which provide family history or genealogy support, guidance and complementary services. Look out for the logo on visitScotland.com.