

Scottish Research.

The ScotlandsPlaces website allows users to search across parts of the combined collections of the National Records of Scotland; the National Library of Scotland, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland.

ScotlandsPeople <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

To make searches it is advisable to register for which there is no charge. Your username is your email address and the password must be at least eight characters with upper case, lower case and number included.

There is a Quick People Search of surname, forename, date range.

There is an option of Advanced Search which gives categories.

Statutory Registers 1855-present: Births, Marriages, Divorces, Deaths, Civil partnerships, Dissolutions.

Church Registers 1553 onwards: Births & Baptisms, Banns & Marriages (1538-1854), Deaths & Burials.

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

Valuation Rolls: 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930. Owners and occupiers of properties.

Legal Records: Wills and Testaments (1513-1925), Soldiers' and Airmens' Wills (1857-1965), Coats of Arms: (1672-1916), Military Service appeals (1916).

There is considerable help detail and guides. You should look at these.

Searches are free but to view the result of any search you need not only to register but also to buy credits. At present this is £7.50 for 30 credits, £10.00 for 40 credits.

Statutory registers of births (older than 100 years), marriages (older than 75 years) and deaths (older than 50 years) cost 6 credits (£1.50)

Census returns and church registers of births and baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials and other events cost 6 credits (£1.50)

Valuation rolls cost 2 credits (£0.50)

Wills and testaments (including soldiers' and airmen's wills) cost 10 credits (£2.50) - this is the cost of the entire document, which is usually two or three pages, but can be more than 100 pages long

Military Service Appeals Tribunal records cost 20 credits (£5.00) - this is the cost of the entire document which is usually about three or four pages long but can be much longer.

Coats of Arms (entries from the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland) costs 40 credits (£10.00)

All credits are valid for two years and will expire at the end of two years unless further credits are purchased in that time.

Birth certificate shows you:

No. Name and Surname. When and Where Born. Sex. Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father with Name and Maiden Surname of Mother and with Date and Place of Marriage.

This makes it easy to search for the Marriage of the parents.

Marriage Certificate shows

When Where and How Married. Signature of Parties and Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any). Age. Usual residence. Name, Surname and Rank or Profession of Father and Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.

Statutory Deaths

A search for a married woman who had a child in 1852 but was dead at that child's marriage. There were 5 matches. When results of the search were viewed a column for Other Surnames showed the Maiden Surname of the deceased.

The Death Certificate shows:

No. Name and Surname with Rank or Profession and whether Single, Married, or Widowed. When and Where Died. Sex. Age. Name, Surname & Rank or Profession of Father with the Name and Maiden Surname of Mother. Cause of Death, Duration of Disease and Medical Attendant by whom certified. Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred. When and where Registered and Signature of Registrar.

Old Parish Registers. Births - the index entry which showed.

Number. Date of Birth. Surname. Forename. Father / Mother with Maiden Surname. Sex. Parish. City/County.

The 'Births' are generally the Christening/Baptism date although the date of birth may be given if the Minister included it and it has been transcribed. If not baptised then there is nothing!

The 'Marriages' are records of Banns and the date is the first calling of these, 3 weeks before the wedding. The marriage is likely to have taken place and this may be annotated in the original register book. But the marriage may not have taken place. If from a marriage search result it appears that the marriage happened in 2 different parishes then the Banns were called in both the husband and wife's parishes and the marriage almost certainly took place in the bride's parish. Again in general the bride and groom would be living in the same parish so there will only be one result (if it exists and has been transcribed of course).

CENSUS RECORDS.

Lots of information to read up. To search click the box with the year you wish to search.

If you have many Scottish ancestors you should join the appropriate family history society in Scotland for more advice. You may then be able to purchase ScotlandsPeople vouchers more cheaply.

"Scottish National Archive" webpages seem to say that their data can only be seen by visiting their search room in Edinburgh. However try:

The Scottish Archive Network which is a single electronic catalogue to historical records held by Scottish archives. www.scan.org.uk

If you find differences to this advice, please let SFHG know.