

Top 10 Resources for Getting Started With Your Scottish Research (and how to use them without breaking the bank)

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www.glasgowgenealogy.co.uk

What Am I Going to Learn in this Session?

- How to use free-to-air websites rather than paying for the same information elsewhere
- How to exploit indexes.
- Some great tips about new places to look for records and genealogical information
- Where to look for extra information which will add “colour” to your research

Explore your Scottish heritage

[Getting started](#)


Search the records

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[People](#)
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[Maps and plans](#)
[Image Library](#)

Search people records

Last name

[Search tools](#)

First name

[Search tools](#)

From year

To year

[Search all the records](#) Use categories and filters to refine your search


Order a certificate

[Close](#)


Birth certificate



Marriage certificate



Death certificate



All type of certificates



1. Scotland's People

- Only place to see originals of birth, death marriage, plus other records.
- Pay per view basis, no subscription or buy in bulk option.
- Can get expensive at £1.50 / \$1.85 per record
- Difficulty when searching on common names, without lots of other details.

What Can the Indexes Tell Me

- The YEAR of the event but not the specific date – but is this enough ?
- The PLACE of the event – the registration district
- Potentially, the individual's mother's maiden surname
- The certificate number / reference number

For example...

You're trying to trace your ancestor, Alexander Brown, born about 1885. You have found him and his family on the 1891 census but are struggling to find his sister Mary C on the 1901 census, aren't sure what the C stands for, and can't work out which of dozens of marriages of a William Brown to a Helen are correct.

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Brown	31	Head
Helen Brown	31	Wife
Alexander Brown	6	Son
George E Brown	4	Son
Mary C Brown	1	Daur (Daughter)
Alex Cheyne	59	Lodger
Alex A Cheyne	15	Lodger

Surname	Forename	Age at death	Mother's Maiden Name	Gender	Year	Ref	RD Name	
BROWN	MARION	5	BROWN	F	1893	638 / 1 / 23	Larkhall	View (6 credits) Order certificate
BROWN	AGNES BORLAND	4	BAIN	F	1892	611 / 1 / 28	Riccarton	View (6 credits) Order certificate
BROWN	MARY CHRISTINA	4	ELDER	F	1893	685 / 5 / 65	Newington	View (6 credits) Order certificate
BROWN	MARGARET	5	HAMILTON	F	1893	573 / 1215	Paisley	View (6 credits) Order certificate
BROWN	ISABELLA	5	WATSON	F	1893	627 / 39	Cambuslang	View (6 credits) Order certificate
BROWN	ISABELLA FYFE H	4	PATON	F	1893	282 / 3 / 242	St Clement	View (6 credits) Order certificate

Collection Title

Enter a collection title

Filtered Results (25)

Collection Title Records ↓ Last Updated

United Kingdom, Outgoing Passenger Lists, 1890-1960	24,113,046	20 October 2021	
Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	8,151,224	20 June 2020	
British Newspaper Archive, Family Notices	5,899,982	14 June 2024	
United Kingdom, Funeral Notices, 1914-2023	4,987,937	29 October 2023	
Scotland, Civil Registration, 1855-1875, 1881, 1891	4,463,287	15 January 2025	
United Kingdom, World War I Service Records, 1914-1920	4,327,810	14 June 2024	
United Kingdom, British Armed Forces and Overseas Vital Records, 1761-2005	2,878,201	22 September 2021	
United Kingdom, Merchant Navy Seamen Records, 1835-1941	2,607,986	14 June 2024	
Scotland, Marriages, 1561-1910	2,007,371	12 March 2020	
Great Britain, War Office Registers, 1772-1935	1,011,348	14 June 2024	
United Kingdom, Chelsea Pensioners' Service Records, 1760-1913	933,943	14 June 2024	
United Kingdom, British India Office, Births and Baptisms, 1712-1965	713,850	15 June 2024	
United Kingdom, Militia Service Records, 1806-1915	555,558	14 June 2024	
Scotland, Death Records, 1998-2015	429,095	18 March 2024	
United Kingdom, Royal Air Force Service Records, 1905-1946	342,823	15 June 2024	
Scotland, Church Records and Kirk Session Records, 1658-1919	302,862	14 June 2024	
United Kingdom, British Royal Navy Ships' Musters, 1739-1861	280,357	15 June 2024	
United Kingdom, Merchant Seamen Records, 1918-1941	240,481	18 October 2022	
Scotland, Presbyterian & Protestant Church Records, 1736-1990	109,064	14 June 2024	
Great Britain, Deaths and Burials, 1778-1988	64,226	9 October 2024	

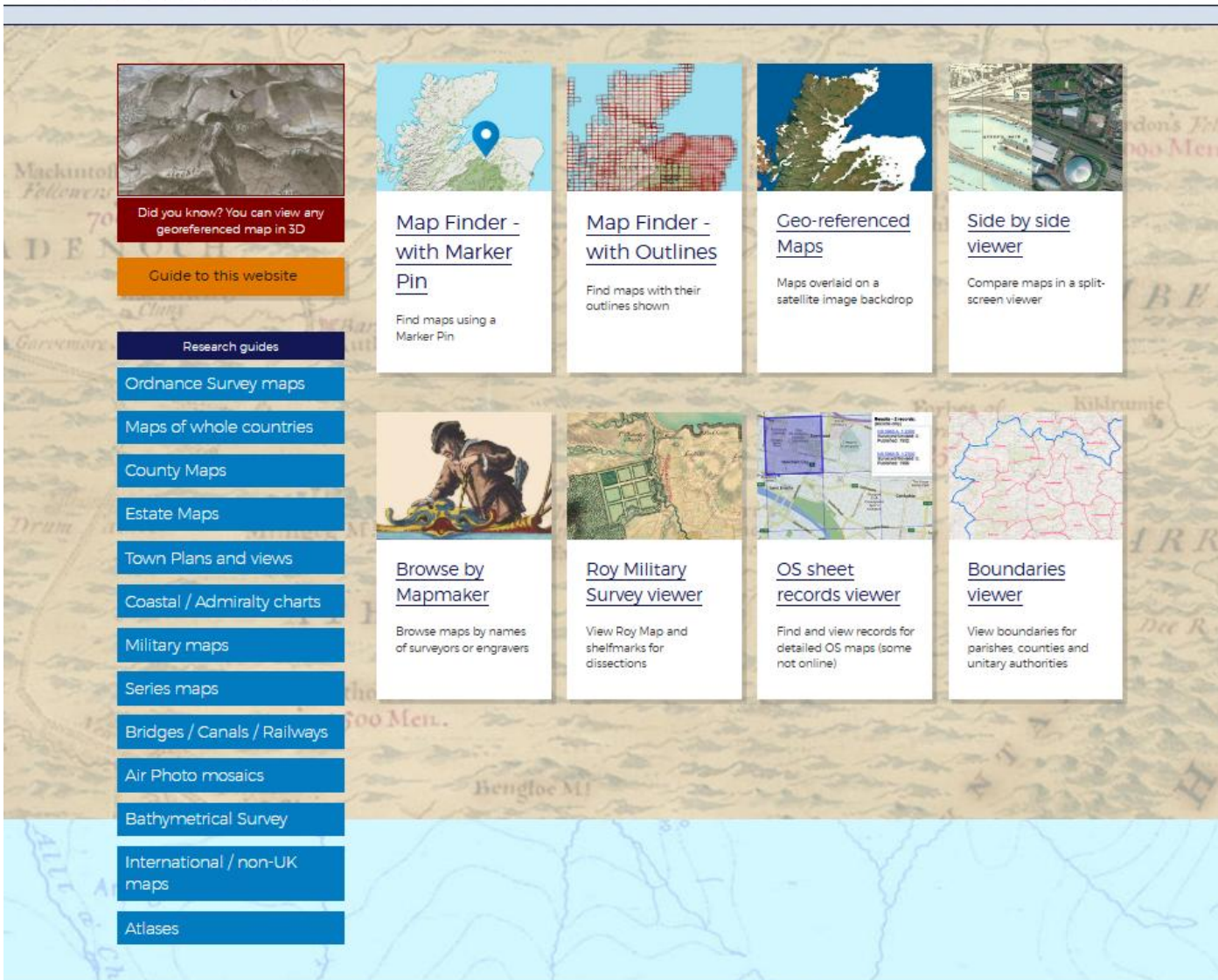
Results per page:

20 ↓

< Page 1 of 2 >

2. Family Search Transcriptions

- 25 different record sets which are Scotland-specific
- Transcription free to view on website
- May have to visit a FamilySearch centre to see originals
- Get into the habit of checking FamilySearch first before paying for records elsewhere.



3. National Library of Scotland - Maps

- Huge range of historic maps
- Mainly concentrated on Scotland but also coverage of England/Wales/Ireland and further afield.
- Research guides
- Side by Side Viewer – visualise how places have changed

Side by side georeferenced map

maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=5.0&lat=56.00000&lon=-4.00000&layers=1&right=ESRIWorld

National Library of Scotland
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

Map images

Map Finder | Georeferenced Maps | Side by Side

Swipe OFF | Swipe ON

Go to former Side by Side viewer

Search: Keyword search

Maps home > Ordnance Survey > Six-inch 2nd edition Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, 1888-1915

Right: ESRI World Imagery

+

-

+

-

Choose a layer (left-hand map):

1. Select a category:
Great Britain

2. Select a map / map series:
OS Six Inch, 1888-1915

[Zoom to this layer's extents](#) [View single List](#)

Filter layers

NL 28538 55781
28538, 755781
56.54655, -8.04736
56° 32' 48" N 8° 02' 51" W

Display map details? ([Zoom in](#))

[← Swap maps →](#)

NLS OS Six Inch, 1888-1913 layer

+

-

+

-

Choose a layer (right-hand map):

1. Select a category:
ESRI / OSM / LiDAR

2. Select a map / map series:
ESRI World Imagery

[Zoom to this layer's extents](#) [View single List](#)

Filter layers

Help

200 km

Map Key

8°C
Mostly cloudy

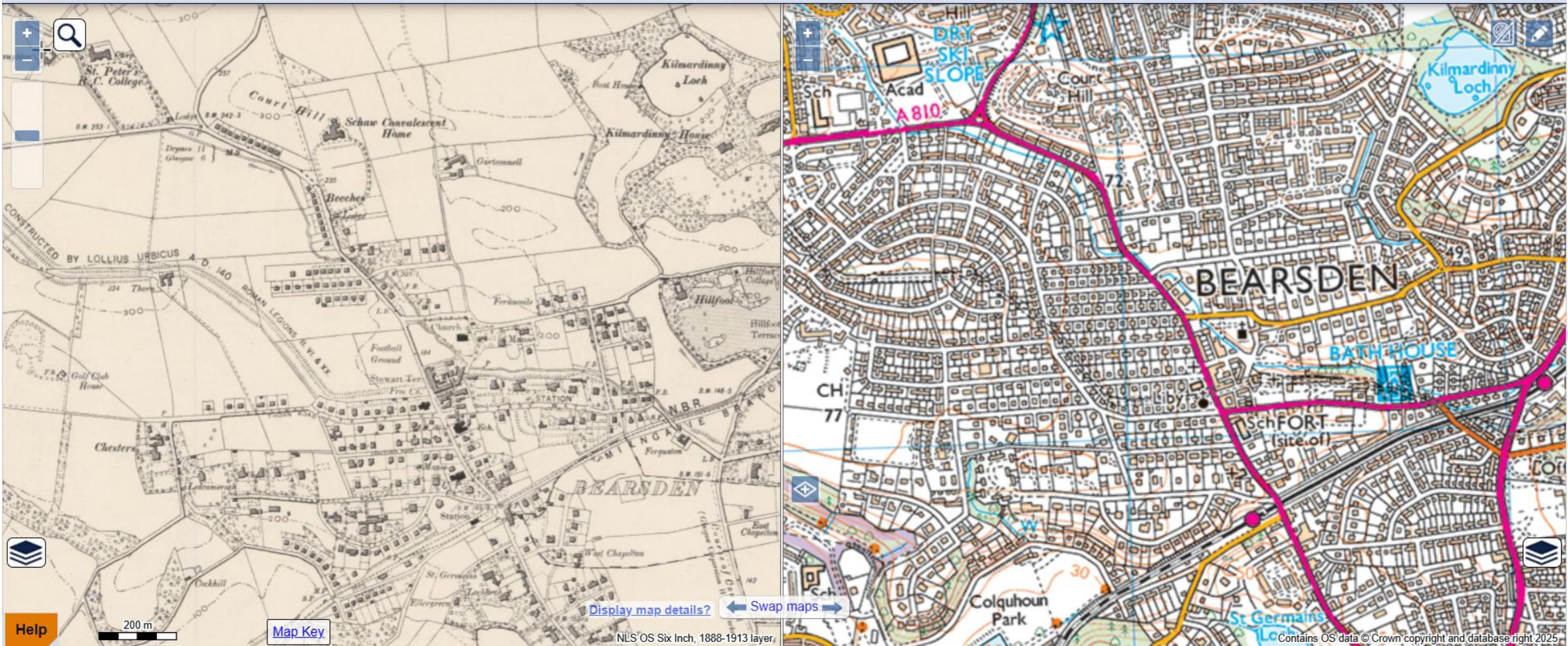
Search

Windows Taskbar

System Tray

Tiles © ArcGIS

roottech



World's largest gravesite collection.
Over 250 million memorials created by the community since 1995.

First Name Middle Name Last Name(s)

Year Born Exact Year Died Exact Cemetery Location Browse

SEARCH More search options Search tips

Photo of Bovina Cemetery by Brian J. Schifferdecker

is day
Eric Henry Liddell was born on this date in 1902.

famous graves, newly added graves, popular graves.

Add a Memorial Upload Photos Transcribe Photos Forums

Find the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials or add photos, virtual flowers and a note to a loved one's memorial. Search or browse cemeteries and grave records for every-day and famous people from around the world.


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Found it cheaper? We'll match it.
We'll price match against any other UK retailer, online or in store.
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4. Findagrave

- Volunteer run and maintained website, also Billiongraves which is similar
- Free to use – you don't need to register for an account.
- Search by name, cemetery location.
- May show photographs of gravestones, or transcriptions.



Joseph Adamson

BIRTH 1824

DEATH 1827 (aged 2–3)

BURIAL [Tinwald Parish Churchyard](#)
Tinwald, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland [Add to Map](#)


MEMORIAL ID 254380359 • [View Source](#)

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MEMORIAL PHOTOS 0 FLOWERS 0

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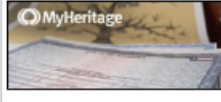
[Sponsor this memorial with an exclusive premium layout and no ads.](#)
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Inscription

Aged 3 years

Erected By Hugh Walker in Memory in Memory of Robert Adamson His Father in Law D. 1855 Aged 84y.
Henrietta Craig Wife of the Above D. 1848 Aged 66y.
Also Their Children Jane Adamson D. 1818 Aged 12.
Joseph D. 1824 Aged 17y.
Joseph D. 1827 Aged 3y.
Edward D. 1842 Aged 28y.
Agnes D. 1848 Aged 24y

- Example of transcribed information
- Click to “request a photo”
- Is transcription information enough?
- Also check local family history societies and church websites for transcribed information.
- Or why not get involved with photographing and transcribing yourself?



Search Census Records On MyHeritage
Easily find historical records. Start with a name:

First name Last name **Find**

Search our Census Records

Tip: Double-tab to move between fields

Person

Surname ⓘ	Forename(s) ⓘ	Birth year from ⓘ	Birth year to ⓘ
<input type="text" value="Optional"/>	<input type="text" value="Optional"/>	<input type="text" value="YYYY Optional"/>	<input type="text" value="YYYY Optional"/>

☐ **Name Soundex** ⓘ

Birth County ⓘ
Select one or more (hold Ctrl for multiple)

All Counties

England

England (ENG)

Bedfordshire (BDF)

Berkshire (BRK)

Birth Place
We are commencing development of the birth place search feature in the light of your feedback in the Birth Place survey. Our volunteers and developers have already undertaken extensive work to improve the quality of information about the place of birth that we hold, so that the 'type what you see' place of birth can be searched more meaningfully.

Census location & year

Census County ⓘ Select one or more (hold Ctrl for multiple)	Census Place ⓘ Select nothing or one place	Census year ⓘ Leave blank to search all
<div><div>All Counties</div><div>England</div><div>England (ENG)</div><div>Bedfordshire (BDF)</div><div>Berkshire (BRK)</div></div>	<div>List fills when you select one county</div>	<div>--</div> <div>1841</div> <div>1851</div> <div>1861</div> <div>1871</div>

☐ **Nearby places.**
Searches the nearest 100 places (with data) to the selected starting place.
Tip: If you are looking for data in Greater London we suggest you search London(City), Kent(KEN), Middlesex(MDX) and Surrey(SRY) because of boundary changes over time.

5. FreeCEN

- Ongoing project to transcribe British census records and make transcriptions free to access.
- Free to use – you don't need to register for an account.
- Coverage not complete, can check progress on website
- Volunteers welcome!

Database Records for Roxburghshire as of 16 Jan 2025

[Back to Totals for All Counties](#)

Places in Roxburghshire

You may view the Database Records for a specific Place and if there are Pieces Online also get a list of Names currently in the Database.

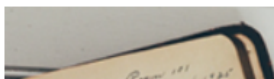
Note: Brackets after the Place name indicate there are Pieces Online for those years.

Place 

Select a Place in Roxburghshire ...

[View Place Records](#)

Advertisement



Find historical

Totals for All Places in Roxburghshire

Where applicable you can use the Action buttons to view a list of Pieces (including Civil Parish names)

Note: A * next to the number of Pieces Online indicates that only part of one or more pieces is currently online - use View Pieces to see details

Year	Pieces Online	Total Pieces	% Online	Records Online	New Pieces Online	Actions
1841	31	31	100.0	45436	0	View Pieces
1851	32	32	100.0	51569	0	View Pieces
1861	32	32	100.0	53730	0	View Pieces
1871	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

[Order certificate](#)

[New Search](#)[Revise Search](#)[Back to Results](#)[Previous Search Result](#)[Next Search Result](#)[Generate Citation](#)

Surname	Forenames	Relationship	Marital Status	Sex	Age	Occupation	Birth County	Birth Place	Disability	Notes
HEWAT	George	Head	M	M	56	Farmer	Roxburghshire	Maxton		
HEWAT	Margaret	Wife	M	F	53		Northumberland	Heiton		
HEWAT	Janet	Dau	U	F	25		Roxburghshire	Kelso		
HEWAT	William	Son	U	M	21	Agricultural Labourer	Roxburghshire	Kelso		
HEWAT	Helen	Dau	U	F	19		Roxburghshire	Kelso		
HEWAT	Christian	Dau	U	F	17		Roxburghshire	Kelso		
HEWAT	Walter	Son	U	M	15		Roxburghshire	Kelso		
HEWAT	Georgina	Dau	U	F	13		Roxburghshire	Kelso		

Explore

1,000 years of history

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[Smuggling gangs and coastal policing in 19th-century England](#)

Delve into the violent history of smuggling on the south coast of England.



[On the Record: Secrets of the Prize Papers](#)

Discover this significant collection of artifacts from ships captured by the British between 1652 and 1815.



[Coming soon - MI5: Official Secrets](#)

Find out about our upcoming exhibition in partnership with MI5.

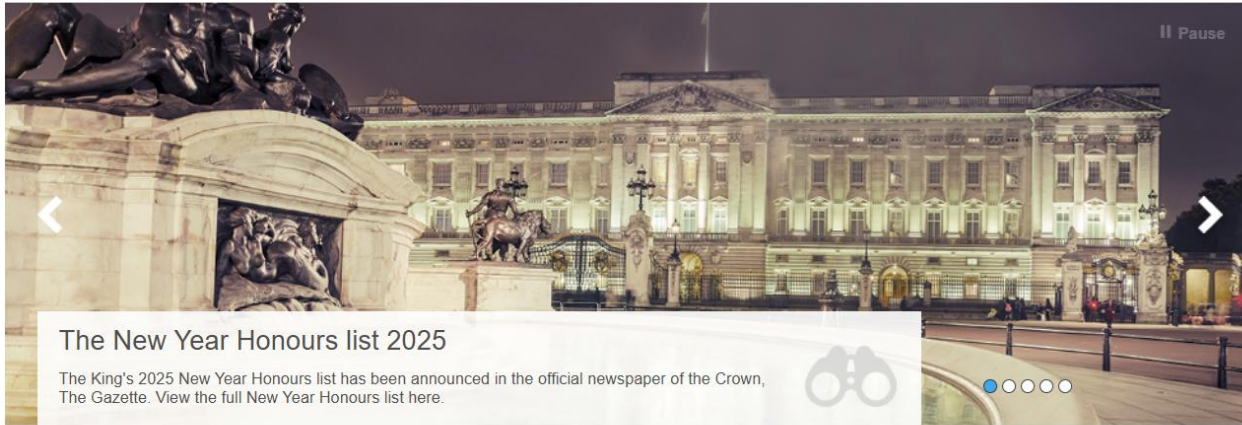


[Latest release of files from MI5](#)

Browse a selection of previously top secret files from MI5, released on 14 Jan 2025.

6. National Archives

- National records – covers all of Britain
- Search the catalogue for reference to families or locations you are interested in
- Not everything is digitized for download.
- Medal cards, naturalisation records, wills, photographs, government records, court records.
- Refine by date
- Register for an account to download free.



SEARCH THE ARCHIVES

Enter search text



Can't find it? Try our [Help and Guidance](#)

PLACE A NOTICE

- [Place an insolvency notice](#)
- [Place a deceased estates notice](#)
- [Place other notices](#)
- [Current price list](#)

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Live Chat

Available 8am-6pm.

7. Edinburgh Gazette

- Official government record.
- Official court notices
- Military promotions, honours, bankruptcies, insolvencies.
- Enter search text in box on left then options to refine by date or location

owing by or to the Company are to be paid or received by the Subscriber, Benjamin Gow, who continues to carry on the Business on his own account.

WILLIAM COCHRAN.
BENJAMIN GOW.

GEORGE GIBSON, Witness.

WILLIAM JAFFRAY, Witness.

Glasgow, February 3, 1853.

NOTICE OF RETIREMENT.

THE Subscriber, Lewis Ferguson, withdrew from the Business of Tailor and Clothier, carried on by him in Number 45, Queen Street, Glasgow, on the 31st day of January last, when he retired from all Business.

Signed at Glasgow this 1st day of February 1853.

LEWIS FERGUSON.

JOHN SINGER, Witness.

DANIEL FERGUSON, Witness.

WITH reference to the above Notice, Mr Lewis Ferguson takes occasion to acquaint the Public that he has made over his Business in favour of his Son, Mr James Ferguson, and Mr James Lillie, who will in future carry on the Business of Tailors and Clothiers in same premises, under the Firm of FERGUSON & LILLIE, and to recommend the new Firm to their favour, trusting that they may obtain equal support as he has hitherto done. Mr Ferguson farther requests that all accounts owing to him may be paid to Messrs Ferguson & Lillie.

LEWIS FERGUSON.
JAMES FERGUSON.
JAMES LILLIE.

45, Queen Street,
Glasgow, February 1, 1853.

7. Edinburgh Gazette

- Can extract information about business activities or financial problems
- Very useful for tracing military ancestors who served overseas and don't appear on census returns
- Good alternative to paid newspaper searches
- Often valuable genealogical information pre-dating civil registration.

Scottish Post Office Directories

Home
Browse and search
About the directories
Did you know?
Acknowledgements
Contact

Scottish Post Office directories provide a perfect basis for researching Scotland's family, trade, and town history



Over 700 digitised directories covering most of Scotland and dating from 1773 to 1911 are available here for you to use.

With their alphabetical list of a location's inhabitants and information on their profession and address, the directories enable you easily to find out where people lived at a certain time and how they earned their living.

In each directory you can:

- [Browse and search](#) by place, year and resident's name
- View page by page
- View a PDF of the complete book
- Search the full PDF text
- Download files for free within our copyright regulations (non-commercial use only).

The oldest volumes we have digitised were published in the late 1700s, when the demand for information about the increasing number of traders, businesses and industries grew rapidly.

Most of the directories were published annually.

This makes them a valuable resource, especially for the years not covered by the census which, starting in 1841, was only carried out every 10 years.

- [Read more about the directories](#)
- [Did you know?](#) — a sample of the interesting figures and curious facts you can find in directories
- [Acknowledgements](#) — the partner libraries involved in this digitisation project.



8. Post Office Directories

- Available through National Library of Scotland
- 700 digitized volumes covering Scotland
- Search by name or browse a town/city
- Useful for tracing between census
- Best coverage for Glasgow/Edinburgh

DISTRICT DIRECTORY.

BRIDGE OF ALLAN.

Abercrombie Drive.

Barclay, Charles, Mine cottage
 Clark, Wm., Clifton villa
 Cummings, J., Melville cottage
 Dickson, Miss, Isa villa
 Foggo, Misses, Ellora cottage
 Hanney, Thomas, Rokeby
 M'Isaac, J., Shenstone
 M'Lean, Jas. Grant, Norewood lodge
 Reid, Rev. John, Woodlee
 Somerville, Miss, lodgings, Blooming-
 hill, Spa terrace
 Spence, Mrs, Ashton house
 Stark, Dr., Underwood, Spa terrace
 Watson, Charles, The Ash Trees
 Wallace, Robert, gardener, Spring-
 field cottage

Aboukir Road.

Bain, Mrs, young ladies' boarding
 and day school, Hyndwood
 Bain, George, Hyndwood
 Balfour, Miss, Logielee
 Dawson, John, Wellpark
 Ewart, Miss, Claninver lodge
 Graham, Thomas, Deanville
 Mackieson, Mrs, Ville de Lancaster
 M'Rae, Mrs, Aboukir villa
 Miller, Rev. Dr James, F. C. Manse,
 Bungo park, Bridge of Allan
 Pullar, Laur., manufacturer, The Lea
 Troup, William, Eastwell
 Watson, Miss, Airthreycroft
 Watson, Mrs, Mine house

Allan Bank.

Campbell, David, tailor
 Donaldson, James, blacksmith
 Duncan, James, Lady of the Lake
 Hotel Bar
 Elder, Wm., baker and confectioner

Ferguson, Alexander, tanner
 Fleming, John, shoemaker
 Geddes, Robt., shoemaker, Josephine
 cottage
 Kinloch, Archibald, tailor
 M'Intyre, John, grocer
 M'Kay, Miss
 Russel, William, clerk
 Young, J. B., nurseryman

Allan Terrace.

Ferguson, Wm., blacksmith, No. 1
 Hadden, Sam., garden labourer, No. 2
 Martin, R., engineer, No. 3

Allan Vale.

Arnold, James, foreman lapper, Keir-
 field cottages
 Balfour, James, painter
 Bruce, John, bleacher, 13 Victoria
 cottages
 Bruce, Michael, millwright, Victoria
 cottages
 Bruce, John, bath attendant, Hydro-
 pathic
 Cameron, Mrs, 4 Allan vale
 Cameron, John, carter, 6 Victoria
 cottages
 Cannon, Alex., mechanic, 8 Victoria
 cottages
 Co-operative Society, Bridge-of-Allan
 —Alex. M'Farlane, manager
 Cruickshank, Alexander, coachman
 Davidson, Wm., mechanic, 14 Vic-
 toria cottages
 Ferguson, David, dyer, 15 Victoria
 cottages
 Ferguson, Mrs, 5 Victoria cottages
 Fyfe, David, agent for Thos. Muir,
 Son, & Patton, coal merchants
 Gardiner, Wm., dyer, 4 Victoria
 cottages

8. Post Office Directories

- Searching can be clunky if you are looking for a common name
- Good information about occupations or placed of employment
- What are their neighbours doing? Is this a prosperous street or not?
- Not that great for tracing women
- Cross-reference with maps

9. Virtual Mitchell

Virtual Mitchell

mitchelllibrary.org/virtualmitchell/home?WINID=1737029556040

Glasgowlife Virtual Mitchell

Enter your search term...

Area Search

Street Search

Subject Search

Field Search

Browse Images


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Copyright




These photographs feature Glasgow's buildings and streets as well as people going about their daily lives.

They will be of great interest to local historians, people researching their family history and anyone who would like a glimpse of Glasgow in days gone by.


Most of the photographs are from Glasgow City Archives and Special Collections, both of which are based in the Mitchell Library.

There are also images from Glasgow Museums and some have been kindly lent by private owners.


You can search by [area](#), [street](#), [subject](#) or [browse](#) through all the photographs.




Area Search



Street Search



Subject Search




Browse Images

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9°C Mostly cloudy

Search



12:12

16/01/2025

97, 103 Saltmarket, 1868



9. Virtual Mitchell


- Search by street name, topic, area
- Best way of seeing what your ancestors would have seen
- All photos dated, where possible
- Can download and share with others – but remember copyright laws.
- Similar sites for other parts of the country





Scottish Indexes

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Search for your Scottish Ancestors







10. Scottish Indexes

- Pay to see full record but is index enough
- Options to search entire collection or filter by record set
- Records on : criminal cases, paternity decrees, sasines, mental health, poor law
- Free “learning zone” and online conference
- Record cost varies as most held in National Records in paper format



Scottish Indexes

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Scottish Paternity Index Search Results

Sheriff Court Extracted Decrees

No results found

Sheriff Court Processes

Pursuer's Name, Occupation & Residence	Defender's Name, Occupation & Residence	Child Born	Year	Court
Agnes Stoddart, Canongate, Edinburgh	James Hewat, Farmer, Sorrowlessfield Mains	1830	1833	Jedburgh

[Full Record](#)

Kirk Session Cases

No results found

So in summary...

1. Scotland's People Indexes
2. Free resources on FamilySearch
3. National Library of Scotland maps
4. Findagrave
5. FreeCEN
6. National Archives
7. Edinburgh Gazette
8. Post Office Directories
9. Virtual Mitchell
10. Scottish Indexes

Download the handout for links and further information!

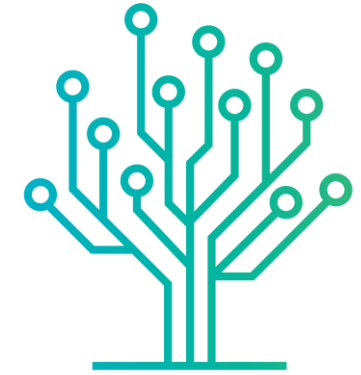
Presenter Contact Information



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: www.glasgowgenealogy.co.uk



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by FamilySearch



Bluesky: [@glasgowgenealogy.bsky.social](https://glasgowgenealogy.bsky.social)



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