

**Resources for Scotland Research by Gail Chaid: [gchaid@gmail.com](mailto:gchaid@gmail.com)**

**Websites:**

**Getting Started in Scottish Genealogy:**

<http://www.scotland.org/features/getting-started-in-scottish-genealogy>

**Books:**

\*Alister Moffat, **The Scots**, A Genetic Journey, 2012    **Scots in the USA** by Jenni Calder

\*Alister Moffat, **Before Scotland**

\*Anthony Adolph, **Tracing Your Scottish Family History**, Firefly Books, 2009

\***The Making of Scotland Series**, Wild Harvests, **The First People of Scotland**

by Bill Finlayson, 1998, Canongate Books

\*Michael A Taylor and Andrew C. Kitchener, **Scotland's Beginnings, Scotland Through Time**, 2007, 2012, National Museum of Scotland. (order thru ebay)

\***Family Tree Guidebook to Europe** by Dolan on Amazon

**A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering your Scottish Ancestors** by Linda Jonas and Paul Milner on Amazon, used books

**Discovering your Immigrant and Ethnic Ancestors**, by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, on Amazon used books.

**The Quaker Colonies**, A Chronicle of the Proprietors of the Delaware

by Sydney G. Fisher, Volume 8 in The Chronicles of America Series, 1919, Amazon, used

**Thee & Me, A Beginner's Guide to Early Quaker Records** by Lisa Parry Arnold, 2014, Amazon used books

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**Genealogy Tour Guides in Scotland**

**Ian Walker**, genealogist (64 lines done), excellent custom guide, Borders Journeys  
[ian@bordersjourneys.co.uk](mailto:ian@bordersjourneys.co.uk) Facebook or Google Border's Journeys or Ian Walker

**Christine Woodcock**, genealogist, guide in Edinburgh and Ontario, Canada  
[genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com](mailto:genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com)

Ian and Christine will be at Rootstech in Salt Lake City in Feb, 8-9-10 2017.

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**Websites:**

Scotland's People, <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

National Archives of Scotland: <http://www.nas.gov.uk/>

**National Library of Scotland:** [www.nls.uk/](http://www.nls.uk/)

**NLS Map Room:** <http://maps.nls.uk/>

**National Museum of Scotland:** <http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

Researching genealogy: <http://www.scotland-inverness.co.uk/gene-faq.htm>

**Maps**

**Maps Etc.** Printable Historic Maps, World Maps, State Maps,

<http://etc.usf.edu/maps/>

[http://etc.usf.edu/maps/galleries/us/earlyamerica14001800/index.php?](http://etc.usf.edu/maps/galleries/us/earlyamerica14001800/index.php?pageNum_Recordset1=1)

[pageNum\\_Recordset1=1](http://etc.usf.edu/maps/galleries/us/earlyamerica14001800/index.php?pageNum_Recordset1=1) **Early America Maps**

**National Library of Scotland. Get a free library card and order online.**

**NLS Map Room:** <http://maps.nls.uk/> (online maps, friendly staff, order online.)

**Bancroft Library, Berkeley,** <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library>

**David Ramsey Map Center, Stanford** (difficult to access library and map room)  
Tours for groups: contact G. Salim Mohammed, head and curator, Stanford Libraries  
[gsalim@stanford.edu](mailto:gsalim@stanford.edu) (650)723-5100 Green Library, 557 Escondido Mall, MC 6004,  
Stanford, Ca 94305-6004 [rumseymapcenter.stanford.edu](http://rumseymapcenter.stanford.edu)  
Emily Prince, Map Cataloger, (650)776-9412 cell [ebprince@stanford.edu](mailto:ebprince@stanford.edu),  
[rumseymapcenter.stanford.edu](http://rumseymapcenter.stanford.edu)  
<https://library.stanford.edu/rumsey>  
<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>

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1. **DNA**: recommended for 2016—more complete information  
**23andMe** - Genetic kit for ancestry | DNA Service \$199 regular price, on sale for \$149 around  
Mother's and Father's days and other holidays.  
<https://www.23andme.com/>

## 2. **Ancestry**

3. **National Geographic** (migration data, not enough information for DNA)

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### \***Local Genealogy Societies:**

\*Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society: <http://www.scchgs.org/>

\*Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group :<http://www.svcgg.org/>

\*San Mateo County Genealogical Society:<http://www.smcgs.org/>

### **Getting Started in Scottish Genealogy**

<http://www.scotland.org/features/getting-started-in-scottish-genealogy>

The **National Records of Scotland**, who run the **ScotlandsPeople** Centre in **Edinburgh**, also have historical search rooms offering access to family, business and church records, testaments, registers of property and records of the government of Scotland. Please note that two passport size photos and proof of address are required to create a reader's ticket to allow you to enter these search rooms.

The National Records of Scotland also has family, business and church records, testaments, registers of property and records of the government of Scotland. If you're in **Glasgow**, the **Mitchell Library** has extensive family histories, voters rolls, street directories and graduation and emigrants lists.

### **The Highland Games Websites** (**Pleasanton** is the largest in the USA

<http://www.thescottishgames.com/> Clans gather here and have information.

**Google: Surname, Kinship or Clan** and get more the information. **Find My Past** has some records as does **Family Search, Ancestry and Cyndi's List**. Scotland's People might be good for 1800-1900 but before 1800 research there will be spotty. About 25 % of people who visit Scotland's People are successful. **Dr. David Dobson's** books in all FHL centers are helpful.  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/David\\_Dobson](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/David_Dobson).

**The National Library of Scotland, The NLS Map Room** are exceptional. The Mitchell Library in Glasgow's proven to be helpful to some. Just using Google to research topics can lead to many discoveries. The most difficult research has been in states where early records are nil. Accessing the **Santa Clara City Library** and getting help from the volunteers there and in FHL centers, has proven to be helpful. **Ancestral Quest and PERSI** can be promising.

## **1. Where do I start?**

One of the first things you should do is speak to your relatives as a starting point to seek out documentary evidence. You should also gather together any old photographs, letters and other documents.

Decide what you want to achieve, and work backwards starting with someone who was alive in the early 20th century as birth, marriage, death and census information is readily available back from then. Censuses are useful as they can give a snapshot of a family at one place and time. Be persistent and don't give up if you hit a dead end. Temporarily shelve it and work on something else.

Possibly the best place to start is the [National Archives](#), the official source of genealogical information for Scotland and one of the largest online sources of ancestral information with almost 80 million records to look through.

## **2. What resources are available online?**

If you've got Scottish ancestors then you're in luck because Scotland is a world-leader in providing family history information online.

Amongst the most useful websites is ScotlandsPeople which provides online access (for a fee) to Scotland's official registers of births, marriages and deaths as well as census records from 1841 to 1911 and digitised wills and testaments from Scotland's National Archives and Scottish Catholic Archives records.

For births less than 100 years old, marriages less than 75 years old and deaths less than 50 years old, it is only possible to view the index entries over the internet and extract certificates need to be ordered to view the detail on the certificates.

So if you know of an ancestor who was born, married or died in Scotland after 1553 – the date of the earliest records - you may very well be able find out about them online.

## **3. My ancestors emigrated from Scotland. Where can I find out more about when they emigrated and what ship they sailed on?**

The Scots travelled and settled all over the world, however information on emigrants and migrant is sparse in Scotland. There are sources of information available to discover more about your ancestors emigrating from Scotland, although it may depend on when your ancestors emigrated as to how much information you can find.

Initially, there was no legal requirement to record emigrants; the paperwork was all done at the port of arrival. However, official passenger lists were compiled by the Board of Trade from 1890 to 1960 – and these were all kept in the National Archives of London. They have now been made available online and can be accessed via the Find My Past website [Find My Past](#), where you will find details of every passenger who left from a UK port, including all Scottish ports, for destinations around the world between these dates.

Another useful website for information on ancestors who migrated to the USA is the Ellis Island website, which has over 20 million entries.

The Scottish Emigration Database currently contains the records of over 21,000 passengers who embarked at Glasgow and Greenock for non-European ports between 1 January and 30 April 1923, and at other Scottish ports between 1890 and 1960.

The Highlands & Islands Emigration Society assisted almost 5,000 people to leave western Scotland for Australia between 1852 and 1857. You can find out more about their work at the Scottish Archive Network.

If your ancestor was caught up in the Highland Clearances, you may find them listed at the Clearances website.

#### **4. What are Scottish census records and how can they help in genealogy research?**

The Scottish census, taken every 10 years since 1801, can provide a fascinating snapshot of a day in the life of your ancestors. It can also provide details of anyone else who happened to be in the house at the time, including servants, lodgers and visitors.

Census records can also give you some idea of how your family lived, for example, recording how many rooms with one or more windows their house contained. Geographic mobility can be tracked through the given birthplaces and social mobility through addresses and occupations.

The returns of most use to the family historian are those from 1841 onwards. Records may only be inspected after 100 years, so the census records currently available for public scrutiny are 1841-1911. You can access census records on the ScotlandsPeople website.

The population tables and associated published statistical reports can be viewed for free at [www.histpop.org](http://www.histpop.org)

#### **5. How do I trace my family clan?**

You can use the Ancestral Scotland's clan search facility to see whether your surname is linked to one of Scotland's famous clans. This will also give you an initial idea of where your family may have come from, as many clans are associated with distinctive geographical areas of Scotland. There, you'll also find a history of the clan and the tartans relating to it.

#### **6. Do I have a family tartan?**

Almost every surname in Scotland has links to an ancient clan, and with it, the right to wear a distinctive tartan.

An official Register of Tartan is maintained by the National Records of Scotland and housed in General Register House in Edinburgh. The Register is available online providing detailed information about the hundreds of different patterns and their history. Anyone can create their own tartan and, as long as it is unique and complies with the standards laid down, it too will be placed on the Register.

Go to the Tartan Register website to research or design your own tartan.

### **7. Where can I find out about occupations and where my ancestor worked?**

Discovering what your ancestors did for a living can provide a fascinating insight into their lives. In the middle ages, most Scots would have worked the land or fished the sea. However, the industrial revolution changed the nature of the workplace forever.

You might find the names of occupations in census records or other family records such as birth, marriage or death certificates. You can find out some common occupations and suggested sources of additional information at the Ancestral Scotland website .

You can also get information on occupations at the ScotlandsPeople website, and statistical information from the census can be viewed at [www.histpop.org](http://www.histpop.org)

### **8. Why can't you get a Scottish birth or death certificate prior to 1855?**

Civil registration (birth, marriage and death certificates) did not begin in Scotland until 1855. For the 300 years before that, records of births and baptisms, banns and marriages and deaths and burials were kept by the Church of Scotland - these are known as the Old Parochial Registers or Old Parish Registers (OPRs).

Parish ministers or session clerks usually assumed responsibility for maintaining the registers, but since there was no standard format employed, record keeping varied enormously from parish to parish and also from year to year. You can search the surviving 3,500 volumes of OPRs on ScotlandsPeople.

### **9. How far back can I get with my Scottish family tree?**

That depends how much time and resource you have, as well as on many factors such as the survival of records and mobility and social status of the family.

Theoretically, those using the ScotlandsPeople archives can get back to the 1500s. If you know your ancestors lived and died in Scotland, you should easily get as far back as the mid-1800s. Records before 1855 are less reliable so there is no guarantee you will find ancestors before this date.

You might want to consider joining a family history society who can prove invaluable in your research. Most societies publish newsletters, and indexes of memorial inscriptions. Many also have well stocked libraries. Find out more at the Scottish Association of Family Histories.

10. I'd like to come to Scotland to see it for myself and do some further research. Where should I start?

Don't just learn about your Scottish heritage, live it! Try on the kilt of your clan, touch the walls of your family home, explore the fields and farms your ancestors once worked in and see the very documents that chronicled their lives.

If you already live in Scotland or you get the chance to visit, why not make a trip to the ScotlandsPeople Centre in Edinburgh in person. Although there's a lot you can do online, you can get access to even more records at the Centre itself, including images of birth, marriage and death records right up to almost the present day. If you're a complete beginner, you can also book an assisted search with a ScotlandsPeople staff member.

The National Library also has a number of publications dealing with early data including: the International Genealogical Index with some records going back to the Middle Ages; Old Parochial Records; monumental inscriptions; and census information, as well as copies of historical newspapers. The National Library's website has a wealth of digitised maps that can be viewed for free on line and these maps can help you decide what parts of Scotland you want to visit.

The **National Records of Scotland**, who run the **ScotlandsPeople** Centre, also have historical search rooms offering access to family, business and church records, testaments, registers of property and records of the government of Scotland. Please note that two passport size photos and proof of address are required to create a reader's ticket to allow you to enter these search rooms.

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