

# Beginners Guide To Scottish Research

## County Name Changes

Since the late 1800s, the names of five counties in Scotland have changed.

<u>Current Name</u>	<u>Old Name</u>
Midlothian	Edinburghshire (changed in 1889)
Moray	Elginshire (changed in 1918)
Angus	Forfarshire (changed in 1928)
East Lothian	Haddingtonshire (changed in 1921)
West Lothian	Linlithgowshire (changed in 1924)

## Scottish Census Records Timeline

- 1801 First national census in Scotland was taken. Census records originally only contained statistical information. The census was taken every 10<sup>th</sup> year after that.
- 1841 First national census of genealogical value that survives.
- 1851 First national census to give exact ages, relationships, and birthplaces.
- 1855 Government registration of births, marriages, and deaths, known as civil registration, began.

## Scottish Naming Customs

The first son was named after the father's father.

The second son was named after the mother's father.

The third son was named after the father.

The first daughter was named after the mother's mother.

The second daughter was named after the father's mother.

The third daughter was named after the mother.

## **INTERNET RESOURCES**

### **SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE**

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

Partnership between the General Register Office for Scotland, the National Archives of Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon

Births 1553-1905

Marriages 1553-1930

Deaths 1855-1955

Census Data 1861-1901

Wills and Testaments 1513-1901

### **NEW REGISTER HOUSE**

[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

Home of the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS)

Census returns for 1841-1851

Army, Navy and Air Force Registers

Register of Divorced (from 1984)

Adopted Children Register (1909 and on)

Scottish births, deaths and marriages occurring outside Scotland

### **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND**

[www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

Scotland's largest library

Scottish Historical clubs and societies (from the 19<sup>th</sup> century)

State papers

Electoral Registers

Military listings

Graduation rolls

Emigration (passenger lists and info from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century)

Newspapers going back to 18<sup>th</sup> century

Social and local history info

Maps

### **NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND (NAS)**

[www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)

Varied records from 12<sup>th</sup> century to present

Formal records of law courts, land transfers, estate papers, church records.

Register of wills and testaments fro 16<sup>th</sup> century to present

Register of Sasines from 1617

Lists of properties and lands

Services of heirs and Retours of heirs

## **INTERNET RESOURCES (CONTINUED)**

### **INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)**

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

The IGI contains information on births, baptisms, christenings and marriages. Information is based on the Old Parish Records and serves as a guide.

### **MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS**

[www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com)

The Scottish Genealogy Society has the largest collection of Scottish monumental inscriptions in the world.

### **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**

[www.safhs.org.uk/](http://www.safhs.org.uk/)

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies has a list of Scottish, English and overseas societies.