

# Beyond ScotlandsPeople: Breaking Down Brick Walls in Scottish Research

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## Overview

The genealogical records of Scotland are second to none in their detail, but what do you do when the time, place, or people you're researching aren't covered by those records? This talk will cover the strategies to use when meeting "brick walls", and in identifying alternative records, exploring migration resources, and overcoming language barriers.

To do so, I will explore:

### **Substitute Records**

- Kirk session minutes
- Probate records
- Estate papers
- Poor Law applications

### **Relocation Records**

- Census
- Emigration databases
- Passenger lists
- British overseas government records
- Identifying Scottish places

### **Oral Histories**

- Interview relatives & other local people
- Published histories
- Local heritage groups or projects
- Online repositories

## **The Language Barrier**

- Latin
- Gaelic
- Historic handwriting
- Scots Language

## **Identifying Your Archive**

- National – London, Edinburgh
- Local – city or county council
- Private – landowners, businesses
- Academic – educational institutions
- SCAN Catalogue
- NRAS

## **Online Databases**

ScotlandsPeople

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

FindMyPast

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk>

FreeCen

<https://www.freecen.org.uk>

FamilySearch

<https://www.familysearch.org>

## **Substitute Records**

Kirk Session Records

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/the-riches-of-the-scottish-kirk-session-records>

NRS Pre-1841 Census Information in the Kirk Session Records

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records/pre-1841-census-records>

Wills & testaments <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/wills-and-testaments>

The Inventory <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/scottish-handwriting/tutorials/testaments-tutorial/inventory>

KLTR <https://www.kltr.gov.uk>

Bona Vacantia <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/bona-vacantia>

Estate records

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/estate-records>

Estate Maps of Scotland

<https://maps.nls.uk/estates/>

Perth & Kinross Archive Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PerthKinrossArchive>

(Arngask labourers' pay book posted 22 March 2021)

National Records of Scotland Catalogue

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/welcome.aspx>

Poor Relief records

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/poor-relief-records>

Glasgow Poor Law Records from 1845

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/family-history/research-guides/poor-law-from-1845>

## **Relocation Records**

ScotlandsPlaces <https://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

CANMORE <http://canmoremapping.rcahms.gov.uk/>

Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845  
<https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>

GENUKI <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct>

Scottish Emigration Database  
<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/emigration/search.html>

ISTG <https://www.immigrantships.net/index.html>

Highland & Island Emigration Society records (on SP)  
<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/highland-and-island-emigration-society-records>

Scots Abroad Database <https://www.nls.uk/catalogues/scots-abroad>

Armadale Library & Archives  
<https://www.armadalecastle.com/explore/library-archives/>

Clearances <http://www.theclearances.org/clearances/people.php>

FamilyRelatives.com

Overseas Records  
[https://www.familyrelatives.com/post\\_search.php?s=11](https://www.familyrelatives.com/post_search.php?s=11)

Years Covered  
<https://www.familyrelatives.com/articles/details.php?aid=46>

## **Oral Histories**

National Library of Scotland: Scotland's Sounds  
<http://scotlands-sounds.nls.uk/index.php/online-sound-collections/collections-with-online-recordings/>

Perth & Kinross Sound Archive  
[https://scotlands-sounds.nls.uk/index.php/collections-directory/?dir=2&name\\_directory\\_startswith=P](https://scotlands-sounds.nls.uk/index.php/collections-directory/?dir=2&name_directory_startswith=P)

Scottish Oral History Centre  
<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/departmentofhumanities/history/scottishoralhistorycentre/>

## **Language Barriers**

National Records of Scotland Palaeography

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/palaeography>

Dictionaries of the Scots Language <https://dsl.ac.uk/>

Scottish Catholic Archives

<https://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk/Home/Genealogy>

Latin Genealogical Word List

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img\\_auth.php/3/35/Latin\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List.pdf](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/3/35/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List.pdf)

The Genealogical Histories of Scotland by Martin MacGregor

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327122115\\_The\\_genealogical\\_histories\\_of\\_Gaelic\\_Scotland](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327122115_The_genealogical_histories_of_Gaelic_Scotland)

Basic Scottish Gaelic terms for genealogists

<https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/2023/07/basic-scottish-gaelic-terms-for.html>

## **How to Find Records**

SCAN Catalogue <https://www.scan.org.uk/aboutus/indexonline.htm>

National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS)

<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/search.aspx>

NRAS for Researchers

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/record-keeping/national-register-of-archives-for-scotland/nras-for-researchers>

UK National Archives (Kew) <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

## **Scottish National Repositories in Edinburgh**

National Records of Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research>

National Library of Scotland <https://www.nls.uk/>

## Connect with the Presenter via

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