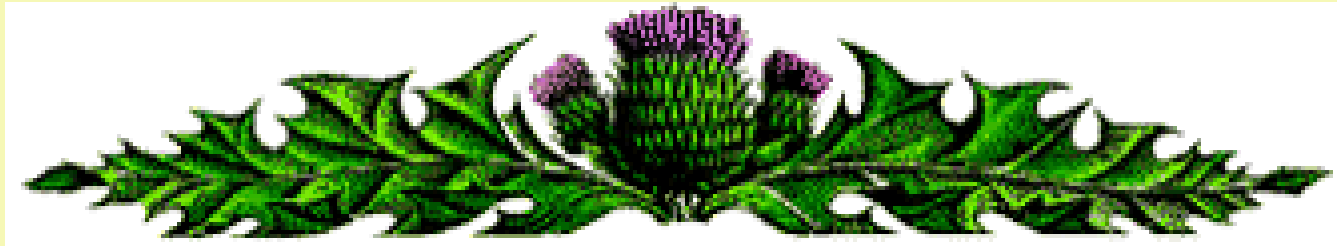


Overview of Scottish Genealogy

Fàilte

(Welcome in Scots Gaelic)



Laura W. Carter
Heritage Room Librarian
Athens-Clarke County Library
24 January 2009

Basic political terminology

- **Great Britain** includes Scotland, England, and Wales
- **The United Kingdom** has different meanings at different times. 1801-1920, U.K. included Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. 1921 to present, U.K. includes Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- **British Isles** includes Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man

Basics are the same

- Begin with what you know and work back in time
- Thoroughly document what you find and cite your sources so that you can evaluate the validity of conflicting information
- Thoroughly research each generation before moving to the previous one
- You are always looking for parents

Record Your Information

- Pedigree charts
- Family group sheets
- Family data sheets
- And more

What we use and look for

- A source is **any means** (person, document, book, artifact, or repository) through which we acquire information
- Evidence is the **information** provided by a source. It can support or work against our hypothesis.
- Proof "**the thought process** by which we reach a convincing conclusion (assertion of fact) based on the evidence (information statements) we gleaned from the sources (people, documents, books, artifacts, or repositories) we examined."
Devine, PG, p. 332

Modern genealogy has developed 3 sets of criteria:

- The terms **original and derivative** are applied to **Sources**
- The terms **primary or secondary** are used to determine **where the Information came from**
- And the terms **direct or indirect or circumstantial** are applied to evidence.

From Devine, Donn. "Evidence Analysis," Mills, Elizabeth Shown, editor. *Professional Genealogy: a Manual; for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2001.

Organize your information

- Find a system and use it
- Evaluate what you have found after each research visit so you will know what you have found and what your next questions are

Modern 4 Step Research Process

1. Internet research
2. Library search
3. Family History Centers
4. Trip to Scotland

According to Jonas and Milner; pages 8-9

Internet search

- Look for records for time and place where your ancestor was here. Censuses are always key.
- Then go across the water using census.
- Do an online surname search to see what you can find. Then document and double check.
- Look for information on the place your ancestor was at the time s/he was there.

Library Search

- Check PINES/EverGreen to search for books in the PINES network in Georgia. For information on how to use EverGreen go to handout we posted at:
http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/evergreen_training_notes.pdf
- Search Univ. of Ga. Libraries' Catalogs
<http://www.libs.uga.edu>
- Search WorldCat.org
- Use Interlibrary loan (ILL) to find materials in other libraries that you need

Family History Centers

- Use FamilySearch.org to search IGI and other resources including the Family History Library catalog.
- Familysearch.org > Research helps> Guidance > S > Scotland
- Order microfilm through local Family History Center for viewing original records.

Trip to Scotland

- Enjoy the cities and countryside and explore where your ancestors were.

Take lots of photos

Differences in Genealogy in the U.S. and in Scotland

- **U.S.** – Records at county courthouses
- **Scotland** – almost no records used early in genealogy were created by local governments – Scottish records created by national government and by the Church of Scotland in its parishes

Differences in Genealogy in the U.S. and in Scotland

- **U.S.** – State governments collect vital statistics and each state chose when this started.
- **Scotland** – National government began recording births, deaths, marriages in 1855. Called civil registration. There are national indexes to these records.

Differences in Genealogy in the U.S. and in Scotland

- **U.S.** – Decennial censuses began 1790 and most have some level of indexing
- **Scotland** - British government began taking national census in 1801 and has continued every 10 years but don't have as much indexing

Differences in Genealogy in the U.S. and in Scotland

- **U.S.** - Probate records by county
- **Scotland** – centralized probate system since 1876 that covers all of Scotland and is indexed

Differences in Genealogy in the U.S. and in Scotland

- **U.S.** – Church records are hard to find and use
- **Scotland** – Church records are one of the most important sources to be used.

Vocabulary

- **Non-conformist** – one book indicated that anyone who did not belong to the church in power was a non-conformist. When Presbyterians in power, the Episcopalians considered non-conformist and vice versa. Other prominent non-conformist denominations were Quakers, Methodists, Congregationalists. Some Baptists

Vocabulary

- Just as things are called different things from one state to another in the U.S.
- Terms are very different from U.S. to Scotland
- A few examples follow:

Vocabulary Examples

- **Commissariat or Commissary Courts -**
A court concerned primarily with wills.

Last Will & testament – Will is used to designate how a person want his/her real property (land and buildings) to be distributed. Testament describes who gets the personal or moveable property.

Until 1868, no choice as to who got real property. Real property automatically went to nearest legal heir which meant people could not write a will until 1868.

Vocabulary Examples

- **Testament** – recorded person's wishes about personal property.
- Two types of testaments:
 - Testament testamantar – written by person before death
 - Testament dative – written by court when person did not leave a written testament

Time in Scotland

- Scotland adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1600, but England did not begin using it until 1752.
- This means that depending on whether you are reading something written by a Scots person or an English person the same event may have different dates.



Thank You

Tapadh Leibh (tap-uh leev)

See You Soon

Chi mi dh'aithghearr sibh
(Chee mee ghie-yar sheev)