

Researching Scottish Ancestors

Class 5: Strategies and Case Studies

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Using various strategies, you can combine what you've learned in previous classes to analyze your Scottish ancestors. This class will introduce combining primary sources and generic searches to further your research. The second half of the class will introduce strategies about Scottish tartan, Scottish heraldry, and using DNA for your research to find ancestors and cousins.

Tracing Origins through Records

Examining the Census for Clues

- FAN – Family, Associate and Neighbors.
- Is the birthplace of the parents in Scotland?
- Other immigrants in the same household from Scotland: Relatives or Associates.

Church and Vital Records – Scotland, America, or Canada

- Research who the Witnesses are on baptism, and marriage records are in Church records
- Research who the "Informant" is on death records.

Passenger Lists

- Notice who is immigrating together at the same time from the same village or country.
- Are these same individuals your ancestor knew in Scotland, or later became associates, neighbors, or family members in the United States?

Naturalization Records

- Often birthplace in Scotland, or at least the county in Scotland should be listed.
- Research the naturalization of the witnesses to see if their origin in Scotland is similar
- Were the witnesses "Family, Associates, or Neighbors"

Tip: On occasion the place of residence or birth can simply be listed as United Kingdom of England Ireland and, Scotland

Scottish Tartans and Heraldry

Scottish Register of Tartans Website: <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/index>

Scotland Heraldry Explained from FamilySearch Wiki:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Heraldry

Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms

- Address: 1 W Register St, Edinburgh EH2 2AA, United Kingdom Phone: +44 131 556 7255
<https://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/>
- In 1672 Scotland per the Act of the Scottish Parliament, the Lord Lyon King of Arms was authorized to keep a Public Register of all Arms and Bearings
- All coats of arms lawfully borne in Scotland were recorded with the Lord Lyon King of Arms

DNA and Scottish Origins

Using DNA to Determine Scottish Origins

- DNA testing companies
- Various types of DNA
- Y-DNA: Y-chromosome is passed from father to son
- MtDNA: Maternal DNA passed from mother to child
- Autosomal DNA: Inherited from all your ancestors within 5 or 6 generations
- Ethnicity Estimates
- DNA matches

Genealogical vs. Genetic Tree

- Genealogical Tree includes all your ancestors
- Genetic Tree only includes the ancestors you inherited DNA from
- 100% probability of inheriting DNA from great-grandparent or 2G-grandparent
- 95% for 5G-grandparent
- <50% for 8G-grandparent
- 15% for 10G-grandparent

Choosing a Testing company

- **FamilyTreeDNA:** <https://www.familytreedna.com/> Only company currently offering Y-DNA and mtDNA testing; their autosomal test is called Family Finder.
- **AncestryDNA:** <http://dna.ancestry.com/> - only offers Autosomal; DNA Matches
- **MyHeritage:** <https://www.myheritage.com/> - only offers Autosomal; DNA Matches
- **23andMe:** <https://www.23andme.com/> - only offers Autosomal; DNA Relatives
- **LivingDNA:** <https://livingdna.com/> - only offers Autosomal; Family Networks

Reference Panels used to determine your ethnicity

- DNA samples from populations in a specific area
- People with documented ancestry from the area
- Each company has different sets of samples

What group are you in?

- Algorithms are used for assigning regions
- May be put in a broader region
- Labels may be confusing and not always accurate

Ethnicity Estimates

- Usually about 500-1000 years ago
- Ancestry and 23andMe may be within 500 years
- Overall, it can be misleading or inaccurate
- May change over time

How can DNA help?

- Underutilized in Scottish research
- Find distant relatives to broaden family tree
- Can help determine:
 - Parents names and origins
 - New perspectives
 - Test/prove hypotheses not found in records
 - Can't be used alone

Your Family Tree

- Evaluate your tree and identify your gaps or brick walls
- Yours should include through your earliest known ancestors
- Include all dates and locations of births, marriages, and deaths?
- All Locations where family lived and moved to?
- All children and siblings?
- May want to include hypothetical relations

Scottish Naming Conventions

Guide to Given Names: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/forenames>

- 1st son named after father's father
- 2nd son named after mother's father
- 3rd son named after father
- 1st daughter named after mother's mother
- 2nd daughter named after father's mother
- 3rd daughter named after mother

Tip: Your well-researched tree will help you find clues and commonalities in your match's tree

Working with your DNA matches

- Look for people or surnames in common
- Look for locations in common
- Ask questions and be patient for answers
- Work together and share information
- Always confirm with genealogical records
- May need to build out your match's tree and find more information

Tip: Transfer or test at multiple companies

Upload to GEDmatch <https://www.gedmatch.com/>

- Free Research Tools
- Create an Account
- Download Your Raw DNA

Websites

23andMe: <https://www.23andme.com/>

Ancestry.com: <https://www.ancestry.com/> AncestryDNA: <http://dna.ancestry.com/>

Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms <https://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/>

DNA Painter: Shared cM Project Tool version 4 <https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>

Ellis Island Arrivals: <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/>

FamilySearch.org: <https://www.familysearch.org/>

FamilyTreeDNA: <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

Fatal Accident Inquiry Records:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/fatal-accident-inquiry-records>

Gedmatch: <https://www.gedmatch.com/>

LivingDNA: <https://livingdna.com/>

MyHeritage: <https://www.myheritage.com/>

Scotland Heraldry on FamilySearch Wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Heraldry

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

Guide to Given Names: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/forenames>

Scottish Register of Tartans Website: <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/index>