


**Tracing Scottish Ancestry:
Records, Resources, and
Research Strategies**
*Class 1: Origins and Journeys:
Migrations to the U.S. and Canada*
Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist
THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER
 **American Ancestors**
A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



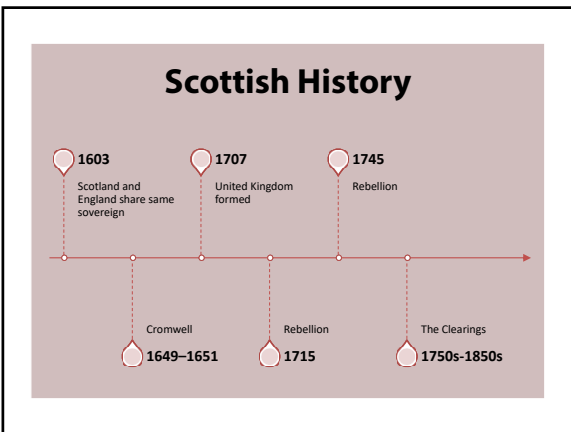
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OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - History
 - Waves of immigration
 - Published compilations
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**








Early Immigration

Earliest Immigration

- Scotland's inclusion in Great Britain allowed it to establish settlements in the New World
 - Small, short-lived colonies established
 - Nova Scotia (1629)
 - East Jersey (1683)
 - South Carolina (1684)
 - New Caledonia at Darien near Panama (1698)
 - Darien (New Inverness) Georgia (1736)
 - Much slower momentum of immigration to America by Scots


Earliest Immigration

- Scots had been migrating to European areas since Middle Ages
- 16th & 17th centuries, they helped colonize:
 - The Hebrides
 - Orkney
 - Shetland
- Approximately 50,000 Scots were in Ulster by 1650



The Scots Irish are those who had arrived in Ulster from Scotland and ultimately moved on to America, many arriving in Pennsylvania.

The ships they took from Belfast were often those that had come from the American Colonies with flax seed and, now empty, made money carrying passengers back to America.



Map of short-lived settlements


NOVA SCOTIA (1629 - 1632)
EAST ABBOT (1683 - 1700)
STUART'S TOWN, CAROLINA (1683 - 1690)
LARGE NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY (1683 - 1700)
NEW CALLEDONIA, ALABAMA (1688 - 1700)

Nova Scotia - History

- Originally the Colony of Acadia (French)
- 1621 – France cedes parts of it to England
- 1621 – King James I of England (James VI of Scotland) grants a charter to create the colony of Nova Scotia (New Scotland)
- Settled by Sir William Alexander of Menstrie in 1629
- Settlement lasts only until 1632

East Jersey

- The Jerseys were separate from 1664-1702
- Quakers from Scotland settled in East Jersey
- Had suffered ill treatment in Scotland



A historical map titled "EAST and WEST JERSEY 1664-1702" showing the geographical division of the region. The map includes various towns and settlements, with labels such as "NEW JERSEY" and "OLD JERSEY". The map is oriented with North at the top.

South Carolina

- 1684 – Arrival of 148 Scots from Gourock
- They were Covenanters (Covenant Presbyterians)
- Town was named Stuarts Town
- 1686 – Attacked by Spanish and Indian allies

Darien Scheme

- Trading colony at Darién on the isthmus of Panama
- 1696 – 2,500 Scottish settlers set out
- Lack of:
 - Provisions
 - Colonizing experience
- Disease and Spanish attacks

Darien, Georgia

- 1736 – Founded in January, named for the failed colony in Panama
- Scots came mainly from Inverness and referred to the town as “New Inverness”
- 1739 – Some Scots abandoned Darien for South Carolina
- Scots from here involved in the American Revolution

Push Factors

- Religious persecutions:
 - Quakers
 - Presbyterians
- Deportations (called “transportations”):
 - Criminals
 - Debtors
 - Losers of civil or ecclesiastical battles



Cromwell at Dunbar
by Andrew Carrick Dow



1649

- Execution of Charles I
- Scots support Charles II

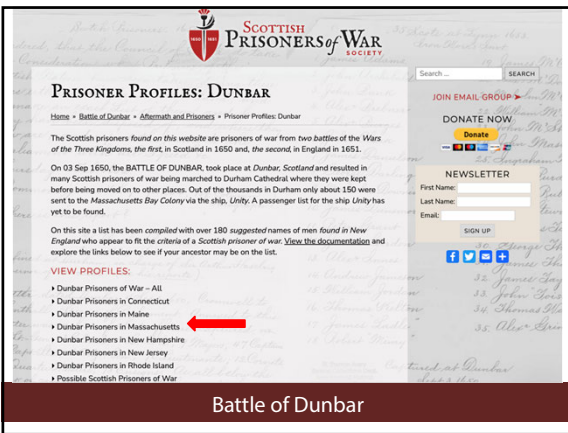
1650

- September 3
- Battle of Dunbar

1651

- September 3
- Battle of Worcester







BENNETT, JOHN

Home • Battle of Dunbar • Aftermath and Prisoners • Prisoner Profiles: Dunbar • Bennett, John

BATTLE: Battle of Dunbar in Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland

SHIPARRIVAL: Unity, Dec 1650

PRISONER AND LIST:

NAME VARIATIONS:

RESIDENCES:

OTHER SPOW ASSOCIATIONS:

Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy; please independently verify all data.

Published: 02 Dec 2014
 Updated: 09 Mar 2020
 Researchers: Andrew Millard, Teresa Rust
 Editor: Teresa Rust

John Bennett, #4 on George S. Stewart's Captured at Dunbar list.
 Name Variations: Benet
 Family Migration: Charlestown, Middlesex County, Massachusetts to Little Compton, Newport County, Rhode Island.

Contributed by Dr. Andrew Millard in July 2018:
 According to Christopher Gerrard, Pam Graves, Andrew Millard, Richard Annis, and Anwen Caffell, in *Lost Lives, New Voices: Unlocking the Stories of the Scottish Soldiers at the Battle of*

Prisoner Profile

Jacobite Rebellions



1715

- September 6: Starts in Braemar
- November 13: Battle of Sheriffmuir

1745

- July 23: Prince Charles lands on Eriskay Island
- September: Jacobites experience victories in England

1746

- Jacobites retreat into Scotland but continue to fight
- Battle of Culloden ends Jacobitism


QUESTIONS?



Voluntary Immigration

Voluntary Immigration

- 17th century – came mainly from the Lowlands
- 18th century – increase of emigration from the Highlands
- Most traveled as indentured servants



The map shows Scotland divided into two main regions: the Highlands in the north and west, and the Lowlands in the south and east. It also labels the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the North Sea to the north, and England to the south.

Highlands & Lowlands

- Lowlands:
 - Inhabited the east and south of Scotland
 - Partly Teutonic origins
 - Spoke a form of English derived from Teutonic tongue
- Highlands:
 - Center and west of Scotland
 - Spoke Gaelic
 - Barren lands
 - Required its men to raid for supplies

Immigration

- Began to increase in the 1730s
- Increase in rents
- 1763–1775 – Estimates of 25,000 Scots immigrating
 - Small amount went to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
 - Majority settled in the colonies
- Religious discrimination of the Roman Catholics

Cape Fear, North Carolina

- 1739 – 360 Highland Scots settle in North Carolina
 - Encouraged by Gabriel Johnston, royal governor
 - Were provided a 10-year tax exemption for emigrating
- Most Highlanders arriving in the early 1700s had land grants to the Upper Cape Fear region
- Lowlanders tended to settle in the Lower Cape Fear region
- Highlanders and Lowlanders intermarried in N.C.

[eI]
Many Scots, especially
Highlanders, were
Loyalists.

Post-American Revolution

- Many Scots elected to move to Canada or back to Scotland
- 1790 Census Population
 - 3,929,214 people
 - 6% or approximately 260,000 were Scottish
 - Scottish would have included the Scots Irish

19th Century

- Canada was more popular than the U.S. for immigrants
- U.S. immigration 1820–1851:
 - Seldom reached 1,000 immigrants per year
 - Some years under 100
 - Total of 10,525 in those 31 years

Table 1. Region of origin of 5,737 Scottish settlers in the United States from colonial times through 1854.

Region	Percentage of Scottish population	Percentage of Scottish emigration
Edinburgh and Lothians	12.5	10.6
Eastern borders	4.5	4.4
Glasgow, Lanark, Renfrew, and Ayr	24.2	21.7
Southwest	7.2	8.9
Fife, etc.	6.8	4.5
Stirling and Dunbarton	4.7	3.1
Aberdeen, Kincardine, and Angus	15.0	5.5
Perth	6.9	8.7
Inverness	4.5	9.3
Ross and Cromarty	3.5	3.7
Argyll	4.9	13.9
Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland	5.3	3.1

Source: Donald Whyte, *Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the U.S.A.* (Baltimore, 1972).

Origins of Scots to America

The Clearances

The Clearances

- Evictions of tenants
- 1750-1860
- Two phases:
 - Mid-18th century
 - 1815-1850
- Went against dùthchas – clan members inalienable right to rent land in clan territory
- Farmers becoming crofters

Highland Timeline

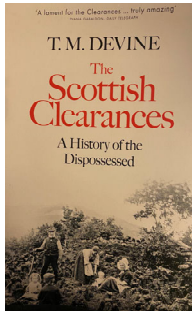
The diagram shows a horizontal timeline with an arrow pointing to the right. Six events are marked with red circles and connected to the timeline by dashed lines. The events are: 1746 Battle of Culloden, 1747 Act of Proscription, 1792 Year of the Sheep, 1807 The Sutherland Clearances, 1822 Collapse of the kelp industry, and 1846 The Potato Famine.

Year	Event
1746	Battle of Culloden
1747	Act of Proscription
1792	Year of the Sheep
1807	The Sutherland Clearances
1822	Collapse of the kelp industry
1846	The Potato Famine

Hungry Forties

- Potato famine in the Highlands
 - Clearance and emigration
 - 11,000 people provided with “assisted passage”, 1846–1856
 - 5,000 emigrated to Australia
 - Unknown number paid for their own emigration
 - Unknown number assisted by Colonial Land and Emigration commission

T.M. Devine



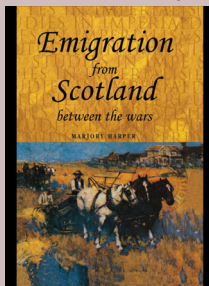
CLEARANCE BY STRATH

Table 4. Tenant numbers on eleven Lowland estates, 1735-1850

Estate	Period	Change in tenant numbers	
		Change in	Percentage
Brechin of Nisbet	1760-1850	43 → 31	-16
Crawford	1771-5	38 → 31	-16
Douglas	1774-1815	99 → 71	-27
Humblyton	1738-68	141 → 113	-19
Glague	1764-1806	35 → 19	-44
(Scarshon)			
Caenno	1741-82	37 → 32	-13
Ballicote	1770-1818	46 → 38	-17
Leven & Melville			
(Balgonie & Melville)	1750-80	114 → 131	+15
Morton	1733-1811	50 → 38	-24
(Aberdour)			
Peasnoe	1758-1826	177 → 176	-1
Ardie	1790-1821	111 → 103	-6
Eglinton	1757-1800	38 → 34	-11
(Culkeith)			

* The estate of Crawford figure only covers two years because it is derived from the original survey of farm requisitioning to be implemented in subsequent years.
A bracketed reference is to a history of the estate.

Marjory Harper



- *Emigration from Scotland Between the Wars* (published 1998)
- Looks at later clearances in the 20th century

Published Compilations

Published Compilations

- Books by Donald Whyte:
 - Four volumes of Scots to Canada
 - One volume of Scots to USA
- David Dobson:
 - Eight volumes of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625–1825
 - Five volumes of Scots in the USA and Canada, 1825–1875
- P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538–1900*

Donald Whyte

- *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation* (4 volumes)

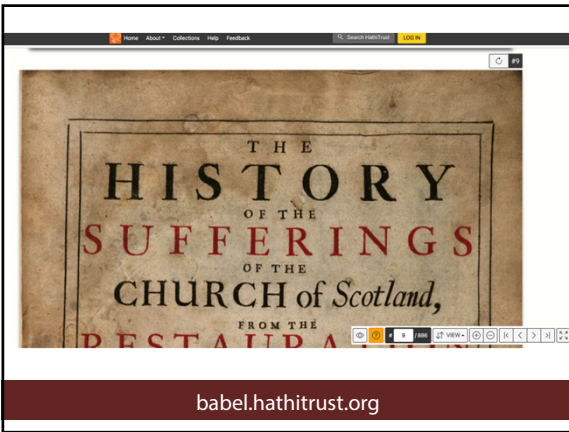
1964. **WHYTE, Donald**. Scots to Canada: A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation. 4 vols. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1964. 1,200 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-8890-0000-0.

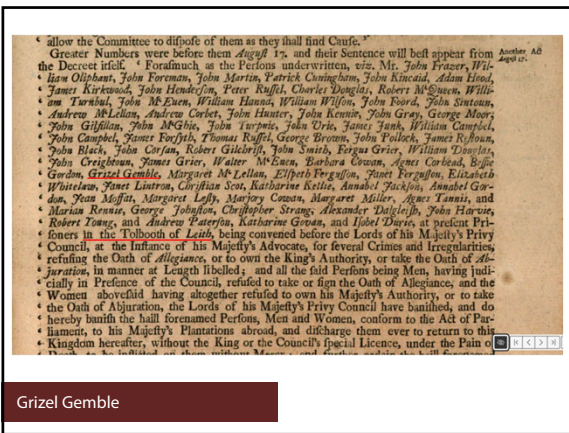
1965. **WHYTE, Donald**. Scots to the USA: A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the United States Before Confederation. 1 vol. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1965. 400 pp. \$9.95. ISBN 0-8890-0001-0.

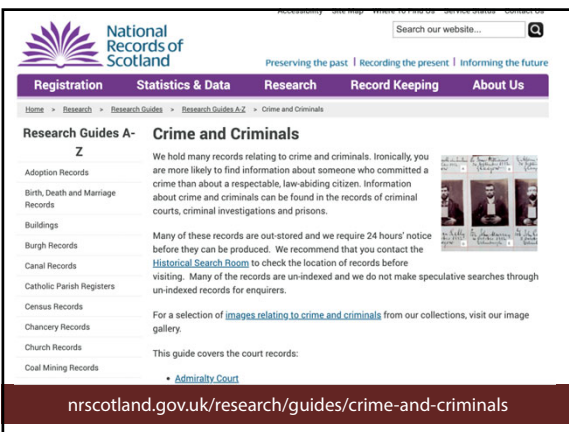
1966. **WHYTE, Donald**. Scots to the USA: A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the United States Before Confederation. 2 vols. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1966. 800 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-8890-0002-0.

1967. **WHYTE, Donald**. Scots to the USA: A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the United States Before Confederation. 3 vols. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1967. 1,200 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-8890-0003-0.

1968. **WHYTE, Donald**. Scots to the USA: A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the United States Before Confederation. 4 vols. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1968. 1,600 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 0-8890-0004-0.





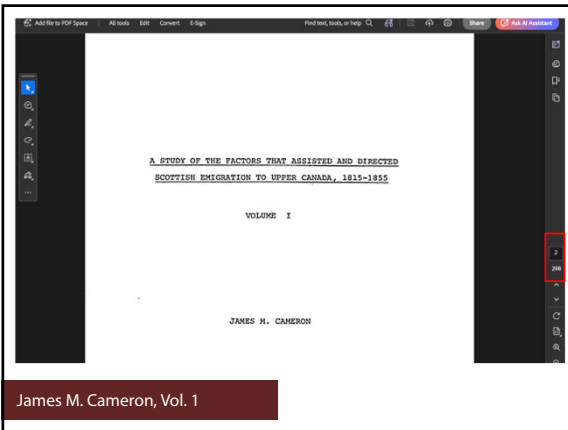


Theses & Essays

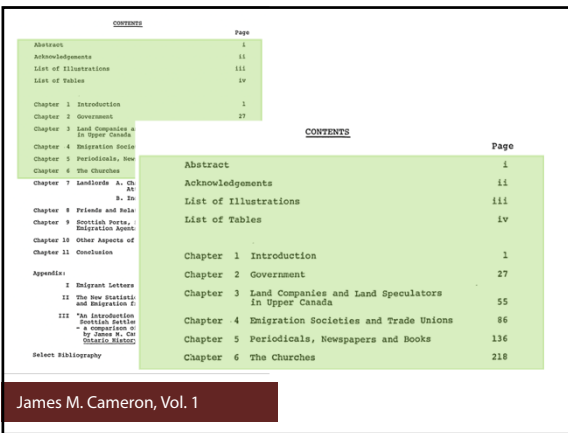
- Theses, dissertations, and essays may be available online
- May not be specifically on your topic of interest
- Pay attention to the sources used by the author
- May lead you to new records or publications

Google Scholar search results for "scottish emigration colonial america theses". The page shows several articles with titles like "Scottish Emigration to Colonial America, 1607-1765" and "Colonists from Scotland: Emigration to North America, 1707-1763". The URL "scholar.google.com" is visible at the bottom.

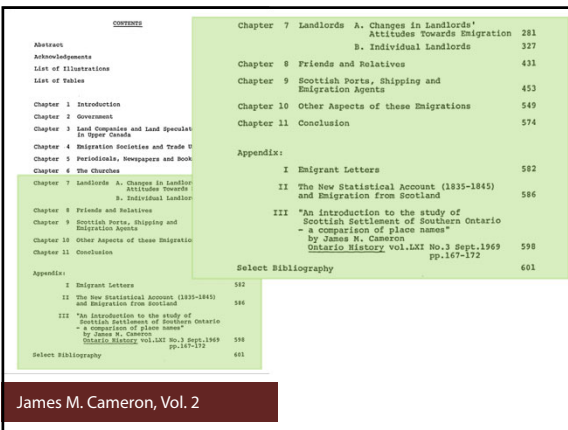
Google Scholar search results for "scottish emigration north america". The page shows several articles with titles like "Scottish Emigration to North America: A Review Essay" and "Directed Scottish emigration to Upper Canada, 1815-1855". The URL "scholar.google.com" is visible at the bottom.



James M. Cameron, Vol. 1



James M. Cameron, Vol. 1



James M. Cameron, Vol. 2







