

Tracing Scottish Ancestry: Records, Resources, and Research Strategies

Class 2: Civil and Parish Records in Scotland

Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



Rhonda R. McClure
Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Guides to Scottish genealogy
 - Civil records
 - Parish records
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**



Voice of
Rhonda R. McClure
Senior Genealogist

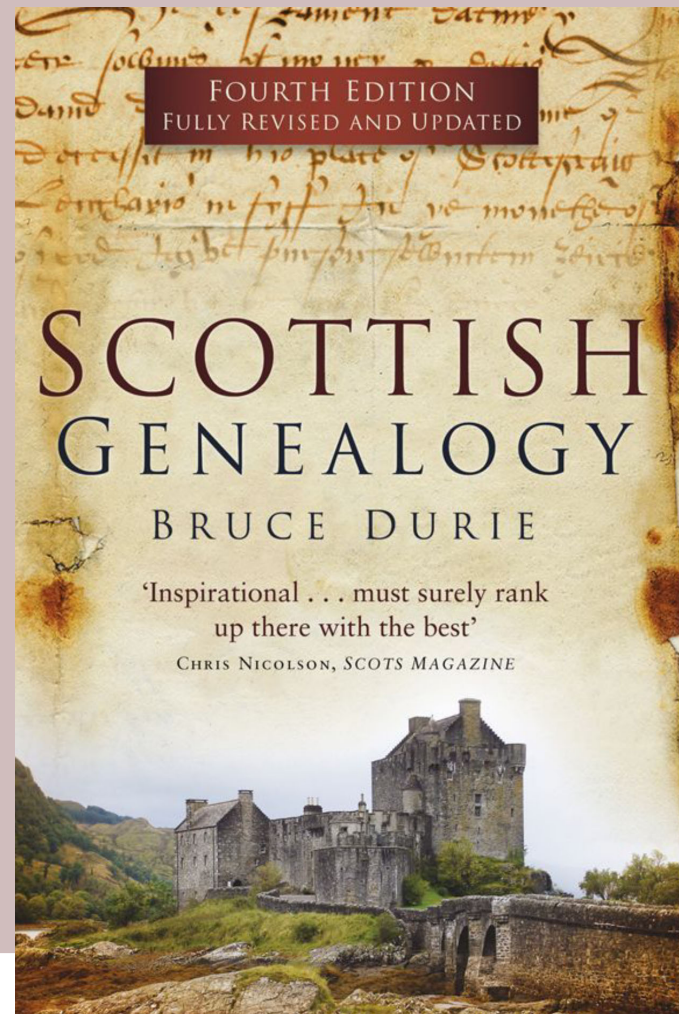
Civil and Parish Records

- Civil Records
 - Births
 - Marriages
 - Deaths
- Parish Records
 - Baptisms
 - Marriages
 - Burials
 - Other Records

Guides

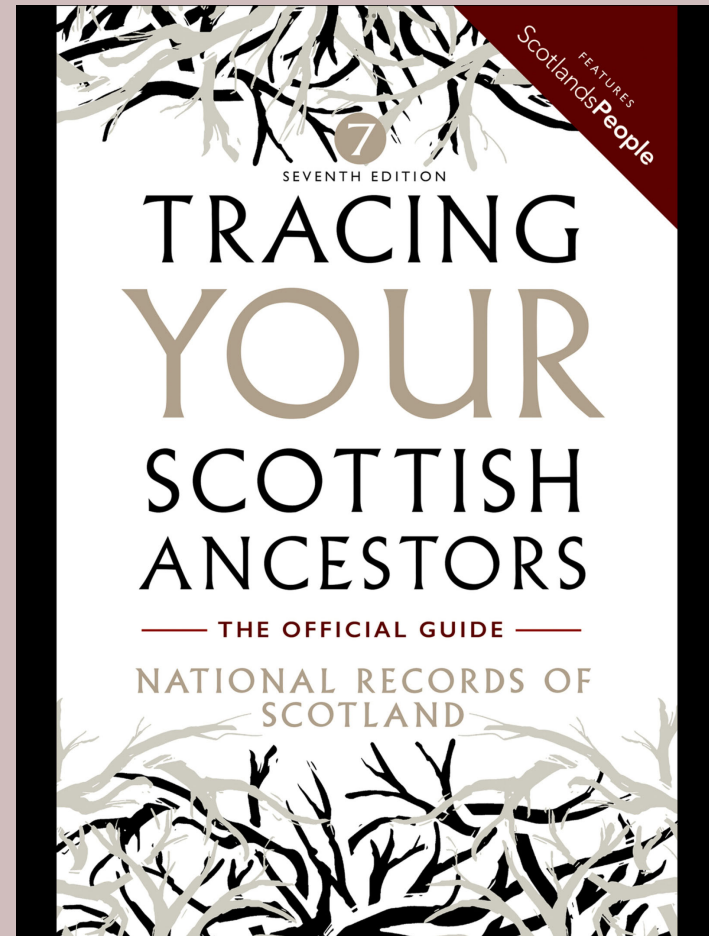
Scottish Genealogy

- Written by Bruce Durie
- Now in its 4th edition
- Includes information on records that are seldom used by family historians

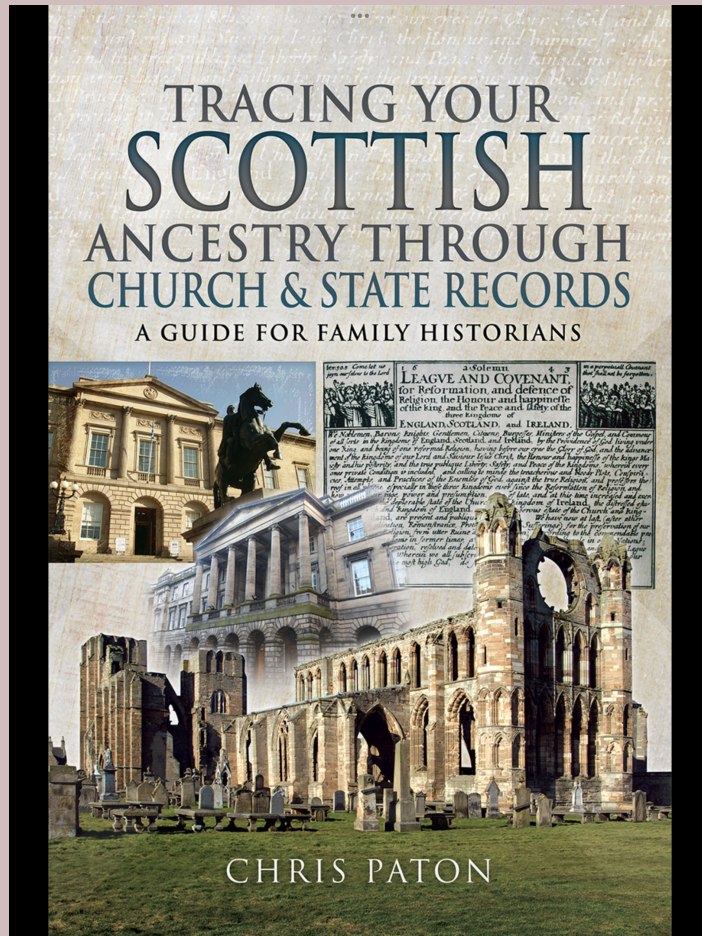


Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

- Now in its 7th edition
- Compiled by the National Records of Scotland
- Offers information about ScotlandsPeople



Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry...



- Written by Chris Paton
- Published in 2019
- Covers many of the major records

Civil Records

Civil Records

- Statutory Registers of Birth, Marriage, and Death
- Begin 1 January 1855
- 1,027 Registration Districts created
- By 1994, number of Registration Districts reduced to 360
- Registration Districts may straddle county lines

	OPR	Date from	Date to	Notes
Aberdeen	168	1560	1854	
Registration Districts after 1855		Date from	Date to	Notes
St Nicholas	168/01	1855	1930	
Old Machar	168/02	1855	1863	
Old Machar, Aberdeen Burgh	168/02	1864	1875	
Old Machar, Landward	168/03	1864	1875	
Old Machar	168/02	1876	1885	
Old Machar Parish	168/02	1886	1897	
Woodside	168/03	1886	1913	
Old Aberdeen	168/04	1886	1913	
St Machar	168/02	1898	1930	Same area as Old Machar
Rubislaw	168/03	1914	1930	Note change from previous Woodside number
Woodside	168/04	1914	1930	
Old Aberdeen	168/05	1914	1930	
Aberdeen, Northern District	168/01	1931	1967	
Aberdeen, Southern District	168/02	1931	1967	
Aberdeen, Eastern District	168/03	1931	1967	
Aberdeen	168	1968	1971	
Aberdeen	300	1972	current	

Part of the table from Bruce Durie's Scottish Genealogy showing city of Aberdeen

Table 8. The various RDs in Aberdeen city over the years. Dundee is equally complicated. Edinburgh and Glasgow, just because of their greater sizes and growths, are more complicated still.

Registration Districts

Alpha	RD Name	County or Burgh	First year	Last year	Rd Number	Current Rd	
K	Edinburgh, Kirkliston	City of Edinburgh	2007			Today's RD	742
K	Kirkmabreck	Kirkcudbright	1703	1854	OPR 873		
K	Kirkmabreck	Kirkcudbright	1855	1971	Old RD 873	Today's RD	856
K	Kirkmabreck	Kirkcudbright	1972	2004	Old RD 856	Today's RD	856
K	Dumfries and Galloway	Dumfries and Galloway	2005	2006	Old RD 856	Today's RD	856
K	Dumfries and Galloway, Kirkmabreck	Dumfries and Galloway	2007			Today's RD	856
K	Kirkmahoe	Dumfries	1720	1854	OPR 835		
K	Kirkmahoe	Dumfries	1855	1968	Old RD 835	Today's RD	834
K	Kirkmaiden	Wigtown	1699	1854	OPR 890		
K	Kirkmaiden	Wigtown	1855	1971	Old RD 890	Today's RD	870
K	Kirkmaiden	Wigtown	1972	1988	Old RD 871	Today's RD	870
K	Kirkmichael	Banff	1855	1855	Old RD 160	Today's RD	298
K	Kirkmichael	Perth	1855	1857	Old RD 370	Today's RD	381
K	Kirkmichael	Ayr	1855	1968	Old RD 600	Today's RD	683
K	Kirkmichael	Dumfries	1855	1968	Old RD 836	Today's RD	834
K	Kirkmichael	Banff	1856	1967	Old RD 160	1 Today's RD	298
K	Kirkmichael	Perth	1858	1968	Old RD 370	1 Today's RD	381
K	Kirkmichael (and Tomintoul) (Banff)	Banff	1725	1854	OPR 160		
K	Kirkmichael (Ayr)	Ayr	1638	1854	OPR 600		
K	Kirkmichael (Dumfries)	Dumfries	1727	1854	OPR 836		
K	Kirkmichael (Perth)	Perth	1650	1854	OPR 370		
K	Kirknewton	Midlothian	1923	1930	Old RD 690	Today's RD	770
K	Kirknewton and East Calder	Edinburgh (Midlothian)	1642	1854	OPR 690		
K	Kirknewton and East Calder	Midlothian	1855	1922	Old RD 690	Today's RD	770
K	Kirkoswald	Ayr	1694	1854	OPR 601		
K	Kirkoswald	Ayr	1855	1968	Old RD 601	Today's RD	683
K	Kirkpatrick Durham	Kirkcudbright	1693	1854	OPR 874		
K	Kirkpatrick Durham	Kirkcudbright	1855	1968	Old RD 874	Today's RD	852
K	Kirkpatrick Fleming	Dumfries	1748	1854	OPR 837		
K	Kirkpatrick Fleming	Dumfries	1855	1865	Old RD 837	Today's RD	840
K	Kirkpatrick Fleming	Dumfries	1933	1968	Old RD 837	Today's RD	840
K	Kirkpatrick Fleming, Northern District	Dumfries	1866	1932	Old RD 837	1 Today's RD	840
K	Kirkpatrick Fleming, Southern District	Dumfries	1866	1932	Old RD 837	2 Today's RD	840
K	Kirkpatrick Juxta	Dumfries	1694	1854	OPR 838		
K	Kirkpatrick Juxta	Dumfries	1855	1968	Old RD 838	Today's RD	836
K	Kirkton	Roxburgh	1855	1895	Old RD 794	Today's RD	823

Birth Records

- Had to be registered within 21 days after birth
- Include name of the child
- Where and when born
- Information on father and mother:
 - Name, occupation of father
 - Name, maiden name of mother
 - Where and when married
- Informant's signature and qualification
- Where and when registered

Birth Records

- 1855-1918: illegitimate births were identified as such
- May have a notation to a Register of Corrected Entries (which would name the father)
- After 1919: the word *illegitimate* was unlawful

1877. BIRTHS in the District of Annau in the County of Dumfriesshire

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
37	Archibald Bell	1877. March	M	James Bell Railway Porter	James Bell Father (Not Present)	1877. April 12 th At Annau
		Thirti-first 9h P.M.		Janet Bell M.S. Blackstock		Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar.
		Howcill Annau		1862. December Sturdenyarth		
38	Jessie Henderson	1877. April Second	F		Janet Henderson Her Mother	1877 April 13 th At Annau
	(Illegitimate)	10h P.M.		Janet Henderson Agricultural Worker	Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar Witness	Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar.
		Murray Street, Annau				

Birth Register – 1877

1877. BIRTHS in the District of Annan in the County of Dumfriesshire

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
37	Archibald Bell	1877. March Thirty-first 9h P.M.	M	James Bell Railway Porter Janet Bell M.S. Blackstock 1862. December Sturdenyarth	James Bell Father (Not Present)	1877. April 12 th At Annan Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar.
38	Jessie Henderson (Illegitimate)	1877. April Second 10h P.M.	F	Janet Henderson Agricultural Worker Murray Street, Annan	Janet Henderson Her Mother Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar Witness	1877 April 13 th At Annan Wm. J. Cuthbertson Registrar.

Paternity
I. J. 55



Birth Register – 1877

Paternity Decree?

- Needed to include the father's name in the Register of Corrected Entries
- Petition of the father to the sheriff for a warrant to acknowledge him
- This launched an inquiry
- OR if court action was brought against the biological father

SHERIFF COURT PATERNITY DECREES

[Jump to index](#)

One of the most common "brick walls" that family historians encounter is where their ancestor is illegitimate. The father may not be named in the birth records, instantly closing off one line of research. Fortunately, there is sometimes a solution, when the mother took the father to court for maintenance payments ("alimant"). The most common approach in the 19th century was to pursue the father in the Sheriff Court. Such cases are generally known as filiation and alimant cases (or affiliation and alimant, sometimes referred to as paternity decrees).

The court's decision was known as a decree, and in order to enforce the court's ruling, these decrees could be extracted. Most Sheriff Courts recorded extracted decrees (for many different types of court rulings, not just filiation and alimant cases) in volumes known as Registers of Extract Decrees or similar. We have now indexed many thousands of these paternity decrees held in the National Records of Scotland, and can retrieve and provide digital images of individual entries.

To order a copy of an extract decree, use the indexes below to find the decree you want. The index now covers almost* all extract decrees between 1828 and 1912 (and in many cases after 1912). There are over 45,000 entries in the index, spread across 593 volumes.

* The index does not include decrees issued in Orkney and Shetland, as these records are not held at the National Records of Scotland.

INDEXES

- [Abbot-Barr](#)
- [Barr-Brown](#)
- [Brown-Carlin](#)
- [Carlin-Craig](#)
- [Craig-Dollaghan](#)
- [Dollan-Ferguson](#)
- [Ferguson-Gibb](#)
- [Gibb-Hainey](#)
- [Hainey-Hughes](#)



- [Marchbanks-Mcdonald](#)
- [Mcdonald-Mclachlan](#)
- [Mclachlan-Miller](#)
- [Miller-Murray](#)
- [Murray-Philip](#)
- [Philip-Robertson](#)
- [Robertson-Shepherd](#)
- [Shepherd-Stevenson](#)
- [Stevenson-Thomson](#)


[Home](#)
[Records](#)
[Resources](#)
[Blog](#)
[Contact](#)
[Shop](#)
[Cart \(0\)](#)

Sheriff Court Filiation and Alimnt decrees

Mother name and residence	Defender name	Child birth	Order	Court
Mary HAINEY Fisher Street, Stranraer	James MITCHELL	24 Oct 1901 Fisher Street, Stranraer	Order now	Kilmarnock Records SC7/5/16
Agnes HAINING or MCCALLUM 4 Grougar Row, Galston	William MCMAHON	31 Aug 1912 4 Grougar Row, Galston	Order now	Kilmarnock Records SC7/5/17
Elizabeth HAINING Birkhall, Holywood, Dumfriesshire	John CLARK	5 Jul 1893 Auchencairn, Closeburn	Order now	Kirkcudbright SC16/7/17
Elizabeth Buthrie HAINING Royal Hotel, Monifieth	George MITCHELL	22 Aug 1891 Longforgan	Order now	Perth SC49/4/53
Isabella HAINING Newton Stewart	Malcolm DRYSDALE	11 Sep 1851	Order now	Wigtown SC19/7/6
Janet HAINING	Robert SOWERBY	7 Dec 1860	Order now	Kirkcudbright SC16/7/14
Jean HAINING Parkfoot	Thomas HAINING	30 Aug 1841	Order now	Dumfries SC15/7/28
Jessie HAINING Newton Stewart	George BROWN	27 Jul 1880	Order now	Wigtown SC19/7/8
Margaret HAINING Kelton, Caerlaverock	John GORDON	24 Oct 1842	Order now	Kirkcudbright SC16/7/9
Agnes HAIR	Arthur FOSTER	27 Apr 1858	Order now	Kilmarnock SC7/5/4
Aanes HAIR	William NEWBIGGINS	1 Apr 1868	Order	Paisley

1877 HENDERSON, JESSIE (Statutory registers Births 812/ 38)

Advanced people search >

< Back to results















Download as PDF

Add to timeline

 Report an issue

* There have been 1 corrections identified with this entry: [View 1st correction](#) 

Having problems viewing this image? [Click here to open in a new browser window.](#)

 Save  Print  Zoom in  Zoom out  Magnify  Fit height  Fit width  Rotate  Rotate  Crop  Invert  Contrast  Brightness  Fullscreen							
37	<i>Bell</i>	<i>March</i>		<i>Railway Porter</i>	<i>Father</i> <i>(Not Present)</i>	<i>April 12th</i>	
		<i>Thirty-first</i> <i>9h P.M.</i>		<i>Janet Bell</i> <i>M. S. Blackstock</i>		<i>W. J. Cathcart</i>	<i>Registrar.</i>
		<i>Howgill</i> <i>Annau</i>		<i>1862. December</i> <i>Stundergarth</i>			
38	<i>Jessie</i> <i>Henderson</i> <i>(Illegitimate)</i>	<i>1877.</i> <i>April Second</i> <i>10h P.M.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Janet Henderson</i> <i>Agricultural worker</i>	<i>Her & Mark</i> <i>Mother</i> <i>W. J. Cathcart</i> <i>Registrar</i> <i>W. J. Cathcart</i>	<i>1877</i> <i>April 13th</i>	<i>W. J. Cathcart</i> <i>Registrar.</i>
				<i>Murray Street</i> <i>Annau</i>			

scotlandspeople.gov.uk

May 14 1880. Page 88.

Register of Corrected Entries

of the District of Annan
in the County of Dumfries

In the fourth column of Entry no. 38 in the Register Book of Births for the year 1877, before the name of the child's mother insert Thomas Graham, on the authority of a Certificate in the Form of Schedule (B.) to the following effect:—

In an action relating to the paternity of a child named Jessie Henderson, born 2^d April, 1877, at the instance of Janet Henderson, residing in Murray Street, Annan, against Thomas Graham, farmer, Hilledale, near Annan, the Sheriff Court of the County of Dumfries, on the 28th day of March, 1879, found that the said child was the illegitimate child of the parties aforesaid.

March 31st, 1879. At Annan
Wm. J. Cunningham
Registrar

Register of Corrected Entries

Marriage Records

- Includes when, where, and how married
- Name, age, occupation, marital status of groom
- Name, age, occupation, marital status of bride
- Regular residence of groom and bride
- Name and occupation of fathers of groom and bride
- Name and maiden name of mothers of groom and bride

Marriage Records

- Usually if parent of the bride or groom is deceased, the record reflects that
- If a regular marriage, the names of the officiant and witnesses are included
- If irregular, could have:
 - Date of conviction
 - Decree of Declarator
 - Sheriff's warrant
- Date recorded, name of registrar

1879. MARRIAGES in the Southern district of Kirkpatrick-Fleming in the County of Dumfries.

No.	When, Where, and How Married.	Signatures of Parties. Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any).	Age.	Usual Residence.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, as Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Conviction, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
7	1879. on the nineteenth day of December at Fairy Row, Kirkpatrick- Fleming.	(Signed) James Johnston General Labourer (Bachelor.)	25 years	Wilmington Kirkpatrick- Fleming.	James Johnston Handloom Weaver (Deceased.) Jane Johnston M. S. Hope (Deceased.)	(Signed) David Graham Min. of Kirkpatrick- Fleming.	1879. December Twenty second At Kirkpatrick- Fleming
	After Banns ac- cording to the Forms of the Estab- lished Church of Scotland.	(Signed) Catherine Irving Domestic Servant (Spinster.)	23 years	Fairy Row, Kirkpatrick- Fleming.	Daniel Irving Handloom Weaver (Deceased.) Catherine Irving. M. S. Irving.	(Signed) George Little Witness. Isabella Irving Witness	Charles F. Brown Registrar.

Marriage Record

[i]

Banns are read three
consecutive Sundays.

What is an irregular marriage?

- Any marriage not performed by a minister
- Generally, the parties made a declaration before two witnesses
- Proof of this declaration would be shown to a sheriff who issued a warrant
- The warrant allowed for the civil registration of their marriage

218	1906	Robert Watson <i>not his</i>	21	5	John Morris	Warrant of	1906
	on the Fourth day of May at 18 King Street Aberdeen	Joiner (Lounney son, (Bachelor)		Canal Terrace Aberdeen	Sisterman Margaret-Kentish Morris Th. S. Watson	Sheriff Substitutes of Aberdeen, Kin- cardine and Banff dated 4 May 1906.	May 16 th at Aberdeen
	By Declaration in pres- ence of James Morris 5 Canal Terrace Aber- deen and Isabella Morris 16 Gatten Street Aberdeen	Helen Davidson Smith at home (Spinster)	19	54 Rosemount Place Aberdeen	William Smith General Labourer Anna Clarkson Smith Th. S. Buchanan		Charles Sturrock Registrar

Irregular Marriage

Deaths

- 1855 to 1860 included:
 - When doctor last saw the deceased alive
 - Place of burial
 - Name of undertaker
- 1861 spouse's name reinstated (after it began to be eliminated in 1856)

1855. DEATHS in the District of Perthshire Page 112 in the

No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE DECEASED.					IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED,	
	Name, Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Sex.	Age.	Where born, and how long in this District.	Parents' Names, and Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	To whom.	Issue, in Order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
112	James John	Male	27	St. Helens, India	James Desjardins, Surgeon	Ann, ill. Kirkcaldy	James & Mary, the
				24 Years in Glasgow	Margaret Desjardins, Merchant, New, Glasgow		
	James John	Male		Glasgow	Not known		

Perth of Glasgow Registered by Hugh Morrison Registrar.

PARTICULARS OF DEATH.				Signature of Informant.	When and where registered, and Signature of Registrar.
When died, Year Day of Month, Hour.	Where died.	Cause of Death, and how long Disease continued. Medical Attendant by whom certified, and when he last saw deceased.	Burial Place. Undertaker by whom certified.		
1855 Feb 6 th	Canaberswald Road, Glasgow	Scrub, pruritic, Colic, during the Effects of Antimonial	Greenock, Northside, Glasgow	James Desjardins, Surgeon	1855 February 6 th At Glasgow
	Resided at Reid Street, Bridgeton	As certified by William Young, M.D. who examined Deceased February 5 th	As certified by Thomas Mitchell, Undertaker		Hugh Morrison Registrar
1855 February 6 th	57 Dalrymple Street	Not known	Greenock, Northside, Glasgow	James B. Brown, Inspector of Poor	1855 February 6 th At Glasgow

Death Record – 1855

QUESTIONS?

Parish Records

Religious History

- Church of Scotland, the national church
- Claimed independent jurisdiction over its own business
 - Claim of Right, 1689
 - Act of Union, 1707
- Right of patronage restored, 1712



Disruption of 1843

Churches

- Church of Scotland – on ScotlandsPeople
- Roman Catholic Church – on ScotlandsPeople
- Other Nonconformist:
 - Society of Friends
 - Methodist
 - Episcopal
 - United Free Church
 - Congregational
 - Unitarian
 - Free Church

Church of Scotland

- In the 1600s it was Episcopal in beliefs
- Traditionally Presbyterian
- Old Parish Registers cover up to 1854
- 900 parishes
- Approximately 3,500 registers survive

[i]

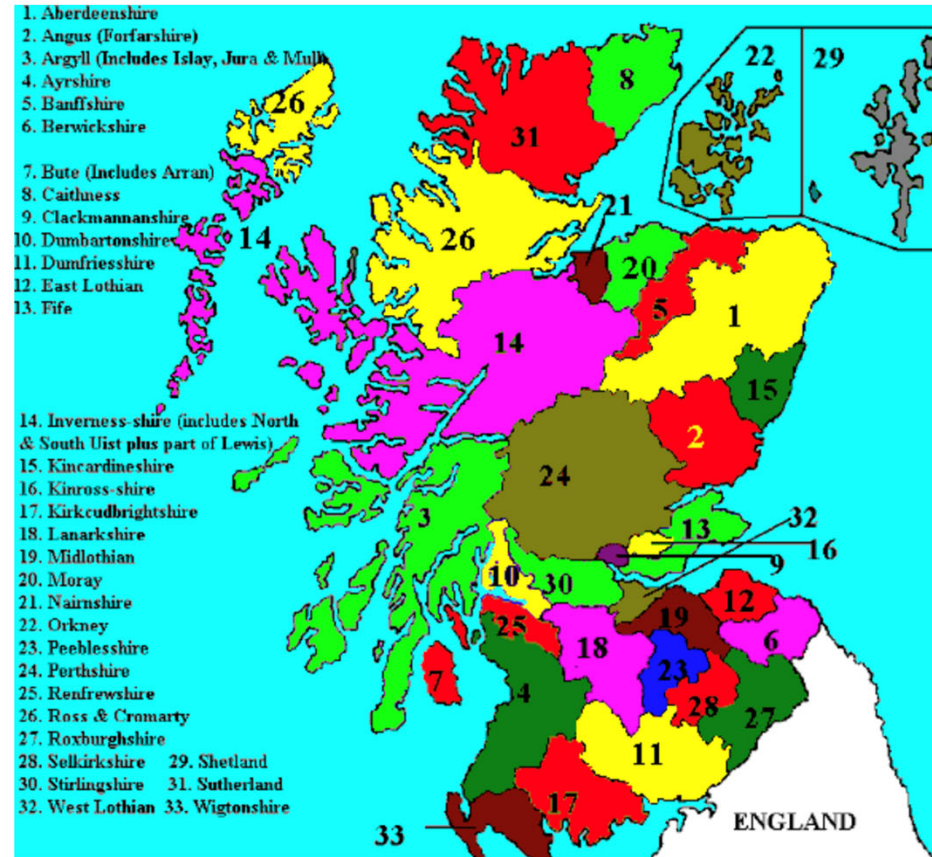
Recusant refers to anyone
who did not belong to the
established Church

Identifying Your Parish

- There are 33 counties
- There are more than 900 parishes

County Map of Scotland

Please click in the appropriate map area to link to the relevant county page.



Select a county from either of the lists below, or see the 1890-1975 county map of Scotland. If you don't know which county a parish or town lies in, try an online [gazetteer](#) covering the whole of the UK. To find which GENUKI pages cover more modern administrative areas and the "Counties of Cities" see [Historical Geography](#) on the Scotland page.

33 Counties

Genuki:UK & Ireland
Genealogy

[i]

The records may
not be online.

Guides

[← Back to all guides](#)

Record guides

- 1 [Statutory registers](#) >
- 2 [Church registers](#) >
- 3 [Census returns](#) >
- 4 [Valuation rolls](#) >
- 5 [Legal records](#) >
- 6 [Statutory register of births](#) >
- 7 [Statutory register of deaths](#) >
- 8 [Statutory register of marriages](#) >
- 9 [Other statutory registers](#) >
- 10 [Wills and testaments](#) >

Church registers

Charlotte Street Unit. Assoc. Cong. Aberdeen

SEX.		NAMES OF PARENTS.		Employment or Profession.	Date and Place of Birth—Parish, Town, or Street.		Date of Bapt and by whom Dis.
Male.	Female.	Father.	Mother.				
Mal	11	James Cocker-	Elizabeth Saday	Gardener	26 July 1845	Pinny Park, Old Machar	7 Dec 1845 W.S.P.
Mal	11	Robert Downie	Christina Ross	Shoemaker	17 July 1845	42 Craudway, Old Machar	7 Dec 1845 W.S.P.
Mal	11	Robert Brown	Elizabeth Mackie	Miller	6 Nov 1845	10 John Street, Aberdeen	7 Dec 1845 John
Mal	11	Alexander Hodge		Walter	4 Oct 1845	Green Bank, Mitchell Court	7 Dec 1845 John
Search church registers							

Churches have kept registers of baptisms (or births), marriages, burials (or deaths) and other events (such as people moving from one parish to another) for centuries. On this site you can search registers kept by the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic church and other churches.

- [Background to church registers](#)
- [How to search church registers](#)
- [Understanding the contents of church registers](#)
- [Church register images](#)
- [Which parishes and congregations have registers in the index](#)



Background to church registers

Most churches keep registers of baptisms, marriages and burials and some keep registers of other events relating to people. On the ScotlandsPeople site you can search the registers of the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic

scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/church-registers

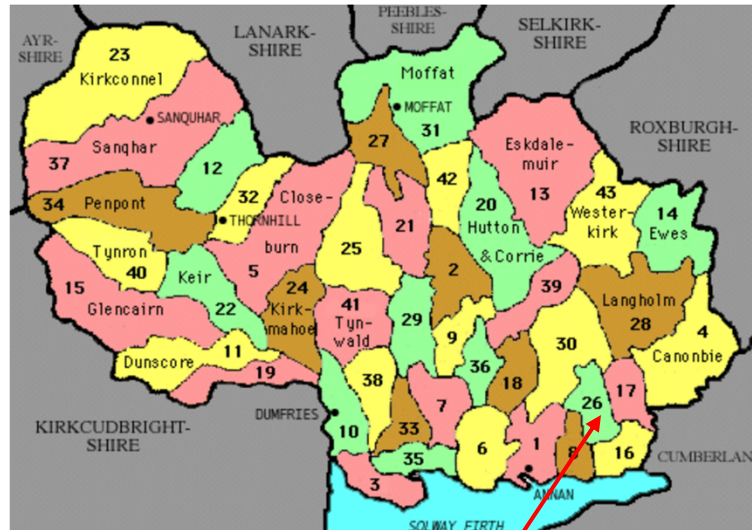
Baptisms

- A child may be baptized in two parishes:
 - Parish of the father
 - Parish of the mother
- Date of baptism is NOT date of birth
- Baptisms could be weeks or months after birth
- Old Parish Registers generally Presbyterian

1804	Janry 1 st
Carruthers	William lawful son of William Carruthers & Janet Mawhinny in Flesh.
	Janry 21 st
Irving	Ann lawful Daughter of Tho. Irving & Agnes Jackson in Cove Greenhead.
	Janry 29 th
Douglas	Eli lawful son of Will ^m Douglas and Sibilla Stur Dalwanswells.
	Mar ^{ch} 15 th
Little	Isabella lawful Daughter of Tho. Little & Jean Hearty in Fishburne Hill.
	Mar ^{ch} 16 th
Johnston	James lawful son of Jas. Johnston & Janet Irving in Williamsfield.
	April 2 ^d
Mitchel	Jean lawful Daughter of Jas. Mitchel &

Baptism - 1804

Where is Kirkpatrick-Fleming?



- Annan (1)
- Applegarth (2)
- Caerlaverock (3)
- Canonbie (4)
- Closeburn (5)
- Cummertrees (6)
- Dalton (7)
- Dornock (8)
- Dryfesdale (9)
- Dumfries (10)
- Dunscore (11)
- Durisdeer (12)
- Eskdalemuir (13)
- Ewes (14)

- Glencairn (15)
- Gretna (16)
- Halfmorton (17)
- Hoddam (18)
- Holywood (19)
- Hutton (20)
- Johnstone (21)
- Keir (22)
- Kirkconnel (23)
- Kirkmahoe (24)
- Kirkmichael (25)
- Kirkpatrick Fleming (26)
- Kirkpatrick Juxta (27)
- Langholm (28)
- Lochmaben (29)

- Middlebie (30)
- Moffat (31)
- Morton (32)
- Mouswald (33)
- Penpont (34)
- Ruthwell (35)
- St Mungo (36)
- Sanquhar (37)
- Torthorwald (38)
- Tundergarth (39)
- Tynron (40)
- Tinwald (41)
- Wamphray (42)
- Westerkirk (43)

Turn off 'Tips'

Save search >

Please select church

Church of Scotland (old parish registers)

Roman Catholic Church

Other churches

Surname:
 [Search Options](#)

Forename:
 [Search Options](#)

Gender:

Male Female Both

Year range:

to

1st Parent Name:
 [Search Options](#)

Surname	Forename	Parents/ Other Details	Gender	Date	Parish Number	Ref	Parish	Image View
JOHNSTON	----	...JOHNSTON/	U	00/00/1787	837/	10 148	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	ALLAN	ROBERT JOHNSTON/	M	21/03/1783	837/	10 125	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	DAVID	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR190 (FR190)	M	11/05/1801	837/	10 184	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	DAVID	DAVID JOHNSTON/	M	23/08/1783	837/	10 129	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	GEORGE	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR186 (FR186)	M	25/09/1799	837/	10 180	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR201 (FR201)	M	11/03/1804	837/	10 195	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (paid)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	ROBERT JOHNSTON/MARJORY CRONE FR206 (FR206)	M	02/04/1805	837/	10 200	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	JOHN JOHNSTON/SARAH BELL FR193 (FR193)	M	18/03/1802	837/	10 187	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	DAVID JOHNSTON/JEAN HUNTER FR280 (FR280)	M	28/09/1820	837/	20 7	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View image (6 credits)

Marriages

- A record of the proclamation of banns
- May be recorded in two parishes
(one each for groom and bride)
- One of the entries may offer more information
- Some ministers may have added additional information

1803

192.
Armstrong James private in the Dumfriesshire
Militia, & Margaret Elliot, were married at
Musselburgh before witnesses on the 24 Octo
by the Revd R. Grierson —

McGill Andrew, & Reid Cunningham were irregularly
married on the 29 Octo 1803. The parties compared
the Session on the 30th were bled and had their
marriage confirmed by the Revd R. Grierson

Mill Simon private in the Forfarshire Militia
& Helen Carnegie were married at Mussel
burgh on the 6th Deco. before witnesses by
the Revd R. Grierson —

Marriage – 1803

Burial Records

- Often the most *uninformative*
- With a child's death, you may get age at time of death
- Generally, include only name of deceased and date of interment

294 (32) Buried at Dumfries ²⁹⁸ June 1753

October 3. Jean Meen Daw to David Meen Selater
6. John Neual Son to John Neual weaver
12. James Robison Son to James Robison Sidewater
15. George Wilson Son to John Wilson Officer of Excise
17. Francis Highland Son to John Highland Hammerman
18. Alexander Erskine Son to Robell Erskine Merchant
31. George McMillan late Parson of the Hammer man
31. James McMillan Son to John McMillan merchant
November 1. Jean Pagan Dr to the deceased John Pagan Jeweller
4. Thomas Ewart Son to John Ewart Kiltner
8. John Farris Merchant
8. Elizabeth Milken Dr to John Milken

scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Other Records

- Kirk Session Records offer information on the business of the church
- May address communicants who were having problems
- Should be consulted if the family was of the established church
- Will be examined in a later class

Roman Catholic

- Photocopied pre-1855 records were under the National Records of Scotland
- Originals may be with
 - Parish Priest
 - Diocese
 - Archdiocese

Feb 8 th	Daniel Lynch and Mary Culhavan were after due proclamation married by me on 8 th Feb 1864 in presence of John Shannon and Ann Kenny. Peter Cumming
February 19 th 1864	John McNulty + Paddy Scullin were after due proclamation married by me on 19 th February 1864 Witnesses Mary Grant + Margaret Lamont Seamus Poir
March 28 th	James Allen & Mary Evans were after due proclamation married by me on 28 th March 1863 in presence of John Moran & Mary Lamont Peter Cumming
April 5 th	John Bannan and Ann Reynolds were after due proclamation married by me on 5 th April 1864 in presence of Michael Smith & Paddy Bannan Peter Cumming

Roman Catholic Marriage – 1864

Episcopalian Records

- Episcopal Church of Scotland was the established church from 1603-38 and in the 1660s
- Original records are with the local priest or dioceses
- A survey exists of known Episcopal Churches
- Results available on the National Register of Archives for Scotland

The National Register of Archives for Scotland

NRAS search - internet

[Welcome] [Browse] [Search] [Help]

[Simple search](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Build your own search](#) | [Persons](#)

You are in: [Catalogue search](#) > [Simple search](#)

Monday 4 April

Page options:

- [Print this page](#)
- [Previous page](#)

Records updated:

25 February 2022

Search catalogue records

This screen allows you to search using keyword, reference and date fields. Persons (Name Authority) records can be searched using search terms and dates. If you wish to carry out a more complex search, please use the Advanced search or Build your own search options

Search

Catalogue

Persons

Search for:

Phrase All words (AND) Any word (OR)

Reference:

Matches Starts Contains

Dates from:

Dates to:

Include undated records

catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk

The National Register of Archives for Scotland

NRAS search - internet

[Welcome] [Browse] [Search] [Results summary] [Help]
[Simple search](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Build your own search](#) | [Persons](#)

You are in: [Catalogue search](#) > [Results summary](#)

Monday 4 April 2022 07:05

Page options:
[Print this page](#)
[Previous page](#)

Records updated:
25 February 2022

Search results

Simple search for records where any field contains all the words **episcopal edinburgh**, including undated records

Catalogue Your search has returned 75 matching records. Display Catalogue Results
Persons Your search returned no results. Please click on 'Refine Search' to modify your search, or click here for hints and tips on searching .
Refine Search



catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk

[Welcome]

[Browse]

[Search]

[Results summary]

[Results]

[Help]

You are in: Catalogue search > Search results > Overview

Monday 4 April 2022 07:05

Page options:

[Print this page](#)

[Previous page](#)

Records updated:

25 February 2022

Search results overview sorted by reference.

Simple search for catalogue records where any field contains all the words **episcopal edinburgh**, including undated records

[All](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[< previous](#)

Records 21 to 30 of 75

[next >](#)

[Explain Access status](#)

Reference	Title	Date	Access status
NRAS2698/1/5/22	Envelope of letters chiefly relating to manuscripts and artefacts sent to Bp. Douglas of Aberdeen for the ecclesiastical museum at Bishopscourt	1884-1963	●
NRAS2698/4/5/1	Folder (1) of miscellaneous papers relating to St. John's, 1778-1896, and letters, bonds and accounts mainly relating to debt owed by Rev. Roger Aitken to the Scotch Episcopal Friendly Society, 1796-1815	1778-1896	●
NRAS2698/28	Ellon: St. Mary-on-the Rock	1749-24 Nov 1984	●
NRAS2698/28/5/3	Envelope of miscellaneous papers, 1851-1860	1851-1864	●
NRAS2698/28/5/20	Envelope of miscellaneous papers	1920-1940	●
NRAS2701/4/5/2	Envelope of Memorials and miscellaneous constitutions, etc.	1838-1859	●
NRAS2701/29/5/1	Envelope containing 2 bundles of letters and papers relating to the congregation	1721-c 1913	●
NRAS2702	Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of Edinburgh	18th century-20th century	●
NRAS2702/1/5/5	Miscellaneous papers	c 1900-1971	●
NRAS2702/14	Edinburgh: Episcopal Theological College Private Chapel	1948-1982	●

[< previous](#)

[next >](#)

Click on a reference number to see details

Reference	Title	Date
NRAS2698	The Scottish Episcopal Church Congregations in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney	17th century-20th century

Country Code	GB
Repository Code	800001
Repository	Private
Reference	NRAS2698/28
Title	Ellon: St. Mary-on-the Rock
Dates	1749-24 Nov 1984
Access Status	Restricted
Access Conditions	These records are held privately. All enquiries should be addressed to: The Registrar National Register of Archives for Scotland HM General Register House Edinburgh EH1 3YY
Description	(The following records of the Episcopal congregations at Old Meldrum and Tillydesk are held with the above papers: II.1 Baptisms 1804-1807 Burials 1804-1807 (Single volume, kept by Rev. N. Grieve) II.2 Communicants roll book for Old Meldrum, 1806-7, and Tillydesk, 1808-1812. II.3 Communicants roll book for Old Meldrum, 1805-6, and Tillydesk, 1805-7. A register of baptisms, with some cash accounts, of the Episcopal chapels at Bairnie and Tillydesk (which were the antecedents of the chapel re-established in Ellon in 1817), was published as 'Register of Baptisms, Chapels at Bairnie and Tillydesk, 1763-1801', ed. John MacGregor (Scottish Record Society, Edinburgh , 1908).)
Level	Sub-fonds

catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk

Other Non-Conformist Religions

- Records of Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Quaker, and Unitarian can be found at the National Records of Scotland
- Also, in archives in the areas where they exist
- Restricted access
- Requires a form for researchers to look at the records

QUESTIONS?

Scotland's People

ScotlandsPeople

- Contains digital images of important Scottish records from:
 - National Records of Scotland
 - Lyon Court
 - Scottish Catholic Archives
- Has a research center in Edinburgh
- Online site (\$)



 Saved items

 Basket

 137 credits



- [Home](#)
- [Search the records](#)
- [Order a certificate](#)
- [Visit us](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Help and support](#)

Explore your Scottish heritage

Getting started



Search the records

Close 

[People](#)

[Places](#)

[Virtual Volumes](#)

[Maps and plans](#)

[Image Library](#)

scotlandspeople.gov.uk

ScotlandsPeople

- Old Parish Registers (1553-1855)
- Civil (Statutory) Registers
 - Births, Deaths, Marriages (1855-current)
 - Divorces (1984-current)
 - Register of Corrections (1855-current)
 - Civil Partnerships (2005-current)
 - Dissolutions of Civil Partnerships (2007-current)
- Registers of births, deaths, marriages outside Scotland (years vary)
- Roman Catholic records (1703-20th century)

Accessing Registers

- Online:
 - Births more than 100 years old
 - Marriages more than 75 years old
 - Deaths more than 50 years old
- In the Center:
 - Can download/print records as described above
 - Modern records are view-only
- A cost (in purchased credits) is used

Start your search

Select a category to get started

People

[Places](#)

[Virtual Volumes](#)

[Maps and plans](#)

[Image Library](#)



Statutory registers

Search the statutory (civil) registers of births, marriages and deaths in Scotland from 1855 to the present.

[Births >](#)

[Marriages >](#)

[Divorces >](#)



Church registers

Search church registers of births (or baptisms), marriages and burials in Scotland from 1553 onwards.

[Births and baptisms >](#)

[Banns and marriages >](#)

[Deaths and burials >](#)



Census returns

Search the lists of people recorded in censuses taken every 10 years in Scotland from 1841 onwards.

[Census >](#)

scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Births and baptisms

Please Select Church (i)

- Church of Scotland (old parish registers)
- Roman Catholic Church
- Other churches

Surname (i) [Search tools](#)

johnston

Forename (i) [Search tools](#)

james

Gender (i)

- Male
- Female
- Both

Year range (i)

Year from

1553

Year to

1855

County/city (i)

DUMFRIES

Parish/Congregation (i)

ALL
ANNAN
APPLEGARTH
BRYDEKIRK
CAERLAWROCK

Search registers of births and baptisms kept by churches in Scotland from the sixteenth century onwards.

Read how to search registers of births and baptisms and understand their contents in our [church registers guide](#). You can also read how to:

- [sort and filter search results](#)
- [use search tips](#)

Baptism Search

and Baptisms - Search results

You searched for - Church type: **Old Parish Registers - Births**, Surname: **"Johnston"**, Surname options: **"Exact names only"**, Forename: **"James"**, Forename options: **"Names that begin with"**, County/city: **"DUMFRIES"**

Refine search 

Showing 1 to 25 of 248 (10 pages)

Surname	Forename	Parents/Other details	Gender	Birth Date	Parish Number	Ref	Parish	
JOHNSTON	JAMESIE	WILLIAM JOHNSTON/HELEN BRETTON FR47 (FR47)	F	22/10/1798	813 / A	10 / 68	Applegarth and Sibbaldbie	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	GEORGE JAMES	CHARLES JAMES/JOHNSTON LILIAS MCALPIN FR477 (FR477)	M	06/10/1827	830	30 / 25	Hollywood	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	ADAM JOHNSTON/ISOBEL ANDERSON FR30 (FR30)	M	17/09/1736	842	10 / 47	Moffat	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	ADAM JOHNSTON/ISOBEL GLESPIE FR32 (FR32)	M	15/09/1765	820	10 / 74	Dryfesdale	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	ANDREW JOHNSTON/BRIGIT ARMSTRONG FR154 (FR154)	M	26/09/1782	827	10 / 194	Graitney or Gretna	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANET SWAN FR119 (FR119)	M	15/08/1813	840	10 / 217	Lochmaben	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANET UNDERWOOD FR425 (FR425)	M	10/09/1810	847	10 / 147	St Mungo	View (6 credits)
JOHNSTON	JAMES	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANNET IRVING FR201 (FR201)	M	11/03/1804	837	10 / 195	Kirkpatrick Fleming	View (paid) ●
JOHNSTON	JAMES	JAMES JOHNSTON/JANET GRAHAM FR34 (FR34)	M	29/04/1739	842	10 / 55	Moffat	View (6 credits)

Baptism Search Results

Surname (i) [Search tools](#)

johnston 

Forename (i) [Search tools](#)

Gender (i)

Male Female Both

Year range (i)

Year from 1553 **Year to** 1855

1st Parent Name (i) [Search tools](#)

james

2nd Parent Name (i) [Search tools](#)

jannet

County/city (i)

DUMFRIES

Parish/Congregation (i)

ALL
ANNAN
APPLEGARTH
BRYDEKIRK
CAERLAWROCK

Update results

Save search

Start a new search

[Search Old parish registers - Deaths and Burials](#)

[Search Old parish registers - Banns and Marriages](#)

Sibling Search - Baptisms

[i]

Check record
availability

Church register images

Old Parish Register images are black and white images derived from microfilm and stored in a JPEG format. Roman Catholic register images and other church registers images are stored in a colour jpeg format and are mostly derived from the original records.

Which parishes and congregations have registers in the index

Church of Scotland parishes

You can see a [list of old parish registers](#) on the National Records of Scotland site. Bear in mind that the Church of Scotland parishes did not cover the same areas as Roman Catholic parishes and the parishes of other churches.

Roman Catholic parishes and congregations

Registers for the following Roman Catholic parishes and congregations are indexed on the ScotlandsPeople site:

- MP/1 Airdrie, St Margaret's 1842-1977
- MP/2 Carluke, St Athanasius' 1849-1936
- MP/3 Coatbridge, St Patrick's 1847-1952
- MP/4 Hamilton, St Mary's 1841-1906
- MP/5 Rutherglen, St Columbkille's 1848-1945
- MP/6 Greenock, St Mary's 1808-1946
- MP/7 Houston, St Fillan's 1868-1944
- MP/8 Paisley, St Mirin's 1808-1934
- MP/9 Port Glasgow, St John's 1846-1939
- MP/10 Aberdeen, St Mary's with St Peter's 1782-1957
- MP/11 Ballater, St Nathalan 1769-2002
- MP/12 Ballogie, St Michael's 1833-1876
- MP/13 Beaulie, St Mary's 1851-1885
- MP/14 Blairs, St Mary's with Scalan 1789-1953
- MP/15 Braemar, St Andrew's 1608-1992
- MP/16 Buckie, St Peter's 1786-1994

scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/church-registers#Parishes

Civil and Parish Records

- Parish records may go back to the 17th century
- Civil records began in 1855
- Idiosyncrasies in clerks' record keeping may offer additional information
- Civil records are on ScotlandsPeople
- Church of Scotland and Catholic records are on ScotlandsPeople

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation

consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services

research@americanancestors.org

Tracing Scottish Ancestry 2026

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Tracing Scottish Ancestry: Records, Resources, and Research Strategies!*

From the Highlands to the Lowlands—and across the Atlantic—Scots have shaped the story of North America for centuries. Today, an estimated 25 million Americans claim Scottish roots. In this five-session online seminar, you'll gain essential historical context, learn how to navigate key Scottish sources, and build a clear research plan designed to carry your lineage back several generations. Discover the rich records, powerful resources, and proven research strategies that will help you uncover your family's story in Scotland. Whether you're just beginning or looking to break through a brick wall, this course will equip you with the tools and confidence to trace your Scottish heritage with clarity and purpose.

JOIN THE BROADCASTS

Click here to join the live broadcasts: <https://zoom.us/j/92699422932>

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2, 6:00 – 7:30 PM ET

If you are unable to attend a live session, you will be able to watch a full recording on this webpage for the foreseeable future.

AmericanAncestors.org/tracing-scottish-ancestry-2026



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

Copyright ©2026