**Notes for Scottish Research**

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**Basics:**

* ID type of records and resources needed
* Secure a map of the country, counties and parish examining
* There were 33 counties
* Highlands, where clans came from
* Lowlands, more educated communities
* Knowing the history will help to direct where to look first.
* Electricscotland.com is a good history source
* Records differ from the English, 1707 and before, Scotland was not a part of the UK

**Top Sources for Searching**

* [www.scotlandspeople.com](http://www.scotlandspeople.com) - general register office of Scotland in Edinburgh on line: can find Statutory Registers, Old Parish registers, records such as will and testaments and coats of Arms, Catholic Registers, Census Records of 1841 to 1911, Valuation Rolls for 1905 and 1915
* Or visit GROS (General Records Office)in Edinburgh for at lease one day. Next door is the NAS (National Archieves)
* LDS history centers and website, www.family search.org
* GENUKI Scotland
* Scotland releases census records every 100 years. Check the Mormon’s first
* Cyndi’s List on Scotland
* join “List Serves” to correspond with others searching for your surname
* “Roots Chat” is British, it is broken down by county and look for a posting of a name
* “Rootsweb” has a bulliten board for surnames
* Many Scots immigrated to New Zealand
* Scottish Handwriting.com – assistance in reading

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**Detailed Research**

* When looking for records before 1841, must go to early parish records – best material found
* In 1841, birthdates were rounded down to recent 5 years
* After 1855,civil records are noticeably better
* Church of Scotland – Presbyterian
* **Goods and Property:**  two types of testamentary records (wishes of the deceased, both with a will and without) 1. Inherited land, 2. “Retour” or services of heirs, Moveable goods, Sasines (property transfers and sales or security for a loan) – low probability for finding many records prior to 1800’s. Both types contain inventories of debts and possessions. “Confirmations” show executor and why appointed. Providing substantial personal background information.

Before 1823, Commisary Courts are accountable for these records and afterwards, Sherrifs Courts had jurisdiction. Court in Edinburgh superior over all courts

* **Church History** – secessionist churches started in 1843 and their records are spotty. There were the independents, Baptists, Quakers, Episcopalian or Anglicans, Catholic
* **Special People –** The poor – parish records are a good source, Look for “minutes of Kirk Sessions”; Lawbreakers and Litigants: Look in the Court of Session, Sherrif’s court, High Court of the Justiciary;Migrants (difficult to track)
* **Taxes and Contracts** - look in registry of deeds for marriage contracts, testaments and ordinary agreements, hearth tax in 1691 was paid aby both owners and occupants; Pll tax in 1694 was payable by everyone including women (available at NAS); Land taxes, best data after 1855. Registers of Sasines kept since 1717. Most held at the General Register Office in Edinburgh. May need to look in specific localities to find. Look for “Abridgements” with an index as to persons and places. Can find these at NAS AND FH OR FHL.

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* **Trades and Occupations-**  can be found in the census, civil registration, testamentary records, directories, parish registers. Classifications of merit are: Govt. employees, military personnel, merchants and manufacturers, craftsmen and tradesmen, ships and railways, farmers and laborers