

## Scottish Research.

The ScotlandsPlaces website allows users to search across parts of the combined collections of the National Records of Scotland; the National Library of Scotland, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland.

ScotlandsPeople <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

You will find a list giving the choice of:

Free surname search.

Statutory Registers 1855-2012: Deaths, Marriage, Births

Old Parish Registers: Deaths & Burials, Births & Baptisms, Banns & Marriages (1538-1854)

Catholic Registers: Births & Baptisms (1703-1792), Banns & Marriages (1736-1794), Deaths & Burials (1742-1795), Other events (1742-1909)

Census Records: 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911

Valuation Rolls: 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1920. Cover property having a rateable value.

Wills and Testaments: 1513-1925 free search and view of testator. View will 10 credits

Coats of Arms: (1672-1913)

There is considerable help detail and you should read this.

Searches and registration are free but to view the result of any search you need not only to register but also to buy credits. At present this is £7.00 for 30 credits / 30 pages. However to view a certificate or a census household is 5 credits. Still good value as you can get a tif copy of an entry without purchasing a legal certificate for £12.00.

There is a time limit for digital online information for B,M,D. i.e. Births: must be older than 100, Marriages: older than 75, Deaths older than 50. So in 2013 you can get .tif using credits for births from 1855 to 1912, marriages 1855 to 1937 and deaths 1855 to 1962. For any more recent then you do need to buy a certificate for £12 to see the detail.

Statutory Births 1855-2012.

A simple search will probably suffice. Advanced search may be used for other names of the child. It does not appear to cover a parent's name.

Your search found **34** matches. (2 pages). Selecting one page to view.

This will cost one credit, are you sure?

Two pages may be viewed one at a time each costing one credit. You may return to a page at no further cost.

Hopefully you find a likely entry. To view this is 5 credits. The one I viewed showed three entries.

The Viewer triggered a warning from Java. I chose Block and was able to see it perfectly well.

This is a copy of the official record for personal use only. It is not legally admissible.

Once you have paid you can view the entry again. You may save the entry as a tif.

Clicking Order puts the item into your basket. Birth certificate £12.00.

The certificate viewed or purchased shows you:

No. Name and Surname. When and Where Born. Sex. Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father with Name and Maiden Surname of Mother and with Date and Place of Marriage.

This makes it easy to search for the Marriage of the parents. However, there does not seem to be a way of going straight to a certificate but always through viewing the result of a search.

Marriage Certificate shows

When Where and How Married. Signature of Parties and Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any). Age. Usual residence. Name, Surname and Rank or Profession of Father and Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.

Those I viewed showed an exact age though a search for the groom's baptism based on the information was not successful.

Statutory Deaths

I had a search for a married woman who had a child in 1852 but was dead at that child's marriage. There were 5 matches (1 credit). When results of the search were viewed a column for Other Surnames showed the Maiden Surname of the deceased.

The Death Certificate shows:

No. Name and Surname with Rank or Profession and whether Single, Married, or Widowed. When and Where Died. Sex. Age. Name, Surname & Rank or Profession of Father with the Name and Maiden Surname of Mother. Cause of Death, Duration of Disease and Medical Attendant by whom certified. Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred. When and where Registered and Signature of Registrar.

Old Parish Registers. I only looked at Births for these and for one neither of the matches looked right. For the other I only went as far as the index entry which showed.

Number. Date of Birth. Surname. Forename. Father / Mother with Maiden Surname. Sex. Parish. City/County.

The 'Births' are generally the Christening/Baptism date although the date of birth may be given if the Minister included it and it has been transcribed. If not baptised then there is nothing!

The 'Marriages' are records of Banns and the date is the first calling of these, 3 weeks before the wedding. The marriage is likely to have taken place and this may be annotated in the original register book. But the marriage may not have taken place. If from a marriage search result it appears that the marriage happened in 2 different parishes then the Banns were called in both the husband and wife's parishes and the marriage almost certainly took place in the bride's parish. Again in general the bride and groom would be living in the same parish so there will only be one result (if it exists and has been transcribed of course).

CENSUS RECORDS.

Lots of information to read up. To search click the year on the left.

View the match 1 credit view the household 5 credits.

The credits do get eaten up but this was £7.00 for 3 certificates.

If you have many Scottish ancestors you should join the appropriate family history society in Scotland for more advice. You may then be able to purchase ScotlandsPeople vouchers cheaper than the £7 for 30 credits. The vouchers last for ever. Credits last for 1 year but any not used are only made unavailable until you activate a new voucher.

"Scottish National Archive" webpages seem to say that their data can only be seen by visiting their search room in Edinburgh. However try:

The Scottish Archive Network which is a single electronic catalogue to historical records held by Scottish archives. [www.scan.org.uk](http://www.scan.org.uk)