INFORMATION ON CERTIFICATES, CENSUS & OLD PARISH REGISTERS

Birth Certificate

1. Name and sex
2. When and where born
3. Name and occupation of father
4. Name and maiden name of mother
5. Date and place of marriage of parents (except 1856-60)
6. Name and relationship of informant, and address if not present
7. When and where registered and name of registrar
8. Other children of parents (1855 only)
9. Parents' ages and place of birth (1855 only)

Marriage Certificate

1. When and where married
2. How married - Church of Scotland etc.
3. Names and occupation of bride and groom, marital status and relationship (if any)
4. Ages of bride and groom (birthplace, where and when registered 1855 only)
5. Usual residence
6. Names of both sets of parents, occupation of fathers and maiden surnames of mothers, and whether alive or dead
7. Names of minister, registrar and witnesses
8. When and where registered
9. Number of children by any other marriage (1855 only)

Death Certificate

1. Name, sex and address of the deceased and marital status
2. When and where died
3. Age and occupation
4. Names of parents, with father's occupation and mother's maiden surname, and whether alive or dead
5. Cause of death and name of doctor who certified death
6. Name and relationship and residence of informant (name only 1855)
7. When and where registered and signature of registrar
8. Place of birth and length of time in district (1855 only)
9. Spouse's name if married (omitted 1856-60)
10. Issue in order of birth, names and ages (1855 only)
11. Burial place and name of undertaker (1855-60)

CENSUS

Censuses record all those in a household on the nights of the following dates:

6 June 1841	3 April 1881
30 March 1851	5 April 1891
7 April 1861	31 March 1901
2 April 1871	2 April 1911

1841 Census

1. Names of all persons resident in household
2. Ages to lowest round figure, e.g. 20-24 recorded as 20, 25-29 recorded as 25, and so on
3. Occupation, sometimes
4. Whether born in the county (*Y*) or outside the county (*N*)

1851-1901 Census

1. Name
2. Exact ages
3. Relationship to head of household
4. Occupations
5. Parish of birth in Scotland, or country of birth

1911 Census

1. Name
2. Exact ages
3. Relationship to head of household
4. Occupations, and in which particular industry
5. Duration of marriage with number of children born alive and number still living
6. Parish of birth in Scotland, or country of birth

OLD PARISH REGISTERS

1. Baptisms and sometimes birth dates
2. Marriages (proclamations)
3. Burials or Mortcloth Dues

The Kirk Session records sometimes have information on marriages, and always feature paternity cases. They are an important source and the digital images of the records can be consulted at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh, and at Aberdeen City Archives.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN SCOTLAND

Birth, marriage and death certificates started in Scotland in 1855 so it is easy to trace any of your family back to 1855.

The certificates are held in 3 places:

1. The place where the event happened. (Local Registrar)
2. The National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh (NRS)
3. By the person(s) concerned.

They can be accessed locally and in Edinburgh and online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Birth Certificates

A birth certificate gives you the date and place the child's parents got married (so you can get straight back to a marriage certificate)

Marriage Certificates

A marriage certificate gives you the names of the parents of the bride and groom (including the maiden names of the mothers)

Death Certificates

A death certificate gives you the age of the deceased (so you can calculate year of birth) and also the names of the deceased's parents.

(Because of these details, if you are lucky enough to find a great-grandparent who died in 1855 and who had lived into his/her nineties, it is possible to trace your ancestry right back to about 1750!)

Census Reports

Every 10 years since 1841 (except 1941) the country has taken a census of everyone living. If you know where your ancestors were living in 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 you can look at these censuses and see all the family living at one address, what they worked at, how old they were etc.

Old Parish Registers

If you want to trace before 1855 you have to consult the old parish registers as the Ministers and Sessions Clerks of the church were responsible then for noting all births and marriages. There is an index for the whole of Scotland plus microfilms of the registers themselves at the Family History Society.

Aberdeen & North-East Family History Society
158-164 King Street
Aberdeen
AB24 5BD

Tel: 01224 646323
Website: http://www.anesfhs.org.uk
Email: enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk

We also have a lot of English, Welsh and Irish records, books about the Scots overseas etc. Staff at the Research Centre will be pleased to help.

[amended September 2011 – MM]

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