Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Your Scottish Coal Mining Ancestors

How are you off for Coals?

May 2017
Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to help you research your Scottish coal mining ancestors and the conditions in which they lived and worked. There has been coal mining in Scotland for over a thousand years, operating in tens of thousands of pits. Scottish mining saw its peak in the early years of the twentieth century, during which 10% of the Scottish population was involved in the industry. Few detailed employment records exist from the period before nationalisation in 1947. However, there are many sources available which can shed light on conditions in the workplace and at home, and help to give a more complete picture of your ancestor’s life.

First Steps

Before launching into specific mining related research, it is advisable to build up a comprehensive picture of your ancestors by gathering information from relatives, and by searching standard family history records. Key record sets include:

- statutory registers (births, marriages and deaths from 1855 onwards);
- Old Parish Records (baptisms, marriages and banns, and burials, up to 1855);
- census returns (1841-1911);
- Kirk Session Minutes;
- Memorial Inscriptions - a large collection of these is held at the Scottish Genealogy Society Library;
- directories – many, covering the period 1773 to 1911, are available digitally via the National Library of Scotland;
- newspapers;
- wills and testaments;
- legal and property records.

You can find these records in libraries and record offices, family history centres, and online databases. A number of excellent guides have been published on starting family research; a selection of these are included at the back of this booklet, along with lists of national and regional record repositories, and useful websites.

[3]
Specific Mining Records
Employment Records

Pre-nationalisation
Prior to the nationalisation of the coal mining industry in 1947, records were held by private companies that operated the mines. These records include wage books, pay books, and output books. Although many miners lived near the collieries in which they worked, some would travel a considerable distance to reach their workplaces. This can make it difficult to identify the colliery, and therefore the appropriate coal company. If you are lucky, and your ancestor’s address was in specific colliery housing, your search will be easier. If your ancestor was involved in the management of a colliery you may be able to find him in published colliery directories, e.g. Lists of Mines (1883-) Colliery Year Book (1925-). Otherwise you may have to search the records for a number of collieries.

Coal company records are scattered across a number of archives and private collections. The National Records of Scotland (NRS) holds a large number, including:

- Alloa Coal Company 1835-46 (CB24)
- Archibald Russell Ltd 1901-46 (CB12)
- Bairds and Dalmellington Ltd 1898-1952 (CB4)
- Cairns and Simpson, Merrystow: wages books, 1819-20 and 1853-4 (CS96/44)
- Coltness Iron Company Ltd 1885 (CB11)
- Darngavil Coal Company 1943-45 (CB22)
- Dryden Colliery: daybooks, 1756-70 (CS96/57)
- East Wemyss Coal Company 1891-1948 (CB1)
- Edinburgh and district coal companies, 1890-1947 (CB29)
- Fife Coal Company 1872-1961 (CB3)
- Fordell Colleries 1798-1940 (CB30)
- Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company 1847-1953 (CB2)
- Lothian Coal Company 1741-1919 (CB9)
- Niddrie and Benhar Coal Company Ltd 1880-1937 (CB18)
- Sanquhar and Kirkconnel Collieries, 1903-1923 (CB31)
- Shotts Iron Company Ltd 1871-1946 (CB21)
NRS also holds collections of papers from private owners (NRS, Ref GD) who had mines on their land. These may contain information of use to you, e.g. bonds tying coal mining families to their collieries. A source list of mining material found in these collections is available in the NRS Historical Research Room.
Other coal company collections, held in private libraries and archives can be found via the catalogues of the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) and the National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS).

**Post-nationalisation**
If your ancestor was an agent, manager or undermanager, you may find him listed in the NCB Guides to Coalfields (1948 -1992); there is a personal name index for each volume. After 1947, employment records were kept by the National Coal Board. These are curated on behalf of the Coal Authority by Iron Mountain Records Management. Iron Mountain is not open to public, so you would need to make formal request for information, giving your ancestor’s full name, date of birth, and, if known, the colliery in which he worked.

**Accidents**

**Burial and Death Registers**
Before 1852 no official lists of mining accidents or deaths were recorded. However, information can often be found in death and burial records, and in newspaper reports. Burial records survive in the Old Parish Records (ORPs) Collection (Scotlands People Centre) for about two thirds of parishes. They are generally very basic, i.e. name of deceased, and date of burial. However, sometimes other information is included, e.g. cause of death and residence.
Statutory records (1855 onwards) are more comprehensive than OPRs. A record usually states cause of death, residence, and marital and birth information. Deaths had to be registered within eight days at which time the exact cause of death was not always known – particularly in the case of accidents or sudden deaths. Revised information was recorded in a Register of Corrected Entries (RCEs). Watch out for links to RCEs on the original statutory record (see example below).

Death record for Alexander Ross, killed in the Barrwood Colliery explosion, 1878

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Revised death record from Register of Corrected Entries for Alexander Ross³.

**Newspapers**

Accidents were often recorded, sometimes in great detail in local and national newspapers. The main repository for newspapers in Scotland is the National Library of Scotland (NLS); many local libraries and record offices have more limited holdings. An increasing number of newspapers are also available digitally via, the NLS, the British Newspaper Archive, and FindMyPast websites.

![Article on the 1877 explosion at Blantyre Colliery⁴](image)

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Reading out the list of fatalities at the Blantyre disaster

**Mines Inspector Reports**
Published annually (1852-1914), these list, in the appendices, the names of victims, and give details of occupation, cause of death, and colliery in which they worked. Details of the accident itself may be in the main report. Victims may not be listed if death occurred at a later date. Also included is information on bravery medal awards and on prosecutions. Separate reports were written for major disasters (i.e. more than 10 deaths).

**Accident Log Books**
Log books were kept at collieries; the few that survive are generally to be found in the NRS (search their catalogue using the phrase “accident book”) and in local record offices.

**Fatal Accident Inquiry Records (FAIs)**
Accidental or sudden deaths in Scotland were privately investigated for the Procurator Fiscal. After 1895 Fatal Accident Inquiries took place in local sheriff courts. Some, but not all of the resulting reports have survived, and are kept at the NRS (Sheriff Court

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[8]
Records Collection, ref SC). All records listed individually in the NRS catalogue. FAIs are also to be found amongst the records of the Lord Advocate’s Department (NRS ref AD, Registers of Sudden Deaths, Fatal Accident Enquiries and Accidents in Mines, 1848-1935). A Fatal Accident Inquiry is often indicated by reference to a jury in the Statutory Records Register of Corrected Entries (see Burial and Death Registers above).

**Health Board Archives**
If your ancestor was hospitalised, it is possible that you may find information amongst the patient records. These vary considerably in scope and comprehensiveness depending on the relevant hospital. Generally, in order to search these records, you need patient name, date of birth, hospital name, and date of admission or discharge. Examples of records available may include: admission registers, ward journals, case books, and registers of death. You can find contact details for the relevant regional health boards via the SCAN Directory.

**Websites**
Extensive lists of accident victims can be found in the following websites:
- **Scottish Mining Website**
  [http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/5.html](http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/5.html) : lists of accidents in Scottish mines (1698-2008) compiled from newspapers, Inspector Reports, FAIs, and death certificates. The lists include some people involved in non-fatal accidents.
- **Ancestry: UK Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index, 1700-1950.**
- **National Mining Museum Scotland**
project, has also published data and photographs in the Philip Healey website:
http://healeyhero.co.uk/rescue/Scotland/Memorials-Scotland.html

- Kingdom of Fife Industry Memorial Book
http://www.fifepits.co.uk/ : alphabetical list of mine-related deaths in 19th and 20th century Fife. Includes information supplied by relatives of mining casualties.

**Bravery Awards**

Until the establishment of the Mines Rescue Service in the early years of the twentieth century, mines were reliant on volunteers to rescue their colleagues and bring out casualties during a disaster. In the second half of the nineteenth century the large number of major accidents led to the setting up of a Royal Commission to improve standards of safety. The first dedicated mines rescue services were set up in the early twentieth century, e.g. in Cowdenbeath, Fife (1909). The Coal Mines Act (1911) made such services compulsory within 15 miles of most mines.

![Roslin Colliery Rescue Brigade c.1920s](image6)

![Fife and Clackmannan Rescue Station medal, 1912](image7)

The majority of acts of courage performed by rescuers remain unsung. However, occasionally they were recognised by some kind

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of award. Awards ranged from small commemorative items, to medals and certificates. Official notifications of bravery awards were placed in the London Gazette (https://www.thegazette.co.uk/ ) and were often reported more fully in newspapers. Other sources of information on awards are:

- The Carnegie Hero Fund Medal Roll of Honour. This commemorates the heroism of over 6000 people since 1908. It is housed in the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust Museum, Dunfermline.
- Heroes of Mine website https://sites.google.com/site/minesrescuehistory/gallantry-awards : lists of awards of the Albert, Edward and Empire Gallantry medals. Also information on the George, George Cross and Order of Industrial Heroism medals.
- The George Cross database: http://www.marionhebblethwaite.co.uk/gcindex.htm

Mining Organisations and Trade Unions

Mining Organisations
Your ancestor may be listed as a member in the publications of a mining organisation. These include:

- Transactions of the Institution of Mining Engineers.
- Proceedings of the National Association of Colliery Managers
- Transactions of the Institute of Mine Surveyors
- Colliery Yearbook and Coal Trades Directory
The publications are held in many libraries, including that of the National Mining Museum Scotland.

**Friendly Societies and trade unions**

From the beginning of the nineteenth century many miners joined regional unions which were formed to represent miners in a specific region, village, or colliery. NRS holds a large collection of records for Scotland in its FS series, e.g. Kilmarnock Coal Cutters Society (FS1/2/41) Tranent Benevolent Society of Colliers (FS1/9/9) and the Carfin Colliery Friendly Society (FS1/16/29). The collection is largely based on society rules and regulations, minutes, and correspondence. However, a few records also list members. Many of the small unions and associations were subsequently amalgamated to form larger unions. The National Library of Scotland holds collections relating to many of these (http://www.nls.uk/catalogues/labour-history/1), including:

- The Scottish Colliery Enginemen, Boilermen and Tradesmens’ Association, 1877-1965;
- And The National Union of Mineworkers, Scottish Area.

The Modern Records Centre, based at the University of Warwick http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc is the main UK repository for trade union and employer organisation archives. Amongst its holdings are collections from:

- The National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (NACODS);
- NUM; and
- The Miners’ Federation of Great Britain.

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Monktonhall Miners Deputies and Tradesmen banner, 1967

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Context
You may not be able to find many records relating specifically to your ancestor. However, a wealth of material is available in secondary sources which can give you a more complete picture of the kinds of jobs he/she might have done, what conditions would have been like in the mine and at home, and what their community was like.

Mining Occupations and Mining History
There were many different jobs in the mines, both above and below ground, and there are considerable regional differences in how these were named. Glossaries of mining terms can help in determining what your ancestor’s role in a mine was. The Scottish Mining Website [http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/13.html](http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/13.html) has a particularly helpful section on mining terms, including a transcription of James Barrowman’s 1886 *Glossary of Scotch Mining Terms*, along with a fuller description of some occupations from the General and Special Rules included in William Alexander’s 1856 report as Inspector of Mines. Many excellent histories have been published on the history of mining (see Suggested Reading at the back of this booklet). It is also worth seeking out miners’ own accounts in autobiographies, poems, songs etc. The library of the National Mining Museum Scotland has a large collection of books, pamphlets and journals; the Library can be consulted by appointment.

![Coal hewers, Brayton Domain Colliery, c.1895](http://example.com/coal_hewers.jpg)

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Local history
The pit held communities together – particularly in the more isolated locations where mining formed the sole occupation. It is, therefore, particularly worthwhile researching the local history of your coalmining ancestors. Primary sources of information are maps and photographs. These can give many clues as to the terrain, layout of villages and towns, location of the collieries, housing, and amenities. The National Library of Scotland (https://maps.nls.uk/) is the largest repository in Scotland for maps, with material ranging from mediaeval manuscripts to up-to-date digital images. Particularly useful, and available online, are the georeferenced maps, allowing you to compare modern and historical areas on one screen. The National Mining Museum Scotland holds a large collection of maps and plans, including maps of underground workings and topographical maps showing colliery locations, as well as engineering plans and architectural drawings. Our collection of over 18000 photographs include aerial shots of collieries, surface views, and underground scenes. Gazetteers can also help to give a picture of a local community. The Old (1791-99) and New (1834-45) Statistical Accounts of Scotland offer detailed parish accounts for the whole of Scotland. The original volumes are at the National Library of Scotland, but they are also available digitally at http://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home. Maps, photographs, and written records are also available on the ScotlandsPlaces website. This is a free resource that enables you to search by place name, or by clicking on a map. Canmore (https://canmore.org.uk/) is the online catalogue of the National Record of Historic Environment Scotland. It holds information and images for more than 300,000 places in Scotland. Books and records, not to mention expertise on local history, are to be found in local libraries, archives, and societies. Details of many of these are listed in the directory following.
PLACES TO VISIT

Museum of Lead Mining
Wanlockhead Village
Dumfries and Galloway
ML12 6UT
Tel: 01659 74387
Email: info@leadminingmuseum.co.uk
Web: http://www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk

National Mining Museum
Scotland
Lady Victoria Colliery
Newtongrange
Midlothian
EH22 4QN
Tel: 0131 6637519
Email: enquiries@nationalminingmuseum.com
Web: http://www.nationalminingmuseum.com

Prestongrange Museum
Morrison’s Haven
Prestonpans
East Lothian
EH32 9RX
Tel: 0131 6532904 (Apr – Sept); 01620 820624 (Oct – Mar)
Web: http://www.prestongrange.org

Scottish Shale Oil Museum
Almond Valley Heritage Trust
Millfield
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 7AR
Tel: 01506 414957
Web: http://www.scottishshale.co.uk/

Summerlee Museum of industrial Life
Heritage Way
Coatbridge
North Lanarkshire
ML5 1QD
Tel: 0123 6638460
Email: info@culturenl.co.uk
Web: https://culturenl.co.uk/summerlee/

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES: NATIONAL

Coal Authority Archives
C/o Iron Mountain Records Management
Iron Mountain UK Ltd, Central Enquiry Service,
P.O. Box 3238, Stafford ST16 9LS.
Tel: 0844 2641486
Email: cservices@ironmountain.co.uk

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
Tel: 0131 6233700
Email: enquiries@nls.uk
Web: http://www.nls.uk/

National Library of Scotland
Map Collections
159 Causewayside
Edinburgh
EH9 1PH
Tel: 0131 6233971
Email: maps@nls.uk
Web: http://maps.nls.uk/index.html

National Records of Scotland
(for BMD copy certificates)
New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT
Tel: 0131 3340380
Web: https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/

**National Records of Scotland**
(for family history research via Scotlands People and Historical Search Room))
General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YY
Tel: 0131 5351314 switchboard
0131 3144300 (Scotlands People Centre)
Web: https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/

**National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS)**
Web: https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/record-keeping/national-register-of-archives-for-scotland

**Scottish Archive Network (SCAN)**
Web: http://www.scan.org.uk/

**The National Archives (TNA)**
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 88763444
Web: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

**LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES: REGIONAL**
(main coal mining areas only)

**AYRSHIRE**
Ayrshire Archives HQ
Watson Peat Building
SAC Auchincruive
Ayr
KA6 5HW

**Ayrshire Roots**
Web: http://www.ayrshireroots.co.uk/

**The Baird Institute History Centre**
Lugar Street
Cumnock
KA18 1AD
Tel: 01290 427084
Web: http://east ayrshire leisure.com/index.php?a=venuedetail&id=5&venueid=37

**East Ayrshire Family History Society**
c/o Dick Institute
Elmbank Avenue
Kilmarnock
KA1 3BU
Email: enquiries@east ayrshirefhs.co.uk
Web: http://www.east ayrshirefhs.co.uk/

**Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society**
Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street
Glasgow
G11 5QP
Tel: 0141 3398303
Email: enquiries@east ayrshirefhs.co.uk
Web: http://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/

**North Ayrshire Family History Society**
c/o Largs Library
Allanpark Street
Largs
KA30 9AG
North Ayrshire Heritage Centre
13 Kirkgate
Saltcoats
Ayrshire
KA21 5HB
Tel: 01294 464174
Email: naheritage@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Scottish and Local History Library
Carnegie Library
12 Main Street
Ayr
KA8 8EB
Tel: 01292 272231
Email: localhistory@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Web: http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/local-history.aspx

Troon@Ayrshire Family History Society
c/o MERC
Troon Public Library
South Beach
Troon
KA10 6EF
Email: info@troonayrshirefhs.org.uk
Web: http://www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk/

CLACKMANNANSHIRE
Central Scotland Family History Society
Secretary

4 Fir Lane
Larbert
FK5 3LW
Web: http://www.csfhs.org.uk/index.html

Clackmannanshire Local Family History Centre
Speirs Centre
Primrose Place
Alloa
FK10 1AD
Tel: 0159 723850
Email: registration@clacks.gov.uk
Web: http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/culture/genealogy/

DUNBARTONSHIRE
Clydebank Heritage Centre
Clydebank Library
Dumbarton Road
Clydebank
G81 1XH
Web: http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/libraries/archives-family-history/clydebank-heritage-centre/

Dumbarton Heritage Centre
Dumbarton Library
Strathleven Place
Dumbarton
G82 1BD
Web: http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/libraries/archives-family-history/dumbarton-heritage-centre/

East Dunbartonshire Archives & Local Studies
William Patrick Library
2/4 West High Street
Kirkintilloch
G66 1AD
Tel: 0141 7773142
Web: http://www.edlc.co.uk/heritage/archives.aspx

Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society
See Ayrshire

EAST LOTHIAN
East Lothian Archives and Local History Centre
John Gray Centre
Haddington Library
15 Lodge Street
Haddington
EH41 3DX
Tel: 01620 820680
Email: jgc@eastlothian.gov.uk
Web: http://www.johngraycentre.org/about/archives/

Lothians Family History Society
LFHS Library at:
Lasswade Library
19 Eskdale Drive
Bonnyrigg
Midlothian
Email: webmaster@lothiansfhs.org.uk
Web: http://www.lothiansfhs.org/

FIFE
Cupar Library
Family History and Local History Collection
Duncan Institute
33-35 Crossgate
Cupar
KY15 5AS
Tel: 01334 659367
Web: https://www.onfife.com/venues/cupar-library

Dunfermline Carnegie Library
Local History Department
Abbot Street
Dunfermline
KY12 7NL
Tel: 01383 602365
Email: dunfermline.library@onfife.com
Web: https://www.fifedirect.org.uk/atoz/index.cfm?fuseaction=facility.display&facid=0C95F6FA-11D6-467F-BDE5ED42118689F4

Fife Archives Centre
Iona House
John Smith Business Park
Kirkcaldy
KY2 6NA
Tel: 01592 583352
Web: https://www.onfife.com/libraries/archives/archives

Fife Family History Society
FFHS Library
c/o Cupar Library
See above
Email: research@fifefhs.org
Web: http://www.fifefhs.org/

Fife Mining Heritage Society
Web: http://www.fifeminingheritage.org.uk/Index.asp?MainID=611

Kirkcaldy Galleries
Local and Family History Room
Abbottshall Road
Kirkcaldy
Fife
KY1 1YG
Tel: 01592 583206
Email: Kirkcaldy.galleries@fife.gov.uk
Web: https://www.onfife.com/kirkcaldy-galleries-local-family-history-room

St Andrews University Library
Special Collections
Library Annex
North Haugh
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9WH
Tel: 01334 462339/467380
Email: speccoll@st-andrews.ac.uk
Web: http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/collections/archives/themanuscriptcollections/

Tay Valley Family History Society
179-181 Princes Street
Dundee
DD4 6DQ
Tel: 01382 461845
Web: http://www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/

LANARKSHIRE
East Kilbride Central Library
Reference Department
The Olympia Shopping Centre
East Kilbride
G74 1PG
Tel: 01355 220046
Email: eastkilbride.reference@library.s-lanark.org.uk
Web: http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/82/east_kilbride_library/443/local_history_heritage_and_family_history

Family History at The Mitchell
Mitchell Library
North Street
Glasgow
G3 7DN
Tel: 0141 2872988
Email: familyhistory@glasgowlife.org.uk
Web: http://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx?gclid=CKCDoKr7bwCFSn4w4godH3YAbA

Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society
see Ayrshire
c/o North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre

Hamilton Town House Library
102 Cadzow Street
Hamilton
ML3 6HH
Tel: 01698 452121
Email: Hamilton.reference@library.s-lanark.org.uk
Web: http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/87/hamilton_town_house_library/443/local_history_heritage_and_family_history

Lanark Library
Reference Library
Hope Street
Lanark
ML11 7LZ
Tel: 01555 661144
Email: lanark.ref@library.s-lanark.org.uk
Web: http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/89/lanark_library/443/local_history_heritage_and_family_history

Lanarkshire Family History Society
see address below
Resource Centre:
122-124 Merry Street
Motherwell
ML1 1NA
Email: research-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk
Web: http://www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk/index.html
North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre
Archives
High Road
Motherwell
ML1 3HU
Tel: 01698 274597
Web: https://culturenl.co.uk/museums/archives-and-local-history-museums/north-lanarkshire-archives/

North Lanarkshire Libraries
Local Studies Discovery Room
Airdrie Library
Wellwynd
Airdrie
ML6 0AG
Tel: 01236 758073
Web: https://culturenl.co.uk/museums/archives-and-local-history-museums/airdrie-local-studies/planning-your-visit/

Rutherglen Library
Heritage Centre
163 Main Street
Rutherglen
G73 2HB
Tel: 0141 6135380
Email: rutherglen@library.s-lanark.org.uk
Web: http://www.sleisureandculture.co.uk/info/458/local_and_family_history/local_studies

South Lanarkshire Council Archives and Records Centre
30 Hawbank Road
East Kilbride
G74 5EX
Tel: 01355 239193
Web: http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200165/local_and_family_history/588/archives_and_records

MIDLOTHIAN
Local Studies and Archives
Dalkeith Library
White Hart Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1AE
Tel: 0131 6632083
Email: mailto:local.studies@midlothian.gov.uk
Web: https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/information/local_and_family_history/588/local_studies

Lothians Family History Society
See East Lothian

STIRLINGSHIRE
Central Scotland Family History Society
See Clackmannanshire

Falkirk Archives
Callendar House
Callendar Park
Falkirk
FK1 1YR
Tel: 01324 503779
Web: http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/heritage/family-history/family-archives.aspx

Falkirk Library
Hope Street
Falkirk
FK1 5AU
Tel: 01324 503605
Web: http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/falkirk-library/

Stirling Council Archive Services
5 Borrowmeadow Road
Stirling
FK7 7UW
Tel: 01786 450745
Stirlingshire Local History Collection
Central Reference Library
Corn Exchange Road
Stirling
FK8 2HX
Tel: 01786 237761

West Lothian
West Lothian Archives and Records Centre
Kirkton Service Centre
1 Lister Road
Kirkton Campus
Livingston
EH54 7BL
Tel: 01506 283670
Web: https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2052/Archives#cn4160

West Lothian Family History Society
Secretary
21 Willowpark
Fauldhouse
West Lothian
EH47 9HN
Web: http://www.wlfhs.org.uk/

West Lothian Local History Library
County Buildings Annexe
89-91 High Street
Linlithgow
Tel: 01506 282491
Web: https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2050/Family-History

USEFUL WEBSITES
Family History and Historical Records
Ancestry: https://www.ancestry.co.uk/ (subscription site)
Family Search: https://familysearch.org/
Findmypast: http://www.findmypast.co.uk/ (subscription site)
The Genealogist: https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/ (subscription site)
Genuki. UK and Ireland Genealogy: http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct
ScotlandsPeople: https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/ (subscription site)
Scottish Archive Network: http://www.scan.org.uk/

Maps, gazetteers, and photographs
Canmore. (Historic Environment Scotland): https://canmore.org.uk/
The Statistical Accounts of Scotland. 1791-1845: http://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home
Directories
National Library of Scotland.
Scottish Post Office Directories: http://www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office

Newspapers
National Library of Scotland.
Newspaper Collections: http://www.nls.uk/collections/newspapers
Findmypast: http://www.findmypast.co.uk/ (subscription site)
British Newspaper Archive: http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ (subscription site)

SUGGESTED READING
Family History Guides


Miners and Mining


