



Researching Your Scottish Ancestors

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Abstract

- This session will take a look at the main records to use when researching your Scottish Ancestors; where to find them; what is in them; and whether to spend money on them in the Scotland's People website. Also provided are some research strategies for people born in certain eras, and a look at the magical year that was 1855.

Record Types

- Census Records
 - 1841, 1851-1901, 1911
- Birth/Marriage/Death
 - Old Parish Records (pre-1855)
 - Statutory Records

Record Types

The main records you will use when researching your Scottish Ancestors are:

Census Records

- In Scotland, genealogically interesting census returns are available from 1841 – 1911. Census were taken every 10 years, and actually there were census taken prior to 1841 (1801 – 1831) but these did not capture the names of all the people in the households, just numerical and statistical info. Census in the UK are released for use once they are 100 years old, so the next census we can see will be the 1921 census which will (hopefully) be released in 2022. The information that was captured in a census record changed as the decades progressed, and we'll take a look at what is there and how they changed.

Birth/Marriage/Death

- The other main record types you will use are the Baptism/Marriage/Burial Old Parish Records and the Birth/Marriage/Death Statutory Records. The changeover between these records happened in 1855.

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Websites

- Ancestry
 - Subscription; Library
- Find My Past
 - Subscription; Library
- Family Search
 - Free (Login needed)
- Scotland's People
 - Pay-per-record (Login needed)

**All websites are
not created equal!**

Websites

There are a number of websites that will allow you to access Scottish genealogical records. I'll cover the main ones and any pros and cons about each. While all these websites contain Scottish records, they do not all provide the same level of access to the data.

Ancestry and Find My Past

- These are subscription based websites, i.e. you have to pay for it, BUT, if you have a library nearby you can go into the library and use them for free.

Family Search

- This is a free website to use, although these days you do need to create yourself a logon.

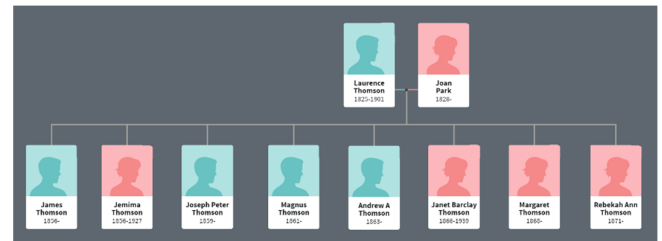
Scotland's People

- This is a PAY-PER-RECORD website. However, their search is free, and you can glean some things just from the free search results. You will need to create a logon for this website too.

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Census

- Build Family structure
 - Relationships between members of the household
- No exact birthdates, just approximate ages
- Great starting point to understand the family



NOTES

Census

- Census records are very good for building the general structure of the family. From a census record you get the relationships between members of the family; husband, wife, children, but also aunts, uncles and grand-parents that might also be in the household.
- You don't get exact birth dates, but you get the age on the night of the census, which gives you an approximate year which helps to narrow down your search for other record types.
- There are some quirks for the 1841 census which we'll look at later.

Census



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide transcriptions of Scottish Census records which are fairly complete transcriptions and are generally good enough.

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records.

- 1851-1901
 - Very similar structure to the form in these years – same columns recorded
- 1841
 - Slim pickings, much less info
- 1911
 - Additional columns added in this decade

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Census

- Census records are one of the mainstays of your Scottish research. You have census returns from the years 1841 through to 1911 at the moment. Transcriptions of these are available on Ancestry and Find My Past and therefore free for you to look at through your local library. For the most part these transcriptions are fairly complete, and while they suffer from the problem of the transcriber not knowing the local geography (and so place names sometimes come out a bit odd!) they are generally good enough.
- The Scotland's People website contains the images of the census records which you can purchase, one image at a time. Mostly it will not be necessary for you to purchase census records because the transcriptions are good enough.
- To illustrate, let's look at an 1861 census image from Scotland's People and compare it to the transcriptions in the other websites.

Ancestry Transcription

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish of <i>Unst</i>		Quoad Sacra Parish of		Parliamentary Burgh of		Royal Burgh of		
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.
		Inhabited (U.S. or Building (B))	Uninhabited (U.S. or Building (B))			Male	Female	
35	6644	1		Laurence Thomson	Head	35		Chromate Miner
				Joan Thomson	Wife	53		Mum's Wife
				James Thomson	Son	5		
				Jemima Thomson	Daughter	4		
				Joseph P. Thomson	Son	2		
				Tamar J. Nisbet	Servant	17		Domestic Serv

Name: Laurence Thomson

Age: 35

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1826

Relationship: Head

Spouse's name: Joan Thomson

Gender: Male

Where born: Unst, Shetland

Registration Number: 11

Registration district: Unst

Civil Parish: Unst

County: Shetland

Address: Cliff

Occupation: Chromater Miner

ED: 2

Household schedule number: 55

LINE: 17

Roll: CSSCT1861_2

Household Members:

Name	Age
Laurence Thomson	35
Joan Thomson	53
James Thomson	5
Jemima Thomson	4
Joseph P Thomson	2
James G S Nisbet	17

Save Cancel

- Marital Status (column: Condition) not transcribed in Ancestry version
- Tamar transcribed as James
 - Tamar is a girls name – short for Thomasina
- What do we think about mum and dad's age?

Find My Past Transcription

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish of <i>Unst</i>		Quoad Sacra Parish of		Parliamentary Burgh of		Royal Burgh of		Town of		Village of	
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Where Born.		Whether the person is a member of the household (Y/N)
		Inhabited (U.S. or Building (B))	Uninhabited (U.S. or Building (B))			Male	Female				
35	6644	1		Laurence Thomson	Head	35		Chromate Miner	Shetland	Unst	2
				Joan Thomson	Wife	53		Mum's Wife	Do	Do	
				James Thomson	Son	5			Do	Do	
				Jemima Thomson	Daughter	4			Do	Do	
				Joseph P. Thomson	Son	2			Do	Do	
				Tamar J. Nisbet	Servant	17		Domestic Serv	Do	Do	

- FMP includes marital status
- FMP makes a better job of the transcription

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Laurence	Thomson	Head	Married	Male	36	1825	Chromate Miner	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Joan	Thomson	Wife	Married	Female	33	1828	Miner's Wife	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
James	Thomson	Son	-	Male	6	1855	-	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Jemima	Thomson	Daughter	-	Female	4	1857	-	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Joseph P	Thomson	Son	-	Male	2	1859	-	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Tamar J	Nisbet	Servant	-	Female	17	1844	Domestic Serv	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland



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Family Search Transcription

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish of <i>Unst</i>		Quoad Sacra Parish of		Parliamentary Burgh of		Royal Burgh of		Town of		Village of		
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. of Name of House.	HOUSES.		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Where Born.	Whether Blind, Deaf, or Dumb.	Whether Pauper, or in Prison, or in Workhouse, or in Hospital, or in Asylum, or in Lunatic Asylum, or in any other Institution.
		Inhabited.	Uninhabited (U.S. or S.S.).				Male.	Female.				
<i>55</i>	<i>6644</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>Laurence Thomson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>35</i>		<i>Mariner</i>	<i>Scotland Unst</i>		<i>2</i>
				<i>James Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>33</i>		<i>Mariner's Wife</i>	<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Jessie Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>5</i>			<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Joseph P. Do</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>4</i>			<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Marion J. Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>2</i>			<i>Do Do</i>		

Laurence Thomson
Scotland Census, 1861

Tools

Name:	Laurence Thomson
Event Type:	Census
Event Date:	1861
Gender:	Male
Age:	36
Birthplace:	Shetland
Registration District:	Unst
County:	Shetland
Birth Year (Estimated):	1825

- No household view
- Transcription doesn't show house name/number
- No linkage between household members
- Transcriptions come from Find My Past

Transcriptions

Ancestry

- The Ancestry transcriptions of Scottish Census don't include the "Condition" column which shows the marital status. You can usually get away without this because it is easy to spot the husband and wife of a family by using the "Relation to Head of Family" column. But you do miss it when looking at widowed mothers.
- I noticed many examples of the girl's name "Tamar" being transcribed as "James", so much so that when I see a Female called James I know what it is really going to be!

Find My Past

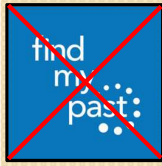
- The Find My Past transcriptions of Scottish Census do include the "Condition" column so you get the marital status, and they seem, anecdotally, to make a better job of the transcription.

Family Search

- The actual transcriptions used on Family Search for Scottish census records, are from Find My Past. The interface for looking at census records on Family Search is hard work. You don't get any kind of household view, and even though they have the transcriptions from FMP, they don't show you all of it.

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1911 Census



The 1911 Scotland census is not available through any of these sites. They haven't got round to transcribing it yet?

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain these records.

- Additional columns added in this decade

- How long married
- Count of children both alive and dead
- More details about occupation

- Worth spending money in Scotland's People \$\$\$

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1911 Census

- The 1911 census added further columns, and from a genealogical perspective it most helpfully added a column to record how long married people had been married for, and how many children they had, both alive and dead. This data is very helpful to you for determining if you have found all the children – and also of course giving you an extra hint about when to look for a marriage record.

Scotland's People free index

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		Rooms with one or more Windows.	NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in House.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (last Distric) and Sex.		Gaelic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.			
		Inhabited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B-).					Males.	Females.		Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Quantum of Marriage.	Children born alive.	Children still living.
1.	Skaw	1	2	2	Duncan Sinclair	5.	Head	45			Mar			
2.					Joan do.		wife	42			Mar	18	4	4
3.					Jamar do.		Daughter	17			S.4			
4.					Duncan do.		Son	15			S.			
5.					Maria do.		Daughter	4			U			

Surname	Forename	Year	Gender	Age at Census	Ref	RD Name	County/ City
SINCLAIR	DUNCAN	1911	M	45	011/ 1/ 1	Unst	Shetland
SINCLAIR	JOAN	1911	F	42	011/ 1/ 1	Unst	Shetland

Scotland's People Reference number

NOTES

Scotland's People free index

- You get enough information in the free index on the Scotland's People website to determine whether it might be the person you are looking for, before you spend money to view the image. Exactly how an index should work.
- You don't get to see the household and their relationships, but the reference can tell you something.
- The reference we've shown is for parish number 011 (Unst, Shetland), Enumeration District #1, and Page 1.
 - When the census was taken, each parish was broken up into a number of enumeration districts – aiming for a size that the enumerator could complete in one day.
- If the people you are looking for are on the same page (or neighbouring pages if a household wraps onto a second page), then they are likely in the same household and it might be worth purchasing the census image.

1841 Census



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide transcriptions of Scottish Census records which are complete transcriptions and are generally good enough.

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records.

- Slim pickings, much less info
- Transcriptions are complete – yes there really is that small amount of data!
- Not worth purchasing the images from Scotland's People

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1841 Census

- I cover the 1841 census last, because **YOU** should always leave it until last. It pays to understand the structure of your family before finding them in the 1841 census because you do not get told the relationships in the 1841 census.
- The 1841 census just has a lot less information in it than the census return from 1851 onwards.

1841 Census

- Leave this year until last
- No relationships noted
 - Although pattern can help
- Age rounding
 - rounded down to the nearest 5 years for anyone over 15 years of age
- Birthplace COUNTY recorded





	NAME and SURNAME	AGE	
		Male	Female
Husband and wife	<i>Andrew Moir</i>	45	
	<i>Isabella Moir</i>		54
Children listed in descending age order	<i>Catherine Moir</i>		12
	<i>Jean Moir</i>		10
Random other relatives	<i>Charlotte Moir</i>		60

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1841 Census

- The pattern adopted by census enumerators will help to determine the main familial structure however, since the husband and wife are listed first; and then the children in descending age order (sometimes with the male children listed first and then the female children); and finally the random selection of other relatives (unmarried aunts, widowed grandparents and so on) and any servants – identifiable because their occupation will be shown as F.S. (Female Servant) or M.S. (Male Servant). Your only hope with these random other relatives, is that they are still alive in 1851 and so you can find them in that census to understand their relationship to the rest of the family.
- Ages are recorded differently in the 1841 census, for all people over 15 years of age, the ages are supposed to be rounded down to the nearest 5 years. This instruction to the enumerators is not always followed for some reason, but be aware that it is MOSTLY followed, so take these ages with a large pinch of salt.
- Birth places are also recorded differently, with just a column to say Y or N to the question “If born in Scotland, state whether in County or otherwise”

Census Transcription (1851-1901) Summary

	Household	Marriage Condition	Relationships	Good transcriptions
 INDEX	×	×	×	✓
	✓	×	✓	×
	✓	✓	✓	✓
	×	×	×	✓

Census Access by Year Summary

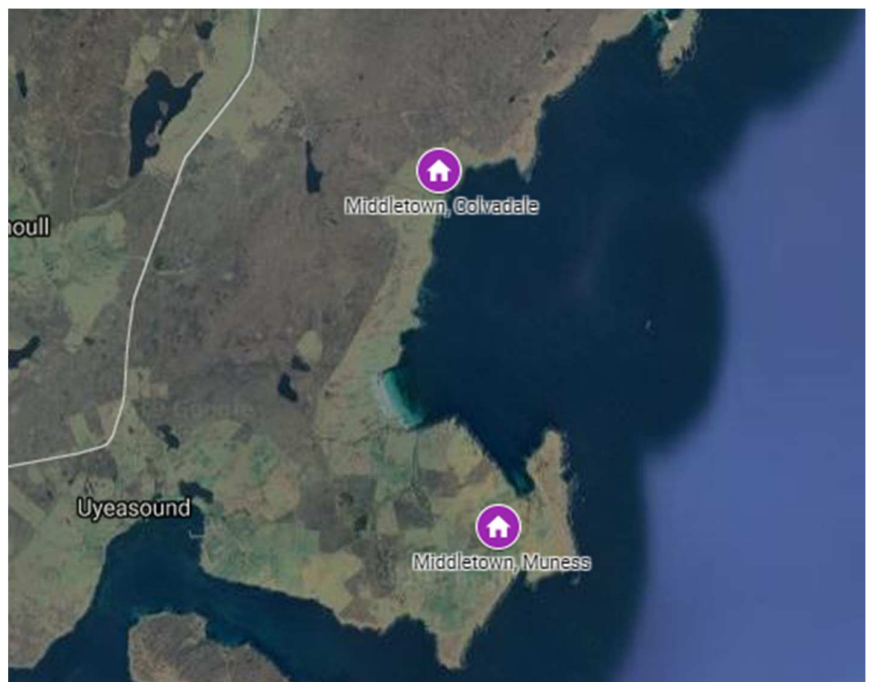
	Access
1841	  
1851-1901	   Incomplete
1911	

Adding context to census addresses

Andrew Smith (b. 1836)	m.	Jane Winwick (b. 1835)
1881: Middleton, Muness		1881: Middleton, Colvadale
1883: Muness		1883: Colvadale
married 1 Mar 1883 Middleton, Colvadale		
1891: Middletown, Muness		
1901: Middletown, Muness		

Adding context to census addresses

- Janet lived in Colvadale
- Andrew lived in Muness
- They married at Janet's house
- After marriage they lived at Andrew's house



Obtaining such context

1881 Scotland Census - Ancestry

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/253714:1119

All Results Save Print Share

Andrew B Clark

in the 1881 Scotland Census

✓ Saved to: [Clark, Andrew Bruce](#) in tree "Millagord Family Tree" Remove

No Image
Text-only collection

Add Alternative Information
Report Issue

Name:	Andrew B Clark
Age:	40
Estimated birth year:	abt 1841
Relationship:	Brother-in-law
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Unst, Shetland
Registration Number:	11
Registration district:	Unst
Civil Parish:	Unst
County:	Shetland
Address:	Muness
Occupation:	Stationery Shopman ??
ED:	5

Suggested Records

- 1851 Scotland Census
Andrew Clark
- 1891 Scotland Census
[Andrew B Clark](#)
- 1841 Scotland Census
Andrew Clark
- 1901 Scotland Census
Andrew Clark

Write a comment.

Make a Connection

NOTES

Adding context to census addresses

- If your ancestors lived on streets with house numbers, you probably have all the context you need. The street may still be in existence, or you may have to dig out some old maps to discover where it used to be.
- If your ancestors lived in rural areas, then you will likely only have a house name and not a street name to work with. You are advised to get to know the area where your ancestors lived to understand where these old houses were, which may now be a ruined pile of stones.
- This is an example of why it is very important to understand the context of any address you see recorded in a census. I present the couple Andrew Smith who married Jane Winwick, both from Unst, Shetland. Using just the house names presented on each census house schedule, I know that this couple lived in Middleto[w]n both before and after they were married. You would be forgiven for thinking that they lived in the same house as each other even before they were married.
- However, if you look at the census pages with the neighbouring houses in context, your understanding of this couple would change to take into account that there are two different houses called Middleton, one in an area called Muness, and another in an area called Colvadale. So before they married, they lived several miles apart, and after they married they lived in the husband's home.

Obtaining such context

- Selecting the first name of a household, and changing the nnnnnn part of the webpage address (just before the ':') down by one
 - Result is last name of previous household
- Selecting the last name of household, and changing the nnnnnn part of the webpage address (just before the ':') up by one
 - Result is first name of next household
- With this technique you can page through the census household by household without buying the images from Scotland's People.

Obtaining such context

- When the census was taken, each parish was broken up into a number of Enumeration Districts, with these areas designed to be of a size that the enumerator could cover in a single day. The order the houses were recorded in the schedule make a certain amount of sense if you imagine the enumerator walking from house to house. So to understand the houses near your ancestors' house, you should look at the houses on either side of it in the census.
- If you have the images from Scotland's People, you can of course do this fairly easily, but it is also possible to do this on the subscription websites, such as Ancestry. Here's how.
- On this page we show the 1881 census for Andrew Smith, living in a house called Middleton. Now look carefully at the address bar at the top of the browser. As you click through each member of the household shown, the part of the address which is nnnnnn before the ':', increases by one. So, if you go back to the first person in the household, and then decrease the nnnnnn number by one, you will be looking at the previous household in the census. Similarly, if you take the last person in a household and increase the nnnnnn number by one, you will be looking at the next household in the census.



Census Summary

- Backbone of your research
 - Establish familial relationships
 - Approximate ages
 - Approximate marriage date (1911)
 - Other interesting information such as occupation and house names
- Future Census
 - 1921 – will be released in 2022 (not long to wait now!)
 - 1931 – Entire England&Wales census destroyed by fire, but Scotland census stored in different location (in Edinburgh) and was not affected
 - 1941 – No census taken due to WW2

Vital Records

1855

Old Parish Records for

Baptism

Marriage

Death or Burial

Low Detail Level
Often incomplete

Statutory Records for

Birth

Marriage

Death

High Detail Level
More likely complete

Vital Records

- 1855 was the year that Statutory Registration of births, deaths and marriages began in Scotland after the 1854 Registration Act was finally passed.
- This replaced the previous mechanism which was records kept by Church of Scotland session clerks – now commonly referred to as the Old Parish Records.
- “After 1800, the industrialisation of Scotland proceeded apace, and with that huge migrations of the population from rural parishes to the larger burghs. In particular, the cities became urban conurbations, with the poorer classes crammed into insanitary tenements. In the countryside, the parish system still worked, but in the slums of the cities the ministers and the session clerks lost control of and often did not know their parishioners.” *
- If the date of the event you are searching for is pre-1855 you will be looking in the Old Parish Records, and if 1855 onwards, you will be looking for Statutory Records. Old Parish Records vary in their recording style – simply the preference of the session clerk in that parish, and contain variable levels of detail as a result. In addition some parishes have more complete records than others and some have gaps or were lost/destroyed. Statutory Records have more detail, and are a more complete set, being legally required to be registered.

From “Jock Tamson’s bairns: a history of the records of the General Register Office for Scotland”

Old Parish Baptism Records



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide indexes (not really transcriptions) of Scottish Old Parish Baptism Records with the basic data from the record – probably enough for many people.



Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records.

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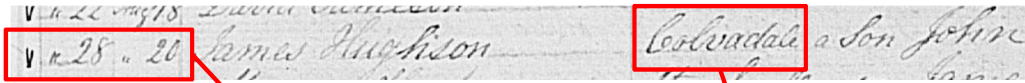
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Old Parish Baptism Records

- Once you have built a view of the familial structure from census records, you will have an approximate age of your ancestors and you may start to look for birth records. In the years prior to 1855 you will be looking in Old Parish Records. Indexes (not really transcriptions) of these are available on Ancestry and Find My Past and therefore free for you to look at through your local library, and also on Family Search (free anywhere). For the most part these indexes are fairly complete, that is you get most of the pertinent data from the records, so they are generally good enough.
- The Scotland's People website contains the images of the Old Parish Records which you can purchase, one image at a time. Mostly it will not be necessary for you to purchase baptism records because the indexes are good enough.
- To illustrate, let's look at an OPR Baptism record image from Scotland's People and compare it to the index on Scotland's People and the indexes in the other websites.

Scotland's People Index

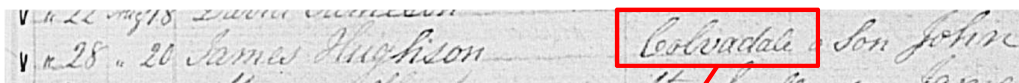


Date Birth | Date Baptism | Names of Parents | Residence | Children
July 28 1837 | Aug 20 1837 | James Hughson | Colvadale | a Son John

Surname	Forename	Parents/ Other Details	Gender	Date	Parish Number	Ref	Parish
HUGHSON	JOHN	JAMES HUGHSON/	M	20/08/1837	011/	20 38	Unst

- Only one date shown in index
- Birth location not detailed beyond parish name
- **Note:** Actual record does not say son was called "John Hughson"

Ancestry Index



Date Birth | Date Baptism | Names of Parents | Residence | Children
July 28 1837 | Aug 20 1837 | James Hughson | Colvadale | a Son John

Name:	John Hughson
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	28 Jul 1837
Baptism Date:	20 Aug 1837
Baptism Place:	Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Father:	James Hughson

FHL Film Number: 919495

- Both dates shown
- Birth location not detailed beyond parish name
- Child's surname assumed

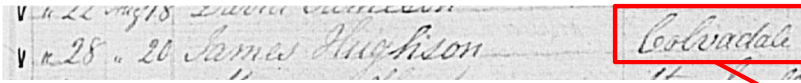
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Index

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Find My Past Index



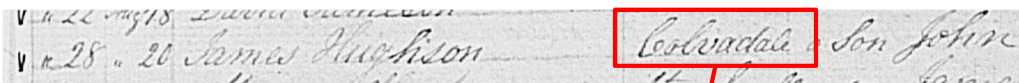
Date Birth | Date Baptism | Names of Parents | Residence | Children
July 28 1837 | Aug 20 1837 | James Hughson | Colvadale | a So

- Only baptism dates shown
- Birth location not detailed beyond parish name
- Child's surname assumed

Record Transcription:
Scotland Births & Baptisms 1564-1950

First name(s)	John
Last name	Hughson
Gender	Male
Birth year	1837
Birth place	-
Baptism year	1837
Baptism date	20 Aug 1837
Baptism place	UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND
Father's first name(s)	James
Father's last name	Hughson
Mother's first name(s)	-
Mother's last name	-
Place	Unst
County	Shetland
Country	Scotland
Record set	Scotland Births & Baptisms 1564-1950
Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
Collections from	Scotland, Great Britain

Family Search Index







Date Birth | Date Baptism | Names of Parents | Residence | Children
July 28 1837 | Aug 20 1837 | James Hughson | Colvadale | a Son John

John Hughson
Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950

Name:	John Hughson
Gender:	Male
Christening Date:	20 Aug 1837
Christening Place:	UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND
Birth Date:	28 Jul 1837
Father's Name:	James Hughson

- Both dates shown
- Birth location not detailed beyond parish name
- Child's surname assumed

OPR Baptism Indexes Summary

	Full Birth Date	Full Baptism Date	Full Place Name	Child's Surname
 INDEX	×	✓	×	×
	✓	✓	×	×
	×	×	×	×
	✓	✓	×	×

Indexes

Scotland's People Index

- The index on Scotland's People makes it almost unnecessary to purchase this record at all, but falls down on not supplying both dates. I suspect this is two-fold, one because this is indexing a baptism record, and two because many baptism records do not include the birth date as well.

Ancestry/Find My Past/Family Search

- There is very little to choose between the major websites on this type of record. Ancestry and Family Search provide you with both dates (when there are two dates, which isn't always the case); but all omit the detailed place name and only index the record to the parish. They also all suffer from the problem of attributing a surname to the child where the actual record does not provide a surname – beware this behaviour when patronymics are around.



OPR Baptisms Purchasing?

- Not worth buying the images from Scotland's People.
- Unless...


Children of William Gilbert Jameson

Search Results from Historical Records

1-9 of 9 Results for Birth place: **unst** Birth Year (Range): **1790 - 1810** Father name: **w* q* Jameson** Country: **Scotland**

Name	Events	Relationships
Jannet Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 30 June 1798 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Wm. Gilbt. Jameson
Andrew Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 23 September 1798 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: William Gilbert Jameson
Gilbt. Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 26 July 1804 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Wm. Gilbt. Jameson
Merjury Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 14 May 1794 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Wm. Gilbt. Jameson
Isabella Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 16 September 1802 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Willm. Gilbt. Jameson
Catharine Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 19 September 1791 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Willm. Gilbt. Jameson
William Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 26 May 1800 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Willm. Gilbt. Jameson
James Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 9 April 1796 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Wm. Gilbt. Jameson
Thomas Jameson Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950	christening: 25 June 1807 UNST,SHETLAND,SCOTLAND	father: Wm. Gilbt. Jameson

Children of William Gilbert Jameson

Name	Events	Relationships	
Catharine Jameson	19 Sep 1791		
Merjury Jameson	14 May 1794		
James Jameson	09 Apr 1796		
Jannet Jameson	30 Jun 1798		
Andrew Jameson	23 Sep 1798		
William Jameson	26 May 1800		
Isabella Jameson	16 Sep 1802		
Gilbt. Jameson	26 Jul 1804		Wm. Gilbt. Jameson
Thomas Jameson	25 Jun 1807		Wm. Gilbt. Jameson

Name + Address is more unique

- 1791 Sep 19 Will^m Gilb^t Jameson, Hagdale a daughter bap^d Catherine
- 1794 May 14 Will^m Gilb^t Jameson, Hagdale a daughter Margery
- 1796 Apr 9 Will^m Gilb^t Jameson, Hagdale a Son James bap^d
- 1798 Jun 30 Will^m Gilb^t Jameson, Hagdale a daughter Janet bap^d
- 1798 Sep 23 William Gilb^t Jameson, Gew, a Son Andrew bap^d
- 1800 May 26 Will^m Gilb^t Jameson, Hagdale a Son William bap^d
- 1802 Sep 16 Will^m Gilb^t Jameson, Hagdale a daughter Isabella
- 1804 Jul 26 Will^m Gilbert Jameson, Hagdale a Son Gilbert
- 1807 Jun 25 William Gilbert Jameson, Hagdale a Son Thomas

NOTES

Name + Address is more unique

- In the indexes of the Old Parish record baptisms, you get shown the father's name, but not the address of where he lives – something that is recorded if you look at the image of the original record. Most of the time you probably won't need that, but here is an example of when it was useful.
- Looking for all the children of a man, William Gilbert Jameson, in Unst, Shetland, Family Search helpfully allows you to search by father, so it is relatively easy to get such a list.
- Looking at the returned list sorted into date order however, it becomes apparent that biologically this list of children cannot all be siblings, or at least not all from the same mother. Either this man has two women, or there are two men of the same name.
- At this point it becomes very useful to see the full record, and not just the index. The full record shows the place where the father lives as part of the record, and when we add that to our date ordered list we see that the biologically unlikely birth is in fact to a man living in a different location, and therefore most likely a different William Gilbert Jameson.

Statutory Birth Records



find
my
past



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide indexes (not really transcriptions) of some early year Statutory Birth Records with the basic data from the record – probably enough for many people.

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records.

Statutory Birth Records

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- Once you have built a view of the familial structure from census records, you will have an approximate age of your ancestors and you may start to look for birth records. In the years 1855 onwards you will be looking in the Statutory Records. Indexes (not really transcriptions) of these are available on Ancestry and Find My Past and therefore free for you to look at through your local library, and also on Family Search (free anywhere). Where the records have been indexed at all, these indexes are fairly complete, that is you get most of the pertinent data from the records, so they are generally good enough. However, they have only indexed them so far, and new years are being added to the indexes all the time.
- The Scotland's People website contains the images of the Statutory Records which you can purchase, one image at a time. Whether you decide to purchase birth records will depend on whether you are happy with only the basic vital statistics from the indexes, or whether you want the full details from the record.
- To illustrate, let's look at a Statutory Birth record image from Scotland's People and compare it to the index on Scotland's People and the indexes in the other websites.

Scotland's People Index

No.	Surname, and Name (if given). Name, when given or altered in Baptism, or otherwise, after Registration of Birth.	When and Where Born, with Hour of Birth.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father.	Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant, if out of the house in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1	Jameson James Walterson	1856 January First 9 pm at Pheol parish of Unst	M.	Walter Jameson Fisherman	Andrina Jameson Maiden name Johnson	Walter Jameson Walter (present)	1856 January 1st Unst, Shetland George Robertson Registrar



VS



Index

Surname	Forename	Gender	Year	Ref	RD Name
JAMESON	JAMES WALTERSON	M	1856	011/1	Unst

- Lots Missing from index:-
 - Full date
 - Birth address
 - Parents names

Ancestry Index

No.	Surname, and Name (if given). Name, when given or altered in Baptism, or otherwise, after Registration of Birth.	When and Where Born, with Hour of Birth.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father.	Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant, if out of the house in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1	Jameson James Walterson	1856 January First 9 pm at Pheol parish of Unst	M.	Walter Jameson Fisherman	Andrina Jameson Maiden name Johnson	Walter Jameson Walter (present)	1856 January 1st Unst, Shetland George Robertson Registrar



VS



Name:	James Walterson Jameson
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	1 Jan 1856
Birth Place:	Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Father:	Walter Jameson
Mother:	Andrina Johnson
FHL Film Number:	6035516

- Missing only:-
 - Time and address of birth
 - Father's profession

Find My Past Index

No.	Surname, and Name (if given). Name, when given or altered in Baptism, or otherwise, after Registration of Birth.	When and Where Born, with Hour of Birth.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father.	Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.
1	Jameson James Walterson	1856 January First 9 pm at Pheol parish of Unst	M.	Walter Jameson Fisherman	Andrina Jameson Maiden name Johnson



Record Transcription: Scotland Births & Baptisms 1564-1950

First name(s)	James Walterson
Last name	Jameson
Gender	Male
Birth year	1856
Birth place	Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Baptism year	-
Baptism date	-
Baptism place	-
Father's first name(s)	Walter
Father's last name	Jameson
Mother's first name(s)	Andrina
Mother's last name	Johnson
Place	Unst
County	Shetland
Country	Scotland
Record set	Scotland Births & Baptisms 1564-1950
Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
Collections from	Scotland, Great Britain

- Missing:-
 - Full date, time and address of birth
 - Father's profession

Family Search Index

No.	Surname, and Name (if given). Name, when given or altered in Baptism, or otherwise, after Registration of Birth.	When and Where Born, with Hour of Birth.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father.	Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant, if out of the house in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1	Jameson James Walterson	1856 January First 9 pm at Pheol parish of Unst	M.	Walter Jameson Fisherman	Andrina Jameson Maiden name Johnson	Walter Jameson Walter (present)	1856 January 1st at Unst, Shetland George Robertson Registrar





James Walterson Jameson
Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950

Tools

Name:	James Walterson Jameson
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	01 Jan 1856
Birthplace:	UNST, SHETLAND, SCOTLAND
Father's Name:	Walter Jameson
Mother's Name:	Andrina Johnson

- Missing only:-
 - Time and address of birth
 - Father's profession

Statutory Birth Indexes Summary

	Full Birth Date	Full Place Name	Parent's Names	Father's Profession
 INDEX	×	×	×	×
	✓	×	✓	×
	×	×	✓	×
	✓	×	✓	×

NOTES

Indexes

Scotland's People Index

- The index on Scotland's People is very sparse for these records, especially when you compare how much is in the index for the equivalent OPR. This index isn't really even enough to be sure that the record is the one you want to purchase, which is the purpose of the index.

Ancestry/Find My Past/Family Search

- There is very little to choose between the Ancestry and Family Search websites on this type of record. Each provide you with the same data – the basic data you would hope for in fact. All they are missing is the address where the birth took place, the time of birth and the father's profession. For most people, the basic data in these indexes will be enough. Unfortunately Find My Past falls down on this one too, and doesn't even provide the full birth date.



Statutory Birth Records Purchasing?

- Not worth buying the images from Scotland's People.

Old Parish Marriage Records



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide indexes (not really transcriptions) of Scottish Old Parish Marriage Records with the basic data from the record – probably enough for many people.

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records.

Old Parish Marriage Records

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- Once you have built a view of the familial structure from census records, you will be aware of the marriages in your family with relationships such as the Wife of the Head of the household being something that the census provides. You can narrow down to a 10 year period to look for marriages when you have someone not married in one decade and then a wife appears in the census 10 years on. Birth dates of children from the partnership may also hint to the marriage year. In the years prior to 1855 you will be looking in Old Parish Records. Indexes (not really transcriptions) of these are available on Ancestry and Find My Past and therefore free for you to look at through your local library, and also on Family Search (free anywhere). For the most part these indexes are fairly complete, that is you get most of the pertinent data from the records, so they are generally good enough.
- The Scotland's People website contains the images of the Old Parish Records which you can purchase, one image at a time. Mostly it will not be necessary for you to purchase Old Parish Marriage records because the indexes are good enough since there is not really that much information in an OPR marriage record.
- To illustrate, let's look at an OPR Marriage record image from Scotland's People and compare it to the index on Scotland's People and the indexes in the other websites.

Scotland's People Index

Aug. 31 Laurence Henderson, Burraforth & Margery Manson, there were married by the Rev. Mr John Nicolson 1st of term before these witnesses Will^m Slender, Sn Paroldswick, John Henderson, Papal, Magnus Manson, Scotland & others.



VS



Index

Surname ▾	Forename	Spouse Name	Date	Parish Number	Ref	Parish
HENDERSON	LAURENCE	MARJORY MANSON/	01/09/1816	011/	10 88	Unst

- Missing only:-
 - Address where couple are from
 - Minister and Witnesses names

Ancestry Index

Aug. 31 Laurence Henderson, Burraforth & Margery Manson there were married by the Rev. Mr John Nicolson 1st of term before these witnesses Will^m Slender, Sn Paroldswick, John Henderson, Papal, Magnus Manson, Scotland & others.



VS



Name:	Laurence Henderson
Gender:	Male
Marriage Date:	1 Sep 1816
Marriage Place:	Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Spouse:	Marjory Manson
FHL Film Number:	919495

- Missing only:-
 - Address where couple are from
 - Minister and Witnesses names

Find My Past Index

Laurence Henderson; Burrafirth & Margery Manson there were married Aug. 31 by the Rev. Mr John Nicolson 1st Ep'tern before these witnesses Will^m Henderson, Papal, Magnus Manson, Scotland & others.



Record Transcription: Scotland Marriages 1561-1910

First name(s)	Laurence
Last name	Henderson
Marriage year	1816
Marriage date	01 Sep 1816
Marriage place	Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Spouse's first name(s)	Marjory
Spouse's last name	Manson
Place	Unst
County	Shetland
Country	Scotland
Record set	Scotland Marriages 1561-1910
Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Subcategory	Parish Marriages
Collections from	Scotland, Great Britain

- Missing only:-
 - Address where couple are from
 - Minister and Witnesses names

Family Search Index

Laurence Henderson; Burrafirth & Margery Manson there were married Aug. 31 by the Rev. Mr John Nicolson 1st Ep'tern before these witnesses Will^m Henderson, Papal, Magnus Manson, Scotland & others.

Laurence Henderson Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910





Tools

Name:	Laurence Henderson
Spouse's Name:	Marjory Manson
Event Date:	01 Sep 1816
Event Place:	Unst, Shetland, Scotland

Missing only:-

- Address where couple are from
- Minister and Witnesses names

OPR Marriage Indexes Summary

	Marriage Date	Both Names	Couple's Addresses	Minister & Witnesses
 I N D E X	✓	✓	×	×
	✓	✓	×	×
	✓	✓	×	×
	✓	✓	×	×

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Indexes

Scotland's People Index

- The index on Scotland's People makes it almost unnecessary to purchase this record at all. All it is missing is the address where each participant lived, and the list of witnesses. Most people will be able to do without these.

Ancestry/Find My Past/Family Search

- There is very little to choose between the major websites on this type of record. All three provide you with the same data – which in this case is the same as Scotland's People index.



OPR Marriages Purchasing?

- Not worth buying the images from Scotland's People.
- Unless...

Choosing correct marriage record

- Laurence Isbister m. Ursula between 1851 – 1861 census

1-2 of 2 Results for Name: **la*rence isbister** Marriage place: **unst** Marriage Year (Range): **1851 - 1861** Spouse name: **ursula**

Number of results to show:

Name	Events	Relationships
Laurence Isbister Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910	marriage: 20 March 1856 Unst,Shetland,Scotland	spouse: Ursula Thomson
Laurence Isbister Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910	marriage: 4 December 1851 Unst,Shetland,Scotland	spouse: Ursula Robertson

- Hopefully you know where the person in question lived in the prior census, i.e. 1851
- Since this is part of my Complete Unst Family Tree, I know both!
 - One Laurence lived in Whalegarth (1841) and Colvadale (area) (1851)
 - The other Laurence lived in Underhoul (1841 & 1851)

Getting more details from marriage

1851

Nov^r 29 Laurence Isbister residing at Underhoul and Ursula Robertson residing at Boath of Westing both in this parish, have this day given in their names in order to proclamation of Banns, & were three times proclaimed within the parish Church on 3rd Nov. They were married in Uyasound Chapel on 4th Dec by Rev. John Ingram. Witnesses William Smith Westing, James Stout, Uyasound's others.

1856

Mar^{ch} 13. Laurence Isbister, Seaman, Merch^{ant} Service & Ursula Thomson, Drepsmaker both residing at Whalegarth, both in this parish, have this day given in their names in order to proclamation of Banns, & were three times proclaimed within the Parish Church on 16th March. They were married in Boath of Doesgarth by Rev John Ingram on 20th March. Witnesses Antony Anderson in Norwick, and James Harper, there.

Choosing correct marriage record

- Laurence Isbister m. Ursula between 1851 – 1861 census

1-2 of 2 Results for Name: **la*rence isbister** Marriage place: **unst** Marriage Year (Range): **1851 - 1861** Spouse name: **ursula**

Number of results to show:

Name	Events	Relationships
Laurence Isbister (From Whalegarth) Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910	marriage: 20 March 1856 Unst, Shetland, Scotland	spouse: Ursula Thomson
Laurence Isbister (From Underhoul) Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910	marriage: 4 December 1851 Unst, Shetland, Scotland	spouse: Ursula Robertson

- One Laurence lived in Whalegarth (1841) and Colvadale (area) (1851)
 - He married Ursula Thomson in 1856
- The other Laurence lived in Underhoul (1841 & 1851)
 - He married Ursula Robertson in 1851

NOTES

Choosing correct marriage record

- There will be times when you realise that there is more than one man with the name you are looking at, marrying a woman with the same first name. Perhaps you don't know her maiden name because you have only seen her in the census, and you are trying to find the marriage record to discover her maiden name. With a problem like this, you do need the extra information from the OPR Marriage record that isn't in the index. Here's one such example.
- There are two Laurence Isbister's living on Unst, born at around the same time, who both marry a woman called Ursula. Both marriages happen between 1851 – 1861, i.e. in 1861 Laurence turns up with a wife called Ursula Isbister. I know where he lives prior to being married, i.e. in 1851 census, and with the extra information in the marriage record, I can figure out which marriage is which.
- That extra piece of information about where the two marrying parties currently reside, is very helpful when you have two possible marriages that you can't tell apart from just the indexed information.

Statutory Marriage Records



find
my
past



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide indexes (not really transcriptions) of some early year Statutory Marriage Records with the basic data from the record – probably enough for many people.

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records.

Statutory Marriage Records

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- Once you have built a view of the familial structure from census records, you will be aware of the marriages in your family with relationships such as the Wife of the Head of the household being something that the census provides. You can narrow down to a 10 year period to look for marriages when you have someone not married in one decade and then a wife appears in the census 10 years on. Birth dates of children from the partnership may also hint to the marriage year. In the years 1855 onwards you will be looking in the Statutory Records. Indexes (not really transcriptions) of these are available on Ancestry and Find My Past and therefore free for you to look at through your local library, and also on Family Search (free anywhere). Where the records have been indexed at all, these indexes are sparse, that is you get only the most basic data from the records, and I don't think they go quite far enough. Marriage records in Scotland from 1855 onwards provide both sets of parents names, and the indexes do not include this information.
- The Scotland's People website contains the images of the Statutory Records which you can purchase, one image at a time. I suspect purchase of marriage records is well worth the money in order to go back a generation for both people from one single record.
- To illustrate, let's look at a Statutory Marriage record image from Scotland's People and compare it to the index on Scotland's People and the indexes in the other websites.

Scotland's People Index

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, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Contract, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1	1862. January, Shetland at the Parish Church of Unst.	Signed, James Winwick Sailor Bachelor	29	Unst, Shetland	Donald Winwick Fisherman (deceased) Christina Winwick M.S. Sinclair (deceased)	Signed, John Ingram Minister	1862 January 10 th at Unst
	Mr. Pans according to the forms of the Books of Scotland.	Signed, Andrina Robertson Wife of the deceased Andrina Robertson	22	Unst, Shetland	John Robertson Fisherman Nancy Robertson M.S. Robertson	Signed, John Robertson Witness Thos. Johnston Witness	Geo Robertson Registrar

VS



Index

Surname	Forename	Spouse Surname	Spouse Forename	Year	Ref	RD Name
WINWICK	JAMES	ROBERTSON	ANDRINA	1862	011/1	Unst

• Lots Missing from index:-

- Full date and location
- Occupations/Marital Status
- Ages
- Usual Residences
- Parents names/details

Ancestry Index

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, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Contract, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1	1862. January, Shetland at the Parish Church of Unst.	Signed, James Winwick Sailor Bachelor	29	Unst, Shetland	Donald Winwick Fisherman (deceased) Christina Winwick M.S. Sinclair (deceased)	Signed, John Ingram Minister	1862 January 10 th at Unst
	Mr. Pans according to the forms of the Books of Scotland.	Signed, Andrina Robertson Wife of the deceased Andrina Robertson	22	Unst, Shetland	John Robertson Fisherman Nancy Robertson M.S. Robertson	Signed, John Robertson Witness Thos. Johnston Witness	Geo Robertson Registrar

VS



Name: James Winwick

Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 9 Jan 1862

Marriage Place: Unst, Shetland, Scotland

Spouse: Andrina Robertson

FHL Film Number: 6035516

• Lots Missing from index:-

- Location
- Occupations/Marital Status
- Ages
- Usual Residences
- Parents names/details

Find My Past Index

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 Maiden Name.
1	1862. January, Unst at the Townhouse Unst, Shetland.	Signed, James Winwick Sailor Bachelor	29	Unst, Shetland	Donald Fisherman Christina Mrs. Sinclair
	At the Parish according to the forms of the Act of Unst, Shetland.	Signed, Andrina Robertson Widow of deceased fisherman	22	Unst, Shetland	John Fisherman Nancy Mrs. Robertson



Record Transcription: Scotland Marriages 1561-1910

First name(s)	James
Last name	Winwick
Marriage year	1862
Marriage date	09 Jan 1862
Marriage place	Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Spouse's first name(s)	Andrina
Spouse's last name	Robertson
Place	Unst
County	Shetland
Country	Scotland
Record set	Scotland Marriages 1561-1910
Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Subcategory	Parish Marriages
Collections from	Scotland, Great Britain

- Lots Missing from index:-
 - Location
 - Occupations/Marital Status
 - Ages
 - Usual Residences
 - Parents names/details

Family Search Index

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, and 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.
1	1862. January, Unst at the Townhouse Unst, Shetland.	Signed, James Winwick Sailor Bachelor	29	Unst, Shetland	Donald Winwick Fisherman (deceased) Christina Winwick Mrs. Sinclair (deceased)	Signed, John Ferguson Minister	1862 January 10 th at Unst
	At the Parish according to the forms of the Act of Unst, Shetland.	Signed, Andrina Robertson Widow of deceased fisherman	22	Unst, Shetland	John Robertson Fisherman Nancy Robertson Mrs. Robertson	Signed, John Robertson Witness John Robertson Witness	Geo Robertson Registrar





James Winwick
Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910

Tools

Name: James Winwick
Spouse's Name: [Andrina Robertson](#)
Event Date: 09 Jan 1862
Event Place: Unst, Shetland, Scotland

- Lots Missing from index:-
 - Location
 - Occupations/Marital Status
 - Ages
 - Usual Residences
 - Parents names/details

Statutory Marriage Indexes Summary

	Full Marriage Date	Full Place Name	Other info
 INDEX	×	×	×
	✓	×	×
	✓	×	×
	✓	×	×

NOTES

Indexes

Scotland's People Index

- The index on Scotland's People is very sparse for these records. It is, thankfully, enough to determine whether you want to purchase it or not, and I would say that these records are very much worth the purchase price given how much additional information you get from the record that is not in any of the indexes.

Ancestry/Find My Past/Family Search

- There is very little to choose between the major websites on this type of record. All three provide you with the same data – the most basic data you could choose to supply. They are all missing the rest of the very useful data from these records, because it is just a simple index.




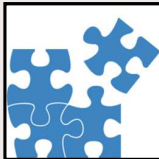


Statutory Marriage Records Purchasing?

- Very much worth buying the images from Scotland's People.
 - Two people on record – twice the info!
 - Both parents details for both
 - Unlike English marriage records even now

BMD Summary

- OPRs vs Statutory (1855 boundary)
- Indexes freely available  (also Library access)
- Purchase the valuable records only 

	Births/Baptisms	Marriages	Deaths
Old Parish			In general not indexed so only option is Scotland's People
Statutory			

BMD Summary

- From a value for money perspective, use the free website Family Search, or the library access to Ancestry for OPR Baptisms and Statutory Births (where they are available – you will get to a point where they are not indexed late enough and have to switch to Scotland's People).
- For OPR Marriages, use the free website Family Search, or the library access to Ancestry or Find My Past, and for Statutory Marriages, seriously consider purchasing the full image since that way you get the parents names and can go back a generation. The indexes (everywhere) do not give you that information.

1855 Birth Record

1855. BIRTHS in the Parish of Uxst Page in the

No.	CHILD.			
	Name (if given), and whether Informant present or not. Baptismal Name (if different), or Name given without Baptism after Registration; and Date of Inscription thereof.	Sex.	When born. Year, Day of Month, Hour.	Where born. If in Lodgings, so stated.
1	Laurensen, John <i>(parent)</i> Baptized February Seventh 1855 by Mr. John Engstrom, Pastor of St. Mary's Uxst	Male	1855 January Sixth 10 1/2 am	St. Mary's Uxst

1. County of Shetland Registered by Geo Robertson Registrar.

FATHER'S		MOTHER'S		Signature of Father or Mother or other Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the birth occurred.	When and where registered, and Signature of Registrar.
Name; Rank, Profession, or Occupation; Age; Birthplace.	When and where married; Issue, living and deceased.	Name; Maiden Name; Age; Birthplace.			
John Laurensen Fisherman	St. Kitts Uxst 27 October 1846	Elizabeth Laurensen Maiden name Smith	John Laurensen Father	1855 January 6th at Uxst, Shetland	Geo Robertson Registrar
29 Years 6 months North Dale Uxst	2 boys 2 girls alive 1 boy dead	Her fifth child. 33 years North Dale Uxst			

1855 Birth Record

- In a Statutory Birth Record from 1855, there are some very nice additions that are only available in this one year. In 1856 and onwards, they were, presumably, considered too much effort to record, and the records were slimmed back somewhat, to a single width page instead of this double width page.
- In 1855 you get the father's age and birthplace in addition to the occupation which is continued going forward to 1856 and beyond
- You get details of the parents marriage which was then dropped but subsequently re-added a bit further on.
- You get their current issue both living and deceased. Very handy to check whether you have found all their children so far.
- You get the age and birthplace of the mother too which is dropped from 1856 onwards, and also this counter of her nth child, which I'm not sure was quite right looking at the list of issue in comparison.

NOTES

1855 Marriage Record

No.	When, where, and how married.	Signatures of the Parties.	Residence.		Age.	Rank or Profession, and Relationship of Parties (if related).	Condition.		Children by each former Marriage.	
			Present.	Usual.			If a Widower or Widow, whether Second or Third Marriage.	Children by each former Marriage.	Living.	Dead.
1	On January Twenty Fifth at Glasgow. Vint. Mas-lage (after Banns) was solemnized in accordance with the Rites and Ceremonies of the Free Church of Scotland.	Wm. Ross	Sheikhoul Vint.	Sheikhoul Vint.	26 Years	Shopman, grocer and sea dealer	Bachelor			
		Elizabeth Johnson	Glasgow Vint.	Glasgow Vint.	24 Years	-	Spinster			

Birthplace, and when and where registered.	Parents'		If a regular Marriage, Signatures of Officiating Minister, and Witnesses.	If irregular, date of Extraordinary Sentence of Conviction, or Decree of Declarator, and in what Court pronounced.	When and where registered, and Signature of Registrar.
	Name.	Rank, Profession, or Occupation.			
Went Scotland 27 November 1828	Henry Andrew Ross	Fisherman	Wm. Ross Minister Free Church		1855 January the twenty sixth at Vint, Scotland.
	and Janet Ross	Widow woman	Vint		
	Maids name: Violet		Wm. G. Macaulay James Henderson		Geo. Robertson Registrar
Born and registered 10 September 1830 at Vint, Vint	Thomas Johnson and Dorelay Johnson	Seaman merchant service	Wm. G. Macaulay James Henderson		
	maids name Gray	-	Wm. G. Macaulay James Henderson		

NOTES

1855 Marriage Record

- A Statutory Marriage Record from 1855 actually does not have all that much more information than those single page records from 1856 onwards. The reduction from two pages to one, was mainly achieved by combining a number of columns as a lot of the data entered did not require as much space as it was given in the double page 1855 record.
- On an 1855 Marriage Record you get details of any previous marriages, and the issue from that union. Also you get the birth place of each party which occasionally includes a note of their birth date too.
- However, we already said that marriage records were worth purchasing and that is still true for an 1855 event.

1855 Death Record

1855. DEATHS in the Parish of Unit Page 10 in the

No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE DECEASED					
	Name, Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Sex.	Age.	Where born, and how long in the District.	Parents' Names, and Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	If Deceased was married, To whom, and long, in Order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
19	<u>John Sutherland</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>Stew. Unit</u>	<u>Daniel Sutherland Fisherman (deceased)</u>	<u>John Gilbertson</u>
	<u>Sutherland & Son</u>					<u>Fisherman</u>
						<u>Mary young 35</u>
						<u>Jacob & Sons at 12</u>
						<u>James died at 25</u>
						<u>Daniel 28</u>
						<u>Gilbert 26, at sea</u>
						<u>William 23, at sea</u>

County of Shetland Registered by George Robertson Registrar.








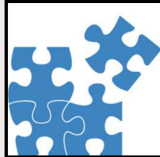
PARTICULARS OF DEATH				Signature of Informant.	When and where registered, and Signature of Registrar.
When died, Year, Day or Month, Hour.	Where died.	Cause of Death, and how long disease continued. Medical Attendant by whom certified, and when he last saw deceased.	Burial Place, Undertaker by whom certified.		
<u>1855 April</u>	<u>St. Magnus</u>	<u>Asthma</u>	<u>Marwick burial ground, Unit</u>	<u>Mary Gilbertson</u>	<u>1855 April 24th</u>
<u>Nineteenth</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Since 18.21 more or less</u>	<u>as certified by</u>		
<u>8 am</u>		<u>No medical attendant</u>	<u>John Sutherland</u>		<u>Registrar</u>
			<u>(deceased)</u>		

NOTES

1855 Death Record

- A Statutory Death Record from 1855 is a proper little gold mine. This is because in 1855 death records a list of all that persons issue is provided with their ages if alive, or the age when they died. Oh that they had continued this for a few more years!
- In addition, 1855 gives the name of the spouse, which is then dropped in 1856 onward, just recording that the person was married but not to whom, until 1861 when it comes back in.
- Burial details are also provide on 1855 records, and for a few more years until around 1865 when that column disappears.

BMD Extended Summary

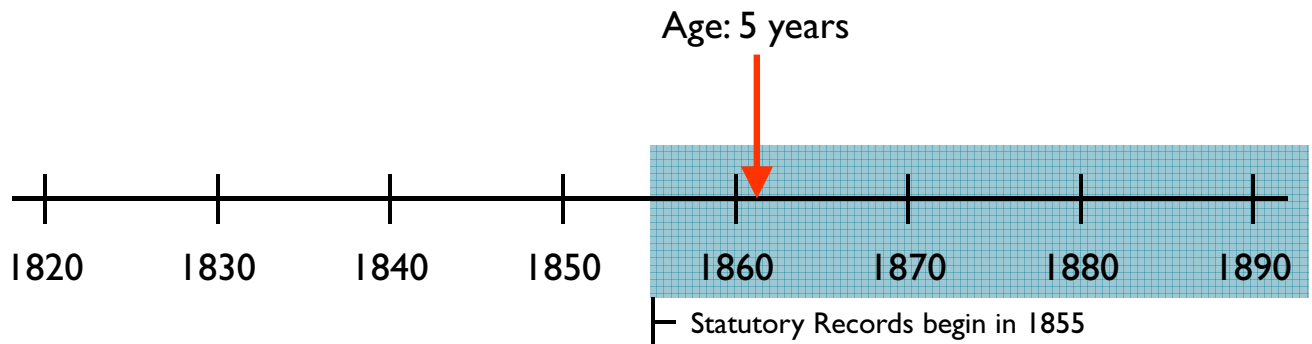
	Births/Baptisms	Marriages	Deaths
Old Parish			In general not indexed so only option is Scotland's People
1855			
Statutory >1855			

NOTES

BMD Extended Summary

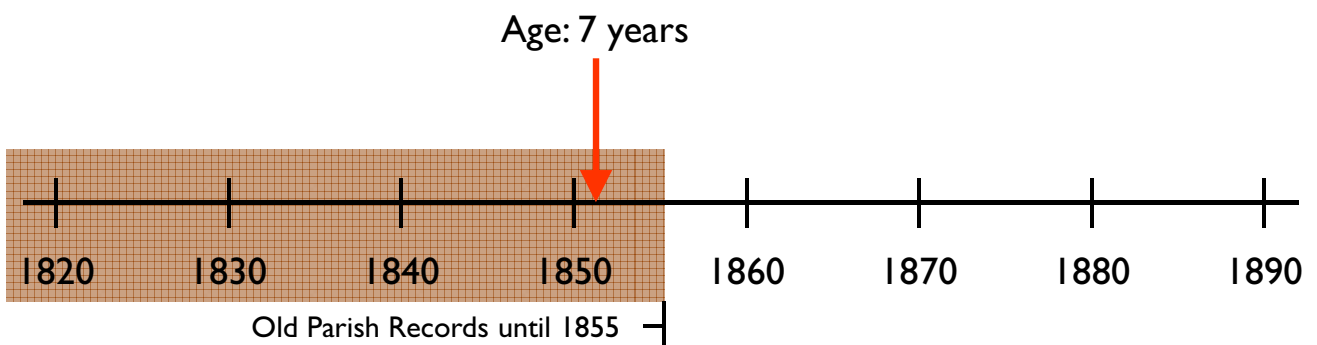
- In short, if the event took place in 1855, buy the record!

First shows up in census in 1861 aged 5 or less



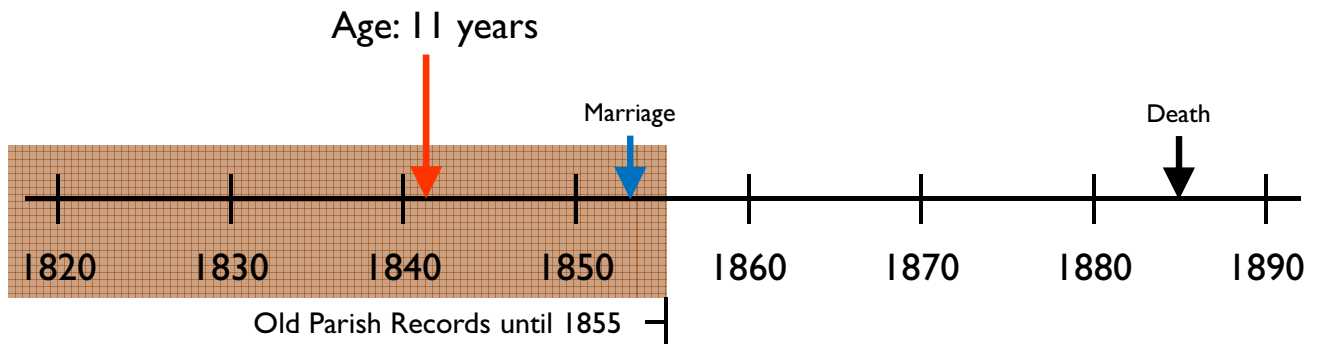
- Statutory Records begin in 1855 – birth should be found in those records
- This will give parents names, including mother's Maiden Surname
- If married later in life, this will also be in Statutory Records.

First shows up in 1851 census



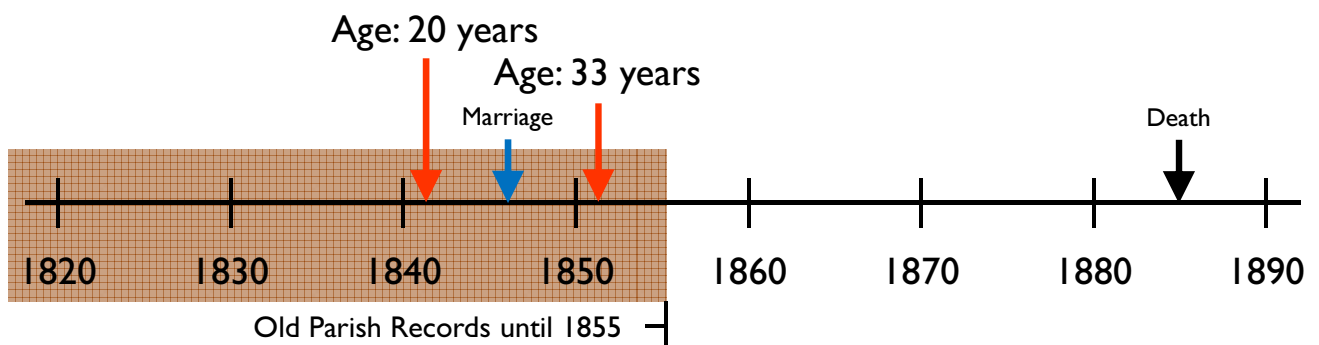
- Birth or Baptism record will (hopefully) be in the OPRs
- You'll only get the father's name from this
- Need to look to future marriage or death records to find mother's name (and Maiden Surname).

First shows up in 1841 census aged 15 or less



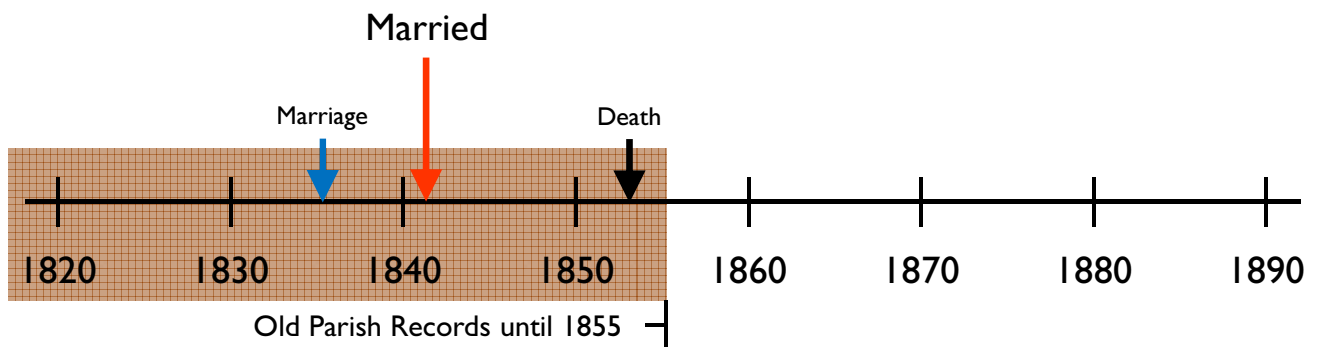
- Age is believable
- Birth or Baptism => OPRs
- You'll only get the father's name from this
- Need to look to future marriage or death records to find mother's name (and Maiden Surname).

First shows up in 1841 census aged 15 or more



- Take care with age
- Find in later census for more accuracy
- Birth or Baptism => OPRs
- Marriage may be before 1855 too
- Need death record to obtain parents' names

First shows up in 1841 census with wife



- Take care with age
- Marriage was before 1841 => before 1855 too! => OPRs
- If not found in 1851 or 1861 census, death may have occurred before 1855
- Hardest type of person to research, other tricks and record sources will be needed

NOTES

Some Research Strategies

- Finding people in the census records first gives you a certain amount of information about where you need to look next, whether that be in the Old Parish Records or more helpfully in the later Statutory Records from 1855 onwards. Sometimes your only hope for going back an extra generation will be to find the parents names from a Statutory Death Record (that is one after 1855).
- You will reach a point where you cannot go back any further using the records we have discussed today. There are many other record types that you will start to learn about where your ancestors will be mentioned. Today we have covered the first, and main, ones you should master.



Summary

- Use census first – build structure of family
 - Take 1841 ages with a large pinch of salt
 - 1911 census gives help with marriage dates and numbers of children
- Find vital dates from OPRs and Statutory Records
 - Fingers crossed you have some events in 1855!
- Once you have mastered these, there are of course many other sources where your Scottish Ancestors will crop up