



Middlesex Genealogical Society

FALL 1989

Vol VI, No. 3

Well, it is time once again to return from those lazy, hazy days of summer and face the more regimented, structured fall. Hopefully, some of your slow paced summer was spent poking around a genealogy library somewhere, picnicing in a country cemetery where the never ending search for *THE* tombstone goes on, or dragging childhood tales from dear old (ancient) Aunt Hagatha at the family reunion. Now you can spend the fall reviewing your *finds* and the status of your genealogy.

As many of you know, Tom Kemp, one of our board members and a genealogical friend to us all, has accepted a position as Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. This is a major research library with a concentration on the history and genealogy of the original 13 states. Located in downtown Philadelphia, it has millions of manuscripts, books, as well as a large museum collection. We would like to wish Tom, Vi and little Andrew the best of luck in their new home. We will sorely miss Tom as he was always there when we needed him.

Always the friend, when Tom packed his genealogy library for the move, he presented us with over 100 books from his collection. They are currently being cataloged and computerized. We will have a complete listing in the next issue. Look for them soon on our shelves in the Genealogy Section at the Darien Public Library. Thanks again, Tom!

George Cushman and Chuck Lemons also left us during the summer. George and his wife retired to Loudon, Tennessee. George was one of the original founders of the MGS and has been our Treasurer ever since. Chuck has also been a Director on our Board since it began. He and his wife moved to Indianapolis. We will miss them both and wish them all the best. Fred Farwell has agreed to be our new Treasurer.

While you were enjoying your summer vacation, Nikki Hollander, our President, was very busy planning our new season. There were other changes in the board which are still being finalized and will be presented at our first General Meeting on September 28th to be held at 8 P.M. at the Family History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 682 South Avenue (Rt 124), New Canaan. Grant Radmall will introduce us to the library and explain how to tap into the many resources of the Church's holdings in Salt Lake City. He will also discuss computerizing your genealogy.

Also plan to join us when the MGS and the CT Ancestry Society join forces and visit local libraries to:

"GET TO KNOW YOUR RESOURCES."

Sept. 16, 2 P.M. at FERGUSON LIBRARY,
Bedford & Broad Streets, Stamford, CT,
Guide: Robert Beletzkie

Nov. 4, 11 A.M., PEQUOT LIBRARY,
720 Pequot Ave., Southport, CT,
Guide: Mary Freedman

Jan. 20, 1990, 11 A.M., NY PUBLIC LIBRARY,
42nd & 5th Ave., NYC,
Guide: Ruth Carr.

The NY tour is limited to 12 people. Register by calling 637-0437.
So mark your calendars to join us as we continue to improve our Genealogy IQ.



CANADIAN COUSINS

by Jane Merchant

Early May is very chilly in New Brunswick Province. The mists along the Bay of Fundy reach up into the Kingston Peninsula, which lies just north of the city of Saint John, and the weekend we arrived there, winter seemed to have only recently departed. For two days we were to be the guests of Miss Beryla Gorham, whose ancestor, Nathaniel Gorham, born in Darien (then Middlesex Parish), the son of Shubael and Mary (Selleck) Gorham, and the grandson of George Gorham, who owned a mill on a site near Gorham's Pond and Rings End Road, was one of some two hundred Loyalists, who in 1783 accompanied Walter Bates of Stamford into exile to Nova Scotia. The records show that a brother, Jonathan Gorham, was also among the passengers aboard a ship of the Spring Fleet of 1783. Miss Gorham and her cousin, Dr. Paul R. Gorham, of Edmonton, Alberta, had been corresponding with me for over four years, as I had volunteered to research

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Middlesex Genealogical Society was established for the purpose of helping those interested in genealogy to pursue the investigation of their family heritage and to provide guidance in research to that end. The Society holds at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year, has established a Genealogy section at the Darien Public Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10-12) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$10/ Individual and \$15/Couple or Family.

Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcomed for the newsletter. Send to the Editor:

Sherrill S. Yates
9 Wagon Rd
Bethel, CT 06801.

Correspondence to the Society should be addressed to:

Middlesex Genealogical Society
45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820

Nathaniel Gorham's birth and marriage records, which were in Stamford (St. John's then Anglican Church - today St. John's Episcopal Church).

When Miss Gorham learned that my husband and I were planning a trip to Nova Scotia, she insisted that we also include a trip to New Brunswick to meet her in Saint John, and as her guests, be introduced to the Kingston Peninsula Gorhams, who still occupy the farm land where Nathaniel Gorham, and many other Loyalists from the Darien area settled—and, as she put it—"to

meet some of your Canadian Cousins, descendants all, of early American ancestry."

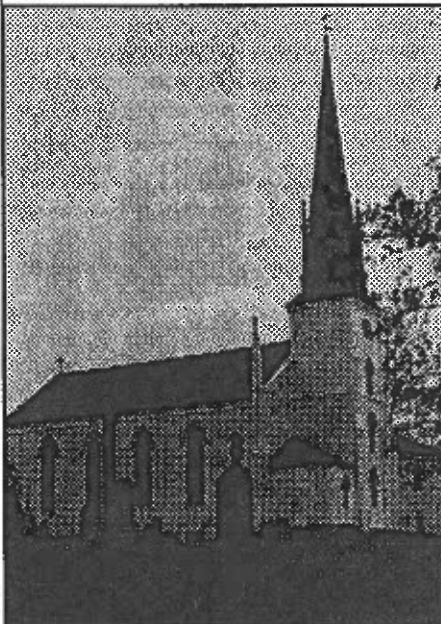
On that particular Saturday morning, we were scheduled to visit a church fair at Kingston. Because it was raining, this was held in a large converted barn, adjacent to the Rectory of Trinity Anglican Church. When we arrived about 10 a.m., the building was already crowded with bargain hunters at tables laden with clothing, crockery, knickknacks and books. There was also ample choice of baked goods, and pots of hot coffee. Miss Gorham lost no time introducing us as former residents of Darien to her friends, a number of whom were eager to share with us the stories of their American Loyalist ancestry, and a few, of the research that they had done with the help of the two early Anglican churches, St. Paul's in Norwalk and St. John's in Stamford. They expressed great pride in their colonial American heritage, and with good reason, because it took great courage and Yankee fortitude to have endured the hardships of their ancestor's exile—the wilderness where they had to clear their land for homes and farming, while suffering the first harsh winter with only tents and rude shelters as protection from the elements. In 1783, New Brunswick was still a part of Nova Scotia—it was in 1794, that the numerous arrivals from America served to create a separate province (at this time, Cape Breton Island was also declared separate from Nova Scotia).

Kingston Peninsula today is still sparsely settled, abandoned farmland reverting to forest, and the rough hilly terrain confirming the impression that life there had never been easy. There is only one town of consequence on the peninsula—Hampton, Kingston, (pop. 264) which once was more of a village, today is a small crossroads settlement—dominated by Trinity Church, the Rectory (a New England style two storey residence), the barn, which serves as a parish

hall, and a good-sized elementary school, with the Kingston Historical Museum in its basement, housing a collection of old furniture, clothing of early times, and other memorabilia. At the crossroads, opposite the church, is a convenience store. For more extensive shopping, Hampton is some twenty miles away!

After buying some buns and cookies at the Fair, supplemented by cheese from the convenience store, we three joined the Director of the Museum for lunch in her office, afterwards browsing through the museum's collection of early Kingston treasures.

By early afternoon, the rain had stopped, so we went out to explore the old church graveyard. Miss Gorham, sensibly shod in rubber boots, made me wish I had packed mine. The ground was decidedly squishy, and my feet were soon soaked! On the back of an old envelope, I jotted down the names on the stones which I recognized as families who had left Darien, fully intending to copy more details of dates, etc. when we would be returning for Sunday service at Trinity. (As luck would have it, the rain on Sunday was even more persistent, so with



TRINITY CHURCH
Kingston, New Brunswick
Founded in 1789

apologies for lack of more information, here are the names I noted: Gorham, Bostwick, Raymond, Pickett, Scribner, Hoyt, Seeley, Frost (Sarah Scofield), Betts, Northrup, Bates (Walter), Ketchum. In the Darien Historical Society, there is a copy of Walter Bates' Journal, a gift to me from Miss Gorham, in which there is a map of the original land grants given to some of these families. Miss Gorham pointed out to us the original grant to Nathaniel Gorham was of 2,000 acres, extending from "river to river" across the peninsula. He only cleared enough for his farm and pasture, selling off the rest at a later date. The Gorham buried in the Trinity churchyard is Nathaniel's brother, Jonathan Gorham. Nathaniel is buried in the churchyard of St. James, closer to his farm, where also is buried his second wife, Sarah Bostwick, formerly of Stamford. His first wife, Mary Whitney and their only child died shortly after their arrival in Kingston, so that the Canadian branch of the Gorham family descend from this second marriage.

Before I continue with my narration of our weekend, a word here about Nathaniel's first marriage: His father, Shubael Gorham, died when Nathaniel was a young boy. He was placed under the guardianship of his uncle, Daniel Gorham of Darien, who in 1795, built the lovely old Gorham house on Rings End Road, next to Gorham Pond. Nathaniel's mother later married Elkanah Whitney of Balltown, New York, who was a widower with a daughter, also named Mary. Mary Whitney later became Nathaniel's first wife. Although Nathaniel had strong Tory sympathies, leading to his expulsion, he never lost touch with his Uncle Daniel. In the Darien Historical Society's Gorham family file are copies of letters written to "Uncle Daniel" from Nathaniel in New Brunswick.

To return to Kingston: Sunday morning, we three went to the eleven o'clock service at Trinity Church, which this year is celebrating its bicentennial, built by local parishioners in 1789. The church is a handsome white wood building resembling at first glance a New England church, until you notice that the tall black spire, rising from a square based tower has a distinctive Gothic style, accentuated by four carved smaller spires at its base. The Gothic theme is also repeated in the arched, pointed windows and doors, also painted black. The interior of the church was also a departure from the severe white walls we associate with colonial churches. The walls were a deep blue green, with windows trimmed in red, as were the series of Gothic arches which flanked the center aisle of the nave.

Following the service, we were warmly greeted by the Rector, and more of Miss Gorham's friends. The rain, as I already mentioned, discouraged anymore excursions in the cemetery, so after a snack at the convenience store, we drove around the peninsula, where many old farmhouses were still standing, some now being reclaimed as summer residences by people from Saint John. After passing by St. James Church, where Nathaniel and Sarah (Bostwick) Gorham are buried, we finally reached Gorham's Bluff, the site of the old Gorham Farm. Nathaniel's original house burned in the early 19th century, so the present building is only about 100 years old. At present, it is owned by Donald and Pauline Gorham, and also living there is his son, Ernest and wife Janet. They raise turkeys and beef cattle. The old gray shingled house with its barn and sheds were not only arranged as an extended unit, but also the life of barn and house was vibrant with people, cats, geese and ducks...the animals in the yard and darting into the barn, while an old black "Lab", Jake, followed the "Humans" into the kitchen. Joining us there were Jim Gorham, an-

other son, and his wife and baby. We chatted awhile, and then made our way down to the beach where we picnicked in an old cabin, warm as toast thanks to a wood-burning stove. The weather having improved as the day wore on, we saw more of the farm, and could easily picture what life there had been for seven generations of Gorhams, over the more than two hundred years of thrifty hard work.

The following day, we left Saint John for Digby, Nova Scotia, crossing the Bay of Fundy once more. What I will remember most of all, I think, about this particular weekend, was the warmth of our welcome by those we met, and above all, their great interest in the history of colonial America. As one elderly lady of Loyalist descent so aptly remarked, "It seems to me, that after all these years, we can forgive the differences which separated our ancestors, and enjoy sharing our common heritage." We feel greatly indebted to Miss Gorham for this opportunity to meet some of our "Canadian Cousins."



GIFT OF HENRY HOFF
*Genealogical Sources In
The New York Metropolitan
Area*

Edited by Estelle M. Guzik,
Compiled and Published by
The Jewish Genealogical
Society, Inc.
New York, New York



QUERY

Wish to contact descendants of Elizabeth Carr Coughlin, born 1854, Elmira, NY (father Bernard Carr), who lived in East Hampton, CT, in 1923, and in Cobalt, CT, in 1925.

Write Marie Schmitz,
7980 Pat St.,
La Mesa, CA 92042

**Genealogical Records
found in the
Selleck & Mary Clock Seely
Family Bible**

original at Darien Historical Society
Clock info "taken from Nathaniel and Sarah Howe Clock's Bible"
who were married Apr. 28, 1773.

BIRTHS

DEATHS

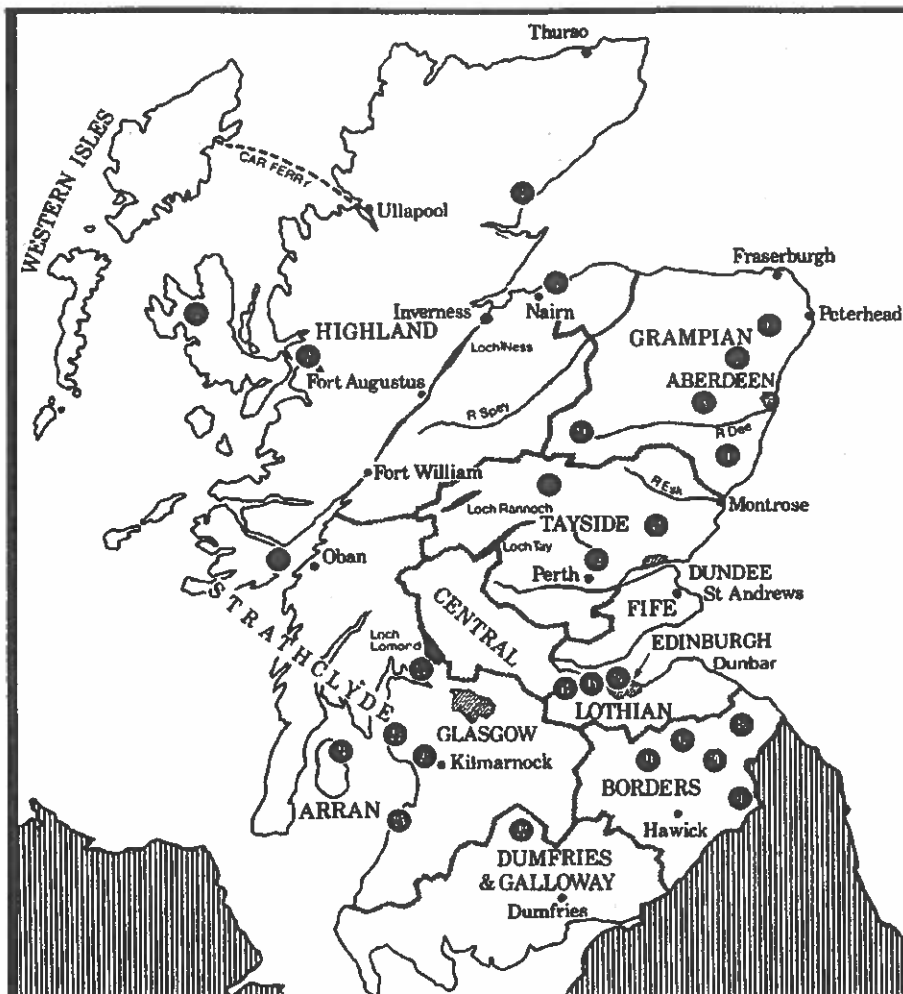
Albert Clock, born Dec. 20, 1773
Sarah Clock, born Oct. 17, 1776
Kate Clock, born Aug. 8, 1778
James Clock, born Nov. 13, 1780
Elizabeth Clock, born May 25, 1783
Henry Clock, born Sept 13, 1785
Mary Clock, born Aug. 8, 1788
Deborah Clock, born April 30, 1791
Henry Clock, born April 29, 1794

Sarah Marshall, born Mar. 26, 1760
Nathaniel Clock, born Apr. 13, 1751
Sarah Howe Clock,
born May 26, 1753
James Howe, born Apr. 29, 1759

Albert Seely,
born January 18th, 1809
Sands Seely,
born September 20, 1812
Catherine Seely,
born September 15, 1814
Sarah Jane Seely, born July 9, 1817
Elisha Seely, born March 11, 1823

Sarah Clock, died March 17, 1820
in the 44th year of her age.
Nathaniel Clock, died Nov. 11, 1831,
in the 81st year of his age.
Sarah, the wife of Nathaniel Clock,
died Dec. 8, 1831 in the 79th year of
her age.
Albert Clock, died May 8, 1833,
age 59 years, 4 months & 8 days.
Sarah Marshall died Dec. 17, 1840,
in the 80th year of her age.
Henry Clock, died Sept. 3, 1848,
age 62 years, 11 months & 21 days.
James Howe, died Aug. 19, 1825,
in the 66th year, 3 mons & 21 days.
Deborah Clock, died Feb. 28, 1863,
aged 71 years, and 10 months.
Mary Clock Seely died Feb. 9, 1868,
aged 79 years, 6 months & 1 day.
Kate Clock Richards died _____
185__, aged ___ years.
Elizabeth Clock Scofield died
_____, aged ___ years.
Henry Clock died Sept. 15, 1787,
aged 2 years.
James Clock died _____.

Selleck Seely, departed this life,
June 27, 1826, aged 40 years
and 22 days.
Mary Seely, died February 9, 1868,
aged 79 years, 6 months & 1 day
Albert Seely, died February 11, 1889,
aged 80 years & 24 days.
Sands Seely, died February 2, 1894,
aged 81 years, 4 months & 13 days.
Sarah Jane Gorham,
died November 21, 1897,
aged 80 years, 4 months & 12 days.
Elisha Seely, died July 14, 1903,
Aged 80 years, 4 months & 3 days.
Catherine Holmes,
died Sept. 22, 1904, 90 years, 7 days.
James Henry Gorham,
died June 16, 1857,
aged 39 years, 1 month & 10 days.
John Holmes,
died December 13, 1866,
aged 60 years, 8 months & 27 days.
Emeline Brown Seely,
died March 8, 1888,
aged 76 years, 2 months & 13 days.
Mary Elizabeth Brown Seely,
died March 23, 1896,
aged 78 years & 21 days.
Eliza Ann Wallace Seely, died
_____.



Blair Castle	11	Drumlanrig Castle	22	Hopetown House	14
Braemar Castle	10	Duart Castle	1	Kelburn Castle	26
Brodick Castle	24	Dunrobin Castle	4	Lauriston Castle	16
Brodie Castle	5	Dunvegan Castle	3	Mandeston	18
Cameron House	27	Eilean Donan Castle	2	Mellenstain	19
Craigievar Castle	8	Fasque	9	Pitcaple Castle	7
Culzean Castle	23	Floors Castle	20	Scone Palace	13
Dalmny House	15	Fyvie Castle	6	Thirlestane Castle	17
Dean Castle	25	Glamis Castle	12	Traquair House	21

The High Road to Scotland

by Sherrill Yates

This article was compiled from personal experience, excerpts from "Scottish Roots" by Alwyn James and information leaflets handed out by the Scottish Record Office.

Last June, with barely a week's notice, Marianne Sheldon and I made a two week trip to Great Britain. Landing in Edinburgh, Scotland, we immediately checked out the available genealogy records. We spent the first part and the last part of our stay in Edinburgh. In between, we zipped around the countryside in a British auto playing Russian roulette with the lorries! Scotland had a feel all its own as we "soaked" in the Scottish mists and terrain. We saw as many castles and abbeys as we could fit into our tight schedule (tight by our own making). We checked out the Lake District, the Cotswolds, Warwick Castle, Yorkminster, Holy Island, Hadrian's Wall, Durham, Berwick upon Tweed, and even managed to visit Marianne's sister who lives south of London. Although I could write a book about our two weeks, it is genealogy about which I must focus.

But first, a little history: The history of the Scottish records over eight centuries is almost as engrossing as the history of the country itself. Shortly after the earliest recorded mention of a custodian of the royal records in 1288, the records were removed to London by Edward I ('Hammer of the Scots') as a preliminary to the bitter Wars of Independence whereby Scotland under Robert the Bruce secured its independence from England. The records were to suffer the same fate at the hands of Oliver Cromwell in 1651, but were returned (not without loss) on the restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Apart from these two great dispersals, the nation's archives suffered most from centuries of inadequate accommodation, and from fire, damp, vermin, carelessness and neglect. Stored originally in Edinburgh Castle as the strongest fortress in the kingdom, they were gradually transferred in the later 17th century to the Laigh (or Low) Parliament House in Edinburgh's High Street, close to the High Kirk of St. Giles', where they were more accessible to the lawyers of the Court of Session. This accommodation was, however, far from satisfactory. The clerks petitioned for a cat to keep the mice under control! Even the Treaty of Union of 1707, which laid down that the public records of Scotland should remain in Scotland 'in all time coming', made no financial provision for their proper custody.

It was not until 1765 that a grant from public funds was made for the erection of a proper record office. The foundation stone was laid in 1774 and a further 15 years were to elapse before the staff and records could start moving into His Majesty's General Register House, designed by Robert Adam, the distinguished Scottish architect. Since 1789, this gracious edifice—believed to be the first custom-built archive repository in Europe—has been the headquarter-

ters of the Scottish Record Office. In 1971, its 13 miles of shelving were virtually doubled by the conversion of a former city center church (first completed in 1814) to be an additional repository. The West Register House in Charlotte Square houses the records of modern government departments, the Scottish railway records, the large collection of maps and plans, and the microfilm collection. The Scottish Record Office today is thus able to provide a full range of modern records services from two of Edinburgh's finest Georgian buildings.

The Scottish Record Office recommends the following printed works which might be helpful in researching your Scottish ancestry. They are:

Scottish Family History
by Margaret Stuart and Sir James Balfour Paul, (Edinburgh, 1930).

Scottish Family Histories Held in Scottish Libraries, (Edinburgh, 1960).

Introducing Scottish Genealogical Research by Donald Whyte, (Edinburgh, 1982).

The Pursuit of Pedigree,
by Hector McKechnie, (Edinburgh, 1928).

Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History,
by D.J. and A.E.F. Steel,
(London and Chichester, 1970).

In Search of Scottish Ancestry,
by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards,
(London and Chichester, 1972).

Wills and where to find them,
by J.S.W. Gibson, (London
and Chichester, 1974), pp. 197-207.

Scottish Roots,
by Alwyn James, 1981.

Issues of The Scottish Genealogist
(Journal of the Scottish Genealogy
Society).

THE NEW REGISTER HOUSE (also known as the **General Register Office**) sits back from and to the left of the General Register House (also known as The Scottish Record Office). In "*Scottish Roots*," Alwyn James proudly boasts, "There lies the most comprehensive collection of genealogical source material to be found

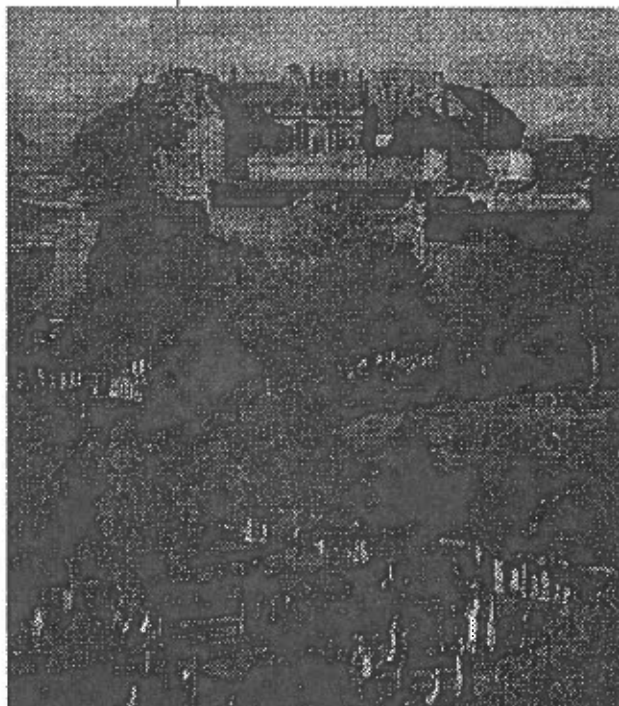
in Britain and maybe even the world. In England, the equivalent information is dispersed through St. Catherine's House, London, the Public Records Office, hundreds of parish churches and scores of local libraries, archives and repositories." The New Register House contains records of every birth, marriage and death in Scotland since 1st January 1855, census lists of every person living in Scotland on the relevant day in 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 4,000 volumes of old pre 1855 records from more than 900 parishes.

1) Births, Marriages and Deaths: From 1st January 1855, all births, marriages and deaths had to be registered with the civil authorities. The wonderful news is not only do these records contain more information than usually found in similar U.S. records, but they are ALL indexed! There are nearly 1,000 volumes of index arranged by year and in three groups and color coded: Births (red), Marriages (green), and Deaths (black - what else!). More great news is that in both marriages AND in deaths, the woman is listed by both maiden and married name.

Once you have found your ancestor, you may order a copy. However, that takes several days and is expensive. You may prefer to request to see the record and copy down the information. (Be sure to note any addresses you find--you will need them for the Census Returns.) Access to the registers is limited to 30 minutes or 6 entries at a time. To gain access, after you have found the place and entry number, look it up on the wall chart in the room and note the reference number. Then you put

your name down on a waiting list and wait to be called. This could take a few minutes to half an hour depending on tourist season. Once called, a Repository Assistant will take you to the area where the records are kept, bring the volume and open it at the correct entry. You may take down the details (in pencil).

2) The Census Returns 1841-1891: The second group of records in the New Register House is the Census Returns. June 7, 1841 was the first door-to-door, person-to-person census. These carry the name, occupation and age of everyone living in Scotland at that time. Unfortunately, there is no index. Instead, the census returns are listed by town, and then by street. Addresses are a must and can usually be obtained from the Birth, Marriage & Death Records, or from trade directories (more on them later). Once you find a town and street, there is a correlated Census District # and enumerator book #. The Census Returns will give you names, birthplaces, and family information such as occupation and education if degreed. You might want to note the neighbors for future reference.



STIRLING CASTLE

3) The Old Parochial Records (OPR) is the last category of special interest to genealogists. These are 4,000 volumes of records kept by the churches before the 1855 law forcing the keeping of records. Births, Marriages and Deaths become Baptisms, Banns and Burials! Unfortunately, there was no standard for keeping these records. Also, these were church records kept solely at the discretion (and dependant upon the efficiency) of the parishes. Therefore, there are gaps in them and not all parishes are represented.

In order to tap into this reservoir of information, you **MUST** know the parish. Then you must have an idea of what year or years you need. First, there are two volumes listing the parishes for which the Registrar-General holds records. There is an index at the back of these volumes. By referring to the correct volume, you will be able to find the OPR identification number. With this information, you can request the book containing the record. Unfortunately, these records are unindexed. If you are lucky, the clerk may have put the records down in a "rough" alphabetic system. Also if you are lucky, you will be able to read the clerk's handwriting. If you are very, very lucky, some fine soul has produced an index for that particular set of records. If that is so, a reference mark in the two volume index will tell you. The Church of Christ's Latter Day Saints has started work preparing a comprehensive county-by-county index of the Old Parochial Registers dealing with Baptisms and Marriages.

Other records available in New Register House include:

1. Register of Neglected

Entries:

Births, marriages and deaths known to have occurred in Scotland between 1801 and 1854, but not included in the Old Parochial Registers.

2. Marine register of births and deaths after 1855:

Births and deaths on British merchant vessels if Scottish.

3. Service records after 1881:

Births, marriages and deaths of Scottish persons serving overseas in the Armed Forces.

4. War registers from 1899:

Three registers for the South African War (1899-1902), the 1914-18 War and the 1939-45 War.

5. Consular returns: Births (from 1914), marriages (from 1917) and deaths (from 1914) registered by British consuls.

6. Foreign countries: Births of children of Scottish parents, marriages and deaths of Scottish subjects, from information supplied by the parties concerned.

COSTS: (It ain't cheap!) Daily rates depend upon the records you want to search and are subject to change. (Amounts noted here were for 1988 and are in pounds - at present the exchange rate is about \$1.60 per pound.)

Indexes to the Post 1855 BMDs	5.50
Census Returns	4.50
Parish Registers pre 1855	4.50
To search all three, daily	8.50
per week	25.50
per month	70.00
per quarter	140.00

One other very important item. You can and should pre-register for a spot in the New Register House. This is especially wise if it is during May - September. People line up at 8:30 for the 9:00 opening. If you have come a long way in great anticipation, pre-registering by mail is a must. Otherwise, you may be turned away disappointed.



GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE

(or Scottish Record Office)

Now that we have exhausted the New Register House, it is time to move next door to the "FREE" Register House. The Historical Search Room is the place you want to be. The information there is as follows:

1) RECORD OF WILLS

Commissary Court Records, Testaments and Inventories: Up until 1822, all testaments were confirmed by the Commissary Courts of Scotland. The origin of these courts lay within the Church, therefore, you need to know the dioceses. Fortunately, all testaments are indexed in volumes according to the relevant Commissary Court, from the earliest recorded examples (ranging from 1514 in Edinburgh to 1700 in Wigtown) up to the year 1800.

The Sheriff Courts took over responsibility for confirmation of testaments from 1823 onwards. From that date until 1876, there are some confirmations that are still kept by the sheriff clerks. From 1876, the annual tax list provides a simple means of tracking down the testaments.

The Register of Deeds: from 1554, indexed from 1770 and some earlier periods often contain genealogical information.

2) RECORDS RELATING TO PROPERTY AND SUCCESSION

Registers of Sasines: (Land Records) begun in 1617 and still current, record the transfer of heritable property. Indexes are available from 1781 and to parts of older registers. Earlier transfers of land were recorded in notaries' protocol books. Although incomplete, these date from 1510.

Burgh Registers of Sasines: for royal burghs only, 1681-1963. Some are indexed.

Retours and Services of Heirs: record succession to heritable property, from 1545. Abstracts

have been printed to 1699 and decennial indexes thereafter.

Registers of Tailizies:

Entails and disentails, 1688 to present. Indexes, 1688-1904.

[NOTE: *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* defines entail: "to restrict property by limiting the inheritance to the owner's lineal descendants or to a particular class thereof (as to his male children)"]

3) RECORDS WHICH LIST INDIVIDUALS

Diligence Records: Legal processes for enforcement of obligations. Not indexed.

Court of Session Records: Particularly for bankruptcies. Indexed from 1839.

Court of Justiciary (Criminal) Records: Can be useful for transportations to Australia.

Hearth Tax and Poll Tax

Records: Compiled in the 1690s, arranged under counties, may list names of farms, villages and settlements.

Taxation Schedules: Dating from the middle of the 18th century in the case of the window tax. Information varies from one county to another. Records are not indexed.

Valuation rolls: Assessments of counties, cities and burghs, 1855-1975, listing proprietors, tenants and occupiers. Earlier volumes not indexed.

Church Records: The most useful are the kirk session records of the parish churches, dating mainly from mid-17th century. These contain communion rolls, lists of heads of families, and lists of baptisms, marriages and burials before 1855.

Burgh records: Older records from a number of former burghs, can include lists of inhabitants.

Estate records: Archives of landed families cover many parts of Scotland, but mainly after mid 17th century.

4) USING RECORDS BEFORE

1600: Since there are virtually no statistical records for this pe-

riod, it is vital to know locations.

Register of the Great Seal (in print 1306-1688): Royal grants of land and major offices.

Register of the Privy Seal (in print 1488-1584): Warrants for Great Seal Grants.

Register of the Privy Council of Scotland (in print 1545-1691): Administrative and judicial info.

Exchequer Rolls (in print 1264-1600) **the Treasurers Accounts** (in print 1473-1580): entries for persons who came into a monetary relationship with the crown.

Cartularies: Estate records of ecclesiastical and lay landlords of the medieval and early modern period. May contain tenants.

QUERIES BY POST: The Scottish Record Office cannot undertake detailed research, but are always glad to advise on the use of the records and to answer specific inquiries or requests for photocopies when supplied with sufficient information for the documents to be readily identifiable. Postal inquiries should be addressed to:

The Keeper of the Records of Scotland,

**Scottish Record Office,
HM General Register House,
Edinburgh EH1 3YY.
Telephone 031-556-6585.**



After you have finished with the Register House, don't forget:

REFERENCE LIBRARIES: Marianne and I worked a few hours in an excellent one in Edinburgh, The National Library of Scotland

on George IV Bridge Street. They claim to have a copy of every book ever written about Scotland and its people.

Trade Directories: Started in the larger urban centers in the second half of the eighteenth century, trade directories supply occupations and addresses.

School Directories: From Grammar School to Universities - often give detailed information.

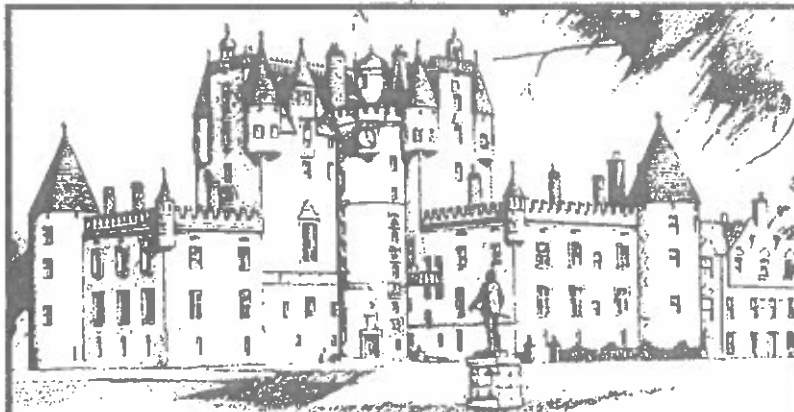
The Ministers of Scotland: If you are lucky enough to have a minister in the Church of Scotland, their ministers are fully documented in *Fasti Ecclesiae Scotiae*, which reads like a Who's Who and goes back to the 1600s.

Session Books: Usually pre 1855 contains the "goings-on" of the church community.

Statistical Account: Also prepared by the Church, gives a sketch of what was happening in the community - how much the laborers were paid, what equipment was used on the farms, crops grown, what factories existed, etc.



SCOTLAND is a fascinating place. The Scots are a people of paradox. From earliest history they have been wanderers, but no matter where they have gone, they have taken a deep-rooted devotion to their native land. Every year thousands of people, speaking many languages and with many different accents, make sentimental journeys to Scotland to see the places where their forebears were born. **It is well worth the trip!**



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