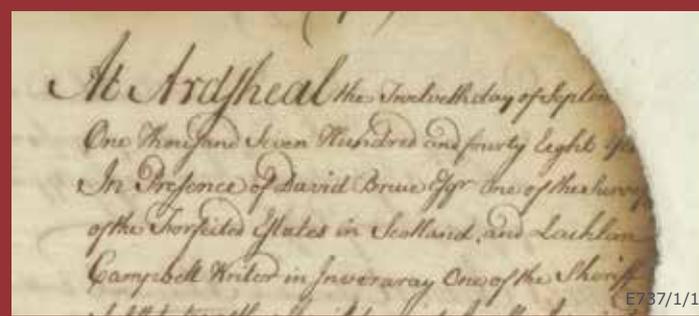
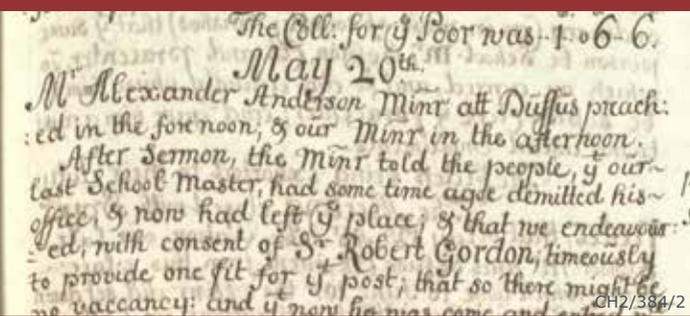


Local History



LOCAL AUTHORITIES: Burgh records contain court, council and craft records of the royal burghs as well as registers of deeds and sasines. Valuation Rolls from 1855 (VR) list county, city and burgh proprietors, tenants and occupiers (some online on ScotlandsPeople). Heritors records (HR) relate to the maintenance of churches, manses, schools and burial grounds in the parishes. County Council (CO2 & 7) and District Council records (DC) contain material on local roads, schools and provision for the poor.

CHURCH RECORDS: Church of Scotland records, many from the mid-17th century onwards. Kirk session, presbytery and synod records up to 1901 (CH2-3) have been digitised, and images can be consulted in the NRS and some local archives. NRS also holds records of secession and independent churches, except Baptists, and also some Methodist (CH11) and Episcopal Church records (CH12). Roman Catholic registers are available through ScotlandsPeople.

PRIVATE ARCHIVES: Records relating to every aspect of political, social and economic history. Over 450 large collections of major landed families (containing legal and estate papers and illustrating the history of rural communities), records of business, societies and institutions. Surveys of collections still in private hands are available online at www.nrscotland.gov.uk/nras, or in NRS.

MAPS AND PLANS: Over 160,000 architectural, estate, railway, mining and engineering plans (RHP). For access see our special leaflet or website.

Some of our maps and plans are available for free on ScotlandsPeople www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

SCOTLANDSPACES

This website provides access to selected maps and plans from the RHP series, the farm horse, hearth tax and other tax rolls, 1645-1799, and Medical Office of Health reports for Scottish counties in 1891 (HH62), all from NRS. Photographs, and topographical, archaeological and local history resources are drawn from the holdings of Historic Environment Scotland and the National Library of Scotland. See www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk.

RECORDS HELD ELSEWHERE

You may find that some of the records you want to consult are not in the NRS, and that you can consult them locally. NRS may hold microfilm or digital copies of them.

Local archives are responsible for the main historical records created by the burgh, county and later local authority bodies. NRS has deposited some church and burgh records locally, but images of many church records up to about 1909 are also available in NRS. Details can be found in our online catalogue.

Some local libraries hold microfilm copies of Valuation Rolls, the printed indexes to wills, the Register of Sasines and other NRS publications.

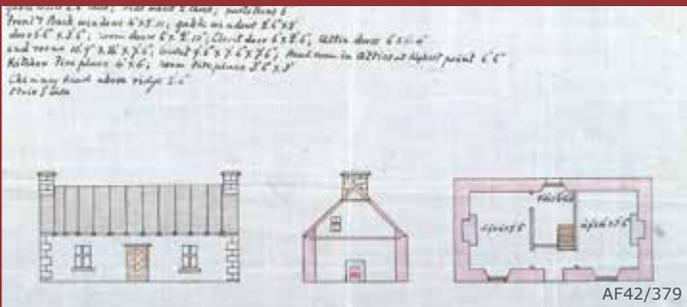
NRS OPENING HOURS

The Historical Search Room in General Register House is open to the public, Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 16.30, except for certain public holidays. For details of our services and facilities please refer to our leaflet *Using Our Archives*.

All correspondence and enquiries should be sent to:
National Records of Scotland
H M General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YY

www.nrscotland.gov.uk
www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/contact-us
Tel: 0131 535 1314





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GETTING STARTED

You will find useful guides on various topics and types of record held in the NRS on our website www.nrscotland.gov.uk. These may help you when you search our online catalogue for more information.

Also worth consulting in advance of your visit to NRS is Cecil Sinclair, *Tracing Scottish Local History* (HMSO, 1994), our official, detailed, step-by-step guide to our records and how to use them.

Many early sources for local history have been printed by Scottish historical clubs and societies and in official record publications since the early 19th century. A useful guide to them is *Scottish Texts and Calendars* (Scottish History Society, 1987), which has been updated online at www.nls.uk.

USING THE RECORDS

Access for historical research is free, but you need to bring photographic identification (eg driving licence or passport) and proof of address, plus two passport-sized colour photographs, in order for NRS staff to issue you with a reader's ticket (valid for up to three years).

An increasing number of records are available as 'Virtual Volumes' in the NRS Historical Search Room, and some also online, but otherwise you will be consulting original records.

You will find many of the documents are written in early forms of handwriting which are difficult to read, using unfamiliar Scots words and legal terminology. The following will help:

HANDWRITING: Learn online with the NRS at ScottishHandwriting.com; *Scottish Handwriting 1500-1700: a self-help pack* (NRS and Scottish Records Association, 1994), and Grant G Simpson, *Scottish Handwriting* (Edinburgh, 2009).

LANGUAGE: The Concise Scots Dictionary, ed. Mairi Robinson (1985 & later editions); *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue and Scottish National Dictionary* are also available online at www.dsl.ac.uk.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS: Peter Gouldesbrough, *A Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents* (Stair Society, 1985); Student's Glossary of Scottish Legal Terms, AD Gibb (1982).

THE SOURCES

RECORDS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT: Most records of the pre-1707 Scottish government are in print, including those of parliament, privy council, the accounts of the Lord High Treasurer, exchequer rolls, accounts of the Masters of Works and the registers of the great and privy seals. All contain material on local events and communities. The printed volumes are fully indexed. Modern files of the Scottish Government, formerly the Scottish Office (established in 1885) and the Scottish Executive, are deposited in the NRS.

COURTS: Cases heard in Scotland's highest criminal Court, the High Court of Justiciary, from 1800 (JC), and Crown Office precognitions (pre-trial evidence) from 1813 (AD14-15), can be searched in the online catalogue. For bankruptcies and civil disputes of all kinds, consult the records of the Court of Session (CS). Admiralty Court records, 1549-1830 (AC) contain maritime, commercial and criminal cases. Records of the Scottish Land Court date from 1886 (LC) and concern the safeguarding of tenants' rights and the settlement of disputes. The Teind Court papers relate to individual parishes and the payment of teinds (tithes) (TE). Many Sheriff court records can be found in the catalogue (SC).

PUBLIC REGISTERS: The Registers of Sasines, from 1599 (RS), and Registers of Deeds, from 1554 (RD), record the private rights of individuals, property rights, legal and business transactions and social connections, such as marriage contracts. Notaries Protocol Books from 1510 (NP) contain titles to property pre-dating the Register of Sasines, as well as many other kinds of legal transactions. The Register of Tailzies, from 1688-c2005, deals with the process whereby a heritable estate might be entailed to a prescribed line of heirs.

Diligence records, running from 1579 (DI), relate to the enforcement of decrees of court.

RECORDS OF NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES: Records of the rail, coal, gas, electricity and steel industries.

LOCAL COURTS: The records of the commissary courts (CC) and sheriff courts (SC) contain a vast amount of material on all aspects of local history. They include testaments: search the online index at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, or use the search tools in the Historical Search Room to see images of testaments, 1513-1935. Post-1935 testaments can also be consulted in NRS. Other local courts include local jurisdictions such as Barony, Regality and Stewartry courts (RH11). The duties of the Justice of the Peace Courts (JP) ranged from petty offences to licensing and weights and measures.