

information) it can lead to many more challenges. A wide variety of standardized blank forms can be found on the web. Some that you will definitely need are family group sheets and pedigree charts. Others that you might find helpful are located at:

<http://www.genealogysearch.org/free/forms.html>  
<http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms/>

There are also computerized genealogy programs that will actually build these forms for you, using the information you are collecting. Some of these programs are: Legacy Family Tree, Family Tree Maker, Family Historian, Roots Magic, Ancestral Quest, Heredis, Family Tree Heritage, Brother's Keeper and WinFamily. They range anywhere from about \$30.00 to \$85.00.

### Vital Records:

**Old Parish Registers, 1553-1854:** There are nearly 1000 parishes in Scotland. Most of the Scots were members of the Church of Scotland

(Presbyterian) and are recorded within the church's registers. However there are others denominations which kept their own records. The old parish registers of the Church of Scotland have been deposited with the National Archives of Scotland. Do not expect too much for the Old Parish Registers birth and baptism records. The amount of



information recorded is variable and most entries contain very little detail.

Many of these records and information about them can be accessed through the websites:  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/church-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/church-records)

[www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk).  
**Scotland Births and Baptisms:** Family Search.org has created a Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950 to be used as a tool to locate and view original documents. It is comprised of information from indexed church records, civil registrations. It contains such things as name of child, gender, names of parents, birth date, birthplace, christening date, father's birthplace, mother's birthplace and race or color.

[www.search.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.search.ancestry.co.uk)  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/birth-death-and-marriage-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/birth-death-and-marriage-records)

**U.S. Vital Records.** The recording of vital statistics in the US developed slowly. Early birth, marriage and death information was sometimes recorded in brief entries in register books until the 20th century when it became more common to create certificates. Each state eventually developed its own laws and created a statewide registration system. However, these records do not exist until the early 1900s. A website that can help you determine how to get access to a vital record is: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm)

### Emigration

By the end of the 18th century approximately 150,000 Scots had migrated to the Americas. However there is not a lot of information available as there was no requirement to maintain a list of passengers heading overseas until the mid-19th century. The US however has relatively good immigration records starting around 1820. You can find some information that might help at the following sites:

[www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org) (those arriving before 1892) through the port of New York  
[www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) (for the period of 1892-1924)  
There are numerous websites to support your research in this area. Simply use google to search for such terms as Emigration/Scotland/etc.  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/emigration-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/emigration-records)

### Census Returns

The **Scottish** government took a census every ten years since 1801 except in 1941. The censuses from 1841 to 1911 are available for public use. Census takers were instructed to list only those persons who spent the night in the household when the census was taken. The 1801-1831 censuses contain only statistical information, no names. Commercial services such as "Ancestry" and "Findmypast" have transcriptions of the 1841-1891 census returns often which can be available free of charge from public libraries.

[www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)  
[www.censusfinder.com/scotland.htm](http://www.censusfinder.com/scotland.htm)  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records)

The **U.S.** has taken a census every ten years since 1790. In the US Census records you can find information like names of other household members,

ages, birth places, residence, occupation, immigration & citizenship details, marriage information, military service and more. The information collected varied depending on the year. The census records for 1890 were destroyed in a fire. [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### Military Records

Military records identify individuals who either served or were eligible to serve in the military.

**Scotland:** Before 1707 Scotland had its own military and people were only called up as needed. They were dismissed when the need was met and very few records were kept. In 1707 the governments and militaries of England and Scotland united. These records are housed in the Public Record Office in England. Military service (other than militia) was usually a lifetime career. Officers from upper classes and soldiers from working class. A guide providing more info about military records can be found at: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/military-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/military-records)

### Deeds

A deed is a legal agreement, obligation or other document registered with a court. It is used to establish the basis of a legal right before proceeding to a related legal action. There are several types of

deeds: bonds, contracts, leases, wills and codicils, factories, and protests. You can learn more about these at

[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/deeds](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/deeds)



### Poor Relief

Normally those receiving poor relief were those unable to support themselves, either because of age or incapacity. They included orphans, the sick or disabled and the insane. The sturdy beggar or the able-bodied poor were not generally entitled to support and were indeed legislated against.  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/poor-relief-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/poor-relief-records)



## Wills and Testaments

The term testament is used to describe all the documents relating to the executory of a deceased person. Every testament has inventory of the dead person's property. It may be a brief summary of the goods involved or a long list of individual items and valuations. Some testaments include a will. Wills can provide a wealth of detail about family relationships and details of everyday possessions. Note however that the eldest son in a family will often not be mentioned, because he inherited the heritable property of his deceased father. Under Scots law, an individual's property was divided into two types: 1) Heritable property consisted of land buildings, minerals and mining rights, and passed to the eldest son and 2) Moveable property which consisted of anything that could be moved.

[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/wills-and-testaments](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/wills-and-testaments).

[www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)

## Spelling

If you research only a single name or spelling, you're probably missing out on a lot of good stuff. Your ancestor may have gone by several different names during his lifetime, and it's also likely you'll find him listed under different spellings as well.

## Paid Genealogy Websites

It would be great if one could access all genealogy websites free to do research. However, there is a membership fee to access many of the genealogy programs on the web. Some of the ones that might be worth your time and effort are:

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

By far the most complete database out there for genealogy research. Check it out by using their free trial.

[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)

Fold3 is a great resource to discover historic military documents and can be used to learn and share the story of veterans in your family tree.

[www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)

Provides access to modern obituaries, historical newspapers, books, pamphlets, military records, and government documents.

[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

Provides access to 100+ million pages of historical newspapers from around the US and beyond. Can be distracting from your research because there are some great articles to be read!

[www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com)

A great source for rare and interesting citations and records. Covers the U.S. and U.K. but not Australia or Canada.

## Family Search.Org

Family Search is described as the largest genealogy organization in the world. It maintains a collection of records, resources, and services designed to help people learn more about their family history. Family Search offers free access to its resources at: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Family Search has been growing significantly over the past few years and have added many source documents that you might not be able to locate elsewhere.

[www.clanmacleodusa.tribalpages.com](http://www.clanmacleodusa.tribalpages.com)

This is where you can locate the Clan MacLeod USA database. As a member of Clan MacLeod USA you are not only invited to use this database for any research you might want to do but you can also add information on your family. We currently have about 50,000 names in the database and can't wait to add your family members.

## UPDATE US

We want to hear how you are doing with your research and how we can help you. You can contact us through tribal pages or at [aemcLeod@live.com](mailto:aemcLeod@live.com).



You can find our Clan MacLeod USA

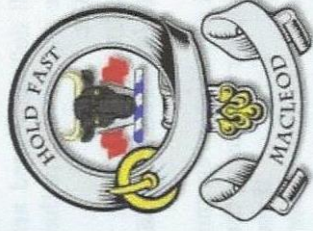
Database at:

[www.clanmacleodusa.tribalpages.com](http://www.clanmacleodusa.tribalpages.com)

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## CLAN MACLEOD USA

# GENEALOGY RESEARCH TOOLS



Want to know more about your personal family history? Are your ancestors from Scotland? Where in Scotland? The only way to really know your ancestry is to research it. Start with yourself, document your data on basic genealogy forms and then begin working backwards.

Genealogy is the study of the descendants of families and persons from an ancestor or ancestors. As a hobby genealogy can become pleasantly addictive. Well, here are some helpful websites to get you started on that search:

[www.clanmacleodusa.org](http://www.clanmacleodusa.org)

[www.dunvegancastle.com](http://www.dunvegancastle.com)

[www.macleodgenealogy.org](http://www.macleodgenealogy.org)

[www.clanmacleodusa.tribalpages.com](http://www.clanmacleodusa.tribalpages.com)

[www.nls.uk/family-history/emigration](http://www.nls.uk/family-history/emigration)

<http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>

[www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct)

[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

## Start with your family

One of the best sources available and one that is not well used is your own family. Start by documenting information about yourself, immediate family, grandparents, etc. Then search family records (letters, family Bibles, scrapbooks, diaries, photographs, baptismal certificates, newspaper clippings), etc. Remember those old stories you heard family discuss? Now is the time to really ask about them as there is usually some truth behind each story.

## Basic Genealogy Forms

Gathering your genealogy information can be a lot of fun but what you learn needs to be recorded so that you won't have to try to find it again. Also if not recorded correctly (to include where you found your

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