



# Clan Armstrong Trust

Museum Archive in Langholm

Research Notes

Last Updated: January 2012

Hello, welcome and thank you once again for visiting the Historical Research pages of the Clan Armstrong Trust Website. While we try to do our best for our members when it comes to research I have to inform you that the Trust has entered into a massive upgrade to our existing archive. We plan to re-design the entire archive so that it becomes a searchable asset to the Clan Armstrong Trust. A timetable has not been set as yet, but by the beginning of 2012 we should have a reasonably accurate programme of events in place. The work in progress like many other things in life comes at a cost, so we are working up a contract to see if we can attract a number of UK funders who may be interested in helping with the purchase of the vital equipment for our work.

So, until the time we go 'searchable' the webmaster of our Clan Armstrong Trust Website has kindly helped expand this portion of the website, so that for anyone searching for historical evidence, there are a number of very useful website contacts are listed below.

Good hunting!

Ian Scott Martin, MA (Hons)  
Archivist, Clan Armstrong Trust  
Email: [ja.borderreiver@gmail.com](mailto:ja.borderreiver@gmail.com))

## A few notes to help get you started

To do the research job justice we must equip ourselves with the correct range of tools. To start with you will need some form of recording equipment to gather the genealogical information you require. Your equipment can be as simple as a pencil and notepad. On the other hand, you may prefer to make use of a more sophisticated patented and pre-printed record card for ease of recording, as well as introducing a vital ingredient to research, discipline! There are also publishers of genealogical investigative kits specifically designed for use in family research, but they can often be expensive.

Nonetheless, you may also prefer to record genealogical information on a computer, and a range of dedicated family research software is available and might be useful in your case. In today's Internet world, several websites provide the facility for you to record historical and family research information online. Another device that may be invaluable is a hand held tape recorder, and this tool may prove helpful when interviewing anyone, or when you are on the move.

In practice, you might use a combination of these methods, but please bear in mind that pencils are a requirement, when noting historical information, in any archive or record office. Remember to have a few shillings in your pocket to pay for your photocopies, printouts and any other incidentals that may be needed on the day.

There are a number of helpful historical research websites in the web-links section of this information sheet.

## **Gathering your initial information**

If you are seeking information from family, relatives or friends, please remember that some individuals could be sensitive about events that may have happened in the past, and they might be uncomfortable talking about them in detail. You will have to be aware that potentially 'at risk' circumstances may arise from your research, and you must act appropriately, and positively, so that you alleviate any un-necessary upset.

With the information from your immediate family, you should be able to start your family tree albeit in a basic format. Normally the family tree would start with your name at the bottom of the chart and any older generations built on top of your name. Another method is to have your own name on the left of the plan, and elder generations building up on the right of your chart.

Much has been written about family history, so don't be afraid to read a few books before starting your work. Better to be prepared rather than duplicate your work! Please always try to corroborate any information you are lucky enough to find, it can be very easy to be led up the erroneous pathway, then everything you do after that is also wrong! **Check, check and check again!**

## **Help from your local library**

Most libraries will have some form of access to books and journals relating to how you can trace your family history. Once started you may also want to develop your research by checking out the social history of the area where your family lived. Reference books that are not available in the library stock can be ordered through the inter-library loan system which every library is involved in.

Other valuable sources of information that you can put to good use, as your research work progresses, are the many other services that your library can provide, for example: maps of the area you are researching, old and new telephone directories, newspapers, census records, trade directories, genealogical research directories, electoral rolls, books of local interest, monumental inscriptions and details about your local archaeological society. Some libraries and specialist collections have a range of index cards that allow the researcher to find out what is available and they are in printed format, on microfiche or on CD.

Word of warning! Look out for the far off cousin who has already prepared and published details about your family, so always check the detail!

Most libraries provide free access to the internet

## **Birth, marriage and death records**

It is often wise to initially search official records. The source that may bear most fruit is birth, marriage and death certificates. The civil registration system from which these certificates are extracted began in England and Wales on 1 July 1837, in Scotland on 1 January 1855 and in Ireland in 1864.

This part of the research journey may be expensive because you are asked to pay for access to the records, either through a dedicated website, or by Royal Mail applications.

Those with Scottish ancestry have to apply to the General Register Office for Scotland in Edinburgh. A fire at the Four Courts in Dublin during 1922 damaged and destroyed countless records; accordingly tracing Irish ancestors becomes more difficult.

## **Searching census records**

Another way of tracing your relatives is through census records. A census has been taken every ten years since 1841, except in 1941 during the Second World War.

The census records from 1851 onwards can give you names, addresses, ages, family relationships, occupations and places of birth. Some indexes will greatly aid your research, particularly the index for 1881 that is available in some libraries on CD. The 1901 census for England and Wales is available on the internet. Digitised versions of the 1891 and 1901 Scottish censuses are also available on the internet.

## **Probing parish registers**

Parish registers are one of the most useful and widely known sources for researching family history. They are primarily a record of baptisms, marriages and burials of your ancestors who attended the particular parish church.

Often the whole family may have been baptised together in the church, so children may not always have been baptised in infancy, thus the person's ages at baptism can vary significantly. Very few parish registers are stored in local churches at the present, most are now stored at the local county archive offices. So that records are protected from deterioration, many are now available for viewing on microfiche or microfilm, and booking a place for researching in any of those archives is usually required.

The Church of the Latter Day Saints has produced the International Genealogical Index commonly known as IGI and it contains an immense number of parish and other useful record entries. It is by no means complete, so please check the original parish record if at all possible.

## **Family history societies**

Join a family history society if there is one local to you. Many of its members may have been involved in research for many years; you may also meet like-minded people and become involved in providing interesting club talks. The chances are they often produce their own journals, and publish lists of membership interests, indexes of censuses and monumental inscriptions for their immediate area.

## **Keep an accurate record of your work**

Take great care to accurately record the source of your findings. This work not only acts as a precise reference, if you have to recheck your source, it can prevent a tedious repetition of your work. Any record from a secondary source such as a transcribed index, from another chart, either on the internet, or by an individual, please check the original source physically, it could be wrong. Please **do not** assume that someone with exactly the same surname and in the same area is your relative, look for proof and record the proof.

Many surnames have variations of your own surname. Details on census records can be unreliable, so always ask questions to seek further evidence. Family history requires irrefutable and in-depth detective work.

With access to computers and the electronic storage facilities, they provide a method whereby people now prefer to store their valuable information on a database using a specific genealogical software packages. These programmes allow you to organize your information very quickly; they also can produce very helpful charts and family trees. However, a current printed copy of your hours of work is always recommended as a backup.

## **Anglo-Scottish Border Antiquarian and Archaeological Societies.**

Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society:

<http://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/ms/main.pl?action=home>

Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society:

<http://www.dgnhas.org.uk/>

Hawick Archaeological Society:

<http://www.airchieoliver.co.uk/>

Eskdale & Liddesdale Archaeological Society:

<http://sites.google.com/site/eskdlearchaeology/Home>

## Useful Links for both the Experienced and Budding Research Historian

We cannot guarantee you will find any of the information you need, nonetheless, the websites referred to below is a good starting point for any budding researcher. Please check, check then recheck any information from the Internet. To have a genuine record you need proof all the way back to your original source. One little inaccuracy could easily lead you up the wrong ‘garden path.’

Antiquity Journal	<a href="http://antiquity.ac.uk/">http://antiquity.ac.uk/</a>
Armstrong Clan Society Genealogy Resources	<a href="http://www.armstrong.org/genhome.htm">http://www.armstrong.org/genhome.htm</a>
BBC Family History	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/familyhistory/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/familyhistory/</a>
Borders Family History Society	<a href="http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk/">http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk/</a>
Borders Textile Towerhouse	<a href="http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/">http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/</a>
British Genealogy	<a href="http://www.british-genealogy.com/">http://www.british-genealogy.com/</a>
Carlisle Archive Centre (New)	<a href="http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/newrecoff/CROClatest_news.asp">http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/newrecoff/CROClatest_news.asp</a>
Catholic (Scottish) History Archive	<a href="http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk/">http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk/</a>
Catholic History Archive	<a href="http://www.catholic-history.org.uk/index.php">http://www.catholic-history.org.uk/index.php</a>
Central Database for UK Burials and Cremations	<a href="http://www.deceasedonline.com">www.deceasedonline.com</a>
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	<a href="http://www.cwgc.org/">http://www.cwgc.org/</a>
Discover Your Family History	<a href="http://www.familysearch.org/">http://www.familysearch.org/</a>
Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society	<a href="http://www.dgfhs.org.uk/">http://www.dgfhs.org.uk/</a>
Electric Scotland is a major Educational resource for Scots	<a href="http://www.electricscotland.com/">www.electricscotland.com/</a>
Family History	<a href="http://www.ancestry.co.uk/">http://www.ancestry.co.uk/</a>
Family History	<a href="http://www.ancestry.com/">http://www.ancestry.com/</a>
Family Research English, Scottish and Irish Lineages	<a href="http://www.lineages.co.uk/">http://www.lineages.co.uk/</a>
Family Researcher	<a href="http://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/default.html">http://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/default.html</a>
Family Search Website (With IGI)	<a href="http://www.familysearch.org/">http://www.familysearch.org/</a>
Family Tree DNA Website	<a href="http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Armstrong/">www.familytreedna.com/public/Armstrong/</a>
Find My Past	<a href="http://www.findmypast.co.uk/">http://www.findmypast.co.uk/</a>
General Register Office for Scotland	<a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/</a>
GENUKI Scotland	<a href="http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/">http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/</a>
GENUKI United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.genuki.org.uk/">http://www.genuki.org.uk/</a>
GENUKI Westmorland	<a href="http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/WES/">http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/WES/</a>
Heart of Hawick, Heritage Hub	<a href="http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/">http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/</a>
Historic Churchyards Dumfries & Galloway	<a href="http://www.historicchurchyards.co.uk/">http://www.historicchurchyards.co.uk/</a>
Irish Family Research	<a href="http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/">http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/</a>
LDS Church Research Records	<a href="http://www.familysearch.org.uk/">http://www.familysearch.org.uk/</a>
LDS Church's Genealogy Vault	<a href="http://www.YouTube.com">www.YouTube.com</a>
Maxwell Ancestry	<a href="http://www.maxwellancestry.com/">http://www.maxwellancestry.com/</a>
National Library of Scotland	<a href="http://www.nls.uk/maps/">http://www.nls.uk/maps/</a>
Scotland's DNA	<a href="http://www.scotlandsdna.com">www.scotlandsdna.com</a>
Scotland's People Connecting Generations	<a href="http://www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk/">http://www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk/</a>
Scottish Archive Network	<a href="http://www.scan.org.uk/">http://www.scan.org.uk/</a>
Ships Passenger Lists	<a href="http://www.actiondonation.org/articles/finding-family.html">http://www.actiondonation.org/articles/finding-family.html</a>
Tay Valley History Society	<a href="http://www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/">http://www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/</a>
The National Archives of Scotland	<a href="http://www.nas.gov.uk/">http://www.nas.gov.uk/</a>
The Scottish Borders Council	<a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/">http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/</a>
Ulster-Scots	<a href="http://www.1718migration.org.uk">www.1718migration.org.uk</a>
Walk in the footsteps of your ancestors	<a href="http://www.ancestralscotland.com/">http://www.ancestralscotland.com/</a>
Welsh Roots Family Research	<a href="http://welshrootsfamilyresearch.co.uk/">http://welshrootsfamilyresearch.co.uk/</a>

## **REGISTRATION (Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates) SERVICE**

To obtain copies of Scottish birth, marriage and death certificates from around 1855 to the present day please apply through the following Local Registrars. The Registrar at each office will be happy to advise you, or in some cases carry out a search and prepare extracts for a prearranged fee structure. There are no facilities at these offices for the public to embark on research themselves, and you are strongly advised to phone ahead of any visit.

### **Heritage Hub, Hawick**

There is a service available that offers dedicated genealogical advice and information for the whole of Scotland and is housed in a purpose built building near to the Borders Textile Townhouse (opposite the Heritage Hub, Hawick) and is open on:

Tuesday 9am-1pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 10am - 1pm and 2pm – 4pm (November to March)

And 10am – 1pm and 2pm - 4.30pm (April to October)

Heritage Hub, Kirkstile, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 0AE

Phone. 01450 360699

E-mail: [archives@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:archives@scotborders.gov.uk)

Website: [www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub](http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub)

### **List of Local Registrars in the South of Scotland:**

**Annan:** The Registrar, 15 Ednam Street, Annan, Dumfriesshire, DG12 6EF

Phone: 01461 204914

**Castleton:** The Registrar, 10 Douglas Square, Newcastleton, Roxburghshire, TD9 0QD

Phone: 013873 75606

**Coldstream:** Registration Office and Marriage Room, 73 High Street, Coldstream, Berwickshire, TD12 4AE Phone: 01890 883156

**Dumfries:** The Registrar, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries, Dumfriesshire, DG1 2AD

Phone: 01387 245906

**Duns:** The Registrar, 8 Newtown Street, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3DT

Phone: 01361 886110.

**Eyemouth:** The Registrar, Community Centre, Albert Road, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5DE

Phone. 01890 750690

**Galashiels:** The Registrar, Library Buildings, Lawyers' Brae, Galashiels, Selkirkshire, TD1 3JQ

Phone: 01896 752822

**Gretna:** The Registrar, Central Avenue, Gretna, Dumfriesshire, DG16 5AQ

Phone: 01461 337648

**Hawick:** The Registrar, Council Offices, High Street, Hawick, Roxburghshire, TD9 9EF

Phone: 01450 364710

**Jedburgh:** The Registrar, Library Building, Castlegate, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, TD8 6AS

Phone: 01835 863670

**Kelso:** The Registrar, The Town House, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 7HF

Phone: 01573 225659

**Langholm:** The Registrar, Market Place, Langholm, Dumfriesshire, DG13 0JQ

Phone: 013873 80255

**Lauder:** The Registrar, The Old Jail, Mid Row, Lauder, Berwickshire, TD2 6SZ

Phone: 01578 722795

**Lockerbie:** The Registrar, High Street, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, DG11 2ES

Phone: 01576 204267

**Melrose:** The Registrar, Market Square, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9PG

Phone: 01896 823114

**Peebles:** The Registrar, Chambers' Institute, High Street, Peebles, Peebleshire, EH45 8AG

Phone: 01721 723817

**Selkirk:** The Registrar, Municipal Building, High Street, Selkirk, TD7 4JX

Phone: 01750 23104

**West Linton:** The Registrar, Council Offices, West Linton, Peebleshire, EH46 7ED

Phone: 01968 660267

E-mail contact can also be made through the Scottish Borders Council website at [www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES**

All Border enquiries on burials and lairs from circa.1855 should be made to:

Diane Munro,  
Heatheryett Cemetery Office,  
Heatheryett,  
Galashiels TD1 2JL.

Phone. 01896 753856.

Email: [dmunro2@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:dmunro2@scotborders.gov.uk)

Website: [www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

To search online for the location of local Border cemeteries, please search through:- [www.scotborders.gov.uk/localview](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/localview) . This service offers up-to-date maps allowing the researcher to pinpoint an area that will help locate information regarding local services and facilities.

### **BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

They have their website at: [www.bordersfhs.org.uk](http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk) – and included on this website is an e-mail enquiry form to make contact with them.

The BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY holds its regular meetings in Melrose, and also publishes three times a year, a magazine featuring articles and queries from members. The Society's Library and Search Room is based at Old Gala House, Galashiels and is open April to October on Tuesdays and Thursdays, (additionally on Sundays in July and August) from 1.30pm-3.45pm.

### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL, HEART OF HAWICK**

A wealth of historical information is available from the Heart of Hawick Heritage Hub.

**Contact them on Phone:** 01450 360699, **email:** [archives@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:archives@scotborders.gov.uk), and their **website:** <http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/heritagehub/>

### **Leaflets available from the Heart of Hawick Heritage Hub leaflet rack:**

Borders Family History Society

Borders Textile House, The Knitwear & Tweed Story

Genealogical Organisations and Private Researchers- Advertisement leaflet

Heritage Hub Local Newspapers held on microfilm

Heritage Hub Source List – Agriculture Historical Records

Heritage Hub Source List – Border Reivers

Heritage Hub Source List – Local & Family History Websites

Heritage Hub Source List – Poor Law Records

Heritage Hub Source List – School Records

Heritage Hub Source List – Tracing Scottish Borders Ancestors

Scotland's People, Connecting Generations

And much, much more. If you need any information please do not hesitate to call the **Heritage Hub** in the **Heart of Hawick**.

### **VISIT SCOTLAND TOURISM ORGANISATION.**

Your key to tourist information not only within the Scottish Borderland, they can help you with almost any request you make!

**Jedburgh Tourist Information Centre**, Murray's Green, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire TD8 6BE

Phone: 01835 863170

Email: [info@visitscotland.com](mailto:info@visitscotland.com) Website: [www.visitscottishborders.com](http://www.visitscottishborders.com)

**Dumfries Tourist Information Centre**, 64 Whitesands, Dumfries, Dumfriesshire

Phone: 01387 245550

**Edinburgh Tourist Information Centre**, Ocean Point One, 98 Ocean Drive, Edinburgh, EH6 6JH

Phone: 0131 472 2222

**Moffat Tourist Information Centre**, Churchgate, Moffat, Scottish Borders

Phone: 01683 220620

Other local tourist information centres are located in Hawick, Kelso, Melrose and Peebles, open all year, with Eyemouth and Selkirk open April to October.

### **A FEW SCOTTISH BORDERLAND ATTRACTIONS**

The following list of visitor attractions may be of interest to the visitor who would like to experience what life was like in the distant past on a wild Anglo/Scottish Borderland.

Further details can be obtained from any Tourist Information Centre in the Scottish Borders or online at:-  
[www.visitscottishborders.com](http://www.visitscottishborders.com)

#### **In the county of Berwickshire, England:**

Ayton Castle, Ayton

Coldstream Museum, Coldstream

Eyemouth Museum, Eyemouth

Greenknowe Tower, Greenlaw

Manderston House, Duns

Mellerstain House, Gordon

Paxton House, Paxton

Thirlestane Castle, Lauder

#### **In the county of Dumfriesshire, Scotland:**

Armstrong Trust Museum, Langholm

David Coulthard Museum, Twynholm

Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum, Dumfries

Dumfries Museum, Dumfries

John Paul Jones Birthplace Museum, Kirkbean, Dumfries

Lead Mining, Wanlockhead, Bigger

National Museum of Costume, Shambellie House, New Abbey, Dumfries

National Trust for Scotland, Castle Douglas

Savings Bank Museum, Ruthwell, Dumfries

#### **In the county of Peeblesshire, Scotland:**

John Buchan Centre, Broughton

Neidpath Castle, Peebles

Robert Smail's Printing Works, Innerleithen

St. Ronan's Well Visitor Centre, Innerleithen

Traquair House, Innerleithen

Tweeddale Museum and Gallery, Peebles

#### **In the county of Roxburghshire, Scotland:**

Abbotsford House, near Melrose

Drumlanrig's Tower Visitor Centre, Hawick

Dryburgh Abbey, St Boswells

Floors Castle, Kelso

Hawick Cashmere Visitor Centre, Hawick

Hawick Museum & Scott Art Gallery, Hawick

Hermitage Castle, Newcastleton

Jedburgh Abbey, Jedburgh

Jedburgh Castle Jail & Museum, Jedburgh

Johnnie Armstrong Gallery, Teviothead

Kelso Abbey, Kelso

Liddesdale Heritage Centre and Museum, Newcastleton  
Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre, Jedburgh  
Melrose Abbey, Melrose  
Smailholm Tower, Smailholm

**In the county of Selkirkshire, Scotland:**

Bowhill House, near Selkirk  
Halliwell's House Museum and Robson Gallery, Selkirk  
Lochcarron Cashmere Visitor Centre, Selkirk  
Old Gala House Museum, Galashiels  
Robert D Clapperton Photographic, Selkirk  
Sir Walter Scott's Courtroom, Selkirk

**THE VISITOR WITH MORE TIME MAY LIKE TO VISIT OUR SELECTION OF MORE IN-DEPTH HISTORICAL RESOURCES:**

**SCOTLANDS PEOPLE RESEARCH CENTRE.**

General Register Office for Scotland, New Register House, 3 West Register Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YT  
Phone: 0131 314 4300  
E-mail: [SFHRS@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SFHRS@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk)

General Register House and New Register House have combined facilities to create a new purpose-built family history centre, which was opened in August 2008. Visitors can gain access to key Scottish resources such as birth, marriage and death records, wills, census records and coats of arms, going back almost 500 years. All records have been digitised so the records are available on a computer screen at your research desk.

Visitors can pre-book £10 day research seats in the search rooms. It is also possible to pre-pay, which will allow the visitor to go straight to their seat. One free two-hour taster session is available to new users.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND**

H M General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY  
Phone: 131 535 1314 E-mail: [enquiries@nas.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nas.gov.uk) Website; [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND (NAS)** holds records relating to almost every aspect of Scotland's long history, including those of the non-established churches (Episcopalian, Methodists, Catholic, United Presbyterian etc.), also Kirk Session records, records of civil and criminal courts, wills & testaments, family & estate papers, land records and many, many others. On-line catalogue and useful guides are available to military records, records of the poor, emigration; it just goes on and on!

I am trying to keep this document as up to date as I can, so if you have problems with links, the text content or 'jist owt that's no fittin in' please email me.

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Archivist, Clan Armstrong Trust  
Email: [ja.borderreiver@gmail.com](mailto:ja.borderreiver@gmail.com)