

Ancestral Resources in the Scottish Borders

Sources of help before you visit the Scottish Borders:

Scotlandspeople is the official Scottish genealogy resource and one of the largest online sources of original [genealogical information](#). It has more than 100 million records. You can use it via the Internet to see census records from 1841, also statutory birth, marriage and death records from 1855 and earlier Parish Records of baptisms, marriages and burials.

Online you can buy credits (starting price GBP 7). For this fee, you will receive 30 "page credits" which are valid for a full year. Viewing a page of index results costs one credit and each page will contain up to 25 search results. Viewing an image costs five credits.

Tip: you may want to use the online version before you travel and then put time aside during your visit to Scotland to do further research. Other genealogy resources such as www.ancestry.co.uk do not have the same reach as ScotlandsPeople but may serve to get your search underway.

Specialist Genealogists

Borders Ancestry offers an accredited professional genealogy research service. Specialist areas are Berwickshire, Roxburghshire and Northumberland. Major online research and a large collection of records is held on site in our well equipped research room. Personal guidance and small workshops are catered for by appointment. www.bordersancestry.co.uk

Scottish Genealogy Research is a research team with over 25 years of experience. All that is required is a name, event (birth, death, or marriage) that took place in Scotland and a date; in some cases a year or decade can suffice. We can provide a full family history that includes written transcriptions of each record found. www.scottishgenealogyresearch.com.

Tour Guide and Genealogist

Borders Journeys provide private small group guided sightseeing and ancestral tours of Scotland specialising in Dumfries & Galloway and Scottish Borders. They research Scottish ancestry and will design a tailor-made ancestral tour that will take visitors on a journey of discovery connecting them with their Scottish ancestors. www.bordersjourneys.co.uk.

Tour Operator and Tour Guide

Scottish Clans and Castles, based in Hawick, arrange tailored trips with accommodation, rental car and tour guide if required. They specialise in guided trips for those visiting their ancestral lands and can provide clients with information on the castles, monuments and graveyards associated with any of the Border family/clan names. www.clansandcastles.com.

Border Clan and Family Information

Scott <http://www.clanscottscotland.com>
Kerr <http://www.clankerr.co.uk>
Armstrong <http://www.armstrong-clan-association.co.uk>

Turnbull	http://www.turnbullclan.com
Pringle	http://www.jamespringle.co.uk/html/klan_association.html
Home	http://www.klan-home.org
Elliot	http://www.elliottclan.com

Sources of help whilst you are here in the Borders:

[The Scottish Borders Archive and Local Studies Service](#) (The Heritage Hub) holds the manuscript records for the Scottish Borders including parish records and kirk session records, valuation rolls, records of schools, families and businesses, historic newspapers, maps, reference books etc. It is also a [ScotlandsPeople](#) centre. Opening hours are noted [here](#). Staff are always happy to assist.

[The Borders Family History Society](#) is a membership organisation with important information resources and outstanding local knowledge within its members. The Archive and Search Room at 52 Overhaugh St, Galashiels, is open Mondays 6 – 8 pm and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am – 4 pm.

Some places to visit whilst you are here in the Borders:

Scott	Bowhill - seat of the Dukes of Buccleuch Abbotsford - Sir Walter Scott's home by the Tweed Smailholm Tower - held by the Scotts of Harden
Kerr	Ferniehurst Castle - seat of the Kerrs of Ferniehurst Floors Castle - seat of the Dukes of Roxburghe Jedburgh Abbey - burial place for Kerrs of Ferniehurst.
Armstrong	Clan Armstrong Centre in Gilnockie Tower Caerlanrig and the burial place of Johnnie Armstrong Milnholm Cross (1320) commemorates Alexander Armstrong's murder Johnnie Armstrong Gallery http://www.thecelticgoldsmith.com/ .
Turnbull	Fatlips Castle Turnbull Clan Association http://www.turnbullclan.com/ Bedrule Kirk and remains of castle The Turnbull ('turn-bull') statue outside the Heritage Hub in Hawick.
Elliott	Hermitage Castle - in the heart of Elliott territory Minto village, home of the Elliott Earls of Minto for 400 years Redheugh, clan museum and residence of chief (Please contact Margaret Elliott before visiting, 01387375213).
Pringle	Smailholm Tower built by the Pringles, sold to the Scotts in 1645 Buckholm Tower , (and the cursing of James Pringle) Stichill, burial enclosure for the Pringles of Stichill.
Home	Dunglass Collegiate Church, founded by Sir Alexander Home in 1423 The Hirsell , once home to British Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas Home Dunbar Church, a monument to George Home of Spott, Earl of Dunbar.