

## A short guide to Family History resources

The main genealogical resources available at the library and online to assist you with your research!



Useful information



Physical access



Digital access

### *Statutory Records*



Statutory records are the compulsory civil registration of births, marriages and deaths from 1855 in Scotland. They are useful to confirm information and/or relationships found in other records (such as gravestone inscriptions and newspaper obituaries), and can be used to uncover additional facts, such as the names of parents and maiden names.

### *Old Parish Registers (OPRs)*



OPRs record baptisms, proclamation of banns, marriages and burials prior to civil registration in 1855. They are very helpful for finding information in the absence of other sources (e.g. in the years before census returns are available).

### *Census Returns*



Census Returns aim to record the number of inhabitants of a country on a given night. They offer a snapshot of all the people in a property on a given night and offer genealogical details such as age, occupations and birthplaces. Scottish Census Returns are taken every 10 years and are available to view from 1841. Unfortunately, Census Returns less than 100 years old are not accessible.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (OPRs up to 1854 and Censuses from 1841 to 1901 on microfilm, with indexes to the baptisms and marriage + to the 1881 and 1901 Censuses on microfiche).



### **Ancestry Library Edition**

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>

*Ancestry* is one of the world's biggest and best commercial family history services. The site is easy to search and can be used in conjunction with the library's microfilm census records.

Access: Free access in all Aberdeen City libraries (link in the Online Resources folder on the desktop of all library PCs).



### **Scotland's People**

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

*Scotland's People* is the official family history website of the Scottish Government – in particular the National Records of Scotland (NRS). It is the foremost online resource for Scottish family history and the only place on the web that images of many original Scottish historic records can be viewed. It is also the only online service with the 1911 census for Scotland. The site is a pay-per-view credit based service.

Access: Subscriptions, including for libraries, are not available for the site. The site can be easily found with a web search and there is a link in the Online Resources folder on all library PCs.



### **Find my Past**

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

*Find My Past* is another major online commercial family history resource. The library offers free access to this site, where it is possible to create an account for personalised features such as creating a family tree and saving searches.

Access: Full access in all Aberdeen City libraries. There's a link in the Digital Zone section of the library's website.

## *Valuation Rolls*



A valuation roll records the name(s) of the owner(s) and the tenant and/or occupier (but only the head of the household) of a property. It lists every house and piece of ground. With the valuation rolls, you can learn how long a head of household lived in an individual property and see who lived in a house in a particular year.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (Aberdeen City: from 1965, Aberdeenshire: from 1859, Banffshire: from 1877, Kincardineshire: from 1872).



### **Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Archives**

(Aberdeen City: from 1855, Aberdeenshire: from 1859, Banffshire: from 1877, Kincardineshire: from 1832...).

## Electoral Registers



Electoral registers are annual lists of all people eligible to vote in a particular area. They are arranged by UK Parliamentary constituency, electoral ward, then by street and house number. They are also more frequent than censuses and cover recent times for which census data is unavailable.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (Almost complete run of parliamentary electoral rolls from 1909 onwards).



**Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Archives**  
(Earlier rolls from 1832).

## Post Office Directories



Post Office Directories give an alphabetical list of Aberdeen's inhabitants involved in trade. Individuals are listed under their name, their occupation and the street they lived or worked in. Unfortunately however, not all residents are listed. Directories can help you learn about where family members lived and worked, as well as their trade or profession.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (Hardcopy version of the Aberdeen Post Office directories: Central Library, 1824-1982).



**National Library of Scotland website**

<http://www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office/index.cfm?place=Aberdeen>

The National Library of Scotland has digitised a number of Aberdeen City Libraries historic Post Office Directories for Aberdeen (from 1824–1911).

## Historic Newspapers



Newspapers record birth and marriage announcements, death notices and obituaries as well as news articles about incidents and achievements. They can offer additional information to facts, such as military awards, as well as capturing photographs and attitudes of people in their historic context.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (A vast array of historic newspapers on microfilms, including *Press & Journal* (1747-) and *Evening Express* (1879-), in addition to a vast news-cutting collection).



### **The British Newspaper Archive**

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

An extremely useful doorway into historic newspapers, the BNA holds a wide selection of titles, including *The Aberdeen Journal* (1798–1950) and the *Evening Express* (1879–1954). Its OCR text scanning is often a weakness, but it offers good search functions and the ability to download and save articles in PDF format.

Access: The library has a subscription for unlimited on site access. Follow link in the Digital Zone. Access is free but users need to create an account on the website.



### **19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspapers**

<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/aber?db=BNCN>

A selection of titles dating between 1800-1900 from around the British Isles, including *The Aberdeen Journal*.

Access: Follow link in the Digital Zone. Enter library card number for free access.



### **The Silver City Vault**

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

Aberdeen Local Studies' own website which offers a large collection of index records relating to Aberdeen family and local history (e.g. list of deaths: 1855-1931).

Access: Follow link in the Digital Zone. Access is completely free.



### **Other sources - Digital Zone**

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library/digital\\_library/lib\\_digitallibrary\\_AtoZ.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library/digital_library/lib_digitallibrary_AtoZ.asp)

Users can also access *The Scotsman* (1817-1950) and *The Times* (1785-1985) through our Digital Zone.

## *Maps and Plans*



With maps and plans, you can find where your ancestors lived and trace the history of a given place. They give a very clear and immediate picture of the changes that have taken place in an area over time.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (Street plans of Aberdeen and surrounding areas from 1661, Ordnance Survey maps and the North East from 1870s, Goad plans, and many others.



### **Maps - National Library of Scotland**

<http://maps.nls.uk/>

Historic maps on the NLS website. Access to a wonderful collection of digitised historic maps, with a wide coverage. This tool is very intuitive and easy to use.

Access: website entirely free to access.

## Images and Photographs



Iconographic documents and photographs are useful to see the changes in the urban landscape and to illustrate your family history research.



**Aberdeen Local Studies** (an extensive collection of historical photographs/documents covering buildings, streets and other City scenes, many of which photographed by George Washington Wilson).



**The Silver City Vault**

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

Aberdeen Local Studies' very own website offering online digital access to an increasing number of our photographs and images.

Access: entirely free.



**SCRAN**

<http://www.scran.ac.uk/login/librarycard.php>

SCRAN is an award-winning learning website with over 360,000 images, videos and sounds from museums, galleries and archives. It covers a wide range of subjects including local history, architecture, fashion and much more. The library has a subscription for full online text, large images and tools. The site is good for extras and adding colour to historical research.

Access: On site and remote access is available through the library. There is a link in the Digital Zone section of the library's website. For remote access use the link and enter library card number when prompted.