

Subject: Request for information relating to Scottish family history and in particular about the surname Kerr.

FOI reference: FOI/18/03600

Date received: 01 December 2018

Date responded: 13 December 2018

Information requested:

Request for information relating to Scottish family history and in particular the surname Kerr.

NRS Response:

Some of the information requested is available online at <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>. You need to register for free in the first instance and once registered you will be able to search for people with the surnames detailed in your enquiry and in particular Kerr. The names listed are common so you might find a large number of results for your searches and you need to buy credits to view the majority of images.

From 1st January 1855, statutory registration was introduced in Scotland and you can view statutory birth, marriage and death records on the website. For privacy reasons, you are not allowed to view images of modern records online. By modern we mean birth records that are less than 100 years old, marriage records that are less than 75 years old and death records that are less than 50 years old. For these events you need to purchase an official certificate or alternatively you can visit one of the Centres detailed below.

You can view ScotlandsPeople records at the ScotlandsPeople Family History Centre in Edinburgh or at one of five local Centres located across Scotland. It costs £15 a day to search and view the records at these Centres. You mentioned that the person in question was born in 1921 though it isn't clear whether the birth occurred in Scotland. For more details about the ScotlandsPeople service please click on the link below:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history>

ScotlandsPeople provides access to key Scottish family history resources such as birth, marriage and death records, wills, census records, Coats of Arms and valuation rolls.

For births, marriage and death records before 1855, you will need to search the registers of the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic church and other churches. Our earliest parish record dates back to 1553 though please be aware that not all of these records have survived. For more information about our church records, please click on the link below:

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/church-registers>

Census records will also help you with your research. You can view records from 1841 to 1911 on the website. Additionally, you can view, free of charge, the 1881 Latter-Day Saints census index. This provides a transcription of the record and includes address, census place and birth place.

A useful guide for general information about Scottish surnames is:

The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning and History by George F Black

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible to you.