

Subject: Family History Research (emigration)

FOI reference: FOI/18/01294

Date received: 04 May 2018

Date responded: 18 May 2018

Information requested:

Information on family members who were born in Scotland and emigrated to the United States of America

NRS Response:

Most of the information requested is available from www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. ScotlandsPeople records can also be viewed at the ScotlandsPeople Family History Centre in Edinburgh or at one of five local Centres located across 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, a search of the registers of the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic church and other churches needs to be carried out. Our earliest parish record dates back to 1553 though please be aware that not all of these records have survived. More information about our church records, can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

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

From 1st January 1855, statutory registration was introduced in Scotland and statutory birth, marriage and death records can be viewed on the website. For privacy reasons, it is 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.

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

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible by inspection or copying, even if a payment has to be made for it.

Regarding emigration records, there are no official outgoing passenger lists for those leaving the United Kingdom prior to 1890. The National Archives, Kew, London

(www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) holds the surviving outward passenger lists from 1890 and these can also be viewed online for a fee at <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-united-kingdom-records-in-travel-and-migration>. In addition, Ellis Island has a good collection of records of those emigrating to the USA at <http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>. Finally, the National Records of Scotland website contains more information at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/emigration-records> which may be useful.

For further questions in relation to family history contact us by using our [contact form](#).