

Family History Research at Falkirk Archives

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The popularity of family history research as a recreational pastime is rapidly growing. Researching your family tree is much easier and more rewarding than you might expect. Many resources are available locally and many are free to browse.

Tracing your family history may involve looking through a large number of original documents for the details you need, even if you have started out with web searching. On the following pages we have put together some advice and information on where to find out more about your Scottish ancestors. Advice on your family tree is available from staff, and you can look for information by visiting our archive or by using a professional researcher; sometimes you cannot see the family tree for the family forest!

There is a wealth of information available free of charge within Falkirk Archives to carry out your family history research. Before visiting us you will need to find out more about our archive and the types of materials we actually hold, then come along with as much information as you can on your family. You can check our [finding-aids page](#) for guides to our collections.

The main sources available for starting out with your family history research are:

- Old parish registers
- Census returns
- Poor relief records
- Burial records
- [Valuation rolls](#)
- [Electoral Rolls](#)

1. HOW TO START RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE

Gather as much information about your family as you can from home. Start with yourself and work backwards, trying to compile details of dates and places of birth, marriage and death of relatives known to you and other members of your family. You may find that old certificates of birth, marriage and death help or that older family members recollect some details. Many of the sources that you will consult may be church records so it is helpful if you can find out what denomination your ancestors belonged to, and in which parish or parishes they lived.

Find out more by looking at one of the many published guides on family history research. These will save you a lot of time, familiarising you with the steps you will have to take and the variety of archives that you are available in record offices. You can borrow books from your library, or consult one of the online guides to family history in Scotland such as The National Records of Scotland's guide on the [ScotlandsPeople website](#). We also have a reference library of Scottish family history books available for use within the archive search room.

Although you may be able to make a start with online sources available from free and fee-based websites, you will have to spend some time in the relevant archive in order to consult original source material.

Where Useful Records are Held

Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1855-present, online	Registrars Offices (fees payable)
Births,(to 1902) Marriages (to 1927), Deaths, (to 1952), online	www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk (fees payable)
Old Parish Registers online	Registrars Offices (fees payable) www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk (fees payable)
Old Parish Registers on microfilm	Falkirk Archives Falkirk Library Grangemouth Library
IGI online	www.familysearch.com
IGI on microfiche	Falkirk Library Grangemouth Library
Census on microfilm	Falkirk Archives (1841-71, 1891 only) Falkirk Library Grangemouth Library
Census on CD	Falkirk Archives (1881) Falkirk Library (1881, 1891 index, 1901) Grangemouth Library (1881, 1891 index, 1901) Denny Library (1881) Larbert Library (1881)
Census online	Registrars Offices (fees payable) www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk (fees payable)
Local Newspapers on microfilm	Falkirk Library Bo'ness Library Falkirk Archives (limited range)
Valuation Rolls	Falkirk Archives Stirling Council Archives West Lothian Library Services National Archives of Scotland
Electoral Rolls	Falkirk Archives National Library of Scotland
Wills and Testaments	National Archives of Scotland www.scottishdocuments.com (fees payable) www.scan.org.uk (fees payable)
Poor Relief records	Falkirk Archives
Health records	Forth Valley NHS Medical Records Dept
Property records - Building warrant plans	Falkirk Archives(search facilities limited - may need to contact Falkirk Council Building Standards in which case fees payable)
Estate records	Falkirk Archives
Estate maps & plans	Falkirk Archives
Church records	Falkirk Archives

2. BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES AFTER 1837

Certificates of birth, marriage and death can be very useful in helping you start researching your family tree, particularly if you don't have enough information to take you back into the 19th century. To get copies of post 1837 civil certificates you have to buy a duplicate copy from a registrar.

Registrars maintain current registers of births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships. They also conduct all civil marriages and civil partnership registrations. All births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages (both civil and religious) and civil partnerships occurring in Scotland must be recorded in these registers. The original registers are preserved and held centrally by the Registrar General.

For Scotland, you will need to contact the National Records of Scotland. You can visit their website for more information on ordering certificates from these registers.

[National Records of Scotland Website](#)

[Falkirk Registration Office](#)

3. CHURCH RECORDS

Most churches in Scotland are Presbyterian and this means that the main records of congregations are the minutes of the Session which is made up of the minister and elders and is responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation. In these records there are details of any disciplinary case of members (ante-nuptial fornication, drunkenness and slander are the main concerns), the arrangements for worship and any evangelism or mission. There are usually also minutes of a separate committee which looked after the property and finance of the congregation, known variously as the Board of Managers, Committee of Management, Deacons' Court or Congregational Board. An understanding of Presbyterian church government helps to make sense of these types of records.

Records of Church of Scotland congregations in the Presbytery of Falkirk (including Cumbernauld) are held by Falkirk Archives. You can find details of coverage of Falkirk church and chapel registers by place and date in our [Church records finding aids](#). These are one of the main sources that family historians use as, in many cases, they pre-date the keeping of civil certificates of birth, marriage and death and the 19th century census returns. You may find that you can find out information relating to successive generations of one family by working back through these registers.

If you don't know which parish your family lived in you can look at the International Genealogical Index (IGI), available for the locality to use in Falkirk Libraries on microfiche or [online](#). This indexes many of Scotland's church registers of baptisms and marriages by name for the period before about 1875.

Old parish registers

Church of Scotland	Congregations in Falkirk Presbytery	Falkirk Archives
	Other Presbyteries	See www.scan.org.uk for locations
Episcopal Church of Scotland		Each congregation makes its own arrangements
Baptist Union		Each congregation makes its own arrangements. Baptist Union of Scotland, 14 Aytoun Road, Glasgow G41 5RT Tel 0141 423 6169
Roman Catholic		Scottish Catholic Archives Columba House 16 Drummond Place, Edinburgh EH3 6PL 0131 556 3661

4. SCOTTISH CENSUS RETURNS AND ELECTORAL ROLLS

Census Returns

Census returns were taken every ten years from 1841 but the detailed schedules are closed for 100 years after their compilation, so 1921 and onwards are still closed. The censuses of 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 should record all people living in the country on census night in that particular year. They are very useful as you will see entire households living together, with information on their ages, places of birth and occupations.

Census returns are arranged by historic county and you can see those for the Falkirk area between 1841 and 1891 at the Falkirk Archives.

[ScotlandsPeople](#) is the official Scottish genealogy resource and allows you to digitally search census returns and other resources. While you will still need to buy credits to see all the information available, much of the census information is no longer behind a pay wall.

Census on microfilm	Falkirk Archives (1841-71, 1891 only) Falkirk Library Grangemouth Library
Census on CD	Falkirk Archives (1881) Falkirk Library (1881, 1891 index, 1901) Grangemouth Library (1881, 1891 index, 1901) Denny Library (1881) Larbert Library (1881)
Census on-line	Registrars Offices (fees payable) www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk (fees payable)

Electoral rolls

Electoral rolls are compiled for electoral purposes. Only people entitled to vote appear in electoral rolls, so that excludes women before 1918 and men who were not owners of land or tenants (head of households only). Access to Full Electoral Rolls less than 10 years old is restricted by law to electoral purposes only.

Though we hold some of the local electoral registers, we do not have a complete set. Also be aware that access restrictions will prevent researchers from viewing electoral rolls which are under 100 years old.

Grangemouth Burgh Electoral rolls,	1872, 1971-1973	Falkirk Archives
Stirling County, 1885-1886;		Stirling Council Archives
Stirling County	1840	Falkirk Archives
East Stirlingshire	1972, 1974	Falkirk Archives
Stirlingshire portion of Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire,	1964-1966, 1968-1973	Stirling Council Archives
West Stirlingshire	1965- 1966, 1970-1973	Stirling Council Archives
Shieldhill	1929-1930	Falkirk Archives
Falkirk Burgh	1936-1938, 1965-1972	Falkirk Archives

Falkirk District /Falkirk Council Area Electoral Rolls	1976-2014	Falkirk Archives
Falkirk Council Area Electoral Rolls, 2000-present		Falkirk Library (To be transferred to Falkirk Archives when 10 years old)
Scottish Electoral registers, 1947-present		National Library of Scotland

5. PROPERTY RECORDS

Valuation rolls

Valuation rolls were compiled for property tax purposes. Each collecting local authority was responsible for compiling the valuation rolls and sending a copy to central government. They record the name (and address if different) of the owner of the property, and the name of the tenant (head of household only) along with the valuation of the property and the rates payable. They were compiled annually, but many do not survive locally. They are not indexed. They can be used to trace the ownership or tenancy of particular properties, and this can provide clues to when individuals died, as well as when they occupied particular properties.

Note that prior to 1975 most of the rural areas were in the County of Stirling and the area around Bo'ness was in the County of West Lothian.

Falkirk Burgh Valuation rolls	1864, 1901-1913, 1917-1975, 1963-1964, 1973-1974	Falkirk Archives
Falkirk Burgh Valuation Rolls	1855-1957	National Archives of Scotland (Ref VR30)
Falkirk Prison assessment rolls	1842-1857 (some gaps)	
Denny & Dunipace Valuation rolls,	1914-1915, 1959-1970	Falkirk Archives
Denny Parish Valuation rolls,	1848, 1859-1880; Assessment rolls, 1863-1866, 1868-1877	Falkirk Archives
Bo'ness Valuation Rolls	1918-1919, 1923-1924	Falkirk Archives
Grangemouth Burgh Assessment rolls,	1886-1923, 1949-1966 (some gaps)	Falkirk Archives
Stirling County Valuation Rolls,	1855-1975	National Archives of Scotland (Ref VR119)
Stirling County Valuation Rolls,	1831-1975	Stirling Council Archives (Ref SC4)
West Lothian County Valuation Rolls	1970-1975	Falkirk Archives
West Lothian County Valuation Rolls	1855-1975	National Archives of Scotland (Ref VR122)
Central Region Valuation Rolls	1975-1996 (non-domestic only after 1989)	National Archives of Scotland (Ref VR129)
Falkirk District Domestic and Non-domestic property valuation rolls	1974-1989	Falkirk Archives
Central Scotland Valuation Rolls,	1996-present (non-domestic only)	National Archives of Scotland (Ref VR137)
Non-domestic property valuation rolls	1993-2000	Falkirk Archives
Council tax valuation lists	1993-1995, 1999-2000	

Valuation rolls not held within the Council can be accessed at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Register of Sasines and Building Warrants

Ownership of houses, land and property has been recorded in Scotland since 1617 in the Register of Sasines. The individual documents which record the transaction are known as Instruments of Sasine (pronounced “say-zeen”). The Register was computerised in 1993 and the search sheets for each property from 1875-1993 have been digitally imaged. In 1979 the Land Register was set up with the aim of replacing the Register of Sasines. The Land Register is a plans-based system which registers titles to property (whereas the Register of Sasines is a register of deeds). At the time of conveyancing a title sheet is created and guaranteed, defining the property extent on an Ordnance Survey map and giving details of price, current owners, mortgage details and conditions affecting the property.

The history of a building can be studied through the plans which may survive in the building warrants. Local authority building control sections are responsible for the administration of building standard regulations which apply to the construction, alteration, extension, demolition or change of use of a building. There are many gaps in the building warrant plans for this area.

Register of Sasines		National Archives of Scotland
Land Register		Registers of Scotland Executive Agency
Instruments of Sasine		Falkirk Archives & other local archives; also solicitors and families
Burgh of Bo’ness Building Warrants	c. 1890-1975	Falkirk Archives
Burgh of Denny & Dunipace Building Warrants	c. 1900-1975	Falkirk Archives
Burgh of Falkirk Building Warrants	c. 1887-1975	Falkirk Archives
Burgh of Grangemouth Building Warrants	c. 1900-1975	Falkirk Archives
County of Stirling Building Warrants – Denny, & Bonnybridge landward area	c. 1900-1964	Falkirk Archives
County of Stirling Building Warrants – Braes area	c. 1900-1964	Falkirk Archives
County of Stirling Building Warrants- Larbert, Stenhousemuir, Airth area	c. 1900-1964	Falkirk Archives
County of Stirling Building Warrants –Eastern Stirlingshire	1964-1975	Falkirk Archives
Falkirk District Building Warrants	1975-1981	Falkirk Archives
Falkirk District Building Warrants	1982-present	Falkirk Council Building Standards

6. POOR RELIEF RECORDS

Poor Relief was administered by the Parochial Boards (1845-1894) and the Parish Councils (1894-1930). Details of individuals applying for relief are often recorded in the minutes of the Parochial Boards or Parish Councils. Some separate registers have survived. Registers of adults applying for poor relief are closed for 75 years and records of children are closed for 100 years.

This is a summary of the records held by Falkirk Archives. Full details are in the [Parochial Boards finding aids](#).

Bo'ness Parochial Board minutes , 1845-1890	
Bo'ness Registers of Applications for relief, 1845-1887	
Grangepans Registers of Applications for relief, 1855-1895	
Carriden Parochial Board minutes, 1845-1894	
Carriden Registers of Applications for relief, 1845-1892	
Bo'ness & Carriden Parish Council minutes, 1895-1930	
Bo'ness & Carriden Registers of Applications for relief, 1895-1935	<i>Restricted</i>
Denny Parochial Board minutes, 1845-1896	
Denny Parish Council minutes, 1896-1930	
Denny & Kilsyth Public Assistance Joint Committee minutes, 1930-1948	<i>Restricted</i>
Denny & Kilsyth Public Assistance Joint Committee Registers of Applications for relief, 1941-1964	<i>Restricted</i>
Dunipace Parochial Board minutes, 1845-1868	
Dunipace Parish Council minutes, 1898-1927	
Larbert Parish Council minutes, 1922-1930	
Polmont Parochial Board minutes, 1845-1890	
Polmont Parish Council minutes, 1899-1900	
Falkirk Parochial Board - lists of inmates at Falkirk Poor House, minutes of meetings, papers relating to claims for individual paupers from other parishes, papers relating to individual cases where relief denied or disputed, 1850-1890s .	

7. ESTATE AND FAMILY RECORDS

The records of large estates often include tacks (ie; long leases, usually of farms or business premises), other legal papers, maps and plans of the estate and may include correspondence with individuals and organisations, and accounts with local businesses including local shops and suppliers.

The existence of these types of records in archives depends on the willingness of local families to deposit their family papers. A lot of families have deposited memorabilia and ephemera, such as ration books.

The Russel & Aitken Collection contains records of clients of this firm of solicitors, mainly from the 19th century. Many Falkirk families are represented in these papers and these are currently being catalogued.

Detailed lists of family and estate papers held by Falkirk Archives can be found on our [finding aids page](#), and guides to family and estate papers held by other archives on www.scan.org.uk.

Coats of Arms and Aristocratic Genealogies

If a researcher believes that they may have connections to a major landed family with possibly a coat of arms, then they should contact the Court of the Lord Lyon, who is responsible for all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry and Coats of Arms and maintains the Public Registers of Arms and Genealogies. Like any other family history, it is not sufficient simply to have the same surname or to rely on oral evidence for a connection – you are encouraged to trace your ancestry using standard research methods. Once you have a proven link, you may then find that a genealogy already exists for that part of your family.

There are published genealogies for the Livingston family of Callendar House, including the branch in the United States, and Falkirk Archives holds a family history database for the Livingstones (currently not self-service access).

Falkirk Archives holds minimal research on the genealogy of the Forbes of Callendar family.

8. BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

There are two main types of records associated with burials - interment (or burial) registers and lair registers. Interment registers record in burial order the names and some details of the individuals buried along with a note of where they are buried. Lair registers record the names of the living individuals who have purchased the lair (or burial plot). Lair registers often record who is subsequently buried in the lair and they may also record subsequent transfers of ownership of the lair. As the ownership relates to living individuals, the Data Protection Act may apply to these lair registers and access to lair registers may be restricted for 75 years.

Much of this information is now compiled in electronic format in most working cemeteries and crematoria, and there is no physical differentiation between the two traditional types of registers.

Falkirk Council Bereavement Services does not provide direct public access to the electronic registers but staff will search the electronic data for historical information on behalf of the public. Please note that this can take some time as priority is given to current burials and cremations and written enquiries for historical information are preferred.

Please contact: Cemetery Office
Dorrator Road
Camelon
Falkirk
FK2 7YJ
bereavement@falkirk.gov.uk

Falkirk Council is responsible for 13 operational burial grounds.

- Airth Cemetery, Main Street, Airth
- Bo'ness Cemetery, Dundas Street, Bo'ness
- Camelon Cemetery, Dorrator Road, Camelon
- Carriden Cemetery, Carriden Brae, Bo'ness
- Denny Cemetery, Falkirk Road, Denny
- Hills of Dunipace Cemetery, Denny Road, Larbert
- Grandsable Cemetery, Salmon Inn Road, Polmont
- Larbert Cemetery, Muirhead Road Larbert
- Muiravonside Cemetery, Maddiston Road, Whitecross
- New Carriden Cemetery, Carriden Brae, Bo'ness
- New Grandsable Cemetery, Polmont Road, Polmont
- Polmont Cemetery, Grange Road, Polmont
- Slamannan Cemetery, Balmulzier Road, Slamannan

Falkirk Archives holds a range of burial registers which have been transferred from Bereavement Services. These can be viewed in the search room. There are no indexes to the individual volumes (but see the information above about electronic records held by Bereavement Services). There are also a few older burial registers in the church records.

Burials prior to about 1900 can be very difficult to trace as the survival of burial registers is patchy. The main municipal cemetery was opened in 1873.

9. MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

The information on gravestones often provides details of relatives of the individuals buried in the grave as well as details of the individual themselves. It is quite common to find birth and death details of all the children of a marriage, for example, and sometimes an indication of where they died and/or were buried. This is especially useful for identifying children who appear in one Census and have gone by the next Census - gravestones may show that they died early. Gravestones also are often the only source of information for children who died in infancy pre-1855, and may identify two or three children given the same forename because previous children with that forename had died.

There are published lists of the inscriptions on gravestones of many graveyards and unpublished lists compiled and available for purchase from the Scottish Genealogy Society. These include:

John F. Mitchell & Sheila Mitchell: *East Stirlingshire Monumental Inscriptions pre-1855*
John F. Mitchell & Sheila Mitchell: *West Stirlingshire Monumental Inscriptions pre-1855*
John F. Mitchell & Sheila Mitchell: *Bo'ness Graveyard Inscriptions: Transcribed and Slightly Updated from Monumental Inscriptions (pre 1855) in West Lothian*

Anne Anderson has also listed monumental inscriptions and has published them via her website [Monumental Inscription Index](#)

[Calatria](#), the Journal of the Falkirk Local History Society, has published a series of articles with monumental inscriptions listed for various local churchyards. These are available from members of the Falkirk Local History Society or via the Council Archives.

Vol 9 - General introduction
Vol 10 - Dunipace
Vol 11 - Muiravonside
Vol 12 - Tattie Kirk
Vol 13 - Airth
Vol 16 - Corbiehall
Vol 18 - Carriden
Vol 19 - Slamannan
Vol 21 - Bothkennar

10. WILLS AND INVENTORIES

These records can be of great use to family historians but do remember that only a small proportion of the population left wills.

Testaments and inventories are registered and held centrally at the National Archives of Scotland. These can provide information about relatives of the deceased, as well as how much and what kind of property they possessed.

Some testaments and inventories survive in the records of families, estates and solicitors.

Testaments	National Archives of Scotland www.scan.org.uk (fees payable)
Miscellaneous testaments in the Russel & Aitken Papers & other family papers	Falkirk Archives

11. OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE ARCHIVE

A wide range of materials is also available to help piece together the day to day lives of your ancestors including:

- School records
- [Local Newspapers](#)
- Book collections
- [Map collections](#)
- Photographs
- Registers of Sasines

School records

School admission registers and lefts registers record the name of the pupil, their date of birth, date of admission to the school, name of their parent or guardian, occupation of the parent or guardian, home address, date of leaving and where the child went on leaving the school. This could include sensitive information about children who have been fostered or adopted, or who have been moved to a residential establishment. These registers are covered by the Data Protection Act and are closed to general public access for 75 years from the date of the last entry in each page. (Supervised access is permitted to the open pages in a volume which may cover 30-40 years of admissions).

School log books contain diary entries by the head teacher of the school recording those events the head teacher considered important. This can be very variable. Staff lists, results of school inspections, attendance records, outbreaks of infectious diseases, major events like war-time evacuees or the death of a pupil or a member of staff are usually recorded. It is rare to find the name of an individual pupil.

School records are held by Falkirk Archives ([FINDING AID](#)) or may still be held by the individual schools.

Local Newspapers

Newspaper birth, marriage and death notices become standard practice after the First World War. Before that, generally only the better-off families would announce events in the newspaper.

Newspapers are more useful for the information in advertisements for businesses - in 19th century/early 20th century newspapers these usually give the address of the business, and may give the date it was established and the names of the owners.

There may be articles on prominent individuals – councillors, MPs, businessmen, benefactors, war heroes – and on tragic events and individuals killed in accidents or homicides. Remember that newspapers are written from a particular perspective, often political, and the reporting of events must be read in that context.

Falkirk Herald ¹	1845-present	Falkirk Library
	1845-1920	Falkirk Archives
	1862-1886, 1900-	Grangemouth Library

¹ Falkirk Herald - The Falkirk Herald was established in 1845.

Related material – photographs (including glass plate negatives collection) and microfilm copies of the Falkirk Herald (incomplete run). The Falkirk Herald newspapers and a full set of microfilms are held by Falkirk Libraries.

	1919, 1976-2001	
Falkirk Mail	1923-1962	Falkirk Library
Falkirk Advertiser	1979-present	Falkirk Library
Falkirk Sentinel	1956	Falkirk Library
Grangemouth Advertiser	1902	Falkirk Library
	1900-2001	Grangemouth Library
Linlithgow Gazette	1891-1990	Falkirk Library
Bo'ness Journal	1900-present	Falkirk Library
		Bo'ness Library
Stirling Journal	1820-1970	Stirling Library
Stirling Journal	1820-1826, 1827-1833	Stirling Council Archives
Stirling Journal & Advertiser	1833-1837, 1838-1842, 1844, 1846-1959, 1965-1968, 1970	Stirling Council Archives
Stirling Sentinel	1889-1908	Stirling Library
	1888-1889, 1926, 1930, 1934-1935, 1942-1943, 1945-1946, 1948-1950, 1954-1955	Stirling Council Archives
Stirling Observer	1970-present	Stirling Library
	1836-1847, 1849-1980, 1986-present	Stirling Council Archives

Book collections

The archive search room holds books covering the following subjects:

- the general history of the Falkirk area
- the development of the iron and steel industries
- trade directories
- how to carry out Scottish family history research

Business Records

Most family historians are looking for evidence of where their ancestors worked. Employee records unfortunately do not tend to survive. The main types of records which survive are annual returns, accounts, records relating to the legal establishment of the business, and records relating to liquidations. There may also be product catalogues (and examples of the products themselves in the Museum collections). These can be used to study the history of the

company and learn about the type of work ancestors may have done, or the conditions they worked in.

Photographs

Falkirk Archives has an extensive collection of photographs relating to the local area, from the 1840s to the present day. These photographs include a wide variety of subjects.

- work places, streets, houses or other places
- people in their daily lives
- enjoying sports, football matches, quoiting games, cricket and curling
- children playing in the streets
- schools and schoolchildren
- people at work
- many local events, gala days and special occasions
- archaeological sites and historic buildings
- ships built locally
- canals, road, rail and transport

Anyone can look at photographs in the collection, free of charge. The photographs are generally available for viewing in transparency format (35mm slides) and we have a light box and magnifying glasses to make this easier. There are far too many photographs to browse through the entire collection but the staff will help you select the ones you want to see using the index terms on our database. If you have internet access, you can find over 1,500 of our photographs on the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network website (www.scran.ac.uk).

Copies of most of the photographs can be purchased (subject to any copyright restrictions). We can supply photographs as jpg files but not as prints (we have no photographic printing equipment).

12. FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ANCESTORS ON OUR WEBSITE

For references to individual documents or the people mentioned in them you'll need to search Falkirk Archive's [online catalogue](#). Many descriptions will highlight the existence of the original documents in our care, such as church registers, but won't highlight all the hundreds of names listed within - you'll still need to visit us to look through the names and details.

Tracing your family tree will actually involve a lot of detective work on your behalf using the original sources we look after, but this can be very rewarding! You may find that other family historians may be able to help you out: try contacting the [Central Scotland Family History Society](#) or a discussion list.

13. HELP RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE

While the archive staff are happy to help with short family history enquiries from our collections, in order to allow us to serve the public as efficiently as possible, we try to limit our research to about half an hour per enquiry. Users are welcome to visit the archive in person to spend more time looking at materials or to receive help and support from the archive staff and resources we have at Falkirk Archives. If, however, you are unable to visit us in person or want to take advantage of our expertise instead, archive staff can undertake private research on family history or any other topic for a fee of £25 an hour.

To arrange a visit or to speak to our staff about conducting research on your behalf, please contact us by emailing archives@falkirkcommunitytrust.org