Your
Scottish-American
Ancestry

Researching your Scottish ancestry from America, with Family History sources, musings on aspects of Scottishness, history, heritage, inheritance, heraldry, migration, land and maps, DNA, hints and tips, and more.

Part I – Musings on Things Scottish
Part II – Researching your Scottish Family History

Bruce Durie

GATH
ASKELON
PUBLISHING
2018

Special Limited Edition

... instruct certain people not to spread false teachings, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations

1 Book of Timothy, v 3-4 (New Revised Standard Version)

There are few more impressive sights in the world than a Scotsman on the make.

James M. Barrie

Buy the printed or eBook version from:
www.brucedurie.co.uk/books.html

© Bruce Durie 2018
Contents

About the Author  x
Preface  xi
Introduction  1

Part I – Musings on Things Scottish  3
Britain, British Isles or United Kingdom?  5
  Why ‘Great’ Britain?  6
Who are The Scots?  7
Gaelic, Scots or English?  8
  Gaelic language and culture  8
  Scots language  8
  Scotch, Scots and Scottish  9
We Are Not Celtic!  10
  The supposed ‘Celtic invasion’ of Ireland ca. 500 BC  10
  The real Celts  10
  Early inhabitants of Ireland  10
  So… why ‘Celtic’?  10
Pict does not mean ‘painted’.
  Painted people?  12
  Brythonic (P) vs. Goidelic (Q) language  12
Are We a Clan or a Family?  14
  The origins of the Clan system  15
  Feudalism in Scotland  16
  The Law of the Clan  17
  1587 and an Act against Clans  18
  Is everyone in a clan related?  20
  Is Clan better than Family?  20
  But the Lord Lyon says we’re a Clan!  21
Is there a List of Clans?  23
Clan Maps  24
Chiefs  25
  Female chiefs?  26
  How do you tell a chief?  26
  Are all chiefs titled?  26
Can We Have a Chief Too, Please?
  The Family Convention or Derbhfine  27
  Chiefship is hereditary  27
The ‘Sept’ Nonsense  28
  Armigerous clans – more nonsense  29
Do You Really Have an ‘Ancient Tartan’?
  District Tartans  32
  Plaid is another word for Tartan, right?  32

© Bruce Durie 2018
What Is Correct Highland Wear? 33
The Sgian-Dubh and the ‘Right to Bear Arms’ 33
‘Correct’ Ladies’ Highland Dress 34
Was the Kilt Invented by an Englishman? 35
What Is Correct Lowland Dress? 36
Do We Have a ‘Family Crest’? 37
Arms and Heraldry 39
Can Americans Get Scottish Arms? 40
Getting a Legal Coat of Arms 40
Why does the USA have no Heraldic Authority? 41
Canadian, English, Welsh and Irish arms 41
Heraldic Flags – do not fly the Lion Rampant! 41
We want to march with our Clan banner at the next Games 41
Crest Badges 42
Banners and Flags 43
Do not fly the Lion Rampant – fly the Saltire 43
Banners, Standards, Pennants etc. – get it right 43
Can we march with a crest banner? 45
Official guidance 45
‘We’re descended from Kenneth MacAlpin’ 46
You’re not – at least, not in the male line. 46
‘We’re descended from Robert the Bruce’ 49
You’re not – at least, not in the male line 49
The lineage of Andrew Bruce, Earl of Elgin and Chief of Bruce. 50
How Many Descendants has Robert Bruce? 51
‘Our Clan Fought with Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314’ 52
Highlanders at Bannockburn: 52
Lowlanders and Borderers at Bannockburn: 52
Notable Scots who fought for the English: 53
‘We’re descended from William Wallace’ 54
You’re not – or you certainly can’t prove it. 54
‘We’re descended from Mary Queen of Scots’ 55
Possibly, but not in the Stuart line. 55
Where is St Margaret? 57
Dunfermline Abbey 58
Relics and Reformation 59
The rest of St Margaret 60
Gateway ancestors 61
Emigration to America 62
Sources for genealogy of migrants in Britain 62
Passenger Lists and overseas records – places to start 63
Records in America 64

© Bruce Durie 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘We were driven out of Scotland’</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons for emigration</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration – push or pull?</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples from the records in Scotland, 1773-74.</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Covenanters</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reformation of the 1560s</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600s – Union of the Crowns, the Civil Wars and the Killing Time</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Glencoe Massacre of 1692 – Don’t blame Clan Campbell</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Darien Schemes of 1698-99</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economic situation in the 1690s</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first Darien expedition of 1698</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The second Darien expedition of 1699</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1707 and the Union</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More emigration</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categories of emigrants</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Jacobites</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1745-47 – Culloden and the ‘Clan Acts’</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resurrection and reinvention from 1782</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scottish Diaspora</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster Scots or ‘Scotch-Irish’?</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ulster Plantations</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster Scots emigration to the American Colonies</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Push’ factors in migration from Ulster</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six types of Scots in America</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland vs Lowland emigration</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriot vs Loyalist</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Declaration of Arbroath and the Declaration of Independence</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 1320 Declaration of Arbroath is a shameful document</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Jefferson knew about Arbroath – and dismissed it</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why does it matter?</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Highland Clearances – fact or fancy?</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Highland and Island Emigration Scheme</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lowland Clearances – even worse!</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration from the Isles</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not everyone emigrated to America</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laird or Lord?</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a Laird? Not synonymous with Lord</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should I buy a souvenir plot?</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whisky</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part II – Researching your Scottish Family History  

How do I research my Clan or Family history and genealogy?  

Changes of surname  

Mc or Mac?  

Clan and Family Societies  

Clan, Family and Surname DNA Projects.  

You cannot do Scottish Family History from Ancestry.com etc.  

Some Commercial Family History sites  

Search online, or search locally?  

Locally  

Visiting or researching remotely?  

Join…  

Ten Top Tips for starting your Scottish Family History  

First things first  

Some definitions  

Be clear about your goal  

Don’t forget the female line  

Using the Internet  

Original records  

Researching in England and Wales  

Using ScotlandsPeople  

Old Parish Records (OPRs)  

Parish maps  

OPR Baptisms  

OPR Baptism examples  

OPR Marriages – regular and irregular  

OPR Marriage examples  

Irregular Marriage examples  

Irregular marriages – why Gretna Green?  

OPR Burials  

Gravestones  

OPR Burial examples  

Why can’t I find OPRs for a particular parish?  

Catholic Parish Registers  

Catholic Registers indexes and images  

Non-Established Church Records  

Other non-established churches  

Episcopalian Church Records  

Kirk Session Records  

© Bruce Durie 2018
### Statutory (Civil) Registration 144
- ScotlandsPeople indexes and images 144
- Civil Births 145
- Civil Marriages 145
- Civil Deaths 145

### Scottish censuses 1841-1911 146
- The 1841 census 146
- The 1851–1911 censuses 147

### The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 148

### Wills and Testaments 149
- Scottish rules of inheritance: 149
- Executry 150
- Soldiers’ and airmen’s wills 150

### Using ScotlandsPlaces 151

### Using the National Library of Scotland 152
- Emigration 152

### Old Charters 153
- Other charters 153
- Parliamentary records 153
- Examples of charters 154

### DNA Testing 155
- DNA Basics 155
- Different DNA tests 155
- Which DNA testing company? 157
- Is my DNA Scottish, Irish, Norman, etc? 157
- ‘Typical’ Scottish haplogroups 158
- Descendants of Robert III and other Stewarts/Stuarts 158
- A strategy for DNA testing 158
- The Future of DNA testing 159

### If you want to know more… 161

© Bruce Durie 2018
About the Author

Dr. Bruce DURIE  BSc (Hons) PhD OMIJ FCollT FIGRS FHEA QG
Genealogist, Author, Broadcaster, Lecturer

w: www.brucedurie.co.uk

Shennachie to the Chief of Durie
Shennachie to COSCA
Tutor, University of Edinburgh
Freeman and Burgess of the City of Glasgow
Academician, Académie Internationale de Généalogie
Right of Audience at the Court of the Lord Lyon
Fulbright Senior Scottish Studies Scholar, 2015-16

Dr. Bruce Durie is considered one of Scotland’s top genealogists and heraldists, with an international reputation. He is perhaps best known for his BBC radio series, Digging Up Your Roots (eight seasons), and A House With A Past, and he has authored 30 books, including the bestselling Scottish Genealogy now in its 4th edition. His background is in medicine and neuropharmacology, as well as holding a doctoral degree in history.

Bruce founded and ran the much-acclaimed Postgraduate Program in Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. He also teaches courses on Genealogy, Documents and Heraldry at the University of Edinburgh.

He is Shennachie (Genealogist and Historian) to the Chief of Durie and official Shennachie to COSCA (Council of Scottish Clans and Associations) and has Right of Audience at the Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland. He is one of the Founding Members of the Register of Qualified Genealogists (www.qualifiedgenealogists.org).

As Fulbright Senior Scottish Studies Scholar, he spent seven months of 2016 researching aspects of Scottish migration, based at St Andrews University, Laurinburg, Scotland Co., North Carolina, USA.

In 2017, Bruce was elected Academician of the prestigious Académie Internationale de Généalogie and was invited to become a member of the Instituto Internacional de Genealogía y Heráldica.

He is also a Freeman and Burgess of the City of Glasgow.

See: www.brucedurie.co.uk/books.html

© Bruce Durie 2018
Preface

This book emerged from courses taught at the universities of Strathclyde and Edinburgh in Scotland, and Guelph in Canada, and from many talks given in Scotland, the USA and elsewhere. It is not a list of sources, although many resources, archive holdings and websites are given in here.

Rather, it is meant to be a brief guide for those interested in Scottish-American heritage and family history. Anyone wishing to pursue these subjects further, or needing a suitable textbook for a preparatory course, is recommended to read *Scottish Genealogy* (4th Edition, 2017) and *Understanding Documents for Genealogy & Local History*, both by Bruce Durie and available from The History Press (www.thehistorypress.co.uk) and most online bookshops.

There is some repetition in the book, because some readers will look at parts of it in isolation, and they shouldn’t have to go hunting for, say, a web address or a definition.

Thanks are due to the National Records of Scotland, and to others where indicated, for permission to use certain images, and to the many long-suffering students, university colleagues, friends, family members, attendees at talks and random people in sundry pubs, who put up with the process of authorship.

There is an old Scottish toast, appropriate to the remembrance of those long gone:

*Here’s tae us!*

*Wha’s like us?*

*Dam’ few,*

*And they’re a’ deid!*

**Note on spelling:** this book contains British English spellings (‘artefact’, ‘centre’, ‘colour’, ‘through’, ‘tonight’, ‘baptise’) for which the author does not apologise (and there’s another one!).

If you spell things differently, blame Noah Webster (1758–1843).

_Bruce Durie, Edinburgh, January 2018_
Introduction

So. You’re Scottish. All your ancestors were Scots, were part of Clan McWhatever, were cleared off their wee Highland croft by the dreadful English, were persecuted for their religion, and proudly supported both the Covenanters and Bonnie Prince Charlie. You have bought the kilt, fly-plaid, bonnet and so on in your clan tartan, you have hung a broadsword over the fireplace next to your family crest, and you enjoy the occasional glass of single malt Scotch (12-year or older, of course, with just a drop of water) while musing on your descent from Kenneth MacAlpine, Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots and many more luminaries from the history of Old Scotia.

You are proud of your Celtic heritage, have taken a Gaelic class, will make sure your children play in the local Pipe Band, always march with your clan at various games and gatherings bearing the Chief’s crest on a banner, and plan to visit the heartland of your forebears at some point in the future, if you ever get a passport.

Or…

You are the usual American admixture of Scots, English, Irish, German, Swedish and more. You don’t like whisky, can’t stand the noise of bagpipes and wouldn’t be seen dead in a skirt. Your Scottish ancestors were of no particular religious sensibility, emigrated of their own accord for reasons of economic betterment, never spoke Gaelic, or wore tartan, nor were they part of any clan, and only went to the Highlands on vacation. But you have visited Scotland a couple of times, and managed to avoid eating haggis.

Both of those are caricatures, of course. But the reality – for everyone – is something between the two.

We have no hand in choosing our ancestors, and little or no influence over their and our descendants’ choices of friends and spouses. But the one thing we can be sure of is this: every single one of our forebears lived long enough to breed. And that means… you have a genealogy!

Where genealogy differs from history is that it moves the focus away from the grand sweep of civilisations to the lives and events of individuals. History is best when seen through the life of one family, connected by no more than a shared surname or location, or a half-remembered family story.
Most people led quiet, blameless lives and left very few traces. However, there may be registrations (birth, marriage, death, census, taxes, poor relief etc.) or legal documents (including deeds, wills, divorce, property transfers, inheritances, lawsuits, arrests, trials, executions and witness statements). All of these events generated records, which may still exist in some form, or at least as indexes or abstracts.

Scotland has possibly the most complete, best-kept, most comprehensively digitised and readily-available set of records on Earth – but many people don’t know they exist, because they aren’t at present on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, FindMyPast, MyHeritage, Geni and all the others. Yet these records are easy to find online.

- Part I of this book contains short essays on aspects of Scottish heritage and culture – clans and families, chiefs, tartan and the kilt, coats of arms, crests and other armorial bearings, DNA, bits of Scottish history… and more besides.
- Part II will show you where and how to research your own Scottish ancestry.

It was written just for you. So do take it in the spirit intended, and enjoy. Feel free to visit www.brucedurie.co.uk/books.html

Bruce Durie
Joppa, Edinburgh, Scotland
and Laurinburg, Scotland Co., North Carolina, USA
2016-2018.