

## Tracing your Family History in Argyll Estates Archives

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The archive of the Campbell family, dukes of Argyll, comprises family and estate papers dating from the 13th century to the present day. The family owned land across much of Argyll, including Inveraray, Loch Awe, Lorn, Cowal, Kintyre, Morven, Mull, Iona and Tiree, and also in central Scotland around Castle Campbell (the Regality of Campbell) and Stirling. The archive is a rich source of information about the local history of these places and the people who lived there.

Some of the most important family and local history sources have been published:

- *Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate in 1779*, edited by Eric Cregeen, Scottish Record Society, Old Series, 91 (1963)
- *List of Inhabitants on the Duke of Argyll's Property in Kintyre in 1792*, edited by A.I.B. Stewart, Scottish Record Society, New Series (1991)
- *Inhabitants of the Inner Isles, Morvern and Ardnamurchan, 1716*, edited by N. Maclean-Bristol, Scottish Record Society, New Series (Edinburgh, 1998)
- *Argyll Estate Instructions: Mull, Morvern, Tiree. 1771-1805*, edited by Eric R. Cregeen, Scottish History Society, Fourth Series (Edinburgh, 1964)
- *Kintyre Instructions: The 5th Duke of Argyll's Instructions to His Kintyre Chamberlain, 1785-1805*, edited by Eric Cregeen and Angus Martin (The Grimsay Press, 2011)

If your ancestors came from Argyll, Stirling or the Regality of Campbell, then the archive may contain information about them. They do not need to have been Campbells - most of the people living on the estates were not!

Information about people tends to be scattered amongst many record series in the archives, so we are not generally the best starting point for family history research. To find your family in our archives, you need to know the names of the people you are looking for, when they were alive and where on the estates to look for them.

Some alternative, more accessible, family history sources are listed below. If you are a Campbell, or descended from a Campbell family or sept, you may also wish to contact the Clan Campbell Society – contact details are given on page 3.

Please do as much research as possible before contacting us, to ensure you have sufficient information for us to find your people in the archives. You can do this by checking official sources such as census records, civil registration records (birth, marriage and death) and parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials). These are all available online via the Scotland's People website ([www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)) and free transcriptions of many of them, and other useful resources, are also available on family and local history websites. Professional genealogists and family history societies can help you with this research – please see below for web links.

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### Family History Resources

- Scotland's People: <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>
- Genealogy of the UK (Argyll sources): <http://www.genealogy-of-uk.com/Scotland/Argyll/genealogy.htm>
- Genealogy of the UK (UK-wide sources): <http://www.genealogy-of-uk.com/index.html>
- Genuki: [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)
- Cyndi's List: [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)
- Family Search: <https://www.familysearch.org/> The power of this wonderful free resource is NOT the online public trees, and caution is warranted regarding the authenticity of the information in those lacking references to primary documentation. Browsable access to digital images of many of the essential genealogical Scottish record collections, including Old Parish Records (OPRs), censuses (1841-1891), Civil Registrations (1855-1875, 1881 and 1891) is possible on site at the Family Search Center, Salt Lake City, or at an affiliate satellite library. Many other primary document collections are open for viewing from the comfort of your home and can be identified by exploring the FamilySearch Catalogue. It can take some practice to navigate the catalogue's search engine. For example, using the Place search for 'Argyll' will return collections associated with the jurisdictional boundaries of Argyllshire, including the OPRs and census records. However, the information for vital records (Civil Registrations) is best returned by searching 'Scotland' (Place) and 'Register General' (Author). Helpful tips for using the catalogue can be found here: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Introduction\\_to\\_the\\_FamilySearch\\_Catalog](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Introduction_to_the_FamilySearch_Catalog)

### Family History Societies

- Lochaber and North Argyll Family History Society:  
<http://www.lochaberandnorthargyllfamilyhistorygroup.org.uk/index.html>
- Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society (also covers South and West Argyll):  
<http://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/>
- Scottish Association of Family History Societies: <http://www.safhs.org.uk/>

### Genealogical Research Services

- Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives  
<http://www.asgra.co.uk/index.php>
- Register of Qualified Genealogists <https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/>

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- Association of Professional Genealogists: <http://www.apgen.org/>
- The National Records of Scotland has compiled a list of record agents and professional researchers (scroll to the bottom of the hand menu bar):  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/researching-online/paying-for-research>

### Emigration

The National Records of Scotland has compiled useful advice on emigration records and other sources:  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/emigration-records>

### Clan Campbell Societies

The Inveraray Castle website contains an introduction to the Campbell family history and a copy of the Campbell family tree (<https://www.inveraray-castle.com/castle/the-family/the-clan-campbell>). For more details about particular branches, septs or individuals, please get in touch with the Clan Campbell Society:

- USA and Canada: <https://www.ccsna.org/>
- Australia: <https://clan-campbell.org.au/home.html>

Additional online opportunities for kinship and collaborative research support can be found here:

- Clan Campbell Society <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCSNA>
- Campbell Ancestry (GEDmatch Project) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/299129988179699>
- Campbell Y-DNA Study <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2433414776753258>
- Campbell DNA Project [www.familytreedna.com/public/Campbell/](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Campbell/)

### Useful Publications

#### Clan Campbell:

- Alistair Campbell of Airds, *A History of Clan Campbell*, 3 volumes (Edinburgh University Press, 2000-2004). Available from the Castle Gift Shop or CCSNA.

This series traces the history of the Clan Campbell from its medieval origins to the present day. Volume 3 contains genealogies of the chiefs and their families, and heraldic information for many Campbell branches.

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- Alan McNie, *Clan Campbell. Your Clan Heritage* (Cascade Publishing Company, 1983 and 1989). Available from the Castle Gift Shop.  
Pocket-sized introduction to the Clan Campbell, covering the ducal line and Breadalbane Campbells, with a map showing the location of the principal Campbell strongholds.
- John MacKay, *The Campbells. The Origins of the Clan Campbell and their Place in History* (Lang Syne Publishers, 1997). Available from the Castle Gift Shop.  
Another brief, but comprehensive introduction to the Clan Campbell.
- Ian G. Lindsay and Mary Cosh, *Inveraray and the Dukes of Argyll* (Edinburgh University Press, 1973).  
This publication provides a detailed account of the building of Inveraray Castle (est. 1746) and the new town of Inveraray, and the contributions made to each by successive dukes of Argyll, up to the mid-twentieth century. It also describes how they, their families and friends spent their time there. The book is superbly illustrated with photographs, architectural drawings and prints. It is also very well-referenced and includes a list of tradesmen who worked on the building of the castle and town. Out of print but often available second-hand.
- Ronald Black, *The Campbells of the Ark*, 2 volumes (Birlinn, 2018)  
These books include detailed biographical research into Campbells in the '45 and the militia.
- Stephen Boardman, *The Campbells, 1250-1513* (Origin, 2019)  
A seminal work by one of Scotland's finest historians examining the genealogies, activities and influence of the lords of Clan Campbell in medieval Scotland.

### Family History:

- National Records of Scotland, *Tracing your Scottish Ancestors: the official guide* (Birlinn, 2020)
- Bruce Durie, *Scottish Genealogy* (The History Press, 2017)

### DNA:

- Graham S. Holton, *Tracing Your Ancestors using DNA: a guide for family historians* (Pen & Sword, 2019)
- Diahan Southard, *Your DNA Guide, the book: step-by-step plans to connect you with your family using your DNA* (You DNA Guide, 2020)

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- Blaine T. Bettinger, *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* (Family Tree Books, 2019)
- David Vance, *The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy* (J. David Vance, 2024)

### Future Learn Courses

An excellent resource to learn from leading Universities affordably (including no-cost options)

- Genealogy: Researching your family tree <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy>

A six-week introductory genealogy course for beginners presented by the University of Strathclyde.

- Genetic Genealogy: Researching your family tree using DNA <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genetic-genealogy-researching-your-family-tree-using-dna>

A six-week introductory course focused on effectively incorporating DNA testing as part of family research and explaining in simple terms the science behind resulting findings by the University of Strathclyde

- Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: Reading Scotland's Records <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography>

An overview of basic skills necessary to conduct historical research and an introduction to extant records found in Scottish archives by examining the specialist skills required to transcribe early modern manuscripts and Church of Scotland Kirk Session records. This three-week offering was developed by the University of Glasgow.

- The Scottish Highland Clans: Origins, Decline and Transformation <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-highland-clans>

This is a short three-week course offered by the University of Glasgow for anyone interested in Scottish history, Gaelic culture, and how Scotland is represented in the modern world (such as Highland games and clan societies).