



CLAN STRACHAN SOCIETY (WWW.CLANSTRACHAN.ORG)

# Genealogy

## Clan Strachan Society

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## Introduction to Genealogy Resources

by Jim Strachan, FSA Scot (June 2007)

The Society often receives emails from people around the globe asking about their family's lineage, and inquiring if the Society has information that can add to their research.

The first step in tracing your genealogy, is to read every article posted by the Clan Strachan Society. This information will provide a solid foundation for your research.

When at all possible, document your sources of genealogical information, whether it be a story from your Aunt Bessie, or from a birth certificate. You will quickly find that some sources are far more accurate and reliable than others.

Birth certificates, marriage licenses, and death certificates are among the most popular examples of PRIMARY Genealogical information. These primary sources are far more accurate than secondary sources. Most if not all of your genealogical research should be based on primary sources.

Secondary sources of genealogical information include, but are not limited to census records. This information is usually considered secondary as information is

provided verbally from one person to another and may incorporate certain inaccuracies.

Family traditions or stories are also subject to inaccuracies.

Nonetheless, secondary sources are useful as they provide leads for researchers to search for and obtain primary sources that can either confirm or deny the truth.

Genealogy is a fun hobby, but like golf, researchers should expect to spend some money on their research.

This may be in the form of acquiring certified copies of birth records, marriage licenses, etc. It may even require the hiring of a genealogist.

For individuals seeking to perform genealogy research themselves, we must warn that much of the information on the Internet has not been verified against primary or secondary genealogical documentation.

Subsequently, the IGI and other non-documented sources may be inaccurate.

Given this information, the Society makes the following recommendations for on-line research:

### [General Register Office for Scotland](#)

UK government agency. Genealogy research; order certified copies of birth, death and marriage certificates; and much more.

### [Scotlands People](#)

The official government source for genealogical data for Scotland.

### [Scots Origin](#)

Scots Origins features a Free IGI search, access to Origins Experts research of authentic Scottish records from 1700 to 1990, a Free Scottish Place search, and expert articles and discussion on Scottish history.

### [The Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives](#)

The Lord Lyon Court recommends this organization for genealogy research.