

Scottish Burgh and Trade Incorporations Records

What are Scottish burghs?

Bodies erected by charter under the Crown to facilitate trade; forerunners of modern towns

Inhabited by merchants, craftsmen, residents.

Burgh Reform Act 1833

Most burghs lost exclusive privileges by the 20th century

Different types of burgh:

Royal burghs	e.g. Edinburgh, Perth
Burghs of regality	e.g. Alloa, Moffat, Fraserburgh, Huntly
Burghs of barony	e.g. Tillicoultry, Cumbernauld, Largs
Police burghs	e.g. Govanhill, Queensferry

Identify burgh type by consulting:

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland (1790s, 1830s-40s)

<http://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>

Ordnance Gazetteer (1892-96)

www.electricscotland.com

Topographical Dictionary of Scotland (1846)

www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-dict/scotland

Burgh Record types:

Burgh court records

- Registers of Deeds
- Burgh Registers of Sasines
- Burgh Courts
- Dean of Guild records

Burgesses and Voters rolls

Council minutes and account books

Records held at:

National Records of Scotland

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/burgh-records

Local archives: Scottish Archive Network www.scan.org.uk

Also Published / Online resources

Records for Perth on Ancestry.co.uk

- Perth, Scotland, Survey of Inhabitants, 1766, 1773
- Perth, Scotland, Register of Deeds, 1566-1811
- Perthshire, Scotland, Militia Survey, 1802
- Perth and Kinross, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1961
- Web: Perth, Scotland, Burgh Burial Index, 1794-1855

Old Aberdeen burgh records 1398-1511

www.ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk

Building Edinburgh: Dean of Guild records

<https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/resources/building-of-edinburghs-dean-of-guild-records/>

Published burgh records

Scottish Record Society

- www.scottishrecordsociety.org.uk/publications/old-series

Scottish Genealogy Society

- www.scotsgenealogy.com/resources

Scottish Burgh Records Society

- <http://digital.nls.uk/print/search/club.cfm?id=21>

Scottish Trade Incorporations

Braboners – weavers

Listers – dyers

Fleshers – butchers

Hammermen – metal workers

Baxters – bakers

Skinnerers – glovers

Cordiners – shoemakers

Also maltmen, tailors, bonnet makers, and many others

The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee <http://ninetradesofdundee.co.uk>

Case study: Weavers in the Royal Burgh of Perth

Occupations:

Spinning – turning the flax into yarn on a spinning wheel (spinning jenny invented by James Hargreaves in 1764)

Pirn winding – winding the thread onto bobbins known as ‘pirns’

Weaving – operating a pedal controlled loom to raise and lower different sets of warp, and a flying shuttle to interlace weft

Weaving agents – the go-between for the flax suppliers, the weavers and the markets to sell the products

Records (now held at Perth and Kinross Archives):

Minute Books 1671 – 1877

Indenture Books 1593 – 1809

Freemen Books 1612 – 1811

Minutes:

- Elections (annual) – Deacon, Boxmaster
- Bookings – apprentices, journeymen, freemen
- Discipline – the Master Court of the Weavers
- Regulation of Trade

Apprenticeships:

- Perth indenture book starts 1593
- Indenture varied from 3 years to 9 years
- Sum paid for the privilege

- Apprentice resided with master
- Usually commenced at Martinmas (November 11th)

Perth 24th Decr 1746

- *James Deu Son to the deceast Thomas Deu in Kintillo is booked apprentice to Katherine Adam spouse to Robert Hood weaver in Houghfield for three years after Mart next.*
- *John Whytock son to William Whytock in Keillor is booked apprentice to William Goodee weaver for 3 years after Mart last*

Journeyman:

- Could seek employment with several master craftsmen, accumulating experience
- Could live in own accommodation
- Minutes list individual bookings to masters

*Pth 5 ffebruary 1706 the generall meiting of the weavers of perth conveined in Ane generall court holden by Thomas Mairtine present deacon
ffollows the list of the Jurneymen*

- *James Pitkeathly Jurneyman to Thomas Hood in bridgend*
- *David Patone Jurneyman to James Archibald yer*
- *James Andersone Jurneyman to Thomas Hood in perth*

Five ways to become a Freeman weaver:

- 1) By serving an apprenticeship with a freeman weaver
- 2) By marrying a freeman weaver's daughter
- 3) By hereditary right ('entry money' – for sons in the burgh, the fee was usually 20 merks; for a country freeman's son, it was £20 Scots)
- 4) By purchase (normally charged at £100 Scots)
- 5) By gratitude

'Footballs'

Perth 17 Febry 1702

Convened in ane Gnall court of ye weaver traid annent setting yr football... There are no footballs to be sett

FOOTBALL, n. Sc. usage: a sum of money paid by a married entrant member of a merchant guild on behalf of his wife to allow her to share in the benefits of the common fund.

*Per. 1830 Perthshire Adv. (2 Dec.):

If the widow be poor, has she not a right to the funds? or why does her husband pay what is called a foot-ball? is not this regarded as his wife's entry-money?

(Dictionary of the Scots Language www.dsl.ac.uk)

The Weavers Court:

Perth 19 Apryle 1705

Whilk Day the maister Court of the weavers of perth convened In the church of perth they by the plurality of vots unlaus and feyns David Valliange receiver in perth in ffourty Shilling Scots for keeping Up work contrair to the act of traid

Perth the ffourth day of August 1703

Whilk day the maister couirt of the weavers of perth being convened in the Curch all in ane voice inlays and fynes John Huttson weaver in perth in ffourty shill. for his abusing the present Deacon and evry other of the laite Deacons abusing and miscalling the said Deacon Archibald and several times called the sd Deacons Raskells and villainds and often times commanded them to kiss his airs and thairfor he is fyned in other ffourty shilling.

Additional Records

- List of weavers bearing arms 1715
- Church seat subscription list 1749-51
- Voting slips 1821 & 1830

Perth & Kinross Archives

- Indenture papers
- Early censuses 1766 and 1773
- Militia Act census 1802

Other Sources

The National Archives (England)

IR1 Stamp Duty registers 1710–1804 (1811) – arranged by date order.

Society of Genealogists

Frederick Arthur Crisp's Apprentices' Indentures (1500 records)

Apprentices of Great Britain 1710-1774 (250,000 entries); unindexed entries from 1774-1811 contain 750,000 entries (at TNA)

Newspapers and Museums.

Books

My books available at www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Chris-Paton/a/1799 (UK) and <https://www.penandswordbooks.com/search-grid/?keyword=Paton> (USA):

- Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet (2020)
- Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records (2019)

My Pharos courses

I teach five 5-week long themed courses for Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd:

Scotland 1750-1850: Beyond the Old Parish Registers	(Starts 7 OCT 2024)
** Researching Irish Land Records	(Starts 21 OCT 2024)
Researching Scottish Ancestral Crisis	(Starts 11 NOV 2024)
Scottish Research Online	(Starts 6 JAN 2025)
Progressing Your Irish Research Online	(Starts 17 FEB 2025)

Further details at www.pharostutors.com (** Brand new course)

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Scotland's Greatest Story family history research

www.ScotlandsGreatestStory.co.uk

Scottish GENES Blog (GEnealogy News and EventS)

<https://ScottishGENES.blogspot.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheGENESBlog