

Visit
ANGUS

Tracing Your Family's History Angus & Dundee



Contents

Discovering the story of Angus & Dundee - and your family	3
Finding your Ancestors - Our Top Ten Tips	3
Family History Resources in Angus & Dundee	7
National Family History Resources	12
Getting To Know Your Ancestors	14
Angus Kirkyard Trails	19



A few helpful websites

www.ancestralscots.com
www.ancestry.co.uk
www.cyndislist.com
www.deceasedonline.com
www.familysearch.org
www.findmypast.co.uk
www.genesreunited.co.uk
www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk



Discovering the story of Angus and Dundee – and your family

The county of Angus and the city of Dundee have a rich and fascinating story to tell – a tale intertwined with the families who have, over the centuries, made this beautiful corner of Scotland their home.

Fishermen, farmers, weavers, shoe makers, tailors, shopkeepers, merchants, lawyers, teachers, landed gentry, poets, jute workers, soldiers, whalers, artists... No matter their occupation or their rank in society, with an eye to the future and a foot in the past, the people of Angus and Dundee shaped the land, the towns and the city with their labour. In return, the land, towns and city – and its society-changing industrial heritage - played a part in making their descendants the people they are today.

During your search to find out more about your ancestors, we look forward to welcoming you.

Finding Your Ancestors - Our Top Ten Tips

1. SEARCH - Look out any family records so you can discover your parents and your grandparents' dates and places of birth, as well as where and when they married.

If you're unable to find the necessary information, Dundee Family History Centre should be able to trace their birth, marriage or death entries, regardless of where the events occurred in Scotland and provide you with certificates. You can order certificates or commission research online, by telephone or by visiting the Dundee City Registrar in person.

Angus Registrars can also search Birth, Death and Marriage records for the whole of Scotland, right back to 1855 and, for a fee, can provide you with certificates of birth, death or marriage.

You can make an appointment in advance by emailing or calling the local Registration Office.

See page 9 for contact information for all local registrars.

As long as they were born over 100 years ago, you should also be able to track down your grandparents' birth certificates online at

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

2. TALK - Have a chat with older members of your family and make a note of their recollections of their grandparents, aunts and uncles. What were they called? How did they earn a living? Where did they live? Where were they originally from? Did they do anything (good or bad!) that might have appeared in the newspapers of the day?

3. FILL IN THE GAPS - Go through any boxes or drawers of family documents very carefully. Official documents such as birth, marriage, death and burial certificates can provide a wealth of information about forebears, including names, date and place of birth, occupation and, vitally, parents' names, which provides the stepping stone to the next generation.

Qualifications, newspaper cuttings, membership certificates, awards and school reports can provide background information, while photographs, especially with names or dates on the back, can be very helpful.

4. GO ONLINE - Family history websites provide statutory records stretching back to 1855, when the registration of births, deaths and marriages became a legal requirement, and also many other helpful documents, such as Census returns from 1841-1911.

5. SKETCH YOUR FAMILY TREE - Using the information pulled together though your own knowledge, talking to relatives and studying official records and family documents, outline what you know of your near-relatives on a basic family tree.

This can be done on a computer although, at this stage, it's possibly best to sketch out your family tree on a

large sheet of paper. Alternatively, download a blank family tree from a family history website or ask at your local family history society - Tay Valley Family History Society (www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk) sells blank family trees.

6. CHECK - Don't take anything at face value. Cross-reference the basic information you've unearthed against official records and/or official archive material. A mistake now could lead to an investigation of the wrong branch of your family's tree – or claiming another family's ancestors as your own!

As a descendant of a family from Angus or Dundee, you can ensure you have the correct basic information by contacting Dundee Family History Centre or Angus Registrars who will be able to verify details and help you continue with your research (see page 9). A fee may be payable for preliminary research.

7. FOCUS - It's very easy to be sidetracked when researching a family tree so decide whether you're going to concentrate on your father's line or your mother's line.

8. BE ORGANISED - As you move backwards though the generations, keep any notes in a folder, along with copies of certificates and documentation and, in case you need to backtrack or doublecheck, a record of the archive or website where you found any information.

9. ASK FOR HELP - Although there's a wealth of online genealogical information available for Scottish families, if your research comes to a dead end, ask for specialist help and advice by visiting or contacting the

relevant registry office, the Angus Archives (www.angusalive.scot/local-family-history) or Dundee Family History Centre (see page 9).

Family history societies can also be very helpful – Tay Valley Family History Society covers families in the Angus and Dundee area.

10. VISIT - Whether your family moved away from Angus or Dundee several generations ago or has never left the area, there's something special about exploring the place where your ancestors lived... Seeing the farm cottage where they lived, the harbour their fishing boat sailed from, the jute mill where they toiled, the church

where they worshipped, or the grave where they lie is a powerful reminder of the part your ancestors played in your family's story.



My Family's Story

Researching his family tree brought Canadian Robin Hallam to the Angus village of Glamis. "According to official records, my Glamis ancestors were mostly farm labourers," said Robin.

"In April 1840, accompanied by his wife and their four children, my ancestor Benjamin Hogg took a horse and cart from Glamis to Dundee, where the family boarded the Perth-built barque Atlantic.

"They set sail across the Atlantic but, as the ship approached Newfoundland, it was driven onto the rocks. Everyone was able to scramble to safety – except for Benjamin and Mary's five-year-old son, who was lost at sea. On arrival in Quebec City, the Hoggs sailed up the Ottawa River, settling in the village of L'Ange Gardien, where some of their descendants still live.

"Although my family left Glamis many generations ago, I'm very proud of my Angus roots," continued Robin, who came across the grave of his great-great-great-grandparents in the ancient kirkyard at Glamis. "As I walked around the village of so many of my ancestors, I felt as though I'd come home."



Heritage Trails

The towns of Angus each have their own Heritage Trail, while Dundee has several heritage trails around the city. These routes feature interesting places and historical buildings, enabling visitors and locals alike to find out more about each area and to visit places where their ancestors lived and worked.

Angus Heritage Trail leaflets are available online at
www.visitangus.com/heritage-trails

Dundee Heritage Trails are available at
www.dundeeheritagewalk.com and
www.dundeewomenstrail.org.uk.

Family History Resources in Angus & Dundee

Angus Archives

Restenneth Priory
by Forfar DD8 2SZ

T: 01307 468644

E: angusarchives@angusalive.scot
www.angusalive.scot/local-family-history
www.facebook.com/AngusArchives

Tucked away in the historic grounds of Restenneth Priory, burial site of one of King Robert The Bruce's sons, the Angus Archives holds 800 years of documents and records relating to the families, land, buildings, organisations, businesses, churches and councils of the county now known as Angus and previously known as Forfarshire.

The Angus Archives provide a vast range of research material for anyone looking for information about their Angus ancestors, with specially-

trained, highly knowledgeable staff on hand to advise and assist family historians in their search for information about their ancestors and the lives they led.

Amongst the many thousands of documents available at the archive are the records of the former burghs of Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Montrose and Monifieth; as well as Genealogy Collections comprising of Old Parish Registers, Census Records, the International Genealogical Index, Statistical Accounts, Valuation Rolls, an extensive Local History Collection of books, a War Stories Collection of local World War I material and the Angus Photographic collection.

Angus Libraries

Arbroath Library, Hill Terrace,
Arbroath DD11 1AH

T: 01241 435605

E: arbroath.library@angus.gov.uk

Brechin Library, St Ninian's Square,
Brechin DD9 7AD

T: 01356 622687

E: brechin.library@angus.gov.uk

Carnoustie Library, High Street,
Carnoustie DD7 6AN

T: 01241 859620

E: carnoustie.library@angus.gov.uk

Forfar Library, West High Street,
Forfar DD8 1BA

T: 01307 476476

E: forfar.library@angus.gov.uk



Kirriemuir Library, Town Hall,
Reform Street, Kirriemuir DD8 4BS
T: 01575 577109

E: kirriemuir.library@angus.gov.uk

Monifieth Library, High Street,
Monifieth DD5 4AE

T: 01382 533819

E: monifieth.library@angus.gov.uk

Montrose Library, High Street,
Montrose DD10 8PH

T: 01674 673256

E: montrose.library@angus.gov.uk

The libraries in the towns of Angus are an invaluable source of information, providing access to family and local history resources. Old Parish Records, the International Genealogical Index, Census returns, newspaper archives (local and national), historic maps, archived copies of newspapers, local history collections and many more sources of information can all be accessed, usually online or on microfiche, at libraries throughout Angus.

Dundee City Archives & Record Centre

City Square, Dundee DD1 3BY

T: 01382 434494

E: archives@dundeecity.gov.uk

The Dundee City Archives hold records right back to medieval times, including burial, poor relief and property valuation, the official records of Dundee City Council in its various guises, shipping registers and Ordnance Survey maps from 1871 and 1901.

Volunteers from the Friends of Dundee City Archives have indexed many school, burgh and guild records, together with the ancient Howff burial ground – this is available at **www.fdca.org.uk**. The City Archives work closely with the trades and guilds of Dundee who have put much information onto their website **www.ninetradesofdundee.co.uk**.

The Archive Search Room is open to the public by appointment.





Dundee Family History Centre

Central Library, The Wellgate
Dundee DD1 1DB

T: 01382 431516

E: registrars@dundeecity.gov.uk
www.dundeecity.gov.uk/service-area/council-wide/local-and-family-history

Dundee Family History Centre is a onestop-shop for anyone looking to trace their family tree in Scotland. It brings together staff from Dundee City Council's Registrars, Graves Administration and Local History sections and has close links with the City Archivist.

The staff at Dundee Family History Centre are able to supply a host of local information about families with Dundee connections. As well as access to a wide range of records and documents, qualified staff from Dundee Registrar's Office are available at the centre to offer advice and, for a fee, can undertake family history research - from answering simple queries to researching a complete family tree. They can provide you with a comprehensive family report, tracing each branch back to the late 1700s, detailing occupations, addresses, causes of death etc. As well as tracing family trees, they can also assist in tracing surviving family in Scotland.

You can book an appointment at the Family History Centre in advance or commission research online at www.dundeecity.gov.uk/forms/familyhistoryrequest.php.



Local Registrars

Arbroath Registrar, Bruce House,
Wellgate, Arbroath, DD11 3TP

T: 03452 777 778

E: regarbroath@angus.gov.uk

Forfar Registrar, County Buildings,
Forfar, DD8 3WE

T: 03452 777 778

E: regforfar@angus.gov.uk

Montrose Registrar, The Town House,
High Street, Montrose, DD10 8QW

T: 03452 777 778

E: regmontrose@angus.gov.uk

Dundee City Registrar,
20 City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BD

T: 01382 435222

E: registrars@dundeecity.gov.uk

The Registrars at the Angus Registration Offices and the City of Dundee Registrar Office can be very helpful when tracing a family tree.

For a fee, and preferably after making an appointment by emailing or calling the relevant Registration Office, the



Registrars can search Birth, Death and Marriage records for the whole of Scotland, right back to 1855, Old Parish Registers (which contain information about births and marriages in pre-1855 days) and Census Records from 1841-1911. As the Registrars are highly-experienced in this form of online research, this can be a very effective way to find your ancestors – especially any missing ones.

Alternatively, you can conduct your own search of these online digitised records at a Registration Office, although it's also advisable to book this in advance.

Tay Valley Family History Society

179-181 Princes Street
Dundee DD4 6DQ

T: 01382 461845

E: tvfhs@tayvalleyfhs.org.uk
www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk

Tay Valley Family History Society has a worldwide membership and provides valuable assistance to anyone involved in researching families with ancestral links to Angus, Dundee, Fife, Kinross-shire and Perthshire.

The society's volunteers have a wealth of experience in genealogical research

and can be contacted at the Tay Valley Family History Research Centre in Dundee, where there is a superb collection of records, archives and reference material, including a library of family trees which have been provided by over 1300 of the society's members. The Research Centre's facilities are available free of charge to members of the Society and are available to non-members upon payment of a session fee.



University of Dundee Archive Services

Tower Building
University of Dundee
Dundee DD1 4HN

T: 01382 385543

E: archives@dundee.ac.uk
www.dundee.ac.uk/archives

The University of Dundee's archives hold a range of historical documents which can assist genealogists with their research. As well as records relating to the University of Dundee and its predecessors, these archives provide safekeeping to collections of ecclesiastical records, records from the textile industry and from NHS Tayside's archives, which includes asylum and hospital records.



Murray Nicoll's family

My Family's Story

Murray Nicoll was convinced he was a Dundonian through and through until his family tree revealed that he was a descendant of a family from the Angus Glens – and perhaps even further afield...

"Although I was born in Dundee's Lochee, I was brought up in Morgan Street," said Murray. "My relatives all lived in this area of Dundee, which was also where my father and grandfather were born.

"However, I discovered that my paternal great-grandfather hailed from Annadice, near Forfar, while his wife was a Forfar resident. Further investigations revealed that my greatgreat-great grandfather was the smith at Dykehead, and he had married one of the daughters of the Howe family from Glen Clova.

"I've since heard that the Nicolls from the Glen Clova area are the remnants of the McNicolls or Nicholsons, who travelled there from the Isle of Skye."

National Family History Resources

National Records of Scotland

General Register House, 2 Princes Street
Edinburgh EH1 3YY

T: 0131 202 0451

www.nrscotland.gov.uk

The National Records of Scotland house Scotland's public and legal records, including Wills & Testaments, court records and Old Parish Records. Family and historical research can be carried out using these documents and many, many more at the Scotlands People Centre and Historical Search room.



National Library of Scotland

George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh EH1 1EW

T: 0131 623 3700

www.nls.uk

The National Library of Scotland also holds extensive family and business papers. Many collections have been digitised such as the town maps
maps.nls.uk/towns/index.html

Scottish Archive Network (SCAN)

www.scan.org.uk

Online access to Scotland's written history is available at SCAN, where the

holdings of more than 50 Scottish archives can be found.

Scottish Association of Family History Societies

www.safhs.org.uk

All established family history societies are members of this organisation so if you're looking for information about ancestors from a specific area, the website of the SAFHS is a good starting point.

Scottish Local History Forum

www.slhf.org

The umbrella organisation for individuals and organisations interested in local history in Scotland.

Scottish Tartans Authority

www.tartansauthority.com

Experts on all matters Tartan-related, including which tartan a family is entitled to wear.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

www.cwgc.org

As well as caring for the cenotaphs, war cemeteries and graves commemorating those members of the Commonwealth Forces who lost their lives in the two World Wars, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists the names and place of commemoration of the 1.7 million men and women who died, including those from Angus and Dundee.



For information about
Angus Council services,
visit www.angus.gov.uk

For information about Dundee
City Council services, visit
www.dundee.gov.uk

Did you know?

Deceased OnLine

www.deceasedonline.com

Enables family historians to track down where and when their Angus ancestors were buried – and who shares their final resting place.

Angus Council was the first council in Scotland to provide online access to its burial records, which mainly cover people buried in the county's 71 cemeteries from the 1850s onwards but also include records stretching as far back as 1630.

"Finding the lair where a relative was buried and discovering who is buried alongside them can often lead to finding other relatives," explains Angus Archives. "The Angus burial records are a treasure trove of information and being able to access them online is of immense benefit to anyone with Angus ancestors who is tracing their family tree.

"And, thanks to the information contained in the death records, which can often be traced through burial records, people researching their family's history should also be able to find out about a relative's spouse or children or perhaps discover where they lived."

Visit www.deceasedonline.com for more information.

Getting To Know Your Ancestors

Tracing a family tree is about much more than simply adding names and dates to a flow chart showing the generations that went before you. It's about discovering what your ancestors did during their lifetime, the conditions they lived in, the struggles they faced, how they contributed to, or were affected by, the historic events of the day and how their experiences and decisions shaped their own family and the generations who followed.

The stunning Angus coast and countryside looks much the same as it did 100 years ago – and more. And although the city of Dundee and the Angus towns and villages have expanded, the heritage of this part of Scotland is still clearly in evidence, with historic buildings such as castles, abbeys, churches, cathedrals, lighthouses, mills, cottages and tenements continuing to play their part in everyday life.

In Angus and Dundee, we are very proud of our heritage, our culture and our traditions, which are remembered and celebrated in our many museums, visitor centres, galleries and historic sites.

These places tell the stories of the people of our county – from the daring exploits of the World War I pilots based at Montrose Air Station to the Arbroath men who built the Bell Rock Lighthouse in the middle of the North Sea.

Arbroath Abbey

T: 01241 878756

www.historicenvironment.scot

Founded in 1178 by King William the Lion (whose heart is buried in the grounds), majestic Arbroath Abbey is world famous as the location for the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath by Scotland's nobles in 1320.

Barry Mill, by Carnoustie

T: 01241 856761

www.nts.org.uk

The last working water-powered meal mill in Angus and one of the last of its kind in Scotland. Demonstrations of grinding oats into oatmeal – the staple of the Scottish diet until relatively recently – usually take place on Sundays

Brechin Cathedral & Round Tower

T: 01356 629360

www.brechincathedral.org.uk

The ancient church where the people of Brechin have worshipped for over 1,000 years. The tall, 12th century round tower once stood alone but is now part of the cathedral and is one of only two such towers surviving in Scotland.





Brechin Town House Museum

T: 01356 237227

www.angusalive.scot/museums-galleries

Discover the ancient trades, industries and cathedral, paintings and archaeology of this ancient city.

Caledonian Railway, Brechin

T: 01356 622992

www.caledonianrailway.com

Heritage steam railway running four miles from the Victorian railway station at Brechin to Bridge of Dun and back again.

Discovery Point, Dundee

T: 01382 309060

www.rrsdiscovery.com

Step aboard RRS Discovery, the Dundee built ship which took Captain Scott to Antarctica in 1901.

Edzell Castle

www.historicenvironment.scot

The elegant – and now ruined - 16th century residence which was once home to the Lindsay family.





Gateway to the Glens Museum, Kirriemuir

T: 01575 526006

www.angusalive.scot/museums-galleries

Find out more about historic Kirriemuir and the Angus Glens in the 1604 Town House.

Glamis Castle

T: 01307 840393

www.glamis-castle.co.uk

Family seat of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, childhood home of the Queen Mother, setting for many of the most powerful scenes in Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Glenesk Folk Museum

The Retreat, Glenesk

T: 01356 648070

www.gleneskkfolkmuseum.org

A rich and diverse collection providing a fascinating view of life in the Angus Glens in days gone by.

HM Frigate Unicorn, Dundee

T: 01382 200900

www.frigateunicorn.org

One of the six oldest ships in the world, HM Frigate Unicorn is Scotland's only preserved warship.

Hospitalfield House, Arbroath

T: 01241 872333

www.hospitalfield.org.uk

The 19th century arts and crafts inspired building is regarded as one of the finest country houses in Scotland. Hospitalfield House has developed an international reputation for its art residencies and hosts regular open days and literature, music and history events.

House of Dun, by Montrose

T: 01674 810264

www.nts.org.uk

A fabulous example of an 18th-century mansion house, designed by William Adam and built for David Erskine, Lord Dun.

JM Barrie's Birthplace, Kirriemuir

T: 01575 572646

www.nts.org.uk

The weaver's cottage where JM Barrie, creator of Peter Pan, was born in 1860 and where, in his mother's washhouse, his first plays were performed.

Meffan Museum, Forfar

T: 01307 491771

www.angusalive.scot/museums-galleries

Dedicated to showing all aspects of life in Forfar through the ages, including the dark days of the town's infamous witch hunts.

McManus Galleries, Dundee

T: 01382 307200

www.mcmanus.co.uk

Dundee's central museum and art gallery has exhibitions showing the growth and development of the city.

Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre

T: 01674 678222

www.rafmontrose.org.uk

Montrose Air Station was founded by the Royal Flying Corps' II Squadron in 1913 and was the first military air base in the UK.



Montrose Museum

T: 01674 907447

www.angusalive.scot/museums-galleries

Providing a close look at Montrose's heritage, including pre-history, the Jacobites and the maritime trade that brought the town its wealth.



Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath

T: 01241 464554

www.angusalive.scot/museums-galleries

An award-winning museum which tells the dramatic story of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, whose lightkeepers' shore base was at the Signal Tower. This museum also provides lots of information about Arbroath's maritime history and fishing industry.

Strathmore Vintage Vehicle Club, Glamis

T: 01307 840311

www.svvc.co.uk

A fabulous collection of vehicles showcase the motoring heritage of Angus.



**St Vigeans Pictish & Medieval Stone
Museum, by Arbroath**

T: 01241 878756

www.historicenvironment.scot

A highly significant collection of Pictish carved and sculpted stones in the hamlet of St Vigeans, which was a site of great religious importance over 1,000 years ago. Access by arrangement.

Verdant Works, Dundee

T: 01382 309060

www.rrsdiscovery.com

Scotland's jute museum, providing a tour of the jute industry from the fields of India to the mills of Dundee and also provides an insight into the lives of the mill workers.

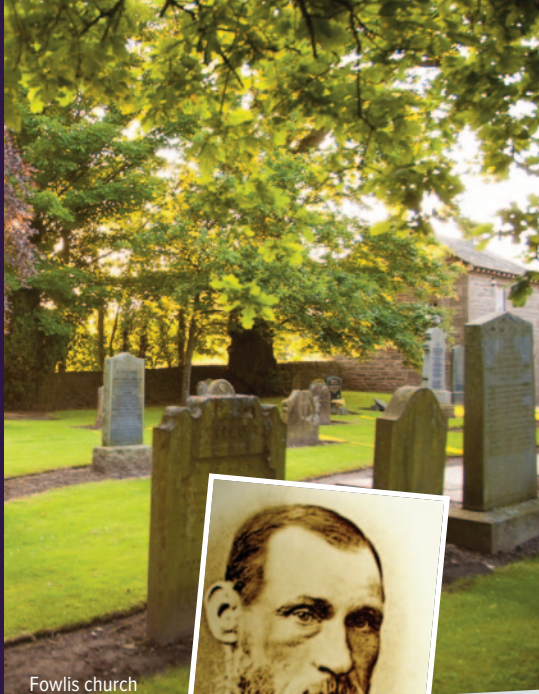
**For other local
places of historical
interest, visit**

www.visitangus.com and
www.visitdundee.com

Angus Kirkyard Trails

Angus Heritage's Historic Kirkyard Trails is an invaluable guide to many of the incredibly interesting parish kirkyards in Angus.

This guide, which is available online at www.visitangus.com/heritage-trails, includes a map showing where the historic kirkyards are located, advice about what to look for in each kirkyard, as well as a list of symbols commonly found on local gravestones – and what they mean.



Fowlis church

Charles Yeaman



My Family's Story

"I've been researching my branch of the Yeaman family since I was in third grade at school," revealed Australian singer, Marisa Yeaman, whose great-great-great grandfather, Charles Yeaman, sailed to Australia in 1841.

"Charles, his wife Euphemia and their six young children sailed over the horizon without knowing what was waiting for them at the other side," continued Marisa, who has traced her ancestors back to the 1600s, when the Yeamans lived in the Angus hamlet of Easter Fowlis. "My family tree encompasses flax dressers, sailors, bootmakers and the occasional Provost of Dundee!"

While on a tour of Scotland, Marisa was able to squeeze in a visit to Easter Fowlis Churchyard, the final resting place of David Yeaman, her grandfather nine times removed.

"David Yeaman died on July 6, 1722 at the age of 43," said Marisa. "Standing by his gravestone really helped to bring my ancestors to life."

Family and local history research may seem a big subject when you are just beginning. To help get you started we have produced this guide with information about the resources available in the Angus and Dundee area.

Many visitors with roots in Angus and Dundee come to the area to see and touch for themselves where their ancestors lived, worked, died and were buried.

Come and walk in the footsteps of your ancestors. You will find good transport links, a wealth of accommodation to suit all requirements and wonderful local food and drink.

To help plan your journey, and for more information about where to stay, where to eat and what events are on throughout the year, please visit www.visitangus.com.

