

In the Family

A resource guide to records held by Edinburgh City Archives which may help when tracing your family history



Photograph: Sir Henry Duncan Littlejohn family portrait
(Accn 657, Edinburgh City Archives)

Introduction

This is a list of some of the collections preserved at Edinburgh City Archives which may prove useful when researching your family history. The list provides you with reference numbers, covering dates, as well as a brief description of the types of records you will find in each of the collections. More detailed lists are available in our public searchroom. Enquiries about these records should be directed to the archivists at Edinburgh City Archives; the contact details being provided at the end of this source sheet.

It must also be pointed out that Edinburgh City Archives is not the best place to begin your family history research. You should endeavour to obtain as much basic information from resources such as census returns, Old Parish Registers, and the statutory birth, marriage and death registers as you can. Edinburgh City Archives holds resources that will allow you to obtain further detailed information on your ancestors, but not these essential basics.

General records

Royal Burgh of Edinburgh minutes (SL1), 1456-present

Taxation records, including extent rolls (SL35), 1580-1847

Merchant Company of Edinburgh (SL242), 1468-1989; including minutes, financial records, widows fund papers, hospital records, education records, property records and historic reports

Dean of Guild Court (SL144), 1529-1976; including minutes, financial registers, extracts, major and minor warrant indexes, letterbooks and registers of applications

Army and Militia

Army attestation registers (SL54), 1794-1887

Militia records (SL127), 1717-1894; including militia lists, assessments, lists of persons liable to serve, lieutenancy records, correspondence, financial records and certificates

Volunteer Regiments (SL126), 1846-1892; including returns of enrolled men, returns of officers and correspondence

Burgess records and Incorporated Trades

Burgess Records (SL141), 1487-present; including registers of Burgesses and Guild Brethren, indexes to registers and claim books

Incorporated Trades of Canongate (SL151), 1561-1856; including minutes, sederunt books¹, seals of cause, financial records and contracts

Incorporation of Baxters/Bakers of Edinburgh (SL33), 1522-1958; including minutes, financial records and inventory book

Incorporation of Carters of Leith (SL226), 1656-1823; including financial records, regulations and contracts

¹ Sederunt books contain minutes, as well as financial accounts, correspondence etc

Incorporation of Coopers of Leith (SL220), c1550-1873; including charters, minutes, letterbooks, financial records and registration documents

Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh (ED8), 1494-present; including charters, minutes, sasines, financial records, correspondence and widow's scheme documents

Incorporation of Hammermen of Leith (SL230), 1730-1800; sederunt books

Incorporation of Hammermen of Canongate (SL69), 1610-1861; including minutes, financial records and books of deeds

Incorporation of Journeymen Coopers of Leith (SL68), 1806-1837; including minutes, articles and petitions, lists of signatures and correspondence

Incorporation of Porters of Leith (SL231), 1770-1879; including Bond books and regulations

Incorporation of Skinners and Furriers Edinburgh (Accn 617), 1603-1903; including minute books, national covenant, charters, financial records, charitable records, property records, correspondence

Incorporation of Tailors of Leith (SL229), 1730-1824; sederunt books

Incorporation of Traffickers of Leith (SL228), 1744-1816; sederunt books

Incorporation of Wrights and Masons of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) (SL34), 1669-1910; including acts and statutes, minutes, financial records, Widow's fund documents, decreets and roll of apprentices

Burgh/Bailie Court

Canongate Burgh Court (including jail records) (SL150), 1569-1853; including court books, diet books, jail records, minutes, criminal trial records, registers of decreets, black books, petitions for release of prisoners and applications for aliment

Edinburgh Burgh Court (SL233/234), 1507-1828; including registers of decreets and registers of criminal trials

Leith Burgh Court (SL86), 1624-1920; including registers of decreets, minutes, diet books, financial records and warrant books

Queensferry Burgh Court (SL59), 1661-1966; including act books and crimes and offences registers

Canongate and Edinburgh Bailie Court (BCP), 17th to 19th Century

Church records

Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield (ED1), 1890-1983; including minutes, service registers, financial records, correspondence and St Margaret's Mission, Corstorphine, minutes and correspondence

Old St Paul's Episcopal Church (ED10), 1735-1969; including minutes, sederunt books, baptism, marriage and burial registers, correspondence, financial records, congregation rolls and collectors' books

St Mark's Episcopal Congregation (SL67), 1828-1978; including minutes, baptism, marriage and burial registers, service registers, book of stranger preachers and St Anne's Mission registers

St Paul's and St George's Church (ED2), 1712-1988; including minutes, baptism, marriage and burial registers, service registers, congregation rolls and financial records

St Peter's Episcopal Church (accn706), 1807-1977; including minutes, baptism, marriage and burial registers, service registers, preacher's books, financial records, and an album of photographs and sketches

Local Clubs/Societies

Various. Please get in touch with us to see if we hold any records on the club/society you are interested in.

Parochial Board/Poorhouse (*n.b. minutes are always worth checking for individual cases*)

Canongate Charity Workhouse (SL11), 1761-1874; including minutes, financial records, applications, visitors book and mistress' journal

Craiglockhart Poorhouse (SL9), 1859-1963; including plans of buildings, rules and regulations, records of officials, admissions, deaths, financial records, registers of clothes and shoes supplied to the poor and building contracts

Cramond Parochial Board (SL16), 1867-1899; minutes

Duddingston Parochial Board (SL18), 1856-1895; minutes

Edinburgh Charity Workhouse (SL146), 1739-1849; including minutes, financial records, committee reports, poor relief registers, lunatics and childrens' hospital papers, rules and regulations and building contracts

Edinburgh Parochial Board (SL8), 1845-1893; including minutes, committee reports, lists of poor and correspondence

Liberton Parochial Board (SL17), 1845-1894; including minutes, burial ground report and sanitary inspector reports

North Leith Parochial Board (SL19), 1856-1881; minutes

St Cuthbert's Parochial Board (SL10), 1834-1898; including minutes, paupers claims, education and children reports, annual reports and medical relief reports

St Cuthbert's/West Kirk Workhouse (SL222), 1762-1862; including minutes, financial records, reports and inventories

Police records (ED6 and various accns), 1805-1992; including returns of crimes, various reports, weekly returns (includes personnel information) and personnel files, licensing registers, HM Inspector of Constabulary of Scotland reports, police aided clothing scheme papers, press cuttings, criminal convictions registers and detainee records.

School Boards

Edinburgh School Board (SL28), 1873-1919; including minutes, reports and directories

Leith School Board (SL82), 1878-1920; including minutes and letterbooks

Liberton School Board (SL98), 1873-1919; minutes

Portobello School Board (SL96), 1873-1901; minutes

St Cuthbert's and Dean School Board (SL97), 1873-1892; minutes

School Records

Various. Please get in touch with us to see if we hold any records of the school you are interested in.

Contact us at:

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