



Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials

- 8.1 If you are searching before statutory registration began in 1855, and cannot find a record of birth, marriage or death in the Old Parish Registers (OPRs) or records of other churches in ScotlandsPeople, then you should look at records in the NRS. Remember that OPRs were compiled by ministers of the Church of Scotland. Your ancestor may have been a member of one of the many other Presbyterian churches in Scotland, or an Episcopalian or Roman Catholic. It therefore helps considerably if you know the religious denomination of your ancestor, as well as the essential information of the approximate place of residence. *The Old Statistical Account* is a useful source of information as to which denominations were active in particular parishes at the end of the eighteenth century. It is online at stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home. The books listed in 21.1 record the locations of most of the secession and free Presbyterian (sometimes also called ‘non-conformist’) congregations which have existed in Scotland.
- 8.2 If your ancestor was Protestant, search the catalogue under the following CH references. The non-conformist records are numbered CH3 and CH10–16, of which the bulkiest are CH3, the records of the former free churches which have become re-united with the Church of Scotland. Other churches covered by these series are:
- Society of Friends or Quakers (CH10)
 - Methodist (CH11)
 - Episcopal (CH12)
 - United Free Church (CH13)
 - Congregational (CH14)
 - Unitarian (CH15)
 - Free Church (CH16)

For information on the complicated history of the various Presbyterian denominations in Scotland, look at Andrew Drummond and James

*Botriphnie Free Church Congregation
Register of Births & Baptisms.*

<i>Parents' Name</i>	<i>Child's Name</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Baptized</i>
James Garden & Mary Mann, Newland	Mary	9 June/43	2 July/43
John Gray & Jane Stewart, Bodequinnach	Jane	25 June/43	" "
John Smith & Mary Edward Blackhead	Alast.	12 June/43	" "
Wm. Wilson & Isabel Edward, Newland	John	8 Aug ² /43	20 Aug ² /43
Wm. Garden & Isabel Morrison, Muthchater	Adam	9 Aug ² /43	17 Sept/43
John Mill & Jane Moggach, Skell	James	17 Dec ^r /43	2 Jan ^y /44
George Munro & Jane Duncan, Ketheden, Glen	George Stephen, illeg	7 Dec ^r /43	7 Feb ^y /44
John Smith & Isabel Mill, N. of Logie	" "	" "	12 March/44
Adam George & Isabel Watt, Old Levenach	Walter	24 March/44	5 May/44
James Humphrey & Jane Ayle, Lams Towie	Barbara	18 April/44	23 May/44
Wm. Taylor & Helen Stewart, Tarbair	Ann	17 July/44	22 July/44

Register of births and baptisms, Botriphnie Free Church, 1843–45
(NRS, CH3/1528/1, p.181).

Bulloch's two books *The Scottish Church 1688–1843* and *The Church in Victorian Scotland, 1843–1874* (St Andrew Press).

By no means all of the congregations of these churches have deposited their records in NRS, and it is worth checking whether records are held in local archives. The NRS holds microfilm copies of a few Episcopal Church records (CH12/50) and information on other Episcopal Church records can be found on the National Register of Archives for Scotland's Online Register.

- 8.3** Search the online catalogue or look at the index of churches in the CH catalogues for the name of the likely congregation or name of the town and its congregation. This index will provide you with the reference number of the congregation's records, e.g. Milnathort Antiburgher church is CH3/542. Within the list of records of that congregation, you will be looking for records of baptisms or marriages or burials, either as separate volumes or in the same volumes as kirk session minutes: e.g. Lethendy Associate Congregation Session minute book (CH3/214/1) includes baptisms, 1803–1840. The catalogue will say if there is such a