

Guide to sources for family history research in Falkirk Council Archives

Lots of people like to find out about the history of their own family. You should start with the registers of births, marriages and deaths and the census records. You can get access to digitised copies of these records through any of the local Registrar's Offices. Falkirk Council Archives holds **microfilm copies** of the Old Parish Registers (pre-1855) for the local area, along with the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1881 Census for the local area but it is easier to search these through the local Registrars. Once you have this basic information, you may find other useful information in the Falkirk Council Archives. Lists of all our holdings can be found on our website www.falkirk.gov.uk/cultural

Photographs

We have over 40,000 photographs relating to the local area. These include photographs of Falkirk people at work and at leisure. The names of known individuals in the photographs have been recorded in our computer database and can be searched. Many of the photographs are of work places or streets or houses in the area, and it is possible to search for specific addresses.

Valuation Rolls and Electoral Registers

We hold some valuation rolls as follows:

Grangemouth Burgh: 1886-89, 1892-1895, 1901-1923, 1949-59, 1962-66
Falkirk Burgh: 1864, 1901-1913, 1917-1974 (*and prison valuation rolls, 1842-1857*)
Bo'ness Burgh: 1918-1919, 1923-1924, 1970-1975
Denny & Dunipace Burgh: 1914-1915, 1959-1970
Denny Parish: 1847-1880
Falkirk District: 1974-1989
Stirling County: 1931-32, 1948-49
West Lothian County: 1970-1975

The valuation rolls record the property in an area and the name of the owner and occupant along with the rateable value of the property. They were compiled for property tax purposes from 1855 onwards but they can be used to trace how long a particular family lived at an address. You will need to know the address you are looking for, or else be prepared to spend some time searching through an entire valuation roll for the names you want. The valuation rolls of domestic property ceased to exist in 1989 with the introduction of the Community Charge.

We hold electoral rolls as follows:

Falkirk District/Falkirk Council area: 1975-2000
Falkirk Burgh: 1936-1938; 1965-1972
East Stirlingshire: 1840, 1972
Grangemouth Burgh: 1872; 1971-1973

These are arranged by the address and can be used to trace how long individuals were registered at an address. Electoral rolls are not available for research until they are more than 10 years old.

School records

We hold the records of schools in the Falkirk district, and these can include admissions registers, school log books and other miscellaneous documents. Not every school has deposited its records and there are some gaps. Records which are less than 75 years old and contain personal information are confidential and are closed to the general public.

Local Newspapers

We hold microfilm copies of issues of the Falkirk Herald, 1845-1920, 1924-1927, 1951 and 2001 to the present.. We also have indexes to other local newspapers, but you should visit Falkirk Library or any other local library for a complete run of local newspapers on microfilm. Stirling Archives also holds other newspapers with local information.

Cemetery registers

We hold burial registers for some local cemeteries from about 1880.

Personal and Family Papers

A number of families and individuals have deposited various items of local interest in the History Research Centre. These can include items such as school certificates, ration books, driving licences and personal correspondence of the individuals or families and sometimes some legal papers and property information. Our largest collection is the **Forbes of Callendar Papers** which can be a useful source for other families and individuals as well as the Forbes family themselves. The Forbes family corresponded with local ministers, heritors, stentmasters, feuars, and businessmen. We also hold the **Russel & Aitken Collection** which contains the personal papers of clients of Russel & Aitken, the Falkirk solicitors. This collection is currently being catalogued.

Poor relief records

Many of the records of individuals who claimed poor relief no longer exist. However, there are minutes of parochial boards which sometimes contain information about individuals and there are some registers. Registers of adults are closed for 75 years and registers of children are closed for 100 years under the Data Protection Act.

Church records

We hold the records of Church of Scotland congregations which are now part of the present-day Presbytery of Falkirk. This includes Cumbernauld (which is in North Lanarkshire). Records for individual congregations may include Communion Rolls and Baptism, Marriage Proclamation and Burial Registers.

Lists of most of our holdings can be found on our website www.falkirk.gov.uk/cultural and you can search our Collections Browser on the website for details of archives, photographs and objects in the collections.

What sources are not held by Falkirk Council Archives?

The Archives does not hold information on baptisms, marriages or burials after 1855 or Census records for 1871, 1891 or 1901. For these sources you should contact a local Registrar.

A wider range of local newspapers is held by Falkirk Libraries and these are available in local libraries on microfilm. Local libraries also have more Census records on microfilm and have other family history sources.

The local authority records for Stirling County and Central Region are held at Stirling Council Archives. This means that if your family lived in Polmont, Slamannan, Larbert, Bonnybridge or other parts of Stirling County, rather than in one of the four burghs, you will find the relevant valuation rolls and any electoral rolls in Stirling Council Archives.

Falkirk Council Archives
Callendar House
Callendar Park
Falkirk

Tel: 01324 503779

Opening hours: 10.00-12.30, 1.30-5.00; Monday to Friday



FALKIRK COUNCIL
CULTURAL SERVICES