

Tracing your Family History in Argyll Estates Archives

The archive of the Campbell family, dukes of Argyll, comprises family and estate papers dating from the 13th century to the present day. The family owned land across much of Argyll, including Inveraray, Loch Awe, Lorn, Cowal, Kintyre, Morven, Mull, Iona and Tiree, and also in central Scotland around Castle Campbell (the Regality of Campbell) and Stirling. The archive is a rich source of information about the local history of these places and the people who lived there.

Some of the most important family and local history sources have been published:

- *Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate in 1779*, edited by Eric Cregeen, Scottish Record Society, Old Series, 91 (1963)
- *List of Inhabitants on the Duke of Argyll's Property in Kintyre in 1792*, edited by A.I.B. Stewart, Scottish Record Society, New Series (1991)
- *Inhabitants of the Inner Isles, Morvern and Ardnamurchan, 1716*, edited by N. Maclean-Bristol, Scottish Record Society, New Series (Edinburgh, 1998)
- *Argyll Estate Instructions: Mull, Morvern, Tiree. 1771-1805*, edited by Eric R. Cregeen, Scottish History Society, Fourth Series (Edinburgh, 1964)
- *Kintyre Instructions: The 5th Duke of Argyll's Instructions to His Kintyre Chamberlain, 1785-1805*, edited by Eric Cregeen and Angus Martin (The Grimsay Press, 2011)

If your ancestors came from Argyll, Stirling or the Regality of Campbell, then the archive may contain information about them. They do not need to have been Campbells - most of the people living on the estates were not!

Information about people tends to be scattered amongst many record series in the archives, so we are not generally the best starting point for family history research. To find your family in our archives, you need to know the names of the people you are looking for, when they were alive and where on the estates to look for them.

Some alternative, more accessible, family history sources are listed below. If you are a Campbell, or descended from a Campbell family or sept, you may also wish to contact the Clan Campbell Society – contact details are given on page 3.

Please do as much research as possible before contacting us, to ensure you have sufficient information for us to find your people in the archives. You can do this by checking official sources such as census records, civil registration records (birth, marriage and death) and parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials). These are all available online via the Scotland's People website (www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk) and free transcriptions of many of them, and other useful resources, are also available on family and local history websites. Professional genealogists and family history societies can help you with this research – please see below for web links.

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Family History Resources

- Scotland's People: <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>
- Genealogy of the UK (Argyll sources): <http://www.genealogy-of-uk.com/Scotland/Argyll/genealogy.htm>
- Genealogy of the UK (UK-wide sources): <http://www.genealogy-of-uk.com/index.html>
- Genuki: www.genuki.org.uk
- Cyndi's List: www.cyndislist.com
- Family Search: <https://www.familysearch.org/> The power of this wonderful free resource is NOT the online public trees, and caution is warranted regarding the authenticity of the information in those lacking references to primary documentation. Browsable access to digital images of many of the essential genealogical Scottish record collections, including Old Parish Records (OPRs), censuses (1841-1891), Civil Registrations (1855-1875, 1881 and 1891) is possible on site at the Family Search Center, Salt Lake City, or at an affiliate satellite library. Many other primary document collections are open for viewing from the comfort of your home and can be identified by exploring the FamilySearch Catalogue. It can take some practice to navigate the catalogue's search engine. For example, using the Place search for 'Argyll' will return collections associated with the jurisdictional boundaries of Argyllshire, including the OPRS and census records. However, the information for vital records (Civil Registrations) is best returned by searching 'Scotland' (Place) and 'Register General' (Author). Helpful tips for using the catalogue can be found here: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Introduction_to_the_FamilySearch_Catalog

Family History Societies

- Lochaber and North Argyll Family History Society:
<http://www.lochaberandnorthargyllfamilyhistorygroup.org.uk/index.html>
- Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society (also covers South and West Argyll):
<http://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/>
- Scottish Association of Family History Societies: <http://www.safhs.org.uk/>

Genealogical Research Services

- Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives
<http://www.asgra.co.uk/index.php>
- Register of Qualified Genealogists <https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/>

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- Association of Professional Genealogists: <http://www.apgen.org/>
- The National Records of Scotland has compiled a list of record agents and professional researchers (scroll to the bottom of the hand menu bar):
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/researching-online/paying-for-research>

Emigration

The National Records of Scotland has compiled useful advice on emigration records and other sources:
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/emigration-records>

Clan Campbell Societies

The Inveraray Castle website contains an introduction to the Campbell family history and a copy of the Campbell family tree (<https://www.inveraray-castle.com/castle/the-family/the-clan-campbell>). For more details about particular branches, septs or individuals, please get in touch with the Clan Campbell Society:

- USA and Canada: <https://www.ccsna.org/>
- Australia: <https://clan-campbell.org.au/home.html>

Additional online opportunities for kinship and collaborative research support can be found here:

- Clan Campbell Society <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCSNA>
- Campbell Ancestry (GEDmatch Project) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/299129988179699>
- Campbell Y-DNA Study <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2433414776753258>
- Campbell DNA Project www.familytreedna.com/public/Campbell/

Useful Publications

Clan Campbell:

- Alistair Campbell of Airds, *A History of Clan Campbell*, 3 volumes (Edinburgh University Press, 2000-2004). Available from the Castle Gift Shop or CCSNA.

This series traces the history of the Clan Campbell from its medieval origins to the present day. Volume 3 contains genealogies of the chiefs and their families, and heraldic information for many Campbell branches.

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- Alan McNie, *Clan Campbell. Your Clan Heritage* (Cascade Publishing Company, 1983 and 1989). Available from the Castle Gift Shop.
Pocket-sized introduction to the Clan Campbell, covering the ducal line and Breadalbane Campbells, with a map showing the location of the principal Campbell strongholds.
- John MacKay, *The Campbells. The Origins of the Clan Campbell and their Place in History* (Lang Syne Publishers, 1997). Available from the Castle Gift Shop.
Another brief, but comprehensive introduction to the Clan Campbell.
- Ian G. Lindsay and Mary Cosh, *Inveraray and the Dukes of Argyll* (Edinburgh University Press, 1973).
This publication provides a detailed account of the building of Inveraray Castle (est. 1746) and the new town of Inveraray, and the contributions made to each by successive dukes of Argyll, up to the mid-twentieth century. It also describes how they, their families and friends spent their time there. The book is superbly illustrated with photographs, architectural drawings and prints. It is also very well-referenced and includes a list of tradesmen who worked on the building of the castle and town. Out of print but often available second-hand.
- Ronald Black, *The Campbells of the Ark*, 2 volumes (Birlinn, 2018)
These books include detailed biographical research into Campbells in the '45 and the militia.
- Stephen Boardman, *The Campbells, 1250-1513* (Origin, 2019)
A seminal work by one of Scotland's finest historians examining the genealogies, activities and influence of the lords of Clan Campbell in medieval Scotland.

Family History:

- National Records of Scotland, *Tracing your Scottish Ancestors: the official guide* (Birlinn, 2020)
- Bruce Durie, *Scottish Genealogy* (The History Press, 2017)

DNA:

- Graham S. Holton, *Tracing Your Ancestors using DNA: a guide for family historians* (Pen & Sword, 2019)
- Diahan Southard, *Your DNA Guide, the book: step-by-step plans to connect you with your family using your DNA* (You DNA Guide, 2020)

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- Blaine T. Bettinger, *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* (Family Tree Books, 2019)
- David Vance, *The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy* (J. David Vance, 2024)

Future Learn Courses

An excellent resource to learn from leading Universities affordably (including no-cost options)

- Genealogy: Researching your family tree <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy>

A six-week introductory genealogy course for beginners presented by the University of Strathclyde.

- Genetic Genealogy: Researching your family tree using DNA <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genetic-genealogy-researching-your-family-tree-using-dna>

A six-week introductory course focused on effectively incorporating DNA testing as part of family research and explaining in simple terms the science behind resulting findings by the University of Strathclyde

- Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: Reading Scotland's Records <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography>

An overview of basic skills necessary to conduct historical research and an introduction to extant records found in Scottish archives by examining the specialist skills required to transcribe early modern manuscripts and Church of Scotland Kirk Session records. This three-week offering was developed by the University of Glasgow.

- The Scottish Highland Clans: Origins, Decline and Transformation <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-highland-clans>

This is a short three-week course offered by the University of Glasgow for anyone interested in Scottish history, Gaelic culture, and how Scotland is represented in the modern world (such as Highland games and clan societies).



Argyll Estates Archives Access Guidance

1. Introduction

Argyll Estates Archives are the family and estate archive of the Campbell family, earls and dukes of Argyll, dating from the 14th century to the present day.

The contents of the archive are wide and varied, reflecting the historically important role of the Campbell family in Scottish, British and international affairs. Extensive personal papers, correspondence and accounts document the activities of the extended family in all of its endeavours, offering potential for many important historical themes and events to be explored. Until the mid-20th century, the Argyll estates covered most of Argyllshire, parts of Inverness-shire, Clackmannanshire, Stirling, East Lothian, as well as properties in Edinburgh, London and abroad. In the 18th and 19th centuries successive dukes invested heavily in agricultural and urban development, providing an unparalleled insight into landscape history and built heritage. Large areas of the estate lie in some of Scotland's most marginal and fragile island environments (including Tiree, Mull and Lismore) which endured some of the worst periods of 19th century Highland famine, emigration and land agitation.

His Grace, the Duke of Argyll is happy to make his archive available to researchers from all over the world, investigating a wide range of subjects including family and local history, Gaelic and Celtic studies, military history, political history, economic and social history, agriculture and industry, architecture and more.

This policy supports the Argyll Estates Archives vision and mission statements, delivering the conditional exemption obligations entered into by Torquhil Ian Campbell, 13th duke of Argyll under Section 30 and 31(1) (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984 in relation to the death of Ian Campbell, 12th duke of Argyll. It also supports the intellectual and physical needs of the archive, and the needs and aspirations of its owner and users.

2. Visiting the archive

The archive is located beside the Argyll Estates Office, Cherry Park, in the grounds of Inveraray Castle. Cherry Park is a converted 18th century farm steading set around a cobbled courtyard. Visitors are required to negotiate cobbles and two small steps to access the reading room.

The archive is a ten-minute walk from Inveraray Main Street. The main entrance to the Castle grounds is on the A83, the main road from Glasgow to Campbeltown. It is open to pedestrians all year round and to cars from April–October.

If you are on foot, follow signs from the main entrance to the Castle. Take a left just before you reach the visitors' car park - the Estates Office (Cherry Park) lies straight ahead, at the end of a short avenue of trees.



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If you are traveling by car, follow the left-hand fork at the main entrance, signposted to the Estates Office. Free parking is available in the carpark to the north of Cherry Park, with a short walk back to the archive. There is limited access to disabled parking nearer the archive. If you need this, please contact the archivist to confirm whether it will be available on the day of your visit.

During the winter months car drivers can enter the grounds via a second entrance on the Dalmally Road (the A819, signposted for Oban): go through the arches to the right of the Inveraray Inn (former Argyll Arms Hotel) and take the second turning on your right through a large car park; once there turn left onto the estate road.

3. Opening hours

Please get in touch as early as possible to ensure the archive team can accommodate your visit.

The research room is usually open to visitors on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Other days and times may be available by prior arrangement.

The research room is small and can only accommodate a very limited number of researchers alongside our regular volunteers. We therefore ask you to provide at least 4 weeks advance notice of your intended visit and to be as flexible as possible over dates and times. We will do our best to accommodate research visits at shorter notice.

Please note that all researchers must be 18 years of age or older. If you are lucky enough to be younger than 18, you will need to bring a responsible adult with you. Children under the age of 12 can only be accommodated as part of an organised educational visit or pre-arranged tour of the archives.

4. Booking an appointment

To book an appointment, please email the archives team at: archives@inveraray-castle.com, with the preferred date and time of your visit but including as many options as possible. The archives team will confirm by email what is possible.

5. Preparing for your visit

When you contact the archives team to arrange the date for your visit, please include as much information as possible about your proposed research. We will advise whether or not there are sources in the collection that may assist you in your research, and will advise you of any potential difficulties in accessing them eg. poor physical condition, language or handwriting.

You can also identify records which you think may be of interest to you by browsing the online catalogue for Argyll Estates Archives at www.argyll-papers.com. Please note that the online catalogue is still in its early stages and does not yet include information about the whole collection.

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Alternatively, you may wish to consult the archive survey lists, NRAS 6 and NRAS 1209. The survey lists are available to consult at:

- The National Register of Archives for Scotland, Edinburgh. You can consult NRAS 1209 online at <https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/search.aspx> If you wish to consult NRAS 6, you need to visit the Historical Search Room at General Register House, Edinburgh. You need to e-mail the Registrar in advance of your visit to request access to a hard copy printout (e-mail: nras@nrscotland.gov.uk).
- LiveArgyll Archives, Lochgilphead (https://liveargyll.co.uk/library_resources/archives/). The survey lists are available to consult on the reading room reference shelves during archive opening hours. Please check opening hours with the LiveArgyll archivist before you visit (e-mail: archives@liveargyll.co.uk).
- You can also consult copies of the survey lists in our own reading room during your visit, but researchers are advised to consult them prior to visiting in order to make best use of your time with us.

6. On arrival

The archive reading room is on the ground floor of the North-West Tower in Cherry Park. Please report to the reading room (see red arrow on image below) on arrival.



7. Charges

Access to the archive for research purposes is free of charge. Extensive support and additional research delivered by the archivist may be subject to the fees set out in Argyll Estates Archives Research Policy.

There is a separate fee for photography – please see Section 10 below.



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All income raised through fees is used to maintain and conserve the collection.

8. Visitor registration

All visitors must complete a registration form and provide two forms of identification:

- one photographic, for example a passport or driving licence and
- one official letter which confirms your postal address, for example a utilities bill or bank statement.

9. Reading Room Regulations

Visitors must also read and comply with our Reading Room Regulations. A copy of the regulations will be sent to you with the confirmation of your appointment.

Archives are unique and irreplaceable, and some of our records are also very fragile. We, therefore, ask visitors to take great care when using the archives to ensure that they remain available for future generations.

- Please bring as few personal possessions, bags, outdoor garments and umbrellas as possible as there is no secure storage available.
- Smoking is not allowed in the archive.
- Pens and sharp objects must not be used in the archive.
- You may use a pencil and notebook or a laptop for taking notes, but never place notebooks and laptops on top of records.
- When consulting loose papers, please keep them in their original order.
- Do not lean on the records and do not use pressure to flatten loose or rolled items, or to open volumes flat – book weights are available.
- Make use of book rests and weights where appropriate, to provide support for records and to create a comfortable working position for yourself.
- Ask the archivist for assistance if you are uncertain how to handle a record safely, or if you find a fragile or damaged record – if you inadvertently cause damage please let us know straight away so that we can prevent further damage.
- Records which are known to be fragile or damaged may not be available for consultation – most of these records are clearly identified in the archive catalogues, but some may only come to our attention during your visit.



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- You may be asked to wear gloves if you are handling photographs.
- Where digital copies or other surrogates have been created you may be asked to consult the surrogates in order to prevent wear and tear on the original records. Access to the original records may be granted at the discretion of the archives team.
- You may copy records for personal research purposes, using a camera or mobile phone. There is a charge for self-service photography - please see the reprographics section for further details.
- Records must not be removed from the reading room. You are responsible for all records issued to you until these are returned to the custody of a member of staff and checked. Any incidence of wilful damage or theft of the records will be treated as a police matter.

10. Photography and reproduction

We permit self-service photography for personal research purposes. Permission is subject to the condition and content of the records and is granted at the discretion of the archives team.

Permission for self-service photography is for the purposes of personal research only and does not grant the researcher permission to quote extensively (more than 2/3 sentences) from documents or to publish the images.

10.1 Self-service photography

With the permission of the archives team, researchers may copy records in the archive for personal research purposes, using a camera or mobile phone. **Please note that no flash may be used.**

The following fees apply:

£10 for the first 10 images (minimum charge) and £5 for every 5 images thereafter.

Charges will be calculated by rounding up the number of images to the nearest five.

Or

A daily rate of £25 for unlimited self-service images.

10.2 Transcriptions and quotation from documentary sources

Please contact the archives team at the address below for permission to publish transcriptions and quotations from documentary sources contained in Argyll Estates Archives. No fee is charged for the publication, display or broadcast of short quotations. A fee may be charged for publication of long quotations or full transcripts. Please contact the archives team for advice and guidance.

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Acknowledgments should include the relevant reference number, 'Argyll Estates Archives' and 'by kind permission of the Duke of Argyll'.

10.3 Supply of images by Argyll Estates Archives

High resolution jpg images may be supplied at £15 per image (excluding VAT where applicable).

10.4 Reproduction Licences

If you are taking images for personal use, research and study, you will be asked to sign a free licence. This includes use of image(s) in a thesis submission and its online publication by the University.

If you wish to use images of the records in a publication (print or online, digital or analogue) you will need to apply to Argyll Estates for a licence and a fee may be charged.

Please ensure that you have applied for and paid the appropriate licence fee before publishing images of items from Argyll Estates Archives. Fees are as follows:

Medium	Territory/Language/Term	Fee
Printed books, newspapers and magazines (including e-books), exhibitions and displays.	Single print run or edition, renewable on further application	£50 per image (excluding VAT where applicable)
TV, CD-ROM, DVD, Internet	World/English language	£75 per image (excluding VAT where applicable)

11. Facilities

Toilets in the Estates Office are available for researchers' use.

When the Castle is open (Thurs–Mon, April–October), light lunches are available in the Castle tearoom which is located a few minutes' walk from the archive. Inveraray also has a good selection of tea shops and restaurants which are open all year round.

12. Further information

Please contact the archives team on archives@inveraray-castle.com or telephone 01499 302698.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to the archive.

Alison Diamond, Archivist.