

**SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP****New Member Form**

GSV Member No.....

Title..... Surname.....

Given name.....

Address.....

Suburb/Town.....

State..... Postcode.....

Phone .....

E-mail.....

Are you interested in attending a  
Beginners Workshop?      YES      NO**Annual Membership Fee – Full Year = \$11.00**

Payment \$.....

**Method of Payment**

- Cheque       Money Order       Cash/ EFTPOS (Must be paid in person at the GSV Reception)       Visa       MasterCard

Make payable to: The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc
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Card Number: .....

Exp date: ..... / ..... CCV (last 3 digits in signature panel): .....

Cardholder's Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date ..... / ..... / .....

**Detach** this application form and forward with your payment to:**Scottish Ancestry Group**C/- GSV, Level 1, 10 Queens Street  
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000Or join online at <https://www.gsv.org.au/scottish-ancestry-group-sag>**SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP**

A Service Group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc

**Background**

The Scottish Ancestry Group was founded in March 1990 by a group of GSV members with a common interest in their Scottish heritage. In May 1991, the group was formally adopted as a Service group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc.

**Aims**

- To promote research into Scottish family history
- To publish a quarterly newsletter containing information relevant to the practice of research into Scottish family history
- To hold quarterly meetings and educational workshops from time to time
- To collect and donate research materials relevant to Scottish family history to the GSV Library
- To exchange newsletters with like groups in Victoria
- To undertake indexing and such other projects that will enhance research into Scottish family history
- To maintain a register of members' interests so as to enable correspondence on matters of mutual interest between members

**Who May Join?**

Anyone may join the Scottish Ancestry Group on payment of the membership fee.

GSV members may attend the Scottish Ancestry Group quarterly meetings at no charge, but unless they are also financial members of the Scottish Ancestry Group, they may not hold office in the Scottish Ancestry Group or vote at the annual election of Scottish Ancestry Group office bearers.

Members who are not GSV members may not hold office in the Scottish Ancestry Group.

Where a Scottish Ancestry Group activity involves the use of the GSV Library, any member who is not a GSV member will be required to pay the GSV Library Visitor's fee.

**How To Join**

- The annual membership fee is \$11.00 (including GST), for any number of people at the same address
- The membership fee year is from 1st September until 30th August the following year, and there is a pro rata fee if you join any time during the year

- Complete this application form and send it with your remittance to the address as shown, or join online. Note that any cheques and/or money orders must be made payable to *The Genealogical Society of Victoria*
- Application forms may also be processed in person at the GSV Reception during normal business hours

**Meetings**

Four meetings are held each year in the GSV Meeting Room. These are on the third Saturday of March, June & September, and the fourth Saturday of November.

The Scottish Ancestry Group newsletter *THISTLE* is distributed to members approximately two weeks prior to each meeting.

The meetings are also advertised in the GSV publication, *Ancestor*, the GSV web site and throughout the various GSV notice boards.

Information can also be found through the GSV's Internet home page at [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au).

**Beginners Workshops**

New members are offered a "hands-on" class where the basic steps to Scottish family history research can be learnt, plus how to locate all the Scottish resources in the GSV Library. Classes are small so that each participant can receive individual attention from experienced genealogists. Depending on demand, classes are held two to three times per year.

**Other Services**

**Seminars:** From time to time, seminars, conferences and other sessions separate from the normal meeting schedule will be held. These and other events will be advertised in *THISTLE* and the GSV's *Ancestor*, and on our web page at: <https://www.gsv.org.au/scottish-ancestry-group-sag>

**THISTLE:** Published four times a year. The editors are always seeking material for the newsletter. The deadlines for receipt of items to be included in *THISTLE* are: 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP**

A Service Group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc

Level 1, 10 Queens Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000

Ph (03) 9662 4455

GSV Homepage: [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au)E-mail: [gsv@gsv.org.au](mailto:gsv@gsv.org.au)

## Background To Research

Although Scotland is geographically a part of Great Britain, it has its own laws and customs, education system, national Church, borders, culture and, perhaps most importantly, a separate national identity, which is distinctly different from the rest of Britain.

In 1603, King James VI of Scotland ascended the throne of England as James I, and since that time the countries of England and Scotland have shared a common Head of State. In 1707, the Parliaments of England and Scotland amalgamated to form the Parliament of Great Britain.

The Irish Parliament was incorporated into the Union in 1801 and the resultant body became the Parliament of the United Kingdom. (It is therefore an irregularity that the present monarch is commonly designated Queen of England - she is in fact Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

In 1999, Scotland regained its own Parliament, with a purpose-built house located in Edinburgh

The people of Scotland possess a very diverse racial and cultural background. The early inhabitants of Scotland were the Britons, a Celtic people who spoke a language that is today called Primitive Welsh. The best known of the British Kingdoms was Pictland, the home of the Picts.

Over the centuries, other races have settled in Scotland. The main groups involved in these migrations were the Angles, Gaels, Norwegians, Friesians, and Flemings. There has also been a continuous trickle of English and Irish migrants into the country.

Three principal languages are spoken in Scotland - English, Scots (depending on who is asked, Scots may be described either as the closest language to English, or the most divergent dialect of standard English) and Scottish Gaelic (a version of the ancient Irish Celtic language). English is now the predominant language, although there is interest in reversing the trend towards the extinction of both Scots and Gaelic - particularly in the Highlands and the Islands off the West Coast of Mainland Scotland.

## Scottish Records

To research your Scottish family history, you need to be aware that most of the records relating to Scotland were created specifically to suit Scottish needs, and many are quite different in character and content to those of other places.

Most Scottish records are preserved in Scottish repositories, such as the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. However some records created after 1707, such as those pertaining to the military, navy, air force, customs and excise, merchant marine etc will be found in The National Archives (TNA) in London. Many of these records are now available through commercial web sites.

Civil registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages etc began on 1st January 1855. These records are generally highly detailed, containing much more information than those of England and Wales, and are nearly as good as the records of the three Eastern Australian Mainland States. You can frequently find additional information to that available in the civil records in the census records. Censuses have been conducted every 10 years since 1841, and are presently available up to 1911 (limited by the 100 years privacy rule).

For the period prior to 1855, the researcher must rely heavily on Church records. These mainly consist of birth, baptism, marriage, and in some cases burial records. You can sometimes glean supplementary information from cemetery inscriptions, and from the records of the Kirk Session (a church court with jurisdiction in moral offences and some petty offences, as well as the administration of the poor, etc).

Using microfilm, microfiche and the Internet, it is possible to do a great deal of Scottish research without leaving Victoria. The main resources are: Civil Registration indexes and images; 1841 to 1911 censuses; indexes and images to (pre 1855) Old Parochial Registers (OPRs); monumental inscriptions; and indexes to testaments, deeds, and Sasines (land transfers).

You can view microfilm records such as Old Parish Registers, held by the Church of Latter-day Saints (LDS), at the GSV.

The definitive online source for Scottish genealogical records is the pay-per-view *ScottlandsPeople* at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

# SCOTTISH ANCESTRY GROUP



## Membership Application Form

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Society of Victoria Inc