

Changes in Registration Practices

The Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006

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**“Using and Improving
Population and Household Statistics”
seminar**

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Introduction

- Registration service - a few basics
- Practice before the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act (“LEARS” for short)
- Changes made by LEARS
- Statistics on one of the changes
- Any questions

Registration Service in Scotland: a few basics

Registration

- In Scotland, national registration of Births, Deaths & Marriages started 1 January 1855
- 1854 Act set up “General Registry Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages”
- Registration compulsory & free
- Now, GROS is an Associated Department of the Scottish Government
 - Registration of Vital Events (B, M, D, CP etc)
 - Make public registration etc records available
 - Statistics on vital events and other topics
 - Census (w.e.f. 1861)

Registration of Vital Events

- Registrars are employed by local authorities
- Details of events are entered into local computers and transmitted via secure link to GROS
- District Examiners look at registrations
- National index of all entries prepared by GROS

In 2008:

- 60,041 Births
- 55,700 Deaths
- 28,903 Marriages
- 525 Civil Partnerships



Pre-LEARS Registration Practices

Birth registration



- **Compulsory to inform local registrar (21 days)**
- **Must attend local registration office and sign register**
- **“qualified informant” :-**
 - **Mother or father of the child (if married)**
 - **For unmarried couples, duty lies with mother**
 - **Any relative of the mother or father, if he is married to the mother, being a relative who has knowledge of the birth;**
 - **The occupier of the premises in which the child was, to the knowledge of that occupier, born;**
 - **Any person present at the birth;**
 - **Any person having charge of the child.**

Death registration



- **Compulsory to inform local registrar (8 days)**
- **Must attend local registration office and sign register**
- **“qualified informant” – set in 1965 Act:-**
 - Any relative of the deceased, or
 - Any person present when the person died, or
 - The deceased's executor or other legal representative, or
 - The occupier of the property where the person died, or if there is no such person,
 - Anyone else who knows the information to be registered.

Marriage



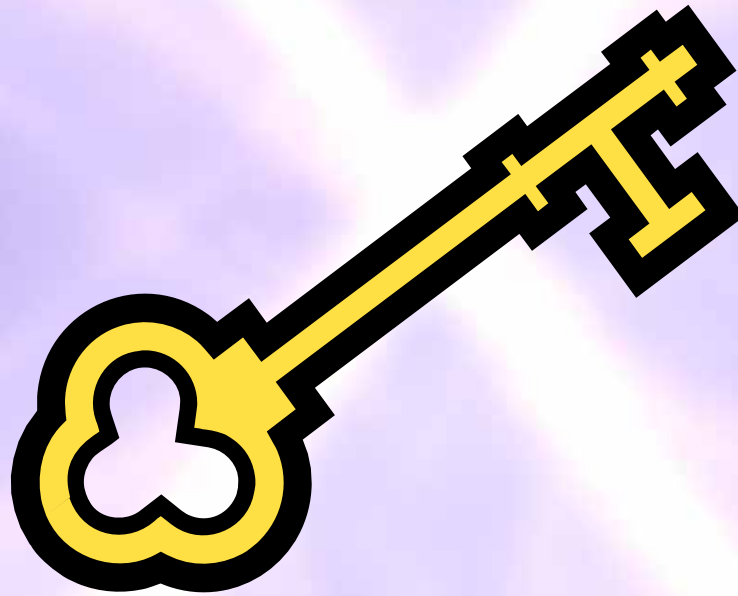
- **Who can be married in Scotland:-**
 - 2 persons at least 16 years of age on day of marriage;
 - Not related in way that would prevent marriage;
 - Unmarried and not in civil partnership;
 - Not of the same sex;
 - Capable of understanding and consenting;
 - Marriage would be regarded as valid in any foreign country to which either party belongs.
- **Types of marriage in Scotland:-**
 - A religious marriage by a minister, pastor, priest or other person entitled under Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 – anywhere the celebrant considers appropriate;
 - A civil marriage by an authorised registrar – in a registration office or an approved place.

Civil Partnership



- **Who can register a civil partnership in Scotland:-**
 - 2 persons at least 16 years of age on day of civil partnership;
 - Not related in way that would prevent civil partnership;
 - Unmarried and not in civil partnership;
 - Are of the same sex;
 - Capable of understanding and consenting.
- **No religious form of civil partnership in Scotland:-**
 - Only civil by an authorised registrar – in a registration office or place agreed by local authority.

Key LEARS Changes



Registration Districts & Opening Hours

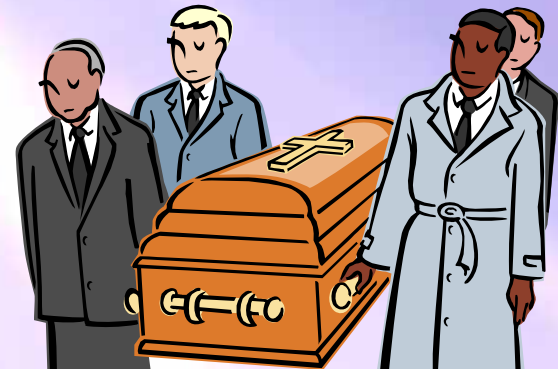


- Once 1,100 RDs
- Pre-LEARS, 230 RDs
- RD boundaries could cross LA boundaries
- Now 32 RDs – one per LA, with same boundaries as LAs
- Flexible opening hours



Birth & Death Registration

- Any Registration Office – not just the local one
- Abbreviated Birth & Death Extracts (free at time of registration)



Change of Forename/Surname

- No longer necessary to wait 2 years
- Children: Only person with parental responsibilities and rights able to apply
- Allows early GROS involvement



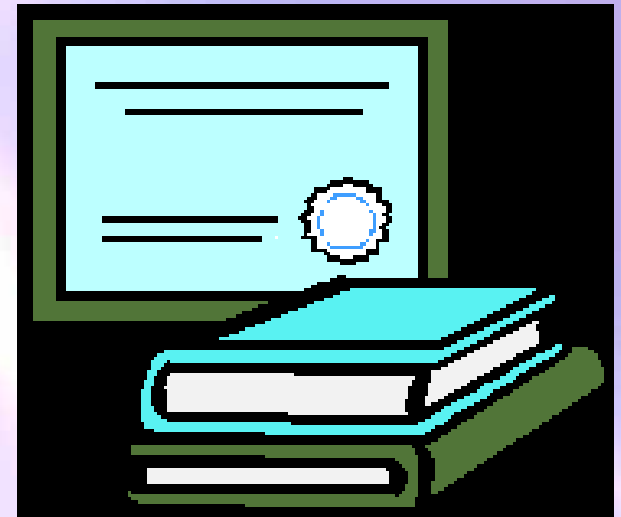
Marriages/Civil Partnerships in Scottish Waters

- Definition of “Scottish waters”
- Apply to Registrar nearest location
- Registered by Registrar who issues Schedule



Index, Records, Searches etc

- Local registrars' access to all-Scotland index & records
- Issue of extracts/copies from all records
- Helps accuracy in registration
- Promotes local family history



Book of Scottish Connections

- New record
- Definition of “Scottish Connection”
- Help family historians & tourism
- Commemorative
- Since January 2009



E-Registration

(not yet in place)

- Home PC
- Obligation to attend & sign replaced by duty to provide particulars & “attest”
- Anti-Fraud measures in place first



Notification of Events

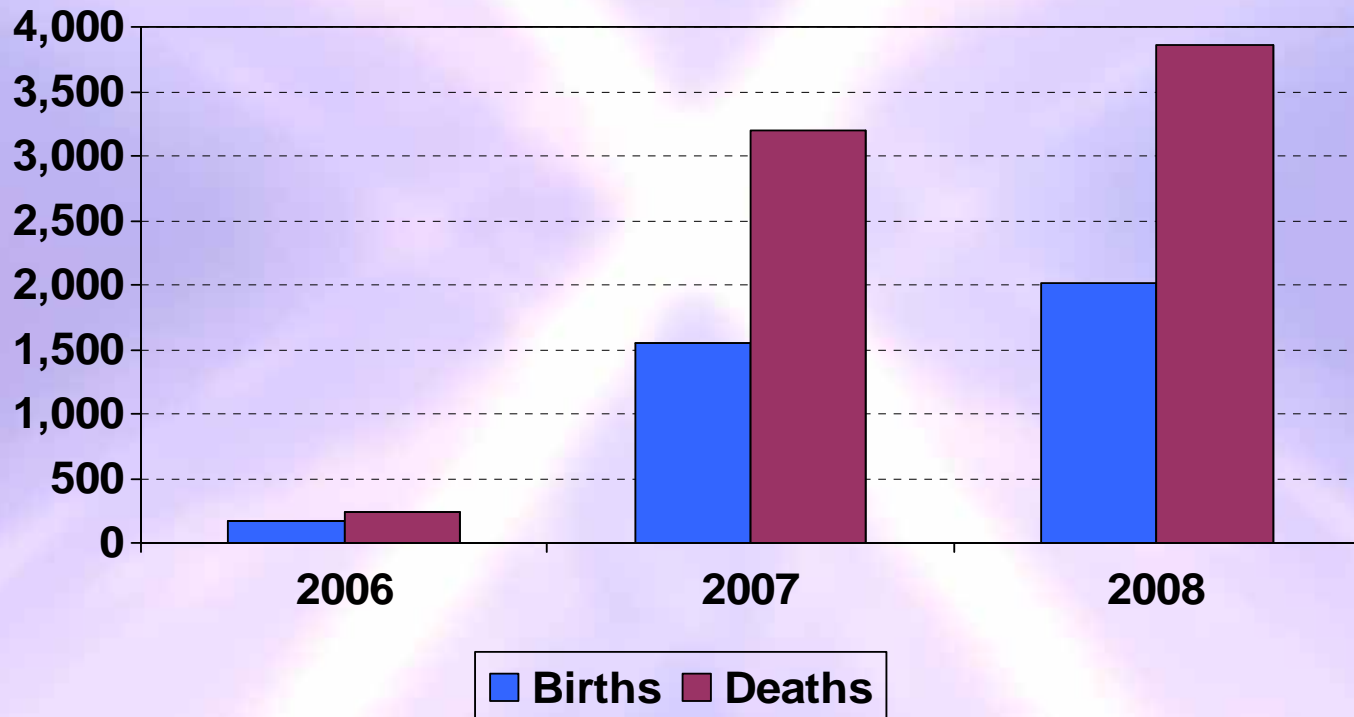
(not yet in place)

- Electronic notification - at request of informant
- To a range of bodies (e.g. DWP, banks, etc)
- At time of registration or later
- Apply to local registrar or GROS

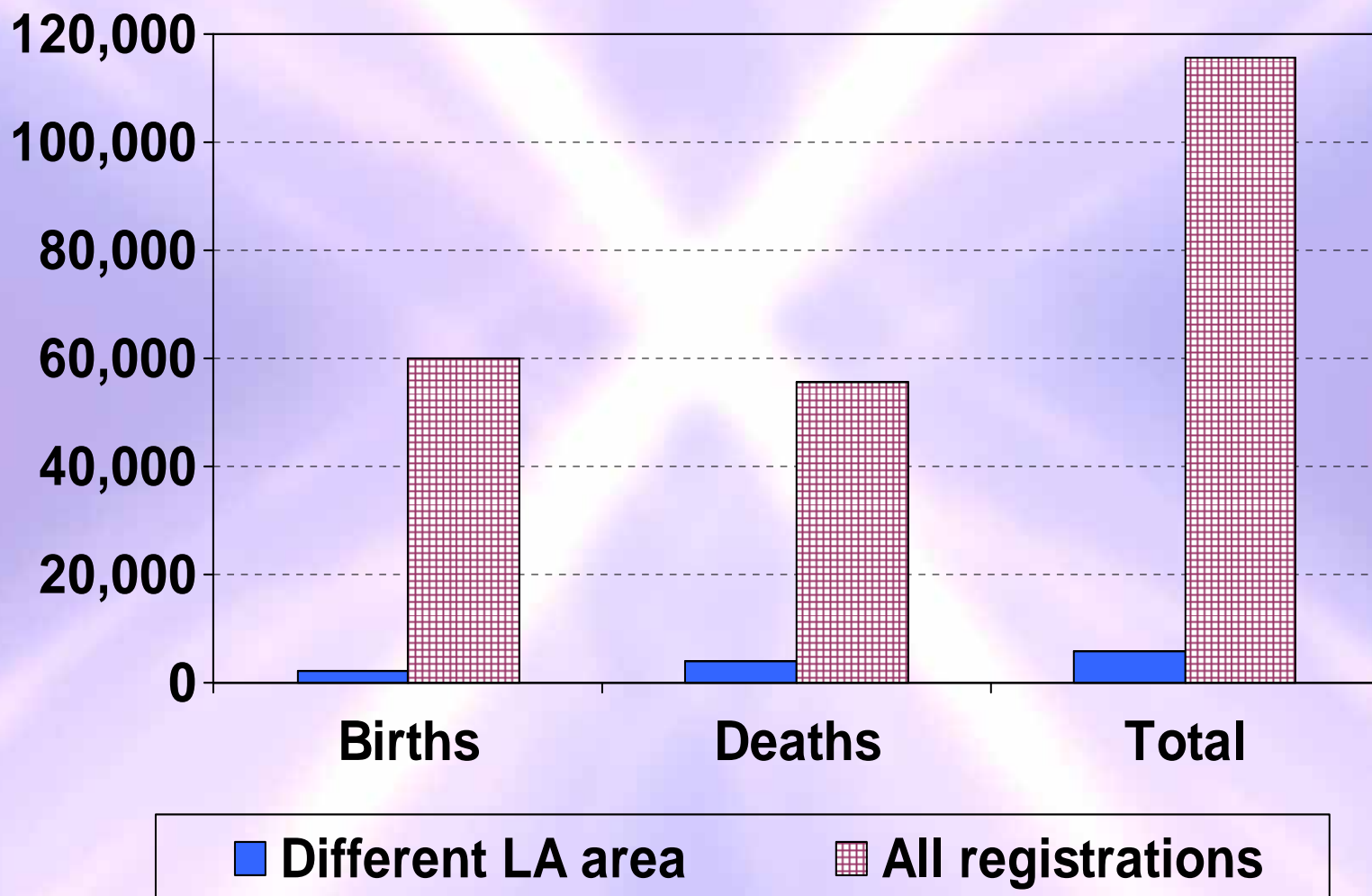


**Statistics -
Changes to allow births & deaths to
be registered anywhere**

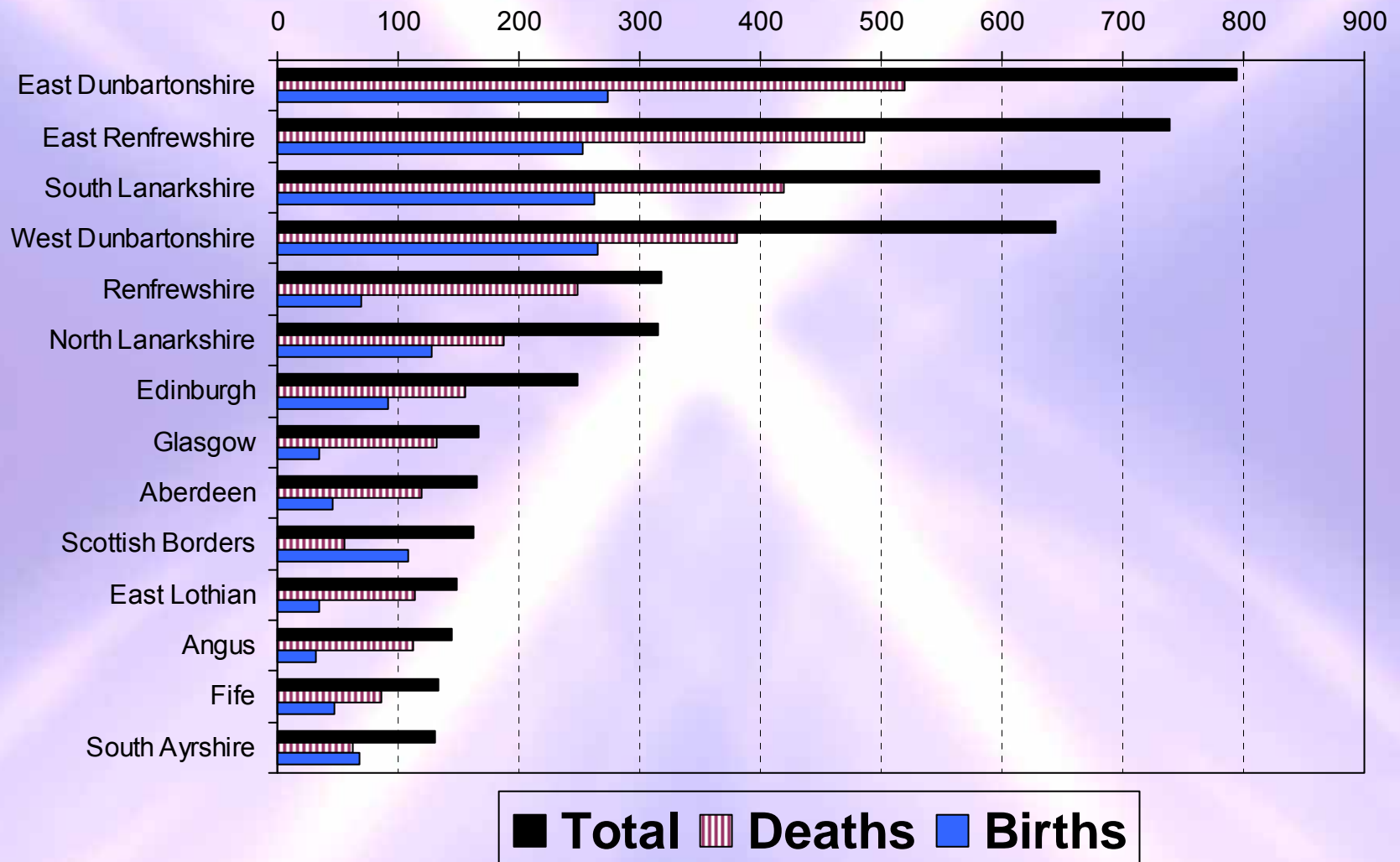
Registrations of births and deaths outwith normal local authority area



Registrations of births and deaths outwith normal local authority area - 2008



Local authorities which registered 130+ events from outwith their areas – 2008



Flow of registrations between selected local authorities - 2008

<u>No.</u>	<u>Occurred in:</u>	<u>Registered in:</u>
680	Glasgow East	Dunbartonshire
639	Glasgow	East Renfrewshire
568	Glasgow	South Lanarkshire
542	Glasgow	West Dunbartonshire
206	Glasgow	Renfrewshire
148	South Lanarkshire	North Lanarkshire
145	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen
105	Edinburgh	East Lothian
88	Edinburgh	Midlothian
82	Aberdeen	Aberdeenshire
76	Edinburgh	West Lothian
75	Glasgow	North Lanarkshire

Registrations of births and deaths in local
 authority areas in 2008:
 above average % from outwith the LA area

<u>Area of registration</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>o/w “outwith area”</u>	
East Dunbartonshire	2,577	794	31%
East Renfrewshire	2,357	739	31%
West Dunbartonshire	2,902	644	22%
South Lanarkshire	7,253	681	9%
Renfrewshire	4,180	318	8%
Scottish Borders	2,428	163	7%
East Lothian	2,195	149	7%
Midlothian	1,537	113	7%
Clackmannanshire	1,081	61	6%
Scotland	115,741	5,865	5%

Summary

- Registration service - a few basics
- Practice before LEARS
- Changes made by LEARS
- Statistics on one of the changes

- Further information:
 - “Improving choice in the registration system”, which forms chapter 9 of “*Scotland’s Population 2008*” (a.k.a. the Registrar General’s Annual Report)
 - go to www.nrscotland.gov.uk

Any Questions?

*(particularly from people who aren't going to the
“Birth, Marriage & Death statistics” workshop)*



**Some other slides which may be
of interest:
the function of Registration
and
there are records going back well
before 1855**

Registration Function

Registration: vital role in securing and protecting human rights:-

- Name & identity within society
- Facility for Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Evidence of parentage
- Evidence of entitlement to inheritance
- Delivery of benefits and Govt. services

GROS Records

- Old Parochial Records 1553 - 1854
- Births, Deaths & Marriages 1855 to date
- Adopted Children Register 1930 to date*
- Gender Recognition Register 2005 to date*
- Divorce Records 1984 to date
- Civil Partnership Register 2005 to date
- CP Dissolutions
- Open Census Records 1841 -1901
- Minor Records (air, sea, foreign)

* Closed records

Old Parochial Registers

- Established by series of Enactments by Church & State in 16th & 17th Centuries
- Baptisms, Marriages & Deaths/Burials
- Moral & social welfare of parishioners
- Not comprehensive
- Earliest, 27 December 1553, Errol, Perthshire

C
1554
J
A
S
J
F
1555
J
A
S

M. ... baptizatorum ...
decemb: 27 ...
Baptized ...
Christiane Hay daughter to ...
December 29
Edmond ...

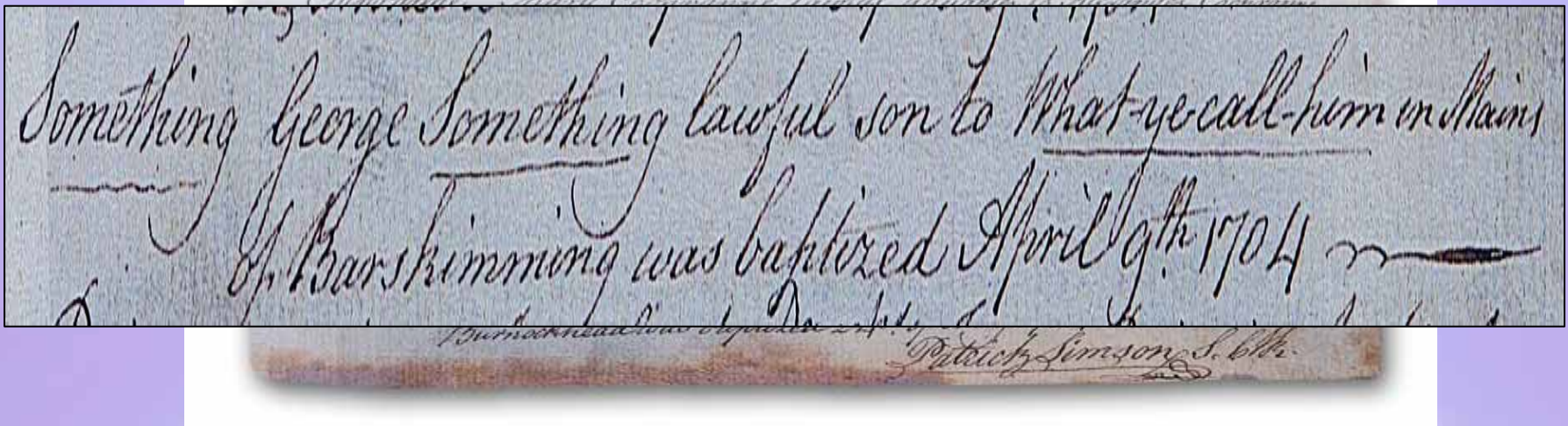
Agnes ...
John ...
Peter ...
Edmond ...
Peter ...
Alice ...
Robert ...
Margaret ...
John ...
Christiane ...
Andrew ...
Mary ...
John ...
John ...
John ...
Andrew ...
Robert ...
Mary ...
Peter ...
John ...

Only pre-Reformation
record currently available
Christiane (or Christine) Hay
27 December 1553, Errol
Perthshire

Why Change?

- Record keeping varied
- Records kept in poor conditions
- Records missing
- Dissenters & Non-Conformists
- Money
 - 3^d Stamp Duty 1783–1794 on each registration
 - Hire of Mortcloth
- English reform in 1837

Example of poor record keeping...




“George Something Lawful son to What-ye-call-him.....”

(OPR 1704 609/1)

An Act to provide for the better Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Scotland, 1854

V. R.



REGISTRATION
OF
BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

17th & 18th VICTORIE, CAP. 80.

CHANGE OF SYSTEM.

FROM and after the 1st of *JANUARY* 1855, all Registration in existing Registers of Births, Deaths, and Marriages becomes Illegal (except in the case of Births, Deaths, and Marriages occurring prior to 31st December 1854, which may be Recorded in the existing Registers until the 31st December 1855), and Public attention is earnestly called to the following Instructions relative to the Law as it will then be in force:—

BIRTHS.

SECTION XXVII.—On occasion of the Birth of any Child, the Parents or Parent (or the Mother, in the case of an *Illegitimate* Child) must submit *Forwards* therefor, and under a PENALTY OF TWENTY SHILLINGS, in case of failure, attend Personally, and give information to the Registrar of the Parish or District within which the Birth occurred.

In case of the Death or inability of the Parents, the Person in charge of any Child born, the Occupier of the House or Tenement in which the Birth has taken place, and the Nurse present at the Birth, must attend and give information to the Registrar.

In the event of a failure to give the Notice above specified, the Parents, or other Persons above specified, and also any others having knowledge of the

Particulars, shall, upon being required, Personally or in Writing, to do so, within three Months from the date of the Birth, attend and give information to the Registrar, under a PENALTY OF FORTY SHILLINGS.

SECTION XXIX.—Any Person who shall find Exposed any New Born Child, or the Dead Body of any New Born Child, shall forthwith give notice of the fact to the Registrar of the Parish or District, or to the Inspector of the Poor, or to the District Constable, under a PENALTY OF FORTY SHILLINGS.

SECTION XXXI.—In all cases where Three Months shall have expired after the Birth of a Child, it is not lawful to Register such Births, except under the provisions of the 1st Section. The nature of those may be learned on application to the Registrar of the Parish or District.

DEATHS.

SECTION XXXVIII.—The nearest Relatives present at the Death of any Person, and the Occupier of the House or Tenement in which the Death took place, must personally give notice of the Death to the Registrar of the Parish or District, within Eight Days thereafter, under a PENALTY OF TWENTY SHILLINGS.

Should the Parties above specified fail to give notice, such Persons, or any other having knowledge of the particulars, are bound, within Fourteen Days, from the date of the Death, upon being required to do so, Personally or in Writing, to attend and give the necessary information to the Registrar, under a PENALTY OF FORTY SHILLINGS.

SECTION XXXIX.—In the event of any Person Dying not in a House or Tenement, the Occupier of the House or Tenement in which he was at the time lodging or residing, shall, upon receiving information of such Death, give, or cause to be given, notice to the Registrar of the Parish or District within which the deceased lodged or resided, under a PENALTY OF FORTY SHILLINGS, in case of failure.

Where the Person deceased was himself the Occupier, then the Inmate of such House or Tenement shall give the notice.

In cases where the residence or lodging of the Deceased is not known, then any Person present at the Death, or at the finding of the Body, and any Parish or Public Officer, or any Party in whose Body shall be brought, must in like manner, and under the LIKE PENALTY, give the required notice.

SECTION XLII.—The Undertaker or other Person having charge of the Interment of any Person, shall, within Three Days after such Interment, and under a PENALTY OF FORTY SHILLINGS, transmit a Certificate of such Interment to the Registrar of the Parish within which the Death took place.

MARRIAGES.

SECTION XLVI.—In all cases of Regular Marriages, when the Certificates of the Proclamation of Banns are given out, Parties will receive along with them a certain Form to be filled up in the manner prescribed by the Act, which Form must be produced to the Minister solemnizing the Marriage, and Signed in his presence by the Contracting Parties, by Witnesses, Male or Female, present thereat, not being less than Two in number, and by the Minister officiating. These Forms, so authenticated, must be delivered to the Parties contracting the Marriage, who shall, within Three Days thereafter, either deliver or send them by Post to the Registrar of the Parish within which the Marriage was solemnized. In the event of a Failure so to deliver or send these Forms, the Husband, and failing the Husband the Wife, is liable to a PENALTY OF TEN POUNDS.

SECTION XLVII.—The Registrar of a Parish or District is bound, on receiving Forty-eight Hours' notice, in Writing, to attend Parties at the Solemnization of a Marriage with his Register-Book, and to make the proper Entry thereon.

SECTIONS XLVIII and XLIX. contain provisions relative to Marriages Irregularly Contracted, the nature of which may be learned on application to the Registrar of the Parish or District.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

SECTION XLV.—Where Parties fail to attend and give any notice required by the Act, after receiving Two Intimations to that effect from the Registrar, the Sheriff is directed, upon receiving Evidence of such Failure, to issue his Warrant for Compelling Attendance.—THE EXPENSE OF WHICH WILL FALL UPON THE PARTY IN DEFAULT.

SECTION LII.—Printed Forms, setting forth the various particulars of the Information required to be given under the Statute, will be issued to the different Registrars and Police Constables as directed in this Notice.

from being Effaced or otherwise Destroyed.

W. P. DUNDAS,
Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

SHERIFF AND CLERK, PRINCE'S STREET, EDINBURGH.

Modern Formats - Birth & Death

BIRTH Registered in the district of					District No.	Year	Entry No.
1. Forename(s)					2. Sex		
Surname(s)							
3. When born				4. Where born			
5. Date and place of parents' marriage	Year	Month	Day	Place			
6. Mother's forename(s) and surname(s)					7. Mother's maiden surname		
8. Mother's usual residence (if different from 4 above)							
9. Mother's occupation							
10. Father's forename(s) and surname(s)							
11. Father's occupation							
12. Signature of informant and how qualified to give information							
13. When registered	Year	Month	Day	14. _____ Registrar			
15.							
16.							

DEATH Registered in the district of					District No.	Year	Entry No.
1. Forename(s)					2. Sex		
Surname(s)							
3. Occupation							
4. Date of birth	Year	Month	Day	5. Age		6. Marital or civil partnership status	
7. When died							
8. Where died							
9. Usual residence (if different from 8 above)							
10. Cause of death							
I (a)							
(b)							
(c)							
(d)							
II							
Certifying registered medical practitioner							
11. Forename(s), surname(s) and occupation of spouse(s) or civil partner(s)							
12. Forename(s), surname(s) and occupation of father					13. Forename(s), maiden surname, surname(s) and occupation of mother		
14. Signature of informant, and how qualified to give information and address							
15. When registered	Year	Month	Day	16. _____ Registrar			
17.							
18.							