

Using historical records to investigate Scotland's rural past

Ordnance Survey Name Book

The Ordnance Survey Name Books contain the records which Ordnance Survey surveyors collected to verify the spelling of every name on their maps. A short description of each feature is included (eg '*a small farmhouse with suitable offices, one storey, thatched and in poor repair*'), along with the name of the proprietor. In many cases, translations of Scots and Gaelic names are also given – these are not always accurate, but they do provide a very good starting point for place name research and may provide clues to the history of settlements, or their geographical location (e.g. '*Gortan Ban*' '*fair meadow or croft*').

The Ordnance Survey produced Name Books for the whole of Great Britain. However during the Second World War the Name Books for England and Wales were destroyed in a bombing raid. Archaeologists and historians in Scotland are very lucky to have Name Books available as a historic resource. The originals are held by the National Archives of Scotland and microfilm copies are available in RCAHMS (from which prints can be made).

A scanned copy of the Name Book entry for Spittal of Glenmuick is included in this case study. This Name Book entry dates from around the same time as the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the Spittal of Glenmuick, 1869. You should look at the Name Book entry alongside the extract of the first edition map in the 'Using Maps' section.

A transcription is provided below

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
Spital of Glenmuick	Spital of Glenmuick	Revd. Mr Campbell Free Church Manse, Ballater Revd. Mr Smith, Assessor for Glenmuick, Ballater Mr M Kenzie. Gamekeeper, Alltnagiubhsaich Lodge, Glenmuick	A small sheep farm steading, situated near the head of Glenmuick, dwelling house & offices, one story, partly thatched and partly slated. Property of Colonel Farquarson of Invercauld.

Examples of how to use this source

- Compare the description of Spittal of Glenmuick with the depiction of the site on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, also provided in this case study. Is the description accurate? Why do you think the township has not been described?
- Who do you think the Revd. Mr Campbell, Revd. Mr Smith and and Mr M Kenzie were? Why were they asked to verify the spelling?
 - Not everyone could read at the time when the first edition Ordnance Survey maps were being produced. The mapmakers would want to check their spelling with knowledgeable, educated men who knew the area; most often the minister. It should also be borne in mind that the mapmakers were unlikely to have been Gaelic speakers, so they would want to check the spelling with someone who was familiar with Gaelic.

Further ideas

- Use this name evidence as a starting point for analysing place names around Scotland. The Ordnance Survey website has several sections with resources for

deciphering Gaelic, Scots and Scandinavian place names.

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freerun/didyouknow/placenames/>

- Try to find out the meaning and origin of your home town's name.



Aberdeenshire

No. 21.

St. of Glenmuick &c

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List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
✓ Spital of Glenmuick	Spital of Glenmuick " "	Rev. Mr. Campbell Free Church Manso, Ballater. Rev. Mr. Smith, Successor for Glenmuick, Ballater Mr. M. Kenzie, Jamnaker, Allmuickwaich Bridge, Glenmuick	Shed 108 Traces	Small sheep farm building, sit- uate near the head of Glenmuick. Dwelling house & offices one story partly thatched partly slated. Property of Colonel Farquhar- son of Amerscull.
✓ Lochend	Lochend " "	Rev. Mr. Campbell Rev. Mr. Smith Mr. M. Kenzie	158 Traces	One story croft house, sit- uate close to the lower end of Loch Muick, slated & iron chair. Property of Colonel Farquharson of Amerscull.
✓ Allt Darrarie	Allt Darrarie " "	Rev. Mr. Campbell Rev. Mr. Smith Mr. M. Kenzie	108 Traces 1740	Stream of the Muick, which has its rise in several head streams below coire Gorm on the County boundary, between Forfar and Aberdeen. It flows northward past Watery Hill & between the Siro & Craig na Slouie and empties itself into the River Muick a short distance below the Spital of Glenmuick. Meaning of the name also see Amerscull - pronounced as will be -

Extract from Ordnance Survey Namebook showing the entry for Spittal of Glenmuick

Spittal of Glenmuick Estate Map

The Spittal of Glenmuick Estate map was drawn between 1807 and 1809, at a scale of approximately 1 inch to 22 Scottish chains (1: 19,600). It is an example of an estate map, and was probably made for the landowner, James Farquharson Esquire, to map his property in Glenmuick. The map shows the layout of the township at the time and the area of arable and pasture land.

Below is a transcription of the 'table of contents' from the Estate map. It lists the total amount of land at Spittal of Glenmuick. These figures may have been drawn by the Invercauld Estate, the landowners, for them to calculate how much land they owned, and how much money it was worth.

Arable			Pasture			Total land		
Acres	Roods	Falls	Acres	Roods	Falls	Acres	Roods	Falls
20	0	6	6623	3	32	6643	3	38

These measurements are in Scots acres, roods and falls:

1 Scots Acre = 4 roods = 5000 square metres or 0.5 hectares (approx)

1 Rood = 40 falls = 1270 square metres (approx)

1 Fall = 32 square metres (approx)

- Calculate the area of land at Spittal of Glenmuick using the figures above to convert from Scots measurements to metric.
- Find out why the people at Spittal of Glenmuick would have needed each of these parcels of land.
- Identify, classify and measure or estimate the different kinds of "land uses" found on your school grounds, for example - playground, grassed areas, car park, and playing field.

Statistical Accounts of Scotland

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland are vital sources for researching settlement and landscape change. They contain detailed descriptions of every parish in Scotland during critical periods of change in the Scottish countryside:

The First or 'Old', Statistical Account (1791-1799) was established to investigate what effect the agricultural improving movement was having upon the Scottish countryside. It contains many descriptions of traditional, farming practices, as well as descriptions of improved and experimental methods of agriculture.

The Second or 'New', Statistical Account (1834-1845) was compiled when the improving movement was in full swing and the country was experiencing a period of great economic change – the industrial revolution. As well as information about the progress of agricultural improvements, this account contains descriptions of emigration and famine across many parts of the Highlands.

Looking at the Statistical accounts will give an overview of life in the Parish of Glenmuick, Tullich & Glengairn, Aberdeenshire where the Spittal of Glenmuick is located. Comparisons of each of the accounts will enable you to see how rural life changed for the people in Glenmuick between 1791 and 1845. Complete versions of the First and Second Statistical Accounts are available to view online at <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/>

Examples of how to use these resources

- Discuss how people in the parish made their livings.
- Investigate the farming they carried out. What did they grow and what animals were kept?
- After reading both Statistical Accounts say how the people's livelihoods improved and deteriorated in the intervening time.
- What were the major changes which took place in the parish?
- What kind of hardships did people face?
- Look at the population section of the First Statistical Account and describe what each of the trades does. Why would these jobs be important in a farming community?
- Were the writers sympathetic or biased in what they wrote? If so, why?

Further ideas

- Use the Statistical Accounts of Scotland website to investigate the past in the parish where your school is located.
- Try to find a copy of the Third Statistical Account to see the records for daily life in the 20th century.
- Find other written sources which document life in your area in the past. Contact your local library, archive or museum for information
- Use an oral history archive to find out more about life in the countryside in the past. Sound recordings can be found at
 - <http://www.tiriodh.ed.ac.uk>
 - <http://www.nefa.net>
 - <http://www.ambaile.org.uk>
 - <http://www.scran.ac.uk>
- Write an account of life in your neighbourhood today, using a similar structure to the Statistical Accounts.

Here is a transcription of a summary of the Statistical Account. The complete version contains even more useful detail about life and society in Glenmuick, Tulloch and Glengairn parishes.

Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-1799)

United Parishes of Glenmuick, Tulloch and Glengairn.

By Rev. Mr George Brown

See <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1791-99/Aberdeen/Glenmuick/>

Agriculture etc. The soil, in general, is hot and shallow, but produces good grain, though proportionately little fodder. Sowing begins about the middle or end of March, and reaping about the middle or end of August, except in the upper parts of the parishes, where the soil is cold and wet, and there seedtime and harvest may be 2 or 3 weeks later. The crops are bere, oats, rye, peas, potatoes and small quantities of flax. The arable ground bears but a small proportion to the surrounding mountains, which afford excellent pasture for sheep; and the people have hitherto paid much more attention to their flocks than to their farms. Agriculture may be said to be only in its infancy here; but it is capable of very great improvements. And if the inhabitants would adopt and persevere in that spirit of industry which is beginning to appear among a few of them, I have not the least doubt but that, in a few years, they would be independent of other countries for grain. Several things, indeed, are against them; their country is open, and winter-herding is not known, or, at least, it is looked upon as an intolerable grievance, and therefore not practised; many of them have no leases on their possessions, and the others but short ones; and, which is perhaps worst of all, being accustomed from their infancy to a pastoral life, they contract a habit of indolence incompatible with a good farmer. From the time that harvest is over, which is about the middle of October, they neither yoke a plough, nor do any thing about their farms till the seed time comes on, when man, woman, and child are employed huddling over the work in a most superficial manner. And when the bustle of sowing is over, all concern about the farm is again laid aside till harvest begins. I speak this in general; there are a few excepted who pay more attention, and whose farms make them very grateful returns. Their farms, or rather crofts, are by far too small, few of them exceed 12, and in general, they are from 5 to 8 acres... But while I accuse the men of indolence, I should do great injustice to the women, if I did exempt them from the charge; by whose industry and diligence their families are in great measure supported. Their chief employment is spinning flax, sent up by some manufacturers from Aberdeen, which brings a great deal of money into the country. During the summer months, many of them manufacture their own wool into coarse blue, or tartan webs.

Manners etc. The people are honest, economical, sober, contented and hospitable; very regular in attending upon divine worship, and warmly attached to their country; their language is English, except in the upper parts of the parishes of Tulloch and Glengairn, where some of them use a barbarous dialect of the Gaelic among themselves, but they all understand the English.

Population etc. At present the population is as follows:

Population	2117
Protestants	1763
Papists	354
Males	965
Females	1152
Infants below 10 years of age	279
Families	476
Persons, at an average, in a family, nearly	5
Births, at an average, for 23 years	34
Marriages, at an average, for 16 years	14
Bachelors above 50 years	14
Unmarried women above 45	56

Persons above 50	283
Above 70	71
Above 80	29
Above 90	2
Above 100	1
Widows	70
Widowers	43
Men servants	63
Maid servants	87
Masons	4
Square wrights	16
Millers	8
Tailors	15
Weavers	18
Shoemakers	4
Blacksmiths	7
Merchants	9
Schoolmasters	3
Children and young people learning reading, writing and arithmetic	236
Taverns	8
Black cattle	1563
Horses	716
Sheep	13, 263
Ploughs yoked	208
Carts	61
Bolls of oats sown	971
Bere	407
Potatoes planted	61
Acres under turnips in the field	8

Here is a transcription of a summary of the New Statistical account. The complete version contains even more useful detail about life and society in Glenmuick, Tulloch and Glengairn parishes.

New Statistical Account of Scotland (1834-1845)

United parishes of Glenmuick, Tulloch and Glengairn, Aberdeenshire

The Rev. Hugh Burgess, Minister

See <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Aberdeen/Glenmuick/>

Agriculture

Livestock – The common breed of cattle is the small home-bred animals. Crossed with the Galloway and some other breeds; and of sheep it is the black-faced common Scotch, and a mixed breed between these and others brought from Lanark sheep fair in August. The cattle are improving in size and shape, in consequence of greater attention paid of late to their improvement; and the store-farmers are at considerable pains to improve the breed of their sheep, particularly as to the quantity and quality of their wool. But the small tenants, who are allowed to keep only a few sheep, in proportion to their rent and the extent of hill pasture in their respective districts, pay little attention to their improvement in any respect.

The general character of the husbandry hitherto pursued is not much to be commended. The specialities which distinguish it are over-cropping, want of proper attention to cleaning, liming and dunging the ground under green crop, and a disregard for any regular rotation. However the more slothful and indolent part of the tenantry are beginning to follow the example of the more active and industrious, old prejudices and practices are giving way to conviction, a seven shift rotation is becoming more and more general, and an evident change to the better has been gradually taking place since smuggling was suppressed.

About 312 imperial acres have been brought under tillage in the course of the last 10 years, by trenching and draining: embanking has been carried out to a considerable extent; but irrigation, unless in some rare instances, has not been attempted.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

The state of the farm buildings in general is above mediocrity; but sufficient enclosures, though becoming more and more common, are still wanting in some parts of these parishes. At present, the main obstacles to improvement seem to be, the low prices of grain, cattle, sheep, and every sort of farm produce, the distance from markets and sea-ports, and a general scarcity of money.

Population

The number of souls, according to Dr Websters Report (in 1755) was	2270
Sir John Sinclair's Account (1791-1799)	2117
Census 1811	1894
Census 1821	2228
Census 1831	2279
Census 1841	2118

All these returns show that there has been little difference in the population for nearly eighty years, except in 1811; and the cause of the decrease that year cannot now be discovered. It would seem that the census had not been accurately taken that year.

The number of the population residing in villages is 346; viz. in Ballater, 271, and in Kirkton of Tullich, 75; all the rest, 1933 reside in the country.