



ARMADALE

CASTLE, GARDENS & MUSEUM OF THE ISLES

THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF CLAN DONALD

Museum of the Isles Library and Archive Resources

Please note that this list is not a definitive description of all our resources. Due to the nature of archives and historical records, there are gaps in areas covered and date ranges vary. If you require something specific, please check with staff beforehand. In some cases, records simply do not exist. For this reason, not all research can guarantee answers.

Our family history records relate to those living on the Macdonald Estates on Skye and North Uist. We have historical genealogical information relating to the septs of Clan Donald.

Macdonald Estate Papers and Correspondence

Archive records of the Macdonald Estates on Skye and North Uist.

Go to <https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/search.aspx> for the online catalogue of the Macdonald Estate Papers and Correspondence. Use NRAS3273 in the reference box before entering your search term to search our collection.

Sources of information include:

- Rentals
- Arrears and Evictions
- Accounts
- Records of Estate Employees
- Land and development information
- Macdonald Estates Correspondence

Maps

- Macdonald Estate plans including various buildings. Estate maps from Blackadder series c1810s.
- Maps including Ordnance Survey early printed maps.
- Earliest map c1766 Mathew Stobie covering various parishes of Skye.
- Some of our maps are annotated with croft boundaries and tenants' names.

Reference Collection

Unpublished genealogies and papers relating to individuals especially MacDonalDs and important figures of Skye and Clan Donald.

Published Works in Reference Collection include the following subjects:

- Gaelic language and literature
- Scottish customs and folklore
- Scottish history and historical geography
- Scottish economic and Social history
- Emigration
- Local history – Mainland, Skye and Islands
- Travel and statistical accounts
- Clan and Family Histories
- Heraldry
- Serials – i.e., Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness

Family history and Genealogy Resources

Family sheets drawn from

- Old Parish Records,
- Census Returns 1841-1901
- Macdonald Estate Rentals.
- Focusing on the Parishes of Sleat, Strath, Snizort, Portree, Kilmuir.

Emigration

- Small collection of shipping lists/passenger list from Scotland to Canada, USA, NZ, Australia (**very limited**)
- Pamphlets listing Jacobite soldier emigrants and Clan Donald emigrants.
- Booklets containing details of the Highland and Island Emigration Scheme 1852-1857.
- Family history records of emigrants: previously researched genealogies, experiences on ships such as the Midlothian and the William Nicol, settlers of Prince Edward Island, Clan Donald USA records.

Photographs

Assorted collections of slides and negatives

- from the activities of Clan Donald Lands Trust since 1971,
- Collections of Sleat, South Skye and Highlands People, places, surroundings.
- Lady Macdonald's photo albums – dating from 1850s.

Manuscript Collection

Examples include:

- Macalister of Glenbarr Family Papers
- Nicolson papers of genealogies, newspaper cuttings, essays on ministers, elegies in Gaelic.
- William Nicol/MacKenzie Papers

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