

In Trouble in Scotland



Who qualified for poor relief?

Normally people receiving poor relief were unable to support themselves, either through age or incapacity. They included orphans, the sick or disabled and the insane. The ‘sturdy beggar’ or the able-bodied poor, were not generally entitled to support and were indeed legislated against, although in practice many did receive some degree of assistance.

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/poor-relief-records

Mental illness categories

- Lunatic – a person of often normal intelligence who through mental or metabolic disease has descended to madness
- Idiot – a person of permanent extremely low intelligence & likely incapable of self-care, (mental age about 2), from birth
- Moron – a person of permanent low intelligence (mental age of 8 – 10 years), from birth
- Imbecile – a person of previously normal intelligence who has descended through disease (eg syphilis) or occupational exposure (eg lead or mercury) to a moronic & occasionally idiotic condition

Book:

Paton, Chris – *Down and out in Scotland: researching ancestral crisis, St Agnes SA, Unlock the Past, 2015.*

URLs

- Ancestry – ancestry.com.au (eg UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, U.K. Census Collection & much more)
- Ayrshire Archives – www.ayrshirearchives.org.uk
- Ayrshire Poor Relief Database – bit.ly/AyrshirePoor
- Dumfries Poor Board Minutes – bit.ly/DumfriesPoor
- Dundee City Archives – www.fdca.org.uk
- Edinburgh Gazette – www.thegazette.co.uk/Edinburgh (search “Petition for Cessio” for bankruptcy reports)
- FamilySearch website – familysearch.org
 - Research Wiki – familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
 - Scotland Poorhouses, Poor Law – bit.ly/FS-Poor
- findmypast – www.fmp.com.au (eg Prison Ship (Hulk) Registers, Mental Health Institutions, Prison Registers, Paternity decrees, Court & Criminal Database, Poor Lists, Highland Poor, Assisted Emigration lists & much more)
- GENUKI Scotland – www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/
- Highland history & culture Poor Relief Records – bit.ly/High-Poor
- Inverary Prison – bit.ly/INV-prison
- Mitchell Library (Glasgow) Poor Law Records – bit.ly/Mitchell-Poor
- National Archives (London, UK) – nationalarchives.gov.uk
 - Catalogue search – discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- National Records of Scotland (NRS) – nrscotland.gov.uk
 - Catalogues and Indexes – nrscotland.gov.uk/research/catalogues-and-indexes
 - Crime and Criminals – bit.ly/NRS-crime
 - Index of Legal Terms – bit.ly/NRS-LegalTerms
 - Poor Relief Records – bit.ly/NRS-Poor
 - Sheriff Court Records – bit.ly/NRS-Sheriff
- National Library of Scotland, family history – digital.nls.uk/gallery/category/family-history
- Perth & Kinross Council CalmView (catalogue) – bit.ly/PK-Catalogue
- ScotlandsPeople – scotlandspeople.gov.uk
- Scottish Archives Network (SCAN) – www.scan.org.uk
- Scottish Indexes – scottishindexes.com
 - Mental Health Records – bit.ly/SI-Mental
 - Scotland’s Criminal Database – bit.ly/SI-criminal
 - Sheriff Court Paternity Cases – bit.ly/SI-paternity
- (The) Workhouse – www.workhouses.org.uk
 - Scottish Poorhouses – www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland/