Background:

There are different sets of records for genealogical research of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Although records are generally in English, the different historical development of these countries has resulted in individualistic procedures for establishing, maintaining and archiving data. The records for Scotland and Ireland are separate and distinct from those for England and Wales.

A tremendous amount of the old records for Scotland have been retained. Many of these are held by central organizations, which provide fee-based availability. However, many of the extant records are accessible via films held by the Family History Library. Major projects are underway to digitize these records, and the amount of information available online by Ancestry.com is increasing daily. Parish Records are very important for researching vital data (b, m, d) prior to the inauguration of Civil record keeping in 1855.

The following information was obtained primarily from the GENUKI Website "Links." The Instructor has very little personal experience with genealogical research of the Scotland records cited herein.

Suggested Approach for Research in Scotland:

First  -  Research your U.S. records for clues
Second  -  "Mine" overseas records that have been filmed and are available in the U.S.
Then  -  Plan your trip for supplemental information available only in Scotland.

Sources:

Provides comprehensive description of types of records and their locations for all regions of the British Isles.

(B) GENUKI Website { http://www.genuki.org.uk } offers guidance to research in the British Isles; describes Shires (Counties) & Parishes; contains census & map resources. Also has links to many websites.
(C) GENUKI Church Database { http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb } provides the approximate locations of parish churches (except for Ireland).

(D) Census

Taken every 10 years - started in 1801
1801-1831 - most records destroyed
1841-1901 - available.

Microfilms available at FHL for 1841-1891 (can be viewed at FHC)
Familysearch.org Website has 1881 index and extracted data
ScotlandsPeople Website (GENUKI Link) is official government source (fee-based)
FreeCENScotland Website (GENUKI Link) is FREE, but may not be complete.
Ancestry.com Website has index and extracts for 1841-1901 census

(E) Church Records

Parish Registers are especially important for obtaining vital records prior to 1855. Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths was not begun until 1855, and the 1841 census is the earliest one surviving. Parish Registers were started in 1553 by the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian Church).

Microfilms available at FHL (can be viewed at FHC)
ScotlandsPeople Website (GENUKI Link) is official government source (fee-based)
Holds Parish Registers 1553 - 1854
National Archives of Scotland holds Parish Registers 1855 - present
Ancestry.com Website has some Parish Register information

(F) Civil Registration (b m d)

Record keeping started in 1855
General Register Office has Register copies for all Shires (Counties)

1st Step - Search the INDEX to identify location of RECORD.
ScotlandsPeople Website (GENUKI Link) is official government source (fee-based)
Microfilms available at FHL (can be viewed at FHC)

b, m, d Indexes
There are separate index books for births, marriages & deaths.
2nd Step - Obtain copy of **RECORD** from the **REGISTER OFFICE**

GRO does not allow anyone to copy their files

**However, the FHL was able to film 1855-75, 1881 & 1891 records**

Use GRO form to order certificate by mail (payment in Pounds)
Can order from U.S. on-line with credit card
(Refer to ScotlandsPeople Website)

(G) Ancestry.com Website  { http://www.ancestry.com }  (UD hookup)  There are ongoing additions to the databases.

(1) Census indexes and extracts for 1841-1901. See Section D

(2) Some Parish records

Family History Library (FHL)  { http://www.familysearch.org }

(H) The International Genealogical Index (I. G. I.) is available on-line. Additionally, records are held by the FHL and FHC

The I.G.I. often identifies baptism and marriage events; parish names and locations where these events took place; and family relationships. Also, the I.G.I. provides the microfilm reference for the event.

(I) FHL Library Catalog - "Place Search" identifies microfilms and other records for localities. Access is from the FHL website. Enter the desired "Town" or "County" in the "Place" Field, and the desired "Country" in the "Part of" Field.

(J) FHL Pilot Project. This "link" from http://familysearch.org Website provides access to databases (generated to date) for a major effort by the LDS Church to digitize and place on-line their vast collection of filmed records.

(K) Ordnance Survey Maps (c. 1900) can be purchased from Alan Godfrey Website.
Can order from U.S. on-line with credit card.
{ http://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk }

(M) The World GenWebProject  { http://www.worldgenweb.org } provides access to Country and County information.

John Worton, “Genealogy: Your Family Roots” class handout 11/19/09