

Researching Your Rural Roots

In addition to all the usual family history resources, there are a number of records which can throw extra light on your farming ancestors:

RENTAL LEDGERS maintained by local landowners to record payments made by tenants. Those for Fife Estate properties are held at Aberdeen University Archives who have an online catalogue: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/>. Seafield Estate papers (a massive collection) are held by the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh whose catalogue is also online: <https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>.

VALUATION ROLLS can be helpful in identifying property owners (and therefore relevant estate papers) as well as the names of tenants and occupiers. ScotlandsPeople website provides access to some historic valuation rolls and hard copies are held by larger libraries/local studies centres and Aberdeenshire Archives.

RCAHMS has details of many historic farm buildings throughout Scotland and a search facility at <https://canmore.org.uk/>.

NEWSPAPERS can be rewarding sources of information relating to farming events such as ploughing matches, agricultural shows and farm leases offered. Online access to 19th century newspapers is usually possible through your library membership.

**MILN AND FARM TO BE LET,
IN THE ENZIE.**

THE MILN, with the Miltures, and MILNTOWN of COLLOCHY, as presently possess'd by Robert Murdoch, for a period of 19 years after Whitsunday next.—The Miln is well frequented, and a tenant of capital and industry may keep her fully employed, in manufacturing Grain for the consumpt of the adjoining populous fishing towns of Buckie, Port Gordon, and others, from whence there is a constant demand for Meal.

The Milntown contains about 24 acres of excellent arable land, with neerly 8 acres of rich pasture grass, along the miln burn, &c. All of which may be rendered most productive by the use of lime, now found at the place, and by the command of fisher's dung, and seaware, in the immediate neighbourhood.

Offers, in writing, may be made to Thomas Sellar, Writer in Elgin, between and the 1st of March next; on which day attendance will be given at the Milntown to conclude a bargain.

*An announcement from the
Aberdeen Journal of
12th December, 1811*

FARM HORSES were subject to tax in 1797-98. Digital images of the assessments can be found at <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/historical-tax-rolls>

Sordayce Parish
HORSE TAX, per 36 Geo. III. Cap. xv. 279

Date of Affessment.	Masters and Mistresses Names and Designations.	Actual No. of Horses.	Horses liable in Duty 2s.	Horses not liable.	DUTY.		
					L.	s.	d.
1797 Apr 26	<i>Do Do forward</i>	983	759	224	75	18	
	<i>Alex Murrays Auctioneary</i>	2	2			1	
	<i>James Milne Portroy</i>	8	6	2		12	
	<i>Andrew Mitchell Do</i>	2	2			4	
	<i>Wm Morrison Wedderburn</i>	1	1			2	

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