

Poor Relief Records

THE PARISH OF CADDER. 88

Name *John Johnston*

Residence	<i>Kirkintilloch Scottish Blair</i>	Earnings, Means, and Resources, besides Parochial Relief ... }	<i>Winds weaver's spins for wife</i>
Age	<i>Born in 1817</i>	Nature of Settlement	<i>Residential</i>
Date of Minute of Parochial Board or Committee admitting Liability and authorizing Relief	<i>Transferred from old Register No 344</i>	Name, and Age of Wife, Child, or Children living in Family }	<i>Wife, Margaret Calder born in Kirkintilloch in 1828 earns about 2/6 per week at handloom weaving. Helen born in Kirkintilloch in Feb. 1858.</i>
Amount and Description of Relief authorized	<i>2/- per week</i>	Name, Age, and Weekly Earn- ings of Husband, Wife, Child, or Children, not living in Family and their Circum- stances	<i>None</i>
Country and Place of Birth, and, if in Scotland, Parish of Birth ... }	<i>Scotland, Bishopbriggs Parish of Cadder</i>	Other Information not stated above	
Religious Denomination, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic ... }	<i>Protestant</i>		
Condition—If Adult, whether married or Single, Widow or Widower ... }	<i>Married</i>		
If Child, whether Orphan, Deserted or separated from Parent ... }			
Trade or Occupation	<i>Handloom weaver</i>		
Wholly or Partially Disabled	<i>Partially</i>		
Description of Disablement	<i>Engorgement of heart & general debility</i>		
Wholly or Partially Destitute	<i>Partially</i>		

DATES.	Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.	DATES.	Change of Circumstances and subsequent Proceedings.
<i>2 Aug. 1864</i>	<i>Amount raised to 2/- per week</i>		
<i>11 Feb. 1865</i>	<i>Continued at 2/- per week.</i>		
<i>12 Aug. 1865</i>	<i>Continued at 2/- per week</i>		

Poor relief

Before the creation of the Welfare State in 1948 people who were unable to support themselves had to apply to the parish for help (from 1930 to the Public Assistance Department). It is common to have an ancestor who applied for poor relief as this was often the only help available when faced with difficult living circumstances.

Each parish was responsible for its own poor according to the rules of settlement. Settlement was either by birth, marriage or residence. Disputes between parishes as to which parish was responsible for a person were common.

As the parish made very detailed enquiries into family circumstances, poor relief records are one of the richest sources for family historians.

The types of help offered included indoor relief within a poorhouse, or outdoor relief, which took the form of a monetary payment, food, or clothing. The living conditions in the poorhouse were harsh and strict to discourage those who could support themselves or whose relatives could help them.

Only the 'deserving poor' were entitled to relief - those who were unable to work due to age, illness or disability. The unemployed were not entitled to poor relief until the 1920s.

Poor relief records

The key date for poor relief records is 1845. Here is a summary of the differences in the management of poor relief before and after 1845 when the Poor Law Amendment (Scotland) Act was introduced.

Before 1845

The Kirk Session and Heritors (landowners) administered poor relief using income from church collections/donations to charity.

Look for information in the Kirk Session minutes and Heritors minutes. These are usually held by local authority archives or the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. Unfortunately most of these records are not indexed and it can be time-consuming to search for individuals.

The information recorded about an individual can be very brief.

After 1845

The Poor Law Amendment (Scotland) Act of 1845 created Parochial Boards to administer poor relief, under the control of a central body in Edinburgh called the Board of Supervision.

Standard record types were introduced including pre-printed forms. The types of records kept included poor registers (or poor rolls), general registers (one page per individual), children's separate registers, applications for relief, and Parochial Board minutes.

These records may contain: name, address, marital status, age, birthplace, occupation, disability, financial situation, details of family members and their income.

Finding records

The survival rate of poor relief records varies considerably from one parish to another.

Search the discovery section of The National Archives website

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk> to find the Parochial Board or Parish Council records for a particular parish.

Access to records

To comply with Data Protection legislation, poor relief records relating to adults are normally closed for 75 years and for 100 years in respect of children.

Further information

Scottish Poorhouses on the Workhouses website <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

Scottish Archives Network (SCAN) Knowledge Base

<http://www.scan.org.uk/knowledgebase/>

Records held by East Dunbartonshire Archives:

PB Baldernock Parochial Board

Minutes, 1845-1930; Abstract of Accounts, 1929-1930

PC Cadder Parochial Board

Printed Minutes, 1918-1927; Signed Minutes, 1845-1930; Abstract of Accounts, 1901-1902; Cash Book, 1929-1930; General Registers of Poor, 1865-1930; Children's Special Registers, 1854-1913; Applications for Relief, 1885-1930

PD Campsie Parochial Board

Committee of Management Minutes, 1847-1930; Local Authority Minutes, 1884-1900; Burial Ground Committee Minutes, 1895-1930; Assessment Rolls, 1849-1861, 1902-1927; Valuation Rolls, 1858-1880; Cash Book, 1911-1930; Abstracts of Accounts, 1895-1930; Treasurer's Papers, 1895-1913; Inspector of Poor's Letter Books, 1864-1876; List of Paupers, 1860-1861; Registrar's Letter Book, 1855-1859.

PK Kirkintilloch Parochial Board

Parochial Board/Parish Council Minutes, 1945-1930; Draft Minutes, 1855-1860; General Committee Minutes, 1867-1879; House and Relieving Committee Minutes, 1855-1869; Finance and Relief Committee Minutes, 1870-1876; Relief Cases, 1878-1892; Finance, Law and Assessment Committee Minutes, 1878-1892; Finance Committee Minutes, 1892-1930; Cemetery Committee Minutes, 1861-1930; Sanitary Committee Minutes, 1872-1890; Landward Committee Minutes, 1895-1930; Unemployment Committee Minutes, 1923-1930; Special Committees Minutes, 1891-1930.

PN New Kilpatrick Parochial Board

Minute books including those of committees 1845-1930; General Register of the Poor 1926-1931.

HK Heritors of Kirkintilloch

Heritors Committee Minutes, 1823-1899; Valuation and Assessment Rolls, 1820-1887; Papers relating to the building of the new Parish Church, 1908-1913.

Kirk Session Records

We do not hold any original church records, these are held either by Glasgow City Archives or the National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh. However we hold photocopies of some of the records for Cadder Parish Church and New Kilpatrick Parish Church in the library collection.

Help and advice

Not sure where to start, or never used poor relief records before? Contact us for free, friendly advice, email archives@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or visit our website

<https://www.edlc.co.uk/heritage-arts/archives> or search our online archive catalogue

<https://edlct.adlibhosting.com>

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