



Scottish Naming Conventions



Scottish naming conventions, although not always followed, were very popular and were in use until approximately the last half of the nineteenth century.

These conventions are as follows:

Male Children

- The family's first son was named after his father's father,
- The second son was named after his mother's father,
- The third son was usually named after his father.

Female Children

- The family's first daughter was named after her mother's mother,
- The second daughter was named after the father's mother,
- The third daughter of the family was named after her mother.

Some Miscellaneous Conventions

- With any extra children in the family, you could look back a further generation. For example, the fathers fathers father for males and the mothers mothers mother for females.
- If there has been a child's death in the family, later children may have been named after their dead sibling.
- Middle names of ancestors were often the mother or grandmother's maiden name.

Having said all that though, don't take them as gospel as there were families that did not follow them and instead named their children after close friends or, even prominent figures in their society.

Hopefully though, you can get some benefit from this list of Scottish naming conventions but please remember to be careful, especially if you are trying to identify an ancestor who was born within the last 150 years or so.