

Delving deeper into your family's past ...

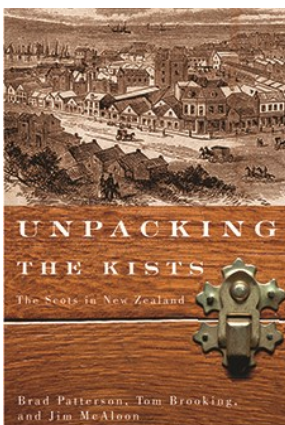
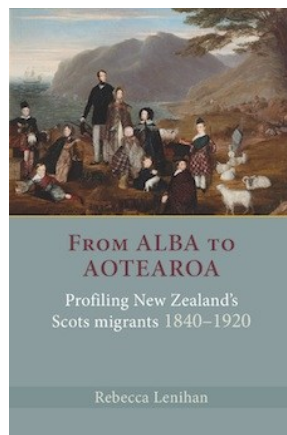
You've traced your family back to your great-grandparents and found that they migrated to New Zealand in the 1880s. Congratulations. You've uncovered a rich part of your family's story.

Their individual stories are part of your heritage, but what about the background to those stories? Your ancestors were part of a larger migration to this young country. Why did so many Scots shift to New Zealand? What degree of 'Scottishness' did they bring? How homogeneous was the Scottish community in early New Zealand?

These questions have been the subject of a surprising amount of academic research in this country. If you want to delve more deeply into the context of your ancestors' migration, there are plenty of places to look. As academic works the books listed here aren't necessarily easy bedtime reading, but they are very valuable if you want to learn more about the background setting to your ancestors' migration to this country.

You can use a National Library [search facility](#) to find out which libraries have these books.

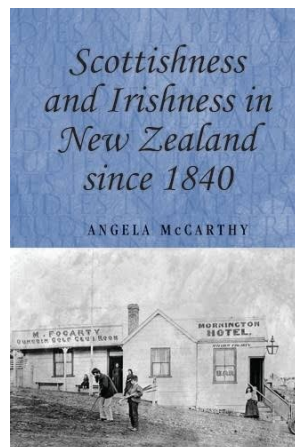
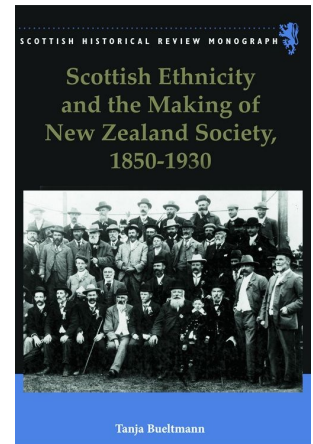
From Alba to Aotearoa: profiling New Zealand's Scots migrants 1840–1920, by Rebecca Lenihan (2015). Analyses where in Scotland the migrants originated, when they travelled and in what numbers, who they were and where they settled in New Zealand. Based on a PhD thesis, which is available [here](#).



Scottish migration to New Zealand, a Marsden Fund-financed project, was largely reported on in *Unpacking the kists: the Scots in New Zealand* by Brad Patterson and others (2013).

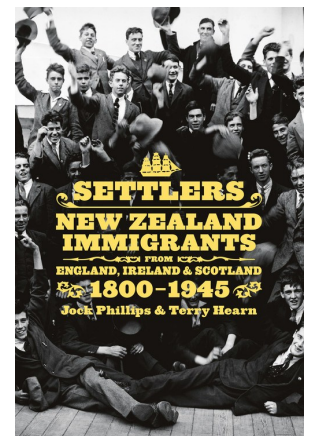
This work looks at the process of Scottish settlement here, the legacies it left in economic and cultural terms, and a demographic profile of settlers. ('Kist' is a Scottish word for a chest used for storing clothes and linen, something the migrants would have brought with them.)

Scottish ethnicity and the making of New Zealand society, 1850–1930, by Tanja Bueltmann (2011). Analyses how Scottish immigrants negotiated their ethnicity in New Zealand, and also how that ethnicity fed into wider social structures. Concludes that Scots contributed disproportionately to the making of New Zealand society.



Scottishness and Irishness in New Zealand since 1840, by Angela McCarthy (2010). Examines the distinctive aspects that insiders and outsiders perceived as characteristic of Irish and Scottish ethnic identities in New Zealand, and how these changed over time.

Don't forget *Settlers: New Zealand immigrants from England, Ireland and Scotland, 1800–1945*, by Jock Phillips and Terry Hearn (2008). This very readable analysis is based on research of records in order to build up a detailed picture of immigrants to New Zealand from Scotland, England and Ireland in the 19th and early 20th century. We reviewed it in the March 2023 [issue](#) of this newsletter.



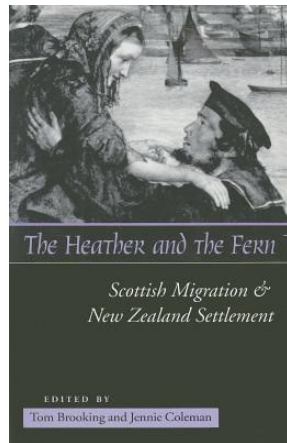
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The heather and the fern: Scottish migration and New Zealand settlement, by Tom Brooking and Jennie Coleman (2003).

A collection of essays on many aspects of Scottish settlement in New Zealand, including individual stories. It covers both nineteenth and twentieth-century migration and includes chapters on the Scottish diaspora, bagpipes and Burns.

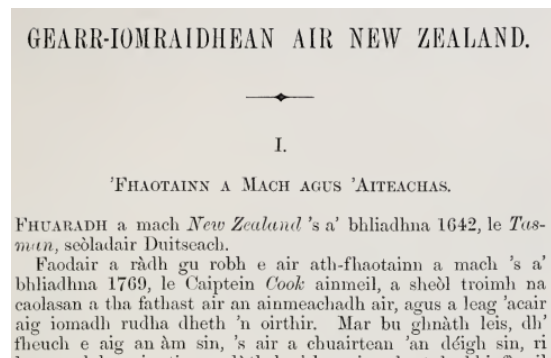
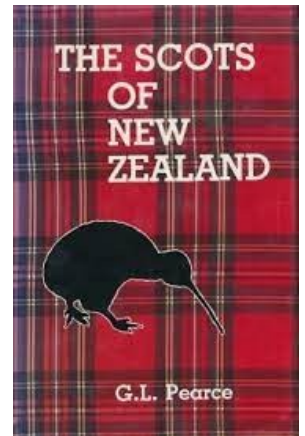
Scottish emigrants to New Zealand, 1840–1880: motives, means and background, a PhD thesis from the UK by Rosalind McClean (1990). Available [here](#).

The thesis asks who the emigrants were who left Scotland for New Zealand, why they travelled 15,000 miles to Britain's furthest colony when other established destinations were closer and cheaper to reach, and how were they enabled to go.



The Scots of New Zealand, by G L Pearce (1976). A general history of the Scots in New Zealand.

Just as an aside, there were many guides to prospective immigrants in the 19th century. One was in Gaelic: *Gearr-chunntasan air New Zealand: air son feuma luchd-imrich* (1872). Copy [here](#).



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