

## First World War Researching

In terms of actual research, school or local memorials are the best place to start, though caution should be urged as often many men with the same name and same area were killed - for example, even after checking with school records we have eleven Norman McDonalds who could be the one we are looking for!

The main site in the UK for checking is **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

Please note that surnames may differ from those on Memorials, or even from the **ScotlandsPeople** website, so careful scrutiny is needed and cross-checking between the sites important to prevent duplication.

The **Scottish National War Memorial** - [www.snwm.org](http://www.snwm.org) - is also a useful source, as is the **Scottish Military Research Group**: [www.scottishmilitaryresearch.co.uk/](http://www.scottishmilitaryresearch.co.uk/)

The latter has reproduced the Glasgow Roll of Honour, which often give addresses. This makes it much easier to verify if the correct person has been identified.

Many people also submit and answer questions, so it is useful to try this site before spending money on ScotlandsPeople.

School log books may exist, but I would advise that no assumptions should be made in this regard. You can contact the **Mitchell Library City Archives** on 0141 287 2910 to check these out first.

Also, they may or may not have the information you expect to find - in the case of Govan High, the first mention of the war was not until 1916, despite the fact that a large number of pupils had already been killed.

The actual mention was of a concert in 1916 to raise money for the Red Cross - quite different from teachers' expectations of what pupils would find.

If your area has local newspapers, they may also have information, but many are in formats which can be difficult and unfamiliar to use - such as microfilm or microfiche.

The Army Service Numbers site – <http://armyservicenumbers.blogspot.co.uk/> - can often give information about where someone enlisted - as long as their Service Number is available (the CWGC site usually but not always has this information.)

For regimental museums in Scotland, <http://www.armymuseums.org.uk/amot-search/default.asp?Category=AMOT&Service=Museum-Display&region=Scotland> is a good starting place.

Ian McCracken  
Voluntary Archivist  
Govan High School