



## Scotland Census Records

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Scotland Census Records are a great resource for finding and linking Scottish families together. They are among the best and most accessible record types for Scottish research. They are a snapshot of a family at a given place and time in history.

### SCOTLAND CENSUS RECORDS

- Taken by the Government to record the population for taxes and representation purposes.
- Originally began in 1801 but censuses from 1801-1831 do not give names, mostly comprised of statistical information. Most do not survive.
- Beginning in 1841 and is taken every ten years.
- Released to the public every 100 years. Currently available only from 1841-1911.
- Provides names, ages, relationships, occupations, and residences.

### WHY CENSUS RECORDS ARE HELPFUL

- Learn the birthplace and age of your ancestor
- Quickly find family members
- Learn the names, ages, and birthplaces of most or all family members
- Establish a place and time of a family's residence
- Points researchers to other possible records, such as church and civil registration.

### CONTENT OF SCOTLAND CENSUS RECORDS

#### 1841 Scotland Census:

- Names
- Ages rounded down for every one over 15 years of age
- Occupations
- Non-specific birthplace
- Residence
- Does not include the relationships to the head of household

#### 1851-1901 Scotland Censuses:

- Names
- Ages (not rounded down- but depends on who the informant was)
- Sex
- Relationship to the head of household
- Marital status

- Occupation
- Birthplace
- Residence

#### 1911 Scotland Census:

- Names
- Ages (not rounded down- but depends on who the informant was)
- Sex
- Relationship to the head of household
- Marital status
- Occupation
- Birthplace
- Residence
- Duration of the marriage
- How children born alive
- How many children are still living

## HOW TO ACCESS SCOTLAND CENSUS RECORDS

Indexes to the Scotland Census records available online:

- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (1841-1891)
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (1841-1901)
- [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) (1841-1901)
- [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) (1841-1911)

Images of the Scotland Census records are available at:

- [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) (1841-1911)
- The Family History Library (1841-1891)

#### [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org):

FamilySearch.org has online indexes to the Scotland Census from 1841-1891.

1. Go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
2. Go to **Search** and click **Records**
3. Click on the map of **Scotland**, then **Scotland**, then **Start researching in Scotland**.
4. Click on **Show all...Collections**
5. Click one of the census years from 1841-1891.

#### [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Ancestry.com has online indexes to the Scotland Census from 1841-1901.

1. Go to [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
2. Click the **Search** tab
3. Click **Census & Voter Lists**
4. To the right of the screen, click **U.K. Census Collection**
5. Note: To search a specific census, scroll down and click the year you want to search.

#### [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

Findmypast.com has online indexes to the Scotland Census from 1841-1901.

1. Go to [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

2. Click **Search**
3. Click **A-Z of record sets**
4. In the Search box type **Scotland**

### [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

ScotlandsPeople has online indexes and images to the Scotland Census from 1841-1911.

1. Go to [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
2. Login (or register if you don't have an account)
3. The census records are located in the column to the right of the page.
4. For seven pounds you can view five certificates. (Roughly \$11 U.S. dollars)

## CENSUS SEARCH TIPS

- Sometimes less is more.
- Interchangeably search by birth date and place.
- Search by census location and surname.
- Search by census location and given name.
- Remember that in the 1841 census, ages are rounded down to the nearest five for everyone older than 15 years of age. Also, the 1841 census does not give relationships to people in the household.
- Search just by the name of the parish. Sometimes the names on the original records were difficult to read so the name might not have been indexed. You can still search all the images for a particular parish.
- Search by using different family member names and relationships. This is especially helpful if a sibling has a name that is not as common.
- Where possible, search by keyword, occupation, or home address. This is helpful for common names.
- Women in Scotland used their maiden names more than in England. If a spouse died for example, a wife may have reverted back to her maiden name.
- Be willing to search where you least expect your ancestors. Remember, they will be included in the household where they were located the day the census was taken.
- Indexes are great but they may have been transcribed incorrectly. Always remember to look at the original record!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Google: "**FamilySearch Learning Center**" to view additional free training videos on Scotland research.
- Go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) > click **Search** > click **Wiki** > in the search box type "**Scotland**." This includes a wide variety of information on Scotland Census records as well as additional Scotland research.
- [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): For more in-depth information on Scotland research click the following three tabs:
  - Search the records
  - About our records
  - Help & Resources

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### Practice Exercise

**Background:**

David and Elizabeth Mackie were living in Ayrshire, Scotland in 1861. David was born about 1837. They married in 1860 and had four children: David, Thomas, Janet, George.

**Exercise #1**

Find David & Elizabeth Mackie in the 1861 Scotland Census. (Note: This is the first census right after David and Elizabeth were married).

1. David and Elizabeth Mackie were living in what parish in Ayrshire?
2. Where was David born?
3. How old is David?
4. Where was Elizabeth born?
5. How old is Elizabeth?
6. What is David Mackie's occupation?

**Exercise #2**

Find David & Elizabeth Mackie in the 1871 Scotland Census living in or near Dalry, Ayrshire. (Tip: If you have trouble searching by the parents' name, search by one of the children).

1. In what parish is the family living in 1871?
2. Who is listed as the head of household?
3. How can we tell if this is an indexing error?
4. How many children are living in the household?
5. Is David Mackie deceased?

**Review:**

1. What is the only website you can go to view an original Scotland census image?
2. The 1911 Scotland Census is available on what websites?