



# Using Scottish Census Returns for Genealogy

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 @UnstMorag

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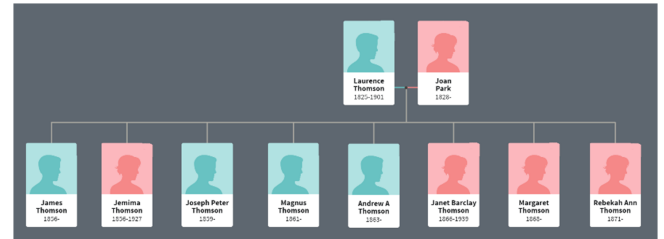
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## Abstract

- This presentation will look at one of the main record sets you will use when researching your Scottish ancestors, the Census.
- We will look at where and how you can view transcriptions of census records, and images of the actual documents, and comment on when it is worth using one versus the other.
- We will also take a first look at the newly released 1921 Scottish Census.

# Census

- Build Family structure
  - Relationships between members of the household
- No exact birthdates, just approximate ages
- Great starting point to understand the family
- Census Years: 1841 – 1921
- Let's see an example of what I mean

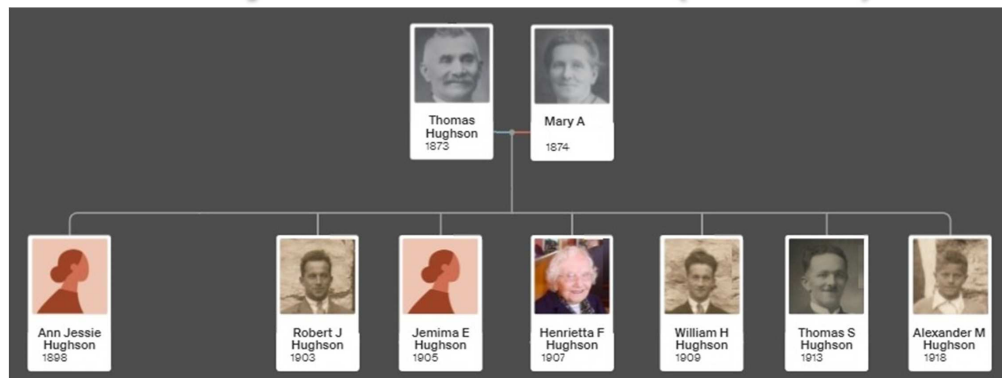


# NOTES

## Census

- Census records are very good for building the general structure of the family. From a census record you get the relationships between members of the family; husband, wife, children, but also aunts, uncles and grand-parents that might also be in the household.
- You don't get exact birth dates, but you get the age on the night of the census, which gives you an approximate year which helps to narrow down your search for other record types.
- In Scotland, genealogically interesting census returns are available from 1841 – 1921. Census were taken every 10 years, and actually there were census taken prior to 1841 (1801 – 1831) but these did not capture the names of all the people in the households, just numerical and statistical info. Census in the UK are released for use once they are 100 years old, although it took a little while for the 1921 census to be released to the public, coming as it did very late in 2022.
- The next census we can see will be the 1931 census which will (hopefully) be released in 2031.
- The information that was captured in a census record changed as the decades progressed, and we'll take a look at what is there and how they changed.

# Build Family Structure (1921)



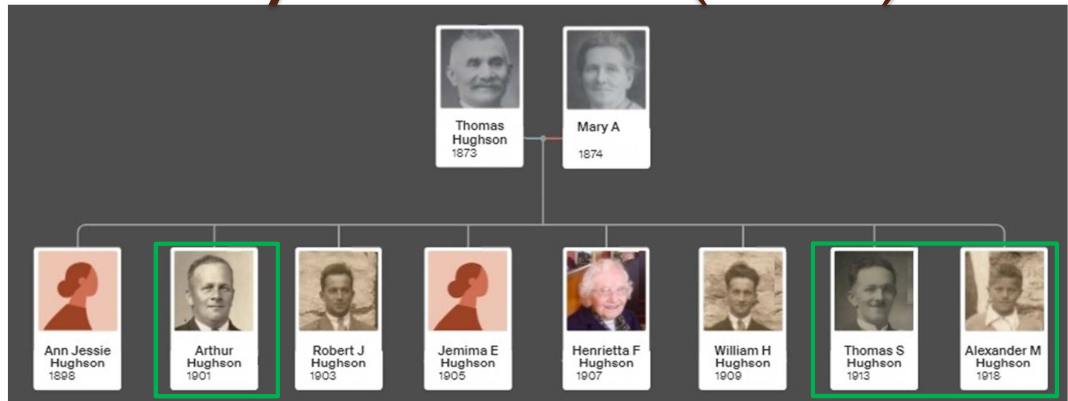
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		HOLDINGS.		NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household.	AGE.		SEX	MARRIAGE STATUS	BIRTHPLACE.	NATIONALITY.	GAELIC.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	STATUS.	EMPLOYMENT.	
		Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented			Years.	Months.									
(1)	(2) Uyea Island,	(3) 5	(4) 9	(5) 5	(6) 9	(7) Thomas Hughson	(8) Head	(9) 48	(10) 2	(11) M	(12) M	(13) Shetland, Scotl <sup>90</sup>	(14) -	(15) -	(16) Shepherd, <sup>020</sup> N-D. <sup>+</sup>	(17) SW	Abandonson Lane (Farmers) <sup>010</sup>	
						Mary A. D <sup>o</sup>	Wife	47	5	F	M	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>						
						Ann Jessie D <sup>o</sup>	Daughter	22	7	F	S	D <sup>o</sup> Brossay			School Teacher. <sup>950</sup>	W	Shetland Education Authority <sup>722</sup>	
						Robert J. D <sup>o</sup>	Son	18	-	M	S	D <sup>o</sup> Uuef			Assistant Shepherd. <sup>070</sup>	SW	Abandonson Lane (Farmers) <sup>010</sup>	
						Jemima E. D <sup>o</sup>	Daughter	15	10	F	S	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>			H. D. <sup>+</sup>			
						Henrietta F. D <sup>o</sup>	Daughter	13	9	F	BA	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>			Scholar			
						William H. D <sup>o</sup>	Son	11	6	M	BA	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>			D <sup>o</sup>			
						Thomas S. D <sup>o</sup>	Son	8	4	M	BA	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>			D <sup>o</sup>			
						Alexander M. D <sup>o</sup>	Son	3	1	M	BA	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>						

# Build Family Structure (1921)

- I start from my paternal grandfather, Thomas S Hughson and find him and his family in the 1921 census, living on the island of Uyea – as I know from family stories. My great-grandfather (also Thomas) was a Shepherd on the island. I can immediately build a family group using the relationships given in the census, and I have approximate birth dates for them all too.

NOTES

# Build Family Structure (1911)



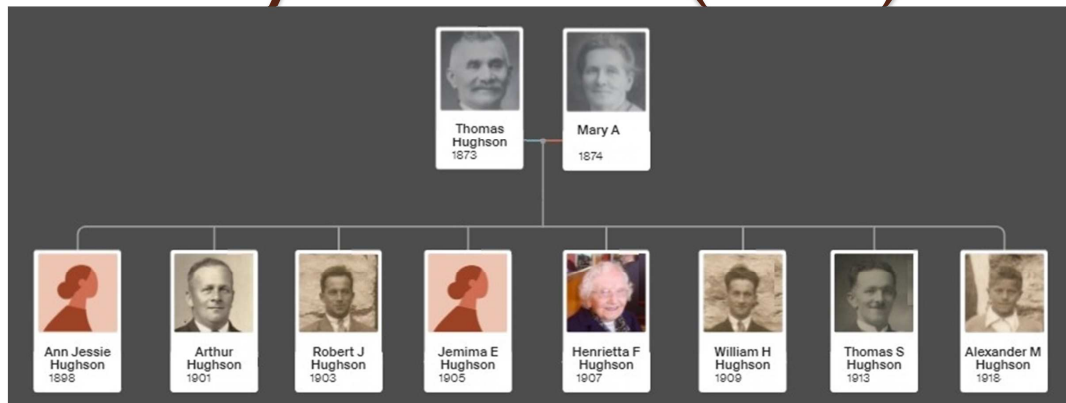
No. of Inhabitants.	ROAD, STREET, No., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	ROOSES.	Rooms with one or more Windows.	NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in Room.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (Date Birthdays and Sex).	Gestic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.			PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.				BIRTHPLACE.	Nationality if born in a Foreign Country.	Whether Head of Family (1), Single (2), Married (3), Widowed (4), or Divorced (5).
									Married.	Widowed.	Single.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which Worker is connected.	Employer, Worker, or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.			
69	Islands of Uyea 1	4	4	Thomas Hughson	7	Head	27	M	1	0	0	Shepherd	19	Worker		Shetland, Uyea		
				Mary A. do	37	Wife	37	F	1	1	0	Wife		Own account		do		
				Ann G. do	12	Daughter	12	F	0	0	0	School				do, Bony		
				Arthur do	7	Son	7	M	0	0	0	School				do, Uyea		
				Robert do	7	Son	7	M	0	0	0	School				do, do		
				Jemima E do	5	Daughter	5	F	0	0	0	School				do, do		
				Henrietta F do	3	Daughter	3	F	0	0	0					do, do		
				William H do	1	Son	1	M	0	0	0					do, do		

# Build Family Structure (1911)

- My grandfather was born in 1913, so while he is in the 1921 census, I won't find him in any of the earlier census, so now I am searching for his father, my great-grandfather, who is also called Thomas Hughson. I find the family, again on the island of Uyea. The two youngest are not born yet, but the missing sibling, Arthur Hughson, who was 19 in 1921 and so perhaps unsurprisingly no longer living with his parents is present as a 9 year old in the 1911 census.

NOTES

# Build Family Structure (1901)



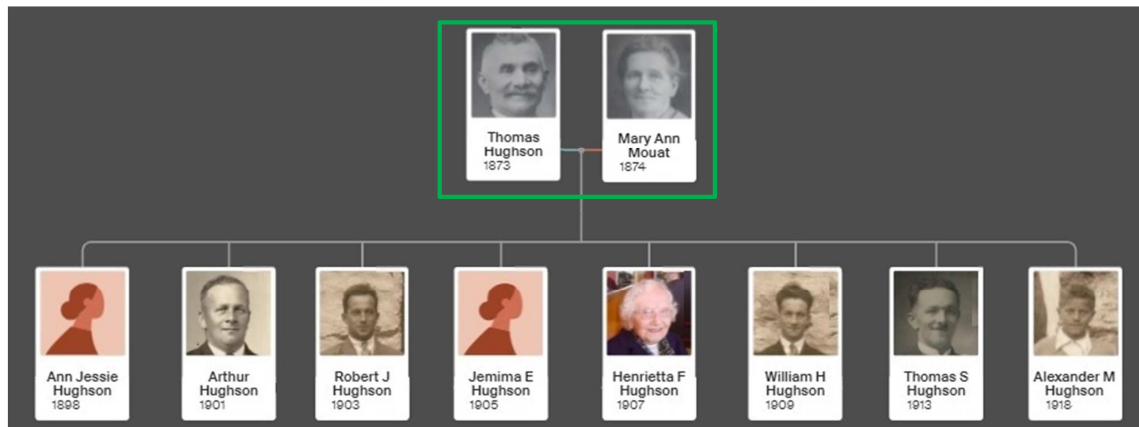
No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday].		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employer, Worker, or on OWN Account.	If Working at Home.	WHERE BORN.	Gaelic, or G. & E.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Lame. 4. Imbecile, feeble-minded.	Rooms with One or more Windows.
		Inhabited (G.) or Building (B.)	No. of Buildings (B.)				Male.	Female.							
2	Uyea	1		Thomas Hughson Mary Ann Jessie	Head Wife Daughter	Married	27	27	Shepherd Shepherd's wife	Worker		Uyea, Shetland			5

# NOTES

# Build Family Structure (1901)

- The 1901 census doesn't add anything to my understanding of this family. We have the couple, Thomas and Mary and their first child Ann Jessie, living in Uyea island.

# Build Family Structure (1891)



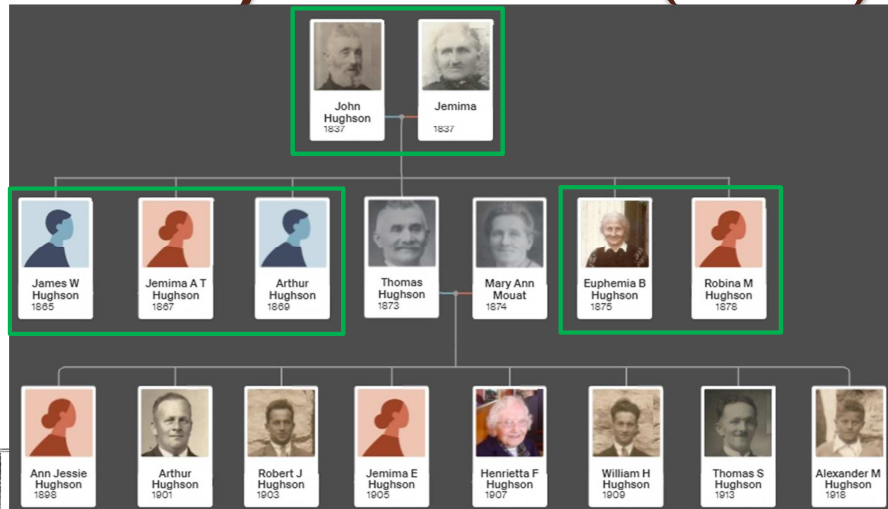
ROAD STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES. In habited (A) or building (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (last Birthday)		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employer.	Employed.	Neither Employer nor Employed, but working on own account.	WHERE BORN.	Gaelic, or G. & E.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb, 2. Blind, 3. Lunatic, Imbecile, or Idiot.	Rooms with One or more Windows
					Males.	Females.								
Farm House Belmont,	1	James Jeffrey	Head	Married	47		Farmer	X			Sanway, Aberdeen			4
		Mary Ann	wife	Mar	40		Do's Wife				Belwick			
		James	Son		6		Schooler				West			
		Mary	Daughter		3						"			
		Ann	"		2						"			
		Thomas Hughson	Servant	Unm	17		Farm Servant		X			"		
Mary Ann Mouat	"	Unm	17		General Servant		X			"				

# Build Family Structure (1891)

- I find Thomas in the 1891 census working at the big Farm House in Belmont. He is not living with any family and his relationship to the head of the household is "Servant". Interestingly the other servant in the house is Mary Ann Mouat. Perhaps this is how they met! This will need to be verified by finding their marriage certificate (and by the way I have done so and it is her) but keep your eyes open for this sort of thing in census records. I can also make a note that Thomas and Mary Ann married some time between 1891 and 1901 which narrows my search for their marriage record considerably.

NOTES

# Build Family Structure (1881)



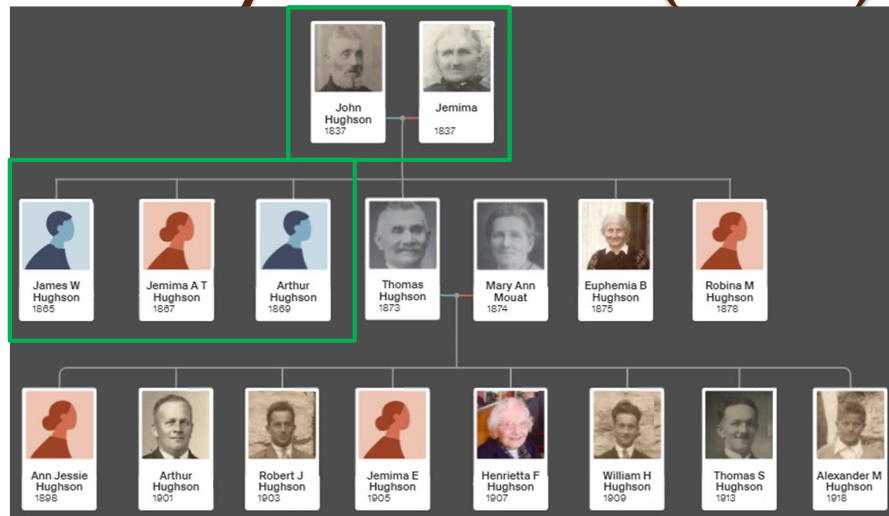
No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		No. of Inhabitants (A, B, or C.)	Sex	Age	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	MARRIAGE.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb, 2. Blind, 3. Imbecile or Idiot, 4. Lunatic.	Rooms with One or more Windows
		Occupied	Uninhabited							
6	Garden	1								2
				John Hughson	Head	Mar	48	Shirman		
				Jemima Hughson	Wife	Mar	43			
				James W. Hughson	Son		16	Shirman's Son		
				Jemima A. Hughson	Daughter		12	Servant		
				Arthur Hughson	Son		11			
				Thomas Hughson	DD		8			
				Euphemia B. Hughson	Daughter		5			
				Robina M. Hughson	DD		2			

# Build Family Structure (1881)

- In 1881 Thomas Hughson is found with his parents and siblings in Garden, Colvadale. This adds to my understanding of the next generation back quite considerably. Thomas is only 8 years of age in this census, so I won't find him any further back. I will now start searching for his father John Hughson.

NOTES

# Build Family Structure (1871)



No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c, and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES- In- habited. (A.) or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CON- DITION.	AGE of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.		Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.	Number of Children from 8 to 15 attend- ing School or being educated at Home.	Rooms with One or more Win- dows.
						Males.	Females.						
3	Garden	1	John Hughson	Head	Mar	33		Fisherman	Shetland West			1	1
			Jemima	Wife	Mar	33		Widow	197	197			
			James W.	Son		25		Labourer	197	197			
			Jemima A. T.	Daughter		3			197	197			
			Arthur	Son		1			197	197			

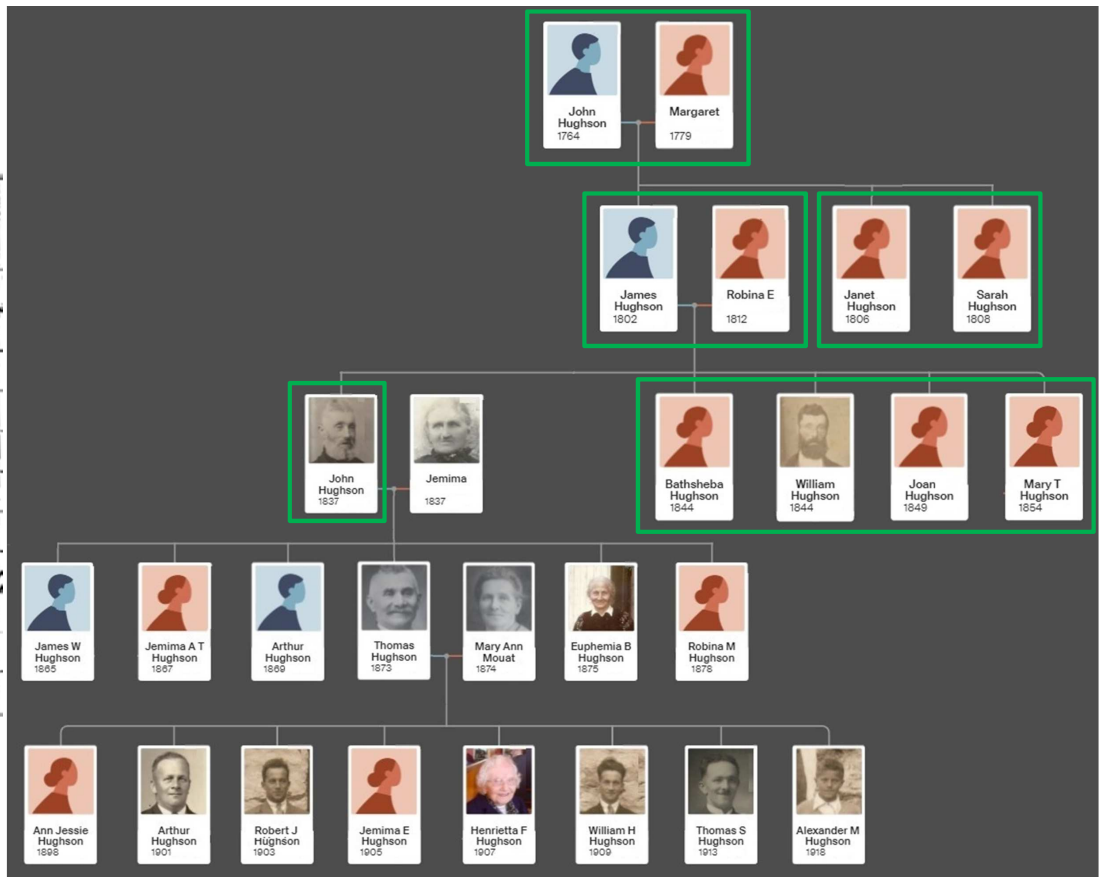
# Build Family Structure (1871)

- The 1871 census doesn't add anything to my understanding. We have a young family here, our couple, John and Jemima, and three of their children.

NOTES



Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.
James Hughson	Head
Robina D.	Wife
John D.	Son
William D.	Son
Bathsheba D.	Daughter
Joan D.	Daughter
Mary T. D.	Daughter
John D.	Father
Margaret D.	Mother
Janet D.	Sister
Margaret D.	Sister

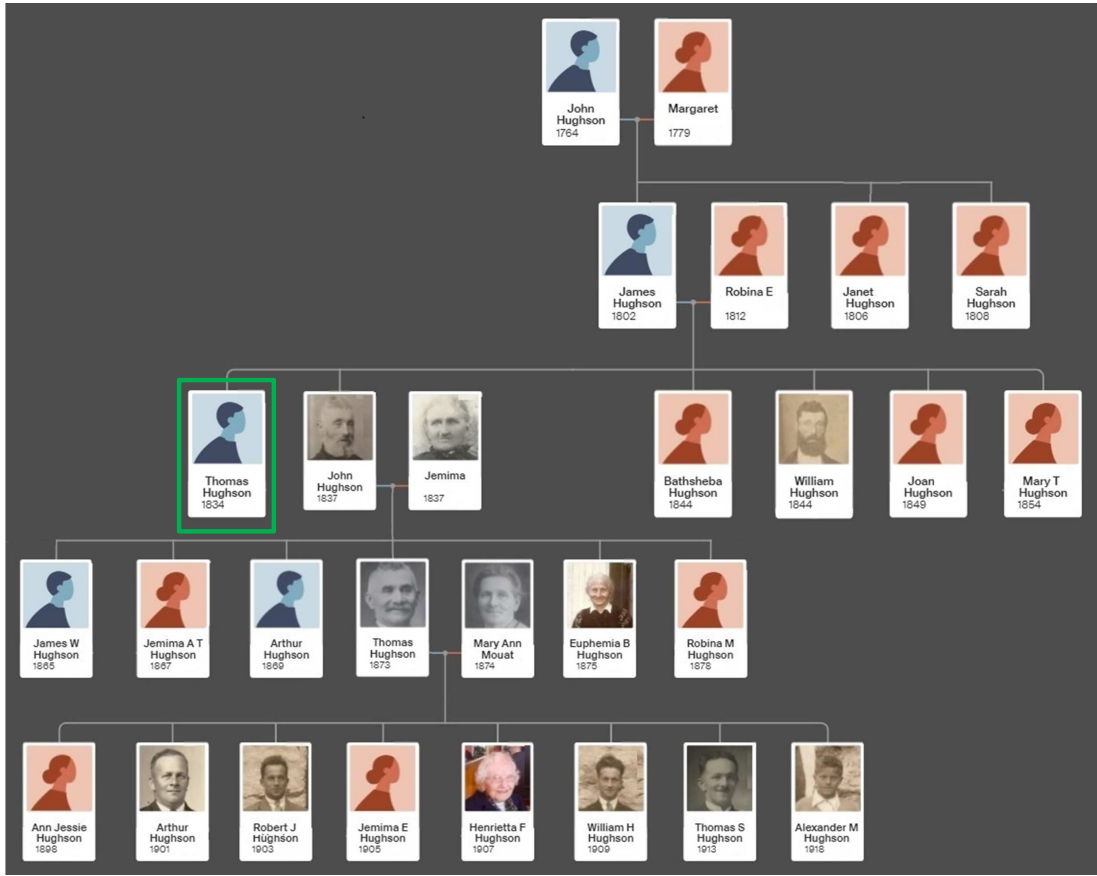


## Build Family Structure (1861)

- The 1861 is a great census for this family and extending back the generations. We have found John Hughson as a 25-year old man, still Unmarried (Un) and living with his parents. His parents' household is also housing their parents and two sisters of his father. We note at this point that John and Jemima must have married between 1861 and 1871 which will help in narrowing down the search for their marriage record.

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Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family
James Hughson	Head
Emma Do	Wife
Thomas Do	Son
John Do	Son
William Do	Son
Bathsheba Hughson	Daughter
Janet Do	Daughter
John Do	Father
Margaret Do	Mother
Janet Ann Do	Sister
Sarah Do	Sister

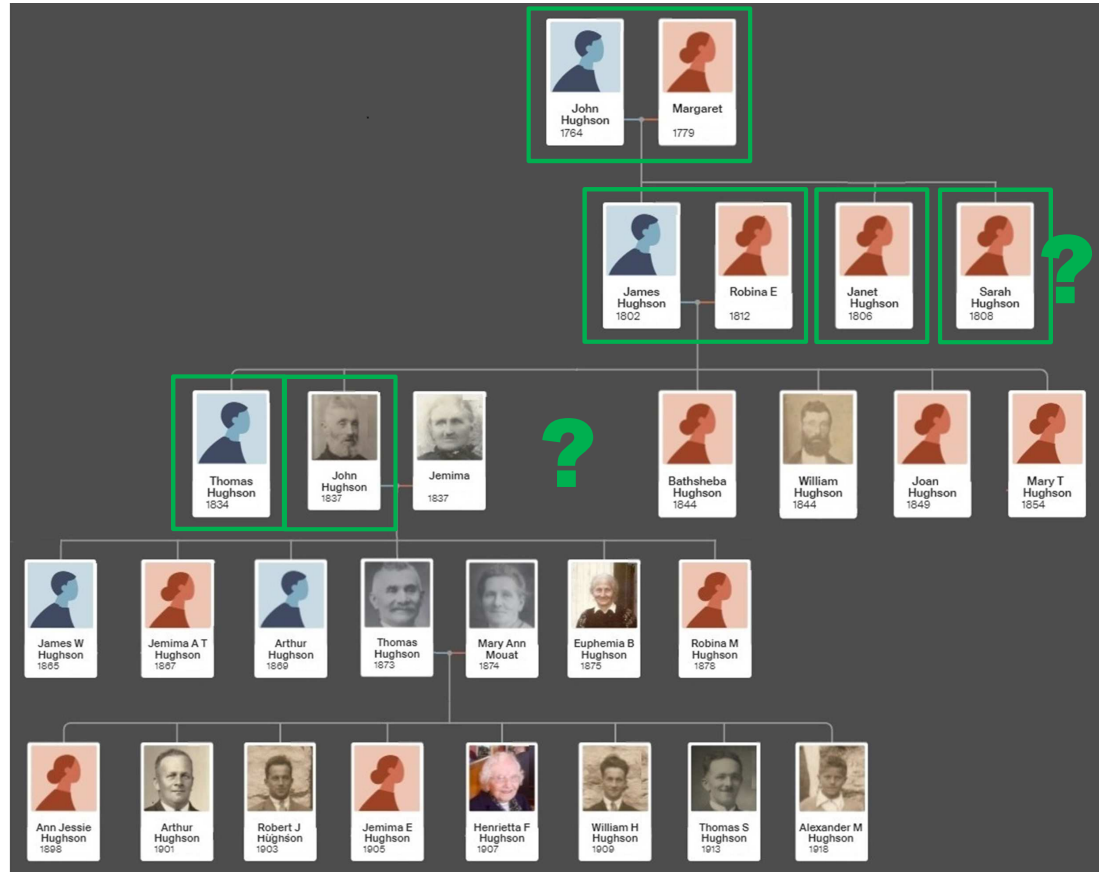


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# Build Family Structure (1851)

- The 1851 census we find the family looking very similar, grandparents and father's sisters living all in the same household. We pick up one extra sibling for John Hughson, Thomas.

NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		
NAME and SURNAME	AGE	
	Male	Female
John Hughson	70	
Margaret do		65
James do	35	
Robina do		25
Janet do		30
Sarah do		30
Ann do		25
Thomas do	6	
John do	3	
Mary do		10 mo



NOTES

## Build Family Structure (1841)

- Finally, with such a full understanding of this family, when we find the 1841 census without any relationships noted, we are almost able to identify everyone mentioned.
- There are two question-marks. One that looks like another female sibling to John's father, and one that looks like a female sibling to John. These will need to be confirmed in other ways, such as finding their birth or death records.

# Census: A great starting point

- We really have made a great start!
  - 5 generations from my grand-father
  - A couple of missing siblings to locate
- Next steps
  - Married women maiden names – look to marriage records
    - Have narrowed down dates for marriages too
  - More accurate birth dates
    - Have an approximate year (or to the month with 1921)
  - Try to go back further with Old Parish Records
    - A subject for a different presentation!

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# Census: A great starting point

- I think you have to agree that this has been a great starting point for building the family tree for this family. We have gone back a number of generations from a person known personally to the researcher (my grand-father).
- You can see how easy it is to build the shape of the family from the relationships listed in the census records.

# Websites

- Ancestry
  - Subscription; Library
- Find My Past
  - Subscription; Library
- Family Search
  - Free (Login needed)
- Scotland's People
  - Pay-per-record (Login needed)

**All websites are  
not created equal!**

# Websites

There are a number of websites that will allow you to access Scottish genealogical records. I'll cover the main ones and any pros and cons about each. While all these websites contain Scottish records, they do not all provide the same level of access to the data.

## **Ancestry and Find My Past**

- These are subscription based websites, i.e. you have to pay for it, BUT, if you have a library nearby you can go into the library and use them for free.

## **Family Search**

- This is a free website to use, although these days you do need to create yourself a logon.

## **Scotland's People**

- This is a PAY-PER-RECORD website. However, their search is free, and you can glean some things just from the free search results. You will need to create a logon for this website too.

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# Scottish Census Records



find  
my  
past



Ancestry, Find My Past, and Family Search provide transcriptions of Scottish Census records (1841-1901) which are fairly complete transcriptions and are generally good enough.

Scotland's People is the **ONLY** place you can obtain the images of these records. 1911-1921 only from here.

- 1851-1901
  - Very similar structure to the form in these years – essentially the same columns recorded
- 1841
  - Slim pickings, much less info
- 1911-1921
  - Additional columns added in this decade

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# Scottish Census Records

- Census records are one of the mainstays of your Scottish research. You have census returns from the years 1841 through to 1921 at the moment. Transcriptions of the 1841 through to 1901 census are available on Ancestry and Find My Past and therefore free for you to look at through your local library. For the most part these transcriptions are fairly complete, and while they suffer from the problem of the transcriber not knowing the local geography (and so place names sometimes come out a bit odd!) they are generally good enough.
- The Scotland's People website contains the images of the census records which you can purchase, one image at a time. Mostly it will not be necessary for you to purchase census records because the transcriptions are good enough.
- Of course, when it come to the 1911 and 1921 census, your only option is Scotland's People.
- To illustrate, let's look at an 1861 census image from Scotland's People and compare it to the transcriptions in the other websites.

# Ancestry Transcription

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish of <i>Unst</i>		Quoad Sacra Parish of	Parliamentary Burgh of	Royal Burgh of					
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES.		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.
		Inhabited (U.S. or Building (B.))	Uninhabited (U.S. or Building (B.))				Male	Female	
<i>35</i>	<i>614</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>Laurence Thomson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>35</i>		<i>Chromater Miner</i>
				<i>Joan Thomson</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>53</i>		<i>Mum's Wife</i>
				<i>James Thomson</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>5</i>		
				<i>Jemima Thomson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>4</i>		
				<i>Joseph P. Thomson</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>		
				<i>Tamar J. Nisbet</i>	<i>Servant</i>		<i>17</i>		<i>Domestic Serv</i>

Name: Laurence Thomson

Age: 35

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1826

Relationship: Head

Spouse's name: Joan Thomson

Gender: Male

Where born: Unst, Shetland

Registration Number: 11

Registration district: Unst

Civil Parish: Unst

County: Shetland

Address: Cliff

Occupation: Chromater Miner

ED: 2

Household schedule number: 55

LINE: 17

Roll: CSSC1861\_2

Household Members:

Name	Age
Laurence Thomson	35
Joan Thomson	53
James Thomson	5
Jemima Thomson	4
Joseph P Thomson	2
James G S Nisbet	17

Save Cancel

- Marital Status (column: Condition) not transcribed in Ancestry version
- Tamar transcribed as James
  - Tamar is a girls name – short for Thomasina
- What do we think about mum and dad's age?

# Find My Past Transcription

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

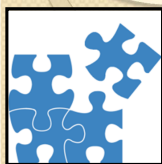
Parish of <i>Unst</i>		Quoad Sacra Parish of	Parliamentary Burgh of	Royal Burgh of	Town of	Village of					
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES.		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Where Born.	Whether the Person is a Member of the Household (U.S. or Building (B.))
		Inhabited (U.S. or Building (B.))	Uninhabited (U.S. or Building (B.))				Male	Female			
<i>35</i>	<i>614</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>Laurence Thomson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>35</i>		<i>Chromater Miner</i>	<i>Shetland Unst</i>	<i>2</i>
				<i>Joan Thomson</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>53</i>		<i>Mum's Wife</i>	<i>Do Do</i>	
				<i>James Thomson</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>5</i>			<i>Do Do</i>	
				<i>Jemima Thomson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>4</i>			<i>Do Do</i>	
				<i>Joseph P. Thomson</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>			<i>Do Do</i>	
				<i>Tamar J. Nisbet</i>	<i>Servant</i>		<i>17</i>		<i>Domestic Serv</i>	<i>Do Do</i>	

- FMP includes marital status
- FMP makes a better job of the transcription

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Laurence	Thomson	Head	Married	Male	36	1825	Chromate Miner	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Joan	Thomson	Wife	Married	Female	33	1828	Miner's Wife	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
James	Thomson	Son	-	Male	6	1855	-	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Jemima	Thomson	Daughter	-	Female	4	1857	-	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Joseph P	Thomson	Son	-	Male	2	1859	-	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland
Tamar J	Nisbet	Servant	-	Female	17	1844	Domestic Serv	Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland



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# Family Search Transcription

Page 12] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish of <i>Unst</i>		<i>Quoad Sacra</i> Parish of	Parliamentary-Burgh of	Royal-Burgh of	Town of	Village of					
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Where Born.	Whether Blind, Deaf, or Crazy.	Whether Pauper, or in Prison, or in Workhouse, or in Hospital, or in Asylum, or in Lunatic Asylum, or in any other Institution.
		Inhabited (U.S. or Scotland)	(B)								
<i>35</i>	<i>664</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>Laurence Thomson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Chromatic Miner</i>	<i>Shetland Unst</i>		<i>2</i>
				<i>Joan Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>Miner's Wife</i>	<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Jessie Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>5</i>		<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Jessie Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>4</i>		<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Joseph P. Do</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>Do Do</i>		
				<i>Marion Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>Do Do</i>		

Laurence Thomson  
Scotland Census, 1861

Tools

Name:	Laurence Thomson
Event Type:	Census
Event Date:	1861
Gender:	Male
Age:	36
Birthplace:	Shetland
Registration District:	Unst
County:	Shetland
Birth Year (Estimated):	1825

- No household view
- Transcription doesn't show house name/number
- No linkage between household members
- Transcriptions come from Find My Past

## Transcriptions

### Ancestry

- The Ancestry transcriptions of Scottish Census don't include the "Condition" column which shows the marital status. You can usually get away without this because it is easy to spot the husband and wife of a family by using the "Relation to Head of Family" column. But you do miss it when looking at widowed mothers.
- I noticed many examples of the girl's name "Tamar" being transcribed as "James", so much so that when I see a Female called James I know what it is really going to be!

### Find My Past

- The Find My Past transcriptions of Scottish Census do include the "Condition" column so you get the marital status, and they seem, anecdotally, to make a better job of the transcription.

### Family Search

- The actual transcriptions used on Family Search for Scottish census records, are from Find My Past. The interface for looking at census records on Family Search is hard work. You don't get any kind of household view, and even though they have the transcriptions from FMP, they don't show you all of it.

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# Comparing Census Data

- The data collected in a census has changed over the years.
- Let's compare
  - 1841
    - Slim pickings, much less info
  - 1851-1901
    - Very similar structure to the form in these years – same columns recorded
  - 1911-1921
    - Additional columns added in this decade

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# Comparing Census Data

- The data collected in each census, every 10 years, has changed as the decades progressed.
- The 1841 census was a very succinct census, asking very few questions of the enumerated people. This then increased for the 1851 census, and then stay fairly similar through to 1901.
- The 1911 and 1921 census added more questions, and thus we see more columns on the returns we work with.
- We're going to compare the census through the decades to see how the data we have to work with changes.
- Knowing what data to expect will stop you searching for something that simply isn't there.

# 1841 Census

1		2		3	4	
PLA	HOUSES	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	
This part Name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, &c.	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited	NAME and SURNAME	AGE	Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or whether of Independent Means.	If Born in Scotland, state whether in County or otherwise. What is Foreign Born in Scotland or Ireland.

- Slim pickings, much less info than future decades
- Transcriptions are complete
  - yes there really is that small amount of data!
  - => Not worth purchasing the images from Scotland's People
- Leave this year until last in your research

# NOTES

## 1841 Census

- I strongly advise that you generally leave the 1841 census until last. It pays to understand the structure of your family before finding them in the 1841 census because you do not get told the relationships in the 1841 census.
- The 1841 census just has a lot less information in it than the census return from 1851 onwards as we'll see in a moment.

# 1841 Census

- No relationships noted
  - Although pattern can help
- Age rounding
  - rounded down to the nearest 5 years for anyone over 15 years of age

NAME and SURNAME	AGE	
	Male	Female
<i>Andrew Moir</i>	45	
<i>Isabella Moir</i>		54
<i>Catherine Moir</i>		12
<i>Jean Moir</i>		10
<i>Charlotte Moir</i>		60

Husband and wife

Children listed in descending age order

Random other relatives

- Birthplace COUNTY recorded

# NOTES

## 1841 Census

- The pattern adopted by census enumerators will help to determine the main familial structure however, since the husband and wife are listed first; and then the children in descending age order (sometimes with the male children listed first and then the female children); and finally the random selection of other relatives (unmarried aunts, widowed grandparents and so on) and any servants – identifiable because their occupation will be shown as F.S. (Female Servant) or M.S. (Male Servant). Your only hope with these random other relatives, is that they are still alive in 1851 and so you can find them in that census to understand their relationship to the rest of the family.
- Ages are recorded differently in the 1841 census, for all people over 15 years of age, the ages are supposed to be rounded down to the nearest 5 years. This instruction to the enumerators is not always followed for some reason, but be aware that it is MOSTLY followed, so take these ages with a large pinch of salt.
- Birth places are also recorded differently, with just a column to say Y or N to the question “If born in Scotland, state whether in County or otherwise”

# 1841 Census vs 1851 Census

1		2		3		4	
PLACES	HOUSES	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION		WHERE BORN	
How used Name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, &c.	Uninhabited or Building Inhabited	NAME and SURNAME		AGE		If born in Scotland, state whether in County or shire.	
				Male	Female	Whether Foreign- born, or whether born in England or Ireland.	

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- Relation to Head of Family
- Condition
- Occupation (for other than Head)
- Where Born (detail)
- Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
- Count of uninhabited buildings

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Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
				Males	Females	
				Rank, Profession, or Occupation		Where Born

# 1851 Census

- Comparing the 1851 census to the 1841 census we see that the basic columns from 1841 are all still there, with the exception of recording the number of uninhabited buildings.
- However, we gain some new columns. Firstly the relationship of each list person to the head of the family/household is now a feature, something that helps us as genealogists to build a picture of the familial relationships.
- We also get the condition of the person to marriage, i.e. whether Single, Married or Widowed.
- Age is now more accurate, removing the weird rounding of ages that was applied to the 1841 census.
- Where the person was born gives us more accuracy. In the 1841 census we simply got whether the person was born in this county or not. If not, we didn't previously get any indication where else they might have been born, just "not here"!
- And finally a column recording if the person is Blind or Deaf-and-Dumb.

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# 1851 Census vs 1861 Census

No. of Places, Houses, & Cottages.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	
					Males	Females
Rank, Profession, or Occupation			Where Born		Whether Blind, or Lame, or Deaf	

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- Count of uninhabited buildings
- No. of children attending school
- No. of rooms with windows

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No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES.		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of		Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb.	No. of Children from 5 to 15 attending School.	No. of Rooms with one or more windows.
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U), or Building (B.)				Males	Females			
Rank, Profession, or Occupation.				Where Born.							

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## 1861 Census

- Comparing the 1861 census to the 1851 census we find that there is very little difference between them.
- The lost count of uninhabited buildings is back and we have added a couple of totals.
- One showing the number of children between the ages of 5 and 15 attending school – something that can also be seen from the listed occupation of the children being “Scholar”.
- And one that is a count of the number of rooms with one or more windows, reflecting concerns about housing and sanitary conditions and not to be confused with the window tax which had been abolished in 1851.

# 1861 Census vs 1871 Census

No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House.	HOUSES.		Name and Surname of each Person.	Relation to Head of Family.	Condition.	Age of		
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.), or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.	
		Rank, Profession, or Occupation.			Where Born.		Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb.	No. of Children from 5 to 15 attending School.	No. of Rooms with one or more Windows.

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- Whether imbecile or Idiot; Lunatic
- School children educated at home included, and only up to 13 (prev 15)

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No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CON-DITION.	AGE of	
		In-habited	Uninhabited (U.), or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.
		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.			WHERE BORN.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.	Number of Children from 5 to 15 attending School or being educated at Home.	Rooms with One or more Windows.

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## 1871 Census

- Comparing the 1871 census to the 1861 census we find that there is very little difference between them.
- The column previously for recording if a person is blind or Deaf-and-Dumb is extended with additional categories of disability; Imbecile or Idiot; and Lunatic. While these terms may sound offensive to our 21<sup>st</sup> century ears, those were the official terms used in this timeframe.
- Pre-1913, these terms would be defined as:-
  - imbecile - 'mental age of an infant'
  - idiot - 'natural fool from birth'
  - lunatic - 'sometimes of good and sound memory and understanding, and sometimes not'

# 1871 Census vs 1881 Census

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CON-DITION.	AGE of	
		In-habited.	Unin-habited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.
		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.			WHERE BORN.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.	Number of Children from 5 to 15 attending School or being educated at Home.	Rooms with One or more Windows.

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- Totals of schoolchildren

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No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday]	
		In-habited.	Unin-habited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.
		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.			WHERE BORN.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.	Rooms with One or more Windows.	

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## 1881 Census

- Comparing the 1881 census to the 1871 census we find that there is very little difference between them.
- The question on the number of children attending school was dropped because this information could be inferred from age and occupation (Scholar).

# 1881 Census vs 1891 Census

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday]	
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.
Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.				WHERE BORN.		Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Imbecile or Idiot. 4. Lunatic.		Rooms with One or more Windows.

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- Occupation Details; Employer, Employed, Own Account
- Gaelic or G&E
- Disability column changed slightly

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No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday]		
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.	
PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.		Employer.	Employed.	Neither Employer nor Employed, but working on own account.	WHERE BORN.		Gaelic, or G. & E.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Lunatic, Imbecile, or Idiot.	Rooms with One or more Windows.

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## 1891 Census

- Comparing the 1891 census to the 1881 census we find that there is very little difference between them.
- The disability column was revised to: deaf and dumb; blind; and lunatic, imbecile or idiot. This suggests an expectation for the enumerator to write in a number, but I've only ever seen this column used to write in a word, e.g. "Blind" or "Lunatic".
- Three check-mark columns were added to identify whether a person was employed or an employer or working on their own account but no reference was made to unemployment
- A column was included to record whether each person spoke Gaelic or Gaelic and English (G & E). In the previous decade a count of the Gaelic speaking population had been made but not recorded in this way.



# 1891 Census vs 1901 Census

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday]		WHERE BORN.	Gaelic, or G. & E.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Lunatic, Imbecile, or Idiot.	Rooms with One or more Windows.
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females				
					Employer.	Employed.	Neither Employer nor Employed, but working on own account.					

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- Employer, Worked, Own Account (single column)
- If Working at Home
- Disability column changed slightly

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No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday]		WHERE BORN.	Gaelic, or G. & E.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Lunatic, Imbecile, or feeble-minded.	Rooms with One or more Windows.
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females				
					Employer, Worker, or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.						

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## 1901 Census

- Comparing the 1901 census to the 1891 census we find that there is very little difference between them.
- The disability column was revised again: deaf and dumb; blind; lunatic; and imbecile or feeble-minded.
- The previous three check-mark columns were combined into one column to identify whether a person was a worker or an employer or working on their own account. A new column was added to record if "Working at Home".

# 1901 Census vs 1911 Census

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE [Last Birthday].	
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)				Males.	Females.

PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employer, Worker, or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.	WHERE BORN.	Gaelic or G. & E.	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Lunatic. 4. Imbecile, feeble-minded.	Rooms with One or more Windows.
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- Total persons in house column added
- Particulars as to Marriage adds duration and children
- Industry added to occupation details
- Nationality (if not UK)
- Disability column changed slightly

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No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		Rooms with one or more Windows.	NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in House.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (Last Birthday) and Sex.		Gaelic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.		
		In-habited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)					Males.	Females.		Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Duration of Marriage.	Children born Alive.

PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.				BIRTHPLACE.	Nationality if born in a Foreign Country.	Whether 1. Totally Deaf or Blind and Dumb. 2. Totally blind. 3. Lunatic. 4. Imbecile or feeble-minded.
Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which Worker is connected.	Employer, Worker, or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.			

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## 1911 Census

- The 1911 census added further columns, and from a genealogical perspective it most helpfully added a column to record how long married people had been married for, and how many children they had, both alive and dead.
- The disability column is revised again to add “totally” to the blind and deaf categories. In addition the introductory section to the third report on the 1911 census refers to the intended use of the terms as:
  - lunatic - in cases where the infirmity had been acquired during life
  - imbecile - in extreme cases where the infirmity had existed from birth or an early age
  - feeble-minded - in milder cases where the infirmity had existed from birth or an early age.
- The question on occupation was extended to find out which industries or services a worker was connected to in addition to their personal profession or occupation.
- The question on place of birth was extended to include nationality for those born in a foreign country, that is, out with British territory, colonies and dependencies.

# 1911 Census - Marriage

- Only recorded on the Married woman line
- Gives good hint for finding Marriage Record
- Helps to show when you have missed some children!

Particulars as to Marriage			
Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Married Women		
	Duration of Marriage	Children born Alive	Children Still Living
<i>Mar</i>			
<i>Mar</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		Rooms with one or more Windows.	NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in House.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (last birthday) and Sex.		Gaelic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.		
		In habited.	Uninhabited (D.) or Building (B.)					Males.	Females.		Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Duration of Marriage.	Children born Alive.
1	<i>1. Kraw</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Duncan Sinclair</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Mar</i>		
2					<i>Jean do.</i>		<i>wife</i>	<i>42</i>			<i>Mar</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>
3					<i>Jamar do.</i>		<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17</i>			<i>S</i>		
4					<i>Duncan do.</i>		<i>Son</i>	<i>15</i>			<i>S</i>		
5					<i>Mary do.</i>		<i>Daughter</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>M</i>		

# 1911 Census - Marriage

- The 1911 census added further columns, and from a genealogical perspective it most helpfully added a column to record how long married people had been married for, and how many children they had, both alive and dead. This data is very helpful to you for determining if you have found all the children – and also of course giving you an extra hint about when to look for a marriage record.
- It was recorded against the line for the Married Woman, which meant that if you had a widowed man, with no wife on the census record, it wasn't supposed to be recorded, but you do sometimes see it written in, and then struck out.

# 1911 Census vs 1921 Census

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		Rooms with one or more Windows.	NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in House.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and Sex.		Gaelic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.			
		Inhabited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)					Males.	Females.		Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Duration of Marriage.	Children born alive.	Children still living.

PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.					BIRTHPLACE.	Nationality if born in a Foreign Country.	Whether 1. Totally Deaf or Deaf and Dumb. 2. Totally blind. 3. Lunatic. 4. Imbecile or feeble-minded.
Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which Worker is connected.	Employer, Worker, or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.				

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- Age (years+months)
- Divorce, Orphanhood →
- Occupation Status →
- National Health Insurance
- Dependant Children

- Duration of Marriage
- Disability column

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No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		HOLDINGS.		NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household.	AGE.		SEX.	MARRIAGE OR ORPHANHOOD.	BIRTHPLACE.
		Rooms.	Persons.	Rooms.	Persons.			Years.	Months.			

NATIONALITY.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	STATUS.	EMPLOYMENT.	NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.	DEPENDENT CHILDREN.
					Number. Ages.

## NOTES

# 1921 Census

- The 1921 census added further columns, to the already improved 1911 census.
- Ages are now collected in years and months.
- The marriage column now collects orphan hood status for those under 15 and marriage status for those 15 and over. Marriages dissolved by Divorce is recording with the letter 'D' in this column. See next page for abbreviations used.
- The employment status column gets a few more possible values, previously "Employer, Worker or On Own Account". See next page for abbreviations used.

# Narrow Columns with abbreviations

Marriage/Orphanhood		Occupation and Employment	
M	Married	HD	Home/Household duties
W	Widowed	E	Employer
S	Single	W	Worker (employee)
D	Divorced	OA	Own account (i.e. self-employed)
BA	Both parents alive	Ret	Retired
FD	Father dead	OW	Out of work
MD	Mother dead		
BD	Both parents dead		



## NOTES

# Narrow Columns with abbreviations

- Columns that previously took up quite a lot of space have been consolidated into one column with a number of abbreviations. This page details what those abbreviations mean.

# 1921 Census – Dependent Children

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NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in House.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (last birthday) and Sex.		Gaelic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.			
			Males.	Females.		Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Duration of Marriage.	Children born Alive.	Children still Living.
Duncan <sup>(1)</sup> Sinclair	5	Head	45			Mar <sup>(1)</sup>			
Joan do.		Wife		42		Mar <sup>(1)</sup>	18	4	4

1  
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NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household.	AGE.		SEX.	MARRIAGE or SPINHOOD.
		Years.	Months.		
Thomas <sup>(1)</sup> Stephen	Head	48	2	M	M
Mary A. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Wife	47	5	F	M
Ann Jessie D <sup>(1)</sup>	Daughter	22	7	F	S
Robert J. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Son	18	-	M	S
Jemima E. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Daughter	15	10	F	S
Henrietta F. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Daughter	13	9	F	BA
William H. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Son	11	6	M	BA
Thomas S. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Son	8	4	M	BA
Alexander M. D <sup>(1)</sup>	Son	3	1	M	BA

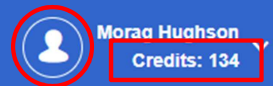
DEPENDENT CHILDREN.																
Number.	Ages.															
	Age last birthday.															
5	Under One	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				X					X		X		X	X	X	
	Under One	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

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# 1921 Census – Dependent Children

- In the 1921 census, we have lost the count of children no longer alive, but instead have the ages of dependent children, which might be handy if the children are not listed on the same page – i.e. parent is away from home.
- This page shows a comparison of a 1911 and 1921 census record in this regard.
- For many records I suspect this will not give you any more details than you can see in the record, as with this example. It is likely that dependent children are living with their parents.
- Also, note that dependent children are those 15 and under. In this record several older children are also listed in the record, but are not included in this set of check marks, or the count.

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### ✓ Census returns

Search the lists of people recorded in censuses taken every 10 years in Scotland from 1841 onwards.

### Valuation rolls

Search lists of owners and occupiers of buildings and other properties in Scotland from 1855 onwards.

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Search wills and testaments, coats of arms, soldiers' and airmen's wills and the records of military service appeals tribunals.

### Poor relief and migration records

### Prison registers

Search registers of people

### Kirk sessions

Kirk session and other church

# Scotland's People

- The 1911 and 1921 census are only available from Scotland's People.
- To use the Scotland's People website you need a logon. This does not cost you any money, you just need an email address. This will allow you to search the free index.
- Scotland's People is a pay-per-record website. If you find a record that you want to see in the free index, you need to buy it with credits.

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# Credits

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40 credits	£ 10.00
80 credits	£ 20.00
160 credits	£ 40.00

£0.25 per credit

6 credits / record

£1.50 per record

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# Credits

- Let's talk about credits in the Scotland's People website.
- In order to view an image, you must pay 6 credits (£1.50) .To buy credits, you click on the Buy Credits link which is at the top of many of the pages, one example is at the top of the "Advanced Search" page where we chose categories to search earlier.
- There are several packages of credits that you can buy. There is no advantage to buying large numbers, the credits are always the same price. 1 credit costs £0.25 however you purchase it. Don't buy too many as they do expire after two years if you haven't bought any more in that time. So long as you buy some within the two years, your old ones will not expire.
- When you are logged into the Scotland's People website, the top right corner shows your name and how many credits are currently in your account.



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  - Handy if you have a lot of them!

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Welcome, Morag

Your saved images are stored here for easy access. Personalise an image by adding your own description.

When using the search filter, please note that record headers are listed in the format 'Surname, forename', so if you are searching for a full name, you should list the surname first and include the comma.

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Record header: Description: Filter results > Reset >

Year	Record header	Description	Date viewed	Actions
1852	1852-07-13 ANDERSON, JOHN, Highlands and Islands Emigration Society Passenger List, HD4/5, Page 12		15/07/2019	<a href="#">View image</a> <a href="#">Delete image</a>
1905	1905 JACKSON, DAVID KERR (Statutory registers Births 647/ 1396)		31/08/2018	<a href="#">View image</a> <a href="#">Delete image</a>
1906	1906 SLATER, JANE (Statutory registers Births 155/A2 39)		31/08/2018	<a href="#">View image</a>

## NOTES

# Previously viewed images

- As noted already, if you have previously purchased an image, you will not have to pay for it again – if you run a search where the results are something you have previously bought it will show that by displaying the different “View” button as we just saw.
- In addition, at any time you can look at your set of purchased images from the top bar of the website, by clicking on “Saved images”.

# Scotland's People free index

No. of Schedule.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES.		Rooms with one or more Windows.	NAME and SURNAME of each Person.	Number of Persons in House.	RELATION to Head of Family.	AGE (last Distric) and Sex.		Gaelic or G. & E.	Particulars as to Marriage.			
		Inhabited.	Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)					Males.	Females.		Single, Married, Widower, or Widow.	Daughters of Marriage.	Children born alive.	Children still living.
1	1. Skaw	1	2	2	Duncan Sinclair	5	Head	45			Mar			
2					Joan do.		wife		42		Mar	18	4	4
3					Jamar do.		Daughter		17		S			
4					Duncan do.		Son		15		S			
5					Maria do.		Daughter		4		U			

Surname	Forename	Year	Gender	Age at Census	Ref	RD Name	County/ City
SINCLAIR	DUNCAN	1911	M	45	011/ 1/ 1	Unst	Shetland
SINCLAIR	JOAN	1911	F	42	011/ 1/ 1	Unst	Shetland





Scotland's People Reference number

## NOTES








# Scotland's People free index

- You get enough information in the free index on the Scotland's People website to determine whether it might be the person you are looking for, before you spend money to view the image. Exactly how an index should work.
- You don't get to see the household and their relationships, but the reference can tell you something.
- The reference we've shown is for parish number 011 (Unst, Shetland), Enumeration District #1, and Page 1.
  - When the census was taken, each parish was broken up into a number of enumeration districts – aiming for a size that the enumerator could complete in one day.
- If the people you are looking for are on the same page (or neighbouring pages if a household wraps onto a second page), then they are likely in the same household and it might be worth purchasing the census image.

## Census Transcription (1851-1901) Summary

	Household	Marriage Condition	Relationships	Good transcriptions
 INDEX	×	×	×	✓
	✓	×	✓	×
	✓	✓	✓	✓
	×	×	×	✓

## Census Access by Year Summary

	Access
1841	  
1851-1901	   <span style="color: red;">Incomplete</span>
1911-1921	

# Know your area



## N O T E S

# Know your area

- If your ancestors lived on streets with house numbers, you probably have all the context you need. The street may still be in existence, or you may have to dig out some old maps to discover where it used to be.
- If your ancestors lived in rural areas, then you will likely only have a house name and not a street name to work with. You are advised to get to know the area where your ancestors lived to understand where these old houses were, which may now be a ruined pile of stones.

# Adding context to census addresses

Andrew Smith (b. 1836)	m.	Jane Winwick (b. 1835)
1881: Middleton, Muness		1881: Middleton, Colvadale
1883: Muness		1883: Colvadale
married 1 Mar 1883 Middleton, Colvadale		
1891: Middletown, Muness		
1901: Middletown, Muness		

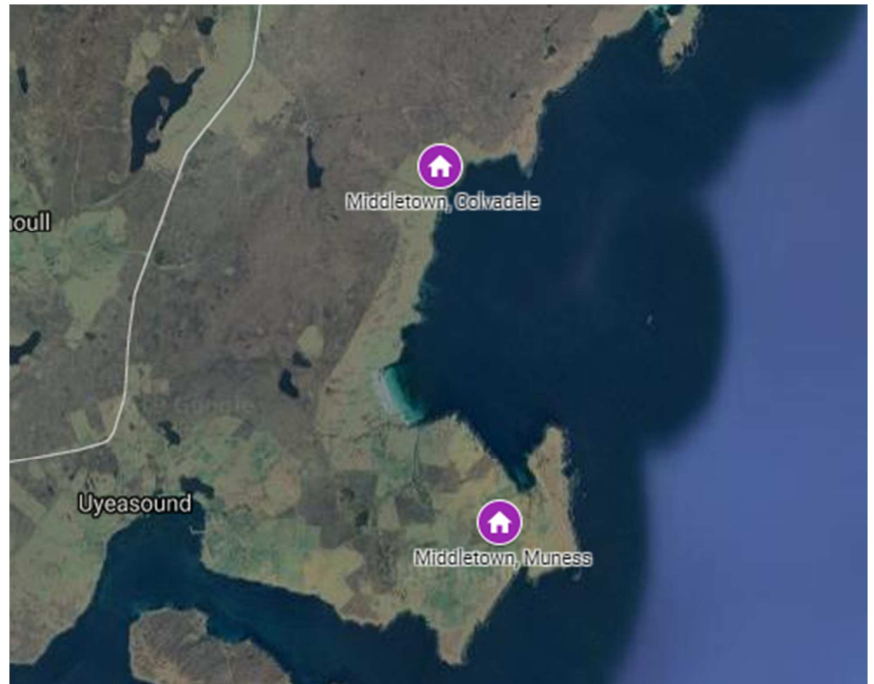
## NOTES

# Adding context to census addresses

- This is an example of why it is very important to understand the context of any address you see recorded in a census. I present the couple Andrew Smith who married Jane Winwick, both from Unst, Shetland. Using just the house names presented on each census house schedule, I know that this couple lived in Middleto[w]n both before and after they were married. You would be forgiven for thinking that they lived in the same house as each other even before they were married.

# Adding context to census addresses

- Janet lived in Colvadale
- Andrew lived in Muness
- They married at Janet's house
- After marriage they lived at Andrew's house



## NOTES

# Adding context to census addresses

- However, if you look at the census pages with the neighbouring houses in context, your understanding of this couple would change to take into account that there are two different houses called Middleton, one in an area called Muness, and another in an area called Colvadale. So before they married, they lived several miles apart, and after they married they lived in the husband's home.

# Obtaining such context

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/253714:1119>

- Selecting the first name of a household, and changing the nnnnn part of the webpage address (just before the ':') down by one
  - Result is last name of previous household
- Selecting the last name of household, and changing the nnnnn part of the webpage address up by one
  - Result is first name of next household
- With this technique you can page through the census household by household without buying the images from Scotland's People.

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Andrew Smith	42	Head
Mary Smith	34	Sister
Williamina Smith	73	Mother
Thomas A Smith	13	Nephew

## NOTES

# Obtaining such context

- When the census was taken, each parish was broken up into a number of Enumeration Districts, with these areas designed to be of a size that the enumerator could cover in a single day. The order the houses were recorded in the schedule make a certain amount of sense if you imagine the enumerator walking from house to house. So to understand the houses near your ancestors' house, you should look at the houses on either side of it in the census.
- If you have the images from Scotland's People, you can of course do this fairly easily, but it is also possible to do this on the subscription websites, such as Ancestry. Here's how.
- On this page we show the 1881 census for Andrew Smith, living in a house called Middleton. Now look carefully at the address bar at the top of the browser. As you click through each member of the household shown, the part of the address which is nnnnn before the ':', increases by one. So, if you go back to the first person in the household, and then decrease the nnnnn number by one, you will be looking at the previous household in the census. Similarly, if you take the last person in a household and increase the nnnnn number by one, you will be looking at the next household in the census.



# Census Summary

- **Backbone of your research**
  - Use census first – build structure of family - establish relationships
    - Approximate ages (Take 1841 ages with a large pinch of salt)
    - Approximate marriage date (1911)
    - Numbers of children (1911)
  - Other interesting information such as occupation and house names
- **Future Census**
  - 1931 – Entire England&Wales census destroyed by fire, but Scotland census stored in different location (in Edinburgh) and was not affected
  - 1941 – No census taken due to WW2