

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The 1911 Census

The following information on the 1911 Scottish Census as seen on the *ScotlandsPeople* website and at family history centres. We have strived to show how it can be used by family and local historians.

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The 1911 SCOTTISH CENSUS

The census was held on the night of 2nd April 1911

Some differences

It is not possible to scroll through an entire district, only the enumeration district or institution being searched, whereas in previous censuses it was possible to go through an entire district by going forwards or backwards (and paying the appropriate number of credits). With this census you would have to find an entry in each enumeration district and then go forwards or backwards.

An example would be Nairn Parish, which has thirteen enumeration districts or Cawdor Parish, which has six. This is relevant to those doing local history projects or for researching the history of a street where that street might fall within two enumeration districts.

The Free Headers give the name of the enumerator, who checked their work and a description of the enumeration district and the streets or area covered. This information can be found on page two of the header.

Compared to previous censuses, the first difference you will notice is that the information for each household is spread across two pages (the page numbers appear in the top left and right hand corners). The left hand column of each page is numbered from 1 to 35 meaning that every individual on a page can be identified. The next column shows the schedule number which applies to each individual household.

Address columns

The name or number of the property is shown (the names or property numbers may not relate to the current names or numbers), followed by a column showing the number of rooms with one or more windows.

After the name and surname column, is a line showing the number of persons in each household.

Relationship column

In the relationship to head of household column, for the first time compared to previous censuses, there are many references to adopted children with adopted or 'adpt' or a similar code shown. This, of course, is prior to The Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act, 1930'. It appears to be a response to the fertility columns with the women in the household being more accurate in their response to the questions asked. There is also much greater use of the words step-son or step-daughter.

You must also be aware that when the column refers to niece or nephew/aunt or uncle in relationship to the head of the household that in fact the relationship may be to the wife and not the husband; several examples of this have been seen.

Gaelic or English

With regard to the question of speaking Gaelic or English, it is of interest to read the official report for the 1911 Scottish Census:

"Of the 202,398 Gaelic speakers enumerated in Scotland, 48,780, or 24.10 per cent were enumerated in Inverness; 46,926 or 23.18 per cent in Ross and Cromarty; 31,695 or 15.66 per cent in Argyll; 24,947 or 12.33 per cent in Lanark; 9,038 or 4.46 per cent in Perth; 5,587 or 2.76 per cent in Renfrew; 4,989 or 2.46 per cent in Edinburgh; and smaller numbers in the remaining counties, the smallest numbers being 43 in Kinross, 45 in Shetland, 70 in Selkirk, and 76 in Orkney.

The proportion of the population of the counties able to speak Gaelic is found to average 4.25 per cent, and to vary from 60.66 per cent in Ross and Cromarty, 58.67 per cent in Sutherland, 55.89 per cent in Inverness, 44.70 per cent in Argyll, 11.44 per cent in Bute, 9.97 per cent in Nairn, and 7.27 per cent in Perth, to less than 0.3 per cent in Kincardine, Orkney, Selkirk, Shetland, and Wigtown. In Lanark this percentage is 1.72, and in Edinburgh, 0.98.

Speakers of Gaelic unable to speak English were enumerated in fourteen counties, the great majority of them 98.55 per cent being in three counties. In Ross and Cromarty they numbered 9,110, and constituted 49.51 per cent of the total; in Inverness, 7,670, or 41.68 per cent; in Argyll, 1,355 or 7.36 per cent; and in Sutherland, 188, or 1.02 per cent. In Perth 41 speakers of Gaelic only were enumerated; in Lanark there were 20; in Renfrew, 6; in Caithness, 3; in Bute, 2; and in Dumbarton, Edinburgh, Elgin, Fife, and Haddington, 1 each. By a scrutiny, it was ascertained that the majority of speakers of Gaelic but not English, in counties other than Argyll, Caithness, Inverness, Perth, Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland, were elderly widows."

The Particular to Marriage column

In many cases the enumerator has entered the appropriate code number in the Single/Married/or Widow column thus obscuring the information written underneath.

The codes can be converted as shown below.

=	Single Male
=	Married Male
=	Widower
=	Single Female
=	Married Female
=	Widow

The particulars to marriage column have to be read very carefully. They relate only to the wife of the marriage and will only be found if the wife is present. If the wife is not present, for example, she is away on holiday, but the husband and children are present then the information will not be shown.

I found a couple of examples where the enumerator had entered the details for a widow but then put a stroke through the information.

It relates only to the marriage of the couple living in the household, not their previous marriages or any illegitimate children that either individual may have had.

Various examples are shown below:

Alexander CAMERON	Head	31			
Alice CAMERON	Wife	33	5	2	2
Minnie CAMERON	Daur	12			
Jane CAMERON	Daur	4			
James CAMERON	Son	1			

In this case, Alexander and Alice have been married for five years and have had two children born alive and still living from that marriage Jane and James. Minnie is presumably the daughter of a previous marriage of Alexander Cameron, but this cannot be assumed as there are cases (in my own tree for example) where the children from a previous marriage of the wife have taken the surname of their step-father and are not shown as step-children although in the 1911 census the use of Step-Son or Step-Daughter seems to be common practice.

Duncan FERGUSON	Head	47			
Flora FERGUSON	Wife	43	20	8	5
Finlay FERGUSON	Son	11			
Annie FERGUSON	Daur	7			

Duncan and Flora have been married for twenty years and had eight children born alive; they have five children still living of whom, two are still living in the same household as their parents. As there is a gap age-wise between Fmlay and Annie, I

might look for at least one of the deceased children in that period. It also shows that there are three children, presumably older than Finlay, who have moved away.

James McKENZIE	Head	65			
Janet McKENZIE	Wife	55	30	7	5
Janet McINTOSH	Daur	25	6	3	2
Alexr McINTOSH	Grandson	4			
Janet McINTOSH	Granddaur	2 mths			

James and Janet have been married for thirty years and had seven children born alive, of whom five are still living. One of these five children, Janet, is living in the same household as her parents.

Janet has been married for six years and had three children, of whom two are still living, Alexr and Janet.

Andrew ADAMS	Head	55			
Jessie ADAMS	Wife	44	14	6	8
George ADAMS	Son	29			
Andrew ADAMS	Son	22			
Hugh ADAMS	Son	20			
Alexander ADAMS	Son	19			
James ADAMS	Son	3			
Archibald MITCHELL	Stepson	22			
Maggie ADAMS	Daur	25			
Kate ADAMS	Daur	13			
Williamina ADAMS	Daur	12			
Sarah ADAMS	Daur	8			
Jessie ADAMS	Daur	7			
Agnes ADAMS	Daur	5			

Andrew and Jessie have been married for fourteen years and have had six children born alive all of whom are still living James, Kate, Williamina, Sarah, Jessie and Agnes.

George, Andrew, Hugh, Alexander and Maggie are children of a previous marriage of Andrew senior; Archibald Mitchell is a son from a previous relationship of Jessie Adams.

Robert McINTYRE	Head	68			
Jeannie McINTYRE	Wife	57	7	None	
Margaret MATHESON	Step Daur	31			
James M MATHESON	Step Son	22			
Maud POLLARD	Niece	25			
Margaret WRAE	Visitor	60			
Bella W RAE	Servant	18			
Margaret McDONALD	Servant	26			

Robert and Jeannie have been married for seven years and have no children from that marriage. Margaret and James are children from Jeannie's previous marriage; Maud is a niece of Robert; also present in the household is a Visitor called Margaret and two servants Bella and Margaret.

Peter Brown MacINTYRE	Head	65			
Jacobina MacINTYRE	Wife	63	40	8	7
Margaret MacINTYRE	Daur	34			
Jacobina Mackay MacINTYRE	Daur	30			
Peter Brown MacINTYRE	Son	27			
Jessie POLLARD	Sister	58	W	5	5
Thomas POLLARD	Nephew	20			
Barbara MacINTYRE	Servant	26			

Peter and Jacobina have been married for forty years and had eight children born alive, of whom seven are still living, with three of them, Margaret, Jacobina and Peter, staying in the same household as their parents. Also staying in the household is Peter's widowed sister, Jessie, and Jessie's 20 year-old son Thomas.

The enumerator has been incorrect in showing that Jessie had five children born alive and still living from her marriage, that information should be blank.

Professions and Occupations columns

- The Industry or Service column can be very useful in that it expands on the information in the employment column.
- With those working in shops, it states the type of shop and for railway employees it quite often states the name of the railway company.
- For clerks and typists it states the type of office they work in.

For example, Thomas Taylor, age 26, a Railway Surfaceman is working for the N.B, Railway which is the North British Railway Company (staff records can be found at National Records of Scotland formerly National Archives of Scotland).

You may also see reference in this column to Old Age Pensioner. This is the first census in which you will see that information. The Old Age Pension Act came into force on 1 January 1909 and those eligible had to apply to a Local Pension Committee, set up by the county councils in October 1908.

- They had to be over the age of 70
- They must have been a British subject for twenty years and have resided in the United Kingdom
- It was open to men and women, both married and single
- Their yearly means must not exceed £31 10s
- Individuals were paid a pension of 5/- a week and married couples 7/6d

- They had to pass a 'character test' and only those with a 'good character' could receive it

In previous censuses pensioner usually meant a pensioner of the armed forces either the army or navy.

Birthplace column

The birthplace column usually states the county and place name for those born in Scotland and for those born in England, Ireland, Wales it usually just gives the country name.

The enumerator seems to have acted differently in Aberlour Parish, Banffshire, in that he put Devon, Devonport as the place of birth for my 2x Great-Grandmother which is correct.

With those born overseas in India, for example, the name of the state seems to be often given.

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