



LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY GENEALOGY GUIDE NUMBER 3 CENSUS RECORDS

- There has been a census of England and Wales every decade since 1801 with the exception of 1941. However, only those census records for 1841 and later are of genealogical value.
- Census information is subject to the “100 years rule” to protect confidentiality, therefore census records are available for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901.
- The original census enumerators’ books are in the Public Record Office, but most libraries and/or record offices have copies of the census returns for their own areas.
- Arrangement is by Registration District, Registration Sub-district and finally Enumeration District. Each Enumeration District is prefaced by a description of the area it covers.

1841 Census

- Information is minimal compared with later censuses and original records were often completed in pencil making them difficult to read.
- Relationships between individuals are not given, nor are exact places of birth.
- In the penultimate column “Y” means that the individual was born in the county in which the census is taking place, “N” means born elsewhere in England or Wales.
- In the final column “S” means born in Scotland, “I” in Ireland, and “F” born abroad.
- For people aged over 15 the age is often rounded to the nearest 5 years below, i.e. 23 may be recorded as 20.
- Other abbreviations frequently encountered are:-
 - F.S.** - female servant
 - M.S.** - male servant
 - Ind.** - of independent means
 - N.K.** - not known
 - J.** - Journeyman (day labourer)

1851-1891 Censuses

- Often more detailed than that for 1841, giving:- the relationship of each individual to the head of the family, age, marital status, trade/profession, town and county of birth.

2: Newcastle City Libraries Index to 1891 census

Arranged in 2 sections:-

- (i) A-Z by street name indicating film reel number * registration district** folio number.*** and house number ****

The number on the right refers to the page in section 2 where details of the running order on the film are contained.

Example:-

Kirkley	
Reel C74* RG12/4241**.:96***	61
Kirsop Street, 18, 2-6, 14, 3-11****	
Reel C70*RG12/4218**.:136***	47
Kyle Place	
Reel C 59* RG12/4194**.:40***	6

- (ii) Contents of each film listed by registration district, enumeration district and running order.

Example:-

	<u>Reel C59 RG12/4195 RSD Westgate</u>
E.D. 22	
Mitford Street	4
Tyneside Terrace	13
Railway Terrace	18

3: Bell, G. 1841Census returns for Walker township in the parish of Longbenton.

Piece No. HO 107/822/4-5 Enumeration Districts 9-13

Arranged in 2 sections both of which indicate **S** (enumeration district), **F** (folio), **P** (page number) and **B** (if born in the county: -

- 1) By address, listing name, age, occupation, number of people in the household & place of birth.

Example: -

S	F	P	Address	Surname	First Name	Age	Occupation	B
4	28	6	Engine street 1	Mayfield	William	25	Pudler of iron	N
				Mayfield	Mary	23		Y
			Engine street 1	Reid	Mary	24	Shopkeeper	Y
				Reid	Sarah	9		N
				Reid	Joseph	6		Y
				Smith	William	3		Y

- 2) By surname listing age, occupation & place of birth. Example: -

Surname	First Name	Age	Occupation	B	S	F	P
Patterson	John	1		Y	4	33	16
	William	12	Labourer	N	4	32	15
Pattison	Bridget	35	Ind.	Y	5	39	1
Payne	Mary	55		Y	5	43	9
	William	25	Engineer	Y	5	43	9
Pearson	Ann	56		Y	5	10	12

4: Northumberland and Durham Family History Society Index to the 1851 Census for Northumberland

*** Vol. 7 Newcastle St. Nicholas**

Registration district 552/3. Piece Number HO 107/2406 Folio 1-470

***Vol. 8 Newcastle St. Andrew**

Registration district 552. Piece number HO 107/2405 Folio 1-507

***Vol.10 Newcastle Westgate**

Registration district 552/1 Piece Number HO 107/2404 Folio 1-630

***Vol.11 Newcastle All Saints**

Registration district 552/3 Piece Number HO 107/2407 Folio 1-731

***Vol.12 Newcastle Byker**

Registration district 552/5 Piece Number HO 107/2408 Folio 1-367

Arranged in family groups A-Z by surname. Lists names and ages of individuals. Indicates folio number. Street and place name index with folio number.

Example:-

DODS.

Jane.21. 78

DODSHON.

Will.43. Susana.38.

Louisa. L.8. 64

DODSON.

Geo.26 15

DODSON.

Henrieta. A.19. 65

***Vol.9 Longbenton, Walker, Killingworth and Weetslade**

Registration district 553/4 Piece Number HO 107/2411 Folio 1-288

Arranged A-Z by surname. Indicates relationship to head of household, marital status, age occupation, place of birth.

Page and folio numbers are indicated.

Example:-

GRAY	Elizabeth	CO	14	House Servant	Newcastle	23	187
	Frances	WI	M 53		NBL Donkin Houses	8	204
	George	HD	M 55	Coal Miner	DUR Wilemooh?	21	239
	George	HD	M 44	Linseed Oil press	NBL Budle	1	131
	George	SO	U 13	Coal Miner	NBL Newcastle	21	239
	George	SO	6		NBL Longbenton	2	132
	Hannah	SV	14	House Servant	NBL Killingworth	24	212

*** = Also on Microfiche**

5: Northumberland and Durham Family History Society Name Index to 1851 census

returns for St. Nicholas' Parish

Piece Number HO 107/2406 Folio 1-470

Arranged A-Z by surname, indicating age and folio number

Example:-

BRANNAN.

James.39, Cath.40, Jon.2. 130

BRASS.

Thos.18. 375

BRAUN.

Mary.38 334

BRECKEN.

Jo.35 439

BRECKINS.

Marg.28. 334

6: Northumberland and Durham Family History Society Index to the 1871 census for the Parishes of St. Nicholas & St. John Westgate and Elswick (microfiche)

- Contains 7 separate alphabetical indexes, 1 for each of the piece numbers RG 10/5069- 5075.
- Each piece covers a different part of Westgate Township. The final piece also covers part of Elswick.
- Lists streets included within each piece number.
- Each list is arranged by surname with first name, address, relationship to head of household, age, occupation, and place of birth.
- Folio number and enumerators returns are also indicated.

Example:-

SMITHS	George	1-2 Lower Pontleand Tce	GS 5 ...	Newcastle NBL	12
SMITHSON	Andrew	27-29 Stone St.	SO 4 ...	Newcastle NBL	84
SMITHSON	Elizabeth	27-29 Stone St.	WI 39 ...	Newcastle NBL	84
SMITHSON	Robert	27-29 Stone St.	SO 3 ...	Newcastle NBL	84
SMITHSON	Robert	27-29 Stone St.	HD 30 Engine Fitter	Newcastle NBL	
84					
SMYTH	David	68-66 Stone St.	SO 2 ...	Millfield NBL	87

7: 1881 Census Surname Index by County

Local Studies has the sections for Northumberland & Durham. Humanities & Arts have sections for other counties.

Arranged in 6 sections. The 2 main sections are:-

1) Surname

- These sheets have pink headings.
- The first name on each sheet is indicated on the heading.
- Lists surname, forename, age, sex, relationship to head, marital condition, census place, occupation, name of head, County & Parish of birth, Piece number, folio number and page number.

Example:-

Gib Robert 30 M Serv U Conside & Knit+ Labourer Henderson, John SCT ... 4945 104
62

2) Enumeration District

- From the information above go to Enumeration sheet which holds Piece No. 4945 104 62.
- These sheets have yellow headings, the first number on that sheet is indicated.
- List census place, address, surname, forename, relationship to Head, marital condition, age, sex, occupation, County & parish of birth, Piece, folio and page numbers.

Example:-

Conside & Knitsley 28 Consett Terr Gib Robert Serv U 30 M Labourer Sct ... 4945
104 62

The remaining sections of the index include sections by Birth Place, Census Place, List of vessels/ships and list of Institutions.

8: 1891 Census for Newcastle All Saints Ward Surname Index (incomplete)

RG 12/4209 Enumeration Districts 1-3

RG 12/4210 Enumeration Districts 4-6

RG 12/4211 Enumeration Districts 7-10

RG 12/4212 Enumeration Districts 11-14

Arranged by surname listing first name, age and letter indicating the reference number of the census and the folio number.

Example:-

BACKHOUSE	Joseph	17	B99
BADI	Duna	14	A15
	Jeroma	1	A115
	Joanna	45	A115
	Joseph	18	A115
	Mary	5	A115
	Matilda	36	A115

9: Bell. G. 1891 Census returns for Walker township in the parish of Longbenton

Piece number RG 12/4231 Enumeration Districts 1-5 and part of RG 12/4232

Enumeration Districts 6-8

- Arranged by surname in ascending order of age with first name, relationship to head of household, marital status, occupation and place of birth.
- Indicates enumerator's schedule number, folio and page numbers.

Example:-

HAMILTON	Alexander	SO	13	Scholar	NBL Walker	2	52	36
	Alexander	HD	M 44	Labourer Shipyard	IRL	2	52	35
	Eliza. A.	DA	9	Scholar	NBL Walker	2	52	36
	Hugh H.	SO	S 19	Moulder	NBL Walker	2	52	36
	Jane	DA	16	Servant	NBL Walker	2	52	36
	Jane	WI	M 43		IRL	2	52	35
	Martha	DA	S 21	Dressmaker	NBL Walker	2	52	36

10: Lee, J. 1891 Census returns for Byker Sub-District

Piece number RG 12/4213-4219

- Arranged by surname indicates RG and Folio number
Example:-
BEDSON B98; G14

INDEXES FOR CENSUS RECORDS NOT HELD IN NEWCASTLE CITY LIBRARY
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* = Microfiche copy

1. Cook, P. R. Index to the census returns for Felton

Vol.1 1841 & 1851

Vol.2 1861 & 1871

Vol.3 1881 & 1891

**2. Northumberland and Durham Family History Society Index to 1851 census for
Northumberland and Durham**

Northumberland

Vol. Number:

- 1 Hartburn, Netherwitton, Longhorsley, Hebburn, Mitford, Meldon, River Green
- *2 Seghill, Backworth, Burradon, Earsdon
- *3 Morpeth
- *4 & 5 Bedlington
- *6 Tynemouth
- *13 Wallsend, Willington, Howdon
- *14 Chirton, Preston, Murton
- *15 North Shields
- *16 Tweedmouth
- *17 Rothbury, Elsdon
- 21 Warkworth, Shilbottle, Lesbury
- 22 Alnwick
- 23 Embleton, Longhoughton, Howick

Durham

- 7 Gateshead
- 8 Houghton Le Spring
Bishopwearmouth (2 Vols.)
Chester Le Street
Stanhope

South Tyneside

- 1 South Shields, Boldon, Westoe, Cleadon, West Boldon, St. Hilda, Harton, East Boldon, Union Workhouse, Harton Colliery, Whitburn, East Jarrow, West Harton
- 2 Jarrow, South Shields, St. Hilda, Holy Trinity, Westoe, Monkton, Hedworth

3. Harding, D. Transcript & index to the 1851 Census for North West Durham

4. Thirkell, P.R.G. Index to the 1851 census for :-

Bellingham

Castle Ward, Ponteland
Haltwhistle
Hexham

5. Northern Forebears Index to 1861 census for Northumberland

- * Part 1 Bywell sub-district
- * Part 3 Stamfordham sub-district

6. Silksworth Heritage Group Index to the 1881 census of Silksworth

7. Tyne and Wear Archives Index to 1891 census for Tyne & Wear

8. Northern Forebears Index to 1891 census for Northumberland

- * Part 1 Ponteland Sub-district - Castle Ward

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**The Local Studies & Family
History Centre
Newcastle City Library
Princess Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 1DX**

Tel: 0191 277 4116

Fax: 0191 277 4118

e-mail: local.studies@newcastle.gov.uk