

# Family History

## 3 October 2014

### Search Techniques

#### **Scottish Census Searches**

Searching on Scotland's People costs money but you can do an initial search on familysearch.org for 1841 to 1891 for free. Locate your ancestor, visit Scotland People website and download the correct entry to view without using unnecessary credits. You can visit the library and access a transcription via Ancestry as well.

#### **Different Transcriptions**

Old handwriting can be difficult to read and mistakes can creep in. Try other sites as they may offer different transcriptions. Once found return and use this knowledge to find the correct entry on the website you have subscribed to and access the original image from there.

#### **Different Spellings**

It might sound obvious but worth trying different spellings and see what comes up. If you are lucky you may find another user has submitted a correction to a mis-transcription. On Ancestry updates submitted by other users are included in search results and you can easily add your own if you want to query a transcription.

#### **In the Workhouse**

The free website, workhouses.org has some transcriptions of workhouses in Censuses. You can find the inhabitants by choosing the county you are interested in and then choose the workhouse you are investigating.

#### **Research and Occupation**

You can search a job without having to use a name. Just enter the occupation in the keyword box and see what comes up.

#### **Search by Family**

Spellings of surnames can be very problematic. Try searching for other people you would expect to reside in that house. Try searching by just using the first names.

## **Search by Address**

Great for uncovering the history of your house but can also be handy for Family History search. Open the keyword box and select lived in and type in the place name, results may be patchy but worth a try.

## **Less is More**

Finally don't forget that sometimes when searching the census it is best to put less information in or, if you get too many results, experiment with different combinations of information.

## **Walk the Streets**

Pinpointing an actual house can be tricky if street numbers have changed or house names are no longer used. Luckily the 1911 summary books can help us here.

Scroll down to census summary books for the area you want.

The summary books list the head of each household and the number of people living there.

Once you have located your street, you can get a quick overview of all the neighbours without scrolling through pages of returns.

You can often find the exact route that enumerator walked, described near the front of the summary book usually around page 4.

Some summary books even include maps.