



## Census Returns For Northumberland, 1841-1911

The first National Census in England and Wales was taken in 1801 and from then on at 10 year intervals. No census was taken in 1941 as World War II was in progress. Between 1801 and 1831 the only information required was a head count and population statistics according to age and sex. Most of the local returns were later destroyed by central government.

- 1841:** Census returns give details of occupants of a household on the night the census was taken, occupation, age [to the nearest five years] and whether they were born in the county or in Scotland or Ireland.
- 1851-1891:** Census returns give details of all occupants of a household on the night it was taken their relationship, marital status, age [usually accurately recorded], occupation, county and place of birth.
- 1901 :** Census returns give details of all occupants of a household on the night it was taken, their relationship, marital status, age [usually accurately recorded], occupations, whether or not a person was working at home and the country and place of birth.

Census information was recorded on the following dates:

<b>7 June 1841</b>	<b>7 April 1861</b>	<b>3 April 1881</b>	<b>31 March 1901</b>
<b>30 March 1851</b>	<b>2 April 1871</b>	<b>5 April 1891</b>	<b>2 April 1911</b>

All the returns including 1841 are organised by civil registration districts, which are subdivided into villages, towns or townships. Each section of the census return is preceded by a brief description of the area covered and by statistics for the area.

[It can be useful to look at an old Ordnance Survey map to identify an area].

The place of birth given in the census can be a farm, a small hamlet, a village or an entire parish. For example, a person entered on the census in 1851 being born in Warkworth would not necessarily have been born in Warkworth village, but could have been born anywhere in the parish which at that date included places such as Amble, Chevington and Broomhill. Ages given in the 1851 to 1891 census returns may vary slightly as may the spelling of names, some of which are spelt phonetically. People are listed individually in households **not** alphabetically.

Alphabetical name indexes have been prepared for many areas of Northumberland covered by the 1851 census. There is a name index on microfiche for the 1881 census. For information on the indexes please consult Northumberland Archives or the Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office [North Northumberland only]. **Microfilm readers at Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office must be booked in advance.**

**Copies of Census returns.** Copies for private research can be made from census returns, but precise information is needed. Staff will be pleased to advise members of the public who wish for copies. Copying facilities are currently available.

**Original Census returns.** The original returns are held in the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU (Tel: 020 88763444). They are not available for consultation.

**Location of Census Returns in Northumberland.** Copies of the census returns for Northumberland 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 are held at the following public service points in the County.

Alnwick Library, Green Batt, ALNWICK, Northumberland, NE66 1TU Tel: (01670) 620250.

Blyth Library, Bridge Street, BLYTH, Northumberland, NE24 2DJ Tel: (01670) 620250.

Hexham Library, Queens' Hall, Beaumont St., HEXHAM, Northumberland, NE46 3LS Tel: (01670) 620250.

Morpeth Library, Royal Sovereign House, Manchester Street, Morpeth, NE61 1AFTel: (01670) 620250.

Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, Queen Elizabeth II Country Park, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9YF. Tel: (01670) 624455

**1841-1891 census returns for North Northumberland only are held at:**

Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office, Walkergate, BERWICK-UPON- TWEED, Northumberland TD15 1DB Tel: (01289) 301865

*(N.B. on Wednesday and Thursday the census microfilms are in the Berwick- upon-Tweed Record Office and are not in the library)*

Berwick Library, Walkergate, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, Northumberland TD15 1DB Tel: (01289) 334051

Some of the census microforms 1841-1891 include Newcastle upon Tyne, but coverage is not necessarily complete. It is advisable to telephone in advance for details.

**1901 Census returns held at:**

Morpeth Library  
Hexham Library

Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office  
Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn

All repositories have a complete coverage for the present county of Northumberland.

Northumberland Archives is committed to providing a quality service to all its users and therefore this information is also available in Large Print and via the Internet. The Internet address is

[www.northumberlandarchives.com](http://www.northumberlandarchives.com)

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