

SCOTLAND 1881 CENSUS REFERENCES AT FINDMYPAST

The first thing you need to know is that findmypast don't label the census references correctly - they show the terms they use for the English census! Fortunately they are in the same order, so that:

Piece number = Volume/Registration number

Folio = Enumeration District

Page = Page

However it's not as simple as that, because if you were to look at the title pages for the Enumerators Books (currently only viewable at Scotlandspeople) you'll sometimes see a Volume/Registration number that looks like this:

644⁵

The standard for entering Scottish census references that we adopted at LostCousins was the one that FamilySearch use on their 1881 Census CDs - at one time theirs was the only transcription (and Scotlandspeople still offer it as an alternative).

FamilySearch transcribed 644⁵ as 644-5 so that's how you should enter it at LostCousins. Ancestry would show it as 644/5 and Scotlandspeople as 644/05, but whatever your source you should enter it as 644-5.

Just to confuse you, findmypast not only call this reference the Piece number, they also show it as 6445, with no indication whatsoever that it was originally made up of two components. However, because there are never more than 3 digits in the main part of Volume/Registration number, when you're faced with a 4 digit (or even 5 digit) number at findmypast you can deduce how it ought to be written.

For example, 6445 should be entered as 644-5, and 64413 as 644-13

Incidentally over half of the Volume/Registration numbers which are in two parts begin with 6, and by far the most common one is 644 (Glasgow).

Fortunately you can check that you've interpreted the Volume/Registration number correctly by carrying out a free search at Ancestry.

Finally, there are a few Volume/Registration numbers that include an A, a B, or (in one case) a C. Both findmypast and Ancestry would show these numbers as 90A or 394C but you should enter them as 90-A or 394-C because that's how FamilySearch recorded them.

Scotland 1881 is the one census which causes real problems for LostCousins members, simply because every source has adopted different solutions for the census references (when we first added the Scotland census there were only two sources, and they both used the same references). However it's only when your only source is findmypast that it's really problematical.

Note:

Where you also have the Scotlandspeople image simply leave out all the superfluous zeroes and change the '/' character to a '-' character. So, for example, 644/05 017/00 017 would become:

644-5
17
17

This doesn't mean leave out ALL the zeroes. 644/10 010/00 010 should be entered as:

644-10
10
10