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## **USER GUIDE**

# **SCOTS MINERS 1891 CENSUS SURVEY**

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ESRC Senior Research Fellowship Award Title:

**Trade Unions and Politics in the Scots Coalfields, 1874-1939**

ESRC Award Number: H52427500795

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## 1. Background to the project

The primary aim of the Senior Research Fellowship funded by the ESRC during the academic year 1995-96 was to write up a research monograph entitled *The Scottish Miners: a social history of their trade unions and politics, 1874-1939*. The archival research for this project (including the survey from which this data set is constructed) was largely completed prior to the commencement of the fellowship and preliminary findings published in a number of outlets (Campbell 1989, Campbell 1992, Campbell 1995, Campbell 1996). At the time of writing this User Guide (November 1996), the manuscript of the monograph has been completed and is now being edited with a view to publication by Scholar Press in 1997.

The central concern of the project is to analyse the factors influencing trade unionism and politics in the Scots coalfields. Three ideal types of orientation to trade unionism are used to analyse their chronological development: the independent collier, bureaucratic reformism, and the militant miner. This chronological account is preceded in the first half of the study by an analysis of the ownership structure of the mining industry, its labour process, the social structure of mining communities, as well as authority and gender relations and patterns of ethnicity within them. This account of the social and economic history of the industry and its communities is organised around a comparison of the four regions which comprise the Scots coalfields: Ayrshire; the West Central region, centred on Lanarkshire; Fife and Clackmannanshire; and Mid and East Lothian. In order to accommodate **intra-regional** differences, ten localities are studied in depth: Annbank and Hurlford in Ayrshire; Blantyre, Larkhall, Craigneuk (near Motherwell), and the adjoining districts of Douglas and Coalburn, in Lanarkshire; Newtongrange and Prestonpans in Mid and East Lothian; and Culross and Wemyss parishes in Fife. (See map in the appendix for the geographical locations. The principles of their selection are described in the following section.) The methodological aim was to use this two-tier, regional and local comparison to delineate the uneven contours of economic development, social structures and political cultures between and within the regions of the Scots coalfields and use these comparisons to help analyse the influences encouraging or inhibiting the appeal of particular trade union and political strategies. It seeks therefore to develop within a wider, inter-regional framework, my previously published work on the historical comparison of trade unionism in two mining communities in Lanarkshire (Coatbridge and Larkhall) in the earlier part of the nineteenth century (Campbell, 1979).

It should be emphasised that the great bulk of the historical sources used in this study were **qualitative** ones: employers' and trade union records, the archives of the Labour and Communist Parties, the local and socialist press, parliamentary papers, criminal court papers, military intelligence reports, and the

private papers of individual politicians. Three sources of **quantitative** data were used. Data from the first two, the Ministry of Labour trade disputes books in the Public Record Office (in class LAB 34) and the Civil Marriage Registers for the survey localities listed above during the years 1920-25 were recorded and tabulated by hand prior to the commencement of the fellowship. The third quantitative source, the 1891 census enumerators' books for the survey localities were recorded electronically and are the subject of this User Guide.

### **The 1891 Census Survey**

The manuscript census enumerators' books are now a very well known source of historical data and their general use requires no elaboration here. (For a general guide, see Biggs, 1989). The aim of the survey was to provide elementary data on the occupational grade, age, marital status and birthplace of all **mineworkers** within the **survey localities**, as well as on the occupations of their wives (if any).

(i) **Mineworkers:** The census survey was restricted to collecting data on all male mineworkers resident within the survey localities. Because a central concern of the project was examining the ways in which social and cultural factors might condition trade union and political behaviour, 'mineworkers' were defined as those mining employees who were eligible to join the main miners' unions in the 1890s. More precise details of the occupational groups which were included and excluded are given in the 'Data Dictionary' below.

(ii) **Selection of survey localities:** The ten localities consisted of parishes or sections of parishes, containing one or more discrete settlements. They were selected on a number of criteria relating to the aims of the project and which were apparent from qualitative sources :

(a) as being broadly representative of the economic importance of the four Scots mining regions and their internal, uneven development. Two were in Ayrshire: Hurlford in the declining North Ayrshire coalfield, Annbank in the expanding central field. Four were in the large Lanarkshire coalfield: Larkhall and Cragneuk both expanded from the 1860s, Blantyre from the 1870s, and Douglas and Coalburn from the 1890s. Two were in Fife: Wemyss parish in East Fife was an established mining centre which expanded further from the 1890s, Culross in West Fife expanded its mining developments after 1900. Two were in Mid and East Lothian: Newtongrange contained the largest mining complex in Scotland and expanded rapidly from the 1890s; Prestonpans represented a more established mining community in East Lothian. It should be noted that the intensive development of mining in several of these localities occurred **after** 1891 (which was the last census open to research at the time of the project) and therefore the

total number of mineworkers resident in the locality in that year may be relatively small; this was only a serious problem in relation to Culross, in Fife, where there was a total of only 50 cases.

- (b) as containing a range of different sizes and types of community, with variable degrees of geographical isolation from major urban settlements. Craigneuk and Hurlford, for example, were 'suburbs' of the towns of Motherwell and Kilmarnock; Douglas and Coalburn were situated on an outlying geological basin on the edge of the Southern Uplands, separated from the main Lanarkshire coalfield by rural countryside.
- (c) as displaying a range of contrasting degrees of political radicalism and industrial militancy by the 1920s, when there was a major split in the Scots miners' unions with the formation of a Communist Party-led union. In Ayrshire, Hurlford was more radical than Annbank; in Lanarkshire, both Blantyre and Craigneuk had the reputation of being communist strongholds while Larkhall was noted for its moderation; in Fife, Wemyss was a centre of radicalism in the 1920s while the Culross district became increasingly radical and militant from the mid 1930s; in the Lothians, the miners of the Prestonpans district were more radical than those in the 'company town' of Newtongrange. Moreover, two out of the three Communist MPs elected in Britain during the interwar period represented seats in the Scots coalfields: Motherwell (1922) and West Fife (1935). Craigneuk was situated in the Motherwell constituency; Culross was in West Fife.
- (d) A final criteria was the pragmatic one of the availability of a range of suitable qualitative sources specific to the study of trade unionism and politics in these various localities.

### **Data Collection**

The data were collected in 1989 from the 1891 census enumerators' books held in New Register House, Edinburgh. Precise details of the Enumeration Districts surveyed are contained in the Data Dictionary, below. Data were recorded by hand by the award holder on Data Sheets. (A blank sample is attached in the appendix.) Each page of the enumerators' books was checked as its data were entered on the sheets. Each case was given a numerical reference number (1, 2, 3 etc) specific to the village in which the mineworker resided so that individual cases could be easily identified. The data were subsequently entered on to an electronic database (using an IBM compatible PC and Watfile version 3.5 software) by the award holder. All the mineworkers in each locality were recorded in a separate file. A 'Count' column numbered each case in the file and its total was checked against the total number of cases recorded in the data

sheets for the district.

While recording the data on the data sheets, it became apparent that the numbers of mineworkers' wives recorded as being in employment were minuscule and this variable was not subsequently entered on to the database but were simply counted by hand. The populations of the survey localities contained 3,855 married mineworkers; only 16 had wives for which an occupation was listed other than housewife; no information was recorded for 73 wives, either because they were absent from the household on the census date or because the entry concerning their occupation in the enumerator's book was blank. Oral sources provide evidence consistent with this low level of waged employment for mineworkers' wives.

Initially, the other data began to be recorded in the database using the following column codes for the row of data in each case:

- PAR:** Parish, which was given an alphabetical code.
- VIL:** Village, which was given a numerical or alphabetical code.
- ED:** Enumeration District, which was given a numerical code equivalent to the census enumeration district.
- REFNO:** Reference Number, which was a number specific to the individual village.
- OCC:** Occupation, which was given an alphabetical code specific to the individual grade of mining work.
- AGE:** The age of the mineworker expressed as a number of years.
- MARSTAT:** Marital Status, expressed as an alphabetical code.
- BPL:** Birthplace, expressed as an alphabetical code.
- COUNT:** An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file.

In all but two files, the Enumeration District code was subsequently omitted as it became apparent that it was redundant given the documentation supporting each file. In several other cases, parish and village codes were deliberately omitted as being redundant when the file was specific to a particular parish or village. The individual codes used under these headings are given below in the Data Dictionary.

#### **Data Dictionary**

**PARISH and VILLAGES**

The codes for parishes and villages contained in the various files, and the corresponding Enumeration District numeration are given in the following pages, and are grouped by county.

**LANARKSHIRE**

Filename: minlbl.tab  
 County: Lanark  
 Parish: Blantyre  
 Total number of cases in file: 2,154

Field header	Value																														
Par	bl = Blantyre																														
Vil	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> <th>Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Auchentibber</td> <td>624/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Auchinraith</td> <td>624/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>High Blantyre</td> <td>624/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Stonefield</td> <td>624/4,7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Low Blantyre</td> <td>624/4,6,8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Blantyreferme</td> <td>624/4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Dixon's Rows</td> <td>624/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Baird's Rows, Craighead</td> <td>624/7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Springwell</td> <td>624/8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Enumeration District	1	Auchentibber	624/1	2	Auchinraith	624/2	3	High Blantyre	624/3	4	Stonefield	624/4,7	5	Low Blantyre	624/4,6,8	6	Blantyreferme	624/4	7	Dixon's Rows	624/5	8	Baird's Rows, Craighead	624/7	9	Springwell	624/8
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Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed																														

	O: Marital status not recorded in the census
bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: Blantyre contained many miners' rows and hamlets around the three main villages of High Blantyre, Low Blantyre (or Blantyre Works) and Stonefield. The allotted codes reflect the nomenclature given by the enumerators. After careful perusal of the Second Editions of the 1" and 6" to the mile Ordinance Survey maps for the parish compiled in the 1890s, villages 2 and 3 were treated as the village of 'High Blantyre' and villages 4, 7, 8 and 9 as the village of 'Stonefield' for statistical calculations. The village of Blantyreferme, in the north of the parish was excluded from the survey since literary sources indicated that it was not conventionally regarded as part of the Blantyre district. This led to the district's settlements being grouped into four villages for statistical purposes: Auchentibber, High Blantyre (including Auchinraith), Stonefield (including Dixon's Rows, Baird's Rows and Springwell) and Low Blantyre (including Blantyre Works).

**Filename: minldf.tab**  
**County: Lanark**  
**Parish: Dalserf (Larkhall District)**  
**Total number of cases: 2,255**

Field header	Value																						
Par	df = Dalserf																						
Vil	<table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 Larkhall</td> <td>638<sup>1</sup>/1-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Meadowhill</td> <td>638<sup>1</sup>/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Rural hamlets throughout the Parish</td> <td>638<sup>1</sup>/1, 638<sup>2</sup>/1-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Woodside</td> <td>638<sup>2</sup>/1,2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Red Row</td> <td>638<sup>2</sup>/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Ashgill</td> <td>638<sup>2</sup>/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Ayr Road Rows</td> <td>638<sup>2</sup>/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Swinhill</td> <td>638<sup>2</sup>/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 Netherburn</td> <td>638<sup>2</sup>/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Rosebank</td> <td>636<sup>2</sup>/1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Enumeration District	1 Larkhall	638 <sup>1</sup> /1-6	2 Meadowhill	638 <sup>1</sup> /1	3 Rural hamlets throughout the Parish	638 <sup>1</sup> /1, 638 <sup>2</sup> /1-3	4 Woodside	638 <sup>2</sup> /1,2	5 Red Row	638 <sup>2</sup> /2	6 Ashgill	638 <sup>2</sup> /2	7 Ayr Road Rows	638 <sup>2</sup> /2	8 Swinhill	638 <sup>2</sup> /2	9 Netherburn	638 <sup>2</sup> /2	10 Rosebank	636 <sup>2</sup> /1
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10 Rosebank	636 <sup>2</sup> /1																						

ED	Numerical code equivalent to the census enumeration district.
Refno	Sequential Number
Occ	CM: Coalminer,collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: Dalserf parish contained many small rows and hamlets containing less than 40 mineworkers. These rural hamlets have been aggregated under a single 'village' code (3). The village of Meadowhill (2) was adjacent to the larger township of Larkhall and has been treated as part of Larkhall village for statistical calculations.

**Filename: minlcn.tab**



County: Lanark  
 Parish: Dalziel (Craigneuk Village)  
 Total number of cases: 323

Field header	Value
Par	dzc = Dalziel (Craigneuk Village)
Refno	Sequential Number
Occ	CM: Coalminer, collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners' Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: There are no separate village codes in this file which contains data solely relating to the village of Craigneuk. Enumeration District 639/15,16

Filename: minlcbn.tab

County: Lanark  
 Parish: Lesmahagow (Coalburn district)  
 Total number of cases: 157

Field header	Value
Par	cbn = Lesmahagow (Coalburn District)
Refno	Sequential Number
Occ	CM: Coalminer,collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census
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Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: There are no village codes in this file which contains data solely relating to Coalburn village. Since Coalburn was a stragglng settlement surrounded by scattered miners' rows, the 'village' has been defined as all houses within a two mile radius of the centre of the village.

**Filename: minldgs.tab**  
**County: Lanark**  
**Parish: Douglas Carmichael (Douglas District)**  
**Total number of cases: 235**

Field header	Value															
Par	dgs = Douglas Carmichael (Douglas District)															
Vil	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> <th>Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GSP:</td> <td>Glespin</td> <td>641/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RIG:</td> <td>Rigside</td> <td>641/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DGS:</td> <td>Douglas</td> <td>641/6,7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PON:</td> <td>Ponfeigh</td> <td>630/1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Enumeration District	GSP:	Glespin	641/1	RIG:	Rigside	641/3	DGS:	Douglas	641/6,7	PON:	Ponfeigh	630/1
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Occ	CM: Coalminer,collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'															
Age	Age expressed in years															
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census															
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census															
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file															

Note: The Douglas district embraced villages in Douglas parish and also the village of Ponfeigh (also known as Douglas Water) across the parish boundary in Carmichael parish. Although the localities of Coalburn and Douglas have been recorded in separate files, they were based on the same geological coal basin and were closely adjacent to each other, the principal villages of Coalburn, Douglas and Ponfeigh forming a triangle and separated by distances of three to four miles. For some statistical purposes the two districts have been aggregated.

### AYRSHIRE

Filename: minatb.tab  
 County: Ayr  
 Parish: Tarbolton (Annbank District)  
 Total number of cases: 413

Field header	Value									
Par	tb = Tarbolton									
Vil	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> <th style="width: 40%;">Name</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>AB</td> <td>Annbank</td> <td>619/7 and 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RH</td> <td>Rural hamlets</td> <td>619/6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Enumeration District	AB	Annbank	619/7 and 8	RH	Rural hamlets	619/6
	Name	Enumeration District								
AB	Annbank	619/7 and 8								
RH	Rural hamlets	619/6								
Refno	Sequential Number									
Occ	CM: Coalminer,collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'									
Age	Age expressed in years									
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed									

	O: Marital status not recorded in the census
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: This file contains data relating to Annbank village and surrounding rural rows and hamlets which formed part of Tarbolton parish.

Filename: minahf.tab  
County: Ayr  
Parish: Riccarton (Hurlford Village)  
Total number of cases: 519

Field header	Value
Refno	Sequential Number
Occ	CM: Coalminer,collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census

Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: There are no village codes in this file which contains data solely relating to Hurlford village, Enumeration District 611<sup>2</sup>/1-4 which formed part of Riccarton parish.

### MID AND EAST LOTHIAN

**Filename:** minlong.tab  
**County:** Midlothian  
**Parish:** Newbattle (Newtongrange Village)  
**Total number of cases:** 205

Field header	Value
Par	ng = Newbattle (Newtongrange Village)
Refno	Sequential Number
Occ	CM: Coalminer,collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married

	S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
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Note: This are no village codes in this file which contains data solely relating to the village of Newtongrange village, Enumeration District 695/6,7 which formed part of Newbattle parish.

**Filename: minlopp.tab**  
**County: East Lothian**  
**Parish: Prestonpans Inveresk**  
**Total number of cases: 235**

Field header	Value								
Vil	<table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PP Prestonpans</td> <td>718/1-4,6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CH Cuthill</td> <td>718/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WD Wallyford</td> <td>689/10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Enumeration District	PP Prestonpans	718/1-4,6	CH Cuthill	718/5	WD Wallyford	689/10
Name	Enumeration District								
PP Prestonpans	718/1-4,6								
CH Cuthill	718/5								
WD Wallyford	689/10								
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	MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: The Prestonpans district was defined as including the town of Prestonpans and the adjoining mining village of Cuthill in Prestonpans parish, and the outlying mining village of Wallyford, situated one and a half miles from Cuthill, in Inveresk parish.

### FIFE

Filename: minfcul.tab  
County: Fife  
Parish: Culross  
Total number of cases: 50

Field header	Value															
Vil	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> <th style="width: 40%;">Name</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CUL</td> <td>Culross</td> <td>343/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LV</td> <td>Low Valleyfield</td> <td>343/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMR</td> <td>Comrie</td> <td>343/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RH</td> <td>Rural hamlets</td> <td>343/2, 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Enumeration District	CUL	Culross	343/1	LV	Low Valleyfield	343/3	CMR	Comrie	343/5	RH	Rural hamlets	343/2, 3
	Name	Enumeration District														
CUL	Culross	343/1														
LV	Low Valleyfield	343/3														
CMR	Comrie	343/5														
RH	Rural hamlets	343/2, 3														
Refno	Sequential Number															
Occ	CM: Coalminer, collier, miner, SM: Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D: Drawer CD: Coal Drawer F: Fireman CF: Colliery Fireman															



	PD: Pony driver R: Colliery roadsman B: Brusher PB: Pit bottomer PL: Pit labourer UG: Underground or pit worker PHL: Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM: Pitheadman PS: Pit sinker W: Coal weigher CW: Checkweigher MCW: Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
Age	Age expressed in years
Marstat	M: Married S: Single W: Widowed O: Marital status not recorded in the census
Bpl	P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891 C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as resident in 1891 S: Born elsewhere in Scotland I: Born in Ireland E: Born in England W: Born in Wales O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census
Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: Culross parish had not experienced intensive exploitation of its mineral resources by 1891 and the number of mineworkers was very small. Whereas in the other files, villages and hamlets containing less than 40 mineworkers were not separately recorded as villages, this rule was omitted in this file because of the low number of total cases.

**Filename: minfwem.tab**  
**County: Fife**  
**Parish: Wemyss**  
**Total number of cases: 1,611**

Field header	Value														
Vil	<table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Enumeration District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WW West Wemyss</td> <td>459<sup>1</sup>/1, 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EW East Wemyss</td> <td>459<sup>1</sup>/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RH Rural hamlets</td> <td>459<sup>1</sup>/4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COW Coaltown of Wemyss</td> <td>459<sup>1</sup>/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BHN Buckhaven</td> <td>459<sup>2</sup>/1-4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MTL Methil</td> <td>459<sup>2</sup>/5, 6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Enumeration District	WW West Wemyss	459 <sup>1</sup> /1, 2	EW East Wemyss	459 <sup>1</sup> /3	RH Rural hamlets	459 <sup>1</sup> /4	COW Coaltown of Wemyss	459 <sup>1</sup> /5	BHN Buckhaven	459 <sup>2</sup> /1-4	MTL Methil	459 <sup>2</sup> /5, 6
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	LCC    Leven Colliery Cottages    459 <sup>2</sup> /6 MLL    Methilhill    459 <sup>2</sup> /7 KKD    Kirkland    459 <sup>2</sup> /7
Refno	Sequential Number
Occ	CM:    Coalminer,collier, miner, SM:    Stone, limestone or ironstone miner D:    Drawer CD:    Coal Drawer F:    Fireman CF:    Colliery Fireman PD:    Pony driver R:    Colliery roadsman B:    Brusher PB:    Pit bottomer PL:    Pit labourer UG:    Underground or pit worker PHL:    Pit head labourer, colliery stokers and lampmen PHM:    Pitheadman PS:    Pit sinker W:    Coal weigher CW:    Checkweigher MCW:    Miners'Checkweigher, 'Justiceman'
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Count	An individual number in ascending order to the total of the number of cases in the file

Note: This file contains data on all mineworkers resident within Wemyss parish in 1891.

## FURTHER NOTES

### OCCUPATION

The occupation column contains coded data on the various categories of male mineworkers. As discussed above, not all males employed in the mining industry were classified as 'mineworkers' for the purposes of this project, only those likely to be eligible for membership of the principal miners' trade unions in the 1890s. Mining occupational groups which were **EXCLUDED** from the survey included the following:

Coal mining manager, colliery clerk, colliery oversemen, underground overseman, colliery overseer, colliery enginekeeper, colliery contractor, colliery ropeman, coal carter, colliery tradesmen (such as blacksmiths, engineers, bricklayers, carpenters).

If these categories were also described as 'unemployed' they were still included under the occupational codes, unless the man was 60 years old or older, in which case they were excluded. The number of cases listed as unemployed was very small.

It should be emphasised that although these categories and codes were recorded in the database, my impression when collecting the data was that the enumerators may well have varied in the diligence with which they entered the finer distinctions of colliery labour. In view of this possible unreliability, I have decided to not to undertake calculations based on these categorisations. I have simply treated all the cases as 'mineworkers' in my own writing based on the census database.

### EXCLUDED MINEWORKERS

A small number of mineworkers who fell within the 'included' categories listed above were nevertheless excluded if they were either (a) also listed as 'retired' (as opposed to 'unemployed'), or (b) listed as being 'visitors' on census night, or (c) were prisoners (as was the case of three miners in Stonefield police station).

### AGE

Age was given in the form of the age in years entered in the census. All mineworkers, irrespective of age, were included, unless they fell within one of the excluded categories listed above.

### MARITAL STATUS [MARSTAT]

The codes used to differentiate marital status were:

M: Married

S: Single  
W: Widowed  
O: Marital status not recorded in the census

#### **WIFE'S OCCUPATION**

For the reasons discussed above, this was not entered in the database.

#### **BIRTH PLACE**

The codes used to differentiate place of birth were:

P: Born in the same parish as was resident in 1891  
C: Born in the same county, but not same parish, as was resident in 1891  
S: Born elsewhere in Scotland  
I: Born in Ireland  
E: Born in England  
W: Born in Wales  
O: Born elsewhere or no place of birth recorded in census

It was anticipated when designing the data sheet that some miners of Lithuanian birth might have found but none were recorded as such.

**Note** that because mining communities were found in close proximity to each other on either side of the county boundary between Mid- and East Lothian, these two counties have been treated as one entity for mineworkers in Newtongrange (Filename **minlong.tab**) and Prestonpans (Filename **minlopp.tab**). Thus a miner resident in Newtongrange (in Midlothian) and born in East Lothian, would be recorded under code 'C' (ie 'born in the same county as was resident in 1891'), and a miner resident in the Prestonpans district (in East Lothian) but born in Midlothian would be similarly recorded.

#### **TOTAL NUMBER OF OCCUPIED MALES**

It can be seen that provision was made in the data collection sheet to record the total number of occupied males in individual villages. This was recorded in the data sheets but not entered in the database. The figure was used to calculate the percentage of mineworkers in the total male working population of individual villages (but not rural hamlets) and these are summarised in Table 4.15 which is contained in the appendix to this guide.

#### **References:**

E. Higgs (1989), **Making Sense of the Census** (PRO, London).

- A. B. Campbell (1979), **The Lanarkshire Miners: a social history of their trade unions, 1775-1874** (John Donald, Edinburgh).
- A. Campbell (1989) 'From independent collier to militant miner: tradition and change in the trade union consciousness of the Scots miners', **Scottish Labour History Society Journal**, no. 24.
- A. Campbell (1992) 'Communism and trade union militancy in the Scots coalfields', in K. Tenfelde (ed.), **Towards a Social History of Mining in the 19th and 20th Centuries** (Verlag Beck, Munchen).
- A. Campbell (1995) 'The Communist Party in the Scots coalfields', in G. Andrews, N. Fishman and K. Morgan (eds), **Opening the Books: a social and cultural history of British communism** (Pluto, London).
- A. Campbell (1996) 'The social history of political conflict in the Scots coalfields, 1910-1939', in A. Campbell, N. Fishman and D. Howell (eds), **Miners, Unions and Politics, 1910-1947** (Scolar Press, Aldershot).

#### **Appendices** [Attached]

1. A map of the Scots coalfields
2. A sample data sheet
3. Table 4.15 Mineworkers as a percentage of the male working populations in villages in the survey districts

**Table 4.15** Mineworkers as a percentage of the male working populations in villages<sup>1</sup> in the survey districts

Region and District	Village	Total male working population	Percentage mineworkers
WEST CENTRAL			
Blantyre	Auchentibber	119	68.9
	High Blantyre	1,181	49.9
	Stonefield	1,792	71.3
	Low Blantyre	434	46.8
Larkhall	Larkhall	2,728	60.3
	Woodside	61	77.0
	Red Row	77	96.1
	Ashgill	46	89.1
	Ayr Road Rows	106	83.0
	Swinhill	96	79.2
	Netherburn	104	73.1
	Rosebank	44	57.1
Craigneuk	Craigneuk	656	49.2
Douglas and Coalburn	Douglas	314	21.7
	Glespin	83	86.7
	Rigside	142	59.2
	Coalburn	238	66.0
AYRSHIRE			
Annbank	Annbank	405	89.4
Hurlford	Hurlford	1,236	42.0
FIFE			
Culross	Culross	75	12.0
	Low Valleyfield	38	52.6
	Comrie	18	48.6
Wemyss	West Wemyss	390	66.4
	East Wemyss	304	52.0
	Coaltown of Wemyss	110	60.9
	Buckhaven	1,252	47.1
	Methil	479	48.2
	Leven Colliery	104	66.3
	Methilhill	161	83.2
	Kirkland	143	58.0

MID and EAST  
LOTHIAN

Newtongrange	Newtongrange	316	64.9
Prestonpans	Prestonpans	492	4.3
	Cuthill	209	58.4
	Wallyford	149	59.7

Source: 1891 Census Survey.

1. Mineworkers residing in rural hamlets or settlements containing less than forty mineworkers have not been included in this table, with the exceptions of Culross district and the village of Prestonpans.