

**Here are four steps to get you started. You could gather some information before the workshop.**

#### **STEP ONE: The Basics**

- **Address:** Is there a house name or number? This can be important when looking at old documents.
- **Who lives there?** How long have you – or your family – lived there? What do you know about the history of the house? What changes have been made, such as extensions or demolitions? Do you know who lived there before and can they tell you anything?
- **Records:** Do you have any deeds, records or old photos relating to your house? Look out for the names of previous occupants.

#### **STEP TWO: The building itself...can the house tell you anything?**

- **Write a brief description of your house...** What is it built of - brick or stone? If it is a mixture, that suggests it has been altered. Where do the changes occur? Do you have a date stone?  
The roof – is it slate or tile? Does it have a steep or shallow pitch? Steep may mean it was once thatched.  
How many storeys – one or two? What are/were the buildings used for – residential or part of a farm for example?

#### **STEP THREE: The interior**

- Do you have any original features such as exposed beams, staircase, fireplaces, panelling, roof timbers, built in cupboard? Sometimes these items can be dated. Are there any features you are not sure of?
- Do you have a plan of the property? Perhaps from when you purchased the house or required planning approval. This can often help understand how your house developed.

#### **STEP FOUR: Using other information to find out about your house**

##### **Maps**

The Ordnance Survey Maps are a good source of information. The first one was published in 1865, the second 1901 and the third in 1925. They show how things have changed over the last 150 years. Also, we are lucky to have the maps from the Lawson estate. They created a map of the village prior to their purchase and afterwards. While they mainly show the fields it might show if your house existed.

We will have some copies of the maps available at the workshop.

##### **The Census**

A census has been taken every 10 years starting in 1841 and they are now available, up to 1911 online. Look at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) or [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)  
Unfortunately for Blennerhasset the individual houses were not identified until 1901 and then not all so unless you know the name of the person who lived in your house it is hard to find any information prior to 1901.

We hope to be able to put some names against houses at the workshop.

##### **Trade Directories**

There is a Cumberland Directory for 1954 which lists key inhabitants and their place of residence

**1910 Lloyd George's Domesday Book**

Lloyd George's Survey of land values became known as the Domesday Book of 1910 and it includes the name of the owner & tenant if applicable of every property in Blennerhasset. We will have a copy available at the workshop.

**10 years of gentleman farming**

This book was co-written by William Lawson after the demise of the co-operative farming experiment in Blennerhasset. A copy is available to download as a PDF or to your kindle at <http://archive.org/details/cu31924054695048>