

## Family History

5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### Census of England & Wales

- Family History hit the headlines in 2002 when the 1901 Census was made available online
- The site crashed as 1.2 million people tried to access their relatives
- In 2003 the Church of Latter Day Saints transcribed the 1881 census
- In 2004 the National Archives digitised the 1881 and 1891 census
- Now you can view from 1841 to 1911
- The first National census took place in 1801
- And apart from 1941 has occurred ever 10 years since
- Private censuses were taken by politicians and landowners
- A 1659 Irish census can be read at –
- [Clanmaclochlainn.com/1659cen.htm](http://Clanmaclochlainn.com/1659cen.htm)
- In 1790 William Morton Pitt had a census of Corfe Castle and its district
- The first 4 National censuses only name the head of the household
- 942 Entries from Nether Hallam near Sheffield exist for 1831 at [www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk)
- A pre 1841 project for Devon is to be found at
- <http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/DevonMisc/Pre-1841Census.html>

#### 1841 Census

- Regarded as the first useful and comprehensive search tool
- Taken on 6 June 1841 a Harvest night
- For this reason your labouring ancestors may be located in a neighbouring village
- Seamen were not enumerated
- Enumerators rounded the ages down to the nearest five for all those over 15

#### 1851 Census

- Occurred on 30 March 1851
- Changes to 1841 were to include exact place of birth, disabilities, relationship to head and marital status.
- Seamen were enumerated on this census

#### Errors

- For exact place of birth – some still only showed County
- Spelling was poor as well as interpretation and transcription
- Married women lied about age to be younger than their husbands
- Women used maiden names when widowed
- Confusion over forenames occurred
- i.e. Polly for Mary Ann

- William for Bill, Alexander for Sandy, Henry for Harry
- A Scottish Morag could become Mary
- Hamish or Seamus may be recorded as James

## 1861 to 1881

- Little change from 1851 Census but became more accurate and fewer errors
- Ships' crew at sea were enumerated
- Go to 1881 census and under
- “Browse Collection” on the right choose “Royal Navy” then select a ship.

## 1891

- On 5 April 1891
- Occupations were noted
- In Wales, Scotland and Isle of Man the language Spoken
- Scotland asked for number of rooms with one or more windows.

## 1901

- Number of rooms asked for if less than five
- To discover more on housing in 1901 go to –
- [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/census/living/live/home.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/census/living/live/home.htm)

## 1911

- On 2 April 1911 – The “**Fertility**” Census
- Radical Changes – Previous information plus
- Nationality, Duration of Marriage, Number of Children born to that Marriage.
- Also How many living and died
- Signature of head of House

## Errors

- Lots of people missed from Census
- Suffragettes refused to give details
- Births and deaths of children were not completed correctly

## 1921 and Onward

- Expected to be released in January 2022
- 1931 Census was destroyed by enemy bombing in 1941
- 1941 No census due to the Conflict
- But – 1939 Register for England and Wales
- Try- [www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service).

## Access the Census for FREE

- Local Library – Ancestry Library Edition also findmypast.co.uk's website
- From home try – [www.freecen.org.uk](http://www.freecen.org.uk)
- [www.fhs-online.co.uk/databases.php](http://www.fhs-online.co.uk/databases.php)
- [www.censusfinder.com](http://www.censusfinder.com)
- LDS 1881 census – [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- Irish 1901-1911 – [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)
- Royal Navy Ships 1901 – <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/jeffery.knaggs/RNShips.html>
- 1901 Institutions - <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/jeffery.knaggs/Instuts.html>