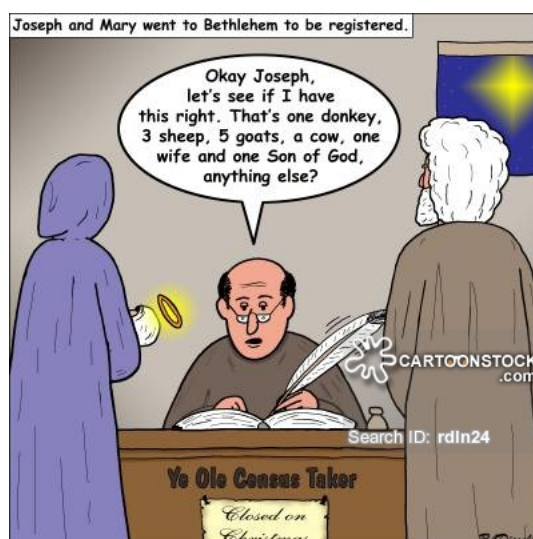


# Understanding & Using the Census

[illegible]

## Background

- 1800 Census Act (aka Population Act)
- 1<sup>st</sup> National Census of England, Wales & Scotland on 10 March 1801
  - no. of houses (inhabited or not)
  - no. of persons (males & females)
  - categories of employment
- Pre-1841 censuses provided only statistics

## 1841 Census Act

- “Every Enumerator, under the Direction of the Registrar of the District, shall visit every House within his District and shall take an Account in Writing of the Name, Sex, Age, and Occupation of every living person who abode therein”
- 1841 Census Amendment Act –
  - date of census .... 30 June (Wed.) → 6 June (Sun.)
  - precise ages over 15 not required
  - schedules completed by householders

## 1841 Census

- Census taken on Sunday 6 June 1841
- First census to record names of all inhabitants
- Controlled by newly formed GRO
- Based on Enumeration Districts
  - approx. 200 households, or
  - area where could visit every household in a day
- Over 33,000 enumerators recruited

## How the Census was carried out

- Enumerator delivers Householder's Schedule to each household in week before census date
- Head of household required by law to complete on Sunday night detailing all persons sleeping in house that night
- Special schedules used for large institutions
- Enumerator collects completed household forms
- Copies all details onto Enumeration Schedules
- Enumeration Schedule = "Census Return"

## 1841 Census information

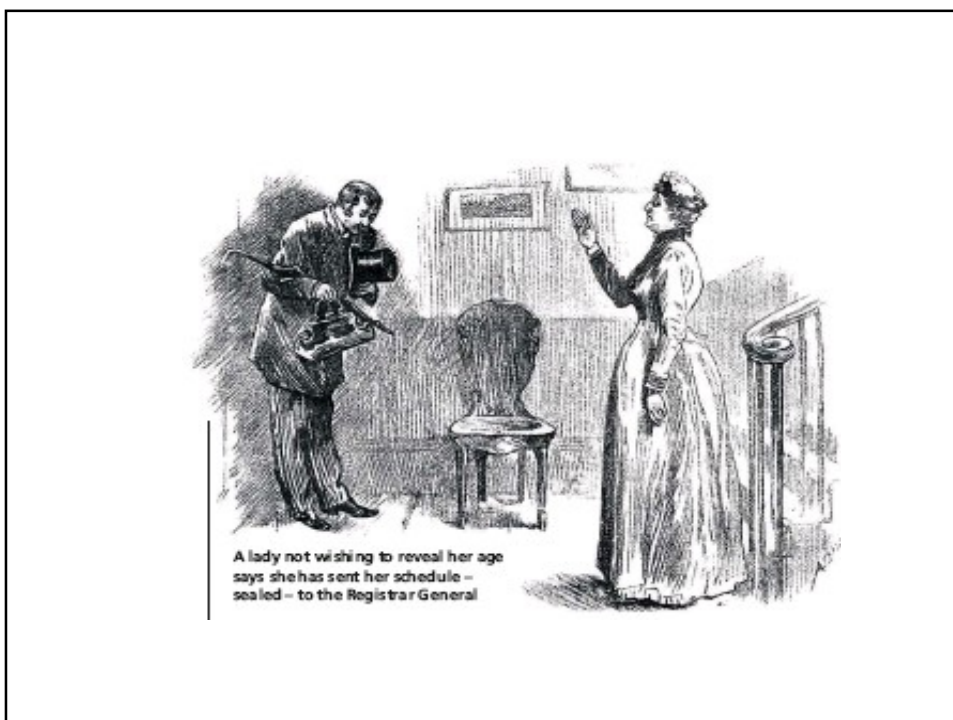
- City/Borough, Parish/Township
- Place .... Houses (+ whether inhabited)
- Name (forename & surname)
- Age (rounded down to nearest 5 if over 15)
- Sex (by M/F column for age)
- Occupation
- Whether born in County, Scotland, Ireland or Foreign Parts

## 1851 Census – 30 March 1851

- Householder's Schedule number
- Name of Street, Place or Road.....House name/no.
- Name & Surname of each person
- Relation to Head of Family
- Condition (i.e. marital status)
- Age of Males/Females
- Rank/Profession/Occupation
- Where born
- Whether Blind or Deaf-and-Dumb







## 1861 -1901 Census

- Minor changes to 1851 census layout
- 1861 added.... Inhabited or not, or Building
- 1871 added.... Blind, Imbecile or Lunatic
- 1881 added.... Age Last Birthday  
.... Condition as to Marriage
- 1891 added .... Employer or Employed  
... No. of rooms occupied
- 1901 added ... Working on own account/at home

## 1911 Census

- Census Schedule completed by householder
- Enumerator summary books available
- Particulars as to Marriage -
  - married women ..... no. of years married
  - no. of children born, whether still living or not
- Occupation details .... Industry or Service
- Nationality
- Infirmary column added/expanded

## Where to find Census

- 100 year rule
- Archives, Libraries, LDS centres – microfiche
- Family History Societies – CDs, books
- Various Websites .....
- Ancestry (£)
- Find My Past (£)
- Family Search - 1881 census transcription (free)
- Scotland's People (£)
- National Archives of Ireland – 1901 & 1911 (free)

ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/uk1871/

Tag to the Favorites Bar folder. Or import from another browser. [Import favorites](#)

Search > Census & Electoral Rolls

### 1871 England Census

**Search** ☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

Year  Location

Birth  e.g. London, England

Lived In  e.g. London, England

Any Event  e.g. London, England

**Add family member:** Father Mother Sibling Spouse Child

	First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
Father	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mother	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sibling	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Spouse	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Child	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Keyword

e.g. teacher or "Tower of London"

Relation

Page Number

Household schedule number

Registration district

ED, Institution, or vessel

Sub-registration district

Folio

This collection is provided in association with The National Archives

**Browse this collection**

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

County

Choose...

Civil Parish

Sub-registration District

Enumeration District

**Related data collections**

[U.K. Census Collection](#)

[1881 England Census](#)

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1881 Census for England. The census contains detailed information on each individual who spent the night in each household including name, relationship to the head of the family, marital status, age at last birthday, gender, occupation, and birthplace. Additional information about the dwelling and property was collected. Each name in this index is linked to actual images of the 1881 England Census.

[1881 England Census](#)

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1881 Census for England. The census contains detailed information on each individual who spent the night in each household including name, relationship to the head of the family, marital status, age



## 1871 England Census

**Search** ☐ Match all terms exactly

**First & Middle Name(s)**  **Last Name**

**Year**  **Location**

Birth  e.g. London, England

Lived In  e.g. London, England

Any Event  e.g. London, England

**Add family member:** [Father](#) [Mother](#) [Sibling](#) [Spouse](#) [Child](#)

	First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
Father	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mother	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sibling	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Spouse	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Child	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Keyword**

e.g. teacher or "Tower of London" ▼

**Relation**

 This collection is provided in association with The National Archives

**Browse this collection**

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

**County**  
Lancashire ▼

**Civil Parish**  
Preston ▼

**Enumeration District**

- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19

## Census Research - My Approach

- Track person/family through each census
- Record details found (& note what didn't find)
- Cross-check to other sources – BMDs, PRs etc.
- Useful to check other households on page
- Check next & previous pages

## Census – My Ancestors

- Few at same address on consecutive censuses
- Tracked/found most ancestors on census
- Age variations are common
- Variations in how birthplace recorded
- Move from villages → towns in mid-1800s
- In a house, cellar, boat, workhouse, convent
- As family member, lodger, boarder, visitor, inmate, patient

## Why can't I find my ancestor?

- Moved address/town, overseas, army, workhouse
- Death
- Missing from household schedule
- "Inaccurate" information on household schedule
  - e.g. names, ages, birthplaces
- Errors by enumerator when copying
- Missing page(s) from Census Book
- Transcription "errors" on website

## Searching for elusive ancestors (1)

- Try name variations
  - forename, surname, nickname, abbreviations, initials
  - how would name sound to someone not local ?
- Allow for variations in age, birthplace etc.
- Use “wildcard” searches
- Widen search – “Less is More”
- Trawl through census pages for district

## Searching for elusive ancestors (2)

- Try other websites ..... different index & search options
- Search by other family members
  - e.g. unusual forenames, children
- Check if with close relatives/friends
- Check same address (e.g. from other census)
- If still can't find them .....
  - Take stock -> Coffee -> Try again later !!

## Census Examples

- Institutions
- Ireland
- Scotland
- USA

## 1939 Register - Background

- Not a full census .... but very useful
- Register of civil population as war broke out
- Organised very quickly in September 1939
  - 1 Sep. Germany invaded Poland
  - 3 Sep. Britain declared war against Germany
  - 5 Sep. National Register Act passed
  - 29 Sep. National Register returns completed
- Over 41M people listed
- Used initially for Identity Cards & Ration Books
- Later .... used for evacuation & conscription
- From 1948 .... basis for NHS register

## 1939 Register

- Register as held by National Archives (England & Wales)
- Became available in 2015 on FindMyPast (£)
- Now also on Ancestry (£)
- England & Wales registers only online
- Scotland & N.I. – can request entries by form
- Most complete survey of population between 1921 & 1951
  - helps bridge 30 year gap in census data
  - 1931 census destroyed, no census in 1941

## 1939 Register – What does it show ?

- Address
- Surname, other names
- Role (for institutions) - O, V, S, P or I  
(officer/visitor/servant/patient/inmate)
- M or F
- Date of Birth
- S, M, W or D (single/married/widow/divorced)
- Occupation
- Unlike Census .... no place of birth or relationship

## 1939 Register – Good & Bad News

- 100 year Privacy Rule → “Closed” records
  - if born after 1915 & death not recorded
- Many false “closed” records initially
  - now being corrected & updated
  - some closed that shouldn’t be & vice versa
- Register can show extra information, e.g...
  - surname change (e.g. at marriage, deed poll)
  - voluntary work in war

Search > Census & Electoral Rolls

### 1939 England and Wales Register

**Search** ☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

Birth  Day  Month  Year  Location

Lived In     e.g. London, England

Any Event     e.g. London, England

Add family member: [Spouse](#) [Child](#)

Spouse  First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name  ×

Child  First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name  ×

Keyword

e.g. teacher or "Tower of London" ▼

Marital Status

Occupation

Schedule Number

Registration district

**Browse this collection**

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

County

Borough, Urban District or Rural District

Enumeration District

**Related data collections**

[1911 England Census](#)

This database includes householders' forms from the 1911 Census of England. Information found on the householder's forms include: name, relationship to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, marriage details (including number of children), occupation, birthplace, nationality, and postal address.

[1911 Wales Census](#)

This database includes householders' forms from the 1911 Census of Wales. Information found on the householders forms include: name, relationship to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, marriage details