

14 January 2009

### 3.4 MILLION SEARCHES ON [WWW.1911CENSUS.CO.UK](http://www.1911census.co.uk) IN FAMILY HISTORY FRENZY

The hotly anticipated 1911 census was successfully launched yesterday with 645,000 people logging on to [www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk) to conduct 3.4 million searches to view the census records on the first day of release.

The census reveals the details of the 36 million people living in England and Wales in 1911 and is the most detailed census since UK records began, providing a fascinating insight into British society nearly a century ago. The most popular time of day was between 7pm and 8pm with 57,000 people searching their family history and generating 2.3 million page impressions.

**Elaine Collins, Commercial Director at findmypast.com, said;** “We are ecstatic at how successful the launch of the 1911 census has been. It is one of the biggest projects that both findmypast.com and The National Archives have ever undertaken and this is just the first phase of the census records launch, with millions of records for Wales and the Channel Islands still to be released over the coming weeks.

“The huge number of people logging on to look up their ancestors’ handwritten census records is a reflection of how the popularity of family history is continuing to grow unabated. Fuelled by TV programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are?*, people are fascinated by discovering details about their ancestors’ lives and the 1911 census provides the perfect starting point to begin tracing your family tree.”

Over 27 million people’s census entries – 80 per cent of the English records – were made available for the public to view online. A further nine million records of people from the remaining counties of England, Wales and the British Islands, as well as naval and overseas military records, will be made available over the coming months.

The easy-to-access website enables the public to view, print and save colour images of their ancestors' original handwritten census returns for the first time. Transcribed text versions of the records are fully searchable by name or address.

### How to use the 1911 Census records

- Log on to [www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk) and register for free
- Search for an ancestor in 1911 by entering their name
- If the name is common you can enter their approximate year of birth, which will help to narrow down the results
- Search for an address to look up the history of your house or an ancestor's address in 1911 (this function will be available in summer 2009)
- Pay as you go to view each record. You will be charged 10 credits per transcript and 30 credits for each original household page. Visitors to the website can buy 60 credits for £6.95.
- Findmypast.com vouchers will also be valid on 1911census.co.uk. Vouchers can be purchased from The National Archives bookshop and redeemed on findmypast.com. Credits can then be spent on both findmypast.com and 1911census.co.uk.
- For more information about using the 1911 census for family history research, 'Census: The Expert Guide' by Peter Christian and David Annal is available from The National Archives online bookshop at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**ENDS**

### Notes to Editors

At the request of the Information Commissioner all records of infirmity as listed on the records (e.g. 'deaf', 'dumb', 'blind', 'lunatic' etc.) have been obscured and will not be available to view until January 2012.

The 1911 Census is a special case in that parts of it are being made available early. Since 1920, government has given a commitment that information collected in a census will be kept confidential for 100 years.

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### About findmypast.com

Leading UK family history website findmypast.com (formerly 1837online.com) was the first company to make the complete birth, marriage and death indexes for England & Wales available online in April 2003.

Following the transcription, scanning and indexing of over two million images, the company launched the first website to allow the public easy and fast access to the complete indexes, which until then had only been available on microfiche film in specialist archives and libraries. The launch was instrumental in creating the widespread and growing interest in genealogy seen in the UK today.

Findmypast.com has subsequently digitised many more family history records and now offers access to over 650 million records dating as far back as 1538. This allows family historians and novice genealogists to search for their ancestors among comprehensive collections of military records, census, migration, occupation directories, and current electoral roll data, as well as the original comprehensive birth, marriage and death records.

In November 2006 findmypast.com launched the ancestorsonboard.com microsite in association with The National Archives to publish outbound passenger lists for long-distance voyages departing all British ports between 1890 and 1960.

As well as providing access to historical records, findmypast.com is also developing a range of online tools to help people discover and share their family history more easily, beginning with the launch of Family Tree Explorer in July 2007.

Over 1.7 million people in the UK have researched their family trees and findmypast.com has over 800,000 active registered users, revealing the mass appeal of genealogy and findmypast.com's position as the leading family history website based in the UK.

Findmypast.com and The National Archives present

1911 census.co.uk™

In April 2007 findmypast.com's then parent company Title Research Group received the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation 2007 in recognition of their achievement.

Findmypast.com was acquired in December 2007 by brightsolid, the company who were awarded The National Archives' tender to publish online the 1911 census.

### **About The National Archives:**

The National Archives, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk), is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archives of the UK government, it cares for, makes available and 'brings alive' a vast collection of over 1000 years of historical records, including the treasured Domesday Book.

Not only safeguarding historical information, The National Archives also manages current digital information and devises new technological solutions for keeping government records readable now and in the future. It provides world class research facilities and expert advice, publishes all UK legislation and official publications, and is a leading advocate for the archive sector.

At the heart of information policy, The National Archives sets standards of best practice that actively promotes and encourages public access to, and the re-use of information, both online or onsite at Kew. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensures that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

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