



Census Enumerators' Returns

1. Census Enumerators' Returns

The National Archives (TNA) series references HO 107, RG 9, RG 10, RG 11, RG 12, RG 13 and RG 14

A national census has been taken every ten years since 1801, but the returns for the years before 1841 were simply headcounts and TNA does not hold any records for these years. Access to the 1911 census has been made available before the 100 year closure period expires but the Information Commissioner has stipulated certain restrictions on disclosure should be applied: Details such as Infirmity (eg. deaf, dumb, blind, lunatic, imbecile etc.) will not be released and will be obscured on the image. Note: this information will not be available to view until the census is opened in its entirety in January 2012 after the 100 year closure period has elapsed.

Census Enumerators' Returns are available for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 1901 and 1911. In addition, householders' schedules are available for 1911.

Information that this source should reveal:

The census enumerators' returns list everyone living in England and Wales on the night of the census. The returns are arranged by household; a particular address or building could include the returns for more than one household.

The returns normally list:

- Name (usually surname and first forename)
- Age. The returns for 1841 normally only record a precise age for those aged 15 year and under, All ages over 15 years are rounded down to the nearest 5.
- Sex
- Marital status – not given in 1841 returns
- Relationship to the head of the household – not given in 1841 returns
- Occupation
- Where born (town/parish and county in England or Wales, otherwise country of birth). The returns for 1841 simply record the answers to the

questions 'Were you born in the county in which you now reside?' and 'Were you born in Scotland, Ireland or Foreign parts?'

Factors affecting success of a search:

Census returns are arranged by place of residence, not by surname. Unless you have an accurate address, a search for a particular individual or family can be very costly and time-consuming without any guarantee of success.

The address you give should therefore be as precise as possible. For example, in a city or a large town, you should provide the name of the street and the house number. For a small town or a village, the name of the town or village may be sufficient.

The family may have moved from the address given before the night of the census or may have been away from home at the time.

The census records are searchable by name, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census for more information

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the census year you want searched
- the address/place to be searched (including county) as precisely as possible
- details of all those people you expect to be living at that address at the time of the census, including name, age, occupation, and place of birth

Our normal fee for one search in the Census Enumerators' Returns, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £30, except for the 1911 Census, which is £45 per search, due to its size

As all these census records are available online, you are advised to use this rather than our online search service, which is considerably more expensive
