



Your Family Tree: 2

1901 and 1911 CENSUS



1901 is the earliest and most complete surviving census of Ireland. 1901 and 1911 census records have been digitised by The National Archives of Ireland (custodians of the original census forms) and are freely available on-line at www.nationalarchives.ie

Census records can be used to find a date of birth for people born before the introduction of Civil Registration in Ireland in 1864, for example someone aged 51 in 1901 would have been born in 1850 – 14 years before birth certificates were available. The early 19th century census records also provide information on people who were born before the Great Famine.

What is recorded?

All those in the house at the time were included. This means that servants, lodgers, boarders and even visiting friends are listed but members of the family, away from home on the day were not included with the other family members. The census, gathered on 31 March 1901 and 2 April 1911, recorded the following:

- First name
- Surname
- Relationship to the head of the household
- Religious denomination
- Literacy level
- Age
- Gender
- Occupation
- Marital status
- Place of birth
- Ability to speak or write Irish
- Specified disabilities

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.											
FORM A.											
RETURN OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS FAMILY AND THEIR VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c, who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.											
NAME AND SEXUAL CONDITION	RELIGION	RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION	EDUCATION	AGE	SEX	RACE, ETHNICITY OR NATIONALITY	MARRIAGE	WEEDS SOWN	IRISH CAPABLE	IRISH SPEAKING	IRISH WRITING
1 Philip Fitzpatrick Head	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Unread	45	M	Agri-cult	Married				
2 Rose Fitzpatrick Wife	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	47	F	Agri-cult	Married				
3 Bridget Fitzpatrick Daughter	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	20	F	Agri-cult	Single				
4 Philip Fitzpatrick Son	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read only	18	M	Agri-cult	Single				
5 Rose Anne Fitzpatrick Daughter	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	14	F	Agri-cult	Single				
6 Hugh Fitzpatrick Son	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read only	14	M	Agri-cult	Single				
7 Thomas Fitzpatrick Son	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read only	12	M	Agri-cult	Single				
8 Mary Fitzpatrick Daughter	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Read only	6	F	Agri-cult	Single				
9 Catherine Fitzpatrick Daughter	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Unread	3	F	Agri-cult	Single				

The 1911 census asked married women to state the number of years they had been married, the number of their children born alive and the number still living. This is a pointer towards the year of marriage and to children not surviving at the time of the census.

Using the Census

The returns for each townland or street are:

- **Form A** – filled in by the head of each household, giving the names of all people in that household on census night and their age, occupation, religion and place of birth. There should be a separate form for each household.
- **Forms N, B1 and B2** were filled in by the official taking the census, summarising the returns for each townland or street.
- **Form N** is the enumerator's abstract for a townland or street;
- **Form B1** summarises the houses and buildings;
- **Form B2** is a summary of the outhouses and farmsteads;
- **Form B3** is a shipping return.
- **Forms C** is a return of the sick at their own homes
- **Form D** is a return of lunatics not in institutions

Forms E – K are institutional returns for example, workhouses, hospitals, asylums, barracks etc and in these cases many names are indexed by initials only. The information on the form (place of birth, occupation and marital status should help you to confirm the identity of the person you are looking for.

- **Form E** is a return of inmates in the workhouse;
- **Form F** is a return of those in hospital;
- **Form G**, those at college and boarding school;
- **Form H**, the military, Royal Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police in barracks;
- **Form I** lunatics in institutions and private lunatic asylums;
- **Form K** is a return of those confined in prisons, bridewells and police stations.

Missing Townlands/Streets

A number of townlands/streets do not appear in the online census for 1901 and 1911, in most cases this material has never been microfilmed and so was not digitised. This will explain a nil return in some cases.

Census on Microfilm

Microfilm copies of the original census returns for 1901 are held at PRONI, Ref. MIC354.

Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm
*(Please check in advance for
late evening opening)*

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