

Your Family Tree: 2

1901 and 1911 CENSUS

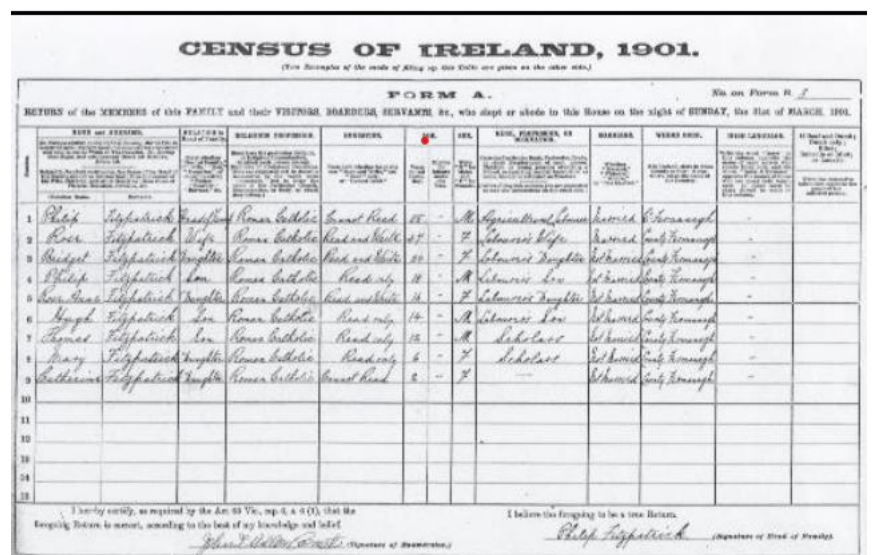
1901 is the earliest and most complete surviving census of Ireland. 1901 and 1911 census records have been digitised by The National Archives of Ireland (custodians of the original census forms) and are freely available on-line at www.nationalarchives.ie

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
- Relation to the head of family
- Religious Profession
- Education
- Age
- Gender
- Rank, Profession, or Occupation
- Marriage
- Where born
- Irish Language
- Specified disabilities



CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(See Examples of the mode of filling up this form on pages 2 and 3 of the instructions.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. /

RETURNS of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their FRIENDS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or were in this house on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

NAME OF PERSON	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION	EDUCATION	DESCRIPTOR	AGE	SEX	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION	MARRIAGE	WHERE BORN	IRISH LANGUAGE	Specified Disabilities
Philip	Protestant	Read only	Head of Family	45	M	Labourer	Married	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Wife	42	F	Labourer	Married	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	18	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Philip	Protestant	Read only	Son	15	M	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	12	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	10	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	8	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	6	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	4	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		
Elizabeth	Protestant	Read only	Daughter	2	F	Labourer	Single	Ireland		

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 53 Vic., cap. 6 & 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Philip (Signature of Head of Family)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Philip (Signature of Head of Family)

Example Census Sheet, 1901.

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.