

Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

1881 CENSUS

We have copies of indexes on microfiche and cd-rom for England, Wales the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. There are several sequences for each county – surname index, census birthplace index, birthplace index and 'as enumerated' (transcript copy of original). It is available on line at www.familysearch.org and via the ancestry database (see above).

1901 CENSUS

The National Archives digitised the 1901 census returns for England and Wales. These are searchable on the Internet for a fee at: www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk and via the ancestry database (see above)

Vouchers can be purchased from us.

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE, LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

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For opening hours, some catalogues and development news, please visit our website at www.liverpool.gov.uk/archives

Appointments are not essential for viewing sources on microfilm and on microfiche. A reader's ticket is needed to request archives, books, maps, photographs and watercolours. Please bring proof of name and address. You will be asked to leave any bags in lockers before consulting original material.

Annual closure for stock-taking and special projects 3rd and 4th weeks in June.



May 2008

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CENSUS RETURNS

INFORMATION LEAFLET - 2



These are among the most useful sources of information for local and family historians because they contain detailed lists of households. We hold microfiche copies for Liverpool and some outlying areas including the Wirral for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first national census was taken in 1801. Since then it has been repeated every 10 years, except during the Second World War. The original documents, which are held by The National Archives at Kew, are closed for 100 years to guarantee confidentiality.

The census is taken to provide important statistical information on the population. The emphasis has varied through time and the details supplied in the returns are not absolutely standard.





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1801 – 1831 CENSUS

From 1801 to 1831 the census returns were purely numerical in content and contained no personal information. The originals were not preserved after the "Census Reports" were published.

Only very occasionally do any local listings created to compile the returns survive. The only example for Liverpool appears to be for 1801. We have a microfilm copy (our reference MF 7/14). It gives some names but it is by no means a complete listing of all inhabitants and it does not record ages and places of birth.

1841 CENSUS

The first detailed national census was taken in 1841.

It lists name, age, sex and occupation of each person in each household.

However it has limitations compared with later 19th century returns as follows:

- it does not indicate in which parish a person was born
- it does not give exact ages for people above 15 years of age. Ages were rounded down to the nearest five years (eg. a person aged 54 years should be recorded as 50)
- it does not give exact addresses
- it does not record family relationships

Many abbreviations were used for occupations (eg F.S. or M.S. for female or male servant; Ap for apprentice; Cl for clerk).

1851 –1901 CENSUS

From 1851, full names, marital status, exact ages, sex, occupation, trade or profession, family relationships, and both parish and county of birth were all recorded.

'Condition' or marital status is variously abbreviated (eg. U, Un or S for unmarried)



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TO FIND WHAT YOU WANT

We hold microfiche copies of the census enumerator's books, which were compiled from information supplied by the householder. Our folder giving general information in microform indicates overall coverage for each district. To find a particular street consult the street indexes to the census returns. There are several folders for some of the census years. Institutions, pubs, and any ships in port are indexed separately. You will need to note two relevant reference numbers – the National Archives reference and the enumeration district for 1841 – 1891, The National Archives reference and the folio number for 1901. Please note that larger streets might not appear in sequence on one microfiche or might even be split between several fiche.

INTERNET ACCESS

The census returns from 1841 to 1901 can be searched at www.ancestry.co.uk. Liverpool Libraries has taken out an institutional subscription so access is free using Record Office and Liverpool Library computers.

Liverpool and S.W. Lancs. Family History Society have produced name indexes on cd-rom to the 1841 and 1851 censuses for the Liverpool area. These indexes record name, occupation, place of birth and the folio number in the returns.