

**Evidence and Enquiry: Using the 1901 and 1911 census forms in the History classroom,
2016 edition**

The census records for John O'Connell, Glasnevin, County Dublin

- Section One:** Finding the census form for John O'Connell in 1901
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The family of John O'Connell, 1901

During a census, each household has to fill in the census form for each person staying in the residence on the night of the census. In 1901 and 1911, the form had to be signed by the head of the household, and by an official appointed by the government. All information given on the form had to be correct. The only item of information that people could refuse to give was their religion. People in 1901 and 1911 would not have been able to find out information about their neighbours. The information given on each family's census form was only published 100 years after it was filled in.

Section One: Finding the census form for John O'Connell in 1901

1. Go to www.census.nationalarchives.ie.
2. Click on "Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911".
3. Choose the census year, 1901.
4. Write in the name *O'Connell* on the surname line.
5. Write in *John* on the Forename line.
6. Click the name *Dublin* in the drop-down list on the county line.
7. Write in the name *Glasnevin* in the DED line.
8. Click search.
9. Two names appear in the search results. Click on the name *O'Connell, John Killeen*, aged 55.
10. To see all of the personal information about his family, click on the box beside the term, "show all information".
11. Below the typed family information, you can view the four original forms relating to the family of John O'Connell - the household return (Form A), the enumerator's abstract (Form N), the house and building returns (Form B1), and the Out-Offices Return (Form B2)
12. If the number 2 appears underneath any of these forms, click on the number. It will open up the reverse side of the form.

We will start off with a look at the census form that was used in 1901, looking at the headings, asking some general questions about *John O'Connell's* 1901 census return. This will familiarise you with the purpose of the headings, before going on to do a more detailed examination of the form.

Section Two: Examining the headings on the 1901 census form for John O'Connell

What information did John O'Connell have to give on the 1901 census form?

The following headings were used in the 1901 census to collect information about each resident:

- 1 Name and Surname
- 2 Relation to head of family
- 3 Religious Profession
- 4 Education
- 5 Age
- 6 Sex
- 7 Rank, profession or occupation
- 8 Marriage
- 9 Where born
- 10 Irish language
- 11 Illnesses, as outlined in the following heading: "If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic"

FORM A.

No. on Form B. /

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 SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
John Kellen O'Connell	Head of Family	Catholic	Read and write	55	M	Superintendent of Respect Laundry	Married	Kings County	Irish and English	
Marianne O'Connell	Wife	Catholic	Read and write	55	F		Married	Dublin City		
Bride O'Connell	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	31	F	Type writer and dressmaker	Not married	County Dublin		
Mathleen O'Connell	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	29	F	Type writer and dressmaker	Not married	County Dublin		
Angela O'Connell	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	28	F		Not married	County Dublin		
David O'Connell	Son	Catholic	Read and write	27	M	Monksfield laborer	Not married	County Dublin		
Elizabeth O'Connell	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	26	F	Type writer and dressmaker	Not married	County Dublin		
John O'Connell	Son	Catholic	Read and write	25	M	Monksfield laborer	Not married	County Dublin		
Emily O'Connell	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	22	F	Type writer and dressmaker	Not married	County Dublin		
Allen O'Connell	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	21	F		Not married	County Dublin		
David O'Connell	Son	Catholic	Read and write	19	M	Monksfield laborer	Not married	County Dublin		
Augustine O'Connell	Son	Catholic	Read and write	16	M	Scholar	Not married	County Dublin		
Thomas O'Connell	Son	Catholic	Read and write	15	M	Scholar	Not married	County Dublin		
James White	Grandson	Catholic	Read and write	1	M		Not married	County Dublin		
Kate Fox	Servant	Catholic	Read and write	20	F	General domestic	Not married	County Dublin		

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Michael Millamara (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

John Kellen O'Connell (Signature of Head of Family.)

Image 1 - Census 1901, O'Connell John, family information

[Notes on all images: a bigger copy of each image with a number is available in the file called "CSO 2015 H History 1901 1911 census images", or you can access the pages by doing the search on www.census.nationalarchives.ie.]

Heading One: "Name and Surname"

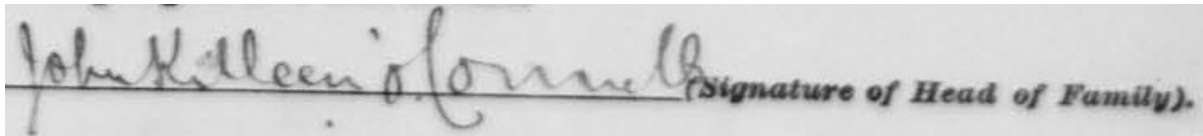
The first instruction under the heading makes it clear that no person who was absent on the night of Sunday, March 31st should be entered on the form, "except those who may be out at Work, or Travellers, etc.," during that night, and who return home on Monday, April 1st.

Question: In your opinion, was it a good idea to allow those who were not at home, but who returned the next day, to be recorded on the form?

Activity: Check the historical meaning of the word, "Traveller", as used on the 1901 census form.

"Head of the Family":

John O'Connell signed the 1901 census form as "Head of Family".



John O'Connell had to provide information for each person staying in his residence on the night of the 1901 census. He had to follow the advice on the census form: the "name of the Head of the Family should be written first; then the names of his Wife, Children, and other Relatives; then those of visitors, Boarders, Servants, &c."

Question: What is the difference between a visitor, a boarder, and a servant?

Activity: In your opinion, how has the definition of head of family" changed since 1901?

Heading Two: Relation to Head of Family

The instruction asked *John O'Connell* to give the relation of each person to himself as "head of family", to write in, for example, if a person was his son or daughter.

Question:

What is the benefit of this information for those collecting the census information?

Heading Three: "Religious Profession"

John O'Connell was asked to fill in the religious status of each member of his household. If any person was a "Protestant", then he was asked to write in the name of the "particular Church, Denomination, or Body, to which they belong".

Question:

Can you name any one of the "Protestant" Churches that might be written in the 1901 census form?

Activity:

How has our understanding of the nature of religion changed in the past one hundred years?

Heading Four: Education

The section on "Education" indicates that only three headings should be used. with instruction: "State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," can "Read" only, or "Cannot read."

Question:

Can you suggest any other information that might have been requested here?

Heading Five: Age.

This sections asks *John O'Connell* to list the age of each person in his household on the census night, giving their age on their last birthday. For an infant under one, he had to fill in the numbers of months.

Question:

Can you suggest a more accurate method for determining the age of each person?

Heading Seven: Rank, Profession, or Occupation.

John O'Connell had to indicate a label that describes the work done by each person.

Question:

What word was to be used to describe any young person who attended a school, or who received regular instruction at home? (see section 10)

John O'Connell was requested to read the instructions "on the other side" of the census form. The following image indicated the detailed advice available to him.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR FILLING UP THE COLUMN HEADED "RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION."

A person following more Distinct Occupations than one, should insert each of them in the order of their importance.

1. The Titles of **PEERS** and other **PERSONS OF RANK** to be inserted as well as any important office they may hold.
2. **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MAGISTRATES, ALDERMEN**, and other important public Officers, to state their profession or occupation, if any, after their official rank or title.
3. All persons serving in the **ARMY AND NAVY** to state their rank, and the branch of the service to which they belong. Officers to state whether on the Active or the Retired List; Pensioners from the Army and Navy to state the service to which they belong.
4. All persons in the **CIVIL SERVICE** to state their rank, and the department or branch to which they belong; those retired or superannuated to be distinguished.
5. **MINISTERS OF RELIGION**.—Clergymen of every religious denomination are requested to describe themselves according to their clerical rank or position, and to state distinctly the Religious Body to which they belong.
6. **LEGAL PROFESSION**.—Barristers to state whether they are in actual practice. The designation *Solicitor* to be confined to those whose names are actually on the Roll. Clerks in Solicitors' offices should state whether they are *Solicitor's Managing, Articled or General Clerk*. Officers of any Court to state the name of the Office, and the name of the Court.
7. Members of the **MEDICAL PROFESSION** to state whether they practise as Physician, Surgeon, Dentist, Oculist, General Practitioner, Apothecary, Medical Assistant, &c., or are "not practising." They should also state the University or other Society of which they are Graduates, Fellows, or Licentiates.
8. **PROFESSORS, TEACHERS, PUBLIC WRITERS, AUTHORS, and SCIENTIFIC MEN**, to state the particular branch of Science or Literature which they follow: Artists, the art which they cultivate. Graduates should enter their degrees in this column.
9. **STUDENTS** of Theology, Law, or Medicine, and Undergraduates of any University, to be so returned.
10. **SCHOLARS**.—Children or young persons attending a School or receiving regular instruction at home to be returned as *Scholars*.
11. **FARMERS**.—This term is to be applied only to the occupiers of land. Sons or Daughters employed at home or on the farm may be returned—"Farmer's Son," "Farmer's Daughter." Persons employed on the farm and sleeping in the Farmer's house should be described as *Farm Servants*.
12. **AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, SHEPHERDS**, and others employed on Farms, but not living in the Farmer's house, should be described as *Agricultural Labourers, Shepherds, &c.*
13. **PERSONS ENGAGED IN COMMERCE** as Merchants, Brokers, Agents, &c., to state in all cases the particular branch of Commerce in which they are engaged, or the commodity in which they chiefly deal.—Examples: "Corn Merchant," "Member of ——— Stock Exchange," "Tea Agent."
14. **COMMERCIAL CLERK, COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER, SHOPMAN**—always to add in what branch of business.
15. In **TRADES, MANUFACTURES**, or other Business, Masters should, in all cases, be distinguished.—Example: "Carpenter—Master."
16. **WORKERS in MANUFACTURES**, and generally in the Mechanical Arts, should distinctly state the particular BRANCH OF WORK, and the MATERIAL, if they are not implied in the names, as in Brass-founder, Iron-moulder. Where the trade is much sub-divided, both TRADE and BRANCH are to be returned thus—"Watchmaker—Finisher"; "Printer—Compositor."
17. **MINERS** should state the description of Mine in which they work.—Examples: "Coal Miner," "Lead Miner," "Copper Miner," &c. The term *Miner* should never be used alone.
18. **ENGINEERS**.—Civil Engineers, and Mining Engineers, to be so described. Workmen employed in works or factories are to be distinctly described.—Examples: "Engine Smith at Factory," "Engine Fitter at Works." Engine Drivers, Stokers, and Firemen to be described in connection with the manufactory, railway, steam-vessel, &c., in which they are employed.—Examples: "Railway Engine Driver," "Stoker in Linen Factory." "Engineer" alone is not to be used.
19. **ARTISANS and MECHANICS** should invariably state the particular branch of mechanical art or business in which they are employed.
20. **WEAVER**.—"Silk," "Wool," "Worsted," "Cotton," &c., should always be written before this general term, so as to express distinctly the material which he weaves; thus, "Cotton Weaver."
21. **DOMESTIC SERVANTS** should be described according to the nature of their service, adding in all cases "Domestic Servant."—Examples: "Coachman—Domestic Servant," "Gardener—Domestic Servant," "Cook—Domestic Servant."
22. **LABOURERS, PORTERS**, to be described according to the nature of their employment. Examples: "Railway Porter," "Bricklayer's Labourer," "Labourer in Iron Works," "General Labourer."—see also Instruction No. 12. The term *Labourer* should never be used alone.
23. Persons ordinarily engaged in some industry, but **OUT OF EMPLOYMENT** at the time of the Census, should be so described; as "Bricklayer, unemployed"; "Carpenter, unemployed."
24. **PERSONS FOLLOWING NO PROFESSION, TRADE, OR CALLING**, and holding no public office, but deriving their incomes chiefly from land, houses, dividends, interest of money, annuities, &c., should describe themselves accordingly. The indefinite terms *Gentleman, Esquire*, are not to be used. Persons who have retired from business to be entered thus—"Retired Farmer," "Retired Grocer."
25. **WOMEN AND CHILDREN**.—The occupation of those who are regularly employed from home, or who follow any business at home, is to be distinctly recorded, but no entry should be made in the case of those solely engaged in domestic duties at home. See also Instruction No. 10.

Image 2 – Census 1901, O'Connell John, trades instructions

Question 1: Can you suggest a reason why this is such a detailed explanation of what should be filled in under the heading of "Rank, Profession, or Occupation"?

Question 2: What is a Peer? (Section 1)

Question 3: The word "important" is used only in the first two sections. What does this tell us about the ideas of those who drew up the questions about the other "ranks"?

Question 4: Read section 8. What information is to be filled in for graduates of universities?

Question 5: Read the last section, Section 24.

“Women and children. - The occupation of those who are regularly employed from home or who follow any business from home, is to be distinctly recorded, but no entry should be made in the case of those solely engaged in domestic duties at home”

Read section 10.

“Children or young persons attending a School or receiving instruction at home should be returned as **scholars**”

Is there anything unusual about the advice relating to women and children who might work at home?

Heading 8: Marriage

John O’Connell had to state whether adult members of the family were married, not married, or a “widow” or “widower”.

Question: How many people were listed on the form as married, two or three?

Heading Nine: Where Born

John O’Connell was born in “King’s County”.

Question: What is the modern name of this county?

John O’Connell was the only person in the house who was not born in Dublin city or county.

Question What does this tell us about the growth of Dublin at the start of the twentieth century?

Heading 10: Irish Language

John O’Connell was to fill in the word “Irish” if it applied to a person who spoke Irish only, to write in “Irish and English” for a person who could speak both, and to leave the entry blank for all others.

Question: What language was spoken by those who had no entry listed in this column?

Heading 11: “Infirmities”

John O’Connell had to fill in here information about any person who was deaf and dumb, dumb only, an imbecile, an idiot or a lunatic.

The word deaf refers to a person who could not hear; the word dumb refers to a person who cannot speak.

The other three words were used to refer to persons who had intellectual disabilities, and would not be referred to in these terms today.

Question: John O'Connell left this section blank. Can you suggest any reason why people might not have filled in this section, even if no person in the household fitted any of these categories?

Section Three: What can we learn about the family of John O'Connell from the 1901 census forms?

The following is a transcript of the information provided by *John O'Connell* on the 1901 census form, under the heading, "Residents of a house 1 in Violet Hill Great (Glasnevin, Dublin)".

	Name	"Christian Name"	relation to head of family	Religious Profession	Education	age	sex
1	O'Connell	John Killeen	Head of Family	Catholic	Read and write	55	Male
2	O'Connell	Marianne	Wife	Catholic	Read and write	55	Female
3	O'Connell	Bride	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	31	Female
4	O'Connell	Kathleen	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	29	Female
5	O'Connell	Angela	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	28	Female
6	O'Connell	Daniel	Son	Catholic	Read and write	27	Male
7	O'Connell	Elizabeth	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	26	Female
8	O'Connell	John	Son	Catholic	Read and write	23	Male
9	O'Connell	Emily	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	22	Female
10	O'Connell	Ellen Teresa	Daughter	Catholic	Read and write	21	Female
11	O'Connell	David Dominick	Son	Catholic	Read and write	19	Male
12	O'Connell	Augustine	Son	Catholic	Read and write	16	Male
13	O'Connell	Thomas	Son	Catholic	Read and write	15	Male
14	White	James	Grand Son	Catholic	Cannot read	1	Male
15	Fox	Kate	Servant	Catholic	Read and write	20	Female

	Name	"Christian Name"	Rank, profession, or occupation	Marriage	Where Born	Irish Language	Infirmities
1	O'Connell	John Killeen	Superintendent of Prospect Cemetery	Married	King's County	Irish and English	
2	O'Connell	Marianne	-	Married	Dublin City	-	
3	O'Connell	Bride	Type Writer and Scrivener	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
4	O'Connell	Kathleen	Type Writer and Scrivener	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
5	O'Connell	Angela		Not Married	County Dublin	-	
6	O'Connell	Daniel	Mercantile Clerk	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
7	O'Connell	Elizabeth	Type Writer and Scrivener	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
8	O'Connell	John	Mercantile Clerk	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
9	O'Connell	Emily	Type Writer and Scrivener	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
10	O'Connell	Ellen Teresa		Not Married	County Dublin	-	
11	O'Connell	David Dominick	Mercantile Clerk	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
12	O'Connell	Augustine	Scholar	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
13	O'Connell	Thomas	Scholar	Not Married	County Dublin	-	
14	White	James		Not Married	County Dublin	-	
15	Fox	Kate	General Servant Domestic	Not Married	County Dublin		

What can we learn about the O’Connell family from this information?

- 1 What is the name of the “head of family”? What was his occupation?
- 2 What is the name of the mother? What is her occupation?
- 3 Marianne and John were both aged 55 in 1901. Can you suggest when and what age they were married?
- 4 How many sons were at home on the “census night”?
- 5 How many daughters were at home on the “census night”?
- 6 What was the religion of the O’Connell family?
- 7 Where were all of the O’Connell children born?
- 8 All members of *John O’Connell’s* family could “read and write”, according to the form. Is there any other information on the form to show that the O’Connell family placed great value on the importance of education?
- 9 (a) Prospect Cemetery was more commonly known as Glasnevin cemetery. As superintendent (or manager) of the graveyard, he met many Dubliners as part of his work. Is there any connection between his employment and the size of his family?
(b) Four of his daughters were described as employed as a “Type Writer and Scrivener”; what work was done by the women?
(c) Three of the sons were working as “mercantile clerks”; what type of work was this?
(d) What was unusual about the occupation of Kate Fox?

Look at the original census form filled in by John O’Connell.

- 10 What was the date for the 1901 census? [Look at the line just below the heading, “Form A”.]
- 11 Who signed the form, at the bottom, stating that the return was “correct”?
- 12 Who signed the form, at the bottom, as “Head of Family”, saying that it was a “true” return?
- 13 Why were two people needed to sign the form?

Are there any other questions that you can ask that might assist you in your examination of this document?

ACTIVITY

Do an online search for a person or place using the 1901 census

1. If you can, find the name of a relative who was alive in 1901. If you cannot find information about a relative, pick a common Irish surname from your area. Using the search page on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, can you find an individual's census information for the year 1901?
2. Pick the name of a famous person who was living in Ireland in 1901. Using the search page on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, can you find the person's census information for the year 1901?
3. Choose a name that is common in your county. Using the search page on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, can you find how many people of that name lived in your county in 1901?

Now record some information about that person:

Name:

Age:

Religion:

Education:

Occupation:

Write one sentence giving your impression of the person:

Section Four: Where did the family of John O'Connell live in 1901?

The family information that *John O'Connell* filled in on the 1901 census form A did not contain all of the information that we can learn about the O'Connell family. Michael McNamara, the Enumerator (or government official) provided additional information about the area where *John O'Connell* lived, in a form headed, "Form N – Enumerator's abstract for a townland or Street"

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
Form N. - Enumerator's Abstract for a Townland or Street.

County of Dublin Parliamentary Division North Dublin Poor Law Union North Dublin District Electoral Division Glasnevin Townland or Street Violet Hill Great
Constabulary District D.M. Police City, Urban District, Town or Village Finglas Road Barony Borlough
Sub-District D. Division Parliamentary Borough Glasnevin
ABSTRACT showing the Number of Dwelling-houses, Families, and Persons in the above-named Townland or Street, also the Religious Profession (so far as ascertained), of the People enumerated by Michael McNamara, 1579

Image 3 - Census 1901, O'Connell John, address information

- 1(a) What "county" did the family live in?
- 1(b) What "Constabulary district" did the family live in?
- 1(c) What "sub-district" did the family live in?
- 1(d) What "parliamentary division" did the family live in?
- 1(e) What "Poor Law Union" district did the family live in?
- 1(f) What "District electoral division" did the family live in?
- 1(g) What "Townland or Street" did the family live in?
- 1(h) What "Barony" did the family live in?
- 1(i) What "parish" did they the family live in?

Not all of this information would be used by the family on a daily basis. What address would a person write on an envelope so that it would get to John O'Connell in 1901?

Line 1	
Line 2	
Line 3	

Michael McNamara, the Enumerator, also provided more information about the residence of John O'Connell.

Examine this image.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
FORM B. 1.—HOUSE AND BUILDING RETURN.

Parliamentary Division, *North Dublin* Poor Law Union, *North Dublin* District Electoral Division, *Glasnevin* Townland, *North Hill Great*
City, *Urban* District, *North Dublin* Town or Village, *Street, Finglas Rd* Barony, *Barlow* Parish, *Glasnevin*

Notes A.—When a Townland or Street is situated in two Parliamentary Divisions, or in more than one District Electoral Division or Parish, or is partly within and partly without a Parliamentary Borough, City, Urban District, Town, or Village, a separate Return should be made for each portion.

HOUSES.										FAMILIES, &c.									
No. of House or Building.	Whether built or rebuilt.	State whether Private Dwelling, Public Building, Workshop, Shop, Livery-stable, or other use.	Number of Courtyards, and other Enclosures, and of other buildings, in the same.	Is House inhabited?	PARTICULARS OF INHABITED HOUSES.						No. of distinct Families.	No. of persons in each Family residing in the House.	Name of the Head of each Family residing in the House.	No. of males amongst each Family.	No. of females amongst each Family.	Date of collection of the Census.	Name of the landowner of any on whom holding the House is situated, or to whom that same appears to belong in or with.		
					Walls.	Roof.	Floors.	Windows in Front.	Windows in Side.	Windows in Back.								Windows in Other.	Class of House.
1	Rebuilt	Private dwelling	3	yes	1	1	5	5	12	1st	1	John O'Connell	16	15	15	April	James Richard		
2	"	"	4	yes	1	1	6	6	14	1st	1	James Richard	16	12	15		James McDonnell		
3	"	"	—	yes	1	1	2	2	6	2nd	1	James McDonnell	2	5	15		to		

Image 4 - Census 1901, O'Connell John (form B1) housing information

Look for the line beginning with the number 1. This is the house of John O'Connell's family. The home of the O'Connell family was a "private dwelling" (see column 3), and was recorded as a 1st class house (see column 11).

- How many "farm" buildings were recorded on the form for the O'Connell family (column 4)?
- How many "distinct families" lived in the O'Connell house (column 12)?
- How many rooms were in the main house (column 14)?
- How many people were listed in the O'Connell family for 1901 (column 15)?
- On what date was the census form collected (column 16)?
- How many members of the family were sick on the census night (column 17)?
- The name of the landowner was normally recorded in column 18. Who owned the land on which the O'Connell house was built?

Write a profile of the O'Connell family in 1901, based on the information available to you on the 1901 census forms. You can write about family size, ages, gender, head of the family, education, farming, type of house, economic activity, and any other relevant activity.

Section Five: Who collected the census form from John O'Connell in 1901?

The government arranged for the collection of information by individuals who were called "Enumerators". The census return for the family of Mary Anne O'Connell was collected by Michael McNamara. Look at his signature in the bottom left hand corner of the census form A.

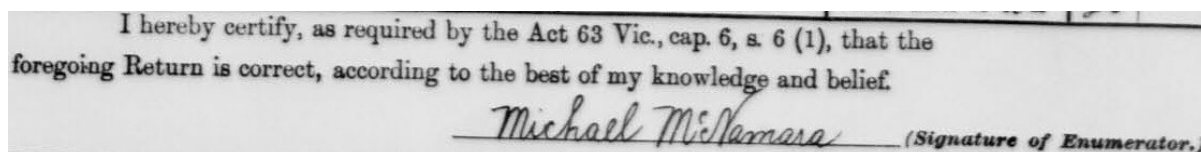


Image 5 - Census 1901, O'Connell John, form A, enumerator information

Do a search for "Michael McNamara", on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, for 1901, to view the personal information that may be available for him.

1. Go to www.census.nationalarchives.ie.
2. Click on this line - "Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911".
3. Choose the census year, 1901.
4. Write in the name *McNamara* on the surname line.
5. Write in *Michael* on the Forename line.
6. Choose the word "male" on the "Sex" line.
7. Press search.

Why is it difficult to locate the 1901 census return for Michael McNamara, the Enumerator, using these terms?

What conclusion can you draw from your search for Michael McNamara in relation to historical research?

Section Six: What headings were used for the 1911 census?

The following headings were used in the 1911 census to collect information, for each person staying in the residence on the night of the census.

- 1 Christian name
- 2 Surname
- 3 Relation to head of family
- 4 Religious Profession
- 5 Education
- 6 Age of Males
- 7 Age of females
- 8 Rank, profession or occupation
- 9 Particulars as to marriage:
 - Marriage status
 - Length of marriage
 - Total children born alive
 - Children still living
- 13 Where born
- 14 Irish language
- 15 “illnesses”, such as deafness

Question: Identify the new headings that were used in the 1911 census.

Section Seven: Finding the 1911 census form of John O'Connell

To find the census form for John O'Connell in 1911,

1. Go to www.census.nationalarchives.ie.
2. Click on "Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911".
3. Choose the census year, 1911.
4. Write in the name *O'Connell* on the surname line.
5. Write in *John Killeen* on the Forename line.
6. Click the name *Dublin* in the drop-down list on the county line.
7. Click search.
8. Click on the name *O'Connell, John Killeen*, aged 67.
9. To see all of the personal information about his family, click on the box beside the term, "show all information".
10. Below the typed family information, you can view the four original forms relating to the family of John O'Connell - the household return (Form A), the enumerator's abstract (Form N), the house and building returns (Form B1), and the Out-Offices Return (Form B2).
11. If the number 2 appears underneath any of these forms, click on the number. It will open up the reverse side of the form.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.														
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.														
FORM A.														
No. on Form B. <i>V</i>														
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 2nd of APRIL, 1911.														
Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.		WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Dead and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.		
					Insert Age opposite each name—the Age of Males in column 6, and the Age of Females in column 7.	Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Servant."		Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one year."						
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.		
1	John Killeen O'Connell	Head	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	67		Inspector of Prisons	Married	16	Dublin	Irish & English			
2	Margaret O'Connell	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	67			Married	16	Dublin	Irish & English			
3	Margaret O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	38		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
4	John O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	35		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
5	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	32		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
6	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	29		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
7	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	26		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
8	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	23		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
9	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	20		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
10	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	17		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
11	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	14		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
12	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	11		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
13	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	8		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
14	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	5		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			
15	James O'Connell	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	2		Black	Single	16	County Dublin	Irish & English			

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Edward O'Connell Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

John O'Connell Signature of Head of Family.

Image 6 - Census 1911, O'Connell John (form A) family information

Section Eight:

What can we learn about the family of John O'Connell from the 1911 census forms?

Read through the original census form – “Image 5 - Census 1911, O'Connell John (form A) family information”, or use the information outlined below.

This is the information filled in by *John O'Connell* on the 1911 census form.

Surname	"Christian Name"	Relation to head	Religion	Education	Age	Sex
O Connell	John Killeen	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read and write	67	Male
O Connell	Marianne	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read and write	67	Female
White	Mary Margaret	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read and write	43	Female
O Connell	Daniel Joseph	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	38	Male
O Connell	John	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	33	Male
O Connell	Emily	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read and write	32	Female
O Connell	David Dominick	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	29	Male
O Connell	Augustine James Benjamin	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	26	Male
O Connell	Thomas Aloislius Patk	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	25	Male
Daly	Delia	Visitor	Roman Catholic	Read and write	32	Female
Wade	Kathleen	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read	17	Female
Kennedy	Mary	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read and write	20	Female
White	Richd Henry	Grand Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	10	Male
White	Thomas Aloysius	Grand Son	Roman Catholic	Read and write	8	Male

Surname	"Christian Name"	Birthplace	Occupation	Irish Language	Marital Status	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
O Connell	John Killeen	Banagher , Kings Co.	Superintendent of Prospect Cemetery	Some Irish and English	Married	44		
O Connell	Marianne	Dublin	-	English	Married	44	17	11
White	Mary Margaret	Dublin	-	Some Irish and English	Married	14	none	
O Connell	Daniel Joseph	County Dublin	Clerk	English	Single			
O Connell	John	County Dublin	Clerk	English	Single			
O Connell	Emily	County Dublin	Typhist (sic)	English	Single			
O Connell	David Dominick	County Dublin	Clerk	Irish and English	Single			
O Connell	Augustine James Benjamin	County Dublin	Accountant licentiate of Associated Accountants London	Irish and English	Single			
O Connell	Thomas Aloislius Patk	County Dublin	Civil Engineer	Irish and English	Single			
Daly	Delia	Gort, County Galway	Shop Assistant	Irish and English	Single			
Wade	Kathleen	Dublin	Servant	English	Single			
Kennedy	Mary	Kilkenny	Servant	English	Single			
White	Richd	County Dublin	Scholar	Irish and English	Single			
White	Thomas Aloysius	County Dublin	Scholar	Irish and English	Single			

What can we learn about the O’Connell family from this 1911 census information?

- 1 What is the name of the “head of family”?
What was his occupation? Has it changed since 1901?
- 2 What is the name of his wife? What is her occupation?
- 3 Marianne and John were both aged 67 in 1911. Look at their ages on the 1901 form.
Can you suggest a reason why the ages between 1901 and 1911 do not tally?
- 4 How many sons were at home on the “census night”?
What is the age of the oldest son? What is the age of the youngest son?
How is their occupation different from that recorded in 1901?
- 5 How many daughters were at home on the 1911 “census night”?
What is the age of the oldest daughter? What is the age of the youngest daughter?
Which daughter present in 1911 was not included in the 1901 census?
Which daughters had left the house since the 1901 census?
Emily recorded her work in a different manner in 1911 to that of 1901. What new term did she use to describe her occupation?
- 6 What was the religion of the O’Connell family?
- 7 All members of *John O’Connell’s* family could “read and write”, according to the form. Is there any other information on the form to show that the O’Connell family placed great value on the importance of education?
- 8 The family employed two domestic servants in 1911.
What was their names? Where were they born?
The family employed only one servant in 1901. What does this tell you about the changes in the family circumstances since 1901?
- 9 The O’Connell family always placed a major emphasis on education. Three of the elder sons were described as clerks. Look at the information for the two youngest sons. What is the education qualification listed for Augustine, and the occupation listed for Thomas? How does this information tell us about the opportunities for Irish students during the first decade of the twentieth century?
- 10 Delia Daly, was listed as a visitor, aged 32.
Can you suggest a reason why she might have been present in the O’Connell household on that night?

Look at the original census form filled in by John O'Connell.

11. Three new headings were included in the 1911 census form – the length of marriage, the total number of children born alive, and the number of children still living.

How many children did Marianne give birth to?

How many were still living in 1911?

John O'Connell did not fill in this section of the form in a clear manner.

How can you decide what is the correct information?

What problems can a document like this cause for an historian?

12. What was the date for the 1901 census?

13. Who signed the form, at the bottom, stating that the return was “correct”?

Are there any other questions that you can ask that might assist you in your examination of this document?

Activity:

What changes took place the O'Connell family over the period 1901 to 1911, as indicated by the census of 1901 and the census of 1911?

Activity:

Patricia O'Connell, a grand-daughter of John O'Connell, listed the names of the fourteen children of John and Mary O'Connell. How many of the names mentioned by her can you match with the names outlined on the two census forms?

Patricia's list:

Dolly, Bride, Katie, Annie, Dan, Cissie, Sally, Jack, Emmy, Nellie, David, Rose, Gussie, and Tony

Names from the 1901 and 1911 census:

Bride, Kathleen, Angela, Daniel Joseph, Elizabeth, John, Emily, Ellen Teresa, David Dominick, Augustine James Benjamin, Thomas Aloisius Patrick, Mary Margaret.