

## Evidence and Enquiry: Using the 1901 census in the History classroom

### The family of Thomas Bateman, Dublin, 1901

During a census, each household had to fill in the census form for each person staying in the residence on the night of the census. The form had to be signed by the head of the household, and by a government official. All information given on the form had to be correct. The only item of information that people could refuse to give was their religion.

### How can you find the census form filled in by Thomas Bateman, Dublin, in 1901?

Thomas Bateman filled out a census form in 1901, giving information about his family. To find the original census form for Thomas Bateman,

1. Go to [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://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 Bateman on the surname line.
5. Write in Thomas on the Forename line.
6. Click the name Dublin in drop-down list on the county line.
7. Click search.
8. Three search results appear. Click on the name "Bateman, Thomas C".
9. To see all of the personal information about the family, click on the box beside the term, "show all information".

**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.**  
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

**FORM A.** No. on Form B. 4

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.

Number.	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; Blind; Imbecile or idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether "Head of Family," "Boarder," or "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious Denomination, to which each person belongs. Members of Protestant Denominations are requested not to describe themselves by the vague term "Protestant," but to enter the name of the Particular Church, Denomination, or Body, to which they belong.	State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Years on last Birth Day.	Months for Infants under one Year.	Write "M" for Male and "F" for Female. (Before filling this column you are requested to read the Instructions on the other side.)	Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Not Married."	If in Ireland, state in what County or City, if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.	Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish only. Add the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	Write the respective information opposite the name of the afflicted person.
1	Thomas	Bateman	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	28	-	M	Pricklayer & Labourer	Married	Dublin City	
2	Margaret	Bateman	Wife	do	do	23	-	F	no Trade	do	do	
3	Patrick	Bateman	Son	do	do	10	-	M	Scholar	Not Married	do	
4	Mary Ellen	Bateman	Daughter	do	do	6	-	F	do	do	do	
5	John	Bateman	Son	do	do	5	-	M	do	do	do	
6	Margaret	Bateman	Daughter	do	do	-	8	F			do	
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

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.

*Const. Patrick Byrne* (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

*Thomas B. Bateman* (Signature of Head of Family.)

10. Form A Link: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003784192/>  
<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003784193/>  
 Form N Link: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003784154/>  
<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003784155/>  
 Form B1 Link: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003784156/>  
<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003784157/>

### What information did Thomas Bateman give on the 1901 census form?

Thomas Bateman, as “Head of family”, had to provide information for each person staying in the residence on the night of the census. The following headings were used in the 1901 census to collect information about each resident:

- 1 Christian name
- 2 Surname
- 3 Relation to head of family
- 4 Religious Profession
- 5 Education
- 6 Age
- 7 Sex
- 8 Rank, profession or occupation
- 9 Marriage
- 10 Where born
- 11 Irish language
- 12 Illnesses

### The family of Thomas Bateman family, census return 1901

The following information was provided by Thomas Bateman on the 1901 census form, under the heading, “Residents of a house 7.3 in Kanes Court (Arran Quay, Dublin)”.

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation
Bateman	Thomas C	33	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Bricklayers Labourer
Bateman	Margaret	33	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	No Trade
Bateman	Patrick	10	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Scholar
Bateman	Mary Ann	6	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Scholar
Bateman	John	5	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Scholar
Bateman	Margaret		Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	-

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Irish Language</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Specified Illnesses</b>
Bateman	Thomas C	Read and write	-	Married	-
Bateman	Margaret	Read and write	-	Married	-
Bateman	Patrick	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Bateman	Mary Ann	Cannot read	-	Not Married	-
Bateman	John	Cannot read	-	Not Married	-
Bateman	Margaret	Cannot read	-	-	-

**What can we learn about the Bateman family from this census information?**

- 1 What is the name of the father?
- 2 What is the name of the mother?
- 3 How many sons were at home on the “census night”?
- 4 How many daughters were at home on the “census night”?
- 5 What was the religion of the Bateman family?
- 6 Where were all of the Batemans born?
- 7 What was the father’s job?
- 8 Three members of the Bateman family could “read and write”, according to the form. What is the common feature relating to the three people who “cannot read”?

*Look at the original census form filled in by Thomas Bateman.*

- 9 People had to be recorded on the census form if they were in the residence on a certain day; what was the date?
- 10 Who signed the form, as “Head of family”, saying that it was a “true” return?
- 11 Who signed the form, at the bottom, saying that the return was “correct”?

### **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. Using the search page on [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie), can you find the person'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](http://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](http://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: