

Evidence and Enquiry: Using the 1911 census in the History classroom

The family of Thomas Bateman, Dublin, 1911

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 1911?

To find the 1911 census form for Thomas Bateman,

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 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. Five search results appear. Click on the name "Bateman, Thomas" who lived at 90 Brunswick Street North, as Thomas would have been 42 in 1911.
9. To see all of the personal information about the family, click on the box beside the term, "show all information".

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. <u>90</u>														
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 DEAF AND DUMB; BLIND; IMBECILE OR IDIOT; OR LUNATIC.	
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," "Visitor," "Boarder," "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," or "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Insert Age opposite each name—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7. For Infants under one year state the age in months, as "under 1 month," "1 month," "2 months," &c. Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	State the particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as Scholars. (No entry should be made in the case of wives, daughters, or other female relatives solely engaged in domestic duties at home.)	State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of— Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Wife," or "Single." Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one." Children born alive to present Marriage, in column 10. Total Children born alive. Children still living.	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, and 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 names of the affected persons.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	Thomas	Bateman	Head	Roman Catholic	Read, Write	42	Bookkeeper Labourer	Married				Dublin		
2	Margaret	Bateman	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read, Write	41		Married	91	11	5	Dublin		
3	Ann	Bateman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read, Write	14	Scholar	Single				Dublin		
4	Margaret	Bateman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	9	Scholar	Single				Dublin		
5	Thomas	Bateman	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	6	Scholar	Single				Dublin		
6	Catherine	Bateman	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	4	Scholar	Single				Dublin		
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														

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.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Thomas Bateman, Signature of Head of Family.

Demetrius Perry, Signature of Enumerator.

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 1911 census form?

Thomas Bateman, Dublin, 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 1911 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 of males
- 7 Age of females
- 8 Rank, profession or occupation
- 9 Marriage status
- 10 Length of marriage
- 11 Total children born alive
- 12 Children living
- 13 Where born
- 14 Irish language
- 15 “illnesses”, such as deafness

The following is a transcript of the information provided by Thomas Bateman on the 1911 census form, under the heading, “Residents of a house 90.3 in Brunswick St. North (Arran Quay, Dublin)”

Surname	Christian name	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy
Bateman	Thomas	42	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Dublin	Bricklayers Laborer	Read and write
Bateman	Margaret	41	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Dublin	-	Read and write
Bateman	Annie	14	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Dublin	Scholar	Read and write
Bateman	Margaret	9	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Dublin	Scholar	Cannot read
Bateman	Thomas	6	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Dublin	Scholar	Cannot read
Bateman	Catherine	4	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Dublin	Scholar	Cannot read

Surname	Forename	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Bateman	Thomas	-	Married	-	-	-	-
Bateman	Margaret	-	Married	-	21	11	5
Bateman	Annie	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Bateman	Margaret	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Bateman	Thomas	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Bateman	Catherine	-	Single	-	-	-	-

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. Is there anything surprising about the three people who “cannot read”?
- 9 Thomas Bateman wrote that the family had 5 living children, and four are named on the form? Can you suggest why the fifth child (named as Patrick Bateman on the 1901 census form) not listed on the form?

The marriage of Margaret and Thomas Bateman

A new entry in the 1911 census asked each married woman to give three extra items of information:

- a) how long her present marriage had lasted,
- b) the total of children “born alive” in her present marriage, and
- c) how many of her children were still living.

Read the family information for the Bateman family.

- 1 How many years had Margaret and Thomas Bateman been married?
- 2 In what year did they marry (this is not stated on the form)?
- 3 What was the name of their eldest child?
- 4 Who old was she?
- 5 How many years between the birth of the eldest child and the year of marriage?
- 6 Can you find any possible explanation on the census form for this large gap?

Do an online search for a person or place using the 1911 census

1. If you can, find the name of a relative who was alive in 1911. Using the search page on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, can you find the person’s census information for the year 1911?
2. Pick the name of a famous person who was living in Ireland in 1911. Using the search page on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, can you find the person’s census information for the year 1911?

3. Choose a name that is common in your county. Using the search page on www.census.nationalarchives.ie, how many people of that name lived in your county in 1911?

Now record some information about that person:

Name:

Age:

Religion:

Education:

Occupation:

Write one sentence giving your impression of the person: