

Abbey Genealogy Enthusiasts

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Next Meeting Wednesday 23rd March 2011

www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk



Notice Board

→ History Pin

A fun and interesting website which is based on the map of the world and people have pinned their own old photos to different areas and towns for example of the UK. An excellent way of comparing what different streets and towns once looked like years ago to how it looks today.

www.historypin.com

→ Family History Fairs

For new beginners and experienced genealogists why not find out if there's a Family History Fair near you. New dates and venues for the fairs are coming along all the time so take a look

www.familyhistoryfairs.org

→ Ancestry Ireland

The Ulster Historical Foundation is a long-established, highly reputable research and publishing agency. It offers extensive knowledge on the sources available for tracing Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. Services include online databases of over 2 million records, genealogy and history books, and personal ancestral research

www.ancestryireland.com

→ Aviation History

A Pictorial History of the British Aviation Industry From 1900 to 1970 As Seen from a Company Advertising and Marketing Perspective

www.aviationancestry.com

→ History House

The London Gazette, The Edinburgh Gazette and The Belfast Gazette are published in the United Kingdom and their archives are a useful source of information for finding out about your family history.

www.historyhouse.co.uk

The 1911 Census



It was on Sunday 2nd April the year of 1911 that the 1911 was taken and this was for all households, prisons, workhouses, naval vessels across England and Wales.

The 1911 census has given many of us some new fantastic results to follow since it has been released to everyone. However it has also completely baffled many of us with unexpected findings and some of us can't even find our ancestors on there at all. Well for those who are having trouble with the 1911 census I want you as a family researcher to put your mind back to around that time and imagine all what was going on at that time in Britain and go on the knowledge and understanding on what you have on your ancestors and picture them, their family, their health, their occupations and take all Possibilities into account.

Firstly take in to account the 1911 census is different from all previous censuses as the documents were all filled out by your own ancestors hand with mistakes and additional comments. Remember some of our ancestors may have not been good with spelling and accuracy themselves. For example my ancestors surname is Heushaw and on the 1911 census he has recorded the surname as Henshaw. So which is correct? Which is an error? As I trace back I'm sure I will find out which is more frequent.

Secondly could your ancestors have been visiting other family members and friends? They never had fast cars or premier travel inns, so they tended to stay at relatives and friends more often than we do today.

Occupation - Could your ancestor have been else where because of work? Many people travelled to London and other cities because that's where work was. Could they have been in working in a prison, workhouse, navel vessel where they had to stay away for long periods of time?

In Britain at that time, the suffragettes played a big part of many womens views and there was high tension and frustration for many women with the government refusing to allow them the right to vote, so many women slept away on the night of this census and refused to be counted.

Also take into consideration that many people used nicknames or middle names rather than the name they have on any other document. This was very common and to shorten a name is also very common even today! So you as genealogist may be looking for **Florence Louise** when she has been transcribed as a **Florie** or taken her middle name as **Louie**. Also don't forget bigamy, our ancestors may of lied on the census in the chance of being found out.

If your ancestor was in Asylum or prison it is very difficult to trace them on the 1911 census because it was very common that they were just recorded under the first letter of their first name and first of letter of their last name. **eg. Emily Lewis may have been recorded as EL.**

Also don't forget your ancestors may of lied about their age and or be telling the truth on this census and lied on all the others. So always play with the years even add on five or take away five.

The year of 1911 was the period building up to the First World War and the year before the titanic tragically sank on the 14th April 1912. Many people were living to their class and the rich were rich and the poor struggled to survive. Many people still were unable to read and write and it was still very early days for medicine and health care. It may have been a difficult period in time for many of our ancestors and maybe one of the happiest times also for them. When you look at any census its almost looking through a time machine, a glimpse into there lives. You know what has happened and what is to become.

Article by Cheryl Horncastle

This Census Year

2011 marks the last census to be held under the current plans. This census will not be available to the general public until the year 2112 due to the hundred year rule. To give future generations the chance to see these documents in their life time, why not photocopy or scan the 2011 census once you've filled it in and file it in your research.

Thinking along the same lines I have managed to find the blank 1951,61,71,81 and 1991 censuses. Why not re-write your census for that year and file that too. If you're not sure where you lived in those years try the local records office and research the electoral rolls for that year.

This will also safe guard your own family history. We have already lost the 1931 census due to fire. The cause of the fire was unknown, in a letter date December 1942 address to the General Records Office, W A Derrick said:

"You will regret to hear that in a fire last Saturday evening which gutted the Office of Works store containing our Census records at Hayes, the whole of the 1931 schedules, enumeration books, plans of division and miscellaneous material stored in cupboards etc were completely destroyed. Mr Farrow and I went down to inspect the remains yesterday and we are both satisfied that it would be useless to attempt any sort of salvage operation; we are leaving the Office of Works to clear and dispose of the debris in any way they think desirable.

The fire was not occasioned by enemy action and how it achieved such dimensions in a store in which special hydrants had been fitted and said to have been in charge of a fire guard of 6 paid watchers, is a mystery which will need investigation".

Those who would like these forms sent to you by post or email please contact James.

Article by James Davis

Work House Gruel

Oatmeal - 2oz.

Water - 1 pint

Treacle - 1/2oz. (Optional)

Salt - pinch

Method:

Slowly add the oatmeal to a pan of boiling water, stir till mixed in, bring back to the boil and simmer for about 20 minutes then stir in the treacle and serve. Makes one pint.

NOTE: Gruel should be served quickly and not kept warm for a long period or reheated. However the large volumes required meant that