

Notes on the Census of April 1911 for the Parish of Congresbury with Wick St Lawrence.

The Census was taken on the night of Sunday April 2nd 1911.

In all there were 1002 residents, including Visitors, recorded in the Parish of Congresbury with Wick St Lawrence, excluding those who lived in Hewish. They were living in 237 households.

Two Heads of Household were not resident in Congresbury at the time of the census. One, a farmer, was in hospital (Thomas Franklin of The Causeway). I have been unable to trace the whereabouts of the other, George William James Chandos Bruce, Marquess of Ailesbury, but his 2 daughters and 3 servants lived in Cadbury House.

I entered the census information into an Excel spreadsheet. (Each resident has potentially 26 pieces of information). The information is comprehensive, covering such things as name, age, family structure, occupation, address, number of rooms in the dwelling and number of males and females in the dwelling.

As I was entering and researching the data the thought kept recurring that 3 years after the census was taken the residents were engulfed by the First World War with, I am sure, unimaginable consequences.

Once the data was entered it can be easily searched. These searches threw up some surprises. It was a young population. One in five was under the age of 10, while more than half was under the age of 30. Of the 468 residents having an income, 125 worked in agriculture and 57 were servants. There was no doctor living in Congresbury.

I was astonished to discover that 75 married couples, widows or widowers had a deceased child – one family had lost 6 children, another 4.

The notes in the following pages cover the age and place of birth of the population, marriage and occupations.

Separate files contain detailed information about:

- the full and unmodified census;
- residents listed alphabetically;
- residents' age, marital status and birthplace;
- residents' occupations.
- the family structure of working married women;

Age Range	Number of inhabitants in 10 year ranges as %age of total population of Congresbury
0 - 9	20%
10 - 19	18%
20 - 29	17%
30 - 39	11%
40 - 49	12%
50 - 59	10%
60 - 69	8%
70 - 79	3%
80 - 89	1%
90+	<1%

As can be seen from the table the number of residents in each age band over 60 falls dramatically. This is in line with a national life expectancy of less than 60. One in five of the population was under 10. 55% of the population was under 30.

Age Range	Percentage of inhabitants in each 10 year range <u>born in Congresbury*</u>
0 - 9	64%
10 - 19	54%
20 - 29	39%
30 - 39	37%
40 - 49	35%
50 - 59	36%
60 - 69	25%
70 - 79	40%
80 - 89	30%
90+	50%

The percentage of residents born in the village falls as the population ages. As children left school aged 12 it is possible that they began to leave the village during their teens, with the exodus accelerating during their twenties. Additionally, a number of young unmarried women moved into the village to work as servants.

Marriage

No-one under the age of 22 was listed as "Married", although at the time marriage could take place at the age of puberty (considered to be 14 for boys and 12 for girls), subject to parental permission up to the age of 21.

Number of Single residents in each 10-year age range, 20 - 90+

Almost 7 out of 10 of residents aged between 20 and 29 were unmarried. This falls to almost 3 in 10 for those between 30 and 39.

One of the largest occupation groups was, of course, servants – who were largely young single women.

Age Range	Number of inhabitants in 10 year ranges*	Number of Singles in 10 year ranges	%age of singles in 10 year ranges
20 - 29	167	113	68%
30 - 39	111	31	28%
40 - 49	124	22	18%
50 - 59	103	7	7%
60 - 69	76	7	9%
70 - 79	30	3	10%
80 - 89	10	1	10%
90+	2	0	<1%

Mothers' approximate age when giving birth to a child (each individual mother may be represented more than once)

Mothers' approx. age at birth of child	Number of births
50 - 60	3
45 - 49	8
40 - 44	40
35 - 39	79
30 - 34	102
25 - 29	106
20 - 24	47
19	2
N/A	24

N/A: Not Available, i.e. the mother's age cannot be calculated as their child's age is not given.

The higher ages may indicate mistakes in recording census details or women taking responsibility for the child of a younger person.

Number of Female residents in Congresbury

At the time of the census life expectancy for women was 54, and for men 50.
(Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2009/jan/13/socialtrends-family>).

Women could expect to live 3.9 years longer than men.

(Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/articles/howhaslifeexpectancychangedovertime/2015-09-09>).

Since 1838 roughly 105 male births have been recorded for every 100 female ones
(Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-46597323>)

The 1911 Census gives a snapshot of the percentage of female residents in each of our age bands:

Age Range	Total number of inhabitants in 10 year ranges*	Number of Female inhabitants in 10 year ranges	%age of Female inhabitants in 10 year ranges
0 - 9	199	96	48%
10 - 19	180	77	43%
20 - 29	167	84	50%
30 - 39	111	54	49%
40 - 49	124	77	62%
50 - 59	103	53	51%
60 - 69	76	40	53%
70 - 79	30	16	53%
80 - 89	10	6	60%
90+	2	1	50%

Occupations

Some residents listed in the census are clearly identified as Farmers and others are farm workers of one sort or another. It is impossible to make a distinction between the two groups as some relatives of a Head of Household are listed as “Farmer” in the census return and others as “Worker” or “Helping on the Farm”. As it is impossible to determine whether some individuals are farmers or farm workers, all those engaged in farming have been incorporated into an aggregate total.

Classification of occupations	Total
Farming	125
Servant	57
Retired	22
Gardener	20
Great Western Railway	17
Butcher	15
Private Means	15
General Labourer	13
Dressmaker	12
Carter	11
Baker and Confectioner	11
Labourer	10
Corn Merchant	7
Publican	7
Mason	6
Mill Hand	6
Post Office	6
Laundress	5
School teacher	5
Blacksmith	4
Market Gardener	4
Uncertain (see note below)	5
Apprentice	3
Baker	3
Charwoman	3
Clerk	3
Domestic duties (see note below)	3
Errand Boy	3
House Decorator	3
Plumber	3
Quarryman	3
Work at home: sewing?	3
Chimney sweep	2
Coachman	2
Grocer	2
Haulier	2
Miller	2
Roadman	2

Classification of occupations	Total
School assistant	2
Stonemason	2
Timber merchant	2
Woodman	2
Bailiff	1
Carrier	1
Clergyman - Vicar of Parish	1
Commercial traveller	1
Cycle agent	1
Dealer	1
District Nurse	1
Domestic Worker	1
Drainer	1
Drapers Assistant	1
Insurance Clerk	1
Licensed Hawker	1
Marine Engineer	1
Marketer	1
Midwife	1
Motor Mechanic	1
Music Teacher	1
Night Watchman	1
Nurse	1
Pedlar	1
Plasterer	1
Somerset Constabulary (P.C.)	1
Printer	1
Public Worth Contractor Agent	1
Sack and Bag Repair	1
Sewing Woman	1
Shop Assistant	1
Smith	1
Tailoress	1
University student	1
Wallpaper stencilling	1
Washerwoman	1
Wheelright	1
Wood Fitter	1
Working on own account at home	1
Total	468

"Uncertain" covers relatives of the Head of the Household whose occupation is described as "Domestic", but it is not clear whether they were paid or not. "Domestic duties" cover relatives of the Head of the Household described as, for example Housekeeper, but it is not clear whether they were paid or not.

In total 33 Heads of Household gave their occupation as “Farmer” or “Farming”. Presuming that they farmed where they lived, this may give an indication of the number of farms in the village. They are as follows:

First names(s)	Family name	Sex	Approx d.o.b.	Age	Marital status	Occupation	Postal Address
William	Atwell	M	1878	33	Married	Farmer	Bossy Tree farm
Thomas	Osmond	M	1847	64	Single	Farmer	Brinsea
Charles	Cavill	M	1870	41	Married	Farmer	Brinsea
Joseph	Sweeting	M	1842	69	Married	Farmer	Brinsea
Howard	Kingcott	M	1886	25	Single	Farmer	Brinsea Batch Farm
John	Alvis	M	1886	25	Married	Farmer	Brinsea Farm
George	Court	M	1852	59	Married	Farmer	Cadbury Farm, Yatton
Sidney H	Atwell	M	1871	40	Married	Farmer	Chestnut Farm
John Vowles	Edwards	M	1864	47	Married	Farmer	Church farm
Alice Catherine	Virgo	F	1859	52	Widowed	Farming	Clarence Cottage Kent Road
George	Norton	M	1850	61	Married	Farmer	Honey Hall
Ernest H	Bennett	M	1868	43	Married	Farmer	Honey Hall Farm
Mary Ann	Willett	F	1841	70	Widowed	Farmer	Iwood
James William	Harding	M	1866	45	Married	Farming	Iwood
Edward John	Edwards	M	1863	48	Married	Farmer	Iwood Manor
Oliver R	Porter	M	1852	59	Married	Farmer	Land Farm Yatton
Frederick	Green	M	1844	67	Married	Farmer	Mill Tree Farm
George	Ball	M	1849	62	Married	Farmer	Oak Farm
John	Harris	M	1842	69	Widowed	Farmer	Park Farm
William Yeates	Edwards	M	1859	52	Married	Farmer	Pineapple Farm
George	Cavill	M	1874	37	Single	Farmer	Poplar Farm
Joseph	Macey	M	1835	76	Married	Farmer	Rookery Farm
Francis	Parsons	M	1850	61	Married	Farmer	Rose Tree Farm
Frank	Browning	M	1871	40	Married	Farmer	Silver Street
Emma	Hardwick	F	1837	74	Widowed	Farmer	Silver Street Farm
Harriet	Wear	F	1858	53	Widowed	Farmer	Stonewell Farm
Wilfrid	Atwell	M	1885	26	Married	Farmer	The Causeway
<i>Ellen</i>	<i>Franklin*</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>1884</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>The Causeway</i>
Mary Ann	Harris	F	1847	64	Widow	Farmer	The Elms
Jessie Mary	Edwards	F	1888	23	Single	Farming	Urchinwood Wrigton Road
George	Hancock	M	1873	38	Married	Farmer	Venus Street
Charles	Franklin	M	1847	64	Married	Farmer	Venus Street
Arthur	Martin	M	1874	37	Married	Farmer	Walnut Tree farm

Mrs Franklin’s husband was ill in hospital at the time of the census.

Servants

Nine residents employed as servants were born in Congresbury. Most servants had been born in Somerset. Only two servants were married, a cook and a housekeeper.

Servants: Place of birth	Total
Somerset	33
Bristol	4
Cambridgeshire	1
Wiltshire	2
Oxfordshire	1
Lincolnshire	1
Gloucestershire	5
Middlesex	1
Aberdeenshire	1
Devon	1
Not recorded	2
Worcestershire	1
Austria	1
Wales	2
Staffordshire	1
Total	57

Three-quarters of the residents employed as servants were under thirty.

Servants: age distribution	Total	%age
12 - 19 years	18	32%
20 - 29 years	25	44%
30 - 39 years	6	11%
40 - 49 years	5	9%
50 - 59 years	2	4%
60 - 69 years	1	2%
Total	57	

(18 out of 57 = 32%)

In total 33 households employed one or more servants.

Agricultural workers

One hundred and twenty-five residents worked on farms. Of these 58 (46%) were born in Congresbury. One hundred and fourteen (91%) were born in Somerset.

The age distribution of agricultural workers is shown in the table.

Agricultural workers: age distribution	Total	%age
12 - 19 years	22	18%
20 - 29 years	33	26%
30 - 39 years	20	16%
40 - 49 years	12	10%
50 - 59 years	20	16%
60 - 69 years	13	10%
70 - 79 years	3	2%
80 - 89 years	1	1%
90 years	1	1%
	125	

(22 out of 57 = 32%)

Working wives

Of the 175 married women in the parish, 159 did not have a paid occupation. Of these 35 did not have children. Of the 16 wives with a paid occupation 4 are recorded as not having children.

The family structure of working wives is shown in *File 6 The family structure of working wives*. The small sample and limited nature of the census data means that no clear reasons can be identified for these individuals choosing to work.

Maps of Congresbury

The National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>) has an on-line resource of 25-inch OS maps for 1902 (amongst much else).

Four maps cover the census area:

Much of the village: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/106018919>

Kent Road: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/106018895>

King's Wood: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101460448>

Iwood: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101460460>

Copy the web address into the subject bar of your browser in order to see a map. Click the plus sign to enlarge a map. The Key is in the bottom left-hand corner.