

Commentary on the Census of April 1911 for the Parish of Hewish

The 1911 Census does not fully record information for the contemporary village of Hewish. Maps at the time record the hamlets of East and West Hewish. Unfortunately, the hamlets of West and East Hewish were split between the administrative parishes of Hewish, Puxton, Wick St Lawrence and Kingston Seymour. These parishes were the administrative areas for the census. West Hewish is not included in the census return for Hewish parish. Hewish Farm, which arguably was in East Hewish, also lay just outside the recorded area, in a neighbouring parish, so is not included in this commentary.

The Census was taken on the night of Sunday April 2nd 1911. In all there were 115 residents in the parish, including Visitors, recorded in the census return. They were living in 22 households

One Head of Household, name unknown, was not resident in Hewish at the time of the census. His wife, Ana Jane Nichols, and five children lived in a four-room cottage near to The Oaks. I have been unable to trace the family in any previous or subsequent records.

The National Library of Scotland has an on-line resource of 25-inch OS maps for 1902 which show settlement and communications as they were at the time of the census. Below are links for:

East Hewish including St Ann's Church (the Church and the school are in the bottom lefthand corner of the map)

[View map: Ordnance Survey, Somerset X.7 \(Congresbury; Kingston Seymour; Puxton; Yatton\) - Ordnance Survey 25 inch England and Wales, 1841-1952 \(nls.uk\)](#)

Puxton (this map shows Willow Farm, East Hewish, which is included in the return)

[View map: Ordnance Survey, Somerset X.11 \(Banwell; Congresbury; Puxton\) - Ordnance Survey 25 inch England and Wales, 1841-1952 \(nls.uk\)](#)

West Hewish (the settlement around Palmer's Elm, West Hewish, is part of the parish of Puxton so not included in this return)

[View map: Ordnance Survey, Somerset X.10 \(Banwell; Puxton; Wick St Lawrence; Yatton\) - Ordnance Survey 25 inch England and Wales, 1841-1952 \(nls.uk\)](#)

The table on the next page lists the 22 households listed in the census return for the Parish, including name, occupation and address of the householder. Several households had no other address than "Hewish".

First names(s)	Family name	Occupation	Postal Address	Rooms in house	Male Residents	Female Residents	No. in household
Walter	Chapman	Farmer	Pool Farm Hewish	11	1	2	3
Albert	Champion	Farmer	The Farm Hewish	11	5	5	10
Charles Reginald	Blathwayt	Vicar of Hewish	St Anns Vicarage Hewish	11	2	3	5
Sarah Ann	Osmond	Farmer	Heath Gate Farm Hewish	10	4	7	11
Ralph	Edwards	Farmer	The Oaks Hewish	10	4	3	7
Gilbert	Frost	Farmer	Willow Farm Hewish	8	4	5	9
Sarah	Cox	Widow	Hewish	6	3	5	8
Arthur C	Collard	Inn Keeper	Full Quart Hewish	6	1	1	2
Samuel	Hooper	Farm Labourer	Hewish	6	2	4	6
Albert	Cullen	Farm Labourer	Heath Farm Cottage	5	1	3	4
John	Bale	Market Gardener	Hewish	5	1	1	2
John	Westcott	Signalman GWR	Railway Cottage Hewish	5	3	4	7
John	Gowar	Elementary School Master	School House Hewish	5	1	1	2
Head of Household NR		Not recorded*	Hewish	4	3	3	6
Harry	Palmer	General Labourer	Hewish	4	2	3	5
Sidney	Cox	General labourer	Hewish	4	1	2	3
Charles	Neath	Ganger on Railway	Hewish	4	5	1	6
George	Mitchel	Farm Labourer	Bishop Cottages Hewish	4	3	1	4
Herbert Charles	Shipsey	Carter on Farm	Hewish	4	1	1	2
Oliver	Hewlett	Rural District Council labourer	Hewish	4	1	2	3
William	Kimmins	Invalid formally Waggoner on farm	Hewish	4	4	1	5
Henry John	Avery	Farm Labourer	Pool Farm Cottage	4	2	2	4

*No information about the Head of Household: named residents were his wife and 5 children, presumably.

The national life expectancy in 1911 of less than 60. Over half of the residents listed in the census return for Hewish were aged under 20. This pattern is also reflected in the number of residents who were born in the parish. Of the 20 residents born in Hewish 11 were under 15 and only 3 aged over 40. Of the 24 Hewish residents born in Congresbury, 6 were aged under 15, 14 aged 15 – 30 and only 4 aged over 30.

I have sorted the 115 residents into 10-year age bands. The numbers in each age band, given as a total and percentage of the whole population, are:

Age range	0 – 9	10 – 19	20 – 29	30 – 39	40 – 49
Number (& %age of total population)	28 (24%)	27 (23%)	20 (17%)	8 (7%)	13 (11%)

Age range	50 – 59	60 – 69	70 – 79	80 – 89	90 +
Number (& %age of total population)	10 (9%)	7 (6%)	0	1 (1%)	0

The table on page 4 lists place of birth of residents, and the numbers born in each town or village.

Number of residents	Birthplace (Parish or Town)	County of birth
6	Banwell	Somerset
1	Bawdry	Somerset
1	Birmingham	Warwickshire
1	Bourton Wick St Lawrence	Somerset
3	Bridgewater	Somerset
2	Bristol	Somerset
1	Chard	Somerset
1	Chelmarsh	Shropshire
2	Churchill	Somerset
1	Clevedon	Somerset
24	Congresbury	Somerset
1	Dunball	Somerset
2	Gillingham	Kent
1	Gloucester	Gloucestershire
1	Halberton	Devon
20	Hewish	Somerset
1	Higham	Somerset
1	Ide	Devon
1	Long Ashton	Somerset
1	Lympsham	Somerset
1	Othery	Not recorded
8	Puxton	Somerset
2	Rolstone	Somerset

Number of residents	Birthplace (Parish or Town)	County of birth
1	Saul	Gloucestershire
1	South Brent	Somerset
1	Tiverton	Devon
2	West Pennard	Somerset
1	Whornlaughton	Somerset
1	Wick	Gloucestershire
3	Wick St Lawrence	Somerset
3	Wolvershill Banwell	Somerset
2	Worle	Somerset
3	Yatton	Somerset
1	Not recorded	California, U.S.A.
2	Not recorded	Somerset
10	Other Not recorded	Not recorded

Birthplace of the residents of the Parish of Hewish in 1911

Age range of residents

Age range	Female	Male
0 - 9	18	10
10 -19	9	18
20 - 29	12	8
30 - 39	4	4
40 - 49	9	4
50 - 59	5	5
60 - 69	2	5
70 - 79	0	0
80 - 89	1	0
90+	0	0

Generally speaking, nationally female births exceeded male births. But the sample is too small to draw any meaningful conclusions for Hewish. It is complicated further by the fact that people moved around. Of the children under 10, the majority might be expected to have been born where they lived. In fact, of those whose place of birth is recorded, 7 of the under 10s out of 28 were born in Hewish. Similarly of the 10 – 19 year olds, 6 were born in Hewish out of 27.

Both men and women delayed marriage and raising a family until they were in their twenties.

Age range	17-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
Age of mother at birth	1	4	8	13	13	4
Age at marriage: Men		7	7	3	0	2
Age at marriage: women	3	9	5	2	0	0

As was found in the Congresbury data some small children - in Hewish there were two – lived with a family to whom they do not seem related as “lodgers”.

Occupations of men living in the Parish

Farming was the main occupation The four farmers and their children were the dominant group within those individuals who listed their occupation as Farming.

First names(s)	Family name	State	Age	Marital status	Occupation
Herbert John	Neath	Son	15		Assistant Grocer
Herbert Charles	Shipsey	Head	25	Married	Carter on Farm
John	Gowar	Head	27	Married	Elementary School Master
Herbert	Kimmins	Son	14		Farm Labourer
Henry John	Avery	Head	39	Married	Farm Labourer
George	Mitchel	Head	49	Married	Farm Labourer
Albert	Cullen	Head	60	Married	Farm Labourer
Samuel	Hooper	Head	66	Married	Farm Labourer
Gilbert	Frost	Head	46	Married	Farmer
Albert	Champion	Head	55	Married	Farmer
Walter	Chapman	Head	56	Single	Farmer
Ralph	Edwards	Head	58	Married	Farmer
Arthur	Frost	Son	14		Farmers son working on farm
Francis Thomas	Osmond	Son	15	Single	Farmers son working on farm
Ernest	Frost	Son	16	Single	Farmers son working on farm
Albert Edward	Osmond	Son	20	Single	Farmers son working on farm
William	Osmond	Son	24	Single	Farmers son working on farm
Edward	Frost	Son	18	Single	Farmers son working on farm

(continued)

First names(s)	Family name	State	Age	Marital status	Occupation
Charles	Neath	Head	48	Married	Ganger on Railway
Sidney	Cox	Head	24	Married	General labourer
William	Cox	Son	32	Married	General labourer
Harry	Palmer	Head	50	Married	General Labourer
Arthur C	Collard	Head	46	Married	Inn Keeper
William	Kimmins	Head	56	Married	Invalid formally Waggoner on farm
John	Bale	Head	69	Widower	Market Gardener
Reginald Charles	Neath	Son	19		Railway Porter
Oliver	Hewlett	Head	37	Married	Rural District Council labourer
John	Westcott	Head	36	Married	Signalman GWR
Charles Reginald	Blathwayt	Head	61	Married	Vicar of Hewish
Walter	Champion	Son	19	Single	Worker
Hugh	Champion	Son	21	Single	Worker
Fred	Sparrows	Assistant	22	Single	Worker
Richard	Champion	Son	22	Single	Worker
William	Rugg	Visitor	65	Single	Not recorded

Occupations of women living in the parish

Most of the women in employment were unmarried. Of the 19 married women in East Hewish, 4 worked outside the home – 2 charwomen, one teacher and one Housekeeper.

First names(s)	Family name	State	Age	Marital status	Occupation
Ethel	Sanders	Assistant	31	Single	Assistant (in house and/or on farm)
Ana Jane	Nichols	Wife	39	Married	Charwoman
Rosina	Kimmins	Wife	49	Married	Charwoman
Norah Gladys	Osmond	Daughter	16	Single	Drapers assistant
Ella Beatrice	Osmond	Daughter	22	Single	Drapers assistant
Hilda	Gowar	Wife	24	Married	Elementary School Teacher
Sarah Ann	Osmond	Head	55	Widowed	Farmer
Ida Evelyn	Osmond	Daughter	18	Single	Farmers daughter working on farm
Mabel Fanny	Osmond	Daughter	29	Single	Farmers daughter working on farm
Alice Mary Eliza	Osmond	Daughter	30	Single	Farmers daughter working on farm
Beatrice	Cox	General Servant	20	Single	General Servant (Domestic)
Ellen Mary	Bale	Daughter	42	Daughter	House Keeper
Eliza Jane	Neath	Wife	47	Married	House Keeper
Celia Rebecca	Bevan	Servant	67	Widowed	House Keeper Domestic
Leah Emma	Clarke	Servant	21	Single	House Maid Domestic

(continued)

First names(s)	Family name	State	Age	Marital status	Occupation
Susan	Champion	Daughter	15	Single	Worker
Mary	Champion	Daughter	16	Single	Worker
Dorothy	Champion	Daughter	20	Single	Worker
Nelly	Champion	Daughter	23	Single	Worker
Lucy Jane	Palmer	Daughter	17	Not recorded	Not recorded
Ada	Shipsey	Wife	22	Married	Not recorded
Rhoda	Cox	Wife	23	Married	Not recorded
Caroline	Hewlett	Wife	27	Married	Not recorded
Annie	Cox	Daughter-in-law	29	Married	Not recorded
Beatrice	Mitchel	Wife	29	Married	Not recorded
Annie Elizabeth	Hucker	Daughter	35	Widowed	Not recorded
Theresa Austice	Westcott	Wife	40	Married	Not recorded
Alice	Avery	Wife	41	Married	Not recorded
Elizabeth	Collard	Wife	42	Married	Not recorded
Sarah Jane	Palmer	Wife	46	Married	Not recorded
Beatrice	Frost	Wife	46	Married	Not recorded
Helen Jefford	Edwards	Wife	47	Married	Not recorded
Mary	Chapman	Sister	50	Single	Not recorded
Maria	Champion	Wife	53	Married	Not recorded
Elizabeth	Cullen	Wife	58	Married	Not recorded
Mary Jane	Hooper	Wife	59	Married	Not recorded
Frances	Blathwayt	Wife	62	Married	Not recorded
Sarah	Cox	Head	81	Widowed	Not recorded

Richard Baker: February 2024