

Examining The Irish Census



Daniel Loftus

Background to Irish Census

- Almost everything that was part of the 1901 & 1911 Census survived.
 - Majority of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 were destroyed in the 1922 Public Record Office fire*
 - 1861 and 1871 were destroyed shortly after censuses were taken.
 - 1881 and 1891 were pulped during World War 1 due to paper shortage.
 - No 1921 census due to the Irish War of Independence.
 - 1926 Census due for release on April 18th, 2026.

*Apart from a few survivals in certain counties

Know your Census Returns (Part 1)

- *Form A = Regular Household Return*
 - Record of all people living in household.
- *Form B1 = House & Buildings Return*
 - Provides you with details about dwelling/buildings – what kind of walls, roof, how many rooms, windows etc...
- *Form B2 = Return of Out-Offices & Farm Steadings*
 - Details what extra buildings are attached to a dwelling. E.g. Stables, coach houses, piggeries etc...
- *Form N = Enumerators Return*
 - Gives details of number of houses in total on a street, with occupants broken down by gender. Form also details religious denominations present.

Know your Census Returns! (Part 2)

Institutional and Shipping Forms

- Form B3: Shipping Return
- Form C: Return of sick at their own homes
- Form D: Returns of lunatics and idiots not in institutions
- Form E: Workhouse return
- Form F: Hospital Return
- Form G: College and Boarding School Return
- Form H: Barrack Return
- Form I: Return of idiots and lunatics in institutions
- Form K: Prison return

Institutional and Shipping Forms

- Contains details about occupants of institutions e.g.

- Workhouses
- Barracks
- Colleges
- Orphanages
- Hospitals
- Mother and Baby Homes**
- Industrial Schools
- Magdalene Laundries

NOTE: Names of the occupants indexed in initial form. E.g. John Whelan is indexed as J. W.

Some entries are not digitised due to not being microfilmed so are not online*

*correct at time of presentation.

**available in 1926 Census.

1901 Census

- Conducted on 31st March 1901
- Contains details about:
 - Name
 - Surname
 - Relation to Head of Household
 - Religion
 - Literacy
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Occupation
 - Marital Status
 - Birth Location
 - Language
 - If Deaf, Dumb or Blind*

Case Study: Daniel ‘Dan’ Fraher

Daniel 'Dan' Fraher - Background

- Born 1852, Tooraneena, Co. Waterford. (Should be 48 in 1901)
- Married August 4th 1892 to Mary Walsh.
- Living in Grattan Square in his Drapery Shop in 1901.
- 1911 Census return isn't digitised*

*info correct at time of presentation

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. 17

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; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Years on last Birthday.	Months for Infants under one Year.						
	No Persons ABSENT on the night of Sunday, March 31st, to be entered here: EXCEPT those (not enumerated elsewhere) who may be out at WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME ON MONDAY, APRIL 1st.												
	Subject to the above instruction, the Name of the Head of the Family should be written first; then the names of his Wife, Children, and other Relatives; then those of Visitors, Boarders, Servants, &c.												
			State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other relative; "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," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."			Write "M" for Males and "F" for Females	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 <i>Scholars</i> . [Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.]	Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," 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, 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 infirmities opposite the name of the afflicted person.
1	Daniel	Fraser	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	48		M	Draper	married	Co. Waterford	Irish & English	
2	Maurice	Fraser	Son	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	7		M	Scholar	not married	Co. Waterford	Irish & English	
3	Maurice	Fennell	Shop assistant	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	29		M	Shop assistant	not married	Co. Waterford	Irish & English	
4	Michael	Danford	Shop assistant	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	25		M	Shop assistant	not married	Co. Waterford	Irish & English	
5	Mary	Dower	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	22		F	Domestic General Servant	not married	Co. Waterford	Irish & English	
6													

House No. 17, Grattan Square, Dungarvan No. 1, Waterford

[Census Years](#) / [1901](#) / [Waterford](#) / [Dungarvan No. 1](#) / [Grattan Square](#) / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 17 in Grattan Square (Dungarvan No. 1, Waterford)

☐ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion
Fraher	Daniel	48	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic
Fraher	Maurice	7	Male	Son	Roman Catholic
Fennell	Maurice	29	Male	Shop Assistant	Roman Catholic
Danford	Michael	25	Male	Shop Assistant	Roman Catholic
Dower	Mary	22	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic

[Report any error in transcription](#)

Image: National Archives Ireland

View census images

[Household Return \(Form A\)](#)

Other original census images available


[Enumerator's abstract \(Form N\)](#)

[House and Building Return \(Form B1\)](#)


Additional Pages: [2](#), [3](#)

[Out-Offices and Farm-Steadings Return \(Form B2\)](#)

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the images.

[Get Acrobat](#) 

[How do I view the images?](#)

 [Report errors in transcription](#)

[Visit Ireland](#)



Image: Waterford
History News,
Facebook

1911 Census

- Conducted on 2nd April 1911
- Contains details about:
 - Name
 - Surname
 - Relation to Head of Household
 - Religion
 - Literacy
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Occupation
 - Marital Status
 - *Number of Years Married*
 - *Number of Children Born Alive*
 - *Number of Children Still Living*
 - Birth Location
 - Language
 - If Deaf, Dumb or Blind*

NOTE: Pieces in Bold, Italic & Underline are parts that are in 1911 Census that aren't in 1901.

Case Study: John Loftus

John Loftus - Background

- Born in 1876, Rosslevin, Bohola, County Mayo
- Married March 15th 1911 (two weeks before census night!)
- Living in Toocananagh, Mayo in 1911.

*Correct at time of presentation

Household Return (1911)

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. 314

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; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.							
	<p>No Persons ABSENT on the Night of Sunday, April 2nd, to be entered here; EXCEPT those (not enumerated elsewhere) who may be out at WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME ON MONDAY, APRIL 3RD.</p> <p>Subject to the above instruction, the Name of the Head of the Family should be written first; then the names of his Wife, Children, and other Relatives; then those of Visitors, Boarders, Servants, &c.</p>					Insert Age opposite each name:—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7.			State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of:—													
											For Infants under one year state the age in months, as "under 1 month," "1 month," "2 months," &c.					Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.				
																		Total Children born alive.	Children still living.			
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.															
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.							
1	Michael	Moone	Head of Family	R Catholic	Cannot Read	69	-	Farmer	Widower	-	-	-	Mayo	Irish & English	-							
2	Eileen	Loftus	Daughter	R Catholic	Read & Write	-	24	-	Married	under one	None	-	Mayo	Irish & English	-							
3	John	Loftus	Son-in-law	R Catholic	Read & Write	32	-	Farmer	Married	-	-	-	Mayo	Irish & English	-							
4																						

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.

P. J. O'Hanlon Const Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Michael Moone Signature of Head of Family.

Witness P. J. O'Hanlon Const

House No. 34, Toocananagh, Toocananagh, Mayo



Case Study: Mary Fraher (née Walsh)

Mary Walsh - Background

- Born in 1865, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.
- Married August 4th 1892 to Daniel Fraher.
- Institutionalised approx. 1898
- 1901 entry isn't digitised*
- Living in St John's Hill, Waterford in 1911.
- Died 1914 in Asylum aged 49

*Correct at time of presentation

FORM I.—RETURN OF LUNATICS AND IDIOTS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUMS—continued.

Image: National Archives Ireland

Number.	Initial Letters of Christian Name or Names and of Surname.		Religious Profession	Education.	Age (last Birthday) and Sex.	Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Particulars as to Marriage				Locality.		Irish Language.	State the kind of Insanity under which each Patient labours, as—Mania, Melancholia, Dementia, and whether with tendency to Violence, or whether complicated by Epilepsy.	State ascertained or presumed cause of Insanity.		Write the respective Insanities opposite the initials of the afflicted person.
	Christian Name.	Surname.					Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single."	State for each Married Woman entered in this Schedule the number of	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no Children born alive write "none."	Where Born.	Where From.			Years.	Months.	
88	M	Mooney	Roman Catholic	head & white	52	Leather	Single				City Waterford	City Waterford	Irish	Mania	15		Worry
89	M	Powell	Do	Do.	43	None	Do				Do Waterford	Tramore	"	Do	15		Hereditary
90	A	Fullan	Do	Do	73	Do	Married				Do	Greenane	Irish English	Do	11		Unknown
91	A	Wash	Do	head & white	40	Do	Single				Do	Kungarvan	" Do.	Do	11		Hereditary
92	K	Cahill	Do	Do.	55	Housekeeper	Married	22	4	4	City Waterford	City Waterford	"	Do	11		Alcohol
93	M	Wynn	Do	head & white	44	Servant	Single				Do	Do	"	Do	11		Hereditary
94	M	Wash	Do	Do.	38	Do	Do				Do	Do	"	Do	11		Congenital
95	M	Sutton	Do	Do.	39	None	Do				Do	Do	"	Mania	14		Do
96	J	Roche	Do	Do	63	Do	Widowed		2	2	? Not known	London	Irish	Do	11		Alcohol
97	E	Bannon	Do	Do.	31	Do	Single				Do Waterford	Lismore	Irish	Melancholia	13		Congenital
98	M	Spash	Do	head & white	52	Do	Do				Do	Barriock	Irish English	Mania	13		Hereditary
99	M	Devin	Do	Do	62	Do	Do				Do	Admahoe	Do	Melancholia	13		Unknown
100	E	Kuyper	Do	Do	48	Teacher	Do				Do	Ballygambon	" Do.	Mania	12		Worry
1	M	Granger	Do	Do.	45	None	Do				Do	Castle Hill	" Do.	Melancholia	13		Do
2	M	Quarley	Do	head & white	20	Do	Do				City Waterford	City Waterford	"	Epilepsy Dementia	13		Congenital
3	M	Manfield	Do	Do.	72	Do	Do				Do	Do	"	Do	13		Do
4	M	Brennan	Do	Do.	68	Servant	Do				Do	Do	Irish English	Mania	13		Do
5	E	Hartney	Do	head & white	49	None	Married	Not known			Do	Do	Do	Do	13		Do
6	E	Stillo	Do	Do.	46	Do	Do	27	1	2	Do	Do	"	Melancholia	13		Worry
7	B	Wash	Do	Do	40	Do	Single				Do	Do	"	Mania	13		Do
8	E	Wash	Do	Do.	38	Do	Do				Do	Do	"	Do	12		Congenital
9	A	Lewis	Do	Do.	62	Servant	Widowed				Do	Do	"	Do	13		Do
110	M	Graber	Do	Do.	45	Housekeeper	Married	19	3	2	Do Kilkenny	Kungarvan	Irish English	Do	13		Hereditary
111	M	Wash	Do	Do.	36	None	Single				Do Waterford	Barriock	Irish	Melancholia	12		Do
112	M	Harrison	Do	Do.	57	Housekeeper	Married	37	11	14	City Waterford	City Waterford	Irish	Mania	13		Unknown
113	A	Harvey	Do	Do.	36	Servant	Single				Do	Do	"	Do	13		Do
114	M	Harvey	Do	Do	71	None	Do				Do	Do	Irish English	Do	12		Hereditary
115	E	Butler	Do	Do.	57	Do	Married	40	8	6	Do	Do	"	Do	12		Do
116	M	Lowmy	Do	Do.	61	Do	Single				Do	Kungarvan	"	Do	12		Unknown

Institutional Return (1911)

Entry No.	Name	Surname	Religion	Read / Write	Age	Occupation	Marital Status	Years Married		
								Children		
								Born / Still Living		
110	M	Fraher	Do	Do	45	Housekeeper	Married	19	3	2



Town / Townland			Reason for Admission	Years Admitted	Ascertained / Presumed Cause of Insanity	
Place of Birth	Admitted	Irish Language				
Co. Kilkenny	Dungarvan	Irish & English	Do	13	Hereditary	



1926 Census

- Recorded on April 18th, 1926.
- The first census in 15 years. First of the Irish Free State.
- Due to be released, made available on April 18th, 2026

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the accompanying Memorandum A, and then fill up the Schedule carefully, and in ink.

NAME AND SURNAME	Relationship to head of Household	Age	Sex	Marriage or Orphanhood	Birthplace	Irish Language	Religion	OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT		Information regarding present Marriages required from Married Women		Information regarding present and previous Marriages required from Married Men, Widowers, and Widows
								Personal Occupation	Employment	State for each Married Woman		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)
		yrs.	mths.							yrs.	mths.	
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE ENUMERATOR

Question (p) :—

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Head of Household, etc.....

I hereby certify that the foregoing Return (consisting of..... pages) is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Enumerator.....

Useful Tips

- Don't assume that ages recorded are correct. Ages tended to be out by a few years in some instances.
- Try out different variations of the person's name, they could've always been mistranscribed or been listed under a nickname.
- If the person had lived in a Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking area) name could be listed under their Irish name e.g. John Whelan could become Seán O'Faoláin.
- O' wasn't always recorded so O'Sullivan could change to Sullivan.

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.
	No Persons ABSENT on the night of Sunday, March 31st, to be entered here: EXCEPT those (not enumerated elsewhere) who may be out at WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME ON MONDAY, APRIL 1st.		State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other relative; "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," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Years on last Birthday.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				
1	John	Power	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	60
2	Alice	Power	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	28
3	Margaret	Power	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	23
4	Johanna	Power	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	19
5	William	Power	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	18

Images:
National
Archives
of Ireland

		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1	John	Power	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	75	
2	Maggie	Power	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	-	25
3	Johanna	Power	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	-	22
4	William	Power	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	21	-
5	John	Power	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	4	-

	Christian Name.	Surname.	&c.	Body to which they belong.		Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1	Halford	Elizabeth	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Can Read & Write		55
2	Halford	John	Son	Roman Catholic	& Both	23	
3	Halford	Patrick	Son	Roman Catholic	Both	21	
4	Bathman	Mary	Boarder	Roman Catholic	Both		40
5	Smith	John	Boarder	Roman Catholic	Both	40	
6	Bridget	Heerey	Servant	Roman Catholic	Both	24	24
7							

Images:
National
Archives
of Ireland

[Census Years](#) / [1911](#) / [Dublin](#) / [Trinity Ward](#) / [George's Quay](#) / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 16.1 in George's Quay (Trinity Ward, Dublin)

☐ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion
Elizabeth	Halford	55	Female	Head of Family	Roman Catholic
John	Halford	23	Male	Son	Roman Catholic
Patrick	Halford	21	Male	Son	Roman Catholic
Mary	Bathman	40	Female	Boarder	Roman Catholic
John	Smith	40	Male	Boarder	Roman Catholic
Heerey	Bridget	24	Female	Servant	Roman Catholic

[Report any error in transcription](#)

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; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	No Persons ABSENT on the night of Sunday, March 31st, to be entered here: EXCEPT those (not enumerated elsewhere) who may be out at WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME ON MONDAY, APRIL 1st.		State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other relative; "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," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Years on last Birth-day.	Months for Infants under one Year.	Write "M" for Males and "F" for Females.	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 <i>Scholars</i> . Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.]	Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," 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, 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 infirmities opposite the name of the afflicted person.
	Christian Name.	Surname.											
1	Joseph	Patrick Luegley	Member of Community	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	30		M	Priest	Not Married	Limerick	Irish & English	

[Home](#) / [1901/1911 Census, Ireland](#) / [Search](#)

Search results Displaying results 1 - 10 of 19

Records per page: 10 / [50](#) / [100](#)

☐ Show all information

Sort by: **Relevance** / [Surname](#) / [Forename](#) / [Townland or Street](#) / [DED](#) / [County](#) / [Age](#) / [Sex](#)

Surname	Forename	Townland/Street	DED	County	Age	Sex
Barnes	Padraig	North Queen Street	Dock Ward	Antrim	13	M
Beirne	Padraig	Church Street	Rosstrevor	Down	28	M
Dubhghaill	Padraig	Garden Lane	Wood Quay	Dublin	32	M
Ua Muireagáin	Padraig	Heytesbury Street	Wood Quay	Dublin	28	M
O'Brien	Padraig	Glenarm Avenue and Villas	Drumcondra	Dublin	2	M
Ua Broin	Padraig	Grattan Parade	Drumcondra	Dublin	18	M
Breathnach	Padraig	Heytesbury Street	Fitzwilliam	Dublin	51	M
Mc Manus	Padraig	Derryronan	Swineford	Mayo	21	M
Ó h-Ogan	Padraig	Pennywell	Limerick No. 6	Limerick	37	M
Ó Choiglidh	Seosamh E. Padraig	Aungier Street	Royal Exchange	Dublin	30	M



Images:
National
Archives
of Ireland

Thank you for listening!

All my social media, websites and other things can be found here:

danielloftus.carrd.co