

Village Echoes

Goudhurst Census through Time

We've recently been obliged by law to fill in a census return or risk a £10,000 fine. This could be done either online or on paper or by phone. The census has happened every ten years from 1801 with the exception of 1941 because of the Second World War. The administration of the early census returns 1801-1831 was the responsibility of the Overseers of the Poor and the Clergy before being passed into the hands of the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrars in 1841. Most of the early returns were unfortunately destroyed, although in some isolated instances they have been preserved. However, they were usually nothing more sophisticated than a head count of the population with no names recorded. In all cases details remained confidential until 100 years passed.

The first record, in most places 1841, had names, addresses, occupations and whether they had been born in the present county. Ages were rounded to the nearest five years. The records were handwritten and often difficult to decipher. They are also of varying quality as they were conducted by local people. Door numbers rarely existed at this time and in locations such as a village or town centre people were frequently just listed as living in *the street* or in the case Goudhurst *-in the Town*. From 1851 all individuals were listed with their relationship to the head of the household, actual ages, their occupations and where they were born.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
	Uninhabited or building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.	
Joye Cottage	1		Wm Penfold	45		Bricklayer	Yes		
			Mary do	45			do		
			Edo do	15			do		
			Emily do	10			do		
			Wm Penfold	10			do		
In the Town	1		Wm Burgess	37		Grocer & Draper	do		
			Anne do	40			do		
			Wm Burgess	4			Yes		
			An Burgess	5			do		
			Henrick do	3			do		
			Geo Burgess	1			do		
			Female Infant	1/4			do		
			Sarah Hursey	63			Nurse Woman	do	
			Simon Hurman	20			Servant	do	
			Steph Bishop	16			Apprentice	Yes	
John Judge	14			do	Yes				

Extract from the 1841 Goudhurst Census

The extract above is from 1841 when Goudhurst and Kildown was one parish. It shows William Penfold a bricklayer at the top with his wife and three children at Joye Cottage. Below them, described as 'in the town' are the family and employees of William Burgess, Grocer and Draper and so we know where they are. It reveals that William and his wife Anne weren't born in Kent but went on to establish a dynasty in Goudhurst. There was somebody described as a Nurse Woman, presumably a nurse maid for their children including a female baby not yet named. Below her are a servant and two apprentices, one only fourteen years old.

14	Goldwell House	1	William Burgess	Head	Widow	66	Appraiser	Widow Ewhurst
	"		Mary E. "	Serv	Widow	25		Kent Goudhurst
	"		Ada C. Gilbert	Niece		13	School	Kimbridge Wells
	"		Elizabeth Yancey	Serv	Widow	40	Housemaid	Harmonden
	"		Annand Buer	Serv	Widow	26	Cook	Middlesex Hackney
15	Beresford Place	1	Richard Clancy	Head	Married	45	Ag. Lab.	Ireland
	"		Mary A. "	Wife	Mar	21		Kent Goudhurst
	"		George "	Son		3		"
	"		John "	Son		2		"
	Chapel	115						

Extract from the 1871 Goudhurst Census

By the time of the 1871 census William Burgess senior has moved away from the shop and was now living in Goldwell House. You can see that William had been born in Ewhurst, Sussex and his wife Anne had died as he was described as a widower. One of his daughters still lived at home, probably acting as housekeeper, together with a niece who was still at school. The household was completed by a housemaid and cook. William gave his occupation as appraiser, perhaps still involved in the stores as a consultant? Living at the stores now was his son William who was married and had six children. His entry on the census notes that he employed three men and two boys.

By 1911 there were at least eighteen people with the name of Burgess living in Goudhurst, some had been born in Cranbrook. Frank Burgess was now living 'above the shop'.

Large Schedule, with space for 40 names.		CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.										Number of Schedules (To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)	
NAME AND SURNAME		RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE			PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged 10 years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every Person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.		
(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. In one case must be included.		State whether "Head," "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months at "one month," "two months," etc. For all persons aged 10 years and upwards.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widow," or "Widower," opposite the names of all persons aged 10 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of— Children born alive in present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the article made or material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of page 2.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment, if employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, &c.) or as a wage-earner. (See Instructions 9 and Examples on back of page 2.)	Whether Employee, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write the words "As Home" opposite the name of each person entering on this or Industry as Home.	Whether Working at Home. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, &c., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."	State whether— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalized British subject giving proof of naturalization." (3) "Irish subject." (4) "Alien," or "Foreigner," state the nationality of the person's name, and the age at which he or she became naturalized.	If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "Totally," "Partially," "Blind," "Deaf," or "Dumb." (2) "Totally," "Partially," "Lame," or "Paralysed." (3) "Totally," "Partially," "Infirm," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Frank Burgess	Head	57	Married				Gravel & Drapery		Employer Millers Row, Goudhurst, Kent	British			

Extract from the 1911 Goudhurst Census

This is the last census that is accessible to the public but the 1921 version will be online in early 2022. 1911 was the first census to be written by people themselves and even more information was required. This extract shows that it was now required to include the length of marriage and how many children had been born and how many had survived. Not only did they have to give their address but also note how many rooms the home had. In addition, by also stating infirmities suffered, such as blindness, the government was able to record the rate of infant mortality, housing conditions and the health of the population, thereby showing how improvements should be made in the future. A comprehensive list of facts but still nowhere near as much information as we supplied in March!