

Newsletter

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1911 Census Update

1840 Report on Employment of Children

Editorial

On behalf of your committee we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

If you are unable to decide what to buy your genealogist partner or friend for Christmas then look on the Parish Chest website. The site contains 159 suppliers and almost 32,000 items for the family historian. The site is an Aladdin's Cave of Parish Registers and Monumental Inscription on CD. Although you have to go onto a computer to view the website they also sell quite a number of Registers and Monumental Inscriptions in book form.

I have deep respect for family historians who managed to carry out their research before the internet. There is so much available today and more seems to be put on line every week. The latest I have found the website : -

archive.timesonline.co.uk

where you can subscribe for access to the archives of The Times newspaper. It will cost £4.95 for a day or better value of £14.95 for one month.

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The 1911 census service will be launching soon and when it is available you will be able to search over 36 million records of people living in England and Wales in 1911. The official 1911 census site is already in existence (although you won't be able to carry out a search until the official launch next year)? If you register at the site you'll receive email updates on the progress of the project. In the 1911 census you will be able to uncover the details of your ancestors' lives: find their address, who they lived with, and their occupations. Plus, for the first time ever, view scans of household schedules *hand-written* by *your ancestors*, as well as enumerator summary books and useful statistics on their neighbourhood. An interesting fact discovered recently is that over 10,000 people recorded on the 1911 Census are still living. Do you know any of them? How do they feel about the impending release of the census? The Official 1911 Census Website is www.1911census.co.uk.

The Children's Employment Commission sent Samuel Scriven out throughout the country to investigate the working conditions of children. He came to The Potteries and his report has been published in two books (part one and part two) which can be bought from the City Archives in Bethesda Street, Hanley. If you want to find out how families lived during this time in our history then read these reports. Some of the evidence given by the children will bring a tear to your eye but the best part is that all the children are named and where they lived (district only) and where they worked. If your ancestor was a pottery worker then they might have been interviewed by Scriven.



A Christmas Story

Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
 Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.
 The dining room table with clutter was spread
 With pedigree charts and with letters which said...
 "Too bad about the data for which you wrote
 Sank in a storm on an ill fated boat".

Stacks of old copies of wills and the such
 Were proof that my work had become much too much.
 Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
 While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.
 And I at my table was ready to drop
 From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here, and of such was my lot
 That presents and goodies and toys I forgot.
 Had I not been so busy with grandparent's wills,
 I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.
 While others had bought gifts that would bring Christmas
 cheer;
 I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
 A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.
 Away to the window I flew in a flash,
 Tore open the drapes and I yanked up the sash.
 When what to my wondering eyes should appear?
 But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.

Up to the housetop the reindeer they flew,
 With a sleigh full of toys, and old Santa Claus too.
 And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
 The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.
 The TV antenna was no match for their horns,
 And look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned.

As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,
 Down the cold chimney fell Santa - KER-RASH!
 "Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck,
 And tracked soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short
 neck!)
 Spotting my face, good old Santa could see
 I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
 And filled all the stockings, (I felt like a jerk).
 Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy;
 When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread"
 A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)
 "Tonight I've met many like you", Santa grinned.
 As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.
 I gazed with amazement - the cover it read"
 Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead."

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"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug,
 "He said as he gave me a great Santa Hug.
 "While the elves make the sleigh-full of toys I now
 carry,
 I do some research in the North Pole Library!
 A special treat I am thus able to bring,
 To genealogy folks who can't find a thing.
 Now off you go to your bed for a rest,
 I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."

As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
 I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.
 While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle,
 To his team which then rose like the down of a this-
 tle
 And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight
 "Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas! Good-
 night!"

Author Unknown.

This poem was sent in by Bill Harrison last year but
 it was too late for the Christmas Newsletter so to
 prove to Bill that I throw nothing away that is
 offered for our Newsletter I have used the poem this
 year.



Merry Christ-

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