

## **Genealogy - August 2022 Report**

Sixteen members of the joint Teesdale and Bishop Auckland Genealogy Group met in person at Enterprise House. The topic was 'Using the Census'.

In 1798 Thomas Malthus predicted that population would grow exponentially, resulting in famine or war which would reduce the population. The government at the time decided that some population facts were needed and passed the Census Act 1800 which initiated the 10 yearly census from 1801. The first four censuses were purely numbers, not names, but the censuses that family historians have come to love started in 1841 and have now been published up to 1921.

By finding an ancestor in the 1911 census, for example, it should be possible to find that ancestor in a census just after their birth and thus identify their parents and those parents' birth years and birth places. Repeating the process will take the researcher back to 1841 in two or three generations. The gaps can then be filled in to give a broader picture of the family, their occupations and where they lived.

Many occupations recur frequently – Ag. Lab. or F.S. which stands for female domestic servant – but others reward further research. A Sagar Maker's Bottom Knocker made a star showing on 'What's My Line' many years ago.

The order of entries in the census reflects the enumerator's progress round his district and tracing this on a map can locate where an ancestor lived even if addresses have subsequently changed.

In September the topic will be "Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths". The meeting will be in person at 2pm on September 1<sup>st</sup> in the Dales Room at Enterprise House on the Harmire Estate in Barnard Castle. A one hour tutorial will be followed by a one hour practical session.

In October our meeting room is not available on Thursday so the meeting will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> but will revert to Thursday for November and December.

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