

# Introduction to the transcriptions of census data for the Cleobury Mortimer area

The first full census was in 1841 and they have been taken every 10 years since then. The information is kept confidential for 100 years. Thus they are available from 1841 to 1911.

In the first census only limited information was recorded but subsequent censuses have recorded more. Unfortunately some of the enumerators, especially in the earlier years, had pretty poor handwriting, so some of the transcribed data cannot be guaranteed. Moreover the civil servants who harvested the data from the census sheets appear to have thought that no one after them would have any interest in looking at them. They ticked off the data, crossed out and added stuff about which they had no real knowledge, making some of it illegible.

It is worth noting that in 1839 37% of men and 50 % of women were unable to sign their marriage register. It seems that generally the enumerator merely wrote down what he had heard in his own version of spelling. Even in 1911 quite a number of Heads of Household had to get a neighbour or the enumerator to fill in the form them

Another thing which should be considered is that the information on the census sheets is not necessarily the **truth**. People may well have lied about their age or their relationship to other members of the household. Some of the enumerators were extremely pious and respondents may have been embarrassed about revealing details of their private life. Illegitimacy was often hidden or, in some cases of a particularly difficult enumerator, heavily underlined. There was nothing in any of the instructions to use "single mother" as a description but some insisted on using it. So their loss of privacy is our gain in the information available.

The columns from left to right in this transcribed version are (apart from 1841 which is far less comprehensive and where right hand col. is answer to "Were you born in this county?"):

1. running total which corresponds with the data in the COMPLETE INDEX .It covers all 20 parishes (There are over 70,000 entries. It's available from me or from the CM History Soc. – see below).
2. Number in the record
3. Christian name
4. surname
5. Relationship to head of house (see abbreviations below)
6. Age
7. Male or Female
8. Condition as to marriage (Married, Single, Widowed)
9. Only in 1911. Years married
10. Occupation
11. Birthplace

The original census sheets can be viewed (for a payment) at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk). This involves either buying credits for small tasks or an annual sub of about £120 which allows you to search all the UK censuses and quite a lot of parish and other records. You can also access this for free in the library.

There is an index to all the names in all 20 or so parishes surrounding Cleobury Mortimer on the Cleobury Mortimer History Society website <http://www.cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk/>

If you would like copies (in Word) of any or all of this data, or have any helpful suggestions, please get in touch at [Barnslands.farm@btinternet.com](mailto:Barnslands.farm@btinternet.com)

## Abbreviations

In order to save space I have frequently used CM for Cleobury Mortimer. NS means either Neen Sollars or Neen Savage depending on the parish records in which it appears. There are a few other abbreviations listed at the top of the relevant tables. I have used the following abbreviations throughout all of the parishes and years:

In the rel (relationship to head of the household) column	<i>Ad</i>	<i>Adopted</i>
<i>H</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Visitor</i>
<i>W</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>Boarder</i>
<i>S</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Lodger</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Inmate</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Ser</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>St</i>	<i>Nur ch</i>	<i>Nurse child</i>
<i>-L</i>	<i>Rel</i>	<i>Relative</i>
<i>Sis</i>		
<i>Bro</i>	in the Con (condition as to marriage)column	
<i>Nie</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Married</i>
<i>Neph</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Widowed</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Single</i>

## Populations of Parishes included

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	TOTAL
Aston Botterell	172	175	171	157	164	184	162	157	1342
Bayton	470	442	447	478	418	416	432	488	3591
Burwarton	151	114	155	171	136	230	185	166	1308
Cleobury N & Neenton	318	308	278	341	328	330	296	308	2507
CM a	999	1022	992	1036	921	849	1145	950	7914
CM b	441	374	375	252	330	300	448	437	2957
CM c	284	243	243	419	312	311	210	146	2168
Coreley	522	553	514	593	623	554	729	597	4685
Ditton Priors	652	582	610	595	613	581	505	599	4737
Farlow & Silvington	400	385	351	372	395	376	362	364	3005
Highley	365	358	406	293	363	525	804	1488	4602
Hopton Wafers	479	444	449	414	437	422	453	427	3525
Kinlet	476	446	422	468	433	558	522	536	3861
Mamble	376	381	307	275	188	189	206	197	2119
Milson & Neen Sollars	348	387	248	360	309	307	324	326	2609
Neen Savage	490	438	452	302	331	318	402	385	3118
Rock a	201	214	210	210	247	247	386	337	2052
Rock b	319	308	322	317	364	509	495	527	3161
Rock c	866	810	821	860	904	634	633	644	6172
Stoke St Milborough	594	363	573	576	504	482	484	482	4058
Stottesdon a	552	537	338	350	443	398	435	468	3521
Stottesdon b	330	168	412	435	374	253	235	268	2475
Stottesdon c	236	108	228	188	191	219	258	273	1701
Stottesdon d	95	361	235	271	236				1198
Wheathill & Loughton	214	235	224	206	191	201	170	163	1604
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9756</b>	<b>9393</b>	<b>9210</b>	<b>9363</b>	<b>9251</b>	<b>8911</b>	<b>9797</b>	<b>10251</b>	<b>79990</b>

For the purpose of the census, Neen Sollars/Milson, Farlow/Silvington and Wheathill/Loughton were treated as one parish. But *Ancestry* have split them into two. I have re-amalgamated them to make them more like the originals