

**Evidence and Enquiry: Using the 1901 and 1911 census forms in the History classroom,
2016**

Examining the 1911 census record of Edward Bailey

Section One: Locating the census record.

To find the census form for Edward Bailey in 1911.

1. Go to www.census.nationalarchives.ie.
2. Click on “Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911”.
3. Choose the census year, 1911.
4. Write in the name *Bailey* on the surname line.
5. Write in *Edward* on the Forename line.
6. Click the name *Louth* in the drop-down list on the county line.
7. Write in the name *Castletown Road* in the *Townland / street* line.
8. Click search.
9. Click on the name *Edward Bailey*.
10. To see all of the personal information about his family, click on the box for the heading, “show all information”.
11. Below the typed family information, you can view the four original forms relating to his family - the household return (Form A), the enumerator's abstract (Form N), the house and building returns (Form B1), and the Out-Offices Return (Form B2).
12. If the number 2 appears underneath any of these forms, click on the number. It will open up the reverse side of the form.

Section Two: The 1911 census form of Edward Bailey

The following is a transcript of the information provided by *Patrick Bailey*, the “head of household”, on the 1911 census form, under the heading, “Residents of a house 67 in Castletown Road (Dundalk Urban No. 2, Louth)”.

Surname	Christian Name	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation
Bailey	Patrick	46	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	County Louth	Labourer Builder
Bailey	Anne	40	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	County Louth	-
Bailey	Edward	15	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	County Louth	Message Boy
Bailey	Matthew	9	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	County Louth	Scholar
Bailey	Hugh Joseph	5	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	County Louth	Scholar

Surname	Christian Name	Education	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Bailey	Patrick	Cannot read	-	Married	-	-	-	-
Bailey	Anne	Read and write	-	Married	-	16	8	4
Bailey	Edward	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Bailey	Matthew	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Bailey	Hugh Joseph	-	-	Single	-	-	-	-

Section Three:

What can we learn about the Bailey family from this census information?

- 1 What is the name of the “head of family”? What was his occupation?
- 2 What is the name of the mother? What is her occupation?
- 3 In what year did they marry? *Anne Bailey* gave birth to eight children. What percentage of them were still alive in 1911?
- 3 How many sons were at home on the “census night”?
- 4 How many daughters were at home on the “census night”?
- 5 What was the religion of the Bailey family?
- 6 Where were all of the Bailey children born?
- 7 *Patrick Bailey*, the “head of household”, could not read. What evidence is there on the form that the Bailey family placed great value on the importance of education?
- 8 Why was the occupation of *Mary McKenna* written on the form while that of *Mary Bailey* was not?
9. What was the *occupation* listed for *Edward Bailey*?
10. Look at the information given about Edward, and other members of the family. What can we learn about *Edward Bailey* and his family from this census information?

Activity:

Write in any two questions that you can also ask about this information or any other census information that is available for Edward Bailey.

A.

B.

Look at the original census form filled in by Christopher Bailey

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. 67

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.

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; Blind; or Lame.		
				Male.	Female.		Whether Married, Widowed, or Single.	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born, write "None" in column 11.				Total Children born alive.	Children still living.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Patrick Bailey	Head	Roman Catholic	cannot read	46		Farmer	Married	17	-	-	County South	-	-	-
Anne Bailey	Wife	Roman Catholic	cannot write	-	40	-	Married	16	8	4	County South	-	-	-
Edward Bailey	Son	Roman Catholic	cannot write	15	-	Messeng. Corp.	Single	-	-	-	County South	-	-	-
Matthew Bailey	Son	Roman Catholic	cannot write	9	-	Scholar	Single	-	-	-	County South	-	-	-
Elizabeth Bailey	Son	Roman Catholic	-	3	-	Scholar	Single	-	-	-	County South	-	-	-
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.						I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.								
F. K. Martin Const. Signature of Enumerator.						Patrick Bailey Signature of Head of Family.								

Image 7 - Census 1911, Bailey Edward (form A) family information

- What was the date for the 1911 census?
- Who signed the form, at the bottom, stating that the return was “correct”?
- Patrick Bailey, the “head of household” could not read. Who filled in the information on the form? What evidence have you to support your answer? What two steps did Constable Martin take so that there was no doubt that the return was a “true Return”?
- Why were two people needed to sign the form?
- “F. K. Martin, Const” signed the form as an Enumerator. He was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary [R.I.C.]. Why would a policeman be chosen to do this type of work?
- Do a search for the 1911 census form of Constable F. K. Martin. Put in his personal information. Click the heading, “More search options”. Write *constable* into the *occupation* box. Why is it difficult to comment on his personal information? [N.B. Make sure that you delete the word *constable* from the *occupation* box before you make any more searches.]

Section Four: Edward Bailey's witness statement for the Bureau of Military History

Edward was 15 years of age in 1911.

In 1916, he took part in the 1916 rising when he was 20 years old.

He provided a statement of his activities during the period 1914 to 1916

Edward Bailey's witness statement can be found at the [search page](#) for witnesses on the site of the Bureau of Military History.

Find his record by clicking the letter B, and then clicking on the line, *Bailey, Edward*.

Click on the PDF icon on the right hand side to open the statement. You can save this to your device for your own personal study.

He gives an account from the point of view of a witness and participant who played a part in the events that took place in Ireland between 1913 and 1921.

Any historical document that assists us to understand the past can be examined in response to a simple series of prompts, called the 5 W's – who, what, why, where, when.

So, when you have finished your study of Edward's witness statement, can you write a simple response to the following five questions -

- 1) Who supplied the information in the statement?

- 2) What was it about?

- 3) Why was it written down?

- 4) Where did the events it describes take place?

- 5) When was it produced?

Section Five: Examining Edward Bailey’s witness statement, covering the events of the period 1914 to 1916.

1) Examining the title page

Answer the following questions, using the information from the title page of her statement.

ROINN  **COSANTA.**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1918-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. **W.S.** 233.....

Witness

Mr. Edward Bailey,
17 Park St.,
Dundalk,
Co. Louth,
Identity
Company Quartermaster
Irish Volunteers 'C' Company, Dundalk,
1914-1916.

Subject

Mobilisation and marches in
Dundalk district Easter Week 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil.

File No. ...S.1511.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

Answer the following questions, using the information from this page.

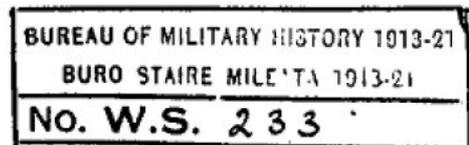
- 1) What was the name of the group who interviewed him?
- 2) What is the number of his witness statement (W. S.)?
- 3) What was his rank in the Irish Volunteers?
- 4) What was his main “identity” (or role)?
- 5) What is listed as the subject of his witness statement?
- 6) What is the file number of his witness statement?
- 7) Why is all of this information included on the first page of his statement? Why are these elements important for a historian?

2) Examining the signatures

On the last page of his statement, Edward Bailey signed his statement.

Signed: Edward Bailey
Date: 8th April 1949

Witness: John Treacy
8/4/49



- 1) Why, in your opinion did *Edward Bailey* sign this form?
- 2) What date was it signed on?
- 3) What was the name of the person who witnessed *Edward Bailey's* signature?
- 4) Why was it necessary for a second person to sign this form?
- 5) What is the purpose of the stamp in the bottom right-hand corner?
- 6) Why is this type of information important for an historian?

3) Examining Edward Bailey's statement

Read **page one** of his witness statement, and answer the following questions.

- 1) Where did Bailey live when he gave his statement?
- 2) How many rifles and revolvers did his company have?
- 3) Why was Bailey refused entry into the IRB?
- 4) When did he learn that a rising was “contemplated”??
- 5) What orders did he receive on “Holy Saturday”?

Edward Bailey goes on to describe in detail his experiences during the 1916 rising.

Activity one:

Read through the remainder of his witness statement. Draw up a series of five questions that would help a reader of the document to understand the most important or significant material in the witness statement.

Then write a brief explanation giving your reasons for highlighting this material.

How is your understanding of the events of the 1916 rising changed as a result of reading about his experiences?

Question:

What benefit is it for a historian to have access to the census records, and a Bureau of Military History witness statement, from a person who has some connection to the events of Easter Week, 1916?

Activity two:

Examine the information available in the 1901 census form for Edward Bailey, available online, or in the file, “CSO 2015 J History 1901 Forms Bailey Gifford Hackett McAllister”

What, in your opinion, is the most significant new information in this census return?