

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

**Examining the 1911 census record of Rosie Hackett**

**Section One: Locating the census record.**

To find the census form for Rosanna Hackett in 1911.

1. Go to [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://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 *Hackett* on the surname line.
5. Write in *Rosanna* on the Forename line.
6. Click the name *Dublin* in the drop-down list on the county line.
7. Write in the name *North Dock* in the DED line.
8. Click search.
9. Click on the name *Rosanna Hackett*.
10. To see all of the personal information about her 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 her 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 Rosanna Hackett

The following is a transcript of the information on *Rosanna Hackett* on the 1911 census form, under the heading, “Residents of a house 3 in Abbey Street, Old (North Dock, Dublin)”

Surname	Christian name	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation
Gray	Patrick	42	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Cork	Caretaker in Warehouse
Gray	Rosanna	38	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	-
Gray	Thomas	7	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	Scholar
Gray	Patrick	3	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	-
Gray	Denis	1	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	-
Hackett	Rosanna	17	Female	Step Daughter	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	Packer in Paper Stores
Hackett	Christina	16	Female	Step Daughter	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	-
Dunne	James	32	Male	Boarder	Roman Catholic	City Dublin	Licensed Carman

Surname	Christian name	Education	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Gray	Patrick	Read and write	-	Married	-	8	4	3
Gray	Rosanna	Read and write	-	Married	-	8	-	-
Gray	Thomas	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Gray	Patrick	Cannot read	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Gray	Denis	Cannot read	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Hackett	Rosanna	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Hackett	Christina	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-
Dunne	James	Read and write	-	Single	-	-	-	-

### Section Three:

#### What can we learn about Rosanna Hackett's family from the 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? *Rosanna Gray* (her mother) gave birth to four children. What percentage of them were still alive in 1911?
- 3 a) How many sons were at home on the "census night"?  
b) How many step-daughters were at home on the "census night"?  
c) What does the term "step-daughter" mean?
- 5 What was the religion of the Hackett family? [The term "Do. Do." in this column means that the reference on the line is the same as the line above it.]
- 6 Where were all of the Hackett children born? Where was Patrick Gray born?
- 7 All members of the household over the age of three could "read and write", according to the form. Is there any other information on the form to show that the Gray and Hackett families placed great value on the importance of education?
- 8 a) What was listed as Rosanna's occupation?  
b) Christina Hackett, aged 16, does not have any occupation listed? Can you suggest a reason why this might be so?
9. James Dunne was a "boarder". What does this mean? His occupation is listed as a "licensed carman". What word do we use today to describe that type of work?
10. Look at the information given about Rosanna, and other members of the family unit, as listed by Patrick Gray, the "head of household". What can we learn about Rosanna Hackett and her family from their 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 Rosanna Hackett.

A.

B.

Look at the original census form filled in by Patrick Gray, head of the household.

**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. 3

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; Dumb only; Inebriate or Idiot; or Lunatic.		
				Males.	Females.		Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Widow," or "Single."	Completed years of present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, 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 Gray	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	17	2	Bar-taker in Warehouse	Married	8	11	3	Co. Cork			
Rosanna Gray	Wife	Do do	Do do	38	0	Scholar	"	"	"	"	Co. Dublin			
Thomas Gray	Son	Do do	Do do	7	0		"	"	"	"	"			
Patrick Gray	Son	Do do	Cannot Read	3	0		"	"	"	"	"			
Dennis Gray	Son	Do do	Do do	1	0		"	"	"	"	"			
Rosanna Hackett	Servant	Do do	Read & Write	17	0	Packet in Paper	"	"	"	"	"			
Christina Hackett	Servant	Do do	Do do	16	0		"	"	"	"	"			
James Curran	Boarder	Do do	Do do	32	0	Tramway Carman	"	"	"	"	"			

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.  
*Christopher Butler, E / 128* Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.  
*Patrick Gray* Signature of Head of Family.

Image 9 - Census 1911, Hackett Rosanna (form A) family information

11. What was the date for the 1911 census?
12. Who signed the form, at the bottom, stating that the return was "correct"?
13. Who signed the form, at the bottom, as "Head of Family", saying that it was a "true" return?
14. Why were two people needed to sign the form?
15. "Christopher Butler, E / 128" signed the form as an Enumerator. He was a member of the Dublin Metropolitan Police [DMP]. Why would a policeman be chosen to do this type of work?
16. Do a search in the 1911 census for Christopher Butler. Put in his personal information. Click the heading, "More search options". Write in the word *constable* in the *occupation* box. Click on the single entry to see his personal details as entered by his father on the 1911 census. What can we learn about his family from the listed information? [N.B. Make sure that you delete the word *constable* from the *occupation* box before you make any more searches.]

## Section Four: Rosanna Hackett's witness statement for the Bureau of Military History

Rosanna was 17 years of age in 1911.

In 1916, she took part in the 1916 rising when she was 22 years old.

She provided a statement of her activities during the period 1913 to 1916.

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

Find her record by clicking the letter H, and then clicking on the line, *Hackett, Rose*.

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.

She gives an account from the point of view of a witness and participant who played a part in some of the events that took place in Ireland between 1913 and 1916.

People often are called by a different form of their birth names.

In the 1911 census, she is listed as *Rosanna*.

In her statement to the Bureau of Military History site, she is listed as *Rose*.

In 2014, a new bridge was opened over the Liffey. After public consultation, it was named the *Rosie Hackett* Bridge. It was the first Liffey bridge to be named after a woman since Sarah Bridge, now Island Bridge, in 1792.

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 Rosanna's witness statement, please 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 Rosanna Hackett's witness statement, covering the events of the period 1913 to 1916.**

**1) Examining the title page**

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

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BUIO STAIRÉ MILÉATA 1913 21  
NO. W.S. 546

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 546

**Witness**

Miss Rose Hackett,  
115 Brian Road,  
Fairview,  
Dublin.

**Identity.**

Member of Women's Section of  
Irish Citizen Army 1913 - .

**Subject.**

- (a) Raid by Police on Irish Transport and  
G.W.U. shop, 24/3/1916.
- (b) Stephen's Green and the College of Surgeons,  
Easter Week 1916.

**Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.**

Nil

File No B-190

Form BSM 2

- 1) What was the name of the group who interviewed her?
- 2) What is the number of her witness statement (W. S.)?
- 3) What was given as her “identity” (or role) in the events of 1913 to 1916?
- 4) What are listed as the subjects of her witness statement?
- 5) What is the file number of her witness statement?
- 6) Why is all of this information included on the first page of her statement? Why are these elements important for a historian?
- 7)

## 2) Examining the signatures

On the last page of her statement, Rosanna Hackett signed her statement.

Signed: *R. Hackett*

Date: 26/5/51

Witness: *J. McAllister*

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
 BUREAU STAIRS MILE 1913-21  
 NO. W.S. 546

- 1) Why, in your opinion did Rosanna Hackett sign this form?
- 2) What date was it signed on?
- 3) Why was the army rank of the person who witnessed Rosanna Hackett’s signature not given here?
- 4) What was his name? The name of the officer who witnessed the statement of Bernard McAllister was printed underneath his signature. However, the name of this officer is not printed here. Why is this additional information of importance to a historian?
- 5) Why was it necessary for a second person to sign this form?
- 6) What is the purpose of the stamp in the bottom right-hand corner?
- 7) Look at the number on Bernard McAllister’s form, and compare it to that of Rosanna Hackett. What does it tell us about the work of the Bureau of Military History during the period 1948 to 1951?
- 8) Why is this type of information important for an historian?

### 3) Examining Rosanna Hackett's statement

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

- 1) Why did Rosanna Hackett end up in Liberty Hall during 1913?
- 2) Who took charge of the workroom and the shop when the Irish Citizen army was set up?
- 3) What was the colour of the uniforms produced by Rosanna?
- 4) Who wore these uniforms?
- 5) Why did Rosanna Hackett consider that the shop in Liberty Hall might be raided?
- 6) What reason does she give for the raid on the shop?

Rosanna Hackett goes on to describe in detail her experiences during the 1916 rising

#### *Activity one:*

Read through the remainder of her 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 her experiences?

#### *Question:*

What benefit is it for a historian to have access to the census records, and a 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 Rosanna Hackett, 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?

#### *Activity Three:*

Read Rosie Hackett's biography in the *Dictionary of Irish Biography*. This is available as an online database in public libraries, as well as in schools through the *Scoilnet.ie* website.

#### *Question:*

What additional personal details about Rosanna's life up to and including 1911 are available in this source?