



Genealogy Newsletter - January 2018

Digitisation of the 1921 Census

The news we've all been waiting for: The National Archives has announced that it is seeking a supplier to digitise the England and Wales' 1921 census records. The supplier will digitise, transcribe and publish online, records from the census that was undertaken 97 years ago. Researchers will be able to search the online 1921 census in January 2022, at the earliest. The data gathered in June 1921 was protected by a 100-year non-disclosure rule, to protect confidentiality. Digitisation is expected to begin in May this year and the chosen company will be given a 10-year contract.

Speaking to *PublicTechnology* last year, The National Archives digital director John Sheriden said, 'It creates a really sustainable model of digitising the records – and we are not spending any of our money on digitising the collection. We have a model that works particularly well for large-scale digitisation – we are doing that through our partners.' (This information comes from the **FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES: January Newsletter** – www.ffhs.org.uk)

Release the 1926 Irish Census

Following the publication of the *National Archives (Amendment) Bill 2017*, the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) is calling on the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD, and the Heritage Minister, Josepha Madigan TD, to renew the commitment of the previous government to the early release of the original 1926 Census returns.

Under the provisions of the Statistics Act 1993, The National Archives of Ireland is currently preparing to release this material in January 2027. As the first census undertaken by the newly established Free State, it represents a snapshot of Ireland at the end of a very turbulent decade in its history. The population collectively bore the scars of the Great War, the Easter Rising, War of Independence and the Civil War. And all this was followed by significant migration post partition.

The Irish 2016 Census notes fewer than 70,000 people then alive aged over 85. The release of the 1939 National Register for England & Wales by the UK National Archives in 2015 set a precedent which should be followed in Ireland. It was a success because, on a rolling basis, data for anyone born less than a century before was redacted.

If you have Irish ancestors like many U3A members, then why not sign the petition and join with the CIGO to lobby the Taoiseach and the Heritage Minister to follow through on the commitment made in 2012 to release the Irish 1926 Census.

www.change.org/p/leo-varadkar-release-the-1926-irish-census

‘THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING PROOF’

GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD: STANDARDS & GOOD PRACTICE IN GENEALOGY – a talk by Charlie Mead, on how this Standard can help in researching and recording your family history, will be given on Wednesday 14th February at 14.00, at the London office of the **Society of Genealogists**. If you can't make it, have a look at my attached research guidance notes on 'The importance of establishing proof' (PDF file) for more information www.sog.org.uk

Finally, if you do not already subscribe to the online magazine '**Genealogy in Time**' you should sign-up, **it's free** and every month they update you on the new family history records that have become available the previous month, I can recommend it. www.genealogyintime.com