

# Wood Norton and the 1911 Census

This is an introduction to the Census for Wood Norton taken on the night of **Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1911**. A database has been produced of the information contained in the Census returns, and more information will feature in future exhibitions.

The Enumerator's Summary Book which accompanied the Census returns details the Enumeration District (Hindolveston and Wood Norton) and the area covered for Wood Norton:

*Civil & Ecclesiastical parish of Wood Norton (Entire), including the **Hall, the Rectory, Farm & cottages near the Church, Holly Hill public house, cottages & small farms on the road leading to Dukehouse Bridge, the Field Barn, Mill Barn, Lyng Hall farm & cottages, houses on the road from Holly Hill to Raw Hall.***

The Summary Book is organised by Schedule number, address, type of building, name of occupier, dwellings, buildings not used as dwellings, and population (*see the extract from the Summary Book, and Schedule 143 (Charles Burton Lipscomb, the Rectory), below as examples*).

The Summary Book and Census returns for Wood Norton reveal the following salient facts:

- **POPULATION:**

<b>Total recorded</b>	<b>316</b>	Amongst the recorded population were 8 visitors, visiting three households (family/friends)
Males	148	47% of recorded population
Females	168	53% of recorded population

- **BIRTHPLACE**

Born in Norfolk	285	90%	Over 80 villages are recorded in this list, from Alington to Worstead
<b>Born in Wood Norton</b>	111	35%	
Born elsewhere in England	28	9%	Co. Durham, Essex, Kent, London, Middlesex, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire
<b>Born overseas</b>	3	1%	<b>South Australia</b> (the Hon. Mrs Dorothy Ryder and her brother; Wood Norton Hall) <b>La Paz, South America</b> (Alfred Gibbs Arnold, retired brewer; British Subject by Parentage)

- **AGE**

Oldest female inhabitant	Matilda Gidney	82 (a widow)
Youngest female inhabitant	Arlie Leggett Mitchell	1 month
Oldest male inhabitant	Frederick Bidewell	80 (a widower)
Youngest male inhabitant	Lawrence Walter Long	2 months

- DWELLINGS**

<b>Total recorded</b>	<b>72</b>		
Inhabited	67	47 Cottages	These ranged in size from just 2 rooms, up to 8 rooms
		7 Private Houses	These ranged from 7 rooms, up to 23 rooms, and included Church Farm (12 rooms), the Rectory (16 rooms), and Wood Norton Hall (23 rooms)
		9 Farmhouses	These ranged from 4 rooms, up to 13 rooms, and included Dukehouse Bridge (5 rooms), Lyng Hall (5 rooms), and Raw Hall (6 rooms)
		1 House/Shop	The Post Office/Shop (8 rooms)
		2 Public Houses	The Horse Shoes and the Sun Inn
		1 Laundry	
Uninhabited	1	A cottage, located in Rectory Road	
Buildings not used as Dwellings	4	Chapel, Shop, School and Church	

- CHILDREN**

<b>BOYS</b>	<b>44</b>	Recorded in the Census, ranging in age from 2 months, including those recorded as being at School/Students, up to age 18
	27	Listed as being at School
	17	Not listed as being at School
<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>60</b>	Recorded in the Census, ranging in age from 1 month, including those recorded as being at School, up to age 15
	36	Listed as being at School
	24	Not listed as being at School (which includes two girls, aged 6 and 7, which is probably an omission in the return made)

- OCCUPATIONS**

The occupations listed are numerous and wide ranging, from Army Captain to Wheelwright. Most of the occupations were involved with either

- Agriculture: farmers, dairy workers, farm bailiffs/stewards, farm labourers, horsemen/teammen, stockmen; or
- Domestic work: butler, chauffeur, groom, cook, gardener, housekeeper, general servants, governess.

Other occupations include:

- an apprentice (motorworks), blacksmiths, gamekeepers, a laundress, teachers, poultry dealers, bricklayers, bootmakers, a dressmaker, railway workers (the Midland and Great Northern at Melton Constable), publicans, road labourers (working for the District Council), shop workers; and one policemen (Benjamin High).

Married women (unless widowed, or carrying on their husband's business – eg farming) did not have an occupation listed in these Census returns.