

GULDEN MORDEN CENSUS 1911

The census was taken on the night of Sunday 2nd April 1911. Guilden Morden was divided into two Enumeration Districts within the Registration District of Royston. The Enumerators were Mr. Charles Murfitt and Mr. Frederick Worboys. They were paid 21s (£1.05) plus 1s (5p) for every mile in excess of 6 necessarily traversed in collecting the schedules.

The census showed that the population of Guilden Morden on the above date was 682. This was a small increase on the 1901 census, but much below the peak of 1059 in 1871.

As a comparison, the 1911 populations of some local villages were:

	No.
Bassingbourn	1,105
Ashwell	1,284
Steeple Morden	704
Litlington	458

The population of England & Wales in 1911 was 35million.

Summary Books

Each Enumerator was responsible for recording in a Summary Book the address of each dwelling with a description of the building, the name of the occupier and the total of males and females present, according to the individual census returns.

This information can be further summarised to provide the totals of the dwellings in each street:

Inhabited Dwellings

Street	Cottages	Private Houses	Farm Houses	Pubs & Beer Houses	Other		Total Dwellings	Population
Ashwell Road	1	0	0		0		1	6
Back Street	9	1	1		0		11	35
Buxtons Lane	3	0	0		0		3	10
Church End	5	0	0	2	1	House with Shop	8	34
Church Lane	1	0	0		0		1	7
Church Street	33	2	1		4	Shop & Post Office; Smithy; School House; House & School	40	140
Cold Harbour	0	0	1		0		1	11
Dubs Knoll	7	0	0		0		7	27
Duck Lane Farm	0	0	1		0		1	7
Great Green	9	2	1	1	0		13	62

Cont'd

Street	Cottages	Private Houses	Farm Houses	Pubs & Beer Houses	Other		Total	Population
High Street	24	4	2	3	3	Bake House; 2 Houses with Shops	36	150
Little Green	9	0	0		0		9	24
Morden Hall/Morden House	0	1	1		0		2	9
Odsey	3	3	1		0		7	38
Potton Road	3	1	0	1	2	House with Shop; Caravan	7	38
Pound Green	11	5	0	1	0		17	55
Shire Balk	1	0	0		0		1	10
Towns End	1	1	0		0		2	7
Trap road	2	0	0		0		2	12
Totals	122	20	9	8	10		169	682

Population	479	87	53	23	40			682
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- There were also 16 dwellings in the parish which were uninhabited
- 3 buildings not used as dwellings were also listed:
 - St. Mary's Church
 - Congregational Chapel and Sunday School
 - School

- Householders also had to record the number of rooms in their dwelling, including kitchens, but excluding bathrooms, closets etc. On average cottages had just under 4 rooms and all other dwellings had over 8 rooms.

The Census Returns

The return for each household included a column to enter the name of every person present, followed by seven sections of detail and in addition the head of the household or someone else on their behalf had to sign the return, include the postal address and the number of rooms in the dwelling.

The data for every household has been analysed to produce the following summary for each section:

1. Name

The 10 most frequently occurring surnames, comprising in total about one third of the population of Guilden Morden were:

	<u>No.</u>		<u>No.</u>
Worboys	35	Thompson	20
Covington	30	Gentle	19
Dellar	29	Clark	18
Cole	26	Williams	17
Watts	21	Webb	16

The most popular Christian names were:

	<u>No.</u>		<u>No.</u>
William	36	Mary	29
John	28	Elizabeth	19
Frederick	24	Sarah	19
George	23	Fanny	13
Arthur	16	Florence	13
James	16		

2. Relationship to Head of the Family

- There was only one female married householder and therefore only one husband is shown in the chart.
- There were 22 sons and 25 daughters over the age of 21 living at home (including 8 who were married).
- “Boarders” included 7 school children, 6 farm labourers, 2 monthly nurses (nurses who looked after children in the first month of their lives) and an Assistant Teacher.

3. Age and Sex

An analysis of the population by age is as follows:

- The average age was 31.8 years.
- The oldest resident was Elizabeth Farnham who lived in the High Street.
She was 94.
- The oldest man was Thomas Foxon, aged 83. He lived in Pound Green

4. Particulars as to Marriage

The first part of this section was to be completed for all present aged 15 years and over. The results are as follows:

	Males	Females	Total	%
Married	134	133	267	39.1
Single	70	76	146	21.4
Widows	-	28	28	4.1
Widowers	19	-	19	2.8
Children under 15	110	112	222	32.6
	333	349	682	100.0

The second part of the section related to all married women. For the first time in a census, details were required of the number of years they were married and the number of children born alive to the present marriage with the numbers of those still living and those who had died. The resulting summary gives:

- Average no. of years married – 22.3
- Average no. of children born alive – 4.5
- Average no. of children still living – 3.8
- Average no. of children who have died 0.7

From the average number of years of marriage and the average ages of the married men and women at the time of the census, the ages at marriage can be calculated as:

Men	27
Women	26

5. Profession or Occupation

This was required for all persons aged 10 and above. The returns were not always fully completed, for example for children and for those who had retired (see below). Note that “Own Account” meant neither having employees nor working for an employer.

An overall summary followed by detailed listings is as follows:

		Male	Female	Total
		No.	No.	No.
Workers		177	50	227
Self Employed:				
	Employers	17	4	21
	Own Account	13	8	21
Not employed		126	287	413
		333	349	682

Workers

The main occupations were:

	Male	Female	Total	%
	No.	No.	No.	
Agricultural Workers:				
Farm Labourers	99	0	99	
Horsekeeper/Horseman	11	0	11	
Stockman/Cowman	6	0	6	
Shepherd	3	0	3	
Farm Bailiff	1	0	1	
Cattle Drover	1	0	1	
Farmer's son	1	0	1	
Yeoman Farmer	1	0	1	
	123	0	123	54.2
Domestic Servants:				
Caretaker	0	2	2	
Charwoman	0	3	3	
Coachman	3	0	3	
Cook	0	5	5	
Domestic Servant	0	18	18	
Gamekeeper	1	0	1	
Gardener	4	0	4	
Groom/ Groom-Gardener	3	0	3	
Housekeeper	0	3	3	
Housemaid	0	6	6	
Lady's Help	0	1	1	
Mother's Help	0	1	1	
Monthly Nurse	0	2	2	
Parlour Maid	0	1	1	
Sick Nurse	0	1	1	
	11	43	54	23.8

	Male	Female	Total	%
	No.	No.	No.	
Baker/ Confectioner	4	1	5	
Blacksmith	2	0	2	
Bricklayer/ Bricklayer's Labourer	4	0	4	
Butcher's Assistant	1	0	1	
Carman/ Carter	3	0	3	
Carpenters	5	0	5	
Cattle Dealer & Butcher	1	0	1	
Civil Engineer	1	0	1	
Clerk/ Clerk in Brewery	2	0	2	
Clerk in Holy Orders	1	0	1	
General Labourer	4	0	4	
Hay Tier/ Straw Tier	3	0	3	
Head Teacher/ School	1	3	4	
Teacher/ Assistant				
House Painter	1	0	1	
Mill Hand (Grist Mill)	1	0	1	
Postman/ PO Clerk	1	1	2	
Roadman	2	0	2	
Secretary	0	1	1	
Shop Assistant (Grocer/ Draper)	2	0	2	
Shop Boy	1	0	1	
Sub Postmistress	0	1	1	
Well Sinker	2	0	2	
Wheelwright	1	0	1	
	43	7	50	22.0
Total Workers	177	50	227	100.0

Self Employed:

Street	Name	Employer/ Own Account	Business/ Trade	Age
Back Street	Henry Kirbyshire	Own Account	Haulage Contractor	40
	John Parrish	Own Account	Castrator	72
Buxtons Lane	Alice Chapman	Own Account	Dressmaker	30
Great Green	George Lindsay	Own Account	Farmer - small holding	65
Church End	Albert Baker	Own Account	Harness Maker	53
	Benjamin Dellar	Own Account	Beerhouse Keeper (The Edward VII)	55
Church Street	George Tatham	Own Account	Publican (The Six Bells)	56
	Sarah Jarman	Employer	Grocer & Draper	62
	William Kaye	Employer	Blacksmith	75
	Robert Crawford	Employer	Estate Agent	62
	John Sale	Employer	Farmer	40
	Elizabeth Clarke	Employer	Principal of Girls School	53
	Annie Revell	Own Account	Dressmaker	52
	Jessie Walker	Own Account	Blacksmith	60
	Walter Worboys	Own Account	Pag & Bone Dealer	60

Street	Name	Employer/ Own Account	Business/ Trade	Age
Cold Harbour	James Smyth	Employer	Farmer	41
Great Green	Frederick Hunt	Employer	Farmer (Rectory Farm)	59
High Street	Henry Harper	Employer	Baker	53
	Frederick Worboys	Employer	Builder & Publican (Three Tuns)	48
	Wilfred Brocket	Employer	Butcher & Dealer	59
	Charles Parrish	Employer	Cattle Dealer	33
	Charles Murfitt	Employer	Farmer	42
	Fanny Clark	Employer	Farmer	56
	Agnes Murfitt	Own Account	Grocer & Draper	35
	Martha Clark	Own Account	Publican	68
	Edgar Williams	Own Account	Dealer in straw & chaf	47
	Frank Clark	Own Account	Poultry Dealer	22
	Beatrice Rule	Own Account	Dressmaker	32
	John Westrope	Employer	Farmer	59
	Herbert Westrope	Employer	Farmer	23
	Ernest Fordham	Employer	Brewer	48
	Herbert Fordham	Employer	Farmer	56
Morden Hall	Arthur Hitchcock-Spencer	Employer	Engineer	40
	Ethel Hitchcock-Spencer	Own Account	Artist	45
	Ellen Walker	Employer	Carting Contractor	70
Potton Road	Frank Bonfield	Own Account	Farmer	36
	James Winders	Own Account	Farmer	51
	Frank Rule	Employer	Baker & Confectioner	55
Pound Green	George Rule	Employer	Farmer	59
	Ann Pettingell	Own Account	Publican (The Black Swan)	69
	George Peavell	Own Account	Shoemaker	61
	Richandy Clark	Own Account	Dressmaker	37

In addition to the above, householders included in the section on occupations, details of children at school and those who were pensioners –

- **Schoolchildren**

In 1911 education was compulsory from the age of 5 to 12. There were 118 children in the village in this age group and of those, 56 were recorded as “at school”. This is probably unreliable however, as parents probably did not complete this part of the census for many of the children, particularly the younger ones. (Note that according to the City & County Directory of 1896, the average attendance at the village school in Church Street was 105).

The village school Headmaster was Robert Allen and he was assisted by his wife Emily. There was also a small private girls’ school in Saville House, Church Street. The Principal was Elizabeth Clarke and there were 4 boarders, all born in Hitchin.

The youngest workers in our census were aged 13.

- **Pensioners**

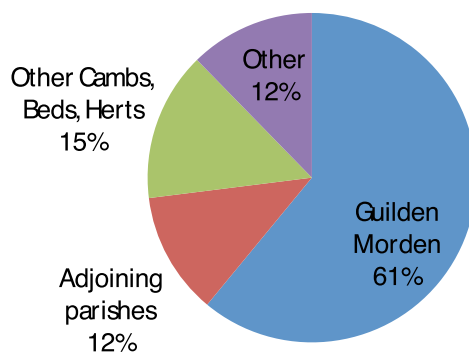
Following the Old Age Pensions Act 1908, a non-contributory old age pension was introduced for persons over the age of 70. This was 5s (25p) per

week or 7s6d (37.5p) for married couples. To be eligible they had to earn less than £21.10s per week and be of good character. Many of those over 70 had “OAP” recorded as their occupation. There were also two people with occupational pensions –Frederick Farnham was an army pensioner and William Pearse was a police pensioner.

Of the 133 married women, only 3 had an occupation included in the census.

6. Birthplace

Nearly three-quarters of all residents were born in Guilden Morden or the adjoining parishes:



Three people were born overseas: Caroline and Florence Williams, the wife and daughter of the Rector, were born in Calcutta, India and New South Wales, Australia respectively and Charles Amtman, a carpenter, was born in Germany.

7. Nationality

This section was completed by only a few people and there were no nationalities other than British. Note that Charles Amtman became a naturalised British subject in 1879.

8. Infirmary

If any resident was (1) Totally Deaf or Deaf and Dumb; (2) Totally Blind; (3) Lunatic; or (4) Imbecile or Feeble-minded, this had to be stated together with the age at which the person became afflicted.

The details recorded in this section are not yet available.

The First World War

War was declared in July 1914, some three years after this census. The Guilden Morden War Memorial commemorates 32 men who gave their lives in the war. Of these, the following were included in the 1911 Census for Guilden Morden:

Name	Address in 1911 Census
Frederick Covington	Potton Road
Noah Desborough	Church Street
Charles Gentle	Church Street
Alfred Leonard	Church End
Herbert Williams	Church Street
William Pettengell	High Street
Charles Scott	Potton Road
Frederick Scott	Potton Road
George Tatham	Church End
Frederick Thompson	Great Green
Arthur Walker	Potton Road
George Watts	Towns End

Geoff Harper, 14 Church Street, Guilden Morden (Tel:
01763 853845)

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