

1911 census - encampment in Godshill, Fordingbridge, Hampshire Transcribed by Anne Lane

Transcriber's notes

This is an encampment of 88 people in 15 households/tents in the New Forest. On every entry the words "Gipsies Tent" have been crossed through.

Out of the 88 people only one place of birth is listed, even when a child is only a few weeks or a few months old. It therefore seems likely that the enumerator either didn't ask or assumed that places of birth wouldn't be known. But if you look at the 1901 and 1921 census returns for the same people almost all do have their places of birth recorded there.

Several of the people recorded as "wife", "son" or "daughter" have had these relationship terms crossed through and replaced with the word "boarder", presumably by the enumerator. In many cases the number of children who have been born to a couple or individual or who have died prior to the census has been left blank.

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 1

JOB PETTERS, head, 48, married, Clothes Peg Maker,
born N/K

FANNY PETTERS, wife, 56, General Hawker, born N/K

WALTER PETTERS, son, 23, Of no occupation, born N/K

KEZIAH PETTERS, daughter, 19, Of no occupation, born N/K

CHARLES PETTERS, son, 18, Of no occupation, born N/K

SUSAN PETTERS, daughter, 14, Of no occupation, born N/K

Transcriber's notes

Job also worked for many years as a Chimney Sweep. When he and Fanny were married in 1894, his occupation was Chimney Sweep as was that of his father, Thomas Peters (deceased). In the 1921 census he was also recorded as a Chimney Sweep. When he died in 1946, the *Salisbury Times* reported that *"he was well known in Redlynch and for miles around for over 50 years, as he had been a chimney sweep...for some years he lived in a caravan..."*. Redlynch is in Hampshire about seven miles from Fordingbridge.

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 2

THOMAS COOPER, head, 50, married, [occupation column] None/Maker of Clothes Pegs, born N/K

CAROLINE COOPER, wife, 50, married, General Hawker, born N/K

AMY COOPER, daughter, 12, born N/K

CINDERELLA COOPER, daughter, 11, born N/K

HARRY COOPER, father, 80, Razor Grinder, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 3

SUSAN COOPER, head, 96, single, General Hawker, born N/K

MARY ANN BENNUM [?], boarder, 70, single, General Hawker, born N/K

ELIZABETH WHEELER, boarder, 84, single, General Hawker, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 4

LEONARD COOPER, head, 30, single, General Labourer, born N/K

LAVINIA PETERS, boarder (wife crossed out), 27, General Hawker, born N/K

LEONARD PETERS, boarder (son crossed out), 4, born N/K

HARRIET PETERS, boarder (daughter crossed out), 3, born N/K

WILLIAM PETERS, boarder (son crossed out), 2, born N/K

HENRY PETERS, boarder (son crossed out), 1 month, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 5

RICHARD COOPER, head, 27, single, General Labourer, born N/K

EMILY HARFIELD, boarder, 26, General Hawker, born N/K

OLIVE HARFIELD, boarder, 8, born N/K

THOMAS HARFIELD, boarder, 6, born N/K

HENRY HARFIELD, boarder, 3, born N/K

Transcriber's note

Richard and Emily went on to marry in 1916. Their marriage banns stated that they were "*both residing in the forest in this parish*".

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 6

WILLIAM TURNER, head, 40, married, General Hawker, born N/K
HESTER TURNER, wife, 39, married, General Hawker, born N/K
GEORGE TURNER, son, 18, single, General Labourer, born N/K
SUSAN TURNER, daughter, 16, born N/K
EDWARD TURNER, son, 14, born N/K
ALICE TURNER, daughter, 11, born N/K
HARRY TURNER, son, 10, born N/K
CAROLINE TURNER, daughter, 9, born N/K
OLIVER TURNER, son, 6, born N/K
JOHN TURNER, son, 4, born N/K
ROSIE TURNER, daughter, 4 months

Transcriber's notes

Their entry indicates that the couple had had 9 children and that none had died. William Turner was also known as Oliver and Hester as Esther. There is a lovely photo of William/Oliver making baskets on Ancestry.co.uk. The caption reads: *"Oliver Turner known as Twisty, who made baskets and bee skeps at Thornicombe in 1941"*.

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 7

SIDNEY SMITH, head, 42, married, Clothes Peg Maker, born N/K
JANE SMITH, wife, 41, married, General Hawker, born N/K
ALICE SMITH, daughter, 20, single, General Hawker, born N/K
NELSON SMITH, son, 18, single, General Hawker, born N/K
MAUDIE SMITH, daughter, 8, born N/K
ANNA SMITH, daughter, 6, born N/K
HENRY SMITH, son, 6, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 8

WILLIAM PEARCE, head, 69, single, General Labourer, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD /TENT 9

ALBERT DAY, head, 39, single, Of no occupation (General Labourer at times), born N/K

EMILY DAY, boarder (wife crossed out), 39, single, General Hawker, born N/K

EDITH DAY, boarder (daughter crossed out), 9, born N/K

GEORGE DAY, boarder (son crossed out), 6, born N/K

ELIZABETH DAY, boarder (daughter crossed out), 3, born N/K

ROSE DAY, boarder (daughter crossed out), 7 months, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 10

GEORGE TURNER, head, 40, married, General Labourer, born N/K

GERTIE TURNER, wife, 46, married, General Hawker, born N/K

HENRY TURNER, son, 20, single, General Labourer, born N/K

EDWARD TURNER, son, 18, single, General Labourer, born N/K

ELIZA TURNER, daughter, 15, born N/K

REINER TURNER, daughter, 14, born N/K

JOHN TURNER, son, 12, born N/K

WALTER TURNER, son, 5, born N/K

BRITANNIA TURNER, daughter, 4, born N/K

LILLY TURNER, daughter, 2, born N/K

Transcriber's notes

Next to the school age children's names are written the words "seldom attend school - they wander about".

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 11

NAAMAN COOPER, head, 41, married, General Labourer, born N/K

HARRIET COOPER, wife, 30, married, born N/K

LETITIA COOPER, daughter, 10, born N/K

EMILY COOPER, daughter, 8, born N/K

ELI COOPER, son, 6, born N/K

JAMES COOPER, son, 4, born N/K

SIDNEY COOPER, son, 3, born N/K

Transcriber's notes

For this household the enumerator has recorded that five children have been born to this couple and none have died.

Although the head of household is recorded as "Naaman", this man's name is actually Nehemiah Cooper. When and Emily were married in

1915 at Holybourne church in Hampshire, they were one of a group of at least eight couples all married on the same day - 26 September 1915 - by the mission priest, C.E.Bond. The *West Sussex Gazette* of 23 September 1915 indicated that the marriages were linked to a hop-picking mission: *"No less than nine couples published their Banns, all couples being of the gipsy fraternity. Either hop-picking and love - making go hand in hand, or the gipsies keep their matrimonial affairs to be put in order once a year, at mission time"*.

Nehemiah's funeral in 1954 was widely reported, the *Salisbury Times* including a photo of the long funeral procession.

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 12 ("they roam about")

LAVINIA PETTERS, head, 45, single, General Hawker, born N/K
FREDERICK PETERS [sic], son, 20, single, General Labourer, born N/K
MARY PETERS, daughter, 18, born N/K
JOHN PETERS, son, 10, school, born Hants, Ashley Walk

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 13 ("they roam about")

ALBERT JONES, head, 20, married, General Labourer, born N/K
HARRIETT JONES, wife, 19, born N/K

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 14 ("they roam about")

ELI BOW, head, 30, married, General Labourer, born N/K
ELLEN BOW, wife, 30, married, General Hawker, born N/K
AMY BOW, daughter, 8, born N/K
ELLEN BOW, daughter, 5, born N/K
EDITH BOW, daughter, 2, born N/K
WILLIAM BOW, son, 6 weeks,
GEORGE BOW, brother, 20, born N/K

Transcriber's note

The enumerator has recorded that five children have been born to this couple and none have died.

HOUSEHOLD/TENT 15 ("they roam about")

ROBERT COOPER, head, 48, married, Razor Grinder/Jobbing Cutter,
born N/K

ANN COOPER, wife, 42, General Hawker, born N/K

EDWARD COOPER, son, 18, born N/K

JAMES COOPER, son, 11, born N/K

JESSIE COOPER, daughter, 10, born N/K

HENRY COOPER, son, 6, born N/K

STEPHEN COOPER, son, 3, born N/K

SUSI COOPER, daughter, 14, born N/K

Transcriber's notes

The enumerator has recorded that six children have been born to this couple and none have died. Next to the school age children's names are written the words "school seldom attended".