

# Sumorsæte Ealle



**FreeCEN Newsletter for  
the County of Somerset**

T.Waters-Marsh@cqu.edu.au  
somtcen@bigpond.net.au

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~newbury/som.htm>

## SOMERSET FREECEN 1871 LAUNCHED

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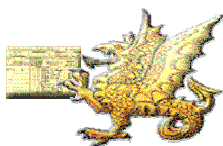
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### FREECEN SOMERSET MILESTONES:

- 1841— Pieces available for transcription
- 1861—17.5% transcribed and collected.
- 1871—Launched in July 2005
- 1871—7 pieces under way
- 1891—10 pieces allocated
- 1891—5 pieces transcribed
- 1891—1 piece checked
- All years—checkers required
- All years—transcribers required

FreeCEN has now  
reached  
**5,473,500**  
searchable records

The progress being made by our volunteers with the 1861 census and 1891 census has allowed us to release an additional census for transcription. We have therefore obtained the images of the 1871 census and these are now available. We already have our first helpers transcribing 1871 data and are seeking more members of the team working on this section of our project.

Our transcription of the 1861 census is now proceeding at a reasonable pace. A team of over 25 volunteers has been formed and over 35% of

the pieces for 1861 have been issued for transcription. 17.5% of the county has been transcribed—almost 80,000 people.

**1861  
17.5% of the county has  
been transcribed—  
almost 80,000 people**

**We are actively  
seeking transcribers  
and checkers for 1871.**

Several pieces are now being checked. Our transcriptions are being written faster than we can check them, and so we are looking for checkers to join the 1861 team.

The 1891 project is moving slower due to the need for fiche readers; however steady progress is still happening. If you have access to a fiche reader and would like to assist with this part of the project we would love to hear from you.

The Somerset part of the FreeCEN project has done well over the past 12 months and is now progressing quite quickly. We are hoping to have our first data available to be searched free of charge on the FreeCEN database by early 2006.

### TEAM SOMERSET—GEOFF JARVIS



I suppose that I can call myself a Somerset lad—I still have the accent despite having lived overseas for the past 35 years! I was brought up in the village of Backwell, 7 miles west of Bristol. My mother's family had lived in the village since she was a girl. At the age of 11 I went to school in Weston-super-Mare. I worked in Bristol for a while after leaving school and emigrated to Australia in my early 20s. I am now a Technical College teacher teaching Business Management, but spent almost 30 years of my life in business, eventually changing careers during the restructuring of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

My interest in the FreeCEN project gradually grew from researching my family. The first version of my family tree appeared in about 1983, when a researcher discovered that my 100 year old ggUncle was still alive. A copy of this researcher's tree found its way to Australia. With the advent of the Internet I discovered that I could develop the tree further myself. I have now done so and also have a

fairly good history of Frances, my wife's, family. Of interest were the links back to Essex in the late 1600s which it has been claimed, though I have not yet identified the evidence that my Jarvis link comes from the Jarvis family in 'Inherit the Earth' by Maureen Duffy—a historical study of the Jarvis family going back to about 1400. A snippet of interest is that my great grandfather built the aerals for Marconi for the first wireless transmission from Crystal Palace. How did I get involved in FreeCEN? Frances became a transcriber and asked me to assist her. That developed until I now find myself a year coordinator!

# UK Census Online

"Bringing YOUR ancestors to YOU, free of charge!"

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E-mail: [somtcen@bigpond.net.au](mailto:somtcen@bigpond.net.au)

or

[T.Waters-Marsh@cqu.edu.au](mailto:T.Waters-Marsh@cqu.edu.au)

Have YOU ever thought of the benefit of the U.K. Census data being centrally available on ONE database, and being able to trace your ancestors from 1841 to 1891?

This project aims to provide a "free-to-view" online searchable database of the 19th century UK census returns. It is part of FreeUKGEN, an initiative aimed at helping make high quality primary (or near-primary) records of relevance to UK genealogy conveniently and freely available online, in a coherent, easy to access and search, information retrieval system.

Find us on the web at:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~newbury/som.htm>

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS ...

- 1821 - Almost half the population of England was under 20 years of age, compared to just over a quarter today.
- 1831 - Only 16% of the UK population lived in urban areas
- 1901 - The average UK household was 4.6 persons, compared to 2.4 persons in 1991

### Some interesting facts from Somerset censuses

Populations for each 19th century census:

	Males	Females	Total
1841	209383	226599	435982
1851	211045	232871	443916
1861	209680	236193	444873
1871	218454	245029	463483
1881	220582	248529	469109
1891	203485	235215	438710

In 1971, just before the boundary changes in 1974, the population of Somerset was 682,664.

- 1801 - The average household in Somerset contained 6 persons
- 1831 - There were 0.39 people per acre. In 1891 this figure was still only 0.42 people per acre. In 1991 it was 0.5, about half of the UK average.
- 1841 - The census return for the parish of Knapp includes 30 people who lived in barns or tents
- 1851 - There were 2 chimney sweeps between 5 and 9 years old in Somerset (let us know if you come across a very young chimney sweep, any year).
- 1851 - There were 2453 people per policeman (which included watchmen). In 1951 this figure was 658 people per policeman.
- 1861 - There were 37,276 agricultural labourers in Somerset. By 1931 this had dropped to 13,722 and by 1991 just 2% of the population were employed as farmers or agricultural labourers.
- 1871 - There were 1075 seamen recorded in Somerset.
- 1881 - 8% of Somerset's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 29 times as many females were domestic servants as males
- Between 1851 and 1901 the number of people employed on the railways increased from 328 to 3,684
- The number of boot and shoe makers fell from 7749 in 1891 to 509 in 1931.

Source: *200 years of the Census in Somerset, Office of National Statistics, Titchfield, Hants.*

## FREECEN TIPS

We have noticed that a few helpers have had problems installing Genie3. The following process should be used. Firstly uninstall your older version of Genie. To do this go to Start ... Control Panel ... Add or remove software. Then reboot your computer before downloading Genie3 from the FreeCEN website. Install the new program as normal.

Genie3 is a gazetteer that is very useful for checking places of birth against Chapman Codes. There are two main options when using Genie3.

1. Type in the place name in the search box at the top of the program window. Genie will work through the places as you type in each letter. When you get to the place name you require the Chapman Code is displayed along with the name.
2. Type a ? Followed by the Chapman Code into the search box at the top of the program window (e.g. ?SOM for Somerset). This will filter the place names so that only places with a Chapman Code of SOM are displayed. Now type in the first letters of the place of birth. As you type in each letter Genie3 will display the places with the letters entered, but this time only names in the county the filter is set on. To release the filter just double click on any place name on the screen.

If the enumerator has not shown a County and Genie reveals that there is more than one place with the name but in different Counties then we have no option other than to transcribe the County as UNK (unknown). Whilst Genie3 has a large number of place names it is by no means exhaustive. It may be that a transcriber has to go to other sources to confirm place names. One option is an old Road gazetteer such as the AA Book of the Road from pre-1974. Another option is the Genuki gazetteer at <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer/> or to search on Google. If you can't confirm that the place of birth exists just flag it as not found. The checker and verifier will eventually be able to look at it.