

St Bride's Parish Census for Exchequer Street 1832-3

The 1831 Census of Ireland gave a round figure of approximately 8 million people living in the country but there was no data collected on religious persuasion. A limited religious census was taken by the Catholic Association in 1825-26 which claimed that the ratio of Protestant to Catholic in the country was 1 to 7 in Waterford city and 1 to 68 in the county. The Protestant Conservative Society was founded in Dublin in July 1832 partly as a reaction to the Catholic Association's claims. A Protestant census was duly undertaken at the request of the Lord Primate in an attempt to put the record straight. The census was organised at parish level by church officials.

The results of the census generated a great deal of debate in the newspapers.

Some of these census records survive to this day including one for Dublin's St Bride's Parish in the south of the city. Some parts of Exchequer Street came under the parish of St Bride's, and a list of parishioners from the census transcribed by this author is provided below. (Courtesy of the Archdeacon of the Church of Ireland Parish of St Michan's and St. Werburgh's)

The census can complement contemporary trade directories but it has its genealogical limitations. As it was mainly concerned with counting the protestant population, the enumerators didn't bother mentioning catholic parishioners by name. Also protestant parishioners are mentioned by surname only and then only by head of household. There was no attempt by the enumerator to enter establishments such as brothels, so the names and religious persuasion of their inhabitants remain unknown.

St Bride's Church was knocked down in 1898 to make way for the Iveagh Buildings which occupy the spot to this day.

For more on this fascinating parish, check out W.J.R Wallace's, ed. *The Vestry Records of the Parishes of St Bride, St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, Dublin, 1662-1742*. Four Courts Press. 2011.



Exchequer Street Dublin

Exchequer Street Census

House Number	Name of householder if given	Inhabitants adults	Inhabitants children	Religion	Observations
1 & 2					Brothel
3		37	9	Roman Catholic	
3 top garret	Lalor	2	1	Protestant	2 years absent from church
4		12	6	Roman Catholic	
5		16	6	Roman Catholic	
6		21	25	Roman Catholic	
7		70	40	Roman Catholic	
8		5		Roman Catholic	
9	Calvert	2	2	Protestant	
	Muller	2	5	Protestant	
		17	8	Roman Catholic	
10	White	2	4	Protestant	
		27	8	Roman Catholic	
11	Kelly	2	4	Protestant	

House Number	Name of householder if given	Inhabitants adults	Inhabitants children	Religion	Observations
		10	8	Roman Catholic	
12		10	9	Roman Catholic	
13	Dalton	2	1	Protestant	
	Mrs Wondeer?	1	4	Protestant	
		14	7		
14					Brothel
15					Vacant
16		5		Roman Catholic	
17		9	5	Roman Catholic	
House Number	Name of householder if given	Inhabitants adults	Inhabitants children	Religion	Observations
18		10	2	Roman Catholic	
19		5	5	Roman Catholic	
20		27	7	Roman Catholic	
21	Richardson	2	4	Protestant	

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House Number	Name of householder if given	Inhabitants adults	Inhabitants children	Religion	Observations
21		16	10	Roman Catholic	
22	Fitzgerald	2	2	Protestant	
23		17	8	Roman Catholic	

St Bride's parish was the size of 32 Irish measure acres.
It had a total of 9980 inhabitants. Of those the following results were declared:

	Protestants:	Papists
Adults:	2160	4632
Children:	1040	2148
Totals:	3200	6780

Many thanks to the Archdeacon of the Church of Ireland Parish of St Michan's and St. Werburgh's, Dublin for permission to publish this data.

Transcribed by Denise Dowdall
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