

FAMILIES AND SURNAMENES [IN THE CENSUS]

Until recently when a mother remarried her other children took the new husband's surname. Two examples in my family were Harry Mitchell born 1905, became Harry Napier from 1913. And Jim McQueen also born 1905 became Jim Campbell from 1914.

In another case, Charlie Hale became Charlie Hughes, aged four in the 1881 census when his mother remarried. His father was Richard Hale. And this same Richard Hale aged 19 in 1861 census was found living with his Uncle John Robert Hale. In 1851 he, Richard was with the same Uncle as eight year old Richard Westley.

Families in the larger cities at the time were prone to losing family members due to their not understanding about hygiene, and overcrowding. Louis Pasteur's discovering micro-organisms in 1870s eventually changed all that.

This also means that most of the time your family in the census is not going to look anything like it does on the Family Group sheet. An example is the family of 11, who at first will appear as a young couple with two children. Then on the next census this same family will be of six children with an earlier child missing (either living elsewhere possibly as a servant, or dead), then as a family of five younger children with only the father as a widower. The mother possibly died with the youngest child. An older child is now married with a child and some of the older children have migrated to nearest large town or overseas. In the next census the parent may be living with his daughter and her children.

A run or sequence of census (or directories or voting rolls/registers] is always worthwhile.

For other combinations of a family I refer you to the chart About Family under FAMILY 2.6

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[OVERHEARD CONVERSATION <SURNAMENES TODAY>, "I know a family where one child took the father's surname and the other child, the mother's surname." And: "What do you think about the couple who decide on a made-up surname?"

Comment: There have been odd families in the past who decide to have a different surname. Then there are the foreigners who alter their surnames. Either a translation (Bouchier to Butcher), or anglicise it so they hear their surname right. An example might be Frame for Du Fresne. Of course illiteracy (combined with dialect) has an effect. Seaman (occupation) v. Simmonds v. Symons, etc

Anyway, it seems that the traditions are not automatic anymore. If you know of such cases make a note for future reference. Privacy demands no action at present but maybe in a genealogy database for exposure 25-30 years' time!]

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