

## 1841 Census - Facts and Figures

### Populations of Staplehurst in 1841

The population of Staplehurst on 6 June 1841 was **1591** .

Population by District

| District     | Households | Males      | Females    | Total       |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 5            | 113        | 275        | 297        | 572         |
| 6            | 41         | 133        | 128        | 261         |
| 7            | 87         | 256        | 219        | 475         |
| 8            | 47         | 157        | 126        | 283         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>288</b> | <b>821</b> | <b>770</b> | <b>1591</b> |

### Population by Age Bands

|                       | Males | Females | Total | Percent of Total |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|-------|------------------|
| Under 1 year old      | 31    | 20      | 51    | 3.2              |
| 1 to 5 years of age   | 132   | 115     | 247   | 15.5             |
| 6 to 12 years of age  | 147   | 153     | 300   | 18.9             |
| 13 to 20 years of age | 156   | 146     | 302   | 19.0             |
| 21 to 30 years of age | 132   | 122     | 254   | 16.0             |
| 31 to 40 years of age | 81    | 80      | 161   | 10.1             |
| 41 to 50 years of age | 58    | 55      | 113   | 7.1              |
| 51 to 60 years of age | 37    | 44      | 81    | 5.1              |
| 61 to 70 years of age | 37    | 25      | 62    | 3.9              |
| 71 to 80 years of age | 6     | 6       | 12    | 0.8              |
| Over 80 years of age  | 5     | 3       | 8     | 0.5              |
| Total                 | 822   | 769     | 1591  | 100.0            |

### Population born in Kent

Of the total Staplehurst population in 1841 (1591) :

1 only was classed as born out of England with an I indicating Ireland.  
64 people were classed as born in England but outside of Kent;  
of the 64, 36 were women not born in Kent.

This means that 1524 people were born in Kent or 96% of Staplehurst inhabitants.

## **Occupations**

Of the total population of Staplehurst in 1841, 32.6% or 518 are shown with an occupation. This 518 represents 55.0% of the population over 14 years of age while the male population over 14 shows an occupation for 88.2%. Only 19.7% of the females over 14 years of age show an occupation.

In addition to the 518 employed, there are 29 people (6 of them men) shown as having Independent Means.

The youngest children recorded as employed were two boys aged 10 classed as male servants within the same household. There are two 12 year olds and four 14 year old boys classed as male servants plus one 14 year old employed as a brick layer.

Fifteen seems to be the normal age of employment and there are 37 fifteen year old boys engaged in an occupation. Of the 15 year old boys not showing an occupation (37 in total) almost all of them are shown on farms and will almost certainly be working with the family. No doubt younger children are also working with their families, but we have no way of establishing how many. There are 33 men aged 16 to 25 shown without an occupation (and only 6 over 25 years of age).

As the enumerators were instructed that there was no need to enter an occupation if the person was living with their parent and not receiving a wage, we might assume these young men are also working with their families.

We can make similar assumptions about the young women. Most will be employed (unpaid) within the family. Of the woman shown as employed, the youngest are three 13 year olds employed as female servants. There are two 14 year olds and twenty-one 15 year olds shown as employed. The vast majority of women work within the family unit. Of the total of 769 females in Staplehurst, only 90 are shown to have an occupation and 60 of these are over the age of 20.

Note the following statistics account for only those people with a recorded occupation.

## **Agriculture**

Agriculture is the main employment in Staplehurst in 1841 with 64.1% (332 people) of the employed population engaged in farming. Note that I have included within this category the men who are shown as male servants. Of the 75 men classed as male servants, 61 are under the age of 21. When looking at the data in detail most of the men in this category are living with a farming family and not their own. I am, therefore, assuming that the largest proportion of male servants are employed in agricultural and living within the farmers household. Those classed as agricultural labourers are living in separate households and most will

be married men.

|                        | Males | Females | Total | % of Employed |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------|
| Farmers                | 49    | 4       | 53    |               |
| Agricultural Labourers | 200   | 1       | 201   |               |
| Male Servants          | 75    | 0       | 75    |               |
| Bailiff                | 2     | 0       | 2     |               |
| Poulterer              | 1     | 0       | 1     |               |
| Total                  | 327   | 5       | 332   | 64.1%         |

### **Domestic**

The group I have titled domestic, is the second largest occupation in Staplehurst. The largest element within this group is the female servants. Many of the better off families employed one female servant, while the Hoare family at Staplehurst Place, appear to have 7 female servants.

There are several instances of 2 female servants but generally there is one; and of course, the vast majority of families had no servants. Most female servants were young with only 10 over the age of 21.

|                 | Males | Females | Total | % of Employed |
|-----------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------|
| Female Servants |       | 69      | 69    |               |
| Char            |       | 2       | 2     |               |
| Gardener        | 1     |         | 1     |               |
| House Stewart   | 1     |         | 1     |               |
| Governess       |       | 1       | 1     |               |
| Total           | 2     | 72      | 74    | 14.3%         |

I must note here that some of the male servants within the agriculture category may well be domestic servants. Also worth pointing out that of the 90 women classed as employed, 80% are employed domestically.

## Trades

The occupations I have grouped together under this heading are all related to providing a service to a rural community.

|               |   |              |    |
|---------------|---|--------------|----|
| Blacksmith    | 5 | Brick-maker  | 2  |
| Wheelwright   | 3 | Cooper       | 1  |
| Sawyer        | 3 | Basket-maker | 1  |
| Timber Hewers | 1 | Saddler      | 1  |
| Carrier       | 2 | Tailor       | 3  |
| Miller        | 4 | Shoemaker    | 11 |
|               |   | Hairdresser  | 1  |

The 2 following items are the only trades involving women.

|            |   |          |   |
|------------|---|----------|---|
| Dressmaker | 3 | Milliner | 1 |
|------------|---|----------|---|

The building Trade makes up a large section of the trade group.

|                             |   |           |    |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|----|
| Bricklayer                  | 6 | Carpenter | 13 |
| Mason                       | 1 | Builder   | 1  |
| Painter                     | 1 | Labourer  | 1  |
| Apprentice of unknown trade |   | 1         |    |

The total people involved in the trades is 68 or 13.1% of the recorded people with occupations.

## Retail

To provide the provisions for the villagers, there is the bakers, grocers, butchers, drapers, and beer retailers.

|                  |   |         |   |
|------------------|---|---------|---|
| Baker            | 2 | Butcher | 6 |
| Grocer           | 8 | Draper  | 3 |
| Retailer of Beer | 2 |         |   |

Total of 21 people (of which 2 of the grocers are women).

There is also 2 innkeepers, 1 ostler, and 1 victualler.

## Professional

|                          |   |                |   |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Solicitor                | 1 | Appraiser      | 1 |
| School Master / Mistress | 6 | Clerk          | 1 |
| Surgeon & Assistants     | 3 | Nurse          | 2 |
| Dissenting Minister      | 1 | Artist         | 1 |
| Surveyor of Highways     | 1 | Toll Collector | 1 |
| Army                     | 1 |                |   |

Of the total of 19 people in this group, there are 4 women school mistresses and 2 female nurses. Both nurses are older women shown in the homes of people with new babies.

The other item of note is that there is not shown a Rector for the village church, however, Thomas Hornbuckle was the Rector at this time and he is living in the village but with an occupation shown as Independent Means.