

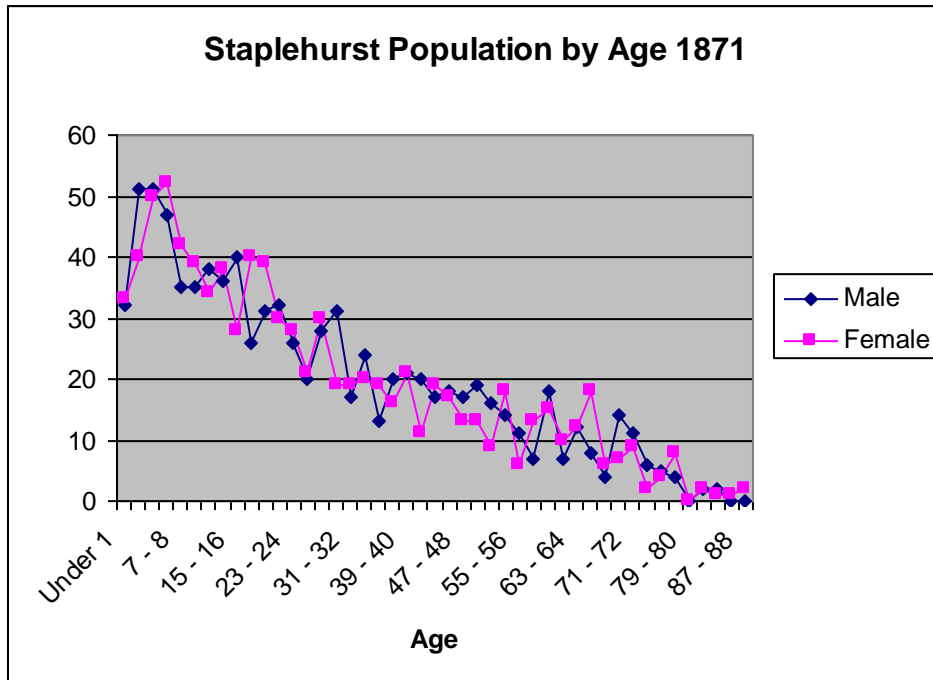
Staplehurst 1871 Census Facts and Figures

Staplehurst Population 1871

The total population of Staplehurst in the 1871 census was **1750**

of which:

	Males	Females	Total	Percent of Total
Under 1 year old	32	33	65	3.7%
1 to 5 years of age	125	119	244	13.9%
6 to 12 years of age	132	138	270	15.4%
13 to 20 years of age	133	135	268	15.3%
21 to 30 years of age	137	128	265	15.1%
31 to 40 years of age	95	95	190	10.9%
41 to 50 years of age	91	73	164	9.4%
51 to 60 years of age	66	61	127	7.3%
61 to 70 years of age	45	53	98	5.6%
71 to 80 years of age	26	23	49	2.8%
Over 80 years of age	4	6	10	0.6%
Total	931	887	1818	100.0%



Percent

Marital Status		of Total
Number of married people	586	33.5%
Number of widows/widowers	100	5.7%
Single people over 16 years	332	19.0%
of which single over 25 years	128	7.3%
(or 16.8% of people over 25)		

Normal marriage age appears to be 25 for women and 28 for men.

Place of Birth		
Born Kent	1536	87.8%
of which:		
Born Staplehurst	865	49.4%
Born neighbouring villages *	358	20.5%
Born rest of Kent	313	17.9%
 Born rest of Britain	 201	 11.5%
of which Sussex	102	5.8%

* (Cranbrook, Marden, Frittenden, Headcorn and Goudhurst)

Disabilities

Where an entry appears on the enumerator sheets, I have included the comment enclosed in brackets in the occupation column. There are only 4 entries. One person is deaf, another partially blind and two recorded as imbeciles. There are also 5 people classed as invalids.

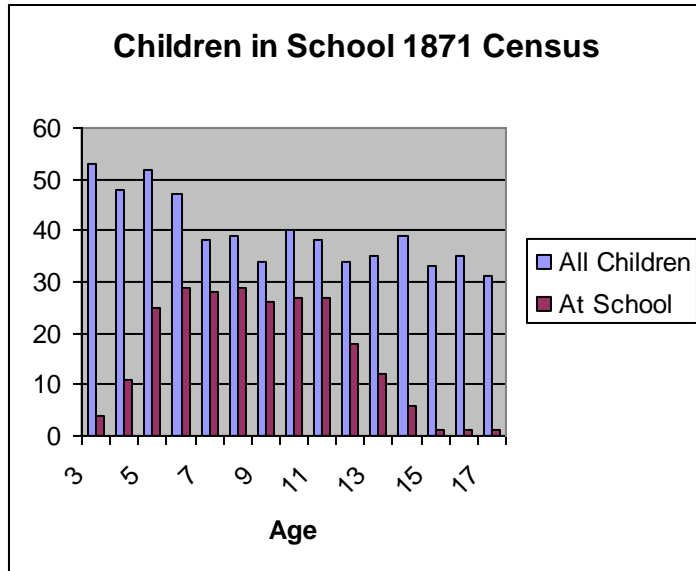
Education

There are 245 children between the ages of 3 and 18 classified as 'Scholars'. This represents 41.1% of all children in this age range.

The majority of children attend school from 6 to 11 years old and when these ages alone are examined there are 70.3% of the children in this age range at school.

It also appears that the children not attending school in to 6 to 11 year range are generally from the families living the furthest from the village.

Of the 6 to 11 year olds, 72.3% of boys attend school and 68.5% of girls.



Occupations

In the 1871 census for Staplehurst, there are 253 women recorded with an occupation. Of these, 78 are recorded in terms of the husband or father's occupation; for instance Farmer's daughter or grocer's wife. For many of these entries, there is no doubt that these are in fact occupations for women but some are less obviously so for instance an agricultural labourer's wife probably was the home maker as opposed to working with her husband. However, I have summarised all entries in the following table without drawing conclusions on what is or is not a valid occupation for the woman.

Occupation of Women

Farmer	5
Landowner / Freeholder	7
School teacher	3
Governess	1
Shop Keeper	3
Shop Assistant	7
Nurse	6
Dressmaker / Seamstress	15
Companion	1
Charwomen / Cleaners	7
<i>Servant / Maid</i> *	61
<i>Housekeeper</i> **	20
Cook	5
Laundress	5
Agricultural Labourer	5
Annuitant / Independent Means	8
Paupers / relief ***	16
Ag. Lab.'s wife / daughter	36
Farmer's wife / daughter	27
Retailer's wife / daughter	6
Total	253

This represents 42.4% of the female population over 12 years of age.

* The majority of servants or maids are unmarried young women. The youngest girl shown as working was one 12 year old servant. There were also three 13 year olds, but 14 seems to be the common age for young women to be hired as servants.

** The term housekeeper is almost always used to define a women keeping house in a household were there the men are unmarried or widowed. It is usually a relative such as daughter or sister.

** * All the paupers were women over 55 years of age with the majority over 65 years of age and all but one were widows.

Male Occupations

There are 591 men recorded with an occupation in the 1871 Staplehurst Census. The youngest are 9 year old Alfred Fever working as an agricultural labourer and 10 year old John Gurr, a farm servant. Less than half of the 12 year old boys are working while 58% of 13 year olds are at work but by age 14, 90% of the lads are at work. Only one boy under the age of 15 is classed as an apprentice, while many have the title of assistant which may well imply an apprenticeship.

The oldest male workers are Samuel Jenner, a miller, and John Hatcher, an agricultural labourer, both 77 years old. There are 28 men between 70 and 77 years of age employed. Of the 5 men over 77 year of age, 3 are paupers, 1 independent and 1 a retired policeman.

Agriculture

Agriculture is by far the largest category of occupation with 350 men employed; 59.2% of the working men.

Farmers	41
Farmer's sons	24
Farm Bailiff	10
Game Keeper	1
Carter / Waggoner	36
Farm Labourer / Servant	25
Agricultural Labourer	213

Agricultural labourers form the largest number in this category. The difference between the farm labourer or farm servant and agricultural labourer appears that the farm labourer or servant is generally young, unmarried and living within the farmer's household. The agricultural labourer is living in independent households.

Trades

This is the second largest category of employment and Staplehurst seems to be well served by the trades.

Carpenters	15
Bricklayers	13
Blacksmiths	6
Builders	5
Miller / Malter	5
Shoemaker / Cordwainer	5
Wheelwright	4
Painter	3
Sawyer	3
Timber Hewer / Surveyor	3
Harness Maker	2
Thatcher	2
Tailor	2

Then each of the other trades have one representation:

Charcoal Burner, auctioneer, gas manager, plumber, glazier, photographer, hairdresser, coach builder, coal merchant, fly proprietor, collector, and appraiser.

There were 28 men noted as unspecific 'labourers'. I tend to think these are related to the trades as opposed to agriculture.

Retail

The High Street had a number of shops in excess of what you will find today but most of us would still recognise the High Street. At the north end of the village was the railway station. On the east side of the road was the South Eastern Railway Hotel (which has only recently been converted to residential accommodation) and a grocer, baker and butchers shop. Centrally there was 2 butcher shops, 3 grocers, a hairdresser's, 2 iron mongers, a bakers, a sweet shop, a tailors, drapers and post office. Three inns are present, the Bell, the Lamb and the Crown. The Royal Oak is referred to as a beer house.

In total these services provided employment for 42 men. In addition, there were 10 people employed by the postal service and 15 by the railway.

Service

35 men could be glassed as being 'in service'. 16 of these are gardeners, 9 are grooms or stable workers and 10 as servants including a footman, a coachman, a butler and a page.

Professional

I have grouped 14 people under the heading of professional. This includes the Rector, the Curate, the Independent Minister, a doctor, a veterinarian, school master, accountant, banker, police officer, relieving officer and a soldier.

This just leaves 10 people listed as landowners or freeholders, 4 male paupers (very elderly), and 3 with independent means.