

John Meade Falkner and Source Material (1)
Page and Allan Life

The decennial census of England & Wales, of which only those for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901 are currently accessible to researchers, affords a unique glimpse into the lives of millions of individuals, snapshots of people and groups, and –occasionally – of inferred events. And while John Meade Falkner appears, as one would expect, in each census between 1861 and 1901, he is indeed privileged to be 'enumerated' twice in that of 1891 – certainly an unusual if not absolutely unique event – and one that adds yet another touch of mystery to an already enigmatic man.

Among the information the census may provide: address, name, sex, relation to head of family, marital status, age, rank or occupation, employment status, and place of birth. Often there are errors, inconsistencies, discrepancies, especially with respect to age, spelling, and completeness of information. For excellent discussions of the census, see Mark D. Herber, *Ancestral Trails* (Stroud: Sutton, 1997; 2nd ed., 2005; also published in the U.S.); and also *The Censuses 1841–1891: Use and Interpretation* by the inimitable, unflappable, witty, and informative Eve McLaughlin (8th rev. & augm. ed.; Aylesbury: Varneys Press, 2001), who provides the exact census dates below. Abbreviations used in the census transcription: TNA (The National Archives, Kew; formerly the Public Record Office); RD (Registration district); and SD (Registration sub-district).

1861 Census – Sun/Mon 7/8 April

TNA RG 9 / 1353, fol. 63, p. 52
RD: Dorchester; SD: Dorchester
Holy Trinity, Dorchester, Dorset
West Walk Terrace

Thomas A Falkner,	head, mar, 41, curate of Holy Trinity Dorchester, MA; Somerset Bath
Elizabeth G Falkner,	wife, mar, 38; Worcestershire Worcester
Mary G Falkner,	daur, 4; Wilts Manningford Bruce

John M Falkner,	son, 2; Wilts Manningford Bruce
Ellen M Mead,	sister in law, unnm, 32, fundholder; Dorset Melcombe Regis
Jane Long,	serv, unnm, 43, nurse; Somerset
Elizabeth Hoskins,	serv, unnm, 38, cook; Dorset
Ann Giddings,	serv, unnm, 21, housemaid; Wilts

1871 Census – Sun/Mon 2/3 April

TNA RG 10 / 2001, fol. 78, p. 26
RD: Weymouth; SD: Weymouth
Melcombe Regis; Weymouth & Melcombe Regis, Dorset
82 St Thomas Street

Thos A Falkner,	head, widower, 50, curate of Melcombe Regis Dorset, landowner;
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Somerset Bath	
Mary G Falkner,	daur, 14, scholar; Wilts Manningford Bruce

John M Falkner,	son, 12, scholar; Wilts Manningford Bruce
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Annie L Falkner,	daur, 9, scholar; Dorset Dorchester
Chas G Falkner,	son, 7, scholar; Dorset Dorchester
Wm R Falkner,	son, 3, scholar; Dorset Dorchester
Jane R Shepherd,	serv, unnm, 28, nurse; Dorset
Harriet E Churchill,	serv, unnm, 27, cook; Dorset
Mary J Bridle,	serv, unnm, 18, housemaid; Dorset
Ann Hatton,	serv, mar, 50, nurse; Dorset

1881 Census – Sun/Mon 3/4 April

TNA RG 11 / 2103, fol. 43, p. 33
RD: Weymouth; SD: Upway
Buckland Ripers, Dorset
Holwell, Rectory

Thomas Alexr Falkner,	head, widr, 61, curate of Buckland, MA Oxford; Somerset Bath
Mary Grace Falkner,	daur, unnm, 24, Wilts Manningford Bruce

**John Mead [sic] Falkner son, unmm, 22, student undergraduate
Oxford; Wilts Manningford**

Bruce

Annie Louisa Falkner, daur, unmm, 19; Dorset Dorchester
William Richardson Falkner, son, 13, scholar; Dorset Dorchester
Ellen Miller, serv, unmm, 18, general servant
(domestic); Dorset

1891 Census [1] Sun/Mon 5/6 April

TNA RG 12 / 4198, fol. 35, p. 18
RD: Newcastle Upon Tyne; SD: Westgate
Elswick, Northumberland
43 Grove Street

Elizabeth Lewins, head, unmm, 62, living on her own means;
Northumberland

**John M. Falkner, lodger, unmm, 32, secretary to
Engineering Co., employed;
Manningford**

Wilts

Thomas N. Ritson, lodger, 30, Wesleyan minister, employed;
Lancashire Bolton

1891 Census [2] Sun/Mon 5/6 April

TNA RG 12 / 4218, fol. 153, p. 11
RD: Newcastle Upon Tyne; SD: Byker
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland
Jesmond Dene House

Andrew Noble, head, mar, 59, retired capt RA, employer;
Scotland

Margery D Noble, wife, mar, 61; Canada
Saxton W A Noble, son, unmm, 28, civil engineer, employer;
Newcastle upon Tyne

Philip E Noble, son, unmm, 20, Baliol College; Newcastle
upon Tyne

Lilias H Noble, daur, unmm, 34; Canada
Ethel F Noble, daur, unmm, 22; Newcastle upon Tyne
Hilda E Bradingbary, sister in law, wid, 58, living on own
means; Canada

Georgina A Bradingbary,	neice, unnm, 25; Woolwich[?]
Maria Bradingbary,	neice, unnm, 24; Woolwich[?]
Hereward N Bradingbary,	nephew, unnm, 19, engineer, employed; Woolwich[?]
T.— [sic] Brunel,	brother in law, mar, 53[?], barrister; London
Gils D N Brunel,	sister, mar, 55; Scotland
Celia B Yawes,	visitor, unnm, 19; London
Lilian S Yawes,	visitor, unnm, 16; Eton Buckinghamshire
Edward H Steward,	visitor, unnm, 55, Major General RE; London Marylebone
John M. Falkner,	visitor, unnm, 32, M.A. Oxon secretary; Wilts
Alan A Swinton,	visitor, unnm, 27, civil engineer; Scotland
Alfred H J Cockrane [sic],	visitor, unnm, 26, MA Oxon secretary; Mauritius
Walter J Galpin,	serv, unnm, 22, footman; Berkshire
Fred Clark,	serv, unnm, 24, footman; London
Joseph Addison,	boy, unnm, 15, boy; Newcastle on Tyne
Mary Wilton,	serv, unnm, 31, head house-maid; Durham
Kate Bishop,	serv, unnm, 28, lady's maid; Northants
Mary Bamborough,	serv, unnm, 26, lady's maid; Durham
Jane Buchan,	serv, unnm, 22, house-maid; Scotland
Mary Ann Colley,	serv, unnm, 19, kitchen maid; Durham
Barbara McArthur,	serv, unnm, 22, kitchen maid; Portsmouth
Emma Dobinson,	serv, unnm, 46, cook; Newcastle on Tyne
Ellen Keating,	serv, unnm, 21, house maid; Ireland
Coach House & Room Above:	
Henry Swain,	serv, unnm, 22, groom; Cheshire
Robert Robison,	serv, unnm, 22, groom; Northumberland

1901 Census – Sun/Mon 31 March-1 April

TNA RG 13 / 4682, fol. 13, p. 18
RD: Durham; SD: St Nicholas
Durham Castle & Precincts, Durham
Palace Green, Divinity House

John M. Falkner, **head, mar, 42, mechanical engineer,
employer; Wiltshire Manningford
Bruce**

Mary Rawes, serv, unmm, 28, parlour maid domestic;
Durham

Margaret Hyde, serv, unmm, 25, house maid domestic;
Northumberland

Isabella Aynsley, serv, unmm, 30, cook domestic; North
[*But where is Mrs. Falkner in 1901?*]

Census dates from Eve McLaughlin's *The Censuses 1841–1891: Use and Interpretation*, 8th rev. & augm. edn. (Haddenham, Aylesbury: Varneys Press, 2001), p. 3.

Abbreviations: TNA = The National Archive

RD = Registration District SD = Sub-district