

Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll Certificates

Between 1st January 1899 and 30th June 1904, over one million people contributed to the Wesleyan Methodist Twentieth Century Fund. Their names are recorded in a series of large volumes known as the Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll. These are preserved at Westminster Methodist Central Hall in London.

Each adult who contributed one Guinea (£1.05) was invited to sign the Historic Roll, pages of which had been distributed to every Wesleyan Methodist Circuit in the United Kingdom and to overseas outposts. Children who collected one Shilling (£0.05) were given a John Wesley medallion and in many cases were allowed to sign the Historic Roll.

Each adult was given a Commemorative Certificate to acknowledge his or her donation. The Certificate, measuring approximately 13 inches by 10 inches includes pictures of prominent early Wesleyan preachers – John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke and Adam Clarke – and pictures of the Fire at Epworth Rectory in 1709 and of John Wesley preaching in the open air.



As donations to the Twentieth Century Fund were being collected at the time of the 1901 Census, it is possible to link the names of many of the donors to the Census and discover what occupations they had at the time, where they were born and whether they were living at the same address as shown in the Historic Roll.

Westminster Methodist Central Hall Archives has a small collection of Historic Roll Certificates. So far it has been possible to identify the following donors in the 1901 Census.

John and Bessie Chichester Certificates 1 & 2

John S Chichester and Bessie Gould Chichester – Volume 14 page 323 – Barnstaple Circuit, which was in the Exeter District.

In the 1901 Census [RG13/2148 Folio 37 schedule 142], John and Bessie were living in South Street, Braunton, Devon with 4 young children.

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
John S Chichester Head Mar	32	Mariner	Devon Braunton
Bessie G Chichester Wife Mar	33		Devon Braunton
Maria E Chichester Daur	7	At School	Devon Braunton
Bessie G Chichester Daur	5	At School	Devon Braunton
John Hy Chichester Son	2		Devon Braunton
Winnifred A Chichester Daur	1		Devon Braunton

Austen Family Certificates 3/4/5/6

There are 4 Certificates for the Austen Family whose signatures can be found in Volume 8 page 367 – Staplecross Circuit.

In the 1901 Census [RG13/861 Folio 80 schedule 32] they were living at Beacon House, Brede, East Sussex. Brede was then in the Staplecross Circuit and part of the Kent District.

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Edmund Austen Head Mar	39	Farmer	Sussex Brede
Mary Jane Austen Wife Mar	43		Norfolk Swaffham
Orlow Austen Daur	9		Sussex Brede
Anna Austen Daur	6		Sussex Brede

Dorothy Kivell Certificate 7

In the 1901 Census Dorothy was living in Strong's Cottages, Sidwell Street, Exeter with her brother John Reed and his wife Ann. Ann was also a contributor to the Twentieth Century Fund and her entry can be found in Volume 14 page 29 – Exeter Circuit.

John Henry Chanter Certificate 8

John Henry Chanter from the Crediton area, Devon. Located in Volume 14 page 323 at Morchard Bishop in the South Molton Circuit, Exeter District. In the 1901 Census [RG 13/2127 Folio XX schedule 80] he was living at Middle Row, Morchard Bishop with his wife and 2 young children.

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
John Chanter Head Mar	28	Mason	Devon Morchard Bishop
Jessie Chanter Wife Mar	25		Devon Morchard Bishop
Lily M Chanter Daur	6	Scholar	Devon Morchard Bishop
Gilbert J Chanter Son	3		Devon Morchard Bishop

Eleanor Hughes Certificate 9

Eleanor Hughes was a donor from Holywell in North Wales. Her Certificate was donated to the Central Hall Archives in April 2007 by Mrs Mary Jones, Greenhill Farm Guest House, Bryn Celyn, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7QF. It was found behind a picture of a coastal scene bought at an auction in 1982 but only recently discovered when Mrs Jones decided to replace the picture which had become rather faded.

Eleanor Hughes' entry in the Historic Roll can be found in Volume 20 page 366, Holywell Circuit below that of her husband Edwin, residing at 36 Whitford Street, Holywell.

The 1901 Census of Holywell shows the Hughes family living at this address [RG13/5209 Folio 12 schedule 113].

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Edwin Hughes Head Mar	48	Slaterer and Plasterer	Flintshire Holywell
Eleanor Hughes Wife Mar	38		Denbigh Llangollen
Eveline Mary Hughes Daur S	15		Flintshire Holywell
Mary Jane Hughes Daur S	12		Flintshire Holywell
Herbert Hughes Son S	8		Flintshire Holywell
Robert Everard Hughes Son S	6		Flintshire Holywell
Elsie Hughes Daur S	5		Flintshire Holywell
Verdon Hughes Son S	1		Flintshire Holywell

Catherine M Wenmoth Certificate 10

Catherine's entry in the Historic Roll can be found in Volume 12 page 543 Callington Circuit – St Germans Wesleyan Chapel. In the 1901 Census of St Germans [RG13/2188 Folio 22 schedule 52] she was living at home with her mother and aunt.

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Susan H Wenmoth Head Widow	66		Cornwall St Germans
Catherine M Wenmoth Daur Single	23	Grocer's Assistant	Cornwall Crosshole
Catherine S Paul Sister Single	49	Draper's Assistant	Cornwall St German

In the 1891 Census, the Wenmoth family is recorded as living in Newport Street, St Germans. [RG12/1807 Folio 21 schedule 73].

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Susan H Wenmoth Head Widow	56		Cornwall St Germans
William C Wenmoth Son	15	Monitor [School]	Cornwall Crosshole
Catherine M Wenmoth Daur	14		Cornwall Crosshole
Catherine S Paul Sister Single	40	Draper's Assistant	Cornwall St Germans

In the 1881 Census the Wemoth family entry can be found in RG11/2281 Folio 80 schedule 88 – St Germans, Grocers Shop.

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Susan H Wenmoth Head Widow	46	Grocer	Cornwall St Germans
Melona J Wenmoth Daur	6	Scholar	Cornwall St Germans
William C Wenmoth Son	5	Scholar	Cornwall Crosshole Sheviok
Catherine M Wenmoth Daur	4	Scholar	Cornwall Crosshole Sheviok

A little detective work in the 1871 Census found Catherine's mother prior to marrying Charles Wenmoth a Blacksmith who originally came from Quethiok in Cornwall RG10/2230 Folio 22 schedule 47 – St Germans Newport

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Catherine Paul Head Widow	56	Shopkeeper	Cornwall St Germans
Susan Hicks Paul Daur Un	36		Cornwall St Germans
Mary Paul Daur Un	35	Dressmaker	Cornwall St Germans
Catherine Sarah Paul Daur Un	19	Dressmaker	Cornwall St Germans
Charles Henry Paul Son	13	Scholar	Cornwall St Germans

Annie Maria Hornabrook Certificate 11

Annie's entry can be found in Volume 12 page 541 Callington Circuit – St Ives. She was the wife of Joseph Hornabrook, a Carpenter . The Hornabrook family can be found in the 1901 Census in RG13/2191 Folio 85 schedule 58 – St Ives , Parkfield

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Joseph Hornabrook Head Mar 61		Carpenter	Cornwall Egloskerry
Ann M Hornabrook Wife Mar 57			London Islington
Richard C Hornabrook Son Un 24		Carpenter	Surrey Croydon
Sarah A Bodderham Visitor Un 47			Surrey Wandsworth

In 1891 the Hornabrook family were living in Croydon which was very different to Joseph's home area in Cornwall RG12/596 Folio 28 schedule 247 - 1, Carbery Road, Croydon, Surrey.

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
Joseph Hornabrook Head Mar	51	Carpenter & Joiner	Cornwall Egloskerry
Annie M Hornabrook Wife Mar	47		London Islington
William J Hornabrook Son Un	22	Carpenter & Joiner	Surrey Croydon
John K Hornabrook Son Un	16	Carpenter & Joiner's	
		Apprentice	Surrey Croydon
Richard E Hornabrook Son	14	Scholar	Surrey Croydon

Rev John Hornabrook [1848-1937] Certificate 12

John's entry can be found in Volume 28 page 88. Manchester [Cheetham Hill Circuit], Cheetham Hill Wesleyan Chapel. At this time he was Secretary of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, a post which he was to hold for 35 years. Born in Jamaica in 1848, the son of Rev Richard Hornabrook, a Wesleyan missionary, John was educated at Woodhouse Grove School and entered the Wesleyan ministry in 1868. After training at Headingley, he was a circuit minister in Sheffield, Wandsworth, Southport, Waterloo, Liverpool, Rock Ferry, Bristol and Leeds before being appointed Secretary of the Chapel Committee in 1897. He was Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference between 1903-1909 before he was elected President of the Conference in 1910. For many years he was regarded as the "elder statesman" of Wesleyan Methodism. He married Mary Jane Wiseman, daughter of Rev Luke H Wiseman who was President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1872. His brother in law, Rev Luke F Wiseman was President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1912 and of the Methodist Conference in 1933.

John and his wife Mary Jane had 4 sons and a daughter. Their eldest son, John Oliver Hornabrook was also a distinguished Methodist minister. In the 1891 Census when John was a circuit minister in Rock Ferry, the Hornabrook family were living at 16 Highfield Road, Bebington, Birkenhead. [RG12/2874 Folio 4 schedule 7]

Name and Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
John Hornabrook Head Mar	42	Wesleyan Minister	Jamaica
Mary J Hornabrook Wife Mar	41		Durham Darlington
John O Hornabrook Son	11		Lancs Southport
Edward Hornabrook Son	9		Lancs Liverpool
Frank Hornabrook Son	7		Lancs Liverpool
Alan W Hornabrook Son	3		Lancs Liverpool
Mary J Hornabrook Daur	9 months		Ches Rock Ferry
Martha C Young Serv Un	25	General Servant	Ches Birkenhead
Annie Astbury Serv Un	20	Nurse	Ches Birkenhead

In the 1901 Census, John is shown as a visitor in the home of Henry Smalley of Elswick House, Mellor, Lancashire [RG13/3903 Folio 23 schedule 39] He was clearly a strong supporter of the Twentieth Century Fund as the family entry shows.

John Hornabrook **Hazelwood, Higher Crumpsall**

Mary Hornabrook

John Oliver Hornabrook

Edward M Hornabrook

F Leslie Hornabrook

Alan Wiseman Hornabrook

Mary Joyce Hornabrook

Frederick Wiseman Hornabrook **In Memoriam**

Fraser Hault Hornabrook

Luke Hault Hornabrook

Mary Wiseman

Richard Hornabrook

Mary Louisa Hornabrook

Annie Louisa Hornabrook

William Hy Hornabrook

Frederick M Hornabrook

Mary K Hornabrook **9 The Vineyard, Bath**

Nellie Hornabrook **Hilton, S Africa**

John B Ellen **The Beacon, Exmouth**

Alice M M Hembury **Hazelwood, Higher Crumpsall**

Certificates 13 & 14

William Bath Collins

Elizabeth Collins

Certificates 15 and 16

George Corbett

Mrs Emily Corbett

Certificate 17

Miss Florence Weatherall

Certificate 18

Emma Pearse

Certificate 19

Helena May Inniss

Certificate 20

George Briggs

Certificate 21

Robert Armstrong

This list will be added to when other Certificates have been checked against the 1901 Census. Donations of original Certificates or photocopies of original Certificates are always welcome as are Census references that can be linked to a donor's entry in the Historic Roll.

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