

Bully The Census Dog

I have been investigating census returns for a project about the population of Hornsey in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Searching the census can be dull and repetitive. However, occasionally, an entertaining gem emerges by chance....

A young Highgate man embellishes his family's entry in the 1911 census with some extra information. He is, perhaps, expressing a mild objection to the statutory requirement to complete the census return; the 1911 census was the first one which householders completed themselves.

In addition to family members he enters "*Bully*" who is *The Dog male aged 3 ½ years*. Regarding **Particulars as to Marriage**, the informant states about Bully; *don't know can gather nothing*. Bully's **Personal Occupation** is given as follows; *Guards his master's house and effects against tramps and other officials of all denominations* and his **Profession or Occupation** as *Eating and Sleeping*. Bully *works at home* and was born in England. As to nationality, he is a *Thorough Britisher. Being a Bulldog*.

Other animals are mentioned; *Several Birds and Guinea pig particulars of which may be obtained upon application*. The section headed **Infirmity** reads; *'Tis rumoured that the persons mentioned on this return are all perfectly sane*. The family occupies 9 rooms in their home and there are, apparently, the *Usual offices Dog kennel, Several birdcages etc*. Mr WG J. has signed the form on behalf of Mr GA J., his father, who is listed as head of the family. Mr WG J. states his own profession as *Musician (not organ grinder.)*

Inevitably, the additions have been crossed out by the census enumerator. However, they remain perfectly readable, all in elegant copperplate handwriting.

Note *Mr WG J.'s words, including punctuation, are exactly as he wrote them in the census.*

(Census of England and Wales 1911 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>)