

KEY AND EXPLANTION OF LAYOUT.

Each grid leads with the SURNAME, forename(s) of the musician being chronicled. Nickname(s) - e.g. ('Jingy') – aliases and 'also known as' ('aka') designations are added if known. All of these data are given in **red**.

If the instrument(s) which that musician played or any other musical marker - e.g. 'Dancing master' - is known it is given at top right, and is in **dark blue**.

The grids are divided into six compartments, each one hosting a different dataset, and these are defined below.

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The year of occurrence. Where this is non-specific the date is preceded by a 'c' [= circa, or approximation].

1743/

1744 = Prior to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1752 the period between 1 January and 25 March was reckoned to be the final three months of the year proper. So, if a pre-1753 date falls within this period both years are given, separated by a slash.

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The specific or approximate date of occurrence, given as DAY / MONTH.

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The location of occurrence, in the form of community / COUNTY - e.g. Greenwich, KNT. Abbreviations used for counties and countries are in standard genealogical usage, and are self-evident. Counties given are those prior to the official reorganization of 1974.

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The nature and form of occurrence. Typical examples might be a family experience (birth, baptism, marriage, death), an appearance in magistrates court, or playing for dancing.

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Specific details from the original source, offering an insight into an incident in the life of the musician documented. This may take the form of a newspaper report, details from a convict ident, a census entry, or any number of others.

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Details of the original source, sufficient for any reader to locate it again. This might be a document in a library or record office, a newspaper item, or a resource available on the WWW. Commonly used terms are as follow :

Original register = my own transcription of the original entry, usually as a microfiche or image on the WWW, although three decades ago I examined numerous original registers for the south midland counties, both in local record offices and in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Original register transcript = another researcher's transcript, with potential for being flawed.

Bishop's transcript = transcript of the copy of parish register entries made and sent to the diocese annually by the *in situ* clergyman or parish clerk.

IGI = The International Genealogical Index. A resource provided by The Church of the Latter Day Saints. freely available online.

GRO Index = a manuscript of indexed civil registrations of births, marriages and deaths. Civil registration began in 1837, but was not legally enforced until an Act of 1874. When given here the location - e.g. Exeter, DEV - refers not necessarily to the city itself (although that falls within the specific area covered), but to the Exeter District, which encompassed a portion of the adjacent region.

Census entries are transcribed closely but not identically to the original form, it being impossible to accurately reproduce a hand-written document in typeface. Abbreviations - e.g. 'Dau', 'S-in-law', and so on - ought to be self evident.

Prior to 1911 all enumeration slips collected from households were destroyed following their entry into hardcover volumes by the *in situ* original enumerator. When these volumes arrived at the appropriate government department in London, overall tallies were then made in a number of fields. As a result, a further comment (especially regarding occupation) may be evident in the original volume, invariably in a different hand and written by one with no immediate contact with the initial respondent. These are, then, both for that reason and the fact that this additional text can distort the evidence, ignored here.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Where grid entries are given in **light blue** this signifies ambiguity, where the data given appear to fit the profile, but by no means with absolute certainty.

All entries are given in a strict chronological sequence. If more than one performer is born in, say, 1838, that group of names is then rendered alphabetically by surname. At times it has proven impossible to discover even an approximate date of birth for specific musicians, especially during the pre-1800 period. Where this occurs I have added twenty years to the initial known date of activity and placed that individual in the appropriate place in the chronological sequence. So, for example, a source which reveals that in 1880 one 'Mr. Hunt gave a tune on the mouth organ, and Mr. Anthistle two solos on the dulcimer' offered nothing for me to key onto, despite checking primary sources (and in particular the 1881 census) for men of these surnames in the locality. Thus both men feature in the sequence as if they had been born circa 1860. This may, however, prove to be wildly inaccurate. If, say, they were aged sixty rather than twenty they ought to be placed in the sequence at circa 1810. This is a flaw which needs to stand until further identification

can be made.

Where a man is of an age to potentially have been enumerated in the decadal census returns between 1841 and 1911 I have followed him through the sequence. At times one or more years may reveal no indication of his whereabouts. The reasons for this are legion. He may have eluded the local enumerator, either accidentally or on purpose. He may have been outside the area currently available to me - basically England, Wales, and the Isle of Man - in, say Ireland, Scotland, or even overseas. In particular, some men who were in the armed services may have been posted abroad. Where a man served long enough to receive a pension - i.e. more than twenty years - it is now possible to review at least a portion of his service record online, and summaries are given for a number of musicians here (e.g. William Martin, born 1834). More rarely, the use of an alias (far more common prior to 1900 than nowadays) may conceal the sought-for entry. One final reason for not locating a man at a specific date relates to technology. Although search engines are increasingly powerful tools, they depend on an accurate transcription of the original source. On one occasion when I knew a man would be living in Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, a search revealed nothing until I entered a different search term. When the transcription was finally revealed the village had been rendered as 'Kirthlington'.

So, despite thinking laterally and using a number of separate search terms, on two separate occasions separated by more than a year during which this work has been in preparation, there are at times gaps in the census sequence. Sometimes the sequence for an individual may peter out, and one has to allow the possibility that death has intervened. Even so, and despite the online resource of the civil registration documents, it has not always been possible to locate a death date. The reader can rest assured, however, that I has followed each name assiduously through all the sources available to me.

I hope others can make good use of this database. I would appreciate hearing (via the webmaster) of any additions and corrections, or even errors, although I hope, as I always do, that these have been kept to a minimum.