

# Genes Reunited reveals the defining events of the past 100 years

Submitted by: pr-sending-enterprises

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Genes Reunited, a leading family history website, has delved into what the nation defines as the biggest historical events of the past 100 years and what they think might happen in the next century.

Despite the world changing events of two world wars, the invention of the internet topped the list of the most defining event of the past 100 years. This was followed closely by World War Two, man walking on the moon and then September 11th 2001.

Only a handful of people are alive who featured in the 1911 census ([http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/search.page/index/census\\_1911](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/search.page/index/census_1911)) and witnessed the key events of the last century. According to Genes Reunited, being in the NASA control centre when man first walked on the moon came top of the list when it came to events that people most wished they had witnessed first hand, followed by being around when women won the vote in 1912. Interestingly, 27 per cent of women compared with only four per cent of men wanted to be at this key event towards equality.

Other events people wished they had witnessed included the VE day celebrations, watching England winning the football World Cup at Wembley in 1966, being there in person for the fall of the Berlin wall and attending Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech in person

As Brits have just filled out their 2011 Census (<http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/search.page/index>) forms, it is interesting to think what people in 2111 will be looking back on. The research found that people believe that in the next 100 years the world will see the first female American President; sea levels will have risen to unmanageable levels and, sadly for the descendents of Kate and William, the end of the royal family in the UK.

Other predicted events include the first man or woman landing on Mars and the possibility of World War Three.

It seems that young people have different expectations of what's next compared with their elders. 37 per cent of 18 to 34 year olds believe World War Three will occur before 2111 but only 18 per cent of adults over 55 agree.

Rhoda Breakell, head of Genes Reunited, commented: "So much in history has happened over the past 100 years, it's fascinating to look back at the records from the 1911 census and see details of the lives of people who experienced the events that we're still so interested in today.

"Researching family history is about the past, the present and the future, which is what makes the 1911 census, the most recent publically available census, and now the 2011 census, so exciting."

About Genes Reunited:

Genes Reunited was launched in 2003 as a sister-site to the Internet phenomenon Friends Reunited. Since then it has grown to become the UK's largest genealogy website.

It marked a revolution in genealogy and ancestry by combining them with Internet social-networking. Members are able to build their family tree by posting it on the site and investigating which ancestors they share with other members. They can also do a family search (<http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/>) on historical records such as census, birth, death, marriage and military records.

Genes Reunited has over 11 million members and over 750 million names listed. One new name is added to the site every single second.

Genes Reunited's parent company brightsolid is due to launch the 1911 Scottish Census this year and has now been given the exclusive rights to capture the 2011 Scottish Census online.

Notes to editors:

Opinium Research carried out an online survey of 2,025 UK adults aged 18+ from 4th to 8th March 2011. Results have been weighted to nationally representative criteria.

PR Contact:

Carolynne Bull-Edwards  
38-40 Fourth Floor  
Broadgate Court  
199 Bishopsgate  
London  
EC2M 3TY  
07932723866  
[www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk)