



Family History For You

November 2014

FH4U 005

Hello Everyone,

As fast as I put one newsletter to bed than I start the next newsletter, please do read this fully as I ask for your input on matters and your replies, or non reply will map the future of this newsletter.

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If you are a motor racing enthusiast, as I am, you might enjoy looking at the photographs available at the Motoring Picture Library. Primarily it is a photography service, photograph prints can be purchased for a fee. However, anyone and everyone is invited to look at the available old and new photographs at no charge. Bill Brunell has donated thousands of his photographs mostly from the 1920s and 1930s and taken in Great Britain. They reveal what racing looked like in the days before helmets, seat belts, air bags, and traction control had made high speed driving much safer. The photographs and thousands more are available from the Motoring Picture Library. [www.motoringpicturelibrary.com](http://www.motoringpicturelibrary.com)

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We all like to be able to read the monumental inscriptions on gravestones. Sadly though some people either don't always realise that their actions are causing untold damage. Recently I heard of such an incident, at the New Providence Presbyterian Church on Stoney Point Road in Surgoinsville, Tennessee. A person used a wire brush to make the engravings on the tombstones easier to read, why? he was cleaning the stones in order to take photographs to be posted on Find-A-Grave.com. The damage was reported to the police, the church claimed not to have given permission to anyone to clean the tombstones. Ironically when the Police checked [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) they located recently posted photos of the damaged tombstones, complete with the user name clearly shown on each photo.

I believe I am correct in saying that under Tennessee law, unauthorized tampering with or damaging gravestones is a Class E felony. Once damaged, old gravestones can rarely be returned to their former appearance, rough brushing and or cleaning with chemicals can weaken or even completely destroy the often illegible inscriptions on stones that have already deteriorated due to age and exposure to the elements.

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Have you noticed that The National Archives [TNA] have released an expanded version of its online Discovery catalogue? <http://beta.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> . Adding a further 10 million record descriptions, bringing the grand total to about 32 million items.

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The Federation of Family History Societies aka FFHS has a website listing free websites to help with your research across the British Isles <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/websites/websites.php> Each entry includes a summary of what the site focuses on and a link to help you discover more.

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Concern is mounting regarding the number of records that have been mistranscribed on FindMyPast, Ancestry and FamilySearch especially the long 's' erroneously recorded as an 'f'. Generally the error is obvious once you have found it but the problem is finding it in the first place. My advice is to keep a VERY open mind with your search criteria.

One question I often get asked is how do you type 'é' as in néé instead of nee. Certainly for me it is hold down the Alt key and then press 130

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## What are Almshouses?

Almshouses are charitable affordable housing, provided generally for the elderly folk who can no longer work to earn rent, to live a particular community. Predominantly for the poor of a locality, maybe those from certain forms of previous employment, or their widows, and are normally maintained by a charity or the trustees of a bequest.



Almshouses can trace their history back to monastic times, and over time have been known and recorded under various terms including bedehouse, hospital, maison dieu, whilst other records just say the provision of accommodation for those in need.



The images are then and now of the Almshouses in Odiham, if you know Odiham they are behind the Church and at the side of the hospital.

Almshouses are typified by the traditional three-sided square that provides a sense of safety and security without isolating residents from the outside world.

Hopefully these websites will also be helpful to you [www.almshouses.org/](http://www.almshouses.org/) and [www.historyfish.net/monastics/List\\_houses\\_A-B.html](http://www.historyfish.net/monastics/List_houses_A-B.html) alternatively if you prefer a book then Canon Dr Raymond Bayley's book Almshouse Chapels - A Fascinating Guide to A Rich Architectural Heritage', might be of interest.

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Tennessee is one of those places where comprehensive records of births, marriages, and deaths were not kept before the 20th century. Families recorded their own family details in family bibles that were passed down in the family. At the Tennessee State Library and Archives they hold hundreds of these family Bible records in several formats <http://tnsos.net/TSLA/Bibleproject/> the bulk of the records in this collection date between the late 18th and early 20th century. Many prominent Tennessee families are represented here; some records even include the names of families' slaves. Individual names in most Bibles for surnames A through J have also been indexed.

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On Friday 25th July 2014 the Irish government closed part of its recently opened genealogy website, after a warning from the country's data protection commissioner that potentially sensitive personal details were available to all. [www.irishgenealogy.ie/en](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en) created by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, allowed people who had been born or married in Ireland the opportunity to search civil records as part of their research into their heritage. The online records contained data such as dates of birth and mothers' maiden names, information which is frequently used as security questions for accounts such as online banking. Although that information is not legally defined as "sensitive" under Irish data protection law, the commission stepped in anyway.

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With the various television programmes such as Long Lost Family people are starting to look more deeply at those members of the family who have been adopted or separated from family. Hopefully these sites will be a starting point in the right direction.

British Home Children in Canada <http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/> <http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/barnardo-home-records.html>

Or you could try [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

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A lovely site for Hertfordshire burials is [www.hertsburialsandmemorials.org.uk/](http://www.hertsburialsandmemorials.org.uk/)

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In the last issue I wrote about the perils of just linking up with another family history researcher's tree, without thoroughly checking everything.

So maybe I shouldn't be surprised to hear of a researcher who suggested just using the internet. Apparently they have been researching for over 10 years but only through the internet, but admitted being very disappointed and frustrated at how little information was available online. Clearly the researcher isn't aware that it is estimated that less than 6% of records of interest to genealogists is actually online at the time of writing. Please don't get me wrong, the information that is already online is brilliant and I am truly, as I am sure we all are, very grateful, but there is still a long way to go. Particularly as we cannot all easily travel to the locations where the original records are kept.

Solely using the internet opens up our research up to misinterpreted records, just last week I called one of the big companies with a transcript error, Smith had been transcribed as Pettitt in one of the census. Only using the powers of the internet means you are missing out on loads of records held at other resources such as local archives, and family history centres to name just two possible places.

Personally I am very lucky, I live within 10 miles of ancestors both maternal and paternal for over 100 years, my paternal family didn't move further a field until 1682 and then they only moved 9 miles. So I can regularly go for a drive and walk around where they lived and take photos. If like me you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, go to the local archive where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of finding and holding original records in your hand. Don't forget to make photocopies, scan them, take pictures or whatever is possible to collect images of the original records.

Please do use original records as much as possible, it could save you hours researching the wrong tree. To save money, see if another member of your family is researching, so that you can share certificates. Remember no question is a silly question if you don't know the answer, so do please ask.

Alternatively you will possibly find an LDS [Latter Day Saints] Family History Centre near you. [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Introduction\\_to\\_LDS\\_Family\\_History\\_Centers](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Introduction_to_LDS_Family_History_Centers) for details. Or you can also find your nearest Family History Center by starting at: <https://familysearch.org/locations>

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The skeletons of nearly 400 men, women and children dating from about 15th to the 18th century, whose remains were unearthed in a cemetery five years ago, have, using digital analysis, been brought back to life by forensic artists. Examination of the remains, has allowed experts from the University of Dundee to reveal how the individuals lived and died, including what some of them could have looked like. Using forensic modelling scientists were able to work out the shape of facial muscles and tissues, before using a computer programme to rebuild people's faces. Sarah Griffiths article in The Daily Mail can be found here. [www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2708381/Are-YOUR-ancestors-Faces-400-medieval-Scots-reconstructed-skulls-unearthed-cemetery.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2708381/Are-YOUR-ancestors-Faces-400-medieval-Scots-reconstructed-skulls-unearthed-cemetery.html)

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The Royal British Legion is working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission aka CWGC to remember those who fell in the First World War. Every Man Remembered [www.everymanremembered.org/](http://www.everymanremembered.org/) those wishing to commemorate the sacrifice made by over a million men, can enter a short message of up to 140 characters, upload up to 5 photos, and add a more detailed story of up to 3500 characters.

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Does the name Fabian Arthur Goulstone Ware mean anything to you? He was the founder of the Imperial War Graves Commission, now known as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission if you would like to read more about Fabian try this website [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian\\_Ware](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian_Ware) alternatively if you like a read, the book Empires of the Dead by David Crane tells the story of how one man's vision led to the creation of the WW1 Graves.

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Newspapers are always full of information, Veridian [www.veridiansoftware.com](http://www.veridiansoftware.com) is a company that digitise newspapers for libraries and other cultural heritage institutions. Using techniques such as scanning, Optical Character Recognition [OCR] services and others. The site also includes links newspaper collections that have been digitized for the libraries and other organizations.

Cornell University Library  
AFB Helen Keller Archives  
University of Richmond  
The Stanford [University]  
Papers of Princeton  
Boston College  
Vassar College  
Papers Past  
Kent State Archive  
Library of Virginia

Columbia Spectator Archive  
Watson House Digital Archives  
New Zealand Parliamentary Journals  
Indiana Digital Historic Newspapers  
Leiden University Colonial Collection  
The Upper Hutt [New Zealand] Leader  
Cambridge [Massachusetts] Public Library  
California Digital Newspaper Collection  
University of California, San Francisco  
Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections

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The ever popular websites, please do keep sending me your favourites  
[www.hastingspubhistory.com/page20.html](http://www.hastingspubhistory.com/page20.html) this site is absolutely packed full with photographs and numerous other pieces of fantastic information.

Many of you will be aware that you can view information held at The National Archives aka TNA via the internet but did you know you that information not on the internet can be requested, here is how.

<https://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/recordcopying/>

<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/> is a new website giving details of WWI Prisoners of War. It is a new site so please be patient if your relative's details are still to be uploaded. Access is free.

[www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/ww1-prisoner-war-records-go-online-free](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/ww1-prisoner-war-records-go-online-free)

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© Doug Jackson/M&Y News

Anto Wickham 48 from Belfast, a former soldier started to plan his own funeral after he saw eight Army friends killed. Andy said "I didn't want a normal funeral, I have been to too many funerals of colleagues, I wanted a celebration of life. I want something completely different and I decided my favourite drink is Jack Daniels." A Nottingham company was paid £3,000 for the coffin that is a ten-foot high replica of his favourite bottle whiskey. The coffin is said to be a faithful reproduction of a Jack Daniels bottle except for one line added to the label That states Anton Wickham's name, his date of birth, and the words "100% proof." Mr. Wickham also stated, "My headstone is going to have a solar-panelled iPad. I plan to leave a video message with pictures of the coffin from start to finish. I am also going to approach Guinness to see if they will take me to the service in one of their delivery vans."

More information is available in Corey Charlton article Charlton in The Daily Mail [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2714624/Dying-drink-Father-six-commissions-3-000-coffin-shape-Jack-Daniels-bottle.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2714624/Dying-drink-Father-six-commissions-3-000-coffin-shape-Jack-Daniels-bottle.html)

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Oxford Family History Society [FHS] has, to mark the start of the centenary, started to build an online resource for the War Memorials of Oxfordshire. They would like to be advised if they have missed anything, further details can be found at <http://news.ofhs.org.uk/war-memorials/>

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[www.Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.Ancestry.co.uk) have uploaded over 62,000 Naturalization Certificates and Declarations covering the period from 1870-1912 that are held by the National Archives. Another good site for information is [www.thegazette.co.uk/](http://www.thegazette.co.uk/) don't forget to search using variant spellings if at first you don't succeed in finding who you are looking for. However do remember most immigrants didn't seek British citizenship, but it is worth checking, also don't forget that those requesting citizenship generally had to have been in the UK for quite a long time before submitting their application.

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An unusual website, but still very useful, although personally I would like the pages to be alphabetical  
[www.lostancestors.eu/](http://www.lostancestors.eu/)

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The Catholic National Library, St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7NQ has closed until further notice. No decision has yet been made as to the future of the library. Check the website for the latest information [www.catholic-library.org.uk/](http://www.catholic-library.org.uk/)

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CBS News has reported that the U.N. War Crimes Commission archive which is predominately been locked away for the past 70 or so years under restricted access at the United Nations will be made freely available to visitors to the research room of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. For more details have a look at the article yourself.

[www.cbsnews.com/news/massacres-murders-and-torture-u-n-archive-on-wwii-crimes-made-public](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/massacres-murders-and-torture-u-n-archive-on-wwii-crimes-made-public)

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Ash U3A Family History Group have announced details of their network study day to be held on 9th April 2015 at The Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, GU12 5DP

09.30	Registration	
10.00	Welcome	
10.15	Mark Bayley	Discovering your Ancestors in the First World War
11.15	Refreshments	
11.45	Heather Hicks	'Which Way' Various ways we could go about our research, with a few hints and tips.
12.45	Lunch	
1.45	Jane Hurst	'Using Newspapers Records'
2.45	Refreshments	
3.15	Mary Bennett	'Childhood in Surrey & Hampshire' 17 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century – a study of childhood, poverty, foundlings, education, work & play, using original records for the period, although Surrey & Hampshire this talk is relevant UK wide
4.15	Thanks & close	

Delegates are requested to bring a packed lunch, the cost for the day is £10. If you are not a U3A member and would like to attend, any spaces will be offered on a first come first served basis, so get yourself on the waiting list.

If you have attended before you should already have received an email with the application form attached. Any queries please email Heather [heather.u3a@roccoland.plus.com](mailto:heather.u3a@roccoland.plus.com) To confirm if there are still spaces for this VERY popular event please call 07788941246

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Some of BT 377/7 [Royal Naval Ratings' Records of Service [1908-1958] have been removed from Origins.net for a potential breach of the Data Protection Act.

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Replacing lost medals isn't impossible [www.veterans-uk.info/medals/replace.html](http://www.veterans-uk.info/medals/replace.html) and [www.themedalcentre.co.uk](http://www.themedalcentre.co.uk) are two websites who come with good reviews from fellow family historians

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A single point of access to all EU based archives, the current selections are a bit hit and miss  
[www.archivesportaleurope.net/home](http://www.archivesportaleurope.net/home)

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As genealogists we really should be citing our sources. I remember as a child [my early days of family tree research] I didn't do this. I would scribble notes in a notebook, there were no computers then yet alone internet. I recorded what I could remember from conversations writing down names, dates, places, maybe a story Dad told me. I was lucky my local library had lots of helpful information, but I was learning as I went along, in my family certain subjects were taboo, and looking into the families past was one of these, still is in many ways.

Citing a source is not as straight forward as many think, like just writing down the name of a book. You should record the book's author, when it was published, the page you found the information on, maybe even the name of the library or repository where you found the book. Then when your information differs from another researcher or you come across revised information, you know exactly where your information came from, that one step could have saved me many hours of backtracking. Remember any statement of fact that is not common knowledge must carry its own individual statement of source. ... remember what is obvious to you may not be obvious to another person. There are two purposes to sources, to record the specific location of each piece of data and the other reason is to record details that affect the use or evaluation of our data.

Each source of information may have unique requirements for recording the source reference, especially if the source is information in hand-written records in courthouses, or a maybe a family bible.

A good reference book is Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian by Elizabeth Shown Mills [Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997, ISBN 0806315431

If you don't already record your sources then it would be wise to start recording your sources, I am sure that as your research processes you will be happy you did.

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Genforum has closed, I understand that the GenForum message boards, Family Tree Maker homepages, along with many of the popular articles will be preserved in a read-only format.

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Oxford Family History Society aka OFHS have released another monumental inscriptions cd covering Parish Church of St Peter ad Vincula, at South Newington, which is in the north of the county, the CD contains photographs of the church and each MI as well as transcriptions of each MI. The OFHS website address is [www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html](http://www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html).

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography aims to record everyone who has shaped British history and culture from the Romans onwards. Full copies of the records are available at many of the UK's libraries via the computer/s in the reference section, free online access using your library card. Don't forget that libraries also often offer free access to websites such Ancestry, FindMyPast, TheGenealogist and newspaper archives.

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International Committee of the Red Cross has made available their records in time for their centenary, their website is <http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/> sadly these records are very limited

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Imperial War Museum has put online WW1 film clips

[www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search?items\\_per\\_page=10&f%5b0%5d=mediaType%3Avideo&f%5b1%5d=contentDate%3AFirst%20World%20War&query=](http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search?items_per_page=10&f%5b0%5d=mediaType%3Avideo&f%5b1%5d=contentDate%3AFirst%20World%20War&query=) unfortunately they are not easy to navigate hence I have shared the long website address

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We all wondered if the government would accept the recommendation of the National Statistician that the 2021 Census should proceed. Read the government's response [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-rt-hon-francis-maude-mp-to-sir-andrew-dilnot---180714.pdf](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-rt-hon-francis-maude-mp-to-sir-andrew-dilnot---180714.pdf) [you might see a security warning, I did]. The letter is clear that the decision only relates to 2021, the government are still looking for an alternative solution after that date.

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TheGenealogist has released First World War Medal Records that crossed the great social class divide. Over 117,000 'Military Medals' were awarded in the First World War for 'acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire'. These records are now available online complete with an image of the actual Medal Card and a link to the official government publication of the time. This comprehensive set of records is only available on [www.theGenealogist.co.uk](http://www.theGenealogist.co.uk)

The Military Medal was awarded to 'Non Commissioned Officers and Ordinary Ranks' and covers exceptional courage as a soldier in battle, and those that risked their lives trying to save others, often in extreme danger. The Medal Records on TheGenealogist show people from a wide range of backgrounds and social classes, including a number of young women from very privileged families who chose to drive ambulances and rescue the wounded in the mud of battle.

The role of 'stretcher bearer' was one of the most dangerous jobs of the time and surprisingly, the records show many women bridged social constraints of the time to risk life and limb to help rescue and bring in soldiers wounded in battle.

This collection include details from the most highly decorated Military Medal recipient, stretcher bearer Private Ernest Corey of the 55<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry, to Lady Dorothie May Evelyn Feilding-Moore, the daughter of the Earl of Denbigh [the first female recipient of the Medal] and Mairi Lambert Gooden-Chisholm who rescued a German pilot from no-man's land. Both men and women, crossing the social divide and class customs of pre-1914 to demonstrate outstanding bravery.

The new Military Medal records provide:- Full details of the person winning the medal – their rank, regiment, date of medal citation and the details of their heroism in battle.

TheGenealogist website is a superb collection of records not just covering the World Wars but non conformist records, tithes and many many more. More details on the records of the First World War 'Military Medals' can be found at [www.TheGenealogist.co.uk/military-medal](http://www.TheGenealogist.co.uk/military-medal) Alternatively contact Fiona at [fiona@sandn.net](mailto:fiona@sandn.net) or 01722 716121

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Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, a German research expert has written Guide to Hanover Military Records, 1514–1866, on Microfilm at the Family History Library. This is to my knowledge the first English-language guide to this gold mine of genealogical information for family historians. These Military records for the former Kingdom of Hanover in Germany generally include a soldier's date and place of birth, his father's name, and widows' pensions.

This is a must have book for anyone researching ancestors from the former Kingdom of Hanover in Germany.

Baerbel Johnson writes:- "Until now this collection has hardly been touched by family historians, mostly because of the difficulties associated with locating the...microfilms. It's an incredibly helpful work."

Teresa founded Lind Street Research in 2006, a company dedicated to helping clients trace their German ancestry. Visit [www.hanovermilitary.com](http://www.hanovermilitary.com) for more details.

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We have for a long time been able to view the GRO's registers online, but are you aware that you now can view marriage registers for the Royal Marines 1813-1920 on the findmypast website.

[http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-royal-marines-marriage-registers-1813-1920?\\_ga=1.95472412.1685016599.1331200737](http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-royal-marines-marriage-registers-1813-1920?_ga=1.95472412.1685016599.1331200737)

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Just imagine the surprise Adriana 39 got when she went on a Brazilian radio programme which helps people find lost family members. Only to find out that Adriana had a brother who'd been given up as a child and raised by a relative, just like Adriana had been. His name Leandro, the same as Adriana's husband. Adriana since the age of one had been brought up by her father, whilst Leandro 37 was told at the age of 8 that he had been abandoned at a young age and raised by his step-mother. By the time Adriana and Leandro met, they had each spent years seeking their birth mother neither knowing it was the same person. The couple have a 6-year-old daughter, Adriana said at the end of the programme "Now I'm scared to go home and find out that Leandro doesn't want me anymore," she said. "I love him so much." Later she said that the couple would stay together "whatever anyone might think." they were never legally married.

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Hancock County Courthouse in Sparta was a lovely building full of records, sadly it is no more.



During the early hours of Monday 11th August it was engulfed in flames, it appears that the building and all its contents have been lost

A huge loss for researchers, records lost include:- Property deeds, birth and marriage certificates and many other records dating back to about 1795



Some of the records held in the Sparta County

Courthouse apparently have been microfilmed, I think by the LDS [Latter Day Saints] so check the FamilySearch catalogue to see what is available.

For those with British West Indies Ancestors look at the new book by John Titford 'My Ancestor Settled in the British West Indies' published by the Society of Genealogists. The book is about British families who migrated to the West Indies and the records that could help with your research. Each chapter looks at an area, describes the history, and gives details of records of interest held locally and in England. Secondary sources, a bibliography of possible further reading and a list of websites conclude each chapter.

John has written numerous books of genealogical interest including:-

Ey Up Mi Duck!: Dialect of Derbyshire and the East Midlands by Richard Scollins, John Titford  
Tracing Your Family Tree: The Comprehensive Guide To Discovering Your Family History by Jean A. Cole, Michael Armstrong and John Titford

Searching for Surnames: A Practical Guide to Their Meanings and Origins by John Titford

Penguin Dictionary of British Surnames by John Titford

Writing Up Your Family History: A Do It Yourself Guide by John Titford

A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations by Colin Waters, John Titford

Writing and Publishing Your Family History by John Titford

Succeeding in Family History: Helpful Hints and Time-Saving Tips by John Titford

The Titford Family, 1547-1947: Come Wind, Come Weather by John Titford

Communication and Media Studies by Geoffrey N. Gration, John Titford, and John Reilly

John was awarded First Prize by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, for his book ' The Titford Family 1547-1947', and elected a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists in 2004

Did you know that Aldershot had a Military Prison

[www3.hants.gov.uk/aldershot-museum/local-history-aldershot/glasshouse-aldershot.htm](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/aldershot-museum/local-history-aldershot/glasshouse-aldershot.htm)

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At times computer programs cease to be supported or updated, the latest case is The Master Genealogist [TMG] see <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs140/1105531002059/archive/1118052201942.html>.

Any program is likely to fall into this situation, whatever the size of the supporting company and the number of people using it. It takes time, effort and money to support a program, especially when computer operating systems change and they have no responsibility to tell you that has happened. So don't expect that when you buy a new computer, especially with a different operating system [Windows 7, 8 instead of XP etc], that the program you spent £xxx for and really like, will work correctly, if at all, unless you go and buy, assuming it is available, a new later version. That version, although with the same name may not look or behave like you are used to. For that reason, if you are planning to 'upgrade' don't get rid of a computer that still works until you are sure you can run the programs you need on the new one. I still have a computer running Windows 95 to support one very useful program that won't run on any later computers.

Do you remember Personal Ancestral File, CommSoft's Roots 5, Ultimate Family Tree, or SierraHome's Generations 8.0? Those are just some of many genealogy programs that have all faded away over the years. The reasons for each program's demise vary, but a few themes seem common. Obviously, a lack of customers is often a major factor. Developing software, distributing it, and supporting it with a customer service department is not cheap. Any program needs to sell a lot of copies in order to generate enough revenue to cover expenses and hopefully to generate a profit for the producer. Some programs never sold enough copies to achieve profitability. Another huge expense is updating the software frequently to add new features and to keep up to date with rapidly changing technologies. For instance, several genealogy programs were written in programming languages using dBase or FoxPro databases, products that were dropped by their producers years ago. The genealogy programmers kept using the database technology as long as they could, but eventually problems crept in. Compatibility with Windows, is one of the most common problems, new releases of Windows might break or at least hamper the databases used in some genealogical programs.

One genealogy program suffered a similar, but slightly different, problem, it worked well until a new version of windows was introduced. The program would no longer print when installed on the new version of Windows. If installed on earlier versions of Windows, printing worked perfectly, reason the later version of had changes to the printing functions that were not compatible with that genealogy program. Paying for programmers' time to rewrite existing software to make it compatible with the latest version of an operating system is expensive. Many small software producers with low customer bases cannot afford to make the changes. If a company sells software for £30 and has only a few thousand customers, the company cannot afford to hire many programmers.

Another problem is a bit subtle but just as deadly: implementing a modern user interface. Look at any program—genealogy or any other application—that was created only within the past year or two and designed for use with Windows 8 or Macintosh OS X.9. Then compare that to a similar program written ten or fifteen years ago for Windows 98 or Macintosh OS 9. The newer program probably has a modern "look and feel" when compared to older programs. Yet many of the programs that have been around for years look very old-fashioned by today's standards. I can think of one genealogy program that runs under Windows, but it looks like it was written for MS-DOS. [MS-DOS was an early operating system produced by Microsoft before Windows.]

Another factor is the introduction of apps for handheld devices. The entire world seems to love everything at their fingertips, today many family historians like to carry their databases everywhere in mobile devices that weigh a few ounces, gone are the binders full of papers. Today the number genealogy programs that have companion apps for iPad and/or Android mobile devices is growing and this is killing off some of the smaller genealogy programs for desk top and laptop computers. Leaving us with questions like, 'What should you do if your genealogy program is to be unsupported or even stopped?', or 'What should I do to protect my family history held on computer?' The answer is, I haven't a clue it depended on your computer skills, your computer and your own personnel likes and dislikes.

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A gentleman from Adelaide, Australia who was conceived using anonymous donor sperm has applied to have his birth certificate changed. Damian Adams believes is wrong for his birth certificate to record the person who raised him as the father, especially as there is no biological connection. Damian said "It's not just for my kids but also my descendants, in that if anybody in the future was to conduct genealogy research on our family I don't want them to go down the wrong path. If they have an inaccurate birth record they will basically believe a lie."

Read more by clicking on this link

[www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-04/man-from-anonymous-donor-wants-birth-certificate-changed/5720126](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-04/man-from-anonymous-donor-wants-birth-certificate-changed/5720126)

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A little out of date but it could save you a wasted journey.

Posted by Devon FHS on 4/9/2014, 4:51 pm

"News of the future of the North Devon Record Office and Local Studies Library.

We have been asked to circulate the following by the Save North Devon Record Office and Local Studies Centre team. Devon FHS

News of the future of the North Devon Record Office and Local Studies Library.

Please excuse us if you have already received this via another campaign website.

Thank you for supporting our campaign thus far. The results of the survey have now been collated into a report which has been sent to all county and district councillors as well as the county council staff and heritage trust representatives who are directly involved in the decision making process. You can access the full 47 page report here: <https://savenorthdevonlocalstudies.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/final-report.pdf>

Negotiations continue between Devon County Council and the North Devon Athenaeum as to what space the reduced Local Studies facility will occupy in the redeveloped Barnstaple Library. The County Council wish to rehouse staff currently based in the Civic Centre on the top two floors of the library building and to relocate the Athenaeum on the first floor together with a smaller Record Office stack. The Athenaeum, a non-county council body, have a long lease on space in the building which has to be honoured. If they move down to the first floor the main library facilities currently housed there will have to reduce which could lead to the loss of the stack in which hundreds of out of print and back catalogue books are kept ready for loan.

Nothing has been said about what will happen to the Local Studies Library collection of books, microfilm/fiche etc which include many rare and antiquarian works on aspects of North Devon history as well as large scale historic Ordnance Survey mapping and newspaper titles which are not digitally available. Neither have the library service given any indication as to what staffing, if any, experienced or otherwise, they will provide in the new set-up.

Two thirds of the documents currently held at Barnstaple will be transferred to Exeter in order to comply with National Archives guidelines which would be compromised in the absence of a full time archivist. All current Record Office staff will be transferred to the South West Heritage Trust on October 1st. Those at Barnstaple will be engaged in the work of sorting the stock in readiness and so it is unlikely that documents will be available to the public after Christmas. We will let you know any further news as it becomes available.

Please continue to share the online petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/save-ndro-lsc> with any potential supporters.

Thank you,

The Save North Devon Record Office and Local Studies Centre team

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surviving English newspapers.

The records contain full details of the soldier awarded the medal –their name, rank, regiment, date of medal citation and details of their heroism in battle, all easily found using ‘SmartSearch’ on TheGenealogist.

Men from all walks of life found the strength and resilience to summon up acts of courage to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Military > Medals > Full

Forename	J
Surname	Kirkcaldy
Source	Distinguished Conduct
Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	2081
Regiment	26 (Heavy) Battery Royal Garrison Artillery
London Gazette Date	16th January 1915
Notes	A/B
Medal Image	

© <http://medals.rcoff.mil.nz>

Print | Back | Search

On October 20<sup>th</sup> 1914 at Chateau de Flandre, Sergeant Forwood of the 3<sup>rd</sup> East Kents (The Buffs) found himself in a desperate situation. Initially buried alive when a German shell hit his machine gun position killing or wounding his comrades, despite receiving numerous wounds himself, he managed to escape and report the situation to his headquarters to ensure their position was covered. His DCM award appeared in the London Gazette in early 1915 and an artist's impression of the trauma he suffered is illustrated here. His full details and link to the London Gazette are all found in the new DCM records on TheGenealogist.

Don't forget for more details you can contact Fiona at [fiona@sandn.net](mailto:fiona@sandn.net) or 01722 716121

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TheGenealogist.co.uk have released records of those who were awarded The Distinguished Conduct Medal giving you the opportunity to uncover stories of heroism and exceptional bravery from ordinary soldiers. The medal, instituted in 1854, but saw a greater number being awarded during the First World War.

The new medal release gives full details of heroic soldiers and their deeds in the First World War and The Second Boer War to help you in your search for details of your ancestor's war exploits.

TheGenealogist.co.uk have released complete new records of Non Commissioned Officer's and Other Ranks who were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in The First World War and The Second Boer War. These new records show full details of the Recipients Medal Card combined with a link to The London Gazette that in numerous cases contains full details of the heroic deed that won them the medal. The Gazette is the one of the official journals of the British Government and can be classed as one of the oldest

The first Battle of Ypres reached a crisis point for the British at the end of October 1914. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division were being driven back and the 1<sup>st</sup> Coldstream Guards had been wiped out in the fighting. At a critical moment, Sergeant J. Kirkcaldy of the 26<sup>th</sup> (Heavy) Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (as seen in the illustration), brought up fresh horses under a terrific shellfire to replace those already killed. His gallant conduct saved a transport wagon. Details of his DCM Medal award can be found on TheGenealogist:

Military > Medals > Full

Forename	M
Surname	Distinguished Conduct
Source	Sergeant
Rank	8560
Service Number	3 East Kent Regiment
Regiment	16th January 1915
London Gazette Date	A/B/C
Notes	
Medal Image	

© <http://medals.rcoff.mil.nz>

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It has been suggested that for a quarterly newsletter FH4U is to big and that it should be at least chopped in half. Alternatively that I should produce a newsletter on a monthly basis!! the simple answer to the later suggestion is NO.

However as I have had very little input from readers, regarding my request for articles, I wonder is it worth me doing this newsletter or is it simply a case of

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

\*\*\*\*\*

The International Center of Photography in New York and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., have announced a joint creation of a digital database to make available photographs of Roman Vishniac. Vishniac was a Russian-born Jew moved in 1920 to Berlin and documented the rise of Nazi power and its effect on Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe. The International Center of Photography is recorded as saying that it believes this new project "represents a new model for digital archives" and it's excited to bring Vishniac's collection to a wider audience. You can find more details here <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/08/26/massive-photo-archive-of-pre-holocaust-eastern-european-jewish-life-made-available-to-public/>

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As computers are creeping onto the market without a CD drive, with this in mind Devon Family History Society now offer the contents of its CDs on USB memory stick as an alternative to the CD. This option costs an additional £2.00 per CD contents and can now be requested online via the shop.

[www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/product\\_list.php?cat\\_id=18](http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/shop/product_list.php?cat_id=18) use the drop down menu to select this option.

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I have lost count of the times I have advised people to check websites on a regular basis as they are always being updated and data added and this website is just another example. <http://austcemindex.com/> Cemetery Index for Australia,

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If you are looking in the Sheffield area, this site is really helpful. [www.sheffieldindexers.com](http://www.sheffieldindexers.com)

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Another site for those with Australian interests is [www.palmdalegroup.com.au/palmdale-interment.asp](http://www.palmdalegroup.com.au/palmdale-interment.asp)

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Ailsa Burkimsher Sadler from Eastleigh, is celebrating after hearing her petition for marriage certificates to include the names of mothers on certificates won approval from the Prime Minister. Ailsa collected over 70,000 names in support of this change. " Prime Minister David Cameron said: "It's high time the system was updated." The bride and groom's fathers' names are on marriage certificates in England and Wales but not those of their mothers." At the time of writing, I do not know when this will be implemented.

\*\*\*\*\*

Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre (FOMA) recently have released the De Caville Index, which includes over 4,000 men killed in WW1 taken from memorials all over the Medway towns. The index contains information not included in any other database, including name, dates of birth and death, rank, record number, address, burial place, photographs, and where possible entries have been cross referenced to indicate family relationships. For information [www.foma-lsc.org/foma/new/ww1/index.html](http://www.foma-lsc.org/foma/new/ww1/index.html)

\*\*\*\*\*

Many of us (all of us?) have hit a brick wall or two in our research. Perhaps the suggestions offered in the free online GenealogyInTime Magazine will prompt some lateral thinking and help break down some of those walls.

[www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50\\_best\\_genealogy\\_brick\\_wall\\_solutions\\_part\\_1\\_page\\_01.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50_best_genealogy_brick_wall_solutions_part_1_page_01.html)

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Some of you may have been lucky enough to hear Canadian Genealogist Dr Donald Davis, either at the Genealogy in the Sunshine event in March or at the Society of Genealogists in September. His talk "The 1841 Census & what may be missing" followed the discovery of thirteen bundles of 1841 householders' schedules in the Shropshire archives we can now for the first time, compare primary records to the census enumerators' books created from them.

I am advised that Donald's talk covered the enumerators' instructions, how they applied the rules in transcribing the schedules of their literate householders, this varied all around the country. A careful study of the newly found Shropshire census records enables us to make a more reliable decision on the accuracy of the facts. The accuracy of enumerators can be determined if it is possible ascertain if the enumerator followed the instructions at the front of his book? not all did. That said sometimes clerks' intentionally masked words that had been recorded by overzealous enumerators!

Don's talk primarily covered the 1841 Census, but the tales of the enumerators' failings and foibles probably also happened with enumerators in later census. Highlighting the importance of always checking where possible original records, and reminding us that even secondary sources like enumeration schedules can both inform and mislead.

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I can not remember if in past newsletters I have mentioned Peter Higginbottom website  
[www.childrenshomes.org.uk/](http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/)

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The podcasts produced by The National Archives are fantastic, they are a super way of hearing talks and speakers if you are unable to get there in person <http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

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Bury St Edmunds Record Office has new opening hours, the major point to note is that they are to close on Wednesdays, but will again have record production on Saturdays. The new hours started on 1st October, and details are at

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/suffolk-record-office/contact-suffolk-record-office/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/suffolk-record-office/contact-suffolk-record-office/)

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Richard Ratcliffe has published 'Methodist Records for Family Historians' by The Family History Partnership. Don't forget the Museum of Methodism, at Wesley's Chapel, London an interesting building built in 1778. Neighbouring the Chapel is John Wesley's house a fine Georgian townhouse

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I openly admit to being very sceptical about DNA testing, for numerous reasons, one of these reasons has actually happened. A stem cell and reproductive biologist decided to have his own DNA tested, he also gave a test kit to both his parents. His father wrote " I was very interested in confirming any susceptibility to cancers that I heard had run in my family, like colon cancer. I wanted to know if I had a genetic risk." The result was totally unexpected, he had a half brother, if you would like to read the story, here is the link. [www.vox.com/2014/9/9/5975653/with-genetic-testing-i-gave-my-parents-the-gift-of-divorce-23andme](http://www.vox.com/2014/9/9/5975653/with-genetic-testing-i-gave-my-parents-the-gift-of-divorce-23andme)

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At the German National Genealogy Conference in Kassel in September it was announced that beta testing had begun of the German digital church book portal. I understand that about 140,000 individual church books in Germany, the records of about 35,000 (25%) have been digitized so far. German Protestant regional church bodies are, I am told, participating, others including Catholic archives and civil registrations are hoped to join the project shortly. This will I think be a fee paying site, if you don't speak German then maybe try using 'Google Translate' to display text in English, just be aware it may not be a perfect translation. You can access the site at [www.kirchenbuchportal.de](http://www.kirchenbuchportal.de) Payment information is available [www.kirchenbuchportal.de/bezahlen-im-internet](http://www.kirchenbuchportal.de/bezahlen-im-internet).

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Did you know that all Pentel Gel pens are acid free? No? then check it out  
[www.pentel.co.uk/products.asp?group=1](http://www.pentel.co.uk/products.asp?group=1)

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Flyleaf Press announced in September that they have been taken over by Ancestor Network. Working together Ancestor Network and Flyleaf Press plan to create one of the fastest growing Irish genealogy businesses, providing their customers with easier access to relevant information enabling researchers to add colour and depth to their research.

John Hamrock, Managing Director of Ancestor Network, said: "Ancestor Network's strategy is about growth and the Irish Diaspora consumer and probate market sectors are key. Our purchase of Flyleaf Press, combined with our existing global Irish Diaspora customer base, gives us an excellent platform for expansion in the Irish family history market. Together we can provide a dynamic family history experience that offers customers the opportunity to make a real connection with their Irish family heritage."

Dr. James Ryan, founder of Flyleaf Press, said: "We are thrilled to join forces with Ancestor Network and become a part of their family of Irish genealogy and family history services and products. The combination of our organisations will provide Irish family history enthusiasts with unprecedented access to the stories of their ancestors. Expect Flyleaf Press to grow stronger with Ancestor Network's support and to continue to drive innovation in the Irish family history sector, particularly in the area of e-publishing."

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I was beginning to think that I was unlikely to be surprised by anything that happened within the



genealogical circle but how wrong I was. The Paradise Funeral Chapel of Saginaw, Michigan, has installed a drive-thru window allowing people to drive up to pay their last respects. Initially I thought, hmm for those in too much of a rush to park the car and walk in, but then I read on. Funeral home President Ivan E. Phillips said he's had the idea for years, but an incident last year made him turn the idea into reality. When an elderly lady who was in a nursing home could not make it inside the chapel to visit her husband or attend his funeral, Phillips said.

"She would've got a chance to see him if we had this, so I knew we had to move forward," Phillips said.

[www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2014/09/funeral\\_home\\_offers\\_drive-thru.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2014/09/funeral_home_offers_drive-thru.html)

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The Friends Ambulance Unit [FAU], which was formed during the First World War and revived later during the second World War. This unofficial Quaker organisation was run independently of the Society of Friends. Its records are held in the Library [located in Friends House, London], along with personal papers, photographs and published accounts of its work. Currently they are digitising the personnel record cards of the FAU [1914-1919] hopefully these records will be made available online. Useful guides are available [www.quaker.org.uk/subject-guides](http://www.quaker.org.uk/subject-guides), alternatively the library online catalogue is available using this link [www.quaker.org.uk/search-catalogue](http://www.quaker.org.uk/search-catalogue)

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If you have Quaker ancestry in Lancashire, you may be interested in the book, "Early Stages of the Quaker Movement in Lancashire" written by Rev. B Nightingale. The book is available to download as a .pdf file from this link <https://archive.org/details/earlystagesquake00nighuoft>

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Were you aware that in America Cadaver dogs and their volunteer owners, help police to find victims of natural disasters, help archaeologists pinpoint wartime cemeteries as well as Indian burial mounds that have been hidden for centuries. You can read the full story here

[www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/09/22/5193354/canine-noses-point-to-forgotten.html#.VClqyjZwbc8](http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/09/22/5193354/canine-noses-point-to-forgotten.html#.VClqyjZwbc8)

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Essex & Suffolk Surnames [www.essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk](http://www.essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk) have some wonderful records which if you have ancestry in that area, is worth a look, the latest edition I believe is Wivenhoe burials 1721-1751

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Did you know that The National Archives have produced a guide on nonconformists, the link for a copy of the guide is [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/nonconformists.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/nonconformists.htm) The guide covers nonconformist records held at The National Archives, along with information on how and where you can find these records

There is a lot of data relating to nonconformists which can be found a variety of sites, a smaller dataset that is free of charge and dedicated to the work of Dr. William Bengo Collyer (1782-1854) and includes information relating to worshippers at the Hanover Chapel in Peckham, London is [www.wbcollyer.org](http://www.wbcollyer.org).

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Have you ever come across [www.elephind.com](http://www.elephind.com), well it is a search engine that works in a similar way to Google, but it only searches historical, digitized newspapers. Currently Elephind has indexed 2,677 newspaper titles containing more than two and a half million editions, ranging from March 1803 up to August 2013. The Elephind search engine has indexed 141,628,238 items from 2,677 newspaper titles. A list of newspaper collections indexed so far [www.elephind.com/?a=p&p=browsepubs&e=-----en-10--1--txt-txINTxCO-----](http://www.elephind.com/?a=p&p=browsepubs&e=-----en-10--1--txt-txINTxCO-----) Maybe this is something to keep the boredom away over the Christmas period. It is a free resource, so why not give the site a try to see for yourself?

\*\*\*\*\*

A groundbreaking new DNA project has been announced and is aimed at finding out "Who are the Welsh exactly?" The project aims to delve, via a simple saliva sample, back way beyond written records to the end of the last ice age around 9,000 BC when colossal glacial shifts gouged the landscape of Wales and allowed the first immigrants to settle there [www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/who-welsh-mass-genetic-testing-7822790](http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/who-welsh-mass-genetic-testing-7822790) according to the Dailypost that is. If you are interested in taking part you will need this link [www.cymruDNAwales.com](http://www.cymruDNAwales.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

The Master Genealogist [TMG] was a popular genealogy program for Windows, unfortunately in July Wholly Genes Software announced that they would be discontinuing "The Master Genealogist". This does NOT mean that programme will stop working but it does mean that no new features will be added and should you have a technical difficulty the company will no longer be able to offer support.

RootsMagic now has a direct TMG import. That is, RootsMagic can now import data directly from The Master Genealogist without requiring a GEDCOM transfer. The result should be fewer errors. The direct import not only imports basic genealogical information from TMG like names, events, notes, and media, but also imports witnesses (with roles), source templates, and sentence templates. However RootsMagic does caution, "Of course, due to different data models and template languages, no import can be 100% perfect. But we have prepared a guide to make the transition as smooth as possible."

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I think this came to me via the Federation of Family History Societies aka FFHS, it highlights the problems of accents. "The Scots are a proud people. They are also fiercely proud of their accents. However, that accent can occasionally be a disadvantage, as shown in this YouTube video of two Scotsmen who are frustrated by an elevator that uses voice recognition. (Warning, some profanity is in the video.) You can watch the video at [http://youtu.be/PJj\\_nO46gq8](http://youtu.be/PJj_nO46gq8) or in the video player below.

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The FFHS aka Federation of Family History Societies have a really informative page on World War I, which has a link to download Simon Fowler's information sheet entitled "Researching Your World War One Ancestors" [www.ffhs.org.uk/ww1/intro.php](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ww1/intro.php) . For those of you who organise family history group meetings the FFHS also have lists of speakers searchable by county or subject.

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The Probate Service for England and Wales has added a searchable database online for post-1996 wills and grants of probate, to complement its soldiers wills offerings already available. The database is at <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>. The search facility is basic [surname and year of death] but there is an advanced search capability [surname, first name, year, month and date of death, year, month and date of probate]. If an entry is found from the search a full copy will cost £10 to access.

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New rules have been announced extending the range of people who can get information about adopted adults. Previously, only the person adopted and their birth relatives were able to use specialised adoption agencies to help shed light on their family history and make contact with their biological family members. The new rules will extend this right to all relatives of adopted adults, from children and grandchildren to partners and adoptive relatives. For example, those who have lost a parent to cancer or a heart problem will be able to discover whether their grandparents or other birth relatives suffered from the same condition, giving them the chance to seek advice and support. Also they should be able to find out about important events from their past, as well as make contact with family members if they wish. The new rules will come into force by November 2014.

For more details go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relatives-of-adopted-adults-now-able-to-trace-family-tree> .

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First World War Records have been added to TheGenealogist. Over 1.3 million records of injured First World War servicemen from daily and weekly First World War casualty lists have been released online for the first time. This collection of records cover all ranks and include career soldiers, volunteer Pals battalions, war poets and even a future Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan. Both those who died of their wounds and those who recovered and returned to the front are included. A great resource for finding out what happened to an ancestor during The First World War, details include:- the name of the injured serviceman, his regiment and rank, the date he was registered as a 'casualty' and often his home town or place of enlistment.

Many of the wounded servicemen received medals for their actions and it is possible still using this site to discover whether your ancestor received any commendations, such as in the Military Medals records.

The First World War affected people from all backgrounds who were bravely wounded in the line of duty. Daniel Laidlaw, a career soldier from Little Swinton in Berwickshire, re-joined the army aged 40 as a Piper in the 7th Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, 15th [Scottish] Infantry Division.

At the Battle of Loos, troops of his battalion were ordered by General Douglas Haig to attack the heavily fortified German positions in their sector. The Scottish troops, facing a thick cloud of chlorine gas, were hesitating but Piper Laidlaw climbed out of the trench and under fire began playing his pipes to inspire the troops and they successfully resumed the attack. He was wounded in both legs but had carried on playing for as long as he could, his Casualty Record is one of those on The Genealogist also on the site you can view the link showing that Laidlaw was awarded a Victoria Cross for his bravery.



Mark Bayley, Head of Online Content at TheGenealogist said: "The sheer number of records in this latest release show how brutal The First World War was. Record keeping at the time must have been a real challenge, but thanks to TheGenealogist's SmartSearch technology, when you find a casualty record, you can instantly see if other records, such as medals, appear on the site."

The new 1.3 million records of the wounded are available as part of a Diamond Subscription.



To find out more about the 'First World War Wounded Collection' go to [www.TheGenealogist.co.uk/ww1-wounded](http://www.TheGenealogist.co.uk/ww1-wounded) There you will find photographs, stories, statistics and a free search facility.

More details and information TheGenealogist are available. Please contact Fiona at [fiona@sandn.net](mailto:fiona@sandn.net) or 01722 716121

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Earlier this year my Mother moved into a care home, this has resulted in my daughter and I with help from our other halves investigating what was stored in the loft. I now have boxes and boxes of goodies to store in archival conditions. Knowing I will be spending hundreds of pounds on safe storage, imagine my surprise on finding acid free goodies in Paperchase.



To give you an idea of the prices:-

A4 Note book 160 acid free plain pages	£5.00
A4 Note book 160 acid free ruled pages	£5.00
A5 Display book 20 acid free clear pockets	£2.50
Photo Holder stores approx 100 photos	£2.00
Photo Album 24 print album [4x6"]	£1.50
A4 Wiro Display book 25 acid free clear pockets	£5.25
A4 Wiro Display book 25 acid free clear pockets	£5.25
A5 Slim notebook ruled pages 80 acid free pages	£3.50

Sadly they didn't have acid free tissue paper but I did find this in a small card shop in numerous colours at just 99p per packet.

I am very pleased with my purchases and you can order online [www.paperchase.co.uk/](http://www.paperchase.co.uk/)

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I have been advised that on Find My Past aka FMP that Myton parish records are hidden as Kilnwick Percy and that Parish records for Langtoft as North Grimston. If you have come across other incorrectly indexed records please let me know it could help someone else.

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Wicklow Heritage has launched a website about its heritage. [www.countywicklowheritage.org/](http://www.countywicklowheritage.org/)

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IrishGenealogy.ie is preparing to upload an abridged version of the collection after the removal of the 'enhanced' version of Ireland's civil registration indexes amid privacy concerns on 18 July.

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see page 13\*\*\*\*\*

[www.libertyellisfoundation.org](http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org) is the new website for Ellis Island. If you have previously registered to use the Ellis Island records you may need a new password.

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The National Archives have released the First World War diaries of the Indian Infantry units

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Newly online are the records of the Congregation Beth Israel, located in Houston. Digitised records of many of the congregation's early records, ledgers and books. These documents provide information about births, deaths, and marriages, also membership dues from 1869 to the 1920s. The "Bris Book" is the handwritten bound volume chronicling the circumcisions performed by Rabbi Emmich, I think he is the first spiritual leader of Beth Israel. In German, Hebrew and English this book, currently on display in a case in the history corridor of the current temple, and can also be viewed online in its entirety.

These digital records are available free on the congregation's website for historians and genealogists to use at [www.beth-israel.org/Learning-Programs/Library\\_ArchiveFiles](http://www.beth-israel.org/Learning-Programs/Library_ArchiveFiles).

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The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) now has created its Grave Registration Project to document the final resting places of BOTH Union and Confederate Civil War veterans. The fully-searchable database is available online and is free for everyone.

The SUVCW web site can be found at [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org). You can save yourself some time if you go directly to [www.suvcwdb.org/home/search.php?action=search](http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/search.php?action=search). The site is free and no registration is required.

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Rootsmagic is now available with an add on that allows it to run directly on an Apple Mac computer without the complexity of having to have a copy of windows running on the same computer as well. It appears to be a satisfactory solution to the problem and there is a more detailed review on it at <http://blog.eogn.com/2014/09/09/genealogy-software-review-macbridge-for-rootsmagic/> . I cannot give any direct input on this as I do not have an Apple Mac myself but I would trust the author of the review.

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Oh dear, you might of heard of the record rainfall in the Smithtown area of New York. Hopefully they will learn from their expensive error. Tax files, birth and death certificates and thousands of other documents waterlogged from the record rainfall could run into hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore, officials have said.

Approximately 300 boxes and 85 ledger books from the town clerk's, assessor's and comptroller's offices were damaged in the August when more than 13 inches of rain fell on parts of Long Island, said Smithtown Town Attorney Matthew Jakubowski. Several inches of water flooded the basement areas where the documents were stored.

Officials rushed to freeze-dry the records, the first step in stopping the damage. The town received a bill for about \$42,000 for services that include "document pick-up transportation and vacuum freeze drying," and an invoice for about \$6,600 for fumigation services and the cost of return shipping, according to a memo on Sept. 9 sent to the town clerk, assessor and comptroller.

The story can be found here [www.newsday.com/long-island/towns/flood-soaked-documents-will-cost-smithtown-thousands-of-dollars-to-restore-1.9369324](http://www.newsday.com/long-island/towns/flood-soaked-documents-will-cost-smithtown-thousands-of-dollars-to-restore-1.9369324)

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Have you got have Irish ancestors who may have been Presbyterian, then this website might be worth a visit [www.presbyterianireland.org/about-us/historical-information/church-records](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/about-us/historical-information/church-records) website of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland where you will find much useful information about where to find copies of church records and how to extend your research.

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Irish Archives Resource aka IAR has recently been expanded, linking hundreds of archival collections and archive services across North and South Ireland. Contribution from Trinity College Dublin's Manuscripts and Archives Research Department, RTÉ Stills Library, National Museum of Ireland Archives, University College Cork Archives, Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, and the archives of St Patrick's College, Maynooth. It began as a pilot project in 2008, as a joint initiative of the Heritage Council and Archives and Records Association, Ireland. It is funded currently by the Heritage Council, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland and hosted by University College Dublin's School of History and Archives. [www.iar.ie](http://www.iar.ie)

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The Irish Family History Foundation rootsireland.ie website has announced that it is now a subscription based service, with an index of over 20 million Irish records. records at regular intervals. You can check what is they cover [www.rootsireland.ie/ihf/generic.php?filename=sources.tpl&selectedMenu=sources](http://www.rootsireland.ie/ihf/generic.php?filename=sources.tpl&selectedMenu=sources) There are 3 types of subscription available: 1 month, 6 months or 12 months. If you already have a pay per view account with existing credits remaining that you purchased in the last 12 months under their previous service of pay per view credits [and their previous terms and conditions] you can continue to use them to search and view records on the site until they are used up. However, the pay per view service is being closed down and no further purchases of credits can be made.

Subscription FAQ at <http://rootsireland.ie/ihf/subscription-faq.php>

Full Terms and Conditions can be read [www.rootsireland.ie/ihf/terms.php](http://www.rootsireland.ie/ihf/terms.php)

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Family tree maker have recently started putting up this warning message "We're making updates that may impact your Family Tree Maker experience. Starting in October 2014, Ancestry Web Search within Family Tree Maker software will have reduced functionality or may not be supported by Microsoft Windows XP, Microsoft windows Vista or Internet Explorer 8 or 9. Moving forward, Microsoft Windows 7 or 8 will be required for Ancestry Web Search functionality to work properly."

This is I'm afraid just another step in the ongoing saga of Microsoft, upgrading their operating systems to give new functions, using new hardware and blocking out hackers. It seems to be the requirement now to keep producing new and 'better' software, it used to be said 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it' now it seems to 'if its new it must be better'. As a result, all companies are having to drop support for their older programs, as Microsoft will not continue spending money on supporting old systems such as XP when they can sell new systems and make a profit. We have the options of putting up with what we have left of existing programs, most will still work on existing computers and operating systems, or buying upgrades to get the 'best' and latest. It's all a case of economics and companies wanting, quite reasonably, to make a profit.

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A recent question converting 35mm slides to digital. It is a problem that affects many people, it is relatively easy to scan photos to digital, but 35mm slides are a different matter. Some scanners come with an attachment that allows you to scan a slide on the scanner, but these result in a low resolution image, typically equivalent to a 0.5-1M pixel camera image with the added disadvantage in many cases that as the slide is not against the glass of the scanner there is sometimes blurring of the image as well. There are 2 ways to get a better result, either buy a unit specifically designed to convert slides to digital, they cost from £30 for a basic 5M pixel unit, I have seen them in Aldi and Lidl, to hundreds for better units, possibly even thousands for high quality professional systems. For many the basic units will be quite suitable but are labour intensive to get the best results as the image may need adjusting for colour depending on the actual make of film. The other method is that there are a number of companies that will do it for you for 25p to 50p per slide. This can produce a better and easier result BUT you do have to send your slides via the post with the associated risk of loss or damage.

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Since Monday 20 October Manchester Central Library have been producing certificates of births, marriage and death from pre 1915 records. Manchester Register Office will be producing certificates of post 1915 certificates.

Applications can be made by post or in person at the Central Library, but the easiest way is on-line at [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk) using a reference number from [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) All the pre 1915 births and marriage records and 90% of the deaths records have now been indexed on [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk). For further detail please visit [www.manchester.gov.uk/familyhistory](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/familyhistory)

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Hopefully you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, please do tell your friends and family about it, it is totally free and you do not need to be a member of a group, club or even a society to download the newsletter.

Please do drop me an email with your input, as to what you like about the newsletter and the things you would like to read about. I would really appreciate receiving stories about your research that I can share, as this is something I am asked for but can only share if I receive things from you. Have you come across an unusual find, or occurrence in your research?

Happy Christmas and New Year.

Heather

[fh4u@roccoland.plus.com](mailto:fh4u@roccoland.plus.com)

Website updates, by no means complete but these are updates you tell me about or I find for myself.

Ancestry

Birmingham, England, Rate Books, 1831-1913  
Darlington, England, West Cemetery Index, 1770-2012  
Dorset, England, Quarter Sessions Order Books, 1625-1905  
London, England, King's Bench and Fleet Prison Discharge Books and Prisoner Lists, 1734-1862  
London, England, Marshalsea Prison Commitment and Discharge Books, 1811-1842  
Norfolk Nonconformist Records 1613-1901  
UK, Campaign Medals Awarded to WWI Merchant Seamen, 1914-1925  
UK, Holocaust Records from the British Federation of University Women, 1938-1951  
UK, Holocaust Records From The Religious Society of Friends, 1933-1942  
UK, Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations, 1870-1912  
UK, Naval Officer and Rating Service Records, 1802-1919  
UK, Naval Officers' Service Record Cards and Files Index, 1880-1950s  
UK, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Service Records Index, 1903-1922  
UK, Select Cemetery Registers, 1916-2012  
UK, Selected Records Relating to Kindertransport, 1938-1939 [it is in German]  
Wells, Somerset, England, Bishop's Transcripts, 1594-1736  
Alaska, Passenger and Crew Manifests, 1906-1981  
Australia and New Zealand, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current  
Bermuda, Passenger and Crew Manifests, 1957-1969  
Brazil, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current  
California, State Court Naturalization Records, 1850-1986  
California, State Hospital Records, 1856-1923  
Canada, Canadian National Railway Immigrant Records, 1937-1960  
Canada, Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current  
Canada, South African War Land Grants, 1908-1910  
Delaware, Craftperson Files, 1600-1995  
Delaware, Land Records, 1677-1947  
Douglas, Arizona, Passenger and Crew Manifests of Airplanes, 1958-1960  
Edgefield, South Carolina, Slave Records, 1774-1866  
Floyd County, Georgia, Myrtle Hill Cemetery Index, 1833-2012  
Georgia, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1928-1964  
Germany, Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current  
Idaho, Death Records, 1890-1930  
Illinois, Passenger and Crew List 1918-1963  
International, Find A Grave Index for Select Locations, 1300s-Current  
Ireland, Marriages in Walker's Hibernian Magazine, 1771-1812  
Italy, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current  
Jamaica, Church of England Parish Register Transcripts, 1664-1879  
Lake County, Ohio, Obituary Index, 1830-2011  
Maine, Passenger Lists, 1894-1960  
Massachusetts, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1949-1957  
Mexican civil registration records  
Mexico, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current  
New England, Select United Methodist Church Records, 1787-1922  
New South Wales, Australia, Hospital & Asylum Records, 1840-1913  
New South Wales, Australia, Land Grants, 1788-1963  
New South Wales, Australia, Medical Registers, 1925-1954  
New South Wales, Australia, Passenger list 1847-1886  
Norway, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current  
Scotland, Prison Records Index, 1828-1878

Slovakia, Church and Synagogue Books, 1592-1910  
Sweden, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current  
Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Files, 1933-1990  
US, Headstone and Interment Records for US Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, 1942-1949  
U.S., Identification Card Files of Prohibition Agents, 1920-1925  
US, New York, Discharges of Convicts, 1882-1915  
US, New York, Executive Orders for Commutations, Pardons, Restorations and Respites, 1845-1931  
US, New York, Governor's Registers of Commitments to Prisons, 1842-1908  
US, New York, Prisoners Received at Newgate State Prison, 1797-1810  
U.S., War Department, Press Releases and Related Records, 1942-1945  
UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current

#### British Newspaper Archive

Aberdeen Journal – 1814, 1820, 1881, 1886, 1889, 1900  
Aldershot Military Gazette – 1859  
Alnwick Mercury – 1855  
Arbroath Herald and Advertiser for the Montrose Burghs – 1908-1921  
Bedfordshire Times and Independent – 1906, 1910, 1935, 1950  
Biggleswade Chronicle, covering 1912  
Birmingham Journal – 1857  
Bradford Daily Telegraph – 1868, 1870  
Bradford Observer – 1868  
Bucks Herald – 1930, 1931, 1932, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1947, 1948, 1949  
Burnley Express – 1913  
Burnley News – 1912, 1927, 1928  
Cheshire Observer – 1918  
Chester Chronicle – 1776, 1870  
Cornishman – 1912  
Coventry Herald – 1831, 1859, 1888, 1910, 1911  
Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough – 1917  
Daily Herald – 1916, 1918  
Daily Mirror – 1914, 1918  
Daily Record - 1914-1916  
Dumfries and Galloway Standard – 1859, 1915, 1918  
Dundee Advertiser – 1841, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1879  
Dundee Courier – 1954  
Durham County Advertiser – 1830, 1840, 1855, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869  
Edinburgh Evening News – 1914, 1921, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1934  
Exeter and Plymouth Gazette – 1892  
Falkirk Herald – 1853, 1854, 1855, 1865  
Fife Herald – 1825, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1879, 1881, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1887, 1889  
Gloucester Citizen – 1897, 1945  
Gloucester Journal – 1803-1807, 1813, 1838-1846, 1854-1857, 1859-1860, 1863, 1871, 1874, 1875, 1879, 1880, 1903, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1929, 1935, 1936, 1939  
Hampshire Chronicle – 1818  
Hartlepool Mail – 1880, 1897, 1940, 1941, 1942  
Hartlepool Mail – 1882, 1883  
Hastings and St Leonards Observer – 1923, 1943, 1954  
Illustrated Times – 1868, 1870  
Lake's Falmouth Packet and Cornwall Advertiser – 1858, 1859, 1860, 1865, 1866, 1869, 1870  
Lake's Falmouth Packet and Cornwall Advertiser, covering 1864  
Lancashire Evening Post – 1886, 1903, 1906, 1930, 1931, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1945, 1947  
Lancaster Gazette – 1861  
Leamington Spa Courier – 1915, 1916, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924

Leeds Intelligencer – 1810, 1811, 1812, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1847  
Leeds Mercury – 1899  
Lichfield Mercury – 1877-78, 1886-88, 1922, 1923, 1926-28, 1934, 1937-1939, 1948-49  
Lincolnshire Chronicle – 1837, 1849, 1897, 1906, 1907, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1921  
Lincolnshire Echo – 1924, 1930, 1932, 1935, 1940, 1941  
Liverpool Daily Post – 1870, 1914  
Liverpool Mercury – 1848  
London Evening Standard - 1860-1862 and 1866-1867, 1870  
Luton News and Bedfordshire Advertiser – 1917, 1919  
Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser – 1899  
Morpeth Herald – 1919, 1920  
Motherwell Times – 1917-1919, 1921, 1922, 1925-1928, 1930-1933, 1935, 1936, 1938-1954  
Newcastle Evening Chronicle, covering 1915  
North Devon Journal – 1829, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1840, 1856  
Northern Whig - 1868-1870  
Penny Illustrated Paper – 1861  
Police Gazette – 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776  
Portsmouth Evening News – 1930-1937, 1940, 1941  
Royal Cornwall Gazette – 1801, 1804-1811  
Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 1752, 1786, 1787  
Sheffield Daily Telegraph – 1857, 1877, 1893  
Sheffield Evening Telegraph – 1900, 1904, 1909, 1919  
Sheffield Independent – 1888  
Shields Daily Gazette – 1858, 1864, 1868  
Southern Reporter – 1859-1862, 1875-1884, 1917, 1919, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1943, 1944  
Sports Argus – 1916  
Staffordshire Advertiser – 1812, 1816  
Staffordshire Sentinel and Commercial & General Advertiser – 1856  
Sunderland Daily Echo & Shipping Gazette – 1907, 1912, 1914-15, 1920, 1932-33, 1945, 1949  
Surrey Comet – 1854-1858 and 1859-1870  
Surrey Mirror – 1903, 1908, 1916 - 1925, 1928 - 1932, 1936, 1947  
Sussex Agricultural Express – 1889, 1890, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1938, 1939, 1940  
Tamworth Herald – 1889, 1899  
Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser – 1852, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1908, 1911, 1924, 1929  
Watford Observer - 1863-1865, 1866, 1867, 1869-1870  
West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser – 1879, 1897, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1908, 1915-16, 1920, 1923  
Western Daily Press – 1898, 1904 - 1907, 1913, 1950  
Western Mail – 1914, 1916, 1917, 1918  
Western Times – 1898  
Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald – 1921, 1923 - 1950  
Worcester Journal – 1858  
Wrexham Advertiser – 1859, 1860  
Yorkshire Evening Post – 1914, 1921, 1922, 1941, 1945, 1949  
Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer – 1872, 1877, 1892, 1903, 1914, 1915

Deceased Online  
South Lancashire local authority area of Blackburn with Darwen

Dublinhertiage.ie  
Dublin City Electors 1911, 1912 and 1915

DurhamOnline  
Bishop Middleham baptisms 1813-1851  
Blaydon Cemetery burials 1906-1983 [unconsecrated section]

Egglescliffe baptisms, burials, marriages 1752-1851  
Gateshead baptisms and burials 1769-1812  
Gateshead Wesleyan Methodist Circuit baptisms 1837-1883  
Hurworth baptisms, marriages, burials 1770-1812  
Ponteland records 1762-1812  
St. John Lee baptisms & burials 1837-1858  
Stockton Friends Burial Ground 1865-1897  
Stockton St. Thomas burials 1859-1869  
Stranton All Saints marriages 1898-1927  
Winston burials 1573-1761

#### FamilySearch

Durham, Dean & Chapter of Durham's Allerton & Allertonshire Original Wills, Inventories & Bonds, 1666-1845  
Durham Diocese, Allertonshire Peculiar Stray Probate Bonds, 1732-1768  
Durham Diocese, Allertonshire Peculiar Administration Bonds and Inventories,  
Durham Diocese, Original Will Strays, 1743-1900  
Durham Diocese, Probate Inventories, 1676-1846  
Durham Diocese, Registered Wills 1526-1858  
Durham Diocese, Renunciations, 1767 and 1794  
Durham, Diocese of Durham Original Wills, 1650-1857  
Durham Probate Bonds, 1556-1858  
Durham Probate Commissions, Monitions and Citations, 1650-1858  
Essex Parish Registers, 1503–1997 [added index]  
Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009 [added index]  
South Africa Cape Province death records 1895 to 1972  
USA Mormon Migration Database, 1840-1932  
United States, Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1905–1937

#### FindmyPast

Archbishop of York Marriage licences index 1613-1839  
Dartford census records for 1801 and 1821  
Dorset Marriages 1538-1902  
Eastbourne Baptisms, Bodle Street Green 1841-1996  
Eastbourne Marriages, Bodle Street Green 1856-1986  
Eastbourne burials 1843-1987  
London Poor Law Records 1581 - 1899  
Middlesex marriages 1811-1840  
National School Admission Registers and log books from 1870 to 1914  
Northamptonshire Hearth Tax 1674  
Sheffield's Norton Cemetery, 1869 – 1995, known as Derbyshire Lane Cemetery  
Shropshire bishop's transcripts Kinnerley & West Felton 1630-1692  
Staffordshire Parish Registers 1538-1900  
Surrey Marriage Index 1500-1841  
Surrey strays marriage records 1565-1846  
Wiltshire baptism records 1530 to 1886  
Witton Cemetery previously Birmingham City Cemetery 1881-1898  
Yorkshire Parish Registers and Bishops Transcripts  
New England Naturalizations 1791-1906  
South Australia Passenger Lists 1847-1886  
Donegal Cemetery Records 1737-2011  
Fermanagh Parish Registers Baptisms 1796-1873  
Fermanagh Parish Registers Marriages 1800-1875  
Fermanagh Parish Registers Burials 1801-1874

Fermanagh Cemetery Records 1669-2011

Tyrone Cemetery Records 1698-2011

Wicklow Cemetery Records 1831-2008

Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives

Derry/Londonderry, Leitrim, Limerick and Offaly/Kings 1849 Irish Constabulary Enlistees

Ennisboye Old Cemetery, Three Mile Water, Wicklow

Militaryarchives.ie

First World War diaries of the Indian Infantry units

National Archives of Ireland

General Prisons Board:-

penal files of prisoners who escaped, died in prison or transferred to lunatic asylums, 1860–1926

Applications to the Commissioners of National Education, Co Galway, 1859–1889 [ED/1/35-37]

Castlebar District Probate Registry: testamentary lists from 1983–1991

Cavan District Probate Registry: testamentary lists from 1983–1990

Clonmel District Probate Registry: testamentary lists from 1983–1988

Cork District Probate Registry: testamentary records 1983–1988 & 1990 transfer of testamentary records [2011/5]

Probate Office, 1983 transfer of testamentary records [2004/74]

Department of Local Government:-

files relating to the provision of services by local authorities in Co Cork, 1922–1982 [ENV/4, 2014/16]

Department of Local Government:-

files relating to the provision of services by local authorities in Co Cork, 1917–1974 [ENV/5, 2014/19]

Dundalk District Probate Registry: testamentary records 1983–1987

Galway District Probate Registry: testamentary records 1983–1985

Irish Girl Guides: records [PRIV1235, 2007/21]

Kilkenny District Probate Registry: testamentary records 1983–1985

Letterkenny (Lifford) District Probate Registry: testamentary records 1983–1988

Limerick District Probate Registry: testamentary records 1983–1988

National Library of Scotland

British First World War Trench Maps 1915–1918

Rolls of Honour

Proni

Derry/Londonderry War Memorial register

ScotlandsPeople

Valuation Rolls 1875

The Genealogist

Distinguished Conduct Medal

First World War casualty lists