

EAST GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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BULLETIN

Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Saturday in the month

APRIL 2015

Thought for the Day - Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Winter is upon us. A quick glance out of the window and the icy cold rain, sleeting up Morgan Street confirms the creeping chill that is working its way up my legs and backside.

But wait, who is this pulling up outside in a tradies Ute. Happily it is Craig Prior from Bruthen Electrics come to install the large capacity, highly efficient, electric heater, recently donated by Ken Morrison. With the heater installed and the imminent installation of our crude but effective double glazing the research rooms will be warm and cosy for our members.

Tony Meade has just left for Gallipoli. He will be there for the Anzac day commemorations. Tony has taken a number of gum leaves, laminated and attached to a short message to place on the graves of East Gippsland fallen. A simple but moving tribute.

On Friday the 24th April the Bairnsdale Advertiser will publish a four page lift out honouring the men and women from East Gippsland who paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

This supplement will be a biannual event and each will contain the names and a short biography of every casualty who fell in the forthcoming six months. East Gippsland Family History Group has provided the copy for this commemorative publication.

Your group has been responsible for many, many hundreds of hours of dedicated research to ensure that every single man or woman who died as a result of their participation in World War One is honoured and remembered.

We have deliberately adopted an inclusive attitude so that anyone with a strong connection to our region is recognised.

This major research effort has uncovered a number of inaccuracies and omissions. Modern research avenues make it possible to uncover details that were impractical or impossible for previous generations.

We take an oath every year to remember these people and we believe we can now put a name and a story to every one of them.

Running concurrently is the creation of a permanent memorial website. The first set of names should be published to the web by Friday the 24th.

The Address is www.theirdutydone.com.

www.theirdutydone.com is a living growing memorial. We hope and encourage anyone with photographs, letters or other memorabilia to allow us to include a digital copy for posterity.

Finally after four years of biannual publication we hope to create a contemporary, beautiful and permanent new memorial to the service personnel who lay down their lives so that we can continue to live in our wonderful country.

Thank you for your continued support and welcome anyone who would like to participate. We could even help develop a new skill?

Martin Hopkins
Vice President. EGFHG

Walhalla School c1903



Be transported back to **olden school days** at Melbourne's Old Treasury Building.

The *School Days: Education in Victoria* exhibition features classroom stories, school photographs, old text books, and memorabilia straight from the vaults of the state archives of the Public Record Office Victoria.

Through a range of nostalgic displays be reminded of the days when milk was delivered to every child and being caned was all part of a normal education.

See how Victorian education has changed since 1872 when Victoria became the first state to establish a public school system based on the principles of free, secular and compulsory education.

***School Days: Education in Victoria* will be on display at the Old Treasury Building from March until September 2015.**

Visit oldtreasurybuilding.org.au to see what other exhibitions are currently on display.

The Old Treasury Building is located at 20 Spring Street, Melbourne.

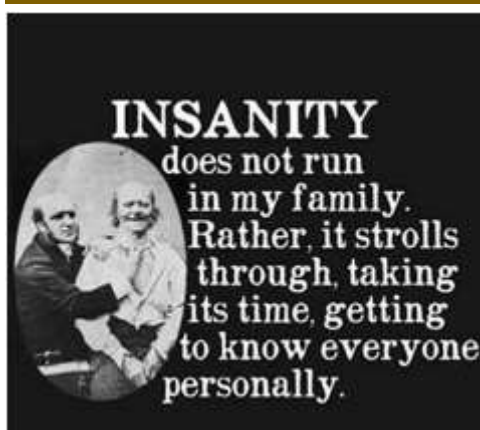
See more at: <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/old-treasury-building/exhibition-school-days-at-old-treasury-building#sthash.GsGFd1X8.dpuf>

(From Mark Grealy's newsletter)

Just one record from the Central Goldfields area now added to my ever growing list of schools:

- Moore's Flat No. 1575 - Pupil Register 1875-1893 & 1882-1913

To see everything else I have available - click [here](#).



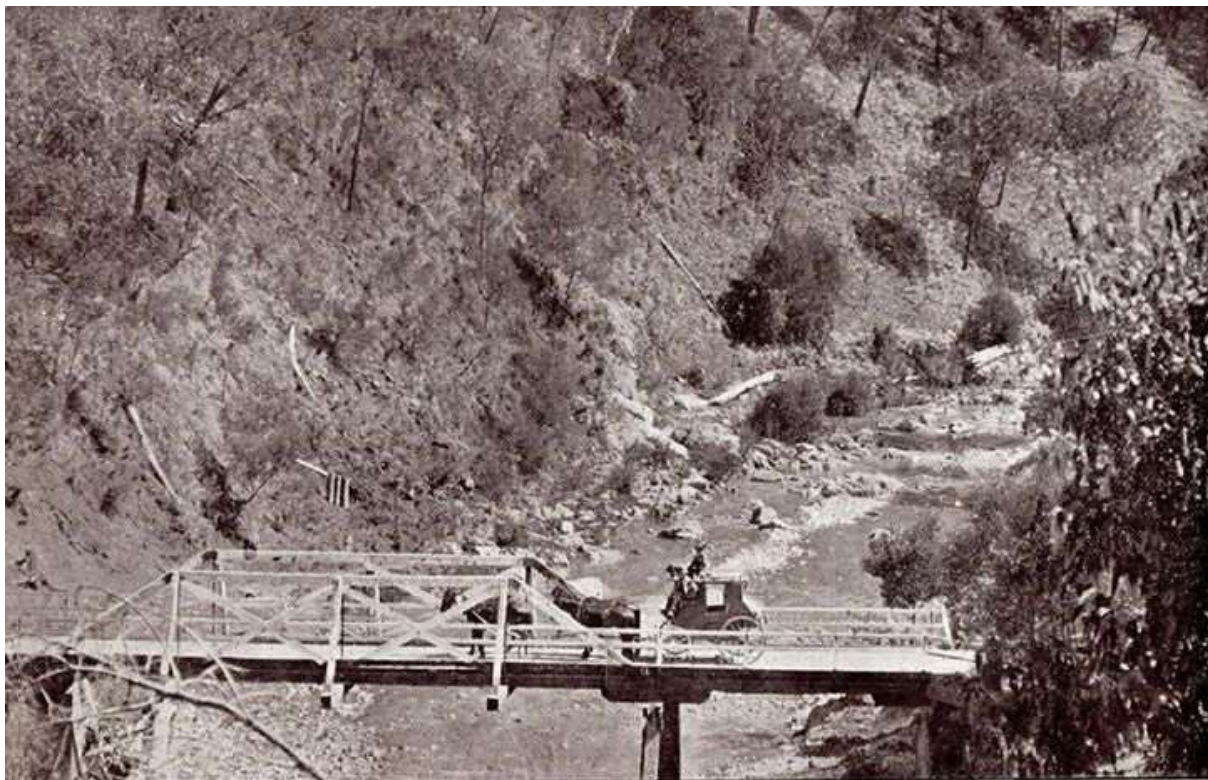
The following was posted on the Rootsweb mailing list for Victoria – aus-vic@rootsweb.com

Vickers/ Betts/ Brooker families

Seeking VICKERS, BETTS, BROOKER & related families - RE-UNION in Bairnsdale, Victoria on ANZAC DAY April 25th 2015 on the occasion of the commemoration for Harry & Arthur VICKERS, twins from Bairnsdale who served in Gallipoli, and other family members who also served. Originating from Kent & Sussex, England in the early 1850s these families settled in Bairnsdale & were an integral part of Bairnsdale & Bullumwaal history; spreading from there to various Victorian & NSW areas.

New Cheltenham book now published (From Mark Grealy's newsletter)

In 2014 I assisted the [Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc.](#) (FoCRC) with research into their fifth book "The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests". It has now been published and is a rich source covering not only the history of the Pioneer Cemetery, but snippets of local history featuring persons buried at the cemetery. The publication contains a number of appendices including a summary of the trustee minutes - and the FoCRC has published the [books index](#) on their website, with over 800 names listed.



Tambo Valley Rd [Omeo Highway] Haunted Stream Bridge, Gippsland , Vic.
Photo taken from a tourist booklet dated 1906, belonged to William Bowie of Buchan.
Posted recently on the History of Bruthen, Buchan and Beyond Facebook page.



For Facebook aficionados. The following link leads to the page for “Bruthen, Buchan and Beyond”. Lots of interesting and historical comments and pics.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BruthenBuchanBeyond/>



Clarke's Accomodation House. Canni Creek

(This photo reproduced with permission from Trevor & Jill Sandy)

The following details supplied by Facebook page member, Rhonda Coates –

Photo taken c1922. It is of Ernest Clarke in the buggy. Probably his wife Charlotte and father Henry. In 1905 Henry and Janet Sandy at Canni Creek. By 1908 they were in Bruthen and Henry and Annie Beecher were at Canni Creek. They ran it as Tea Rooms.

In 1917 the Canni Creek school was opened at the Beecher homestead with Miss Lillian McMahon as head teacher with six of the Beecher children being the only students. 1919 the Beecher family moved to Orbost and the school closed.

The next known owners were the Clarke family who were there by 1922. In that year Mary Clarke, wife of Henry Clarke passed away aged 66 at the homestead. Buried Buchan cemetery. Their children were Ernest, George, Leo, Horace, Morton, Lin and Queenie. The Clarkes were at Canni Creek until at least 1943 and by 1954 were living at Lakes Entrance.

The property was purchased by Ray and Myrtle Sandy.



"Young man be more anxious about the pedigree yur going to leave than you are about the wun somebody's going to leave you."

Joshua Billings, Creswick & Clunes Advertiser, 11 September 1865.

From the **Gumnet** mailing list:

I'm wondering if anyone can help me find the information (preferably online) regarding Victorian hotels and their owners and licensees. A branch of my family had several hotels during the period from approximately 1900-1980 but I have no idea where to start looking. Advice gratefully received.

Replies:

1. At Public Record Office of Victoria <http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-35>

Land, Places and Local History – Hotels and Liquor Licensing -

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) holds a range of records that document hotel and liquor licensing in Victoria. The sale of liquor has been regulated since the beginnings of colonial administration in Victoria. Initially, a system of annual general licensing meetings within each licensing district was established with licences granted by justices of the peace. From 1864 to 1886 district Licensing Benches were constituted in Courts of Petty Sessions within each district. Licensing infringements can be found in the records of the various Courts of Petty Sessions for this time period. Search using the Victorian Record Group VRG 4 Courts on PROV's online catalogue at www.access.prov.vic.gov.au for further information. - See more at:

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-35#sthash.G71itsw3.dpuf>

2. Genealogical Society of Victoria

Pubs & publicans index, 1840-1854 [microform] / indexed and supplied by: Marion Button.

Author/Creator: Marion. Button

Publisher: Gisborne, Vic. : M. Button

Date(s): c1994

Description: 4 microfiche : negative.

Note: Marion Button indexes can be searched through the Genealogical Society of Victoria's GIN - Genealogical Index of Names. Available to members via their member login.

If you are not a member of the GSV try their name search

at: <http://www.gsv.org.au/research/guests/trialsearch>

3. State Library of Victoria

R. K. Cole collection of hotel records : surname index / compiled by Eric Tetlow.

Contributor(s): Robert K Cole; Grant Hamston; Eric Tetlow; State Library of Victoria

Publisher: Melbourne : State Library of Victoria

Date(s): 2000

Description: 4 v. ; 30 cm.

Note: This has been digitised by the State Library of Victoria

available at <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/cole-tetlow-index>

You can only access the Cole-Tetlow index if you are at the Library.

The index entries contain the name of the licensee or owner, location of the hotel, dates when the licence was held, and volume and page numbers, which can be used to locate an entry in the Robert K Cole Collection of hotel records. Covering the years c 1841 to 1949, the information was gathered by Robert Cole from various sources such as post office directories, and newspaper and trade journal notices.

One more place to check is the Victoria Government Gazette archive 1837-1997 can be searched online at the State Library of Victoria at -

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>

[New South Wales, Newcastle, Lost Cemeteries 1842-1902](#) contains over 7000 records. The historic mining township of Newcastle has a number of burial grounds from the nineteenth century that have since been converted into open parks or building sites. The records contain the burial records of five of the 'lost' cemeteries in the Newcastle region spanning the period from 1842 to 1902. Further details of all five cemeteries are recorded in publications by Newcastle Family History Society Inc. Each record includes a transcript of an individual burial.

From the Rootsweb mailing list for NE NSW AUS-NSW-SE@rootsweb.com

Bathurst Female Factory

The Bathurst Female Factory is not well documented, hence the decision by the local Family History Group to research it.

Female convicts were sent from Parramatta and held at the factory whilst waiting assignment to local families. It was established in Feb 1833 with the first group of women being 16 females from the "Fanny". The second consignment was sent in Sept 1833. We do not know how many females passed through the factory but our group is working on that now.

Matron Black was the first appointed matron - she resigned in 1838 and was replaced by Mary Jagers. The factory closed in 1846 with the cells being appropriated to the hospital. The female prisoners were then sent to the gaol.

Some interesting altercations during transport to Bathurst are reported in the newspapers on Trove. Bathurst was a fledgling town then with most government buildings being in number 1 block.

As an aside, Bathurst will celebrate 200 years of settlement on 7th May this year.

The [Dubbo Old Cemetery Headstone Index 1863-1934](#) contains over 4,000 records transcribed by members of the Dubbo & District Family History Society. Dubbo cemetery opened in 1863. Dubbo was proclaimed a village in 1849, a town in 1872 and officially became a City in 1966. Each record contains a transcript of the original records.

Australian service records hit the web

[Ancestry](#) has added thousands of Australian service records from the First World War. Digitised from dossiers held by The National Archives of Australia, the collection covers personnel from the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF), Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT), Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). Search the records [here](#) (requires subscription).

Over 174,000 new **UK, Irish and Australian** records as well as 1.6 million Irish newspaper articles have been added to our collection of UK records as part of this week's [Findmypast Friday](#). This week's new additions include fascinating UK Trade union records and medical records from the 1832 Manchester Cholera epidemic, new Irish National Roll of Honour records, Australian cemetery transcripts and a selection of Immigration records from the state of Queensland.



Containing over 72,000 records, [New South Wales, Macquarie Park Cemetery Transcriptions, 1922-2001](#), is an index of headstone inscriptions. Macquarie Park Cemetery is located in North Ryde, in north-western Sydney and was originally known as the Northern Suburbs General Cemetery. In 2004 it was renamed as Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium. The records consist of transcriptions collated by volunteers from the Society of Australian Genealogists. In addition to transcribing headstones and plaques in the cemetery, volunteers sometimes supplemented details taken from the deceased person's headstone with further information from relevant burial records.

Containing over 1,700 records, [Queensland Immigrants nominated for passage 1884-1907](#) are free to search records that list the names of immigrants and nominators as recorded in registers for nominated passage kept by the Assistant Immigration Agent in Maryborough. Assistant Immigration Agents publicised ships' arrivals in the local press, provided information and services to immigrants such as accommodation and rations at Immigration Depots, arranged employment, and also processed government statistical information and ships' passenger lists and other immigrant records.

Containing over 800 records, the [Queensland Register of Immigrants 1864-1878](#) lists the details of applications for passage certificates for immigration, registered in Toowoomba.

Originally entitled Passage certificates [1887-1906, Queensland Passage certificates 1887-1874](#) is an index taken from the Queensland State Archives and consists of transcripts of passenger certificates. These free to search records were taken from a register kept by the Sub-Immigration Agent at Warwick and lists applications by sponsors of immigrants.

Containing over 29,000 records, [Queensland Land Orders 1861-1874](#) consists of transcripts taken from registers of land orders issued to immigrants on the completion of their obligations under the Immigration Act, 1864-1869. Land order claims could be made for the passage to Queensland by immigrants or others who provided passages for immigrants.

FamilySearch has added to its collections more than 5.8 million indexed records and images for [Australia](#), Canada, Hungary, Russia, South Africa, and the United States. Notable collection updates include 2,435,483 indexed records from the [Canada Census, 1911](#) collection; 2,069,202 indexed records from the [Australia, Queensland Cemetery Records, 1802-1990](#) collection; and 310,900 images from the [Russia, Tula Poll Tax Census \(Revision Lists\), 1758-1895](#) collection. See the table below for the full list of updates. Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at [FamilySearch.org](#).

Sighted on [South Australia](#)'s Rootsweb mailing list :

Hi I went online to see if I could buy a Sands and McDougall book or books and found this site free <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/content.php?pid=366485&sid=3000163>

I probably am telling the converted- but if not enjoy

New Zealand – Ancestry.com.au has added some 1.6 million cemetery records. These records span the years from 1800 to 2007 and come from a collection created by the *New Zealand Society of Genealogists*. It currently contains records from some 1350 to 1400 cemeteries and funeral directors. The collection can be searched by first name, last name, year and location. Access is by subscription. [\[\[New Zealand Cemetery Records\]](#)

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

Marriage in England & Wales

(Copied from "Proformat News" No. 110, April 2015 with permission from Graham Jaunay, the author.)

As early as the twelfth century, theologians referred to marriage as a sacrament, but it was not until the Council of Trent in 1563 that marriage was officially deemed one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.

Today's marriage vows date back to Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, who set out the purpose for marriage and scripted modern wedding vows based on Catholic rites in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer in English.

Claims of informal marriages before 1754 are common amongst family historians. More often the reality is that the researcher has found records of children but cannot find the marriage record. Many mistakenly assume that it was possible to marry by a simple exchange of consent between a couple. Such arrangements are known as broomstick weddings or handfasting. Some modern wedding celebrations incorporate jumping over a broomstick as this is what they think their forebears did. Nothing could be further from the truth as a broomstick wedding was a term for a sham wedding in the eighteenth century.

Handfasting is another misunderstood concept about trial marriages for a year and a day becoming legal, a practice that owes its origins to pre-Christian unions. There is no evidence of it existing as an alternative to marriage in modern times. Rather it was another term for a betrothal or engagement, and in England was commonly undertaken about a month prior to a church wedding. It was deemed a legal binding contract.

There was a distinction in law between requirements that were mandatory for a marriage and those that were merely directions. Failure to comply with a mandatory requirement rendered the marriage void, however, if the requirement was only directory then the marriage remained valid.

Before 1754 mandatory requirements for a legitimate marriage under church canon law were:

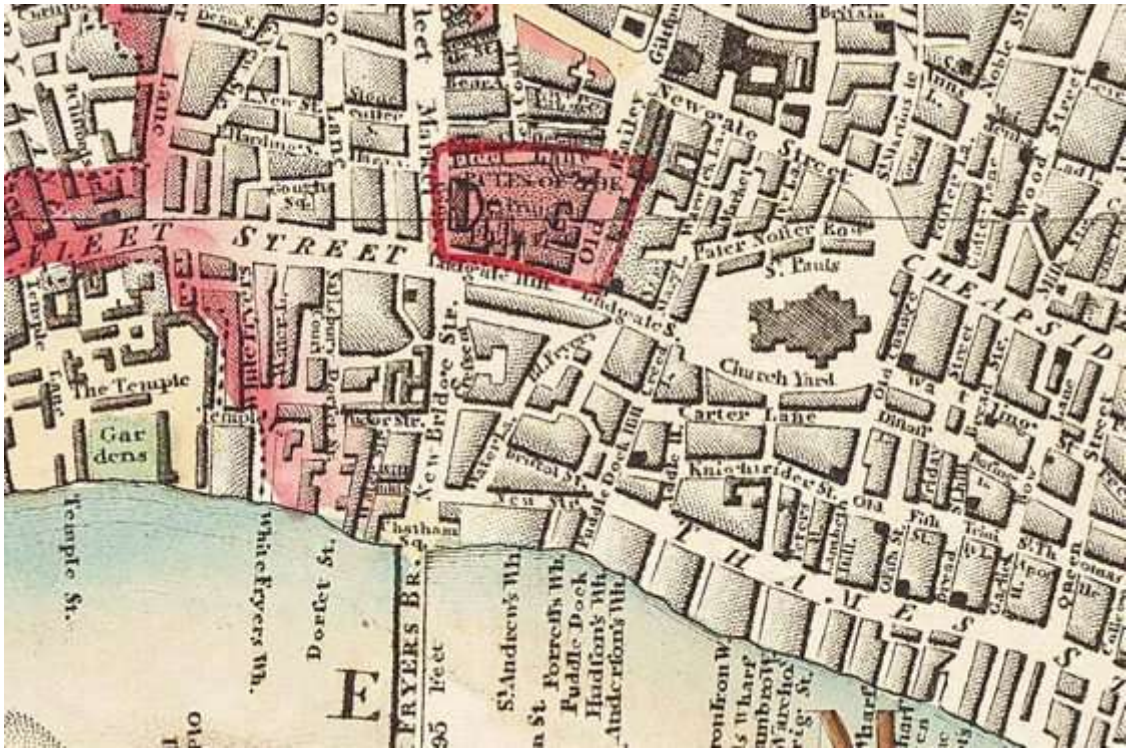
1. Anglican priest.
2. Both parties free to marry.
3. Free consent by both parties.
4. Both parties intend to observe the vows of marriage.

Directory requirements were:

1. Parental consent required if under 21.
2. Banns called or licence purchased.
3. Entry in the marriage register.
4. Marriage in a church of the parish of residence of one of the parties.

Such provisions allowed virtually free rein as far as marrying was concerned and the practice known as clandestine marriages evolved. Effectively these were marriages that observed the above mandatory requirements while ignoring the directory ones! Thus, by definition, a clandestine marriage was simply one that was celebrated by an Anglican clergyman that failed to comply with *all* of the requirements of the church canon law. In fact it was the directory requirements that cost money and time in the marriage process and by avoiding these a quick and cheap marriage was possible.

The Fleet prison was the place in London for a quick and cheap marriage with not too many questions being asked! The prison, the main debtors prison, was on the eastern banks of the River Fleet. It closed in 1842. It was so overcrowded that prisoners could take lodging close by and live by the *Rules of the Fleet*. They had privileges, known as *liberties* and these in turn facilitated clandestine marriages that were undertaken by imprisoned Anglican clergyman who had little to lose and a lot to gain from celebrating marriages in defiance of the canon law. Indeed by the mid eighteenth century about half of all marriages taking place in London took place in the Fleet.



Pictured: A map showing the location of the Fleet Prison in relation to St Pauls Cathedral.

A clandestine marriage should not be confused with an irregular marriage that was one that took place either away from the home parish of the spouses or at an improper time. Clandestine marriages were those that had an element of secrecy to them. During the 1740s, up to 6000 marriages a year were taking place in the Fleet area, compared with 47,000 in England as a whole. Clandestine marriages were also performed at the May Fair Chapel, at King's Bench Prison and within the Mint. Initially, May Fair marriages were performed at St George's Chapel in Curzon Street near Hyde Park Corner and then at a nearby private house. Clandestine marriages performed at the Fleet and King's Bench prisons favoured the working classes and the May Fair Chapel was used by professionals and the aristocracy. Series RG7 held in The National Archives is a collection of surviving records of clandestine marriages (and baptisms) conducted in Fleet Prison, King's Bench Prison, the Mint and the May Fair Chapel, 1667–ca1777.

The legal status of marriages before March 1754:

Denomination	Evidence of such marriages	Legal status
Anglican	Yes	Accepted
Jewish	Yes	Accepted
Quaker	Yes	Contested
Catholic	Yes, but some dual ceremonies	Dubious unless supported by an Anglican marriage
Protestant refugees	Limited and declined over years	Recognised if performed before arrival in England
Presbyterian	Virtually none	Not accepted
Baptist	Virtually none	Not accepted
Independent	Virtually none	Not accepted

A settlement examination, one of the provisions of the Poor Relief Act of 1662, can give a mini biography of an ancestor including where they married. Many poor were subject to such examinations aimed at returning them to the parish responsible for their care, that is the parish of their birth or their husband's birth. This Act particularly impacted on recent widows because of the marriage vow that clearly stated that a marriage ended with the death of one's partner. Thus widows living in their late husband's parish lost entitlement to reside in that parish if they lacked sufficient income to maintain the household and pay the parish tithe. For 1691 the only way to avoid banishment was to fulfill one of five requirements:

1. As occupier of a property had paid the Poor Rate for a full year previously.
2. Being unmarried without children and in employment.
3. Occupying a property worth at least £10 a year in tax.
4. Holding a public office.
5. Being bound as an apprentice to a parishioner.

Records held in The National Archives relate to marriages outside the expected Church of England records. The Society of Friends' (Quakers) Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials ranging from 1578-1841 are held in Series RG6. Series RG8 includes the Russian Orthodox Church in London 1721-1927 and registers of Chapels Royal at St James's Palace, Whitehall and Windsor Castle. Overseas marriages are in Series RG33, RG34 and RG36 including Lundy Island DEV, English churches and missions, British embassies and legations.

Jewish congregations kept their own records of marriage. The *London Magazine* and the *Gentleman's Magazine* often carried the wedding announcements of more wealthy Jews. Orthodox Jewish law required a marriage authorisation granted by the Office of the Chief Rabbi. Some for the period 1880-1901 have been digitised and made available at United Synagogue's [website](#).

The Clandestine Marriage Act of 1753, commonly called Lord Hardwicke's Act, marked the beginning of state involvement in marriage. Lord Hardwicke's Act made the following requirements mandatory:

1. Anglican priest.
2. Both parties free to marry.
3. Free consent given by both parties.
4. Banns called or licence purchased.
5. Celebrated in an Anglican church or chapel.
6. Parental consent given if by licence and under 21.

While the directory requirements were:

1. Parental consent by banns if under 21.
2. Witnesses recorded.
3. Entry in the marriage register.
4. Marriage in a church of the parish of residence of one of the parties.

The legal status of marriages after March 1754 changed outlining clearly which churches could perform legal marriages:

Denomination	Status under the 1753 Act	Compliance
Anglican	Exempted	Not applicable
Jewish	Exempted	Not applicable
Quakers	Exempted	Not applicable
Catholic	Not exempted	Dual ceremonies with an Anglican marriage
Protestants	Not exempted	Complied

After 1834 residence for a fixed period together with the payment of rates became the usual way in which a new settlement was acquired. It was not until 1876 that it was gained simply by residence of three years. The Poor Law Act was repealed in the 1929 Local Government Act.

The Marriage Act of 1836 allowed for non-religious civil marriages to be held in register offices and these were set up across England and Wales. The act also meant nonconformists and Catholic couples could marry in their own places of worship, according to their own rites. Some discrimination remained in that non-Anglican marriages were required to have a civil official present.

The state also started keeping national statistics for marriage around this time.

The following requirements were mandatory:

1. New civil formalities, the equivalent of banns and licence in a church marriage.
2. Notice to the district superintendent registrar where the parties had resided for the previous seven days.
3. Marriage notices read out at the weekly meetings of the Poor Law Guardians on three successive occasions and the marriage had to take place within three months.
4. A £3 licence could be obtained from the district superintendent registrar to reduce the wait to seven days.
5. Place of celebration to be registrar's office or a building certified as a place of worship *and* licensed for marriage.
6. A civil registrar (could be the local clergyman) had to be present at the ceremony
7. Free consent given by both parties.
8. Boys had to be aged fourteen and over and girls twelve and over.
9. Parental consent given if under 21.

The Civil Registration Act 1836 provisions meant that from 1 July 1837 Church of England clergy were under an obligation to send, every quarter, certified copies of the marriages taking place in their churches to the district superintendent registrar. In turn the superintendent registrar sent copies to the General Register Office.

The 1929 Age of Marriage Act raised the minimum age for marriage to sixteen years for both boys and girls.

Prior to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857, divorce was governed by the ecclesiastical Court of Arches and the canon law of the Church of England. As such, it was administered by advocates who practised civil law from Doctors' Commons, adding to the obscurity of the proceedings. Divorce was restricted to the very wealthy as it demanded either a complex annulment process or a private bill, either at great cost. The latter entailed sometimes lengthy debates about a couple's intimate marital relationship in public in the House of Commons. One of the first examples of a divorce without the previous consent of the church courts was that of the Countess of Macclesfield, who was separated from her husband by an Act in 1698.

MURPHY'S LAWS OF GENEALOGY

You search ten years for your grandmother's maiden name to eventually find it on a letter in a box in the attic.

You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.

The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.

Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.



UK National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914

New records from 22 archives and over 1,850 schools from around England and Wales have been added to the [National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914 project](#). The collection was originally launched in September 2014 and now a further 2 million records covering 14 new counties are now available to search. This project was facilitated by the ARA and The National Archives under the National Digitisation Consortium banner and brings together over 100 archives and schools in the largest collaborative digitisation project that there has ever been. A third and final release of school records will take place in September 2015.

The records comprise fully searchable scanned colour images of the original handwritten admission registers and log-books from the archives. Details contained within the log-books from the period leading up to World War One include attendance records, reasons for absence, visitors to the school and the daily activities of school life. The admission registers provide many useful details for family historians, including dates of birth, names of parents and addresses.

British Army Records. Brand new higher quality images have been added to volumes 1, 3 and 5 of [De Ruvoigny's Roll of Honour](#). A new and improved search has also been added and it is now possible to search by soldier number, regiment, year of birth and year of death rather than by name only.

Containing over 58,000 records, [Britain School & University Memorial Rolls 1914-1918](#) consist of records of service from the University of Aberdeen, the University of London, Eton, Oxford, Manchester University, the University of Durham, the University of Edinburgh and St Andrews. Memorial lists were created as a way to remember and honour the dead. If your ancestor attended more than one school or college, you may find multiple entries. Each record includes a transcript of information found in the original sources.

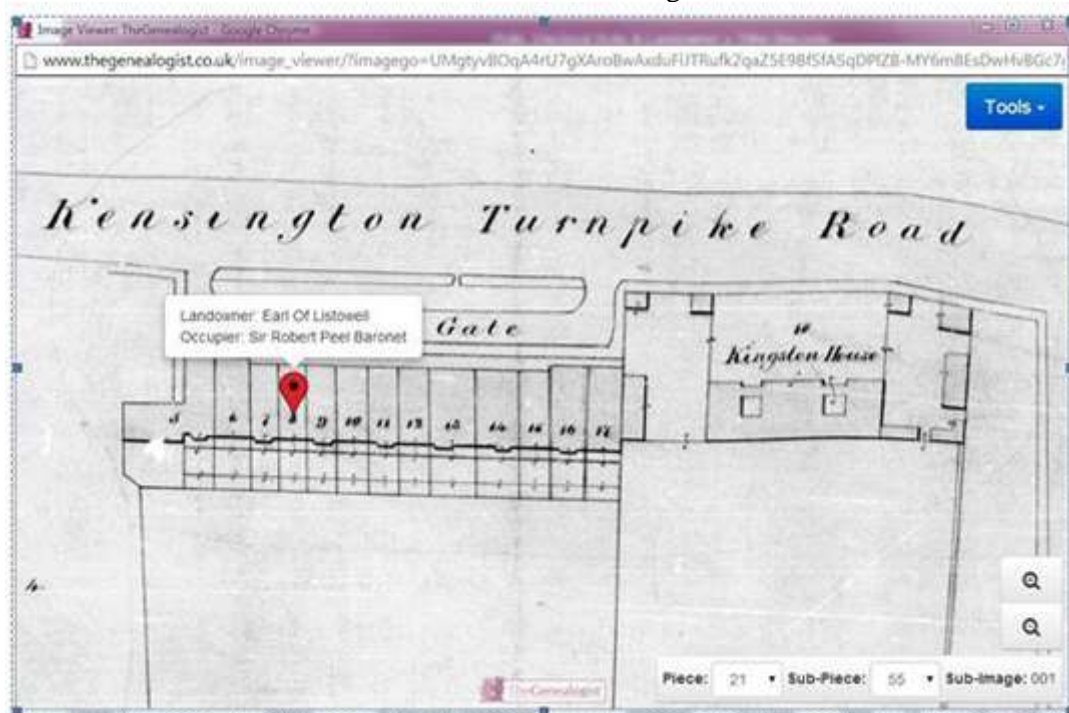
FamilySearch has put online some 10 million records from **Westminster rate books**. A rate book was essentially a property tax book. In the early days, these books were prepared by local parishes, which were responsible for maintaining roads, sewers, lighting, etc. This collection covers the period from 1634 to 1900 from the city of Westminster (now an inner borough of central London). A typical record lists the head of household, the owner, the street address and the rate owed. The collection can be searched by first and last name. Since this collection comes from FindMyPast, the original image can only be viewed at a family history center. Access is free. [[Westminster Rate Books](#)]

Harvard University has begun a multi-year project to put online their collection of **early English manor rolls**. These are court rolls, account rolls and other documents from various English manors. They range in date from 1282 to 1770. The largest collection comes from Cheshire, with additional rolls from Hampshire, Sussex, Staffordshire and Suffolk. At the moment, this collection is not searchable. Access is free. [[Early English Manor Rolls](#)]

Deceased Online have added records from two more cemeteries from **Nottingham (Rock cemetery and Basford cemetery)**. This brings to five the number of cemeteries with online records from the Nottingham City Council. A typical record provides a digital scan of the original burial and grave registers and a map indicating the location of the grave. Access is by subscription. [[Nottingham Cemetery Records](#)]

UK/Ireland – The *British Newspaper Archive* has hit a major milestone. With the latest uploads, it just added its 10 millionth historic newspaper page this week. The website originally launched in November 2011 with 4 million pages. Since then, it has added major historic newspapers such as the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mirror from 1914 to 1918 to provide some fascinating news, photographs and illustrations from World War One. In addition, 58 new Irish newspapers have recently been added to the collection, bringing the total count of Irish newspapers now online to 65. Going forward, digitization efforts will focus on putting online pages from the World War Two period from across the UK. Access is by subscription. [[British Newspaper Archive](#)]

UK – TheGenealogist has added a very interesting collection of detailed town and parish maps for Middlesex, Surrey, Buckinghamshire and Leicestershire. These maps (combined with TheGenealogist’s existing databases) make it possible to search more than 11 million records and pinpoint the exact location of a residence as shown in the image below.



This new collection from TheGenealogist allows users to exactly pinpoint the location of their ancestor’s home on historic parish maps. *Screenshot courtesy of TheGenealogist.* The maps show the boundaries of fields, woods, roads, and rivers in addition to the location and shape of buildings. Details within each record often list how much land was owned or occupied, the exact location of the parish and if the land was rented then the amount of the tithe. With this first release, there are over 12,000 maps. Other counties will be added shortly. Access is by subscription. [[Historic UK Parish Maps](#)]

British Mariners, Trinity House Calendars Surname Search

[British Mariners, Trinity House Calendars](#) covering the years 1787 to 1854 are now fully searchable by surname. These records contain the details of British Mariners who petitioned for aid from the Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond. Trinity House was responsible for the supervision of lighthouses and buoys around the English coast and also distributed charitable funds to disabled seamen and their families across the UK. Great care was always taken to see that charitable funds were carefully disbursed and every mariner or dependent applying for help was required to give full particulars of his or her circumstances. These forms of application were known as ‘Petitions’ and were submitted by seamen or their relatives to Trinity House. Each record contains an image and a transcription. The records are split into three main types; Calendars of Petitions, Calendars of Apprentice Indentures and Calendars of Miscellaneous Papers consisting mainly of marriage and baptismal certificates. Each type may give rather different information however most records will include the petitioner’s name, their relationship to the mariner, their age, location, circumstances and the date of their petition.

MURPHY’S LAWS OF GENEALOGY

John, son of Thomas the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at the age of 10.

Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.

British Military Records

Containing over 17,000 records, [Royal Artillery Officer Deaths 1850-2011](#) list the details of commissioned officers who were killed or died during the campaigns in Kosovo, Bosnia, Borneo and Iraq as well as the First and Second World Wars. It is estimated that since the regiment's formation in May 1716, over 2.5 million men and women have served with the regiment. Each record includes a transcript of details found in the original records.

The British Army, [Royal Artillery War Commemoration Book, 1914-1918](#), is an alphabetical list of 3,505 Officers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who died during the First World War. Artillery was of huge importance in the war. It influenced nearly all tactics and operations and was incorporated into strategies that were used by the belligerents to break the stalemate at the front. Each record includes an image of the original record and a transcript.

British Army, [Royal Artillery Officers 1716-1899](#) contains over 7,400 records taken from the fourth edition of 'Officers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery: The year 1716 to the year 1899', a list collected by General W. H. Askwith, Colonel-Commandant Royal Artillery, and published in 1900. Officers in this list have served in countries all over the world including India, Canada, America, Jamaica, St. Helena and many more. Each record includes an image from the original publication and a transcript.

The [Royal Artillery, 80th Field Regiment](#) records contain the details of 978 men who served with the Regiment during the Second World War. The 80th Field Regiment consisted of three batteries with a Colonel in command of 24 guns. Based in Glasgow as part of the 52nd Lowland Division, the Regiment left for Arramanches on 19 October 1944 and saw extensive action in the Netherlands and Germany. Every record is a transcript of information found in original records.

The [Clacton Roll of Honour, 1914-1918](#), contains the records of over 1,100 men from the English seaside town of Clacton-on-Sea in Essex who were killed during the First World War. Rolls of Honour were commonly started by newspapers to announce the local dead. Details would often be supplied by family members and the resultant list would be printed in commemoration after the war. Each record contains a transcript and an image.

Psychiatric hospital collection grows

Hundreds of psychiatric hospital records can now be explored on the web for the first time. The Wellcome Library in London has added an array of documents from institutions including the York Retreat to its [online catalogue](#), where they are available to family historians free of charge. Fully searchable, the additions are the result of a partnership between the Wellcome Library and several UK archives to make their mental health records more widely accessible. According to a spokesperson from the organisation, the majority of the collections will be online by the summer, but material will be continually added until Spring 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

More than 250,000 parish records hailing from the London Borough of Bexley have been released on Ancestry.

Digitised from registers held by Bexley Local Studies & Archive Centre, the tranche reveals details of local **baptisms, marriages and burials** in the former Kent parish between 1558 and 1985.

Searchable by details such as name, spouse and parents, the documents can help researchers trace their roots before the first 'modern' census in 1841 and the introduction of civil registration in 1837.

In addition to the parish registers, Ancestry has also released a set of Bexley **civil cemetery records** which include casualties of the Slade Green Munitions Factory disaster, which killed 11 female workers and a foreman in 1924.

Described by newspapers as a 'tragedy that rocked the nation', a **memorial** for those killed in the fire still remains at Erith Cemetery today.

Bexley's Local Studies & Archives manager Simon McKeon said: "The digitisation of Bexley's baptism, marriage, burial and civil cemetery records will help preserve the original registers and will enable wider access through Ancestry.

"These fascinating historical records, with their intriguing stories, will now be discoverable simply by a few clicks of a button, wherever you may happen to be in the world."

Explore the Bexley records by clicking [here](#) (requires subscription)

Bedlam asylum records go online for the first time

Findmypast's latest record release includes details of patients and staff at Bethlem Royal Hospital, spanning nearly 250 years



A scene from William Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, depicting inmates at Bethem Royal Hospital (Credit: Wellcome Library, London)

Could your ancestor have been a patient or member of staff in London's earliest asylum, the notorious Bethlem Royal Hospital – 'Bedlam'?

[Findmypast](#) has just released 125,000 of the hospital's patient admission records and casebooks dating from 1683 to 1932.

Including records of the criminally insane, you can read all about your ancestor's behaviour, where and when they were admitted and how long for.

There are some real gems among the casebooks including an inmate who had tried to kill George III with a dessert knife.

Search Findmypast's release [here](#), and learn more about tracing ancestors in lunatic asylums with our handy [step-by-step guide](#).

(Editor's note: Colleen Robinson's great-great grandfather was a patient here briefly in the 1840s)

Index of Nuns (and Monks)

This is an index of approximately 14,000 nuns who were in the English Province of their Order. It is arranged alphabetically by the surname of each nun and usually gives date of birth, names of parents, religious name, dates of profession, date and place of death and name of Order. The Catholic Family History Society provides a look up service which is free of charge to members and costs £5 for non-members. If you would like to request a search of the index, in the first instance please contact the society by email catholicfhs@ntlworld.com. For more information about the society please visit their website.

A further free searchable database of Benedictine Monks and Nuns can be found at www.catholic-history.org.uk. From the home page click on the Planta tab then on the Monks and Nuns tab.

The Royal College of Midwives

The Royal College of Midwives has produced a useful and informative leaflet, 'Tracing Midwives in Your Family'. The leaflet aims to answer some of those questions you may have when you first set out to learn more about the members of your family who were midwives. You will also find some historical information about the midwifery profession: a basic understanding of this history will guide you in the right direction when it comes to looking for evidence in archives and libraries.

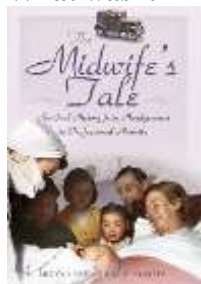
[Download a copy of the guide here](#) and read about other resources available to

family historians from the archives of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

(Photograph reproduced by kind permission of the Royal College of Midwives.)



What was it like to be a midwife before the foundation of the NHS?



'The Midwife's Tale', is a fascinating oral history of the lives of mothers and midwives in the first half of the twentieth century. Based on interviews conducted by Billie Hunter and Nicky Leap, this book tells the stories of these women, in their own words. It was first published in 1993 with a second edition in 2013 aimed at a new readership, opening up to them the intriguing, poignant and sometimes humorous accounts.

First World War expats in the US revealed

Ancestry has uploaded a [tranche of records](#) regarding UK citizens resident in the United States who served in the British Expeditionary Force between 1917-19. Released in partnership with the US National Archives and Records Administration, the collection comprises scanned index cards, providing the name of the resident, their address, date of birth, marital status, civilian occupation and date they entered service. Search [here](#) (requires subscription).

Findmypast uploads women's military records

Thousands of women's military records have been made available on [Findmypast](#) for the first time. Launched to coincide with International Women's Day on 8 March, the [Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Service Records collection](#) provides details of women who served in the unit (known by the acronym WAAC) in England, France and Flanders during the First World War. Digitised from records held at The National Archives, the files reveal details such as birthplace, physical description, medical history, education and parents' nationalities. Find out more by clicking [here](#).

Early English immigrant database launches

A database containing details of more than 65,000 immigrants in medieval England can now be searched online. Compiled from documents held by The National Archives, the resource can be searched by name, nationality and birthplace, enabling researchers to learn more about the surprisingly diverse make-up of the nation between 1330 and 1550. Explore [here](#).

Forces War Records hits medical records milestone

[Forces War Records](#) has now uploaded more than 100,000 First World War medical records to the web. Originally launched with 30,000 entries in October 2014, the [Military Hospitals Admissions and Discharge Registers collection](#) comprises transcriptions of files created by field hospitals between 1915-18, containing details of men treated on the front line and the nature of their ailments. Search [here](#) (requires subscription).

257 volumes of [British Trade Union Membership Registers are now available to browse](#) at Findmypast. The Trade Union Membership registers consist of digitised images of original records books from 9 different unions. The documents include details about individual members such as payments made, benefits received, names of spouses, profiles of leading members, directories of secretaries and details of Union activities and proceedings.

Containing over 61,000 records, [Britain, Trade Union Members, Service and Casualties](#) contains the details of members from 18 different unions. The records are a collection of union documents from the war years and do not solely feature individuals who participated in the First World War. The records include daily trade union news and business and frequently acknowledge members who have left for war or joined the services. Many include pages of the union's Roll of Honour and some include photographs of the members or feature short profiles about specific members. The most extraordinary of the records is the Workers' Union Record, which regularly features full pages of photographs of service men.

Cornish ancestry? This Facebook group may be useful
www.facebook.com/groups/Cornishrootsandbranches/

[Lancashire, Manchester Cholera Victims 1832](#), contains detailed notes relating to the first 200 cases of the 1832 Cholera epidemic in Manchester. The outbreak peaked in August, in which about half of the reported cases occurred, and then tailed off to end in January of 1833. The case studies are transcribed from 'The origin and progress of the malignant cholera in Manchester' by Henry Gaultier MD, published 1832. Each transcript lists the victim's name, age, year of birth, place and Gaultier's detailed notes. The notes include the victim's address, descriptions of their constitution, lifestyle, natural susceptibility, and the condition of their dwellings. Gaultier also included detailed notes, the dates of the attack and any possible 'predisposing causes', which could include details of the victim's last meal or 'communication' with other cases.

FamilySearch has added to its collections more than 18.3 million indexed records and images for **England, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States**. Notable collection updates include 10,026,835 indexed records and 776,840 images from the [England, Westminster Rate Books, 1634–1900](#) collection; 4,327,810 indexed records from the [United Kingdom, World War I Service Records, 1914–1920](#) collection; and 534,653 images from the [Italy, Taranto, Civil Registration \(State Archive\), 1809–1926](#) collection. See the table below for the full list of updates. Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at [FamilySearch.org](#).

Ireland – The Irish Newspaper Archives has added 7 new historic newspaper titles from County Kerry in the south-west region of Ireland. The newspapers span the years from 1828 to 1920. Access is by subscription. [[Historic Kerry Newspapers](#)]

- See more at: http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=PW5bV&awt_m=JPUJJ.RqHAK.Vy#sthash.eTopFicO.dpuf

Graveyard Inscriptions on the The Coleraine Family History Society website.

Might be of interest to some....

http://colerainefhs.org.uk/?page_id=110864

Graveyard Inscriptions

Bill Macafee's Website - Family and Local History

Very interesting website with something for everybody

<http://www.billmacafee.com/>

<http://www.billmacafee.com/churchrecords/churchrecordsnorthmidantrim.pdf>

<http://www.billmacafee.com/sourcesbdms.htm>

Might be of interest to some....

This site has fully searchable interactive capabilities with large numbers of Irish cemeteries.

Can be a bit slow but definitely worth trying.

<http://www.discovereverafter.com/graveyards>

Everafter - our Mission is to help cemeteries & crematoria work smarter...Our Goal is to protect deceased records ever after.

Over 9,000 new records have been added to the [Ireland National Roll of Honour 1914-1921](#). Now containing over 24,000 records, the Ireland National Roll of Honour 1914-1921 is a collection of transcripts created from all known available references and collections for Irish casualties published before 1922. They include Soldiers Died in the Great War, Ireland's Memorial Records, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, newspaper items, articles and books. The material has also been cross referenced with the 1901 and 1911 Census to provide a more precise list of Irish casualties than was previously available to family historians.

Ulster Historical Foundation www.ancestryireland.com/search-irish-genealogy-databases/
New Records Online!

We are pleased to announce the addition to our online databases of over 27,000 new Church of Ireland records for Counties Antrim and Down!

These new baptism, marriage and burial records are from 24 parishes across Antrim and Down and were transcribed by our Emeritus Research Director, Dr Brian Trainor.

These new records contain a wealth of information of use to both the family and local historian and the burial registers, in particular, are full of interesting entries.

For example in Ardkeen CI there was noted the burial entry of Henry Cleland, aged around four months old, in 1823 with a note by the minister that stated that he was “found dead in a field with a letter mentioning his name. Perished from cold and hunger; Coroner's inquest wilful murder.”

Occupations were sometimes recorded, especially if the deceased was in the military or the clergy.

Ballyculter CI's burial register occasionally contained the occupation of the deceased, particularly if they were servants, for example in 1818 Daniel Kain “Lord Bangor's man”, William Wilson “gardener to Mr Price” and Roger Wade “steward to Mr Hoey” were all buried. This may be the only record of their employment which now exists.

Carrickfergus CI's register contained an entry of the burial in May 1776 of Mr McCracken, “the buckle beggar”. A buckle beggar was someone who performed marriage ceremonies “in a clandestine and irregular manner”.

The history of a local area can also be seen through the Church records. For example one can see in the Blaris (Lisburn) CI register the arrival of the Duke of Schomberg's army in September 1689 by the increase of the deceased who were serving in that army. These were not only soldiers, for example in December 1689 John Redbird “master baker to [the] Duke of Schomberg” died and in January 1690 Thomas Mansfield, “one of King William's bakers” was buried.

In coastal parishes, we find the burial records of sailors, fishermen and those who had drowned. For example in Ballyhalbert CI, in January 1864 there was the burial of three men who were shipwrecked including John Morrison from Douglas on the Isle of Man. In this register we also find the burials of two men from the HM Cruiser Bayano which was torpedoed by a German submarine in 1915.

Donaghadee CI's burial register contains an entry for James Conlin, a tide-waiter (customs officer) who was “killed by a fall on the quay” in October 1783.

In the majority of entries the cause of death was not recorded, but unusual incidents were often noted by the minister. For example in Ballyphilip CI we find Patrick Kelly, aged 15 years from Portaferry who died in June 1876 from “a fall from a velocipede” (an early bicycle). Carrickfergus CI's register details the burials of four men in October 1752 who were “killed with the bursting of a cannon”.

Magheralin CI's records contain an entry for Edward Lunn, an innkeeper who was buried in July 1817; he “died suddenly at Maze races”.

Down CI's burial register contains information on John McKenzie, the son of Prudence Coslett, who was buried in June 1765 after he “fell off the Abbey”.

Many of the burial records also contain the name of the father, husband or next of kin of the deceased, providing additional information on each family. Some also record ages at death and occasionally occupations.

Irish Records

Over 1.6 million new articles have been added to our collection of [historic Irish newspapers](#). The latest additions include updates to 36 existing titles and 5 brand new titles from all over Ireland – Belfast Protestant Journal, Current Prices of Grain at Dublin Corn Exchange, Newry Herald and Down, Armagh and Louth Journal, Tipperary Vindicator and Weekly Vindicator.

Valuation Rolls for 1865 have just been added to the [ScotlandsPeople](#) website. The new records comprise 1.3 million indexed names and 76,512 digital images. The Rolls, which are searchable by both name and address, cover every owner, tenant and occupier of property in 1865, offering a fascinating window into the lives of mid-Victorian Scots.

Old Occupations website - <http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html>

Scottish hearth tax records fully transcribed.

Thousands of [Scottish hearth tax records](#) are now available to search online. Spanning 1691-95, the documents – scanned from volumes held by the National Records of Scotland – provide clues about the sizes of thousands of buildings, places, estates and parishes. Although the scans have been available on the web before, they are now fully transcribed and therefore searchable. Explore the collection now at [ScotlandsPlaces](#) (free to search; subscription required to view images).

Historic Scottish pamphlets hit the web

A series of historic Scottish pamphlets have been digitised and uploaded to a new web resource. The result of a project at the University of Guelph in Ontario, the [Scottish Chapbooks](#) site provides users with free access to dozens of chapbooks, or ‘cheap books’ – short pamphlets created and sold in the 18th and 19th centuries. Popular at a time when literacy levels were increasing, the cheap books often carried songs, ballads and short stories.

Researchers looking for family living in **Jersey** during the WW2 German occupation can now download their registration card, including a photograph

IDENTITY CARD No. 2815

Surname *BEDANE*
Christian Names *Albert Gustave*

Maiden Name
Place of Birth *Angers France*
Date of Birth *29-9-43*
Residential Address* *45 1/2 Rosville St, St Helier*

Status *Married*
Occupation *Chartered Masseur*

* also at: *Pontorson, (Bungelow) Jersey, St Clement, on Saturday nights only during summer months. CO.*

EX

A unique pictorial record of over 30,000 people who lived on Jersey during the Nazi occupation has gone online.

The collection of **German Occupation registration cards**, recognised by UNESCO for its importance, has been digitised and added to the Jersey Heritage website by Jersey Archive. The collection includes 90,000 images that can be searched for free, although there is a fee of £5 to download a card. Researchers with Jersey family may wish to take out an annual subscription for £30 to make the most of other resources, including thousands of historic photographs, many with named individuals. There are now more than 310,000 records and other items catalogued online

at www.jerseyheritage.org/aco which has been developed to be more intuitive and user-friendly. These include transcriptions compiled by the Channel Island Family History Society. Jeremy Swetenhan, Commercial Director at Jersey Heritage said, "This is the culmination of several years' tremendous work by the staff at Jersey Archive to digitise records and catalogue our collections online. The result is a fully searchable and very valuable resource that will enable people to discover more about their, and the Island's heritage at the click of a mouse."

To find out more about Jersey Heritage, click [here](#).

South African Military Records

Consisting of over 11,000 records, the [South Africa Roll of Honour 1914-1918](#) contains the details of South African Soldiers killed in the African, Asian and European theatres of the First World War. The Union of South Africa was tied closely to the British Empire, and automatically joined with Great Britain and the allies against the German Empire. South Africa was part of significant military operations against Germany and more than 20,000 South African soldiers fought against the Germans in South West Africa. Each record includes a transcript and an image of the original document.

Iceland - DNA of entire nation revealed

The genetic code of the entire Icelandic population has been “effectively deduced”, according to researchers. Writing in the journal *Nature Genetics*, scientists from the [deCODE genetics team](#) in Reykjavík claim to have successfully cross-referenced the genome sequence of 10,000 people with nationwide family trees, providing a detailed picture of the country’s genetic make-up. The resulting data could have important uses in medicine, allowing doctors to identify all citizens who will have inherited certain genetic disorders. Read the full story [here](#).

Puerto Rico – FamilySearch has indexed some 4.8 million civil registration records from Puerto Rico. The records span the years from 1805 to 2001 and consist primarily of birth, marriage and death records. Civil registration in Puerto Rico began in 1885. The records prior to this date are from the few municipalities that began civil registration before 1885. The records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Historic Puerto Rico Birth Records](#)

Alaska Genealogy Information on AlaskaWeb



Dick Eastman

Colleen Pustola operates a web site called [AlaskaWeb](#). At first glance, it doesn’t look like a genealogy web site. However, the site does contain a lot of information that may be interesting to anyone with Alaskan ancestry or to anyone who had a relative who joined the Alaska Gold Rush or was in the military and stationed in Alaska.

Colleen told me the web site contains more than 4,600 pages of data, mostly about Alaskan history. More than 100,000 people from around the world went to Alaska to participate in the gold rushes. Also, thousands of servicemen served in the military there over the years. The web site

obviously doesn’t mention all of them but does list many by name. Whether your relative is listed or not, the web site also provides a lot of history about Alaska in those times, history that your relatives probably saw and experienced.

AlaskaWeb is available at <http://alaskaweb.org>.

Zimbabwe & Tennessee FamilySearch adds 2.2 million overseas records

Mormon genealogy website [FamilySearch](#) has released than more than 2.2 million free indexed records and images from across the globe. Notable highlights of the tranche include the addition of 133,189 records to the [Zimbabwe Death notices collection \(1904-1975\)](#), and the launch of the [Tennessee Freedmen’s Bureau Field Office Records \(1865-1872\)](#), containing 164,277 digital images. Read full details [here](#).

United States Army Enlistments, 1798-1914

Containing over 1.3 million records, [United States Army Enlistments, 1798-1914](#), consists of enlistment registers for the U.S. Army. The records refer mainly to career soldiers but also include registers for other organisations including the Indian Scouts, 1878-1914, Philippine Scouts, 1901-1913, Hospital Stewards, 1854-1889 and Record of Prisoners, 1872-1901.

Each entry includes a transcript and an image of the original register. The amount of information included in each may vary but many will include the soldiers name, rank, regiment, company commander, regimental commander, height, weight, color of eyes, hair, complexion, age, occupation, county or state of birth, date and place of enlistment and any miscellaneous remarks.

US – FamilySearch has indexed some 1.3 million additional Texas marriage records. The records span the years from 1837 to 1977. They can be searched by first name and last name. This collection currently covers 183 out of 254 counties in Texas. A typical record lists the name of the bride and groom, date of marriage and who officiated at the marriage, as shown below. Access is free. [Historic Texas Marriage Records](#)

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
County of Tom Green. } No. 6747 ✓

To any Regularly Licensed or Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Jewish Rabbi, Judge of the District or County Court, or any Justice of the Peace, in and for The State of Texas, GREETING:

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE THE RITES OF MATRIMONY BETWEEN

Mr. Amosa Keith and Miss Marie McClelland

and make due return to the Clerk of the County Court of said County within sixty days thereafter, certifying your action under this License.

(SEAL) WITNESS my official signature and seal of office, at office in San Angelo, Texas, the 22nd day of January 1930.

Jas. B. Keating
Clerk of County Court, Tom Green County.

By Deputy.

I, B. W. Smith, hereby certify that on the 22 day of January 1930 I united in Marriage Mr. Amosa Keith and Miss Marie McClelland the parties above named.

WITNESS my hand this 22 day of January 1930.

B. W. Smith
Justice of the Peace Pre. No. 1, Tom Green County, Texas.

Returned and filed for record the 23rd day of January 1930, and recorded the 24th day of January 1930.

County Clerk.
By Marie Barnett Deputy.

This is a typical Texas marriage record from 1930. It provides the name of the bride and groom, who officiated at the marriage and the date of marriage.

Over 1.3 million US military records have been added to [Findmypast](#) for the first time. Searchable by name and date, the [United States Civil War Pension Files Index](#) lists details of military pension application cards created between 1861 and 1934. Although the bulk of the records concern those who saw active service during the Civil War, the set also features veterans of other conflicts of the period including the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the First World War. Although the amount of information in each entry can vary, it will typically include the applicant's name, date of application and residence.

United States Civil War Pension Files Index 1861-1934

Containing over 1.3 million records, the [United States Civil War Pension Files Index, 1861-1934](#), is an index of pension application cards for veterans and their beneficiaries. This time period actually covers veterans of numerous wars including the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and World War I. The bulk of these files pertain to service in the U.S. Civil War, which saw millions of Americans enlisted into the Union Army. Pensions were received by soldiers or their beneficiaries for service rendered and were available to widows, children under the age of sixteen, and dependent relatives of soldiers who died in military service from war-related injuries or diseases. Each record includes a transcript and many include an image of the original index card. Most transcripts will list the applicant's name, relation and year of application, while images can reveal the veteran's unit, the time he applied for the pension, names of his widow or children, pension application numbers, previous pension application numbers, certificate numbers, and the name of his attorney.

Troy (New York) Irish Genealogy Society Adds Marriage Notices Appearing in Lansingburgh Newspapers 1787 – 1895

Dick Eastman

An index to 2,712 marriage notices covering 5,424 names that were published in ten different Lansingburgh, New York newspapers from 1787 to 1895 was created by staff at the Troy Public Library in 1938 through 1939. The Troy Irish Genealogy Society was allowed by the Troy Library to scan this book so these important records could be made available on-line for genealogy researchers. To see these records go to the TIGS website – www.troyirish.com – click on PROJECTS and then click on MARRIAGE NOTICES APPEARING IN LANSINGBURGH NEWSPAPERS. Lansingburgh, by the way, for those not in the Capital District Region, was the first chartered village in Rensselaer County and was settled around 1763. In 1900 Lansingburgh became part of the City of Troy, New York.

The ten different Lansingburgh newspapers were:

American Spy
Federal Herald
Lansingburgh Advertiser
Lansingburgh Chronicle
Lansingburgh Courier
Lansingburgh Democrat
Lansingburgh Gazette
Lansingburgh Daily Gazette
Lansingburgh Times
Northern Centinel

Under “RESOURCES” on the TIGS website, <http://www.troyirish.com> you will also find an informative article, “Newspapering in Rensselaer County”, which identifies which of the above newspapers are available, on microfilm or hard copy, at the Troy Library.

These historical records are extremely important to genealogy researchers as the bulk of the records predate New York’s 1880 law that required reporting of marriages. Outside of the marriage location itself, church, justice of the peace, etc., you will not find these records anywhere else.

Most entries show the name of the bride and groom, the residence (city, town, village) for both, date of marriage, names of newspapers that reported the marriage along with the newspaper date, page and column number where you will find the notice in the appropriate newspaper.

It is important to note that the residence for the bride and groom is not just Lansingburgh, but may cover all areas of New York State, other States and even foreign countries.

While 1,231 of the names showed no indication of residence, those records where the residence was reported are of interest as they show 232 individual cities, towns and villages throughout New York State. In addition, residence of either the bride or groom was identified as being in 33 states other than New York and even in 5 foreign countries.

Hopefully you will find some of your ancestors in this new data base or in the almost 300,000 Irish AND Non-Irish names listed in the various transcription projects on the TIGS website.

Polish American Marriage Database

Dick Eastman

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast has posted a Polish-American Marriage Database on their website at www.pgscctne.org.

The database contains the names of couples of Polish origin who were married in select locations in the Northeast United States. The information was taken from marriage records, newspaper marriage announcements, town reports, parish histories or information submitted by Society members. The time period generally covered by these lists is 1892-1940. It includes the States of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont. Connecticut and Jersey City, NJ will be added at a later date.

The society suggests you read the Introduction at:

http://www.pgscctne.org/Marriage_Database/Introduction%20for%20Marriages.aspx before using this database for a complete description of its contents.

Canada

Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by the Drouin Institute, a well-known provider of French-Canadian data:



A year ago, the Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH) of the Université de Montréal proudly announced that the Drouin Institute (IGD)

(<http://www.drouininstitute.com/>) was now the editor for

the public use of the PRDH data put together for the needs of University research. We had then written that this new development, qualified as “a welcome marriage between genealogy and university research”, would certainly lead to new initiatives, favourable for both researchers and the general public.

Here is a striking example of what we meant! We are adding today to the Repertory of Vital Events on our site the 1 700 000 baptisms, marriages and burials for the period 1800-1849 obtained from the IGD who did the data extracting for the baptisms and burials and of the Protestant marriages and made it available for university research, the marriages coming from the Balsac project at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

Thus, the Repertory now contains nearly 2 400 000 acts, a 250% increase! Furthermore, the displays now include a link to the original document on the IGD site (<https://www.quebecrecords.com>), allowing those who subscribe to that site to obtain immediate access to the original. As a matter of fact, new subscribers or current subscribers when renewing, to the PRDH site will receive an extra 10% of hits if they are also members of the IGD site.

And this is just a start: the PRDH is currently working on bringing its unique reconstitutions (Genealogical Dictionary and repertory of Couples) from 1799 to 1849, a major endeavour which should be completed in early 2017. Meanwhile, the IGD has undertaken the extraction of data for 1850-1861, and so on and so forth. More than ever, the PRDH-IGD team is strengthening its status as the best resource for French-Canadian genealogy.



This ought to make you feel better (or worse!) about your computer skills!

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?

Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.

Tech support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.

Customer: OK

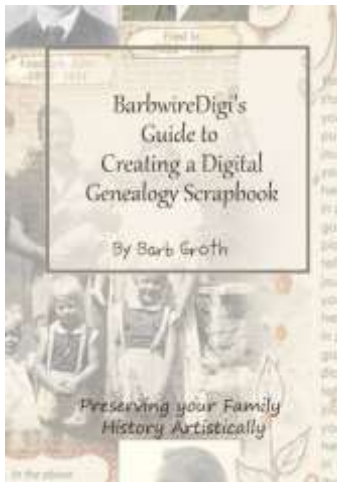
Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes

Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in.

Book Review: BarbwireDigi's Guide to Creating A Digital Genealogy Scrapbook

Dick Eastman



The following book review was written by Bobbi King:
BarbwireDigi's Guide to Creating A Digital Genealogy Scrapbook
By Barb Groth

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Word has it that there was an emphasis on storytelling at the FGS/RootsTech conference this year.

To assist the genealogist who is ready to publish, there is an abundance of "How-To" guidebooks out there on the market. I'd say it's a good idea to determine exactly where you're at in your abilities to publish, then buy a guidebook suited to your immediate needs.

Ms. Groth has published a guide for creating a digital scrapbook, specifically targeted for the users of Adobe Photoshop© Elements. This program is an excellent photo-editing software for many genealogists, most especially for beginners. It's fairly easy to learn, and does an excellent job of preparing photos for viewing and publication, adequately meeting the needs of most of us. Besides removing red-eye

and cropping photos, I use photo-editing software to enhance contrast and modify light values on fuzzy scanned documents for improved readability and clarity. And, most importantly, Elements is affordable.

The first chapters of *Creating a Genealogy Digital Scrapbook* review the advantages of creating digital scrapbooks over the traditional scrapbook methods, then recommend the basic tools you'll need: computer, scanner, digital camera, and the like.

Ms. Groth describes the step-by-step process, using Elements, of putting together a digital scrapbook. She suggests her favorite software for template designs, and shares her experience using the templates to fashion attractive and distinctive pages. She describes how to arrange the photos, images of documents, and other items of interest to your story onto the pages, and she offers, if you're lacking family items to scan into your book, alternate ideas for illustrating your story.

Following chapters describe how to present the text journaling that expands the stories represented by the photos and images, and the use of embellishments to add your personal touch to the book.

Last chapters describe how to create the title page, table of contents, and an index page, and finally, how to save your work for later editing and final publication.

Ms. Groth's experience with Elements in creating her family scrapbooks may inspire other Elements users to get started, and more significantly, to move along and finally finish their own projects.

BarbwireDigi's Guide to Creating A Digital Genealogy Scrapbook may be purchased from Maia's Genealogy & History Books at <http://www.MaiasBooks.com> as well as from Amazon as a Kindle ebook at <http://goo.gl/3eiUtu>.

