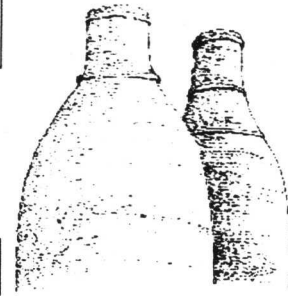


Newsletter

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Some Useful Websites

Editorial

On the 11 May some of the committee were invited to a series of talks and a visit to Trentham Gardens to celebrate Staffordshire Archives Service raising the required money to buy the Sutherland Papers.

Below is their press release:-

The Sutherland Papers are the single most important archive collection relating to past life in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent.

The Archive Service is now delighted to announce that this collection has been saved for the County of Staffordshire and the Nation. The future of the collection at the Staffordshire Record Office is secure.

The Archive Service has had to raise a total sum of £2,011,000 to ensure that the collection remains publicly accessible to people from inside and outside the County. Thanks to a welcome, last-minute top-up grant of £50,000 from the Staffordshire Environmental Fund, we now have only £25,000 left to find on our partnership funding and we are confident of achieving this. A full list of donors can be found under Fund Raising News.

Two and a half years ago, 'Saving Sutherland' seemed to be an impossible task to achieve. Very many people have contributed in all kinds of ways to help us to get to this point. To all of them we would like to say thank you.

After April 1st the Archive Service will begin work on an exciting enhancement and access project for collection. This is a condition of our major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is for two years and will:

Research and develop a new online learning resource for the Sutherland Papers, exploring and interpreting the wealth of information contained in the collection;

- Provide a series of public study days around the County focusing on differing aspects of the collection;
- Research and develop a travelling exhibition programme which will visit a wide range of local community venues
- Offer plenty of opportunities for volunteer working on the collection.

Saving Sutherland has been a real collaborative effort. Thank you again.

John S Booth

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Scottish researches

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk - although a pay per view site, this one is good for anyone researching Scottish ancestors with parish registers, gro index, census records and wills & administrations.

Australian researches

www.coraweb.com.au - a website full of links to Australian sites including some of interest to British researchers with links to Australia. One I found fascinating was British Home Children under Child Migration as thousands of children were sent to Australia under the pretence that they were orphans, they had sometimes been forcibly removed from their families and sent away not even knowing their own names.

Beginners Latin

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/

a free introduction and online tutorial for beginners Latin - useful when you are researching catholic origins and very old documents.

Jamestowne, America

<http://historicjamestowne.org.index>

Jamestowne was the first permanent British settlement in America and celebrates its 400th anniversary this year. Some interesting facts and figures for anyone whose ancestors emigrated there.

The History Channel - as on cable and sky TV

www.historychannel.com/tdih/

Although predominantly American there is a 'This Day In History' section which gives some worldwide history and some events such as world war two from a different perspective.

Sent in by Janice Bebbington

Boyd's Inhabitants of London

Boyd's Inhabitants of London is a collection of 60,000 handwritten sheets each containing details of a London family, mostly covering the period of 16th to 18th centuries but including people from the 13th to 20th. This resource is now available on British Origins www.britishorigins.com

Compiled by Percival Boyd from a miscellany of sources, these extraordinary sheets are one of the Society of Genealogists' most valuable holdings, and provide a key source for researchers into London families.

Each sheet is based upon a man who was usually, but not always, a citizen of London. A sheet typically shows as a minimum the name of the man, the parish where he lived in London, and the date of his marriage. But many sheets show far more information, which can include: names of father and mother; names of mother's parents; wife's name and place she was living at the time of marriage; date and place of birth; date and place of death; date and place of marriage; notes on education and occupation; a note regarding the person's will; children's names, dates of birth/baptism, marriage & to whom.

On average a sheet contains the names of 6-7 people, but some contain as many as fifty. Nearly half a million names appearing in the sheets are included in the person index, so you can search on a person's name, and optionally a year, and then view the pages containing references to that person. If you are lucky, you may then find information on many other people related by blood or marriage to the one you searched for.

Stafford Record Office

D1798/614/1 Bill of Sale

Samuel Marlor of Hanchurch a Yeoman was paid £7.6.6d by John Cliff of Weston for 6 milking cows, 5 calves, 3 twinters or stirks, 3 two year old colts, black ones, 1 sucker, 3 mares, 1 cart or tumbrill with all of its appurtenances at Hanchurch. Dated 22 October 1750.

Diana Grant

Our Ancestors 20 Commandments

1. Thou shalt never reveal your mother's maiden name, presuming you even know it
2. Thou shalt use at least two completely different names for your father, just because you can
3. Thou shalt change the day month or year of birth at every possible opportunity just for the hell of it
4. Thou shalt change your place of birth when ever possible so the family will never know what your accent was like
5. Thou shalt have two forenames which are completely interchangeable, always used separately and never together, for every alternate record
6. Thou shalt completely change your forenames at least once during your lifetime because it's FUN
7. Thou shalt use every conceivable variant spelling of your surname and invent a few special ones as well for good measure
8. Thou shalt not marry in the parishes where you and your fiancée are residents
9. Thou shalt not use any family members as witnesses at weddings
10. Thou shalt completely disappear without any trace whatsoever on at least one census - play hide and seek with the enumerator
11. Thou shalt move several counties away every few years, just because you feel like
12. Thou shalt move hundreds of miles from your birthplace at least once in your lifetime for no apparent reason
13. Thou shalt use the same forename for several children in every generation. Better still name all your children the same so you don't have so many to remember
14. Thou shalt not give your children unusual names, what ARE you thinking of?
15. Thou shalt wait the maximum amount of time before registering births and deaths or better yet, why bother to register them at all
16. Thou shalt not have all of your children baptised – go on, be a devil
17. Thou shalt not use the same church twice – some pews are more comfy than others
18. Thou shalt not have an engraved stone marking your grave, have a wooden one which 'goes back to nature'
19. Thou shalt not be buried in any parish where you have ever lived
20. Thou shalt use as many of these commandments as possible as often as possible during your lifetime

Janice Bebbington

CENSUS TIPS & TRICKS TO HELP YOU

No matter how accurate the transcription, there are always going to be people who can't be found on the census because their surname, age, or birthplace is incorrectly shown.

In this article we're going to teach you some of the tricks and tips that our friends use to find those elusive relatives!

All of these tips relate to the England & Wales censuses, but some may also work with other censuses.

TIP #1 - Don't be too specific

When you're searching the census, don't enter everything you know about the person you're looking, because if even one item is wrongly shown on the census your relative won't be found. Instead, enter the minimum of information - perhaps just the name - and see what results you get. If you get thousands of results, then that's the time to be more specific, but often you won't.

TIP #2 - Allow for errors

Census information is often inaccurate or downright wrong - so you need to allow for this in your searching. This means allowing a range of birth years— 2 years on either side is usually sufficient - and perhaps specifying a county as the birthplace rather than a town or village. If the surname is unusual, or is one that has alternative spellings, the use of wildcards often helps. Thus you might search for Lamb* rather than Lamb or Lambe. Note that at FamilySearch common alternatives are automatically allowed for unless you tick the 'Use exact spelling' box, something we don't recommend doing, as the results are hard to predict.

TIP #3 Search by forename only

Incorrect surnames are perhaps the biggest problem - so wouldn't it be great if you could search by forename alone? Searching for one forename would probably give too many results, but suppose you could search for two? At 1837online you can search for two people in the same household at the same time. This doesn't mean that you have to omit the surname, but it certainly makes it more practical to do so. You can search both the 1861 and 1891 Censuses this way. At FamilySearch you can search the 1881 Census for two people in the same household so long as one of them is the head of household. Again, it's a great way to produce a shortlist of households that might include your relatives.

TIP #4 -Search by address

Often you'll know where a family was living, perhaps from birth certificates - but surely you can't search the census by address? Indeed you can! At 1837online you can search either the 1861 or 1891 Census by address, and you can search the 1901 Census at 1901censusonline. You can even search the 1881 Census at Ancestry.co.uk, by entering the street name in the 'Keywords' box. It's often possible to find addresses on other censuses too. Let's assume that you've found a family in the 1861 Census, but can't find them in 1851, though you know they were living at the same address. All you need to do is make a note of who your relatives' neighbours were in 1861, then search for those neighbours on the 1851 Census. Hopefully one of them will prove to have been living in the same street in both censuses.

TIP #5 - Search by occupation

If the relative you're seeking had an occupation other than 'Ag lab' or 'labourer' there's a good chance you'll be able to find

him by searching on first name and occupation alone. The censuses that you can search by occupation are the ones listed in Tip #4 above. Remember that some occupations can be described in more than one way, and that your relative may have started as an apprentice, or assistant.

TIP #6 - Search by birthplace

Searching by first name, birthplace, and age is a great way to find not only relatives whose surname is shown incorrectly, but also female relatives who have married. You can search all of the censuses from 1851-1901 by birthplace. Please note, however, that the 1881 Census at FamilySearch can only be searched by county (or country) - Ancestry.co.uk is a better option unless you have the Latter Day Saints CD ROM set.

TIP #7 - Search by relationship

Isn't it frustrating when one of the members of the family wasn't at home on census night? It's particularly difficult because the information for people living in institutions or boarding houses tends to be less accurate. One way of focusing in on the right people is to specify the relationship to the head of household. In an institution this might be Inmate (workhouse), Patient (hospital) or Prisoner (gaol). In other situations it might be Visitor, Boarder, or Lodger. A young female relative may be found as Servant, a male relative as Apprentice. Children may appear as Niece, Nephew, Granddaughter, Grandson or Grandchild - or with older married siblings as Brother or Sister (or Brother-in-law or Sister-in-law).

You can search any of the censuses from 1851-1901 by relationship (with exception of the 1881 Census at FamilySearch).

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The Parish of Caverswall Homepage

www.caverswall.org.uk/index.html

While researching a postcard of a policeman I came across a very informative website about the village of Caverwall. The website is a mine of information for any family historian who has links with Caverswall or the surrounding area. In the history menu is a Genealogy section with an index to the Parish Registers, Church Yard MI's, information on the 1841 Tithe Apportionment and lots more.

Below is the beginning of an excellent article about the history of St Filumena's Roman Catholic Church which I hope will make you want to read the full article as it involves so much about our local history in general.



St Filumena's Church, Caverswall

John S Booth

St Filumena's church stands near to St Peter's on the narrow road leading from the village square to Blythe Bridge. The history of the Catholic mission at Caverswall could be told simply in terms of just bricks and mortar, but it is much more than that. It is a story of determination and faith set against a backdrop of religious persecution and the often violent power struggles that beset the country.

The people of the parish had practiced their faith for centuries at St Peter's in accordance with the rites of the Church of Rome. King Henry VIII rejected the supremacy of the Church of Rome and in 1534 he declared himself to be the head of the Church of England. He went on to dissolve the monasteries in England and Wales between 1536 and 1540. Thus began the period of Protestant Reformation. The Catholic Church was driven underground and the people who practiced the old faith did so at great risk to themselves. Many lost their homes and possessions whilst others paid the ultimate penalty for their beliefs. Such was the fate of Robert Sutton who was executed at Stafford in 1588 for saying Mass in the home of Erasmus Wolsey. Only a public outcry prevented the other people present at the Mass from meeting the same fate.

The reformation was briefly halted by the accession of the Catholic Queen, Mary Tudor in 1553. Her reign was to last only five years before her Protestant sister, Elizabeth I came to the throne. The Parliament of 1559 passed an Act requiring the clergy to use a new Protestant liturgy and the process of removing Catholic fittings and images from the churches was started again. The Catholics in the land became a minority, striving to keep the flickering flame alive. In some cases they were protected and supported by the families of the local gentry as was the case here in Staffordshire. As the years passed the level of religious toleration increased, an Act of 1791 made Catholic Chapels legal providing that they were registered with the authorities. Gradually the oppression eased and following the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 the building of parish churches gathered pace.

Our story now takes us back to the year 1624 when a group of Benedictine Nuns established a community at Ghent in the Low Countries. The community attracted members from several notable English Catholic families including, a daughter of the Sixth Duke of Norfolk, three daughters of the Second Lord Clifford and a daughter of Nicholas, the Second Viscount of Kenmare. The Nuns were enthusiastic Jacobites and they were visited by both Charles II and his brother, James II. Their peaceful existence was interrupted in 1794 when the French Republican Army entered Flanders. The Nuns decided to flee rather than face imprisonment or death at the hands of the republicans. They were assisted to escape to England by Frederick, the Duke of York, who was leading a military campaign against the French in the Low Countries. When the Nuns reached England they lodged with friends and their families until 1795 when they rented a house and opened a school in Preston.

In 1811 the Nuns decided to move to Caverswall. They were assisted to purchase the Castle by their friends including Walter Hill Coyney and his wife Mary Catherine. This is considered to be the first Roman Catholic house to be established in Staffordshire since the Reformation. The convent is described in William Pitt's 'Topographical History of Staffordshire' written in 1817.

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