



## Notes about the 1939 Register from Talk by Myko Clelland of Find my past.

### General Background.

1. It was a register of the whole of England and Wales (Scotland and Northern Ireland are separate) and was used for Ration Books, ID cards etc. (NB ID cards were needed until 1952)
2. It was used as the basis for the NHS and updated by hand until 1991 when it became computerised.
3. The forms were filled in on the 29 September 1939. People born after that date are on a Supplementary Register which is NOT DIGITISED.
4. 1931 Census has been destroyed by fire and they did not take one in 1941 as they had the 1939 Register.

### SPECIFICS.

The register will give the DOB, sex and Marital status of the individual and give their occupation.

It May include Details of previous war service and past service in the forces.

As it was used by the NHS it may give dates of visits to the Doctor.

Will also include changes of name e.g. by marriage or deed poll.

However it does not give the relationship of the household members to each other but this can usually be inferred.

It only includes people who died before 1991 so a household may have “closed Records” for some members. If they have died it is possible to send a scan of a Death Certificate and they will open it. This should be done within 10 days of application.

It is advisable to use the **advanced search** where you can add more detail.

You will get the whole page not just the one household so may include neighbours.

You have to buy credits to get the information once you find them in the index and preview. It will also include a few photographs from the time and newspaper articles relevant to the occupation or area etc. There will also be some statistical information such as the number of people in that occupation etc. NO places of birth are recorded.

### HAMLETS & VILLAGES.

This is variable as to how the enumerators recorded them. May be best to add the place to the Keyword box. Alternatively you can go to “Address” and enter the place and check how many addresses are within that place or see if they are in an alternative area e.g. boundary going through the middle.

### MISC.

You will see some NHS codes but in general there is no way of finding the meaning of these as the NHS has not released them. However one such as D265/2 <sup>(21.7.84)</sup> appears to mean the date of Death.ie 21.7.84.

Remember that Evacuees started on 1 Sept 1939 which was before the Register was taken. So people may be in unexpected places.

Information from the Scottish Register costs £15 per person but Northern Ireland is free under the freedom of information Act.

Myko said that there was a button at the bottom left “need Help” on which you could click to get help. Personally I couldn't see it but it may be coming.

I received a hint that in 2-3 years the Register could be included in the subscription.

When searching the indexes on Find my Past.org be aware that some marriages just after 1755 to about 1812 may have been indexed as "Banns" as they are in the combined registers with the Banns information followed by the date of the marriage.

Useful information on PR.

[http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/parish\\_registers.htm](http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/parish_registers.htm)

Up until the mid 18th century most parish registers were general, combining baptisms, marriages and burials, either in chronological order or in separate parts of the register. Before 1753 there was no formal ceremony for marriage. Any ceremony performed by a priest with or without banns or licences, in or out of church, was legal. Therefore if married by a clergyman without a benefice your ancestors may not have left a formal record of their marriage. However Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1754 made it compulsory for marriages to be by banns or licence by a beneficed Anglican clergyman in an Anglican church. The Act also imposed a standard entry for marriages in a bound volume of printed forms. The couples' names were entered, their marital status and their parish of residence; in addition the forms were signed by both parties and by witnesses. Marriages often took place in the parish of the bride. As between 1753 and 1836 marriages were only legal if they took place in a Church of England church (with the exception of marriages of Quakers and Jews), some Nonconformists and Roman Catholics may have preferred to remain legally unmarried rather than go through an Anglican ceremony.

After 1837 not all marriages needed to take place in Church of England churches, therefore after this date Anglican marriage registers are less all encompassing. On the other hand marriage registers include more information after 1837. They record the name, age, occupation and residence of the bride and groom and also the name and occupation of the respective fathers. If the father was deceased at the time then this is recorded. It is necessary to remember that contrary to popular opinion many people did not get married and therefore do not appear in marriage records.

Rose's Act of 1812 made it compulsory for all register entries to be of a standard type in separate volumes. There are separate baptism and burial registers therefore from 1813. Before this date the information provided for baptisms is the date of the baptism, the first and other names of the child (except in some circumstances), the first and other names and surname of the father and the first and other names of the mother (although this was omitted by some incumbents.) Occasionally the date of birth is noted in the margin. Baptism registers after 1813 record the first and other names of the child, the date of the baptism, the parent's names, the father's surname, their residence and the occupation of the father as well as the name of the officiating minister. Remember that many ministers refused to baptise illegitimate children. It is also worth noting that a baptism might take place several months after the birth. Before 1660 some ministers who objected to infant baptism might refuse to baptise infants. It is also worth considering when looking for a baptism that the mother might have been visiting a relative at the time of the birth and hence the baptism might have taken place away from her home parish.

Burial registers before 1813 contained the name of the deceased, the date of burial and sometimes the status or occupation of the deceased. From 1813 onwards each entry recorded in addition to this abode, name of the officiating minister and the age of the deceased, although this last piece of information should be treated with some caution. It should be remembered that by the terms of the Toleration Act of 1689 Roman Catholic and Nonconformist cemeteries were permitted. Entries for burials in these cemeteries would not be recorded in the parish registers. There are various other reasons why someone's burial may not be recorded in the parish registers. Some incumbents would not bury un-baptised persons or suicide victims or those persons who had been excommunicated. Remember also that death may have taken place abroad, or the deceased (or their family) may have wished burial to be elsewhere than in the parish where the deceased or their family lived. From 1853 onwards many urban churchyards were closed and burials began to take place in municipal cemeteries. (See Municipal Cemeteries, Fact Sheet 7.)

From Dianne Shenton

Dates for  
the diary  
2016

4<sup>th</sup> January

## Research Evening

We hold a large number of research material for north Staffordshire and surrounding areas, some of which you will not find at the record's office or on any family tree web sites.

1st February

Lidice 1942 ,It's Destruction and part played by Staffordshire

People in it's Rebirth

with Steve Booth

7<sup>th</sup> March

## Research Evening

Join us at our research evenings were we can help with that relative that seems to be eluding you!

graphicpanic.com

### ON THE WEB

The Gazette

[www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk)

[www.gov.uk/find-persons-will](http://www.gov.uk/find-persons-will)

Finding a post 1858 Will - scroll down to search online and enter a name and date of death. This comes up with the probate calendar and you can use the information to get a copy of a will for £10

The Old Bailey, 1674-1913 [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)

A fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court. If you are new to this site, you may find the getting started and guide to searching videos and tutorials helpful.

[www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk)

Latest news, exhibition reviews and features from UK museums, galleries, heritage and archaeology sites together with exhibition and event listings from thousands of UK museums, art galleries, heritage sites, archives and libraries.

## Less usual sources of information. By Dianne Shenton

As more and more record offices improve the cataloguing of their documents it allows us to find information from varied sources. Most of us are used to finding Births, Marriages and Deaths and then checking to see if there is a Will and being delighted if we find a fairly detailed document. However I have been looking at the records of Debtors in the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions records and many of these will just record that the debtor does not have goods to the value of more than £20, but some give much detail and I have transcribed most of the details of just one to give you an idea of what you might find if you are lucky.

*Bankruptcy in Early Modern England: Discharge and Debtor Rights* by Ann M Carlos, Department of Economics University of Colorado says "Bankruptcy is a precise legal process designed to structure the end of relationship between a firm/person and the creditors." "In 1706, Parliament passed the first English bankruptcy statute to provide potential rights for bankrupts. This act represents a fundamental change in property rights between debtors and creditors. A bankrupt could now be discharged from bankruptcy prior to the repayment of all debts. Creditors, however, could choose to issue a Certificate of Discharge or to maintain the status quo that allowed the creditor to importune the bankrupt until all debts were fully repaid."

The Quarter Sessions Papers appear to say that Debtors and their families could keep their personal clothing and bedding and tools of the trade and items to a value of less than £20.

Document Reference at Stafford Record Office Q/SB1781 M184-249

/218 Debtor's schedule of **Samuel Akers, Butcher** in Stafford Gaol, late of Uttoxeter. Dated 27 Aug 1781

### In the Kitchen

1 White Shelves with Drawers 4. Pewter dishes 9 pewter plates 6 White plates 2 Coloured Plates 4 Glass Decanters 2 small tumbler glasses 1 blue and white bason 1 white stool 1 Book stand 1 small table Pot shelves 1 teapot 4 cups and saucers 2 black pots 1 blue and white bason 1 salt stand 1 pepper box	1 mustard pot 1 butter boat 1 tin can 1 looking glass 1 flower pot 1 clock 1 warming pan 4 smoothing irons 7 candlesticks 2 brass basons 1 copper can 1 Dengger box 1 Tin bonnet 1 Egg slice Toasting Jack Fine Grate Jibbet Lock Ash Grate	Fender Iron Trivet. Fire shovel, tongs Pickle Pot Tea Canister 1 J[----] stool 1 Candle box 1 pr Snuffers 6 Chairs Tea Kettle
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### In the First Parlour

1 oak stand 1 bureux 1 safe	1 Chair 1 small stand	2 Pictures 1 small oak box
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### In the second Parlour

1 Corner cupboard 3 old chairs
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### In the Scullery

1 Brass Pot 2 Brass Kettles 1 Copper Pudding pan 1 pewter wash bason	1 saucepan 1 pewter dish 1 pewter plate 1 ladle	2 flower pots 1 earthen jowl 1 stean
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### In the Pantry

7 Quart glass bottles 1 small pewter dish	1 draught stean 1 tin pudding pan	1 earthen Bottle 2 small steans
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### In the Cellar

3 Barrells	1 [S?]affle tub
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### Second Chamber

**Third chamber**

1 Chest 1 old form 1 Cloath Basket	1 old Picture 1 piece old matting	5 old pictures 3 chairs
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**Fourth Chamber**

1 small chest of Drawers
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**In the Closet**

1 old Horse Pad and lumber of small or no value
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**In the Garrett**

Lumber etc. of no value
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**Debts due from:-**

Mr Loggin of Uttoxeter 11s 3d	Thos Devil of Marchington 1s
Sam. Wright of Uttoxeter 7s 4 ½ d	Mr Thomas of Doveridge 6s 8d
Mrs Stubbs of Uttoxeter 15s 8d	James Bloor of Uttoxeter 10d
James Plant jun. of Uttoxeter 4s 5d	Wm. Greenhough of Doveridge [unreadable]
Eleanor Wood of Nobit 11d	Thos Wilson of Bramshall 1s 8d
John Grenshaw of Uttoxeter 3s	Jos Allen of Uttoxeter 2s 10d
Mrs Bon Marchington 2s 6d	Wm Harrison of Uttoxeter 8s 1d
Wm Wilson Doveridge 15s 11d	James Smith of Uttoxeter £1 6s 6d
John Hill of Uttoxeter 1s 7 ½ d	John Copes man of Uttoxeter 3s
Saml. Becket of Uttoxeter 1s 1d	Matthew Newton's man of Uttoxeter 2s 6d
An old Pensioner of Uttoxeter 7s ½ d	Thos Gilbert of Uttoxeter £1 1s 0d
Wm Gilbert of Uttoxeter 2s 3d	Thos Bagalet of Uttoxeter 4s 11d
Rich. Teannch of Doveridge 21s 3d	Doctor Bridgens of Uttoxeter £1 5s 6d
William Wood of Uttoxeter 2s 4d	Wm Smith Maltster of Uttoxeter 4s 7d
Mrs Kettle of Uttoxeter 15s 9d	Mr Tott of Uttoxeter £1 0s 8d
Geo. Johnson of Kinston 12s 3d	John Walker of Uttoxeter 4s 10d
John Gilbert of Kinston 11s 3d	Mrs Wallis of Uttoxeter 6s 6s
John Chatfield of Bramshall 2s 6d	Thomas Bladen's man of Uttoxeter 2s 10d
Sally Beckett of Uttoxeter 1s	Joseph Gaunt of Roster 4s 6d
Robt Camplin of Uttoxeter 4s 6d	John Allen's man of Uttoxeter 4s 1d
Edw. Langley of Uttoxeter 3s	Joseph Shirley of Uttoxeter 3s 6d
[Blank] Beidger a coalman 4s 4d	Elizabeth Cross of Uttoxeter 1s 5 ½ d
John Plant of Uttoxeter 4s	Mrs Richards of Uttoxeter 10s 9d
Ann Gaunt of Uttoxeter 1s 8d	Thomas Stokes of Loxley 1s 6d
William Moore of Stafford £3 8s 9d	Joseph Ward of Uttoxeter £6 9s 1d
Thos. Cope, Maltster of Uttoxeter 6d	

<b>Cash Received since came to Prison</b>	<b>Cash paid since came to Prison</b>
From John Steel for hay and lay of 5 cows a year £45	To Miss Hunt for Rent £15 15s
From sale of 1 horse £3	To Mr Carrington for Rent £8
From Ganss? Sold for £11	To John Ward £10
	To the Overseers of Derby for my son James £4 2s
	To Taxes and Highways levys £4 9s 2d
	To expences in manuring land, getting hay etc £6 19s

**Total £59**

NB There is a Rick or part of a rick of Hay upon the premises I hold of Miss Hunt.

To the Above balance I have expended £9 14s 2d in support of myself and family since in Prison.

Signed *Samuel Akers.*

/215 4 Oct, 21<sup>st</sup> year of Geo. III Insolvent Debtor's Discharge of Samuel Akers. (I assume they managed to collect the debts owing to him, which I assume were all from customers)

This schedule tells us so much about this man and his house and of life in Uttoxeter which I found fascinating reading, but I am left wondering why he was paying the Overseers of Derby £4 2s for his son James. A James Akers the son of Samuel and Ann Akers was baptised 1 Feb 1756 in Uttoxeter.

OED def. of Stean. A vessel for liquids or in later use for bread or meat, fish etc. Made of clay with 2 handles or ears.

# OOPS!

In the last issue a paragraph was missed off the end of the (breaking news) so we have run the article again in full

## **Don't Believe Parish Records are the Gospel Truth.** Dianne Shenton

I go into Stafford Record Office regularly and was asked if I could do a check for the Staffordshire BMD co-ordinator. They had discovered in the Hanley Registrar's office that the Register for **St. Mary's, Bucknall cum Bagnall**, Staffordshire, had a page torn out and the registrar had no note of when it was done. Therefore they asked me to look at the Church register, to see if it existed there.

So I went off to Stafford R.O. and asked in the politest way possible if I could possibly look at the original register, rather than those on fiche, to check if the page existed. The Staff looked at their indexes and commented that something weird was going on in that Church as they not only had the original but also a duplicate book. So they suggested I got both out to check.

They kindly allowed me to have both books at the same time (rather than the usual one document at a time). The main register was the post 1st July 1837 Book and I quickly flipped through to find page 235 and 236. Page 235 (1843) was present and had the marriages for John Cartledge to Jane Hollins and William Johnson to Harriet Cooper however when I turned it over to view page 236 on the reverse, I found a note by the Vicar ***N.B. This page has been torn out in corresponding Register Book by some person whilst it [a]y on the Altar Table of the Church of Bucknall during service.*** That explained that problem, but of course the two missing marriages from the StaffsBMD can only be found on FreeBMD as that is compiled from the GRO Indexes, which were compiled from the Quarterly returns that the Vicar/Curate had to produce.

I then turned my attention to the duplicate book to work out what it was. This was a pre-1<sup>st</sup> July 1837 Book with only a few pages filled in. The first few were obviously marriages performed before the new rules came in but then there were sporadic entries up to 1843.

So I carefully checked the sporadic entries against the "real" Register and most of them were there too, but a few were not. The missing ones were:-

Entry no 13 1837. Thomas Phillips to Maria Swetnam (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no. 14. 1837 Thomas Shenton to Martha Janes (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no 15. 1838 John Lovatt to Elizabeth Howard (can be found on FindMyPast) Father named and different to entry 16)

Entry no. 16 1838 John Lovatt to Elizabeth Jones (can be found on FindMyPast) (Father named and different to entry 15)

Entry no 23 1841 Joseph Titley to Emma Barker (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no 24 1841 James Boolt (or Booth) to Elizabeth Boolt (or Booth) (can be found on FindMyPast)

Entry no 25 1842 John Johnson to Eliz. Reeves (found in Staffs BMD and FreeBMD)

Entry no 26 1843 Joseph Sawyer to Sarah Kerly? (can be found on FindMyPast)

However some of these appear on the Staffordshire BMD so must have been entered into the Registrar's Book but not all of them. So if you have lost someone be sure to check all indexes.

Another surprise in the Register Book was that all pages after page 38 had been filled in by the same hand, which I assume was the Vicar. Perhaps not unusual when people couldn't write, but nothing indicated that any of these were signed on behalf of X. In addition some were signed in the wrong place eg. Witness signed as groom etc. So where I have been blissfully telling people to get their certificates from the Local Registrar's as you get to see the signatures this is not necessarily so.

My kindest interpretation is that perhaps the Vicar had Dementia – he died in 1851.

# Breaking News !

The above vicar was Ed Powys and it has come to light that he was also connected with St Edwards Church, Cheddleton, where he was, shall we say, also less than 100% accurate with writing things down. Fortunately for family historians he passed away before the first register was full and needed to be deposited at the Registrars Office. From the notes in the margins of the register later deposited in the Registrars Office it looks as if his curate was concerned with the accuracy and the majority of marriages conducted by Ed have some crossings out and corrections put in with notes explaining what the correction is. The curate did all this before the register was full, so when it went to the Registrars and was indexed by them it all looked good ! I also suspect that the curate was the one who did the quarterly returns for St Edwards as they appear to be correct on the GRO indexes.

Thankfully it looks like this curate took his role seriously enough to put matters right in the registers before he let them out of his care.

One other thing we have noticed about Bucknall Marriages is that there are page after page after page where there are no FATHERS details on any of the marriages ! We all know that a lot of illegitimate children were wed without the fathers details being documented but the number in Bucknall is disproportionate and if we take into account Ed's foibles it wouldn't be stretching the imagination to believe that he just forgot to write them down.

Most people only send for a marriage at a time, so if the certificate shows no fathers details it would be natural to assume that there was no father known, but when you have the whole book in front of you to look at the omissions just leap of the page at you !

So if you have a certificate from Bucknall and there is no fathers details then I would suggest trying to find younger brothers or sisters of those getting married and hope they were married after 1851 when Ed Powys was no longer on the scene, or may have been married before 1851 but at a different church. We hope this helps some one out there - its certainly helped us to look at things with fresh eyes and opinions