

TRACING YOUR BRITISH ANCESTORS

Cass County Public Library – Genealogy Branch

GETTING STARTED IN AMERICA

Research your British ancestors the same way you would research any ancestor

- Start with yourself and *work backwards*
- Look for clues in basic American records (vital, military, census records, etc.)
- Determine your earliest British ancestor in America
- Figure out where to look for records in home country (England, Wales, Scotland)
- Then use those records to continue your research

Tip: Look for records that provide specific locations i.e. parish

While Looking for Clues in American Records, Be Sure to Check:

Vital Records

Includes birth, marriage, and death records

- May provide birthplace and parents' names and birthplaces
- Can inform you of spelling variations, especially for anglicized Welsh and Scottish names
- Remember, this information is only as accurate as the informant
- Most states have fairly strict regulations for requesting vital records
 - Check with the Department of Public Health or Vital Records for that state

The screenshot shows the Washington State Archives - Digital Archives website. The header includes the Secretary of State logo and navigation links. The main content area displays a death record for Benjamin Davies, born 1907, who died on 20 Dec 1954 in Seattle, King, Washington. The record includes fields for Record Series, Collection, County, Da Reference Number, Image Number, Document Number, Document Reference Id, First Name, Last Name, Date Of Death, Age, Gender, Father Name, Mother Name, Batch Id, Batch Locality, Death Place, Mother Name Gn, Mother Name Surname, and Spouse Name. A note indicates that the physical copy of this document might yield further information regarding birth date and place, as well as the same information for his parents; also, some, but not all, states have digital archives online.

Record Series:	Death Records
Collection:	Department of Health, Death Index, 1907-1960; 1965-2014
County:	Statewide
Da Reference Number:	{E9DCCE49-7003-412C-87E6-2647FB24FFEF}
Image Number:	1907
Document Number:	6
Document Reference Id:	21856
First Name:	Benjamin
Last Name:	Davies
Date Of Death:	20 Dec 1954
Age:	79
Gender:	Male
Father Name:	John Davies
Mother Name:	Sarah Unknown
Batch Id:	278275
Batch Locality:	Washington, United States
Death Place:	Seattle, King, Washington
Mother Name Gn:	Sarah
Mother Name Surname:	Unknown
Spouse Name:	Marion Ruth Davies

← Death Certificate

Benjamin Davies

Died: 20 Dec 1954

Seattle, King, Washington

Father: John Davies

Mother: Sarah [Unknown]

Spouse: Marion Ruth Davies

Note: The physical copy of this document might yield further information regarding birth date and place, as well as the same information for his parents; also, some, but not all, states have digital archives online.

US Census Records

- Census records allow you to follow your ancestor across several decades
 - Compare the same columns for different years to verify immigration or naturalization information provided

- i.e. the year of immigration provided may vary between multiple censuses, giving you alternative information to try out when searching for immigration records
- Nativity section (i.e. ancestor's birthplace, their parents' birthplaces)
- Citizenship section (i.e. dates of immigration and naturalization status)
 - Information from these columns can help direct you to other records, specifically immigration and naturalization records that hold the best clues about their British origin.
 - Take the years they provided for immigration and naturalization as *estimates* (see 1920 census and naturalization documents below)
 - The 1910 Census distinguishes between "Wales Welsh" and "Wales Eng" as birthplace locations, referring to the parts of Wales where either Welsh (*along the west coast*) or English (*along the eastern border with England*) was the primary language spoken

1940 – Benjamin "Davis," 65, living in Seattle, King County, WA; born in Wales, naturalized (*no date of immigration or naturalization enumerated in 1940*)

Davis, Benjamin	Head	M	W	65	MA	Wales	1920	WA	Seattle
Married	Wife	F	N	56	M	Wales	1920	WA	Seattle

1930 – Benjamin Davies, 55, living in Seattle, King County, WA; date of immigration is 1909 (*accurate*), primary language is English, enumerated correctly as naturalized "Na" (*completed in 1924*), both parents born in Wales

Davies, Benjamin	Head	F	55	M	W	55	MA	Wales	1909	WA	Seattle
Married	Wife	F	46	M	W	46	MA	Wales	1909	WA	Seattle
Grandson	Grandson	F	16	M	W	16	MA	Wales	1909	WA	Seattle
George	George	M	13	M	W	13	MA	Wales	1909	WA	Seattle

1920 – Benjamin Davies, 44, living in Seattle, King County, WA; born in Wales, "mother tongue" is Welsh; immigrated in 1900 (*actually 1909*), naturalized in 1915 (*actually 1918*; *only first papers filed by this date – should be "Pa" here instead of "Na"*), both parents born in Wales and speak Welsh

Davies, Benjamin	Head	M	W	44	MA	Wales	1900	WA	Seattle
Married	Wife	F	W	36	M	Wales	1900	WA	Seattle
Grandson	Grandson	F	W	6	S	Wales	1900	WA	Seattle
George	George	M	W	2	S	Wales	1900	WA	Seattle

Military Records

Always check for the individual's birthplace on any record

- Registration
- Muster Rolls
- Pensions
- WWI & WWII Draft Cards
- Compiled Service Records (from the National Archives)

Example: WWI Draft Card

Benjamin Davies

Born: 29 March 1875; 43 years old

Residence: Seattle, King, Washington

Citizenship Status: citizen of Great Britain, Declarant Alien of the United States (meaning he has filed a Declaration of Intent)

U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant
10	11	12	13
			14
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?			

ALIEN	
Declarant	Non-declarant
13	14
13	14

ALIEN	
Declarant	Non-declarant
13	14
13	14

REGISTRATION CARD	
SERIAL NUMBER 531	INDEX NUMBER 378
1 Benjamin Davies	
2 Permanent Home Address: 16 John St Seattle King WA	
Age in Years 43	Date of Birth March 29th 1875
RACE White	
15 Dry Goods Salesman Rhodes Co.	
16 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: 16 John St Seattle King WA	
NEAREST RELATIVE	Name Ruth Maria Davies
Address	16 John St Seattle King WA
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE	
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Rev. 1917)	Benjamin Davies

Example: June 1863 Civil War Draft Register

10 No. 136

I comprise all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five years and under the age of forty-five. Class II comprises all other persons subject to do military duty.

SCHEDULE II. CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS II, subject to do military duty in the Tenth Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of Schuylkill and Lebanon State of Pennsylvania, enumerated during the month of June, 1863, under direction of Capt. C. J. J. J. Provost Marshal.

RESIDENCE	NAME	AGE 1st July, 1863	WHITE OR COLORED	DESCRIPTION PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE	PLACE OF BIRTH (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
Minersville	1. Hickman Amos	40	White	Blacksmith	Germany		1
"	2. Haggerty Patrick	40	"	Latener	Ireland		2
"	3. King John	42	"	Miner	"		3
"	4. Hopkins Ellsworth	38	"	"	Wales		4
"	5. Holt Daniel	36	"	Butcher	Germany		5
"	6. Hummel Engelhart	39	"	Cabinet Maker	"		6
"	7. Hughes Peter	38	"	Shoemaker	Wales		7
"	8. Harron Ralph	40	"	Miner	England		Alien 8

Ralph Harron, 40; living in Minersville, Schuylkill County, PA, born in England; Remarks: "Alien"

Other Records

Work hard to exhaust all your resources while using American records before you move forward

- Obituaries
- Probate Records
- Social Security Records
- Family Bibles
- Local Newspapers (especially the local news or "gossip" sections for small communities)

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

Immigration Records

Use immigration records to pinpoint your ancestors place of origin

- Records from the early 1800s and older may not exist – check regional histories or books that discuss "early settlers" in the area as an alternative resource
- If you're having trouble locating your ancestor in U.S. passenger lists, check for border crossings from Canada (and potentially Mexico) for those who sailed to Canada before crossing into America
- Colonial immigration records are available in a compilation of information pulled from 500,000 U.S. and Canadian passenger lists from 17th – 19th centuries:
 - *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, William Filby (available at CCPL Genealogy)
- Colonial naturalization and denization records are available for specific colonies or in compilations:
 - *Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775* (available at the Midwest Genealogy Center)

Passenger Lists

- Starting in 1820, the US government mandated the use of passenger lists
- Earlier records are typically indexed or in book form rather than digitized
- Prior to 1900s, mostly handwritten and provide less detail
- Names on these manifests were typically as the passenger provided
 - Any name changes, "Americanization," or significant spelling variations came from the passenger, not the immigration official

- Handwritten records are notorious for having questionable transcribing – *remember to try spelling variations or browsing and filter options when searching for pre-1900s passenger lists*
- Also check **Departure Passenger Lists** for the White Star Line ship company and **incoming passenger lists for British ports**, example seen below

Commonly used arrival ports:

- New York
- Philadelphia
- Baltimore
- New Orleans
- Boston
- Great Lakes

New York Passenger Lists

During the years 1892 – 1924, over 20 million immigrants arrived at New York's Ellis Island

- Statistically, the most likely port used – *so when in doubt, check New York*

Online Resources for Passenger Lists for New York Ports

- Castle Garden (arrivals pre-1892)
- Ellis Island (arrivals 1892–1924)

Example: 1909 Incoming Passenger List, British Passengers Arriving in Londonderry from New York

Name of Ship **CALIFORNIA** Date of arrival **Feb 14 1909** Whence arrived **NEW YORK** Port of Arrival **Londonderry**

Steamship Line **ANCHOR.**

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS.

Port of Embarkation	NAMES OF PASSENGERS. (Passengers holding Contracts should be entered here, and a space left between them and the other Passengers.)	CLASS. (Whether 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers. (In the case of First Class Passengers this column need not be filled up.)
NEW YORK.	Wm M. Ranges	3 ^d	Seaman
	Philip H. Johnson		Labourer
	Agnes Victoria		id
	Thos Jackson		Labourer

Research Note: Don't Forget the Second Page of Post-1900 Passenger Lists

Starting in the 1900s, passenger list forms like the one pictured above had a second page with over twenty additional questions about the passenger.

- These answers provide more contextual information, but some answers may provide clues on:
 - Additional immigration records
 - Relatives already living in the United States
 - The types of records that may be available in their home country (*i.e. the questions about stays at institutions, charitable organizations, or workhouses*)

Colonial Immigration Records

Researching immigrants who arrived in American colonies before 1790 can be difficult, but not impossible

- More often than not, these records are indexed instead of digitized and are not readily available online

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index

"Filby Books" – written by William P. Filby

- Comprehensive index of early passenger lists, 1600s – 1800s
- Arrivals of over 500,000 immigrants to North America and West Indies
- Compilation of source material (books, periodicals, etc.) from repositories all over

Border Crossings

Canada

- From Canada to US: 1895 – 1956 (on Ancestry)
 - US "Ports" include: Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Vermont, Washington
- From US to Canada: 1903 – 1935 (on Ancestry)
 - Most English, some French

Mexico

- From Mexico to US: 1895 – 1964 (on Ancestry)
 - Manifest cards for temporary visits and permanent residence, applications for border crossing ID cards, traveling US citizens

A Note on Canadian Border Crossings

If you searching for an ancestor you believe to have been an immigrant, but struggle to locate a passenger list for them at an American port, try searching for them in Canadian border crossings. *Many immigrants reached America via Canada by sailing there first and crossing the border later.*

Example: 1909 Border Crossing for Benjamin Davies (Canada to United States)

Name: Benjamin Davies

Port: Vancouver, British Columbia

Age: 29 [actually 34] years old, single, dry goods salesman, *Welsh*

Last Residence: Toronto, Canada

Name & Address of closest relative: Bro. [illegible] Davies, Bristol House, R[illegible], Monmouthshire, England

[this location is actually in Wales, though ambiguous at the time]

Form 1-Canada.
WHEN USED RETURN TO 222 ST. ARTHUR ST.
MONTREAL, AT END OF EACH MONTH
Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION
Required by the regulations of Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the U.S.

SHEET NO. 16

PORT OF *Vancouver, B.C.*

No. in List	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Color	Height	Weight	Complexion	Build	Birth	Nationality	Country of which citizen or subject	Place or People	Last Permanent Residence	Country	City or Town	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came	Place of Birth
1	Stewart James	24	M	White	5'10"	150	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
2	Collins James L.	21	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
3	Nell Charles, A.	25	F	White	5'6"	120	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
4	Waller Walter	21	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
5	Waller Adam	21	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
6	Waller Edward	21	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
7	Waller John A.	23	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
8	Waller Mary Olive	21	F	White	5'6"	120	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
9	Waller Carl B.	23	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
10	Waller Earl	25	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
11	Waller Henry	23	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
12	Waller Sam J.	21	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
13	Waller Paul	19	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
14	Waller Benjamin	29	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
15	Waller George	20	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.

16	Waller Benjamin	29	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.
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TO THE UNITED STATES FROM FOREIGN CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY
United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907
MONTH OF *March* 20, 1909
John F.

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Height	Weight	Complexion	Build	Birth	Nationality	Country of which citizen or subject	Place or People	Last Permanent Residence	Country	City or Town	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came	Place of Birth
1	Waller Benjamin	29	M	White	5'8"	140	Fair	Slender	Canada	British	Canada	Ontario	St. Catharines, Ont.	Canada	St. Catharines, Ont.	Mr. J. M. Stewart, 100 St. Catharines, Ont.	St. Catharines, Ont.

[second page]

Date of Arrival: 24 Mar 1909

Previous Visit: 1904–1906, New York; departed 20 July 1906

Birth Place: Swansea, Wales

Colonial Immigration Records

Researching immigrants who arrived in American colonies before 1790 can be difficult, but not impossible

- More often than not, these records are indexed instead of digitized and are not readily available online

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index

“Filby Books” – written by William P. Filby

- Comprehensive index of early passenger lists, 1600s – 1800s
- Arrivals of over 500,000 immigrants to North America and West Indies
- Compilation of source material (books, periodicals, etc.) from repositories all over

Naturalization Records

Records **before 1906** are much less detailed

Pre-1906, naturalization records may include:

- Name, age of immigrant
- Port and date of arrival
- Place of residence
- Country of origin/allegiance

Post-1906, naturalization records typically include:

- Name, birth date and place
- Name of spouse and any children, their birth dates and places, marriage date
- Port and date of arrival, name of vessel
- Occupation
- Physical description
- Residence, last foreign address

The Naturalization Process

1790–1906: “Old Law” Period

- There was no federal oversight over naturalization, each state established its own process
- 5,000 federal, state, and county courts had the authority to grant citizenship, each with their own system

1906: Federal oversight of the process began, establishing the **C-File** (Certificate File) **series**

- Every person naturalized between Sept. 27, 1906, and March 31, 1956, has a Certificate File (“C-File”) with USCIS containing a copy of their Certificate of Naturalization
- Beginning in September 1906, all naturalization courts were required to:
 - *Issue a Certificate of Naturalization to every naturalized **person*** (and name all members of the primary subject’s family who derived citizenship from his or her naturalization);
 - *Create Certificates of Naturalization using standard forms*
 - *Submit a duplicate copy of every Certificate of Naturalization for filing*

1906–1941: Naturalization was a two-step process intended to take at least 5 years

- After living in the US for 2 years, an alien can file “first papers” or a **Declaration of Intent(ion)**
- After an additional 3 years, the applicant could then file a **Petition for Naturalization**
- Both steps did not have to be filed with the same court — typically, whatever court was most convenient
- From 1929-1941, the form also included a photo of the applicant

Petition for Naturalization

- Generally, the **Declaration of Intent** provides more genealogically relevant information for researchers, but in the absence of a Declaration, a **Petition for Naturalization** does provide some information
 - And a Petition may be used to locate a Declaration for an individual if you find it first
- Naturalization record collections online often have both forms for one individual organized together

Affidavits of Witnesses

- On more recent Petitions, witnesses to the information provided by the applicant have recorded their names, occupations, and residences

Exceptions to This Process

"Derivative" Naturalization

- 1790-1922 – wives of naturalized men automatically became naturalized citizens
- 1790-1940 – children under 21 of naturalized individuals automatically became naturalized citizens

Minor Aliens

- 1824 to 1906 – minors living in the US for 5 years before 23rd birthday could file Declaration and Petition simultaneously

Veterans

- 1862 – Honorably discharged could file a Petition without Declaration after 1 year of residence
- 1894 – extended to 5-year veterans of Navy and Marines
- 192,000 veterans naturalized from May 1918 – Jun 1919 without filing Declaration or 5-year residence

Women's Naturalization Records

- From 1907 to 1922: "...any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband..."
- From 1922 on, a woman retained her citizenship unless she formally renounced it
 - Native-born women seeking to regain American citizenship had to file a **Petition for Naturalization**
 - So many women repatriated following the repeal, that a new form was created in 1936: **The Application to Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America**

Colonial Naturalization

- British immigrants were automatically citizens of the colonies; all others had a few ways of becoming naturalized citizens of the colonies
- The US Constitution allowed for the establishment of a uniform naturalization process, prior to that each colony had its own and the process and requirements varied from colony to colony

Most of these early records, if they still exist, are indexes in book format:

- **Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775; Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck**

Example: Declaration of Intention and Petition for Naturalization for Benjamin Davies

The image displays two historical US naturalization forms for Benjamin Davies. The left form is a "DECLARATION OF INTENTION" from 1907, and the right form is a "PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION" from 1907. Both forms are filled out with personal details and signed by Benjamin Davies.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION (Left Form):

- Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof
- United States of America
- In the Western District of Washington
- Benjamin Davies, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color White, complexion Dark, height 5 feet 5 1/2 inches, weight 180 pounds, color of hair Brown, color of eyes Brown, other visible distinctive marks None.
- I was born in Swansea, Wales, anno Domini 1875. I now reside on the 29th day of March, anno Domini 1909 at 916 East John St., Seattle, Wash.
- I emigrated to the United States of America from Vancouver, B.C. on the vessel "Victoria", on or about the 4th day of March, anno Domini 1909. I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein.
- Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court this 29th day of June, anno Domini 1910.

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION (Right Form):

- Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof
- United States of America
- In the Western District of Washington
- Benjamin Davies, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color White, complexion Dark, height 5 feet 5 1/2 inches, weight 180 pounds, color of hair Brown, color of eyes Brown, other visible distinctive marks None.
- I was born in Swansea, Wales, anno Domini 1875. I now reside on the 29th day of March, anno Domini 1909 at 916 East John St., Seattle, Wash.
- I emigrated to the United States of America from Vancouver, B.C. on the vessel "Victoria", on or about the 4th day of March, anno Domini 1909. I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein.
- Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court this 29th day of June, anno Domini 1910.

THE BASICS OF FINDING BRITISH RECORDS

Before Making the Jump to British Records:

- *Familiarize yourself with British geography both past and present; get a map if you need one*
 - Develop a working knowledge of administrative and ecclesiastical parishes, counties, regions, metropolitan boroughs of London, poor law unions, unitary authorities (Wales and Scotland)
 - Be aware of changes in names, borders, and administration, particularly for Wales and Scotland
 - Utilize gazetteers – encyclopedias of place names (towns, villages, parishes, counties), geographical features (rivers, mountains, population), religious denominations and church jurisdictions
 - Names provided will be the accurate to the date of the gazetteer's publishing
- *What to Know About Your Ancestor First:*
 - Have a location, *as specific as possible* (common names may require a parish-specific location)
 - Keep in mind when looking at locations on records: “British” doesn’t necessarily mean “English” and those living in or immigrating from England aren’t necessarily English (they could be Irish, Welsh, or Scottish who have “assimilated”)
 - Know their full name, including any surname spelling variations
 - For common names, try to have enough additional information (*such as parents’ names, spouse’s name, a birth or marriage date, religious denomination, etc.*) to help distinguish your ancestor from the others
 - Have an understanding of naming conventions (i.e. Welsh patronymic names; Scottish clan-related surnames)

Welsh Research

Civil Records

- Civil registration began July 1837, prior to this date, church records are the best source of information
 - These civil records can be searched on *Ancestry* in record collections like “England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915”
- Census records are grouped with England’s at the National Archives, publicly available for 1841–1911
 - Images of these records for Wales can be viewed on *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast*
 - Records for some locations and years of the Welsh Census have been lost or destroyed, check here to see which areas are affected and potential substitutes:
www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wales_Missing_Census_Records
- Wills and Probates dating from 1837-1941 are held at the National Library of Wales
 - You can search their online catalog and their digital collections here:
http://discover.library.wales/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=44WHELP_NLW_VU1

Church Records

- Subject to the jurisdiction of the Church of England or the Anglican Church, record availability mirrors that of England’s
- *Ancestry* has collections of pre-civil registration marriage and christening record indexes based on select church records such as “England & Wales, Christening Index, 1530-1980,” and “Westmorland, England, Extracted Church of England Parish Records”
 - The Card Catalog can be used to search for these collections by typing terms like “Wales” and “church records” into the *keyword* search box
- The National Library of Wales has original marriage bonds and allegations for marriages in Wales and a surname index to them for the years 1616 through 1837
 - Nonconformist records are also held at the NLW and select records are available on *FamilySearch*, including their “England and Wales Non-Conformist Record Indexes, 1588-1977” collection
- Various Welsh parish registers are available on *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast*

Scottish Research

Civil Records

- Civil registration, referred to as “Statutory Registers,” began in 1855
 - Civil parishes became known as *Registration Districts*
 - Births, marriages, and deaths were all recorded by district, divorces were not recorded in this way until 1984
 - If a child was born out of wedlock, the father’s name was not included in the register unless permission was granted and the father acknowledged the child; such children were registered under the father’s surname with the word “illegitimate” after the child’s name (until 1918)
 - These records can help establish information for those born prior to that date such as birth dates, locations, etc.
- The Scottish census is available for 1841–1911 online
- *Ancestry* has transcriptions of the census; *ScotlandsPeople* has the digitized images
 - both are subscription databases, though *Ancestry Library Edition* can be accessed for free from a CCPL library computer

Church Records

- Until 1560, the Roman Catholic Church was the state church, *few early records survive*
- During the 1600s, the state church was the Episcopal Church, *few early records survive*
- In 1690, the Presbyterian Church was permanently established as the Church of Scotland
- In general, records created prior to the 1700s are limited depending on the parish and burials are inconsistently recorded
 - Cemetery records can serve as an alternative resource
- *Nonconformist Denominations* include *Seceders* (Presbyterian, but not belonging to the Church of Scotland) and *Dissenters* (Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Quaker, Baptist, Methodist, etc.)
 - *Records for these groups were either not kept, not well or consistently kept, or do not survive*
- *ScotlandsPeople* is the most significant database for Scottish church records online, but select collections are available on FamilySearch
- For more information regarding the location and availability of records by parish, visit FamilySearch’s Scotland Church Records Union Lists: www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Scotland_Church_Records_Union_Lists

BRITISH CHURCH RECORDS

Anglican Church (Church of England)

State church, established in 1534

- A law passed in 1537 mandated the recording of baptisms, marriages, and burials – in theory universal records should begin (not all records still exist and/or are accessible remotely)
- Priests recorded these events in registers and kept them at the parish level
- In 1598, ministers were required to copy their registers onto parchment – if, for whatever reason, he did not do so, the records for that parish from that time may not have survived
- The majority of these records are handwritten; some of these registers have been digitized and are available online, many (but not all) records have been transferred onto microfilm

Baptism/Christening Registers

- Typically recorded in bound register books with blank pages (all baptisms, marriages, and burials may have been recorded in the same register)
 - Beginning in 1812, preprinted registers were used, with baptisms, marriages, and burials recorded in separate registers
- Information provided includes the date of baptism, child’s first name, surname, both parents’ first names
- Children born out of wedlock may be recorded as “base born son of” and then the mother’s first and last name

Example: 1761 Baptism Register

1761. Baptized Page 2

January 4	from	William base-born Son of Mary Crow
25	from	John Son of Edward & Alice
February 15	Titchener	Edward Son of Edward & Sarah
15	Cobet	John Son of Michael & Elizabeth
March 1	Seymour	Richard Son of John & Elizabeth
May 3	Chitty	Hannah D. of Edward & Hannah
15	Glover	George Son of Samuel & Martha
24	Coboy	John Son of John & Sarah
June 14	Elbridge	Sarah D. of William & Sarah
April 19	Willick	William Son of Richard & Mary
July 24	Belshamen	Elizabeth D. of James & Susan
August 16	Outram	Sarah D. of Isaac & Sarah
November 24	Hiles	Henry Son of Joseph & Mary
December 9	Loveland	Thomas & Edward Sons of John & John
22	Ferninger	John Son of Thomas & Mary
27	Formain	Edward Son of Edward & Ann
March 11	Loveland	Elizabeth D. of John & Thomas
October 25	Whitman	John Son of John & Mary

John Lewis Jones Decon

1761. Baptized Page 2

January 4	from	William base-born Son of Mary Crow
25	from	John Son of Edward & Alice
February 15	Titchener	Edward Son of Edward & Sarah
15	Cobet	John Son of Michael & Elizabeth
	Seymour	Richard Son of John & Elizabeth

Name: Edward Titchener

Baptized: 15 Feb 1761

Father: Edward Titchener

Mother: Sarah

Parish: Limpsfield, St Peter, Surrey, England

Marriage Banns

- Beginning in 1754, banns of marriage were public intentions to marry, typically read for three consecutive Sundays in advance (in both the bride and groom's parishes)
 - This process provided the opportunity for anyone with knowledge of a legal or canonical impediment to the marriage to present that information
 - From that date, all marriage records were kept in their own register separate from other recorded events

Example: 1867 Marriage Register

Married: 1 June 1867

Parish: St. Paul,
Deptford, Lewisham,
England

Groom: Edward William
Titchener

Bride: Elizabeth Stone

1867 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St Paul, Deptford, the County of Kent

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
490	June 1	Edward William Titchener	Full	Single	Clerk	Of this Parish	Edward Titchener	Sliding
		Elizabeth Stone	Full	Single	Housewife	do	John Charles Stone	Warehouseman

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by License or after

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Edward William Titchener in the Presence of us, John Charles Stone by me, P. S. Spink

Fathers' Names: Edward Titchener; John Charles Stone

Parish: Limpsfield, St Peter, Surrey, England

Marriage Licenses

- Licenses were typically applied for instead of a bann for a few reasons
 - When circumstances made it necessary to marry immediately rather than waiting three weeks for the proclamation of a bann to be completed

- 11

- This includes information regarding the care of the poor, vestry minutes, apprenticeship records, settlement examinations, removal orders, etc.
- Some date as far back as 1500s, but many parishes' records do not begin until the late 18th century
- The Vestry (composed of church wardens and various notable parishioners) was the forerunner to the town council for an individual parish
 - It had duties and functions both ecclesiastical and civil including the upkeep of local roads, the care of the sick and poor in their community, handling fees for burials, housing, setting parish rates etc.
 - This parish business was recorded in Vestry Minutes books
- Many of these records are available at county record offices, some are available online

Nonconformist Denominations

- When civil registration began in 1837, the General Register Office began collecting Nonconformist registers which are now kept at the UK National Archives.
 - Nonconformist birth, marriage and death registers 1567-1970
 - The bulk of this collection covers **Protestant** and **Catholic** registers from the 18th and early 19th centuries recorded in England and Wales, but also includes some Quaker, Methodist, Baptist, and others.
 - These registers can be searched and viewed at: www.thegenealogist.co.uk/non-conformist-records (paid subscription database for UK research)

Catholic Church Records

- Between 1581 and 1778, it was illegal to practice Catholicism in England, though some Londoners were exempt (embassies)
 - Because of this, records during this time were often not kept or are no longer extant (with the partial exception of Ireland)
- Instead of parishes, beginning in 1700 the English Catholic church was organized in local *missions*; a system of diocese and archdiocese did not exist until 1850
 - A majority of the records that still exist were created after 1850
- In general, Catholic baptisms occurred much sooner compared to other denominations, often on the same day or the day after the date of birth

Quaker (Society of Friends) Records

- Quakers were the only Nonconformists whose marriages were deemed legal between 1754 and 1837
 - Quaker marriage records are often very detailed (names of both sets of parents and their residences, the addition of any children or grandchildren's names to the official copy in the register, etc.) and include the names of all witnesses, even those who weren't Quakers.
- Unlike in the Anglican Church at the time, marriage between first cousins was prohibited by Quakers
- Quaker burials regularly occurred in their own burial grounds or in local orchards and gardens, so it is unlikely a Quaker ancestor will be found in Anglican cemeteries
 - These burials are recorded in both the quarterly meeting records and in the monthly meeting where the burial took place (another might be sent to the home meeting of the individual if different from the aforementioned locations)
 - Rather than a standard burial record, you may instead find instructions for the preparation of the grave of the individual signed off by the meeting's registrar

*The majority of early Quaker records prior to 1837, such as minute books, digests, and registers, are **held by the UK National Archives** with records from other Nonconformist denominations; available for view on www.thegenealogist.co.uk (paid subscription database)*

Irish Church Records

National Library of Ireland (NLI) Parish Database

<http://registers.nli.ie>

- Includes Ireland and Northern Ireland

- Marriage and baptismal records, 1740s - 1880s.
- Covers 1,091 parishes
- Provides interactive parish map
- Nearly 400,000 digitized images of original registers
- *Church of Ireland* (state church from 1536-1869)
 - A guide to existing registers and additional genealogy resources are available on the church website (www.ireland.anglican.org)
- *Quakers*
 - Records exist from late 1600s to present, available offline through the *Dublin Friends Historical Library*, (<https://quakers-in-ireland.ie/historical-library>)
 - Limited records are online through www.findmypast.ie (paid subscription website)
- *Presbyterian*
 - Mostly in Northern Ireland, congregational records start in early 1800s, kept locally by ministers
 - Copies at PRONI - www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

BRITISH CIVIL RECORDS

Census Records

Taken every ten years since 1801 (with the exception of 1941 due to WWII)

- 1841-1911 are publicly available, more recent censuses are not accessible due to privacy restrictions
 - England and Wales are grouped together
 - Scottish and Irish censuses are held separately (Scotland's People www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk (paid) and the National Archives of Ireland www.census.nationalarchives.ie (free))
 - The censuses for all are available in some form on Ancestry
- 1841 was the first year where the census lists the name of every individual in the household

Example: 1881 England Census

Name: Sarah Duffy, 8

Step-daughter to head of house

Born: Bilston, Staffordshire (mother born in Ireland)

Residence: Bilston, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England (Parish: St. Mary's)

Household: Lives with step-father Michael McNicholas, 31, mother Mary, 26 (first married name Duffy), and her two full siblings, Mary A., 5, and

Page 8

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Religious Parish or District of		
Bilston			Wolverhampton	Bilston	Bilston		St. Mary's		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES The number of Houses in the Building (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
34	Check 11 (main street)	1	John Ward	Head	Mar	51	Gardener	Stafford Tamworth	
			Mary	Wife	Mar	52		Stafford Lichfield	
38	12	8	Michael McNicholas	Head	Mar	31	Engine Fitter (employing 2 boys)	Stafford Bilston	
			Mary	Wife	Mar	26	Primarily a Teacher	Ireland	
			Sarah Duffy	Step-daughter		8	Scholar	Stafford Bilston	
			Mary A.	Step-daughter		5	Scholar	Ireland	
			John	Step-son		11	Scholar	Ireland	
39	13	8	Mary Helen	Head	Mar	37	Housekeeper	Ireland	
			John McNicholas	Head	Mar	31	Engine Fitter & Engineer	Ireland	
41		120	John McNicholas	Head	Mar	31	Engine Fitter & Engineer	Ireland	
41	15	8	John Cooper	Head	Mar	52	Coal Miner (Black Stoner)	Stafford Bilston	
			Mary A.	Wife	Mar	52		Stafford Bilston	
			John Cooper	Son		10		Ireland	
42			John Cooper	Head	Mar	52	Coal Miner	Stafford Bilston	
			Mary A.	Wife	Mar	52		Stafford Bilston	
			Thomas A.	Son	Mar	16	Coal Miner	Stafford Bilston	
			Sarah A.	Daughter	Mar	16	Coal Miner	Stafford Bilston	
			John A.	Son	Mar	13	Scholar	Stafford Bilston	
			John A.	Son	Mar	10	Scholar	Stafford Bilston	
43	16	8	John A.	Head	Mar	52	Coal Miner	Stafford Bilston	
			Mary A.	Wife	Mar	52		Stafford Bilston	
			John A.	Son	Mar	27	Coal Miner	Stafford Bilston	
			Mary A.	Daughter	Mar	11	Coal Miner	Stafford Bilston	

Page 8]

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Religious Parish or District of
<i>Bilston</i>			<i>Wolverhampton</i>	<i>Bilston</i>	<i>Bilston</i>		<i>St. Mary's</i>

No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES The number of Houses in the Building (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	IN			
									(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Imbecile or Idiot	(4) Lunatic
34	<i>Check 11 (main street)</i>	1	<i>John Ward</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	51	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Stafford Tamworth</i>				
			<i>Mary</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	52		<i>Stafford Lichfield</i>				
38	12	8	<i>Michael McNicholas</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	31	<i>Engine Fitter (employing 2 boys)</i>	<i>Stafford Bilston</i>				
			<i>Mary</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	26	<i>Primarily a Teacher</i>	<i>Ireland</i>				
			<i>Sarah Duffy</i>	<i>Step-daughter</i>		8	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Stafford Bilston</i>				
			<i>Mary A.</i>	<i>Step-daughter</i>		5	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Ireland</i>				
			<i>Patrick</i>	<i>Step-son</i>		11	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Ireland</i>				
39	13	8	<i>Mary Helen</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	37	<i>Housekeeper</i>	<i>Ireland</i>				

Things to keep in mind when researching with the census in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland:

- Ages may be inaccurate (*in general*, but also consider that they are asking for *age as of last birthday*, which can fluctuate depending on where the enumeration falls in relation to their birthday)
- Given names may be inconsistent with names recorded in church or other civil records for an individual
- Names may be spelled as they sound
- Place names may be misspelled
- Compare multiple years of the census to locate family members who may be living apart from the family or have died between census
 - i.e. older siblings who have moved out and are living as servants or borders elsewhere in the area
- The 1841 and 1861 censuses are notorious for being difficult to read due to faint and illegible writing

Approach the British census in the same way you would the U.S. census:

- Compare multiple years to glean additional information as the family and the questionnaire changes
- Use clues from the census to locate other records
 - i.e. Using Sarah Duffy's 1881 census (above) to locate her birth father's death record, or Mary Duffy and her first husband's marriage record, or even Mary's immigration information and the records she generated in Ireland where she was born

A guide to Census records can be found here: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/census-records

1939 National Register

- Taken on 29 September 1939, covers the populations of England and Wales
 - Information enumerated is very similar to a census
- 40 million people recorded
 - The record for anyone born less than 100 years ago is closed due to privacy restrictions
 - Includes members of the armed forces on leave and civilians living on military bases
 - *Does not include* the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Scotland, or Northern Ireland
- The information recorded was used to create Identity Cards
 - Connected to the issuing of ration books, administer conscription and division of labor, and to monitor population migrations after WWII

The 1939 National Register is available on www.findmypast.co.uk, free to search, but viewing requires a subscription
You can learn more about the 1939 Register by watching www.youtube.com/watch?v=25bGiXLo8Yk

Civil Registration

- Universal civil registration began:
 - In 1837 for England and Wales
 - In 1855 for Scotland
 - The universal civil registration indexes for Ireland begin in 1864
 - Non-Catholic registration began earlier in 1845
 - Beginning in 1922 there were two separate General Register Offices: one in Dublin for Ireland, another in Belfast for N. Ireland
- Registration Indexes
 - Birth, marriage, and death registers are most readily available in index form
 - Can be searched and viewed on *Ancestry*
 - Organized alphabetically by surname, then given name and may provide a variety of information based on the type of index and the time frame:
 - The registration district in which the event was recorded
 - Mother's maiden name may be provided in birth registers
 - Both the groom and the bride's full name is provided on marriage registers

- The exact date isn't given, but the index will tell you the three-month range or the "quarter" in which the birth, marriage or death was recorded
- *The volume and page number given is the location of the original – you will need this to request a copy of the certificate that will have more detailed information (see below)*

Example: Civil Registration Birth Index for Births Registered in July, August, & September of 1860

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1860								HEP-HER	
NAME		SUP REGISTRARS DISTRICT	VOL	PAGE	NAME		SUP REGISTRARS DISTRICT	VOL	PAGE
HEPWORTH	Walter	Dewsbury	9b	450	HERDSMAN	John	Hull	9d	186
HERALD	Susanna	Whitehaven	10b	504	HERENS	Bridget	Prescot	8b	464
HERAPALH	Hannah Roach	Barnstaple	5b	441	HERINSHAW	Esther	Runcorn	8a	179
HERB	William Henry	Pancras	1b	146	HERIOT	Jane Elizabeth	Islington	1b	264
HERBER	William Henry	W Ham	4a	37	HERITAGE	Emily Kate	Warwick	6d	455
HERBERT	Adelaide Louisa	Pancras	1b	133		Frederick William	Frome	5c	530
	Agnes Fanny	Shipston	6d	515		Harry	Lewisham	1d	641
	Alfred Arthur	Islington	1b	184		Jemima	Uxbridge	3a	28
	Amelia	Southampton	2c	23		Mary Ellen	Nottingham	7b	207
	Amelia Ann	W Ham	4a	1		Thomas	Birmingham	6d	63

William Henry Herber, registered in the District of West Ham; Vol. 4a, Page 37 (see certificate below)

Certificates

- For a fee, a certified copy of the recorded birth, marriage, or death can be requested through the General Register Office (GRO) (www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate)
- A certificate will provide more details than the index – as you can see below
 - *This process varies for Scotland:* www.nrscotland.gov.uk/registration/how-to-order-an-official-extract-from-the-registers
 - *And Northern Ireland:* www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/ordering-life-event-certificates

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON.

Application Number...165M.6.....

REGISTRATION DISTRICT West Ham

1860. BIRTH in the Sub-district of Keyton in the County of Essex

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
216	Sixteenth June 1860 New Winstead	William Henry	Boy	Bernard Herber	Emily Mary Herber formerly Valente	Fielder master	x the mark of Emily Mary Herber - mother New Winstead	Sixteenth July 1860	A. Parkett Registrar	—

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 26th day of April 1979.

BC 974489

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953.
Section 24 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.
CAUTION—Any person who (1) fabricates any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate, as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

Poor Law Records

- Poor Law workhouses established in 1834 by the Poor Law Amendment Act
 - These workhouses in the UK are similar to county homes or poor farms in the US
 - The workhouse system was abolished in 1930, some workhouses repurposed as Public Assistance Institutions controlled by local county councils
 - Records associated with Poor Law Workhouses include medical records, registers, administration papers – *though existing records can be hard to locate*

- Each Poor Law Union had its own workhouse
 - Prior to this, relief was provided inconsistently by almshouses, hospitals, poor houses, churches, and orphanages; the quality and accessibility of relief varied by parish
- Orphaned children, the physically and mentally ill, the disabled, the elderly, and unmarried mothers also lived and worked in these workhouses

Learn more about Poor Law Workhouses and their records here: www.workhouses.org.uk

Example: 1883 Order for the Reception of a Pauper Patient

16 and 17 Vic. Cap. 97—Sched. F. No. 1.

ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF A PAUPER PATIENT.

I, Henry W. Fawcett, Knight, being the undersigned, having called to my assistance a Surgeon, and having personally examined Charles Edwin Litton, a Pauper, and being satisfied that the said is a person of unsound mind, and a proper person to be taken charge of and detained under Care and Treatment, hereby direct you to receive the said as a Patient into your Asylum.

Subjoined is a Statement respecting the said Charles Edwin Litton

(Signed) H. W. Fawcett

(Signed) A Justice of the Peace for the County of Middlesex.

Dated the 27th day of April One Thousand Eight Hundred and eighty three

To _____ of _____

STATEMENT.

If any Particulars in this Statement be not known, the Fact to be so stated.

Name of Patient, and Christian Name at length ... Charles Edwin Litton

Sex and Age ... male 36 years

Married, Single, or Widowed ... married

Condition of Life, and previous Occupation (if any) ... Harness maker

The Religious Persuasion, as far as known ... Church of England

Previous Place of Abode ... 30 Regent Street Chelsea S.W.

Whether first Attack ... yes

Age (if known) on first Attack ... about 36 years

When and Where previously under Care and Treatment ... not anywhere

Duration of existing Attack ... about one week

Supposed Cause ... not known

Whether subject to Epilepsy ... no

Whether Suicidal ... no

Whether Dangerous to others ... no

Parish or Union to which the Lunatic is chargeable ... St. Luke Chelsea

Name and Christian Name, and Place of Abode of the nearest known Relative of the Patient, and Degree of Relationship, if known ... Elizabeth Litton (wife) 30 Regent Street Chelsea

Removed to ... Asylum, 183

Whether of Clean or Dirty Habits ...

How long supposed to be of Unsound Mind ...

(Signed) H. W. Fawcett

Relieving Officer, St. Luke, Chelsea.

London: KIMBELL and CO., 40 Fleet Street, W.C.2.

STATEMENT.

If any Particulars in this Statement be not known, the Fact to be so stated.

Name of Patient, and Christian Name at length ... Charles Edwin Litton

Sex and Age ... male 36 years

Married, Single, or Widowed ... married

Condition of Life, and previous Occupation (if any) ... Harness maker

The Religious Persuasion, as far as known ... Church of England

Previous Place of Abode ... 30 Regent Street Chelsea S.W.

Whether first Attack ... yes

Age (if known) on first Attack ... about 36 years

When and Where previously under Care and Treatment ... not anywhere

Duration of existing Attack ... about one week

Supposed Cause ... not known

Whether subject to Epilepsy ... no

Whether Suicidal ... no

Whether Dangerous to others ... no

Parish or Union to which the Lunatic is chargeable ... St. Luke Chelsea

Name and Christian Name, and Place of Abode of the nearest known Relative of the Patient, and Degree of Relationship, if known ... Elizabeth Litton (wife) 30 Regent Street Chelsea

Removed to ... Asylum, 183

Whether of Clean or Dirty Habits ...

How long supposed to be of Unsound Mind ...

Name of Patient, and Christian Name at length: Charles Edwin Litton

Sex and Age: male, 36

Condition of Life, and previous Occupation (if any): Harness maker

Religious Persuasion, as far as known: Church of England

Previous Place of Abode: 30 Regent Street, Chelsea, England

Parish or Union to which the Lunatic is chargeable: St. Ruth, Chelsea

Nearest Known Relative: Elizabeth Litton, wife [same address]

Military Service Records

- In general, service was through the British military, even for those who were Irish, Scottish, or Welsh
 - Because of this, these service records are held at the UK National Archives, some collections have digital images of the records available for a fee
- Compiled service records and miscellaneous record collections are available across all branches of the military, including:
 - The British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Marines, Merchant Seamen, wills, medals and honors
 - Online record collections can be searched or browsed (and obtained for a fee) with the catalog here: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

A research guide to Scottish military records is available here:

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/military-records

Example: 1867 Continuous Service Engagement (Royal British Navy)

<p>Christian and Surname in full..... <u>William Clarke</u></p> <p>Place Born..... (If born out of Her Majesty's Dominions it must be stated whether the parentage is British Subjects; Foreigners not being allowed to volunteer for Continuous Service.) <u>Skibbereny Cork.</u></p> <p>Date of Birth..... (Great care is to be taken that the date is correctly stated; and a careful examination is to be made of the written Documents produced by Boys in support of their alleged age, in order to ascertain that they have not been tampered with. <i>File, Post Note, Chap. 12, Art. 2, Page 78, Admiralty Instructions.</i>) <u>19 March 1852.</u></p>		<p>No. 197. <u>2666</u> B</p> <p>Continuous Service Engagement.</p> <p>Men or Boys enter for Continuous and General Service, (C&G) Commanding Officers are immediately to fill up this Form, and to transmit it to the Accountant-General of the Navy, at the end of the Month, with the List of Engagements executed. (Form, No. 41, side Taylor's Instructions, Page 40, Article 120, Clause 7.)</p> <p>Christian and Surname in full..... <u>William Clarke</u></p> <p>Place Born..... (If born out of Her Majesty's Dominions it must be stated whether the parentage is British Subjects; Foreigners not being allowed to volunteer for Continuous Service.) <u>Skibbereny Cork.</u></p> <p>Date of Birth..... (Great care is to be taken that the date is correctly stated; and a careful examination is to be made of the written Documents produced by Boys in support of their alleged age, in order to ascertain that they have not been tampered with. <i>File, Post Note, Chap. 12, Art. 2, Page 78, Admiralty Instructions.</i>) <u>19 March 1852.</u></p>	
<p>Place in which he Volunteers..... <u>Mersey</u> and No. on Ship's Books <u>15. A. 215</u></p> <p>Date of Entry in Do..... <u>4 September 1867.</u></p> <p>Date in Do..... <u>May 2nd 1868</u></p> <p>Date of actually Volunteering for Continuous Service..... <u>4 September 1867.</u></p> <p>Termination of Engagement..... <u>19 March 1870.</u></p> <p>Date of ditto..... <u>Ten Years</u></p> <p><u>Extended from 19 March 1880 for 10 years</u></p>		<p>Height <u>5-1</u> Complexion <u>Fair</u></p> <p>Hair <u>Light Brown</u> Eyes <u>Blue</u></p> <p>Marks <u>Burn on left Hand</u></p> <p>Place in which he Volunteers..... <u>Mersey</u> and No. on Ship's Books <u>15. A. 215</u></p> <p>Date of Entry in Do..... <u>4 September 1867.</u></p> <p>Date in Do..... <u>May 2nd 1868</u></p> <p>Date of actually Volunteering for Continuous Service..... <u>4 September 1867.</u></p> <p>Termination of Engagement..... <u>19 March 1870.</u></p> <p>Date of ditto..... <u>Ten Years</u></p> <p><u>Extended from 19 March 1880 for 10 years</u></p> <p>Of all former Service in the Navy, as Seaman or Boy, with names of dates of Entry and Discharge; Men also served in Dockyards, or Revenue Vessels, the names Dockyards, Coastguard Stations, and Vessels, with period of Service, to be</p> <p><u>See Register of Service</u></p> <p><u>First Entry</u></p>	

BRITISH COURT RECORDS

County Records

The majority of court records available to the public are kept at the National Archives

- Petty sessions courts
 - Dealt with minor local matters, presided over by a justice of the peace (now referred to as *magistrate courts*)
 - Magistrate courts deal with 95% of the less serious "summary" offenses, such as loitering, disorderly conduct, etc., which can be handled without a jury trial
 - Available records include court registers (including juvenile and youth courts), pardons, and bail registers
- Quarter sessions courts
 - Held until 1972, met four times a year, dealt with various offenses
- Assize courts
 - Held periodically until 1972, heard serious criminal cases
- Crown courts
 - Began in 1972 after the abolition of assize and quarter sessions courts, hears serious offenses such as robbery, murder and other indictable offenses; 90 courts in England and Wales
 - Available records include indictments, case files, and transcripts, held at the National Archives
- Coroner's courts
 - Inquiries held by county coroner, most records are not yet digitized online

Example: January 1, 1861, Epiphany Quarter Sessions, Gloucester

County of Gloucester

20

Hearings of all Persons Committed, or Bailed to appear for Trial, or Indicted at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions held at Gloucester on the first day of January 1861, showing the nature of their Offences, and the result of the Proceedings.

No.	NAMES	Offence of which these Trials were Granted or Accepted, and of which those Discharged without Trial were charged on Indictment or Committed	Birth	Period Sentence	Imprisonment (Time or Fine)	Whipped, Fined, or Discharged in Remand	Acquitted and Discharged
1	Patrick Madigan	Larceny - previous conviction of Felony		4 years			
2	James Ballinger	Larceny - previous conviction of Felony		4 years			
3	Henry Clarke	Larceny - previous conviction of Felony		4 years			
4	William Domes	Larceny from his Master		4 years			
5	James Madigan	Larceny from his Master - previous conviction of Felony		18 months hard labour			
6	William Madigan	Unlawfully reflecting grievous bodily harm		18 months hard labour			
7	John Madigan	Receiving stolen Goods knowing same to have been stolen		12 months hard labour			
8	James Madigan	Larceny from his Master and Larceny - Felony		18 months hard labour			
9	Robert Carbridge	Larceny		18 months hard labour			
10	Henry Clarke	Larceny - previous conviction of Felony		4 years			
11	William Domes	Larceny from his Master		4 years			
12	John Madigan	Larceny		18 months hard labour			
13	Thomas Madigan	Larceny from his Master		18 months hard labour			
14	Charles Madigan	Larceny from his Master		18 months hard labour			

Name: Henry Clarke

Offence: Larceny, previous conviction of felony

Convicted and Sentenced: Imprisonment: 14 days hard labor and at the expiration thereof to be sent to the Reformatory School at Hardwick for 3 years

Criminal Records

- These records include gaol and prison registers, Quarter Sessions criminal registers, convict transportation registers (to both Australia and America)
 - Inmate records often provide a detailed description and a photo of the individual
 - These records can help establish your ancestor's location, may provide information similar in detail to a census record
 - Availability of criminal records varies for location; record collections (i.e. England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892) are available on Ancestry, FamilySearch, and FindMyPast

Name Given: Patrick Lemon

Parish and County where born: Dublin

Trade or Occupation: none

Education: R & W

Religion: R.C.

Age: 24 years

Complexion: Fresh

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Dark Brown

Height: 5 ft, 9 inches

Make: Ordinary

MARKS ON PERSON: [Drawing of a mark]

OBSERVATIONS: D on left side, altered into a flag. The red marks denote the alterations

Example: Gaol Register

Name: Patrick Lemon

As stated by prisoner:

Parish and County where born: Dublin, Ireland

Trade or Occupation: none

Education: R & W [can read and write]

Religion: R.C. [Roman Catholic]

Age: 24 years

Complexion: Fresh

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Dark Brown

Height: 5 ft, 9 inches

Make: Ordinary

Observations: D on left side, altered into a flag. The red marks denote the alterations [a drawing of the mark described here is under Marks on Person]

Other Court Records Resources

- Published court records are available at the Family History Library or by searching for copies of those titles held at other libraries through WorldCat (www.worldcat.org)
- Family History Library holdings on FamilySearch: (<https://familysearch.org/catalog/search> – Enter *England* (or *Ireland, Wales, Scotland*) into *Place* search form and locate *England – Court Records* in results for book titles)

DATABASES AND REPOSITORIES

National Archives of the United Kingdom

Home Page: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Record Collection Catalog: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Research Guides: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides

General Register Office (GRO)

Home Page: www.gro.gov.uk/gro

Order and Search for Records Online: www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp

FAQs: [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/most customers want to know.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/most_customers_want_to_know.asp)

Welsh Genealogy Resources

National Library of Wales (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru)

Home Page: www.llgc.org.uk

Help for Family Historians: www.llgc.org.uk/en/information-for/family-historians/help

Search the Archives: www.llgc.org.uk/en/discover/search

Submitting Research Inquiries: www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=147

Scottish Genealogy Resources

The Scottish Genealogy Society: www.scotsgenealogy.com

National Library of Scotland

Home Page: www.nls.uk

Family History: www.nls.uk/family-history

FAQs for Scottish Research: www.nls.uk/family-history/questions

National Records of Scotland

Home Page: www.nrscotland.gov.uk

Ordering Certificates: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/registration

Research Guides: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides

Researching Online: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/researching-online

ScotlandsPeople (paid subscription database)

Home Page: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Subscription fees: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/our-charges

Irish Genealogy Resources

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

Home Page: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

Search Online: www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni/search-archives-online

Search General Records Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI): <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk>
About the PRONI eCatalogues: www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-proni-catalogues-and-ecatalogue

Irish Ancestry Database (Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)

Home Page: www.irishgenealogy.ie/en

Irish Records: What is Available?: www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/irish-records-what-is-available/civil-records

Search Church Records: <https://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords>

Search Civil Registrations: <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>

Databases and Resources Links: www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/useful-links

Additional Resources

FindMyPast (paid subscription database)

Home Page: www.findmypast.com

Subscription fees: www.findmypast.com/pay

The Genealogist (paid subscription database)

Home Page: www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Subscription fees: www.thegenealogist.co.uk/compare

The British Newspaper Archive (paid subscription database)

Home Page: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Subscription fees: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/account/subscribe

Visit the library's locations page (www.casscolibrary.org/locations) for CCPL Genealogy's location, contact information, and hours of operation.

Information regarding our digital collections, access to online databases, submitting inquiries, and more, can be found on Cass County Public Library's Genealogy Resources page, located here: www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy

Send Research Inquiries to:

askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Cass County Public Library – Genealogy Branch
400 E. Mechanic St. Harrisonville, MO – 816.884.6285

