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# THE SPECIAL STUDIES IN GENEALOGY



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# SOME SPECIAL STUDIES IN GENEALOGY



I. AMERICAN  
EMIGRANTS.  
HOW TO TRACE  
THEIR ENGLISH  
ANCESTRY, } By GERALD FOTHERGILL

II. THE QUAKER  
RECORDS, } By JOSIAH NEWMAN,  
*F.R. Hist. Soc.*

III. THE GENEALOGY  
OF THE SUB-  
MERGED, } By CHAS. A. BERNAU



1908.

CHAS. A. BERNAU, WALTON-ON-THAMES, ENGLAND.

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HAROLD KART  
ERICIAH  
UNIVERSITY  
ALAH

# I.

## Emigrants to America. How to Trace their English Ancestry,

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[It was only the fact that the existing text-books do not contain references to some of the sources of information by which a settler in America may be connected with his ancestors in England, that decided the author of these poor hints to put his pen to paper. Wills as evidence in genealogical research are of the greatest authority, but it is pointed out in the following pages that many other documents contain mention of relatives in America ; a second reason was to draw attention to some lists of those who were *likely* to emigrate.

This chapter does not presume to do away with the need of consulting the older books, such as those of Messrs. Scargill-Bird, Sims, Rye and Phillimore, for all of these may be used advantageously in conjunction with it.

If the following few words of advice help any to find his English ancestry the author will feel well repaid. He will at all times be glad to have any errors or omissions pointed out to him.]

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The study of one's pedigree and a knowledge of such biographical facts as can be gathered about our ancestors has a great fascination for many.

**Americans  
and  
Genealogy.**

This is especially so with those whose forebears have left an old country, possessed of a glorious history, and settled in one that has become of great power and a leader in all that makes for civilization. Love of ancestry, that has become so general in America, is surely handed down from the time when the settler in his declining days would tell his children, or maybe grandchildren, about the parents and home in England. We can imagine that he would not speak only of his relations,



but of the customs, forms of local government, and the religious controversy of the times.

The object of this chapter is to explain in non-technical language how the connection between the settler and his English ancestors may be traced, and how indeed the actual house in which they lived may sometimes be found. Could anything be of more speaking interest than a photograph of the house that the emigrant left but loved so well?

## **The First Step.**

Success in finding an English ancestry greatly depends on the amount of knowledge possessed about the emigrant, so that the first step to take is to discover all we can in America about him.

Every scrap of information as to the emigrant and his immediate family should be collected and critically analyzed as to its value. Lucky is the gleaner who knows

the place in England whence his ancestor came, for his chances of compiling an interesting pedigree are excellent. A searcher after a man bearing a rare surname has a good chance, as has one with a knowledge of the Christian names of the brothers and sisters or children of the emigrant. A knowledge of the fact that some of the children were born in England before the departure is a very great help. The worst position to be in is to know none of these data, for so much depends on identity. It should be remembered that it is very often possible to find scores of people in England with the same names as the emigrant, in which case our only chance is to find the settler mentioned in some record as being in America with his English relations or home stated.

When the searcher has made up his mind that he has gathered every fact that can be got from wills, deeds, court files and

family papers, it is time to consider research in England. On the answer to the above points as to knowledge of the settler will depend whether the research in England is to be a matter of a few days, months or even years.

It has to be decided then whether one will visit England and do the record searching oneself or employ a recognized record agent. If the reader decides to make the investigation it is hoped that these hints will be of some use, and, if an agent is employed, it will help one to understand what he is doing.

**Custom  
House  
Records:**

In theory, it should be an easy matter to find out who every emigrant was, for by law it was incumbent on one of the officers of every custom house to record details as to age, residence and trade of every emigrant. Early in the nineteenth century these books of registra-

tion of emigrants were ordered to be brought to London and deposited in the Custom House, but this building was burnt down in 1814, and the records destroyed.

**Licences to  
pass beyond  
the Seas.**

These custom house ship-passenger lists are not to be confused with the Licences - to - pass - beyond - the - Seas amongst the Exchequer records, King's Remembrancer side. They are of great value as they give age, home, trade, and destination of the emigrant. In the early years of the emigration the licences issued direct from the King, but in the fifth year of Charles I. (1629/30) the power was delegated. Before the licence was granted, oaths had to be taken that the applicants were neither subsidy men nor nonconformists. For some reason not known to us at the present time, very few of the books in which the grants of the licences were recorded have been preserved. Those that

exist were printed by Hotten in his "Original Lists of Emigrants," but only as regards those who said they were going to America. It is a pity he did not include the others, as many who, for political reasons, could not obtain a licence to emigrate to America, were able to get a pass to visit such places as Leyden, Amsterdam or Rotterdam, and, when once out of England, they could pass on to the New World. These licences are now being printed in the pages of that standard magazine of English genealogy called "The Genealogist."

## **Passenger Lists.**

The author of this chapter has in his possession passenger lists for 1773, 1774 and 1775, containing details of emigration of nearly 6,000 persons, lists of Jacobite rebels transported after 1715 and 1745, lists of felons transported, and a very large general collection of connecting links for emigrants.

It is still hoped that some other lists of emigrants may be found, and lately clues have come to light that other early lists do exist.

Having made sure that the link has not been printed in the "Register of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society," or in any of the many other journals and books published in the States, we refer to Hotten, and discover whether the licence of our ancestor has been preserved. "A List of Emigrant Ministers to America" can be searched sometimes with advantage. If these books do not help, try the list in the "Genealogist," and then those unprinted lists in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, can be examined.

Collections of Emigrants failing us, we can turn our attention to lists of those likely to emigrate. Of these, perhaps, the most probable to contain the names of emigrants

## **The Ship Money Tax.**

are the assessments for payment of the hated tax of Ship Money. Unfortunately very few of these have come down to us. Those for Essex and Suffolk are well known, the latter having been published by the Suffolk Institute of Archæology in 1904. Portions of assessments or, what is better, refusals of payment have been found for Northampton, Huntingdon, Dorset, Wiltshire, Kent, and the Ward of Walbrook, London.

Many who refused to pay the forced loan of Charles the First in 1627 on constitutional grounds, because it was not levied with the consent of Parliament, undoubtedly migrated. These loan assessments are preserved among the Domestic State Papers in the Public Record Office. Some have been copied by the author into his collections of emigrants, and it is intended shortly to complete this work.

**The Court of  
Star Chamber.**

The records of the Court of Star Chamber should throw a flood of light on those in trouble with the government for religious or political reasons, but the pleadings only exist down to 1624. They are at present unindexed for this period, but have been sorted out under the initial letter of the plaintiff's surname. The decrees and orders of this court are lost. Some odd lists of the fines imposed by it are to be found among the accounts of the Exchequer K.R. A further and more complete set of these fines also exists in the Record Office; they give residence of person fined, names of wife, children, etc. Harleian M.S. 4130 is a report of some cases in the Star Chamber.

**High  
Commission  
Court.**

Those who would not conform to the religious opinions of the day were prosecuted in the High Commission Court. Its incomplete records



are among the Domestic State Papers, and some lists of its amercements are with the above mentioned Exchequer accounts, and also in other records of the Exchequer. Volume 34 of the Surtees Society contains some acts of this court for the Diocese of Durham.

**Recusants  
and Non-  
conformists.**

While on the subject of religious persecution, it may be said that the Recusant Rolls should also be searched, for here we get the names and residences of all those who came into conflict with the authorities, and were found guilty of nonconformity, either as Roman Catholics or as Protestant Dissenters. These rolls are in the Public Record Office. The British Museum in Add. MS. 20,739 has a catalogue of all recusants of whom any convictions are returned into the Exchequer, qualities and places of abode, August, 1671, arranged alphabetically under counties.

The Consistorial and Archidiaconal Courts contain much of value as to nonconformity, but only the records for Ely are in anything like order, and of these the late Mr. A. Gibbons printed a calendar.

A report to Bishop Laud from Dr. Samuel Collins, Vicar of Braintree, Essex, shows how the religious persecutions caused the people to emigrate and also the value of the records of the spiritual courts, for he writes:—"That if he had suddenly fallen upon the strict practice of conformity he had undone himself and broken the town to pieces. Upon the first notice of alteration many were resolving to go to New England. By his moderate and slow proceeding he has made stay of some and hopes to settle their judgements" (Calendar of Dom. State Papers, 1632, page 255).

In a few cases, returns of the decrees of the Consistory Courts are to be found among the Domestic State Papers.

**England to  
America, viâ  
West Indies.**

Some emigrants resided for a time in the West Indies and afterwards settled in America. In

these cases the following books can be searched:—A List of the names of the Inhabitants of Barbadoes in the year 1638, who then possessed more than ten acres of land, see pages 71—84 of “Memoirs of the first settlement of the Island of Barbadoes and other the Carribbe Islands, with the succession of the Governors and Commanders in Chief of Barbadoes to the year 1742, small 8°, London, 1743.

“Sufferers of Nevis and St. Christophers by the French Invasion, 1705/6, who were really resettled before the 25th December, 1711, should be paid one-third part of their several losses in debentures to be issued by the Comm<sup>rs</sup> for Trade in the name of each resettler to their respective agents or attornys.” This book contains wills,

administrations, powers of attorney, all of which give important genealogical information (see Vol. 206 Miscel. Books of Receipt of Exchequer.)

**Continental  
Emigrants  
to America.**

This chapter is not intended to deal with foreign ancestry, but it is considered worth while to take this opportunity of printing the titles of two records likely to be of great service to any of alien descent.

“A list of persons that have intituled themselves to the Benefits of the Act (13 Geo. II.) for naturalizing such Foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned as are settled or shall settle in any of H.M. Colonies.” This record covers the period 1740—61, and from it the homes of aliens can be traced (Plantation General, Board of Trade, vols. 59 & 60).

“Account of monies received and expended for the relief of the French Pro-

testant refugees. List of all ye passengers from London to James River in Virginia being French Refugees embarqued in the ship ye Peter Anthony, Gally, of London, One hundred and sixty-nine passengers in all, 29, 9<sup>bre</sup> 1700. Other Lists of Swiss, etc." (Rawl. M.D.A. 271).

**Old Hand-  
writings.**                      The lists of settlers and likely emigrants having been done, we now have to start our record search in earnest, the first stage of which is learning to read the many old handwritings and the system of contractions used. The best way to learn is by practice, starting with modern documents and working backwards. The following will be found useful books in reading old records:—

“Wright’s Court Hand Restored,”  
Martin’s “Record Interpreter,” and Du  
Cange’s “Dictionary.”

Until the Act of Parliament 4 Geo. II., c. 26, 1731, was passed, all records of the English Courts of Law were in Latin. Wills have been in English since about 1550, but the orders (acts) of the probate courts are in Latin. The pleadings in equity are in English.

Your great attack on the  
**Wills.** records should start with  
the wills, they being the  
very backbone of all pedigree research. It  
is well to obtain a permit to consult the  
wills without payment of fees, this will be  
granted provided the search stops short of  
one hundred years from the present time,  
and that it is for strictly literary purposes.  
Letters should be addressed to the Superin-  
tendent, Literary Department, Somerset  
House, London. This pass only applies to  
the registered *copies* of wills, but in cases  
where no registering exists the filed will  
can be seen on payment of a shilling.

By far and away the most important set of wills are those proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (P.C.C.), these commence in 1383, and continue to the abolition of the old ecclesiastical probate system in 1858.

The first six manuscript calendars have been superseded by the printed lexicographical index which covers the period 1383 to 1604. The administrations have to be separately searched, as they are not included in the printed index. For the period 1630 to 1646 consult "Year Books of Probate," by John Matthews.

The P.C.C. contains the wills from *all* parts of England during the Commonwealth, 1650 to 1660, the local courts having been abolished.

From the printed indices and official calendars make a list of all wills and administrations, starting with the date of the birth of the emigrant, if it is known, down

to some fifty years after his death. Such an extended search may seem unnecessary, but experience shows that sometimes the wills of the second generation name cousins in America.

Owing to the gleanings of Mr. Waters and others, we stand little chance of being the first to discover the magic words "my son John now in New England," at any rate during the period 1620 to 1660, as few such references have escaped detection by Mr. Waters and his many friends. No doubt some of the P.C.C. wills contain mention of those whose names are sought, but, as no residence is given, they cannot be identified, unless we have a strong combination of names in England and America.

On completion of the list, start making abstracts of the wills. Short notes of all names, relationships, estates and fields will do ; for, if the wills turn out to relate to the correct family, we can come back to them



and obtain fuller extracts as to the interesting items of old silver, pewter, furniture, etc. It is as well to obtain all wills of the name, as no one can tell which will work in afterwards. In the case of a testator dying outside the county of his residence, the calendars give the place of his death. The wills of members of the Society of Friends do not start with the usual words:—"In the Name of God, Amen," and in the probate acts the executors affirm and are not sworn.\*

If the results of the P.C.C. search have not revealed the emigrant, some hints should have been obtained as to the locality of the name. In some few cases the district of a family cannot be got from the P.C.C.; in that event it is best to search all the printed indices to wills. If we still fail, the death, marriage and birth registers of the Registrar General, Somerset House can be tried. Although these start only in 1837, they

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\* For further information about Quakers, see Chapter II,

sometimes help, for in the early days of railways, people had moved about very little.

**District  
Registries.**

Having fixed the probable district of the emigrant, it is time to turn to the local wills. These are preserved with some exceptions in the District Registries of the Probate Court. A literary pass for any District Registry can be obtained in the same way as for the P.C.C. It is advisable to write to the Registrar, asking whether he can find room on the date on which it is proposed to start the search.

The local probate jurisdiction of any place can be found in Bacon's "Liber Regis," but it is, perhaps, more satisfactory to ask in Room 32, at Somerset House, which wills ought to be searched for any given parish. The "Hand Book of Courts of Probate," by Dr. Marshall, shows the place of deposit of old wills. Lists and

abstracts of the wills should be made in the same way as in London. When the abstracts are done, work out the results in pedigree form, and it will generally be found that a good sketch chart can be made from them.

## **Parish Registers.**

To fill the gaps, or obtain the marriages or the names of the children not mentioned in the wills, either because they had died or had received their portion in the testator's lifetime, perhaps on the occasion of their leaving home, consult the parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, in the custody of the Parson.

Some few of these records start in 1538, but 1558 is a more general date. The legal fee for searching is one shilling the first year, and sixpence for every year afterwards. As a rule, the clergy are willing to compound this, if the object is a literary one, and some fee should be offered based on the time

taken. For certificates, the charge is two shillings and sevenpence each, but it is optional whether they are taken or not. In order to prevent inconvenience to the Incumbent and yourself, write three or four days beforehand for an appointment, though one has the legal right of inspection at any reasonable hour.

Many registers have been lost. In order to save time and, perhaps, a long journey, the date of the extant books had best be obtained from the Population Abstract of 1831, or the current Directory. Neither are totally to be depended upon as, in furnishing the return, the custodians looked at only one end of the book; the fact that some registers start at both ends, or even in the middle was evidently unknown.

In writing to the clergy it is only fair that a stamped envelope should be sent.

It is advisable to consult Dr. Marshall's "List of Printed Parish Registers," for, if

the register of your parish has been printed, it will be a great help and saving to you. In cases of special importance do not trust altogether the printed copy, but see the original, using the former as a help and index.

When the registers are lost, still we stand a chance, for the Vicar and Churchwardens had to send in a transcript at every Visitation. These have been kept very badly, and in most cases are not arranged for consultation. The principal place of deposit is the Bishop's Registry, but they are to be found sometimes in the Archdeacon's Registry.

## **Marriage Licences.**

The marriage licences are preserved in the Bishop's and Archdeacon's Registries, and should most certainly be searched. Some of these documents have been printed by the Harleian and British Record Societies.

**Other Parish  
Records.\***

Whilst in the country, search should be made in all parish and local records, some of which are still in the hands of the Incumbent or the descendants of former churchwardens and other officials, but should be in the custody of the parish council. Where extant, try the churchwardens' accounts, overseers' accounts and books, pauper pass books, parish apprentice books, remembrance books, charity accounts, loose deeds, etc., in fact it is as well to look at everything of a likely date in the parish chest, as the values of these books are most varied.

Records kept with the Clerk of the Peace and Town Clerk are of high value, particularly the apprenticeship indentures kept with the latter.

By this time we have no doubt constructed a nice pedigree of some English

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\* See also Chapter III.

family, but may not have had the good fortune of placing the sought for ancestor; this being so, further ground must be covered, and our steps should be towards the records of the transfer of land.

## **Records of the Transfer of Land.**

It seems probable that, in order to find the capital for the start in the New World, the emigrant would sell any land he possessed; or, if he was without land, it is to be expected that his father would, on giving him a portion, re-settle his estate, and the departing son would join in any conveyance in order to cut any rights he might have in possession or expectancy under any entail that existed. Here it should be noted that men of very small estate, even cottagers, would strictly entail and settle property on themselves and wife with reversion to the eldest son and heirs, and failing these, to the second, third, fourth sons, etc., respectively.

At different periods the English law has known various ways of conveyancing. The statute 27 Henry VIII., cap. 16, provided an instrument known as a "deed of bargain and sale," and it was enacted that an estate should not pass by this means only, unless it was by indenture, enrolled in one of the Courts of Westminster or in the county where the lands lie. If this provision had not been evaded, we should have had an almost universal register of conveyances of the freehold, but it was soon defeated by the invention of the conveyance by lease and release, which arose from the omission to extend the statute to bargains and sales for terms of years.

Many thousands of the former deeds are enrolled in Chancery on the Close Rolls, the grantors being indexed in the books called "Indentures" kept in the Long Room, and the grantees in the Close Roll index in the Round Room at the Record



Office. Others are on the rolls of the King's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, etc. The conveyances by lease and release are seldom enrolled, and otherwise are only to be found with private title-deeds of the present owner of the land.

Charters are an old form of conveyance, and are preserved in great numbers in both private and public collections; they will be found of service in constructing early pedigrees. Charters and other conveyances that concern property in Corporate towns are frequently enrolled at the 'Town Clerks' Offices.

The conveyance of land by Pedes Finium, or Feet of Fines, was very often resorted to; they are of first class importance, as the vendor joins with his wife and children or other heirs in order to dock dower or entail.

Calendars, arranged under counties, to these documents are in the Round Room.

The warrants in the fines should be carefully read, as they sometimes give name of father, grandfather, etc. Fines exist from Richard I. to 1834.

**Manor  
Court  
Rolls.**

The record of the transfer of copyhold property is to be found on the Court Rolls of the Manor in which the land lay. These rolls are private property, and permission to search them has to be obtained from the Lord of the Manor, whose name and address can be found in Kelly's Directories. The general practice of the Manor Court was for the Lord to grant licence to alienate, surrender being then made by the vendor, admission of the purchaser followed and he did his suit and service for the same.

For the period of American research the above classes complete the places of land registration.

While searching the Court Rolls for transfer of land by sale, be sure to take a note of any other entry that relates to the name; this may take any form, as all copyholders' deeds had to go on the roll, from a marriage settlement to the mortgage of an estate. The jury at the death of every tenant made presentment of what estate he died seized, who and what relationship the heir was, and what fine and heriot was due to the Lord. These presentments often contain extracts from wills and other deeds, and the genealogical importance of them cannot be over-rated, as from these rolls it has been possible to trace back the ancestry of very humble people for two hundred years or more before the date of the start of the parish registers. Court Rolls contain much of biographical and personal interest for presentments as to assaults, eaves-dropping, common scold, etc., or that a ditch wants scoring or hedge trimming,

harboring of strangers, cattle allowed to stray, overloading the common, etc., are of frequent occurrence.

**Chancery  
Proceedings.**

The pleadings in the Court of Chancery are of the highest importance as sources of genealogical information, some of them giving as many as nine generations of pedigree, and others even give abstracts of all the deeds in the family muniment room for three hundred years. Besides this general value, they are of great help to Americans, as, in setting out a claim by descent, they frequently account for some missing relative, by stating that he is now in America in parts beyond the Seas. These documents are practically a virgin field, never having been worked suit by suit as Mr. Waters did the wills in the P.C.C.

Do not run away with the idea that your people were too poor to have suits in

Chancery, as the author's experience of many thousands of suits is that the poorest of the poor brought suits, asking for the discovery of some old deed (existing only in their imagination), in the hope that the person in possession would compromise in order to save litigation.

As Chancery suits deal with matters of a date long before that of the pleading, any search should be brought down at least one hundred years after the death of the person sought for, and, if time allows, it would be as well to come down two hundred years.

The Affidavits and Master's Reports and Certificates have much information not to be found elsewhere. The Master's papers can be seen only on payment of small fees, knowledge of the title of the suit and the Master's name, which can be obtained from the Reports. As these papers have chart pedigrees, deeds and other evidences used in the trial, they should be sought for in all late cases.

The subject of Chancery Proceedings is a very large and interesting one, and the present writer is, therefore, glad to learn that an early volume of this Series is to be devoted to it. It should be of especial interest to Americans, as the names of a large number of people stated to be in America have been found among the depositions in Chancery suits.

**Court of  
Exchequer.**

The Court of Exchequer had an equity side to it, and its pleadings are of nearly as much importance as those of the Chancery. They are calendared in counties, which greatly reduces the labour of a search when the district is known. The depositions of this court are of great value, and a calendar to these will be found in the thirty-eighth and following reports of the Deputy Keeper. The Long Room contains this index, divided up into counties, and an Index Nominum from I. Elizabeth to 22 James I.

## **Other Records.**

The Lay Subsidy Rolls and Hearth Tax returns are useful as they serve as a directory, giving a clue to the parish. Catalogues of these exist, but the contents of the rolls are not indexed.

The Inquisitions Post Mortem give information about the larger landowners, and are well known as one of the best sources of genealogy. As regards the early Inquisitions, indexes are in print, and the later ones are now being printed. These records cease with the end of the reign of Charles I.

The plea rolls of the various Common Law Courts are a great field of research, but only to those with time to spare, the bulk of them being so great. Sometimes keys to them can be obtained from collections such as those now being printed in "The Genealogist," or the Boyd and Harrison MSS. in the Long Room.

All ordinary sources of help failing, it is a good plan to return to wills and read all of the district, for sometimes a side-light can be obtained from the will of a testator with a different surname which cannot be got in any other way.

If the time of the searcher allows him to work all the classes of records mentioned in this chapter, the author has but little doubt that a most interesting pedigree will be the result.

GERALD FOTHERGILL.

11, Brussels Road,  
New Wandsworth,  
London, S.W.

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## II.

# The Quaker Records.

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George Fox was a great organiser as well as a great preacher. After the first London Yearly\* Meeting in 1668, he issued a manifesto, or "epistle," to his followers, explaining the importance of keeping in Minute Books a careful record of their church affairs, and, in particular, the necessity of recording in a systematic manner all births, marriages and deaths. The plan adopted was borrowed from the Episcopal Church, and, not only were

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\*Here it should be explained that a single Meeting House is known in the Society of Friends as a "Preparative" Meeting; a number of local Preparative Meetings being grouped into one organization known as a "Monthly Meeting." These again are grouped into still larger districts known as "Quarterly" Meetings (holding special business meetings at a given centre once a quarter), these in their turn are again grouped into "Yearly" Meetings, which meet once a year, as their name implies. An individual might, therefore, be a member of the Leominster Preparative Meeting, in Hereford and Worcester Monthly Meeting, in Western Quarterly Meeting, which is within London Yearly Meeting. The Preparative Meetings appoint delegates to the Monthly Meetings, the Monthly to the Quarterly, the Quarterly to the Yearly, and the Yearly Meeting lays down the law!

entries to be made in the local Preparative Meeting register, kept by an appointed Registrar in each Meeting, but also it was arranged that transcripts of such entries should be forwarded periodically to an official, known as the Monthly Meeting Registrar, whose office corresponded to the Diocesan Registry in the Church of England.

**Effect of the  
Registration  
Act of 1837.**

This system remained in force until shortly after the passing of the Registration Act of 1837, when it was discontinued, and all the old registers that could then be found were called in and deposited at Somerset House. The Commissioners appointed in the year 1838 (to examine into the state, custody and authenticity of all registers of birth, etc., other than the parochial registers), after visiting the temporary place of deposit of the Quaker Registers, stated that "they saw

enough of their state and condition to testify that they exhibit an admirable specimen of the state to which order and precision may be carried in the classification and arrangement of records of this description."

As may be imagined, the books were by no means complete, for, as is the case in almost every church throughout the land, some registers, or at least pages from them, had been lost in nearly 200 years. Meeting Houses had been closed by the score, and, Friends having become extinct in a district, their records sometimes fell into private hands and were destroyed. However, one thousand six hundred and twenty-two separate registers were collected, and now any one of these may be seen and searched at Somerset House for a fee of one shilling.

**Index to Births,  
Marriages  
and Deaths.**

Before these old volumes were placed in Government custody, a complete alphabetical index was compiled

by the Society of Friends of every birth, marriage and death record in them, the number of the original volume, and that of the folio on which the entry occurs being carefully added. One copy of this index was deposited with the Recording Clerk of London Yearly Meeting at Devonshire House, 12, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C., and another sectional copy, containing an index to all the births, marriages and deaths of that particular Quarterly Meeting, was deposited with a local official for the use of the Friends in that immediate vicinage.

The Index at Devonshire House is available to the public on payment of half-a-crown an hour, though all Members of the Society of Friends in England are at liberty to search it freely. As the local copy is in charge of an honorary official, application should never be made to him except by actual Members of the Society, residing within his own Quarterly Meeting, and

there is therefore no need to give here the names and addresses of these officials.

**Index Kept  
Up-to-Date.**

It may be added that a record of births, marriages and deaths is still kept for the purposes of Membership, by persons, appointed in each Monthly Meeting, who, if in Great Britain, each year forward a transcript to the Recording Clerk at Devonshire House. Consequently, there is now at headquarters a complete alphabetical list of every birth, marriage and death (or burial), of which any record is preserved by the Society of Friends from the very earliest time (*circa* 1650) down to the present day. It is safe to say that it is the most complete and beautifully kept record of its kind belonging to any religious denomination throughout the world. It forms a striking monument to the genius of George Fox, and is, in a way, remarkably typical of the careful, conscientious Quaker of to-day; in

a word, the work which is attempted is thoroughly well done.

Imagine the convenience of being able to find at the Lambeth Palace Library, in copperplate handwriting, an alphabetical list (with date) of every baptism, marriage or burial in every Episcopal Diocese in England.\*

Yet this is precisely what the Society of Friends has accomplished so far as its own organisation is concerned. If you know the county in which the event might be expected to have occurred you have only to turn to the volumes devoted to that county, or group of counties, and your search is over in less time than it takes to write this line.

**List of the  
Registers.**

It may be convenient if I insert in this place a list of the Registers at Devonshire House, giving in each case the

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\* I fear the esteemed and obliging librarian, Mr. S. W. Kershaw, F.S.A., would need to add to his staff.

Earliest Dates at which records of Births, Marriages and Deaths commence:—

NAME OF REGISTER.	BIRTHS.	MAR- RIAGES.	DEATHS.
Bedfordshire and Herts ... ..	1643	1658	1656
Berks and Oxon ... ..	1612	1648	1655
Bristol and Somerset ... ..	1644	1657	1651
Buckinghamshire ... ..	1645	1658	1656
Cambridge and Hunts ... ..	1631	1658	1657
Cheshire and Staffordshire ...	1647	1655	1655
Cornwall ... ..	1609	1657	1656
Cumberland & Northumberland	1648	1650	1656
Derby and Nottingham ... ..	1632	1659	1651
Devon ... ..	1627	1646	1658
Dorset and Hants .. ..	1638	1658	1657
Durham ... ..	1613	1644	1655
Essex ... ..	1613	1659	1630
Gloucester and Wiltshire ...	1642	1656	1655
Hereford, Worcester and Wales	1635	1657	1650
Kent .. ..	1646	1658	1658
Lincolnshire ... ..	1632	1657	1656
Lancashire... ..	1644	1652	1654
London and Middlesex .. ..	1644	1657	1661
Norfolk and Norwich ... ..	1613	1658	1657
Northamptonshire .. ..	1647	1659	1657
Suffolk ... ..	1653	1662	1655
Sussex and Surrey ... ..	1640	1659	1645
Warwick, Leicester and Rutland	1623	1648	1659
Westmorland ... ..	1635	1649	1655
Yorkshire .. ..	1578	1642	1570*
Scotland ... ..	1647	1656	1674

\* It must not be supposed that the entries are continuous from these very early dates, as all items previous to 1650

For the convenience of those who are unable to make a personal search, a staff of clerks is regularly employed, but, with every request for the use of their services, a fee of some kind should certainly be remitted.

It is no unusual thing for a Member of the Society of Friends to be able to trace *all* his direct ancestors from the present time back to the middle of the seventeenth century out of this one set of books; and they are so well arranged that he might be able to finish his task in the space of an hour or two, according to his capacity of taking down the particulars.

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were probably inserted at a later period. From the date at which the earliest Marriages and Deaths occur the records are usually continuous up to the present year. Entries recording earlier Births seem to have been made sometimes in order to make the register more complete. There are Supplements to some of these books, but only in the case of Lancashire (1635), Lincolnshire (1618), Suffolk (1641), and Westmorland (1617), do they go back any further than in the above tabulated list.



**Importance  
of Consulting  
the Original  
Record.**

Though the Index at Devonshire House is most valuable, and may possibly answer all the purposes of some searchers, the real genealogist will, of course, seek out the original entry at Somerset House, in the Strand, London, W.C.

The entry of a marriage, for example, at Devonshire House may read thus:—

*1147—132: Smith, Elizabeth; spinster; daughter of John and Bridget Smith, of Godalming, Surrey, to Roger Prichard, of Almeley Wooton, at Godalming, 30/10/1712, in Guildford Monthly Meeting.*

But at Somerset House we shall find, on turning to Book 1147, folio 132, that the complete entry\* reads as follows:—

*ROGER PRICHARD of Almeley Wooton in the County of Hereford, Glover,*

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\*An actual instance.

*son of Edward Prichard and Elizabeth [Jackson] his wife, of the same, and Elizabeth Smith, spinster, daughter of John Smith of Godalming in the County of Surrey, Corne Merchant, and of Bridgett [Coleman]\* his wife, Haveing declared their Intentions of taking each other in Marriage before several Publick Meetings of the People of God called Quakers, in Guildford in the said County, According to the good order used among them Whose proceedings after a deliberate consideration thereof (with regards unto the Righteous Law of God and Example of his People Recorded in the Script<sup>rs</sup> of truth in that case) were Approved by the said meetings They*

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\* Bridget Coleman was bapt. at the Church of St. Mary Elms, Ipswich, 24 Sept., 1656. Her father William Coleman married Susan Morgan daughter of William and Catherine Morgan of Ipswich at St. Mary Elms 25 Oct., 1655. William Morgan bapt. at Ipswich 18 Oct. 1590, son of John Morgan.

*appearing cleare of all others and haveing  
Consent of parents and relations Concerned.*

*NOW these are to Certifie all whome it  
may concerne that for the full accomplishing of  
theire said Intentions This Thirtieth day of  
the Tenth Month Called December in the year  
According to the English Account One  
Thousand Seven Hundred and Twelve, they  
the said Roger Pritchard (the spelling of the  
surnames varies of course at this date) and  
Elizabeth Smith Appeared in a Publick  
Assembly of the aforesaid People and others  
Mett together for that purpose in theire Publick  
Meeting Place at Godalming in the aforesaid  
County of Surrey, And in a Solemn Manner  
he the said Roger Pritchard taking the said  
Elizabeth Smith by the hand Did openly declare  
as followeth—Friends and People in the feare  
of God and in the presence of this Assembly*

*whome I desire to be my Witnesses That I take this my deare friend Elizabeth Smith to be my wife Promissing to be unto her A Loving and Faithfull Husband untill death doth seperate us :—And then and there in the said Assembly The said Elizabeth Smith Did in Like Manner declare as Followeth, Friends and People in the feare of God and in the presence of this Assembly whom I desire to be my Witnesses That I take this my friend Roger Pritchard to be my Husband Promissing to be unto him a Loveing and Faithfull wife untill death shall Seperate us. And the said Roger Pritchard and Elizabeth Smith as a further Confirmation thereof Did then and there to these presents sett their hands. And Wee whose Names are hereunto Subscribed being present among others at the Solemnizing of their said Marriage and Subscription in Manner aforesaid as Witnesses hereunto have*

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<i>Relations.</i>	<i>Relations</i>	<i>Roger Prichard</i>
<i>Robert Baker</i> <i>Caleb Woods Jr.</i> <i>John Baker</i> <i>Thomas Fixley</i> <i>John Westbrook</i> <i>James Westbrook</i> <i>Eliza Stedman</i>	<i>Sarah Woods</i> <i>Samuell Woods</i> <i>Thomas Smith</i> <i>Hannah Smith</i> <i>Nathl Rous Jr.</i> <i>Richard Baker</i> <i>Eliz. Baker</i> <i>Richard Baker Jr.</i> <i>Willm. Bingley</i> <i>Mary Baker</i> <i>Henry Streater</i> <i>Eliz. Streater</i>	<i>Elizabeth Smith</i>
<i>John Barnard</i> <i>Eliz. Barnard</i> <i>Ezra Gill</i> <i>Mary Gill</i> <i>Ben Miles</i> <i>Lydia Miles</i> <i>Rebecca Taylor</i> <i>Mary Stent</i> <i>Susan Plater</i> <i>Eliz Beck</i> <i>Katheren Bridges</i> <i>Eliz. Withingbrooke</i> <i>Sarah Smith</i> <i>Eliz. Smith</i> <i>Eliz. Richards</i>	<i>John Withingbrooke</i> <i>Charles Frowe</i> <i>Tho. Smith</i> <i>Lydia Cooper</i> <i>Tho. Constable</i> <i>James Smith</i> <i>Mary Hait</i> <i>Mary Kirton</i>	<i>John Smith</i> <i>Bridger Smith</i> <i>Susana Smith</i> <i>Mary Smith</i> <i>Thomas Prichard</i> <i>Edward Prichard Jr.</i> <i>Joseph Smith</i> <i>Caleb Woods</i> <i>John Woods</i>
		<i>Jacob Away</i> <i>Joseph Tailor</i> <i>John Cooper Jr.</i> <i>Richd. Constable</i> <i>Joseph Tailor Jr.</i> <i>Anthony Meale</i> <i>Alice Cooke</i> <i>Grisell Bucanon</i>

The above may be taken as a fair example of most marriage entries, though naturally there are instances, particularly fifty years earlier, where the entry is less complete.

**Marriage  
Certificates  
Replete  
with "Clues."**

We have here, therefore, in the first place an interesting marriage certificate; and, secondly (above the line of demarcation), a list of twenty-eight relatives of the bride and bridegroom, together with the names of thirty-one friends, or a total of sixty-one persons living at that time. We shall probably find that the nearest and most important kinsfolk signed first in the column to the right, immediately under the names of the "happy couple," but no stone must be left unturned to discover *what* connection each of the "relations" was to the contracting parties. These lists of "witnesses" to the marriage will be found to contain most valuable "clues" for the genealogist, and an experienced searcher knows that a clue is half the battle.

In some cases the actual relationship has been inserted in brackets after the

signature, such as “ (*father of the damsel*),” “ (*brother of the maid*),” etc., but this is not the rule.

The Irish Quaker Records are preserved at 6, Eustace Street, Dublin (Miss Edith Webb, Registering Officer), and here again they date back to about 1650, and are very numerous.

**Parentage  
of the  
Early Friends.** In every part of England the oldest Quaker Registers overlap the Visitations of the Heralds by a period of from 25 to 50 years, so that where the one class of records is left the other may be at once taken up.

It is quite a mistake to suppose that the early Friends came only from common stock. Many were, doubtless, enrolled from among the labouring classes, but thousands also came of the very best County Families, and hundreds can prove Royal descent.

In this connection it may be mentioned that, even during the lifetime of George Fox, the new sect numbered about 60,000 people, and that therefore, in tracing the ancestry of present-day Friends, we are not dealing with the descendants of a *few* families, as is imagined by many who are not fully acquainted with the history of Quakerism. As an instance, it may be stated that, in all probability, at least half the members of the present House of Commons have Quaker descent, and indeed it is difficult to find one who has *no* Quaker ancestor.

**Minute  
Books.**

In addition to the Register at Devonshire House, there are many other sources of information open to Members of the Society of Friends, but these are often difficult of access for the public unless letters of introduction are obtained, or the custodians are very diplo-



matically approached. The archives most valuable to the genealogist are the Minute Books, kept from the earliest times in every Meeting by an appointed clerk. These record, in addition to the ordinary business of the Society, etc. :—

1. Minutes of Removal from one place to another ; introducing a Member to the “ kind and christian care ” of Friends in whatever district the Member was about to settle.
2. Admissions to Membership.
3. Disownments or Resignations for one cause or another.
4. The recording of Ministers.
5. Lists of subscribers to various funds.
6. Permission of the Meeting “ liberating ” two Friends to marry.

This last item is especially valuable when the registers have all been lost, as, if

two Friends were "liberated" to marry, it may be taken as almost certain that they accomplished their purpose, for permission was seldom, if ever, given except after exhaustive enquiries by a committee.

**Sufferings  
Books.**

Quite a different class of books is formed by those in which careful record was kept of the Sufferings of Friends for Conscience Sake. These often give minute details regarding not only imprisonments but seizures of goods on the "passive resister" principle, and, though they are of little value in tracing descent, they provide much useful information about our Quaker ancestors and give to a genealogy just that breath of life that is so difficult to obtain.

The Minute Books and Sufferings Books are for the most part stored locally in strong rooms and iron safes in charge of honorary officials. Some of these Friends are enthusiastic genealogists and have time to

help enquirers in their investigations. But it must be remembered that they all are holding a strictly honorary office, and are under no obligation whatever to reply to an enquiry. The actual location of the safe and the name of the official in charge might, if good cause be shown, be divulged by the Librarian of the Friends' Reference Library at Devonshire House, but his knowledge is gathered from his own private researches and *no complete list of the contents of these safes, or even of their actual location, exists.* This is a most extraordinary state of things and will, doubtless, soon be rectified. Owing to the honorary office of the curators and the doubt as to whether my own investigations have produced a complete list, I must refrain from attempting to include one here.

It may be stated, however, that the contents of quite a number of these safes have been deposited in the care of the Registering Clerk at Devonshire House,

and doubtless they could be consulted on payment of a small fee. They amount to many hundreds of volumes, and form a most valuable collection.

**The Friends'  
Reference  
Library**

The above mentioned Librarian of the Friends' Reference Library has in his charge thousands of most valuable documents, including original letters, manuscripts, diaries or "journals," written by Friends from the year 1650 down to the present time. Here is also the most complete library of old Quaker volumes in existence, and additions are constantly being made to it. Admission may be obtained with suitable letters of introduction for purposes of historical research, and a valuable, but not as yet very complete, card-index to all early Quakers of note is kept, a handy reference as to where further particulars of them may be found in various writings.

**Quaker  
Literature.**

Quaker Literature is, of course, very prolific in genealogical information.

About half-a-dozen books stand out as exceptionally valuable in this direction :—

JOSEPH SMITH'S CATALOGUE OF FRIENDS' BOOKS—a two-volume book (published in 1867, with a Supplement, which appeared in 1893), is considered to be a standard work, showing great research and maintaining a very fair level of accuracy.

QUAKER RECORDS, by Joseph J. Green, is an invaluable Index of the Deaths of Friends (from 1813 to 1892 inclusive), as recorded in a series of volumes known as the—

ANNUAL MONITOR. These annuals, though not officially published, were commenced in 1813 and are continuous to date. They form the Obituary of the Society of Friends, recording not only the deaths and

ages at death, but date and locality, and very frequently biographical notes, but, unfortunately, these notes, while mentioning the favourite texts of Scripture of the deceased, often omit all reference to family matters. However, they should always be consulted.

THE FIRST PUBLISHERS OF TRUTH is a valuable record, just completed, taken from original manuscripts, giving an account of the introduction of Quakerism into England and Wales. It is full of good things, and must certainly be looked into.

“A Collection of the SUFFERINGS of the People called Quakers for the Testimony of a good Conscience” is the title of two great volumes by Joseph Besse, devoted to the Sufferings of the early Quakers (1650-1689). At the end of the second volume is a list of some of those who actually died for their faith, but it is very incomplete ; how-

ever, 368 deaths are recorded here (or more than one saint for each day of the year, though their names are now quite forgotten!), and further particulars are furnished in the letter-press. Besse left a very valuable manuscript (preserved in the Reference Library at Devonshire House) giving such genealogical information as he had at hand regarding each of these martyrs. It has never been published.

“A JOURNAL or Historical Account of the Life, Travels, Sufferings, Christian Experiences, and Labour of Love in the Work of the Ministry of that Ancient, Eminent and Faithful Servant of Jesus Christ, GEORGE FOX.” A large volume, of which there are several editions, being in the nature of a diary of his travels, and mentioning interesting particulars regarding many of his contemporaries. A remarkable book.

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY, of which four volumes of the present series have been completed, is the official organ of the Friends' Historical Society; Norman Penney, Devonshire House, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C., is the Hon. Sec. and Editor. The Journal is published quarterly (2/- per copy) by Headley Brothers, 14, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C., to whom all enquiries for books relating to the Society of Friends should be made. This Historical Society is doing excellent work, and all its publications are of exceptional value to the genealogist; for instance, it has just published, as Journal Supplement No. 6, "John ap John and Early Records of Friends in Wales," a work which the descendant of any Welsh Quaker should not omit to consult.

Many works have been written dealing with the history of Quakers in special



countries and counties. The following list of such publications is incomplete, but will serve to indicate the type of book which should be consulted when it is known in which district a Quaker ancestor lived.

## AMERICA.

James Bowden's "History of Friends in America," 1850.

Dr. R. H. Thomas's "History of Friends in America," 1905.

## IRELAND.

"Sufferings of Friends in Ireland," by Abraham Fuller and Thomas Holme, 1731.

"Friends in Ireland" (by William Rathbone), 1804.

Several articles in the Journal of the Friends' Historical Society.

# Quaker

## WALES.

"An Account of the Convincement, etc.  
    . . . . . of . . . . . Richard  
    Davies: with some Relation of  
    . . . . . the Spreading of Truth in  
    North Wales," many editions.

(See also above under "The Journal of  
the Friends' Historical Society.")

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## CUMBERLAND.

"Early Cumberland and Westmorland  
Friends," by Richard S. Ferguson,  
1871.

## DURHAM.

"Early Friends in the North," by J. W.  
Steel, 1905.

"Unhistoric Acts, Some Records of Early  
Friends in North-East Yorkshire and  
South Durham," by George Baker,  
1906.

## LONDON.

Wm. Crouch's "Posthuma Christiana,"  
1712.

"Life of Gilbert Latey, comprising some  
account of the first settlement of  
Friends' Meetings in London," by R.  
Hawkins; several editions.

"London Friends' Meetings," by Wm.  
Beck and T. F. Ball, 1869.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

"Sufferings of Quakers in Nottingham-  
shire, 1649-1689," by Percy J. Cropper,  
1892.

## SOMERSETSHIRE.

John Whiting's "Persecution Expos'd,"  
1715.

"Lectures on Friends in Somerset," by  
William Tanner, 1858.

# Quaker

## SURREY AND SUSSEX.

"The Early Friends in Surrey and Sussex," by T. W. Marsh, 1886.

## WARWICKSHIRE.

"Friends in Warwickshire in the 17th and 18th Centuries," by William White, 1894.

## WESTMORLAND.

(See above under "Cumberland.")

## WORCESTERSHIRE.

"Evesham Friends in Olden Time" (including other districts in Worcestershire), by Alfred W. Brown, 1885.

## YORKSHIRE.

"Yorkshire Quarterly Meetings of Friends, 1650-1900," by John S. Rowntree, 1900.

(See also above under "Durham.")

This list of books, and indeed these notes, might be further extended to hundreds, if not thousands of references, but perhaps sufficient has been said to start the searcher in the right direction, and, when the sources named have been investigated, other channels will have been opened to view.

JOSIAH NEWMAN, F.R. Hist. Soc.

“Oristano,” Hatch End, Middlesex.

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## III.

The Genealogy of the  
Submerged.

Many genealogists are not content with tracing only their father's, parents' or grandparents' paternal ancestry, but clamber into the very twigs of their family-tree, recording the name of every direct ancestor whom they can trace. In fact, the keenest genealogists, when they can make no further progress backwards (if such an expression may be used), devote their energies to tracing the descendants of all their known ancestors.

Many a good  
cow hath an  
ill calf.\*

As most families, if fully  
traced, will be found to  
include those who have  
sunk as well as those who

have risen, genealogists must expect to find in the course of their researches many fresh skeletons for their family cupboards. Provided that these can be kept safely under lock and key, why should we not welcome them? It surely must be comforting to be able to convince oneself that "the sin that doth so easily beset us" may be placed to the debit account of one of our ancestors (*sus. per col.*) from whom we have inherited it!

However, it is not to refer the genealogist to the Newgate Calendar for particulars of his ancestors that these few notes have been written. Their chief object is to draw attention to the splendid records which are in existence in some parishes concerning the condition and actions of those who

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\* Camden's "Remains concerning Britain," 1674.

in the past were guilty of "the crime of poverty."

**" In great  
pedigrees  
there are  
Governors and  
Chandlers." \***

In the first place let us consider whether the pedigrees of paupers, long since dead and buried, are matters which should interest us.

Allowing thirty years to a generation, a man born in 1870 had sixty-four direct ancestors who were all living about 1720, provided that no two of his immediate ancestors were close cousins. Whatever his present social status, it will be surprising if he does not find that practically every grade of society was represented by one or more of these, his 64 great-great-great-great grandparents.

The great grandmother of Queen Anne was a poor girl who stood behind the bar of a public-house. She married the brewer, became his widow, married secondly Sir

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\* George Herbert's "Jacula Prudentum," 1640.



Francis Aylesbury, and by him was the mother of Frances Aylesbury who married

**Princes and Paupers.** Edward Hyde, the Historian and Lord Chancellor, whose daughter, Anne,

married James II. of England, and became the mother of two Queens of England, Mary II. and Anne.

There can be no doubt that it is possible to find many instances of monarchs being descended from humble ancestors—was not William the Conqueror the grandson of a tanner?—and, if this is the case with royalty, how much more must those of the middle classes expect to find that some of their direct ancestors were poverty-stricken and lived amid squalid surroundings.

**Rummaging in a Vicarage.** Several years ago the Vicar of Walton-on Thames, the Rev. W. Kemp Bussell, asked me to look through

about fifty large bundles of old manuscript

which were stacked in a cupboard in his Vicarage. He was then engaged in arranging the records preserved in the church chest, and had come to the conclusion that many were missing. Some of these I found in the bundles to which reference has been made, and many title-deeds and other records of great importance to this parish were added to those already in the chest. After thus placing the gold in safe custody, I turned my attention to what I had at first regarded as the dross, and it is of this that I wish now to record a few notes, as I am convinced that if many parishes have preserved documents similar to those which I found in these bundles, the task of tracing a family in the lowest stratum of society will be easier than compiling the pedigree of one in the upper middle class.

**Paupers and  
the Law.**

There is not space here to quote the various Acts of Parliament of which these records are a result. Those who are

interested in the curious state of bondage to which the indigent were brought by the Act of 14 Charles II., c. 2, modified by the Acts of 3 Wm. and Mary, c. 11, 8 and 9 Wm. and Mary, c. 30, and 35 George III., c. 101, are referred to the "History of the English Poor Law," by Sir G. Nicholls, the "English Poor Law System," by Dr. Ashcroft, and Dr. Burn's "History of the Poor Law."

The following actual abstracts and copies of the documents at the Vicarage of Walton-on-Thames (printed here by the courtesy of the Vicar) will convince any that few records are richer in interesting detail than these which chronicle the lot of many persons who now lie in nameless graves.

**Bonds to  
secure parish  
against  
charges.**

Between 1654 and 1727  
there are 21 documents  
which fall into two classes :  
Fourteen being bonds to  
secure Walton against

charges for maintenance ("maintenance and education" in the case of children, but usually only "charges" without any qualification) which had arisen, or might arise, through poor persons who had lately come to settle in Walton. The remaining seven bonds were to secure Walton against charges through the birth of seven bastard children ("unborn child or children" in one case quoted below) and are signed by the sworn fathers, both the parents or by others.

The amounts in these bonds vary from £10 to £100. The following are extracts from each of the two kinds mentioned above:—

*Bond for £60 of Edward Peacocke, gent., and Henry Hatchett, Churchwardens of Shepperton, to Thomas Best and Roger Metcalfe, Churchwardens of Walton. To secure Walton against charges through Robert Rayner, Katherine, his wife, and Lettice, his daughter, inhabitants of Shepperton, who had lately come*

*to settle in Walton. Witnesses :—Dan. Proctor and Edmond Singer. Dated 1st June, 1666.*

Here in one document we have the names of a man and his wife and child, the name of the parish from which they came (a most important fact for genealogists as, without this record, a descendant of Robert Rayner, having traced his ancestry back to him, would not know where to look for records of Robert's marriage, birth and parentage), and the names of six other inhabitants of the two parishes mentioned, as well as the actual signatures of four of these. It is also implied that Robert Rayner had rented, or was endeavouring to rent, a tenement in Walton parish of the annual rental of £10 or under.

*Bond for £50 of Ralph Purdue, fisherman, of Shepperton, and John Winge, tanner, of Walton, to William Russell and John Grantham, Churchwardens of Walton. Mary Purdue and John Winge acknowledge that said*

*John Winge is the father of her unborn child or children, and Ralph Purdue (Mary's father), and said John Winge hold Walton harmless for any charges until child or children reach the age of 16. Witnesses :—Edward Bucknell, Ed. Guldhawk and Joseph Bignold. Dated 20th April, 1724.*

Imagine for a moment that you are a descendant of the child mentioned. You have, we will say, traced back your ancestry in one of its many lines to a rich but self-made man who lived at Walton (not that I know what actually became of Mary Purdue's child), and to your horror you find, on referring to the baptismal register here, that he is entered as the bastard child of a Mary Purdue. You will probably not pursue your investigation further in this direction as you will prefer not to know more about her, but (strange are our ways of regarding such things) if, by the discovery of this Bond, you learn the father's name, you will probably

continue your search tracing both the Winge and Purdue families, and glossing over as best you can the awkward absence of a marriage certificate!

Another variety of "Bond to secure parish against charges" will be found described later after "Apprenticeship Indentures."

**Certificates  
to prevent  
Settlement.**

Between 1697 and 1729 there are 84 certificates given by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of other parishes to poor persons who were desirous of seeking employment in Walton. Without such a certificate the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor at Walton would naturally not allow anybody who might become chargeable to the parish to settle here. "Able-bodied paupers, with no intention of working, were in the habit of migrating to those parishes where they would meet with better treatment than at

home; so that parishes.....were often saddled with the maintenance of paupers who ought rightfully to be chargeable to another parish," hence the law empowering parishes to remove paupers to their place of "settlement."

The following is a good specimen abstract of such a certificate :—

*Certificate from John Eyre, Churchwarden and Overseer of Putney, Surrey, that the following are inhabitants of Putney :—*

*Richard English, Mary, his wife, and his six children :—Jane, aged about 16; Sarah, 14; Hester, 13; Hannah, 12; Elizabeth, 11, and Richard, about 6 years old.*

*Witnesses :— William Luck and John Rogers.*

*Allowed by F. Gregg and William Billers, Justices of the Peace. Dated 25th June, 1723.*

Here we have invaluable data about the family of English. There are also five actual



signatures to this document, whilst some (in the cases where two Churchwardens and two Overseers sign) carry eight signatures.

Owing to a change in the law in 1696/7, the possessor of one of these certificates could not be removed from the parish to which he had come, probably for work, unless he became actually chargeable to it, but he could only obtain a "settlement" in it if he were allowed to hold a parish office for one year, or if he hired a house of the yearly rental of £10 or over.

Occasionally we find copies of certificates granted by the Churchwardens and Overseers of Walton to inhabitants of Walton who were removing to, or seeking employment in, another parish.

The "Home Counties Magazine"—one of the most interesting magazines for a genealogist—in its number for January, 1905, reproduced one of these "certificates of origin" as an illustration to a short article,

entitled "A forgotten relic of the Poor Law System," by Mr. A. Denton Cheney, F.R.Hist.S.

**Removal  
Orders.**

Between 1691 and 1729 there are eleven Removal Orders. The object of these will be clear from what has been written above.

The following is a fair specimen abstract of one of these documents:—

*Removal Order to Thames Ditton of Mary Glover and her two children. She is described as the wife of Charles Glover, waterman, of Thames Ditton, and it is stated that she had lately come to settle in Walton with her two small children "to sojorne & dwell wth. her father Roger Sponge of Hirsham (Hershams) in Walton, bricklayer." It is signed by Matthew Andrewes and C. Whitelocke. Dated 15th June, 1693.*

There is a fairly good armorial seal of Andrewes on this,

**Examinations.** The documents endorsed "Examination" appear to consist of two kinds. There are examinations as to "settlement" and examinations previous to granting affiliation orders. Taking the period from 1725 to 1729, I found 24 of the former and 2 of the latter preserved at Walton.

These documents are undoubtedly the most interesting among those which we are now considering, and, therefore, several abstracts of them are given below:—

(Copy)—*The Examination of Sarah Orley, widow, taken upon oath before us two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace quorum (sic) unus Sr. James Edwards Barrt. & Francis Henry Le, Esq., for the County of Surry the sixth day of Decr., 1725.*

*Sarah Orley deposeth upon Oath that she was travelling from Chipnam (Chippenham) in the County of Wiltshire with an intent to goe to Norwich in Norfolk being*  
 . . . . . *Her*

## Genealogy of

*Husband, Will: Orley a Carpenter by Trade who served His time as apprentice to the best of Her knowledge to Henry Spicer at Norwich in Norfolk but dying at Chipnam above mentioned did endeavour to goe to Norwich to find out His Relations to give Her releif, but being not able to gett there, by reason of Her being very . . . . ., was obliged to stay at Walton upon Thames above mentioned (sic) where she was delivered of a Female Child & that her last Service where she lived a Year as a hired Servant was with Mr. Arthur Langford a Farmer at Exberry (Exbury) in Hampshire & that she was married to William Orley when she was a servant to —Pollett, Esq., at Lindall (?) in Hampshire about two years since & farther sayeth not wittness my hand this Sixth day of December 1725.*

<i>Wittness:—</i>	<i>J. Edwards</i>	<i>Her</i>
<i>James Griffin,</i>	<i>F. H. Lee</i>	<i>Sarah &lt; Orley</i>
<i>Constabill</i>		<i>Mark.</i>

It is all very dry and official and the original is crude, but, though it happened 182 years ago, the perusal of the above must awaken our sympathies with this poor widow, who, through no fault of her own, had such a hard experience. As amongst these bundles there appears to be no record of her removal to any of the parishes named, let us hope that the Overseer here forgot for once that he was an official, and that the hospitality of this parish was ungrudgingly extended to her.

*Examination of John Keel, born at Twickenham, bound apprentice by the Overseer of that parish to Simon Cole (then inhabiting in parish of East Molesey) for eight years, lived with Cole at Molesey for two years and about three years more with him at Hertsham (Hersham in Walton) "at wch. time he purchased ye rest of his time from his said Master & that about six years agoe during his apprenticeship he married & since ye time of serving*

*his said Master he hath not gained any legal settlement."*

*Signed by "J. Edwards" and "Jo. Gascoign," Justices of the Peace. Dated 2nd January, 1726.*

Notice that the Overseer of Twickenham was wise in his generation and apprenticed this pauper to an inhabitant of another parish.

*Examination of John Slatford, labourer, born at Bistow (Bicester) Oxford, where he had a house and married Judith Dormer, spinster, of that parish at the parish church of St. Bartholomew near Oxford, by whom he has two children now living both females one about five years and the other about twelve months.*

*Witnesses:—Tho. Simmonds and John . . . . . (? Riplies).*

*Justices of the Peace:—J. Wyvill and J. Edwards. Dated 14th April 1727.*

To make the account of these documents complete, it would be necessary to give a

copy of the examination of the mother or an illegitimate child, but the wording of these examinations, perhaps, would be rather too outspoken for the ultra-refined ears of the twentieth century. With regret, I feel compelled to omit it.

This brings us to the next class of documents which occur among these records.

### **Affiliation Orders.**

In the first half of the nineteenth century, Affiliation Orders are very numerous, but throughout these notes the names in no document of later date than 1730 are given for fear that the feelings of any present inhabitant of Walton might be hurt.

Before that date only one affiliation order is to be found, of this the following is an abstract:—

*Charity Dibbs, spinster, of Walton, who was lately delivered of a bastard child, having been examined (also other witnesses who were present at the birth), the two undersigned Justices of the Peace of Surrey adjudge John*

*Chapman, husbandman, of Walton, the reputed father, and order him to pay eight shillings per month to the Overseer of Walton until the child is seven years old, and then to pay them £5 for apprenticing it, also, on notice of this order, to give security to the Churchwardens and Overseer for due performance. Signed by "Tho. Brende" and "Matthew Andrewes." Dated 20th March, 1673.*

Eight shillings per month for seven years *plus* £5 equals £38 12s. I am informed that the usual order now made is for five shillings per week for fourteen years, which, totalling £182 if the child lives, compares well with the £38 12s. in 1673, even after allowing for the difference in the value of money in those days.

**Apprentice-  
ship  
Indentures.\***

Between 1656 and 1713 there are 57 apprenticeship indentures. Though they do not contain much genea-

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\* Those interested in the genealogy of *Chester* may be glad to have the following reference to a manuscript at the British Museum:—"Indentures of Chester Apprentices, Eliz. to James I., Harl. MS., 2046."



logical information, yet they are so quaintly worded that it is worth while to quote one in full:—

*THIS INDENTURE made the tenth day of June In the yeare of our Lord one Thousand Sixe hundred Fifty and Sixe BETWEENE William Inwood and Ancell Beaumont Churchwardens of the parishe\* of Walton upon Thames in the County of Surry Johne Osborne Thomas Best and Thomas Clarke Overseers for the poore of the said parish of the one parte and James Gretrakes of the parishe of Hampton in the County of Middlesex Cordwayner on the other part. WITNESSETH that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore by and with the Consent of Sir Thomas Evelyn Knight and Francis Drake Esquire Justices of the peace for the said County whereof one is of the Quorum and at the only cost and charges of Beniamyn Weston of Walton afore-said Esquire have by these presents put forth*

---

\* Extended abbreviations are indicated by change of type.

*placed and bound John Blunt sonn of Roger Blunt late of Walton aforesaid Barbor deceased ass an Apprentice to and with the said James Gretrakes and as an Apprentice and Servant with him the said James Gretrakes or his Assignes to dwell and remayne from the day of the date above written onto the full end and terme of eight yeares from thence next ensueinge and fully to be compleate and ended By and dureinge all which said terme the said John Blunt his said Master well and faithfully shall serve his secretts shall keep his Lawfull Commandments every where shall gladly doe He shall not wast the goods of his said Master nor lend them unlawfully to any person He shall not Comitt fornicacon nor Contract Matrimony within the said terme He shall not play at any unLawfull games ; Taverns nor Alehouses he shall not haunt neither shall he absent himselfe by day nor by night but as a true and faithfull Servant shall behave himselfe towards his said Master aswell in wordes as in deeds dureinge the said Terme*

*And the said Master For and in Consideracon of the some of Five pounds of Lawfull mony of England to him in hand paid By the aforesaid Beniamyn Weston Esquire now promiseth and Coventeth that he the said Master shall and will teach instruct informe and bringe up or cause to be taught instructed informed and brought up him the said Apprentice in the trade mysterie or scyence of a Cordwayner or whatsoever Trade he now useth in the best manner that he can finde and allowinge unto his said Apprentice sufficient meate drinke lodgeinge washing & Apparell both in Lynnen and Woollen with hose shoes and all other things Convenient for such an Apprentice and Servant and at the end of the said Terme shall give and allowe unto his said Apprentice double Apparell That is to say Apparell for the Holy daies and Apparell for the workinge daies meet decent and Convenient for such an Apprentice and Servant IN WITNES whereof the parties first above named to theise present Indentures their hands*

*and seales Interchangably have sett dated the day and yeare first above written.*

*Signed Sealed and Delivered*

*In the presence of :—*

*Tho. Dickinson.*

*Lodowicke Jackson. James Gretrakes.*

(Signed in the margin by :—)

*Tho: Evelyn and Fran. Drake.*

After 1713 these Apprenticeship Indentures are made out on printed forms, supplied by :—

“W. Warter and J. Lenthall, Stationers, at the Talbot next the Miter-Tavern against St. Dunstan’s Church in Fleet Street: where are sold all Justices Warrants.”

“John Coles, Stationer, at the Sun and Mitre against Chancery-lane, Fleet-street.”

“P. Barret, Stationer, in Fleet-street, London,” and by :—

“John Evett, at the Great Turk’s Head  
over-against Fetter-lane-end in Fleet-  
street, Stationer.”

These printed forms are not especially interesting. Between 1714 and 1730 there are 17, each supplied by one or other of the above-named stationers.

## **Bonds from Masters.**

Between 1656 and 1730 there are five Bonds to the Churchwardens and Overseers from Masters who had signed Indentures apprenticing a poor child. These Bonds, which are for £8 or £10, were given as a security that the master would feed and clothe his apprentice and keep him or her from becoming a charge to the parish during the term of the apprenticeship.

## **Various Poor Law Records.**

There are also other miscellaneous documents relating to the administration of the Poor Laws in this parish. For instance, the POOR-RATE LISTS are

invaluable to anyone studying the genealogy and topography of a parish. They show the assessment made on the inhabitants "towards the necessary releife of the poor" of the parish. The earliest to be found among the records of Walton is dated 1732, and is practically a directory of the parish, giving in most cases the Christian name as well as the surnames of those who were assessed, with the amount which they paid. The names, of which there are 240 in the list of 1732, are arranged under "Squadrons," i.e. districts. However, these lists are outside the scope of the present chapter as there is nothing in them that will help a genealogist to trace an obscure family.

For the early part of the nineteenth century there are monthly **LISTS OF THE INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE**, compiled by the Master of the Workhouse in order that his remuneration might be correctly calculated. They show Christian name as well as surname, age,

health, date of admittance and discharge, etc., of every man, woman, and child who passed through the workhouse. All cases of insanity among the inmates are also noted.

There are manuscript books giving the names of the recipients of CHARITY money, but no genealogical data are to be gleaned from these.

Occasionally we find CASES FOR COUNSEL, setting forth the facts elicited from the pauper under examination in instances where his removal, or attempted removal, had given rise to a dispute between the two parishes.

A few LETTERS from Overseers, Churchwardens, Employers, etc., are preserved. These relate to most of the above matters.

Enough has now been written to prove the value of these records, and to indicate the class of information which they contain. As with most parish records, the nearer we

approach to the present time the more data are to be found in the documents. As an instance of this, I would mention a removal order dated 1843, from which we see that J. M., who died six years previously at Cobham, was the father of J. M., then living at Cobham, whose brother, R. M., born at Cobham, where he died and was buried about twelve months previously, married about 40 years previously S. P., who was still living. R. M. and S. P. were the parents of another J. M., a labourer, then living, who was born in lawful wedlock at Claygate, Thames Ditton, where he married S. R. The said J. M. and S. R. were then the parents of Mary, aged 8; Henry, aged 5; Thomas, aged 4, and Martha, aged 18 months.

A four-generation pedigree—could any genealogist expect to obtain more data from one document?

CHAS. A. BERNAU.

“Pendeen,” Walton-on-Thames.



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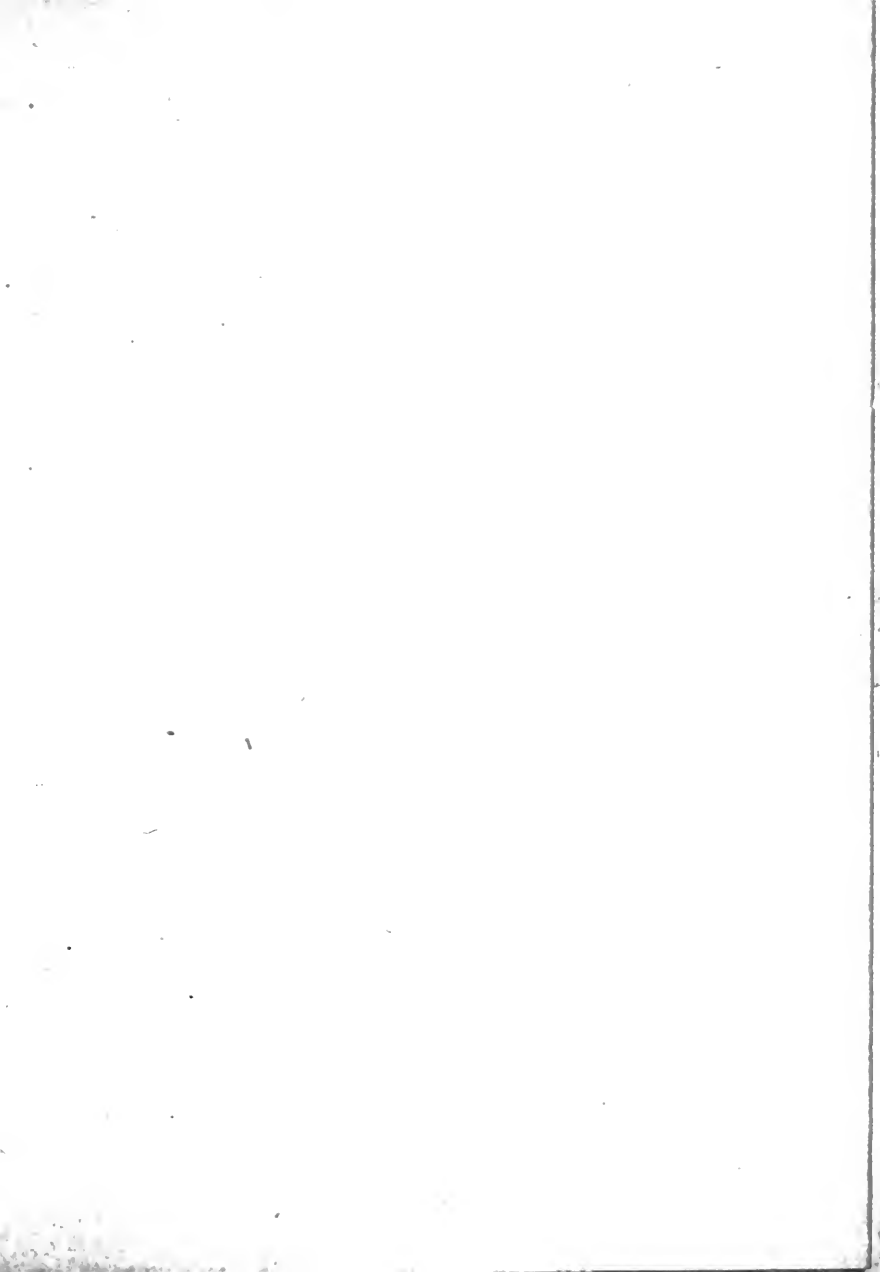
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