

# Hidden in Plain View – Handout

This handout accompanies ‘*Hidden in Plain View – Freely available sources we often overlook*’ talk as part of the Family Tree Live virtual talks. It covers alternative sources of information for common record types and some more unusual sources of information. It also identifies some hidden records on popular websites.

## **Civil Registration**

General Register Office (GRO)

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

- Mother maiden names from 1837
- Age at death from 1837 (note no unit given so age may not be in years)

Local Registry Offices

[https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/local\\_bmd](https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/local_bmd)

- Locally stored information that is then usual sent to General Registry Office
- Project to index the locally held information
- Locations part of the project include Bath; Berkshire; Cheshire; Cumbria; Lancashire; North Wales; Shropshire; Staffordshire; West Midlands; Wiltshire; Yorkshire
- Additional locations that have similar indexes include Caerphilly; Cambridgeshire; Darlington; Durham; Gateshead; Gloucestershire; Isle of Wight
- Often include more information than the GRO indexes (e.g. marriage location)

Church Marriage Finder

<https://surname-society.org/marriage-finder/>

List of registration districts included (as of 12 April 2020)

Bermondsey	Bishopsgate	Bloomsbury
Braintree	Camberwell	Chelsea
Clerkenwell	Colchester	East London
Farringdon	Fulham	Greenwich
Holborn	Islington	Lambeth
Marylebone	Medway	Newington
North Aylesford	Paddington	Pancras
Poole	Poplar	Rotherhithe
Southwark	St George Southwark	St Giles
St Luke	St Saviour	Strood
West Ham	West London	Westminster
Westminster St Margaret	Witham	

- By providing registration year, quarter, volume and page, states the Church of England church the marriage took place in or states was in a Registry Office or non-conformist church.

## **Parish Records**

Online Parish Clerks

- Often known as OPCs
- Find by searching:
  - {county} and {OPC} in Google,
  - via UKBMD ([https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online\\_parish\\_clerk](https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk))
  - via county pages at GENUKI (<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>)
- Different counties have different approaches and different formats
- Parish Records
- Other datasets
- Many counties have an OPC but not all – some parishes have one without a countywide OPC

# Hidden in Plain View – Handout

## Lancaster

<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>

- Church Record based
- Anglican and other denominations
- Search by whole county
- Search by church/chapel, parish, village/town, within distance
- List of churches for each parish
- Historical data on parish

## Sussex

<http://www.sussex-opc.org/>

- Access via Parish, Place of Worship or Record Type
- Baptisms, Marriages, Burials
- Monumental Inscriptions
- Census
- Wills – note these include full transcripts
- Indexes to Journals/Magazines
- Postcards & Images
- Directories, Poll Registers, Protestation Returns, Gazette

## Wiltshire

<https://www.wiltshire-opc.org.uk/genealogy/>

- Parish based
- Places of Worship
- Contiguous Parishes
- Various links and transcripts
- Photo galleries

## FamilySearch Catalog

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

- Digitisation of the microfilms
- Access depends on contract with providing Record Office
- Symbols help indicate access



• Index available



• Locked images



• Microfilm



• Images available

- Filter for online record sets (select 'Online' under Availability)
- Counties that are open include Cambridgeshire (BTs), Cheshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Essex (BTs), Lancashire (incl. Manchester), Norfolk, Warwickshire
- Records include items beyond Church of England Parish Registers or Bishops Transcripts in some cases so worth checking other items for those counties

## Medway Ancestors (previously CityArk)

- <http://medway.adlibhosting.com/>
- Fully scanned copies of Medway (Kent) Parish registers – available as a PDF
- Other records are indexed but only limited are digitised
- Exception is Images database (old receipts, photos, postcards) – use Advanced Search and tick digital only

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## One Place Studies

- Register of One Place Studies - <http://www.oneplacestudy.org/>
- Society of One Place Studies - <https://www.one-place-studies.org/>
- List of One Place Studies at UKBMD - [https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/one\\_place\\_study](https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/one_place_study)

## Other sources

- Village Historical Societies – search for {Village name} and history or society or group
- Archaeological Societies – often at county level so search for county or parish and ‘Archaeological’
- Cyndi’s List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/> - search under County then ‘Locality Specific’
- GENUKI - <https://www.genuki.org.uk/> - go to County then ‘Towns and Parishes’
- Dusty Docs - <http://www.dustydocs.com> - Covers UK as well as Australia and New Zealand and links to websites containing Parish Records

## County Archives

- Search for county and ‘archive’ or ‘record office’ to find website
- Search Catalogue – look into record information as often detailed transcript
- Special Projects – often links to additional sites that have been set up as part of a special project
- Facebook – look for Facebook group or page for the Archives which alert new record sets, additions to the online catalogue and events

## National Archives Discovery Catalogue

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

- Online catalogue for National Archive and over 2,500 other archives

## Scotland Archive Network

<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/scancatalogue/search.aspx>

- Online catalogue covering more than 50 Scottish archives
- Search or browse
- Drill into item level information

## Digitised Books

### Internet Archive

<http://www.archive.org/>

- Search metadata – information stored in description of item – good for searching places
- Search text contents – information stored in item as found by OCR – good for searching surnames
- Search TV news captions – uses the subtitles produced for the TV news
- Search archived web sites – known as the ‘Way Back Machine’ – identifies searched word in the top metadata of website – finds cached pages including of websites that no longer exist

## Google Books

<https://books.google.com/>

- Snippet view – only small sections of book visible – use search within the book to find other relevant entries
- Free eBooks – state ‘Read’ under information – can search within document – add to ‘My Library’

## Haithi Trust

[https://www.hathitrust.org/digital\\_library](https://www.hathitrust.org/digital_library)

- Digital Preservation Repository
- Public domain documents can be viewed in full

# Hidden in Plain View – Handout

- Items in copyright are searchable

## FamilySearch Books

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>

- View 'Full text results' – gives snippet of information for all results (even if 'Protected')
- 'Public' is accessible in full at home via website

## Probate

### Online indexes

- Andrew Millard's Recent Indexes to English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Probate Records
  - <http://community.dur.ac.uk/a.r.millard/genealogy/probate.php>
  - Search for specific probate jurisdictions
  - Links to books (see previous section)
- FamilySearch Wiki
  - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England\\_Probate\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Probate_Records)
  - Replace England by Wales, Scotland or Ireland
- North East Inheritance Database
  - [https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection\\_information/family.records/probate/](https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection_information/family.records/probate/)
  - Run by Durham University Library and Collections
  - Gives details of probate and links to images on FamilySearch for many items
- Lancashire Will Search
  - <http://user.xmission.com/~nelsonb/lws.htm>
  - Search gives details and links to indexes on Internet Archive and FamilySearch
- Canterbury
  - <https://wills.canterbury-cathedral.org/>
- London Consistory Court Wills
  - <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/about/Pages/volunteer-wills-project.aspx>
- Norfolk Sources
  - <http://www.norfolksources.norfolk.gov.uk/DserveNS/>

## Miscellanea

### National Library of Wales

- Newspapers - <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>
- Wills – pre-1858 – <https://www.library.wales/discover/library-resources/wills>
- Marriage Bonds - <https://www.library.wales/searchmarriagebonds/>
- Tithe Maps - <https://places.library.wales/home>

### London Lives

<http://www.londonlives.org/index.jsp>

- 1690 to 1800 – Crime, Poverty and Social Policy in the Metropolis

### Charles Booth Online

<http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

- Maps and notebooks from '*Inquiry into Life and Labour in London*'
- Search on any keyword – name, place, etc.

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