

More Than Oliver Twist: Source Help Sheet

Census returns:

List family members and households together and use the following tables for data in the life summary:

1841 to 1881 Census

First Name	Last Name	Status to Head of House	Married Status	M/F	Age	Occupation	County of Birth	Parish of Birth

1891 Census

First Name	Last Name	Status to Head of House	Married Status	M/F	Age	Occupation	Employment Status	County of Birth	Parish of Birth

1901 to 1911 Census

First Name	Last Name	Status to Head of House	Married Status	M/F	Age	Occupation	Employment Status	County of Birth	Parish of Birth

1939 Register

First Name	Last Name	M/F	Date of Birth	Occupation	Parish	Address

www.findmypast.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise. If you have an account, you may be able to search to find basic information i.e. dates and locations of records to use another site to access the record. Includes: 1841 to 1911 census and 1939 Register.

www.ancestry.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise. If you have an account, you may be able to search to find basic information i.e. dates and locations of records to use another site to access the record. Includes: 1841 to 1911 census and 1939 census.

www.familysearch.org – free, but registration required.

1881 census is free to access, other census records link to Findmypast, but you can search to find basic information and then use another site to access the record.

www.freecen.org.uk – free, no registration required.

Partially complete as being transcribed by a voluntary organisation.

A help sheet can also be downloaded from
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with->

Civil Registration:

Registration is in quarters: January, February, March; April, May, June; July, August, September; October, November, December.

If someone is born too close to the end of the quarter they may be recorded in the following quarter and if December, following year.

Births:

Not all births were registered- it is suggested that up to 10% were registered prior to 1875.

www.freebmd.org.uk – free, no registration required.

www.familysearch.org – free, registration required.

Pre-1912 records will not provide the mother's maiden name, or middle names – to find and check your results see www.gro.gov.uk

This source is not complete, but easy to use and good starting point. Findmypast and Ancestry hold complete data, but are chargeable.

www.gro.gov.uk – free, a registration is required.

Use this site to look at records pre-1912. Will provide mother's maiden name (if mother not single) and middle names, if given at registration, therefore use to help to find parents' marriage record. It can also be used to check you have the right child's birth and to find children born and died between censuses.

Instructions: *Click on Order Certificates Online → Search the historical GRO historical birth and death indexes... → 1837-1912 Births & 1837-1957 Deaths*

Marriages:

www.freebmd.org.uk – free, no registration required.

GRO indexes have been cross referenced by volume and page numbers. Click on the volume number to see all who are listed on that page. There may be more than one couple so census records can be used to check who married who by first names, if different.

Click on the location- you will be taken to www.genuki.org, which lists the villages/towns that are included within that registration district.

www.familysearch.org – free, registration required.

As freebmd.org – lists the options of partners rather than listing all couples.

Findmypast and Ancestry hold complete data, but pre-1912 records do not show spouses surname, does not put couples together and is chargeable.

Deaths:

As per Births. Ages not shown for deaths until after 1866. Use www.gro.gov.uk for missing ages.

Records from the parish (settlement and/or birth):

www.freereg.org.uk – free baptism, marriages and burials, no registration required.

Partially complete as being transcribed by a voluntary organisation.

Local and National workhouse records: Separate instruction will be provided for this by your Mentor.

Records from the parish (settlement and/or birth):

Baptisms, Marriages and Burials:

www.findmypast.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

www.ancestry.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

www.familysearch.org – free, but registration required.

www.freereg.org.uk – free, no registration required.

Partially complete as being transcribed by a voluntary organisation.

County Record Office- Your Mentor can advise you of contact details etc.

Check what records are held for the parish to which your pauper belongs.

There may be overseers accounts which may include out-relief payments, invoices for supporting individuals in asylums, invoices from the workhouse to the parish for supporting paupers. There may be school logbooks (some of these can be found on Findmypast/Ancestry). Some records are in collections of individual documents which are not individually listed or described.

If you make a visit to the archives, please ensure you keep a record of the documents you have looked at and list anything you think may be of interest to this project and especially anything that relates to the Poor Law system. It may be something we would like to access again in the future.

Newspapers:

www.britishnewspaperarchive.org.uk- British Newspaper Archive – fees chargeable with registration, although if you have an academic log on you may be able to access for free. Or your local library may offer free access. Ask you mentor to advise.

www.findmypast.co.uk- fees, chargeable and needs a registration.

Offers some records from this archive.

Other family history sources and developing the story:

Google:

Enter your inmates name in to a web search and see if anything interesting can be found.

Does the house they lived in still exist?

Why did they move there?

Military Records:

www.cwgc.org – Commonwealth War Graves Commission- free, no registration required.

www.findmypast.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

Some military records, including Boer Wars, Naval, Regimental and Service records.

www.ancestry.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

Some military records including Medal Cards and Service records.

Occupations:

Have you found an unusual occupation? What did they do?

www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html

Probate Records:

www.ancestry.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

If a probate record is found for your inmate, what was their estate worth? How much would it be worth today? Use this address to establish how many days of skilled labour it would be equivalent to: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>

Travel and Migration:

www.findmypast.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

Includes passenger lists and applications for passports.

www.ancestry.co.uk – fees chargeable, although it may be available to use for free via your local library. Ask your mentor to advise.

Includes passenger lists, incoming passenger lists, Australian convict ships and New York Ellis Island lists.

Hints and Tips:

Wild Cards:

Wildcards can be used across many records to help find those records that may have been mis-transcribed or where spellings may have altered through a mishearing of a name, or poor literacy.

Within Findmypast you can insert an asterisk in a search field where you suspect there may be an alternative spelling. This will pick up places where a letter may be missing, repeated, or incorrect. If you suspect there's only one incorrect letter, you can use the "?" symbol. For example Sm?th, will return results for both Smith and Smyth. You can use as many wildcards as you need to in a search field, so the results returned for search term

Bla*k*mo*r*include the following variants: Blackmoer, Blackmoore, Blackmor, Blackmore, Blackmore Lee, Blacksmore, Blakemore and Blakmore. You can also use wildcards when searching for regiments (* Som Yeo* would yield North Somerset Yeomanry, as well as West Somerset Yeomanry), service numbers etc.

Within Ancestry you can use the asterisk (*) and the question mark (?) as wild cards. If you didn't know, for example, whether a certain last name is spelt "Nielsen" or "Nielsen," you could do a search for the name using a wild card where the unknown letter goes: "Niels?n." The "*" represents zero to five characters, while the "?" represents one character. When searching with wild cards, at least the first or last character must not be a wild card, and all searches containing wild cards must contain at least three non-wild card letters. For example, though searching "*ohnson" and "Johnso*" would work, "**ohnso*" would not; and while "*ill" would work, "*ll" would not.

Help deciphering handwriting:

A L P H A B E T S .

<i>Modern Gothic.</i>	<i>Old English.</i>	<i>Set Chancery.</i>	<i>Common Chancery.</i>	<i>Court Hand.</i>	<i>Secretary.</i>
A	Aa	Aa	Aa	Aa	Aa
B	Bb	Bb	Bb	Bb	Bb
C	Cc	Cc	Cc	Cc	Cc
D	Dd	Dd	Dd	Dd	Dd
E	Ee	Ee	Ee	Ee	Ee
F	Ff	Ff	Ff	Ff	Ff
G	Gg	Gg	Gg	Gg	Gg
H	Hh	Hh	Hh	Hh	Hh
I	Ii	Ii	Ii	Ii	Ii
K	Kk	Kk	Kk	Kk	Kk
L	Ll	Ll	Ll	Ll	Ll
M	Mm	Mm	Mm	Mm	Mm
N	Nn	Nn	Nn	Nn	Nn
O	Oo	Oo	Oo	Oo	Oo
P	Pp	Pp	Pp	Pp	Pp
Q	Qq	Qq	Qq	Qq	Qq
R	Rr	Rr	Rr	Rr	Rr
S	Ss	Ss	Ss	Ss	Ss
T	Tt	Tt	Tt	Tt	Tt
U	Uu	Uu	Uu	Uu	Uu
V	Vv	Vv	Vv	Vv	Vv
X	Xx	Xx	Xx	Xx	Xx
Y	Yy	Yy	Yy	Yy	Yy
Z	Zz	Zz	Zz	Zz	Zz