



FAMILY HISTORY **Federation**

Archive Liaison Newsletter

February 2026 Issue 4

Welcome

to the latest Archive Liaison Newsletter

In this issue, you can read about the following:

Library and Archives of Canada

Spotlight on the Bideford and District Community Archive

Essex Record Office including settlement papers, marriage licence records, building plans and 'aliens'

Families in British India - Society volunteering opportunity

Cambridge University Library: - genealogical and local history sources

Gloucestershire Heritage Hub

PLUS... an index to previous issues, and where to find them!



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Library and Archives Canada Overview of Family History Resources



Dominion Government Immigration Sheds

Credit: Canada. Dept. of Mines and Resources / Library and Archives Canada / PA-021357

Link: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=3329942&lang=eng&ecopy=a021357>

[Library and Archives Canada](#) (LAC) houses an extensive and diverse collection essential for anyone researching Canada's history and heritage. As Canada's national library and national archives combined, LAC's mandate is to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the documentary heritage of Canada.

The archive's holdings cover Canada's history from early French and British colonial times to the present. Archival records, mainly from government departments and private donors, can be explored through [Collection search](#), including several genealogy databases. Published works, including books, magazines, genealogical publications, and rare books dating back to the 1400s, can also be searched through the [Aurora](#) database.

LAC report that genealogy research is one of their most popular services, both online and onsite. The LAC website receives millions of visits annually, and genealogy and family history pages consistently rank among the top five most visited. With offices in Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Halifax, LAC staff respond to numerous genealogy-related enquiries each year, providing guidance to help users access resources efficiently.

Over time, LAC has significantly expanded its online genealogical resources, including databases, digitized records, and research guides. A wealth of resources is now accessible online from anywhere in the world. The best place to start is the [Genealogy and family history](#) web page.



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resources are census, immigration, military and Indigenous records.

Census records

Census records contain the official enumeration of the Canadian population and are among the most useful sources for genealogical research. Guides to general and specialized census research are available on our website on our [Census records](#) page.

Census returns from 1825 to 1931 can be searched through the [Census search](#) database.

Census records from 1936 onward are held by Statistics Canada and are subject to privacy restrictions, with limited access available. They are transferred to and released by LAC after ninety two years.

Immigration records

A variety of records can help determine when and how immigrants arrived in Canada. Many have been indexed and are searchable through the [Collection search](#) database.

These include Home Children records, documenting over 100,000 children sent from Britain to Canada through assisted juvenile emigration from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, and Canadian passenger lists from 1865 to 1935, detailing immigrants' names, ages, countries of origin, and sometimes their destinations.

Arrivals before 1865 can be harder to trace, but complementary resources, such as land records, newspapers, city directories, and employment records, may help establish approximate arrival dates.

Immigration records from 1936 onward are currently held by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and are also subject to privacy restrictions.



Boy ploughing at Doctor Barnardo's Industrial Farm
Credit: Library and Archives Canada / PA-117285
Link to image: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=3521627&lang=eng&ecopy=a117285>

Military history

LAC holds extensive military records, starting from the French colonial period. Records vary by period and type. Popular online resources include the personnel records of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the war diaries of the First World War.

For further research, you can consult LAC's [Military history](#) page.

Indigenous history

In addition to census, immigration and military records, LAC holds a variety of records relating to First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Records include their experiences and contributions, include membership registers, treaty lists, residential school records, treaties and agreements.

For more information you can visit their [Indigenous history](#) page.



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Looking toward the near future, LAC is working with the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) to build a joint facility named [Ādisōke](#). Once complete, this modern space will feature reading rooms, exhibitions, learning and community areas, and a new [genealogy centre](#) bringing together the collections and services of both LAC and OPL.

More topics are available on the LAC website, and you may make discoveries about your own family history! If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to the LAC through their [Ask Us a Question](#) form.

*Nicole Watier, Library and Archives Canada,
Genealogy Services*



Relatives awaiting the arrival of Canadian soldiers from overseas aboard the troopship S.S. ILE DE FRANCE, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 1945

Credit: Lieut. Richard Graham Arless / Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-192969

Link: [https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?](https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=fonandcol&id=3616886&lang=eng&ecopy=a192969-v6)

[app=fonandcol&id=3616886&lang=eng&ecopy=a192969-v6](https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=fonandcol&id=3616886&lang=eng&ecopy=a192969-v6)



**WE ARE GOING LIVE IN
ST IVES 18TH APRIL 2026**

**The FHF Really Useful Family History
Show is coming to East Anglia!**

Confirmed exhibitors:

AGRA, Alde Valley Suffolk FH Group, Bedfordshire FHS, Burwell Museum, Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS, Cambridgeshire Archive Services, Cambridgeshire Collection, Cromwell Museum, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker, East of London FHS, Essex Society for FH, Family History Federation, Fenland FHS, FIBIS, Hertfordshire Archives, Hertfordshire FHS, Lincolnshire FHS, London, Westminster & Middlesex FHS, Northamptonshire FHS, Nuneaton & Warwickshire FHS, Overdale Postcards, Orders & Medals Research Society, Peterborough & District FHS, Pharos Tutors, RA Longley Publications, Romany & Traveller FHS, Suffolk FHS, This Way Books & Cassini Maps, WeAre.xyz

Follow the Facebook page for updates:

#RUFHSStIves2026



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Community Archives and Heritage Group

Supporting and promoting community archives in the UK and Ireland

The winner of the January 2026 Community group of the Month Award was the Bideford and District Community Archive.

The CAHG interviewed Kathryn Harrison, who is the chair of the group, and they asked her to tell them a bit about the group. She shared that 'the project started in 1983 using a collection of local newspapers – *The Bideford & North Devon Gazette* – which were given to Bideford Town Council by the publisher'.

'Over the years a team totalling over 100 volunteers have been compiling a unique index and filing system. We are fortunate in that volunteers seek us out or are recommended by word of mouth or approach us after a talk. We are always welcoming and set them to work on our index system which identifies stories, topics and people from the mid 1850s to 1919. Volunteers are trained to use the original newspapers, and digital and microfilm readers. Our aims are to conserve the materials and to make our communities as aware as possible of

their availability in order to enhance local knowledge of local history'.

Kathryn added, 'we collect stories, photographs, oral and written biographies and other documents relating to ordinary lives. The archive is the only resource of this type in the Torridge District Council area. Volunteers provide the public with the opportunity to research family, community and property history using the archive's resources and online access to a research tool'.

Read the full story of the Bideford and District Community Archive here:

[Community Group of the Month January 2026 - Bideford and District Community Archive | 2025, 2026, Awards, News | Community Archives and Heritage Group](#)

[The Bideford & District Community Archive - The Gazette 1856 onwards....](#)



Don't miss these events!

Live events this spring—come along!

The Federation's volunteers will be at two large craft and hobby shows run [by ICHF](#):

Glasgow's SEC	5 – 7 March
Birmingham's NEC	12—15 March

The team with bookstall will be at:

The Family History Show – Midlands	14 March
RU Family History Show—East Anglia	18 April
The Family History Show – Liverpool	9 May

NEW titles from Family History Books will be available at the bookstall along with titles from various publishers along with maps, too. There are usually discounts at events...and no postage costs to pay!



Doncaster and District Family History Society

Family History Fair 2026

The society will be holding their family history fair on **Saturday 18th July 2026** at the Doncaster Corn Exchange, 9.00am – 2.00pm.

We will be having our helpdesk and raffle table plus a lot of other heritage societies will be joining us, so something for everyone.

Marion Baxter, secretary D&DFHS

Information: <https://doncasterfhs.co.uk/>

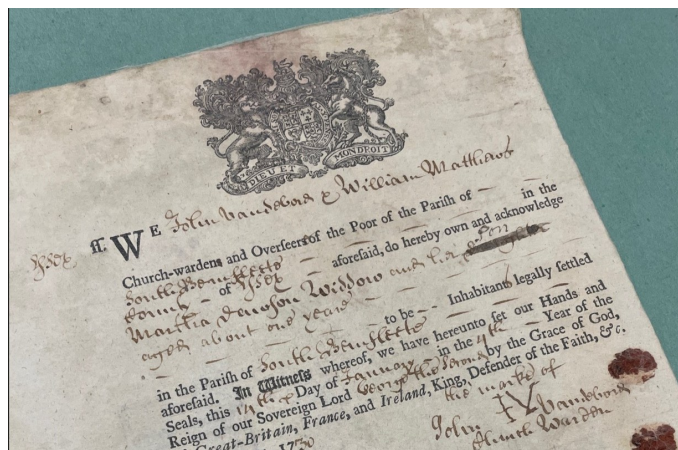


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Essex Record Office

Settlement papers, marriage licence records, building plans, and 'aliens'



Settlement Certificate for Martha Dawson and her Son
1730 (D/P 332/13/1A/67)

In this article Essex Record Office shine a light on the valuable work that their volunteers have been doing.

Essex have an ongoing project to individually catalogue the surviving **settlement papers** and add the information to their catalogue <https://www.essexarchivesonline.co.uk/>. This work has been done partly by MA students, but also by staff. When completed, this will replace the handwritten lists (arranged by parish) and the microfiche indexes compiled by the Essex Society for Family History. The latter have been very useful over the years, but can be out of date if additional settlement papers are found and deposited.

Marriage licence records (usually bonds and allegations, rather than the licences themselves) have also been individually catalogued and the details added to our online catalogue. This project happened over several years with help from volunteers.

You can find some information about these projects on our blog, which can be found at:

<https://www.essexrecordofficeblog.co.uk/> - Searching for *settlement* should bring up three relevant posts.

The first, *A Study in Settlement*, by archive assistant Hannah Crunden-Jones, provides an update on the settlement papers project.

The second, *An Introduction to Settlement Papers*, by David Perkins, provides an important insight into the papers themselves. David covers the history of the settlement papers, the types of documents you would expect to find - settlement certificates, examinations, and removal orders and how these can help your research.

And the third blog, *The Secrets of the Settlement Papers*, by David Perkins, reveals more about the project he undertook as a MA student, which was a joint endeavour, between the University of Essex and the Friends of Historic Essex.

There is also a blogpost regarding marriage licences, which dates from 2016 - the beginning of the project.

The current volunteers are cataloguing twentieth century **building plans** submitted to local authorities in south east Essex for planning approval and also cataloguing **'aliens'** registration cards located among the Essex Police records.

The building plans will be of interest to house historians and anyone researching the development of an area.

The following information is taken from our list of sources on emigration and immigration and provides more details about the records:

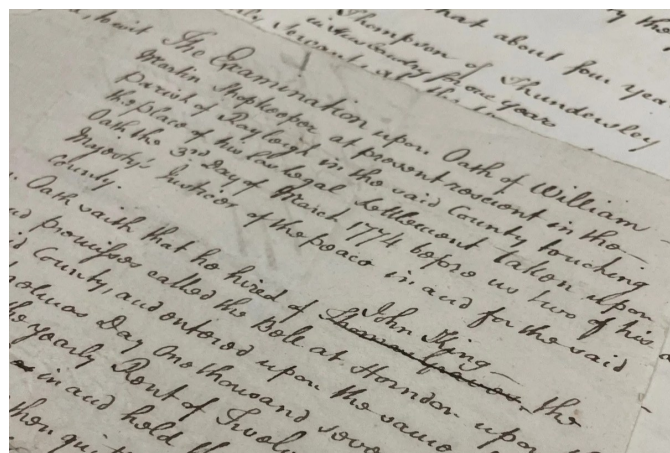


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Arranged by nationality. Give name, aliases or name changes, date of birth, nationality, place of birth, occupation, last address before entering Britain, each change of address and occupation and any convictions whilst here. Many have photographs. The 1914 Aliens Restriction Act required all aliens living in prohibited areas (including most of the eastern and southern part of Essex) and enemy aliens outside the prohibited areas to register with the police. The Aliens' Order 1920 required all aliens seeking employment or residence to register with the police. Further restrictions were imposed during the Second World War. The later cards from the 1960s and 1970s are mainly for visitors making extended stays. Access to many of the aliens' registration cards is restricted, due to the personal nature of the information contained in them.

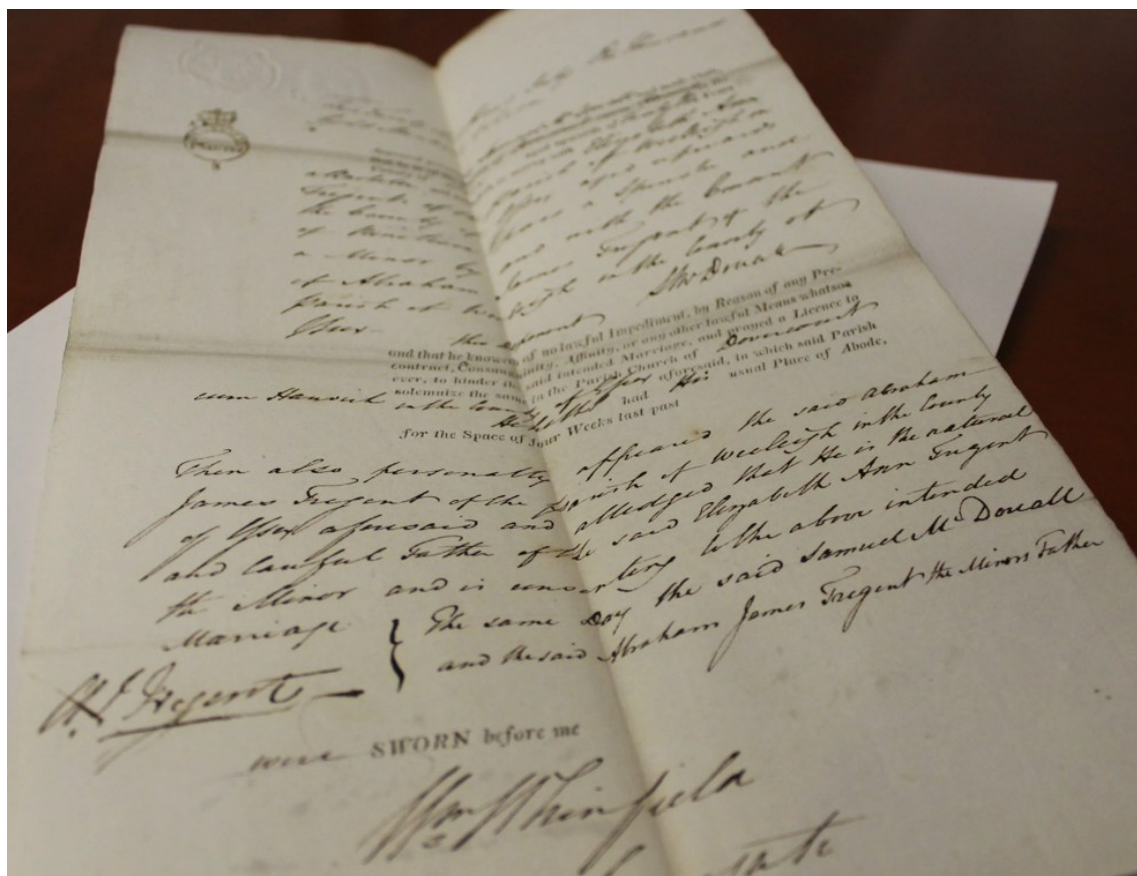
The cards are currently listed on our catalogue simply in terms of the country of origin. The

volunteers are currently creating a spreadsheet for each series, listing individual names, dates of birth, place of birth and additional information.



Settlement examination of William Martin
1774 (D/P 332/13/4/43)

All images in this article were reproduced by courtesy of the
Essex Record Office



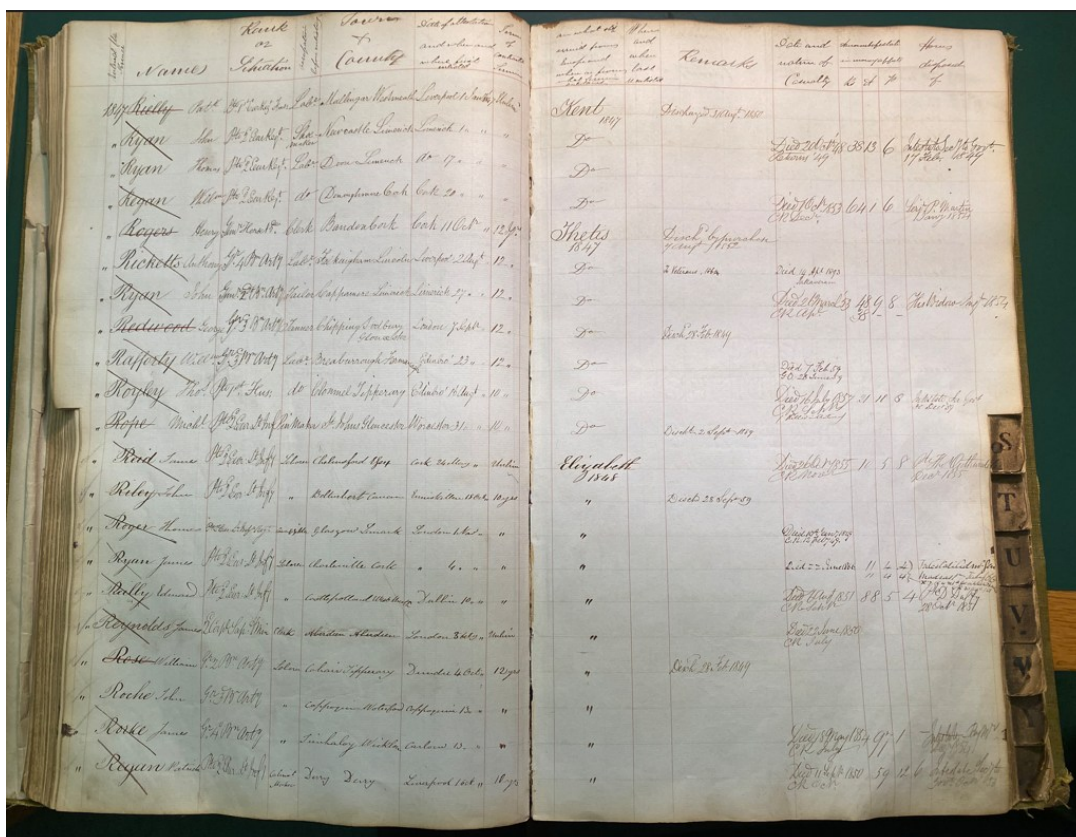
The marriage allegation of Captain Samuel McDouall and Elizabeth Ann Tregent. The allegation states that there is nothing to stop the couple legally marrying (D/ACL 1807/28)



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Families in British India Society

Volunteering Opportunity



Madra Register of European Soldiers in H.C. Service 1840 to 1850 L to Z
British Library Collection: IOR/L/MIL/11/101-108 (104)

The Families in British India Society or 'FIBIS' was founded in 1998. Its purpose, then as now, is to support family historians and genealogists to research their family history in the Indian subcontinent.

Why Families in British India? The history is well-known. Between the early 1600s, when the earliest traders working for the East India Company arrived in India, and 350 years later in 1947 when India achieved independence, generations of people from the United Kingdom lived, worked, married, had children and died in India. In many cases, these families were in India for generations. The geographical area of the East India Company's activity included pre-1947 India, Burma (now Myanmar), Straits Settlements (including

Singapore, Penang and Malacca), other parts of the Gulf (such as Aden), China and the island of St. Helena a watering post for ships travelling between England and the east. This coverage is mirrored by FIBIS's areas of interest.

The volumes of records including much name-rich material created by this 350-year history can only be imagined. Much of what survives is in the British Library in London, with which FIBIS maintains a close working relationship. It is these and other resources that provide the bedrock of FIBIS's main focus, which is to support family history research in the subcontinent.



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The main tool for this is FIBIS's database of names - estimated at around 2 million - that have been transcribed from name-rich sources at the British Library and elsewhere. The transcribed lists are free -to-use, and they include just about every kind of category: military, marine, civilian, medical, pensions, nursing, railways, education, wills, memorial inscriptions and others. The launch-page of the FIBIS Database is worth a look: <https://fibis.ourarchives.online/bin/index.php>

Information is being added to the database every month. Records with hundreds of names are being photographed and sent to FIBIS's transcription centre where an army of volunteers check, edit and then add the details to the database.

But the vast volume of records held at the British Library means that despite the dedicated work of volunteers there is always more to do.

A record set that FIBIS would like to make accessible to family historians is the eight volumes that constitute the *Madras Register of European Soldiers in Honorary Company's Service 1840-1850*. The Bombay and Bengal Register of European Soldiers has already been completed, so the Madras registers would be a valuable addition to the FIBIS database.

I had the privilege of visiting the British Library just before Christmas and was blown away by the detail contained in these volumes. This includes name, rank, town and county of birth, date of attestation, ship, date of casualty, amount of gratuity, and means of disposal.

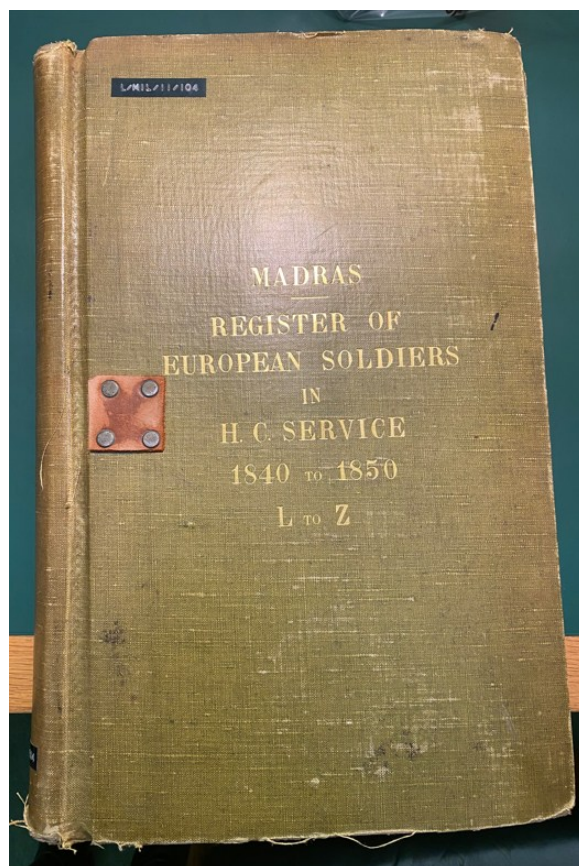
FIBIS needs your help to turn this hope into a reality.

Do you want to be part of this exciting project?

FIBIS is looking for a small team of volunteers who would be willing to spend a few hours at the British Library photographing the pages of the eight volumes, pictured in the images. All that is required is a steady hand, and minimal photographic experience, in many cases your phone will work perfectly well. It is then a simple matter to send the images to FIBIS's Transcription Coordinator.

Does this sound like you? If so, you would require a valid British Library Reader's Card, available in person at the British Library. Full Support will be given.

In the first instance, if you would like more information, or to express your interest in this project please contact: Sadie McMullon
archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com



Madra Register of European Soldiers in
H.C. Service 1840 to 1850 L to Z
British Library Collection: IOR/L/MIL/11/101-108 (104)



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Cambridge University Library

Genealogical and Local History Resources

When conducting family and local history research relating to Cambridgeshire you will likely find yourself making use of the Cambridgeshire Collection held at Cambridge Central Library and Cambridgeshire Archives with branches in Ely and Huntingdon. Taken together these repositories contain a wealth of primary and secondary sources pertinent to the area. A third complimentary collector of Cambridgeshire (and East Anglian) records is Cambridge University Library where Kevin Roberts works as an archivist in the Department of Archives and Modern Manuscripts looking after religious and estate collections.

The university has had a library for a very long time, certainly since 1416, but probably as far back as the fourteenth century. Between this early period and today a rich and varied collection has been built of both primary and secondary sources. With regard to archives in addition to collecting the records of the [University](#) itself, the library holds the personal papers of [Charles Darwin](#) and [Siegfried Sassoon](#) as well as the institutional records of [The Society for Psychical Research](#), the [Royal Greenwich Observatory](#) and the [British and Foreign Bible Society](#), to name a few.

Proprietors	No. of Houses in respect whereof rights are claimed	Tenure	Occupiers	Observations
<u>All Saints Parish</u>				
Carrington Thomas	2	Leasehold of Trinity Place	Messrs Barnard and Goodman & M ^{rs} Peel	no licence of right found But allowed for want of licence of right being found
Cowling M ^{rs} E.	2	Leasehold of Jesus College	Messrs Blackee and Hewson	Claimed also by Jesus College not allowed as part of B. same title
Foster Richard	1	Leasehold	John Leach	The 3 Hawks Public House allowed
Same	1	Freehold	John Randall	The Black Bull D ^o
Giles John	1	Leasehold for 3 years only of Trinity Place Oversea		allowed

Barnack Award Enclosure Award Extract 1807



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One of the most significant religious collections held at the library is the [Ely Diocesan Archive](#) comprising a vast array of records documenting subjects from witchcraft to church repairs. Key record sequences within the collection include tithe maps, marriage licenses, court records (assizes, quarter sessions and consistory), licenses, court records (assizes, quarter sessions and consistory), licenses of curates, appointments of clergy and manorial records of Diocesan estates. Closely related to the diocesan archive are the records of [Ely Cathedral](#) and its constituent manors. Additionally, many smaller collections include Cambridgeshire property documents ranging from deeds and court rolls to enclosure papers.

A number of major estate collections relating to Suffolk and Norfolk are held at the library. These registers include the [Buxton papers](#),

[Cholmondeley \(Houghton\) papers](#), [Coke of Weasenham papers](#), [Hengrave Hall manuscripts](#) and [Vanneck of Heveningham papers](#). These collections contain manorial records dating back to the medieval period and provide a valuable genealogical resource relating to ordinary people before the advent of parish registers.

Kevin's colleagues in the rare books team also look after significant family and local history collections. The [Cam Collection](#) contains over 10,000 Cambridge imprints and books about Cambridge. The [Cam Papers](#) comprise over 27,000 ephemeral items relating to the university of Cambridge and the city of Cambridge. The team also holds a extensive collection of local and national newspapers.

Archival catalogues are available digitally through [ArchiveSearch](#), the public portal of the library's collections management system, ArchiveSpace. A consortium of institutions, including many Cambridge colleges, use ArchiveSpace, allowing researchers to conduct single or multi-repository searches. It's worth noting that while most of the collections appear on ArchiveSearch there are exceptions, so if in doubt contact the archives team at: mss@lib.cam.ac.uk.

The library is open to the public though you will need a [reader ticket](#) to make full use of the building. From mid-February archive and rare books material can be consulted together in the new Special Collections reading room located on the first floor. You can order items on the day of your visit or pre-order by contacting the archives team. Photography is freely permitted with a few exceptions, most notably University theses.

While you may not think of Cambridge University library as a major stop for genealogical and local history resources its collections are closely linked



Ely Dean and Chapter Manorial Court Books

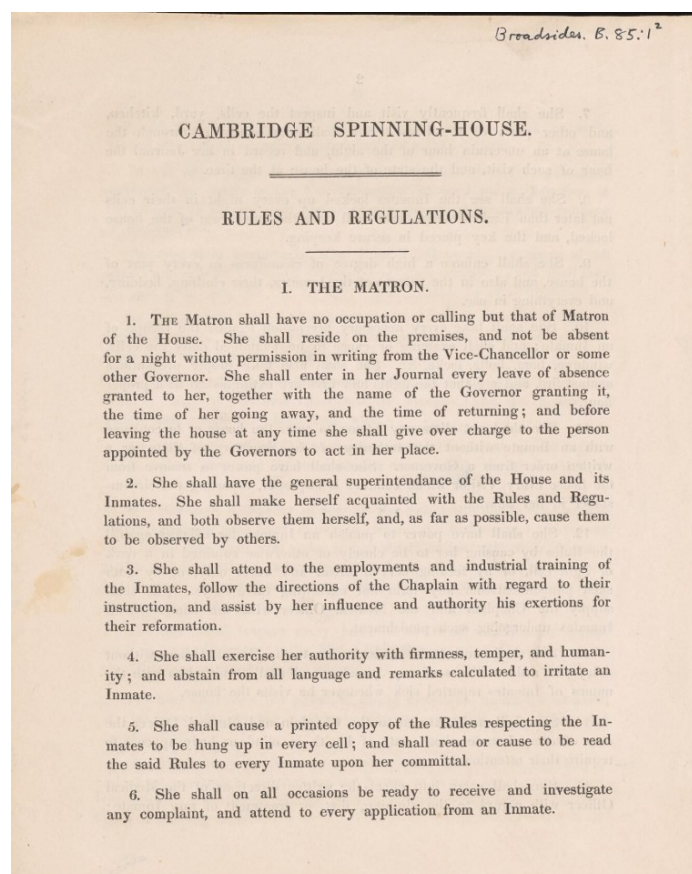


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and compliments the holdings of the Cambridgeshire libraries and archives. It is hoped that this article will shine a light on sources that will draw new researchers to the Library.

Kevin Roberts, Archivist, Department of Archives and Modern Manuscripts

khr23@cam.ac.uk



Spinning House Broadside

An example of one record held within the library collection

All images in this article were reproduced by courtesy of the Cambridge University library



The Gloucestershire Heritage Hub is a perfect place to start your family history research. The Hub is the home of [Gloucestershire Archives](#), [Gloucestershire Family History Society](#), [Gloucestershire Police Archives](#) and a number of other heritage charities, including [Gloucester History Festival](#)

Online visitors can enjoy a series of short films relating to Gloucestershire with a running time of less than 5 minutes. Further options are available on the [Gloucestershire Heritage Hub YouTube channel](#).

Other excellent heritage sites to explore include:

[Barton & Tredworth Community History](#) - recording and celebrating Barton & Tredworth's past and present
[Gloucester Rugby Heritage](#) - preserving and sharing the history of Gloucester Rugby Club
[Fielding & Platt History](#) - gathering and sharing memories of Gloucester's great engineering firm
[Dowty Heritage](#) - the history of Gloucestershire's global engineering group
[Gloucestershire Police Archives](#) - capturing and sharing Gloucestershire's police history and heritage
[Victoria County History Gloucestershire](#) - the 'big red books' have gone online!
[Gloucestershire Traditions](#) - one - stop website for songs and tunes collected in Gloucestershire.

Hopefully this has whetted your appetite! The website has a wealth of information and resources for you to explore, whether you're interested in local history, family history, Gloucester or the wider county. Why not visit the [homepage](#) and have a good look around?



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Family History at the National Library of Wales

An introduction to the archive and their holdings.

PRONI-How can the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland Help You?

An introduction to the archive and their holdings.

Community Archives and Heritage Group

An introduction to the group, and their aims.

Kent Archives and Local History

The Kent archives shines a light on the West Kent's Quarter Sessions records.

Peterborough and District Family History Society

P&DFHS highlights a volunteer transcription project, to transcribe the nonconformist baptism records for the Methodist Chapel in Crowland, Lincolnshire.

July 2025-Issue 2

The National Records of Scotland: Scotland's People

What can the National Records of Scotland offer the family historian?

Northamptonshire Records Society: Signposts to the Past

An introduction to the Northamptonshire Records Society and its holdings.

Buckinghamshire Archives New Virtual Offers

New online service allowing researchers to access records virtually. Also an opportunity to seek guidance from an archivist online.

Bedfordshire Archives

An introduction to the archives community pages, and to the online Bedford Street Index.

Keeping East Lancashire in the Picture

Introducing the winners of The Archives and Records Association (ARA) Archive Volunteering Award 2025, and an introduction to the association and the awards scheme.



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October 2025-Issue 3

Northamptonshire Family history Society - Northamptonshire Archive Service– Working in Partnership

An example of a family history society and archives working together, and supporting each other.

Family and Community Historical Research Society

An introduction to FACHRS and their projects.

National Records of Scotland

A reminder that the NRS host a range of talks online on their YouTube channel.

The Railway Work, Life and Death Project

A brief introduction to some of the records that can be accessed via the project, as another sixty nine thousand names are added to the database.

Group of the Year Award

Community Archive and Heritage Group's winner is *Our Warwickshire*. A celebration of the Our Warwickshire group and its achievements.

Resources for VJ Day and WWII

North Devon Record Office

A deep dive into what the Devon Record Office can offer the family historian.

The past issues of the Archives Liaison newsletter are available on the ***Explore Your Genealogy*** website.

Follow the link:

[Archive Liaison Newsletter | Explore Your Genealogy](#)





Archive Liaison Newsletter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - please! ***How YOU could help?***



Family historians everywhere need to be kept up to date with recent record releases. In order to accomplish this, we would really like to have a small team of volunteers to help with this task.

Can you help?

As a volunteer we would like you to make contact with your local archives and repositories on a monthly basis and gather information about any new record releases. Then if you could feed this information back to us, it could be included in the next archive newsletter.

This role should only take two or three hours a month at most – and it's a perfect way of getting to know your local archivists too! It doesn't sound much but it is vital that the Federation can keep family historians as well informed and up to date as possible.

If you are a family history society and have a good relationship with your local record office then we would love to hear from you. So please consider volunteering to help this new team. For more information if required, please get in touch with me.

You can email me, Sadie McMullon, at – archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com

What can the Federation do for us?

The Federation is trying to get more information about archives out there amongst our members.

Archives, repositories, community and heritage groups can help so much with research.

The Family History Federation is here to help and support *you*!

If you are an archives or repository, community or heritage group, you will have many useful records, full of names and important information. So, the Federation wants to help you make your collections more accessible to family historians everywhere.

If you would like information about your archives or record release included in the next newsletter, then all you have to do is ***tell us about it!*** Please get in touch if you would like our support.

Please contact me to find out more. **We are here to help!**

Sadie McMullon, at – archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com