

Disappearing Ancestors

Where are they?

What happened to them?

Why can't I find them ?

April 2022

Disappearing Ancestors

- Often, they haven't totally disappeared
..... just "hiding" in records
- Spelling variations – e.g. in names, places
 - less standard spelling in earlier years
 - illiteracy
- Transcription errors
 - in original record
 - when transcribed to website

Missing from Census ?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Spelling variations | • Death |
| • Transcription errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – by enumerator – by transcriber | • Prison |
| • With friends or family | • Workhouse |
| • Working away, lodger | • Army |
| • Emigrated | • "Adopted" |
| • Woman remarried | • Used different name |
| • Moved areas | • Didn't want to be found |
| | • Census pages missing |

Census - things to try

- Understand & use search options, FAQs etc
- Reverse names, initials, “ditto”
- Sometimes less is more!!
- Try other websites (different search app, different transcribers)
- FMP – address search
- Trawl through village/parish pages
- Search for other family members
- Track address/neighbours from other census
- Ages not always accurate

Search tips (from Ancestry Help)

Change how broad or narrow your search is. If your results don't seem relevant enough (or you're not getting enough results), try moving the sliders in the top-left corner of your search results. For help, see [Refining Your Search to Improve Results](#).

Narrow your search by location or date. From your list of search results, look for the Filter by menu in the panel on the left side of the page. In the Filter by menu, under **Record Location** or **Record Date**, click a location or date to filter your results.

Try searching with both more and less information. Add and remove different facts in the search form (since different types of records have different combinations of data).

Search for the right records for the right time of life. If you're looking for someone's parents, try narrowing your search to a decade or so after the person's birth. Don't include information about that person's spouse or children, but do include information about their siblings. Search for female ancestors using only their maiden names early in life and only their married names after they married, if they married.

Get search results that include spelling mistakes and different spellings. Sometimes names are spelled incorrectly on censuses, and sometimes handwriting can be difficult to read. Try searching with [wild cards](#).

Read the collection description at the bottom of record collections and record summary pages; it usually includes information specific to the collection.

Searching with Wild Cards (extract from Ancestry Help)

Wild cards are special symbols used in place of unknown letters in a word. They can be used in searches when you don't know an exact spelling.

Wild card symbols

Ancestry® uses the asterisk (*) and the question mark (?) as wild cards.

An **asterisk (*)** represents zero to five characters. If you wanted to search for different spellings of the name *Matthew* (like *Mathew* and *Matthiu*), you could do a wild card search that would find each different ending: *Mat**.

A **question mark (?)** represents one character. If you didn't know whether a name were spelled *Nielson* or *Nielsen*, you could do a search for the name using a wild card where the unknown letter goes: *Niels?n*.

Wild card rules

1. All searches containing wild cards must contain at least three non-wild card letters. For example, **ill* would work, but **ll* would not.
2. The first and last character in a search can't both be wild cards. Searching **ohnson* and *Johnso** would work, but **ohnso** would not.
3. Wild cards don't work with [Soundex](#) matches.

Ways to use wild cards

- To replace a single unknown letter:
- To find names that begin with the same letters. *Fran** will produce results for both *Frank* and *Francine*.
- To find first letter(s), as in **aylor* and **ompson*
- To find alternate spellings of the same name. Searching for *Lac** will produce results for *Lacy*, *Lacey*, *Laci*, and *Lacie*.

1861 England Census

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Birth

Lived In

Any Event

Location

e.g. London, England

e.g. London, England

e.g. London, England

Add family member: Father Mother Sibling Spouse Child

	First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name	
Father	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	×
Mother	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	×
Sibling	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	×

The National Archives

Browse this

To browse this the options be

County

Civil Parish

Sub-registratio

Enumeration D

Search

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

John

☐ Exact...

Last Name

Hesketh

☐ Exact...

Year

Birth

1850

☒ +/-10 yrs

Location

Penwortham, Lancashire, England

☐ Exact to...

Lived In

—

Preston, Lancashire, England

☐ Exact to...

Any Event

e.g. London, England

Add family member:
Father
Mother
Sibling
Spouse
Child

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Father

×

Mother

×

Sibling

×


The National Archives

Browse this

To browse this the options bel

County

Choose...

Civil Parish

Sub-registratio

Enumeration D

Related data

[U.K. Census Co](#)

1851 England &

All 1861 England Census results for John Hesketh

Your search  ... Results 1-50 of 247

Broad

Exact

John

Hesketh

Born: 1850

In: penwortham, lanc...

View Record	Name	Parent or spouse names	Birth Year	Birthplace	Rela
View Record	John Hesketh	Jane	1851	Penwortham, Lancashire, England	So
View Record	John Hesketh	William, Margaret	1850	Wigan, Lancashire, England	So

Missing Census Pages

- Find My Past
 - [Census, Land & Surveys | findmypast.co.uk](#)
 - Follow above link
 - Scroll down, select census year from LHS
 - Scroll down page to find details of known issues or missing pages
- Ancestry – find year's Census Collection page, scroll to Included Data Collections, click on census required (eg England). Scroll down to Known Problems section.
- National Archives – see list on next slide

1841 (39 'HO 107' records of which 5 are 1851?)
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=HO%20107&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

1851 (in 'HO 107') 5 known to be "Missing" ...
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=HO%20107&_dss=range&_sd=1851&_ed=1851&_ro=any&_hb=tna

1861 Census under RG 9 - 854 results, for parts of, or "Missing"?
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=Missing&_cr1=RG%209&_dss=range&_ro=any

1861 Census under RG 9 "Wanting" [missing?] 2 records.
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=wanting&_cr1=RG%209&_dss=range&_ro=any

1871 Census (in RG 10) 7 records "Missing"
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2010&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

1881 Census (in 'RG 11') 20 records "Missing" for Places and Vessels
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2011&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

1891 Census (in 'RG 12') 63 records "Missing"
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2012&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

1901 Census (in 'RG 13') 2 records "Missing"
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2013&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

1901 Census (in 'RG 13') 3 records "Wanting" [missing?]
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=wanting&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2013&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna


1911 Census and 1911 Census Summaries (in 'RG 14' and 'RG 78' "Missing") 27 Records
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/?_st=adv&_ep=Missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2014&_cr2=RG%2078&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

Missing from BMDs

- Creative Searching
- Birth might not be registered (eg before 1875)
- Registered in different place?
 - Check area of Registration Districts at time
- Check GRO & local registers – can be different
- Check different websites
 - GRO
 - County BMDs
 - FreeBMD
 - Ancestry, FMP
 - Family Search

FreeBMD

To search FreeBMD enter the details of the search below. To get a fuller explanation of how to use the mouse. For information on the years for which we have data please see our [coverage](#) information.

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Births <input type="checkbox"/> Deaths <input type="checkbox"/> Marriages	 <small>Click for help on using FreeBMD</small>	Districts <div> All Districts Aberayron (to Jun1936) Aberconwy (from Sep1975) Abergavenny (to 1958) Aberystwyth (to Jun1936) Abingdon Acle (1939-Mar1974) Alcester (to Sep1985) Alderbury (to Jun1895) Aldershot (Dec1932-Mar1974) Aldridge & Brownhills (Jun1966-1974) Aled (Dec1935-Mar1974) Alnwick (to 1936) Alresford (to Sep1932) </div>
Surname	<input type="text"/>		
First name(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Spouse/Mother surname	<input type="text"/>		
Spouse first name(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Death age/DoB	<input type="text"/>		
Date range	Mar ▾ <input type="text"/> to Dec ▾ <input type="text"/>		
Volume/Page	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Counties <div> All Counties Anglesey (to Mar1974) Avon (from Jun1974) Bedfordshire Berkshire Breconshire (to Mar1974) </div>	
Options	<input type="checkbox"/> Mono <input type="checkbox"/> Exact match on first names <input type="checkbox"/> Phonetic search surnames		

Which index would you like to search?
Events registered in England or Wales:

☒ Birth ☐ Death

When was the birth registered?
Year: +/- year(s)

Please enter your search criteria, mandatory fields are indicated with a *
Up to 250 matching results will be returned so providing any additional information you know registration you are looking for.

Who are you searching for?
Surname at Birth: Include: *Search for records with a matching surname*
First Forename: Include: *Search for records with a matching first forename*
Second Forename: *?*
Sex: *?*
Mother's Maiden Surname: Include: *Search for records with a matching Mother's Maiden Surname*

Where was the birth registered?
District of Birth: *?*

GRO – name variations

Who are you searching for?
Surname at Birth: Include: *Search for records with a matching or similar sounding surname (uses a soundex algorithm)*
First Forename: Include: *Search for records with a matching forename or derivative name (uses a thesaurus of common names such as alternate spellings or abbreviations)*
Second Forename: *?*
Sex: *?*
Mother's Maiden Surname: *?*

LancashireBMD – FAQ/Help

Q. I've found a record here which is not in the GRO records, why ?

A. We work from the original records. Every three months the records held at local offices were transcribed and sent to the GRO where they were then re-indexed. At each stage of this transcribing, copying and re-indexing, errors could occur. Hence the local records are always going to be more accurate and more complete.

Q. What areas are covered / not covered?

A. The coverage page for **births, marriages & deaths** list the years indexed for each area and the areas still to be transcribed.

LBMD Deaths Search

Date ranges:	<div> 1837 ▲ 1838 1839 1840 1841 1842 ▼ </div>	Region:	<div> All regions ▲ Blackburn Blackpool Bolton Burnley Bury ▼ </div>
Order:	Alphabetically ▼	Subdistrict:	Select a single Region
Surname:	<input type="text"/>	Forename: (Optional)	<input type="text"/>
Age at death or Year of birth: (Optional)	<input type="text"/> ±1 ▼	Note: Not all entries where no age at death may not be the one	
Match:	Exact <input checked="" type="radio"/> Soundex <input type="radio"/>	Output to	No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/>

LBMD - Births

Date ranges:

1837
1838
1839
1840
1841
1842

Region:

Order:

Alphabetically

Subdistrict:

Surname:

Forename:
(Optional)

Note: Not all entries have the Mother's maiden name indexed. If you choose not to ignore blank entries, then entries shown in the results also. In these cases, the Mother's maiden name on the certificate **may** or **may not** be the one you

Mother's Maiden
Name:(Optional)

Hatton

Ignore Blank MMN:

Match:

Event @ Sunday

Output to file:

Lancashire Birth indexes for the years: 1930					
Surname	Forename(s)	Mother's Maiden Name	Year	Sub-District	
BAYLIS	June	HATTON	1930	Blackpool North	Blackpool
BILSBOROUGH	Helen	HATTON	1930	Wigan (West)	Wigan
BIRCHALL	Kenneth	HATTON	1930	Lowton	Wigan
CLIFT	Joan	HATTON	1930	Atherton	Wigan
FLETCHER	Arnold	HATTON	1930	Great Bolton and Bolton Lever	
GILL	Jack	HATTON	1930	Atherton	Wigan
HACKETT	Norman	HATTON	1930	Leigh	Wigan
HATTON	Doris M	HATTON	1930	Didsbury	Manc
HOWARD	Henry	HATTON	1930	Adlington	Presto

Missing from Parish Registers

- Creative Searching
- Which parish/church? – check GENUKI, LDS etc.
- Changed parish or religion?
- Not everyone baptised, some later in life
- Baptised under mother's maiden name
- Not all PRs survived –
 - lost, damaged, missing pages
- Many PRs not (yet) transcribed to websites
- Check Online Parish Clerks, Ancestry, FMP, LDS
- Check where PRs held – GENUKI, FamilySearch

Lancashire Online Parish Clerks



Ancestor Search
in the County of
-- Lancashire --

First Name

Surname

Father First

Event

All Events ▾

Location

Whole County ▾

Mother First

Year

Range

Start Year ▾

Spouse First

Brief ☐ Results ☒ Full

Results per Page

50 Results ▾

Other First*

* e.g. Witness, Godparent, Other Relative