

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 28



According to American genealogist, Sue Long...

“It is a godsend for genealogists, since we love nothing better than to spend hours paging through original source documents, looking for snippets of lore about our ancestors. Now we can read wills, church records, land transactions, court cases, travellers’ diaries and more, in the comfort of our own homes instead of in dusty library stacks.”

Give it a try at <https://books.google.com/>

### CORONERS’ INQUESTS

If your ancestor died in sudden, unexpected or suspicious circumstances, you may find records of an inquest on the internet.

An excellent introduction to the subject of coroners, 1690-1800, can be found on the London Lives website at:

[www.londonlives.org/static/IC.jsp](http://www.londonlives.org/static/IC.jsp) It is helpful to everyone, not just those with London ancestors.



Here are some other websites to try...

- British Newspaper Archive – [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)
- The National Archives (TNA) – <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../coroners-inquests/>
- The Coroners’ Society – <https://www.coronerssociety.org.uk/the-coroners.../history/>

The National Archives is an amazing place to visit but it is easy to get lost or confused.

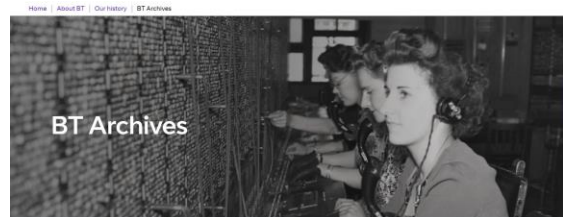
If you are stuck, just talk to a member of staff in the Open Reading Room.

They are very knowledgeable and don’t worry about asking ‘stupid’ questions – they’ve heard them all before!



### BT DIGITAL ARCHIVES

This archive documents over a century of the achievements of British telecommunications engineers and scientists. It brings together more than 500,000 unique photos, reports and correspondence dating as far back as 1846.



Free to use, it offers access to material from each of BT’s former existences, including the General Post Office and the Electric Telegraph Company – the world’s first telecoms provider.

Family historians are able to discover more about their ancestors’ lives as employees as well as learn about changing technology and its impact on society.

<http://www.digitalarchives.bt.com/Calmview/>



**“When researching  
your family tree, be  
careful what you wish  
for”  
Dr Nick Barratt**



## INTERNET ARCHIVE

Search the largest single online library at  
[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

The Internet Archive's Book Reader software is easy to use and full of great features. Just type in a few keywords from the title of the book and it will tell you whether it has the book. You can also search by name of author.

In addition, the Archive contains two million audio works and hundreds of thousands of moving images.

### THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OLD BAILEY

Covering the period 1674-1913, the Proceedings are a fascinating insight into the English criminal courts of those times and are online at [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org). Always intended for a popular rather than a legal audience, the earlier Proceedings have a tabloid feel. They were meant to entertain and scandalise and therefore often distorted the truth.

As time went on, however, they became more serious and, from about 1720, more of a verbatim record.

They are not particularly comprehensive – many minor crimes only briefly reported – but they do offer details of peoples' lives. If your ancestor features as a defendant, witness or victim, you will have access to a wealth of information.

### THE RICH TERMINOLOGY OF NEEDLECRAFTS

Look out on censuses and certificates for varied terms which refer to the occupations of your needle-working ancestors.

General needle-workers may be described as: needlewoman, needle-worker, sewer, tailor, clothier, milliner, dressmaker, garment maker, seamstress or sempstress.

More specific terms may include: gold embroideress, satin stitch embroideress, hosiery manufacturer, staymaker, garter-maker, mantua maker, shirt-maker, hat sewer, glover, boot and shoe stitcher and even book binder.



Related needle trades included: button carding, hook-and-eye carding, umbrella covering and sack work.

In the 1881 census, 5,000 women are recorded as sewing machinists.

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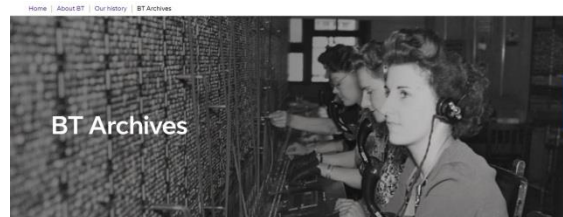
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## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 30

### FINAL EDITION

#### CLANDESTINE MARRIAGES

Before The Hardwicke Marriage Act of 1753, it was possible for couples to marry outside of the Anglican Church. During the 17th and 18th centuries, many couples chose to undergo unlicensed marriages for reasons such as the cost was cheap, the marriage could take place at speed, unplanned pregnancies could be validated and bigamous relationships could be concealed.

The vast majority of these clandestine marriages took place in the vicinity of the notorious Fleet Prison in London, where disgraced clergymen were on hand to conduct cheap services, and are therefore referred to as 'Fleet Marriages'.

The Fleet is thought to have accounted for around half of all marriages celebrated in London by the 1740s and, since so many of the couples came from outside London, it is worth examining the records to find an elusive marriage even if your ancestor had no known connection with London.

The subscription website, Ancestry, has the Clandestine Marriages and Baptism Registers, 1667-1754 online and the originals are held at The National Archives in Kew.



**Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate**

#### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS



Have you found a young ancestor in such an institution? They were established during Victorian times to help put vulnerable children on the 'straight and narrow' and also taught them useful practical skills.

A strict timetable was adhered to

- rising at 6.00 am and going to bed at 7.00 pm
- every day starting and ending with worship and prayers
- set times for schooling; work; regular exercise, drills and gymnastics; play and meals

When children reached the end of their training, they were sent into service, apprenticed to a trade, encouraged to join the Navy or assisted to emigrate.

Key sources for research:

- Look for Industrial School registers in archives or libraries nearest to where the school was located
- Search petty sessions' records to find out why an ancestor was sent to an industrial school
- Find newspaper reports which can give details of petty sessions or inspectors' annual reports

Mark Twain asked: Why waste your money looking up your family tree?  
He answered his own question: Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you!

## SUFFRAGETTES

- Research your suffragette ancestor's experiences online at:
- [Parliament.uk](https://tinyurl.com/ycky8dz) <https://tinyurl.com/ycky8dz>
- The British Library <https://www.bl.uk/collection.../womens-suffrage-collections>
- BBC Archive <https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/suffragettes/z7kqrj6>
- Suffragette Stories <https://suffragettestories.omeka.net/>
- TNA <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../womens-suffrage/>



## DID YOU EVER ASK, "HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?"

This is a question people new to tracing their family history often ask. The answer, of course, is:

- The further back you go, the more ancestors you have
  - It can be never-ending
  - You can stop at your great-great-grandparents...but most people don't!
  - It is your own personal history mystery so, once started, you won't want it to end
  - There's always another relative to chase
- As you gather your information and stories, don't forget to share it! There will be others who will enjoy the page-turner version of your genealogical story!



## THE 1941 NATIONAL FARM SURVEY



With the outbreak of WW2, Britain was immediately faced with the problem of how everyone would be fed because, before that, about 55 million tons of food had been imported from other countries. Hence, a national survey of all farmland was taken to prepare for a strategy aimed at increasing food production at home. The records are available only at The National Archives [TNA] in Kew but are worth the trouble if you wish to find out how people faced the challenge. It may also help you discover more about the farm where evacuee children were placed during the war years. Individual Farm Records are in class MAF 32, arranged by county, then alphabetically by parish. There are Maps and other records too. Use this link to take you to the comprehensive TNA guide to help you research in detail: <https://tinyurl.com/3kxm8j3f>

