



## Notice Board

### → What did your ancestor leave behind?

Wills and probate records are more than just lists of possessions your ancestors left when they died. They can provide details of an ancestor's wealth and social standing; you can find out about their interests and you can even discover the history of a family heirloom. Probate records can also produce new ancestors that you might never have discovered before. You can search the Probate Records at [www.Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.Ancestry.co.uk)

### → BMD Registers

Non-Conformist Records, Early Births, Baptisms and Burials including Overseas records Methodists, Wesleyans, Baptists, Independents, Protestant Dissenters, Congregationalist, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers (Society of Friends), Dissenters and Russian Orthodox. Maternity Records. Overseas Records. Early Birth Registers plus various other BMD records.  
[www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk)

### → Veterans – UK

This website includes information on pensions, Compensation for those injured or bereaved by Service, Armed Forces Pensions, Medical Discharges, Service records and eligibility to medals and badges.

[www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

## Adoption



For genealogists and family historians adoption can be a difficult task. Firstly because it is a sensitive subject and for many people a very upsetting and traumatic experience. Not only for the adoptee but also for the family and relatives involved. Researching can bring up many painful memories and events that happened years ago, so when researching its best to respect this when asking people questions. However on the other hand it might be known to the adoptee and family and they are willing to help with your research, or you might be the adoptee wanting to research yourself. It is the unknown and like opening a can of worms, with many unanswered questions.

However as a family researcher when you come across an ancestor or living relative that's been adopted it can be very hard to trace them, mainly because of the fact that only the adoptee can apply for his or her original birth certificate. Therefore unless you're the adoptee you will struggle to find out any information. Each individual case is different.

Adoption only became legal in 1926 for England and Wales and while in Northern Ireland it was 1929 and in Scotland it was 1930. The following year in 1927 was when The Adopted Children Register was granted by the courts for adoption records.

Before 1927 things were done differently either through organisations, or directly between the birth mother and adopting parents, and in some cases agreements may have been drawn up by lawyers and done privately. (If it was done privately it can make records much harder to trace).

From The Adopted Children Register (which is held at the General Registrar Office) there will be an adoption certificate for the child which will state the following:

- Date of birth
- Place and country of birth
- Adoptive forename
- Adoptive surname
- Gender
- Name and surname of adoptive parents
- Address and occupation of adoptive parents
- Date of adoption order
- Date on which adoption was granted
- Name of the court

If you have found results you can now add this to your family tree and document it. However if you are looking to make contact with living relatives it is advisable to write them a letter. Explaining you're researching the family and then leave it in their hands whether or not they want to write back and reunite.

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## 19th Century Poor Law Union and Workhouse Records

You can search and download documents from a number of Poor Law Unions across England and Wales, from series reference MH 12 from the National Archives website. This project has been put together in partnership with, volunteers in several parts of the country. The Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced in 1834. It was design to bring together the poor relief administrative system. Before 1834 the parish was responsible for the poor relief. However during the Napoleonic Wars, the expense rose to level that the authorities decided that looking after paupers was too costly. →

When the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed, parishes were grouped into 'unions'. These Unions were managed by boards of guardians who were elected by their constituent parish ratepayers.

### Poor Law Records Available

- Axminster Poor Law Union, Devon and Dorset, 1834-1848
- Basford Poor Law Union, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, 1834- 1845
- Berwick upon Tweed Poor Law Union, Northumberland, 1834- 1852
- Bishop's Stortford Poor Law, Union Hertfordshire and Essex, 1834- 1852
- Blything Poor Law Union, Suffolk, 1834-1840
- Bromsgrove Poor Law Union, Worcestershire, 1834-1842
- Cardiff Poor Law Union, Glamorganshire, 1834- 1853
- Clutton Poor Law Union, Somerset, 1834- 1853
- Keighley Poor Law Union, Yorkshire West Riding, 1834- 1855
- Kidderminster Poor Law Union, Worcestershire, 1834-1849
- Liverpool Vestry (technically not a Poor Law Union, it retained vestry status throughout the 19th century), 1834- 1856
- Llanfyllin Poor Law Union, Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire, 1834-1854
- Mansfield Poor Law Union, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, 1834- 1849
- Mitford and Launditch Poor Law Union, Norfolk, 1834-1849
- Newcastle under Lyme Poor Law Union, Staffordshire, 1834- 1856
- Newport Pagnell Poor Law Union, Buckinghamshire, 1834- 1855
- Reeth Poor Law Union, Yorkshire North Riding, 1871
- Rye Poor Law Union, East Sussex and Kent, 1834-1843
- Southampton, Hampshire (technically not a Poor Law Union but an earlier incorporation), 1834- 1858
- Southwell, Nottinghamshire, 1834- 1871
- Truro Poor Law Union, Cornwall, 1834- 1849
- Tynemouth Poor Law Union, Northumberland, 1834-1855
- Wolstanton and Burslem Poor Law Union, Staffordshire, 1834- 1851

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### Newsletter by Cheryl Horncastle

If you want to contribute to the newsletter with your stories and research please feel free to contact by email. [cheryl@familypast.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@familypast.co.uk)