

SIMON FOWLER

Title

Hidden Gems: Finding and Using Unusual Record Collections in English archives

Summary

British archives and libraries have many sources that are hardly ever used by family historians. This course looks at how to find them using online resources, such as the National Register of Archives and the Access to Archives databases and also examines a number of unusual sources from eighteenth century militia and jury lists to taxation records via jury lists, hospital records and published lists of those in receipt of out-relief at The National Archives and local archives across England and Wales.

Abstract

British and Irish local record offices hold tens of millions of records, very few of which are accessed by the family historian.

The intention of the presentation is to give delegates an understanding of the UK network of local archives, how to access to them from Australasia and to describe some of the unusual sources that can get over overlooked by researchers.

This presentation will help delegates firstly understand what these archives are and how to find them using the ARCHON online database provided by The National Archives.

We'll then briefly look at the various online catalogues. Some of which may be familiar to delegates, such as Access to Archives and the National Register of Archives, while others such as the Archives Hub and the M25 Consortium may not be.

The presentation will also consider how to get the best from online catalogues provided by local record offices themselves. Mention will also be made of printed record society texts and calendars, many of which may be available through the Internet Archive.

We'll then look at the resources that you might typically expect to find at a local record offices, such as parish, council and poor law records, local taxation rolls and rate books, material relating to employment (such as victuallers' licences), court, company and charity records, all of which might have material about delegate' ancestors and the lives they experienced. Particular emphasis will be placed on the range of materials to be found in the Quarter Sessions records, many of which are name rich, such as lists of freemasons and trade unionists, militia records and juror lists.

These presentation falls within the theme: 'Finding families in national, state and local institutions or repositories' and to an extent 'Making the digital age work for family historians and genealogist'.

Audience

Intermediate to Advanced