



# Abbey Genealogy Enthusiasts

Date - Wednesday 21st October 2009

Next Meeting - 18th November 2009

Issue 35 [www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk](http://www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk)



## Notice Board

### ➤ Updated Ancestry

We have now updated our ancestry subscription to the world ancestry. This gives us all access to other countries records, the metropolitan archives (which I have found most useful), embarkation papers to immigration documents and slave registers and more....

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

### ➤ Militia Attestation Papers

The National Archives is working with findmypast.com to scan and place online two important series of records: WO 97 (Royal Hospital Chelsea: Soldiers' Service Documents 1760-1913) and WO 96 (War Office: Militia Attestation Papers 1806-1915). The aim is to have all the records online by 2011. James has put the WO numbers on our website.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

### ➤ Cambridgeshire Records

If any of you have any ancestors in Cambridgeshire who you want to find out more about I now have the baptisms, marriages and burial records. So please do ask and I will look them up for you.

### ➤ Ace Pilots

An interesting website that I came across which covers many other aspects of World War Two and aviation. The site now features a large section on World War One aviators and aircraft.

[www.acepilots.com](http://www.acepilots.com)

## Family History – Filling In The Gaps



*In your life you can name many events that you have been through or that you we're involved with. What about your ancestors? They must have done more than be born, get married and die. Hopefully by the end of this article you will be able to fill in some of the other gaps of your ancestor's life.*

*Start at the very beginning when your ancestor would of been born, most people were born at home in the 19th century due to there being no hospitals that dealt with births. So what was the house like where they were born? Try to trace where the house was or would have been. This will give you some light on the area, wealth and history of what was going on when your ancestor was born. Otherwise your ancestor may have been born in the infirmary of the local workhouse. Your ancestor may have been born into a military family so have a look at the military births. A few weeks or months later your ancestor would have been baptised.*

### First Records To Find

- Birth certificate
- Workhouse Infirmary Birth Records (if your ancestor was born in the workhouse infirmary, also you can now find out why the parents are in the workhouse),
- Military births records, also you can find out what regiment the parent was in.
- Baptism records.

What next? Most children go to school so try looking for your ancestor's school records which are accessible from local family history centre or record offices. The head master would have made a report perhaps weekly or monthly; this might contain clues to the on goings of the school, including closers because of flu or important visits. Your ancestors name would appear in student list arranged by year and would contain their parents name and perhaps a place of birth. If your ancestor was in school they should appear on the census as a 'scholar' unless employed. If they are employed, what do they do? Do they work for the family business? If so, are they listed in any of the trade directories or local newspapers?

#### **Records to find**

- Census
- School Records
- Trade Directories
- Local Newspapers

The Census' are a great resource; however they only cover a ten year gap, what happens in between? Electoral registrars can help there. This is a list of addresses and the males who live there that are over 21. So you would be looking for the father or old brother with these records unless your ancestor is of 21.

After school your ancestor may have been luckily enough to get an apprenticeship. These records can be found online and in local record offices.

Did you ancestor serve in the military? If your ancestor was in the military before the First World War then you will need to look at the WO 97 series in the National Archives. First World War service records are on Ancestry for you to search. There are many other military records that can help you paint a picture of your ancestor's military life.

After coming out from the military (if he/she was in it) your ancestor may have decided to marry. So your ancestor will have a marriage certificate that you can order. But before getting married they had to have their Banns in the church.

Now you have these records to look for:

- Electoral Registrars
- Apprenticeship
- Military Records
- Marriage Certificate
- Marriage Banns

If your ancestor fell on hard times the most likely outcome would be the workhouse, the last resort. Records for these are very good and can provide an accurate insight into their lives.

Was your ancestor a member of any organization or clubs? Scouts, Freemasons, local football team, cricket team etc. These records may still exist in local record centre or libraries. These might give you an idea into you ancestor's hobbies and social status. At some point in your research your ancestor will die and you can send for their death certificate. Also you can find their burial/cremation record. Your ancestor may also have left a Last Will and Testament.

#### **Records to find:**

- Workhouse Records
- Club or Organization records
- Death Certificate
- Burial/Cremation Records
- Last Will and Testament

So now looking back your ancestor is more than just a name and a date, he/she was a person, with a life.

#### **GRO Births**

The registration of Birth Marriages and deaths was Introduced in 1837 however not enforced until 1875, which could explain not being able to find ancestors in The GRO.

#### **1841 Census Facts**

Over the age of 15 your age was rounded down to the nearest 5.



## The History Of Arriva Buses In The UK.



The genesis of Arriva is in Sunderland in 1938 when the Cowie family opened a second-hand motorcycle shop. In 1960 the company - still called Cowie - moved into motor retailing in the UK, when it became a public company in 1965 but it was 1980 when it first purchased bus companies, starting with Grey-Green Coaches in London.

The business expanded into vehicle rental in the UK but sold the business in 2006, completing its fundamental repositioning of being focused on the passenger services markets in the UK and mainland Europe. There were more bus companies to come with the biggest - British Bus Group plc - in 1996 making the business one of the largest bus operators in the UK.

The Arriva brand name was born in 1997, bringing together many different company backgrounds under the Arriva flag. Also in that year Arriva acquired its first business on the European mainland.

In 1999 Arriva announced its repositioning to focus on passenger transportation in the UK and mainland Europe. The group's contract hire, motor retailing and vehicle rental businesses are subsequently sold. In 2000 Arriva purchased MTL from Merseyside and in 2002 becomes the largest private bus operator in Italy.

In 2003 Arriva began to operate the new 15-year integrated passenger rail franchise serving Wales and the border countries – Arriva Trains Wales/Trenau Arriva Cymru.

*The motor retailing division is sold as part of Arriva's strategy of being focused on the passenger services markets in the UK and mainland Europe.*

*By 2006 Arriva acquired Premier Buses, trading as MK Metro Ltd, of Milton Keynes, UK and in 2007 completed its fundamental repositioning with the sale of its UK Vehicle Rental business, Secures a long-term position in UK rail and enters the Czech Republic bus market. Again, in 2008, Arriva acquired bus, coach and airport related transport operator Tellings Golden Miller Group.*

*Arriva has a long history of bus operation here and abroad so why, I can hear you ask; don't the buses arrive on time?*

### Helpful Websites

*If your ancestor was an Anglican minister*  
[www.clergydatabase.org.uk](http://www.clergydatabase.org.uk)

*Boundary Changes*  
[www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

*Baptisms, Marriage Banns, Burials*  
[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

### Tell us about you're ancestors

**Did your ancestor sail on one of Nelsons ships? Did your ancestor own their own business? Were they involved with a famous invention? Did they commit a crime and were punished for it? Write a piece for the newsletter and let us here about your research so far and what unsolved mysteries you have found out.**

**Please contact myself [cheryl@familypast.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@familypast.co.uk)**