



Finding Queer Lives in Archives: A Toolkit

Support U





Introduction to the Broken Futures Project

Broken Futures is a community-based queer heritage project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2019. It is delivered by the Thames Valley LGBT+ Support and Resource charity, Support U and supported by partners: Museum of English Rural Life; Berkshire Record Office; University of Reading; Reading Museum; and Queer Rural Connections.¹ It explores the history of 'ordinary' men in Berkshire who were charged with buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault between 1861 and 1967 by training community volunteers in archival and genealogical research. The project sits within a vital shift across the UK's heritage-based projects and research towards the intersectional identities that are visible within the records. In addition, Broken Futures draws on best practice guidelines in queer heritage and provided accessible volunteer opportunities for members of Berkshire's community to acquire knowledge and skills through training workshops in the recovery of diverse histories.

More information about the Broken Futures project can be accessed through our website: www.brokenfutures.co.uk. You can also access our two online museum exhibitions, walking tour (self-guided, volunteer-led and filmed options), seminar series with academics and professionals in the field of queer heritage and more!

If you do attempt to complete research within your community to locate information about how the state regulated sex between men historically and this toolkit is at all useful, or any other material provided by the Broken Futures project, if you've found similar results, or would simply like some further support or guidance, we'd love to hear from you, either through our feedback form, www.brokenfutures.co.uk/feedback or by email at hello@brokenfutures.co.uk.

¹ To learn more about the partners of the project, please see the 'Project Partners' section at the end of this Toolkit.

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Introduction to this Resource:

The Broken Futures project recovered archival records and stories of prosecutions in Berkshire between 1861 and 1967 for historical offences of sex between men. To do so, the Broken Futures team in January 2020 recruited for community volunteers to inspect the criminal records held at the Berkshire Record Office. Between February and March 2020, 15 volunteers dedicated over 34 hours of their time to research, using the physical criminal records stored at the Berkshire Record Office. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 lockdowns commencing from 23rd March 2020, the physical group moved to remote delivery through Microsoft Teams. Since then, the volunteers have supplied over 135 hours to the digital research. These sessions provided training workshops on archival and genealogical research, as well as in-depth discussions about the role of archives and museums in the recollection of queer heritage and the ethical considerations involved. This toolkit will provide unique insights into the sources, process, and approach taken in the Broken Futures history group to find queer lives in criminal archives in Victorian and Edwardian England. It will reflect on research considerations and findings, as well as what can be learnt from the criminal archives about queer heritage. For example, it reflects upon the charity's choice of project name and the ethics and practicalities that exist within research using crime and punishment archives.

This toolkit aims to support any individual or group interested in locating archival stories and records associated with the regulation of sex between men in a specific county between 1861 to 1967 for any county, despite this project focus of Berkshire. It specifically aims to support research within criminal archives during the years 1861 to 1920 and through newspapers to source stories between 1920 and 1967. It is initially worth noting that the usefulness of criminal records can vary between counties. Therefore, any endeavours to complete this research in other counties would first need to consult with the corresponding record office to confirm the viability of researching within their holdings or conduct a preliminary check of the records. The toolkit, finally, provides a bibliography covering different themes relating to this research to support endeavours to research within queer heritage and specifically archive-based recollections of the past.²

² For specific research guides, please see Norena Shopland and Dr Daryl Leeworthy, 'Queering Glamorgan: A Research Guide to Sources for the Study of LGBT History' (Glamorgan Archives 2018),

Ethical and Practical Considerations

There are numerous ethical and practical considerations for a historical enquiry into the archival records that record instances of sex between men in the past. This section of the toolkit will outline the main considerations for work in this area and the approaches the project has taken.

Many of the problems with reconstructing the lives of men who had sex with men come from the fact that the concept of 'homosexual' as an identity category did not exist for much of our period of interest. This term and its application to men whose same-sex desire was seen as a fundamental aspect of their identity did not become widespread until the twentieth century and, even then, developed more slowly in certain areas of the country and among certain groups.³ For this reason, the Broken Futures project has adopted an 'acts-based' approach, highlighting the same-sex sex that the individuals in our study engaged in but not making any claims to identity categories in the majority of cases. For instance, although one of our individuals, Arthur, has multiple convictions for same-sex sex throughout his life, we have chosen not to attach the term 'homosexual' to him. People who view our exhibitions may choose to see Arthur as a homosexual, however, and the majority of this will be down to the personal thoughts and feelings of each viewer.

Because our project has been broadly focused on the records of Berkshire's criminal justice system, we are necessarily skewed in our reconstruction of sex between men during the period. We have only focused on the sex that was detected by the authorities, but this cannot ever give us a full picture of all instances of sex between men in Berkshire's past.

Despite these issues, we are aware of the importance of providing a sense of 'belonging' for those people today who see the individuals in our studies as being

available at: <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Queering-Glamorgan-28Aug2018.pdf> accessed 22/03/2021 for a specific focus on Glamorgan Archives. More generally, Norena Shopland, *A Practical Guide to Searching LGBTQIA Historical Records* (Routledge 2020) <<https://www.routledge.com/A-Practical-Guide-to-Searching-LGBTQIA-Historical-Records/Shopland/p/book/9780367439606>> accessed 22 March 2021

³ 'Claire Hayward, 'No One Was "Gay" in the 18th Century: Why We Must Not Rewrite History with Today's Terms' (2015) <<https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/2015/03/no-one-was-gay-18th-century-why-we-must-not-rewrite-history-today-s-terms>> accessed 16 February 2021.



members of their own identity group.⁴ Although we must be wary of adopting views that are not backed up by evidence, it is completely valid for people to see parallels between themselves and historical subjects.

Our reliance on records of the criminal justice system means that our research is also skewed towards (presumably) cisgender male experiences. This is because sex between women was not prosecuted and there is no explicit evidence of transgender identities among the individuals in our research (and all of these individuals were deemed to be men by the state for the purpose of the charges brought). However, we must be aware of historical ways of conceptualising same-sex desire that are linked to gender – especially that which links same-sex desire to effeminacy and a broader gender non-conformity.⁵ It is entirely possible that some of the individuals in our study did not conceive of themselves as wholly occupying a male and masculine gender category. The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence and this is even more the case for the study of historically marginalised communities.

When publishing our research, we have had to consider that many of the individuals in our study may have felt a sense of shame in relation to their encounter with the criminal justice system. There is a danger of ‘outing’ grandparents and great-uncles, and we do not want to cause distress to those who are still living. We have decided to exclude surnames from our research (they are represented by use of the symbol †). Although we were reluctant to remove the names of individuals as we seek to reconstruct their lives, the team felt this was the best way to navigate this ethical conundrum.

The most pressing consideration we have encountered is whether it is useful to use the records of the criminal justice system to reconstruct sex between men in the past. Their encounter with the criminal justice system must have been a low-point in the lives of the individuals in our study, and there are some who believe that these low-points should not be dwelled upon.

⁴ Timothy Allsop, ‘Hidden Histories...a Story of Belonging | Blog | Heritage Open Days’ (*Heritage Open Days*, 2021) <<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/blog/hidden-histories-a-story-of-belonging>> accessed 22 March 2021.

⁵ Listen in to our podcast with Amy Austin, PhD Candidate in the Gender History Research Cluster at the University of Reading, to hear more about the links to effeminacy and gender non-conformity: anchor.fm/brokenfutures



This is a particularly poignant issue for the project because of the centrality of HM Prison Reading. Over the course of a number of years, efforts have been made to preserve this space for the local community and for the LGBT+ community in particular. The recent publicity surrounding Banksy's new addition to the prison walls serves to highlight the strength of feeling in this regard. There is, however, a group of people who do not see the preservation of Reading Prison as a positive thing, owing to its connection to the persecution of men who had sex with men.

In summary, this research is not uncontentious. It is so important to many individuals today to be represented in history and archival collections, but this desire to represent and commemorate must be balanced with a grasp of the ethical and methodological implications inherent within this research. Research into the historical state regulation of sex between men brings with it a significant need to seek clarification on the stories, so that those claimed by the LGBT+ community do not inadvertently contain historic cases of non-consensual sex, child sex abuse or sex with animals. This problem has been significant within recent work by Naomi Wolf *in* *Outrages*, as it appears Wolf may have included instances of child sex abuse and sex with animals alongside instances of queer sex.⁶

Research findings have resulted in reflections upon the title of this project 'Broken Futures', and it's clear that this title fails to encapsulate the contentious environment surrounding recollection of historical stories and is slightly reductionist. This has been a clear learning point from this project taken away by the heritage team at Support U. That said, attempts to understand the past today remain significant both in the community aspect and the individual researchers' engagement, belonging, and understanding of their history.

⁶ Matthew Sweet, 'Blind to Bestiality and Paedophilia: Why Naomi Wolf's Latest Book Is Its Own Outrage' *The Telegraph* (5 February 2021) <<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/non-fiction/blind-bestiality-paedophilia-naomi-wolfs-latest-book-outrage/>> accessed 24 March 2021.

The Law

The Buggery Act 25 Hen VIII C.6 1533–34

Established during Henry VIII's reign, The Buggery Act was the first-time sex between men was criminalised in secular law and was initially given a one-year tenure.⁷ Previously, sex between males, or any 'unnatural' sexual act, had been the concern of ecclesiastical courts through medieval legal treatises, such as the *Fleta* and *Britton*.⁸ The Buggery Act states that those who have committed:

"the detestable and abominable vice of buggeri committed with mankind or beest" shall "suffer suche peynes of dethe, and losses, and penalties of their goodes, cattals, dettes, londes, tenements, and heredytamentes."⁹ (as enacted)

the detestable and abominable vice of buggery committed with mankind or beast shall suffer such pains of death, and losses, and penalties of their goods, cattles, debts, lands, tenements, and hereditaments." (standard English)

The Act classed buggery as a capital crime. It does not go further in clarifying what behaviour may count as evidence for a conviction of buggery. Punishment could constitute the following: from fines, the pillory, death penalty, and from 1776, overseas transportation, imprisonment with

⁷ Due to the one-year tenure, the Buggery Act went through subsequent repeals by different Monarchs from its initial enactment in 1533, before its assured re-enactment by Elizabeth I in 1563. For a more detailed account of this, please visit: Rictor Norton, *A History of Homophobia*, "The Medieval Basis of Modern Law" 15 April 2002, updated 15 June 2008 <<http://rictornorton.co.uk/homopho5.htm>>.

⁸ For the purposes of this resource, medieval law has been omitted from the discussion in the interest of space. For further research or reading, please see the 'Medieval Law' section of the Bibliography.

⁹ The Buggery Act 25 Hen VIII C.6 1533–34

hard labour.¹⁰ Similar provisions remained in force for nearly 300 years: the actual number of prosecutions under this act is unclear.¹¹

Offences Against the Person Act, 1828 9. Geo. IV c.31

The Offences Against the Person Act 1828 brought together person-related offences within English and Welsh Criminal Law, and replaced the provisions included in the Buggery Act of 1533. Section 15 of the Offences Against the Person Act stated that any person who commits the "abominable Crime of Buggery [with] either... Mankind or with any Animal, shall suffer Death as a Felon".¹² This Act lessened the burden of proof for cases of buggery compared to previous legislation, as seen within the legislation:

"it shall not be necessary... to prove the actual Emission of Seed in order to constitute a carnal Knowledge but that the carnal knowledge shall be deemed complete upon Proof of Penetration only."¹³

The 1828 Act reconfirmed that buggery was to be treated as a capital offence to be punished through the death penalty. Yet, the last two known executions for buggery happened on 27th November 1835, when James Pratt and John Smith were executed.¹⁴ It also appears that the use of executions or the death penalty for crimes of 'buggery' drops towards 1835, and this indicates a judicial will to sentence individuals of buggery through

¹⁰ Criminal Law Act 1776 16 Geo III c 43

¹¹ The first person to be hanged under the Buggery Act was Walter Hungerford in 1840. For a detailed account of this, please visit: English Heritage, 'Walter Hungerford and the "Buggery Act"' | English Heritage' <<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/lgbtq-history/walter-hungerford-and-the-buggery-act/>> accessed 22 March 2021. For more information about the rate of prosecutions and executions in the beginning of the nineteenth century: A. D Harvey, 'Prosecutions for Sodomy in England at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century' (1978) 21 The Historical Journal 939

¹² Offences Against the Person Act, 1828 9. Geo IV c.31, Section 15

¹³ Ibid, Section 18

¹⁴ Tim Alderman, 'The Final Two Executions For Sodomy In Britain – 1835. James Pratt & John Smith – A Travesty Of Justice!' (*timalderman*, 23 July 2017) <<https://timalderman.com/2017/07/23/the-final-two-executions-for-sodomy-in-britain-1835-james-pratt-john-smith-a-travesty-of-justice/>> accessed 22 March 2021.



other means beside capital punishment.¹⁵ Instead, it appears transportation overseas was used, which is why certain convictions for buggery include a sentence of 'Death Recorded'. Unlike previous academic misrepresentations of this term, 'Death Recorded' is a well-documented judicial code that the individual has been transported overseas for their punishment.¹⁶ As a result, this outlines a clear practical and ethical consideration, that contemporary understandings of terminology cannot map neatly on to these records. They require clarification and research around the historical terms seen within criminal records.

Our period of interest for the Broken Futures project is between 1861 and 1967, so no convictions under the 1828 Offences Against the Person Act have been located, as this act was repealed by the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

Offences Against the Person Act 1861, 24 & 24 Vict C 100

The Offences Against the Person Act 1861 replaced the Offences Against the Person Act 1828, and for the first time in English law removed the death penalty for the buggery offence. Instead, however, it mandated a minimum ten-year sentence of penal servitude for those convicted. This can be seen in Section 61, which outlines:

"Whosoever shall be convicted of the abominable Crime of Buggery, committed wither with Mankind or with any Animal, shall be liable, at the Discretion of the Court, to be kept in Penal Servitude for Life or for any Term not less than Ten Years."¹⁷

The 1861 Act followed from the 1828 Act in lessening the burden of proof for 'Buggery' under section 63 to be "deemed complete upon Proof of

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ To read more about this, please visit: Bob Shoemaker, 'Why Naomi Wolf Misinterpreted Evidence from the Old Bailey Online' (*History Matters*, 29 May 2019)
<<http://www.historymatters.group.shef.ac.uk/naomi-wolf-misinterpreted-evidence-bailey-online/>>
accessed 22 March 2021.

¹⁷ Offences Against the Person Act 1861, 24 & 24 Vict C 100, Section 61



Penetration only".¹⁸ The Act for the first time under section 62 introduced the misdemeanour of an 'Attempt to commit an infamous Crime', on a statutory basis, stating that:

"Whosoever shall attempt to commit the said abominable Crime, or shall be guilty of any Assault with Intent to commit the same, or of any indecent assault upon any Male Person, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the Discretion of the Court, to be kept in Penal Servitude for any Term not exceeding Ten Years and not less than Three Years, or to be imprisoned for any Term not exceeding Two Years, with or without hard labour."¹⁹

No further clarification is provided within the statute as to the scope of section 62 for convicting 'attempts' or 'assaults with the intent' to commit buggery with another male person, but more can be located within Archbold, a legal handbook for judicial proceedings. The 1878 edition confirms that 'the offence [was] incomplete for want of evidence of penetration' and cites previous legal precedents for clarification.²⁰

Criminal Law Amendment Act (Labouchère's Amendment) 1885, 48 & 49 Vict. c.69

S.11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, titled 'Outrages on decency', provided that:

"Any male person who, in public or private, commits, or is a party to the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof shall be liable at the discretion of the court to be

¹⁸ Ibid, Section 63

¹⁹ Ibid, Section 62

²⁰ John Jervis, *Archbold's Pleading and Evidence in Criminal Cases with the Statutes, Precedents of Indictments, &c., and the Evidence Necessary to Support Them* (19th edn, H Sweet 1878). 776 - 778

imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour.”²¹

The act did not go further in outlining the potential forms of evidence that this 'act of gross indecency with another male person' required, and there is no further clarification provided to differentiate between “gross indecency” and “attempted buggery” under section 62 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861. Some academics have argued that Labouchère's offence of 'gross indecency' made no practical or evidential difference to the legal regulation of sex between men because sex acts discrete from anal penetration (for example, oral sex and mutual masturbation) could be already brought under a charge of 'attempted buggery'. Other scholars have argued that attempted buggery could only be used for an actual attempt at anal penetration and that consequently other sex acts could not be prosecuted in this way prior to 1885. In this way, the introduction of the lesser crime of 'gross indecency' can be seen as a move by the state to regulate sex between men more widely and with a lesser burden of proof.²²

The offence of gross indecency would later be used to convict Oscar Wilde in 1895. Upon the jury's 'guilty' verdict, the Judge sentenced him to the maximum sentence of two years hard labour in HM Prison Reading.²³

Gross Indecency between Females 1921

Whilst sex between men was prosecuted through various laws, sex between women was never prosecuted in England. In 1921, the House of Commons passed an amendment to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill to introduce the regulation of 'gross indecency' between women. The Amendment, however, was struck down in the House of Lords, due to their

²¹ Criminal Law Amendment Act (Labouchère's Amendment) 1885, 48 & 49 Vict. c.69, Section 11

²² To illuminate this debate, a reading of the following pieces of work is suggested: HG Cocks, *Nameless Offences; Homosexual Desire in the 19th Century* (1st edn, I B Tauris & Co Ltd 2003). Sean Brady, *Masculinity and Male Homosexuality in Britain, 1861-1913* (Palgrave Macmillan 2009). And the works of... Jeffrey Weeks, *Sex, Politics and Society: The Regulation of Sexuality since 1800* (3rd edition, Routledge 2014). Angus McLaren, *The Trials of Masculinity: Policing Sexual Boundaries, 1870-1930* (University of Chicago Press 1997) and for a full discussion of the debate, please see Jeffrey Weeks, 'Queer(y)ing the "Modern Homosexual"' (2012) 51 *Journal of British Studies* 523.

²³ Oscar Wilde's story has been repeatedly documented by numerous biographies, projects and academic scholarship. Please see the Oscar Wilde section of the bibliography.



overwhelming fear of alerting women to the possibility of having sex with each other if the Amendment passed. The Hansard passage below outlines the Earl of Desart's disagreement to the Amendment. Whilst we cannot be sure as to which prosecution that he is referring to which 'attracted very great public attention', it seems a fitting description of Wilde's well-known trial and imprisonment or the Cleveland Street Scandal.²⁴

In my judgement, the results would be even more appalling. It would be made public to thousands of people that there was this offence; that there was such a horror. It would be widely read. We know the sort of publicity that sort of thing gets, and it cannot be stopped. If I may draw on my own experience, I should like to tell your Lordships of the case of another offence of a horrible character that is already on the Statute Book. I remember one which attracted very great public attention. At that time, I had access to the Chief Constables' reports of all the counties and towns in England. After that prosecution there was, for about eighteen months, according to my recollection, a perfect outburst of that offence all through the country.

You may say there are a number of them, but it would be, at most, an extremely small minority, and you are going to tell the whole world that there is such an offence, to bring it to the notice of women who have never heard of it, never thought of it, never dreamed of it.²⁵

Report of the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution 1957 (better known as the Wolfenden Report)

In 1954, John Wolfenden, then Vice-Chancellor of Reading University, led the Home Office Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution to conduct enquiries and research the law in this regard. After reviewing over two-hundred witness statements (although very few of these were from homosexuals and prostitutes themselves), the Committee produced their report, titled the 'Report of the

²⁴ For a more detailed understanding of the Cleveland Street Scandal, please visit the corresponding section of the bibliography.

²⁵ House of Lords debate, 15th Aug 1921, Hansard Vol. 43, col. 573 and for a broader discussion of this issue, please see the section of the bibliography titled 'Historical Regulation of Sex between females'



Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution' in 1957.²⁶ The report recommended 'that homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private be no longer a criminal offence', having concluded that the law 'should not intrude into matters of personal morality'.²⁷ This project was run by Support U and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Sexual Offences Act 1967 c.60

Despite the Wolfenden Report recommendation that 'homosexual behaviour between consenting adults [should] no longer be a criminal offence', the next ten years did not see a rush to gay rights and liberation. The common approach used up to the 1960s to explain homosexual acts as 'deviant', a mental or medical illness, or to associate them with immorality or abnormality continued. However, in 1966, Leo Abse, a Labour backbencher and MP for Torfaen tabled a private member's bill entitled, 'The Sexual Offences Bill'. This would eventually be passed by Parliament as the Sexual Offences Act 1967. The preamble of this act confirmed that it intended to amend the law of England and Wales in relation to homosexual acts, and thus it repealed the 'homosexual offences' of 'buggery' under section. 61 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and 'gross indecency', as enacted by section 11, Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885. Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1967, therefore, states that 'a homosexual act in private shall not be an offence' provided that the parties consented and were over the age of twenty-one. This, therefore, remained only a partial decriminalisation.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, c.33

In 1994, under section 145 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act the age of consent was reduced to 18.²⁸

²⁶ For a fantastic interview with Sir John Wolfenden in 1957, please see the following copy of his Press Conference for the Wolfenden Report. Johnny Revolver, *1957 Press Conference - Sir John Wolfenden* <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm5YFH0ISHU>> accessed 25 February 2021.

²⁷ To learn more about Wolfenden's legacy and the role of the Report, visit the Wolfenden 60 Project completed in 2017-18 by Support U to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Wolfenden Report Wolfenden60 - Exploring Wolfenden's Legacy | The Wolfenden Project' <<https://www.thewolfendenreport.com/>> accessed 24 March 2021.

²⁸ Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, c.33, section 145

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, c.44

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 equalised the age of consent of homosexual sex with heterosexual sex to the age of 16.

Policing and Crime Act 2017, c.3

On 31st January 2017, UK Parliament enacted the Policing and Crime Act 2017. This Act provided a range of provisions that pardoned those previously convicted or cautioned under now repealed same-sex sexual offences. It also gave living persons the right to claim for historic offences against them to be 'disregarded'. The posthumous pardon specifically does not cover acts that are still illegal, such as sex with a minor, rape, or sex in a public lavatory. This was prompted when in 2013, Alan Turing was pardoned by the UK Government for his conviction for gross indecency, which led to a degrading punishment. However, as a result of the ways in which sex between men was regulated by the state, pardoning is not an easy task. For example, the historical records are difficult to interpret due to their omission of key details.²⁹ There are also other offences which were used to prosecute sex between men which are not so easily defined owing to their broad scope, for example individuals convicted under provisions in the Vagrancy Act have not received a pardon.³⁰

²⁹ Matt Houlbrook, 'Pardoning Alan Turing Might Be Good Politics, but It's Certainly Bad History' (*The Trickster Prince*, 8 August 2013) <<https://tricksterprince.wordpress.com/2013/08/08/pardoning-alan-turing-might-be-good-politics-but-its-certainly-bad-history/>> accessed 22 March 2021.

³⁰ For example, convictions were brought under Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824 5 Geo. IV c. 83, to prosecute men for frequenting with intent, or well-known as loitering with intent.

Criminal Court System of England and Wales

Research into the state regulation of sex between men involves the use of state records produced through the criminal court system. The criminal court system was historically divided into hierarchical courts that heard cases of varying levels of severity.³¹ Despite the court system evolving since the fifteenth century, the criminal court system was in largely in practice until 1971. In this system, petty session hearings were minor courts, presided over by magistrates. These courts tried lesser offences in the county, and records were produced by the Clerk of the Peace. In a person's petty sessional hearing, the presiding magistrate could decide that the case was of a more serious nature and thus needed to be referred to the Quarter Session or Assize Courts. As the offences of 'buggery' and 'gross indecency' were indictable offences, they were thus serious in nature, and were required to be heard within higher courts, either the Quarter Sessions or the Assizes, for consideration. Quarter Session court hearings were held four times a year and were presided over by Justices of the Peace. Trials of the most serious nature were heard in the Assizes courts, often established in the main town within a county. They took place at least twice a year and were presided over by visiting judges from the Oxford Circuit.³² Often cases of sex between men that were heard in the Assizes Court created much interest in the public gallery as well as outside, and as such they are well-recorded in newspapers at the time. Indictments, included in the 'after-trial' Calendars of Prisoners, discussed in the next section, are the formal write up of each charge against the individual accused of the crime. Often, these are annotated to record the plea given by the defendant, their verdict, and sentence.

³¹ The National Archives, 'Criminal Trials in the Assize Courts 1559 - 1971' (*The National Archives*) <<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/criminal-trials-assize-courts-1559-1971/>> accessed 22 March 2021.

³² John Baker, *Introduction to English Legal History* (Oxford University Press, 2019) <<https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780198812609.001.0001/oso-9780198812609>> accessed 12 April 2021

Crime and Punishment Archives: Local and National

Local Archives

The regulation of sex between men under English and Welsh Criminal Law between 1533 to 1967 has resulted in the existence of crime and punishment archives that record convictions of buggery, gross indecency, and indecent assault. Our specific research period for crime and punishment archives starts with the change of the law in 1861, with the passing of the Offences Against the Person Act, and tracks the regulation of sex between men through the archival records held for the period, with the passing of 'gross indecency' in 1885 and concludes in 1920. The reason for this date is as a result of record closure with data protection legislation. The stories found within them may also be for a living person, which invokes ethical and practical considerations. This section will outline the use of Berkshire's local records stored within the Berkshire Archives for the period 1861 to 1920.

With the support and resources of our fantastic partner the Berkshire Record Office, the history group and project staff located the necessary files through their online catalogue of available records. The records that are available within each local archive or record office will vary between county, meaning one of the most important steps is to enquire at your local record office about the coverage of crime and punishment archives. With the specific Berkshire focus for this project, our interests were aimed towards locating experiences of the criminal justice system for offences that regulated sex between men and, if found guilty, the men who spent time in Reading Prison as punishment.

The records utilised include the following mentioned below:

- Reading Borough Quarter Sessions 1836–1969
 - Calendars of Prisoners BRO R/JQ7/1–7, 7 bundles³³
- Petty Sessions Records

³³ Access available to view the Berkshire Record Office's Catalogue covering the Reading Borough Quarter Session Calendars. Berkshire Record Office, Reading Borough Quarter Sessions R/JQ7, available in catalogue:

<http://ww2.berkshireenclosure.org.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=R%2fJ%2fQ%2f7> accessed 12th April 2021

- Windsor: PS/WI2 /1-12 1900 – 18³⁴
- Reading Borough: PS/R2/1-18, covers the period 1902 – 1919³⁵
- ‘After-Trial’ Calendars of Prisoners of the Berkshire Assizes and Quarter Sessions
 - Q/SMC/1 – 16, covers period between 1854 to 1930³⁶
- Reading Prison Records
 - P/RP1/1 – Records of Admission, Nominal Registers for Reading Prison 1889-1920³⁷
 - P/RP1/5 – Photograph Albums of Prisoners, ‘mugshots’³⁸

National Archives and the Calendars of Prisoners

Despite the initial use of local archives for this project, COVID-19 lockdowns moved the research group to remote provisions from March 23rd, 2020 ongoing. As a result, volunteers had only had an opportunity to collate and research the entries of the Reading Prison Registers and an initial search through the printed Assizes and Quarter Session Calendars of Prisoners. Crime and Punishment records can be viewed remotely, however, thanks to the fantastic efforts to digitise the records by the National Archives,³⁹ and in making them searchable online through FindMyPast.⁴⁰ To complete research online through the National Archives and FindMyPast, you will need to hold a subscription to FindMyPast. The main records

³⁴ Berkshire Record Office, Windsor Petty Session Records, PS/WI2 available at <http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=PSWI%2f2> accessed 12th April 2021

³⁵ Berkshire Record Office, Reading Borough Petty Sessions, PS/R2 available at: <http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=PSR%2f2> accessed 12th April 2021

³⁶ Berkshire Record Office, Calendars of Prisoners, Q/SMC available at: <http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=Q%2fS%2fM%2fC> accessed 12th April 2021

³⁷ Berkshire Record Office, Reading Prison Registers, P/RP1/1 available at: <http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=PRP1%2f1> accessed 12th April 2021

³⁸ Berkshire Record Office, Reading Prison Photographs, P/RP1/5 available at: <http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=PRP1%2f5> accessed 12th April 2021

³⁹ Website address: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

⁴⁰ Website address: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

held by the National Archives that were utilised to recollect examples of the state's regulation of sex between men include:

1. the Home Office copies of the Calendars of Prisoners, under reference Ho 140⁴¹;
2. the Home Office's Criminal Registers, reference HO 27.⁴²

The Calendars of Prisoners are the official typed records printed 'after-trial' at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions. They provide biographical information about the individual charged, including the following: a number; name and alias; age; trade; education level; previous convictions; name and address of committing magistrates; dates of warrant and when received into custody; the indictment; when tried and before whom; the verdict and the sentence or court decision. Whilst most of these documents and records have been digitised, some parts of the collection haven't, and as a result if you are unable to locate the period of question, an enquiry to the National Archives might be necessary to understand which records have not been digitised. The scope and availability of the Calendar of Prisoners vary by county, and whilst some have withstood the passage of time others have been lost. As a result, the use of the digitised versions of the HO 140 documents, whilst time consuming, provides a potential alternative avenue to locate individual stories and experiences of the criminal justice system.

The digital records are not collated in the same way as those held in local archives as they include records from every county in England and Wales. The Ho 140 series is searchable through FindMyPast, but this is only through the use of an individual's name. Due to the initial search completed by staff and a volunteer in the Calendar of Prisoners available at the BRO, the project utilised the Ho 140 files to cross reference the information already collated.⁴³ After inputting the name of the individual into FindMyPast, the returned results can also then be utilised to check for other convictions of sex between men. For example, if a search return is provided for the name of individual X in the year 1895, it will feature alongside the remaining cases that were heard during the hearing. For a step by step 'How to Guide' covering research within the National Archives, Ho 140 please visit the end of this

⁴¹ National Archives, Home Office Calendar of Prisoners, HO 140, Catalogue Reference: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C9004>

⁴² National Archives Home Office Criminal Registers, HO 27 Catalogue Reference: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C8891>

⁴³ This project was also piloted by an undergraduate study at the University of Reading, which provided lists of individuals reported in the Calendar of Prisoners.

resource or our website, titled 'How to Guide outlining the use of online National Archives Ho 140 files for the collation of individuals charged and convicted of sex between men between 1860 to 1920.' We also have two templates available for use alongside the How to Guide to collate research available in Appendix 2 and 3 and online for download.⁴⁴

The Criminal Registers, stored under reference Ho 27 at the National Archives, are handwritten by the clerk to record persons charged with indictable offences, the outcome of their trial, if they were sentenced, and if so the punishment for the offence. There are a number of inconsistencies between the official indictments included in the Calendar of Prisoners and the clerk's input in the Criminal Register regarding the name of the indictable offence. In one instance, whilst the offence charged between two individuals was recorded in the Calendar of Prisoners as buggery, the Criminal Registers stated 'sodomy'. In another instance, the offence was reported as buggery within the Calendars of Prisoners, but within the handwritten Criminal Registers, listed as 'b -- y'. This indicates that there may have been interchangeable and varying terms used to describe an 'offence' involving sex between men, whilst the latter example highlights a potential unwillingness by the clerk to name the offence.

Calendar of Prisoners Findings:

As the Calendar of Prisoners for the Quarter Sessions and Assizes courts are official typed records of historical criminal trials, these documents provided more accurate descriptions of offences than handwritten documents. However, as sex between men, anal sex between a man and a woman, sex with children and sex with animals were all encompassed within the statute and common law offence of 'buggery', the Calendars of Prisoners posed practical issues for the clarification of what behaviour, and the person with/against whom the offence was committed. For example, within the earlier years of our research period, a history group researcher found that the Quarter Session Rolls 1850 to 1853⁴⁵ and Calendars of Prisoners at Reading Quarter Sessions 1854-69⁴⁶ both include reports of offences listed as 'a certain felony' or a 'certain offence'. Further newspaper research clarified that the content of the offence in most instances involved sex between animals. However, in July 1866, the use of a 'certain offence' is included in a charge of three

⁴⁴ To access the How to Guides online, please visit: <https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/how-to-guides/> and for access to Resources, please visit: <https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/resources/>

⁴⁵ Berkshire Record Office, Quarter Session Rolls, Q/SR 464-479

⁴⁶ Berkshire Record Office, Calendars of Prisoners, Q/SMC

counts of 'Assaulting with intent to commit a **certain offence** on [name of male], at Brightwell, 23rd May 1866'. Whereas, numerous other indictments can be found with references to 'a certain felony' where newspaper records of trials outline the offence to be that of bestiality. This poses an important research consideration that the Calendars of Prisoners do not uniformly clarify or determine the specific behaviour involved.

In instances where only one party to the act is charged, the Calendars of Prisoners were inconsistent in providing the name or age of the other party. This causes all offences charged under 'gross indecency' within the Calendars of Prisoners, to lack clarity as to whether they are based on acts that involved minors. For research purposes, this requires further investigations in newspapers who reported the offence at the time to check the information and age of the individuals involved. It is also something to be mindful of throughout research.

Research finds also included prosecutions brought against two men, for gross indecency with one another. In the located cases, if one person's indictment returns the verdict of 'not guilty', this is also found for the other person charged. This may be because neither individual would 'turn' evidence on the other. In these instances, often the older individual receives a longer sentence than the younger individual.

Prison Registers

The Registers of HMP Reading, held at the Berkshire Record Office, were lucrative sources from which to locate historical stories of individuals imprisoned for an offence involving sex between men.⁴⁷ Due to the availability of records at the Berkshire Record Office, the research period covered 1861 to 1920. The Nominal Registers are hand-written and record prisoner admissions into Reading Prison. The records collected the following information from prisoners:

- Register Number
- Full Name
- Date and Place of Committal
- Re-examination and trial
- Assizes and Sessions
- Offence
- Sentence
- Education

⁴⁷ Berkshire Record Office, Reading Prison Registers, P/RP1/1 available at: <http://ww2.berkshirenclosure.org.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=PRP1%2f1>

- Age, height and colour of hair
- Trade or Occupation
- Religion and Birthplace
- Previous Convictions
- Discharge date and remarks

About the prison:

A volunteer within the history group was interested in the origination of HM Prison Reading that we see today. The clip below helps to provide more information about the building:

The original Reading Gaol which was situated on the old Abbey site was built in 1786. This was demolished in 1842 to make way for a modern gaol which was completed in 1844, designed by George Gilbert Scott and William Bonython Moffatt for the county of Berkshire. It was based on a cross between Pentonville Prison and Warwick Castle. Between 1844 and 1865 in-cell sanitation was included, but this was removed following the Prisons Act 1877. The last public execution at the prison was carried out in 1862, with the last private execution taking place in 1913. Between 1884 and 1915 the prison accommodated both female and male prisoners, with a separate E wing for the female prisoners. Oscar Wilde was interned at the prison between November 1895 and May 1897 and wrote 'The Ballard of Reading Gaol' which was published posthumously in 1905.

In January 1916, the last prisoners left, and the prison was reclassified as HM Place of Internment, Reading. During the First World War it held aliens under The Defence of The Realm Act 1914.⁴⁸

To read more about what life was like in Reading Prison for inmates, please see our online exhibition accessible through our website.⁴⁹

Research Process

During February and March 2020, the history group researched the Reading Prison Records held at the Berkshire Record Office. To locate individuals within the Nominal Registers for Reading Prison, each volunteer transcribed and read specific

⁴⁸ Written submission by Jessica Stevens-Taylor, Broken Futures History Group.

⁴⁹ Broken Futures, 'Life in Reading Prison' <<https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/readingprison/>> accessed 12 April 2021.



documents, which were then confirmed by another volunteer. Alongside this, each volunteer had a list of search terms we had compiled previously and access to an electronic device, either an iPad or Laptop, to record the information.⁵⁰ We utilised a table seen in Appendix 1. This is also available to download on our website.⁵¹

Prison Register Findings

A significant challenge for research within the Berkshire Prison Registers for the period 1850 to 1920 was the condition of the records. As records for a busy prison, they are unlikely to have been stored in the short-term with thorough efforts to preserve their contents exactly for years to come, and a number of them were in a state of disrepair due to significant water damage and deterioration.

As a result, the fantastic team at the Berkshire Record Office have carefully protected and preserved the records from Reading Prison since receiving them when the prison closed. To withstand the damage already suffered and to preserve the public records, the BRO archivists secured a grant from the Wellcome Trust to hire a conservator to work on the records.⁵² Since then, more conservation has been completed on waterlogged pages to reinforce the records' integral structure and preserve the information they hold. Despite this, the water damage has had lasting implications in that some of the records are obscured in places. The results are in all likelihood that our research has missed stories from our scope, evident from how an entry of admission within the Reading Prison Registers has never been found for Oscar Wilde. Through generic searches of key terms within newspaper archives, discussed later, we attempted to fill those gaps, and stories were found within the *Berkshire Chronicle*, *Reading Mercury*, and *Reading Observer* that did not appear within the archival records. This study, as a result of the condition of the prison records and gaps in time, is therefore not a comprehensive account of men who spent time in Reading Prison for sex with other men between 1850 to 1920.

The Prison Registers research also demonstrated that the Prison housed individuals with military convictions for 'Disgraceful Conduct of an Indecent Kind', 'Indecent Conduct of a Disgraceful Kind', or other variants of this term, with our first find in 1889. For example, William was received into Reading Prison in 1893 after being court martialled in Malta and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, for

⁵⁰ The list of search terms is included on page 28.

⁵¹ Available at <https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/resources>, titled 'Prison Registers template'.

⁵² Listen more on the Broken Futures Seminar Series episode with Mark Stevens, the Berkshire County Archivist, as he discusses the work undertaken to preserve the Prison Registers: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/seminars



'Indecent Conduct'. Further research on Fold3⁵³ located the Court Martial papers, charged alongside another William with the offence recorded as... 'indecent conduct in bed with a comrade'.⁵⁴ The history group sought further clarification around the military offences, but basic searches struggled to return much outside of academic scholarship. No information or research surrounding military offences could be found online for what 'Indecent Conduct' may have included within its scope, and due to lack of time and resources as a result of COVID-19 this could not be researched further.

The Prison Registers record the date of discharge based on the amount of time the person is sentenced to. For example, if person X was convicted on 2nd March 1910 for two years, with hard labour, their date of discharge would be exactly two years on: 2nd March 1912. Unlike Oscar Wilde, who was sentenced and then served the maximum sentence for the offence of gross indecency, 12 individuals in the Reading Prison Registers had their sentences remitted (and were released) earlier than their projected date of discharge.

The stories located from the information stored within the Reading Prison Records will be discussed in greater detail in our online exhibition.⁵⁵

Newspaper research

Newspapers throughout the period featured the quarterly reports for the outcome of the Assizes and Quarter Sessions within the county, as the reporters kept Berkshire inhabitants up to date. The newspapers are vital sources for cross-referencing with the crime and punishment records to filter buggery and gross indecency charges, in order to ensure focus remains on those regarding consenting male adults. They have also been important in looking beyond the criminal act, as newspaper clippings can be located throughout the lives of individuals found. This section will firstly discuss the scope and approach to newspaper research taken and then turn to a discussion of the outcomes located from the newspaper research.

⁵³ Fold3 brings together military records and history in one place. It is a paid subscription service and more information is available at: <https://www.fold3.com/about>

⁵⁴ UK, Courts Martial Registers, WO 86, Piece 043, Page 38, available online: <https://www.fold3.com/image/537932322> accessed 24/03/2021

⁵⁵ Please view our online exhibition, accessible through our website: <https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/stories>

Scope and Approach:

Utilising the biographical information compiled from the Calendar of Prisoners and the Reading Prison Registers, further research efforts used the British Newspaper Archive to locate newspaper reports of the criminal trial proceedings.⁵⁶ The British Newspaper Archive utilises optical character recognition (OCR), involving the electronic scanning of paper-based records.⁵⁷ This may cause issues in terms of terminology, as the OCR may misread characters and mistake terms. The newspaper archive also provides different search approaches, with browsing options by date, county, region, country, place and recently added titles. For this specific research, two approaches were taken: specific research into individuals identified from crime and punishment records and generic research with search terms through Berkshire newspapers to locate any cases missed. The latter approach will be discussed in the section entitled 'Finding Queer Lives 1920-67'.

Firstly, specific research into the individuals identified from the crime and punishment archives, relies upon the biographical information collated from the archival records to locate newspaper stories regarding the crime. From here, we could then broaden the search criteria to cover an individual's entire life. Please see the Help Guide section at the end of this resource for support on completing newspaper-based research for the individuals located within crime and punishment archives.

Newspaper Findings

Newspaper research located further information both about the men located within crime and punishment archives, and those living between 1920 to 1967. The research group have identified many stories within the available newspapers on the British Newspaper archive, from tales of same-sex desire, passionate denials in the dock, legal disputes and family reunification. It has posed numerous findings for our research, as well as helping to evidence what lies behind criminal indictments. A key finding of the newspaper research was the influence of the journalists' perspective

⁵⁶ British Newspaper Archive is available at the following website:

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

⁵⁷ Read more about OCR here: Shopland N, *A Practical Guide to Searching LGBTQIA Historical Records* (Routledge 2020) <<https://www.routledge.com/A-Practical-Guide-to-Searching-LGBTQIA-Historical-Records/Shopland/p/book/9780367439606>> accessed 22 March 2021, pg 61 - 65



in their reports of what they had heard whilst sitting in court. They themselves feature within a broader picture of society that this research only begins to shine light upon. This, ultimately, highlights the practical consideration that it is important keep in mind that, throughout newspaper research, the information is given is through the perspective of the journalist.

The newspaper research also identified a significant variance in the coverage depending on several elements: the specific details of the case heard; the outcome; the public perception within the court; and the judge's remarks during the hearing. Given the obscurities left by the ambiguity in indictments, as discussed previously, some of the individuals we searched for in the newspapers were confirmed to have committed a sexual offence with minors (taken by our research to have been under the age of 16, because there was no formal age of consent for sex between males – there does, however appear to be an age of criminal responsibility in this regard). As buggery laws included sex between adult men, and sex with minors, the newspapers provided some extra information which allowed us to remove child sex offences from our study of individuals charged or convicted of sex between adult men.

One finding within the newspaper provided perspective on a particular Judge's opinion in court discourse around 'gross indecency'. In the *Oxfordshire Weekly News* on Wednesday 22nd April 1885, is coverage of the trial proceedings against John and James, who were both charged with acts of gross indecency with one another in 1885, the same year gross indecency was established under the Criminal Law Amendment Act (Labouchère's Amendment). At the start of the hearing, the Judge remarked...

In regard to the certain charge against John and James, the learned Judge also asked the Grand Jury to give every attention to the circumstances, remarking that unless the case was clear, it was far better that it should not come before the public in a Court of Justice, if it only ended in acquittal, as evil-minded persons would feed upon the details, and much harm would be done.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Excerpt transcribed from *Oxfordshire Weekly News*, Wednesday 22nd April 1885



The Grand Jury ignored the bill brought by the prosecution against John and James.

Researchers located significantly more newspaper reports for high-profile societal figures than for ordinary, working class, rural men, although the latter group makes up the majority of the returns overall. Just like Oscar Wilde, it appears high-profile cases feature with significant vitriol, and if found guilty their offences were destined to lead to public outcries and sensation. For example, in 1905, researchers located the criminal record within the Calendar of Prisoners for Francis (a curate) and John (a carman). This led to finding feature-length coverage of Francis and John's trial in the *Berkshire Chronicle*. The case appeared in many different newspapers across the country, with newspapers as far away as Scotland and Ireland featuring the case. They present the scandalous witness testimony of Francis' landlord, the church sidesman, who had let Francis stay during his curacy.

On Wednesday evenings he arrived at five or six in the evening and usually left again the same night, but on Saturdays he stayed all night. Suspicion being aroused by the frequency of [John]'s visits, Ridgers said he went to [Francis]' bedroom, and so arranged two of the laths of the Venetian blind that he could see into the room from the outside. A ladder was in readiness in order to reach the window, but when [Francis] went in the bedroom the laths were put straight. On another occasion he kept observation upon the curate by looking through a hole which he had bored in the bedroom ceiling. There was an unfurnished attic above the bedroom. On May 3rd [Francis] and [John] returned from a dance at Ascot and went to the bedroom. Witness described to the court what he saw. In order that there should be no mistake he made another hole in the ceiling and kept observation three days later. On the next morning, when [Francis] and [John] were waiting for their breakfast., he told the curate that he wanted [John] out of the house, and that [Francis] should leave his lodgings as soon as he could make it convenient. [Francis]replied, "I don't know what you are talking about". He replied "You know perfectly well what I am talking about. I saw everything that



happened last night in your room.” At [Francis]’ wish, [John] then left. [John] was then wearing a pair of [Francis]’ boots.⁵⁹

Both men were convicted: Francis, for four years penal servitude, whereas John was sentenced to 9 months hard labour. Upon sentencing, the Judge remarked upon the difference he had found between Francis and John, which may have resulted in John’s lesser sentence:

The class of crime was one which was far-reaching in its evil when practised habitually, as it had been in this case, and he must deal with the prisoner [Francis] upon the basis of a very heinous crime having been committed, although he was sorry to say, [Francis] went into the box, and denied on oath that which the jury had found by their verdict to be absolutely true.

[John] stood in a very different position. He was a person of inferior education, and was only 21 years of age. The jury strongly recommended him to mercy on account of the influence exerted on him by the other prisoner. At the same time, he could not overlook the fact that although [John] might have been very much less to blame, the nature of the offence in itself was one that [John] must have known to have been unmanly and foul.⁶⁰

For more information and a broader discussion of Francis’ and John’s case, please see the Stories section of our online exhibition.⁶¹

The use of newspapers for clarification of indictment details also helped to provide broader information and context about an individual’s life. While searching for individual names, numerous different articles were returned across their life that covered sport matches, sale of property, family events, marriages, deaths, previous convictions, and more. This helped to build a broader picture of an individual beyond their mark in the criminal record for consensual sex with other men.

The final finding is that the British Newspaper Archive is not conclusive for all newspapers published in the past. For example, the Reading Standard has just been electronically stored in April 2021 on to the British Newspaper Archive. Searches there show that the Reading Standard did feature

⁵⁹ Excerpt transcribed from *Berkshire Chronicle*, Curate in the Dock, 20th September 1905

⁶⁰ Excerpt transcribed from the *Berkshire Chronicle*, 11th November 1905

⁶¹ Broken Futures, ‘Stories’ <<https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/stories/>> accessed 12 April 2021



newspaper coverage of the outcome of trial proceedings, and so may hold more information. Whilst digital searches are lucrative, they may not be all encompassing and we would advise that physical copies of newspapers are also used.⁶² Newspaper research generally, to conclude the section, provides a wealth of information for research within this area, both specifically in terms of names located from crime and punishment archives, and generally between 1920 to 1967.

Genealogical Research

In an effort to humanise each criminal record for an instance of sex between men, Broken Futures researchers and staff utilised genealogical research databases and methodologies. Through online record databases like Ancestry and Find My Past, the history group located a variety of sources that provided broader historical information about an individual's life. The main categories of records held within these databases include:

- Birth, Marriage, Death, and Parish
- Census and Electoral
- Immigration and Travel
- Military
- Schools, Directories and Churches
- Wills, Tax, Criminal, and Land

As a result, volunteer researchers used a variety of source types to broaden the information located on the individual. Genealogical research, however, echoes the similar issues within crime and punishment archives: that these records were produced, in most cases for an official purpose. These records are unlikely to hold sensitive and private information that had been hidden from state records, and this again means the voice of the individual is rarely heard. The documents were designed for a specific purpose and this research co-opts them for the purpose of building life histories.

⁶² Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this project undertook minimal physical research prior to lockdowns.

Genealogical Approach

Our approach to genealogical research again utilised the information collated from the research completed within the newspapers and crime and punishment archives. Taking this basic information, volunteers searched for individuals to locate any records that exist from their life. For a full step by step how to guide for genealogical research, please see the 'How to Guides' section at the end of this resource.

Genealogical Findings

Genealogical research located records that humanised the individuals located within the criminal archives and newspapers with a charge or conviction for sex between men. It sought to provide further information about an individual: their family history, support they relied on, as well as the places they visited and lived in. It also helps to provide more information about the aftermath of a conviction for sex between men. The history group were specifically interested in where individuals may have gone after their conviction; for example, whether they returned back to their family.

A clear finding is that genealogical research often relies upon the work completed by private researchers, potentially living relatives, regarding the men included in our study. In the cases where we located family trees, the group researchers have mostly found that the convictions (stored on the databases within crime and punishment files) are not then included within the family trees for individuals.

A further general finding is that this research covered individuals of a variety of ages and class circles, and evident from genealogical research is that, where figures are more publicly known, more records can be located. Only one individual was able to be located through a generic search on Google, and this was as a result of family connections to the peerage.

Finding queer lives in Newspapers 1920 to 1967

Due to the closure of records for data protection, the issues surrounding the location of stories of living persons and COVID-19 restrictions, research within crime and punishment archives between 1920 and 1967 was not possible. However, the history group was eager to understand more about how the policing and judicial approaches towards regulating sex between men varied throughout the period between 1861 and 1967. Therefore, the history group completed newspaper research through generic search terms within two different segments of time, 1861 to 1920 and then 1921 to 1967. The reason for this was to lower the amount of search results for each specific term.

To collate search terms, we utilised the fantastic work of Norena Shopland and Dr Daryl Leeworthy's Research Guide, within which they published a table of search terms for use throughout archives and newspaper research.⁶³ Following on from their approach, we have displayed the search terms utilised for finding queer lives in newspapers in Berkshire between 1920 to 1967.

⁶³ Norena Shopland and Dr Daryl Leeworthy, 'Queering Glamorgan: A Research Guide to Sources for the Study of LGBT History' (Glamorgan Archives 2018) available at: <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Queering-Glamorgan-28Aug2018.pdf> accessed 22/03/2021

Term	Terminological Variation	Information
Buggery	Buggerie/Bugger/B-y/B--y/ attempted buggery /	Terminology from the Buggery Act 1533
Gross indecency	Gross Ind/indecency/indecent/gross indecent/gros indecency /indecent act / attempt to procure the commission of an act of gross indecency / is party to the commission of gross indecency	Terminology from the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, section 11
Indecent Assault	Assault with intent to commit buggery	From previous archival research and literature.
Sodomy	Sodomy/ Sodomie/ Sodom/Sodomite/ Sodomitical / incite to commit sodomy	Terminology from medieval law and religious connotations and connections
Homosexual	Gay / Homosexuality / Sexuality	Early origins towards the end of 19 th century in the emergence of sexologists and scientific studies. Utilised within newspapers from 1950s as an identity category and by individuals to identity their sexuality.
Female Impersonator	Male impersonator	Located within newspaper research as a descriptor
Man dressed as a woman/Woman dressed as a man	'disguise' Disguised in male clothing /disguised in female clothing	Located within newspaper research as a descriptor
Indecent Conduct of a Disgraceful Kind	Disgraceful Conduct of an Indecent Kind / Indecent Conduct	Research with Reading Prison Registers

unnatural offence	Certain offence / unnatural crime	Research within 1850–1853, in Quarter Session Rolls and 1854 onwards in Quarter Session Calendars
Abominable	Detestable / against the order of nature / not to be named amongst Christians /	Statute terminology
'certain offence'	Certain felony	Research in the Quarter Sessions Rolls and Calendars between 1850 – 1869...

General findings from newspaper returns between 1920 to 1967 show that around the time of changes to legal statutes, like the Sexual Offences Act 1967, or legal developments like the Wolfenden Report, more prosecutions appear within the newspapers than outside of these dates.

The effects of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 can also be seen from research between 1967 and 1970 as the Act only partially decriminalised sex between men in specific circumstances; for example, between two consenting persons in a private place. Returns have been found for trials involving sex within public spaces, like urinals, in 1967 and 1968. The lack of privacy and secrecy conveyed from examples of historical convictions of sex between men was clearly still evident for individuals who desired sex with other men after the partial decriminalisation. Research in other areas has identified that urinals were also used as cruising places, which resulted in policing practices within or near to urinals to catch people in the act.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Matt Houlbrook, 'The Private World of Public Urinals: London 1918–57' (2000) 25 London Journal 52



Overall Summary:

This toolkit has intended to provide an overview of the research approach taken within the Broken Futures history group to locate criminal convictions for sex between men in Berkshire between 1861 and 1967. It aims to: display the scope, approach, and techniques taken by the history group; and to act as support and guidance for anyone approaching the recollection of lives from county crime and punishment archives across the UK. Because of COVID-19, the history group has operated remotely and has consequently relied upon records that have been made available online due to the closure of archives, museums and record offices. This has necessitated a change in the approach taken to locate these stories but has shown that research within this area is possible to complete remotely.

The project had two main aims. Firstly, to understand how the state regulated sex between men in Berkshire between 1861 and 1920 using crime and punishment archives available locally at the Berkshire Record Office and nationally online via the National Archives. Secondly, to locate and track the changes within the judicial and policing approaches in Berkshire for sex between men through newspaper research between 1920 and 1967.

The effect of the state's approach to the regulation of sex between men is clear throughout research within this area: convictions located under buggery and gross indecency laws should not be automatically presumed to be attached to a group of 'homosexual offences'. As mentioned throughout, the research located instances of sex between two men, sex with minors and sex with animals, and this goes some way to show how the state viewed consensual sex between men alongside these other forms of 'sexual deviancy'.

The history group has located stories of same-sex desire from the landed gentry to the agricultural labourer. Over 100 individual stories have been further researched to seek further clarification on how sex between males was regulated between 1861 and 1967 and the implications this may have for our understandings of queerness and homosexuality today. The collaborative approach taken through the use of a research group has proved highly important and beneficial for this approach to research. Working with a diverse group of members of the community and bringing together their own personal experiences, connections to history, and sense of belonging with the past has allowed the difference in perspectives that are necessary for research within this area.



Please visit our website at www.brokenfutures.co.uk to see our online exhibition displays, Inclusion in the Archive and Rural Queer Lives in Berkshire Criminal Archives (for the Museum of English Rural Life), online seminar series, walking tours (self-guided, volunteer-led and filmed options) and more!

If you do attempt to complete research within your community to locate information about how the state regulated sex between men historically and this toolkit is at all useful, if you've found similar results, or would simply like some further support or guidance, we'd love to hear from you, either through our feedback form, www.brokenfutures.co.uk/feedback or by email at hello@brokenfutures.co.uk.

Project Partners



Support U

0118 321 9111 | support@supportu.org.uk |
www.supportu.org.uk

Support U is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) support and resource charity in Reading and the Thames Valley. As a mental health and wellbeing charity, we provide numerous services for clients through frontline support, counselling, group support, and history projects. Support U has run two previous heritage projects: Hidden Voices (2014-15), Wolfenden 60 (2017-18).



National Lottery Heritage Fund

www.heritagefund.org.uk

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is the largest dedicated UK funder for heritage, awarding over £8 billion of funding to over 44,000 projects since 1994. We are so thankful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding this project and for their part in bringing queer heritage to life.



Berkshire Record Office:

0118 937 5132 | arch@reading.gov.uk |
www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk

The Berkshire Record Office holds the county records for the historic county of Berkshire, with over 900 years of archival history. Thanks to the whole team for their support throughout the project, resources and space to run our history group!



Museum of English Rural Life

0118 378 8660 | merl@reading.ac.uk |
www.merl.reading.ac.uk

The Museum of English Rural Life works alongside diverse communities to explore rural history; they are passionate about ensuring their museum captures the diverse narratives of the people they represent. Thanks to Phillippa Heath, the Learning and Engagement Manager and Madeleine Ding, a Collections Officer to name a few, and the entire team at the Museum of English Rural Life.



**University of
Reading**

University of Reading

0118 987 5123 | www.reading.ac.uk

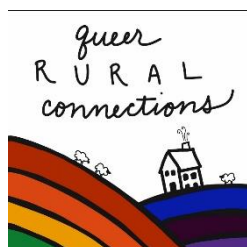
Throughout Support U's heritage research projects, the University of Reading have been a committed source of support and research: from invaluable resources to academic support in the field of queer history. Special thanks go to Prof Katherine Harloe, a co-creator of this project idea and the University's liaison officer for this project, and to Prof Aleardo Zanghellini for his careful guidance and advice.



Reading Museum: 0118 937 3400 |

www.readingmuseum.org.uk

Reading Museum has been displaying Reading's history and art since 1883. The team have been vital supporters of Support U's heritage research projects.



Queer Rural Connections: timothyallsop@hotmail.co.uk |

<https://torch.ox.ac.uk/queer-rural-connections>

This fantastic project, led by Timothy Allsop and Dr Kira Allman with the theatre and education company, Turn of Phrase, will create a filmed documentary and a live theatre piece to explore queer rural lives and connections. The project secured support from the University of Oxford's TORCH Research Centre in the Humanities. This project uses interesting and thought-provoking research provided by Broken Futures, MERL, Pride in Suffolk's Past, as well as other research projects, queer rural stories, and voices.



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How to Guides and Templates

A note on the use of how to guides and templates

The how to guides and templates included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started.

There are numerous How to Guides to choose from:

- Overall Approach to finding individuals charged of offences involving sex between men between 1850 to 1920.
- How to Guide covering specific research into the individuals found within the Crime and Punishment Archives within the British Newspaper Archive, 1850 to 1920
- How to Guide outlining the use of online National Archives Ho 140 files for the collation of individuals charged and convicted of sex between men between 1860 to 1920.
- How to Guide covering generic research using search terms within the British Newspaper Archive, 1850 to 1967
- How to Guide covering the use of Ancestry for genealogical research
- How to Guide discussing the use of Find my Past for genealogical research

The How to Guides will be attached to this toolkit, with singular downloadable files available through the website <https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/how-to-guides/>

The use of the How to Guides may in places rely on subscriptions to external databases, like Find my Past, Ancestry and British Newspaper Archive. The Broken Futures project and use of these How to Guides do not provide access to these subscriptions for independent researchers, and personal enquiries should be made by the individual to purchase a subscription.

There may be discrepancies and differences in the information collated within different records, and this may need the individual to adapt these templates for their own record set. The templates are available to download at www.brokenfutures.co.uk/resources if you would like to access the templates in the form of excel spreadsheets. They can also be used as examples for you to create your own templates for research.



Finding Queer Lives in Crime and Punishment archives – How to Guide

1850 to 1920

A note on the use of help guides:

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started.

This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the British Newspaper Archive, Ancestry, Find My Past and more genealogical databases; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

Step 1: This guide is for use by researchers aiming to locate stories and experiences of men convicted of sex with other males historically in England and Wales.

Before starting research, a few decisions need to be made by yourself. To read more about the Broken Futures approach, please read the section of the toolkit, accessed here:

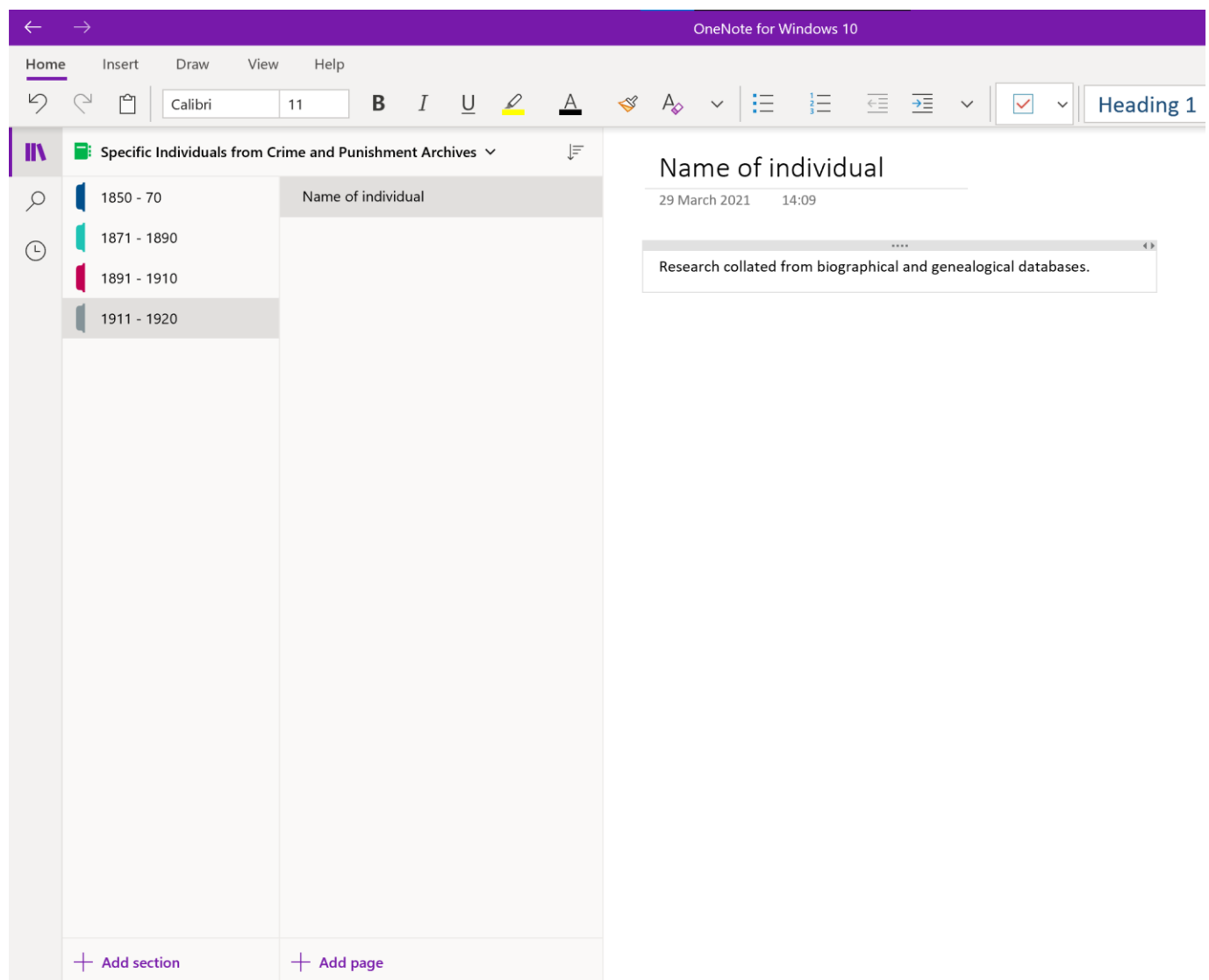
www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Topics	Broken Futures Team Choice
What years do you want to research generally in newspapers?	BF team choose to research 1850 to 1920 and then 1920 to 1970.
What county are you researching?	Berkshire
What Archive/Record Office holds the records for this specific area?	Berkshire Record Office and HO 140: 'After-trial Calendars of Prisoners' searchable on the National Archives, and available through Find My Past: https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935

Step 2: Read through the Finding Queer Lives in the Archives toolkit for further information, context and

findings from the Broken Futures history group and project, accessible here: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Step 3: Set up a Microsoft Onenote file to record the information collated on each individual. Please see an example below:



Step 4: Complete archival research within record offices or through online sources to collate a list of individuals convicted of sex between men historically. For



support on how to complete online research into the National Archives Calendars of Prisoners, stored under catalogue reference: HO 140, please see our Help Guide accessible here: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Step 5: Research each individual within the British Newspaper Archive firstly in the year of their offence, and then generally in their life. Record information in their Onenote file. For specific support in researching individuals found within crime and punishment archives in the British Newspaper Archive, check out our help guide here: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Step 6: Taking the newspaper research and findings and the information collated from the archives, plug in the information into genealogical databases to locate biographical information about the individuals life. Record information in their Onenote file. For specific support on research within Ancestry and Find My Past databases, please see our other help guides available here: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Step 7: Head to the next individual!

General Research using Search Terms 1850 to 1967: How to Guide

British Newspaper Archive

A note on the use of help guides:

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started.

This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the British Newspaper Archive; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

Step 1: Before starting generic research, a few decisions need to be made by yourself. To read more about the Broken Futures approach, please read the section of the toolkit, accessed here: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Topics	Broken Futures Team Choice
What years do you want to research generally in newspapers?	BF team choose to research 1850 to 1920 and then 1920 to 1970.
What county are you researching?	Berkshire
What search terms are you going to use?	After consideration of Shopland's excellent Guide for searching LGBTQIA+, we choose the following search terms, included in the table on the next page.

Step 2: Choosing your search terms: To choose search terms for the Broken Futures study, we initially utilised the key terms taken from our specific research into the specific individuals found in the Berkshire Crime and Punishment files. We also utilised the table of search terms included in Shopland's guide to include any variations or other search terms of interest.¹

¹ see Norena Shopland and Dr Daryl Leeworthy , 'Queering Glamorgan: A Research Guide to Sources for the Study of LGBT History' (Glamorgan Archives 2018) available at: <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Queering-Glamorgan-28Aug2018.pdf> pg. 6 to 17

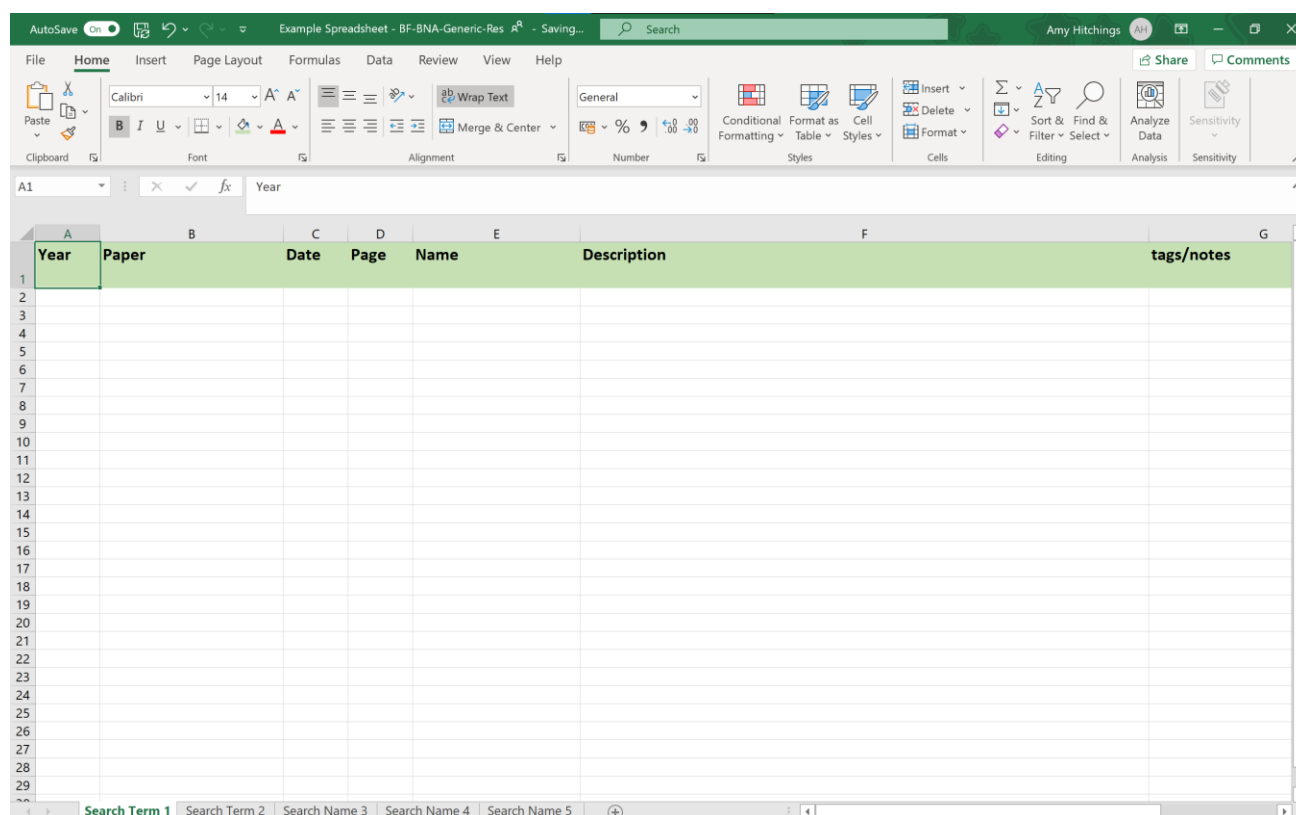
Broken Futures Search Terms	Terminological Variation	Reason
Buggery	Buggerie/Bugger/B-y/B--y/ attempted buggery /	Terminology from the Buggery Act 1533
Gross indecency	Gross Ind/indecency/indecent/gross indecent/gros indecency /indecent act / attempt to procure the commission of an act of gross indecency / is party to the commission of gross indecency	Terminology from the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, section 11
Indecent Assault	Assault with intent to commit buggery/	
Sodomy	Sodomy/ Sodomie/ Sodom/Sodomite/ Sodomitical / incite to commit sodomy	Terminology from medieval law and religious connotations and connections
Homosexual	Gay / Homosexuality / Sexuality	Early origins towards the end of 19 th century in the emergence of sexologists and scientific studies. Utilised within newspapers from 1950s as an

		identity category and by individuals to identity their sexuality.
Female Impersonator	Male impersonator	
Man dressed as a woman/Woman dressed as a man	'disguise' Disguised in male clothing /disguised in female clothing	
Indecent Conduct of a Disgraceful Kind	Disgraceful Conduct of an Indecent Kind / Indecent Conduct	
unnatural offence		
Abominable	Detestable / against the order of nature / not to be named amongst Christians /	
'certain offence'	Certain felony	Research in the Quarter Sessions Rolls and Calendars between 1850 – 1869...

Here's a blank table, input your search terms here:

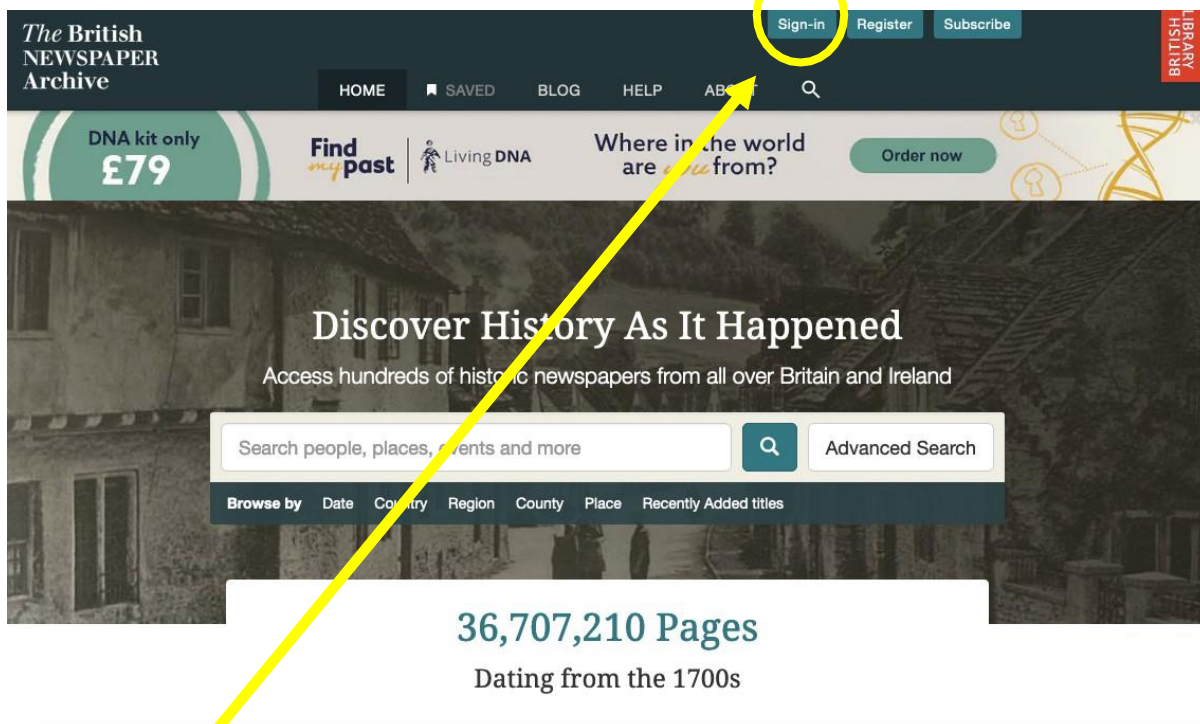
[illegible]

Step 3: Set up an excel spreadsheet with your search terms as tabs...



Helpful Tip #1: Head to www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit to download the above spreadsheet!

Step 4: Open the British Newspaper Archive (hereafter, BNA) and choose a subscription. If you are researching in Record Offices, confirm with the archivists that there is an available subscription for you to use.

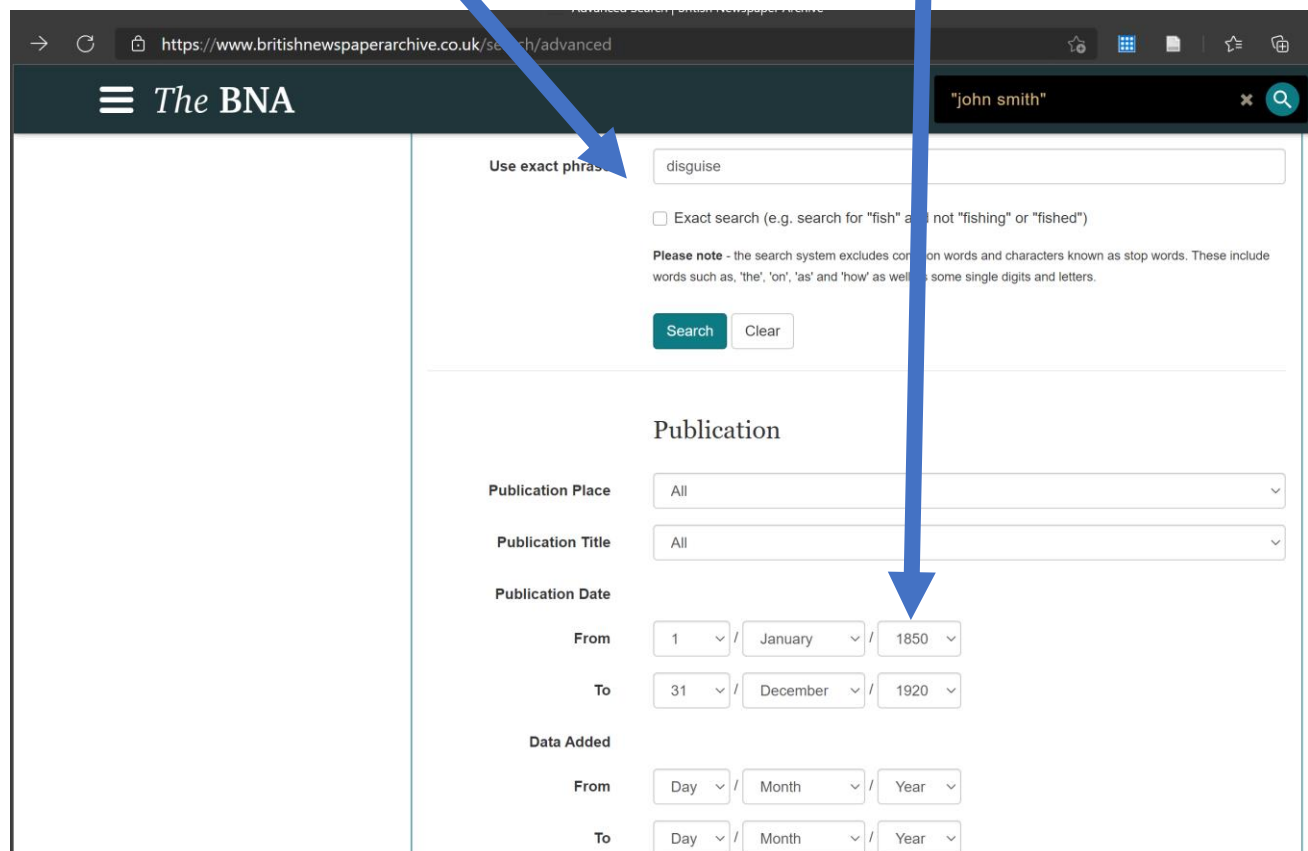


Step 5: Sign in!

Step 6: Click 'Advanced Search' from the BNA Homepage

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/advanced>

Step 7: Fill in the 'use exact phrase' option box with the specific search term, for the purposes of this help guide, the search term chosen is 'disguise'. At this stage, we want to see how many returns there are, so let's use our first search period of 1850 to 1920 in Berkshire.



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' page of the British Newspaper Archive. A blue arrow points from the text 'use exact phrase' to the search input field, which contains the word 'disguise'. Another blue arrow points from the text '1850 to 1920' to the 'From' year dropdown in the 'Publication Date' section, which is set to '1850'. The 'To' year dropdown is set to '1920'. The 'Publication Place' and 'Publication Title' dropdowns are both set to 'All'. The 'Data Added' section has dropdowns for 'Day', 'Month', and 'Year' for both 'From' and 'To' dates.

Helpful Tip #2: The British Newspaper Archive uses Optical Character Resolution to scan the 100000s (probably even more!) of newspaper pages and titles for the exact term you've included... however, it's not

perfect, so be sure to confirm the search returns!

Step 8: Once the research has returned, your results, you'll initially see a large amount of returns for the newspapers across the UK. The first thing we want to do is limit the returns to the specific

Refine Search

▼ **DATE**

1850-1899 632,280

1900-1949 227,725

▼ **NEWSPAPER**

London Evening Standard 11,337

Globe 9,200

Morning Post 8,632

Scotsman, The 8,289

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 8,230

More Newspapers

▼ **COUNTRIES**

England 602,700

Ireland 112,743

Scotland 98,729

Wales 25,037

▼ **REGIONS**

London, England 170,136

South West, England 81,216

North West, England 74,764

Yorkshire and the Humber, England 74,298

Republic of Ireland, Republic of Ireland 70,924

More Regions

▼ **COUNTIES**

London, England 170,087

Yorkshire, England 74,298

Lancashire, England 54,521

Dublin, Republic of Ireland 33,829

Antrim, Northern Ireland 25,404

More Counties

▼ **PLACE**

London, London, England 170,087

Your results for: "disguise"

★ Save this Search



withgangs, some with revolvers. and some with bayonets. Were yon disguised All disguised, or nearly so—just with ..

... withgangs, some with revolvers. and some with bayonets. Were yon **disguised** All **disguised**, or nearly so—just with a screen on the face. What arm bad you ? A revolver. Who did you get it from ? From George Quirk ? I gave it back afterwards. Tell what you ...

Published: Wednesday 05 December 1888
Newspaper: Dublin Daily Express
County: Dublin, Republic of Ireland
Type: Article | Words: 1289 | Page: 5 | Tags: none



REMARKABLE STORY. How Disguised Suitor Arranged Second Marriage. How disguised suitor, it is alleged, deceived ..

... REMARKABLE STORY. How **Disguised** Suitor Arranged Second Marriage. How **disguised** suitor, it is alleged, deceived friends of two years' standing, was told in a case heard at Sheffield City- Police Court, on Saturday morning, when Alderman A. T. Bescoby and ...

Published: Monday 21 April 1919
Newspaper: Sheffield Daily Telegraph
County: Yorkshire, England
Type: Article | Words: 943 | Page: 3 | Tags: none



POLICE IN DISGUISE. An wineing account of straage disguises effected by the polioe in order I watch a Dulwi•b ..

... POLICE IN **DISGUISE**. An wineing account of straage **disguises** effected by the polioe in order I watch a Dulwi•b public. hows when berth g we. suspected was given at the London bleesi•es tee other die. when Jew Toms, of Beet Dulwich, wee emerged with allowing ...

Published: Friday 30 December 1910
Newspaper: Crewe Guardian
County: Cheshire, England
Type: Article | Words: 924 | Page: 4 | Tags: none



Caxton Thursday Disguise IT. (correct) Caxton (Sept. 27) Disguise 11. (correct) Caxton Veronese (correct)

... Thursday **Disguise** IT. (correct) Caxton (Sept. 27) **Disguise** 11. (correct) Veronese (correct) Caxton Veronese Caxton (correct) Wednesday Waterhen (failed). Caxton (Sept. Waterhen (failed) Caxton Dnndonald (correct) Dundonald (correct) Canton Tuesday Wild ...

Published: Saturday 29 September 1900
Newspaper: Sporting Life
County: London, England
Type: Article | Words: 261 | Page: 5 | Tags: none

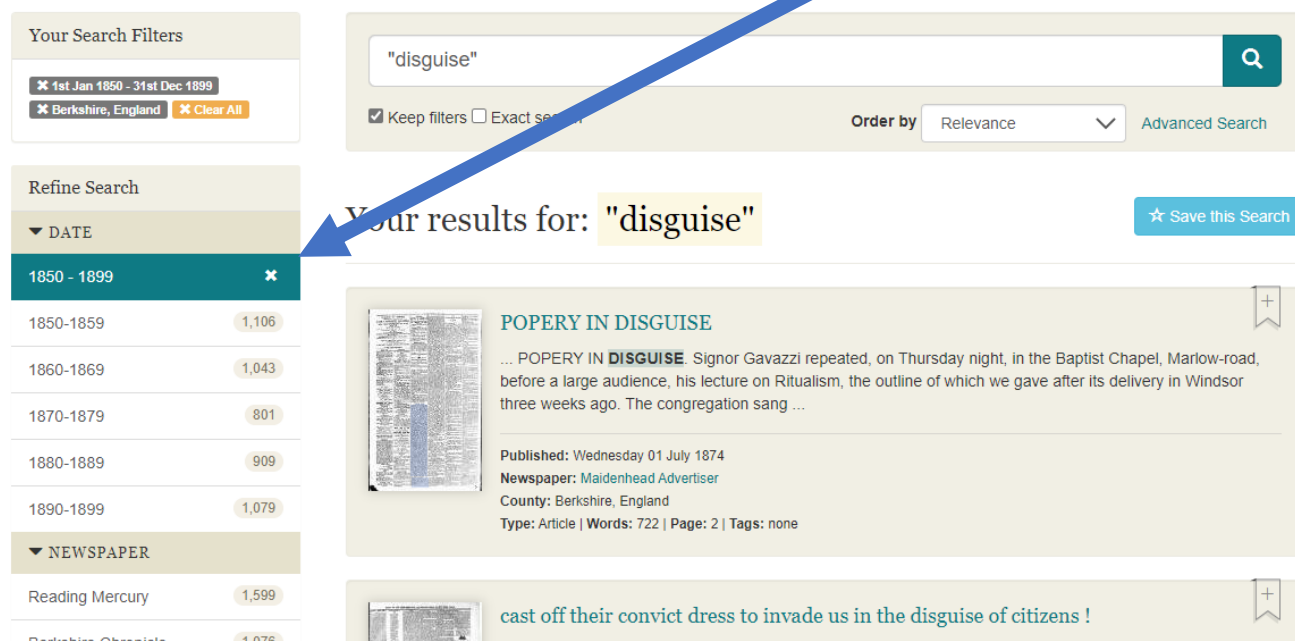


A Detective Disguised as a Baker.—A detective inspector earned Marshall disguised himself on Saturday night ..

... A Detective **Disguised** as a Baker.—A detective inspector earned Marshall **disguised** himself on Saturday night before ...

county... for the purposes of this help guide, the county of choice is 'Berkshire'.

Step 9: Let's then adapt the date's we've inputted, and we'll scroll through year by year.



Your Search Filters

✖ 1st Jan 1850 - 31st Dec 1899
✖ Berkshire, England ✖ Clear All

Refine Search

▼ DATE

1850 - 1899 ✖

1850-1859 1,106
1860-1869 1,043
1870-1879 801
1880-1889 909
1890-1899 1,079

▼ NEWSPAPER

Reading Mercury 1,599
Berkshire Chronicle 1,076

Search: "disguise"

☒ Keep filters ☐ Exact search

Order by: Relevance [Advanced Search](#)

[★ Save this Search](#)

Your results for: "disguise"

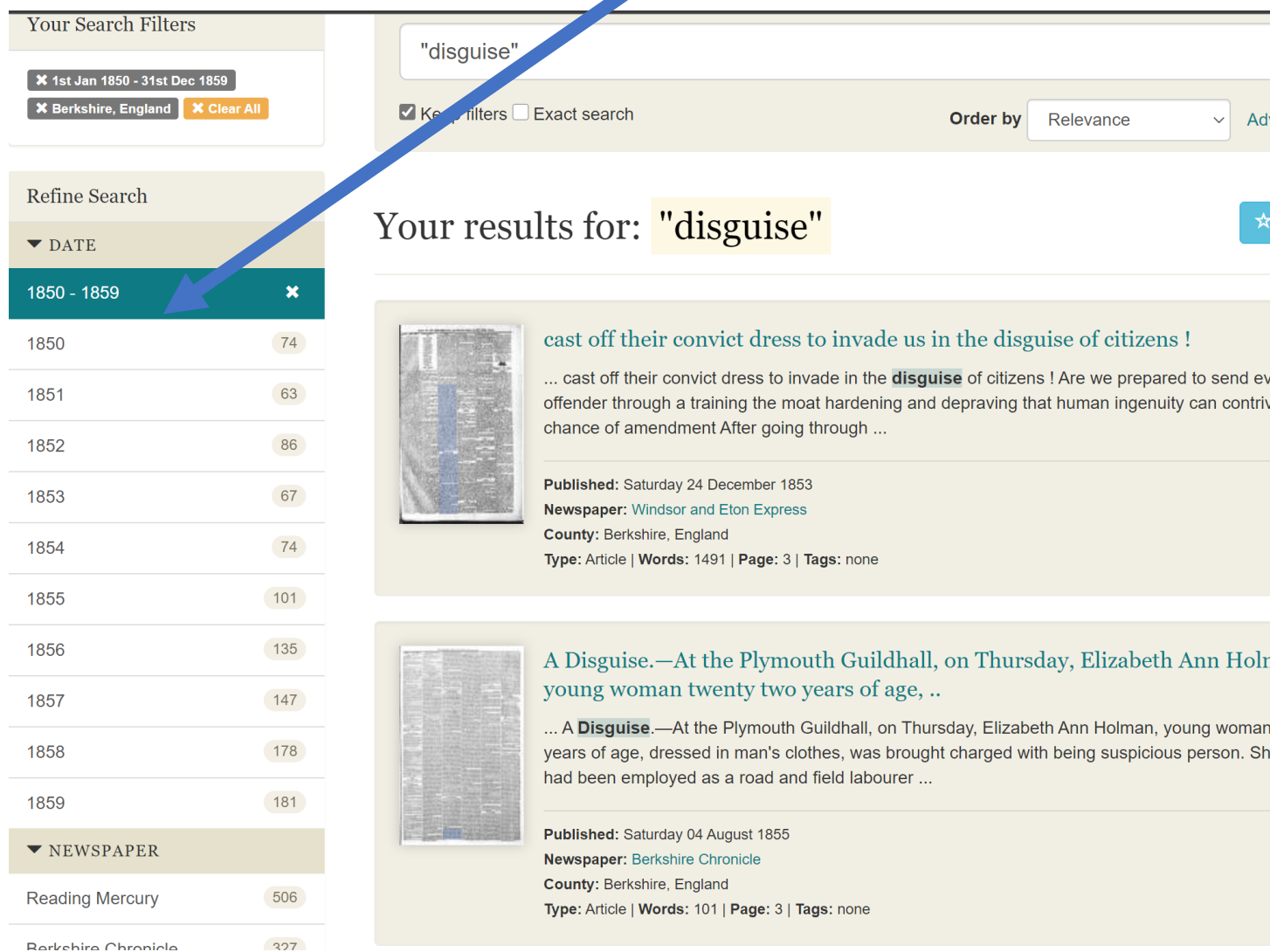
POPERY IN DISGUISE

... POPERY IN **DISGUISE**. Signor Gavazzi repeated, on Thursday night, in the Baptist Chapel, Marlow-road, before a large audience, his lecture on Ritualism, the outline of which we gave after its delivery in Windsor three weeks ago. The congregation sang ...

Published: Wednesday 01 July 1874
Newspaper: [Maidenhead Advertiser](#)
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | Words: 722 | Page: 2 | Tags: none

cast off their convict dress to invade us in the disguise of citizens !

Step 10: Working through each year group, read through the returns located and input them on to the excel spreadsheet we made earlier.
Let's take 1850-59 as an example:



The screenshot shows the Support U search interface. On the left, under 'Your Search Filters', there are filters for '1st Jan 1850 - 31st Dec 1859' and 'Berkshire, England'. Below this is a 'Refine Search' section with a 'DATE' dropdown menu. The '1850 - 1859' option is selected and highlighted with a blue arrow. To the right, the search results for 'disguise' are displayed. The results include a list of years from 1850 to 1859 with corresponding counts, and two detailed search results for the word 'disguise' in newspaper articles from 1853 and 1855.

Your Search Filters

- 1st Jan 1850 - 31st Dec 1859
- Berkshire, England
- Clear All

Refine Search

▼ DATE

- 1850 - 1859

1850 74

1851 63

1852 86

1853 67

1854 74

1855 101

1856 135

1857 147

1858 178

1859 181

▼ NEWSPAPER

- Reading Mercury 506
- Berkshire Chronicle 327

Your results for: "disguise"

cast off their convict dress to invade us in the disguise of citizens !

... cast off their convict dress to invade in the **disguise** of citizens ! Are we prepared to send ev
offender through a training the moat hardening and depraving that human ingenuity can contriv
chance of amendment After going through ...

Published: Saturday 24 December 1853
Newspaper: Windsor and Eton Express
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 1491 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, ..

... A **Disguise**.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman
years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. Sh
had been employed as a road and field labourer ...

Published: Saturday 04 August 1855
Newspaper: Berkshire Chronicle
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 101 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

Step 1i: work through each result moving down, reading the transcribed caption first to assess whether it might be of interest. Due to OCR, it is worthwhile checking each return as the encoded text may be different from that in the actual newspaper. Let's take the initial return.



A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, ..

... A **Disguise**.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. She stated that she had been employed as a road and field labourer ...

Published: Saturday 04 August 1855
Newspaper: [Berkshire Chronicle](#)
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 101 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

Once the page has loaded, the following will be displayed, change the view or zoom, or view transcribed text on the left.

The screenshot shows the 'The British Newspaper Archive' website. The header includes navigation links: HOME, SAVED, BLOG, HELP, ABOUT, and a search icon. Below the header, there's a search bar and a list of results. The main content area displays a newspaper clipping from the 'Berkshire Chronicle - Saturday 04 August 1855'. The text of the clipping is: 'A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, a young woman twenty-two years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought up charged with being a suspicious person. She stated that she had been employed as a road and field labourer in Devonshire and Cornwall, and had also worked as a miner without any suspicions as to her sex. Her reason for assuming male attire was, that she could earn much higher wages as a man than she could have done otherwise. As there was no proof of her having committed any other offence the bench directed her to be discharged.' On the left side of the clipping, there is a sidebar with a search bar and a list of results. The sidebar includes a search bar with the text 'Show Article Text' and a list of results. The first result is 'A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. She stated that she had been employed as a road and field labourer in Devonshire and Cornwall, and had also worked as a miner without any suspicions as to her sex. Her reason for assuming male attire was, that she could earn much higher wages as a man than she could have done otherwise. As there was no proof of her having committed any other offence the bench directed her to be discharged.'

Step 12: With your excel spreadsheet, let's transcribe the information, make a note of the date, paper title, page and URL link at the same time. Make sure to change the name of the excel tab to the search term you've used.

Step 13: Move on to the next return and repeat the process for each year and each search term.

End of Help Guide.

Specific Research for Individual Names researched within Crime and Punishment Archives – How to Guide!

British Newspaper Archive

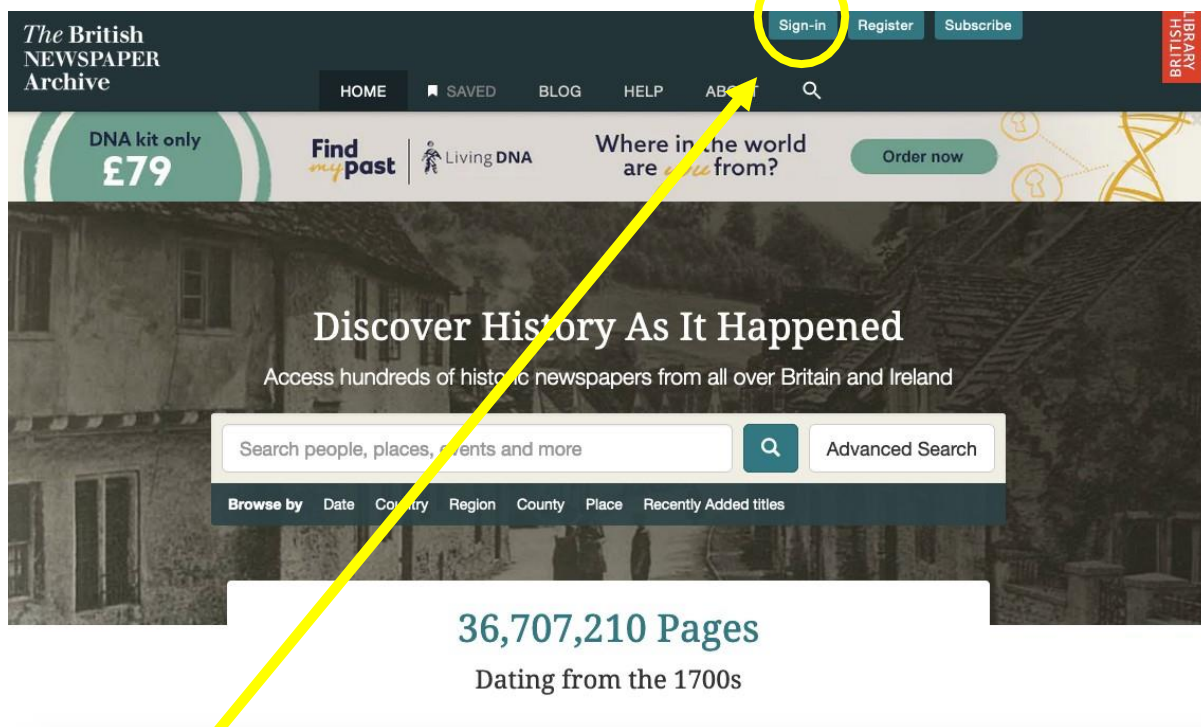
A note on the use of the How to Guides.

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started. This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the British Newspaper Archive; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

Step 1: Select the individual you would like to research from your master list collated from research finds within local and national crime and punishment archive. For the purposes of this help guide, the fictitious case of John Smith, convicted in 1884 of gross indecency will be used to demonstrate the research process. As the case is fictitious, no results, (hopefully!) will be located.

Step 2: Decide how you want to record your research and finds. For specific individual names located from crime and punishment archives with a conviction of sex between men, we opted to utilize Microsoft Word to compile the information relating to a specific individual from the newspapers. This included both newspaper finds regarding their offence or generic ones about their lives. Once all biographies were completed, we then utilised Microsoft Onenote to store the compiled and confirmed biographies that had been looked over twice.

Step 3: Open the British Newspaper Archive (hereafter, BNA) and choose a subscription. If you are researching in Record Offices, confirm with the archivists that there is an available subscription for you to use.



Step 4: Sign in!

Step 5: Click 'Advanced Search' from the BNA Homepage

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/advanced>

Step 6: Fill in the 'use exact phrase' option box with the name of the will search for exactly that name...

Advanced search

Search Terms

Search all words

Search some words

Exclude words

Use exact phrase

☐ Exact search (e.g. search for "fish" and not "fishing" or "fished")

Please note - the search system excludes common words and characters known as stop words. These include words such as, 'the', 'on', 'as' and 'how' as well as some single digits and letters.

Helpful Tip #1: The British Newspaper Archive uses Optical Character Resolution to scan the 100000s (probably even more!) of newspaper pages and titles for the exact term you've included... however, there are discrepancies

Step 7: Locating newspapers from the trial hearing: Scroll down the page to input the year the individual was charged, convicted or

sentenced. Leave this open for the entire year
and hit search!.

Publication

Publication Place

All

Publication Title

All

Publication Date

From

1

/

January

/

1884

To

31

/

December

/

1884

Data Added

From

Day

/

Month

/

Year

To

Day

/

Month

/

Year

Article Type

- ☐ Advertisement
- ☐ Article
- ☐ FamilyNotice
- ☐ Illustrated
- ☐ Miscellaneous
- ☐ Front page articles only

Public tags

Search for articles with Public Tags e.g. Titanic

Sort results by

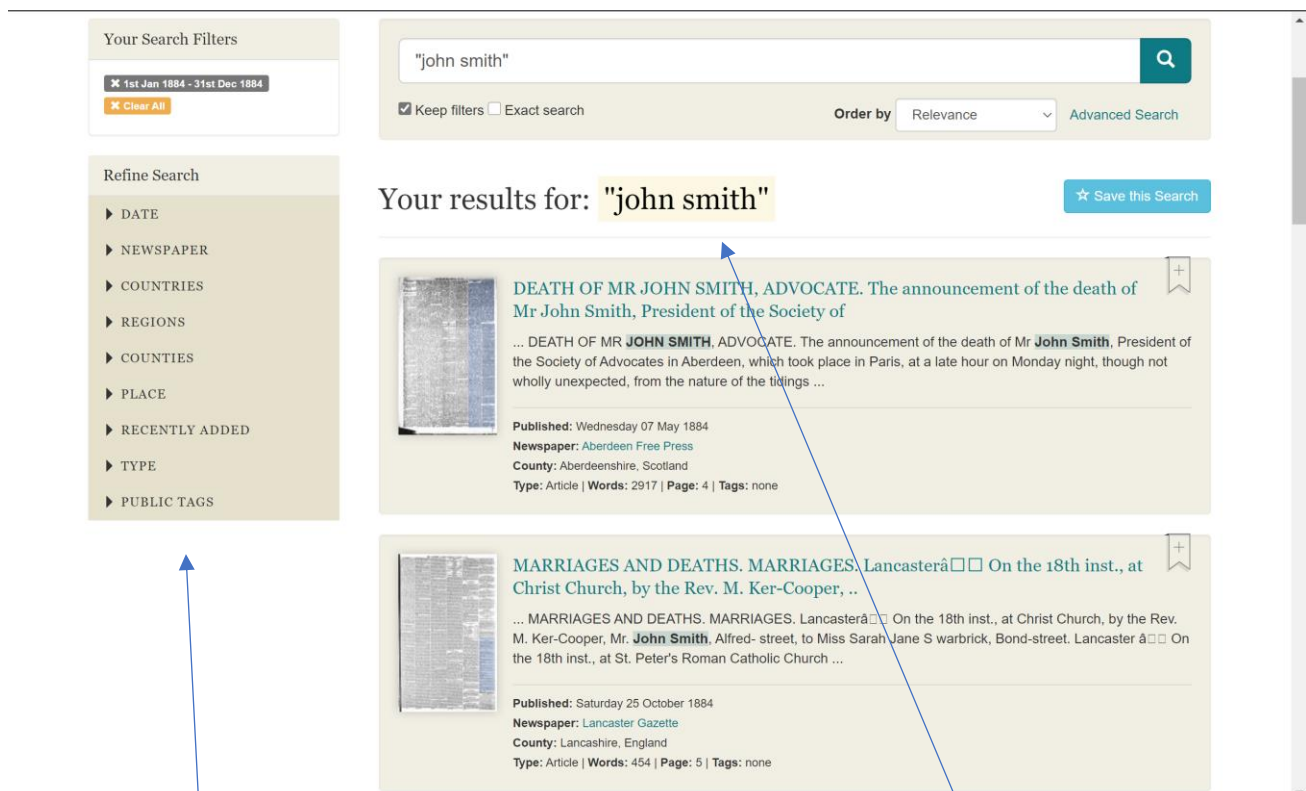
Relevance

Search

Clear

Step 8: the results page of your search will load. Should there be many returns, for example in the case of a common name, use the 'Refine Search option'

Oh No... if there's no results found for a name you've researched, head back to advanced search section and choose 'search all words'/'search some words' and so on to see whether you can locate them. If not, record that it was a 'nil return'.



The screenshot shows a search results page for the query "john smith". On the left, there are two panels: "Your Search Filters" and "Refine Search". The "Your Search Filters" panel shows a date range filter set to "1st Jan 1884 - 31st Dec 1884" with a "Clear All" button. The "Refine Search" panel lists various categories: DATE, NEWSPAPER, COUNTRIES, REGIONS, COUNTIES, PLACE, RECENTLY ADDED, TYPE, and PUBLIC TAGS. The main search bar at the top contains the text "john smith" and has a search button. Below the search bar, there are checkboxes for "Keep filters" (checked) and "Exact search" (unchecked), and a dropdown menu for "Order by" set to "Relevance". A "Save this Search" button is also present. The search results are displayed under the heading "Your results for: 'john smith'". There are two results shown. The first result is titled "DEATH OF MR JOHN SMITH, ADVOCATE. The announcement of the death of Mr John Smith, President of the Society of" and includes a snippet of the text: "... DEATH OF MR JOHN SMITH, ADVOCATE. The announcement of the death of Mr John Smith, President of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, which took place in Paris, at a late hour on Monday night, though not wholly unexpected, from the nature of the tidings ...". It also provides publication details: "Published: Wednesday 07 May 1884", "Newspaper: Aberdeen Free Press", "County: Aberdeenshire, Scotland", and "Type: Article | Words: 2917 | Page: 4 | Tags: none". The second result is titled "MARRIAGES AND DEATHS. MARRIAGES. Lancasterââ On the 18th inst., at Christ Church, by the Rev. M. Ker-Cooper, .." and includes a snippet of the text: "... MARRIAGES AND DEATHS. MARRIAGES. Lancasterââ On the 18th inst., at Christ Church, by the Rev. M. Ker-Cooper, Mr. John Smith, Alfred- street, to Miss Sarah Jane S warbrick, Bond-street. Lancaster ââ On the 18th inst., at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church ...". It also provides publication details: "Published: Saturday 25 October 1884", "Newspaper: Lancaster Gazette", "County: Lancashire, England", and "Type: Article | Words: 454 | Page: 5 | Tags: none".

Options provided to refine search, the two most important for us was 'date' and 'counties'

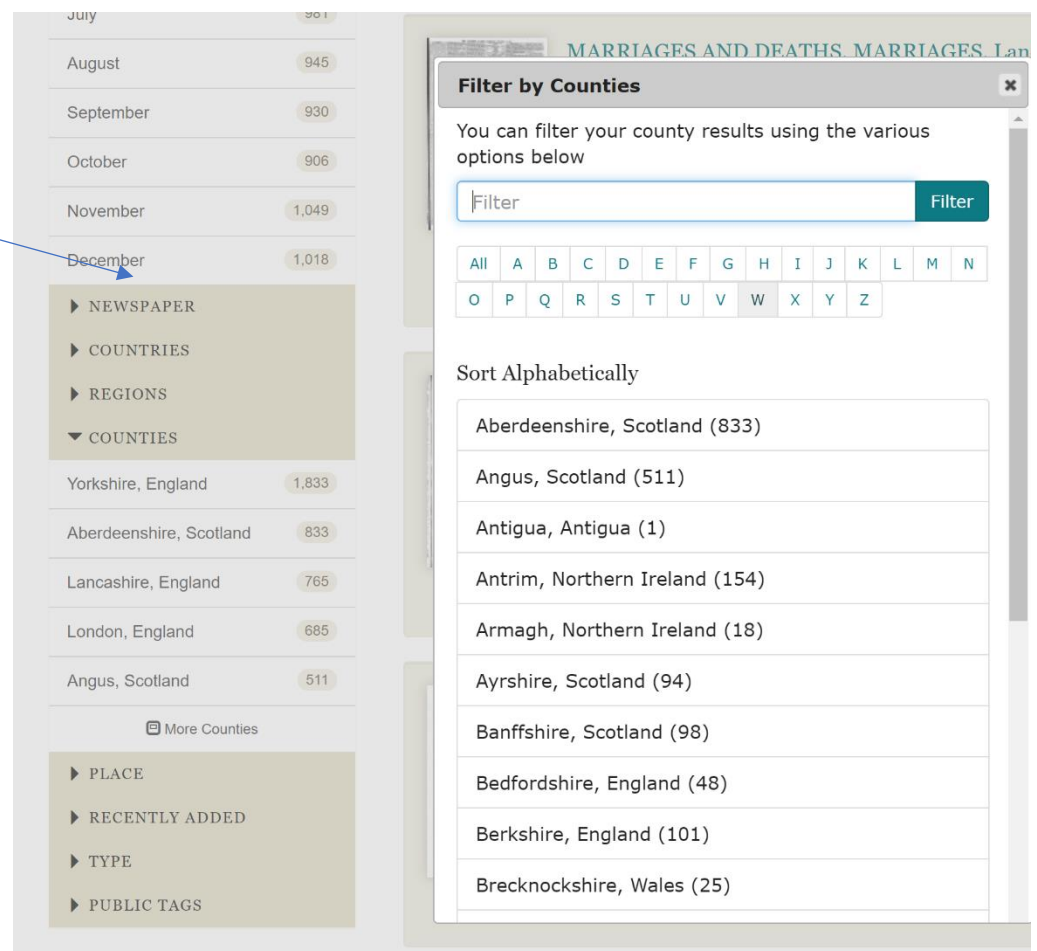
Results for exact search with ""

Step 8a: if you get a large amount of returns for your search, refine your criteria using the options on the left hand side, the best two to start with are...

1. Date: should you know the specific month of the trial, you can limit the research returns based on month
2. Counties: if you are searching for specific finds within a county, for example, you are researching prosecutions in the County of Berkshire.

Refine Search	
▼ DATE	
1884	✕
January	1,042
February	928
March	909
April	962
May	1,129
June	866
July	981
August	945
September	930
October	906
November	1,049
December	1,018

Hit 'more counties' for the list of counties to choose from!



The screenshot shows the 'Filter by Counties' dialog box with a search bar and a grid of letters (A-Z). Below the dialog, a list of counties is displayed with their respective counts. A blue arrow points from the 'More Counties' link to the 'Filter by Counties' dialog box.

County	Count
Yorkshire, England	1,833
Aberdeenshire, Scotland	833
Lancashire, England	765
London, England	685
Angus, Scotland	511

More Counties

Filter by Counties

You can filter your county results using the various options below

Filter

Sort Alphabetically

Aberdeenshire, Scotland (833)
Angus, Scotland (511)
Antigua, Antigua (1)
Antrim, Northern Ireland (154)
Armagh, Northern Ireland (18)
Ayrshire, Scotland (94)
Banffshire, Scotland (98)
Bedfordshire, England (48)
Berkshire, England (101)
Brecknockshire, Wales (25)

Step 9: Once you've

located a corresponding newspaper return, click on the title of the newspaper.

February	928
March	909
April	962
May	1,129
June	866
July	981
August	945
September	930
October	906
November	1,049
December	1,018
▼ NEWSPAPER	
Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer	315
Dundee Courier	252
Aberdeen Press and Journal	249
York Herald	249
Derby Daily Telegraph	230
More Newspapers	
▼ COUNTRIES	

Mr John Smith, President of the Society of ... DEATH OF MR JOHN SMITH, ADVOCATE. The announcement of the death of Mr John Smith, President of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, which took place in Paris, at a late hour on Monday night, though not wholly unexpected, from the nature of the tidings ...

Published: Wednesday 07 May 1884
Newspaper: Aberdeen Free Press
County: Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Type: Article | Words: 2917 | Page: 4 | Tags: none

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS. MARRIAGES. Lancaster On the 18th inst., at Christ Church, by the Rev. M. Ker-Cooper, ..

... MARRIAGES AND DEATHS. MARRIAGES. Lancaster On the 18th inst., at Christ Church, by the Rev. M. Ker-Cooper, Mr. John Smith, Alfred-street, to Miss Sarah Jane S warbrick, Bond-street. Lancaster On the 18th inst., at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church ...

Published: Saturday 25 October 1884
Newspaper: Lancaster Gazette
County: Lancashire, England
Type: Article | Words: 454 | Page: 5 | Tags: none

JOHN SMITH

... JOHN SMITH. What Hr. is Accordic to Valors Authorities. * John Smith is visiting relatives in New York. — Urbana (Ill) Gazette. John Smith slaughtered another beef —Aurora (Ill.) News. John Smith, of Ligonier, was in town last Sstur day.—Albion (Ind.) ...

Published: Saturday 17 May 1884
Newspaper: Dewsbury Reporter
County: Yorkshire, England
Type: Article | Words: 1190 | Page: 9 | Tags: none

Step 10: The newspaper return will open with functional options of zoom, view options (Fullscreen mode), highlighting the exact term you've searched within blue and includes a transcription of the



JOHN SMITH. What Hr. is Accordikc to Valors Authorities. * John Smith is visiting relatives in New York. —Urbana (III) Gazette. John Smith slaughtered another beef —Aurora (III.) News. John Smith, of Ligonier, was in town last Sstur day.— Albion (Ind.) Democrat. John Smith was quartered at the hotel

Text look strange to you?

Can I correct this text?

Am I seeing the original version?

Search Terms Print Download

Do you have a comment about this article?

It may help others with their research. Or perhaps you have an interesting story relating to this page that you would like to share.

newspaper report using the OCR. This means that often there can be inconsistencies between the transcription and the actual report, so our advice would be to ensure you've checked the picture.

Step 11: Transcribe the information in the newspaper report, including noting the title of the paper, date and page number. Include this in the Onenote Biography file for the individual (for more instructions please see the general help sheet attached to the toolkit), including the URL link to the paper:

Helpful Tip #2: code your newspapers finds with the initial of the individual and the number, if you find multiple individuals with initials JS, use first letter of last name to decipher:
#JAS1

Newspaper find #JS1

JOHN SMITH.

WHAT HE IS DOING ACCORDING TO VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.

John Smith is visiting relatives in New York. – Urbana (Ill.) Gazette.

John Smith slaughtered another beer yesterday. – Aurora (Ill.) News.

John Smith, of Ligonier, was in town last Saturday. – Albion (Ind.) Democrat.

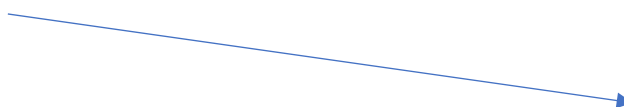
John Smith was quartered at the hotel last Sunday. – Kankakee (Ill.) Gazette.

Saturday 17th May 1884, Dewsbury Reporter, page 9

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0001541/18840517/167/0009>

Step 12: Return back to your search returns and continue to scroll through returns found for the individual. Repeat steps 9 to 11 conclusively until all the newspapers returned have been read through.

Helpful Tip #3: use the adjustable search options to vary your search returns and support finding those records!



▼ DATE	
1884	✕
January	1,042
February	928
March	909
April	962
May	1,129
June	866
July	981
August	945
September	930
October	906
November	1,049
December	1,018
▼ NEWSPAPER	
Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer	315
Dundee Courier	252
Aberdeen Press and Journal	249
York Herald	249
Derby Daily Telegraph	230
More Newspapers	
▼ COUNTRIES	
England	8,038
Ireland	569
Scotland	2,688
Wales	328
▼ REGIONS	
Yorkshire and the Humber, England	1,833
East Midlands, England	1,228

Step 13: Head back to the original search we did for the individual, and let's remove the date constraints. The reason for this is to locate returns within the newspaper that may be in reference to the individual we are researching, throughout their life.

Use exact phrase

john smith

☐ Exact search (e.g. search for "fish" and not "fishing" or "fished")

Please note - the search system excludes common words and characters known as stop words. These include words such as, 'the', 'on', 'as' and 'how' as well as some single digits and letters.

Search

Clear

Publication

Publication Place

All

Publication Title

All

Publication Date

From

Day

Month

Year

To

Day

Month

Year

Data Added

Helpful Tip #4: Given the variance in names, some names may find many returns, adapting the search criteria may help.

END OF HOW TO GUIDE

BROKEN FUTURES

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Page | 75

Genealogical Research



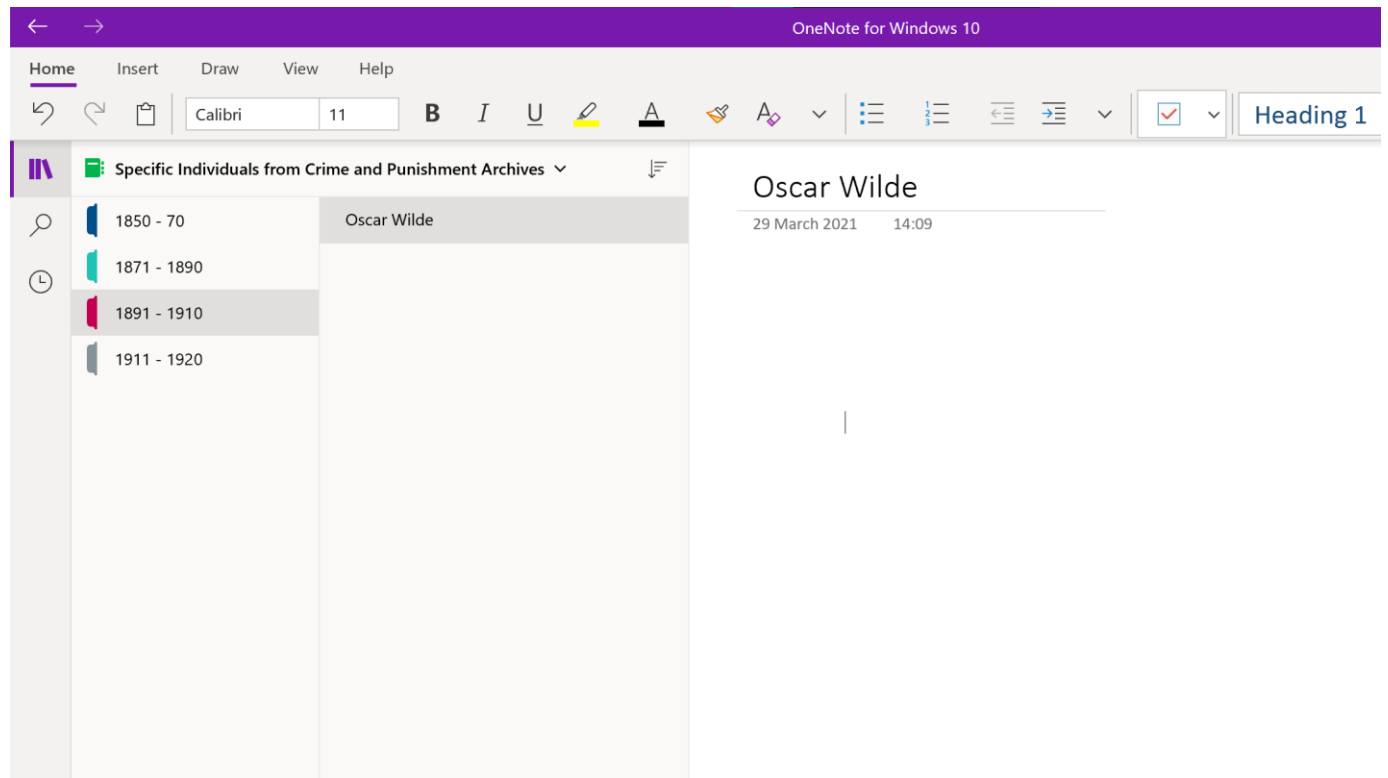
How To Guide

A note on the use of the How to Guides

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started. This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the British Newspaper Archive; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

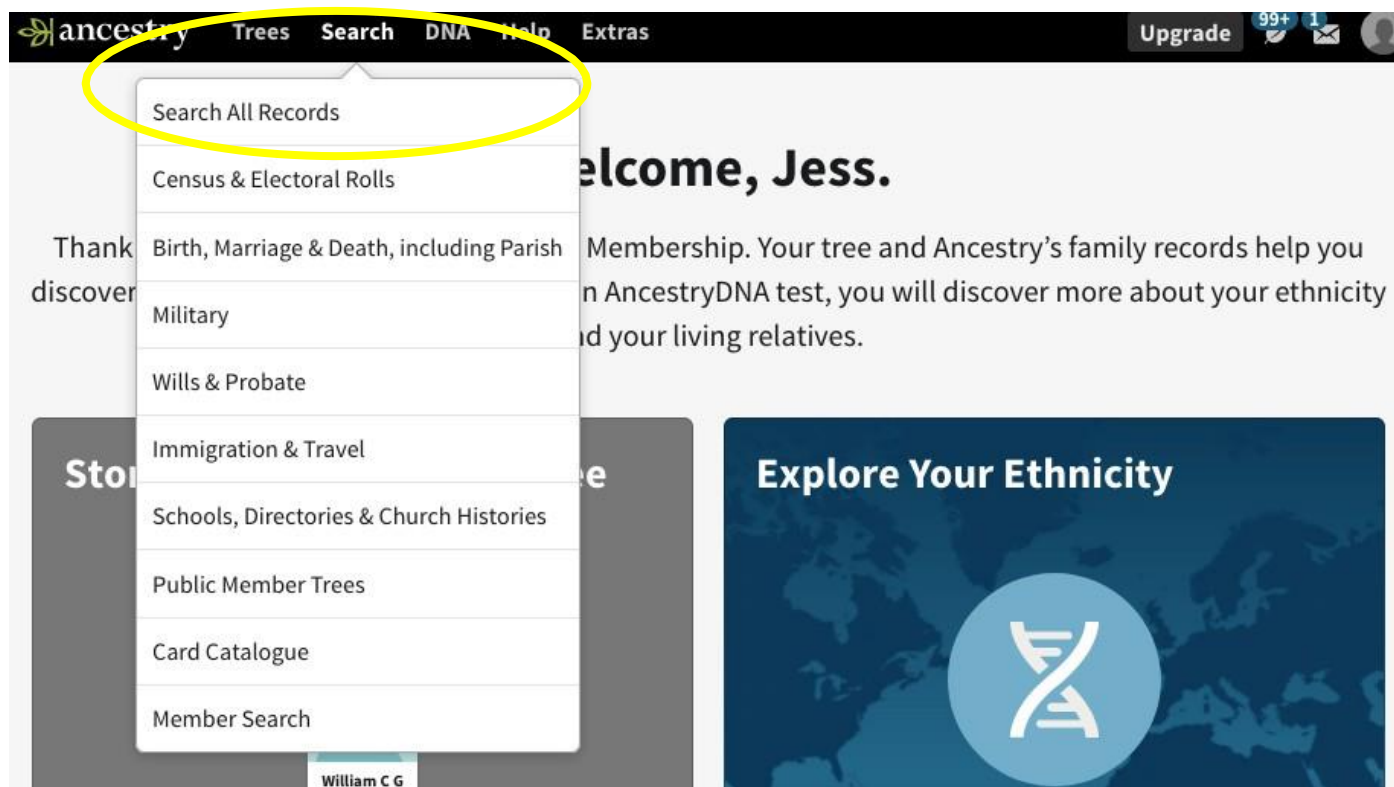
Step 1: Select the individual you would like to research from the

Crime and Punishment Archives or Generic Newspaper Research. Open up the Onenote file for the individual, for an example, this How to Guide will utilise Oscar Wilde.



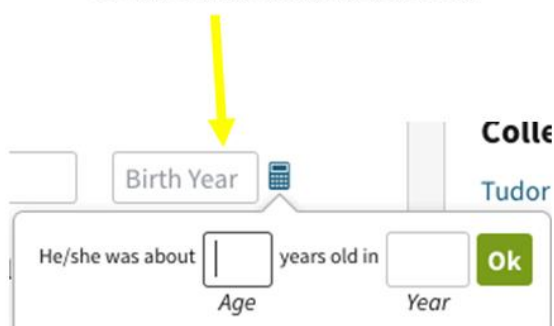
Step 2: Open Ancestry and click on search, and 'search all records'

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

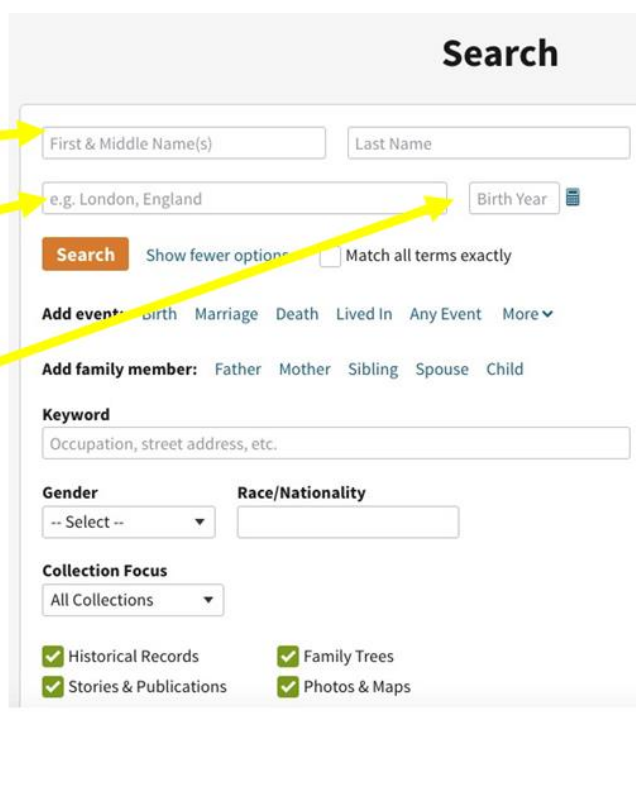


Step 3: Using the basic biographical information you wrote down, type in their

- First (including any middle names) and Last Name
- Their birth place
- Their birth year [the handy calculator at the side will help to work out their birthdate....]



The screenshot shows a 'Birth Year' calculator. It has a text input for 'He/she was about' followed by a box for 'Age' and 'years old in' followed by a box for 'Year'. There is an 'Ok' button. A yellow arrow points from the text in Step 3 to the 'Age' box.



The screenshot shows the 'Search' form on the Ancestry website. It includes fields for 'First & Middle Name(s)', 'Last Name', and 'Birth Year'. There is a 'Search' button and a 'Show fewer options' link. Below the search fields are sections for 'Add event' (Birth, Marriage, Death, Lived In, Any Event, More), 'Add family member' (Father, Mother, Sibling, Spouse, Child), 'Keyword' (Occupation, street address, etc.), 'Gender' (Select), 'Race/Nationality', 'Collection Focus' (All Collections), and checkboxes for 'Historical Records', 'Family Trees', 'Stories & Publications', and 'Photos & Maps'. Yellow arrows point from the text in Step 3 to the corresponding fields in the search form.

Step 4: Using Oscar Wilde as an example, input the information you have:

Search

First & Middle Name(s)

☒ Exact

Last Name

☒ Exact

Place your ancestor might have lived

☐ Exact to...

Birth Year
 
☐ Exact +/-...

[Show fewer options ^](#)
☐ Match all terms exactly

Add event:
[Birth](#)
[Marriage](#)
[Death](#)
[Lived In](#)
[Any Event](#)
[More v](#)

Year
 Birth
☐ Exact +/-...

Location
 

Any Event


☐ Exact to...

Add family member:
[Father](#)
[Mother](#)
[Sibling](#)
[Spouse](#)
[Child](#)

Keyword

Gender

Race/Nationality

Step 5: Hit Search!

Step 6: If a return shows a 'matching person', it means that another researcher has already built a family tree which incorporated the individual you have researched. It's a good place to start!

Search Filters

Broad Exact

oscar

wilde

Born: 1854

Any: London, London, En...

Collection: England

[Edit Search](#) [New Search](#) [Update](#)

Filter by

All Categories

- > Census & Voter Lists 70
- > Birth, Marriage & Death 47
- > Military 9
- > Newspapers & Periodicals 12
- Pictures 242
- > Stories, Memories & Histories 42
- > Directories & Member Lists 39
- > Court, Land, Wills & Financial 12
- Family Trees

Results 1-50 of 473

Records Categories

[See more like this...](#)

Oscar Wilde
amac-81a3f4

Spouse: Sarah Bernhardt
Birth: 1854 Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
Death: 1900 Paris 8e (75)

Matching Records

[1891 England Census](#)
1890S
[View Image](#)

Name **Oscar Wilde**

Birth 1856 Dublin, Ireland

Residence 1891 Chelsea, London, England

[Web: London, England, Proceedings of the Old Bailey and Ordinary's Accounts Index, 1674-1913](#)
COURT, GOVERNMENTAL & CRIMINAL RECORDS

Name **Oscar Fingal O'Fflahartie Wills Wilde**

[Web: London, England, Proceedings of the Old Bailey and Ordinary's Accounts Index, 1674-1913](#)
COURT, GOVERNMENTAL & CRIMINAL RECORDS

Name **Oscar Fingal O'Fflahartie Wills Wilde**

the example, we are going to use the 1881 England Census return, open it up on Ancestry and read through the transcribed version of the record. Head to 'view' to view the actual record.

[All Results](#)

[Save](#)
[Print](#)
[Share](#)

Oscar Wilde

in the 1881 England Census



[View blank form](#)
[Add or update information](#)
[Report a problem](#)

Name:	Oscar Wilde
Age:	24
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1857
Relationship to Head:	Boarder
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Dublin, Ireland
Civil Parish:	Chelsea
County/Island:	London
Country:	England
Street Address:	1 Tite Street
Education:	View image
Employment status:	
Occupation:	Literature (Author)
Registration District:	Chelsea
Sub registration district:	Chelsea, South
ED, institution, or vessel:	14
Neighbors:	View others on page



This collection is provided in association with The National Archives



Make a Connection

[Find others](#) who are researching Oscar Wilde in Public Member Trees

Step 8: Record the information for the individual in their biographical file stored in Microsoft Onenote and repeat for each record you locate.

End of How to Guide.

Genealogical Research



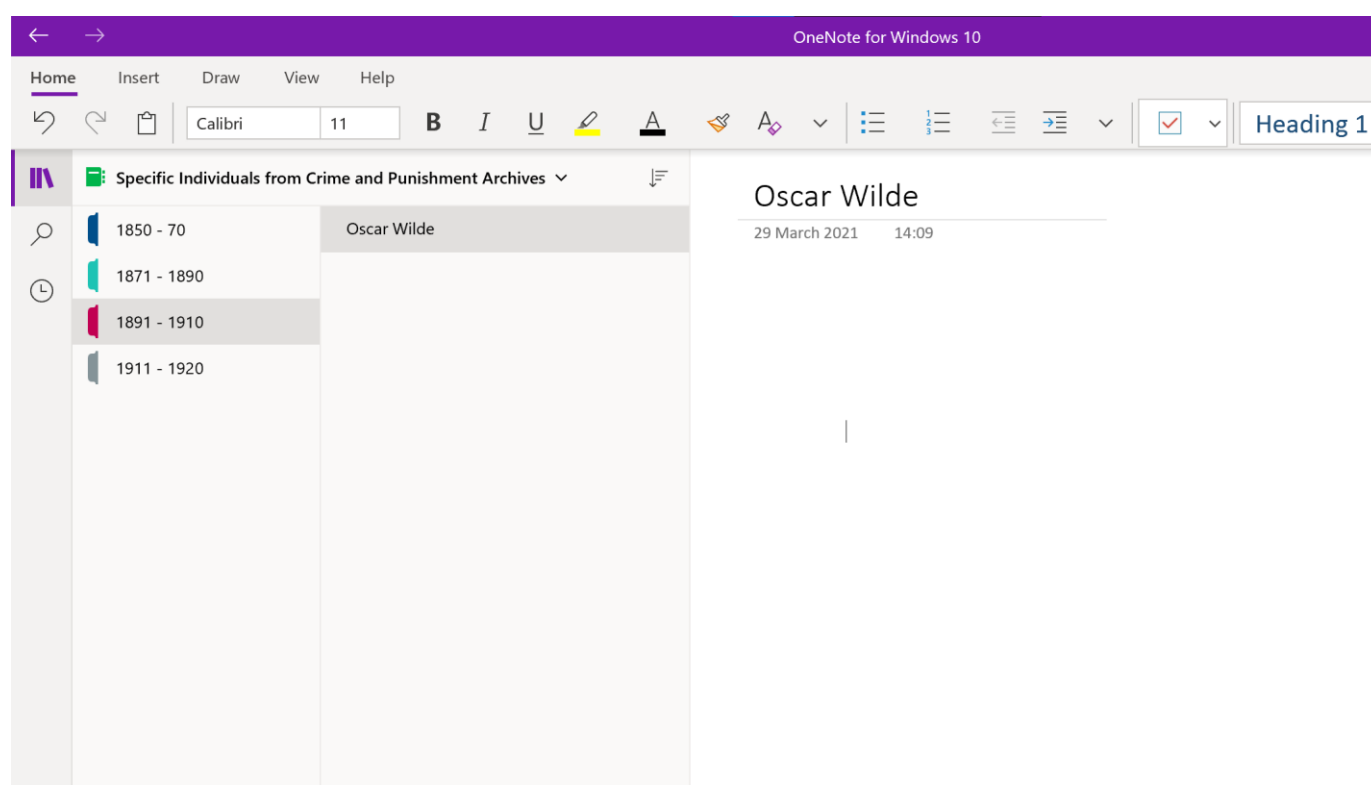
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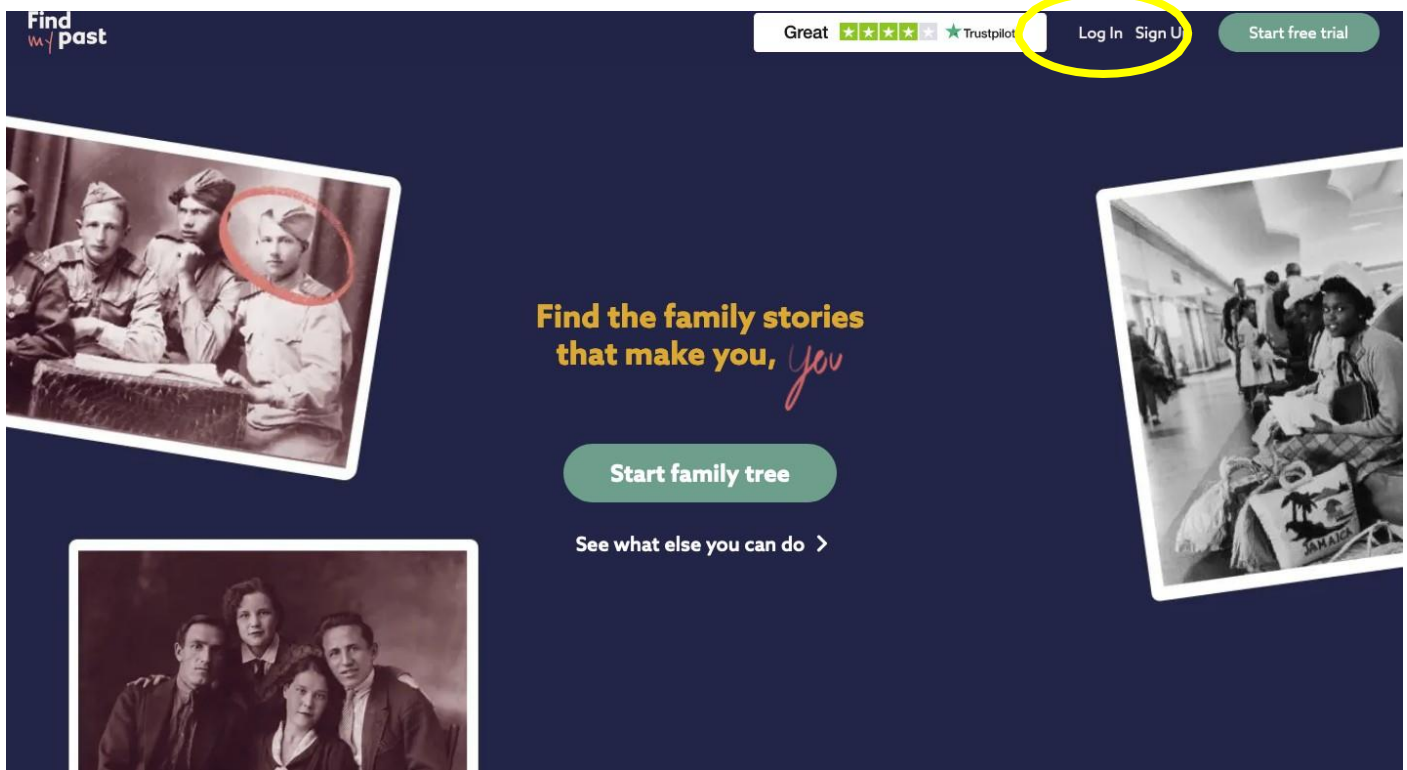
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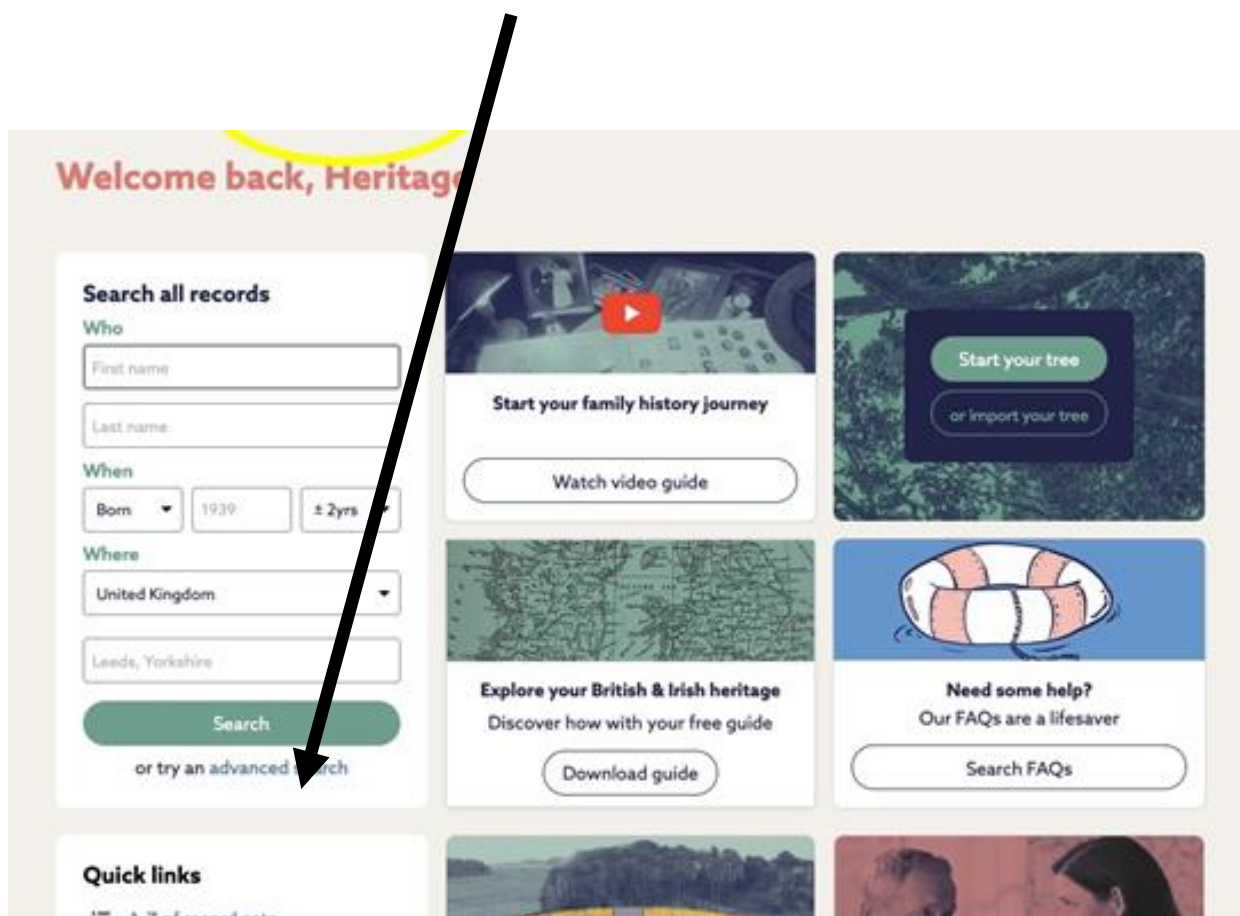


Step 2: Open Find My Past and log in your personal subscription credentials.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>



Step 5: Hit advanced search



Welcome back, Heritage Fund

Search all records

Who

First name:

Last name:

When

Born: ± 2yrs

Where

United Kingdom

Leeds, Yorkshire

[Search](#)

[or try an advanced search](#)

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Start your tree

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Explore your British & Irish heritage

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Need some help?

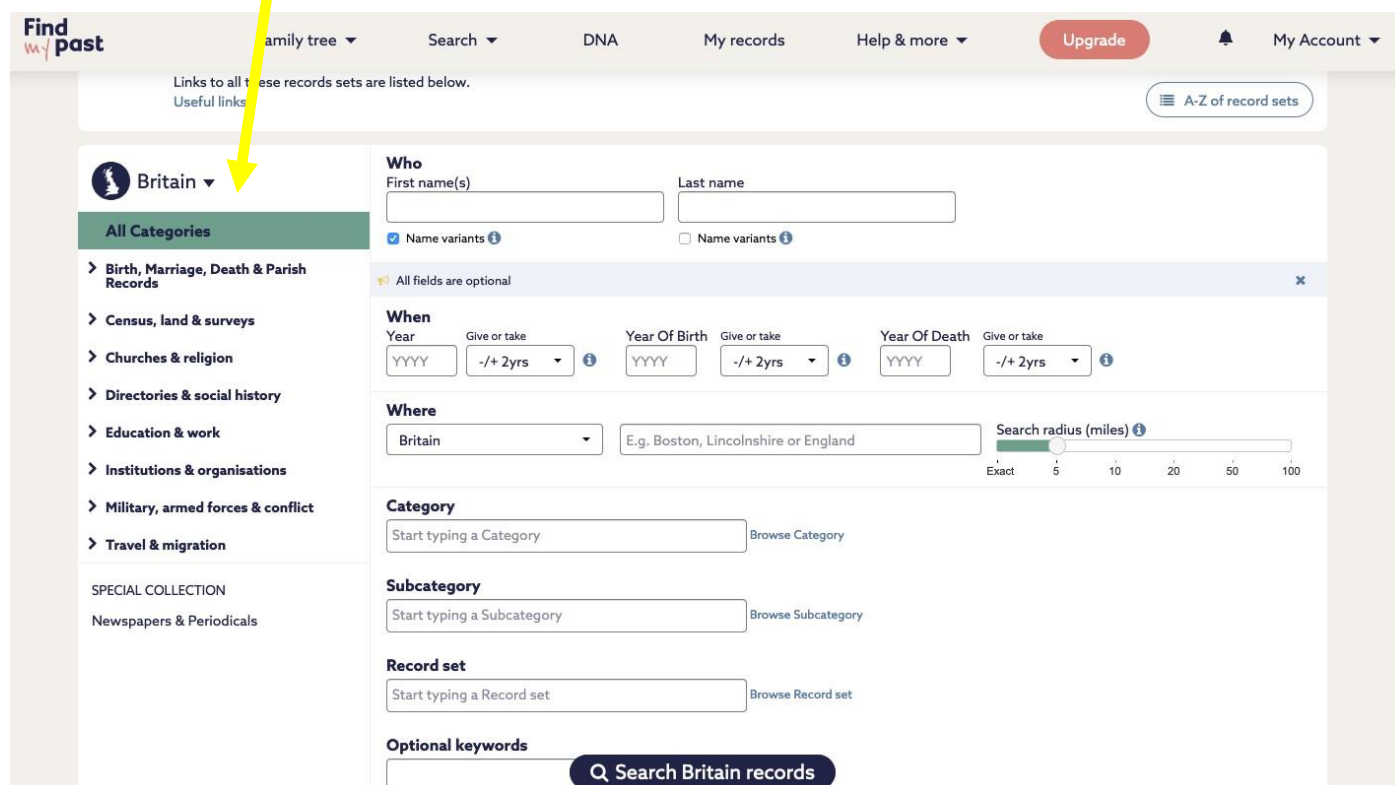
Our FAQs are a lifesaver

[Search FAQs](#)

Quick links

[1.7 of earned rate](#)

Step 6: Find MY Past has specific filters that, when applied, will show results from different categories. It's best to start with a blanket search and work backwards to fill in the gaps.



The screenshot shows the Find My Past search interface. A yellow arrow points to the 'Britain' dropdown menu in the left sidebar. The main search area includes fields for 'Who' (First name(s) and Last name), 'When' (Year, Year Of Birth, Year Of Death), 'Where' (Location and Search radius), 'Category', 'Subcategory', 'Record set', and 'Optional keywords'. A 'Search Britain records' button is at the bottom.

Step 7: Using the information collected from either/or the crime



and punishment archives, or the generic research within the newspaper archives, let's fill out the search box:

 Britain ▼

All Categories

> Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records

> Census, land & surveys

> Churches & religion

> Directories & social history

> Education & work

> Institutions & organisations

> Military, armed forces & conflict

> Travel & migration

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Newspapers & Periodicals

Who

First name(s)
Oscar

Last name
Wilde

☒ Name variants ⓘ☐ Name variants ⓘ

All fields are optional

When

Year
YYYY

Give or take
-/+ 2yrs ⓘ

Year Of Birth
1854

Give or take
-/+ 2yrs ⓘ

Year Of Death
YYYY

Give or take
-/+ 2yrs ⓘ

Where

Britain

London, England

Search radius (miles) ⓘ
Exact 5 10 20 50

Category

Start typing a Category

Browse Category

Subcategory

Start typing a Subcategory

Browse Subcategory

Record set

Start typing a Record set

Browse Record set

Optional keywords

Q View 901 Results

Clear search

Step 8: Hit View!

Step 9: The following returns loaded for our above search... many different types of records are located from our general search as you can see from the list titled, 'Record Set'. The top find refers to a census for Oscar Wilde, whereas the bottom finds are references to his crime and punishment records. Work through each record set.

Your search Clear All

First name(s)
Oscar

☒ Include name variants

Last name
Wilde

☐ Include name variants

Year Of Birth
1854

Give or take
-/+ 2yrs

Year Of Death
e.g. 1965

Give or take
-/+ 2yrs

Year
e.g. 1908

Give or take
-/+ 2yrs

Location
London, England

Search radius (miles)
Exact 5 10 20 50 100

[View 901 results](#)

[Advanced options](#)

[Save this search](#)

901 results

Last name	First name(s)	Year Of Birth	Year Of Death	Year	Record set	Location
Wilde	Oscar	1856	—	1891	1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census	Chelsea, London, Middlesex, England
Wilde	Oscar	—	—	1895	Middlesex, London, Old Bailey Court Records 1674-1913	Great Britain
Wilde	Oscar Fingal O F	—	—	1884	England & Wales Marriages 1837-2005	Kensington, London, England
Wilde	Oscar Fingal O'Flahartie Wills	—	—	1895	Middlesex, London, Old Bailey Court Records 1674-1913	Great Britain
Wilde	Oscar Fingal O'Flahartie Wills	—	—	1895	Middlesex, London, Old Bailey Court Records 1674-1913	Great Britain
Wilde	Oscar P	—	—	1917	England & Wales Marriages 1837-2005	Southwark, London, England
Wilde	Oscar Wade	—	—	1891	England & Wales Marriages 1837-2005	St George Hanover Square, London, England
Wilde	Oscar Wade	—	1945	1946	England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2011	London, England
Wilde	Robert O	—	—	1919	England & Wales Marriages 1837-2005	Pancras, London, England
Wilde	Oscar Fingal O'Flahartie Wills	1855	—	1895	England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935	England
Wilde	Oscar Fingal O'Flahartie Wills	1855	—	1895	England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935	England

[illegible]

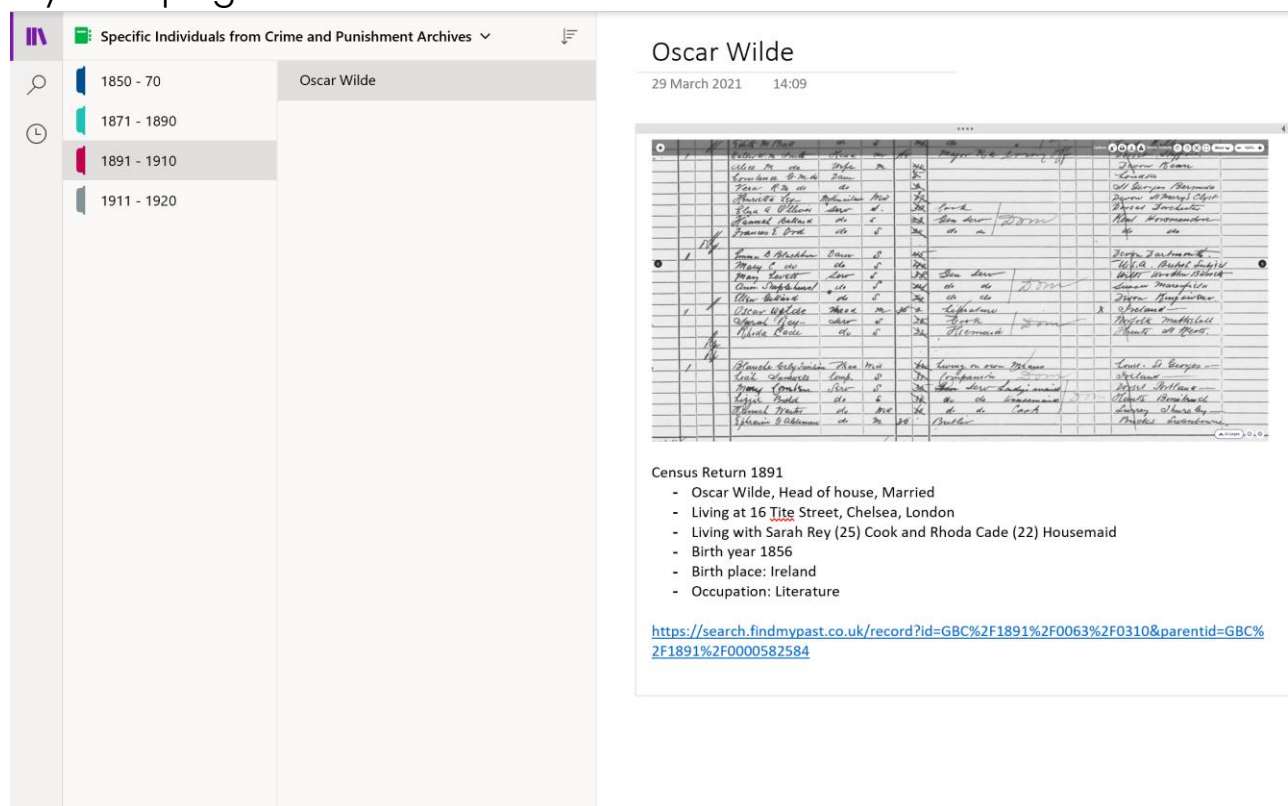
Step 11: Let's check the transcription of the file:

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Oscar	Wilde	Head	Married	Male	35	1856	Literature	Ireland
Sarah	Rey	Servant	Single	Female	25	1866	Cook	Mattishall, Norfolk, England
Rhoda	Cade	Servant	Single	Female	22	1869	Housemaid	Huntingdonshire, England

Oscar Wilde's Census Details ⓘ

First name(s)	Oscar
Last name	Wilde
Relationship	Head
Marital status	Married
Sex	Male
Age	35
Birth year	1856
Birth town	-
Birth county	-
Birth place	Ireland
Birth place other as transcribed	IRELAND
Occupation	Literature
Street	Tite Street
Town	-
Parish	Chelsea
City	-
County	London, Middlesex
Country	England
Registration district	Chelsea
Archive reference	RG12
Piece number	63
Folio	154
Page	13
Record set	1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Step 12: Now that we've read the transcription, record this return in the Microsoft Onenote file for the individual, including the URL of the Find My Past page:



Oscar Wilde
29 March 2021 14:09

Census Return 1891

- Oscar Wilde, Head of house, Married
- Living at 16 Tite Street, Chelsea, London
- Living with Sarah Rey (25) Cook and Rhoda Cade (22) Housemaid
- Birth year 1856
- Birth place: Ireland
- Occupation: Literature

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBC%2F1891%2F0063%2F0310&parentid=GBC%2F1891%2F0000582584>

Step 13: For each record return, complete the same steps as above until you have collated the available records for the individual to build up a broader picture of their life and it's events.

End of Help Guide

Finding individuals convicted of buggery, gross indecency, sodomy, indecent assault and so on in the 'After-Trial' Calendars of Prisoners (HO 140)

National Archives

How To Guide

A note on the use of the How to Guides.

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started. This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the Find my Past; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

Step 1: As an introduction to the use of National Archives HO 140 records: 'After-Trial Calendars of Prisoners for the Quarter Sessions and Assizes', please read the section titled 'National Archives – Calendars of Prisoners' to understand the use of this record set for the purposes of recollecting experiences of the criminal justice system for individuals convicted of same-sex sex.

Step 2: Open up an example Excel spreadsheet, or use our template available at, www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

	Court	Place	Date of hearing	Total number of pris' in the calendar	Name	Age	Trade	Degree of instruction	Name and address of committing magistrate	Date of warrant	When received into custody		Offence as charged	When tried	Before whom tried	Verdict	Sentence or order of the court
1																	
2																	

Court, Place and Date of Hearing found from the first page of the record

This information will be located once you've found an individual charged with a same-sex sexual offence.

Step 3: Searching the HO 140 record set is available at the following link:

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935> . Unlike previous How to Guides, research in the HO 140 Record Set available on

Find my Past does not rely on knowing an individuals name, as this is where we are going to locate those names. Two initial decisions need to be made before completing search in this record set....

1) Which county are you researching? (BF team: Berkshire)

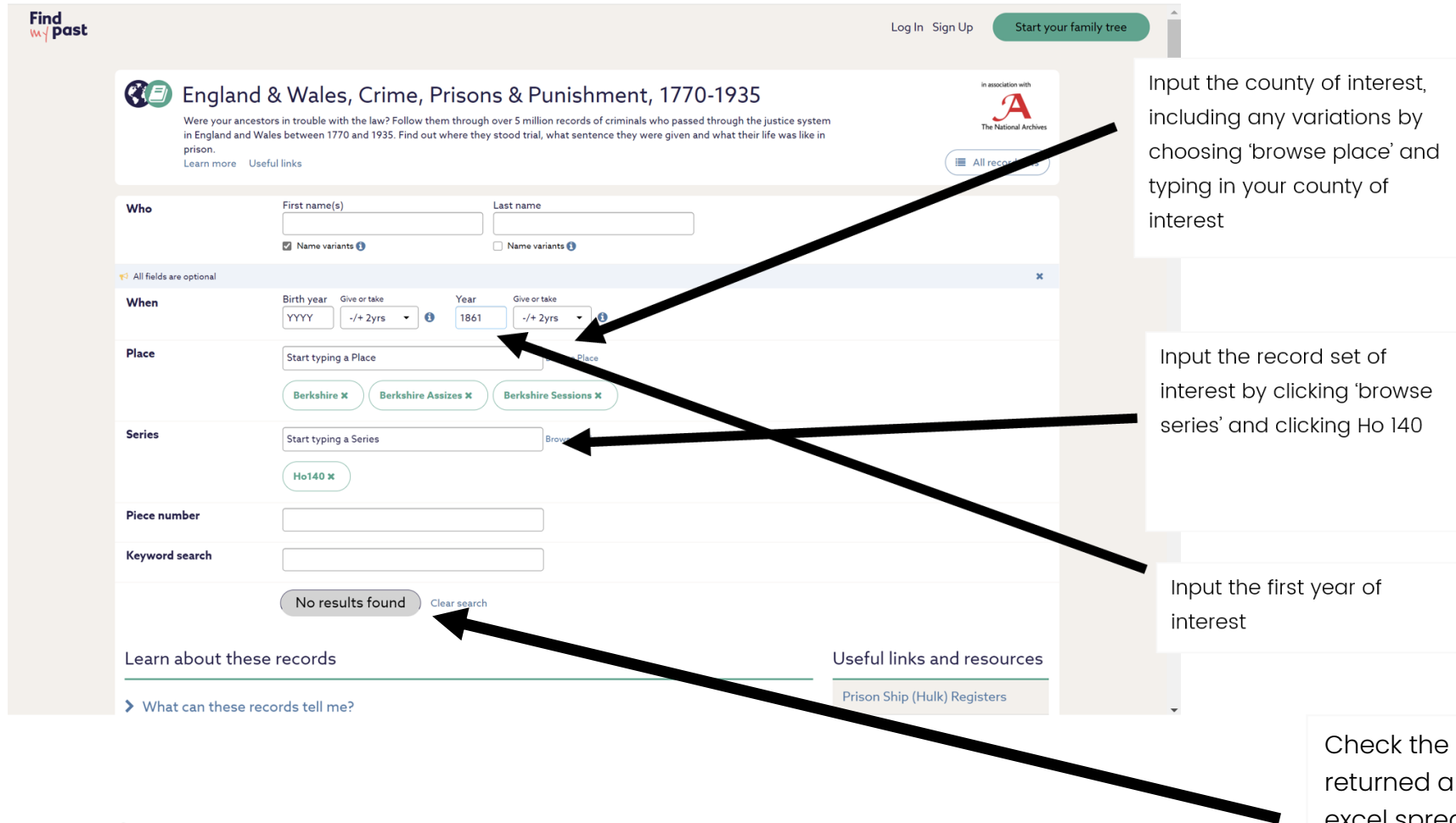
2) Choose the date range of interest (BF Team: 1861 to 1920)

Step 4: The first thing to do is to work out which years are stored within the HO 140. Whilst the Ho 140 files are helpful for completing remote research, they are not complete and some records have not yet been downloaded. Please load up an Excel Spreadsheet with your list of dates, per the suggestion below. This is also able to download from www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit titled: **“HO 140 NA Date + Record Return Sheet”**

Step 5: Head to: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935> .

Year	Records Available	Link
1861		
1862		
1863		
1864		
1865		
1866		
1867		
1868		
1869		
1870		
1871		
1872		
1873		
1874		
1875		
1876		
1877		
1878		
1879		
1880		
1881		
1882		
1883		
1884		
1885		
1886		
1887		
1888		
1889		
1890		
1891		
1892		
1893		
1894		
1895		
1896		
1897		
1898		
1899		

Using the below search options, input each date and check the amount of records located, make a note of the number and the link (by hitting search and copying the URL link) for each to allow easy access to each of the finds. As per the example below, for the year 1861, no results were found. Repeat for each year recording in the spreadsheet the number of returns and the link.



Find my past Log In Sign Up Start your family tree

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935

Were your ancestors in trouble with the law? Follow them through over 5 million records of criminals who passed through the justice system in England and Wales between 1770 and 1935. Find out where they stood trial, what sentence they were given and what their life was like in prison. [Learn more](#) [Useful links](#)

Who First name(s) Last name

☒ Name variants ☐ Name variants

When Birth year Give or take Year Give or take
 YYYY -/+ 2yrs 1861 -/+ 2yrs

Place Start typing a Place
 Berkshire Berkshire Assizes Berkshire Sessions

Series Start typing a Series
 Ho140

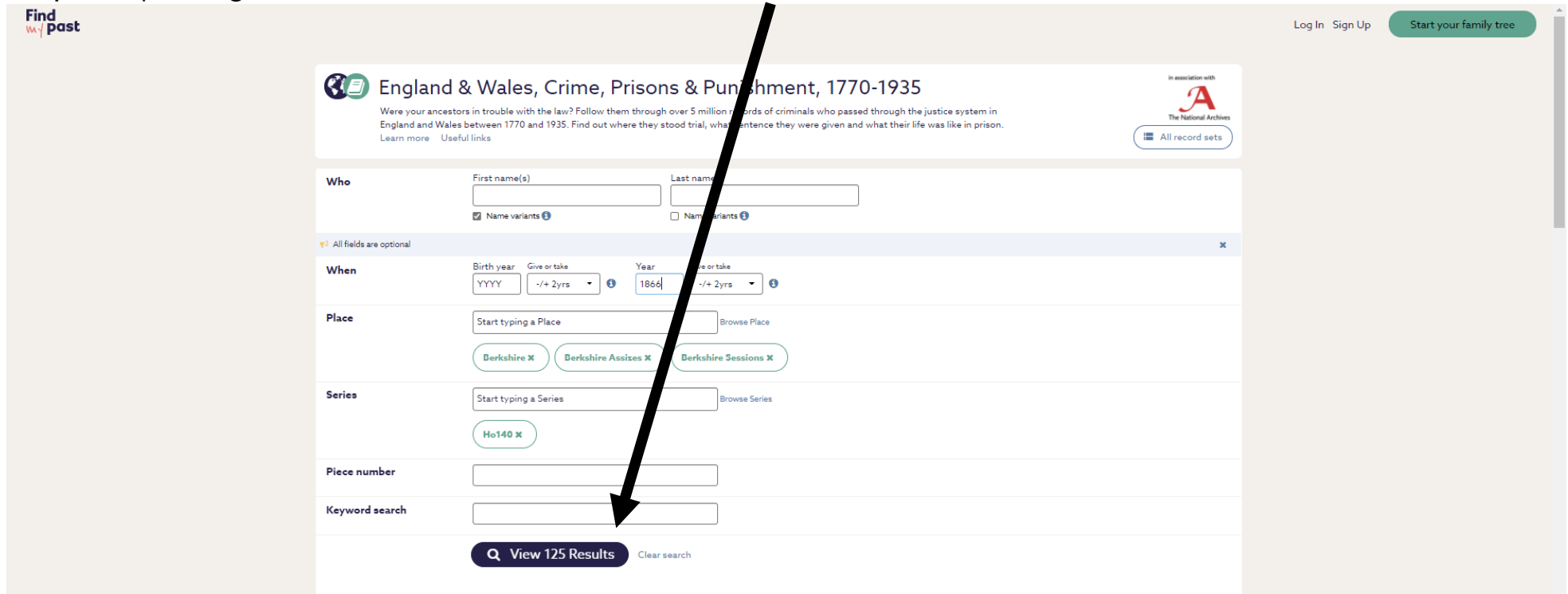
Piece number

Keyword search

No results found Clear search

Learn about these records Useful links and resources
 > What can these records tell me? Prison Ship (Hulk) Registers

Step 6: Inputting the dates, our first find was in 1866, with 125 returns are found... hit view!



Find past

Log In Sign Up Start your family tree

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935

Were your ancestors in trouble with the law? Follow them through over 5 million records of criminals who passed through the justice system in England and Wales between 1770 and 1935. Find out where they stood trial, what sentence they were given and what their life was like in prison.
[Learn more](#) [Useful links](#)

in association with

 The National Archives
[All record sets](#)

Who

First name(s) Last name

☒ Name variants ☐ Name variants

All fields are optional

When

Birth year Give or take Year Give or take

Place

Start typing a Place Browse Place

Series

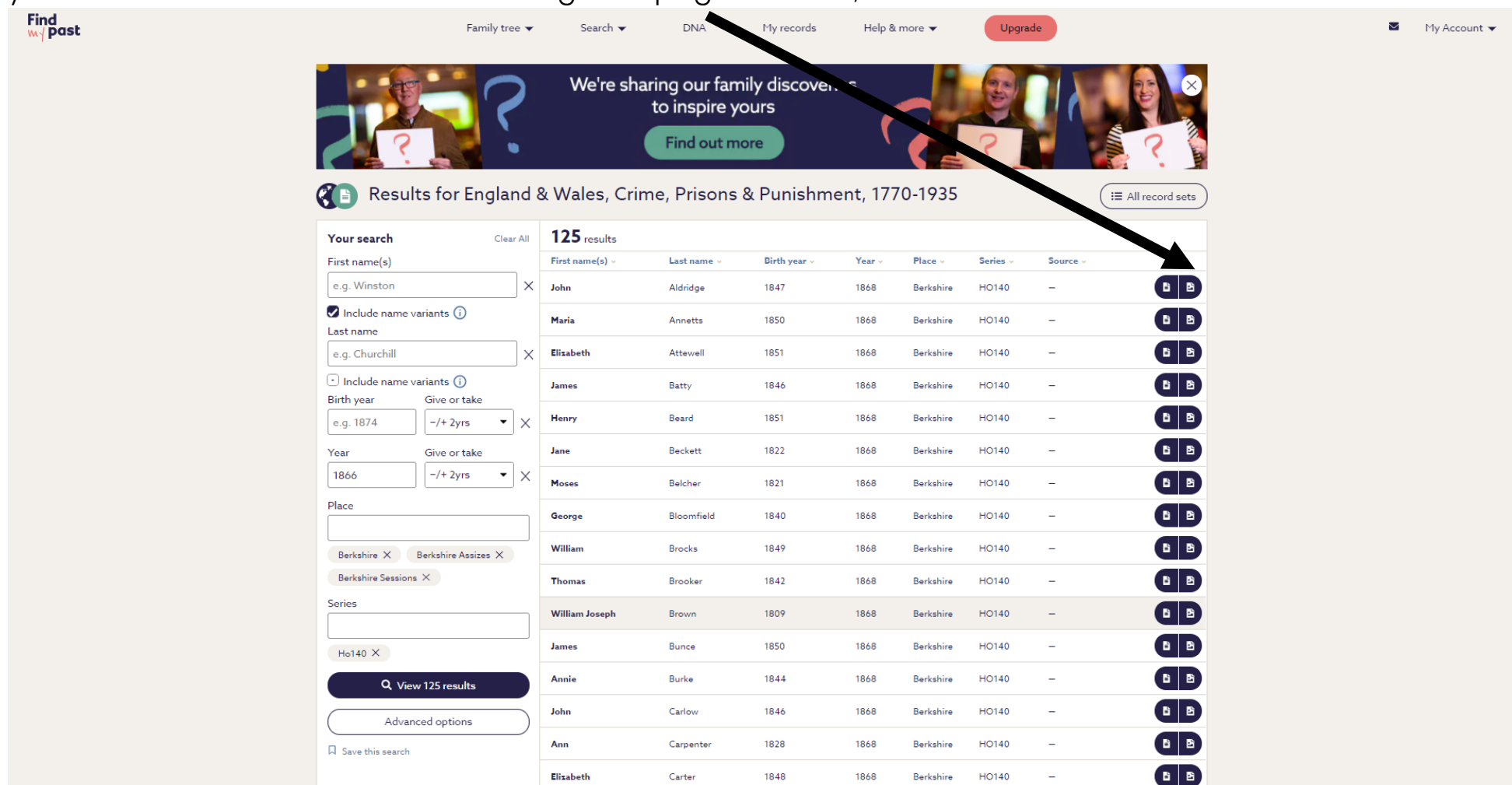
Start typing a Series Browse Series

Piece number

Keyword search

It's important to note at this point that there are usually four entries per year for the Calendars of Prisoners across the seasons (Spring, Summer, Winter and Autumn), meaning that for each year there are four hearings, and four sets of 'After-Trial' Calendars of Prisoners. This is why research in the HO 140 files should be supported by research within the actual records stored at local archives.

Step 7: Once you've checked the amount of returns per year, let's head to the link for the first year with records located. The following web page will load, click view record on the first return.



Find past Family tree Search DNA My records Help & more Upgrade My Account

We're sharing our family discoveries to inspire yours [Find out more](#)

Results for England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935 [All record sets](#)

Your search [Clear All](#)

First name(s)
e.g. Winston X

☒ Include name variants ⓘ

Last name
e.g. Churchill X

☐ Include name variants ⓘ

Birth year Give or take
e.g. 1874 ~/+ 2yrs X

Year Give or take
1866 ~/+ 2yrs X

Place
Berkshire X Berkshire Assizes X Berkshire Sessions X

Series
Ho140 X

[View 125 results](#)

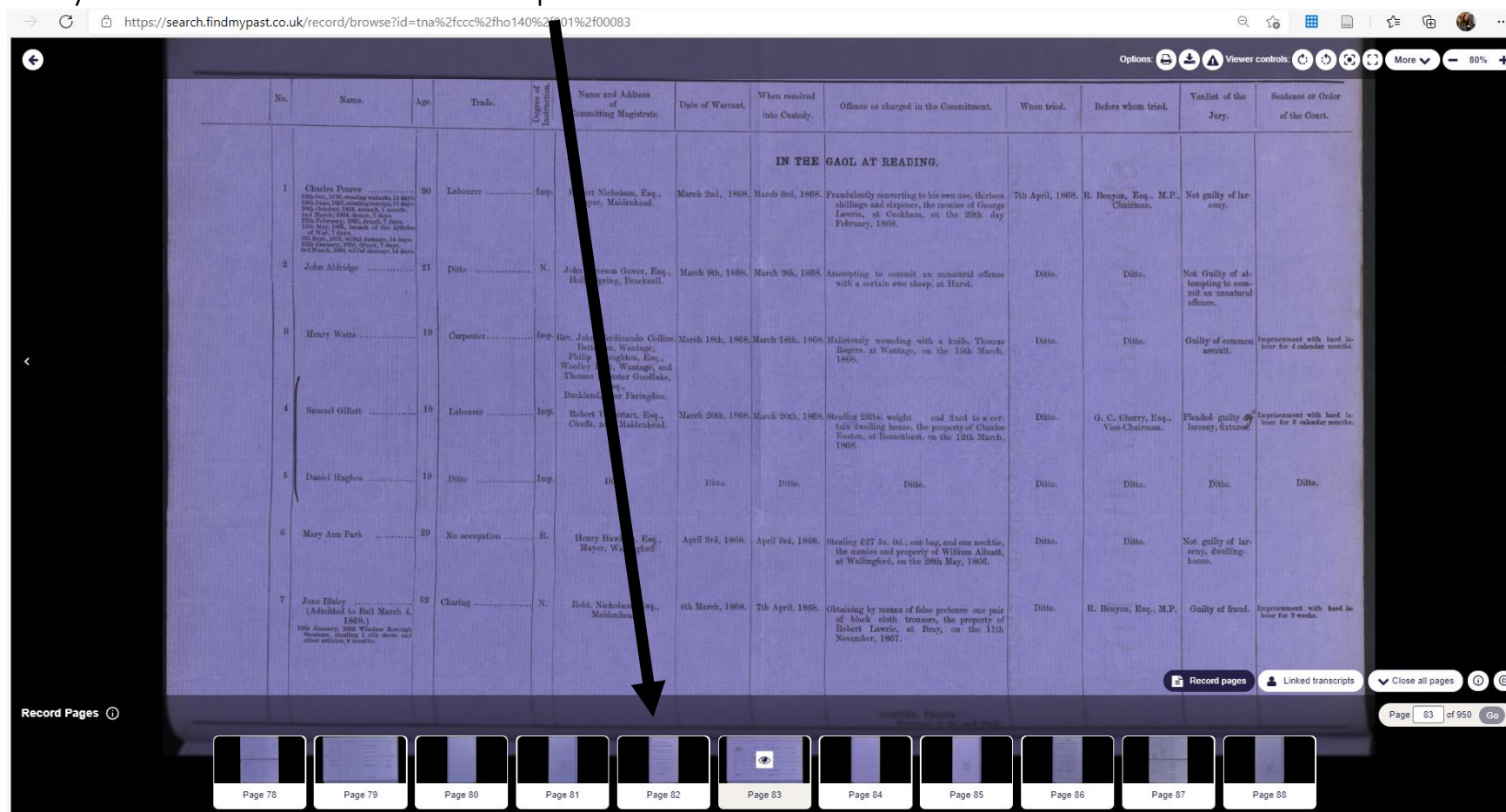
[Advanced options](#)

[Save this search](#)

125 results

First name(s)	Last name	Birth year	Year	Place	Series	Source	
John	Aldridge	1847	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Maria	Annetts	1850	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Elisabeth	Attewell	1851	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
James	Batty	1846	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Henry	Beard	1851	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Jane	Beckett	1822	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Moses	Belcher	1821	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
George	Bloomfield	1840	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
William	Brooks	1849	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Thomas	Brooker	1842	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
William Joseph	Brown	1809	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
James	Bunce	1850	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Annie	Burke	1844	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
John	Carlow	1846	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Ann	Carpenter	1828	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record
Elisabeth	Carter	1848	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	View record

Step 8: When the record loads, it should look something like below. The way the Calendar of Prisoners appear changes depending on the date, and some may appear on blue or beige paper, but the information included is usually the same. Using the view pages option, we want to head to the start of the entry for Berkshire's calendars of prisoners...



Options: [Icons] Viewer controls: [Icons] More [Dropdown] 80% +

No.	Name	Age	Trade	Image of Prisoner	Name and Address of Committing Magistrate	Date of Warrant	When received into Custody	Offence as charged in the Commitment	When tried	Before whom tried	Verdict of the Jury	Sentence or Order of the Court
IN THE GAOL AT READING.												
1	Charles Pearce	30	Labourer	Imp.	Robert Nicholson, Esq., Mayor, Maidenhead.	March 2nd, 1868.	March 3rd, 1868.	Fraudulently converting to his own use, thirteen shillings and sixpence, the monies of George Lewis, at Cookham, on the 29th day February, 1868.	7th April, 1868.	R. Benyon, Esq., M.P., Chairman.	Not guilty of larceny.	
2	John Aldridge	21	Ditto	N.	John Thomas Gower, Esq., High Wycombe, Bucks.	March 9th, 1868.	March 9th, 1868.	Attempting to commit an unnatural offence with a certain ewe sheep, at Hurd.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Not Guilty of attempting to commit an unnatural offence.	
3	Henry Watts	19	Carpenter	Imp.	Rev. John Ferdinand Collins, Bettsan, Wantage, Philip Wroughton, Esq., Wantage, and Thomas Wroughton, Esq., Bucks.	March 18th, 1868.	March 18th, 1868.	Malevolently wounding with a knife, Thomas Rogers, at Wantage, on the 16th March, 1868.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Guilty of common assault.	Imprisonment with hard labour for 4 calendar months.
4	Samuel Gillett	19	Labourer	Imp.	Robert V. Hart, Esq., Chiswick, near Maidenhead.	March 20th, 1868.	March 20th, 1868.	Stealing 23lbs. weight of iron and fixed to a certain dwelling house, the property of Charles Easton, at Remenham, on the 12th March, 1868.	Ditto.	G. C. Cherry, Esq., Vice-Chairman.	Pleaded guilty of larceny, fixtured.	Imprisonment with hard labour for 3 calendar months.
5	Daniel Hughes	19	Ditto	Imp.		Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
6	Mary Ann Park	20	No occupation	R.	Henry Hawley, Esq., Mayor, Wallingford.	April 3rd, 1868.	April 3rd, 1868.	Stealing £27 5s. 0d., one bag, and one necktie, the monies and property of William Allnutt, at Wallingford, on the 28th May, 1866.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Not guilty of larceny, dwelling-house.	
7	Jane Hiley (Admitted to Bail March 4, 1868.)	52	Charing	N.	Robt. Nicholson, Esq., Maidenhead.	4th March, 1868.	7th April, 1868.	Obtaining by means of false pretence one pair of thick cloth trousers, the property of Robert Lewis, at Bray, on the 11th November, 1867.	Ditto.	R. Benyon, Esq., M.P.	Guilty of fraud.	Imprisonment with hard labour for 8 weeks.

Record pages [Icons] Linked transcripts [Icons] Close all pages [Icons]

Page 83 of 950 Go

Page 76 Page 79 Page 80 Page 81 Page 82 Page 83 Page 84 Page 85 Page 86 Page 87 Page 88

Step 9: It should look similar to below, perhaps on blue or beige coloured paper. The information explained through the blue arrows will be recorded on the first excel spreadsheet: "HO 140 COP List of Individuals – Template" available at on our resources/templates page of our website!

County where the court hearing took place

Page Locator – type in the page number and hit Go to quickly move through the record

document = CALENDAR OF PRISONERS

The season = e.g. Michaelmas/Epiphany General

The court = e.g. Quarter Sessions of the Peace/Assizes Courts

Date the court sat: e.g. Monday 16th Oct 1905

The Magistrates who heard the case

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment Browse, 1770-1935 Image

COUNTY OF BERKS.

CALENDAR OF PRISONERS

HELD AT THE
MICHAELMAS GENERAL
QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE,
HOLDEN AT THE
ASSIZE COURTS, READING, on MONDAY, the 16th day of OCTOBER, 1905.

REPORT
SIR ROBERT GRAY CORNISH MOWBRAY, BARONET, M.P.,
AND
REGINALD BRODIE DYKE ACLAND, ESQUIRE, K.C.,
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR THEIR SAID COUNTY.

JOHN THORNHILL, MOWLAND, Esq., CLERK OF THE PEACE.

Printed at JAMES HARRIS, 50, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

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Go

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Report image error Print Download

Name of the individual on trial + their previous convictions

Their Age, Trade and degree of instruction

Name + Address of Committing magistrates, date of warrant + when received into custody

The Official Legal Charge the individual faced

Outcome of the court

Sentence

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment Browse, 1770-1935 Image

No.	NAME.	Age.	TRADE.	Degree of Instruction	Name and Address of Committing Magistrate	Date of Warrant.	When received into Custody.	Particulars of Offence or Offences as charged in the Indictment.	When tried.	Before whom tried.	Verdict of the Jury.	Particulars of Previous Convictions charged in the indictment and proved in Court.	Sentence or Order of the Court.	No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Prisoners Tried.														
1	Frank Smith Boned over. Broad Petty Sessions, 8th May, 1909 (larceny as a bailor, as Sidney Alfred Lashbury, 2 days and 21st October, 1909 (burglary, 3 charges), as Sidney Alfred Lashbury 2 months, Gloucester County Quarter Sessions, 22nd June, 1904 (stealing 24s.) as Sidney Alfred Lashbury.	1st	Tailor	...	Col. George Shippen Willes and Major John Aldridge, Hungerford Petty Sessions.	1005 June 29th	1905 June 29th	On 21st June, 1905, at Hungerford, feloniously stealing one blouse, containing one dress, six shirts, four blouses, two hats, one blouse, one pair of drawers, one night dress, two neckties, two lace collars, two blouses, two pairs of boots, and certain flannel, the property of Maggie Flannel.	1905 16th Oct.	Sir H. G. C. Mowbray, Bart, M.P.	Pleaded guilty	Gloucester Quarter Sessions, 21st June, 1905, larceny, 3 calendar months.	1 calendar month hard labour.	1
2	Henry Brooker 5 years penal servitude, Surrey Sessions, 4th June, 1895 (receiving stolen goods, etc.), as Thomas Wilson, 15 months, Salisbury Assizes, 12th November, 1898 (burglary), as Henry Brooker. 5 years penal servitude, Berks County Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1890 (stealing a portrait), as Frederick Joyce. 4 months, Berks Assizes, 16th June, 1890 (false pretence), as Frederick Joyce. 6 months, Richmond Petty Sessions, 20th June, 1898 (stealing a silver goblet), as Henry Seymour. 14 days, Andover Petty Sessions, 20th March, 1901 (stealing plates), as George Gray. 6 months, Winchester Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1901 (housebreaking), as George Gray. 3 years penal servitude, 6 months hard labour, concurrent, Lewes County Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1902 (stealing a watch, etc.; attempted sexual offence), as Frederick Cox.	64	Stableman	...	Edmund Benson Foster, Esq., and Hugh Owen Tudor, Esq., Windsor Petty Sessions.	July 1st	June 17th (on remand)	On 14th June, 1895, at Old Windsor, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Edward Lewis Blight and therein, feloniously stealing one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of trousers, one flannel shirt, one neck scarf, one smoking pipe, one pair of socks and one pair of boots, his property. 2nd Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Herbert Henry Cox and stealing the said goods. 3rd Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of E. E. Blight and stealing three sheets and six handkerchiefs, the property of Reginald Henry Cox. 4th Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of R. H. Cox and stealing the said three sheets and six handkerchiefs, his property. 5th Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of R. H. Cox and stealing the said three sheets and six handkerchiefs, his property.	18th Oct.	R. D. Dyke Acland, Esq., R.C.	Guilty ...	Lewes Quarter Sessions, 14th October, 1902, larceny, 3 years penal servitude.	3 years penal servitude	5

Arrows to change the pages of the calendar

Page Locator – type in the page number and hit Go to quickly move through the record

100

123 of 761

Go

Report image error Print Download



Step 10: Now that we have the calendar open for this particular session of the Quarter Sessions or Assizes, let's flick through to see if there are any cases of buggery, sodomy, gross indecency, and any other variation of offence relating to sex between men. For more information on the indictments, please visit our toolkit www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit. Record each individual on a new line in your excel spreadsheet.

Step 11: Once you've found an individual, keep flicking through the pages to check if there were any other hearings before the courts that we might be interested in. Once you've located someone else, repeat the same steps and record their information.

Step 12: If you've finished all the pages of this record head to the next and complete the process. A helpful reminder that there are four quarter sessions/assizes per year, meaning that you are looking for 4 different sessions recorded each year.

END OF HOW TO GUIDE



Templates

A note on the use of templates:

The templates, like the How to Guides, are intended as introductory resources to support independent researchers researching the historical and archival records relating to sex between men in Victorian and Edwardian England. The following templates are available:

- Prison Register Template
- Ho 140 (National Archives) Date Record Sheet
- Ho 140 – Calendars of Prisoners List of Individuals Template

There may be discrepancies and differences in the information collated within different records, and this may need the individual to adapt these templates for their own record set.

The templates are available to download at www.brokenfutures.co.uk/resources if you would like to access the templates in the form of excel spreadsheets. They can also be used as examples for you to create your own templates for research.

If you do attempt to complete research within your community to locate information about how the state regulated sex between men historically and this toolkit is at all useful, if you've found similar results, or would simply like some further support or guidance, we'd love to hear from you, either through our feedback form, www.brokenfutures.co.uk/feedback or by email at hello@brokenfutures.co.uk.

