

PRO Indexes & Census Returns

We have placed the following Public Record Office Indexes and Census Returns into the Filby database on the GOONS (Guild of One Name Studies) website server:

INDEXES

Births 1837 to 2006 inc

Marriages 1837 to 2005 inc

Deaths 1837 to 2005 inc

Probate 1858 to 1992

CENSUS RETURNS

1851 British Census

1881 British Census

1891 British Census

1901 British Census

To access these records click on the website link www.one-name.org

If you use this facility please consider making a donation to help our Association continue its work.

Further private help with research can be found via our CONTACTS page

The start of official Birth, Marriage and Death Records

In 1538 the Official Church of England instructed vicars and rectors to record the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in their Parish, but alas the repeated injunctions to this effect failed to generally stimulate obedience to this edict, until about 1650 when those recorded were written in Latin or early English script.

From 1754 onwards, special books were devised in London for the recording of Banns and Marriages, and soon ruled books for recording Baptisms and Burials were in use.

How earlier year's dates were recorded:

In 1752 the English Parliament revised the 'Julian' calendar then in use, to provide for the New Year to commence with January 1st the 'Gregorian' calendar, rather than on March 25th as had been the custom in previous centuries. For the year 1750 it was decreed that the day after September 1st should be the 13th to make up for the days lost in the change of calendars.

Hence prior to 1752 (and in most Parish Records through to 1800) the Months of January, February and March would be written as 1658/59 to include both the old and the new year. So it was that children might have been recorded as being born a few months after marriage when in fact it may have been a year or more.

The effects of taxation on records:

Taxes were always a problem and for some 80 years prior to Oct. 1 1783 there was no tax on Baptisms, Marriages, or Burials recorded in Church Registers but then a tax of 3p. per entry was required. This Tax Collector's task was added to the Clergyman's duties. In 1794 it was repealed but undoubtedly in the ten year period unrecorded events took place.

One idea to escape tax was by being declared a pauper, 3p. was a good sum for most people. One requirement was generally enforced however, namely that all burials receiving the benefit of the Church would require the deceased to be "buried in wool". This was for the benefit of the woollen industry, it appears. Certificates as to such burials were often demanded.

Burials were usually in common graves running around the Church edifice for the use of gravestone monuments were not common. Various Church groups such as the Quakers believed such monuments were ostentatious and against their beliefs, also some Quakers who died in Suffolk might be buried in Tivetshall, Norfolk. Their burial ground there has only two or three stones and these without names. Some of the early Filby families were Quakers whose records are well kept.