



Discover your
Ancestors

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periodical

**Break down
the brick walls**

What to do if they're
not in the census

The great aviators

Research flying aces online

Children at work

Were your forebears robbed of their childhood?



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DISCOVERY
Media Group

Welcome to the Periodical



Welcome to the first issue of **Discover Your Ancestors Periodical**, the first digital-only monthly publication dedicated to family and social history! You may already be familiar with our annual printed edition available in newsagents worldwide - if so, you'll find a familiar feel to things, as we build on the print magazine to look at a wealth of subjects in depth; if not, come on in and make yourself at home! Over the months ahead we'll help you explore your roots - especially in the UK, but we'll also look at connections abroad - as well as understand what your ancestors' lives were really like. We'll have a rich mix of useful genealogy advice, tips on getting past brick walls in your research, and interesting features by respected writers that will help to bring your personal heritage alive.

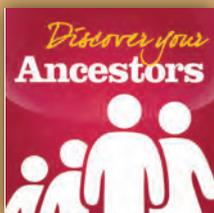
In our second print magazine one of our lead features explored what our ancestors' schooldays were like - this time we look at the other side of the coin: child labour. You'll also find research advice on births, marriages and deaths and the censuses, an exploration of exciting new data relating to pioneer aviators - and even a trip to a Tudor tavern. Do let me know what sort of subjects you'd like to see covered in future issues, via editorial@discoveryyourancestors.co.uk. Also, look out for free records every month at our website, www.discoveryyourancestors.co.uk.

Thanks for subscribing - we look forward to helping you on your own historical voyage of discovery! **Andrew Chapman**, Editor

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You can buy a printed version of the annual *Discover Your Ancestors* bookazine at all good newsagents in the UK (including WHSmith and Martin McColl) and overseas (including Barnes & Noble). Or, if you prefer, you can order past and present issues directly from the publishers, please see www.discoveryyourancestors.co.uk and click on 'Order print copies' at the bottom of the page.



Back to paper

Simon Fowler explains how to find records that aren't available online yet... and the internet can still help the process

The fatal flaw in doing family history through the internet is the temptation to think that everything is online. But it is not true.

The National Archives (TNA) estimates that only 5 per cent of its records have been digitised. They are being slightly disingenuous, as all the major sources for genealogical research at Kew are now online, although there are still significant exceptions. These include Army officers' records, Army and Navy muster rolls, Metropolitan Police service registers and Poor Law correspondence.

The proportion of records online at local record offices is rather lower – perhaps two or three per cent. However, this is changing rapidly, as the big data websites index and scan parish registers and related material in the parish chest.

But there are always going to be records that the commercial data providers will never copy, because they are too difficult to digitise and index. Court records – particularly quarter and petty sessions – at local archives, for example are name rich, but are hard to use, so won't necessarily be copied.

It can be hard enough to find what you want online, so you'd think it would be much harder to discover

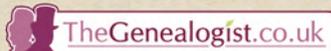


what records are available where at Britain's hundreds of archives. But in fact it is dead easy – and it can all be done online.

Did I say hundreds of archives? I meant thousands, from internationally important places such as The National Archives and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland to tiny repositories such as Barings Bank Archives, where you share a desk with the archivist. There are 400 alone in London.

Details of virtually all of them are available through ARCHON – a service provided through TNA's website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon). ARCHON will give you an address, a link to the archive's website, and details of opening hours. It is also up to date.

ARCHON won't be any use if you don't know where the records are to be found, or indeed whether they exist. Fortunately there are several national indexes that can help. ►

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