Occupations Records Handout

This handout provides information and web links from the talk '*What Did They Do? – Records for Occupations, Professions and Trades*' presented online for the West Middlesex Family History Society on 17 September 2020.

Dictionary of Occupations

Having a dictionary of occupations can be extremely useful especially noting that the meaning of many occupations changed over time.

- *A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations – Colin Waters (ISBN 1 85306 794 6)*
- Index of old occupations (http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html)
- *Cyclopaedia of Useful Arts, Mechanical and Chemical, Manufactures, Mining and Engineering* (see images of the book under Various Occupations on SoG Data Online)

Sources for Trades, Occupations and Professions

The following websites were mentioned during the talk:

Commercial Websites

- Find*my*past - https://www.findmypast.co.uk/
    - Use 'All Record Sets' to find the record sets
    - To view all occupation related record sets, go to 'Education & work' on left menu on main Search page; then click on 'Browse Record Sets' link in Search Form scroll through and keep clicking 'More' to see full list
    - Ability to search by Occupation on the Census record sets
- Ancestry - https://www.ancestry.co.uk/
    - Use 'Card Catalogue' to find record sets
    - To view most occupation related record sets, go to 'Schools, Directories & Church Histories' in drop down 'Search' menu, then choose 'Professional & Organisational Directories' which covers many more record sets than just directories.
- The Genealogist - https://www.thegenealogist.com/
    - Use 'Search' tab then scroll down and choose 'Occupational Records' to find relevant record sets
- Society of Genealogists Data Online - http://sog.archiveps.co.uk/bin/index.php - see further information in section below
- British Newspaper Archive - https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ – newspapers also included on Find*my*past (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers)

General Resources

- Archives – use their catalogue to search for records relating to occupations; search employer name for business records; search place of work (e.g. farm or estate or factory) – consider national, county, city and private archives (e.g. company specific)
- Cyndi's List (www.cyndislist.com) – use Occupations category or choose a Place and subcategory Occupations
- Directories - Historical Directories of England & Wales via University of Leicester (http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4) and Ancestry ('*UK, City and County Directories, 1766 – 1946*' (*https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/3145/*) – additional directories available at Find*my*past, Ancestry, The Genealogist and SoG Data Online.
- Museums – many museums have online catalogues of some of their objects as well as relevant documents and indexes, e.g. the Science Museum (https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/)
- Personal Ephemera – review what you and your family may own – business material, photos, objects
- Professional Lists – lists for various professions and years available at most commercial organisations in addition to Online Books and in libraries notably SoG, Guildhall and British Library
- Universities often have academic studies on an occupation or will hold archives for that specific occupation. In particular:

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  - University of Nottingham Textiles, Lace and Hosiery Business Records Collection (https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/businessrecords/textiles-lace--hosiery.aspx) or (https://tinyurl.com/y355nl2m)
- Way Back Machine – if you find a website that is no longer active, paste the URL into the Way Back Machine on Internet Archive (https://archive.org/) to find archived webpages

Online Books and Journals
- Internet Archive (https://archive.org/)
- Hathi Trust (https://www.hathitrust.org/)
- FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/)
- Google Books (https://books.google.co.uk/)
- JSTOR (https://www.jstor.org/)

Help Guides
- TNA Record Guides (https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/) – many on specific occupations
- FamilySearch Wiki (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page) – search for specific occupation within categories
- Bodleian Library LibGuides – lawyer example (https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/c.php?g=422806&p=2887021) –worth checking out other occupations

Occupation Specific Sources
Agricultural Workers
- Tithe Maps and Apportionments – available at The Genealogist (https://www.thegenealogist.com/search/advanced/landowner/tithe-records/) as well as at county and national archives – allows you to identify the land that your ancestor worked

Apprenticeships
- Apprentices of Great Britain (IR/1) 1710-1811 – available at Ancestry (images) (https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1851/), Find*my*past (indexes) (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-country-apprentices-1710-1808) , SoG Data Online (indexes), The Genealogist (images) (https://www.thegenealogist.com/search/advanced/occupation/apprenticeship/) and The National Archives (via digital microfilm collection (http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/r/C9339?uri=C9339)).
- London Guilds and Livery Companies – indexes at Find*my*past (https://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/historical-records?region=united-kingdom&keywords=london%20ap&page=1&order_direction=desc&order_by=relevance) ; books available from SoG
- Crisp Collection of Apprenticeship Indentures – images of indentures at SoG Data Online
- London Lives (https://www.londonlives.org/) – apprenticeship records from London

Coastguards
- Coastguard Index – card index on SoG Data Online
- Records of Service of the Coastguard 1816-1947 – via digital microfilm collection at the National Archives (http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/C1884)

Inventors
- Patents – European patents (https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/) and USA patents are on Internet Archive (https://archive.org/)

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Lacemaking
- '*Calais Lacemaker Immigrants to South Australia 1848*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/calais-lacemaker-immigrants-to-south-australia-1848) at Find*my*past

Lawyers
- '*England and Wales, Law List, 1843*' (https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/8022/) at Ancestry
- '*Gray's Inn Admission Register 1521-1889*' available at SoG Data Online (see section below) – index is on Images 0248-0287

Mining
- National Coal Mining Museum (https://www.ncm.org.uk/library)
- Coalmining History Resource Centre (http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/)
- Mining Durham's Hidden Depths (http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/article/10531/Search-Durhams-Hidden-Depths)
- Alan Beales Database of Fatalities in the Coal Fields (http://www.healeyhero.co.uk/rescue/Fatalities/Alan-Beales-Database.html)
- Mining Index – of miners killed or injured c.1850-1920 (http://web.archive.org/web/20101005215506/http://www.blacksheepindex.co.uk/MINING.htm)
- England, Mining Disaster Victims (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/england-mining-disaster-victims)
- National Archives Research Guides – Mines and mining (https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/mines-mining/)

Seaman
- Find*my*past has a number of record sets '*Britain, Merchant Seamen, 1835-1857*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-merchant-seamen-1835-1857) , '*Britain, Merchant Seamen, 1918-1941*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-merchant-seamen-1918-1941) , '*England & Wales Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1861-1913*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/england-and-wales-merchant-navy-crew-lists-1861-1913) , '*British Mariners, Trinity House Calendars 1787-1854*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-mariners-trinity-house-calendars-1787-1854) and '*Lloyd's Register of Merchant Ships Index 1843*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/lloyds-register-of-merchant-ships-index-1843) as well as numerous Navy records.
- CLIP – Crew List Index Project CLIP (http://www.crewlist.org.uk/) – crew lists for merchant ships mainly for late 19th century and early 20th century using various sources – ongoing project
- Royal Museums Greenwich (https://collections.rmg.co.uk/archive.html#!asearch) – includes crew lists and Lieutenants' Logs
- Trinity House records including Petitions Index, Apprenticeships and Miscellaneous – available at SoG (http://sog.archiveps.co.uk/bin/aps_browse_sources.php?mode=list_sources&source_class=315)

Others
- Civil Service Evidences of Age – provide proof of age and cover pre-civil registration and cover Great Britain and further afield including Ireland, India, USA, and Malta – available at Find*my*past (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/british-civil-service-evidence-of-age) and SoG Data Online (see below)
- Customs and Excise Staff Service Registers – available at SoG Data Online (see below)
- Teacher Registration Council – available at Find*my*past (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/teachers-registration-council-registers-1914-1948) and SoG Data Online (see below)

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- '*Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers*' (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/britain-trade-union-membership-registers) – available at Find*my*past – originated from Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick

Sources on SoG Data Online

Several of the sources presented are available via SoG Data Online. Instructions for finding sources via SoG Data Online are presented below.

SoG Data Online has data sets for the following occupations: Bankers; Business Index; Charities; **Civil Service**; **Coastguards**; **Customs & Excise**; **Lacemaking industry**; **Legal profession**; Lifeboatmen; Local Government; Medical profession; **Merchant Seamen**; Musicians; Pharmaceutical Chemists; Railway workers; Shopkeepers; **Teachers**; Textiles; Trade Unions; Transport; Various Occupations. Those in bold were covered in the talk. Additional datasets at SoG Data Online include Crisp Apprenticeship Indentures and Directories.

A full listing of the contents of SoG Data Online is available at: http://www.sog.org.uk/search-records/whats-on-sog-data-online/.

The individual records on SoG Data Online are only available to members of the SoG. Details of membership are available at: http://www.sog.org.uk/membership/. However, prior to becoming a member, you can still look at the contents of Data Online and do a surname search to see which record sets the surname appears in.
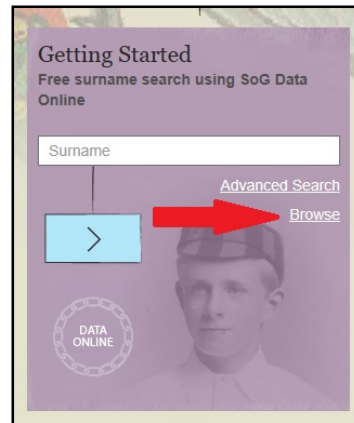
There are three types of sources on SoG Data Online – indexed only; images only; and indexed images. It is therefore also important to look at the record sets available to find the records that are images only.

To find occupations on SoG Data Online, log in if you are a member or go to the home page at www.sog.org.uk.	

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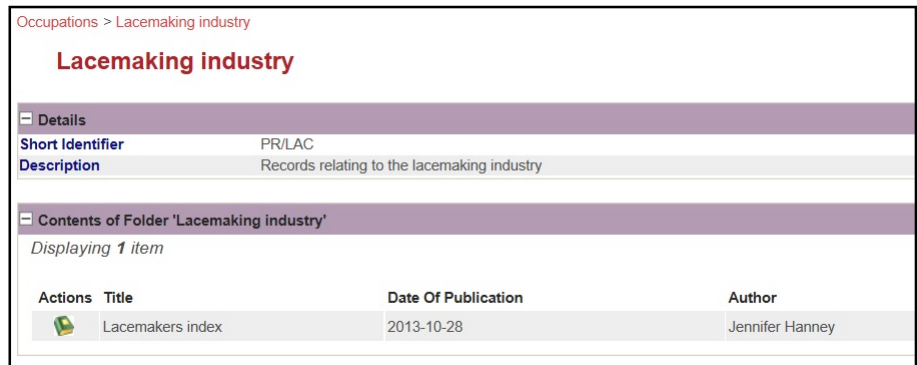|	
Under the purple 'Getting Started' box, click on 'Browse' to go to SoG Data Online home page.	Getting Started Free surname search using SoG Data Online Surname Advanced Search Browse DATA ONLINE
On the left hand side under 'Browse Records' is a list of categories. Click on the 'Occupations' category to reveal the list of occupation sub-categories. Choose the category you want to see the record sets. In this example, choose 'Lacemaking industry'.	SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS THE NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE Home Search Records The Library Learn Books & Courses News About Support Us Register / Login Quick Search Enter surname Go Advanced Menu SoG Data Online home Search Join the SoG Whats on this site Frequently Asked Questions Administrators only Browse Records SoG Members Area Almanacks Apprentices Birth Briefs BMD Certificates Bonds Boyds Records Welcome to ... Data Online Occupations Bankers Business Index Charities Civil Service Coastguards Customs & Excise Lacemaking industry Legal profession Lifeboatmen Local Government Medical profession Merchant Seamen Musicians Pharmaceutical chemists Railway workers Shopkeepers Teachers Textiles Trade Unions Transport Various Occupations
The results page lists all datasets for that occupation – in this case there is only one, however railway workers (for example) has four datasets. Click on the book symbol next to the dataset.	Occupations > Lacemaking industry **Lacemaking industry** Details Short Identifier PR/LAC Description Records relating to the lacemaking industry Contents of Folder 'Lacemaking industry' Displaying **1** item Actions Title Date Of Publication Author Lacemakers index 2013-10-28 Jennifer Hanney

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There are two ways of searching the database.

The 'Search this Dataset' box at the bottom left allows for a surname search. For a more detailed search, use the 'Search this source' box at the top right.

By clicking on the + symbol next to 'Record details' at the top of the page, more information about the record set is revealed. For this record set, it includes the abbreviation list used for the results.

Occupations > Lacemaking industry	
Lacemakers index	Search this source
+ Record details	
Lacemakers index	
− Dataset details	
Date transcribed	2000-00-00
Transcribed by	Jennifer Hanney
Comment	For further information about these records click on the + symbol to the left of 'Record details' above
Search this Dataset	bennett Go >

The results are presented in a list.

If you are not a member, there will be a £ sign instead of 'View'. To progress further you will need to become a member.

If you are a member and you are logged in, click on 'View' next to the entry for more information.

value: bennett
in dataset: Lacemakers index

Displaying **1** to **24** of **24** results.

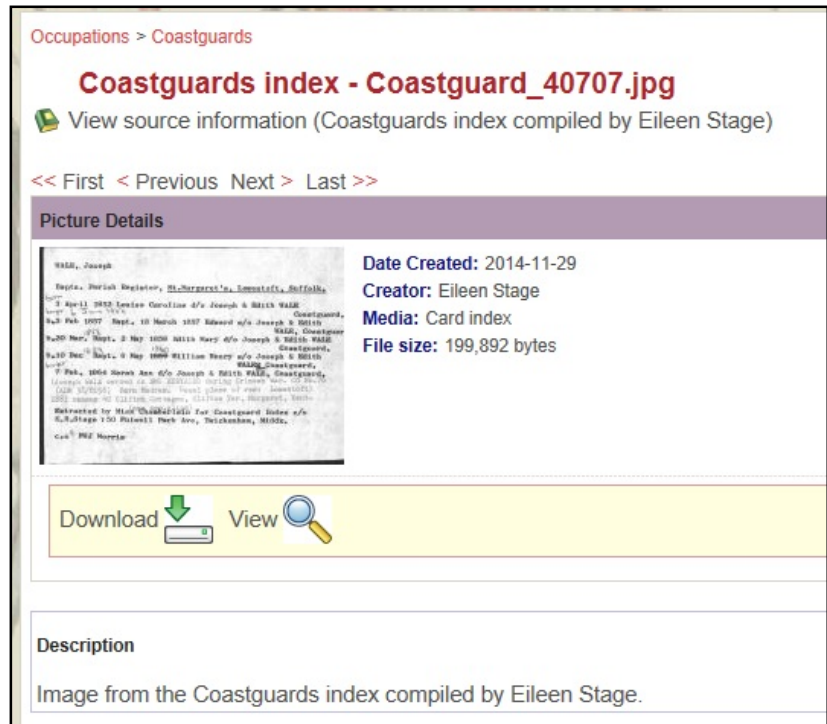| View	Occupations > Lacemaking industry : **Lacemakers index**	
View	Surname	Bennett
	Forename	Ann
	Year of birth	1811
View	Surname	Bennett
	Forename	Barbara M
	Year of birth	1859
View	Surname	Bennett
	Forename	Catherine
	Year of birth	1845
View	Surname	Bennett
	Forename	Elen
	Year of birth	1821

The full detail of the result is presented. The abbreviation 'BVL' is given by expanding the 'Record Details' + button (see above) and is revealed as the book '*Barnstaple's Vanishing Lace Industry*'.

Entry from Lacemakers index	
Surname	Bennett
Forename	Isaac
Parish	Barnstaple
County	Devon
Year of birth	1842
Source	BVL
Occupation	Lace Worker
Notes	eldest of 7 children. younger brother George also lace op's assist.

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For datasets that have images, after clicking the 'View' button (as described above), the option to 'Download' the image onto your computer or 'View' a larger version of the image is possible.

On the view screens you can tab through the images in the collection using the 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons.
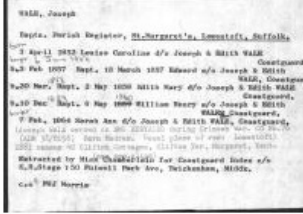

Further help on using SoG Data Online can be found at http://www.sog.org.uk/search-records/how-to-use-sog-online/.

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