

# **Family History Indexes**

from sources at the Public Record Office by Stuart Tamblin

HO 27
CRIMINAL REGISTER INDEXES

## Anyone missing from your family tree in the early nineteenth century?

## Ever wondered if they might have been in jail? Or Australia?

The Criminal Register Indexes can provide a very quick answer to the above problems. The Home Office recorded persons charged with indictable offences between the years of 1805 and 1892 in the series of registers now held as Class HO 27 at the Public Record Office. Now, for the first time, the people recorded in these volumes are being indexed county by county.

The study as a whole will be useful for finding strays. Perhaps someone from your county sought their fortune in a large city, only to fall foul of justice. It can also suggest possible aliases for known persons - it is not unusual to find brothers where one or more but not all of them use an alternative surname. General information can also be gleaned about the distribution of surnames and even forenames - at least if you admit that very many of the working class are likely to appear in these volumes - often only for reasons of subsistence - they stole to stay alive.

Stuart Tamblin became interested in the records of criminals when a parish register entry showed that a great great grandmother, Susannah Mayes from Leicestershire, was christened when her mother's abode was noted as the "Town Gaol". Newspapers showed that the mother, Hannah Mayes had been found guilty of stealing a sovereign and five shillings' worth of half-pence from one Thomas Sanderson. She was sentenced to seven years' transportation but as Stuart quickly realised that he was not Australian, the search began! This started at the Public Record Office, Kew, in 1989 and a petition was found in Class HO 19 which had had the effect in 1825 of causing Robert Peel, the Home Secretary, to commute Hannah's sentence to be served in the Penitentiary at Millbank in London. Research eventually led to coverage of Home Office letter books and even the Millbank register which provided a physical description of the hapless grannie to be.

# Criminal Register Indexes, First Series, 1805 - 1816 on 3½'' disk or microfiche

Volume 1	Somerset & Dorset
Volume 2	Devon & Cornwall
Volume 3	Wiltshire
Volume 4	Gloucestershire & Bristol
Volume 5	Wales & Monmouthshire
Volume 6	Oxfordshire & Berkshire
Volume 7	Northamptonshire, Leicestershire & Rutland
Volume 8	Buckinghamshire & Hertfordshire
Volume 9	Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire
Volume 10	Cumberland, Westmorland, Northumberland & Durham
Volume 11	Middlesex
Volume 12	Hampshire
Volume 13	Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire & Lincolnshire
Volume 14	Cheshire
Volume 15	Shropshire & Staffordshire
Volume 16	Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Volume 17	Warwickshire
Volume 18	Norfolk & Suffolk
Volume 19	Essex
Volume 20	Surrey
Volume 21	Kent
Volume 22	Sussex
Volume 23	Lancashire
Volume 24	Yorkshire
Volume X	Surname Master Index

## Criminal Register Indexes, Second Series, 1817 - 1828 on 3½'' disk or microfiche

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Volume 34 Devon

Volume 38 **Bristol** 

Volume 38 BristolVolume 45 Leicestershire

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By sentence (every county in England & Wales)

**Supplement D** Death Sentences (see also CDPD on next page) **Supplement T** Transportation (see also CDPT on next page)

By crime (every county in England & Wales) (see also CDPS on next page)

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**Supplement K** Killing

**Supplement M** Monetary Crime

**Supplement S** Sexual Crime

Supplement U Unrest

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Volume CDP3 Middlesex & Surrey

Volume CDP4 Sussex & Kent

**Volume CDP5** Wales & Monmouthshire, Shropshire,

Herefordshire & Gloucestershire

**Volume CDP6** Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire,

Hertfordshire & Essex

Volume CDP7 Staffordshire, Worcestershire & Warwickshire Volume CDP8 Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire,

Leicestershire, Rutland & Northamptonshire

Volume CDP9 Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk &

Suffolk

**Volume CDP10** Lancashire & Cheshire

Volume CDP11 Cumberland, Westmoreland, Northumberland,

Durham & Yorkshire

Volume CDPDDeath Sentences - all countiesVolume CDPSSerious Crimes - all countiesVolume CDPTTransportation - all counties

**Volume CDPX** Surname Master Index - all counties

Criminal Register Indexes, Second Series, 1817 - 1828 on CD

Volume CDP201 Devon & Cornwall

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## HO 27 CRIMINAL REGISTER INDEXES

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## **Family History Indexes**

## from sources at the Public Record Office by Stuart Tamblin

### **HO 27 Criminal Registers**

### Introduction

The Home Office's Criminal Registers held at the Public Record Office, Kew, Surrey (PRO) are arranged by county and within each county, by assizes, sessions or other court sitting. For each of the years 1805 to 1816, one volume covers the whole of England and Wales. From 1817 to 1892, the counties are split alphabetically into two or three volumes per year. Up to 1849, most records for Middlesex are in the separate class, HO 26 which commences in 1791, although some (for Westminster and Clerkenwell, 1807 to 1812) are to be found in HO 27.

Details given vary a little between the registers and change somewhat in the later volumes. The entries reproduced here are not precise transcripts but do record all the details of the original. For example, if the crime in one entry in the original says "stealing carpenter's tools" and the next is "receiving ditto", then the entry has been expanded to convey the full information, bearing in mind that subsequent entries in the original will rarely stay together in the index.

The entries in the originals frequently seem to be in the order in which the accused were put in the dock. However, there are some anomalies. Often, in one court sitting, there can be found two or more people of the same surname, accused of the same crime but appearing in separate parts of the list. Whether they can be assumed to have been accomplices in the same crime is a matter for conjecture or further research. What is certain, is that there is little doubt when four or five family members are listed consecutively! Occasionally, the names of those appearing at a court sitting are sorted in the registers into rough alphabetical order and often into order of decreasing gravity of sentence.

These indexes are concerned only with the entries as they are found in the registers of HO 27, relating to persons charged with indictable offences. It has been shown by study, for example of the Somerset Calendars of Prisoners at the Record Office in Taunton, that there may not always be a direct correlation between the Home Office holdings and those now found in the County Record Offices.

#### Content

All volumes and supplements except the Surname Master Index contain all the information from relevant entries in the original registers. The master index lists all occurrences of each surname and provides the relevant county. A table is provided to indicate in which published volume the counties are found.

The county volumes provide all details from those counties, irrespective of name, crime or sentence.

Supplement D and Volume CDPD list persons noted as sentenced to death in every county of England & Wales, although not all were executed.

Supplement T and Volume CDPT list persons sentenced to transportation, although not all were sent to the colonies.

Supplements H, K, M, S and U and Volume CDPS list persons indicted on charges relating to highway robbery, killing, monetary crimes, sexual crimes and unrest.

Each entry concerns one person as accused. The surname is given first and then the forename. If an alias is given in the register, this is shown and a completely separate entry is also created, indexed under the alias. Also shown are the year and corresponding PRO piece number. This is the reference needed to order the original document at Kew. In the centre are to be found the court sitting, the (alleged) crime and the sentence, acquittal or other disposal. To the right of these are given the county, age (if given in the register) and "degree of instruction" (recorded in later registers).

Generally, the entries have been copied exactly from the original but certain words and phrases have been rendered in a standard manner. Capitalisation and spelling are generally as per the original; thus please note especially the contemporary spellings of words such as "accessary", "administring", "labor" and "misdemeanor".

The crimes listed are usually self explanatory but occasionally are shown as offences against certain statutes, for example:

**56 Geo III C. 130** An act to repeal an act made [39 & 40 Geo III] intituled An act to extend the provisions of an act [17 Geo II] intituled An act to amend and make more effectual the laws relating to rogues, vagabonds and other idle and disorderly persons; and to houses of correction etc.

**57 Geo III C. 90** An act for the prevention of persons going armed by night for the destruction of game; and for repealing an act, made in the last session of parliament, relating to rogues and vagabonds.

Rarely, a name, crime or sentence is found to be too long for the uniform layout used here. In this case, the full entry will be found in the "notes" file on the CD or the notes page on the fiche.

Very occasionally, it has been found to be necessary to add a note or explanation not found in the original and this has been done enclosed in curly brackets: { }.

Sentences are tabulated in the original registers according to whether they are "death", "transportation", "imprisonment", other sentence (such as whipping) or acquittal. Here, they are repeated as per original or are expanded for clarification. In the case of prison terms, the unit of time is shown as "y" for years, "m" for months, "w" for weeks or "d" for days.

The Public Record Office document reference number is made up of three parts. The initial lettercode relates to the department in which the document originated. The first number indicates the series, which is a collection of documents of the same type. After the oblique stroke (slash), the other number refers to the actual document within the series. The full reference (eg HO 27/5) is required when you wish to order an item to be seen at Kew.

### **Further Information**

Further research into the people and crimes found in these volumes can be carried out in three main ways. Firstly, for assize proceedings, consult Class ASSI at the Public Record Office. Secondly, for Sessions, the records can often be found at the appropriate County or Borough Record Office. A comprehensive list of surviving records can be found in J S W Gibson "Quarter Sessions Records", 4th Edition, FFHS 1995. Thirdly, contemporary newspapers not only give lists of prisoners but also report details of many trials. These are available in local libraries and record offices and centrally at the Newspaper Library at Colindale. For a location list, see J S W Gibson "Local Newspapers, 1750-1920", FFHS 1987-1991. Additionally, for matters relating to forgery, the Bank of England Archive may be able to help.

For information on records which name criminals and where they may be found, see David T Hawkings, "Criminal Ancestors, A Guide to Historical Criminal Records in England & Wales" (Sutton, Stroud, 1992). ISBN 0 86299 817 4.

### **Statistics**

A number of statistics is readily available from the criminal data. The following tables firstly list the counties and then rank them according to size of population, number of criminal records and number of records per thousand of population; the female/male ratio and frequency of aliases.

### Note:

The official census population figures have been extracted from "Abstract of British Historical Statistics" by B R Mitchell and published by Cambridge University Press in 1962. Middlesex is shown as 84,000 but "London" (which does not appear as such in the Criminal Registers) is an additional 1,259,000. This covers not only Middlesex but also parts of Essex, Kent and Surrey. The ratios for all of these will therefore be affected in some measure.

		rted Alphab			
Counties Covered	Code	1811	Database	Less	HO 27/1-12
		Population	Entries	Aliases	Criminal Records
		_			
Bedfordshire	BDF	70,000	317	12	305
Berkshire	BRK	120,000	827	19	808
Buckinghamshire	BKM	118,000	538	13	525
Cambridgeshire	CAM	101,000	471	12	459
Chester	CHS	227,000	1558	36	1522
Cornwall	CWL	221,000	547	5	542
Cumberland	CUL	134,000	389	10	379
Derbyshire	DBY	186,000	559	16	543
Devon	DEV	383,000	2185	44	2141
Dorset	DOR	125,000	612	17	595
Durham	DUR	165,000	462	11	451
Essex	ESS	252,000	2037	57	1980
Glos & Bristol	GLS/BTL	286,000	2417	52	2365
Hampshire	HAM	246,000	2266	43	2223
Herefordshire	HEF	94,000	685	9	676
Hertfordshire	HRT	111,000	789	21	768
Huntingdonshire	HUN	42,000	166	4	162
Kent	KEN	306,000	3080	68	3012
Lancashire	LAN	828,000	8184	125	8059
Leicestershire	LEI	150,000	747	10	737
Lincolnshire	LIN	238,000	1108	20	1088
Middlesex	MDX	84,000	1226	10	1216
Monmouth	MON	62,000	213	3	210
Norfolk	NFK	292,000	1853	42	1811
Northamptonshire	NTH	141,000	631	9	622
Northumberland	NBL	183,000	682	18	664
Nottinghamshire	NTT	163,000	1106	31	1075
Oxfordshire	OXF	120,000	611	9	602
Rutland	RUT	16,000	72	2	70
Salop	SAL	185,000	864	13	851
Somerset	SOM	303,000	1787	68	1719
Staffordshire	STS	295,000	1582	40	1542
Suffolk	SFK	234,000	1530	26	1504
Surrey	SRY	121,000	2920	61	2859
Sussex	SSX	190,000	1027	24	1003
Warwickshire	WAR	229,000	2453	60	2393
Westmoreland	WES	46,000	93	0	93
Wiltshire	WIL	192,000	1058	35	1023
Worcestershire	WOR	169,000	1051	25	1026
Yorkshire	YKS	986,000	3595	68	3527
Anglesey	AGY	37,000	25	1	24
Brecon	BRE	38,000	111	5	106
Cardigan	CGN	50,000	34	0	34
Carmarthen	CMN	77,000	111	2	109
Caernarvon	CAE	50,000	56	1	55
Denbigh	DEN	64,000	92	5	87
Flint	FLN	46,000	56	3	53
Glamorgan	GLA	85,000	202	7	195
Merioneth	MER	31,000	33	4	29
Montgomery	MGY	52,000	144	2	142
Pembroke	PEM	61,000	113	2	111
Radnor	RAD	20,000	62	1	61
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	Sorted by P	opulation		Sorted by number			Sorted by Crimina	al Records	
		•		of Criminal Record	ls		per 1000 populati		
	1811			HO 27/1-12			Records per		
	Population	County		Criminal Records	County		1000 population	County	
1	986,000	YKS	1	8059	LAN	1	28.95	MDX	
2	828,000	LAN	2	3527	YKS	2	23.63	SRY	
3	383,000	DEV	3	3012	KEN	3	10.45	WAR	
4	306,000	KEN	4	2859	SRY	4	9.84	KEN	
5	303,000	SOM	5	2393	WAR	5	9.73	LAN	
6	295,000	STS	6	2365	GLS/BTL	6	9.04	HAM	
7	292,000	NFK	7	2223	HAM	7	8.27	GLS/BTL	
8	286,000	GLS/BTL	8	2141	DEV	8	7.86	ESS	
9	252,000	ESS	9	1980	ESS	9	7.19	HEF	
10	246,000	HAM	10	1811	NFK	10	6.92	HRT	
11	238,000	LIN	11	1719	SOM	11	6.73	BRK	
12	234,000	SFK	12	1542	STS	12	6.70	CHS	
13	229,000	WAR	13	1522	CHS	13	6.60	NTT	
14	227,000	CHS	14	1504	SFK	14	6.43	SFK	
15	221,000	CWL	15	1216	MDX	15	6.20	NFK	
16	192,000	WIL	16	1088	LIN	16	6.07	WOR	
17	190,000	SSX	17	1075	NTT	17	5.67	SOM	
18	186,000	DBY	18	1026	WOR	18	5.59	DEV	
19	185,000	SAL	19	1023	WIL	19	5.33	WIL	
20	183,000	NBL	20	1003	SSX	20	5.28	SSX	
21	169,000	WOR	21	851	SAL	21	5.23	STS	
22	165,000	DUR	22	808	BRK	22	5.02	OXF	
23	163,000	NTT	23	768	HRT	23	4.91	LEI	
24	150,000	LEI	24	737	LEI	24	4.76	DOR	
25	141,000	NTH	25	676	HEF	25	4.60	SAL	
26	134,000	CUL	26	664	NBL	26	4.57	LIN	
27	125,000	DOR	27	622	NTH	27	4.54	CAM	
28	121,000	SRY	28	602	OXF	28	4.45	BKM	
29	120,000	BRK	29	595	DOR	29	4.41	NTH	
30	120,000	OXF	30	543	DBY	30	4.38	RUT	
31	118,000	BKM	31	542	CWL	31	4.36	BDF	
32	111,000	HRT	32	525	BKM	32	3.86	HUN	
33	101,000	CAM	33	459	CAM	33	3.63	NBL	
34	94,000	HEF	34	451	DUR	34	3.58	YKS	
35	85,000	GLA	35	379	CUL	35	3.39	MON	
36	84,000	MDX	36	305	BDF	36	3.05	RAD	
37	77,000	CMN	37	210	MON	37	2.92	DBY	
38	70,000	BDF	38	195	GLA	38	2.83	CUL	
39	64,000	DEN	39	162	HUN	39	2.79	BRE	
40	62,000	MON	40	142	MGY	40	2.73	DUR	
41	61,000	PEM	41	111	PEM	41	2.73	MGY	
42	52,000	MGY	42	109	CMN	42	2.45	CWL	
43	50,000	CGN	43	106	BRE	43	2.29	GLA	
44	50,000	CAE	44	93	WES	44	2.02	WES	
45	46,000	WES	45	87	DEN	45	1.82	PEM	
46	46,000	FLN	46	70	RUT	46	1.42	CMN	
47	42,000	HUN	47	61	RAD	47	1.36	DEN	
48	38,000	BRE	48	55	CAE	48	1.15	FLN	
49	37,000	AGY	49	53	FLN	49	1.10	CAE	
50	31,000	MER	50	34	CGN	50	0.94	MER	
51	20,000	RAD	51	29	MER	51	0.68	CGN	
52	16,000	RUT	52	24	AGY	52	0.65	AGY	

Criminal Records (Popn: 109%)         of Aliase           F/M Ratio in         Proportion of aliase           Criminal Records         County         of aliase           1         95%         NBL         1         12.12%           2         72%         MDX         2         5.43%           3         66%         BRE         3         5.36%           4         64%         GLA         4         4.50%           5         63%         PEM         5         4.00%           6         58%         CMN         6         3.81%           7         55%         LAN         7         3.79%           8         49%         CUL         8         3.47%           9         48%         CGN         9         3.31%           10         47%         FLN         10         2.86%           11         45%         DUR         11         2.80%           12         45%         MER         12         2.80%           13         38%         DEV         13         2.78%	on es County  MER DEN FLN BRE AGY SOM BDF GLA
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14 38% NTT 14 2.78%	
15 38% MGY 15 2.66%	
16 37% SAL 16 2.64%	
17 34% CAE 17 2.57%	CUL
18 34% CWL 18 2.55%	
19 33% RAD 19 2.53%	STS
20 32% YKS 20 2.45%	WAR
21 32% SOM 21 2.42%	BKM
22 32% DEN 22 2.41%	
23 31% WAR 23 2.38%	
24 31% WES 24 2.38%	
25 31% HUN 25 2.34%	
26 30% NFK 26 2.31%	
27 30% SRY 27 2.30%	
28 29% CHS 28 2.27%	
29 29% LEI 29 2.21%	
30 29% LIN 30 2.15%	
31 28% GLS/BTL 31 2.09%	
32 27% RUT 32 2.01%	
33 26% DOR 33 1.90%	HAM
34 26% BRK 34 1.89%	
35 26% STS 35 1.81%	_
36 24% MON 36 1.80%	
37 24% HAM 37 1.79%	_
38 24% WOR 38 1.77%	
	_
39 23% NTH 39 1.70%	
40 23% HEF 40 1.61%	_
41 22% SFK 41 1.53%	
42 22% KEN 42 1.50%	_
43 21% WIL 43 1.47%	_
44 20% AGY 44 1.43%	
45 18% SSX 45 1.41%	_
46 17% BDF 46 1.39%	
47 17% DBY 47 1.34%	
48 16% OXF 48 1.31%	
49 15% HRT 49 0.91%	_
50 14% CAM 50 0.82%	_
51 14% ESS 51 0.00%	CGN
52 12% BKM 52 0.00%	WES

### Acknowledgments

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Glamorgan Merioneth Montgomery Pembroke Radnor

**County Codes** (I am indebted to Dr Colin Chapman for the majority of these)

<b>ENGLAN</b>	<u>D</u>	WALES
BDF	Bedfordshire	AGY
BKM	Buckinghamshire Berkshire	BRE
BRK	Bristol	CAE
BTL CAM		CGN CMN
CAM	Cambridgeshire Chester	DEN
CUL	Cumberland	FLN
CWL	Cornwall	GLA
DBY	Derby	MER
DEV	Devon	MGY
DOR	Dorset	PEM
DUR	Durham	RAD
ESS	Essex	10.12
GLS	Gloucestershire	
HAM	Hampshire	
HEF	Hereford	
HRT	Hertfordshire	
HUN	Huntingdonshire	
KEN	Kent	
LAN	Lancashire	
LEI	Leicestershire	
LIN	Lincolnshire	
MDX	Middlesex	
MON	Monmouth	
NBL	Northumberland	
NFK	Norfolk	
NTH	Northamptonshire	
NTT	Nottinghamshire	
OXF	Oxfordshire	
RUT	Rutland	
SAL	Salop	
SFK	Suffolk	
SOM	Somerset	
SRY	Surrey	
SSX	Sussex	
STS	Staffordshire	
WAR	Warwickshire	
WES	Westmor(e)land	
WIL	Wiltshire	
WOR	Worcestershire	
YKS	Yorkshire	

## Sample

ATTENBOROUGH	Richard Alias: When Tried: April session Crime: uttering bad money Sentence: no bill	County: <b>LEI</b>
1817		HO 27/14
BELL	Mary Alias: When Tried: Summer assizes Crime: murder (of her Child) Sentence: no bill found	County: <b>DUR</b>
1810	semence. No om round	HO 27/6
MAJOR	John Alias:  When Tried: Lent assizes  Crime: receiving stolen goods  Sentence: 6m	County: <b>DEV</b>
1823	Semence. On	HO 27/25
NEWTON	Isaac Alias: When Tried: April session Crime: refusing to surrender to the Commissioners of	County: BTL  Bankrupts
1826	Sentence: 6m	HO 27/31
QUANT	Mary Alias: When Tried: January session Crime: larceny Sentence: no bill	County: <b>DEV</b>
1823	Semence. no om	HO 27/25
LENNON	Stephen Alias: When Tried: Summer assizes Crime: larceny from the Person	County: LAN
1815	Sentence: transportation for fourteen years	HO 27/11
M'CARTNEY	Sophia Alias: When Tried: April session Crime: larceny	County: LAN
1813	Sentence: no bill	НО 27/9
HARRISON	George Alias: When Tried: January session for Liverpool Crime: larceny	County: LAN
1816	Sentence: 3m	HO 27/12