



Tracing a 16th- 17th Century Family Tree

This is the handout to accompany my Saturday talk at

WDYTYA 2016

Handouts from my talks for TheGenealogist can be found at
www.thegenealogist.co.uk/celia

If you would like to sign up for my newsletter you can do so from
www.heritagefamilyhistory.co.uk

Key problems as you go back further

- Fewer sources which routinely cover each ancestor
- Details in parish registers frequently become sparse.
- Registers may be missing – few actually go back to 1538 anyway or there will be later gaps flood/fire/theft
- Commonwealth Gap – a common gap in register keeping during the Civile Wars and Commonwealth period 1642-1660.
- Earlier Records less accessible – few online/ Latin/palaeography

Where can you go from here? What other sources can be used?

KEY SOURCES FOR 16 AND 17 CENTURY RESEARCH

- Parish Registers and Bishops Transcripts and Marriage licences
- Ecclesiastical court records e.g. presentments
- Parish Chest Records
- Nonconformist Records
- Manorial Records
- Chancery Records
- Deeds
- Quarter Sessions
- Gravestones (Monumental Inscriptions)
- Probate records
- Visitations
- Tax records e.g. – hearth tax
- Heraldry
- Published pedigrees
- Guild Records

- Militia records

Range of records here covering rich, middle classes and the poor. Each of these sources merits a lecture in its own right. Use the list (which is on the handout) as a basis for your research sources in 16th and 17th century. Some sources relate particularly to 16th and 17th century research while others span the centuries.

Some, e.g. wills, churchwardens accounts may take you to the time before the earliest parishes registers begin in 1538. Many may fill in where parish registers start later than usual or have been lost. E.g. Churchwardens' accounts for Kendal replace the burials lost due to missing PRS (1632-78).

Further Reading: Churchwardens' Accounts

<https://www.york.ac.uk/media/borthwick/documents/5Churchwardenabt.pdf>

<https://archive.org/details/churchwardensacc00coxj>

Devising a Research Plan: Which sources to use

Unlikely there will be surviving records from **all** these categories which include your particular ancestor: e.g. he may never been an apprentice nor ever have made a will. The family may not feature in a published pedigree or never feature in poor law records. Don't make judgements about ancestors' wealth and status unless you have proof. Just because your latter-day family were labourers it does not mean the family was never been better off. Remember that the wealthiest of families can lose their fortunes or that some branches of the family will be a lot less well off than others.

No centralised indexes that cover these sources excepting nonconformist registers (online at BMDRegisters.co.uk/TheGenealogist.co.uk and some at Ancestry - though not all nonconformist records survive).

Large percentage of these records have never been indexed let alone put online. Means more advanced research potentially involves searches in records where you know you may draw a blank and find no trace of your family. This may mean searching printed volumes or calling up large bundles of records from the archive storage room at the record office, trawling through them in case you find something.

Need to not just be familiar with the sources that you can use but work out if which of these survive for the area in which your ancestor lived.

Best weapon here are record office catalogues: may be a county record office or a national archive e.g. the National Archives, National Library of Wales. Majority of record offices have their catalogues online. Make a useful finding aid and save precious research time when you actually get to the record office which is where the majority of these records will be searched.

TNA catalogue

Millions of records which cover the whole of the UK and also contains listings from over 2,500 archives across the country. From the records actually held at TNA you may find a goldmine of information about your family not to be found in local archives.

Use the Discovery Help section on how to search before you start. Also use Research Guides

You can opt to search the whole catalogue including other repositories or limit to records at TNA and then you can also refine by series etc. Look at the FamilySearch Wiki section on the National Archives for much useful information including an explanation of reference numbers

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/The National Archives of the United Kingdom#Class .28or Series.29 Descriptions](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/The_National_Archives_of_the_United_Kingdom#Class_.28or_Series.29_Descriptions)

BUT, although Discovery contains listings from many local archives these are **not all complete** so check local RO catalogues too

Some types of records may be found housed in regional archives or other repositories far distant from the geographical area they cover e.g. Manorial records

Explanation on TNA reference numbers

The links below will help you understand how TNA reference numbers are made up. Understanding this will help you search

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/The National Archives of the United Kingdom# Class .28or Series.29 Descriptions](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/The_National_Archives_of_the_United_Kingdom#Class_.28or_Series.29_Descriptions)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/citing-documents-national-archives/>

How will you find the right record office/catalogue?

Use Google to find RO for local Record Office – be aware some records may not be housed where you expect them to be. Be familiar with pre-1974 county boundaries in 1974 – records may be in the RO that covers the new county boundary or in one that covers the old.

Finding Aids to locate a place before 1974: See handout

- <http://maps.familysearch.org/>
- Phillimore's Atlas and Index of Parish Registers to learn more about pre 1974 counties
- Genuki map of counties <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Britain>

Some points to be aware of:

- Depending on the design of their website it may be hard to locate the catalogue on an RO website - in that case Google the name of the RO plus online catalogue.

Warwick for example – no obvious link from home page and a Google search revealed it under its official name 'Warwickshire's Past unlocked'

- Read the help section first – these catalogues are not very intuitive to search
- Amount of detail put into an online catalogue varies greatly from RO to RO. This applies to paper catalogues too but especially for those online where recent staffing levels can have led to doing the minimum
- The online catalogue may not be complete - may be a more complete catalogue in the RO itself

Sometimes a manual search in an old paper catalogue at the Record Office or browsing an old printed catalogue book throws up documents not yet added to online index.

Search terms to use:

- Full names/ surnames
- Village names
- Occupations
- Names of local important landowners and their estates
- document types e.g. churchwardens accounts AND place name

As mentioned in some cases documents have never been indexed – you may find a bundle of papers listed under a general title

Before you wade into the world of 16th and 17th century sources, make sure review all information you have found about your last known ancestor. Check you are sure it is all accurate as far possible. Any weak points?

Have you gleaned all the information you can from sources you are already familiar with?

CHANCERY RECORDS

This term is used to mean records relating to civil disputes brought by individuals in any of several courts of law known as 'equity courts' (Court of Chancery, Exchequer Court, Court of Requests and Court of the Star Chamber). Whereas as most courts at Westminster made rulings according to Common Law, Common law was not comprehensive and did not cover every case of what was regarded as morally right or fair – or in other words 'equitable'. The Equity courts ruled according to conscience or what was deemed to be morally right, so these are the usual place to find family disputes.

Why useful? The nature of cases heard cover almost every subject under the sun but they are of great interest for us since very often the cases concerned family disputes – often over inheritances or estates. Chancery records offer a treasure trove for family historians since evidence was required in written form (other courts often heard evidence orally) from the plaintiff, defendants and witnesses

JOYS OF CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS

- Establish family relationships – help prove a pedigree! **(Draw a family tree of several generations)**
 - Links to other families & other places
 - lead missing baptisms or marriage
 - Refer to other documents e.g. wills, title deeds
- Help differentiate between two people of the same name
- Further info about family e.g. lands, status or lack of it!
- Records include both rich and poor
- Information on witnesses. V vital facts about them e,g , their status (perhaps he or she was a servant), how long they had lived in the area (this was commonly recorded) get an idea for their age.??
- Records are in English

PROBLEMS WITH CHANCERY RECORDS

- Lack of indexing - but improving all the time – see TNA guide
- Documents filed by type not by case
- Few cases carried through until final verdict - may not discover end result
- New cases could be brought by interested parties & may be indexed under their names
- Handwriting can present a problem
- Large documents – photograph them and take them home to work on
- Not everything you read will be true in terms of who did what to whom BUT the relationships are almost certainly correct

The Documents

Most importantly:

- Bill of Complaint began the proceedings
- The plaintiff referred to as the 'orator' or the 'complainant' would set out his case. Usually full of detail. Then asks the court to bring answers from the person/people against whom he is complaining – the defendants.
- The Answer/s – reply from defendants – again full of detail
- Further replies from both parties: Replication (complainant) or a Rejoinder (defendant)

- Depositions – witness statements. **Source for third parties** – name, age, residence and often how long lived there
- Interrogatories – list of questions prepared by each side to be put to the witnesses
- Masters Exhibits e.g. deeds, account books, wills, letters

What we looking for is proof whereby we can establish family relationships and because so many of these cases involve different family members very often the details in these records of relationships are so great that a family tree of several generations may be constructed simply using evidence form the court records. Details of parents, children, siblings, uncles, aunts and cousins! Illegitimate children too.

Locating Chancery records

In the old days used to be a nightmare: a treasure trove of information but looking for it could be like looking for a needle in a haystack because the records were so inadequately indexed. Many records are still inadequately indexed but following a major project to improve descriptions of Chancery records in the catalogue things are much improved. Still may find a great variety of detail if you compare entries but for our period there is frequently a good deal of detail in the catalogue.

- Held at TNA in Kew
- Primarily use the Discovery catalogue to find them
- Can Refine your Discovery search by using the government department code e.g. C for Chancery See, E for Exchequer, REG court of Requests, STAC – Court of Star Chamber handout
- Also use the Bernau index at Society of Genealogist. Bernau index names deponents too. See below.
- Also Darris Williams index for some 17th century records and later via SOG online
- You will find some Chancery Indexes at Ancestry. Most of these are also available free online as e-books e.g. *Index of Chancery Proceedings (Reynardson's Division) pub by British Record Society 1649-1714. A calendar of chancery proceedings: bills and answers filed in the reign of King Charles the First.* These are printed indexes Ancestry has put on their website and only a very small percentage of Chancery records for their date but worth looking at all the same.

The online TNA guide to Chancery records is very good and is regularly updated regarding how much detail is given for which dates.

Cases could be brought in more than one court at the same time – and not just the four courts mentioned above so be aware of this when searching the catalogue.

The Bernau index

Between 1914 and 1929 Charles Allan Bernau and his team of helpers indexed many names mainly Chancery Court Proceedings which were recorded on around four and a half million slips of paper. These slips are available on microfilm at the Society of Genealogists and form a very important finding aid. Darris Williams has also created further indexes using the Bernau Index and entitled Chancery Court Proceedings Vols 1

& 2 which covers series C22 (1649-1714). Also C11 (18th century) and Dorset Deponents in Chancery Cases. These are available online to SOG members.

Further Reading:

- Susan Moore, Chancery Proceedings: http://www.susanmooreresearch.co.uk/en-GB/chancery_proceedings.aspx
- H. Sharp, How to Use the Bernau Index (Society of Genealogists, 1996)
- TNA Research Guide: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/chancery-equity-suits-before-1558/>
- <http://www.genguide.co.uk/source/court-of-chancery-courts/33/>

QUARTER SESSIONS RECORDS

Petty and Quarter Sessions were for lesser criminal offences not punishable by capital punishment and civil offences. Held periodically each county and county borough in England and Wales until 1972, when together with the Assize courts they were abolished by the Courts Act 1971 and replaced by a single permanent Crown Court of England and Wales.

Derive name from - held at least four times a year. These were later settled as Epiphany, Easter, Midsummer and Michaelmas sessions. Run by JPs on behalf of the crown.

They heard a wide range of grievances and complaints of a civil nature, many of which were concerned with the day to day running of the parish. Most of our ancestors would have featured at some point.

- Hearing criminal trials – theft, poaching, assault and vagrancy
- Supervising the poor law – Bastardy and settlement cases
- Licensing of trades such as alehouses and ensuring that craftsmen were qualified by guild membership or having served an apprenticeship.
- Supervising the administration of taxes, upkeep of highways and local defense

Great for fleshing out a tree and also sometimes for helping establishing a pedigree. In County Record Offices and increasingly online.

Some QS records feature bastardy and settlement cases and you can also search for these in poor law records Read more on these via the Familysearch wiki:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/England_and_Wales_Poor_Law_Records_Pre-1834

Further Reading: [Quarter Sessions Records for Family Historians](#) [Fifth Edition 2007] by Jeremy Gibson, published by the Family History Partnership.

MANORIAL RECORDS

Simply speaking a manor was an administrative land unit under the charge of a "Lord of The Manor". He may have been a very rich man or a person of relatively modest means. The manor was administered by means of a various manorial officials and notably the manorial court. There were several types of manorial court; notably the court leet which dealt with local criminal justice (not every manor had one of these) and the Court Baron which dealt with everyday administration of the manor. The Court Baron is the one we will look at today

This manor as an administrative unit declined in power from the 16th century onwards when greater power was given to the parish as a secular unit of administration. But for centuries after, it still ran alongside the parish looking after certain points of local administration – the extent to which it did this varied according to the locality.

Date range: 13th century -1922 (Law of Property Act abolished the last form of land tenure associated with the manorial system - copyhold land).

The Advantages of Using Manorial Records

- Record the everyday person who lived on the manor rather than the lord who ran it.
- An excellent source for 16 and 17th century research
- Make up for missing registers or sparse information: a reference to an ancestor in parish records may not identify him beyond all doubt as the ancestor you seek, continued tenure of land or a house by a family can eliminate that doubt and identify your family with certainty
- Provide valuable social and economic history of the area in which our families lived as well as information about the family that is unlikely to be found elsewhere.

We should where possible regard manorial records as a regular part of our research rather than only to be searched when all else fails.

Issues and Ways Round them

- Survival rates – vary greatly
- Early manorial records: can be challenging with highly abbreviated Latin - from 1700s most in English – so get used to phraseology in this era first
- Most of it is formulaic and you should be able to spot your ancestor's names
- May need to improve your palaeography but in some cases the writing is simple to decipher
- Some manorial records are in print and it is always worth using an internet search engine to look for these or may be in local archive

Types of manorial records

Many types of manorial records: Rentals, surveys, verdicts, leases, wills (possibly unproved wills and which will not be found among your usual probate records). Customals will tell you about the local customs on the manor and give you an idea of what life was like for your ancestor. Rentals will show you how much rent he paid and usually the acreage or perhaps the name of his land. Most important from the genealogist's point of view in terms of confirming and extending a pedigree however are the Court Rolls. Include a record of the proceedings of the court every time it sat which was on average about every 6-8 weeks. They include lists of those being fined for not attending and of those who did – very good for tracking down your ancestor's location and whether he was still alive at a certain time and date. More importantly however they also record transfers of land, freehold and more frequently copyhold land between relatives. If you find one of these it can be the equivalent of winning the jackpot.

Admissions and Copyhold Land

What was copyhold land? Form of tenancy in which the copyholder or customary tenant made monetary payments and was expected to attend the manorial court in return for the use of a piece of land.

On the copyholders death the land would pass to his next of kin but a fine (payment) called a heriot had to be paid to the lord and the new tenant had to swear homage to the lord before he could be admitted to the land. Called copyhold because a copy of the tenancy was entered into the court rolls.

There were also copyhold tenants for life --- held the interest in a piece of land for one life or a number of lives (usually three). Usually included tenant, his wife and one of the children but sometimes other people will be stipulated instead. When the life or lives expired the land reverted to the Lord who could then grant it out to a new tenant as he chose.

Admissions are entries in the court rolls and occurred therefore when the old tenant died (or in some cases sold the land on). They are of key importance because they record not just the name of the new tenant, his heriot, the amount of rent he paid and often the acreage and sometimes a name for the plot of land or house but because the court would note the relationship between the old and new tenant.

These entries can be vital evidence for our research. It may give you the name of your ancestor's father; it may even refer to previous generations -- especially where the land does not descend in a straight line from father to child. Or if a run of court rolls survive you can work your way back through them ascertain the name of the heir and who he inherited from and how they were related each time there was a new admission. Also gives an idea of the date of death of the last tenant.

Can therefore help build a family tree over several generations and sometimes centuries. It can also provide the clarifying evidence we need if we have two individuals with the same name and we cannot tell which our ancestor is.

If there were two people with the same name on the manor, the court would always clarify between them to save any confusion and the information we find may help us identify the relevant entries in parish registers. If someone from outside the manor moved in and took up a tenancy or freehold, the court will often note his place of origin and give us, the researcher, the only clue to link an ancestor in one place to a person of the same name in another!

Verdicts and Jury lists

These may typically be found as part of the court rolls but are sometimes recorded separately as well. People who lived on the manor might be presented to the manorial court for falling foul of local rules such as grazing too many cattle on the common fields or blocking the highway. Verdicts recorded. These records will add life to your family tree.

Not all your ancestors were copyholders. Watch out for references to 'my copyhold land' in wills.

Freeholders. As the name suggests these "free men" were not bound to the lord in any way but held land from him in return for cash rent. They had chosen to live on the manor of their own free will. Far fewer references to them in the manorial records. Freeholders may be spotted making up the jury or homage.

Locating Manorial Records

Manors varied greatly in size from just a few acres to well over a hundred acres, while one lord might hold just one manor or hold manors in various locations throughout the country. Manors occasionally matched the boundaries of a parish but more often you will find several manors in one parish or that a manor might spread over the boundaries of more than one parish.

Locating your manorial records is not straightforward. Boundaries rarely coincide with the parish boundary. May be in ROs far distant from the area they cover: EG the Leigh family of Stoneleigh Abbey in Warwickshire also held lands in Gloucestershire Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Surrey and London although the records are all held at The Shakespeare Centre Library and Archive in Stratford upon Avon.

They may be located in:

- County Record Offices or Other Repositories
- Private Collections
- TNA
- British Library
- Abroad

- Ebay!
- Manorial Documents Register

Your first port of call should be the Manorial Documents Register (MDR), which was established in 1922 to ensure that manorial records were preserved.

MDR is being digitised and most counties are now available online via TNA catalogue. It is a listing of all known surviving manorial records. Note the reference number on MDR may not match that at local RO – so check both catalogues before you visit to save time

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

Search by parish or manor or document type

Although Scotland did not use a manorial system such as that in England, land was held under feudal tenure and the Retours or Services of Heirs together with the Sasine Registers provide similar evidence to the English system of admissions noted in the Court Baron. For more on Scottish records visit

<http://www.nas.gov.uk/guides/inheriting.asp> and <http://www.scan.org.uk>

Further Reading:

<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/>

[file:///C:/Users/celia-hfh/Downloads/Manorial Learning Pack - Section 1.pdf](file:///C:/Users/celia-hfh/Downloads/Manorial_Learning_Pack_-_Section_1.pdf)

[Mary Ellis Using Manorial Records](#)

HEARTH TAX

Just as jury lists and lists of those present at manorial courts are useful population listings so are tax listings. Classic example for this period is the Hearth Tax.

Levied between 1662 and 1689. Each liable householder was to pay one shilling, twice a year, for each fire, hearth and stove in each dwelling or house. Use it to assess an ancestors' status – levied on the number of hearths but also to help if you have lost a surname. It will give you clues as to where surnames originated from and possibly as to where your missing family might originally have been based, Also names widows and may list poor people who were exempt from the. You will find the records at TNA with some copies at CROs

Notably also a growing Hearth Tax project with records online <http://www.hearthtax.org.uk/about/>

Further Reading:

<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/guide/man.shtml>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/taxation-before-1689/#4-hearth-tax-1662-1689>

Aristocratic Ancestors

Because the majority of England and Wales followed the rule of primogeniture – that is the eldest son inheriting an estate and title - the younger sons at each generation were less well off. As we go on the younger sons of younger sons might even less well-off and their younger sons even poorer until just a few generations later the descendant of a Lord or Baronet might be a humble farmer or labourer.

The problem may be getting far back enough and also it can be hard to apprise your ancestors' status from simply looking at a record such as a parish register.

In the 16th or 17th century a good clue to earlier noble blood is the use of the term Esquire which indicated that the man in question, while not of the aristocracy, almost certainly had the right to bear arms and would have been descended from the aristocracy. Note that increasingly from the mid-18th century the terms Esq and gentleman were used much to indicate someone of financial means. See Anthony Adolphe's book [*Tracing your Aristocratic Ancestors \(Pen and Sword\)*](#)

While you should not presume you are related to a noble family because you share their surname you should bear in mind the possibility that somewhere along the line may be descent from a younger son or an aristocratic family.

If you do find such a link is that your pedigree will almost certainly have been drawn out for you. Burkes Peerage is a major source but once you are back to the 17th century the major source for tracing these ancestors are the herald's visitations. These record the pedigrees of those families who claimed the right to bear arms – so they had been granted a coat of arms by the College of Arms for in England or Wales

It is useful to have good ground knowledge of the area in which your ancestors lived. Read any local County Histories e.g. Victoria County Histories and other local history books. Look at local church guides to see who the local noble family was. Sometimes an entry in parish register may make the noble descent clear. Nobility still had their children recorded in parish registers.

HERALDS' VISITATIONS

- 1530-1686
- Record of descent for armigerous families
- Taken down orally by heralds
- Records at College of Arms in London
- Many published: some online – see handout
- Use Armigerous Ancestors as an index

The visitations are easily accessible. Many of these have been published notably by the Harleian Society and The Cheetham Society. Copies of these publications can be found in many libraries SOG, BL, IHGS.

Further Reading:

<http://harleian.org.uk/Volumes.htm>

Look at Medieval Genealogy for links to visitations **online**

<https://sites.google.com/site/cochoit/home/visitations>

Cecil Humphrey-Smith's book, *Armigerous Ancestors*, provides an index of all surnames in visitations. Family History Books, 1997

Also look at:

College of Arms: <http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/>

<http://www.burkespeerage.com/>

<http://www.thepeerage.com/>

Guild and Apprenticeship Records

Throughout our period of interest guild and apprenticeship records can be very useful, not just for finding out more about an ancestor's occupation, but tracking his parentage. Records produced in association with apprenticeships can be extremely beneficial to the family. In order to trade in a town or city, a young man needed to have completed an apprenticeship in order to trade in the town in question and to be a member of one of the town guilds. In cities this often went hand-in-hand with becoming what was known as Freeman of the City.

Use apprentice registers and listings of men being admitted to the Freedom of the City. Many of these will give details of a child's father and his place of abode as well as the name of the person he was apprenticed to. Usually located in county Record Offices.

Just out of our period there are also the Stamp Duty Registers

- Record Stamp Duty levied 1710-1804 on masters for each apprentice
- Cover the years 1710-1811. The deadline for payment was one year after the expiry of the indenture. Considering an apprenticeship lasted for 7 years and a boy or girl might start their apprenticeship between the ages of 7 and 14 and this may provide information about the place of origin of an ancestor born in the late 17th century. These records are indexed and online at Ancestry and www.thegenealogist.co.uk

See also Crisp's Apprentice Indentures at SOG indexed collection of indentures from 17th-19 century. Available online at SOG if you are a member.

Finally don't forget the following two points.

Hunting for a baptism?

Have you found your ancestor's 18th century burial? It may contain an age at burial which will help narrow down the period in which he is likely to have been baptised.

Marriage licence records

Your ancestor might have married by licence rather than banns so check to see if there is a marriage allegation, which was the document required before a licence could be issued. This will often give an age and place of residence helping you narrow down a date of baptism and sometimes showing he originated from a far distant parish. The marriage licence itself rarely survives having been handed to the vicar on the day of marriage.

Application for a marriage licence could be made to one of several church authorities depending on where the bride and groom lived. If they both lived in the same diocese application would usually be made to chancellor of the diocese or his surrogate (substitute). His surrogate might in some cases be a local vicar and in this case the number of marriages by licence in that vicar's parish would often be abnormally high.

If the couple lived in different dioceses then application had to be made to the Vicar General of the ecclesiastical province which covered both dioceses. There were just two ecclesiastical provinces (Canterbury covered the area south of the River Trent including Wales, while the Province of York covered the area north of the Trent). In the rare event that the couple lived in separate provinces then application had to be made to the Master of Faculties of the Archbishop of Canterbury. If the couple wished for some reason to marry in a diocese in which neither lived a special licence was required from either the Faculty Office of Canterbury, the Registry of York or the Vicar General of Canterbury.

The marriage allegation consists of a written statement from one of the parties (usually the groom) swearing that there was no legal impediment to the marriage. Where bride or groom was under the age of 21 parental consent was required too. Marriage allegations will give the names, ages and places of residence of both parties and details of the bride or groom's father or mother where one or both parties were under 21. They also record the groom's occupation and that of the father where he is recorded. They may also note the church where the marriage was to take place although it does not necessarily follow that the marriage did take place in that particular church.

Locating Marriage Allegations and Bonds

In most cases these records will be held at the county record office that holds diocesan records (the same record office where you will find Bishops' Transcripts for the area). Where the licence was granted by the Vicar General or the Faculty Office at Canterbury records will be at the Lambeth Palace Library. Some marriage allegations are now online, notably at Findmypast.co.uk

Further Reading: Jeremy Gibson's book Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licences, Bonds and Allegations available [here](#)