

This is an archival forum from the **FamilySearch Wiki Contributors Corner Forum**

10.09.2011, 13:41

cottrells

English County Census pages

There is in the wiki a series of articles named using the format **English County Census** . (for example [Dorset Census](#))

What would you expect articles thus named to cover? My expectation would be that they would provide information about the censuses as they relate to that county. Instead they contain lists of parishes linked to general searches for the parish in the FHL Catalog.

So my plan is to rename these articles so that the title reflects the content. Then hope that original page names are used to provide county specific information about the censuses. (see the [WikiProject England](#) for more details).

Do I understand rightly that the **Family History Library Catalog** is soon to be or already has been re-branded as the **FamilySearch Catalog**? Would it be too soon to use the new name in the titles of wiki articles? The Ancestry Insider reported it as fact ([The FHL is No More](#), Ancestry Insider, 18 Aug. 2011), but I've yet to see any change to this effect on FamilySearch.org

10.09.2011, 16:58

acores

Family History Catalog vs FamilySearch Catalog

I have forwarded this question to a group that may have some info. If I hear from them, I will post.

13.09.2011, 08:14

trike

English Census pages

We are moving slightly from the original theme here but the county census pages that were compiled are in fact links to parish content rather than census content. In many counties the links to places are broken in 75% of entries and are in need of rework. Contributors in several counties have done running repairs to try to fix broken links but some counties have mystery entries which are irrelevant to the census and relate to material from a different county.

The Surrey, Sussex, Nottinghamshire pages required considerable revision and it may be worth someone reviewing why so many parishes are linked to one catalogue page only. Surely what is needed here is not simply a catalogue link but also a statement that census indexes are available in a variety of places "Records" and elsewhere online through subscription services at Ancestry.co.uk, Find My past and through the network of family history centres using portal access to such source free of charge.

The census paragraph created in every parish page seems ill conceived as it presumes that those reading the page will only use microfilm. Within England and in a library or record office setting there are many more finding aids. Is this paragraph only geared to a North American audience or is the purpose of the wiki to be a worldwide online resource to assist research in a street or district census search for an individual or family?

13.09.2011, 09:10

cottrells

Quote:

Originally Posted by **trike**

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Yes this is moving away from the original topic, but I think it is an important issue - the layout and content in the wiki about English parishes.

I believe that the original content for the Research Wiki was taken from the FHL resource guides and this has had an influence on how later information in the wiki has been presented. I have set-up a [WikiProject English parishes](#) where issues like the one you raise can be addressed. I am more a technologist than an experienced genealogist. I'm confident about getting this done in the wiki, but unsure about the best direction.

Input from people like yourself with a British worldview and understanding of local resources is what is needed. No the wiki should not only cater for a North American audience, but it will reflect the understanding of those that contribute. Only as more UK based users get involved will we be able to steer the wiki away from its beginnings as an extension of the knowledge of FHL staff.

17.09.2011, 02:48

whodares

Could someone please review the Census page for Herefordshire which has been created in non-alphabetical order and omits parishes which can be found to have been microfilmed? Contributors are at present disregarding it and providing parish records link in the page heading "Church Records". It does appear that the Family History Library view differs markedly from English genealogists practice. This is based on a microfilm holding rather than the finding aids in use either online or in archives; similarly there are discrepancies in the film headings and subsequently the catalogue entry which Familysearch uses which have increasingly been overcome in online source citations by commercial online providers.

08.10.2011, 02:07

yorks bmd

Yorkshire Census

In common with other English counties the page which exists contains many broken links and mystery items and is dysfunctional.

The page creations for Yorkshire contain headings for church records and this appears to be where the entries for census records lie within the often inaccurate catalogue entry for the Family History Library film holdings.

There is a further problem in that the wiki page creator has created parish names in reverse due to unfamiliarity with the geography of the county in addition to the errors on the use of prefixes of "Great" "Little" "Old" "New" resulting in some fanciful and mythical place names. The search in wiki is also variable and it is possible to search for a parish and return no result; create a page and then return to it in search only to discover a page had been created previously.

The pre 1851 only page creation is problematic for a number of counties which contain post 1851 church and chapel building. This is particularly problematic in coal field communities which expanded and built places of worship which have since contracted. It seems odd to have created prescriptive wiki pages with invitations to contribute based on an American catalogue of partial filming of Anglican records when the Family History Library has a large holding of non-conformist records for many villages and civil parishes in the county. The additional problem is the removal of invitation to contribute by contributors who are adding copyright text from British History Online and A Vision of Britain both of which claim copyright material on text.

In several cases the contributor has added text for common village names in the county without differentiating between the correct Anglican parish within the civil parish suggesting again an unfamiliarity with the geography and history of the county.

Use of Anglican parish as a locator is less reliable than use of civil parish which is widely used in English catalogues for records and will be found to be the Wikipedia basis for county material.