

Kelowna Family History Center Staff Training – June 2005

English (and Scottish) records pre Civil Registration

- English civil registration started in 1837 and Scottish in 1855.
- Prior to that, records were kept by the Church and not the State.
- The Church started keeping baptism, marriage and burial records in the mid-1500s although this varies from parish to parish. These are commonly known as “parish registers”.
- The Church also kept other records, tax records recording the taxes paid by the parishioners, as well as the Parish Chest records, records of meetings and Church hearings.

In order to determine what might be available for your parish and where they are located, you should consult Phillimore’s Atlas of Parish Records (3rd Edition).

The following items are of interest in Phillimore’s Atlas:

Front Section:

- Map of county
- Parish map of county showing parish boundaries and conception dates

Back Section:

- List of parishes by county showing records available by date range and record type.

Title	Description
Deposited Original Registers I.G.I.	Baptism, marriage and burial records available Indicates which (if any) years of the parish registers have been extracted into the I.G.I. While it should be noted that updates to the I.G.I. (online version) are done weekly, the Church no longer has an active extraction program as it is now focusing on performing temple work on members’ ancestors, hence the information here is quite accurate.
Local Census Indexes Soc of Genealogists	Number relates to which census (i.e. 1851 is 5) Indicates whether a copy of the parish registers are available at the Society of Genealogists in London, England
Boyd’s Marriage Index	1500-1775. This is an index of Marriages taken from the Parish Registers in three parts (or series). Note: the index relies on phonetic spellings (mixing Filip, Philip etc). Available on fiche at Kelowna FHC (bottom drawer file cabinet).
1837-1851 Reg District Pallot’s Marriage Index	Name of registration district for civil registration. 1781-1837. This is an index of Marriages taken from the Parish Registers. Limited to London, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Middlesex. Available on Ancestry.com (free).
Non-Conformist at PRO	Whether there are non-conformist registers at the PRO in England.
Map	Map reference.