

FreeCEN Newsletter – June 2026

Hello All

Welcome to the FreeCEN newsletter for June, and 35 new pieces have been added to the website over the last month, around 174,000 entries between these pieces. Details at the end of this newsletter.

These newsletters are sent on a monthly basis, and are usually sent out around the 4th of the month.

Irish 1926 Census

Interested in the Irish census? Then this is for you. On April 18th, The National Archives of Ireland released the 1926 census. Includes about 630,000 individual householder returns covering almost three million people.

The significance of this census is that it is the first one conducted in Ireland after the country gained independence and covers all sorts of information about the place.

All 26 counties covering Ireland are included, and they are complete. The six counties of Northern Ireland however are not included as those are missing, presumed destroyed during World War II.

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Contribution Guidelines

Contributions are welcome, and all received are considered. These should be emailed to [Chris Mahoney](mailto:chris.mahoney@freeukgenealogy.org.uk) (chris.mahoney@freeukgenealogy.org.uk).

They can be in any format, but I do have three particular requests with contributions.

1. Please do include a scanned image of the census record referred to (if appropriate) along with relevant source information (i.e. piece number, folio number, page number, and schedule number)
2. With any images, please include copies in their original format such as jpg or png (much easier to work with than copying one out of your article)
3. If you have quoted another source (or copied an image from somewhere), please quote what that source is

Previous FreeCEN Newsletters

Past editions of the newsletter are [now available to download](#) from the FreeCEN website. Or go to the “About” page, and then look on the right hand side under “See Also”.

The previous twelve are there now, all in downloadable PDF format (can also be read in some internet browsers). Older editions available on request.

Volunteer for FreeCEN

Like what you see in these newsletters? Has our website helped you with your family research? Then please consider helping to expand our database. We have plenty of coordinators who would welcome you as a member of their team.

You need only basic computer skills and you can use any spreadsheet app. We provide plenty of help and support. We also supply the scans.

Use this link to the [Volunteer page](#) or select “Volunteer” in the purple menu bar near the top of any page on the website.

News from Denise Colbert (Q1 2026)

(Chief Operating Officer, Free UK Genealogy CIO)

Hello everyone

In my last update, I reflected on a very full end to the year, including the Strategy Weekend, the launch of FreeBMD2, and the progress we've been making with FreePRO. Over the past few months, we've been building on that work, starting to turn those discussions into something more tangible.

FreePRO (FreePROBATE) is beginning to take clearer shape as we move towards the pilot phase. We now have the first 5 books digitised, and we have been trying things out, refining how we work, and getting a better sense of how the project will run in practice. We've also started bringing some transcriber/data processing volunteers onboard and thinking more carefully about how we support them. I'm very pleased to share that Ramona Ceia has joined us as a volunteer Project Manager for FreePRO, bringing some much-needed structure as the project grows. It's still early days, but we are moving, steadily, from planning into doing.

Following its release at the end of last year, the new FreeBMD (**FreeBMD2**) has continued to evolve. A good deal of time this quarter has gone into responding to feedback and improving performance. The site is now running *much* faster than it was at launch, which has made a real difference to how it feels to use. We have also continued to reassure users that FreeBMD1 remains available, while FreeBMD2 develops alongside it. That balance matters as people find their way around the newer version.

We've also spent time on **FreeBMD1** itself, particularly around advertising. We know the sticky footer advert affects usability, and we are exploring ways to remove or replace it without putting essential income at risk. We have also looked closely at the quality of adverts being shown. When users choose not to accept personalised advertising, the adverts available come from a smaller pool, which can sometimes mean they feel more generic or lower quality. This sits largely within user control through cookie preferences, and it directly affects both what is shown and the revenue it generates. It is not a simple balance to strike, and we are continuing to work through it carefully.

FreeREG and **FreeCEN** continue to grow thanks to your contributions. Both Steering Committees have been continuing work on themes that were revisited and strengthened at the Strategy Weekend, particularly around how we support volunteers and nurture our sense of community. We've begun to shape what a future online Community Hub might look like, alongside wider thinking about how we encourage and help volunteers take on new roles.

Access to source images remains one of the biggest challenges for both projects. We haven't made major changes yet, but it has been one of the most useful areas of discussion this quarter. Coordinators have shared thoughtful and practical ideas in open meetings, which are helping us think through how we might find and secure more sources in future. We would very much welcome more Coordinators joining those conversations.

One of the more encouraging outcomes of the Strategy Weekend has been the idea of a UK Genealogy Charity Summit, bringing organisations together to share challenges and explore how we might work more closely. Planning is now underway, with the aim of holding this in April. It could be a great positive step towards stronger collaboration across the sector.

Development of **FreeComETT-REG** has been slower this quarter. Still an important part of our plans to make transcription easier and better supported for FreeREG volunteers, progress has been affected by the lack of project management capacity and limited availability from our volunteer Lead Developer. I'm therefore very pleased that Gareth Woolley has joined us as a volunteer Project Manager for FreeComETT-REG. This should help us regain momentum and move things forward more steadily.

There has been some very positive progress in the wider FreeComETT space, however. I'd like to celebrate the work of Hilary Wright and the FreeBMD Coordinators who worked closely with him on the successful release of version 7 of **FreeComETT-BMD**. Our antipodean volunteers in particular will have noticed a difference, with loading times improving from painfully slow to impressively fast. It's a great example of what can be achieved through collaboration and persistence.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognise Scott Paget, who has joined us as a Programme Manager volunteer. He has played an important role in supporting our newer projects, particularly in helping us bring in volunteer Project Managers. Behind-the-scenes work on recruitment processes is beginning to make a real difference to our volunteer capacity.

As always: thank you, all of you, for everything you contribute to Free UK Genealogy. Your time, care, and commitment make all of this possible.

With thanks for everything you do,

Denise Colbert
Chief Operating Officer
Free UK Genealogy CIO

FreeCEN Vacancies

If you are interested in becoming one of our county coordinators, then this is for you as we have one role that we would like to fill. Experience at transcribing and proofreading for FreeCEN is preferable. Help and support is available if needed.

We have the following vacancy at present:

Sussex

County has no coordinator at present, and has been vacant for a while, so no active transcribers at this time. Three years are fully transcribed, with another close to it. Some of the uploaded pieces however do need re-validating (but we may already have someone to do these re-validations). We do have scans we can supply you with.

If you are interested in taking on this county, or would like to know more, please let us know.

Pieces Incorporated during May 2026

(Incorporated pieces are those that have been transcribed, proofread, and are now part of the online searchable database)

County	Year	Piece	Location	Civil Parishes	Number of Entries
Anglesey	1861	RG9_4349A	Beaumaris	Llanfihangel Esceifiog, Llangristiolus, Trefdraeth	2,845
Anglesey	1881	RG11_5589	Llandyfrydog	Bachau, Cemaes, Coedana, Gwredog, Llanbabo, Llanbadrig, Llandyfrydog, Llanerchymedd, Llanfairynghornwy, Llanfechell, Llanfflewyn, Llanrhwydrys, Llechcynfarwy, Penslyn, Rhodogeidio	4,112
Brecknockshire	1841	HO107_1367	Devynnock	Devynnock, (Llanulid; Callwen; Cray; Glynn; Glyntawe; Maescar; Senny; Ultid), Llanspyddid (Modrydd; Pen-Pont), Llywel (Traian-Glas), Lower Ystradgynlais (Cabillo; Bullfa; Cwmygied; Dyfnant; Garth; Gledd; Gurnos; Palleg; Penrhose; Ystrad), St David (Upper Division), Upper Ystradgynlais (Cribarth; Ellen), Upper and Lower Penderyn, Ystradfellte	9,209
Buckinghamshire	1891	RG12_1126A	Berkhampstead	Nettleden	118

Devon	1851	HO107_1864	Ottery St Mary	Feniton, Harpford, Ottery St Mary(Escot;Tipton), Payhembury, Plymtree, Salcombe Regis, Sidbury, Sidmouth, Talaton(Escot), Venn Ottery	12,500
Essex	1851	HO107_1781B	Colchester Third Ward	All Saints, Colchester Holy Trinity, Colchester St Giles, Colchester St Mary at the Wall, Greenstead, St James, St Leonard, St Mary Magdalen, St Nicholas	2,320
Essex	1861	RG9_1083	Rayleigh	Ashingdon, Canvey Island, Eastwood, Hadleigh, Hockley, Rawreth, Rayleigh, South Benfleet(Canvey Island), South Fambridge, Thundersley	5,061
Essex	1861	RG9_1090	St Peter	Great Totham, Heybridge, Langford, Little Totham, Maldon St Mary, Maldon St Peter	6,759
Essex	1861	RG9_1097	Colchester First Ward	Colchester St Botolph	6,249
Flintshire	1891	RG12_4620A	Llanarmon	Llanarmon	90
Glamorganshire	1871	RG10_5411	Aberdare	Aberdare	4,548
Gloucestershire	1851	HO107_1968	Cotswold	Badgington, Brimpsfield (Birdlip; Caudle Green), Colesbourne, Daglingworth, Duntisbourne Abbots (Duntisborne Leer), Duntisbourne Rouse, Edgeworth, Elkstone, North Cerney (Calmsden; Woodmancote), Rendcombe, Sapperton (Frampton; Sapperton), Side or Syde, Winstone	4,148

Gloucestershire	1851	HO107_1968A	Cirencester	Baunton, Cirencester (Barton;Chesterton; Oakley; Spirringate; Wiggold), Coates, Driffield, Harnhill, Preston, Rodmarton (Calkerton), Siddington, South Cerney, Stratton	9,817
Gloucestershire	1851	HO107_1968B	Fairford	Ampney Crucis, (Alcott End), Ampney St Mary or Ashbrook, Ampney St Peter or Easington, Barnsley, Down Ampney, Fairford, Hatherop (Netherton), Kempsford (Dunfield; Horcutt; Whelford), Maisey Hampton, Poulton, Quenington	6,159
Gloucestershire	1891	RG12_2035	Bibury	Ablington, Aldsworth, Arlington, Bibury, Coln St Aldwins, Eastington, Eastleach Martin, Eastleach Turville, Farmington, Fyfield, Little Barrington, Northleach, Sherborne, Southrop, Windrush	4,584
Hampshire	1841	HO107_382C	Selborne	East Tisted, (Rotherfield), Hawkley, Newton Valence (Noah Hill; Norton; Oakhanger; Temple), Selborne	1,720
Hampshire	1841	HO107_402B	Dibden	Calshot Castle, Culverley, Dibden, Fawley (Badminstone; Butsash; Cadland; Hardley; Heith or Hythe; Holbury; Langley; Stanswood; Stone), Ipersbridge, Roughdown	2,590
Herefordshire	1891	RG12_2069	Bromyard	Bredenbury, Bromyard, Felton, Grendon Bishop, Grendon Warren, Little Cowarne, Moreton Jeffries, Pencombe, Stoke Lacy, Ullingswick, Wacton, Winslow	3,533
Kent	1891	RG12_692	Lenham	Boughton Malherbe, Frinsted, Harrietsham, Lenham, Liverton Street, Otterden, Wychling	3,582

Lancashire	1891	RG12_3010	Farnworth	Bold, Cronton, Ditton, Hough Green, Widnes	7,182
Lancashire	1891	RG12_3134	Heywood	Birch, Heap, Heywood, Hopwood, Pilsworth	7,490
Middlesex	1891	RG12_1043	Willesden	Harlesden, Neasden, Willesden	8,725
Monmouthshire	1891	RG12_4364	Pontypool	Llanfihangel Pont Y Moel, Llanhilleth, Mamhilad, Pant Teg, Pontymoile	6,449
Norfolk	1891	RG12_1530	West Wymer	Heigham, Norwich (Heigham)	6,486
Northumberland	1851	HO107_2415	Allendale	Allendale, Haydon	8,494
Pembrokeshire	1861	RG9_4151	Begelly	Begelly, (Williamston), Jeffreston, Loveston, Reynoldston, St Issells, Yerboston	3,824
Pembrokeshire	1861	RG9_4158	Pembroke	Angle, Monkton, Pembroke (Monckton Within; Monckton Without), Pwllcrochan	3,836
Pembrokeshire	1861	RG9_4161	Milford	Dale, Hasguard, Herbrandston, Hubberston, Marloes, Skokholm Island, St Brides, St Ishmaels	2,761
Surrey	1871	RG10_813	Guildford	Guildford, (Artington; Holy Trinity; St Nicholas), Stoke Next Guildford	3,181
Warwickshire	1861	RG9_2224	Kenilworth	Ashow, Baginton, Bubbenhall, Honiley, Kenilworth, Leek Wootton, Stivichall, Stoneleigh (Westwood)	6,261
Warwickshire	1861	RG9_2225	Warwick	Warwick St Mary	6,021
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1968AA	Cirencester	Kemble, (Ewen; Jervis Quarry), Pool Keynes, Shorncote, Somerford Keynes	1,095
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1968BA	Fairford	Marston Maisey	238

Worcestershire	1841	HO107_1195B	Halfshire (Upper Division)	Bromsgrove, Cofton Hackett, Crutch, Dodderhill (Elmbridge), Doverdale	11,532
Worcestershire	1891	RG12_2070A	Bishops Frome	Acton Beauchamp	220

FreeCEN1

The last reported update to our old website at [FreeCEN1](#) took place on July 6th 2021. Further updates to this website have been discontinued, and any new uploads of completed pieces will take place on FreeCEN2 only.

We expect that the old website will be taken off-line at some point.