

FreeCEN Newsletter – October 2025

Hello All

Welcome to the FreeCEN newsletter for October 2025, and 55 new pieces have been added to the website since the last edition, around 248,000 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.

The [FreeCEN Roadmap](#) has been updated, and available for you to view on the website. Just log onto the website, the button for this is one of those listed under “Actions”.

Volunteer for FreeCEN

Like what you see in these newsletters? Has the our Website helped you with your family research. Then consider helping us to expand our database. We have plenty of coordinators who would like you to volunteer.

Only basic computer skills required, and any spreadsheet based software will be needed. Plenty of help and support available, and we can supply the scans.

The [link to Volunteer](#) is visible in the purple bar near the top of the of page on the website.

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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.

News from Denise Colbert

(Chief Operating Officer, Free UK Genealogy CIO)

Hello everyone,

In my last update for Q1, I shared news of FreeComETT, the development of FreeBMD2, and the launch of FreePRO, as well as our plans for the October Strategy Weekend. Over the past few months, we've been building on that progress and laying important foundations for the future.

FreePRO (FreePROBATE) is really starting to take form. The technical team have now received a larger sample of the Probate book images and are using these to refine the technical framework and shape the editorial processes. It's early days, but exciting to see this project moving from idea into reality.

Alongside this, we've been busy preparing on the fundraising side: we're once again taking part in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** with an ambitious target of raising £40,000 to fund the full digitisation of the Probate books. To unlock match funding, we need to secure £10,000 in pledges by 5 September. At the time of writing, we've already reached £6,600 in pledges (beating our previous record of £5,000 in 2022!). If you're able and would like to contribute, you can [make a pledge here](#).

If pledging isn't possible, please do consider donating during Big Give week (2–9 December), or helping by sharing our campaign posts on [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

FreeBMD2 is now in its final stages, with the team making refinements based on user feedback ahead of launch in the coming weeks — watch this space!

Meanwhile, we're also tackling **financial sustainability on FreeBMD** itself, reviewing advertising placements to balance revenue needs with user experience.

FreeCEN and **FreeREG** continue to grow steadily thanks to your contributions. We're also exploring how best to support volunteers who may want to take on new responsibilities, including the idea of a dedicated **online volunteer hub** to bring our global community together.

You may remember I introduced **FreeComETT** in my last update — our new online transcription tool for FreeREG volunteers. Development has continued in the background this quarter, and while there's not much to announce just yet, it remains a key project for us. FreeComETT will make transcription more accessible and user-friendly, and will play an important role in supporting volunteers now and in the future.

We have continued to build stronger foundations this quarter, and with October just around the corner, I'm looking forward to turning strategy into shared action across our community.

FreeCEN SWOT. To enable us to decide upon FreeCEN's priorities and challenges, we want to gather your views on the project's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

[Please go to our survey form to enter your views](#)

FreeCEN Vacancies

If you are interested in becoming one of our county coordinators, then this is for you as we have some roles 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 vacancies at present:

Hereford

County has been inactive for a while so no active transcribers at this time. One year is fully transcribed with some pieces from other years also complete. We do have scans we can supply you with.

Nottingham

County has five years fully transcribed, with a sixth only needing a few pieces proofread before that one is complete. There are a small number of transcribers working on the remaining two years. We do have scans we can supply you with.

Sussex

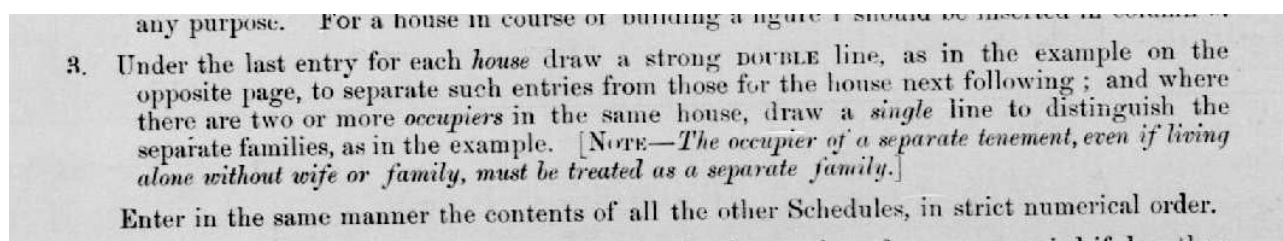
County has no coordinator at present, and has been vacant for a while, so no active transcribers at this time. Three years are fully transcribed, with another close to it. Some of the uploaded pieces however do need re-validating (but we may already have someone to do these re-validations). We do have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

If you are interested in taking on one of these counties, or would like to know more, please let us know.

One Address – Multiple Households

(From Chris Mahoney)

On occasions you will come across addresses where there are indications that more than one household is at the address. Could be a private house that has taken on a lodger or two, could be a boarding house with separate families in each of the rooms. And the question that has been asked a few times recently, “What should we do with such addresses?”. Enumerators of the day were given clear instructions on what to do along with various other instructions given to them at the start of many enumeration districts. Take the following for example.



The FreeCEN handbook has the following to say about this:

“Care should be taken if the Enumerator has entered two separate families, each with its own "Head", under a single address. You will see that families are separated by an enumerators tick, either / or //. A / means a new family same address whilst // means a new family at a new address. You can therefore re-enter the address for families with an / immediately before them, but not for a // as this is a different building. Each family should be given a schedule number 0 (zero) if the enumerator has not given them a schedule number and an enumerator's tick exists.”

And now for some examples of such addresses that have more than one household at the address.

Example One

			tion.	tion.					Males	Females
66	4 Stephen Street	1			4	George H. Woodland	Head	m	30	
						John H. Do	Wife	m		29
						George H. Do	Son	y	8	
						Alonzo H. Do	Daughter	y		5
						William W. Do	Son	y	3	
67					2	Annie Leonard	Head	wid		26
68	3 Do	1				John W. Vale	Head	m	24	
						Sarah Do	Wife	m		22

In this one from 1901 we have schedule 66 for “4 Stephen Street”, and schedule 68 for “3 Stephen Street” with the two addresses separated by double lines. And between schedule 66 and schedule 67 is a single line. This tells us that schedule 66, and schedule 67 is the one address, but has two separate households at the address.

Example Two

			Hugh Jones	Head	m
70	Patriobolion		Catherine Roberts	Head	w
			William Rowlands	Head	m
			Margaret Hughes	Wife	m
			Margaret Rowlands	Daughter	
			William Hughes	Son	
			Catherine Rowlands	Daughter	
71	La y. Puce		Hugh Puce	Head	m

In this one from 1851 we can see a thick line going across several columns before and after schedule 70 clearly showing that this is a separate schedule to that of schedule 69, and 71. Schedule 70 also shows that it has two heads of house, and has a similar thick line which only covers some of the columns. This we can interpret as that “Catherine Roberts” is the head of the first household, and that “William Rowlands” is the head of the second.

Since no schedule numbers are given for the “William Rowland” household, this one will be given a schedule number of 0 when it is transcribed.

Example Three

284	78	OK	1	Thomas Leonard	Head	18
				Same	OK	Male
				Mary	OK	Female
				James Hannigan	OK	Male
				Ann	OK	Female
				Mary	OK	Female

In this sample from 1861 we can see that there are double lines at the start of schedule 284, and again at the end of the same schedule. The schedule also shows two heads of house with an added note that the second one is a boarder. However on this occasion while it appears that there are two separate households at the address, and the double lines suggest that the enumerator has followed their instructions, there is nothing to indicate that these two households should actually be separated into two separate schedules and as such I would not separate them for this one.

Some advice that would help here, and transcribing generally, when starting a new enumeration district have a browse through it first and get a feel on how the actual enumerator recorded that district, doing so just could make the transcribing of the district easier.

Interesting Person – Norman Garstin

(From Judith Kneen)

Working on the 1901 census for the Penzance area of Cornwall, it is always a delight to come across the familiar names of artists associated with the Newlyn School. Many artists were drawn to the area from all over the country and beyond, like Norman Garstin detailed below (RG13_2254_a).

42	H	"	"	1	Helena Russell do dau	S	25	Ad Student	do	do	do
					Norman Garston Head	M	53	Artist Sulp		Ireland	
					Louisa Faunoy do Wife	M	48			Devon Stonehouse	
					Croftie affix Thomas do Son	S	13			Cornwall Penzance	
					Deusse toman do Son	S	10			do do	
					Mary toki abbess do dau	S	6			do do	
					Catherine Lewis Cohen Servant	S	26	Book (domestic)		do Ashton	
43	25	Feb	1	1	Mary Stewart do	S	16	Housemaid	do	do Madron	

Garstin hailed from Ireland but made his way to Penzance and stayed. His most famous painting in Cornwall is probably 'The Rain it Raineth Every Day', a rather beautiful depiction of Penzance promenade being buffeted by wind and rain. Apparently, he donated it to the town council which initially failed to exhibit a painting that might be off-putting to tourists because of the rain. Now it is exhibited prominently in the Penlee Gallery, Penzance.



By Norman Garstin, [Public Domain at wikimedia](#)

Pieces Uploaded in September 2025

Table: the pieces are sorted alphabetically by county (or shipping group), then year, then piece number

County	Year	Piece	Location	Civil Parishes	Number of Entries
Anglesey	1841	HO107_1361	Tal y Bolion	Llanbabo, Llanbadrig (Cemmaes; Clygyrog), Llanddeusant (Llanddausaint; Treffynon), Llanfachreth, Llanfaethlu, Llanfairynghornwy, Llanfechell (Tregcle), Llanfflewyn, Llanfigael, Llanfwrog, Llanrhwydrys, Llanrhyddlad	5,866
Anglesey	1851	HO107_2516A	Llanidan	Llanfairynycwmmwd, Llangaffo, Llangeinwen, Llanidan (Brynshenkin), St Peter Newborough	3,629
Berkshire	1861	RG9_725	Hungerford	Chilton Foliat	145
Caernarvonshire	1851	HO107_2516	Carnarvon	Llanbeblig, (Carnarvon; Llanbeblig with Bont-Newydd Castellmai and Treflan), Llanfaglan	10,008
Cambridgeshire	1881	RG11_1664	St Andrew the Less	Cambridge, Cambridge St Andrew the Less	5,557
Cambridgeshire	1881	RG11_1665	St Andrew the Less	Cambridge, Cambridge St Andrew the Less	5,329

Cambridgeshire	1881	RG11_1668	St Mary the Great	Cambridge, Cambridge St Benedict, Cambridge St Botolph, Cambridge St Edward, Cambridge St Mary The Great, Cambridge St Mary the Less, Cambridge St Michael	4,369
Cambridgeshire	1881	RG11_1669	St Andrew the Great	Cambridge All Saints, Cambridge Holy Trinity, Cambridge St Andrew The Great, Cambridge St Michael	5,770
Cambridgeshire	1881	RG11_1671	Duxford	Babraham, Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Pampisford, Sawston, Whittlesford	5,056
Cambridgeshire	1891	RG12_1103A	Melbourn	Abington Pigotts, Barrington, Bassingbourn, Fowlmere, Foxton, Kneesworth	4,331
Cardiganshire	1911	RG14_33317	Penbryn	Troedyrour	198
Cheshire	1861	RG9_2555A	Hayfield	Stockport, (Disley-Stanley)	2,291
Devon	1851	HO107_1893	Ilfracombe	Berrynarbor, Bittadon, East Down, Ilfracombe, West Down	5,723
Essex	1841	HO107_339	Thurstable	Goldhanger, Great Totham, Heybridge, Langford, Little Totham, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D Arcy, Tolleshunt Knights, Tolleshunt Major, Wickham Bishops	5,548
Essex	1861	RG9_1066	Bobbingworth	Abbess Roding, Beauchamp Roding, Berners Roding, Blackmore, Bobbingworth, Fyfield, High Laver, High Ongar, Little Laver, Moreton, Norton Mandeville, Shelley, Shellow Bowells, Willingale Doe, Willingale Spain	5,550
Essex	1861	RG9_1071	Barking Town	Barking, (Barking Town; Ripple)	5,818

Flintshire	1891	RG12_2870A	Hawarden	Bretton, Broughton, Caergwrle, Hawarden, Hope, Llanfynydd, Marford and Hoseley, Pentrobin, Tryddyn	7,673
Glamorganshire	1871	RG10_5402	Upper Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	3,201
Glamorganshire	1891	RG12_4400	Cardiff	Canton, Grangetown	6,992
Gloucestershire	1861	RG9_2102A	Broadway	Aston Subedge, Childs Wickham, Cow Honeybourne, Pebworth (Broad Marston), Saintbury, Weston Subedge	2,558
Kent	1861	RG9_468	Dartford	Darenth, (South Darenth), Stone near Dartford (Greenhithe), Sutton at Hone (Hawley;Swanley), Swanscombe (Greenhithe), Wilmington	6,272
Lancashire	1891	RG12_3303	Oldham Below Town	Oldham	7,375
Lincolnshire	1841	HO107_631	Bradley Haverstoe	Coates, Coningsby (Haven-Bank), Coningsby (Langrick-Ferry), Conisholme, Corringham (Little Corringham), Corringham (Dunstall), Corringham (Yawthorpe), Corringham (Aisby), Corringham (Somerby), Covenham St Bartholomew, Covenham St Mary, Croft, Crowle (Ealand), Crowle (Eastoft), Croxby, Croxton, Cumberworth, Cuxwold, Great Coates, Little Coates, North Coates, North Cockerington, South Cockerington	7,871
Merionethshire	1871	RG10_5697	Festiniog	Festiniog	3,888
Moray	1861	RS6_137	Forres	Forres BURGH	603

Norfolk	1841	HO107_776A	Henstead	Arminghall, Bixley, Bramerton, Caistor St Edmund, Framingham Earl, Framingham Pigot, Great Poringland, Holverstone, Kirby Bedon, Rockland St Mary, Saxlingham Nethergate, Saxlingham Thorpe, Shotesham All Saints, Shotesham St Mary, Stoke Holy Cross, Surlingham, Trowse Newton, West Poringland, Whitlingham, Yelverton	5,657
Northamptonshire	1891	RG12_1198	St Giles	Northampton, (Priory of St Andrew or Townt; St Sepulchre), St Andrew, St Sepulchre	9,157
Northamptonshire	1891	RG12_1199	St Giles	Northampton, (Priory of St Andrew or Town; St Giles; St Sepulchre), St Andrew, St Giles, St Sepulchre	8,495
Northumberland	1851	HO107_2409	Wallsend	Wallsend, (Howdon-Pans; Willington)	5,740
Somerset	1841	HO107_376A	Bristol City	Bedminster	17,927
Somerset	1911	RG14_14274	North Petherton	North Petherton	721
Somerset	1911	RG14_14275	North Petherton	Nether Stowey	570
Staffordshire	1861	RG9_2015	Walsall	Walsall, (Walsall Foreign)	6,352

Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1838	Marlborough	Avebury, (Beckhampton; East Kennet; West Kennet), Berwick Bassett, Broad Hinton (Broad Town), Clatford Park, East Kennett, Fyfield, Marlborough St Mary St Peter and St Paul (Clatford; Elcot; Furze-Cope; Manton), Mildenhall (Poulton; Stitchcomb), North Savernake, Ogbourne, Ogbourne St George, Overton (Lockeridge; West Overton), Overton Heath, South Savernake (Brimslade and Cadley), St Andrew (Maisey; Rockley), Winterbourne Bassett, Winterbourne Monkton	10,329
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1839	Bishops Cannings	All Cannings, (Allington; Etchilhampton; Fullaway or Fullway), Alton Barnes, Beechingstoke, Bishops Cannings (Bourton; Coate; Derry Hill; Easton; Horton), Chirton (Chirton or Churton; Conock), Marden, Patney, Stanton St Bernard, Urchfont (Sert)	4,143
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1839A	Lavington	Erlestoke, Great Cheverell, Little Cheverell, Market Lavington (Easterton; Market or East Lavington), Urchfont (Eastcott; edhampton), West Lavington (Fiddington; Littleton-Pannell; West or Bishops Lavington)	6,115
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1839B	Bromham	Bishops Cannings, (Chittoe), Bromham, Potterne (Marston; Potterne; Worton), Poulshot, Rowde	5,072
Wiltshire	1861	RG9_725A	Hungerford	Chilton Foliat, (Leverton), Froxfield (Hughditch; Oakhill; Rudge), Ramsbury (Axford; Eastridge; Elmdown; Lamplands; Maridge Hill; Newtown; Park Town; Ramsbury Town; Whittonditch)	3,642

Worcestershire	1861	RG9_2102	Broadway	Badsey, (Aldington; Badsey), Bretforton, Church Honeybourne with Poden	1,267
Yorkshire East Riding	1861	RG9_3615A	Filey	Folkton, (Flixton), Muston	961
Yorkshire East Riding	1861	RG9_3622A	Sherburn	Ganton, Willerby (Binnington; Staxton;Willerby)	825
Yorkshire East Riding	1861	RG9_3624A	Westow	Acklam, (Acklam with Barthorpe; Leavening), Birdsall, Burythorpe, Kirkham, Langton (Kennythorpe; Langton), Scrayingham (Howsham; Leppington), Westow (Eddlethorpe; Firby; Mennethorpe), Wharram Percy (Raisthorpe and Birdall), Wharram le Street	2,992
Yorkshire East Riding	1861	RG9_3626A	Malton	Norton	3,031
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3554A	Walmgate	Osballdwick, St Olave Mary Gate (Heworth)	375
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3556A	Dunnington	Gate Helmsley, Holtby, Osballdwick (Murton), Stockton on the Forest, Upper Helmsley, Warthill (Warthill copyhold; Warthill freehold)	1,293
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3557A	Flaxton	Bossall, (Butter-Crambe; Claxton; Flaxton-on-the-Moor; Harton; Sand Hutton), Sheriff Hutton (Lillings Ambo), Strensall	1,703
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3682A	Darlington	Barton, (Newton Morrell; Stapleton), Cleasby, Croft (Dalton-upon-Tees; Stapleton), Gilling (Eryholme), Great Smeaton (Croft), Manfield (Cliffe; Manfield)	2,181

Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3685A	Yarm	Middlesbrough	4,518
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3686A	Yarm	Middlesbrough	3,806
Yorkshire West Riding	1861	RG9_3554B	Walmgate	York Castle	144
Yorkshire West Riding	1871	RG10_4744A	Bootham	Davy Hall, Minster Yard with Beddern, Mint Yard	812
Yorkshire West Riding	1871	RG10_4745A	Bootham	Holy Trinity Goodramgate, Holy Trinity Kings Court	1,023
Yorkshire West Riding	1871	RG10_4746A	Micklegate	Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Dringhouses, Holgate, Holy Trinity Micklegate, Middlethorpe	3,660
Yorkshire West Riding	1891	RG12_3697	West Leeds	Leeds	7,202
Yorkshire West Riding	1891	RG12_3759	Pontefract	Ackton, Carleton, Darrington, East Hardwick, Featherstone, Snydale, Street House	6,121

Table Notes

- If the piece number has a letter after it, then this suggests that the upload may only include some of the listed districts for the piece, but not necessarily all of them.

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.