

FreeCEN Newsletter – November 2025

Hello All

Welcome to the FreeCEN newsletter for November 2025, and 56 new pieces have been added to the website since the last edition, around 220,000 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”.

Congratulations to the Wiltshire team of transcribers as they have completed the 1871 census for the county last month with all pieces for this year now online and searchable.

Also congratulations to the Anglesey team of transcribers as they have completed the 1851 census for the county last month with all pieces for this year now online and searchable.

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](#) (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 live, and available for you to use. It is fully searchable, and uses the same database as that of the old FreeBMD website. Further improvements, and enhancements to follow.

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.

Abandoned Baby

(From Geoff Jarvis)

In 1851 Mary Porter was a 72 year old Agricultural Labourer's widow looking after a 10 year old grandson. She was born in 1779, and her place of birth is given as "Found at a Blacksmiths Door at Pylle Somerset a few hours old". She was lucky to survive as unwanted babies were often abandoned and left to die of hypothermia, be taken by an animal and occasionally saved by somebody who wanted a baby.

One can only wonder what Mary went through during her life and how lucky she was to still be alive at 72 years old.

Parish or Township of of Ditcham		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of Somerton		
No. of House Holder's Schedule	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf-and- Dumb
		Males	Females							
7	Somerton Green	Mary Porter	Head	Widow		72		Ague & Sore Thigh Sunday Scholar	Found at a Blacksmiths Door at Pylle Somerset a few hours old	Deaf-and-Dumb
		George	10	Grandson		10			Deaf-and-Dumb	

Reference HO107_1933 Folio 297 Page 3 schedule 7.

Pieces Uploaded in October 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
Aberdeenshire	1841	HS4_247	Turriff		3,146
Anglesey	1851	HO107_2517A	Beaumaris	Llanddaniel Fab, Llanddona, Llandegfan, Llandysilio, Llanedwen, Llanfaes, Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll, Llanffinan, Llanfihangel Esceifiog (Gaeriben), Llanfihangel Tyn Sylwy, Llangoed, Penmon(Puffin Island), Penmynydd, Pentraeth	7,469
Berkshire	1861	RG9_723	Kintbury	Avington, Inkpen, Kintbury (Barton; Denford; Holt), Shalbourne, West Woodhay	3,362
Brecknockshire	1891	RG12_4574	Llangynidr	Aberhoywg, Coed Yr Ynys, Cyffredin, Llangynidr	3,709
Brecknockshire	1901	RG13_5167	Brecknock	Aberyscir, Battle, Brecknock, Cantref, Garthbrengy, Llanddew, Llandefaelogfach, Llanfihangelfechan, Llanspyddid, Merthyr Cynog, Modrydd, Penpont, Sarnau, St David Without, Vennyfach	2,285

Caernarvonshire	1851	HO107_2517	Beaumaris	Beaumaris, Llaniestyn, Llansadwrn	2,940
Cardiganshire	1911	RG14_33318	Penbryn	Troedyraur	268
Cheshire	1891	RG12_2812	East Macclesfield	Macclesfield	4,510
Derbyshire	1891	RG12_2207A	Burton upon Trent	Winshill	3,794
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_1771B	Doddinghurst	Blackmore, Chipping Ongar, Doddinghurst, Greenstead, High Ongar, Kelvedon Hatch, Stondon Massey	3,997
Essex	1861	RG9_1087	Southminster	Althorne, Burnham, Creeksea, Mayland, Southminster, Steeple	4,577
Essex	1861	RG9_1104	Fordham	Aldham, Chapel, Fordham, Great Tey, Mount Bures, Wakes Colne, West Bergholt, Wormingford	4,656
Essex	1891	RG12_1315	Stratford	Forest Gate, Stratford, West Ham	7,857
Essex	1891	RG12_1374	Hornchurch	Cranham, Great Warley, Hornchurch, Rainham, Wennington	4,431

Hampshire	1841	HO107_381B	Bishops Sutton	Bighton	284
Hampshire	1841	HO107_387A	Bishops Waltham	Bishops Waltham, (Ashton; Curdridge; Dean; Dundridge; West Hoe), Droxford (Shirrell He; Droxford Street; Hill; Shidfield; Steeple Court; Swanmore), Durley (Mincingfield)	4,561
Hampshire	1841	HO107_387B	Hambledon	Hambledon, (Barn Green; West End; Chidden and Glidden; Creech Place; Denmead; Ervills or Leigh; Hambledon Town)	2,068
Hampshire	1861	RG9_723A	Kintbury	Combe, (Eastwick)	229
Hertfordshire	1871	RG10_1359	Royston	Ashwell, Barkway(Newsells), Royston	2,279
Hertfordshire	1891	RG12_1122	Abbots Langley	Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Hunton Bridge, Leavesden, Leverstock Green, Nash Mills, Trowley Bottom	3,257
Merionethshire	1871	RG10_5693	Barmouth	Llanddwywe Isgraig, Llanddwywe Uwchgraig, Llanelltyd, Llanfachreth	1,841
Merionethshire	1871	RG10_5698	Ffestiniog	Ffestiniog, Llanfrothen	2,303
Merionethshire	1871	RG10_5699	Ffestiniog	Maentwrog, Trawsfynydd	2,434
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

Northamptonshire	1891	RG12_2723A	Stapleford	Attenborough, Bramcote, Chilwell, Toton	2,050
Northumberland	1851	HO107_2409A	North Shields	Tynemouth, (Chirton; Murton or Moortown with New York; North Shields; Philadelphia; Preston)	13,611
Somerset	1851	HO107_1930	Martock	Martock, (Ash; Bower Hinton with Hurst; Coat; Long Load; Milton; Stapleton; Witcombe), Montacute (Bishopstone; Hyde), Stoke sub Hamdon, Tintinhull	6,200
Somerset	1851	HO107_1930A	Yeovil	Brympton, (Alvington; Houndstone), Lufton, Mudford (Hinton; Sock), Preston Plucknett, Thorne Coffin, Yeovil (Hendford; Kingston or Pitney-juxta-Yeovil; Wigdon with Huntley; Yeovil Borough)	8,815
Somerset	1851	HO107_1930B	Ilchester	Ashington, Chilthorne Domer, Chilton Cantelo, Ilchester, Limington (Draycott), Milton Podimore, Northover, Sock Dennis, West Camel (Downhead; Sterthill; Urgashay), Yeovilton (Bridghampton; Yeovilton with Hainbury and Speckington)	2,653
Somerset	1911	RG14_14276	North Petherton	Spaxton	806
Somerset	1911	RG14_14277	Bridgwater	Bridgwater	1,455

Staffordshire	1861	RG9_2025	West Bromwich South-West	West Bromwich	5,476
Staffordshire	1861	RG9_2520A	Mayfield	Ellastone, (Calwich; Denstone; Prestwood; Ramshorn; Stanton; Wootton), Mayfield	2,260
Staffordshire	1891	RG12_2207	Burton upon Trent	Horninglow, Tatenhill, Wichnor	1,232
Warwickshire	1871	RG10_3090	Ladywood	Birmingham	6,181
Warwickshire	1871	RG10_3164	Meriden	Allesley, Berkswell, Hampton in Arden	2,903
Warwickshire	1891	RG12_2425	Erdington	Aston, Erdington, Witton	7,172
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1839C	Devizes	Bishops Cannings, (St James or Southbroom), Devizes St John the Baptist, St Mary the Virgin	7,124
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1840	Melksham	Melksham, (Beanacre; Blackmore; Cannonhold; Seend; Shaw and Whitley; Woodrow), Steeple Ashton (Littleton; Semington), Whaddon	6,744
Wiltshire	1861	RG9_723B	Kintbury	Buttermere, Ham, Shalbourne (Bagshot; Fosbury; Newtown; Oxenwood)	853
Wiltshire	1871	RG10_1956	Salisbury	St Martin	2,670
Worcestershire	1861	RG9_2103	Broadway	Broadway, Cleeve Prior, North Littleton, Offenham, South Littleton, Wickhamford	3,126

Worcestershire	1861	RG9_2104	Eckington	Birlingham, Crophorne (Charlton; Netherton), Eckington, Elmley Castle, Great Comberton, Little Comberton, Pershore St Andrew (Besford; Bricklehampton; Defford; Wick-near-Pershore), Strensham	4,262
Yorkshire East Riding	1871	RG10_4814A	Filey	Flixton, Folkton, Muston	932
Yorkshire East Riding	1871	RG10_4821A	Sherburn	Ganton, (Potter Brompton), Willerby	763
Yorkshire East Riding	1891	RG12_3886	Bootham	All Saints Pavement, Holy Trinity Goodramgate, Holy Trinity Kings Court, St Andrew, St Giles in the Suburbs, St John Delpike, St Mary Castlegate, St Michael Spurrier Gate, St Peter the Little, St Sampson	5,191
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3687A	Yarm	Middlesbrough, (Middlesbrough)	4,547
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3688A	Yarm	Middlesbrough, (Middlesbrough)	5,246
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3689A	Yarm	High Worsall, Kirk Levington (Castle Levington; Kirk Levington; Low Worsall; Pickton), Middlesbrough (Linthorpe), Northallerton (High Worsall), Stainton, West Acklam, Yarm	3,227

Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3717A	Staindrop	Forcett, (Barforth)	167
Yorkshire North Riding	1861	RG9_3719A	Barnard Castle	Barningham, (Hope; Scargill), Startforth (Boldron)	626
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4755A	Dunnington	Gate Helmsley, Holtby, Murton, Stockton on the Forest, Upper Helmsley, Warthill (Warthill Copyhold and Freehold)	1,227
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4756A	Flaxton	Bossall, (Flaxton upon the Moor), Buttercrambe, Claxton, Flaxton upon the Moor in Foston, Harton, Lillings Ambo, Sand Hutton, Strensall	1,787
Yorkshire West Riding	1871	RG10_4753A	Walmgate	Gate Fulford, Heslington St Lawrence, Heslington St Paul	5,061
Yorkshire West Riding	1891	RG12_3695	North Leeds	Leeds	7,616

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.