

FreeCEN Newsletter – January 2026

Hello All

Welcome to the FreeCEN newsletter for January 2026, and 60 new pieces have been added to the website since the last edition, around 251,000 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. You can also log onto the website, where the link for this is one of those listed under “Actions”.

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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 (Q3 2025)

(Chief Operating Officer, Free UK Genealogy CIO)

Hello everyone,

As we head into the final part of the year, I wanted to share an update on what we've been working on over the summer months. It's been a busy time, with steady progress across our key projects and a great deal of preparation for the months ahead.

FreePRO (FreePROBATE) has continued to move forward. After receiving the larger sample of probate book images earlier in the year, the team have been refining both the workflow and the structure of the outputs we'll need once transcription begins. Alongside this, fundraising has been a major focus throughout the quarter. I'm delighted to share that we reached our £10,000 pledge target for FreePRO in the Big Give Christmas Challenge. This is the highest pledge total we've ever achieved, and it reflects the generosity and belief the genealogy community has in the project. This support gives us a strong foundation heading into December's match-funding week. If you weren't able to make a pledge but would still like to support the project, donations made [on our campaign page](#) between 2 and 9 December will be doubled and will make a real difference to how quickly we can launch the website.

If you're interested in getting involved with FreePRO as the project develops, we'd love to hear from you. Just drop us a line at FreePRO.volunteers@freeukgenealogy.org.uk and we'll keep you updated as volunteer opportunities open up.

FreeBMD2 has been going through its final refinements as we moved closer to launch. Tester feedback helped us smooth out some issues, and work continued on preparing the site for public release. At the same time, we've been looking carefully at FreeBMD's long-term sustainability, exploring options around advertising that meet our financial needs while preserving the user experience.

FreeREG and **FreeCEN** have both continued to grow, with volunteers adding and updating records throughout the quarter. We've also been thinking more about how to encourage and support volunteers who may want to step into wider responsibilities. This has connected naturally with our early thinking around a future online Community Hub for all FreeUKGEN volunteers, to improve the volunteer experience, enhance communication, and strengthen our sense of community across all three projects.

Work on **FreeComETT-REG**, the forthcoming transcription tool for FreeREG, has continued in the background. Although there is not much news to share publicly yet, it remains an important part of our longer-term plan to make transcription simpler and more accessible.

Much of my own time this quarter was taken up with the planning of October's Strategy Weekend. Coordinating the programme, preparing materials, working with trustees and steering committees, and making sure our volunteers can join both in person and online has been a substantial piece of work. The weekend itself sits in Q4, but the groundwork for it has been one of the major activities of Q3, helping ensure we are ready for constructive discussions about Quality, Value, Growth, and the future of our community.

It has been a full and productive summer, and the work done over these months has laid strong foundations for the busy period to come, including the Strategy Weekend and the Big Give campaign.

With thanks for everything you bring to our community,

Denise, COO

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 six years fully transcribed. 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.

Pieces Uploaded during December 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_1360	Menai	Ceidio, (Llanerchymedd), Llanddaniel Fab, Llanedwen, Llanerchymedd, Llanfairynycwmmwd, Llanffinan, Llanfihangel Esceifiog (Gaeriben), Llangaffo, Llangefni, Llangeinwen, Llangwyllog, Llanidan(Brynshenkin), Rhoscolyn, St Peter Newborough, Tregaian	8,478
Anglesey	1881	RG11_5595	Holyhead	Holyhead, Rhoscolyn	3,415
Bedfordshire	1891	RG12_1249	Bedford and Kempston	Bedford Eastern Ward, St Paul, St Peter	7,801
Caernarvonshire	1861	RG9_4351	Bangor	Bangor	3,629
Caithness-shire	1861	RS6_38	Latheron	Latheron	8,551

Cambridgeshire	1881	RG11_1670	St Giles	Cambridge Holy Sepulchre, Cambridge St Clement, Cambridge St Giles, Cambridge St Peter	4,260
Cheshire	1891	RG12_2787A	Hayfield	Disley, Higher Disley, Newtown	3,100
Cornwall	1891	RG12_1748A	Calstock	Albaston, Calstock, Chilsworthy, Gunnislake, Harrowbarrow, Latchley, Metherell, St Anns Chapel	6,224
Denbighshire	1871	RG10_5683A	Corwen	Llangothan, (Glyn Traian;Llangollen Traian)	3,495
Dorset	1861	RG9_1371A	Axminster	Hawkchurch, Thorncombe	2,001
Dorset	1891	RG12_1667A	Axminster	Hawkchurch, Thorncombe	1,542
Durham	1871	RG10_4879	Darlington	Darlington, Sockburn	1,526
Essex	1851	HO107_1781D	Colechester St Peter	Colchester All Saints, Colchester St James, Colchester St Martin, Colchester St Nicholas, Colchester St Peter, Colchester St Runwald	4,422
Essex	1861	RG9_1080	Writtle	Broomfield, Chignall Smealy, Chignall St James, Good Easter, Roxwell, Writtle	5,110
Glamorganshire	1871	RG10_5406	Aberdare	Aberdare	4,689
Gloucestershire	1901	RG13_2390	Bristol St George	Bristol	8,436

Hampshire	1841	HO107_387C	Meonstoke	Alverstoke, (Gosport), Bramdean, Corhampton, Exton, Meonstoke, North Hayling, Soberton (East Hoe; Kings Mead; Newtown; Soberton; Southend; Wickham Lodge), Upham, Warnford (Riversdown), West Meon (Woodlands)	3,769
Lancashire	1891	RG12_3399	Blackburn Northern	Blackburn	6,899
Lincolnshire	1851	HO107_2111A	Louth	Brackenborough, Burwell, Farforth (Maidenwell), Fotherby, Hallington, Haugham, Keddington, Legbourne, Little Cawthorpe, Little Grimsby, Louth (Louth Park), Muckton, North Elkington, Oxcombe, Raithby cum Maltby, Ruckland, South Elkington (Ackthorpe; Coach Grange), Stewton, Tathwell (Cadwell; Dovendale), Utterby, Welton le Wold, Withcall, Worlaby	14,490
Merionethshire	1871	RG10_5701	Tremadoc	Beddgelert, (Nantmor)	364
Merionethshire	1891	RG12_4587A	Towyn	Aberdovey, Pennal, Towyn	4,036
Montgomeryshire	1891	RG12_4587	Towyn	Brynglas, Llanwrin, Trefrydd	624

Northamptonshire	1841	HO107_799	Greens Norton	Blakesley, (Foxley; Woodend), Bradden, Canons Ashby (Adstone), Greens Norton (Bengall; Duncote; Field-Burcote; Littleworth; Potcote), Maidford, Moreton Pinkney, Plumpton, Silverstone, Slapton, Weedon Loys (Milthorpe; Weston), Whittlebury	5,601
Northamptonshire	1841	HO107_800	Guilsborough	Claycoton, Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Crick, Elkington, Great Creaton, Guilsborough (Hollowell; Nortoft), Lilbourne, Long Buckby (Murcott), Naseby, Ravensthorpe (Coton), Stanford, Thornby, Watford (Murcott), Welford, West Haddon, Winwick, Yelvertoft	10,400
Northamptonshire	1841	HO107_802	Higham Ferrers	Bozeat, Chelveston (Caldecott), Easton Maudit, Hargrave, Higham Ferrers, Higham Park, Irchester (Knuston), Newton Bromshold, Raunds, Ringstead, Rushden, Stanwick, Strixton, Wollaston	9,213
Northamptonshire	1891	RG12_1203	Bugbrooke	Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kislingbury, Nether Heyford, Upper Heyford, Upton	4,449
Northamptonshire	1891	RG12_1204	Weedon	Brockhall, Dodford, Everdon, Farthingstone, Fawsley, Floore, Newnham, Preston Capes, Stowe Nine Churches, Weedon Beck	5,051

Northumberland	1851	HO107_2411	Longbenton	Longbenton, (Killingworth with Hazlerigg; Longbenton; Walker with Little Benton; Weetslet or Weetslade with Seaton Burn, Six-Mile-Bridge and Hazlerigg)	9,237
Somerset	1911	RG14_14279	Bridgwater	Bridgwater	1,186
Surrey	1891	RG12_570	Farnham	Churt, Dockenfield, Farnham, Frensham, Rowledge, Shottermill, Wrecclesham	4,643
Surrey	1891	RG12_574	Capel	Abinger, Beare Green, Capel, Coldharbour, Forest Green, Newdigate, Oakwood, Ockley, Wotton	4,883
Sussex	1841	HO107_1099A	Aldwick	East Lavant, (West Lavant),	365
Sussex	1841	HO107_1104	Westbourne and Singleton	Mid Lavant	274
Sussex	1881	RG11_1126	Boxgrove	Lavant	402
Sussex	1881	RG11_1127	Singleton	Lavant	404
Sussex	1901	RG13_968	Boxgrove	Lavant	736
Sussex	1911	RG14_5398	Boxgrove	Lavant	411
Sussex	1911	RG14_5399	Boxgrove	Binderton, Lavant, West Stoke	556
Warwickshire	1871	RG10_3106	St Martin	Birmingham	5,824

Warwickshire	1871	RG10_3108	St Peter	Birmingham	4,740
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1841	Bradford South Eastern	Broughton Gifford, Great Bradford (Atworth; Bradford; Holt; Leigh and Woolley; Limpley Stoke; Trowle), Great Chalfield, Little Chalfield and Cottles, Westwood with Iford, Winkfield with Rowley	1,779
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1842A	Edington	East Coulston, (Baynton and West Coulston), Edington (Tinhead), Keevil (Bulkington), Steeple Ashton (Great Hinton), Westbury (Bratton)	3,636
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1842B	Westbury	Westbury, (Dilton; Dilton Marsh; Heywood; Leigh; Westbury)	6,468
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1843	Warminster	Corsley, (Great and Little Corsley), Norton Bavant, Upton Scudamore, Warminster (Christ Church)	8,312
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1843A	Longbridge Deverill	Bishopstrow, Brixton Deverill, Hill Deverill, Horningsham, Longbridge Deverill, Norton Bavant, Sutton Veny	4,318

Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1843B	Heytesbury	Boyton, (Corton), Chitterne All Saints, Chitterne St Mary, Codford St Mary, Codford St Peter (Ashton Gifford), Heytesbury (Coombe Castle; Little London), Imber, Knook, Sherrington, Stockton, Tytherington, Upton Lovell	4,608
Wiltshire	1851	HO107_1844	Netheravon	Charlton, Enford (Chisenbury; Compton; Coombe; Enford; Fifield; Littlecott; Long Street; Newtown), Fittleton (Hacklestone), Huish (Rainscombe), Manningford Abbots, Manningford Bruce, Netheravon (Chisenbury-de-la-Folly), North Newnton (Hillcott), Overton (Alton Priors with Stowell), Rushall, Upavon, Wilcot (Draycott-Foliat; Oare; Stowell), Wilsford (Manningford-Bohun; Wilsford), Woodborough	5,718
Worcestershire	1841	HO107_1192A	Doddingtree (Lower Division)	Abberley, Astley, Bayton, Doddenham	2,141
Worcestershire	1841	HO107_1192B	Doddingtree (Upper Division)	Acton Beauchamp, Areley Kings (Dunley), Bockleton, Clifton upon Teme, Cotheridge (Hewson; Otherton), Eastham (Child; Orleton; or Lower Hanley), Edwin Loach, Great Kyre, Hanley William	2,641

Worcestershire	1841	HO107_1194A	Doddingtree (Lower Division)	Great Witley, (Redmarley), Shelsley Beauchamp, Shrawley, Stockton	1,676
Worcestershire	1841	HO107_1194B	Doddingtree (Upper Division)	Lower Sapey, Shelsley Beauchamp (King's Shelsley), Shelsley Walsh, Stanford on Teme, Stoke Bliss (Little Kyre), Suckley (Alfrick; Lulsley), Tenbury (Berrington; Sutton; Tenbury Foreign with Kyrewood)	3,643
Yorkshire East Riding	1871	RG10_4823A	Westow	Acklam, (Barthorpe), Birdsall, Burythorpe, Eddlethorpe, Firby, Howsham, Kennythorpe, Kirkham, Langton, Leavening, Leppington, Menethorpe, Raisthorpe (Birdall), Westow, Wharram Percy, Wharram le Street	2,869
Yorkshire East Riding	1871	RG10_4824A	Malton	Norton	3,209
Yorkshire East Riding	1891	RG12_3972A	Westow	Acklam with Barthorpe, Birdsall, Burdale, Burythorpe, Eddlethorpe, Firby, Grange, Howsham, Kennythorpe, Kirkham, Langton, Leavening, Leppington, Menethorpe, Raisthorpe, Westow, Wharram Percy, Wharram le Street	2,571

Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4879A	Darlington	Barton, Cleasby, Cliffe, Croft, Dalton upon Tees, Eryholme, Girsby, Great Smeaton (Monk End), Manfield, Newton Morrell, Over Dinsdale, Stapleton	2,380
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4888A	Aycliffe	Whessoe	465
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4891A	Yarm	Middlesbrough	5,003
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4892A	Yarm	Middlesbrough	5,483
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4896A	Yarm	Linthorpe	5,362
Yorkshire North Riding	1871	RG10_4897A	Yarm	Linthorpe	3,196

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.