

# Are You Lost? Using Maps, Gazetteers and Directories For British Isles Research

Paul Milner 1548 Parkside Drive, Park Ridge IL 60068 [www.milnergenealogy.com](http://www.milnergenealogy.com)

© Paul Milner, 1999-2015 - Not to be copied without permission

## MAPS

**Purpose** - We need maps to be able to locate the homes and places of work and worship of our ancestors physically on the ground. Modern maps will show us how to get to those locations now. Comparing modern maps to older ones will show how the area has changed over time.

### Types of maps

**Modern** - easiest to locate, with many scales and formats.

**Early** - difficult to locate, often highly stylized and not usually accurate

**County** - early style, often highly decorative, accuracy depending upon original purpose.

**Estate** - begin in 1570s, very common 1700-1850 with improved standards.

**Enclosure** - common from 1760 with Acts of Enclosure. Used as late as 1900.

**Tithe** - 1836 Tithe Commutation Act generated detailed maps, often naming landowners.

**Town** - few before 1612, early maps provide perspective view, later become true plans.

**Transport** - guides needed for travelers, first written, then visual. Later used by planners.

**Industrial** - designed to show specific industries in a particular locality or area.

**Genealogical** - generally outline maps showing county or parish boundaries

### Ordnance Survey Maps

1" to the mile

6" to the mile

25" to the mile

You can now purchase modern and old maps direct from the Ordnance Survey at: [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk) or Customer Service Centre, Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton, SO16 4GU England

## Map Scales

Representative Fraction	Inches to the Mile Miles to the inch	Centimeters to Meters Centimeters to Kilometers
1:2,500	25in. to 1 mi.	1cm: 25 m
1:10,000	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in. to 1 mi.	1cm: 100 m
1:10,560	6in. to 1 mi.	1cm: 105.6 m
1:25,000	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in. to 1 mi.	1cm: 250 m
1:50,000	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in. to 1 mi.	1cm: 500 m
1:63,360	1in. to 1 mi.	1cm: 633.6 m
1:100,000	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 1 km
1:126,720	2mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 1.26 km
1:150,000	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 1.5 km.
1:175,000	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 1.75 km.
1:200,000	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 2 km.
1:250,000	4mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 2.5 km.
1:253,440	4mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 2.53 km.
1:500,000	8mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 5 km.
1:633,600	10mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 6.33 km.
1:750,000	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 7.5 km.
1:1,000,000	15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> mi. to 1 in.	1cm: 10 km.

## Ordnance Survey Map Editions

One-inch Series/Edition	Survey	Published	Sheets
Old	1784-1869	1805-74	110
New/1st	1841-93	1874-96	
New/2nd	1893-8	1895-9	346
New/3rd (sm. sheets)	1901-12	1903-13	347
New/3rd (lge. sheets)	1901-12	1906-13	152
New/4th	1909-10	1911-12	7
New/"popular edition"	1912-23	1918-26	146
New/5th	1928-38	1931-9	38
New/"War Revision 1940'	1913-40	1940-1	146
New/'Second War Revision	1913-42	1940-3	128
New/6th	1913-46	1940-7	114
New/Seventh Series	1947-58	1952-61	115
Seventh Series' (rev.)	1958-71	1960-73	115
Landranger	1976-84	1979-84	120

## Godfrey Maps

These are reductions of the original 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps to a scale of approximately 1:4340 or about 15 inches to the mile. The maps are generally late 19th century and early 20th century. The reverse of the maps often lists the local city directories for the same time period. These are especially valuable for urban areas. Contact the publisher at: Alan Godfrey

Maps, Alan Godfrey Maps, Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett, DH8 7PW, England  
[www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk/](http://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk/)

### General about maps

1. Delano-Smith, Catherine and Roger J.P. Kain. *English Maps: A History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1999.
2. Foot, William. *Maps for Family History: A Guide to the Records of the Tithe, Valuation Office and National Farm Surveys of England and Wales, 1836-1943*. London: PRO 1994
3. Harley, J.B. *Ordnance Survey Maps: A Descriptive Manual*, Southampton: Ordnance Survey, 1975. Explains history of and details on Ordnance Survey maps.
4. Hewitt, Rachel. *Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey*. London: Granta. 2011.
5. Hindle, Brian Paul. *Maps for Historians*. Chichester: Phillimore 2nd ed. 1998.
6. Masters, Charles. *Essential Maps for Family Historians*. Newbury, Berkshire: Countryside Books. 2009.
7. Prunty, Jacinta. *Maps and Map-Making in Local History*. Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History. Dublin: Four Courts Press. 2004
8. Smith, David. *Maps and Plans: For the Local Historian and Collector*. London: B.T. Batsford Ltd. 1988.
9. Wallis, Helen (ed). *Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks No. 18: Historian's Guide to Early British Maps*. London: Royal Historical Society. 1994.
10. Watt, Ian, comp. *A Directory of U.K. Map Collections*. 2nd ed. London: McCarta, 1985.
11. Wilkes, M. *The Scot and His Maps*. Motherwell: Scottish Library Association. 1991.

### Maps for England, Scotland, and Wales

12. Humphery-Smith, Cecil R., *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*. Chichester, Sussex: Phillimore, 3rd. ed. 2003.

### Maps for England and Wales

13. Gardner, David E., Derek Harland, and Frank Smith, comp. *A Genealogical Atlas of*

*England and Wales*. Salt lake City, UT: Deseret Book Co., 1974. Reprint of Samuel Lewis's 1840's maps with index.

### Maps for Ireland

14. Gardner, David E., Derek Harland, and Frank Smith, comp. *A Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*. Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book Co., 1964. This atlas includes an index to the places shown on all its maps.
15. Mitchell, Brian. *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co. 2nd ed. 2002. Shows civil and Roman Catholic parishes, Presbyterian churches, baronies and poor law unions. No index.

### Maps for Scotland

16. *The Parishes, Registers & Registrars of Scotland*. Aberdeen: Scottish Association of Family History Societies. 1993. Maps of parishes by county or area, plus dates ranges for registers (B/M/D).

### GAZETTEERS

A gazetteer is a tool to locate a specific place on a map and to provide particular information about that same place. Remember to search national and county gazetteers as they provide different types of information.

Simplest gazetteers provide specific longitude and latitude coordinates to locate a specific place on world's surface. The best modern gazetteer is *Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain*.

Online at [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk) search for a specific place using custom made map

The printed version will give you all specific options named on the map, while the database will only get you into the correct area.

### Gazetteers for British Isles, Great Britain, England

17. *The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*, 6 vols. Edinburgh: A. Fullerton, 1870. It is this set that forms the basis for spelling

and location of all places of England in the Family History Library Catalog. This set lists place names as they were in the 1860's and briefly discusses distances from other nearby places, names of the church denominations in the area, historical background, and the civil district. 5 of the 6 volumes are available at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) plus is the gazetteer used at [www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

18. *Bartholomew Gazetteer of Places in Britain*. Edinburgh: John Bartholomew & Son, 1986. This is a good atlas and gazetteer to find MODERN locations and county names.
19. *Cassell's Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland*. 6 vols. London: Cassell and Co. Ltd., 1898. This work gives parish and descriptions.
20. *Gazetteer of the British Isles*. Reprint of 1943 edition. Edinburgh: John Bartholomew and Sons, Ltd., 1966. This gazetteer lists and describes townships, chapelries and parishes.
21. Lewis, Samuel. *Topographical Dictionary of England*. 4 vols. London: S.Lewis, 1831. Reprinted 1996. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co. This gazetteer provides historical and statistical description of England's counties, cities, boroughs, towns, parishes and townships. There are later editions to this series. Available at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org).
22. *Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain*, Third Edition. London: MacMillan Press. 1995. Provides a grid reference for every location on the 1:50,000 Landranger Maps
23. Smith, Frank. *A Genealogical Gazetteer of England*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1968. This is an abbreviated form of the information in Samuel Lewis's volumes.

#### Gazetteers for Wales

24. Richards, Melville. *Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units: Medieval and Modern*. Cardiff, Wales: University of Wales, 1969. This book forms the standard gazetteer for all locations in the Family History Library Catalog, microfiche 6026396.
25. Elwyn Davies, ed. *Rhestr O Enwau Lleoedd (The Gazetteer of Welsh Place-Names)* Cardiff, Wales: University of Wales Press,

1967. Provides a Welsh / English glossary of terms relating to places, mutation table, and pronunciation guide. On microfiche 6054477.

26. Hill, Ellen, and Del Ora Guymon Cook. *A Gazetteer of Wales*, 5 vols. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1953. Incorporates all places listed in *Bartholomew's Gazetteer*, *Lewis's Topographical Dictionary*, *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, *The Parish Register Abstract*, and *Burke's key to the Ancient parishes of England and Wales*. On microfilm #823,795.
27. Lewis, Samuel. *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, 2 vols. London: S.Lewis, 1831. Reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co. Includes many residences of the landed families and geographic features but they are listed under the parish or town. This is not the best book to use if you do not know the parish or town. Available at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

#### Gazetteers for Scotland

28. *The County Directory of Scotland* - various years - [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
29. Findlay, James, ed. *Directory to Gentlemen's Seats, Villages, etc. in Scotland*. Edinburgh: W.P.Kennedy, [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
30. General Register Office, Scotland. *Index of Scottish Place Names from 1971 Census with Location and Population*. Edinburgh: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1975.
31. Groome, Frances H., ed. *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*, 6 vols. Edinburgh: Thomas C. Jack, Grange Publishing Works, 1883-1886. All Scottish places in the FHL Catalog are cataloged according to the listings in this gazetteer, [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
32. *Index to the Parishes in Scotland: Alphabetical and Numerical, Copied from "Detailed List of the Old Parochial Registers of Scotland."* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1964.
33. Lewis, Samuel. *Topographical Dictionary of Scotland*, 2 vols. London: S. Lewis, 1846. Reprinted 1989. Baltimore, Maryland:

Genealogical Publishing Co,  
[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

34. Smith, Frank. *A Genealogical Gazetteer of Scotland*. Logan: Utah. The Everton Publ. Co., 1971. A shortened version of Lewis's Gazetteer that adds the date registers begin for each parish and the name of the parish to which the place belonged for all other entries.
35. Wilson, John. *The Gazetteer of Scotland*. Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston, 1882. Reprint 1996 Lovettsville, VA: Willow Bend Books. [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

#### Gazetteers for Ireland

36. Ireland, Registrar General, *Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns of Ireland*. Dublin: Alexander Thom, 1877. Arranged alphabetically by the name of the townland, town, village or place. Each entry provides the locality's county, barony, parish, poor law union, area in statute miles, and reference for locating on Ordnance Survey maps. Used to identify all places in the FHL Catalog. On microfilm 476,999, Item 2.
37. *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland, 1851*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 2000. Similar to the 1871 index mentioned above.
38. Handran, George B. *Townlands in Poor Law Unions: A Reprint of Poor Law Union Pamphlets of the General Registrar's Office*. Salem, MA: Higginson Book Co. 1997
39. Lewis, Samuel. *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. 2 vols. London: S. Lewis and Co., 1837. Contains historical and statistical descriptions of the counties, cities, boroughs, parishes and towns [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
40. *The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland*. 10 vols. Dublin: A. Fullarton and Co., 1844. Similar to Lewis's dictionary, adds historical and statistical information from the 1831 and 1841 censuses. On microfiche 6020358 - 6060382. 3 vols set at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

When gazetteers fail contact: Place-Names Commission, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, IRELAND (EIRE)

#### INTERNET ACCESS

##### Check for maps at:

Cyndis List - [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)  
GENUKI - [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)  
County Sections of GENUKI

##### Gazetteers

Vision of Britain at [www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk) contains copies of Bartholomew, Groome and Wilson Gazetteers.

##### Fire Insurance Maps

[www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/index.html](http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/index.html)  
Charles E. Goad Ltd digitized maps provided by British Library, for many major cities.

National Library of Scotland [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk) - over 107,000 online high quality map reproductions from all periods and locations in Scotland, plus the Ordnance Survey maps for England.

Check for county specific sites that may provide online map repositories, e.g. for Northumberland <http://communities.northumberland.gov.uk>

Look also for the community you are looking at to see if maps have been provided, e.g. Bath-in Time at [www.bathintime.co.uk](http://www.bathintime.co.uk)

Genmaps - scanned images of old maps for each county for different time periods  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~genmaps>

Association of British Counties - Sites provides lots of details about the structure of the old counties in their attempt to encourage the restoration of the old county names.  
[www.abcounties.co.uk](http://www.abcounties.co.uk)

**Modern Maps** - Interactive websites also providing aerial views of area.

Multimap - [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)  
Streetmap - [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk)

**Directory of UK Map Collections** produced by the British Cartographic Society  
[www.cartography.org.uk](http://www.cartography.org.uk)