

NBI NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Hello Everyone

It has been quite some time since we sent out a special newsletter but work has not come to a standstill. Far from it! Quiet progress is being made by everyone involved in burial indexing and we are delighted to welcome on board the following as newcomers to the project: Woolwich & District, Barnsley, West Middlesex, Selby, Tewkesbury Historical Society, Wakefield and Pontefract.

We have also been very sorry to say goodbye to a few staunch supporters who have been with us almost from the starting line, so to those who have retired after giving so much time and enthusiasm to the NBI Project, a very big THANK YOU.

Geographically, the same areas which are poorly covered by NBI2 are mainly Middlesex & Greater London, Hampshire, Devon, Isle of Wight, Anglesey, Lancashire - and a few others in between.

When extracting data for the purposes of producing your own parish register data on CDs, have you considered that the NBI could be another possibility for distributing your records? In this way the extraction of data for the NBI need not be viewed as a separate project. If you are recording parish register records, please let us have copy of your burial data. You still have time to contribute.

Deadline and Predictions

The deadline of **1st October 2008** has been confirmed for data to be presented whether checked or unchecked for inclusion in the 3rd edition. Peter Underwood has reported that the total to date stands at just over 16 million so we are optimistic that the NBI may reach a possible target of 17 million by the end of the year. The figure of new entries could be close to what was produced for NBI Edition 1, and the FFHS Executive agreed that we commit ourselves to producing Edition 3 otherwise we will seriously lose the interest of you, our wonderful contributors, and your enthusiastic volunteers.

So come on, we can exceed the 17 million mark and make this edition bigger and better! This can be achieved if all FFHS members contribute burial data that they have accumulated and so bring benefit to everyone within our organisation.

Records per county (to nearest 1000). **Total > 16 million +**

356	Bedfordshire	859	Essex
580	Berkshire	411	Glamorganshire
12	Brecon	181	Gloucestershire
83	Buckinghamshire	12	Hampshire
229	Cambridgeshire	87	Herefordshire
147	Cardiganshire	138	Hertfordshire
423	Cheshire	260	Huntingdonshire
111	Cornwall	7	IOM
58	Cumberland	<1	Ireland
116	Derbyshire	226	Kent
4	Devon	241	Lancashire
286	Dorset	329	Leicestershire
513	Durham	787	Lincolnshire

248	London City	800	Staffordshire
64	Middlesex	1183	Suffolk
9	Monmouthshire	522	Surrey
4	Montgomeryshire	371	Sussex
168	Norfolk	704	Warwickshire
214	Northamptonshire	6	Westmorland
293	Northumberland	235	Wiltshire
281	Nottinghamshire	542	Worcestershire
223	Oxfordshire	40	Yorkshire
15	Radnorshire	60	Yorkshire East
19	Rutland	491	Yorkshire North
176	Shropshire	2197	Yorkshire West
755	Somerset		

Responses Needed From You

Your Records

We were concerned, as is anyone who publishes a database, about illegal copying: for example, that someone may fraudulently copy parts or the entire NBI database and place it on the web or for sale without permission from you the copyright holders. The ‘copy-protection’ software, used to prevent illegal copying of the NBI2 records, proved to be more trouble than it was worth – some users found that it interfered with swapping CDs when they wanted to look at different time periods, and even stopped some users running the program at all. For a few, it was no deterrent at all! In our experience, copy protection software is no absolute guarantee against illegal copying, and for these reasons in particular we have decided to abandon its use in NBI3.

DVD - your chance to improve appearances

After much consideration it was agreed that the NBI edition 3 will be available as a DVD pack as this is more popular in today’s market, reduces costs of production, and other practicalities such as the user will no longer have the irritation of having to swap discs.

We would appreciate your views and suggestions to help us enhance the appearance or the running of the new edition. A quick email to Steve Archer with the name of your society would be appreciated.

Trade in your old National Burial Index?

The NBI team along with the FFHS Publications Company will be working on the logistics of a ‘trade-in’ system for previous purchasers of the NBI. Information on this will be given to you all well before the 3rd edition is launched in the Spring 2009. If you have any brainwave, Carol would like to hear from you.

NBI and FHOL

Of the original 50+ Societies that contributed burials to the NBI, almost all submitted their burials to www.familyhistoryonline.co.uk (FHOL).

Progress

To date nearly all NBI participants who signed up with FHOL chose to send *Abbreviated Shroud NBI* records. Peter Underwood passes the material to FHOL on their behalf. Periodically additions and corrections to your records are submitted and these also go via Peter to FHOL. This keeps the service up to date.

If a society submits their *Abbreviated Shroud NBI records* initially but subsequently decides to supply the corresponding '*All Fields*' records themselves, then the existing *Abbreviated Shroud NBI records* are replaced with the 'full transcription' records.

Some Societies preferred to offer their '*All-fields*' *non Shroud NBI records* to FHOL. Using this option, records were sent directly to FHOL and not via Peter. The biggest disappointment has been that some societies that chose this route did not submit these records to the NBI and have still not been persuaded to do so!

Over time we have offered a further service to members by accepting *Non Shroud* data, either in Excel, Access, Dbase etc and we are most grateful to Peter Lord for the time and effort he puts in to converting files to the standard *Shroud* format. If you have records not yet in the NBI, please contact either of the two Peters who will advise you on the best way forward.

Moving On

Following the Permission letters last year, only the burial data signed for has been transferred by FHOL to findmypast.com. No doubt those who requested this transference have seen a leap in income from this move following two large marketing launches - and what wonderful publicity we obtained for our project!

However, not all data presently in the NBI appears on the findmypast.com web site and some societies have opted out of wishing their work to be transferred so we will always have different data. The NBI disc set and the NBI data on FHO/FMP are two different products, with different features. Sensible marketing will emphasise these features, the advantages and benefits of each, e.g. that the disc set includes mapping and more sophisticated search options, and the online options are more limited. FMP will undoubtedly make a good job of marketing the online version, and especially appeal to the 35-45 year olds that family history societies are generally unable to reach out to. But we have always believed that people want alternatives to the Internet and with good marketing of the DVD we can achieve a high number of sales.

Something or Someone?

Carol would like to hear of any very unusual entries that may have been found while transcribing burial records. Or do you have a famous person on your books e.g. Capability Brown, John Buchan, Grace Darling, Dr William Price - with a little background to go with it perhaps? Her email is below.

Gold Stars

A thank you to all for your continuous contributions and support over the past few years and we look forward to seeing that extra effort and further enthusiasm for the next edition!

Keep in touch

One more plea to you all. Please keep in touch! Inform us of any changes in address, email, or the person responsible for NBI work. You may feel you are working on a limb out there but we feel cut off too when we do not hear from you.

Here is another excellent opportunity to distribute and market your hard earned work and join your fellow members in this genealogically renowned project so let's pull together and produce another fantastic NBI Edition.

Best wishes from the NBI Team

Carol McLee NBI Joint Project Leader

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