

## NOTES AND QUERIES SECTION

### THE COMPUTER FILE INDEX (CFI) OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF UTAH

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The Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA, have for some time been engaged in collecting records of baptisms and marriages, for their own purposes, not for research. However, a computer file index (CFI) of these records has now been produced on microfiche which could well be of interest to students of local population history. Microfiche is similar to microfilm but is produced on small cards instead of long reels, making it easier to handle. The CFI and a microfiche reader are available at a number of places in the UK — see the Note in **LPS 21** by Paul F. Smart.

The part of the CFI relating to the British Isles contains about 23 million entries, of which, for example, London-with-Middlesex has 3 million, Lancashire has 2 million, while some counties have less than 200,000 entries. Of course the CFI does not include records from all the registers for any one county, so it is necessary to refer to the booklet **Parish and vital records listings** published by the Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The current version of this booklet should always be available, wherever the CFI may be viewed.

The CFI is arranged by counties; and within the county entries are arranged alphabetically by surname, then by given name, then chronologically, baptisms and marriages being mixed together. Surnames are grouped under standard spellings devised by the Genealogical Society but the actual spellings are cross-referenced so that non-standard entries can be followed up.

Each entry consists of eleven columns, as follows:

1. Name of the person baptised (or married)
2. Name of the parents (or spouse)
3. Indication of sex as given in the source; M = male, F = female, H = husband, W = wife
4. 'Type' of entry: B = birth, C = christening, M = marriage
5. Date
6. Parish
7. {
8. { Concerned with the 'Temple ordinance' performed by the Church
9. { of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
10. Reference number of source batch
11. Reference number of source serial sheet.

None of the last five columns is in general of any interest to the researcher except the reference number of the source batch, which does have its uses — see section on errors, below.

### **Known error in the London-with-Middlesex section of the CFI**

A very strange error has crept into the London-with-Middlesex section of the CFI and instances of it appear frequently enough to make it very annoying and possibly misleading to new users. It is described in some detail here, both to aid those who are interested in using the London section and also to alert users of other county sections to the possibility of similar errors having arisen there.<sup>1</sup>

The 'London error' is as follows. Very often, possibly always, entries with the parish name given as West Drayton are in fact from elsewhere. This is clear for two reasons:

- (a) The only data taken from West Drayton, according to the booklet **Parish and vital records listings**, is for christenings 1813-1857. All the incorrect entries which I have found so far concern marriages and the dates go right back to the sixteenth century.
- (b) The reference number of the source batch (column 10 of the entry) is not that for West Drayton. It seems that this number is actually correct and can be utilised to discover what the correct parish name should be.

#### **Examples:**

Tub, John	Mary Price	HM 17 Apr. 1687	West Drayton	Cleared
				M001441 11179
Tucker, William	Eleanor Cole	HM 03 Jul. 1825	West Drayton	Cleared
				M001431 4539

In each of these examples, all the information appears to be correct except for the parish name, West Drayton. However, by utilising the reference number of the source batch (the penultimate code number in each entry), the correct parish name can be recovered. By searching the booklet **Parish and vital records listings** one can find that the code M001441 really refers to St. Katherine by the Tower, and the code M001431 is for St. Dunstan in the East. Thus each entry may be corrected.

#### **Note**

1. Similar errors are evidently known to exist in other county sections, see letter from D. E. Gardner of the Genealogical Dept. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, in **Genealogists' Magazine**, vol. 19, no. 7, September 1978, pp. 256-7.