

MPFHC NEW BOOKS – 1 JUNE 2009

By Inge Harding-Barlow

This Series of 20+ slim volumes was put out by the Society for Genealogists (London) – MPFHC has nearly all of them:

My Ancestor was a Coalminer by David Tonks

This volume has many suggestions of how to find your coalminer ancestors, both male & female. If your ancestor was killed in a large mining accident, your task is easier than if he or she was not. Don't forget the UK Government & Newspaper write-ups.

My Ancestor was an Agricultural Labourer by Ian H. Waller

This is a very good volume with many, many sources. If anyone wants further background information during Victorian-Edwardian times, I may be able to supply some of these from rare/difficult-to-obtain volumes I have in my personal "historical employment" collection.

My Ancestor was a Lawyer by Brian Brooks & Mark Herber

This volume has much useful information. I feel a section on Colonial & Commonwealth lawyers might have been useful since many were & are still trained in the UK.

My Ancestor was an Anglican Clergyman by Peter Towey

I was disappointed in this volume since I felt only 50-60% of the possible sources were covered. So if you do not find what you are looking for, do not give up! I was delighted to see one version of the well known, "The Vicar of Bray"

My Ancestor worked in the Theatre by Alan Ruston

I was disappointed that the history of the theatre pre-1660 was covered in only one page & even after that, much is given "a lick & a promise". Although actual names are "hard to come-by", much history of open air theatre of many types going back hundreds of years exists.

My Ancestors were Thames Watermen by James W. Legon

This is a forgotten occupation going back hundreds of years. This volume is very useful post-1690. MPFHC has many of the Apprenticeship Indexes on fiche. I had "fun" tracing the family of my cousin's husband – from generations of Watermen to Oil Tanker Captains.

My Ancestor was a Bastard – Ruth Paley

Yes, every family has several! This book has plenty of suggestions on where to look to find further information. Not all were poor – my sister-in-law's "bastard" inherited acres of rich Norfolk farm land & over half the "blue-blood" in England are descended from Charles II bastard offspring. My "bastard" lived to be 102 & lived a "colourful life".