

## REVIEWS

# DATA CDs

More and more research material is being released on data CDs; here's our guide to the best of the latest offerings – reviewed by James Taylor

## SUPPLIERS INCLUDE:

**TWR Computing**  
[t] 01284 828 271  
[w] www.twrcomputing.co.uk

**S&N Genealogy Supplies**  
[t] 01722 716 121  
[w] www.genealogysupplies.com

**Back to Roots**  
[t] 01453 821 300  
[w] www.backtoroots.co.uk

## Wiltshire 1851 Census

PC

PUBLISHER: Wiltshire 1851 Census Productions [w] www.wiltshireancestors.co.uk  
PRICE: £23.22

The 1851 Census for Wiltshire comes with its own dedicated viewer and search engine that is installed on your hard drive when the CD is run, adding an icon to your program folder, so that you can start it just like other Windows programs.

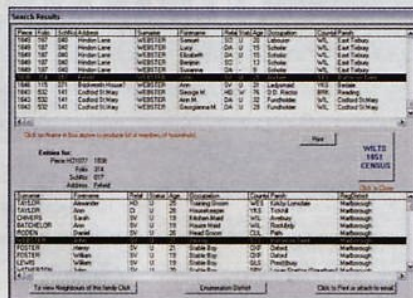
The options are to view the Census 'as enumerated' (it's a transcription, not an image), view Census in name order, view enumeration districts, and view Census abbreviations. Clicking these option buttons will, with the exception of the last, reveal further choices to refine your search. The last one lists the abbreviations used in this database and is necessary because the authors have had to abbreviate drastically. You get a bonus in the form of *Chapman's County Codes*.

The data's in *WordPad* format, so every Windows user can read it without trouble. It also means that you can copy

text to your own documents. You also have the option of reading the data in two other formats; the good old Adobe PDF format, whose use is increasingly common in data CDs (the reader is supplied); and Microsoft's *Access* database, with the option of choosing either *Access 97* or *Access 2000* formats – which worked fine. We also tried *Access 2002 (XP Pro version)*. Initially this failed to open the *Access 2000* file until we transferred it to our hard drive, releasing the Read-Only lock, giving us full access (pun intended) with improved searching.

The results returned are the usual Census data of Piece, Folio, Schedule, Address, Surname, Forename, Relationship to Head, Marriage Status, Age, Occupation, County, and Parish. The *Access* database also enables you to collect all members of a household

**FLEXIBLE: This CD lets you examine its Census data in a variety of views**



together, as well as view their neighbours.

There's a further search option under Find Ancestor. With this you search by forename and surname allowing exact, partial and Soundex variations. Optional search fields include birth year, County of birth, place of birth, Census address and occupation, any or all of which can be specified along with the name. ■



### BUY IT FOR...

Focused content and its versatile viewing and searching facilities

## People Finder UK-Info Professional v9 2004

PC

PUBLISHER: i-CD Publishing Ltd [w] www.192.com [t] TWR Computing, 01284 828 271  
PRICE: £44.95 (Standard Edition) / £229.95 (Professional Edition)

UK-Info is a computerised combination of the telephone directory and Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll data is based mainly on the 2002/3 electoral register with some from before 2001. The telephone data comes from BT's OSIS database (Directory Enquiries) with postcodes added. Ex-directory numbers – some 50 per cent of the UK listings – are not included.

The data's value to family history research is that you can use it either to look for long-lost living relatives or to examine surname distribution for a given locality.

The data comes on CD in two editions – Standard and Professional. SE insists that surname or company name form part of your search criteria; with PE you can leave these out,



**GEOCODING: Route finding by postcode works well but too many postcodes are not Geocoded**

allowing 'reverse' searching on postal code, street name, locality, or business description (but not phone number). PE lets you enter a full postal code to refine your CD-based search, while SE doesn't. With SE you get 100 OSIS credits to fund your enquiries; PE gives you 1,000. In both versions you must then replenish your credits by buying more at £1.50 for 100. You use one credit every time you

carry out a search (whether or not you get a result), beating telephone directory enquiry services hands down. Like the Census it also lets you locate everyone living at the same address plus their neighbours, and even everyone in a given postcode. But because the data is at minimum 12 months old, it may not correctly list the people you want.

When you've found your address, you can pinpoint it on a 1:3000 atlas. You can also show routes between any two postcodes if they've been 'Geocoded' – but lots haven't. And there's no print facility; all you can do is highlight results to paste into other applications.

If you need to trace enough people, it's a good buy, especially if you can live without the Professional features. ■



### BUY IT FOR...

Its content – every UK Electoral Roll and telephone directory is on this CD

# Scarborough Guides 1815 & 1865

**PC** ● PUBLISHER: Yorkshire Ancestors  
 [w] [www.yorkshireancestors.com](http://www.yorkshireancestors.com) [t] 01723 859 285  
 ● PRICE: £11.99

This CD brings you two antiquarian books on the delights of Scarborough. They are *Nelson's Pictorial Guide Book, Scarborough and its Neighbourhood, 1865 and The Scarborough Guide, 1815*, by Thomas Coultas.



PICTURE THIS: The illustrations alone make it worth buying this CD

*Nelson's* offers lots of detail about the area and includes a mass of statistics and other information about the town; then proceeds to an historical 'sketch' and a description of the town and its significant buildings – castle, spa, churches and 'secular edifices'. Back in 1865 (when Scarborough's population was 25,000) 'The streets are spacious; most of the houses commodious, and many of them semi-palatial'. There are some copying errors – page 44 follows 42, and 43 follows 45.

to get there (with descriptions of places *en route*). In contrast to 1865 the town is 'close-built with many alleys and no vacant ground'. There are detailed lists of local traders – bakers, bankers, common brewers and more.

Both of these books are as valuable for their insight into the perceptions of the times as they are for their descriptive content. ■

The *1815 Guide* only has line drawings, but it does have 170 pages, of which 40 describe how

**BUY IT FOR...**  
 Detailed descriptions and old-fashioned prose

# Grenham's Irish Surnames

**PC** ● PUBLISHER: Eneclann  
 [w] [www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie) [t] 00353 1 671 0338  
 ● PRICE: 38.90 euros (about £27.10)

This CD takes a simple concept – how are Irish surnames distributed across the island – and illustrates this in an easy-to-understand, graphical way while at the same time adding necessary extra detail.

name if looking for marriages. Tabs reveal further information: bibliographies of the selected names, origin and meaning of the name and its variants, and a brief history of the name together with a coat of arms if applicable.

In the database are statistics for 26,756 Irish surnames and 104,058 surname variants; 8,207 Surname Dictionary entries; the distribution of 2,296 surnames in 1890, as shown in birth records; details of the distribution of 377,902 Irish households between 1847 and 1864; coats of arms for 130 of the most common Irish surnames; a bibliography of Irish family history; Ireland-wide parish maps; and details of the records of 3,782 churches, with 8,376 sets of records.

This is a useful resource for anyone tracing their Irish ancestry, not least in indicating where and where not to look. ■

All you have to do is enter your surname into the search box and you get a distribution map of the name, as per the Griffith Valuation 1847-1864. You can zoom in to a county or city to see distribution by parish. You can also enter a second



DETAILS: Clicking almost anywhere on this screen brings up extra detail

**BUY IT FOR...**  
 Analysis of Irish surname distribution and for its supplementary detail

# English Parish Records: Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland

**PC** ● PUBLISHER: Ancestry.com  
 [w] [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) [t] 01284 828 271  
 ● PRICE: £29.95

Parish records provide the best source of vital records in the centuries before civil registration. Here, on a single CD, are a claimed 435,008 records of baptisms, burials, marriages, tombstone inscriptions, wills, obituaries and other records in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. They date from approximately 1538 to 1837 when civil registration of births, deaths, and marriage began.

tagged, highlighted or bookmarked for future reference. Handily, you can also add your own notes, which are also searchable.

These records are a finding aid only, to help you to locate your ancestor in time and place. You must then look elsewhere, such as [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) or the relevant County Record Office. ■

Published by Ancestry.com and using that company's dedicated search engine, the records are formatted like a computerised book, fully indexed for rapid retrieval using multiple criteria. You can search by any word or phrase, limiting searching to name(s), heading or sub-heading, with provision for single- or multi-letter wildcards; remember, some records may be in Latin, or use archaic spelling). Found records can be

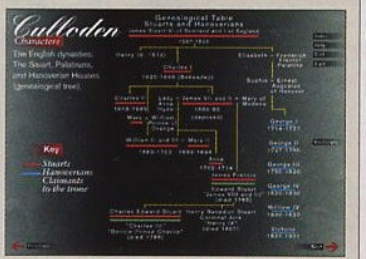


SEARCH: You can copy, tag or print any text in the main Ancestry.com viewer

# History's Greatest Battles

**PC/MAC** ● PUBLISHER: GSP  
 [w] [www.gsp.cc](http://www.gsp.cc) [t] 01480 496 575  
 ● PRICE: £9.99

This is a summary of the events surrounding five great battles in modern history: Culloden, 1746; Austerlitz, 1805; Gettysburg, 1863; Verdun, 1916; and D-Day, 1944. Presentation is by a blend of graphics (stills and animated slide shows), on-screen narrative text, spoken commentary and stirring music (the commentary has an American accent and the text uses US spelling).



BATTLE: Genealogical information for the some of those affected by the Battle of Culloden

Information for each battle is split into five sections – Armies and Tactics, The Background, Characters, The Battle, and sometimes Places. Navigation is consistent but unintuitive. You can select sections in any order and, apart from The Battle, which is a non-interactive video.

military vehicles and GI uniforms. The Characters section highlights Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Rommel, Eisenhower and Montgomery – there's no mention, for instance, of Winston Churchill.

Most readers will be more interested in the WWI and II battles of Verdun and D-Day. The latter is particularly US-biased, with images of US vessels and

This is coffee-table history, rich in evocative images, moody music and inspirational language – it's a pity about the accent. ■

**BUY IT FOR...**  
 An all-embracing if biased overview of these conflicts