

If, like me, you have come across Pallot's records in your research, you may have wondered how they originated. Well here is your answer.

Pallot's Marriage Index

Pallot's Marriage Index includes more than 1.5 million marriages in England (three million people) which took place between 1780 and the commencement of civil registration on 1 July 1837.

Pallot's Marriage Index covers all but two of the 103 Church of England parishes in the old City of London and Middlesex, and more than 2,500 parishes in 38 counties outside London. Compilation began in 1813 using handwritten slips of paper to record the names of the bride and groom, the date of marriage and the church or chapel in which the marriage was celebrated. Collection continued over a period of more than 150 years, often including details such as whether the bride and groom had been spinsters, bachelors, widows, or widowers. The information was collected by record agents for the purposes of their business.

There was an equivalent baptismal section, but this was severely damaged during the London Blitz; however, some 100,000 entries survive.

The index also has some entries from other countries, usually transcribed from printed sources.

For a long time the property of Messrs Pallot & Co., the original index now belongs to the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, headquartered in Canterbury. The index has been transcribed, and may be accessed on CD or online from subscription websites.

Pallot's Baptism Index

This once contained more than 12 million records, but most were destroyed in WWII. The 200,000 surviving records are a valuable resource for those seeking ancestors in the Greater London Area. The dates range from 1780 to three years after General Registration in 1837. These parish christening and baptismal registrations (with some birth dates recorder), cover at least 22 parishes in London and Middlesex, around 27 other parishes, and there are many other miscellaneous entries, they usually give the name of the child and parentage, the parish of baptism and the date.

These records are searchable in Ancestry and Find My Past, and where available supplement the usual records that are found.

Sussex

If you have ancestors from Sussex you may be interested in an excellent website <http://www.theweald.org/P5list.asp> This website contains a good number of Birth, Baptism, Marriage, Death and Burial records for 265 Parishes. You all know of course that Parish Records were started to be collected on the order of Henry VIII in 1538. However previous to that the Catholic Churches in England maintained records for Baptism, Marriage and Burial, most of which didn't survive however the above website contains some 30 Parishes in Sussex that did, with a smattering of these records prior to 1538.

