

Parish Records Transcription Project

About the Project

A year ago a group of us who are actively involved in family history research decided to initiate a project to transcribe the Forest of Dean parish registers, and to make the results freely available on this website.

Following discussions with the Gloucestershire Archives (formerly Gloucester Record Office), they agreed to let us photograph the original parish registers and to make copies of their microfiche available to us at cost (i.e. 50p per fiche), provided we make our transcriptions available to Record Office users through their internal computer network.

About three years ago the Gloucester Record Office applied for Lottery funding to start a project to transcribe all of the Gloucestershire parish registers. I was one of the team who started a pilot project to transcribe the post 1837 marriage registers. Unfortunately the application for funding was rejected and the project has been dormant for the past 2 years.

However the Gloucestershire Archives produced a comprehensive set of "Transcribers" Instructions together with a set of Excel templates which we have adapted for our use. The Gloucestershire Archives are still investigating options for continuing the larger project, but we all agreed that as this will take some time to get started we should carry on with the Forest of Dean project, and then join in with their project if and when it gets up and running.

Having looked at the message board on the website we concluded that the more recent records were of greatest interest to researchers. It was therefore decided that we should start by transcribing the baptisms, marriages and burials for the whole of the Forest of Dean from 1813 to 1901. This phase of the project is now nearing completion and so we have now started photographing the Non-Conformist and pre-1812 registers.

Graham Davison
Project Coordinator

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