



Tracing an 18th to 20th Century Criminal

Information From Archives L5

1. Criminal Registers

Standard charge: £60

Catalogue reference: HO 26

HO 26 only contains registers for the county of Middlesex for the period 1791 to 1849.

Catalogue reference: HO 27

HO 27 has all counties of England and Wales for the period 1805-1902, except for Middlesex before 1860

Information that this source should reveal:

Physical description, place of birth, trade, the crime, when and where tried, before whom, sentence, and date of discharge. Name of prison hulk or transportation ship can also feature.

Factors affecting success of a search:

It is essential to know the county in which the indictment was made, and a reasonable idea of the years to be searched.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

For us to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the prisoner/criminal*
- the year of conviction*
- the county, or court, where the trial took place*

Our normal fee for one search in the Criminal Registers of one county for a five-year period, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £60.

2. Calendars of Prisoners, 1868-1971

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue reference: HO 140

Information that this source should reveal:

These records list those about to be tried, or who have been tried at court. Typically they provide age; trade; previous convictions; name and address of committing magistrates; date of warrant; when received into custody; offence (includes name of victim before 1969); when tried; before whom tried; verdict; sentence or order of the court.

Please note that these records are usually closed for 100 years, except those from 1969 onwards which are closed for 30 years.

Factors affecting success of a search:

It is essential to know the county in which the indictment was made, and a reasonable idea of the years to be searched.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

For us to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the prisoner/criminal*
- the year of conviction*
- the county, or court, where the trial took place*

Our normal fee for one search of one county for a five-year period in the Calendars of Prisoners, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £45.

3. Prison Registers, 1799-1909

Standard charge: £60

Catalogue reference: HO 8 (1824-1876):

Convict Prisons: Quarterly Returns of Prisoners

Catalogue references: HO 23/1-20 (1847-1866):

County Registers for certain Counties

Catalogue references: HO 24/1-19 (1838-1875):

Millbank, Parkhurst, Pentonville

Catalogue reference: PCOM 2 (1770-1909):

Various Prisons

Catalogue references: WO 25/2956-2961 (1799-1823):

Savoy Prison and Hulk

Information that this source should reveal:

These can provide additional information such as a physical description, photograph and birthplace.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Must have name of prison or hulk, and preferably a date.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

For us to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the prisoner/criminal*
- the year of conviction
- the county, or court, where the trial took place
- the prison or hulk*
- the dates of imprisonment*

Our normal fee for the search of one volume (piece) of prison/hulk registers, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £60.

4. Licences, 1853-1887

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue reference: PCOM 3

Males, 1853-1887

Catalogue reference: PCOM 4

Females, 1853-1887

Catalogue reference: PCOM 6:

Name indexes, 1853-1949

Information that this source should reveal:

These contain notes of licences for convicts to live at large in the community, and notes of revocation of such licences, arranged numerically. Some contain photographs from 1875, and most do from 1883.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Not all entries in the indexes in PCOM 6 indexes have a corresponding file in PCOM 3 or 4.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

For us to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the prisoner*
- the gender (male or female) of prisoner*
- the year of granting, or revocation, of licence*

Our normal fee for the search of one volume (piece) of indexes and following up in the corresponding register, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £45.

5. Criminal Petitions 1819-1854

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 17, HO 18, HO 19

Series HO 17 covers the period 1819-1839 and series HO 18 the period 1839-1854. These are arranged by date and unique code and are indexed in HO 19.

Information that this source should reveal:

These series contains petitions made by, or on behalf of, on prisoners.

Factors affecting success of a search:

You must have an idea of the year of conviction, and ideally the court (or locality) and the offence.

A prisoner may not have had a petition written on their behalf, and not all have survived.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

For us to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the prisoner*
- the year of conviction*
- the court of conviction or locality

Our normal fee for one search (i.e. for one individual) in the Criminal Petitions, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £30.

6. Petitions and Judges' Reports, 1784-1951

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue references: HO 45 and HO 144

Petitions from prisoner are contained within these series of Home Office papers, namely HO 144 (1911-1951) and HO 45 (1848-1947).

Catalogue reference: HO 47

This series comprises Judges' Reports on Criminals for the period 1784 to 1829.

Information that this source should reveal:

Series HO 45 and HO 144 contain petitions by, or on behalf of, prisoners.

Series HO 47 contains the judges' reports on prisoners but does also include some petitions.

Factors affecting success of a search:

You must have an idea of the year of conviction, and ideally the court (or locality) and the offence.

A prisoner may not have had a petition written on their behalf, and not all have survived.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

For us to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the prisoner*
- the year of conviction*
- the court of conviction or locality

Our normal fee for one search in the Judges' Reports, providing the information requested above is supplied, is £45.
