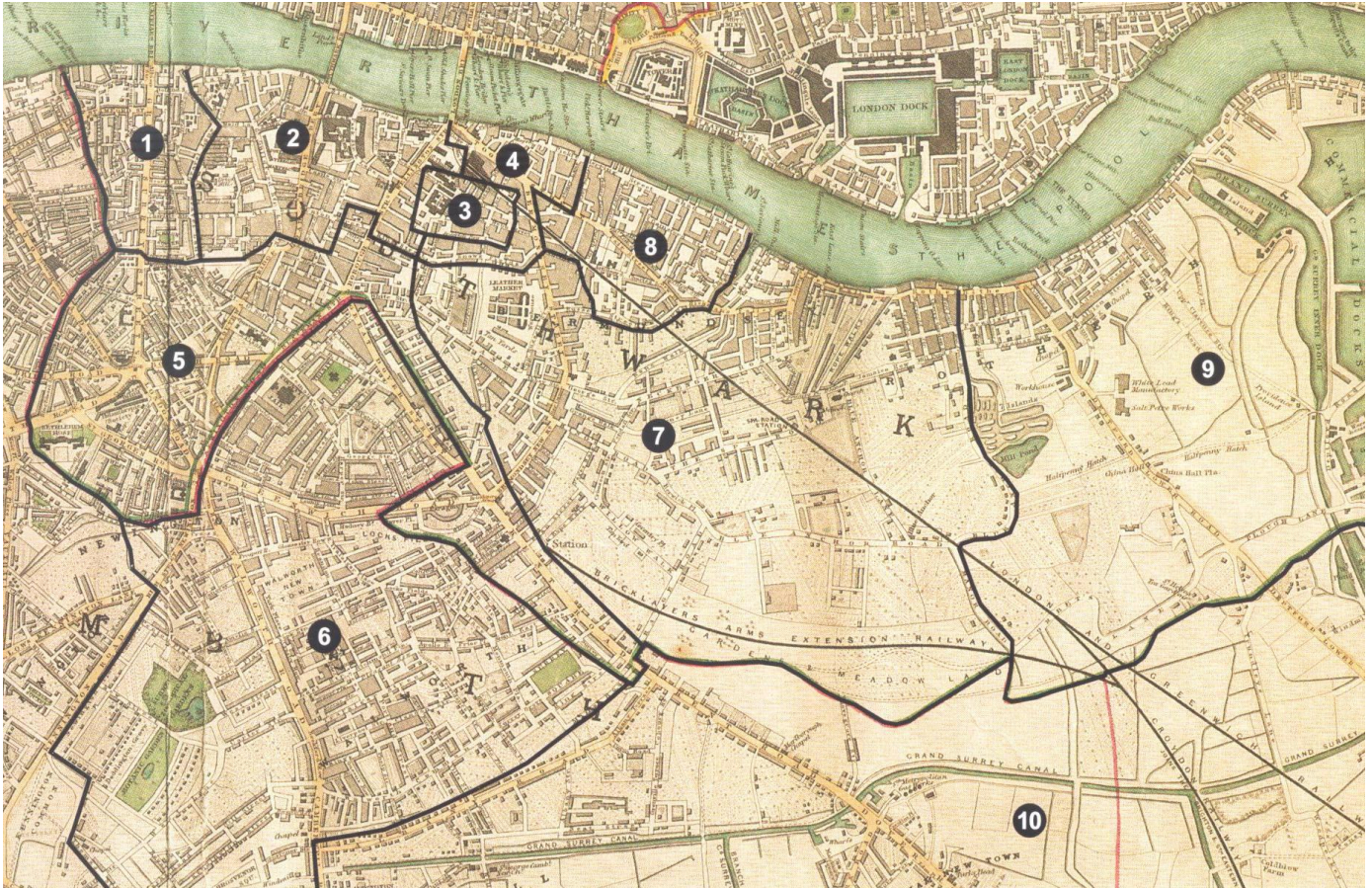



Sources for Family History

At Southwark Local History Library and Archive



The ten ancient parishes of Southwark overlaid on R B Davies's map of 1846

1. Christ Church
2. St. Saviour
3. St. Thomas
4. St. Olave
5. St. George the Martyr
6. St. Mary, Newington
7. St. Mary Magdalen
8. St. John, Horselydown
9. St. Mary, Rotherhithe
10. St. Giles, Camberwell (incl. Dulwich)

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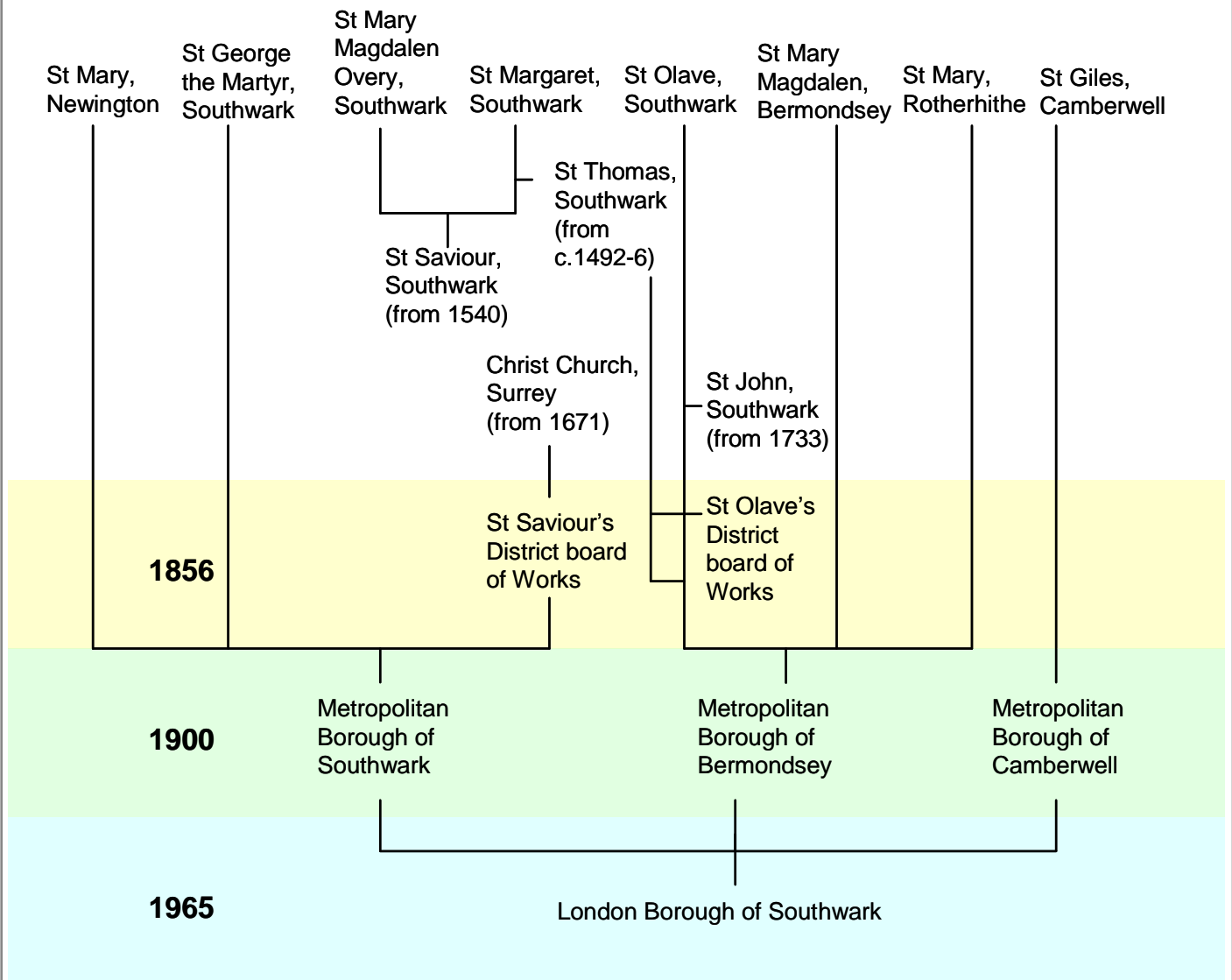
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Tel: 020 7525 0232


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The origins of the London Borough of Southwark

The area now known as the London Borough of Southwark was once governed by the civil parishes listed on the front of this leaflet. Many of our family history resources were produced by the parish vestries and date from the 1600s to 1900. At that time the vast majority of this area was not part of London and you will find references to locations from Bankside to Camberwell as being in the County of Surrey.

The three Metropolitan Boroughs of Southwark, Bermondsey and Camberwell were formed in 1900 and were part of the County of London. In 1965 these three boroughs merged to become the London Borough of Southwark, one of the 32 boroughs that now form Greater London.



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Using Ancestry Library Edition

Many of our family history resources are most easily accessed through the Ancestry.co.uk. The Library Edition of this website can be consulted free of charge on our public PCs and allows the following records to be searched by name:

- Census returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911
- Most London parish registers, (christenings, marriages and burials)
- Birth marriage and death indexes (from the General Register Office)
- Most London electoral registers from 1832 - 1965, including Bermondsey, Camberwell and Southwark

Ancestry Library Edition can now be used on any Southwark Library public PC, but is not available by remote access.

There are many resources that cannot be found online or provide more detail if consulted in person. Please read on for details of what we have to offer at Southwark Local History Library and Archive.



A wedding at Paris Garden, 1923



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Sources that can be consulted on site

Census indexes

In addition to microfilm copies of the 1841 - 1901 census returns for the whole borough, we have the original 1831 census for St Mary Newington and the following name indexes for certain parishes are available in our reading room:

1811 St Saviour

1821 Christ Church, Southwark

1831 Christ Church, Southwark, St Saviour, St Mary Newington

Directories

We have a complete collection of London Post Office directories from 1841 to 1881 on microfilm and as printed volumes from 1882 to 1990, plus a few earlier volumes from the 1810s - 1830s. Most contain commercial information only and are particularly useful for finding an ancestor's business. Later volumes also include some residential information.

A more complete collection of directories can be found at the Guildhall Library. (Please see page 8 for contact details)

Original Electoral Registers

Although they are not indexed by name, it is easier to trace the inhabitants of a particular address using the original Electoral Registers. It is worth bearing in mind that Southwark was a very poor area with a highly mobile population, so many of its residents either failed to qualify for the vote or moved on before they could register.

The following volumes can be requested and consulted in the reading room:

The Parish of St Mary, Newington 1842 - 1879

North Southwark from 1894

Bermondsey from 1887

Rotherhithe from 1885

Camberwell, Peckham and Dulwich from 1913

London Borough of Southwark from 1965



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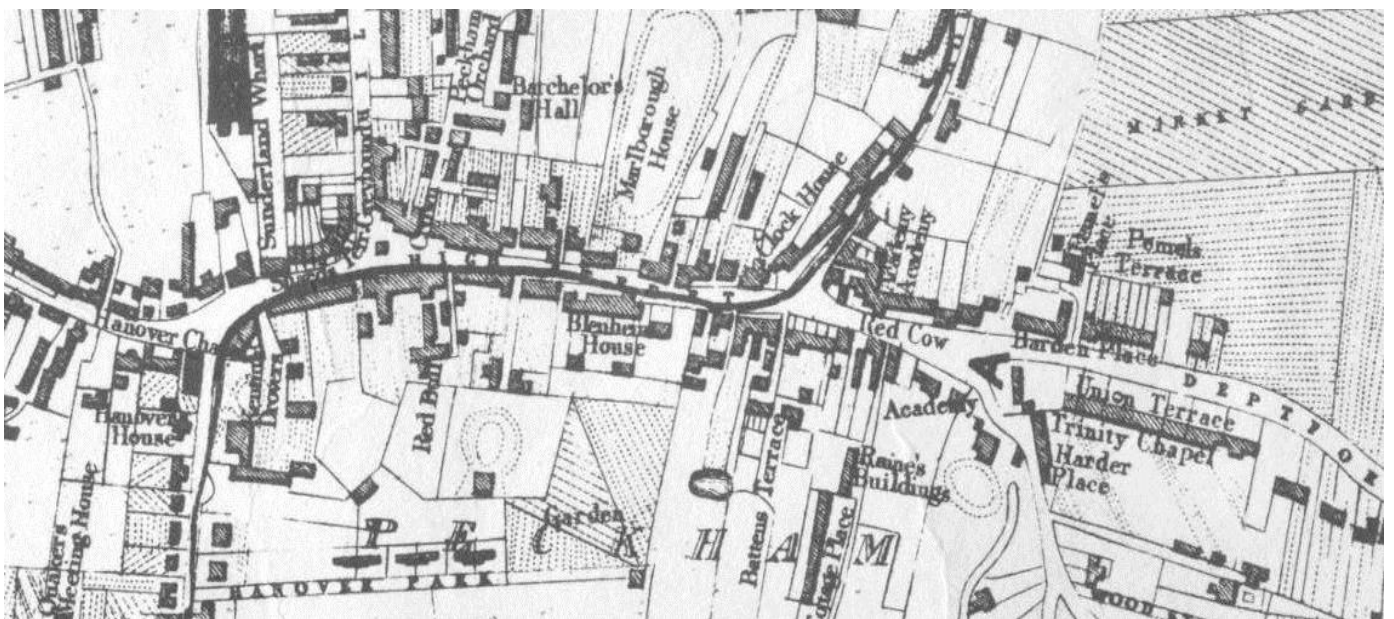
Rate books and name indexes

The parishes recorded the names and addresses of all their ratepayers, providing valuable residential information that predates the census. We have name indexes for every tenth year from 1741 to 1831. The following original volumes may also be requested and consulted in the reading room:

St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey	1599-1625; 1676-91; 1699-1899
St Mary, Rotherhithe	1754-1900
St John, Horselydown	1734-1900
St Olave	1707-1899
St Mary Newington	1673-1900
St George the Martyr	1635-1900
St Saviour	1748-1900
Christ Church	1820; 1828; 1843; 1849; 1853-1900
St Thomas	1791 and 1792 only
St Giles, Camberwell	1768; 1774; 1780-5; 1802-59

Images, Maps and films

Our images, maps and audiovisual collections can help bring old family stories to life and fill in important background details. The map collection is especially useful for finding the locations of streets and buildings that have now disappeared.



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SELON poor law name indexes

A range of name indexes have been produced from original poor law records held here at Southwark and at the Surrey History Centre in Woking (please see page 8 for their contact details). These include records of workhouse inmates, settlement examinations, affiliation orders and minutes of meetings.

The fullest surviving Poor Law records relate to the parishes of St Mary Newington, and St George the Martyr. Some of our original material is currently unavailable. Please contact us for more information on accessing these items.

Records of the local Boards of Guardians, which were formed in 1834, are mostly deposited in the London Metropolitan Archives, as are the earlier Poor Law records of some parishes.

Council records

If your ancestor worked for one of the local councils or vestries that now makes up Southwark, you may be able to find information about them in the minutes. The following may be requested and consulted in the reading room:

Full minutes of the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark 1900 – 1965

Full minutes of the Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey 1900 – 1965

Full minutes of the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell 1900 – 1965

Full minutes of the London Borough of Southwark 1965 – 1990

Vestry minutes of the Parish of Saint Saviour 1855 – 1900

Vestry minutes of the Parish of Saint George the Martyr 1855 - 1900

Books, pamphlets and press cuttings

Published materials on a wide range of subjects have been collected for reference use in the reading room. They are arranged according to the Dewey decimal system and cover all aspects of the history of Southwark from abbeys to zoological gardens. A subject index is available to help you find the information you need. The books and pamphlets can be searched using the Southwark Libraries online catalogue at <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/southwark/>.



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Local Newspapers

We hold microfilm copies of all local newspapers for this borough from 1856. Readers searching for reports of inquests should remember that usually only those concerning an unusual death were reported in the local newspapers. The only full obituaries included in the local press are those for prominent citizens.

South London Chronicle	1860 - 1907
South London Journal	1856 - 1871
South London Mail	1888 -1906
South London News	1855 - 1861, 1879 - 1891
Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder	1868 - 1933
South London Observer / Camberwell and Peckham Times	1870 - 1969
South London Press	1865 - present

Resources to be found elsewhere

Camberwell New Cemetery

Brenchley Gardens, London, SE23 3RD

Telephone: 0207 639 3121

The cemetery office holds burial and cremation records from Nunhead Cemetery, Camberwell Old Cemetery, Camberwell New Cemetery and Honor Oak Crematorium. A search service is available.

The London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road, London.

Telephone: 020 7332 3820 / email: ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

This is the record office for Greater London, holding records of its various administrative bodies. It is the official place of deposit for all Church of England parish registers and also holds records of London schools and boards of guardians.

Southwark Register Office

34 Peckham Road, SE5 8QA

Telephone: 0207 525 7651 / email: registrars@southwark.gov.uk

The Register Office holds the records for all births, deaths and marriages that occurred in Southwark's districts from 1837. The full names of the parties and the date of the event are required when ordering a certificate.



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The Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, London

Telephone: 020 7332 1870 /

email: printedbooks.guildhall@cityoflondon.gov.uk

This public reference library specialises in the history of London. Their historical trade directories are especially useful for family historians.

The National Archives

Kew, Richmond, TW9 4DU

Telephone: 020 8876 3444

This is the UK's public record office. It is the place to go for military records from WWI and WWII and a range of court and criminal records.

Surrey History Centre

130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

Telephone: 01483 518 737 / email: shs@surreycc.gov.uk

Southwark was originally part of the County of Surrey, so many court and poor law records can be found here.

Principal Registry of the Family Division

First Avenue House

42-49 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6NP

Wills proved after 1858 are held here. Wills registered before 1858 are mostly held at the London Metropolitan Archives or the National Archives.

Before you visit us

If you would like to consult microfilm or microfiche, please telephone us in advance to book a viewer on

020 7525 0232 or email local.history.library@southwark.gov.uk. We recommend that you contact us in advance to order original material. Please bear in mind that many of the archives, including Poor Law records are currently unavailable due to the Town Hall fire of March 2013.

We are not able to provide photocopies from manuscript volumes such as rate books, or of fragile items, but photographs may be taken of many of them. Please note that we charge £6.20 per day for self-service photography.



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