

# Finding individuals convicted of buggery, gross indecency, sodomy, indecent assault and so on in the 'After-Trial' Calendars of Prisoners (HO 140)

## National Archives

### How To Guide

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#### A note on the use of the How to Guides.

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started. This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the Find my Past; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

Step 1: As an introduction to the use of National Archives HO 140 records: 'After-Trial Calendars of Prisoners for the Quarter Sessions and Assizes', please read the section titled 'National Archives – Calendars of Prisoners' to understand the use of this record set for the purposes of recollecting experiences of the criminal justice system for individuals convicted of same-sex sex.

Step 2: Open up an example Excel spreadsheet, or use our template available at, [www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit](http://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit)

	Court	Place	Date of hearing	Total number of pris' in the calendar	Name	Age	Trade	Degree of instruction	Name and address of committing magistrate	Date of warrant	When received into custody	Offence as charged	When tried	Before whom tried	Verdict	Sentence or order of the court
1																
2																

Court, Place and Date of Hearing found from the first page of the record

This information will be located once you've found an individual charged with a same-sex sexual offence.

Step 3: Searching the HO 140 record set is available at the following link:

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935> . Unlike previous How to Guides, research in the HO 140 Record Set available on

Find my Past does not rely on knowing an individuals name, as this is where we are going to locate those names. Two initial decisions need to be made before completing search in this record set...

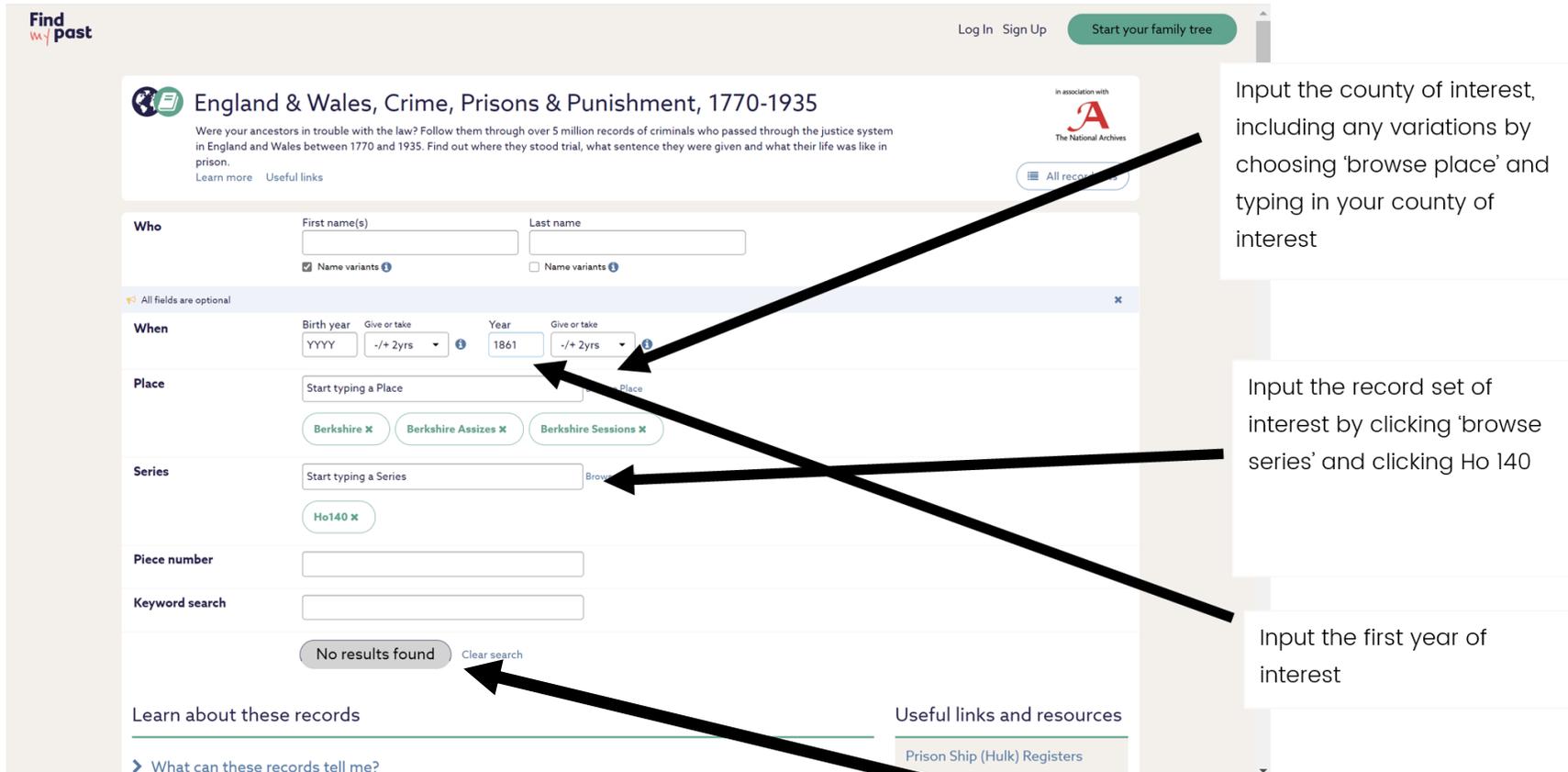
- 1) Which county are you researching? (BF team: Berkshire)
- 2) Choose the date range of interest (BF Team: 1861 to 1920 )

Step 4: The first thing to do is to work out which years are stored within the HO 140. Whilst the Ho 140 files are helpful for completing remote research, they are not complete and some records have not yet been downloaded. Please load up an Excel Spreadsheet with your list of dates, per the suggestion below. This is also able to download from [www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit](http://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit) titled: **“HO 140 NA Date + Record Return Sheet”**

Step 5: Head to: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935> .

Year	Records Available	Link
1861		
1862		
1863		
1864		
1865		
1866		
1867		
1868		
1869		
1870		
1871		
1872		
1873		
1874		
1875		
1876		
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1889		
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1897		
1898		
1899		

Using the below search options, input each date and check the amount of records located, make a note of the number and the link (by hitting search and copying the URL link) for each to allow easy access to each of the finds. As per the example below, for the year 1861, no results were found. Repeat for each year recording in the spreadsheet the number of returns and the link.



**England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935**  
Were your ancestors in trouble with the law? Follow them through over 5 million records of criminals who passed through the justice system in England and Wales between 1770 and 1935. Find out where they stood trial, what sentence they were given and what their life was like in prison.

**Who**  
First name(s) [ ] Last name [ ]  
 Name variants  Name variants

**When**  
Birth year [ YYYY ] Give or take [ +/- 2yrs ] Year [ 1861 ] Give or take [ +/- 2yrs ]

**Place**  
Start typing a Place [ ]  
Berkshire **X** Berkshire Assizes **X** Berkshire Sessions **X**

**Series**  
Start typing a Series [ ]  
Ho140 **X**

**Piece number** [ ]  
**Keyword search** [ ]

No results found [Clear search](#)

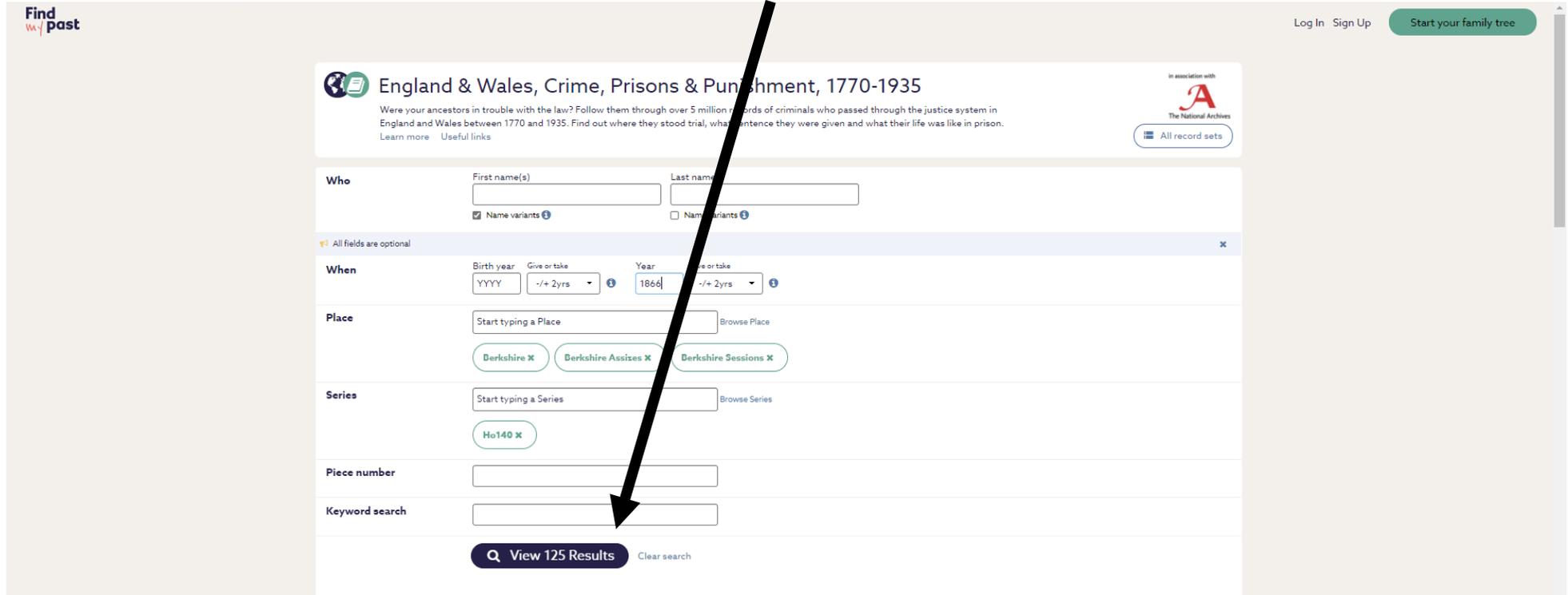
Input the county of interest, including any variations by choosing 'browse place' and typing in your county of interest

Input the record set of interest by clicking 'browse series' and clicking Ho 140

Input the first year of interest

Check the number of results returned and record on your excel spreadsheet.

Step 6: Inputting the dates, our first find was in 1866, with 125 returns are found... hit view!



The screenshot shows the 'Find Past' search interface. The search criteria are as follows:

- Who:** First name(s) and Last name(s) fields are empty. There are checkboxes for 'Name variants'.
- When:** Birth year field is empty. Year field contains '1866'. There are dropdowns for 'Give or take' and 'Days or take'.
- Place:** 'Start typing a Place' field is empty. Suggested places include 'Berkshire', 'Berkshire Assizes', and 'Berkshire Sessions'.
- Series:** 'Start typing a Series' field is empty. Suggested series include 'Ho140'.
- Piece number:** Empty field.
- Keyword search:** Empty field.

At the bottom of the search criteria, there is a button labeled 'View 125 Results' and a 'Clear search' link.

It's important to note at this point that there are usually four entries per year for the Calendars of Prisoners across the seasons (Spring, Summer, Winter and Autumn), meaning that for each year there are four hearings, and four sets of 'After-Trial' Calendars of Prisoners. This is why research in the HO 140 files should be supported by research within the actual records stored at local archives.

Step 7: Once you've checked the amount of returns per year, let's head to the link for the first year with records located. The following web page will load, click view record on the first return.

Find past

Family tree Search DNA My records Help & more Upgrade My Account

We're sharing our family discoveries to inspire yours  
Find out more

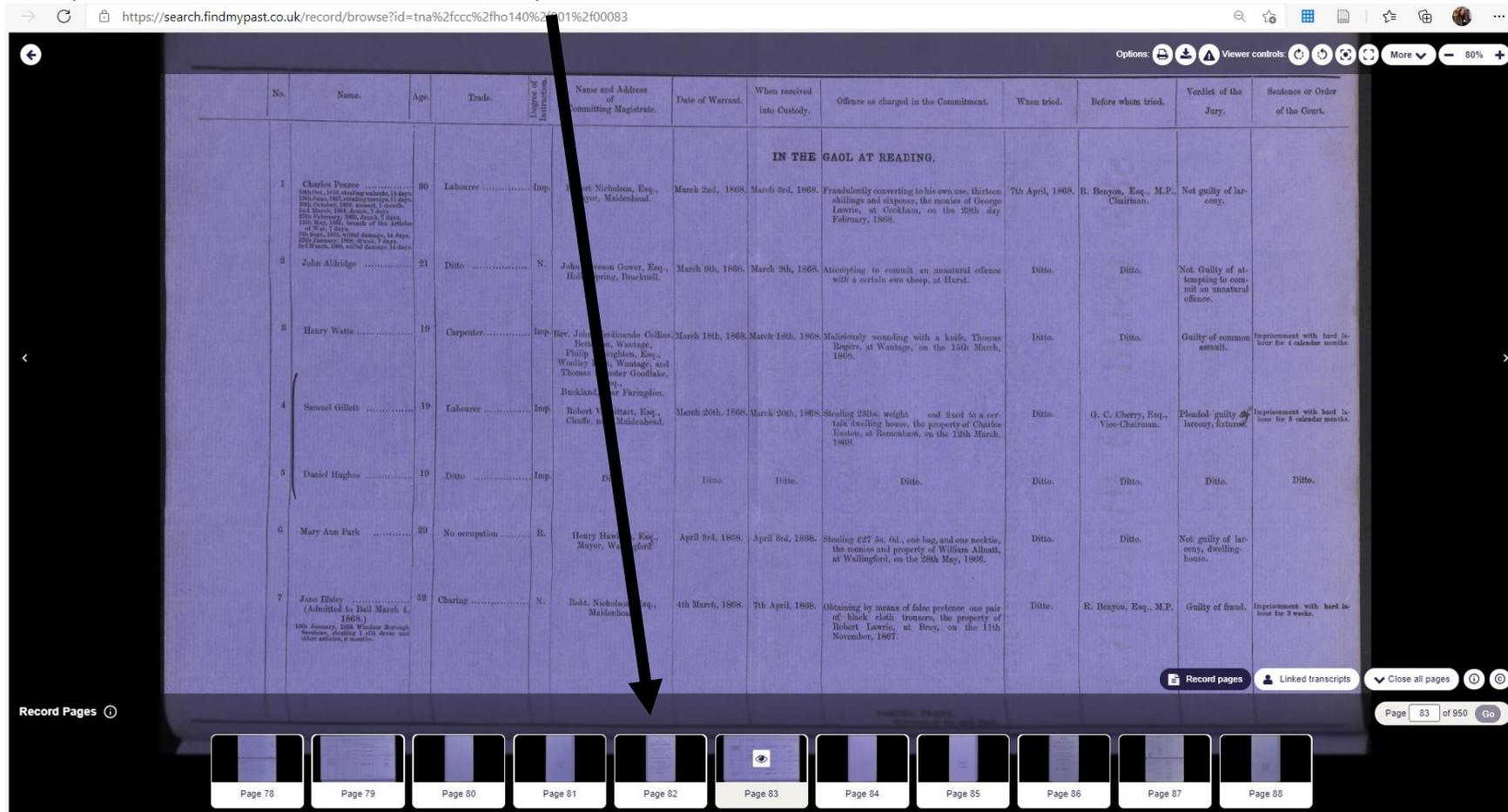
Results for England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935

Your search: Clear All

125 results

First name(s)	Last name	Birth year	Year	Place	Series	Source	
John	Aldridge	1847	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Maria	Annetts	1850	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Elizabeth	Attewell	1851	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
James	Batty	1846	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Henry	Beard	1851	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Jane	Beckett	1822	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Moses	Belcher	1821	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
George	Bloomfield	1840	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
William	Brocks	1849	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Thomas	Brooker	1842	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
William Joseph	Brown	1809	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
James	Bunce	1850	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Annie	Burke	1844	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
John	Carlow	1846	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Ann	Carpenter	1828	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	
Elizabeth	Carter	1848	1868	Berkshire	HO140	-	

Step 8: When the record loads, it should look something like below. The way the Calendar of Prisoners appear changes depending on the date, and some may appear on blue or beige paper, but the information included is usually the same. Using the view pages option, we want to head to the start of the entry for Berkshire's calendars of prisoners...



The screenshot shows a table of prisoners with the following columns: No., Name, Age, Trade, Degree of Imprisonment, Name and Address of Committing Magistrate, Date of Warrant, When received into Custody, Offence as charged in the Commitment, When tried, Before whom tried, Verdict of the Jury, and Sentence or Order of the Court. The table is titled 'IN THE GAOL AT READING.' and contains several entries, including Charles Pearce, John Aldridge, Henry Watts, Samuel Gillett, Daniel Hughes, Mary Ann Park, and Jane Hiley. At the bottom right of the table, there is a 'Record pages' button, a 'Linked transcripts' button, a 'Close all pages' button, and a page navigation bar showing 'Page 83 of 950 Go'.

**Step 9:** It should look similar to below, perhaps on blue or beige coloured paper. The information explained through the blue arrows will be recorded on the first excel spreadsheet: "HO 140 COP List of Individuals – Template" available at on our resources/templates page of our website!

County where the court hearing took place

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment Browse, 1770-1935 Image

Back to results

Page Locator – type in the page number and hit Go to quickly move through the record

document = CALENDAR OF PRISONERS

The season = e.g. Michaelmas/Epiphany General

The court = e.g. Quarter Sessions of the Peace/Assizes Courts

Date the court sat: e.g. Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1905

The Magistrates who heard the case

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Go

Report image error Print Download

Name of the individual on trial + their previous convictions

Their Age, Trade and degree of instruction

Name + Address of Committing magistrates, date of warrant + when received into custody

The Official Legal Charge the individual faced

Outcome of the court

Sentence

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment Browse, 1770-1935 Image

No.	NAME.	Age.	TRADE.	Degree of Instruction	Name and Address of Committing Magistrate	Date of Warrant.	When received into Custody.	Particulars of Offence or Offences charged in the Indictment.	When tried.	Before whom tried.	Verdict of the Jury.	Particulars of Previous Convictions charged in the indictment and proved in Court.	Sentence or Order of the Court.	No.	
<b>Prisoners</b>								<b>Tried.</b>							
1	Frank Smith Brought over. Bristol Petty Sessions, 8th May, 1909 (arrested as a bailiff, as Sidney Alfred Lashbury, 2 days and 21st October, 1909 (burglary, 3 charges), as Sidney Alfred Lashbury, 2 months, Gloucester County Quarter Sessions, 22nd June, 1904 (stealing 24s.) as Sidney Alfred Lashbury.	1st	Tailor	...	Col. George Shippen Wildes and Major John Aldridge, Hungerford Petty Sessions.	June 29th 1905	June 29th 1905	On 21st June, 1905, as Hangerford, feloniously stealing one leather, one riding coat, six shirts, four blouses, two hats, one ulster, one pair of trousers, one night dress, two neckties, two lace collars, two handkerchiefs, two pairs of boots, and certain trunks, the property of Maggie Clatten.	16th Oct. 1905	Sir R. G. C. Mowbray, Bart, M.P.	Fined guilty	Gloucester Quarter Sessions, 21st June, 1905, larceny, 3 calendar months.	1 calendar month hard labour.	1	
2	Henry Brooker 5 years penal servitude, Surrey Sessions, 4th June, 1893 (receiving stolen goods, as Thomas Wilson, 15 months, Salisbury Assizes, 13th November, 1888 (burglary), as Henry Brooker. 5 years penal servitude, Berks County Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1890 (stealing a watch), as Frederick Joynt. 4 months, Berks Assizes, 16th June, 1890 (false pretences), as Frederick Joynt. 6 months, Richmond Petty Sessions, 20th June, 1898 (stealing a silver goblet), as Henry Seymour. 14 days, Andover Petty Sessions, 20th March, 1901 (stealing plants), as George Sims. 6 months, Winchester Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1901 (housebreaking), as George Gay. 3 years penal servitude, (stealing a watch), as Frederick Cox. 6 months hard labour, (attempted rape), as Frederick Cox.	64	Stalldman	...	Edmund Benson, Foster, Bag., and Hugh Owen Tudor, Bag., Windsor Petty Sessions.	July 1st	June 17th 1905	On 14th June, 1905, at Old Windsor, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Edward Llewellyn and therein feloniously stealing one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of trousers, one flannel shirt, one neck scarf, one smoking pipe, one pair of socks and one pair of boots, his property. 2nd Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Reginald Henry Cox and stealing the said goods. 3rd Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of E. E. Blight and stealing three shirts and six handkerchiefs, the property of Reginald Henry Cox. 4th Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of R. H. Cox and stealing the said three shirts and six handkerchiefs, his property. 5th Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of R. H. Cox and stealing the said three shirts and six handkerchiefs, his property.	18th Oct. 1905	R. D. Dyke Acland, Esq., K.C.	Guilty ...	Lewes Quarter Sessions, 14th October, 1902, larceny, 3 years penal servitude.	3 years penal servitude	8	

Arrows to change the pages of the calendar

100

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Go

Report image error Print Download

Page Locator – type in the page number and hit Go to quickly move through the record



**Step 10:** Now that we have the calendar open for this particular session of the Quarter Sessions or Assizes, let's flick through to see if there are any cases of buggery, sodomy, gross indecency, and any other variation of offence relating to sex between men. For more information on the indictments, please visit our toolkit [www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit](http://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit). Record each individual on a new line in your excel spreadsheet.

**Step 11:** Once you've found an individual, keep flicking through the pages to check if there were any other hearings before the courts that we might be interested in. Once you've located someone else, repeat the same steps and record their information.

**Step 12:** If you've finished all the pages of this record head to the next and complete the process. A helpful reminder that there are four quarter sessions/assizes per year, meaning that you are looking for 4 different sessions recorded each year.

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END OF HOW TO GUIDE