

REVIEWS

DATA CDs

More and more research material is being released on data CDs; here's our guide to the best of the latest offerings – reviewed by James Taylor

SUPPLIERS INCLUDE:

TWR Computing
[t] 01284 828 271
[w] www.twrcomputing.co.uk

S&N Genealogy Supplies
[t] 01722 716 121
[w] www.genealogysupplies.com

Back to Roots
[t] 01453 821 300
[w] www.backtoroots.co.uk

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-19 / Army Roll Of Honour 1939-45 – Soldiers Died in World War Two

PC

PUBLISHER: Naval & Military Press [w] www.naval-military-press.com [t] 01825 749 494
PRICE: £258.50 / £170.38

Here are two CDs from the same publisher, operating in the same way to yield details of your ancestors who died in one of the last century's two great conflicts.

They are copies of original records which, in the case of the WWI data, ran to an 80-volume set of books. These were reprinted in 1989 and form the basis of the WWI CD which includes data on 665,000 soldiers and 37,000 officers. The WWII 'Roll of Honour' was compiled between the end of 1944 and March 1949 and lists the soldiers who died between 1 September 1939 and 31 December 1946, excluding 'disgraceful' deaths like execution for capital crimes.

The paper copy of *Soldiers Died* is arranged regimentally and without knowing a man's unit it's extremely

time-consuming to trace him. The CDs can retrieve full details practically instantaneously, including regiment; battalion; surname; Christian name; initials; rank; service number; place of birth, enlistment and residence; date and nature of death; and theatre of war: and can also search on any of those criteria singly or together and using wild cards. You can search on surname alone, although this can take a long time for common names. Selection of regiment and battalion is by drop-down list. On completing your search you get a listing of all matching entries, with details as above plus any 'supplementary notes' – previous regiments, decorations, etc.

Getting the information out is either by manual copying or by printing to paper. The latter can be as a listing of

FULL RETURN:
Your search returns as much information as is known about your soldier ancestor



all the information or as a 'scroll' which incorporates a dedication and a representation of a coat of arms.

As supplied, both CDs can run under Windows 3.1 or later, but can also be used on Macintosh (200MHz plus) running *SoftWindows* or *Virtual PC*. ■



BUY THEM FOR...

Extensive database, supported by easy extraction of the data

Millennium 20th Century Day by Day

PC

PUBLISHER: GSP [w] www.gsp.cc
PRICE: £19.99

Millennium 20th Century Day by Day is commercial, multimedia software made by Dorling Kindersley, best known now for its school-age educational software. Let's identify immediately the program's three shortcomings – its American historical bias (though not as pronounced as some others); its irritating American accents; and a slight tendency to superficiality. That said, it does cover a century's worth of events in an informative and entertaining manner.

The program starts with a somewhat quirky graphical menu, an illustration of a 'newsroom', some of whose contents are hyperlinked to various presentations. You can click on an antique television to view video clips, or open a filing cabinet drawer to read



war stories or biographies, while the calendar launches year-by-year summaries, examined month-by-month in succeeding screens. You can scroll through longer stories and examine side-stories like fashion notes. News in Brief gives you daily headlines for each day, and In Focus examines some themes in greater depth. You also get 100 biographies of famous personalities

BACK IN TIME: The main news screens are rich in period atmosphere

from Muhammad Ali to Boris Yeltsin.

News screens usually incorporate pictures and sometimes soundbites, music and video (which automatically plays). There is a navigator icon in every main screen to help you move around the program more quickly. You can also search on any word or decade.

Whatever screen you're viewing, you have the option to either print or copy. Elect to copy and you have the further choice of copying the whole screen as a graphic or just the text (including any text that's scrolled off screen), which you can paste into your wordprocessor for editing and reproduction.

Despite its drawbacks this CD offers a useful overview of the events that shaped the last century. ■



BUY IT FOR...

Buy it for its calendar coverage of the 20th Century

Somerset 1844 Pigot's Directory



● PUBLISHER: S&N Genealogy Supplies
 [w] www.genealogysupplies.com [t] 01722 716 121
 ● PRICE: £9.95

This is a directory-cum-guide, to Somerset's professions and trades, nobility, gentry, clergy, coach and carrier services, taverns and public houses.

The data comes in PDF format and Acrobat Reader is also on the disc. The material is bookmarked, searchable and printable, but cannot be copy-and-pasted into your own documents. There is also the thumbnail pane, but this is less useful without an index.

The bookmarks identify the towns and villages in the directory. Each entry begins with a brief description of the place, identifying its main topographical features, pointing out any architecture of interest and summing up its trade and economy. Local authorities and notables are named, together with the Lord of the Manor where relevant. Places of worship and



DIRECT: Navigate to the place of interest using the bookmarks

any major schools or charities such as almshouses are described. The post office, with its surprisingly precise delivery and collection times, is given prominence in the trade listings. Where there are enough of them, entries are classified by trade or occupation just like today's *Yellow Pages*, preceded by the local gentry and clergy. ■



BUY IT FOR...
 County-wide searchable detail of 1844 Somerset

North Lancashire Newspapers & Directories 1665-1920

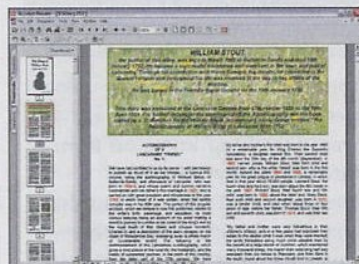


● PUBLISHER: Elsinore Productions
 [w] www.riverlune.co.uk
 ● PRICE: £16

This CD contains a collection of reference material reproduced from old Lancaster newspapers and guides; photographs of the principle churches and chapels of the Lune Valley; images of Lancaster and the Lune; and the diary of William Stout, complete with mainly botanic illustrations. With credits to Linda Moorhouse for the text and David Moorhouse for the photographs, the PDF files claim over one million words (which can be searched and copied), together with old maps and illustrations.

Just to list the contents of this CD would take all our available space but, among the 23 references are a Guide to Lancaster in 1920, complete with interesting period advertisements; other guides to Lancaster from 1801 to 1880; Scotforth Village from 1801 to 1845 and the Scotforth Murder of

1866; descriptions of the River Lune from 1801 to 1845; and a comparison of Lancaster in England and Lancaster in Pennsylvania in 1880. You get photographs of churches and chapels of the Lune Valley, and two slide shows – Sunderland Point and the Lune Valley from source to sea. ■



WILLIAM STOUT'S DIARY: Has all the charm of 18th century turn of phrase



BUY IT FOR...
 Buy it for its contemporary insight into the life and times of Lancaster and its environs

St Just in Penwith Baptisms 1708-1746



● PUBLISHER: Cornish Forefathers
 [w] www.cornish-forefathers.com
 ● PRICE: £15.95 [w] www.twrcomputing.co.uk [t] 01284 828 271

Am Drake, publisher of this CD, must spend almost all of her time transcribing, judging from the prodigious amount of material she makes available on CD, covering baptisms, marriages and burials, catalogued either by parish or by name alphabetically. We're looking at the CD for baptisms in the parish of St Just in Penwith, which is situated 11 miles southwest of St Ives, and about seven miles west of Penzance in the west of Cornwall. The data consists of a single PDF file of transcriptions taken from the parish records at the County Records Office in Truro.

As with Cornish Forefathers's CD of baptisms for Madron, reviewed in issue five, you are deposited straight into the tabulated lists, with no introduction, menu or preamble. The data is listed alphabetically first by surname, then by forename (or Christian name, since they are

baptisms). Included are columns for forename, surname, filial relationship, forename or names of parents, and day, month and year of the baptism. The columns have no headings but it's all perfectly obvious. Although you can search the text using Acrobat Reader's Find command, you can't copy it.

If you have ancestors in St Just in Penwith, this is the CD for you. ■



FIND IT: All text is fully searchable by Acrobat's Find command



BUY IT FOR...
 Its concentrated and clearly laid-out data

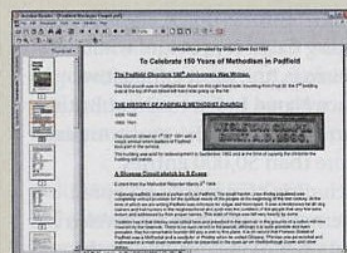
Memorials of Glossop and the High Peak



● PUBLISHER: Derbyshire Family History Society
 [w] www.dfhs.org.uk/
 ● PRICE: £15.60

Compiled by volunteers from the Derbyshire FHS and billed as volume 1 – so there are presumably more to come – this is a collection of memorial inscriptions at churches and chapels in north Derbyshire: Charlesworth Congregational and Particular Baptist Chapels, Dinting Holy Trinity, Errwood Hall Burial Ground, Hadfield Chapel, Padfield Chapel, Charlesworth St John the Evangelist and Glossop St Lukes. Each is in PDF format and can be read on most computers, and it's refreshing to see that you can highlight, copy and paste from the text. For PC users without Acrobat Reader, a free version is included.

The largest file, Charlesworth Congregational, includes a graveyard plan; brief notes on the origin and structure of the chapel; notes from the Glossop Chronicle 1998 on the chapel's 200th



PDF: Studded with illustrations, the files are fully searchable

anniversary; illustrations of three memorials within the Chapel; and a transcript of the Book of Remembrance for the War memorial. Although individual graves are not identified on the map, their numbers are given in the text, the whole of which can be searched. Two Indexes are provided, one by Grave Name and one by Grave Number. ■



BUY IT FOR...
 Its painstaking transcription of memorial inscriptions