



## Dog Collars – Clerical and Canine

Michelle Dennis looks at the resources for researching Devon and Cornwall ancestors

SOMETIMES WHILE SEARCHING FOR CLUES FOR OUR ancestors, they turn up in the strangest of places. I've had great success in the past by just googling an ancestor's name and town name and have been most surprised at what popped up.

Take the case of my 7x great grandfather Charles Kendall who was born in the Cornish village of Lanlivery in England in 1691. Being born into a wealthy, aristocratic family in England certainly gives you a head start into finding your family in a variety of records. If your ancestors were wealthy, they may be listed on the British Peerage website - a genealogical survey of the peerage of Britain, [www.thepeerage.com](http://www.thepeerage.com).

Another great resource to find aristocratic ancestors is the online Google Book 'A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland'. This may also include a picture of the family's Coat of Arms, and their lineage.

In Charles' case I easily found his baptism on both Ancestry and Find My Past, and his marriage in 1722 in Exeter Cathedral, Devon to the wealthy widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Northmore (who was previously married to Edward Herle). The UK Free Reg website also contains a great selection of free United Kingdom (UK) parish registers including Cornwall and Devon, [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk).

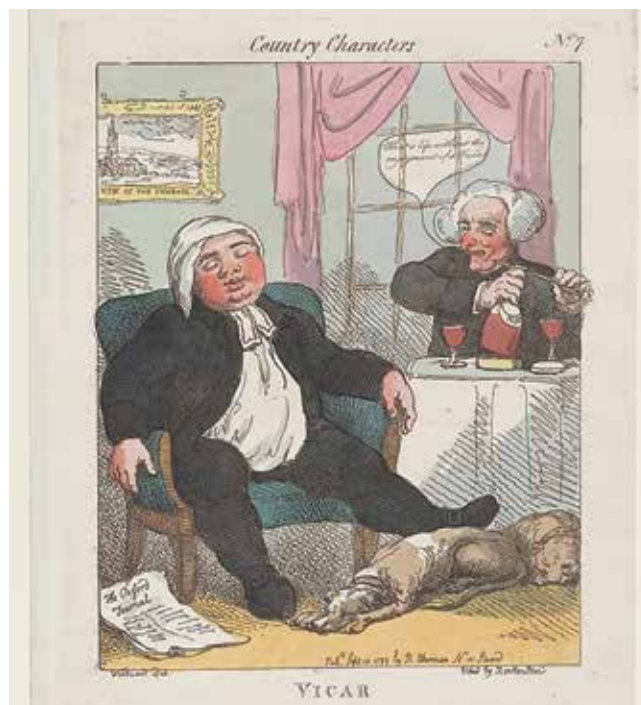
Charles was the son of the Reverend Nicholas Kendall (1656-1739), one of twelve children born to the couple. The Rev Nicholas Kendall and his two sons Walter and Charles all appear in the Oxford University Alumni 1500-1886 database on Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8942](http://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8942). The database holds a register of students, graduates, and officers who attended Oxford University between 1500



Nicholas Kendall Archdeacon of Totnes.

and 1886 including a wealth of biographical information such as parentage, birthplace, birth year, date and age of matriculation, and degree obtained. The Cambridge Alumni 1261-1900 database is also online on Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3997](http://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3997).

From this database I could see that Charles, like his father, studied at Oxford University, graduating with a Bachelor of Civil Law entering Oxford University in 1709 at the age of 16 to begin his studies.



The English Vicar cartoon. (Wikimedia Commons)

Two wonderful resources if you have English clergy (or lay people) in the family like I do, are the Clergy of the Church of England Database at <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>, and Crockford's Clerical Directory, [www.crockford.org.uk](http://www.crockford.org.uk).

Both include biographical details, and the places where they were ordained and served their parishes. If your clergyman was Methodist, they might be listed on either the Wesleyan Methodist database [www.wesleyanmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wesleyanmethodists.org.uk), or the Primitive Methodist database website, [www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk](http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk).



If they were prominent members of their community, they may also have their own Wikipedia page which, in Nicholas's case, gave me his various ecclesiastical appointments, (Rector of Sheviock Cornwall 1680-1740, etc) as well as other useful biographical information.



So yes, Charles' father the Rev Nicholas Kendall wore the ecclesiastical 'dog collar' (detachable collar and preaching band) being a protestant Church of England clergyman. In the past vicars wore all black and chose a white sweatband (cravat) to wear around their necks for the purpose of riding on horseback, just like those often portrayed in historical fiction and films of the era.

Anyway, what has this to do with a canine dog collar? Well, when I googled his son, Charles Kendall of Oxford University, to my surprise I found the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford University has in its collection a brass dog collar belonging to Charles. It was found in a drain at All Souls College, Oxford in August 1896 during renovations, and was engraved with his name and college. The catalogue entry states "Collars were also used as decorative features, and the more elaborate they were, the more they enhanced the status of the owner. More importantly, dog collars came to be used as a means of identification. When they were marked or engraved with the dog owner's name, the collar became the object that gave proof of ownership." (From the Ashmolean Museum website, [www.ashmolean.org](http://www.ashmolean.org)).

Many university students kept their dogs for hunting paying for them to be boarded at private houses outside the universities. Apparently, the collar belonging to Charles Kendall was very small and adjustable, probably for a whippet which coincidentally, is the very dog I own today!

The Oxford College Archives has an impressive collection of documents including the records of the University, personal correspondence, charity and health records and school papers. The associated museums and galleries also have their own collections, <https://oac.web.ox.ac.uk/college-archives>.

Searching the catalogue of the famous Bodleian Library at Oxford University brought up a sermon preached by Nicholas Kendall (father to Charles above) in 1686, the rector of Sheviock, Cornwall, <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. Lots more to explore in this repository.

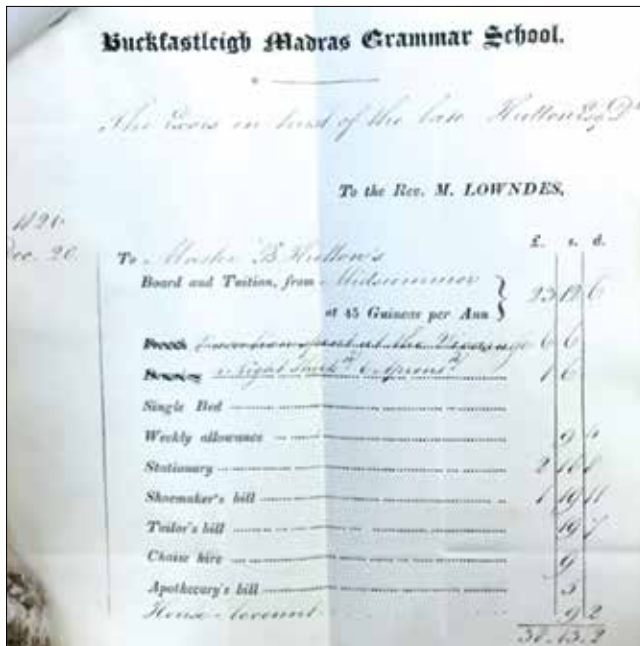
I knew the Kendall family was granted a Coat of Arms, but could I find a picture of it on google? Yes, once again Google came up trumps in an unlikely place. Charles Kendall's daughter Charlotte married Humphrey Lawrence in Launceston, Cornwall in 1753. Humphrey was a wealthy aristocrat of whom four generations of his family (including his own) are celebrated by the insertion of a stained-glass window in the church of St. Mary Magdalene, Launceston, Cornwall. The windows include the Coat of Arms of four generations of Lawrences, and in Humphrey's section of the window, also include his wife's Kendall Coat of Arms.



To find a registered Coat of Arms in the counties of England there are several sources including an eBook available online, entitled 'The Project Gutenberg E-Book of The Noble and Gentle Men of England', by Evelyn Philip Shirley, [www.gutenberg.org/files/58212/58212-h/58212-h.htm#page36](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/58212/58212-h/58212-h.htm#page36). Another good source of heraldry for the UK is found in the Heraldry of the West of England website, <https://heraldryofthewestcountry.wordpress.com>.

You can also consult the British College of Arms Roll of the Peerage, showing current day holders of the peerage by succession at, [www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/images/downloads/Roll\\_of\\_the\\_Peerage.pdf](http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/images/downloads/Roll_of_the_Peerage.pdf).

To search for other family records one of the best places to look is the National Archives UK (TNA) which has an easy-to-use catalogue index feature allowing you to search by surname, place, keyword, etc and by combining several words you can narrow down the search to your area of interest, <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.



Charles B. Hutton' grammar school expenses account in 1826.

When I searched the TNA catalogue for my ancestor Charles Hutton, who was baptised at Heavitree, Devon in 1817, I was surprised to find boarding school accounts for the Buckfastleigh Grammar School in 1826 relating to him. After his mother died in childbirth with him, and his father in 1820 when he was aged three, it appears his mother's wealthy relatives the Pierce and Northmore families took care of the children.

**Charles Hutton was educated at a boy's boarding school, Madras Grammar School in Buckfastleigh, Devon with money left by the executor of his father's will, Mr. Northmore Lawrence.** In 1826, Northmore Lawrence paid 39 English pounds for his board and tuition. The accounts give a wonderful insight into the life of a 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolboy.

Several accounts were sent to Mr. Lawrence from the school for reimbursement such as – night shirts and aprons, a weekly allowance, stationery, the shoemaker's bill, socks, handkerchiefs, tailor's bill, chaise hire, apothecary's bill and house accounts. An account from the local tailor lists clothes bought for Charles – a green suit, a blue suit and a silver tablespoon from the jeweller. Other items include a two-foot trunk, nailbrushes, combs, and a seal fur cap from the hatter. It seems eight-year-old Charles was fitted out as a tiny gentleman.

A letter of how he conducted himself at school was also included saying that "his fit of inaction has been of short continuance and of less frequent occurrence than they were, and his health was very good."

A later school report says "he is continuing steadily and is a very good boy in house and in school. His health was excellent, and he is always in high spirits." A further account requests money for new trunks, a purse, the cutting of his hair, and pocket money. A letter mentions that Charles' school holidays were spent at the Buckfastleigh vicarage.

Charles' maternal grandfather Charles Pierce (1752-1823) a Devon merchant, left provision in his will for the education of Charles' three sisters so that Mary, Elizabeth and Charlotte could be educated at Myrtle Hill, Tynemouth, Devon.

In 1826 an account was sent to Mr. Northmore Herle Pierce Lawrence for the three girls in November 1825, for pocket money. The girls' accounts included an inventory for instruction in dancing, French and music, writing, fancy articles, hair cutting, long gloves, use of piano and practice, pens and slate pencils, drawing pencils, copy books, brown paper, and sacred poetry.

Charles Hutton went on to become a solicitor in Launceston, Cornwall, thanks to his benefactors, and his Articles of Clerkship (five-year apprenticeship to an attorney) documents, when he was 18 years old, appear on Ancestry, [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2380](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2380).

Newspapers are another great source to research how our ancestors lived their everyday lives. In 1837 Charles Hutton appeared in the newspaper applying for a game license (for hunting) in Launceston, Cornwall, [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

The Devon Archives (South-West Heritage Trust) is another great source of information. Keying in 'Charles Hutton' in the search box brings up several entries including the Marriage Bond and Allegation for Charles' parents Benjamin Charles Hutton and Maria Pierce in 1811, <https://devon-cat.swheritage.org.uk/search>.

Two other valuable sources of Devon history are the catalogues at the Plymouth and West Devon Record office [www.theboxplymouth.com/collections/archives-and-local-studies](http://www.theboxplymouth.com/collections/archives-and-local-studies), and the University of Exeter Special Collections archive, [www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/library/special-collections](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/library/special-collections).

The wonderful Genuki UK website has terrific collections of online information for both Devon, [www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV), and Cornwall, [www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CON](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CON), including business records such as bank returns, hospital and asylum records, gaol executions, prisoners, gazetteers, heraldry, manors, maps, poor law, probate, schools, taxation, voting registers and much more.



The Devon Family History Society has an online Monumental Inscription index search covering many parishes, [www.devonfhs.org.uk/monumental-inscription-search](http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/monumental-inscription-search) The records also contain valuable notes in the memorial listing e.g., 'sister of Charlotte Phillot' or 'Captain and wife of Thirza Hutton'.

In 1841 at the age of 20, Charles Hutton appears in the census for Ide, Devon (a mile from Exeter), living with his sister Charlotte and her husband, and his occupation is given as independent (private income most likely from his father's will). At the age of 25 Charles immigrated to Melbourne, Australia to start a new life, and marrying an Irish girl Eliza McSweeney a few years later there in 1846.

But back to Devon and Cornwall. Could I find any other interesting ancestors hidden in plain sight using Google? My Carew ancestors (generations of baronets and prominent citizens) of Antony House in Torpoint, Cornwall have printed pedigrees, wills, and appear in parish registers and many other known records. They also appear in the Dictionary of National Biography Volumes 1-22 which are on Ancestry, [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/6892](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/6892) and the Devon History, Gazetteer and Directory books which give a wonderful description of the towns, villages and hamlets of Devon and their inhabitants, [www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/7993](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/7993).

Good old Google also informed me of two other interesting facts about the Carew family. My 9x great grandfather Thomas Carew's niece (by his brother Sir John Carew, 3rd baronet and first wife Sarah Hungerford) was a young lady by the name of **Rachel Carew who lived from 1669 to 1705. Her portrait hangs in the family home in the abovementioned Antony House. In 1690 Rachel married Mr. Ambrose Manaton (1648-1696), a member of British Parliament. The UK's History of Parliament website is another great source of biographical information, [www.historyofparliamentonline.org](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org). Ambrose Manaton also appears in the Oxford Alumni database.**



Portrait of Rachel Carew Manaton. (Wikimedia Commons)

A portrait of Rachel Carew painted by Mary Beale can be seen on display at Antony House today. It is said that the portrait so impressed the famous English novelist Daphne

du Maurier while she was visiting at Antony House, that it formed the inspiration for her novel 'My Cousin Rachel' which was later made into two feature films: first in 1952 with Richard Burton and Oliva de Havilland, and again more recently in 2017.

Like her earlier novel Rebecca, it is a mystery-romance, set primarily on a large estate in Cornwall. The story's plotline revolves around a young man taking revenge against the woman he believes murdered his cousin Ambrose, but his plans are shaken when he comes face to face with the enigmatic beauty. When Philip Ashley's much-loved (and rich) cousin, Ambrose dies, he is convinced that Ambrose was murdered by his new wife **Rachel** to inherit his wealth. Goodness, I wonder how much of the book was fact and how much was fiction? I'm guessing mainly the latter!

What else could I find about this interesting Carew family of Cornwall? Well, it seems that **Sir Alexander Carew**, 2nd baronet of Antony House, Torpoint, Cornwall (my 10x great grandfather) led a very interesting and tragic life which I found written about in an online Cornish e-Magazine, [www.cornwall24.net](http://www.cornwall24.net).

It appears that during the reign of Charles I, Alexander, a Member of Parliament, was a supporter of Cromwell when the Civil War started in 1642. Perhaps concerned his wealth and lands would be seized by the Crown he changed sides, and he was arrested on 19th August 1643 and taken to London, where he was brought to trial on a charge of treason. A Council of War found him guilty, condemned him to death, and he was hanged in the Tower of London. On 23rd December 1644 Alexander mounted the scaffold at Tower Hill. The Capital Punishment UK website lists the confirmed executions at the Tower of London from 1388 up until the last one held on 15 August 1941 by firing squad. Most were beheadings up until 1914, [www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/tower.html](http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/tower.html).



Alexander Carew's execution at the Tower of London

Just before Alexander died, it is said he recited “Lord be merciful to me, a sinner, I have desired with unfeigned desire and hearty affection to be desolved and to be with Christ”. He also asked those watching to join with him in singing the 23rd Psalm “The Lord is my Shepherd”, and then asked the executioner to strike with his axe after he had repeated the last words of his mother: “Lord though thou killest me, yet will I put my trust in Thee, Lord into thy hands I commend my spirit”. **The executioner then performed his duty. A large portrait of Sir Alexander Carew hangs in Antony House today.** Being a wealthy family,



Oil painting depicting Alexander Carew, 1609. (Wikimedia Commons)

their house appears on several websites such as the UK's National Trust, [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/antony](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/antony), and Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony_House).

Another source of historical houses and properties where you may find out further information about your family of interest is the Britain Express Heritage website where you can search by name or by county, [www.britainexpress.com/counties/cornwall/houses/anthony.htm](http://www.britainexpress.com/counties/cornwall/houses/anthony.htm).

If you have Cornish ancestors in your family tree, you may be familiar



Depiction of execution at the Tower of London. (Wikimedia Commons)

with the old saying “If there is a hole anywhere on earth, you’re sure to find a Cornishman at the bottom of it.” Highly valued for their experience and knowledge of mining and associated machinery, Cornish miners were sought after by anyone attempting mining in Britain, Australia, and North America, hence they were found all around the world, valued for their expertise. I for one, am very proud of both my Cornish and Devon ancestors. ☺

## Cornwall and Devon Resources

[www.cornwall-opc-database.org](http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org), Cornwall Online Parish Clerk's huge online database holds parish register transcriptions donated by worldwide volunteer transcribers.

<https://kresenkernow.org>, Cornwall Archives (Kresen Kernow) has digitised images, documents and many other name rich resources which can be ordered online. Try the catalogue with your surname and place of interest.

<https://books.google.com>, Google Books holds 'A Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall' Volumes 1 and 2 which can be searched online for your surname of interest. These give lots of biographical information about families, their descendants, wills, etc.

[www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/peoplelists.php](http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/peoplelists.php), Exeter Memories includes many lists of its inhabitants including woollen workers, convicts, weavers, crew lists, mayors, sheriffs, and much more.

[www.foda.org.uk/oaths/index/namesindex.htm](http://www.foda.org.uk/oaths/index/namesindex.htm), Friends of Devon Archives contains indexed Devon and Exeter Oath Rolls 1723. Oaths were taken by citizens for allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration.

[www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/DevonWillsProject#Interim](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/DevonWillsProject#Interim), Consolidated Index to Devon Wills on the Genuki UK website is an index and finding aid to wills, administrations, and inventories. Also included are Cornish wills proved in Exeter, Devon.

[www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/5111](http://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/5111), Ancestry's England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858 holds digital images of wills for Devon and Cornwall.

[www.devonfhs.org.uk](http://www.devonfhs.org.uk), Devon Family History Society has memorial inscriptions, video on Devon brick walls, and many useful links to free information.

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