

The Bookworm BY BETTY WARBURTON

With the small library that our society maintains, we cannot hope to emulate the amount of information found at the LDS Family History Library and its centres. Therefore, when purchasing books we have tried to concentrate on guides to research, histories and whatever appears useful in furthering members' research or enhancing our knowledge of the lives and times of our ancestors in the British Isles. However, the library does include a few large indexes, such as the National Burial Index, the British Isles 1881 Census and National Index and British Isles Vital Records, which may give details about particular ancestors.

The *National Burial Index* was produced on CD by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). It is a transcribed index of 13 million burials in England and Wales. We must remember, however, that it covers four and a half centuries from 1558 to 2003 and not be too disappointed when we cannot find our ancestors' names or parishes in the index. Its best coverage is of the period from 1812 to 1837, probably because the parish records were the easiest to transcribe. Once a burial has been located in the index it is a good idea to look at the original entry in the parish register to confirm it is correct and obtain more information.

For input, FFHS depends on member societies. Whenever a new edition is produced, we plan to add it to our library collection. The *1881 Census* and the *Vital Records* were both produced on CD by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Most of the information on these CDs is available online through the website www.familysearch.org ; in "Advanced Search," click on "Census" and "International Genealogical Index." Although the 1881 Census of Scotland is not available at that website, it can be searched on the CDs at the library.

Thanks to generous donors, we have acquired a few items, such as transcripts of parish registers or indexes of censuses that may provide or point the way to useful information about events in our ancestors' lives. To see what the library has I would suggest that the researcher visit the library catalogue on the Society's website www.bifhsgo.ca . Enter the name of the county of interest under "Subject Search." Type "Middlesex," for instance, and you will find there are over 100 items available, including census indexes, parish records, directories and local histories, ranging from Acton to London to Yiewsley.

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