



## 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 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 Findmypast, 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 FreeREG 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).

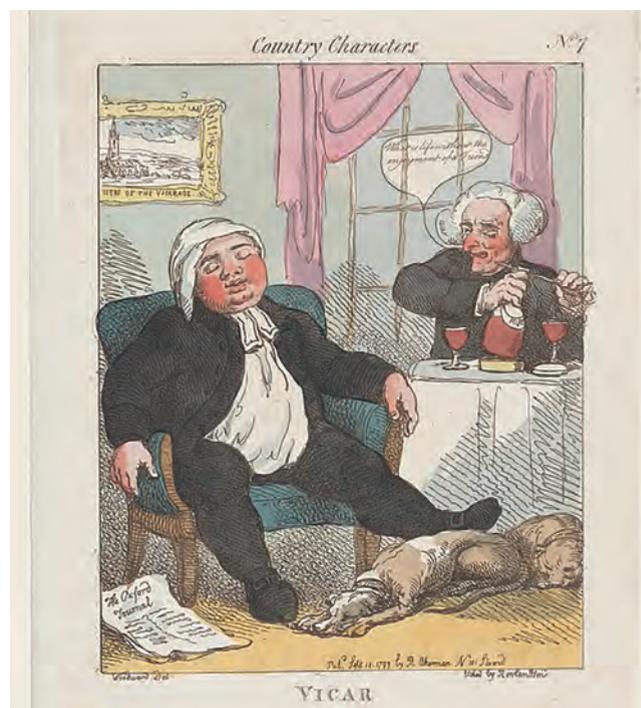
Charles was the son of the Reverend Nicholas Kendall (1656-1739), one of twelve children born to the couple. The Rev. Nicholas Kendall and his two sons Walter and Charles all appear in the Oxford University Alumni 1500-1886 database on Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8942](http://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8942). 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, graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Law, and entered 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 as I do, are the Clergy of the Church of England Database, <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).