

How Important are European Parish Registers

1665 Burials	1665 Burials
24 a N.C. of Henry Treggs	14 Joseph Gynn's. d. child
25 Sarah Field a mother & child	14 a N.C. of Richard & Ann
26 Elizabeth Hollands child	19 John Clarke S. Richard
26 Hellen Wood & child	19 a C. of William Williams
28 Mary Ellis & child of Humphrey	21 a N.C. of Willd. Tolman's. part
29 Mary North & child	21 a Stillborn C. of John Gobase
30 Edmund Bitter & child	27 Thomas Skilton S. of Edward
31 Francis Fillpot & child	27 John Lestridge S. of Edward
32 a C. of Robert Clarke's portion	28 a N.C. of Widdow Parshall & P.
33 Ann Graft wife of John	4 Margerie Gothricke
4 Eliza Gardner & child	6 a C. of Wilder Williams & P.
4 Jane S. Ellis & child	8 Eliza Hender & child

parish register

In Europe, families resided in the same neighborhood for generations and attended those parishes. These records are golden, because they list baptisms, marriages and mortuaries. The key is to identify everyone with a certain surname in the parish register.

Try and match a name with an old last will and testament. The quest here is to use family group sheets listing families to insure that the names are of the proper generation. Determine an average life-span of the family you are studying and use that as a guide. For example, a possible ancestor listed in the mortuary as having succumbed in 1540, could have been born as early as 1480, if other members of the family were averaging 80 years! Remember, the era of the black plague and certain illnesses which substantially shortened the life-span to about 30 years!

The UK Archives online provides a lot of data. Despite these suppositions, the genealogist should continue to search for more records. Virginia Immigrants Origins of Colonists