ADDITIONAL NOTES ON LECTURE

English Poor Law Records and How To Search Them

Background:

The Common Stream, a parish history by Roland Parker, is excellent.

People in society were organized mainly by social status--somewhat by occupation--as follows:

Nobility	2%	┐
Gentry	3%	├ the upper crust
Professionals	5%	┘
Merchants	15%	
Urban dwellers	30%	(from the Industrial Revolution on)
Rural dwellers	45%	

People under the protection of the Crown (like nobles) will not be found in parish records.

The Poor Law and the parish came into being with Henry VIII; he constantly increased their power. The time period under discussion is the 1800's. The basic unit of civil jurisdistional control at that time was the parish. 2/3 supported the Poor Law.

The authorities in a parish were two vestrymen, two church wardens, and two constables. They were paid little or nothing and, therefore, were the people most willing to do the job. Most of them did a good job most of the time.

The Poor House was a custodial place for those who could not take care of themselves. People of all ages could be there, but those most frequently in the Poor House were widows, orphans, unemployed men, sick people, etc. They could get relief without actually staying in the Poor House.

Friendly Societies (benevolent societies) provided aid, too. They kept records of their members and the aid given to them. These records were usually kept at the county level, rather than the parish level.

Location of Records (see syllabus, pp. 2-3):

Many are available on microfilm in Salt Lake City. In the card catalog, look under "England" - "County Name" - "Poor Law".

Examples of Records (see syllabus, p. 4):

The records listed in the syllabus were stored in the parish chest. (See The Parish Chest by W. E. Tate, B. Litt, Cambridge University Press, 1960.)

Burials in Woollen provide an additional record besides burials. Look for them in the middle or at the back of a record book.
Register of Dead Bodies contains the name of the hospital, addresses, whether an inquest was held.
Creed Register (ca. 1851-1900) was a survey to determine religious affiliation as a basis for pro-rating taxes.
Admission and Discharge Register - for schools
Disbursements by the Workhouse
Register of Young Persons Hired from the Workhouse
Indentures - Certificate of Apprenticeship on completion
Arrest Warrant for a man who deserted his family
Bastardy Examination
Bastardy Bond - You can't be sure the man named by the woman was really the father. These records were started in the 16th century, but they aren't too good through the 1700's.
Settlement Certificate - This was like a passport.
Removal Certificate

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Poor Relief in England and Wales, 1601-1834 by Geoffrey W. Oxley (David and Charles Publishing Co.)

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(Tape recording available in HFEA Kinseekers library.)

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN RESEARCH

by SCHARLOTT BLEVINS

Scharlott Blevins, a native of Davenport, Iowa, is the current Secretary of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, is the immediate Past President of the Iowa Genealogical Society, founding president of the Scott County, Iowa Genealogical Society, past president of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island, Co., IL, founding chairman of the Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference. Member of NGS and many other national, state, and local genealogical and historical societies. Instructor of Beginning Genealogy, Introduction to European Family Research, and Research in Germany since 1976. Recipient of the Isaac Walton League Outstanding Award for Conservation for Cemetery Preservation. Author, compiler, and lecturer on many various genealogical topics throughout the midwest.

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FIVE ESSENTIAL POINTS TO KNOW BEFORE BEGINNING RESEARCH IN EUROPE!!!!!!!!!

1. The exact location of the place where the individual or family lived.
2. The political history of that specific place or area.
3. Religion of the subject of the research: Protestant, Roman Catholic, etc.
4. Types of and depository of the specific records needed or available.
5. NAME VARIANTS: example - Goettsch, Gottsch, Gotsch, Muller, Moeller, Miller, Moller, Moeller.