



Rare working-class autobiographies are just some of the gems found in this new digital collection

of our ancestors' experiences.

Covering 125 years of social and political history described in records originating from the British Library, Oxford University and The National Archives, there's plenty to absorb – from Home Office correspondence about local disturbances and trade union pamphlets to digital copies of the *Police Gazette* and *Hue and Cry* recording petty thefts and nationwide manhunts. Users can explore the collections by browsing through the high-quality scanned documents, or search across them by keyword.

This online resource will continue to grow over time, but is currently split into three Archive areas – Asia and the West, European Literature, and British Politics and Society – the latter containing the most material of relevance to family historians. British Theatre, Music, and Literature: High and Popular Culture will soon join these subject categories, bringing Victorian playbills and scripts into the fold, as 10 million digital pages spanning from 1789 to 1914 are uploaded to the Archives for 2012.

Many library card holders are

50 Guineas Reward. Burglary.

On Sunday Night, the 22nd instant, or Monday, the 23rd, the Cottage of DINAH SWAN, in Brockley-Coombe, Brockley, Somerset, was feloniously entered, by violently wrenching the Lock, Bar, and Bolts of the Entrance Door from their fastenings, and various Articles stolen therefrom.

The Reward of FIFTY GUINEAS will be paid to any Person producing such information as will convict the Party guilty of the above offence, by **MR. WM. COX, Brockley.**

⚔ An Accomplish giving such Evidence, will be entitled to the above Reward, and every means be used to obtain a Pardon.

Brockley, December 30th, 1833.

ARTICLES STOLEN.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Small Japan Snuff-Box, little larger than a Crown Piece, with a Yellow Circle on the Lid, and a Small Flower on the Inside | 1 Pair Short Black Silk Gloves |
| 2 Damask Napkins, marked D. S. (red) | 1 Figured Linen Huckaback Table-Cloth near 5 feet square |
| 1 Plated Table Spoon | 1 Queen Anne Silverpence (crooked) |
| 1 Ditto Dessert Ditto | 1 Old Silver Coin, with Dean of Lincoln Stamped on it |
| 5 Ditto Tea Spoons, with Worked Handles | 2 Silver Groans |
| 2 Large Pewter Table Spoons | 1 Gold Wedding Ring (broken) |
| 5 Maslin Mob Caps | 1 Pig's Check, partly dried |
| 1 Pair of Spectacles, set in Steel, (supposed) in a Black Paper Case | 1 Old Linen Sheet, supposed to be marked F. |
| 1 Over-handle Peck White Basket | 1 Fine Table Napkin, mark not known |
| | 6 Old Shirts |

SOMERTON, FROM, MERCURY-OFFICE, Broad-Street, BRISTOL.



THE WESTINGHOUSE TIME Capsule buried during the 1939 New York World's Fair is designed to remain 50 feet underground for 5,000 years until 6939.

For the Future to Find

WHAT WOULD YOU choose to preserve for future historians to discover 250 years from now? A new project, For the Future to Find, is giving people the chance to send a message to the future by submitting pictures of the things that matter most to them – family, loved ones, a favourite musician, first car or home, a piece of art – along with a few explanatory words. These will all be transferred to microfilm and buried with a simple glass viewer in a custom-made time capsule, registered with the International Time Capsule Society, to be opened in the year 2262. Upload your defining images of 2012 at www.forthefuturetofind.com.

Digitising The Nineteenth Century

Cengage Learning, the service that hosts NewsVault, brings Nineteenth Century Collections Online to libraries and research institutions across the UK. **Laura Berry** takes a closer look

'AT THE MATURE age of nine years, and of my own free choice, I proudly donned the pit-boy's flannels ... the caller came at three o'clock in the morning to knock us up for work ...' So wrote George Parkinson in 1912, recalling memories of his first taste of working life 75 years earlier in *True Stories of Durham Pit-Life*. His fascinating account of a miner's daily

routine at the dawn of Queen Victoria's reign continues:

I kept on, close to my father's side, as he led me through the darkness, along the black wagon-way, up past the pit-pond, by the pick shop, and then to the pit-heap ... Just before me was the dark, deep shaft down which we were to pass to the regions

below ... Above the top loop ten to twenty or more lads would catch the chain, till fathoms of rope and chain, covered with human beings, dangled over the dark abyss.

Rare working-class autobiographies are just some of the gems found in this new digital collection that will help us family historians to deepen our understanding

The Sunday Times

The weekly broadsheet published between 1822 and 2006 has recently been added to Cengage Learning's plethora of digital newspaper content. Turn to Nick Barratt's Last Word on page 74 to find out more and enquire at your local library about obtaining online access.