

Press Release: New Records Reveal Those Imprisoned for Debt

The Genealogist is expanding its Criminal Records collection with the release of over 146,000 individuals who were listed in prison records. Sourced from the PRIS 10 & PRIS 11 collections held at The National Archives, these documents contain records from 1697 to 1862 and reveal those jailed for debt or bankruptcy.

These records will give family historians details of those imprisoned in debtors prisons including the King's Bench Prison, Queen's Prison, Fleet Prison and Marshalsea Prison. They contain commitment and discharge records, giving details of names of the debtor, creditor and attorney, along with the amount of debt.

Use these records to:

- Find ancestors who were imprisoned for debts and bankruptcy
- Discover to who debts were owed
- See when individuals were discharged

Within these records, we find John Dickens, father of the famous author Charles Dickens, who was in debt to baker James Karr by the sum of 40 pounds. John was brought in to custody on 20th February 1824 and was later discharged on 26th May 1824 when his mother died leaving him enough money to pay off his debts.



A List of Prisoners brought into Custody and discharged on Friday 20 Feb. 1824.				
Attorney.	Names.	At whose Suit.	Damages.	Sums Shown.
W. R.	John Dickens	at James Karr	40	10 Supra. &
W.	George Giles	at Robert Balthazar	50	12 0 0

John Dickens' custody record

Charles Dickens had to earn a wage from a young age and his childhood experiences affected him greatly. He used his experiences as background for the story of Little Dorrit.

Read our article here:

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2019/little-dorrit-dickens-and-dads-debts-1103/>

About TheGenealogist

[TheGenealogist](https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/) is an award-winning online family history website, who put a wealth of information at the fingertips of family historians. Their approach is to bring hard to use physical records to life online with easy to use interfaces such as their Tithe and newly released Lloyd George Domesday collections.

[TheGenealogist's](#) innovative SmartSearch technology links records together to help you find your ancestors more easily. [TheGenealogist](#) is one of the leading providers of online family history records. Along with the standard Birth, Marriage, Death and Census records, they also have significant collections of Parish and Nonconformist records, PCC Will Records, Irish Records, Military records, Occupations, Newspaper record collections amongst many others.

[TheGenealogist](#) uses the latest technology to help you bring your family history to life. Use [TheGenealogist](#) to find your ancestors today!

About The National Archives

The National Archives is one of the world's most valuable resources for research and an independent research organisation in its own right. As the official archive and publisher for the UK government, and England and Wales they are the guardians of some of the UK's most iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years. Their role is to collect and secure the future of the government record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible and available as possible. [The National Archives](#) brings together the skills and specialisms needed to conserve some of the oldest historic documents as well as leading digital archive practices to manage and preserve government information past, present and future. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/> For the latest stories, follow the Media Team on Twitter [@TNAMediaofficer](#)

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