
Websites for Black History

The following websites might be helpful in researching your black ancestry. They are intended as a brief guide to just some of the vast number of sites which are available for the family historian.

SPECIALIST SITES FOR BLACK HISTORY

Ipswich Caribbean Experience - <http://iceproject.com/>

This local project has created an oral history archive recording the experiences of immigrants to Ipswich.

Moving here – www.movinghere.org.uk

A database of digitised photographs, maps, objects, documents and audio items recording migration experiences of the past 200 years.

Origination - www.channel4.com/culture/microsites/O/origination

This site has many links to other sites providing information on Black and Asian immigrants to Britain and celebrates the cultural diversity that they contribute to British society.

The First Black Britons – www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/black_britons_01.shtml

This site describes the circumstances through which the first black immigrants arrived in Britain.

The Windrush - www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/arrival_01.shtml

This site tells the story of some of the passengers who arrived in Britain in 1948 on MV Empire Windrush. - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/item.asp?item_id=50

This is part of the National Archives site and contains information from the passenger list for MV Empire Windrush.

The Black Presence - www.blackpresence.co.uk/

You can use this site to find information about African Britons from the past and the present. It contains articles about black servicemen who fought in the two world wars. In addition the site offers links to useful African websites and African British News.

Casbah - www.casbah.ac.uk/

This site contains a database with examples of resources to help you research black ancestry. It has many links to other useful sites.

The Black and Asian Studies Association - www.blackandasianstudies.org.uk/interface.htm

This site contains information about ongoing projects as well as useful links to other sites.

Society of Genealogists - www.sog.org.uk/

The Library has a good section on the West Indies, containing books about different islands (including some of the non-British ones like Puerto Rico), and transcripts of parish registers. It also

has 'Caribbeana', a series of publications containing transcripts of all kinds of records relating to the British West Indies.

Rootsweb – www.rootsweb.com/~caribgw

This site has a good section on Caribbean history sources including extracts from some of the parish registers.

OTHER FAMILY HISTORY SITES THAT MAY BE USEFUL

National Archives

The National Archives - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives was formed in April 2003 as a result of the merger of the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission. It contains millions of documents and its holdings are searchable via the website. The leaflets compiled by the National Archives cover subjects from A to Z; commencing with Admiralty Charts through to Zimmerman Telegram. These are extremely useful in explaining a diverse number of genealogical topics.

Civil Registration

General Register Office Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths* - www.findmypast.com

This website is a complete listing of births, marriages and deaths certificates issued in England and Wales from 1837 onwards.

Free BMD - www.freebmd.org.uk

This is an as yet incomplete index to births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales and as the name states is free.

NB - In the case of both Websites having accessed the index you will the need to purchase the relevant certificate

Births, Marriages & Deaths at Sea, 1854-1890* - www.bmdregisters.co.uk or www.findmypast.com

This is an index to the above events and the index is free to search.

General Register Office for England - www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates

Having searched the GRO indices this then provides details as to how to obtain copies of certificates for England and Wales, costs, methods of payment etc.

Suffolk Register Office - www.suffolk.gov.uk/BirthsMarriagesAndDeaths

Local registry office, which holds indexes to local registers and where you can order copies of certificates from local registers.

IGI - www.familysearch.org

The IGI, short for International Genealogical Index, is compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and is an index to millions of names gathered from records worldwide. It contains mainly baptism and marriage entries and is a very useful tool for family research. Nevertheless be warned it is NOT complete and many parishes are not covered at all and some have only partially coverage.

*** indicates that either membership or a fee may be payable to view the full details contained on the relevant site**

Bury Record Office, 77 Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2AR

Telephone: 01284 741212

Email: bury.ro@suffolk.gov.uk

Ipswich Record Office, Gatacre Road, Ipswich, IP1 2LQ

Telephone: 01473 584541

Fax: 01473 584533

Email: ipswich.ro@suffolk.gov.uk

Lowestoft Record Office, Clapham Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1DR

Telephone: 01502 405357

Fax: 01502 405350

Email: lowestoft.ro@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Record Office web site: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro>

Suffolk Heritage Direct website: <http://www.suffolkheritagedirect.org.uk>