
Websites for Family Historians

The following websites provide genealogical information and are intended as a brief guide to just some of the vast number of sites which are available for the family historian. You can also access these sites by using a search engine such as Google.

CENSUS RETURNS

1911 Census

<http://www.findmypast.com>

This census was only released in 2009 and is currently only available via this website. Vouchers to access either scanned images of the household returns or transcripts can be obtained from Suffolk Record Office.

1841-1901 Census

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>

This website contains searchable indices of the above censuses for the British Isles (the only exception being Northern Ireland) and these are available to use free of charge in all Suffolk Record Offices and Libraries. Scanned images are available of the original census records and there is a charge for printouts. This website also provides full access to the census returns for the USA for the period 1790-1930 and various other countries around the world.

1881 Census

<http://www.familysearch.org>

The 1881 census is available line via the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints website and full access is free. This website also provides free access to the 1880 census returns for the USA and the 1881 Canadian census. This site does not however currently provide access to digital images of the census.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

General Register Office Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>

This website contains a complete index of birth, marriage and death certificates issued in England and Wales from 1837 to 2005.

Free BMD

<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>

This website is a free index to births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales. It is however an ongoing project and although currently incomplete it is a substantial index and as of 9 March 2009 it comprised of 375,628 entries.

NB – These 2 websites only provide access to the index - you will then need to purchase the relevant certificate(s) to obtain full details of the birth, marriage or death

Other Indexes to Births, Marriages and Deaths

<http://www.findmypast.com>

This website includes:

British births, marriages and deaths overseas, 1761-2005

British births at sea, 1854-1887

British marriages at sea, 1854-1883

British deaths at sea, 1854-1890

Armed forces births, 1761-1994

Armed forces marriages, 1818-1994

Armed forces deaths, 1796-1994

General Register Office for England

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro>

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

General Register Office for Scotland

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>

General Register Office for Northern Ireland

<http://www.groni.gov.uk>

Suffolk Register Offices

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/BirthsMarriagesAndDeaths>

This website provides the addresses, opening hours and contact details for the six Suffolk Register Offices located at Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Sudbury and Woodbridge.

COUNTY RECORD OFFICES

Your local Record Office will provide a wealth of material for family history research and details of the local offices, opening times, locations, holdings etc can be found on their web pages.

Cambridge Record Office

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives>

Essex Record Office

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/ero>

Norfolk Record Office

<http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/nroindex.htm>

Suffolk Record Office

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro>

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

You may find it useful to contact the relevant local family history society and exchange ideas with like minded people who may well be tracing the same family

Cambridge Family History Society

<http://www.cfhs.org.uk>

Essex Society for Family History

<http://www.esfh.org.uk>

Federation of Family History Societies

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk>

Guild of One-Name Studies

<http://www.one-name.org>

Norfolk Family History Society

<http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>

Society of Genealogists

<http://www.sog.org.uk>

Railway Ancestors Family History Society

<http://www.railwayancestors.org.uk>

Romany and Traveller Family History Society

<http://www.rtfhs.org.uk>

Suffolk Family History Society

<http://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk>

MIGRATION

These databases include records relating to both emigration and immigration.

Moving Here

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/>

This website offers a practical guide to tracing Caribbean, Irish, Jewish and South Asian ancestry.

UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>

These are recorded in the immigration section of this website. It is a database of passenger lists of ships arriving in the UK from foreign ports outside of Europe and the Mediterranean. Entries include the name of the passenger, their date of birth or age, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival and the name of the vessel.

UK Outward Bound Passenger Lists, 1890-1960

<http://www.findmypast.com>

These are recorded under the migration section of this website

UK Passport Applications, 1851-1903

<http://www.findmypast.com>

These are recorded under the migration section of this website

MILITARY DATABASES

GENERAL INDEXES:

British War Graves Project

<http://www.britishwargraves.co.uk>

This is a voluntary project to build an online international photographic war memorial to service personnel from 1914 to the present day.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

This site covers both military and civilian deaths for the UK, Australian, Canadian, Indian, New Zealand and South African forces in WWI and WWII.

Suffolk Roll of Honour

http://apps.suffolk.gov.uk/roll_of_honour

This is a roll of honour for the men and women of Suffolk who died in World War One.

Victoria Cross Registers

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

This index can be searched by name, rank, regiment, campaign and location. It contains information such as when the award was made, by whom and whether it was a posthumous award.

ARMY:

Army Lists Roll Calls, 1656-1888

<http://www.findmypast.com>

Army Records Centre

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Veterans>

This site provides information about the relevant contact addresses for obtaining details about Army service records post 1920. Earlier service records are held at The National Archives.

Waterloo Medal Roll, 1815

<http://www.findmypast.com>

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, 1917-1920

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

This index covers c.7000 women who joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later known as Queen Mary's Auxiliary Corps. It contains information such as name, age, address, parent's nationality, marital status, service statement and employers references.

World War One Campaign Medals

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

ROYAL AIRFORCE:

Women's Royal Air Force, 1914-1919

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

ROYAL NAVY:

Royal Marine Service Records, 1842-1936

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve [World War One]

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Royal Navy Officers' Service Records, 1756-1917

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Royal Navy Seamen Records, 1853-1923

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Trafalgar Ancestors

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors>

This is a database of those men who fought at Trafalgar compiled from the musters, which list the names of the crew (but not usually the officers and Royal Marines) and provides the name of the ship on which they served and their pay. These also provide place of birth and age on joining the ship.

World War Two Merchant Seaman Medals

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Women's Royal Naval Service [WRENS], 1917-1919

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

<http://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 their holdings are searchable via their website. The leaflets compiled by the National Archive on subjects from A–Z are extremely useful and cover a diverse number of genealogical topics. A large number of documents are also available to search and download directly from this website for a small fee.

WILLS AND PROBATE

Death Duty Registers Index, 1796-1811

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

This index focuses on the wills and letters of administration proven in the country courts for those estates liable to death duties and contains c.66,000 names. It lists the names of the deceased, occupation or status, parish and county where he/she lived and date of probate.

Wills of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1384-1858

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Prior to 1858 the Prerogative Court of Canterbury [PCC] was the senior ecclesiastical court for the whole of England and Wales and this site contains more than a million wills covering the period 1384-1857. Any of the wills on this site can be viewed and downloaded for a set fee.

Probate Service

<http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk>

This website provides contact details for the Probate Registries for England and Wales.

GENERAL WEBSITES

Ancestry.co.uk

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk>

This is the largest UK commercial genealogical site. The Library Edition is however available to use free of charge in all Suffolk Record Offices and Libraries.

BBC and Who Do You Think You Are?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/familyhistory>

This is a very comprehensive site for the beginner providing guidelines on how to conduct your research as well as providing numerous links to other sites.

British Origins

<http://www.britishorigins.com>

This Website contains various searchable databases but of particular note is Boyd's Marriage Index, 1538-1840.

Cindy's List

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

This provides links to genealogical websites worldwide.

Genuki

<http://www.genuki.org.uk>

This is a general reference website for family history in the UK.

International Genealogical Index (IGI)

<http://www.familysearch.org>

The IGI is compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is an index to millions of names gathered from records worldwide. It contains mainly baptism and marriage entries pre 1900 and is a very useful tool for family research. Nevertheless it is worth noting that it is not complete, many parishes are not covered and some have only partial coverage. It is known to be inaccurate.

National Burial Index, 1535-2005

<http://www.findmypast.com>

This index was originally compiled by the Federation of Family History Societies but is now available via this website as part of their parish records collection.

Nonconformist Ancestors, 1534-1865

<http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk>

This is an index to nonconformist birth, marriage and death records, including Baptist, Congregationalist, Methodist, Quaker and Unitarians religions.

Northern Ireland Ancestry

<http://www.proni.gov.uk>

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland holds many records for family history and this website has a large number of useful online leaflets to help you pursue your Irish ancestry

Scottish Ancestry

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

This website is the official government site for tracing Scottish ancestry and includes indexes to census returns, civil registration, parish registers, wills etc.

Society of Genealogists

<http://www.sog.org.uk>

This society runs courses in genealogy for beginners and publishes a quarterly magazine and a wide range of books on family history to help you further. The library has the largest collection of copies of parish registers in the UK along with an extensive collection of family histories and one-name studies.

Welsh Ancestry

<http://www.llgc.org.uk>

The National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth is the principal centre for researching Welsh ancestry.

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>