

101 Top Tips to help you with your Genealogy Research Part 2

A Problem Shared

23 Join a family history society. They organise regular meetings which offer the chance to talk through your problems with fellow enthusiasts. Many publish newsletters and indexes to records not available elsewhere.

You can find more details at www.genuki.org.uk/societies.

24 Sign up for a family history class run by the local adult education centre or WEA branch. Here you can learn about the sources in a structured way and in a convivial atmosphere.

25 Buy 1 or 2 Family History / Genealogy Magazines every month! The articles, and other features such as Q&A and Suggested Websites, may provide the answer you are looking for.

26 Some ancestors just don't want to be found. Don't waste your time fruitlessly looking for one person, move on to another side of the family.

27 Abbreviations

Ag Lab	Agricultural Labourer
BL	British Library
BLNL	British Library Newspaper Library ('Colindale')
BT	Bishop's Transcript
CEB	Census Enumerators' Books (the documents in which census data was recorded)
CRO	County record office
FFHS	Federation of Family History Societies
FHS	Family History Society
FRC	Family Records Centre
FWK	Frame Work Knitter
GOONS	Guild of One-Name Studies
GRO	General Register Office
GROS	General Register Office of Scotland
IGI	International Genealogical Index
IHGS	Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
IWM	Imperial War Museum
MI	Monumental Inscriptions
NAI	National Archives of Ireland
NAS	National Archives of Scotland
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PRO	Public Record Office
SOG	Society of Genealogists

Archival Resources

- 28** The top British archive is The National Archives (TNA), formerly the Public Record Office. If you have ancestors who served in the forces, born or died overseas, were criminals or ended up transported then you'll need to visit Kew.
- 29** On your first visit to TNA take the orientation tour, as this will explain how to make the best use of the office.
- 30** If you know the references you can order documents in advance so that they will be ready when you arrive at Kew.
- 31** The catalogue to TNA's records is online at <http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk>. This can help you find what you want before you arrive. It even includes some names.
- 32** TNA also has sets of Parliamentary Papers and The Times from 1785 with indexes on microfilm.
- 33** On the ground floor of the Family Records Centre (FRC) in central London you will find the central set of registers to births, marriages and deaths since 1837. You can also order certificates.
- 34** TNA also has a set of registers to births, marriages and deaths on microfilm.
- 35** A complete set of census records between 1841 and 1901 can be found on the first floor at the FRC.
- 36** Both the FRC and TNA have copies of nonconformist parish registers and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills.
- 37** Every English county (and many in Wales) has a record office, which has local parish registers, poor law documents, and records of local businesses, landed estates and societies. www.hmc.gov.uk/archon.
- 38** Most towns have a local studies library with collections of newspapers and photographs and other material about the area. They almost all provide computer terminals with access to the internet which can be used free or for a nominal amount. www.familia.org.uk.
- 39** The largest collection of the parish registers and indexes is held by the Society of Genealogists (SoG). Their Library also has a huge number of other resources to help family historians. www.sog.org.uk.
- 40** Family History Centres, maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), are dotted all over the UK. You can order printed or microfilm copies of any of the genealogical sources stored in the Family History Library in Utah (including 2.2 million rolls of microfilm) at any centres. You do not have to be a church member to use them. www.lds.org.uk.