



Local History Research

Research Resources

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Windsor Local History Group

Version 1, July 2026

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Introduction

Please note that this document contains hyperlinked text to Internet sources.

Researching history is a lot easier these days! A huge quantity of digitised material is now available to search online, much of it for free, but some material, inevitably, needs some kind of subscription to get to the details you really want.

Beginning history research can be daunting which is where this Guide can hopefully help. It has been compiled by the Windsor Local History Group ([LINK](#)) and is aimed at beginners who want to start their own research but aren't sure where to start and which resources to use. If you're interested in the history of a building, street or locality or if you're curious about your family history then this document is for you.

The most useful resources used by local historians are explained with web links to them and to other helpful web pages. We hope that you find the information useful. We welcome all feedback which you can provide easily through our web site 'Contact' page ([LINK](#)).

Sections are arranged as follows;

- 'Ancestry' at RBWM libraries.
- Census,
- Births, marriages and deaths,
- Directories & Electoral Registers,
- Maps,
- Newspapers,
- Military records.

Ancestry

Introduction

The most popular and comprehensive history research databases available to the Public are ‘*Ancestry*’ and ‘*FindMyPast*’ which both offer free ‘trial’ and discounted subscriptions from time to time. Both databases hold a great deal of the same information but each has material which the other does not have.

The good news is that RBWM libraries provide free access to *Ancestry* using their own computer terminals.

Libraries

You can use *Ancestry* at the following RBWM libraries;

Ascot	Boyn Grove	Cookham	Cox Green	Datchet	Dedworth
Eton Wick	Maidenhead	Old Windsor	Sunningdale	Sunninghill	Windsor
Wraysbury					

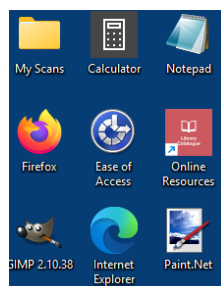
Each Library has its own opening times so check before your visit.

Using Ancestry

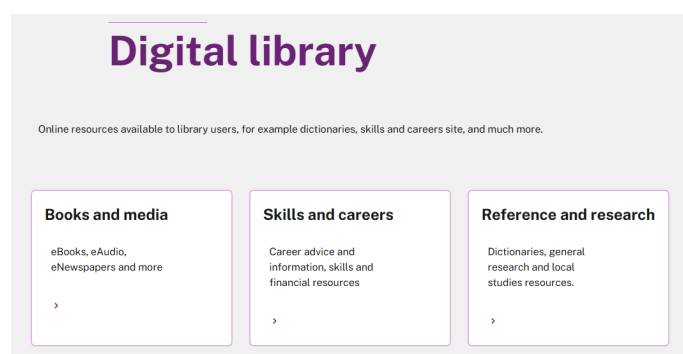
First, you need to join one of the RBWM libraries. This is easily done using your smartphone on site, from home and via the Libraries App ([LINK](#)).

Second, find a computer at one of the RBWM libraries and log on using your library card number and PIN.

Once logged on, click on the red, square ‘*Online Resources*’ icon.



Find “*Digital Library*” and click on the “*Reference and research*” box.



In the ‘Reference and research’ section, click on “*Ancestry*” under the “*Research*” heading.

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Reference and research

Dictionaries, general research and local studies resources.

Library members have access to these resources free of charge - [join online](#).

Dictionaries

- [Oxford Dictionaries](#) - Including dictionaries in a number of different languages.

Research

- [Access To Research](#) - Academic e-journals and research papers. (Available on library computers only).
- [Ancestry](#) - Family history. (Available on library computers only).
- [European Sources Online](#) - European Union.

Local studies

- [Local Map Archive](#)
- [Local Newspapers](#) - Printed and microfilm.
- [Maidenhead Heritage Centre](#) - Explore the history of Maidenhead.
- [Thames Pilot](#) - History of the River Thames.
- [Windsor & Royal Borough Museum collection](#) - view the museum's online collection.
- [Other resources](#).

The 'Ancestry Institution' home page will then be displayed and you're all set to start searching!

ancestryinstitution Home Search Message Boards Charts and Forms New Collections

Search billions of obituaries, marriages, and everyday events in Newspapers.com indexes.

Family history search. Simplified.

StoryScout® can bring the fascinating details of your ancestors' lives directly to you, and put you on a path to start making your own family discoveries.

Items marked with * are required

To find your family's stories, start with a grandparent. *

Grandfather ☐ Grandmother ☐

First Name * Last Name *

First Name Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived *

City, County, State, Country

Find your stories

SEARCH CENSUS

Find ancestors in the complete set of UK Census images from 1841-1911, including name indexes.

[Search Now](#)

SEARCH VITALS

When did those significant life changing events happen in your ancestors life? Search our Vital Records to find out.

[Search Now](#)

SEARCH MILITARY

Did your ancestors serve in the Military? Our collection of military records holds the answers.

[Search Now](#)

SEARCH IMMIGRATION

When did your ancestors arrive in the U.S.? And how did they get here? Search our passenger lists and other immigration and emigration records.

[Search Now](#)

Tips

- ❖ Remember that you can use a Library computer for a maximum of two hours each day.
- ❖ To avoid 'rabbit holing'¹, focus constantly on what you want to discover from each research session. For example, where did my Great Aunt Doris live in 1911? Who did Aunt Doris marry and when? Who was living in my house in 1891?
- ❖ Bring a USB data stick to save your digital research results.

¹ Pursuing enjoyable research unaligned with your main research objectives!

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USB Data Stick



A USB data stick, also known as a ‘flash drive’, ‘thumb drive’, or ‘memory stick’, is a small device that plugs into a computer so that you can save your research findings. It’s just a tool to store and transfer data; you can buy them cheaply at Tesco (other stores are available!). The computer detects the data stick when you plug it in. Unplug it when you’re done.

Whenever you use a computer which isn’t your own to search resources, you’ll need to save your results on a data stick and take them home to transfer to your home computer or laptop. For example, images of a baptism register or a census return. Allow enough time at the end of each computer session to save what you need otherwise all that research time may be wasted!

The business-end of the Data Stick, the ‘plug’, is the rectangular metal bit on the left of the image above which is compatible with Library computers. Gently insert that end into one of the USB sockets on the computer you’re using; see image below.

Data sticks which have an oval-shaped plug are not currently compatible with Library computers.



RBWM Library computers usually have several USB sockets and you can plug your data stick into any one of them. The image (left) shows four sockets; two blue and two black.

Look closely at the shape of the computer USB socket and you can see that each has a rectangular gap at the bottom and a thin, rectangular piece of plastic at the top.

You can spot a USB socket because it has the universal “USB” symbol next to it.



Look at the plug on your data stick and you should see that it’s a mirror image of the computer’s USB sockets.

Before you use your data stick at the Library, make sure that;

- It has the right plug (see image below),
- You align the data stick’s plug correctly with the computer’s USB socket.



This data stick has the plug type you need for your Library research sessions.

Census Records

Introduction

Census records are probably the most valuable source of (free!) information available to local historians. They are a rich resource which helps us understand societal change through time but think carefully about how you search census records and treat your results with care. To be certain about your search results, try to 'triangulate' information such as names, dates and places with other, proven information sources.

Free sources of Census records provide only transcriptions but subscription databases, such as Ancestry, provide a photographic image of the census return (£) which you can download.

Tips

Transcription Errors: Always check the original census image against the digital text transcription. Errors are very common because Census returns were handwritten in real-time by an army of people called 'enumerators' who visited every household, door-to-door on Census night and recorded their interpretation of what a householder told them. Handwriting has been transcribed and digitised so that census returns can be searched by computer. Some returns (1911 & 1921) were completed by the so-called 'Head' of the household so you can see your Ancestors' handwriting and signatures.

Spelling Variations: For example, "Bourne" may have been recorded as "Born" or "Bourn". Persevere if you don't find what you're looking for; be creative and play with Ancestry's 'Broad - Exact' slider settings which are explained below.

Guides: Check out the suggested guides (below) to improve your searching technique. There are lots to choose from!

Search Criteria: Less is more; start with the fewest number of parameters and see how many hits you get. You can refine your search later. Think of additional search criteria to reduce an overwhelmingly large number of search 'hits'. Ancestry's database is enormous; it covers many countries and many different record types.

Name Check: You may know your Granny as, say, "Doreen" but that may have been her middle name. Perhaps her first name was "Ethel" which is what would have been recorded in the Census. It was common for the first-born boy to be named after his father. Beware confusing Tom the father with Tom the son.

Relatives: Try searching for a relative or neighbour to get to the person you're looking for. For example, a young child recorded in one census is likely to be with its parents in the next census.

Ages: People may have lied about their age or perhaps they could not recall their age accurately! Ancestry calculates a person's year of birth by subtracting their recorded age in years from the Census year. For example, in 1921 my Grandma Mavis was 69 so her year of birth is calculated as 1852 (1921 minus 69); simples! So, bear this in mind when using the 'Date of Birth' search parameter.

1841: Enumerators were instructed to record the exact ages of children under 15, but for anyone 15 years or older, the age was officially rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5 (e.g., a 24-year-old would be recorded as 20). The rule confused enumerators and was ignored by some so we suggest a 5-year margin when searching with a person's age.

Census Years

YEAR	DATE RECORDED	NOTE
1841	6 th June	
1851	30 th March	
1861	7 th April	
1871	2 nd April	
1881	3 rd April	
1891	5 th April	
1901	31 st March	
1911	2 nd April	Written and signed by the householder
1921	19 th June	Written and signed by the householder
1931	Unavailable	Lost to fire
1939	29 th September	Properly, "1939 Register"
1941	None taken	War time

1939 Register

70	8	1	Wigley Ann.	-	F	15 April 55	W.	Unpaid domestic duties
		2	Wigley Harry	-	M	26 Feb 94	W.	Fitter, Brass Engine Works
		3	Wigley Catherine	-	F	18 Sept 18	S	Laundress.
		4	Wigley Thomas	-	M	9 Aug 20	S	Engineer, Junior Cost Accountant
		5	Wigley Joan	-	F	1 Feb 24	S	Housekeeper at Home.
		6	Wigley Betty	-	F	8 Feb 27	S	at school
This record is officially closed.								
		8	Wigley John	-	M	1 Feb 34	S	at school
		9	Wigley Ann	-	F	25 Aug 36	S	under schoolage

IMAGE: Sample 1939 Register (part)

The 1939 Register for England and Wales was recorded on 29th September 1939. Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands were excluded. It provides a full date of birth for each person, their occupation and, in some cases, the eventual married name of some women (e.g. entry number 5 above). Hand-written addenda are common as shown in the image above.

Sometimes you will see that the record for an individual (it might be one of your ancestors!) has been redacted; a black bar hides the enumerator's writing and you will see "This record is officially closed", for example, entry number 7 above. This is because the record of anyone born less than 100 years ago is closed unless they are known to have died.

Some places in England and Wales are missing from the original documents of the 1939 Register. A list of them is available online.

Sources

- ❖ FindMyPast has several helpful free articles about the 1939 Register including this one ([LINK](#)) about finding the wartime history of a house.
- ❖ The National Archives has a free webinar 'Using the 1939 Register' ([LINK](#)) and has a useful introductory guide to it ([LINK](#))

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[illegible]

IMAGE: Sample 1911 Census

1901 Census

Administrative County						The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the								Page 2	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet			
of Dorset part 4		of Dorset part 4		of Dorset part 4		of Dorset part 4				of Dorset part 4		of Dorset part 4			
No. of House	ROAD STREET No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	The Tenant	Houses Unoccupied	Number of Rooms	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION TO Head of Family	Age last Birthday at Census	Profession or Occupation	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded			
970	Livermore Road 1				Thomas Higley	Head	41	Machinist - Railway Works			Dorchester Dorset				
					Jane	Wife	41				" "				
					Edna	Daughter	22	Bread & Confectionery			" "				
					James	Son	21	Blacksmith			" "				
					Thomas	Son	19	Blacksmith			" "				
					Agnes	Daughter	16				" "				
					Kate	Daughter	14				" "				
					John	Son	11				" "				
					Florence	Daughter	5				" "				
					Arthur	Son	8				" "				
					Henry	Son	7				" "				
1072	" "	1			William Bayne	Head	78	Timber Sawyer	Norfolk		Northampton				

IMAGE: Sample 1901 Census (part)

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1891 Census

Administrative County of				The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 30		
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
St. Peter		Derby		Castle		Derby		Derby				Derby		Holy Trinity		
Coln. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	No. of Houses	Gender of Inhabitants (M. or F.)	Number of Persons (M. or F.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Male	Female	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Unemployed	Number of Children under 16	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
139	104 Liversage St	1	2	2	William Horchin	Head	M	23			Iron Worker		X		Derby	
					Mary do	Wife	M	22			Iron Worker				Birmingham	
140	204 Liversage St	1	2	2	George Jones	Head	M	40			Assistant Iron Fitter		X		Derby	
					Emily do	Wife	M	38							Manchester	
					George W do	Son		10							Derby	
					Charles do	Son		6							do	
141	68 D°	1	1	1	Walter A Blackett	Head	Wid	40			Office Cleaner		X		Birmingham	
142	70 D°	1	1	1	Thomas Wigley	Head	M	34			Iron Worker		X		Derby	
					Ann do	Wife	M	35							do	
					Robert do	Son		12			Iron Worker		X		do	
					Harriet do	Daughter		11			Scholar				do	
					Thomas do	Son		9			do				do	
					Sarah A do	Daughter		6			do				do	
					Catherine do	Daughter		4			do				do	
					John do	Son		1			do				do	
143	72 D°	1	1	1	Robert do	Son	S	52			Iron Worker		X		do	
					George Andrew	Head	M	47					X		Derby, Bradenfield	

IMAGE: Sample 1891 Census (part)

1881 Census

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the													Page 67	
Civil Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Urban Sanitary District of		Rural Sanitary District of		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of		
St Peter		Derby		Castle		Derby		Derby		Derby		Trinity		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	No. of Houses	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	a				
						Males	Females			(1) Deaf-and-Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Imbecile or Idiot	(4) Lunatic	
29	Liversage St No 29	1	Thomas Wigley	Head	Mar	29		Laborer at Works	Derby Derbyshire					
			Ann Wigley	Wife	Mar	26			Derby Derbyshire					
			Robert Wigley	Son		24			Derby Derbyshire					
			Harriett Wigley	Daughter		12			Derby Derbyshire					
			Robert Wigley	Brother	Mar	42		Engine Smith at Works	Derby Derbyshire					
			George Platt	Lodger	Mar	21		Cookhouse Domestic Brewed	Derby Derbyshire					
30	Liversage St No 30	1	Charles Lovelock	Head	Mar	35		Railway Signaller	Derby Derbyshire					

IMAGE: Sample 1881 Census (part)

1871 Census

Page 8]		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Civil Parish [~~of~~] of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		~~Urban Sanitary District of~~		Local Board, or ~~Urban Sanitary District~~ of		Ecclesiastical District of	
St Peter		Derby		Castle		Derby		Derby		Derby		Trinity	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES to be included in the Survey of 1901 (No.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic				
48	28 Liversage St	1	John Lear	Head	Mar	32	Boiler Maker	Torquay Devonshire					
			Mary do	Wife	Mar	28		Derby					
			Emma do	Daughter		2		Derby					
49	28 Liversage St		John Shepherd	Head	Mar	32	Black Smith	Derby					
			Miriam do	Wife	Mar	38		Derby					
50	29 Liversage St	1	James Wigley	Head	Mar	56	Laborer Railway	Derby					
			Catherine do	Wife	Mar	55		Derby					
			Robert do	Son	Mar	32	Laborer Ironworks	Derby					
			Sarah do	Daughter	Mar	30		Derby					
			Frederick do	Son	Mar	23	Laborer Ironworks	Derby					
			Thomas do	Son	Mar	20	Laborer Ironworks	Derby					
			Catherine Burbridge	Boarder		5		Derby					
			Ellie do	Boarder		2		London					

IMAGE: Sample 1871 Census (part)

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1861 Census

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											87	Page 4	
Parish (or Township) of <i>St Peter</i>		City or Municipal Borough of <i>Derby</i>		Municipal Ward of <i>(Wastle)</i>		Parliamentary Borough of <i>Derby</i>		Town of <i>Derby</i>		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of		Ecclesiastical District of	
No. of Houses	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb		
		In- habited	Un- inhabited (U.S. or Building (B.))				Males	Females					
25	<i>Liverage St</i>			<i>Robert Lee</i>	<i>Lodger</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>Winepress Sawyer</i>	<i>Derby</i>			
26	23	1		<i>Emma Atkinson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Man</i>	34		<i>School Master</i>	<i>Walsby, Rutland</i>			
27	24	1		<i>Joseph Atkinson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Man</i>	49		<i>Carpenter & Small Goods</i>	<i>Derby</i>			
				<i>Mary Atkinson</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Man</i>	34			<i>Derivatives, Loughborough</i>			
				<i>John Atkinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Man</i>	19		<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>Derby</i>			
				<i>Henry Atkinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Man</i>	16		<i>Domestic of all work</i>	<i>Derby</i>			
				<i>William Atkinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Man</i>	11		<i>School</i>				
				<i>John Atkinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Man</i>	9		<i>Do</i>				
				<i>Charles Atkinson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Man</i>	7		<i>Do</i>				
28	25	1		<i>Thomas Reynolds</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Man</i>	59		<i>Green Grocer</i>	<i>Shropshire, Birmingham</i>			

IMAGE: Sample 1861 Census (part)

1851 Census

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
St Peter				Derby					
No. of Houses	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb
					Males	Females			
29	12 Bournegate Walk	James Wigley	Head	Man	34		Wood Sawyer	Derby	
		Catherine Do	Wife	Man	34			Derby St. Peter	
		Mary Do	Daughter	Man	15		Silk Mill. Hand	Do	Do
		Robert Do	Son	Man	12			Do	Do
		Leah Do	Daughter	Man	9			Do	Do
		Ann Do	Daughter	Man	7			Do	Do
		John Do	Son	Man	6			Do	Do
		Frederick Do	Son	Man	2			Do	Do
		Charlotte Green	Wife	Man	10			Do St. Michael	
30	11	Richard Green	Head	Man	50		Railway Labourer	Derby St. Peter	

IMAGE: Sample 1851 Census (part)

1841 Census

Beware of the rounding rule for the ages of individuals (see 'Tips' above).

Borough of Derby									
Parish of St. Peter									
PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
	Inhabited	Uninhabited		Males	Females		in same County	in same Parish	in Foreign Parts
Bottle Area			Edmund Gates	50		Gracer			
	1		John Brown	30		Butcher			
			Elizabeth do.	25					
			Hannah do.	5					
			Rebecca do.	1					
			Mary Gates	50		Ind			
			Margaret Miller	14		Ind			
			William Stanley	15		M.S.			
	1		Thomas Goodman	50		Carburettor			

IMAGE: Sample 1841 Census (part)

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Sources

- “[Ancestry](#)”
- “[FindMyPast](#)”
- “[FreeCen](#)”
- “[Scotland’s People](#)”
- [The National Archives of Ireland](#)
- The National Archives in Kew has ‘[How to Look for Census Records](#)’.
- FindMyPast has free help for each Census. Here’s a [LINK](#) to the 1939 Register help page and from there you’ll find links to other Census help pages (scroll to the bottom).
- FindMyPast ‘[How to make the most of a Census Record](#)’.
- FindMyPast ‘How to Access the 1921 Census’ ([LINK](#))

Births, Marriages & Deaths (BMD)

The General Register Office (GRO) holds the official record of all births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships, stillbirths and adoptions in England and Wales. There is a GRO for Northern Ireland and one for Scotland. Founded in 1836 by the '*Births and Deaths Registration Act*' (1836), civil registration commenced in 1837. Official Registers are published quarterly.

- ❖ January, February and March (Q1) [the 'January' Quarter]
- ❖ April, May and June (Q2) [the 'April' Quarter]
- ❖ July, August and September (Q3) [the 'July' Quarter]
- ❖ October, November and December (Q4) [the 'October' Quarter]

The example GRO Births Register image below shows what information is recorded. It has what you will need to order, in this example, a birth certificate copy.

379

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1957.

WID - WIK

	Mother's Maiden Surname.	District.	Vol.	Page.		Mother's Maiden Surname.	District.	Vol.	Page.
WIDGER, Hazel	NEALE	Kingsbridge	7 a	484	WIGGINS, Patricia C.	HOLLAND	Birmingham	9 c	237
--- Martyn L.G.	COOMBS	Yeovil	7 c	417	--- Rosemarie C.	WHITEHEAD	Sodbury	7 b	782
WIDLAK, Jon	SMITH	Cleveland	1 b	951	--- Roy	ROBERTS	Chatham	5 b	384
--- Susan C.	PENNINGTON	W.Ham	5 a	707	--- Susan L.F.	DAVIS	Romford	5 a	526
--- Susan J.	SATCHELL	Coventry	9 c	1051	--- Terence V.	BIRD	Sidcup	5 b	1037
WIDMANSKI, Veronica D.	GIERUS	Wood Green	5 f	604	--- Wayne M.	MORRIS	Coventry	9 c	974
WIDMALL, Geoffrey P.	SANDERSON	Barnsley	2 b	52	WIGGINTON, Adrian P.	FARRELL	Nottingham	3 c	488
WIDMELL, Gerald M.	REED	Wandsworth	5 d	1068	WIGGLESWORTH, Duke J.	ALLANSON	Woolwich	5 d	1171
WIDUCH, Teresa	HAYES	Stourbridge	9 d	244	--- Janet M.	JOWLE	Stockport	10 a	752
WIEBE, Stephen V.	TOEWS	Cambridge	4 a	417	--- Linda	FIRTH	Wakefield	2 d	751

IMAGE: National Births Register for Q3, 1957 (part)

The Birth Register image above provides the following information;

- ❖ Registration Year ("1957")
- ❖ Registration Quarter (presented as "July, August and September"; calendar Q3 in other words)
- ❖ Child's Surname (e.g. "Widger")
- ❖ Child's first names (e.g. "Hazel")
- ❖ Mother's Maiden Surname (e.g. "NEALE" vital information for family history research)
- ❖ Birth Registration District (e.g. "Kingsbridge")
- ❖ Birth Register Volume (e.g. "7a")
- ❖ Birth Register Page number (e.g. "484")

To Find a Marriage Partner

Introduction

Identifying both marriage partners' names is a vital part of family history research. Marriage records provide this information and there are two main sources;

- GRO Civil Registration records (from 1837),
- Parish records

A census return will, typically, provide us with the name of the head of the household, usually male, and his partner. For example, in the 1911 Census image above, we see that "Thomas Wigley" (59) is recorded as "Head". He is married and his wife's name is Ann (56). This Census also records that they have been married for 32 years and that they have 9 children. At the time of this Census, 4 of the 9 children live at home, the eldest being John who is 21 years old. All of this information constitutes a common and pretty solid starting point for the family historian.

Method

We want to know the name of Thomas Wigley's bride, Ann. What is her maiden name? How do we set about discovering it? First, calculate the marriage year.

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The essential pieces of information which we should use, in this example, are the census year (1911) and the number of marriage years (32). Subtracting 32 from 1911 gives us the year 1879 for the marriage of Thomas Wigley and Ann. If you do not know the number of marriage years, depending on the census year and the particular information recorded, the age of the oldest child can be a good indicator to use in a marriage search.

The Census tells us that both husband and wife are born in Derby so we should start our search for their marriage using the assumption that they married in Derby. So, our Ancestry search parameters are;

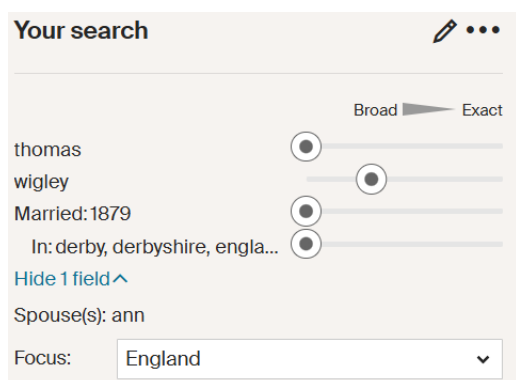
★ Marriage Partner First Name (1)	Thomas [<i>given</i>]
★ Marriage Partner Last Name (1)	Wigley [<i>given</i>]
★ Marriage Partner First Name (2)	Ann [<i>given</i>]
★ Marriage Partner Last Name (2)	[<i>unknown therefore blank</i>]
★ Marriage Year	1879 [<i>calculated</i>]
★ Marriage Location	Derby, Derbyshire, England [<i>assumed</i>]

Ancestry Search Results

Filters	Clear all
▼ Birth, marriage & death, including parish	×
> Birth, baptism & christening	1,387
> Marriage & divorce	747
> Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	248

Using these parameters in Ancestry's "Birth, Marriage & Death including Parish" Search section and with Ancestry's default search settings (more on this later) yields the daunting number of 2,654 'hits'. This number is inflated unnecessarily by 248 Deaths & Burials and 1,387 Births, baptisms & christenings; we can filter out these life events by clicking on the 'Marriage & Divorce' and the number of hits reduces to a more manageable 747.

Ancestry 'Broad - Exact' Settings



We used Ancestry's default Search settings but we now need to adjust them to further reduce the number of hits and help us to find the record we want.

The 'Your Search' image (left) shows the settings used in our marriage search. You can adjust search 'sensitivity' for each parameter which greatly affects the number of search hits.

You can see the "Broad - Exact" icon towards the top right of the image. Each of the four search parameters has a black and white, circular 'button' next to it. Three are set to the far left of the slider. The slider button alongside "wigley" is set to the second position (slightly further to the right of the slider scale).

The slider position for each search parameter tells Ancestry how to interpret and select each record it finds as set out below.

For first names;

1. Position 1 (far left of scale)	"Broad"
2. Position 2	"Exact, similar, sounds like and initials"
3. Position 3	"Exact, sounds like and similar"
4. Position 4	"Exact and similar"
5. Position 5 (far right of scale)	"Exact"

For last names;

1. Position 1 (far left of scale)	"Broad"
2. Position 2	"Exact, sounds like and similar"
3. Position 4	"Exact and similar"
4. Position 5 (far right of scale)	"Exact"

For dates;

1. Position 1 (far left of scale)	"Broad"
-----------------------------------	---------

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- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2. Position 2 | "± 10 years" |
| 3. Position 3 | "± 5 years" |
| 4. Position 4 | "± 2 years" |
| 5. Position 5 | "± 1 year" |
| 6. Position 6 (far right of scale) | "Exact" |

Refining the Search

The screenshot shows the Ancestry search interface. At the top, it says 'Your search' with a pencil icon. Below this, there are search fields for 'thomas' and 'wigley'. To the right of these fields is a slider control labeled 'Broad' and 'Exact'. The slider is positioned towards the 'Exact' end. Below the search fields, there are filters for 'Married: 1879' and 'In: derby, derbyshire, engla...'. There is a 'Hide 1 field' link and a 'Spouse(s): ann' dropdown. At the bottom, there is a 'Focus: England' dropdown.

We are certain that the name of Ann's husband is "Thomas Wigley" so we can set the slider button to the "Exact" position for both the 'First Name' and 'Last Name' search fields. Click and drag the slider button next to "thomas" and "wigley" to the far right and click the blue "Apply" button at the bottom (*no image*).

Ancestry applies the two filters and reduces 747 hits down to 530.

By moving the slider button next to "*derby, derbyshire, england*" to the "Exact" position and applying the addition filter reduces the number of hits to 31 (*no image*).

Correct Identification

Now the work begins to identify the record of Ann's marriage to Thomas Wigley from the 31 hits. This is the critical stage of our original search; what is Ann's maiden name? In Ancestry this can be quite tricky!

The first 6 of the 31 marriage hits are summarised below.

1. Name Thomas Wigley, Marriage Apr 1878 Derby, Derbyshire
2. Name Thomas H Wigley, Spouse Sarah A Sibley, Marriage Oct 1922 Derby, Derbyshire, United Kingdom
3. Name Thomas Wigley, Marriage Jan 1865 Derby, Derbyshire
4. Name Thomas Wigley, Marriage Jan 1884 Derby, Derbyshire
5. Name Thomas Wigley, Marriage Jul 1886 Derby, Derbyshire
6. Name Thomas Wigley, Marriage Oct 1906 Derby, Derbyshire

The one search parameter which we have not tinkered with is the marriage year 1879 but a scan of the first six hits reveals that one record most closely matches that marriage year; the first, 1878, April Quarter!

[England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915](#)
Marriage & divorce
 [View](#)

Name **Thomas Wigley**
Marriage Apr 1878 **Derby, Derbyshire**

Marriage 'hit' for Thomas Wigley in April Quarter, 1878

By hovering your cursor over the text "*England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915*", Ancestry displays some of the record's details as shown in the image and helpfully tells you how well your search parameters match the selected record.

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 Show how your search matched

Exact **2** | Different **1**

Name: **Thomas Wigley** Exact

Registration Year: **1878** - 1 year

Registration Quarter: **Apr-May-Jun**

Registration District: **Derby**

Inferred County: **Derbyshire**

Volume: **7b**

Page: **739**

Records on Page: **Name**

Ann Bottom
Jane Bird
Thomas Griffin Buggins
Thomas Wigley

Marriage 'hit' detail for Thomas Wigley in 1878

The crucial part of this reveal is that of the 4 names displayed; just one candidate Spouse is “Ann” and that is “Ann Bottom” which (I happen to know!) is the lady we’re looking for.

Marriage Partner Matching

The Civil Registration Marriage Index has a separate record for the Bride and the Groom under their respective surnames but with the same registration details (see below). How does Ancestry link them together?

By clicking on the “View” icon (image above) Ancestry displays an image of the Marriage Index page where it identifies the Marriage of Thomas Wigley in Derby in 1878. The Register shows all ‘Wigley’ marriages recorded in the April calendar Quarter of 1878; there are six of them (*image*).

WIGLEY, Edward Henry.	Stafford	6 b.	4
— Eliza	Dartford	2 a.	627
— Frank	Chorlton	8 a.	976
— Thomas.	Aston	6 d.	368
— Thomas.	Derby	7 b.	739
— William.	Merthyr T.	11 a.	541

Wigley Marriages for 1878, April Quarter

Note that, for our man “Thomas Wigley”, next to his name in the Index in the image above are recorded “Derby”, “7b” and “739”. These are, respectively, the Registration District, Register Volume and Register Page Number recorded for his marriage.

To match Thomas’s marriage Index entry with Ann Bottom’s, we can search Ancestry for a marriage using Ann’s and Thomas’s details;

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ★ Marriage Partner First Name (1) | Ann |
| ★ Marriage Partner Last Name (1) | Bottom |
| ★ Marriage Partner First Name (2) | Thomas |
| ★ Marriage Partner Last Name (2) | Wigley |
| ★ Marriage Year | 1878 [<i>we now know the exact marriage year</i>] |
| ★ Marriage Location | Derby, Derbyshire, England |

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Name:	Ann Bottom	Exact
Registration Year:	1878	Exact
Registration Quarter:	Apr-May-Jun	Exact
Registration District:	Derby	
Inferred County:	Derbyshire	
Volume:	7b	
Page:	739	
Records on Page:	Name Ann Bottom Jane Bird Thomas Griffin Buggins Thomas Wigley	

Marriage 'hit' detail for Ann Bottom in 1878

We get a hit (image above) where these Index entries match both marriage vent entries;

- ★ Registration Quarter Apr-May-June [calendar Quarter two]
- ★ Registration District Derby
- ★ Volume 7b
- ★ Page 739
- ★ Partner Record Thomas Wigley

Conclusion

We can say with certainty that Thomas Wigley married Ann Bottom on a date within the April calendar quarter of 1878 somewhere in the Derby Registration District. However we do not know the exact date or place of marriage. We can get all the marriage details, for example full date and location, by these means;

- Buying a copy of the Marriage Certificate for Ann and Thomas using the Index information above,
- Locating a digital image of the marriage register entry in Ancestry's Parish Records.

Parish Records

An example of a marriage register image from Ancestry's Parish Records is shown below and you can see that it has much more useful information than the GRO Register entry. These images can be downloaded to your data stick but remember that while many Parish records are digitised in both Ancestry and FindMyPast, many are not and you might not always find what you're looking for.

18 ⁷⁶ Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>Derby St. Peter</u> in the County of <u>Derby</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
388	April 4 th	Lewis Guest	27	Bachelor	Labourer	1. London R ^d .	Richard Guest	Potter
	18 ⁷⁶	Mary Alice Bilberry	19	Spinster		Wilmot St.	Thomas Bilberry	Collier
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>—</u> or after <u>Banns</u> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <u>Lewis Guest</u> <u>Mary Alice Bilberry</u> }		in the Presence of us,		{ <u>Edwin Richardson</u> <u>Ellen Spencer</u> } <u>Samuel G. Compton (Curate)</u>		

Notes

Guidance Sources

- FindMyPast free guide to Birth records ([LINK](#))
- FindMyPast free guide to Marriage records ([LINK](#))
- FindMyPast free guide to Death records ([LINK](#)).

Search Sources

Windsor Local History Group ~ Research Resources

- [“FreeBMD”](#)
- [“Ancestry”](#)
- [“FindMyPast”](#)

Scotland Search Sources for Births, Marriages & Deaths

Scotland’s People [Births](#)

Scotland’s People [Marriages](#)

Scotland’s People [Deaths](#)

Ireland Search Sources for Births, Marriages & Deaths

- [“IrishGenealogy.ie”](#)

Certificate Copies

- ❖ *England:* General Register Office ([GRO](#)), £12.50 ²
- ❖ *Ireland:* Irish Health Service Executive ([HSE](#)) €20 standard certificate, €5 uncertified copy. ¹
- ❖ *Scotland:* [“Scotland’s People”](#).

² At 24th May 2026

Parish Records

Introduction

Think of Parish Records as a much richer and visual version of the births, marriages and deaths registers discussed above. At best they are photographic images of original, hand-written church registers or they can be transcriptions of text from original Parish records. Searching is free but the details are paywalled so you'll need a subscription to see details and to download images. FindMyPast and Ancestry hold records for different parishes and there is no overlap. Remember that some parish records have not been digitised or transcribed.

The example images below show information for each parish record type. Look out for;

- An infant's date of birth recorded in a baptism register and the family's address.
- Ancestors' and witness signatures in a marriage register.
- Father's, bride's and groom's occupations and home addresses.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>St. Paul, Derby</u> in the County of <u>Derby</u> in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and <u>ninety eight</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<u>Jan 26 1898</u> <u>March 2</u> No. 3382	<u>Horace Paul</u>	<u>Joseph</u> <u>Kate</u>	<u>Atkiss</u>	<u>18</u> <u>Full Street</u>	<u>Labourer</u>	<u>H.S. Penley.</u>

IMAGE: Sample Parish Baptism Register 1898 [date of birth recorded in left margin]

1898. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the Parish of <u>S. Walsburgh's, Derby</u> in the County of <u>Derby</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
452	<u>April 11</u>	<u>John Payton</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Skinner</u>	<u>6 Great North Street</u>	<u>John Payton</u> (deceased)	<u>Brick-layer</u>
	<u>18 98</u>	<u>Mary Jane Moreton</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Dailorser</u>	<u>6 Great North Street</u>	<u>Arnon Moreton</u>	<u>Wine-man</u>
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>after</u> <u>Banns</u> by me, <u>Richard Arthur H. Hay</u> Curate.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>John Payton</u> and <u>Mary Jane Moreton</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Arnon Moreton</u> and <u>Harriet Duffield</u> .								

IMAGE: Sample Parish Marriage Register 1898

BURIED in the Parish of <u>Derby</u> in the County of <u>Derby</u> in the Year <u>1898</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<u>Caroline Marriott</u>	<u>Stallock</u>	<u>Dec: 18</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>Atkiss.</u>
No. 569.				
<u>Thomas Gress</u>	<u>Edcresson</u>	<u>December 20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>D. Handley</u>
No. 570.				

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IMAGE: Sample Parish Burial Register 1879

Sources

- Search Ancestry Parish Records ([LINK](#))
- FindMyPast free guide '[Parish Baptisms](#)'.
- FindMyPast 'Family History Hub' guide ([LINK](#)).

Directories & Electoral Registers

Trade Directories

They are an invaluable research source, providing information about local communities and the people who lived in them in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Published more frequently than the census, directories can help to fill gaps in a timeline narrative. Directory publication dates vary according to location and information may have changed between recording and publication.

In Britain the first recognisable directories emerged during the late seventeenth century, meeting a growing demand for accurate information about trade and industry.

Typical contents are;

- Descriptions of cities, parishes, towns and villages, possibly including geographical, historical and statistical details.
- Information about local facilities, institutions and associations.
- Listings for private residents, traders, trades and professions.
- Details of important people.
- Advertisements.

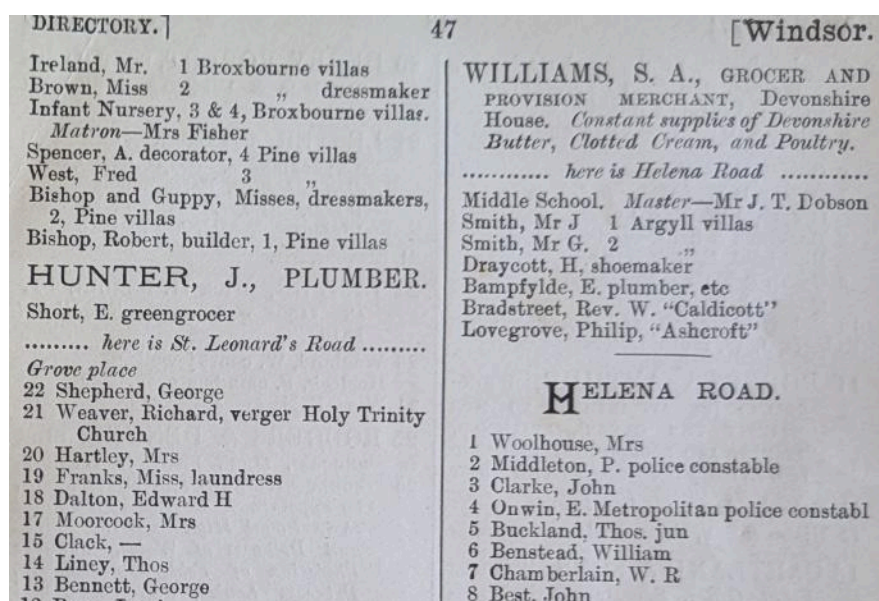


IMAGE: Sample Trade Directory (Windsor Library)

Particularly useful when read in conjunction with a map (see below) of a similar date.

Remember that street and road names in some towns and cities have changed over the years. London, for example, was badly damaged during the second war and some areas have been rebuilt with a different street layout. As towns evolved to cope with higher traffic volumes and the motor car, road layouts were altered to streamline road traffic flows. Buildings were sometimes demolished to accommodate new roads or new and improved housing. An example of this in Windsor is Ward Royal and the Windsor Yards shopping centre. Note that not ALL directories are digitised!

Sources

- Local libraries hold bound, hard-copy Directories in their Reference section.
- Both 'Ancestry' and 'FindMyPast' hold digitised, searchable Directories.

Windsor Local History Group ~ Research Resources

- The University of Leicester in its “Special Collections Online” holds a comprehensive collection of historical directories for England and Wales which are free to search and download. [LINK](#).

Electoral Registers (Voter Lists)

They provide names and addresses of eligible adults who have registered to vote. The ‘*Parliamentary Reform*’ Act of 1832 required the publication (by Parish) of persons eligible to vote.

The ‘*Representation of the People*’ Act of 1918 allowed women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification to vote. Although 8.5 million women were eligible, it was only about 66% of the total UK female population.

The ‘*Equal Franchise*’ Act of 1928 allowed women over the (now lower) age of 21 to vote.

Division 2.				
PARLIAMENTARY AND PAROCHIAL (but not County) ELECTORS.				
Page E 7.				
Parish of ETON—SOUTH WARD.			Parliamentary Polling District E.	
No.	Names of Electors in full, Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
E 292	Ablett, Alma Samuel	38, High street.....	dwelling house (service)	38, High street
E 293	Aldridge, Alfred	87, High street.....	dwelling house (service).....	87, High street
E 294	Astridge, Henry	45, High street.....	dwelling house (service).....	45, High street
E 295	Baker, Henry	High street	dwelling house (service).....	High street
E 296	Burnham, Frank Burdett ...	37, King's stable street	dwelling house (service).....	37, King's stable street
E 297	Edwards, Charles Albert	111, High street	dwelling house (service).....	111, High street

IMAGE: Sample Electoral Register 1905

Sources

- Local libraries hold bound, hard-copy, historic and current Registers available for viewing, sometimes, depending on the Local Authority, with restrictions and with official supervision.
- Both ‘Ancestry’ ([LINK](#)) and ‘FindMyPast’ hold digitised, searchable Registers.
- Note that not ALL Registers have been digitised and some years may not be digitised for your location of interest.
- Electoral Registers can fill the gaps between census returns and help provide a timeline for where your ancestors lived or who lived in a property.

Maps

Maps come in all shapes and sizes, made by various organisations. We're most familiar with the [Ordnance Survey](#) (OS) maps, detailed A to Z street atlases, [Google Maps](#) and more recently, [What3Words](#). The focus here is OS maps.

The OS is the National mapping agency of Great Britain created, initially, for military purposes in response to the 1745 Jacobite uprising when the British Army realised it didn't have useful maps of Scotland.

The most common OS map scales are explained in the table below beginning with the most detailed scale. Note that the "unit" may be an inch, millimetre, centimetre etc.

SCALE	MEANING	TRANSLATION	USES
1:1,250	1 map unit = 1,250 units on the ground	1cm (map), 12.5m (land)	Construction planning
1:25,000	1 map unit = 25,000 units on the ground	1cm (map), 0.25Km (land)	Walking
1:50,000	1 map unit = 50,000 units on the ground	1cm (map), 0.5Km (land)	Driving (& walking)
1:250,000	1 map unit = 250,000 units on the ground	1cm (map), 2.5Km (land)	Route planning

Sources

The National Library of Scotland

Its 'Map Images' collection is currently the most comprehensive source of free digitised maps and index maps ([LINK](#)). The scope is extremely broad and includes far more than just OS maps.

Windsor Library

- 1:50,000 scale OS maps of Great Britain available to loan,
- Wide selection of old maps and town atlases in its Reference section upstairs. Ask for a key to the cupboard.
- British Historic Towns Atlas Trust Volume IV covers Windsor and Eton ([LINK](#)) and shows the geographical layout from between 1180 to 1580 overlaid on an OS map from 1869.
 - Published by Oxbow Books for the Historic Towns Trust,
 - ISBN 978-1-78297-828-2
 - Available for reference at RBWM Library. Catalogue ([LINK](#)) note that you need to be logged-on to your Library account.

Legal Deposit Libraries

The so-called '[Legal Deposit Libraries](#)' hold comprehensive sets of all published OS maps

- ❖ British Library, London
- ❖ Bodleian Library, Oxford
- ❖ Cambridge University Library
- ❖ National Library of Wales
- ❖ National Library of Scotland

National Archives, Kew

The National Archives in Kew has published a useful OS maps research guide ([LINK](#)).

FindMyPast

'Find out who lived in your house during World War Two' ([LINK](#))

Newspapers

Introduction

Fewer people read hard copy newspapers these days and the nature of reportage has changed significantly since newspapers were first published in the 17th Century. Newspapers mirror the time when they were published and bring history to life. They cover every topic under the sun! Expect to find announcements of births, marriages and deaths, reports which include someone you're interested in or a street you're researching.

British Newspaper Archive

The definitive record of published newspapers is the British Newspaper Archive (BNA) ([LINK](#)) who says;

"Newspapers are a brilliant research tool for anybody interested in the past. You can discover the way historical events were originally reported, unearth forgotten stories and even uncover amazing details about your own family history."

It has a guide to help you get started searching its database of newspapers ([LINK](#)) and it offers discounted subscription deals from time to time.

Searching is free but you need a subscription to see the details. FindMyPast has a portal to the BNA available to subscribers ([LINK](#)).

WLHG

WLHG has its own archive of Windsor's local paper "Windsor, Slough & Eton Express" from 1840 to 2020 ([LINK](#)). Contact the group if you would like to visit the newspaper store. The catalogue can be downloaded from the WLHG web site ([LINK](#)).

Baylis Media

The rights to Windsor and Maidenhead's local newspapers are owned by Baylis Media who provides subscription access to search its extensive newspaper archive ([LINK](#)).

- Slough Express (since 1950)
- Maidenhead Advertiser (from 1869)
- Windsor Express (from 1812)

Slough Library

It has archives of several local newspapers, most of which can be browsed on microfiche at the library ([LINK](#)).

- Ascot & Sunningdale Observer (1985 – 1989).
- Eton & Windsor Observer 1975.
- Slough Express (1958 - 2012)
- Slough, Windsor & Eton Observer weekly edition (1883 - 2012).
- Slough Observer (Burnham edition) (25th July 1980 – 29th December 1989).
- South Bucks Observer (18th Nov 1974 - 29th December 1989).
- South Bucks Observer, Iver edition (14th April 1978 – 29th December 1989).

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- Windsor, Eton & Slough Express weekly edition between 1812 and 1958.
- Windsor Express (1957 - 1983).
- Windsor & East Berkshire Observer (1983 – 1989).

Slough History Online

You can browse and search the Slough Observer for free from 1883 to 1929 on the '*Slough History Online*' web site ([LINK](#)).

The Slough History Online web site ([LINK](#)) provides Slough Observer indexes for the following;

- Articles between 1883 and 1900, January 1902 and June 1905 and the years 1906 and 1910, indexed by name and subject.
- Births, marriages, deaths and memorial columns 1883 - 1929.

Military

Introduction

An enormous and daunting quantity of historic military information is available but, for beginners, Ancestry is a good place to start using a subscription account. Expect to find information for the following, covering many wars, although WW1 and WW2 yield the most.

- Medal rolls and honours,
- London Gazette promotion announcements
- Regimental and service records
- Enlistment attestations

Sources

Ancestry: ([LINK](#))

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Its web site is excellent and free to search and download material ([LINK](#)).

Imperial War Museum: It has a unique and free resource 'Lives of the First World War' ([LINK](#)) which provides insights into the lives of war dead compiled by members of the public to commemorate the 1918 centenary. You may find information for an individual which no official record possesses.

Regimental History Web Sites: For example, '*The Wardrobe*' for the Royal Berkshire Regiment ([LINK](#)). Some have War Diary transcripts.

World War 2 Talk: One of the best forums dealing with all aspects of warfare from individual soldiers to entire war theatres. Accounts are free to create and its membership is populated by specialists in many topics ([LINK](#)).

Bonus Material

Introduction

We have curated a set of varied resources which may help your local and family history research, whatever your chosen project.

Sources

Windsor Local History Group

- ❖ WLHG has a web page with useful local history links ([LINK](#)).

The National Archives

- ❖ Research guides on a wide variety of subjects ([LINK](#)).
- ❖ It has its own YouTube Channel with many helpful videos on a wide range of topics;
 - ‘Tracing Your Irish Family History’ ([LINK](#))
 - ‘Researching Your Family History’ ([LINK](#))
 - ‘Missing From the Census?’ ([LINK](#))
 - ‘Counting the People: The British Census’ ([LINK](#))
 - ‘Preparing to Research’ ([LINK](#))
 - ‘Spotlight on: Census’ ([LINK](#))
 - ‘Census Records: an introduction’ ([LINK](#))
- ❖ You can request the military service record for someone who served in the British Armed Forces after 1918 and who was born before 1940. Note that it can take several months until your requested records arrive. ([LINK](#))
- ❖ There are lots of specialist archive sources available which may help your research ([LINK](#))
- ❖ First World War [Research Guides](#)
- ❖ Family History [Research Guides](#)
- ❖ Second World War [Research Guides](#)
- ❖ Military & Maritime [Research Guides](#)
- ❖ Maps [Research Guides](#)

FindMyPast

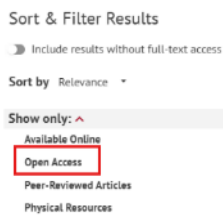
- ❖ FMP has lots of helpful guides to getting started with family history ([LINK](#))
- ❖ Its YouTube video channel has lots of videos relating to family history research and history in general. There are Podcasts too ([LINK](#)).

Windsor Library

- ❖ Has a collection of local and family history resources, maps, electoral registers and much more in its reference section. It has a web page with an index of resources ([LINK](#)).

Windsor Local History Group ~ Research Resources

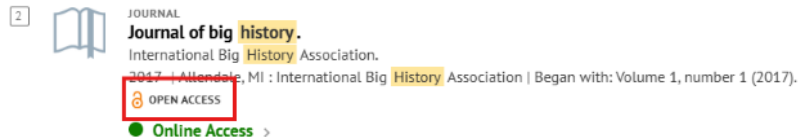
Bodleian Library



Its online catalogue 'SOLO' is the official search and discovery tool for the University of Oxford's library network. It provides a digital gateway to over 13 million physical items, electronic journals, e-books, and databases spanning the Bodleian Libraries and most college and faculty libraries.

Non-card holders can browse the catalogue but can only access resources that are marked as 'Open Access'. To find open access resources, you can narrow down your SOLO search results by selecting Open Access in the dropdown menu on the left hand side of the screen (image), once you have made a search ([LINK](#)).

Open Access results will have a little orange padlock symbol on them, like this journal below:



Without a reader membership, you can freely access 'Digital Bodleian' where you can view millions of high-quality images of materials from our archives and special collections ([LINK](#)).

British History Online

A digital archive of nearly 1300 volumes of primary and secondary content relating to British and Irish history, and histories of the British empire and foreign relations ([LINK](#)).

Family History

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/home/portal/>

Institute of Historical Research

The [IHR](#) is the UK's home for history and historians; a leading centre for the creation of digital resources. It has a useful web page 'Open and Free Access Materials for Research' ([LINK](#)).

'British History Online' is a digital library of printed primary and secondary sources for the study of Britain and Ireland, with a focus on the period 1300 to 1800. It provides free and paywalled access to 1300 volumes, plus 40,000 images and 10,000 tiles of historical maps of the British Isles ([LINK](#)).

Victoria County History

The VCH was founded in 1899 as a national project to write the history of every county in England. At its inception, the project was dedicated to Queen Victoria, which is how it derives its name.

It aims to complete authoritative, encyclopaedic histories of each county, from the earliest archaeological records to the present day, as well as topics such as topography, landscape and the built environment ([LINK](#)).

For Berkshire, click [HERE](#).

Cumbria

Cumbrian Manorial records ([LINK](#)).

Deeds and Manuscripts

The University of Nottingham has an online digital gallery of some of the manuscripts, archives and rare books held by Manuscripts and Special Collections at the university ([LINK](#)).

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