

- search.ancestry.com/Places/UK/England

Offers numerous record collections, history, and genealogy resources to help you trace your English ancestors.

Categories include:

- England census and voter lists
- England birth, marriage, and death
- England military
- England immigration and travel
- England newspapers and publications
- England schools, directories, and church histories
- England wills, probates, land, tax, and criminal
- England reference, dictionaries, and almanacs
- England maps, atlases, and gazetteers
- England stories, memories, and histories



Other resources and avenues for research include family associations, genealogy clubs, and books. Websites, such as OpenLibrary.org and Internet Archive (archive.org) are digital, non-profit libraries offering millions of free books. You may find one written about your family history. Another good source is Google Books (books.google.com), which also offers millions of free digitized books.



**Prepared by the
Shrewsbury Genealogy Club**

*Shrewsbury Public Library
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Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-841-8609*

Researching your English Ancestors



Researching your family history begins with yourself. You will need to work backwards, starting with yourself, your parents, grandparents, great grandparents, etc.; eventually, you may need to look to England for the next generation back+.

England is part of the United Kingdom together with Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Its history goes back over a thousand years.

There are many websites offering help with finding your English ancestors. Read on for guidance in finding some of the most helpful.

Useful Websites

- **www.familysearch.org**

This is the website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and is a "nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations." Their records also cross the ocean, and this site may help you make the leap to England.

- **www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Genealogy**

Offers advice on how to get started with your English research, research tools and strategies, a map, and links to information on the counties and parishes within England. They also have links explaining the various types of records available and a "record finder" link. Another valuable resource is the free IGI (International Genealogical Index), which contains baptisms and marriages transcribed directly from parish records around England and Wales. You will need to check the source to see if the information is from the original parish records or was provided by a church member researching their own family history.

- **www.nationalarchives.gov.uk**

The National Archives of England offers free index searches; you pay for each document you download. Their digitized public records include Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills from 1384 to 1858, WWI Campaign medals, service registers of Royal Navy Seamen (1873-1923), the Domesday Book, and census returns for England and Wales (1841-1901).

- **parishregister.co.uk/online**

Parish Registers are records of baptisms, marriages, and burials made by the Church. These records are valuable because census and official birth, marriage, and death records don't go back further than 1837. Many of these records go back to the 1600s. Here you will find a complete list of counties in England. Clicking on a county name will bring you to:

- **www.thegenealogist.co.uk**

Offers complete BMD and census records, along with Parish Registers, military records directories, non-conformist records, and much more. A person search is free and will give you basic information. However, for further information on the person, you will need a paid subscription.

- **www.findmypast.com**

A paid subscription website offering a pay-as-you-go option to get started. Their records include:

- English and Welsh parish records
- Baptism, marriage, and burial records from across England and Wales dating back to 1538
- British Army service records from 1760 to 1915
- British census
- Unique Passenger Lists (published in associate with the National Archives of the UK)
- Passenger lists for ships leaving the UK from 1890 to 1960, bound for long-haul destinations such as the U.S. and Canada
- Some English, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish newspapers

- **www.cyndislist.com**

- A categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the internet. This site offers a list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online. It has been a trusted genealogy research cite for over 20 years. Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use and is meant to be a starting point when researching online.