



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

Family History





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Sources for Family History and Genealogy

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1 Introduction

Although Lambeth Palace Library holds some collections of value for family history, it is unlikely to be your best starting point. If you are taking your first steps, we recommend that you look at a general guide such as:

The GENUKI guide to Getting Started:(www.genuki.org.uk/gs)

The BBC Guide to Family History:(www.bbc.co.uk/familyhistory)

Mark D. Herber, *Ancestral Trails: the Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History* (Sutton Publishing in association with the Society of Genealogists, 1997)

D.Hey, *The Oxford Guide to Family History* (OUP, 1993)

Stuart A. Raymond, *Tracing your Church of England ancestors: A guide for family and local historians* (Pen & Sword, 2017)

Peter Christian, *The Genealogist's Internet*, 2nd edn, (National Archives, 2003).

2 Parish Registers: Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials

Prior to the introduction of civil registration in 1837, the records of baptisms, marriages and burials in parish registers are the main source for establishing dates of birth, marriage and death. Parish registers for England are not held centrally at the Library, but have generally been deposited with local record offices. To identify the location of parish registers see:

C.Humphery-Smith, *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* (3rd ed., 2003)

Addresses of local record offices are available on the National Archives website: (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon)

However, the Library holds many published editions of Church of England parish registers in its holdings of printed books; in addition there are a number of editions of registers of other denominations (eg the Protestant French church in London) and bodies (including the Fleet Prison, London).

Very few baptisms, marriages and funeral services were held in the chapel of Lambeth Palace (the chapel register is MS.2886). The parish church of St Mary, Lambeth is situated adjacent to the Palace and its parish registers for St Mary for the period 1539-1971 are deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives.

The Library does hold a register of the Dutch church in London, 1575-1621 (Ref:MS3586), a few original bishops transcripts (or copies of registers) and one original parish register. The places covered are Hertfordshire, Kent, the City of London, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, and overseas. The records are in the vicar general archive unless otherwise stated.



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Hertfordshire

North Mimms, 1592-1627 (Court of Arches, Ff 1)

Kent

Bexley 1669-86, 1696-7, 1703-4, 1799-1812
Brasted 1743-4, 1799, 1801-12
Chevening 1670-1673, 1676-1677, 1681-1685, 1799, 1801-1812
Chiddingstone 1670-2, 1674, 1693-4, 1703-1704, 1711-1712, 1800-1810, 1852, 1859
Cliffe 1832-1833
Crayford 1670, 1799-1813
Darenth 1670, 1799-1812
Downe 1678-1680, 1799-1802, 1804-1812, 1845-1847
Eynsford 1669-1671, 1799, 1803-1805, 1807-1812
Farleigh, East 1670-1677, 1680-1685, 1799-1811, 1840
Farningham 1676-1677, 1799-1812
Gillingham 1670-1673, 1799-1813, 1840
Isle of Grain 1753, 1799-1811
Halstead 1672, 1799-1802, 1804, 1806-1807, 1809-1812, 1846-1847, 1849
Hayes 1671-2, 1674-1675, 1799-1811
Hever 1670, 1799, 1801-1812
Hunton 1671-1672, 1674-1682, 1701-1704, 1799-1805, 1807-1812
Ifield 1693-1694, 1799-1800, 1802-1812
Ightham 1669-1673, 1677-1678, 1799-1812
Keston 1670-1673, 1799-1812
Knockholt 1679, 1799-1807, 1809-1812
Malling, East: 1670-80, 1700-1701, 1799-1812, 1851-1852
Meopham 1671-2, 1743-1744, 1799, 1801-1808, 1810, 1812, 1815
Northfleet 1670, 1680-1682, 1743-1744, 1799-1809, 1811-1813
Orpington 1666-1670, 1672-1673, 1711-1712, 1799-1813, 1848
Otford 1669-1678, 1682-1683, 1799-1808, 1810-1812
Peckham, East : 1667-1686, 1693-1694, 1700-1712, 1717-1718, 1799-1813
Penshurst 1670-1675, 1681-1682, 1700-1701, 1799-1800, 1802-1812
Plaxtol c. 1700, 1799-1812
St. Mary Cray 1670-1674, 1678-1679, 1711-1712, 1799-1813
Sevenoaks 1670-2, 1677-1680, 1799-1813
Shoreham 1670-1673, 1675-1680, 1743-1744, 1799-1812
Stansted 1743-1744, 1799-1812, 1843
Sundridge 1670-1673, 1676-1679, 1703, 1799-1812
Wrotham 1684-5, 1743-1744, 1799-1805, 1807-1812

London (City of)

All Hallows, Bread Street: 1799, 1802, 1804-1811
All Hallows, Honey Lane: see St. Mary-le-Bow



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All Hallows, Lombard Street: 1799, 1803-1813
St. Dionis, Backchurch: 1799-1802, 1813
St. Dunstan-in-the-East: 1799-1800, 1804, 1806-1810, 1812-1814, 1837-1839
St. John Evangelist, Watling Street: 1799, 1801-1802, 1804-1811
St. Leonard, Eastcheap: 1802, 1807-1812
St. Mary Aldermary: 1799-1813
St. Mary Bothaw: 1799-1802, 1804, 1808-1811
Mary-le-Bow w. St. Pancras, Soper Lane and All Hallows, Honey Lane:
1799-1808, 1812
St. Michael, Crooked Lane: 1671-1672, 1802, 1804-1807, 1809-1812
St. Michael Royal: 1799, 1801-1804, 1811-1812
St. Pancras, Soper Lane: see St. Mary-le-Bow
St. Vedast, Foster Lane: 1799-1812

Middlesex

Harrow 1671-1672, 1702-1703, 1799, 1801-1813
Hayes 1671-1674, 1799-1800, 1802-1803, 1805-1813, 1836
Norwood: 1671-1674, 1799, 1808-1812
Pinner 1671-1672, 1799, 1801-1813

Surrey

Addington 1845-9
Barnes 1700-7, 1799-1814
Burstow 1799-1812
Charlwood 1700-1, 1799-1812
Cheam 1700-2, 1799-1813
Croydon 1799-1803, 1810-46
Croydon, All Saints: 1830-49
Horsley, East: 1671-1676, 1799-1812
Lambeth Palace: 1750-1952
Merstham 1799-1812
Mortlake 1671-1673, 1700-1705, 1799-1812, 1847
Newington, St. Mary 1799-1812
Putney 1700-1704, 1799-1812, 1835
Shirley, St. John's Chapel, in parish of Croydon: 1836-1849
Wimbledon 1671- 1675, 1800-1812, 1843

Sussex

Wilmington 1848, 1849

Overseas

The Library holds a few registers and transcripts for churches outside the British Isles as follows:



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Europe: Malta 1801-1892 (MSS.1470-1); Danzig, Poland, 1706-1811 (MS.1847); La Rochelle, France (MS.3473, ff.199-202), Dutch Church in London, 1575-1621 (MS.3586), Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey), 1785-1850 (MS.4836)

Near East: St Peter's Bazra, 1943-1966 (MSS.2505-7, 2675); Mesopotamia, (now Iraq) 1883-1966 (MSS.2669-76); St George's Baghdad (MS.3979)

Africa: Khartoum Cathedral, Sudan, 1902-1963 (MSS.2660-3); Atbara, Sudan, 1937-1953 (MS.2782A-4).

Asia: Shanghai, China, 1849-1951 (MSS.1564-84); Shantung, China, 1906-1950 (MSS.1761-4).

Geoffrey Yeo, *The British Overseas: a guide to records of their births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials, available in the United Kingdom* (3rd edn. Guildhall Library, London, 1995) is the best guide to the location of other similar records held in the UK.

3 Marriage Records Other Than Parish Registers

Marriages normally took place following the reading of banns on three successive Sundays, but could also be 'by licence' which dispenses with the requirement for the reading of banns. A licence also needs to be obtained for a marriage service to be performed in a church or chapel not normally licensed for weddings or outside the normal hours (special licence).

A licence could be issued by the Archbishop or by the bishop of the diocese in which the wedding was to take place. Use Jeremy Gibson's *Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licences, Bonds and Allegations* (4th edn., Federation of Family History Societies 1997) to identify the possible issuing authorities if a marriage was by licence.

NB Licences were given to the couple, so the records which are held at the Library relating to licences are the documents created by the process of applying for the licence - these are the allegations and bonds (until 1823).

Bonds do not generally contain information additional to that in the allegation, except sometimes the profession of the bridegroom.

Two offices of the Archbishop issued licences, and there are three main series of records at the Library: the Vicar General, the Faculty Office (now the Faculty Office alone issues licences: (www.facultyoffice.org.uk/Marriage) and peculiar jurisdiction (overseen by the vicar general).

The vast majority of the licences issued by the Archbishop in these series were common licences. Indexes to licences issued by the vicar general and faculty office for the period 1694 -1850 are available at: (www.britishorigins.com) (over 670,000



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names). here are also some other scattered bonds and licences at the Library among the Cartae Miscellenee; 12 Somerset: marriage licences, 1812-1819 (Arches Ff 65).

For further information on marriage records at Lambeth Palace Library, see the separate Research Guide to Marriage Records.

4 Divorces

Prior to 1858 (when the Court of Divorce, Probate & Admiralty was established) matrimonial cases were heard by ecclesiastical courts, including the Court of Arches. Ecclesiastical 'divorces' were really legalised separations. Divorce in the modern sense allowing remarriage was obtainable only by Act of Parliament.

5 Burial Records Other Than Parish Registers

The Library has very little original material, apart from records of transfer of remains from the churchyard of St Michael Crooked Lane, London, to other places of burial; 1831-2. (MS.1717), and some faculty applications and cause papers for the transfer of burials in the records of the Vicar General. However the Library's printed holdings contain a great deal of secondary material relating to memorial brasses, tombstones, epitaphs etc.

6 Testamentary Records

Prior to 1858 (when the Court of Divorce, Probate & Admiralty was established) probate could be granted by a number of ecclesiastical authorities, including the Archbishop's peculiar court (records in the Vicar General archive) and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (records now held by the National Archives).

Some wills proved by the Archbishop were recorded in early Archbishops' Registers. Disputed testamentary cases were also heard in ecclesiastical courts including the Court of Arches. Some testamentary records also survive in the Cartae Miscellenee. MS1488 records grants of probate or administration issued principally in peculiar or exempt jurisdictions (16th-19th centuries).

The printed books collections include numerous editions and published indexes to the records of other courts. Probate jurisdiction is frequently complicated, and we recommend the use of guides such as the following:

Jeremy Gibson, *Probate Jurisdictions: Where to Look for Wills* (4th edn.; Oxford (Parchment) for the Federation of Family History Societies, 1997)

A.J. Camp, *Wills and their Whereabouts* (London, 1974)

Karen Grannum and Nigel Taylor, *Wills and Other Probate Records* (National Archives, 2004).

The Library holds a fiche copy of the national probate registers, recording all wills



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proved in England and Wales, from their outset in 1858-1935. These entries will normally cite the date of death.

7 Professions, Occupations and Interest Groups

The largest group of professionals for which the Library holds sources is Church of England clergy; see the Library's source guide for Anglican clergy.

There are some original records of membership of religious communities: the Order of St Elizabeth of Hungary (MSS.3877-80, 3882), the Community of the Holy Rood (MSS. 3928-33), and the Community of Divine Compassion. Other membership lists may be included in the printed books collections.

Many clerical and lay people were members of societies such as the Church Union, Church Society, Church of England Temperance Society (MS.2782); Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament (MSS.2889-2907, 3320-37), Church Penitentiary Association (MSS. 3691-2), the Band of Hope (MS. 3733), and the Industrial Christian Fellowship (MSS. 4073, 4075-6, 4082) and many others.

The records of organisations for the relief and education of children include the names of those assisted by these societies, for example the Clergy Orphan Corporation, 1808-1952 (MSS.3018-3059) and the Society for the Relief of Poor Pious Clergymen, 1788-1864. The Library does not hold "personnel" files for staff working at Lambeth Palace, although there are scattered references to the Archbishops' household and officials in the Archbishops' Papers and Temporalities. The printed books collections include some materials for members of other Churches, including biographical directories and dictionaries for other provinces of the Anglican communion, as well as the Methodist church, the *Miscellanea* series of the Catholic Record Society, and Huguenot Society publications.

The manuscripts collection includes a register of the Dutch church in London, 1575-1621 (MS. 3586), Vaudois: MS.928, MS.1028. The Fulham Papers include returns of papists in London, 1765-1767. There are substantial printed and manuscript sources on the Moravians, Quakers, Presbyterians and others. The archive of the Incorporated Church Building Society includes references to the work of many notable and lesser-known architects, surveyors and builders. Some land surveyors may also be found in the surveys and valuations of estates in the Temporalities. The archive of the Queen Anne churches (MSS 2690-2750) includes material on architects etc. The Archbishop through the Vicar General and Faculty Office issued licences to medical practitioners (including midwives and dentists), and to schoolteachers. The archives of Doctors' Commons, the Faculty Office, and the Court of Arches include material on ecclesiastical lawyers and notaries public.

8 Notable Families and Individuals

An excellent place to start is with secondary sources such the *Dictionary of National Biography*, *Burke's Peerage* etc. For locating personal papers or family archives, use



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the National Register of Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra) and for family histories use secondary sources such as T.R. Thomson's *A Catalogue of British Family Histories* (3rd edn, London 1980).

For Archbishops of Canterbury, see the Library's source guides for Anglo-Saxon Archbishops and for Modern Archbishops.

The Library's manuscripts collection includes many groups of family papers, for example the Earls of Shrewsbury (MSS 694-710 and MSS 3192-3206), Bacon (MSS 647-662), Selborne (MSS 1861-1906), Palmer (MSS.2800-57), Lee (MSS.2873-80), Wake (MSS.2931-4), Hale (MSS.4267-9), the papers of several individual bishops, and deposits such as the Keble papers.

Of particular importance is the separate archive of Bishop George Bell. Much correspondence of notable individuals may also be dispersed throughout the Archbishops' Papers, Fulham Papers, and in other archive and manuscript collections. The Faculty Office records include registers of the appointments of noblemen's chaplains, as they were eligible to apply for dispensations to hold more than one benefice ("in plurality").

9 Places

In addition to the parish registers and bishops transcripts mentioned above, the Library holds a range of records which may be fruitful sources of information for residents of particular areas at certain periods. Many of those listed below are unexpected and/or very partial, but are included here because they may be overlooked. The Library's guide to sources for local history provides an overview of the records of major importance, particularly with regard to London, Middlesex, Kent and Surrey in the Temporalities archive.

Derbyshire

Bakewell: tenants, 17th century (eg. MS. 705, f.8).

Durham

Durham: recusants, c.1615 (MS.930/123)

Hampshire

Portsea: Sunday school teachers, 1901(MS.4244)

Kent

Kentish wills abstracted from Archbishops' registers, 1327-1589 (MS.1614)

Harbledown: hospital residents, 1715 (MS.941/46).

Ash: inhabitants, 1585 (CM V/26).



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Canterbury: parishioners of St Andrew & St Mary Bredman, 1681 (CM I/49-50).
Westgate: parishioners, 17th century (CM VI/18).
Wye: members of the Wye book club, 1755-1886 (MSS.1694-1700).

Lincolnshire

Lincoln diocese: excommunicates, 1598-9 (CM XII/22)

London and Middlesex

Some monumental inscriptions from London churches, copies made in 1638 (MS.1485).

London: citizens, n.d. but during the period 1193-1205 (CM XI/15).

Lists of confirmation candidates, 1760s (Terrick 5).

Middlesex archdeaconry: recusants, 1681 (CM II/5-6)

Shropshire

Whitchurch: tenants, 1588 (MS.706, f.186)

Somerset

Somerset: marriage licences, 1812-19 (Arches Ff 65)

Surrey

Guildford: admissions and deaths, Hospital of the Blessed Trinity, 1614-1861 (MSS.1410-14).

Lambeth: assessment for poor rate, 1766 (MS.2441); Stangate estate accounts, 1826 (MS.1779)

Worcestershire

Worcester diocese: recusants and excommunicates, n.d. but during the period 1577-84 (CM IV/183)

Merionethshire

Llangelynin, Merionethshire: parishioners, 1665 (CM VI/30)

Scotland

Aberdeen: baptisms and marriages copied from the register of the episcopal church, 1730-52 (MS 1544)

Ireland

Families paying Hearth Tax, 1732 (MS. 1742, ff.43-8).

Kilkenny: inhabitants, 17th century (MS. 611, ff.87-94)



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Europe

Registers for Malta 1801-1892 (MSS.1470-1); Danzig, Poland, 1706-1811 (MS.1847); La Rochelle, France (MS.3473, ff.199-202).
German refugees and Prisoners of War (both in England & on the Continent), 1933-56 (Bell 27-36, 39, 41, 56, 64)

Near East:

Registers of St Peter's Bazra, 1943-1966 (MSS.2505-7, 2675); Mesopotamia, (now Iraq) 1883-1966 (MSS.2669-96); St George's Baghdad (MS.3979)

Africa

Registers of Khartoum cathedral, Sudan, 1902-1963 (MSS.2660-3); Atbara, Sudan, 1937-1953 (MS.2782A-4)

Asia

Registers for Shanghai, China, 1849-1951 (MSS.1564-84); Shantung, China, 1906-1950 (MSS.1761-4)

North America, Caribbean and West Indies

Records of missionary activities and the colonial church (Christian Faith Society (CFS), Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) and Fulham papers).