HOW TO BEGIN

The essential tasks for the researcher of English and Welsh ancestors are to identify, from American sources, the immigrant ancestor's name, date of birth or marriage, date of immigration, and precise parish of origin. Because of the abundance of genealogical sources available in the British Isles and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, many researchers have an excellent chance of extending their genealogies beyond the immigrant. This guide offers a brief overview of some of the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department's English and Welsh sources which may assist in that search.

USING THE DEPARTMENT CATALOGS

There are several ways of identifying books on England and Wales in the library’s online catalog at www.ACPL.Lib.in.us. For example, look under England or Wales, followed by the name of a record type. One can also search under a subject or record type followed by England, Wales, or a particular shire or parish.

The online catalog allows for flexible keyword searching, and includes most of the book and periodical collection. Dial-up access to the ACPL online catalog is available at (260) 489-7087. Do not overlook important sources available only on microfilm or microfiche. Be sure to check the microtext catalog drawer labeled "International" for a list of holdings. Also check the Family History Library Catalog at www.FamilySearch.org for information on the extensive English and Welsh holdings of that library. Researchers with further questions about the collection or catalogs should ask a librarian for assistance.

RESEARCH GUIDES

Genealogical guidebooks which focus on various aspects of English and Welsh research offer an excellent starting point for the genealogist. Most contain bibliographies for further reference.


Gibson, Jeremy S. W. Gibson Guides. A collection of short guidebooks on a variety of subjects, including muster rolls, quarter sessions records, poll books, and probate records. Check the online catalog under the author's name.


McLaughlin, Eve. McLaughlin Guides. A collection of short guidebooks on a variety of subjects, including wills, parish registers, and censuses. Check the online catalog under the name of the author.


West, John. Town Records. 2nd ed. Chichester, Eng.: Phillimore, 1983. /Gc 941 W52t/

_______. Village Records. London: Macmillan, 1962. /Gc 942.007 W52v/ The above two works discuss the use of town and village records with emphasis on the medieval period.

**PASSENGER LISTS & EMIGRATION RECORDS**

Passenger lists and emigration records sometimes provide specific information about an immigrant's place of origin in Britain. A large number of English emigration lists have been published; many are found on the resource list titled "Passenger Lists." Passenger lists from U.S. ports, beginning in 1820, are relatively complete and available on microfilm.


Coldham, Peter Wilson. Several volumes of emigration records from the 17th and 18th centuries. Check the catalog under the author for a complete list.


Gazetteers & Maps

Maps and gazetteers can help the researcher locate an ancestral town in England and Wales and determine the relevant record-keeping jurisdictions to which it belongs.


There are also a number of very good Internet sites for locating town and parish names. The UK and Ireland web page is one such site: www.genuki.org.uk/big/parloc/search.html.

Vital & Parish Records

The Genealogy Department houses numerous published extracts of English church records, the bulk of which date before 1750. Other works offer guidance in finding vital record sources in England and Wales. Check the online catalog under the specific name of a parish or shire. Most of these extracts are included in the *International Genealogical Index* at www.FamilySearch.org.


*International Genealogical Index*. Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. /microfiche and CD/ A collection of birth and marriage records dating primarily before 1837. Check the "Parish & Vital Records List" at the beginning of the set to determine which parishes and years have been indexed.

*National Index of Parish Registers*. London: Society of Genealogists, 1967-, vol. 1-. /Gc 016.942 St3n/ Lists of registers by region as well as volumes with general articles on topics such as nonconformist genealogy.


**WILLS & PROBATE RECORDS**

Many of England's earliest wills have been either indexed or abstracted, and published. They can offer an important record of family relationships, especially where parish registers are lacking.

British Record Society. *Index Library*. Hertfordshire, Eng.: British Record Society, 1888-, 104 volumes. /Gc 942.0004 B77i/ A series of county record indexes, including wills and administrations, for every county in Britain, spanning from the 14th century to 1700.


**DIRECTORIES & CENSUS RECORDS**

With the exception of the 1881 census, the Genealogy Department has very few census records for the British Isles. Directories often serve as valuable census substitutes since they provide names and addresses, usually in cities and towns, for specific years.


*English Census Directories Project*. 67 vols. Melbourne, Australia: Kingsley & Hall, 1992. /microfiche/ Reprinted county directories for most English shires, covering various years from 1828 to 1900. Because many English censuses are not indexed and persons are listed by street address, directories of names and addresses make useful guides for census research.

*London City Directories, 1677-1823*. /microfilm/ Useful as a census substitute.
COUNTY HISTORIES

The *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, begun in 1900, covers many English counties. Highly regarded for their detail and scholarship, the volumes often contain material on local families. Check the online catalog under *Victoria History of...* In addition, the department houses numerous other local histories for England and Wales. Check the catalog under the name of the place.

PEERAGE, GENTRY & HERALDRY

Many pedigrees of English and Welsh nobility and gentry have appeared in print. Some are more reliable than others; a sample of notable works is listed below. Records of herald's visitations date from the medieval period and contain numerous pedigrees, although they are sometimes inaccurate. If interested in coats of arms for a particular surname, consult the *Heraldry Index*, /Gc 929.6 H412/ volumes 1 and 2.


PERIODICALS
The department houses a large collection of English and Welsh periodicals, including county record society publications, and family history society journals. Check the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) under the name of the family or locality for citations to relevant articles. For additional references, check:

Federation of Family History Societies. Family History News and Digest. 1975-. /Gc 942 F21114/ Up-to-date news, lists of publications and addresses for all member societies.


AUDIO CASSETTES
Recorded lectures on English and Welsh genealogical topics given at national genealogical conferences can be checked out at the reference desk by any patron with valid identification. Check with a librarian if you want to learn more about these tapes.

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