

## How to get started

- Talk to family members and gather as much information as possible
- Find any old documents – certificates, bibles, letters, family trees, etc.
- Write down/record everything even if it does not seem important or is only a fragment of information – you never know when it might prove to be the missing clue
- Record where you got any information from (e.g. website, person, document)
- Start to sketch out a tree structure (you, parents, their parents, etc.)

## Online 'How to Guides'

- Society of Genealogists - <http://www.sog.org.uk/learn/help-getting-started-with-genealogy/>
- Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine - <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/getting-started/starting-your-family-history>
- Family Tree Magazine - <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/>

## Useful Websites

### **General sites**

- [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) – excellent UK coverage includes censuses, parish registers, wills and other records – international records available - needs a subscription after 14-day trial
- [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) – UK based family history site includes censuses, parish registers (often different counties to Ancestry) and many more UK and international records - needs a subscription after 14-day trial
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – biggest worldwide family history site - you need to set up a free account - run by the Mormons (Latter Day Saints (LDS))  
Use 'Search', then 'Records' tab for indexes covering worldwide records (including UK parish register coverage and censuses) – some links to images  
Use 'Search', then 'Catalog' tab for identifying image files that are not indexed (search on place name) – if the camera symbol has a key, they cannot be accessed at home but can be viewed at a Family History Centre or Affiliate Library
- [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) - Links to UK parishes with information about their history and where to find information on the parish

### **England & Wales Birth, Marriages and Deaths**

National indexes are available to be searched – note that they are presented every three months (e.g. every quarter) since 1837.

- [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) – this is a free transcript and provides an easy way to search the indexes; covers 1837 to recent years (note that very recent years are not fully complete yet); gives mother's maiden name on births from 1912 and age at death from 1866.
- [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk) – you need to set up a free account. It gives additional details (mother's maiden name for all births and ages for all deaths) however index only covers birth up to 1918 (100 years) & deaths to 1958 (60 years). ALWAYS use this website to order any certificates (any other route will cost more)

## **Parish Registers**

- [www.dustydocs.com](http://www.dustydocs.com) (links to websites containing parish registers)
- [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk) (limited but coverage is increasing)
- County Online Parish Clerks (search 'OPC and county name' - not all counties covered)

## **Census transcriptions**

- [www.freecen.org.uk](http://www.freecen.org.uk) – transcriptions of census – not full coverage
- <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/> - Ireland 1901 and 1911 census – free access

## **Probate records**

- <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#calendar> – index of all probate (wills) proven in England and Wales since 1858 to recent time

## **Newspapers**

- [www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk) – comprehensive UK newspaper website – new pages added daily – subscription required after first three free views
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> - free Australia newspapers
- <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/> - free New Zealand newspapers

## **DNA Companies**

- AncestryDNA - [www.ancestry.co.uk/dna](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/dna)
- MyHeritageDNA – [www.myheritage.com/dna](http://www.myheritage.com/dna)
- 23andMe – [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com)
- FamilyTreeDNA – [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)
- LivingDNA (linked to FindMyPast) – [www.livingdna.com](http://www.livingdna.com)
  
- Guide to DNA testing - <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/blog/what-dna-testing-can-tell-you-about-your-family-history>
- DNA Facebook Group – *DNA Help for Genealogy (UK)* and *Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques*

## **Handy Hints when Researching**

- Keep in mind information may be (and often is) wrong – whether it is someone's memory or an incorrect transcription, there are lots of reasons it may be wrong
- Build up evidence – try to find more than one record giving the same information (e.g. a birth record and a census return)
- Be careful of incorrectly transcribed information – worth reading original for yourself to confirm transcription (where possible)
- When searching, use wildcards (e.g. \*) where there could be slightly different spellings. Alternatively use Soundex or Phonetic options

## **Contact Me**

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