

FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES

Peterborough Libraries has a wealth of material available for those who are interested in finding out about their ancestors. Most of this material covers Peterborough and its surrounding area.

It is held in printed, microfilm, microfiche or CD ROM formats. With the Internet now available, the fields for research has opened up to include sources from all over the world.

Although most people have already made a start in their researches and are aware of the general facilities available, others may need some guidance, which this information sheet hopes to provide.

The following reference sources are held at Peterborough Central Library but every Peterborough library offers free access to the Internet for an hour per day (A charge of 20p per page is made for printouts.)

You will also find books on family history for loan in all our libraries.

GETTING STARTED

- **Talk to your relatives** – they are always the best source of information. Glean as much as you can about your family, their relatives and event dates.
- **General Register Office Index** – having established a few facts, if you require more information about relatives it will be necessary to obtain certificates for births, marriages and deaths which may be purchased from the General Register Office (see address at end of this information sheet). The General Register Office **Index** is available at Peterborough Central Library for the period 1837-1925 on fiche and it is on the Internet at www.findmypast.com for the period 1837-2001 or a limited number of entries can be found at several websites including www.ancestrylibrary.com which is available on all the people's network computers in Peterborough Libraries.
- **Censuses** - if information is found about an individual dating back to the nineteenth century it is possible to check the census returns. Peterborough Central Library has the complete 1881 British Census for England and local census returns 1841-1901 on microfilm. **All the censuses from 1841 to 1901 are available online via the National Archives website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk or are free to view on www.ancestrylibrary.com which is available on all the people's network computers in Peterborough Libraries.**
- **Parish Records** - for details of births, marriages and deaths prior to 1837 when civil registration began, you will need to use parish records. Those held on microfiche at Peterborough Central Library are listed below. The original registers are usually preserved at the appropriate (County) Record Office and these records can go back as far as c.1558.
- **Internet** - having checked these sources it is now possible, either to narrow the search down to local sources or to go further a field to other areas. In this respect the Internet may help, because there are many sites available which have a vast amount of information on them (see below for a selection of Internet sites).

MAIN SOURCES AT PETERBOROUGH CENTRAL LIBRARY

NATIONAL

CIVIL REGISTRATION

General Register Office Index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales 1837- 1925 FICHE
(copies of the more recent part of the index, up to 1983, are only available locally at the Family History Centre, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Cottesmore Close, Westwood, Peterborough, or at Cambridge Record Office, Shire Hall, Cambridge) . **The indexes (from 1837 to 2001) are available on the Internet at www.findmypast.com and www.ancestrylibrary.com. Copies of Birth, Marriage and death certificates may be ordered on the Internet at www.gro.gov.uk**

CHURCH REGISTRATION

International Genealogical Index (England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.) 1992 edition. FICHE
(This indexes mainly births, christenings and marriages recorded in various parish church registers, mostly before 1837)
Also available, with additional information indexed since 1992, on the Latter-day Saints website at www.familysearch.org.

Vital Records Index. (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland) 2001 edition (Another Latter-day Saints compilation, similar to the IGI and containing birth and marriage records between 1530 and 1906). CD ROM

National Burial Index (England and Wales) 2003 2nd edition (This indexes death/burials recorded in parish church registers, and therefore, complements the records in the IGI, which excludes burials). CD ROM
The National Burial Index is also available on the internet at www.findmypast.com.

WILLS AND PROBATE

Prerogative Court of Canterbury Will Index 1701-1800 (indexes wills proved at the PCC, usually by those wealthy enough not to use the Diocesan Courts; covers those living in England roughly south of a line between the Mersey and the Humber.) FICHE

The PCC Wills from 1384 to 1857 may be obtained online from the National Archive's website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

National Probate Index (England and Wales) 1858-1943 (indexes wills proved in the civil courts from January, 1858; also includes those wills proved in Ireland 1877-1927, then subsequently just Northern Ireland; Scottish confirmations from 1877; and Colonial grants and probate from 1893. The printed indexes have not been filmed later than 1943, but copies exist in several County Record Offices – the set from Peterborough Probate Registry, being at Cambridge Record Office) FICHE

CENSUS ENUMERATORS BOOKS

National Census 1881 (England, Wales, Scotland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man), available online on the Latter Day Saints website: www.familysearch.org
National Census: from 1851 to 1901 are available online at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk and www.ancestrylibrary.com which is free to view on all the people's network computers in Peterborough Libraries.

MISCELLANEOUS

Soldiers and officers died 1914-1918 CD ROM
Soldiers and officers died 1939-1945 CD ROM

MAIN SOURCES AT PETERBOROUGH CENTRAL LIBRARY

LOCAL

CENSUS ENUMERATORS BOOKS

Peterborough Registration District	1841-1901	FILM
Stamford Registration District	1841-1901	FILM
Oundle Registration District	1851-1901	FILM
Whittlesey Registration District	1861-1871; 1851+1881 (indexes only) 1901	FILM/FICHE

Indexes

1841-1891	Werrington Township	PRINTED
1841 & 1861	Lincolnshire Surnames: Bourne and Stamford Registration District	FICHE
1851	Urban Peterborough and Longthorpe	PRINTED
1851 & 1891	Stilton Sub-District (North Hunts)	PRINTED
1851	Isle of Ely Surnames	PRINTED
1841, 1851 & 1891	Hunts (Norman Cross Hundred only)	FICHE
1851	Cambs. (Thorney and Whittlesey only)	FICHE
1861-1871	Whittlesey	FICHE
1851	Lincolnshire Surnames	PRINTED
1871-1891	Lincolnshire Surnames	PRINTED
1881	Cambs, Hunts, Northants and Rutland	FICHE

CHURCH REGISTERS

All Soke of Peterborough parishes 16 th -19 th Century (except Longthorpe, Werrington and Peterborough St. Paul)		FICHE
Transcript of Peterborough St. John 1559-1812		PRINTED
Peterborough Congregational Church 1831-1837		FILM
Peterborough Wesleyan Methodist Church 1822-1837		FILM
Norman Cross Hundred (Caldecot, Denton, Elton, Conington, Water Newton only)		FICHE
LINCOLNSHIRE BORDER PARISHES (Barholm, Baston, Crowland, Deeping St. James, Deeping St Nicholas, Greatford, Langtoft, Market Deeping, Tallington, Uffington, West Deeping)		FICHE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BORDER PARISHES: (Apethorpe, Collyweston, Easton, Fotheringhay, Kings Cliffe, Nassington, Paston, Tansor, Warmington, Woodnewton, Yarwell)		FICHE
CAMBS BORDER PARISHES :Thorney 1653-1837		FICHE
Whittlesey (St. Andrew) 1602-1851		FICHE
Whittlesey (St. Mary) 1599-1851		FICHE
Whittlesey (Holy Trinity, Coates) 1850-1921		FICHE
HUNTS BORDER PARISHES: (Alwalton, Fletton, Orton Longueville, Orton Waterville Stanground with Farcet)		FILM

Indexes

1601-1700	Huntingdonshire (whole county) Marriage Index	FICHE
1701-1754	“ “ “	FICHE
1754-1837	Huntingdonshire (plus Thorney) Marriage Index	PRINTED
1700-1753	Lincolnshire (Aveland and Ness, Beltisloe and the two Elloe Deaneries) Marriage Index	PRINTED
1754-1837	Lincolnshire (Aveland and Ness, Beltisloe and the two Elloe Deaneries) Marriage Index	PRINTED
c1700 - c1800	Bishops Transcripts (Glinton, Helpston, Etton, Maxey Maxey, Northborough and Ufford)	PRINTED
16 th C -1812	Northants Marriage Indexes (Glinton, Peakirk, Northborough and Castor)	PRINTED
1654-1837	Thorney Surname Index (christenings, marriages and burials)	PRINTED

ELECTORAL REGISTERS

Peterborough Municipal Borough, 1852; 1854;1858-1868; 1878;1885;1951-1973.	FILM/PRINTED
Peterborough Division of North Northants 1918-1931; 1937-1938	FILM
Peterborough City Council 1974 to date	PRINTED

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Soke of Peterborough: only Eye, Paston, Peterborough (Cowgate only) and Werrington	PRINTED
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Lincolnshire Border Parishes: Baston, Crowland, Market Deeping, West Deeping	PRINTED
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Huntingdonshire Border Parishes: Alwalton, Caldecot, Chesterton, Fletton Denton, Haddon, Stanground and Woodston	PRINTED
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WILLS AND PROBATE

Indexes

Archdeaconry of Northampton 1510-1652; 1711-1800	PRINTED
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Archdeaconry of Huntingdon 1479-1652	PRINTED
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Diocese of Lincoln 1280-1547,1320-1600; 1660-1700	PRINTED
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Lincoln Consistory Court index of wills 1700-1900	CD-ROM
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Vice-Chancellor's Court, Cambridge, 1501-1765	PRINTED
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Archdeaconry of Ely 1513-1857	PRINTED
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Consistory Court of Ely 1449-1858	PRINTED (3volumes)
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USEFUL WEBSITES

Four 'portal' websites which have links to many other relevant websites:

- www.familia.org.uk - the UK and Ireland guide to genealogical sources in Public Libraries. It includes resources at Peterborough Central Library.
- www.genuki.org.uk - this excellent site provides details of genealogical information for the UK and Ireland
- www.familyrecords.co.uk - provides links to many family history websites.

For baptisms and marriages before 1837:

- www.familysearch.org - International Genealogical Index - an index of parish register transcripts, which mainly covers the period from 1538 to the middle of the 19th century. The site is not fully comprehensive (*USA but international in scope*)

For indexes of births, marriages and deaths after 1837:

- www.findmypast.com - This also includes the National Burial Index. (vouchers for this site can be purchased at Peterborough Central Library)
- www.ancestrylibrary.com - this site is available free at all the Peterborough Libraries.

For indexes to census enumerators returns:

- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk – provides links to websites that give access to all the censuses. Vouchers for access to the 1901 census can be purchased at Peterborough Central Library.
- www.ancestrylibrary.com - this site is available free in all the Peterborough libraries and includes all the censuses - 1841 - 1901.
- www.familysearch.org - includes the 1881 census records for the whole of the UK, it can be searched for free.
- <http://freecen.rootsweb.com> - free access to transcribed parts of the censuses.

For those who died in military service:

- www.cwgc.org - Commonwealth War Graves Commission - a search tool for soldiers who died in World War 1 and World War 2.

For Wills proved by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury from the 14th century to 1858:

- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline - the indexes are free to use; the text of the Wills are accessible as 'pay to view'.

Other important sites:

- www.rootsweb.com - the Internet's oldest genealogy site. It also includes ISTG which is a list of all immigrant ships with passenger lists landing in the USA and Rootsweb surname list (*nearly a million surnames.*)
- www.familyhistoryonline.net - this site includes the National Burial Index for many counties.
- www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy.html - National Archives of Ireland. Includes a list of all genealogical sites in Ireland.
- www.scotsorigins.com - details of all the genealogy of Scotland are listed.

Tracing living relatives

- www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/ provides information on how **lost, living persons can be traced**

Genealogical Societies

- www.sog.org.uk - Society of Genealogists. Information about services provided by the Society.
- www.scotgenealogy.com - Scottish Genealogy Society. All the services provided by the Society are given.

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

- Federation of Family History Societies www.ffhs.org.uk
- Cambridgeshire Family History Society
Contact: Mrs B Ward, 1 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford, Cambs. CB2 4NT
- Huntingdonshire Family History Society
42 Crowhill, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE29 2NR
- Lincolnshire Family History Society
Contact: Unit 6, 33 Monks Way, Monks Road, Lincoln LN2 5LN or
www.lincolnshireffhs.org.uk
- Northamptonshire Family History Society
Contact: Mrs. A. Malin, 17 Swyncombe Green, Hartwell, Northants.NN7 2JA
- Peterborough and District Family History Society
Contact: Mrs M Brewster, 111 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough PE2 9HE
Tel (01733) 554666 email at meandmygarden@hotmail.com or www.peterborofhs.org.uk

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- Northamptonshire Record Office
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 9BQ
email: archivist@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01604 762129
- Huntingdon Record Office
Grammar School Walk
Huntingdon
PE29 6FL
email:
county.records.hunts@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01480 375842
- Cambridge Record Office
Shire Hall
Cambridge CB3 0AP
email:
county.records.cambridge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 717281
- Lincolnshire Archives Office
St. Rumbold Street
Lincoln
LN2 5AB
email:lincolnshire_archive@lincolnshire.gov.uk
email:archive_bookings@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01522 525158
- Wisbech and Fenland Museum
Museum Square
Wisbech
Cambs. PE13 1ES
e.mail:info@wisbechmuseum.org.uk
Tel: 01945 583817
- The National Archives.
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU
email:www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Tel: 020 8876 3444

LOCAL REGISTRATION

- Registration of Births Marriages and Deaths
The Register Office
33 Thorpe Road, Peterborough, PE1 6AB Tel: 01733 566323

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

- Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths
General Register Office
PO Box 2
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 2JD

Or online at www.gro.gov.uk

Or by telephoning the GRO at +44 (0)845 603 7788

Since 1998 the public search rooms for wills and letters of administration from 1858 onwards for England and Wales has been at

- Probate Department
First Avenue House
42-49 High Holborn
London WC1V 6NP
Tel: 020 79476000

Orders by post:

If you are unable to visit First Avenue House, or the appropriate Probate Registry, you can order by post by writing to:

- The Postal Searches and Copies Department
The Probate Registry
Duncombe Place
York, YO1 2EA

Peterborough Central Library
Broadway
Peterborough
PE1 1RX

Tel: (01733) 864270

Fax: (01733) 555277

Email: libraryenquiries@peterborough.gov.uk

URL: www.peterborough.gov.uk/page-5682

Monday	9.00-7.00
Tuesday	9.00-7.00
Wednesday	9.00-7.00
Thursday	9.00-8.00
Friday	9.00-7.00
Saturday	9.00-6.00
Sunday	10.30-4.30

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Richard Hillier/Marion Brassington (March 2008)