

Researching your Family History

There are many sources and records that can help you to find out who your ancestors were, where they lived and what they did. It can often be a bit overwhelming knowing where to start and what to look for. We hope the following will show you some of the information that can be found.

NB. Many of the sources cover a wide timespan.

Ancestry and FindMyPast can be accessed for free at any NCC Library or at Northamptonshire Record Office.

Start with you

Talk to elderly relatives to find out more details about your family. If possible, try and attend a Family History course as this will give you a good overview of the records you will need to look at in your research

Your parents

Their birth certificates will give you their dates and places of birth and parents names. The marriage certificate should confirm these details.



Grandparents

Family History Society

Join Northants Family History Society - we have lots to offer!

- we hold monthly meetings at Kettering, Oundle, Northampton and Rushden.
- we publish a quarterly journal full of interesting articles
- we have a bookstall at meetings (or by post/online shop)
- we have published over 150 books of Memorial Inscriptions
- we have over 1 million names on our databases which you can search for a small fee,

- visit our website to find out more: www.northants-fhs.org

Did you grandfather serve in WW1? Service records (where they survive) and medal rolls can be found at the National Archives. Or search online at Ancestry.com or FindmyPast.co.uk



Newspapers

Look in newspapers for obituaries and other information. Northampton Local Studies has an excellent collection. Digitised copies of the Northants Mercury are available online at FindMyPast

Emigration

The late 1800s and early 1900s were a time of mass emigration to America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Search passenger lists online at Ancestry.com or FindMyPast.co.uk

John	William	1802	20	56	John	William	1802	20	56	John	William
James	Do	1804	18	56	John	William	1802	20	56	John	William
William	Do	1806	16	56	John	William	1802	20	56	John	William
Elizabeth	Do	1808	14	56	John	William	1802	20	56	John	William
Thomas	Do	1810	12	56	John	William	1802	20	56	John	William

1911 & 1901 census

Look for your ancestors in the 1911 on Ancestry.com or FindmyPast. These will give details of members of the household, occupations and places of birth.

The Workhouse

If your ancestor became too ill or infirm to work, then they may have had to go into the Workhouse. The Record Office has records for the Poor Law unions which may help you. Orphaned children were also often admitted to the Workhouse.

1891 census

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GENERAL REGISTER

REGISTRATION DISTRICT: *Redditch*

1891 DEATH in the Sub-District of *Redditch* in the County of *Worcestershire*

No.	When and where born	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
1	<i>Redditch, Worcs</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Heart disease</i>	<i>J. D. Gardner, Registrar, Redditch</i>	<i>1891</i>	<i>J. D. Gardner</i>

1881 census

The 1881 census has been indexed and can be searched online. Use it to find members of your family especially if they moved around,

Certificates

Obtain copy certificates to confirm family relationships and details found in the census or elsewhere. The General Register Office Indexes can be searched online on various sites. You can order copy certificates online at www.gro.gov.uk

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School Records

You may be lucky enough to find your ancestors names in a school admission register.

School log books record snippets of information about the daily life of the school and often record instances of epidemics such as measles, whooping cough or diphtheria and lessons taught.

Occupational Sources

Look at occupational sources: ie if your ancestor was a publican, shopkeeper, farmer, or tradesmen then they are likely to appear in trade directories. Local museums may have information about occupations in such as the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne



Memorial Inscriptions

The NFHS has published over 150 booklets of MIs. These can give useful information about family relationships and confirm dates of burial.



1871/1861/1851 census

Using the information from previous census you can now search for earlier generations in the census for 1871, 1861 & 1851. Available online at Ancestry & other sites. Fiche copies available at the Record Office & some libraries. Check details against earlier census - they occasionally differ!

Marriage Licences

Not everyone married by banns and it is worth checking these as the marriage did not have to take place in the bride or groom's own parish.

Continue obtaining as many certificates as you can afford!

Parish Registers

Earlier registers usually only give limited information. You will need to look at other records to confirm family relationships.

1837

The start of Civil Registration and the introduction of birth, marriage and death certificates.

Parish Chest Records

Prior to the setting up of parish and county councils, the church was the administrative body in a parish. Their records often contain a wealth of information. Records to look at are Vestry Minutes, Churchwardens Accounts and records of the Overseers of the Poor. Where they survive they can be found at the Record Office.

Parish Registers

You will now need to start looking at parish registers for baptisms, marriages and burials. For Northamptonshire these are available on microfilm at The Record Office and Northampton Local Studies.

Non-Conformity

Your ancestor may have been a Non-Conformist and it is very worthwhile checking these records (including membership lists) if you are unable to find an entry in the parish church registers.



