

## Infosheet No. 24 Useful sources for genealogists

We often receive requests for crew agreements, passenger lists, as well as information on the careers of Captains and of seamen. Lloyd's Register has never recorded such details and as such can be of little help to genealogists. We have, however, collated various useful sources, including suggested reading, contact addresses and advice, from relevant institutions and hope that this will assist you with your research.

This is not an exhaustive list and we welcome news of other collections and sources so that we may add them to our information sheet.

### Suggested reading

#### Getting started

*Genealogy for Beginners*  
Arthur J Willis  
(Phillimore & Co Ltd)

*British Ancestry Tracing: A DIY Guide for Beginners*  
K S Buckley (K Buckley: 1978)

*Beginning Your Family History*  
7<sup>th</sup> Revised Edition, George Pellin  
(Federation of Family History Societies: 1998)

*Never Been Here Before? A genealogists' guide to the Family Records Centre*  
Jane Cox and Stella Colwell  
(PRO Readers' Guide 17: 1997)

*Tracing Your Family History*,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
J A Cole (Lancashire: 1989)  
*Everyone Has Roots*  
A J Camp (Star Books: 1978)

*In Search of Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
Gerald Hamilton-Edwards  
(Phillimore & Co Ltd: 1983)

#### General texts

*Discovering Your Family History*,  
Revised Edition  
Don Steel (BBC Publications: 1986)  
ISBN 0563212225

*Tracing Your Ancestors*  
Meda Mander (David & Charles: 1976)  
ISBN 0715370227

*Your Family History*  
C M Matthews (Lutterworth Press: 1976)

*Handbook of British Family History*,  
2nd Revised Edition  
Noel Curren-Briggs (Imprint unknown: 1979)  
ISBN 0906701015

*Genealogy for Librarians*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Revised  
Sub. Edition  
Richard Harvey (Library Assoc. Pub.  
UK: 1992) ISBN 0851574084

*Ancestral Trails*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Edition  
M Heber (Sutton Publishing: 2004)  
ISBN 0750935103

*Discovering Your Family Tree*, 4<sup>th</sup>  
Edition  
D Iredale & J Bartlett (Shire  
Publications: 1985)  
ISBN 0852637675

*Tracing Your Ancestors in the Public  
Record Office*, 6<sup>th</sup> Revised Edition  
Amanda Bevan and Andrea Duncan  
(PRO Publications: 2002) ISBN 1  
903365 34 1

*Dictionary of Genealogical Sources in  
the Public Record Office*  
Stella Colwell  
(George Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd:  
1992) ISBN 0 297 83140 2

*Family Records Centre: A user's guide*,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
Stella Colwell (PRO Publications: 2002)  
ISBN: 1 903365 36 8

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E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)

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*The Genealogist's Internet*  
Peter Christian  
(PRO Publications, HMSO)  
ISBN: 1903365 16 3

*How Our Ancestors Lived: a history of life in Britain a hundred years ago*  
David Hey  
(PRO Publications, HMSO)  
ISBN: 190336521

*Family Photographs 1860-1945: A guide to researching, dating and contextualising family photographs*  
Robert Pols (PRO Publications: 2002)  
ISBN: 1903365 201

*The Public Record Office introduction to the Joys of Family History*  
Simon Fowler (PRO Publications: 2002)  
ISBN: 1903365317

*Emigrants and Expats: a guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas*  
Roger Kershaw (PRO Publications)  
ISBN: 1903365325

*The British Overseas*  
Geoffrey Yeo (Guildhall Library Research Guide)

## Books on census records

*Marriage and Census Indexes for Family Historians*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson  
(FFHS: 2000)

*Census Returns 1841-1891 in Microform: a directory to local holdings in Great Britain; Channel Islands; Isle of Mann*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson  
(FFHS: 1997)

*Making use of the census*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
Susan Lumas (PRO Readers' Guide 1: 1997)

*Pre-1841 Censuses and Population Listings*  
C R Chapman (Lochin Publishing: 1990)

*A Clearer Sense of the Census: the Manuscript Returns for England and Wales, 1801-1901*  
E Higgs (London: 1996)

*Netting your Ancestors – Tracing family history on the internet*  
Stuart A Raymond (2007)  
ISBN 9781906280000

## Books covering specific regions

*In Search of Scottish Genealogy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Edition  
Gerald Hamilton-Edwards  
(Phillimore & Co Ltd: 2003)  
ISBN 0850335132

*Your Irish Ancestors*  
J Anderson Black (Castle Books: 1980)

*Tracing Your West Indian Ancestors: Sources in the Public Record Office*  
Guy Grannum (PRO Publications: 1995) ISBN 1873162200

## Books on Naval, merchant shipping and military records

*My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman - How can I find out more about him?*  
CT and MJ Watts (Society of Genealogists: 1986)

*A Naval Biographical Dictionary*  
W R O'Byrne (Reprinted Naval Historical Press: 1997)

*Records of Merchant Shipping and Seamen*  
K Smith, C T Watts and M J Watts  
(PRO Publications: 1998)  
ISBN 1873162499

*Naval Records for Genealogists*  
N A M Rodger (PRO Publications: 1998) ISBN 1873162588  
*Is Yours An SS Great Britain Family?*  
Adrian Ball (in association with the SS Great Britain Project) (Kenneth Mason: 1988) ISBN 0859373428

*Army Service Records of the First World War*  
William Spencer (PRO Publications)  
ISBN: 1903365236

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71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
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United Kingdom

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E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)



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## Specialist Publishers and Booksellers

**Society of Genealogists**  
14 Charterhouse Buildings  
Goswell Road  
London EC1M 7BA  
T: +44 (0)20 72518799

Their collection includes a full set of the Naval Chronicle, in which the deaths of Royal Naval Officers were noted.

**Phillimore & Co Ltd**  
Shopwyke Manor Barn  
Chichester, PO20 6BG  
T: +44 (0)1243 7876636  
*Catalogue by request*

**Naval and Military Press**  
PO Box 61  
Dallington  
Heathfield, TN21 9ZS

**Federation of Family History Societies**  
PO Box 2425  
Coventry, CV5 6YX  
[www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

## Specialist journals

*Family Tree Magazine*  
ABM Publishing Limited  
61 Great Whyte,  
Ramsey,  
Huntingdon,  
Cambridgeshire,  
PE26 1HJ  
T: +44 (0)1487 814050  
E: [info@abmpublishing.co.uk](mailto:info@abmpublishing.co.uk)  
[www.family-tree.co.uk](http://www.family-tree.co.uk)

*Family History Monthly*  
Diamond Publishing  
140 Wales Farm Road  
London W3 6UG  
E: [fhm@metropolis.co.uk](mailto:fhm@metropolis.co.uk)  
[www.familyhistorymonthly.com](http://www.familyhistorymonthly.com)

*Who Do You Think You Are?*  
*Magazine*  
BBC Magazines Bristol  
9th Floor, Tower House  
Fairfax Street  
Bristol BS1 3BN  
E: [WDYTYAeditorial@bbcmagazines.com](mailto:WDYTYAeditorial@bbcmagazines.com)  
[www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com)

## Contacts and repositories

**Guildhall Library**  
Aldermanbury  
London  
EC2P 2EJ  
T: +44 (0)20 7332 1868/70  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

***Lloyd's Captains' Register***  
Contrary to popular belief, the *Lloyd's Captains' Register* was not published by Lloyd's Register. It was compiled from the record of Certificates of Competency and Service issued to masters, kept by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen from 1852, in accordance with the Mercantile Marine Act 1850. The Registrar transmitted the details to Lloyd's of London (the other 'Lloyd's') at regular intervals, by special arrangement. The original record, in numerical order of certificate number, is held at The National Archives under class references **BT 122 to BT 127**.

Lloyd's of London began to publish the *Captains' Register*, listing the information alphabetically by master's name, from 1869. A full collection of these registers, dating to 1947, is held by the Guildhall Library, as part of the Lloyd's Marine Collection.

The Guildhall Library also holds: information relating to ships' voyages and losses; a full collection of *Lloyd's List* dating from 1740; the *Mercantile Navy List*, which carried obituaries for ships' masters around 1864 and Records of the Commissary Court of London (London Division), containing naval and merchant seamen's wills from the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

## Births, deaths, marriages and adoption records

**Family Records Centre (FRC)**  
Please note that the FRC which was located at 1 Myddleton Street, London, closed in 2008.  
[www.familyrecords.gov.uk](http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk)

The FRC did hold the records of births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales. Certificates, from 1837 to the present, can now be ordered through

**Lloyd's Register Foundation  
Information Centre**  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BS  
United Kingdom

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F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039  
E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)

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the General Register Office (GRO) or from the relevant local register office. Records on adoption have been kept since 1927 and on civil partnership from 2005 to the present.

## General Records Office (GRO)

Certificate Services Section  
General Register Office  
PO Box 2  
Southport  
PR8 2JD  
T: 0845 603 7788  
E: [certificate.services@ips.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:certificate.services@ips.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

Every birth, adoption, marriage, civil partnership or death registered in England or Wales has a General Register Office (GRO) index reference number.

These Indexes can be viewed online at:  
[www.freebmd.org.uk/](http://www.freebmd.org.uk/)

The GRO Indexes as well as the Overseas Index of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1761 to 2009 can also be consulted at one of several locations in the UK:

- Manchester City Library
- Birmingham Central Library
- Bridgend Reference and Information Library
- Plymouth Central Library
- City of Westminster Archives Centre
- London Metropolitan Archives
- The British Library

Some GRO indexes, although not complete, are also available at other locations including libraries, family history societies, or local record offices.

## Census records

Census records for England, Wales, Isle of Man and Channel Islands have been taken every ten years since 1841. Most local and county record offices hold microfilm or microfiche copies of the 1841 to 1901 census returns for their own areas. Census returns can also usually be viewed at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Family History Centres.

## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

British Isles Family History Service  
Centre  
185 Penns Lane  
Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands  
B76 1JU  
T: +44 (0)121 384 2028  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

*FamilySearch offers a network of 4,500 facilities offering public access to genealogical records from all over the world.*

## Genealogical Society of Utah

50 East North Temple  
Salt Lake City  
Utah 84150  
USA  
[www.gensocietyofutah.org/](http://www.gensocietyofutah.org/)

*Copies of all available census returns. Census records for the years 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 can now be searched online. Details of the official sites to access these records are available through:*

## The National Archives

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/census-records.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/census-records.htm)

It is free to search the following census websites, but there may be a charge to view full transcriptions and download documents:

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

[www.1901censusonline.com](http://www.1901censusonline.com)

[www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk)

## Probate records, wills and administrations

## Principal Registry of the Family Division

First Avenue House  
42-49 High Holborn  
London  
WC1  
[www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/courts-and-tribunals/courts/probate/family-history.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/courts-and-tribunals/courts/probate/family-history.htm)

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[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)





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## The National Archives

Kew  
Richmond  
TW9 4DU  
T: 020 8392 5330  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)

*Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC)  
Wills and Administrations after 1858.*

For Probate records prior to 1858 try the local authority archives, such as public libraries and County Record Offices in the appropriate region, plus local historical research institutes.

## General Register Office for Scotland

New Register House  
3 West Register Street  
Edinburgh  
Scotland  
EH1 3YT  
[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/)  
*For copies of birth, death and marriage certificates*

The official online Scottish genealogy resource containing Scottish census records, Scottish wills, birth and death certificates can be accessed at:  
[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/)

Please note that from April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland merged with the National Archives of Scotland to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

## Registrar General for Northern Ireland

The Registrar General  
Oxford House  
49/55 Chichester Street  
Belfast BT1 4HL  
T: 028 9025 2000

Census returns and births, deaths and marriages records for Northern Ireland.

For the 1901 and 1911 census online visit: [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)

The General Register Office of Ireland has records of birth, marriage, and death occurring in all of Ireland from 1864 to December 31, 1921 and records from the Republic of Ireland (excluding the six north-eastern counties of Derry, Antrim, Down,

Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone known as Northern Ireland) from January 1, 1922 onwards. The GRO also has records of non-Catholic marriages in Ireland from 1845.

## The General Register Office of Ireland

Genealogy and Family history research facility, 3rd Floor  
Block 7, Irish Life Centre,  
Lower Abbey Street  
Dublin 1, Republic of Ireland  
[www.groireland.ie/research.htm](http://www.groireland.ie/research.htm)

## The Registrar General

Joyce House  
8/11 Lombard Street East  
Dublin 2

Census returns and births, deaths and marriages records for the Republic of Ireland.

## National Archives of Ireland

Four Courts  
Dublin 7  
Republic of Ireland  
[www.nationalarchives.ie/](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/)

Surviving census returns for the whole of Ireland are held here, although few 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish census returns have survived. Those for 1901 and 1911 are fairly complete and are open for public inspection.

## London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road  
London EC1R 0HB  
T: +44 (0)20 7332 3820  
Minicom: 020 7272 8703  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL\\_Services/Leisure\\_and\\_culture/Records\\_and\\_archives/](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Leisure_and_culture/Records_and_archives/)

Largest local authority archive in the UK with records covering most aspects of the history of London and Londoners, including parish records.

## The National Archives

Ruskin Avenue  
Kew  
Surrey  
TW9 4DU  
T: +44 (0)20 8876 3444  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

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London  
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United Kingdom

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[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)



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Records of merchant seamen, passenger lists, probate records, early records of Registry of Shipping & Seamen (dating back to 1800s), plus more. Records of taxes and taxpayers dating c1200 – 1700 are held under reference **E 179**. Search the online catalogue for more information.

Records of the deaths of Royal Naval Seamen may be found under the following references:

**ADM 104:** naval deaths on ships from 1893

**ADM 48:** wills of Royal Naval Seamen 1786-1882

**ADM 44:** seamen's effects papers 1800-1860

## Oriental & India Office Collection

### The British Library

96 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2DB  
T: +44 (0)20 7412 7676  
F: +44 (0)20 7412 7609  
[www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

Estates of Deceased British Merchant Seamen realised in India and remitted to England 1855-1865 (ref: L/MAR/C863).

## Some useful websites

[www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

Covers every county in the UK and includes information on places, libraries, archives and family history societies.

[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

Society of Genealogists

[www.familyrelatives.com](http://www.familyrelatives.com)

Online access to over 750 million records of which 400 million have been fully transcribed.

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

View around 750 million records.

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Numerous family history records and resources from 1754-1960.

[www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

An ongoing project that aims to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales.

[www.bmdindex.co.uk](http://www.bmdindex.co.uk)

Index to the complete range of birth, marriage and death records (BMD) from 1837 onwards as published by the GRO.

[www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

US based site covering the whole world and with over 65,000 links. A-Z subject list where you can find links to a large number of genealogical topics.

[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com)

Free family history software available to download.

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)

US genealogical co-operative with links to many other projects such as Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild. Includes 19,000 mailing lists through which you can communicate with other family historians.

[www.genealogyportal.com](http://www.genealogyportal.com)

Genealogy portal site with links as well as help and advice.

[www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

General Register Office, can provide birth, marriage and death certificates dating back to 1837.

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission site including the Debt of Honour Register, which provides personal and service details and places of commemoration for those who died whilst serving with Commonwealth forces during the First and Second World Wars.

[www.ozemail.com.au](http://www.ozemail.com.au)

Advice for tracing European ancestors in India and how to trace your family history there.

[www.jsgqb.org](http://www.jsgqb.org)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

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[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)



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[www.earl.org.uk/familia/](http://www.earl.org.uk/familia/)

Guide to genealogical resources in public libraries across the UK and Ireland.

[www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/victorian.html](http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/victorian.html)

Help with researching Victorian London, particularly in connection with the 1841-1891 censuses.

[www.qpiag-asthma.org/drpsmith/amt1.htm](http://www.qpiag-asthma.org/drpsmith/amt1.htm)

Index to archaic medical terms with modern explanations.

[www.accessin.com.au/~mjkirke/death1.htm](http://www.accessin.com.au/~mjkirke/death1.htm)

[www.accessin.com.au/~mjkirke/death2.htm](http://www.accessin.com.au/~mjkirke/death2.htm)

Indexes to old diseases and medical terms with modern explanations.

[www.contango.demon.co.uk/hartlepool.html](http://www.contango.demon.co.uk/hartlepool.html)

Links to surname and family history research in Hartlepool.

<http://cityark.medway.gov.uk>

Parish Registers online

[www.bmd-certificates.co.uk](http://www.bmd-certificates.co.uk)

Locate and obtain UK birth, marriage and death certificates.

## Passenger lists – immigration and emigration

[www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com)

From Findmypast.co.uk in association with The National Archives, this database features BT27 Outward Passenger Lists for long-distance voyages leaving the British Isles from 1890 to 1960.

[www.blaxland.com/ozships](http://www.blaxland.com/ozships)

Australian arrivals and departures

[www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~britishhomechildren/](http://www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~britishhomechildren/)

British 'Home Children' who were sent to Canada between 1870 and 1940

[www.standard.net.au/~jwilliams/ships.htm](http://www.standard.net.au/~jwilliams/ships.htm)

An index of ships 1829-1900 with information from various newspapers

[www.members.aol.com/rprost/passenger.html](http://www.members.aol.com/rprost/passenger.html)

A variety of passenger lists

<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/euroleader/wedderburn/glossary.htm>

Glossary of archaic Scottish terms as well as some modern words and phrases, useful for genealogical research.

[www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)

Ellis Island passenger arrival records.

[www.rootsweb.com/~ote/indexshp.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/indexshp.htm)

Passenger lists and information about ships

[www.istq.rootsweb.com](http://www.istq.rootsweb.com)

Trace your immigrant ancestors

[www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm](http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm)

For immigrants from Hamburg

## Researchers should check availability, accessibility and opening times with the repositories listed before making a personal visit.

Lloyd's Register, its affiliates and subsidiaries and their respective officers, employees or agents are, individually and collectively, referred to in this clause as the 'Lloyd's Register Group'. The Lloyd's Register Group assumes no responsibility and shall not be liable to any person for any loss, damage or expense caused by reliance on the information or advice in this document or howsoever provided, unless that person has signed a contract with the relevant Lloyd's Register Group entity for the provision of this information or advice and in that case any responsibility or liability is exclusively on the terms and conditions set out in that contract.

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[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)

