

SOCCGS England SIG

Websites We Have Visited

This list includes various websites we have visited and/or discussed in meetings of the SOCCGS England SIG. In some cases the discussion was accompanied by a handout, and on others there was just discussion with a general reference to the url for the website. The websites are not listed in any priority order, but in chronological order as they were discussed at a SIG meeting.

GENUKI: www.genuki.org.uk

General genealogical reference information for the U.K. and Ireland. Includes separate pages for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other locations, plus an online gazetteer.

FreeBMD: <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

This website provides a Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales beginning July 1, 1837. This is where you would go for the information needed to obtain a certified copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate - hence the initials B-M-D in the name of the website. Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths by the government began in England July 1, 1837. [Civil registration in Scotland 1855; Ireland 1864] The year was divided into four quarters based on when the event was registered – NOT the date of the event.

March Quarter	January - February - March
June Quarter	April - May - June
September Quarter	July - August - September
December Quarter	October - November - December

To order copies of birth, marriage or death certificates online go to www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates and enter the information obtained in your FreeBMD search on the GRO order form, pay for the copy using your credit card. (See article in SOCCGS newsletter, September 2008 on searching and ordering.)

British History Online: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

A digital library containing some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles; extensive website containing historical documents and accompanying images of many aspects of British life and history; browse by region, subject, period, source type, maps. Contains the Victoria County Histories.

National Archives – First World War 100 website:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+National+Archives&utm_campaign=4345839_WO400+and+AIR79+WW1+mailout&utm_content=fww100

The British National Archives is recognizing 100 years after WWI with a dedicated website and periodically updated posting of First World War I records, including **British Army War Diaries 1914-1922** and other collections relating to the individual branches of service.

Federation of Family History Societies: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com>

This national federation of societies in England has a website that includes a section listing family history societies all over England, plus Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia. It's often a good idea to join the local society over there as a way of making a connection with the area, and having a source of contacts for the region where you are doing research. People in those societies are usually willing to provide help with your research - they know the area, where the local records are kept, and they may even know people in the area with your surname. It's even possible that someone in the group has the surname you are researching. If you have ancestors in particular regions, consider joining a local family history society there.

FamilySearch Maps: <http://maps.familysearch.org>

This FamilySearch website provides an interactive map for England where you can click on your county of preference for research and drill down to closer maps at the county and parish level. The website also allows you to find lists and maps for each parish within a county, and to perform radial searches at distances you set from a starting point that you select. Information is provided for what records and jurisdictions apply to all levels selected. This is an excellent website to assist you with your location-specific research in individual counties and parishes in England. (NOTE: This website has been under renovation since about January 2019 to update the map platform, and is not currently working. It is expected to be working again within the next few months. Please check it occasionally to see when it is back in full operation.)

England Jurisdictions – All England:

This handy reference guide is an alphabetical list of over 12,000 ancient parishes in England (those with parish registers prior to January 1813). This is an Excel spreadsheet, so you need the Excel software on your computer in order to open it – and it's old school – just a spreadsheet style listing with no fancy graphics. But it has tons of useful information on over 12,000 parishes in England and Wales. (This guide is accessible only by permission in our Dropbox shared folder.)

Gravestone Photographic Resource: <http://gravestonephotos.com>

This website was recommended by a group member as a useful resource for gravestones by geographic location. The website is supported by volunteers and has information for several countries, including England (as well as Scotland, Wales and Ireland). It has a limited number of

cemeteries, and not all gravestones in a cemetery are included. However, you might find it useful, depending on the location you are researching.

Library Thing: <https://www.librarything.com>

LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for book lovers. This website helps you create a library-quality catalog of books: books you own, books you've read, books you'd like to read, books you've lent out. You can make your personal book collection private or share it with others on this network. It has pages you can use to list and print details about your book collection in various formats to produce a catalog of your books for personal use.

Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com>

Don't forget to consider using this website, which you all know from your other genealogical research. Cyndi's List is a categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet. It covers the whole field of genealogy, including the British Isles and related topics. Just use the search box in the top-right corner of Cyndi's home page to enter your subject – you can try England, Scotland, Ireland, or Wales as search topics to see what comes up, and then follow the links to see what Cyndi has to offer.

FamilySearch Wiki – England: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

Here are some handy instructions for getting to information about England on the FamilySearch Research Wiki. To go to the FamilySearch Wiki page directly use the link above –OR-- > www.familysearch.org > Search > Wiki. > In the panel on the left side of the page under “Getting Started” click on Browse by Country, and click on any country on this page for a page related specifically to that country – in our case the focus is England, so click on England for the England genealogy page. The FamilySearch Wiki is a very rich research tool that deserves exploration to discover how you may be able to use it to help you with your own research.

BIFHS-USA | Guide to British Isles Research:

The BIFHS website publishes a Guide to British Isles Research, compiled by Linda Jonas. The guide provides a comprehensive outline of information about research in the British Isles (general), England and Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. There are links for each item on the outline to more detailed information for each topic, plus bibliographies. The guide can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa/research.html> . (Please be aware that some of the links within the guide may be out of date.)

Findmypast: <http://www.findmypast.com>

This paid subscription website has a primary focus on records for the British Isles. It has a wide range of databases available, including census records, birth, marriage and death records, newspapers, military records, passenger lists, court and prison records, workhouse and union records, wills and probate records, and many more. Visit the website to see what is available as well as to view the various built-in tutorials on how to use this website's rich collection. In addition to British records, Findmypast also has records for Irish and Australian genealogy, and the United States Census. If you access this website from home, you can search free, but you need a membership, or to pay, for access to copies of records. If you use the website at the SOCCGS research center in the Mission Viejo Library, you will have free access to all of what Findmypast has to offer.

Forebears: www.forebears.co.uk

This website is a resource for researching information about English surnames, including the distribution of surnames in England and around the world, the meaning of surnames, and other resources to support family history research related to surnames. Additional historical information, genealogical databases, publications, and finding aids are available by country through this website, including Australia, Canada, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Wales and other regions.

The History of the British Isles: Every Year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwPVk72GLfY>

This YouTube video will show the entire history of the British Isles from the arrival of modern humans to 2016. Every year is shown from 43 CE.

The History of Europe: Every Year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWWLEcJnyIM>

In this YouTube video see the entire history of Europe mapped out as one continent forever influenced history while constantly bringing war and empires among itself yet culturally evolving as time went by.

(Alternate site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn6mYgyxQk>)

Online Historical Population Reports: www.histpop.org

This is a website with complete British population reports for Britain and Ireland from 1801 to 1937. The information is from the Census, legislation, essays, Registrar General, and the National Archives. You can browse by category, location, and date, or do specific searches. However, this website is not intended for searching records. The main page provides a notice to genealogists that there are few records on the site, and it has links to major genealogy databases, such as Ancestry, BMD Index, FamilySearch, FindMyPast, the National Archives, FreeBMD and others where genealogists can look for records

Geograph Britain and Ireland: www.geograph.org.uk

If you would like to have photographs of what your historical places in the British Isles look like today, this is the website for you. If you know your British geography you can click on a grid square on the map on the main page of this website. Otherwise, you can specify the location in the search box on the main page. Geograph Britain and Ireland provides geographically representative photos and information for places in the grid squares on the website's map of the British Isles. However, this is not a website to look for historical photographs.

Collage-the London Picture Archive: <https://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

Over 250,000 images of London from the collections at the London Metropolitan Archives and the Guildhall Art Gallery are available on this website operated by the City of London. These are historical photographs and video images you can browse by street or by subject.

Online Genealogical Index: www.ogindex.org

This website is a finding tool for online record collections for England. Entering the name of the country (England, Wales, Isle of Man), county, town and approximate year will search a database of over 300,000 online data sets that include the requested town and year, and return a list of possible record collections and their online links for you to search.

UKBMD: www.ukbmd.org.uk

This site provides over 2,000 links to websites that offer online transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses. A wide range of other indexes and transcriptions are also available for most counties, and may include parish records, wills, monumental inscriptions etc. Use the Menu on the left side of the main page to view the various lists of links. (Note: includes all of U.K. not just England.)

Society of Genealogists (London): www.sog.org.uk

Founded in 1911 the Society of Genealogists (SoG) is Britain's premier family history society. The Society's collections are particularly valuable for research before the start of civil registration of births marriages and deaths in 1837. SoG has many unique unpublished manuscript notes and printed and unpublished family histories. Its library contains Britain's largest collection of parish register copies and many nonconformist registers. Along with registers, the library holds local histories, copies of churchyard gravestone inscriptions, poll books, trade directories, census indexes and a wealth of information about the parishes where our ancestors lived. This website also includes material that is accessible only by SoG members, although much of it is available to the public.

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