

THE GREAT ANCESTOR HUNT

—
Beginning your family history in Nottinghamshire



**Heritage &
Family History**



Inspire
Culture | Learning | Libraries

INTRODUCTION

Many people want to find out about their family - where they came from, who their great grandparents were, and the kind of lives they led. There may even be the odd skeleton-in-the-cupboard to discover.

This guide is aimed at those beginning their Family History, highlighting some of the main resources available through libraries in Nottinghamshire - both hardcopy and internet-based.

Family History is a big subject and finding out about your ancestors can take many years. It is not something you can do in one afternoon at your local library: you may find yourself travelling to lots of places nationwide to find information.

Do remember that often there is a degree of luck involved; sometimes you may happen upon information purely by chance, or, in other instances, the records you want may not have survived at all.



This guide will give you some pointers to get you started. It gives information on the basic sources you will need to use, what you can expect to find, and, at the end, suggests some routes to delve further into your family's history. Examples are given of ways you can record and keep the information you find.

GETTING STARTED



Before diving into any official records, you will be surprised how much you can find out just by talking to close family, relatives, and family friends. Start with your parents and grandparents. Write down everything you find out and confirm it by using official documents such as Birth, Marriage or Death Certificates. People's memories sometimes play tricks and you do not want inaccuracies creeping in, especially at this early stage!

Always begin with your present family and work backwards through the generations.



Families usually keep Birth, Marriage and Death certificates, but if the originals are not available, copies may be obtained from the local Register Office or the General Register Office (See Useful Links at the end of this guide). Information from these sources should help you to fill out the beginnings of a family tree.

There may be a bible in your family that includes much of this information, sometimes going back many generations. Similarly, many people keep newspaper cuttings relating to their family such as a wedding picture, a report of a certificate/medal presentation, a funeral report or a birth announcement. These can all provide useful dates and family connections.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

On a Birth Certificate:

You will find: Name of person; date and place of birth; sex; name and surname of father; name, surname and maiden name (if applicable) of mother; occupation of father; address of informant (usually a parent living at the same address); and date registered.

On a Marriage Certificate:

You will find: Names of the persons married; their ages, their profession(s); their residence(s) at the time of the marriage; date and place of marriage; name and occupation of their fathers.

On a Death Certificate:

You will find: Name of the deceased; date and place of death; sex; given age; occupation; cause of death; name and address of informant (usually a close relative living at the same address as the deceased) and date of registration.

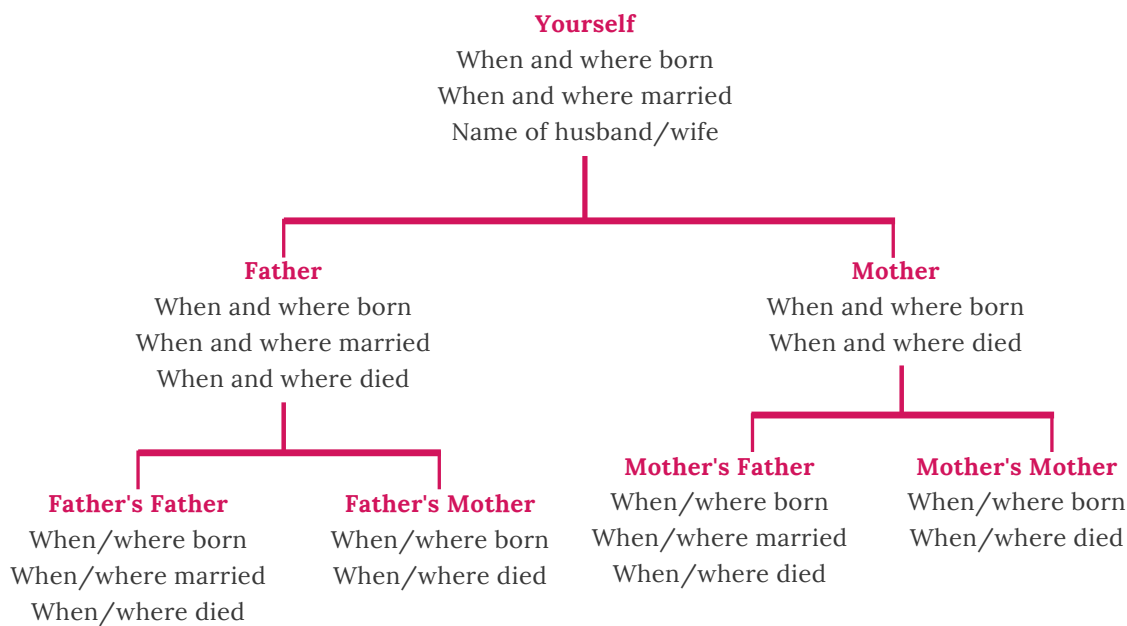


It is worth checking if anyone else in your extended family has done any work on the family history – it may overlap with your own and save you a lot of time.

Once you have found this basic information, you can begin creating your family tree, laid out as seen here:

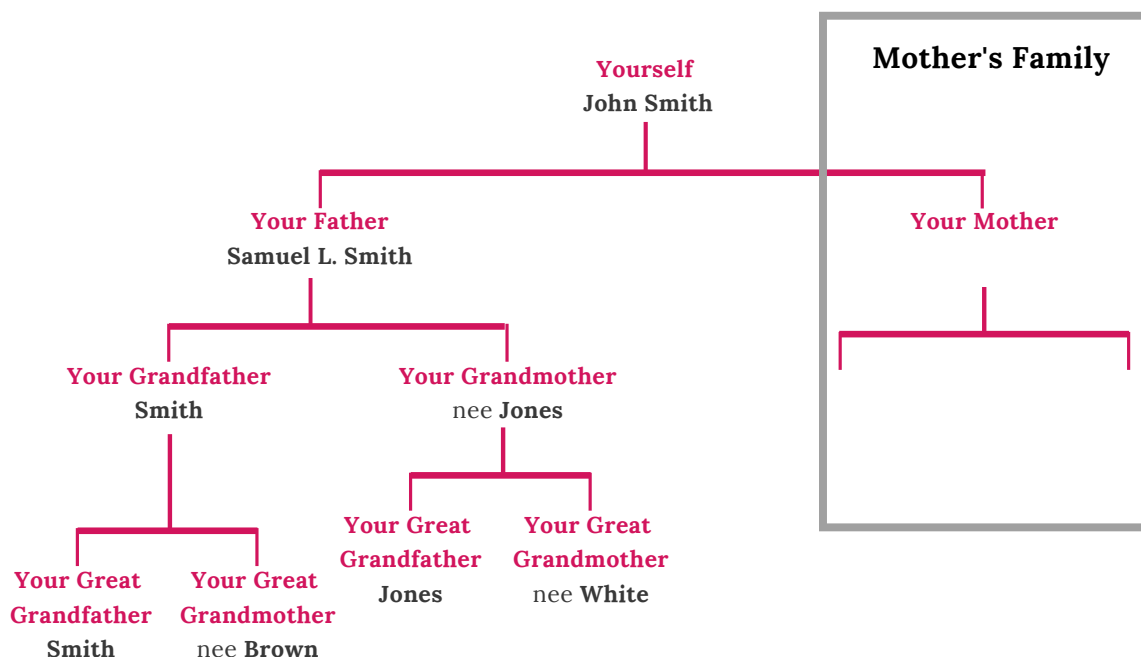


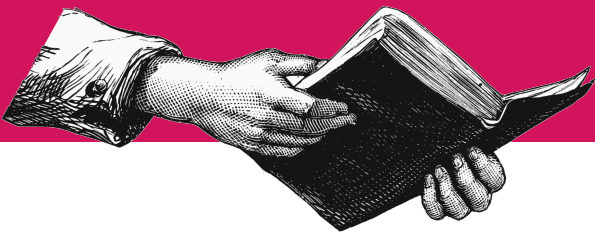
Note: For each entry you will need to add a date and place.



Try to find the same kind of information for each generation as you work backwards.

You will probably find it easiest to follow only one side of your family at a time. i.e. either your father's or your mother's family (see below).





As your family tree begins to grow you will almost certainly come across other facts about your ancestors, for example their occupation or place of burial. One of the joys of Family History research is the opportunity it gives for broadening the scope of your enquiry. You may wish to branch out into researching the town or village where your ancestors lived or look at the social and political aspects of the era that fashioned their lives. The result will be a much more rounded and satisfying project.

Whatever information you unearth it will all need to be written down in a systematic manner – probably creating a separate record for each member of the family. This could be done in a loose-leaf folder or on a computer.

STARTING TO USE DOCUMENTS

Once you have finished talking to your family and checking through personal records, you will need to start looking at a variety of published sources. These will give more information and take you further back in time.

Public libraries are a great starting point for document-based research and larger Inspire libraries will have collections and access to the following resources, some of these are on microfiche or microfilm, but, increasingly, are also available via the library's online subscriptions.

- Parish Registers
- IGI – International Genealogical Index
- Census Returns
- The 1939 England & Wales Register
- Trade Directories
- Electoral Registers
- Newspapers

These are just a few of the whole range of resources available to you, but they will help you make a start.

There are many ‘family-tree makers’ available online, most of which are connected to paid-for websites. Simple templates to help you begin laying out your family tree are, however, often free to download – try searching ‘free family tree template’.

You should also make a note of where you found the information – both the type of document, any reference number/code, and where it is housed (name of library, Archives Office, museum, website etc.) You never know when you might need to refer to it again (you might also record unsuccessful searches, so you do not have to waste time searching the same records again).



Ancestry.co.uk

Inspire libraries have a subscription to Ancestry.co.uk (Library Edition) which means you can access this service free via PCs located in Nottinghamshire libraries or at Nottinghamshire Archives, or on your own device by connecting to Inspire’s Wi-Fi.

After reading through the following notes on each source you can decide which you feel would be most appropriate for you at each stage of your research. There are no rules to this game!

PARISH REGISTERS

What are they?

Books kept in Parish Churches recording **baptisms**, **marriages** and **burials** that have taken place in that parish. They relate only to the Church of England. (For details of registers for Nonconformist churches see Appendix 2 at the end of this guide).

Parish Registers were first introduced in 1538, although relatively few registers survive from that early date. They are all handwritten by the incumbent or parish clerk.

Surviving Parish Registers are preserved at Nottinghamshire Archives and for many years microfiche copies were the most accessible way of viewing the records. From August 2022 most of these registers are available on [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) and can be viewed for free in Inspire Libraries and at Nottinghamshire Archives. The remainder are scheduled to be added in late Spring 2023.

Machines to read the fiche are available, and larger libraries have readers that can produce prints or digital copies.



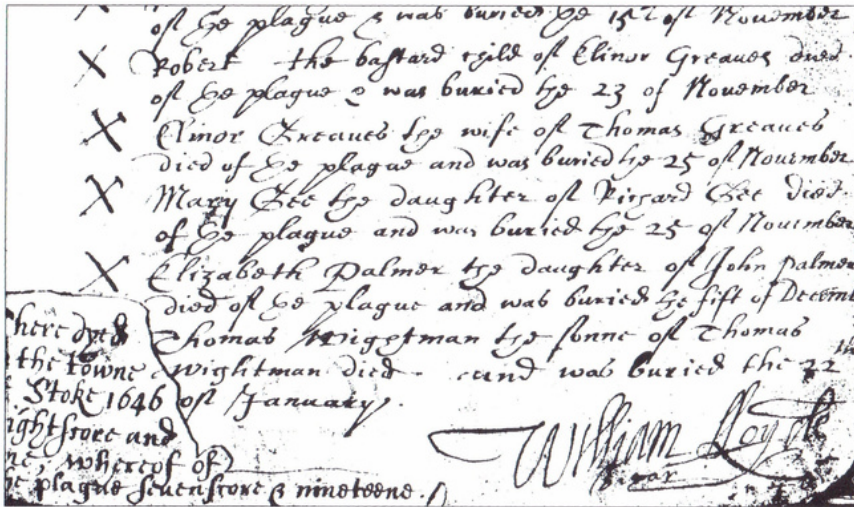
Mrs R Pocklington 1807-1864

How to use Parish Registers?

The images on the microfiche are in chronological order within parishes. On [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) the better quality of the new digital copies, and the transcription and indexing, makes using the registers very much easier. Finding records where knowledge of dates and parish details is not exact is more likely.

If you do need to use the microfiche copies in libraries, then the contents lists showing the dates on each fiche will be helpful. The Nottinghamshire Family History Society has also done a lot of work in transcribing the records.

This is an extract from the Parish register of East Stoke near Newark for the year 1646:



Note how this particular register contains additional information over and above the simple recording of baptisms, marriages and burials. The crosses on the left show deaths from plague, whilst the Vicar has added a note bottom left which says "There dyed in the towne of Stoke, 1646, eight score and one, whereof of the plague, seven score and nineteen. William Lloyd, Vicar, 1646".

Extract from the Parish register of St. Mary Magdalene, Newark, for 1864.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
93	January 21 1864	Charles Farmer	47	Single Bachelor	Farmer	Newark	John Farmer	Ret. Surgeon
		Emma Jones	47	Widow	Widow	Newark	Thomas Collins	Farmer
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Certificate or otherwise by me, J. J. Russell Vicar								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Farmer Emma Jones			in the Presence of us, George Jones Thomas Jones					
94	February 15 th 1864	Henry Hardy	30	Single Bachelor	Farmer	Newark	Samuel Charles Hardy Farmer	Ret. Surgeon
		Mary Jane Elton	25	Single Spinster	Widow	Newark	Thomas Elton	Ret. Surgeon
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence or otherwise by me, J. J. Russell Vicar								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, Henry Hardy Mary Jane Elton			in the Presence of us, George Elton Henry Elton					

If you compare this extract with the one from East Stoke in the previous illustration you can see how, by the mid-1800s, Parish Registers have a more structured layout and are generally easier to read.

The vicar or parish clerk was provided with printed books to fill in (for marriages from 1754, and for baptisms and burials from 1813) which makes research much more straightforward.

IGI (INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX)

What is it?

A database compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (Mormons) covering many countries of the world.

Almost the entire international database of the IGI is now searchable online at www.familysearch.org



For the UK it is largely a searchable database of transcribed entries from the Parish Registers for baptisms and marriages (but fewer burials).

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Official Registration of all Births, Marriages and Deaths (as opposed to baptisms, marriages and burials recorded in parish registers) began in England in 1837 and indexes to these are now available free online via the library service's subscription to [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) (Library Edition).

Whilst it is not possible to see or download actual copies of Birth, Marriage or Death certificates from the internet, the basic information obtainable from [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) (Library Edition) (i.e. the index reference numbers) will be needed to order copies from the General Register office unless you wish to pay an additional search fee (see Appendix 1 at the end of this guide for full explanation).

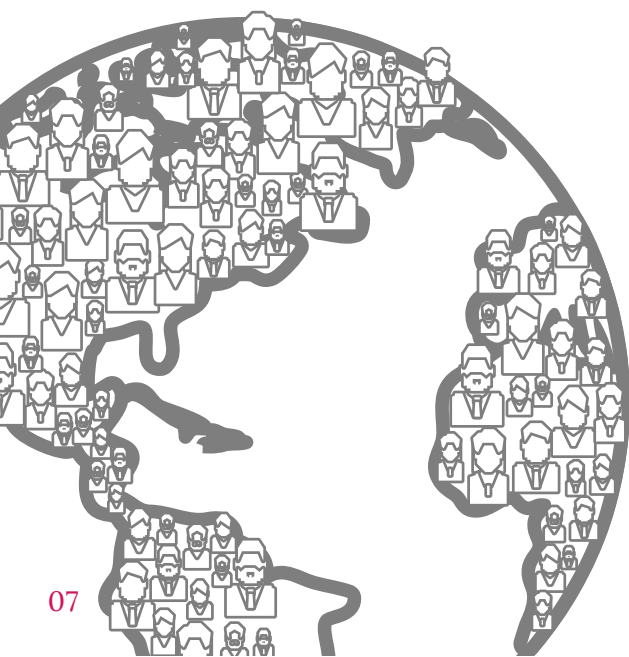
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Wesleyan-Methodist Chapel <i>Nottingham</i> in the County of <i>Nottingham</i> in the year 1850						
When Baptized.	Child's Name, Son or Daughter.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Child's Age when Baptized.	The Minister by whom the ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>1850</i> <i>March</i> <i>18</i>	<i>James</i> <i>brother of</i> <i>son of</i>	<i>George</i> <i>and</i> <i>Henrietta</i>	<i>Buttens</i>	<i>Notting</i> <i>house</i>	<i>Four</i> <i>weeks</i>	<i>George</i> <i>Taylor</i>
No. 281.						
<i>May 21st</i> <i>1850</i>	<i>Arthur</i> <i>son of</i>	<i>Benjamin</i> <i>and</i> <i>Mary</i>	<i>Barber</i>	<i>Nottingham</i>	<i>Born</i> <i>Jan 31</i> <i>1850</i>	<i>George</i> <i>Taylor</i>
No. 282.						
	<i>Sarah</i> <i>daughter</i> <i>of</i>	<i>William</i> <i>and</i> <i>Salome</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Nottingham</i>	<i>Born</i> <i>Dec 14</i> <i>1846</i>	<i>Miss</i> <i>Hornshaw</i>
No. 283.						
<i>July</i> <i>1850</i>	<i>Jesse</i> <i>son of</i>	<i>John</i> <i>and</i> <i>Mary</i>	<i>Boat</i>	<i>Nottingham</i>	<i>Five</i> <i>weeks</i>	<i>William</i> <i>Foy</i>
No. 284.						



Baptism of Jesse Boot, founder of Boots the Chemist, in 1850 in the Wesleyan- Methodist chapel in Nottingham (NC-MR-12-272).

Many Nonconformist registers for the county are held at Nottinghamshire Archives – see Appendix 2 at the end of this guide.

CENSUS RETURNS



A Census has taken place in England, Scotland and Wales every ten years since 1801 (except 1941). Censuses provide regular snapshots of a town or village, giving a vivid picture of the changing life in a community.

Laws to protect the confidentiality of living people mean that detailed Census information cannot be published for 100 years. The 1921 Census was released in 2022 and is currently only available to access on the Find My Past website on a pay per view basis.

What are Census Returns?

Census returns are lists of all people living in a household (whether resident, boarding or visiting) on the day the Census was taken.

Information given includes name, age, and occupation from 1841 to 1911 for each person at the address, regardless of age. From 1851 the place of birth is also recorded.

Pages are arranged by street in house order, then grouped into areas known as Enumeration Districts.

Censuses for England and Wales from 1841 to 1911 are now available online e.g via Ancestry.co.uk (Library Edition) which is free to use in libraries and at Nottinghamshire Archives via the Inspire website.

Text-only transcripts of the 1841-1901 censuses for Scotland are available via the Ancestry website, with details and images available (by subscription) at: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/record-guides/census-returns>

You may be amused to find that members of your family were not always truthful about their age and may not age 10 years between each Census! Also, in the 1841 census ages are rounded down to the nearest 5 years.



The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											14
City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Municipal Parish or District of		[Page 19]			
East Leake			East Leake								
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, Lane, or No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES To be taken on (1) (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of (3) (4)	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WOMEN BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Insane or Idiot (4) Lunatic		
107	road side	1	John Cook	Head	mar	40	Agricultural Labourer	Nottinghamshire East Leake			
			Muskie Cook	Wife	mar	38	Dress Maker	" " Sherwood			
108	"	1	Robert Coates	Head	mar	37	Trigistear of Drisks & Drisks	Nottinghamshire Longborough			
			Francis Coates	Wife	mar	35	Dress Maker	" " Mablethorpe			
			William King	Son	mar	32	Wagoner (Cart)	" " Longborough			
			Francis King	Son	unm	10		Lincolnshire Waterloos			
109	castle yard	1	John Sharpe	Head	mar	39	Dress Maker	Nottinghamshire East Leake			
			Catharine Sharpe	Wife	mar	37	Ag Laborer	" " "			
			Mary Sharpe	Son	unm	8	Schooler	Nottingham			
			Robert Sharpe	Son	unm	3		Nottinghamshire East Leake			
			John Edward Sharpe	Son	unm	1		" " "			
110	"	1	William Atkinson	Head	mar	39	Plaster Mener	Nottinghamshire East Leake			
			Mary Ann Atkinson	Wife	mar	37		" " "			
			Edith Atkinson	Son	unm	14		" " "			
			Ann	Son	unm	3		" " "			
			James	Son	unm	17m		" " "			
111	"	3/4	Ferdinand Dummer	Head	mar	37	Owner of 24 acres employing 100	Nottinghamshire East Leake			
			Mary Elizabeth Dummer	Wife	mar	36	Farmer's Wife	Nottinghamshire Longborough			
			Ferdinand Dummer	Son	unm	13	Schooler	" " "			
			Ferdinand Cyril	Son	unm	7m		Nottinghamshire East Leake			
			Joseph Dummer	Son	unm	17	Farmer's Servant	" " Newark			
			Therese Dummer	Servant	unm	17	General Servant (Domestic)	" " East Leake			
5	Total of Houses...	5/1	Total of Males and Females...		53	110					

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng. Sheet G.

Crown copyright. Reproduced by kind permission of the Public Record Office. (Now The National Archives)

Extract from the Census returns of 1881 for East Leake in Nottinghamshire.

THE 1939 ENGLAND & WALES REGISTER

What is it?

It is not a Census, but it does cover some of the same type of information.

It is available free to search via Inspire's subscription to [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) (Library Edition).

It is a national, comprehensive survey of the civilian population of England and Wales taken on 29 September 1939 in the early days of WWII.

The information was gathered by the government to aid the distribution of ration cards, to determine eligibility for military call-up, and who was in a Reserved Occupation.

The Register was maintained and kept up-to-date long after the war was over, and was used as a basis for the National Health Service register. Name changes after marriage were recorded.

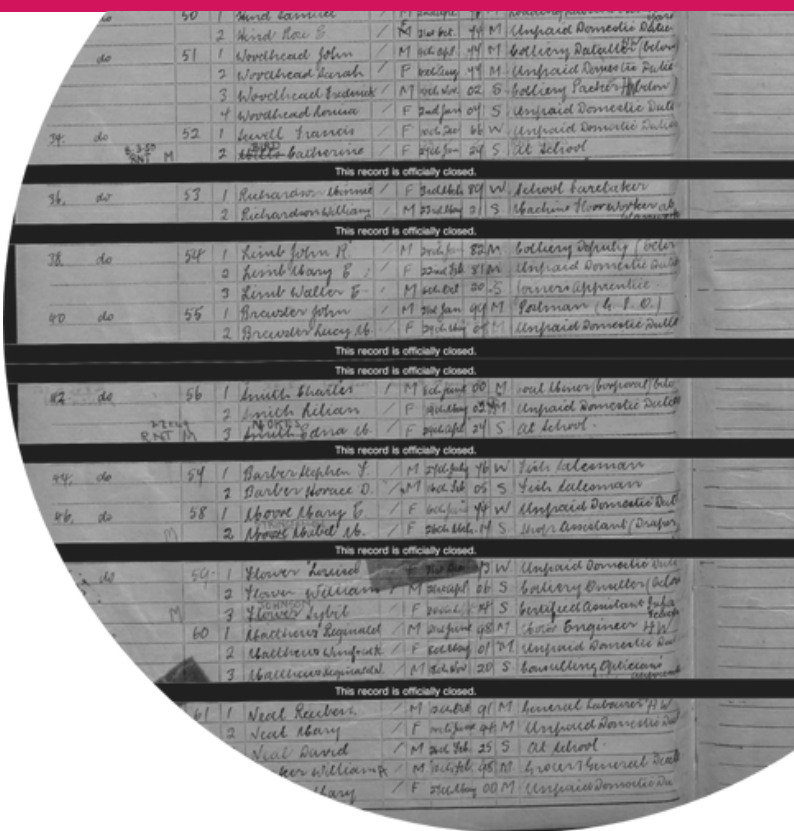
It includes details such as name, marital status, address, date of birth, occupation of all those living in a household.

However, be aware that information about anyone born less than 100 years ago will not be visible (unless they are known to have died). Note the 'redacted' entries in the illustration.

TRADE DIRECTORIES

What are they?

Trade Directories are an alphabetical listing of many of the people involved in business in towns and villages from the early 1800s to the 1960s. (Dates vary for different communities).



The 1939 Register is particularly useful to family historians because it bridges the 'census gap'. We will never get to see the 1931 census (it was destroyed by fire in WWII) and no census was taken in 1941. This means that the next full census to become available will be the 1951 census (which will not be released until 2051). The 1939 Register, therefore, falls conveniently between these 'lost census years' from 1931 – 1951.

- They usually give county coverage with sections on each town and village.
- They were not issued every year, but are more frequent than the Census.
- They may be used as a quick way of locating someone whose details may then be confirmed in the Census.

Trade directories can broaden your knowledge about your ancestors, giving background information about the community and the area where they lived.

They also contain advertisements for local and family businesses.

Extract from Wright's Directory of Nottingham, 1881. As may be seen, no information is given about employees or family at any particular address.

...1 Thomas Dixon, fruiterer	Southwell road (Sneinton street).	6 William Baxter, chimney sweeper
...3 Edw. Watnough, confr & tobect	1 Fred Burrows, ironmonger	6 William Hefford, fishmonger
...5 Samuel Fletcher, butcher	3 Wm. Abbott, smallwr dlr & news agt; Mrs. Eliza Abbott, drssnkr	<i>Burdett court</i>
...7 John Nener, fish & game dealer	5 Mrs. Sarah Terry, news agent & smallware dealer	4 Chas. Harold Robinson, tobaccnst
THEATRE RVL, gallery & priv entrc	<i>Nelson street, 21 William Blockley, chimney sweeper</i>	2 John Eyre, fish frier
11 Jn. Ernest Scott, hosier & outftr	...22 Wm. Cope, marine store dearl	<i>Carter gate</i>
13 Jonathan Oldbury, boot & sh mkr	7 Edwin Martin, grocer	Spaniel row (Friar lane).
16 Ar. Lloyd, confectioner & tobect	9 Walter Bamford, cutlr & ironmgr	1 Mrs. Ellen Holmes, provsn dealer
17 Sml. Doughty & Son, wood moulding and window blind mks.	<i>Pipe st, 14 Richd. Fox, chimny swpr</i>	2 Edwin Leavesley, tailor
<i>See advt.</i>	11 Wm. Taylor, clothir & pawnbrkr	3 George Bowmer, surgeon dentist
19 John Pendleton, needle maker	13 Miss E. G. Weightman, milliner	CALVINIST CHAPEL
21 Chas. Hunt, hairdrsr & tobect	15 William Measures, fishmonger	6 Miss Ann Knott
23 Mrs. Jnt. Johnstone, haberdsher and newsgent	<i>Brougham st 7, Fdk. Moore, grngrc</i>	7-8 James Horne 10 Mrs. Mann
25 T. Danks, implement & rngc wks	...40 Mrs. M. Hall, funeral furnisher	11 Henry Hastings, shopkeeper
27 Edward Caldwell, whitesmith	17 S. W. Marriott, shopkeeper and seedsman	12 Henry Booth
29 Mrs. L. M. Nicks, mlnr & drsmkr	19 Samuel Kemp, boot & shoe mkr	Spring Close (Leen gate, O.L.)
31 Mrs. E. Porter, saddler	<i>Sheridan st, 19 Jas. Fowler, broker</i>	John Smith, shopkeeper
..... <i>Burton street</i>34 Samuel Boultyby, broker	John North, v, <i>Travellers' Rest Commercial street</i>
33 Rt. Jas. Ratcliff, bhs, <i>Greyhound</i>	21 Christopher Dickinson & Co, v, <i>Fox & Grapes</i> , John Blades, mgr <i>Leen street</i>	...Thos. Shephard, machine holder
J. Attenborrow, builder and dealer in building materials	23 Randolph Bruce Robinson, drap	...William Shephard, machine hldr
John Heath, auctioneer	25 Henry Bamford, hair dresser and hosiery dealer and watchmaker	...Samuel Armstrong, cowkeeper
TAYLOR'S FACTORY, W. G. Taylor, Wm. Greaves, Edw. Ellis, Thos. Shipman, Hy. Williamson, Mrs. Jane Topham, machine holders; Wm. Baker, warper; Jph. Belshaw, hosiery manufact; Saml. Hall, beam & roller maker; J. E. Leavesley, cotton preparer	<i>Sneinton market</i> <i>Manvers street</i>	...Mrs. Mary Ann Wormald, shopr
UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS	22 Ralph Rowbottom, butcher	...B. Walker & Co, lace manufacts
..... <i>Shakspeare street</i>	20 Ambrose Middleton, chemist	...George Selby, shopkeeper
Saml. Parr, aerated water manufctr	David S. Middleton, dentist	John Shaw, shopkeeper
Wm. Waterhouse, auctioneer and machinery dealer	<i>Sun st, William Quinton, maltster</i>	Thomas Clark, stonemason
GUARDIAN PRINTING & PUBLISHING OFFICES, T. Forman & Sons	...George Richardson, bhs, <i>Sun</i>	Albert Hussey, clerk at <i>W. Hollins & Co.</i>
<i>North street</i>	16 John Burt, baker	W. Hollins & Co, merino spinners
Walter Clifton, v, <i>Peach Tree</i>	<i>Abinger street</i>	Springfield st (Eland st, N.B.)
Thos. Swanwick, bhs, <i>Turf Tavern</i>	14 George Bee, butcher	41 Henry Hopewell, j bleacher
..... <i>Parliament street</i>	12 James Marshall, dyer	43 John Kershaw, j bleacher
	<i>Patriot street</i>	45 Mr. James Widdowson
	10 Joseph Burton, greengrocer	47 Samuel Hitchin, j draughtsman
	8 Ths. Gregg, currier & leather mcht	55 Matthew Bradley, j bleacher
	<i>Fassall st, 2 George Waterson, cabnt and sofa maker</i>	60 Walter Scott, cowkeeper
		58 John Clayson, j bricklayer
		46 Mrs. Elizabeth White
		44 David Eason, j bleacher

- They can plug gaps when no Census is available.
- Street numbers are often given, but these may be different from the numbers in use today.
- In order to preserve the original paper versions, some libraries also have copies on microfiche.

- Nottinghamshire libraries will only hold copies of Trade Directories (either hardcopy or microfiche) for Nottinghamshire.
- Searchable versions of a good range of Trade Directories from across England and Wales are available at: specialcollections.le.ac.uk



ELECTORAL REGISTERS

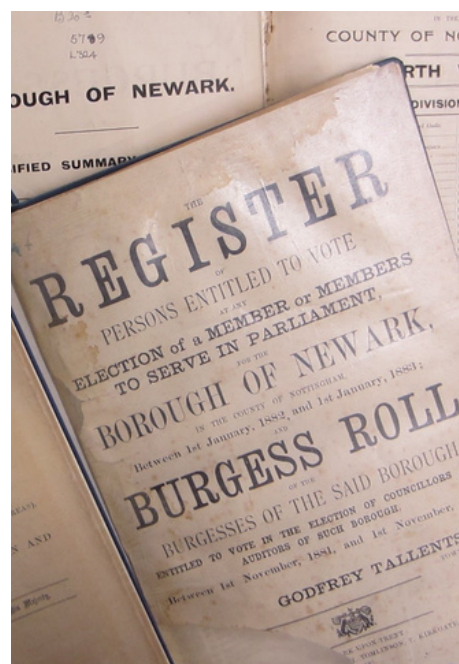
What are they?

Electoral Registers are lists of those residents in a town or village who have registered their right to vote in local and parliamentary elections.

They are useful as they have been published every year since 1832, although the collections held on microfiche in libraries tend to be incomplete.

They are, however, the only widely available major listing of names for the 20th and 21st centuries.

The Registers for large towns are divided up into areas known as Electoral Wards and you will need to know the street or area where your ancestor lived before using the register.



REMEMBER! Only those people who are eligible to vote can appear on the Electoral Register. At different periods of history the right to vote has been restricted by age, sex and social class.

Some of the main points to bear in mind when searching for someone in the Electoral Register are:

- The rules have changed over time, but they also differed between parliamentary and local government registrations, especially with the residence requirements.
- The early Parliamentary Electoral Registers list electors by their franchise qualification (ie whether they were enfranchised before 1832 or under the 1832 Reform Act). Therefore, until about 1870, it is necessary to look at both sections.
- For Parliamentary elections there were 'borough' seats and 'county' seats with different qualifications to vote.
- Until 1918 registration was essentially linked to property, either by ownership or occupation, which meant that servants and employees living with their masters could not become electors.
- Before 1918 only 'qualified' men could vote for Members of Parliament. The right to vote had been extended in the 19th Century by a range of reform acts, notably in 1832, 1867 and 1885.
- The 1918 Representation of the People Act extended the vote to all men aged 21 and above who had lived at an address for six months at the time of registration. It also enfranchised some women for the first time – but only those over 30 years of age who were householders or householders' wives (with appropriate qualifying land or property value), and, in the case of university constituencies, women university graduates.
- Under the 1928 Equal Franchise Act women were enfranchised on the same terms as men from 21 upwards.
- The voting age for both sexes was lowered to 18 by the 1969 Representation of the People Act.
- There are other associated listings available at Nottinghamshire Archives but not held in libraries. These include, Poor Rate Books and Rate Valuation Records. The Land Tax Assessments (levied from 1692) are particularly useful from 1780 to 1832 as they were used in lieu of Electoral Registers during this period. See Appendix 2.

Current Data Protection legislation means that access to Electoral Registers that are less than 10 years old is restricted, and many Inspire Libraries do not hold these recent registers.

Extract from the Electoral Register of the Rushcliffe Division of Nottinghamshire, 1891

RUSHCLIFFE DIVISION OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
BESTWOOD PARK POLLING DISTRICT (DISTRICT D).
 Parish of BESTWOOD PARK.
 OCCUPATION Electors (other than Lodgers).
 DIVISION ONE.—Persons entitled to vote both as Parliamentary Electors and as County Electors.

No.	Name of each Voter at full length, the Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of Qualifying Property.
D 1	Atkin, William	Bestwood park	land and tenement	The Hundred Acre farm
D 2	Berrington, Thomas	42, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	42, Bestwood colliery
D 8	Berrington, Edward	58, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	58, Bestwood colliery
D 4	Berresford, Samuel	50, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	50, Bestwood colliery
D 5	Blankley, Samuel	3, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	3, Bestwood colliery
D 6	Blankley, John	68, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	68, Bestwood colliery
D 7	Blankley, Ferdinand	Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	Bestwood colliery
D 8	Blagg, Thomas	6, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	6, Bestwood colliery
D 9	Bloomfield, Isaac	24, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	24, Bestwood colliery
D 10	Bloor, George	18, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	18, Bestwood colliery
D 11	Bramley, John	Bestwood park	land and tenement	The Cherry orchard farm
D 12	Bradwell, John Howard	Bestwood park	land and tenement	The Hall farm
D 18	Broom, Samuel	8, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	8, Bestwood colliery
D 14	Buxton, Simeon	28, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	28, Bestwood colliery
D 15	Bullin, John	36, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	36, Bestwood colliery
D 16	Bunney, Reuben	31, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	31, Bestwood colliery
D 17	Carte, Samuel	26, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	26, Bestwood colliery
D 18	Challand, John	Bestwood park	land and tenement	The Forest farm
D 19	Chadwick, George	Bestwood park	land and tenement	South Glade farm
D 20	Chamberlain, Charles	Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	Bestwood colliery
D 21	Cook, Walter	47, Bestwood colliery	dwelling house	47, Bestwood colliery

NEWSPAPERS

Larger libraries in Nottinghamshire hold collections of newspapers relevant to their local area. They are stored on microfilm. Most are not indexed, but if you know the approximate date of a family event, they can prove very useful. Births, marriages and deaths may all be confirmed through the personal columns of a local newspaper, whilst prominent citizens may have been accorded a lengthy obituary.

The example below is a newspaper obituary for Mrs Claire Lloyd Birkin of Ruddington in Nottinghamshire which gives details not only of her life, but also the names of her close family.



A recent photograph of Mrs. Birkin in Court dress.

MRS. Claire Lloyd (Charles) Birkin, the mother of Mrs. Dudley Ward, died at 12.10 p.m. at her home, West Manor, Ruddington, Notts, to-day.

The exact nature of her illness has

not been revealed, but the "Evening News" understands that she was to have had an operation. Her general condition, however, was so weak that it was considered inadvisable to carry out the operation.

In addition to her son (Mr. Charles Birkin), her daughters—Mrs. Dudley Ward, Mrs. Douglas Blew-Jones and Mrs. James Seely—were with their mother.

Mrs. Charles Birkin, who married the late Lt-Col Charles Wilfred Birkin in 1892, was formerly Miss Claire Lloyd Howe, daughter of Mr. Alexander Howe, of New York.

Philanthropic Work

In political, philanthropic and social spheres in Notts, she was one of the best-known personalities. She had rendered conspicuous service to the Conservative cause, and among the positions she held were those of chairman of the Nottingham Conservative Women's Advisory Committee and Vice-president of the Nottingham Conservative Association.

For many years she had been president of the Nottingham branch of the Y.M.C.A. Women's Auxiliary.

To mention one of her many philanthropic activities, Mrs. Birkin was a keen supporter of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, and had been chairman since its formation of the Women's Council of the Notts, organisation.

War Service

During the war in which her husband commanded the Robin Hood Rifles until invalided home she transferred Lamcote House which was then her home into the Lamcote Auxiliary Hospital for Officers of which she was commandant. For her war service she received the Medaille de la Reine Elizabeth, the Medaille de la Reconnaissance and American Service Medal. She is also a Lady of the Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Mrs. Birkin, although born in New York, spent her girlhood in her parents' home in Paris and had travelled extensively. She was the mother of three beautiful daughters all of whom are well-known in Society.

On more than one occasion Mrs. Birkin had the honour of entertaining the Prince of Wales.

Her Life at Radcliffe.

Mrs. Birkin left Lamcote House, Radcliffe, to reside at Ruddington after the death of her husband a little over two years ago.

Whatever affected the interests and well-being of the people of Radcliffe-on-Trent gained the ready and sympathetic attention of Mrs. Birkin, and among the local positions she filled were president of the Radcliffe

Extract from The Nottingham Evening News
27th September, 1934.

Funeral reports can also be a good source of information, often listing in detail, members of the family and other relatives present. The Nottingham Evening Post of 1st October 1934 reported the funeral of Mrs Birkin in the following manner. -

ROYAL WREATHS AT MRS. BIRKIN'S FUNERAL

TRIBUTES FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES AND PRINCE GEORGE.

RUDDINGTON SERVICE

The Prince of Wales and Prince George were among the many sympathisers who sent floral tributes when the funeral took place today of Mrs Claire Birkin, widow of Lt. Col. C. W. Birkin, who died on Thursday at her residence, West Manor, Ruddington.

Mrs Birkin was buried in the family vault at Wilford Hill Cemetery next to her husband. The grave was lined with white flowers and ivy.

THE MOURNERS

The internment was preceded by a service at Ruddington Parish Church.

The principal mourners were Mr. Charles Birkin (son), Mrs Dudley Ward, Mrs Blew-Jones and Mrs. James Seely (daughters), Miss Penelope and Miss Angela Dudley Ward (granddaughters), Sir Alec Birkin, Major Philip Birkin and Major Laurie Birkin (brothers-in-law), Mrs Carlin and Mrs. Willoughby (sisters-in-law), Mr. James Seely and Captain Blew-Jones (sons-in-law), Mr Peter Birkin and Mr G Birkin (nephews), Miss Willoughby (niece), Mrs. Philip Birkin, Mrs. Laurie Birkin and Mr. Charles Carlin.

OTHER SYMPATHISERS

Others present in church were the Duke of St. Albans, Sir Hugh Seely, Sir Wm.

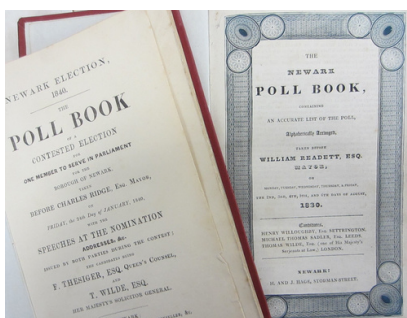
Hicking, Sir Arthur Blake, Sir Dennis Readett Bayley, Viscount Chetwynd, the Hon. Mrs Foljambe, Amelia Lady Bowden, Lady Robinson, the Lady Mayoress of Nottingham (Mrs. J. Farr), Mrs. Frank Seely, Mrs. W.E. Seely, Mrs. W. Eben Hardy, Mrs. K Wylie, Mrs. F. Burton, Mrs. D'Oyley Ransom, Miss Corner, Mrs Corner, Mrs Collay, Capt. Riley, Col. W.F. Story, Col. W.R. Rook, Col. L. C. Brewill, Col. Wigley, Lt Col. F. J. Lawson (Chief Constable of Notts.), Mr T. Warnes Turner (representing the Duke and Duchess of Portland). Mrs. A.C. Calvert (representing Lord and Lady Trent), Mr. T. Bailey Forman, Dr. H.S. Wallace, Dr. T. Lindley, Mr H.B. Fletcher, Major W. Hartshorn, Mr D. McCraith (also representing Mr K. McCraith), Mr. W. Filmar-Sankey, Mr. J. Leatherland, Mr. H.M. Woolley (representing Messrs J.S. Woolley Ltd), Mr. A. B. Oliver, Mr. F. Wellesley Colley.

The British Newspaper Archive, which includes hundreds of national, regional and local newspapers (e.g. The Nottinghamshire Evening Post and The Lincolnshire Echo) - all fully scanned and searchable, can be accessed for free via the Inspire website (on library premises and at Nottinghamshire Archives).

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

Poll Books

Forerunners to the Electoral Registers - dating back to the late 18th Century. These are available in larger libraries in Nottinghamshire for selected areas.



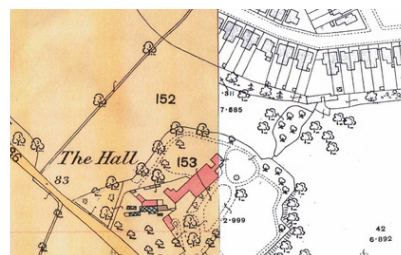
Telephone Directories

List the names and addresses of subscribers. They are available in some larger libraries in Nottinghamshire from the 1920s onwards.



Maps

Maps dating back to the late 18th century are available for many Nottinghamshire communities - original versions in Nottinghamshire Archives with copies in some larger libraries. Maps can help locate your ancestor's house or provide an overview of the kind of community they lived in.



Adjoining extracts from the Ordnance Survey 25" maps for West Bridgford near Nottingham (1885 left; 1901 right)

Wills and Probate Records

National Probate indexes c.1858 - 1968 are available at probatesearch.service.gov.uk giving summary information about every will proved in England and Wales, including details of place, date and probate. Prior to 1858 wills were proved by the ecclesiastical courts and Nottinghamshire Archives holds probate records for the Nottingham Archdeaconry Court, 1589-1857, and for various peculiar courts, 1506-1857. Check the Archives catalogue at: nawcat.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Old Photographs

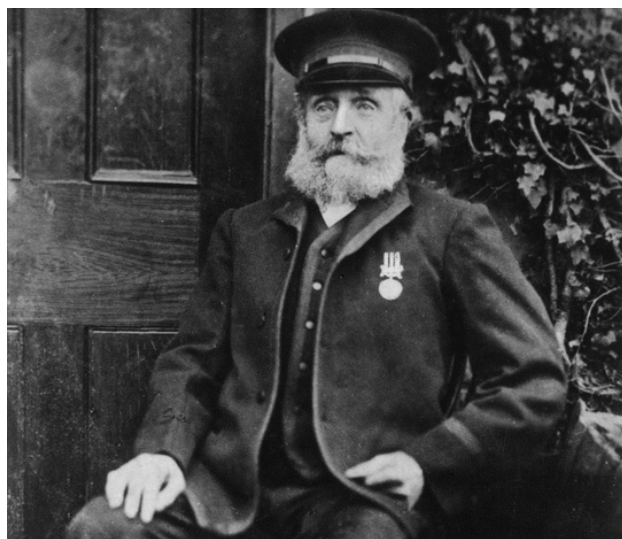
Most families have albums or a collection of family photos - holiday snaps, school photos or pictures of weddings, graduations, or military service; all can be invaluable in adding names and context to a family tree. Scour your attic and ask relatives for their family photos and document each with name, relationship, event and date. Inspire libraries hold various books on how family photographs can help in tracing your ancestors. Visit our library catalogue at: emlib.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk

Libraries have collections of mounted photographs, mainly focusing on places, but some with named people. These are filed by theme but generally not indexed. Search in the biography section of the filing system (given the code T in the local photographic classification scheme). Photographs of locations associated with your family will also add colour to your research. There are many websites which specialise in old images of towns, streets, buildings and people. For Nottinghamshire locations visit: www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk

Military Ancestors

Surviving UK First World War records and many records connected with other military campaigns are available free in libraries via Inspire's subscription to Ancestry.co.uk (Library Edition)

N.B. Ancestry has moved some military records, including many British ones, to a specialised site called Fold 3- which is not included in the library subscription: fold3.com



John Butler was the last surviving soldier in Hucknall from the Indian Mutiny of 1857. He died in 1914

THE WAY FORWARD

You have now covered the basic sources available for family history research and you are either totally hooked or have had enough.

If you are hooked then you will need to explore some of the more specialised resources that will lead you further in your quest. Sources such as Cemetery Burial records, Nonconformist registers and printed pedigrees are available with many other resources at the Nottinghamshire Archives (See Appendix 2).

The University of Nottingham's Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections holds a collection of Nottinghamshire Marriage Bonds. (See Useful Links at the end of this guide).

Further afield, there are records relating to Nottinghamshire at places including the National Archives (formerly the Public Records Office) at Kew, and the Borthwick Institute in York.

You may also find it useful to join a Family History Society or look out for an appropriate adult education class in your area.

Inspire Learning often run family history and genealogy courses -visit: www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/

The Nottinghamshire Family History Society's website is www.nottsfhs.org.uk offering assistance and useful information to family historians in the county.



LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRIES



If you have an enquiry regarding the resources discussed in this guide you can email the library service's enquiry service, **Ask Inspire**, at ask@inspireculture.org.uk or call 01623 677 200 (all calls from Nottinghamshire places are charged at local rate). Your enquiry will be passed to an experienced Librarian or Archivist for reply.

For enquiries requiring a search within documents and resources, or if you are stuck with your family history research, Inspire offers a Research and Reprographics service and 1:1 personal consultations.

Fees apply for these services. Please visit: inspireculture.org.uk/heritage/archives/research

APPENDIX 1

Obtaining Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

If you cannot find Birth, Marriage and Death certificates amongst your family's papers, you can usually obtain copies from either your local Register Office or the General Register Office.

Your local Register Office

Local Register Offices usually hold records relating to births, marriages and deaths going back to 1837 for their Registration District. You can request staff to make a search of the registers, usually within a five year period (a charge is made for copies of certificates). The more information you can provide, the easier (and quicker!) it will be for the office to identify the correct person.

We suggest that along with information about the person you are seeking, you also provide (if known) names of parents, maiden name of wife/mother, and, if possible, the address where the person lived.

For contact details of your local Register Office see: www.registerofficenearme.com

If you do not have the kind of information mentioned above, you can contact the General Register Office (GRO) which holds records of births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships, stillbirths and adoptions for the whole of England and Wales. www.gov.uk/general-register-office


A charge is made for obtaining a certificate, but you can reduce the full GRO search fee by providing the index reference number for the certificate you require. This can be obtained from the GRO's online indexes or alternative index sources such as via Inspire's subscription to Ancestry.co.uk (Library Edition) or www.freebmd.org.uk/ PDFs of some civil registration records can also be ordered from the GRO's website for a lower fee.

APPENDIX 2

Information about Nottinghamshire Archives and how to visit is available at www.inspireculture.org.uk/heritage/archives

Key resources for family historians available at Nottinghamshire Archives include:

- Church of England and Non-Conformist records
- Cemetery records
- Wills and Probate records
- Poor Law records
- Land Tax Assessments
- School records
- Police and court records
- Family and estate records
- Maps and plans
- Rate books
- Trade directories



Please note: This is not an exhaustive list and not all records are currently available to search online.

Many of the records held at Nottinghamshire Archives are listed online at nawcat.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

USEFUL LINKS

- Libraries in Nottinghamshire:
www.inspireculture.org.uk/reading-information/find-a-library/
- Libraries in Nottingham City:
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/libraries
- Nottinghamshire Archives:
www.inspireculture.org.uk/heritage/archives/
- General Register Office:
www.gov.uk/general-register-office
Postal Requests:
The General Register Office
P.O. Box 2
Southport Merseyside
PR8 2JD
- General Register Office:
Email address: certificate.services@gro.gov.uk
(include 'GQ' in the subject of your email)
Telephone: 0300 123 1837
Textphone: 18001 0300 123 1837
Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm
Saturday, 9am to 4pm

PLEASE NOTE:

The information given here was correct at the time of writing, but please be aware that websites sometimes change their address (URL) or cease operation.

USEFUL LINKS

- mss.library.nottingham.ac.uk
University of Nottingham Department of Manuscripts & Special Collections.
- www.familyhistoryfederation.com
Federation of Family History societies: offers an online guide for those beginning their family history as well as a useful introduction in how to access various resources.
- www.sog.org.uk
Society of Genealogists.

Free sites with documentary information

- www.freebmd.com
“Freebmd” stands for ‘free Births Marriages and Deaths’ and is an ongoing volunteer project to transcribe the Civil Registration Index for England and Wales (1837 – 1983).
- www.familysearch.org
The IGI online with millions of baptism and marriage records from parish registers, and the 1881 census for the whole of England and Wales.
- www.historicaldirectories.org
The University of Leicester’s project to digitise 18th, 19th and early 20th century Trade Directories of England and Wales
- www.cwgc.org
Records details of all those interred in war graves administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- www.ellislandrecords.org
Records of over 22 million emigrants to the USA who entered the country via Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

Picture sites

- www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk
Site produced by Inspire libraries and Nottinghamshire Archives.
- historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/
Site produced by English Heritage aiming to include a picture of every listed building in England.

PLEASE NOTE:

The information given here was correct at the time of writing, but please be aware that websites sometimes change their address (URL) or cease operation.