

Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

Many other local archives can be accessed via the web like Wirral Archives (www.wirral-libraries.net/archives) and the Cheshire Record Office (www.cheshire.gov.uk/recoff/home.htm).

The National Archives at Kew in Surrey has its whole catalogue online and also many useful research guides to sources at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. Access to Archives is a project to catalogue retrospective and current archive acquisitions online at www.a2a.org.uk.

SOCIETY WEBSITES

Most big societies now have their own websites which can give a lot of useful information on current projects and members' interests.

The main family history society for this area is the Liverpool and South West Lancashire Family History Society: www.liverpool-genealogy.org.uk

There are also national societies like the Federation of Family History Societies: www.ffhs.org.uk

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE, LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

Central Library William Brown Street Liverpool L3 8FW

General enquiries	0151 233 5817
	0151 233 5811
Fax (Central Library)	0151 233 5886
E-mail	recoffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk

For opening hours, some catalogues and development news, please visit our website at www.liverpool.gov.uk/archives

Appointments are not essential for viewing sources on microfilm and on microfiche. A reader's ticket is needed to request archives, books, maps, photographs and watercolours. Please bring proof of name and address. You will be asked to leave any bags in lockers before consulting original material.

Annual closure for stock-taking and special projects 3rd and 4th weeks in June.



May 2008

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FAMILY HISTORY ON THE INTERNET INFORMATION LEAFLET 23



The internet has a vast amount of information some of which is very useful for family historians. The People's Network has enabled Liverpool Libraries to provide free computer access for internet searching.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Family historians have access to many sites which have general information and, in particular, indexes of material which can speed up searches. Some documents have also been put online (digitised) so you can see the original document such as the census returns from 1841 to 1901. One of the main search engines useful for tracking down websites is Google (www.google.co.uk)

FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES

Several projects have been undertaken to index many family history resources. These can be basically divided into FREE websites and those involving a SUBSCRIPTION to access them.



The City of Liverpool



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FREE WEBSITES

The first website to offer free information was that of the Church of Latter Day Saints known as www.familysearch.org This should be the first port of call for searching pre-1837 parish registers for baptisms and marriages (but not burials). It is not complete but a guide to what has been covered can be found in Humphery-Smith, C ~ *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers* (3rd ed.) 929.341 (kept at Enquiry Desk) This was also the first site to index a national census - that for 1881 (at the same website). Fiche versions of both these indexes also exist.

After 1837 (when civil registration was enacted) the main site is www.freebmd.org.uk . This indexes the civil registration fiche online for birth, marriage and death registrations. It is NOT complete but is a very useful start to tracking down these events in England and Wales.

The Lancashire BMD site (www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) is an expanding site which indexes a lot of Liverpool births and marriages by name as well as from other parts of Lancashire. It also includes deaths - but not as yet from Liverpool.

There are many other free websites which give useful information on genealogy and local history. Magazines are good sources to find new sites such as *Family History Monthly* and *Ancestors*.

These are some of them:

GENUKI: www.genuki.org.uk gives lists of what material is available for places and where it is located. The best way to use this site is to go to a Google search (the main search engine) and put a place name in there with +genuki and this will bring up all the sources on that place (e.g. Garston +genuki)

CYNDI'S LIST: A large cross-referenced directory of sites for genealogical research www.cyndislist.com



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COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
Information on the burial places of Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and air crew. www.cwgc.org

The other leaflets in the Liverpool Record Office series give more detailed information on websites relating to various types of information eg. The census and directories.

SUBSCRIPTION SITES

The best site in this category is www.ancestry.com . Liverpool Libraries have taken out a subscription to this which means that access is available at any computer in any Liverpool Library which has access to the internet and is free of charge. This site has a vast amount of information on it including an index to the GRO (General Register Office) event registrations of births, marriages and deaths (see under Free BMD) from 1837 to 2002 (not yet complete) and all the census returns currently in the public domain (i.e. 1841 to 1901). Many other databases are also on offer and the site is particularly good for American and Canadian sources.

FIND MY PAST: www.findmypast.com Liverpool Libraries do NOT subscribe to this database but it has an increasing amount of information on it, including passenger lists 1890 to 1960, the National Burial Index and a number of military records which are not available on ancestry.

SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk is the main site for searching Scottish genealogy. Liverpool Libraries does NOT have a subscription to this.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES

Many libraries and archives now have their catalogues online. Liverpool Record Office has its own website at www.liverpool.gov.uk/archives . This is an ongoing project to put our archives catalogues online. There is also an index to 20,000 City Engineers' photographs with thumb nail images of some of them. The general library catalogue for Liverpool Libraries can be found at www.liverpool.gov.uk/libraries