

BASIC BRITISH ISLES RESEARCH

British Isles - Includes England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland.

Great Britain - Includes England, Wales, and Scotland.

United Kingdom - Includes England, Wales, Scotland, and the 6 Counties of Northern Ireland.

ENGLAND

Civil Registration:

England and Wales Civil Registration began on the 1st of July 1837. Prior to this date you must search church records. Civil Registration includes birth, marriage, and death records. The certificates need to be ordered from England. This can be done by mail or the internet. The websites for the indexes are: genuki.org.uk and freebmd.org.uk and findmypast.co.uk and thegenealogist.co.uk

You need the correct name from the index and the District, year, quarter ending, Vol. #, and page #.

The registration date is not the date of the event.

Census Records:

The census was taken every 10 years from 1841, except 1941. Most of the census records are available on www.familySearch.org and ancestry.com up thru 1911. All persons were listed including those in institutions and on board ships which were in the harbor on that day. All are on film at the Family History Library. The local boundaries and districts are interrelated with civil registration and census.

Church Records:

1538: Is the beginning of the parish registers. These include the christenings/baptisms, marriages, and burials.

1597: All records were required to be written on parchment rather than paper. Also required was that each parish send copies of all the records to the Bishop once a year, due on the 25th of March of each year (Lady's Day). These are called Bishop's Transcript's (BT's).

1642-1660: The Commonwealth period. Records were poorly kept.

1695-1706: Tax on parish register entries.

1752: The Gregorian Calendar came into use. The 25th of March became the 1st of January in that year.

1754: Lord Hardwicke's Act for marriages. All marriages were outlawed outside of the Church of England, except the Jew's and Quaker's.

1812: The Lord Rose Act. A standardized pre-printed form was used for all parish records.

1988: Required all parish records to be stored in fire-proof and water-tight containers.

Boyd's Marriage Index:

This is a key source for English marriages from about 1538 thru to 1837. The index is on microfiche at the Mesa FamilySearch Library. Even though it is an incomplete listing it is a great help. There are 3 series. The first is indexed by counties but not all counties are listed. The second and third series are indexed by years.

Non-Conformists Records:

These are the churches that are not of the Church of England. Some of these records are on: thegenealogists.co.uk, familysearch.org, and on film at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Also, an index is at the Mesa FamilySearch Library on the computers. From the front page of the website click on "Local Center Resources". Then on "Family History Research Files". Then click on "Vital records Index-British Isles-Second Edition".

WALES

Wales was formed as a separate state in 1536 by King Henry the VIII, King of England. Many Welsh records are found under the English records: census, civil registration, probate, some maps, research papers, and gazetteer's. There is a Handlist of all manuscripts that can be found in the National Archives of Wales - <http://www.llgc.org.uk>

By 1851 approximately 75% of Welsh were non-conformists. Many Welsh immigrants went to early America to Rehoboth, Massachusetts in the early 1600's.

SCOTLAND

Scotland's counties and parishes all have numbers and names. See "Keys to Parochial Registers of Scotland" which lists them from the early times to 1854. 941 K23b.

In 1707 the Act of the Union is formed between Scotland and England creating Great Britain.

Civil Registration began the 1st of January 1855.

Census records that are available are from 1841 thru 1911. They can be found on: www.genuki.org.uk and www.scotland'speople.gov.uk.

Ancestry.com has the census from 1841-1901 but there are no images. Also, www.familysearch.org has an index but no images.

The Church records of Scotland are the Presbyterian Church which is their State Church and they are The Old Parochial Registers (OPR). Many names are found on the IGI. The OPR's include all surviving records of the Church of Scotland up to 1855 and includes birth's and marriage's but no death's or burials. These do not include the non-conformists.

IRELAND

Civil Registration began the 1st of January 1864 for all of Ireland.

Protestant marriages began the 1st of April 1845.

Some are filmed and some need to be ordered from Ireland.

Census in Ireland began in 1821.

1821-1851 are partially available.

1831 County Londonderry and 1841 County Cavan are indexed on CD#9000041.

1861-1891 were destroyed by the Irish Government.

1901-1911 are completely available and are films in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

There are a lot of census substitutes available.

"The Old Age Pension Records", mostly for Northern Ireland, started in 1909 for individuals who filed a claim for an old age pension. Anyone filing a claim had to provide proof of birth or age. Many people filing claims had to be born before Civil Registration started in 1864.

There are no censuses or indexes on FamilySearch.org.

Church records: The Anglican or the Protestant Episcopal Church was the State Church of Ireland from 1560-1870. In 1871 forward it was no longer the State Church. There are many non-conformist churches in Ireland. The "Catholic Convert Rolls" from 1703-1800 are a good source to check.

Land and Estate Records: The Ireland Householders Index is a compilation of records of taxes. The Tithe Applotment Books is a list of people of all religions who paid taxes to the Church of Ireland between 1823 and 1838. Griffith's Primary Valuation Lists identifies people who paid taxes to the Irish government between 1847 and 1864. These are important records because they give the names of people who occupied land, where they resided, usually a description of their property, and the amount assessed. The Registry of Deeds is from 1708 to the present. It was established for the protection of the purchasers of land.

Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation: by Richard J. Hayes, is one of the most important and detailed works for Irish genealogy. Hayes Sources, as it is called, are in 678 Libraries and Archives, 395 places in 30 countries, and in over 600 private collections.

These are indexes to the collections:

Vol. 1 - films # 1,440,939-943 - Manuscripts.

Vol. 2 - films # 973,222-9 - Articles in Periodicals.

Vol. 3 - film # 994,079 - First Supplement.

On the Ireland National Archives is a site to learn more about this collection: <http://sources.nli.ie>

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