

Wired up to Wellbeing



E-Family Tree

Discover your family e-tree and get back to your e-roots

Introduction

One of the most rewarding activities can be taking the time to look back at where we came from. Whether we're interested in building a family tree as far back as possible or investigating some of our more intriguing ancestors, tracing our roots can be a fascinating personal journey.

The Internet is an invaluable tool for the family historian. It won't answer all your questions and unfortunately you won't be able to avoid investing a lot of time and energy in your detective work. However, the Web can help you get started on your journey such as through access to databases of past census results and lists of civil registrations. And if the information you're looking for can't be found online, contact details for the many organisations that can help are just a click away.

This short taster can only be just that, a quick overview of the information available online. For the serious family historian, you'll need to invest in a good book or borrow one from the library. You should also be prepared to invest time in your research and help yourself by keeping careful records of all your discoveries.

In this module you'll get a taste of some of the information you can uncover online. You'll have the chance to use the web to investigate the following areas:

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If you enjoy this lesson, make sure you try the next module, which looks at using the Internet to buy and sell online. Good luck and enjoy the session!

Birmingham Library Services

Wired up to Wellbeing grew out of an initiative from Birmingham's Yardley Libraries to empower the over-50s with support in using the Internet. The pilot project was part of the wider strategy of Birmingham City Council to foster greater independence among older citizens. Yardley Libraries partnered with Flo-Joe Training and Consultants to devise the course and deliver sessions to Library staff and members of the public.

The Family History Detective

Researching your roots is a journey with many twists, turns, dead ends and exciting discoveries. Your detective work will start with you and information you have about your immediate background. Using facts such as names and dates found on birth, marriage or death certificates will enable you to work backwards, one generation at a time and will help you avoid those dead ends or wrong turns.

What to Research

- You might start by creating a family tree with basic information about your ancestors such as dates of births, marriages and deaths. The challenge with this approach is to get as far back in time as possible through access to civil and parish registers.
- You may choose to investigate an individual you're particularly interested in. Focussing on one person may well result in you taking an interest in the times they lived or events they were involved in. This will lead you into the realm of local history, local archives, military, immigration or emigration records.

How to Research

- Start with an idea of what you want to research. For example, do you want to look into one side of your family or both? Or are you interested in a particular individual?
- Create a simple family tree from what you know and others can tell you.
- Collect any family documents, letters or photos to help you with research.
- Start with what you know about your own and your immediate relatives' background, using facts such as dates of births, marriages or deaths to make sure your next step backwards won't be a wrong turn.
- Obtain official certificates on known ancestors and use the names and dates in these to work further back in time.
- Use (online) databases of civil records such as a census, birth, marriage and death events to uncover further information.
- Dig deeper by carrying out research into local archives, trade directories, parish registers, wills or immigration and emigration records.

Family History Stories

Get an introduction to the fascinating subject of Family History through these personal accounts. Choose any that interest you and make a note of the advice they give or decisions that were made that you think will be useful for your own research.

Celebrity Stories

If you didn't catch the '*Who do you think you are?*' programme on the BBC you can get a review of each family history story from the BBC website.

Go to: www.bbc.co.uk/history

Choose '**Family History**' along the top and '**Who do you think you are**' on the right. Click the arrows next to the images to find a celebrity.

Military Stories

The 'Green Howards' or 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment have case studies featuring family histories of relatives who served in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Go to: www.greenhowards.org.uk

Choose '**Family History**' on the left then '**Family History Case Studies**'.

An Immigrant's Story

Read about how families first came to the UK and where they settled.

Go to: www.movinghere.org.uk

Choose '**Tracing your roots**' along the top. Select an ethnic group on the left, then click '**Tracing (ethnic group name) roots**' on the left. Finally, click the link next to '**Case Study**' in the centre of the screen.

Intriguing Stories

Read about the rise and fall of the Armstrong family as uncovered through family history research.

Go to: www.google.co.uk

Type "**An intriguing family history**" **BBC**.

Getting Started

This section will give you the chance to work through an online lesson in carrying out Family History research and help you prepare the ground for your own investigations.



Tutorials

For an overview of the process of tracing your family history visit the BBC 'History Trails'. When you have time try working through the activities.

Go to: www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/familyhistory



Record Keeping

You'll need to keep good records in order to stay on top of your research. Why not take this opportunity to practise your Word processing skills? Create a folder called 'genealogy' and then keep Word files for people you investigate, scanned photos etc.

Preparations

Try the following Birmingham Register Office website for a step-by-step guide to getting started on your own family history project.

Go to: www.birmingham.gov.uk. Search for 'getting started in family history'.

Official Guidance

Get a thorough overview of how to start your investigations:

Go to www.direct.gov.uk. Search for 'Family History' and click 'Family history and research'. Click 'First steps in researching family history'. You'll see a link to a PDF file 'Download 'Discover your family history'.



Pages 6-9 are mainly of interest to those searching for UK records. For other record offices and information sources see 'Other Sources', 'Extending the Search' and 'Further Information' below.

Civil Registration

At some point during your research you'll need to obtain copies of key documentation like a birth, marriage or death certificate. Originals are kept in the local office where the event was registered as well as at the General Register Office. For an explanation of civil registration documents **go to: www.gro.gov.uk**. Click '**Research**' along the top then '**Investigating your family tree**' on the right. Click the links on the right to find out the information birth, marriage and death certificates provide.



Local Register Office

Visit the Register Office online. Find out how to get a copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate for a Birmingham event.

Go to: www.birmingham.gov.uk

Search for '**Certificates**'. Click the link, 1 or 2 down in the list.



General Register Office

Find out about GRO (General Register Office) indexes. You'll need these to order a certificate from the general office.

Go to: www.direct.gov.uk

Search for '**Registering life events**'..



Local BMD Resources

Visit the UKBMD site for a growing list of information based on local register office records.

Go to: www.ukbmd.org.uk

Click '**Local BMD**' on the left for a list of the areas covered so far.

Searching the Census & BMD

Ancestry.co.uk

You can trace your family history using Birmingham Libraries' latest free web site - **Ancestry**. This is a special version of the well known *Ancestry.com* subscription web site made available **free** on computers in Birmingham libraries. You can search for:

- censuses from 1841-1901
- births, marriages and deaths from 1837-1983
- UK and Ireland parish and probate records from the 1500s to the 1800s

and much more!



Ancestry Commercial Website

For an introduction, watch the Tony Robinson videos on the commercial version of the Ancestry website.

Go to: www.ancestry.co.uk

Click '**Learning Centre**' then below '**Watch Now**'.



Instructions for Using FREE Edition

To use the FREE version of Ancestry, see the help page on the Birmingham website.

Go to: www.birmingham.gov.uk

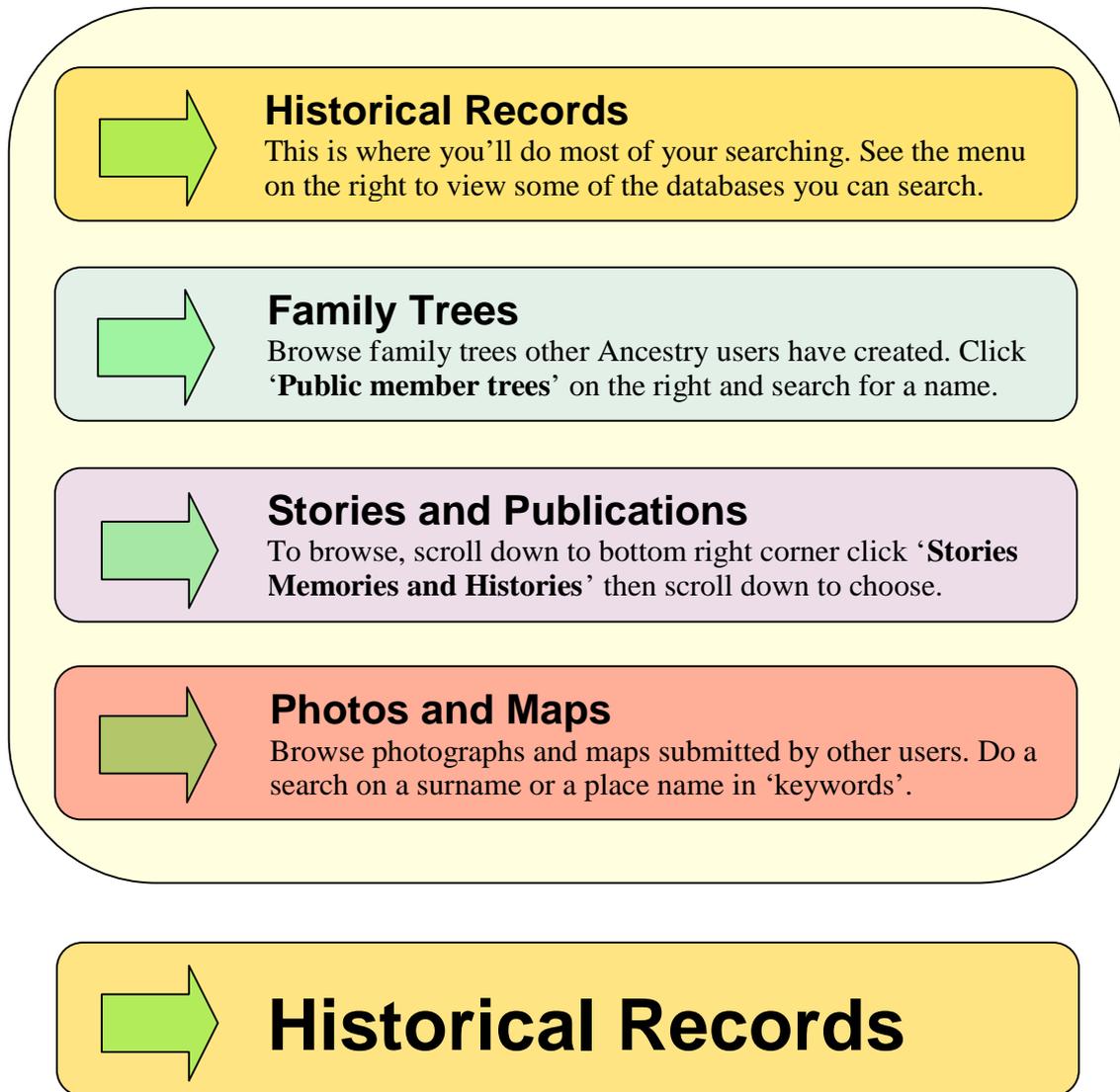
Search for '**Ancestry**' and choose '**Ancestry library edition and how to use it**'.



Take a Tour of the FREE Edition

Take a look around the FREE Ancestry website to see what you can do.

Go to: the '**Ancestry Library Edition**' from the Library homepage. Click '**Search**'. (See next page)



Try an example search on Ancestry. Let's look for Barrow Cadbury, of the famous Cadbury family.

- Click '**Historical records**'.
- Add the names '**Barrow**' and '**Cadbury**'.
- Add '**1862**' to 'Birth Year' and '**1958**' to 'Death Year'.
- Choose '**England**' from 'Birth Country'.
- Click '**Search**'. Examples of this name in ALL databases are listed on the right.
- To refine this, click '**Census and Voter Lists**' on the left.
- Click '**1891 Census**'. Who was his father? Scroll down to find the name 'Richard'.
- Scroll down further to '**Household members**'.
- Click '**Richard**' to find out when Richard was born.

Now repeat the process to find out about Richard's father.

- Do a search on '**Richard**' and '**Cadbury**' and his date of birth (**1836**). Click '**1841 Census**' (when Richard would still be a child).
- Scroll down to '**Household members**'. Who do you think his father was?

Let's try and find out when Barrow Cadbury was married.

- Search for '**Barrow Cadbury**' again and click '**Search**'.
- Click '**Birth marriage death**' on the left, then click '**Marriage index**'.
- Click '**View Record**' on the left of 'Barrow Cadbury' (1891).

The following screen will show you to the GRO (General Register Office) reference details starting with 'Year of registration' and ending with a 'Page' number. You need these details if you need to order a copy of the certificate.

- Click '**View Image**' to get a scan of the marriages with the same GRO reference and therefore listed on the same page as Barrow Cadbury.
- Click the '**Back**' button. Notice you can order the certificate by clicking the link on the right.
- Click the '**Order Marriage Certificate**' link. Then click '**Order a certificate online now**'. Scroll down and make a note of the '**Certificate Services Call Centre**'.

If you have enough information about one of your own ancestors, try doing a search.

Directories and the Electoral Roll

Let's continue our investigation of Barrow Cadbury through a search of the Kelly's directories and the electoral rolls using another website: www.midlandshistoricaldata.org – available free from within Birmingham libraries.

Searching Kelly's Directories

Go to www.midlandshistoricaldata.org.

Click '**Directories**' in the left menu then '**Birmingham**' along the bottom.

Scroll down to '**Kelly's Birmingham and Suburbs 1956**'.

Type '**Barrow Cadbury**' next to '**Search this book**' and click '**Go**'.

Click page '**2024**' on the right.

Click '**View page online**'.

Which organisation was Barrow Cadbury President of in 1956?

If you'd like to try a search in a directory for someone, click '**Home**' in the top right corner, then '**Directories**'.

Searching the Electoral Roll

Go to www.midlandshistoricaldata.org.

Click '**Electoral Rolls**' in the left menu.

Click '**Search**' along the bottom right of the screen.

Type '**Barrow Cadbury**' under '**First person's name**', next to '**Start year**' '**1935**' and next to '**End year**' '**1940**'. Click '**Submit search**'.

Click '**Cadbury**' next to '**1939**'

How many people were living at number 40?

If you'd like to try a search the Electoral Roll for someone, click '**Home**' in the top right corner, then '**Electoral Rolls**'.

Electoral Register

The Electoral Register can help you with your search, but would records be helpful for the period you're researching? Go to www.birmingham.gov.uk search for '**electoral register**' and find out who was allowed to vote and when.

To find out about the electoral register in another city or town simply search in Google for: **city name "electoral register" "family history"**

Other Sources

There are many other sources available to the family historian. See the sections below for additional help.

Parish Registers

A) Before general registration in 1837, records of births, marriages and deaths were kept by local parishes. For information about 'Church of England' records, search for '**Parish Registers**' on the Birmingham website.

B) To search online for old parish records:

go to www.familysearch.org. Click 'Search' and then 'International Genealogical Index'

To see the kind of information the database holds:

- 1) add a surname
- 2) select a region/country/county if appropriate
- 3) click a name for further information.

Tip! Use Google to search for any parish or church names that appear in the individual's record.

Military Records

The "Debt of Honour Register" at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website lists the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars and the 23,000 cemeteries, memorials and other locations worldwide.

Go to: www.cwgc.org

- 1) Search on a surname of your choice. The more details you add the more targeted your search will be.
- 2) Click a name. for further information.

The Family Records website offers help on how to research family history military information at **www.familyrecords.gov.uk/topics/military_1.htm**

Wills

Visit the two sites below and make a note of how you go about accessing wills:

www.familyrecords.gov.uk/topics/wills.htm

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/familyhistory/wills/step1.htm

Historical Documents

Go to www.midlandshistoricaldata.org.

Type '**Barrow Cadbury**' in the '**Quick Search**' box at the top right of the screen and click '**Go**'.

Find '**Birmingham in the Great War (1914-1919)**'. Click page '**183**' then '**View page online**'.

What use was made of Uffculme, the residence of Richard Cadbury, during the outbreak of the 1st World War?

If you'd like to try a search on historical documents for someone, click '**Home**' in the top right corner, then do a search in the '**Quick Search**' box. Alternatively, to browse the historical texts available, from the homepage click '**Local History Books**' in the left hand menu then '**Birmingham**'.

Extending the Search

Ireland and Scotland

Find out about the famous people registered with the General Register Office of Scotland. Go to: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk click '**Family Records**' on the left then '**From our records**'. Click '**Scotland's Hall of Fame**'.

Learn what support the genealogist can get from the National Archives of Ireland.

Go to: www.nationalarchives.ie and click '**Genealogy**'.

Worldwide Information

For information about genealogy sources around the world one of the most in-depth sites is **Cyndislist**. Find out what information is available about the country you are interested in researching:

Go to www.cyndislist.com. Add the name of the country to the **Google** search box and find out what's available.

Migration to England

Do you have Caribbean, Irish, Jewish or South Asian roots? Visit '**Moving Here**' www.movinghere.org.uk for information about immigration to the UK.

Tracing Commonwealth Ancestors

The **Channel 4** website has a useful section on '**Tracing Commonwealth Ancestors**'. To find this quickly try searching at Google:

site:channel4.com "tracing commonwealth ancestors"



Black History

Don't forget Birmingham Libraries 'Black History' page. Search for 'Black History' and click on '**Black History in Birmingham Libraries**'



Emigration

Visit the National Archives website for information about migration from the UK.

Go to: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Click '**Outward passenger lists**' on the left for information and links to other websites about passenger lists.

Further Help

There is a huge amount of support available for people interested in genealogy ranging from societies to workshops and online forums.



Local Family History Societies

The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. Find your local branch and when meetings take place. at: www.bmsggh.org



Local Studies and History

A host of information is available for the family historian through the Local Studies and History Service at Birmingham Central Library. Search the www.birmingham.gov.uk site for 'basic information for family history'.



Family History Workshops

The Central Library runs courses in Family History. Go to www.birmingham.gov.uk search for 'Family History Workshops' and click on 'Family History Workshops 2008'.



Family History Forums

Meet others and ask questions about your family history research at some of the forums that exist.

The British Genealogy Forums
www.british-genealogy.com/forums/
Rootschat
www.rootschat.com



Genealogical Events

Visit the GENUKI website for a list of national events on various subjects to do with family history.

geneva.weald.org.uk