

Victorians to Elizabethans: tracing our English Ancestors from 1901-1952

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Why not the Twentieth Century?

I know it all already
Difficulties of C20th Research
 Closures
 Population
 Mobility
It isn't 'history'

BUT

A vital part of your family history
Advantages of concentrating on a time period
Wealth of sources
A time of great change and therefore interest
DNA

Twentieth Century Sources

Birth Marriage and Death Certificates

Remember to look at www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/ for mothers' maiden names and ages at death from 1837

Censuses

1911 census—check the Enumerator's Book List

Church Records

Non-conformist Records

Methodist Historic Roll

1898-1908 List of contributors to fund see www.mywesleyanmethodists.org.uk/content/topics-2/wesleyan-methodist-historic-roll/wesleyan-historic-roll for background and transcripts

Cemetery Records

Gravestones

Deceased Online www.deceasedonline.com
Find a Grave www.findagrave.com
Gravestone Photos www.gravestonephotos.com

Wills

www.probaterearch.service.gov.uk

Newspapers

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Oral Evidence and Living Relatives

Memoirs

Few, Janet *Remember Then: women's memories of 1946-1969 and how to write your own* (Family History Partnership (2015)

Photographs

Moving Images

British Pathé www.britishpathe.com

The British Film Institute www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections

The National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/focuson/film/film-archive

Film Archives UK www.filmarchives.org.uk/filmarchiveforum

Directories and Gazetteers

www.historicaldirectories.org

Electoral Registers

See <http://electoralregisters.org.uk> for useful background information

School Records

Admissions' Registers

Log Books

School Leaver's Certificates

Teachers' Registration Certificates

The Society of Genealogists hold Teacher's Registration Certificates for all those teachers who were in service between 1914 and 1948. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk

1910 Valuation Office Survey Lloyd George's Domesday

The National Archives IR58

www.thegenealogist.co.uk

The research guide, *Valuation Office Survey* is available at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/valuation-office-survey-land-value-ownership-1910-1915

World War I

War Memorials

National Inventory of War Memorials Project www.ukniwm.org.uk

War Memorials Online www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

Rolls of Honour

www.roll-of-honour.org.uk and www.roll-of-honour.com

Photographs

Gravestones

Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Database

www.cwgc.org

Soldiers Died in the Great War

Published 1921, 81 volumes, listing 42,000 officers and 662,000 other ranks. Usually gives the soldiers' regiment, corps and battalion; decorations received; where the individual was born, lived and was enlisted; their rank and number and how, when and where they died.

Available in libraries; on CD via Naval and Military Press Limited www.naval-military-press.com; online via www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk



Silver War Badge

Awarded to those unfit to serve WO329 at National Archives, online www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk

For more information see

www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war-silver-war-badge-and-discharge-certificate

War Diaries

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/war-diaries-ww1.htm WO95

Medal Rolls

WO 372 at the National Archives available via the National Archives website for a fee www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/medal-index-cards-ww1.htm

Service Records

WO363 & WO364 at The National Archives available via subscription websites

Absent Voters' Lists

Surviving records are likely to be in local archives. For details of online access to some lists see www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/finding-soldiers-through-the-1918-absent-voters-lists and www.1914-1918.net

A number of World War 1 documents mentioned accessed via forces-war-records.co.uk subscription

Red Cross Volunteers

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk>

Friends' Ambulance Service

<http://fau.quaker.org.uk/search-view>

1939 Register

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/1939-register

www.findmypast.co.uk/1939register This link will also lead you to social history information about the 1930s.

FindmyPast's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/findmypast includes videos about the 1939 register, which are well worth watching for more background information.

You may find these blog posts from The National Archives of interest:

The 1939 Register – when is a ‘census’ not a census? <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/1939-register-census-census>

National Registration day 29 September 1939

<http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/national-registration-day-29-september-1939>

National Registration – what happened next?

<http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/national-registration-happened-next>

The National Archives have also produced a relevant podcast:

<http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/using-1939-register-recording-uk-population-war>

1941 Farm Survey

There is a National Archives' Research Guide, which gives further information about the Farm Survey www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/national-farm-survey-england-wales-1941-1943.

Further Reading

- Bali, Karen *Tracing your Twentieth Century Ancestors* (Pen and Sword 2016)
- Few, Janet (ed.) *Family Historians' Enquire Within* (Family History Partnership 2014)
- Fowler, Simon *Tracing your First World War Ancestors* (Pen and Sword 2013)
- Hart, Cynthia *Tell me your Story: how to collect and preserve your family's oral history* (Workman Publishing 2009)
- Lord, Evelyn *Investigating the Twentieth Century: sources for local historians* (Tempus Publishing 2004)
- McLaughlin, Eve *Twentieth Century Research* (Varney's Press 2000)
- The National Archives' Research Guides
- 1939 Register*
 - British Army war diaries 1914-1922*
 - National Farm Surveys of England and Wales 1940-1943*
 - Valuation Office Survey*
- Pols, Robert *Dating Twentieth Century Photographs* (Federation of Family History Societies 2005)
- Raymond, Stuart A *Tracing your Twentieth Century Family History* (Federation of Family History Societies 2003)
- Reed, Paul *Great War Lives: a guide for family historians* (Pen & Sword 2010)
- Shaw, Gareth & Tipper, Alison *British Directories: a bibliography and guide to directories published in England and Wales (1850-1950) and Scotland (1773-1950)* (Leicester University Press 1988)
- Spencer, William *First World War Army Service Records: a guide for family historians* (The National Archives 2008)