

## Resources for Family Historians at Oxford Central Library

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordcentrallibrary>

The Reference, Local & Family History collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Oxford Central Library holds a range of resources which provide a conveniently-located starting point for family history research. Among the most important of these is the regular presence of volunteers from Oxfordshire Family History Society (OFHS) who staff the Family History Help Desk on 2 or 3 days each week (currently Tuesday afternoons, Thursday mornings and from 11am-4pm on Fridays), providing one-to-one advice on family history research queries.

Dedicated computers (the Heritage Network) offer the same range of resources as those at the Oxfordshire History Centre. These include:

- **Oxfordshire Parish Registers:** a complete set of OFHS transcriptions as published on CD
- **the OFHS 'Search Suite'** with its indexes to baptisms, marriages and burials, and to all of the Oxfordshire Censuses from 1841 to 1901.
- **Oxfordshire Monumental Inscriptions:** a complete set of OFHS transcriptions to date.
- **Ancestry Library Edition** – for the British censuses 1841–1901 (and Summary Books for 1911), BMD indexes, British Army pension and service records 1914–1920; British Army Medal Roll index cards 1914–1920; UK incoming passenger lists 1878–1960; London parish and poor law records; National Probate Calendar (Index to Wills & Administrations) 1861-1941. Also many overseas records – e.g. US federal census 1790–1930; Australian convict transportation registers and passenger lists.
- **FindMyPast.co.uk** – a more British-focussed alternative to 'Ancestry' for indexes and transcripts of English & Welsh censuses 1841-1911 & Scottish censuses 1841-1881; GRO BMD indexes 1837-2006, Divorce indexes 1858–1903; Passenger lists leaving UK 1890–1960; Soldiers Died in the Great War; Army Roll of Honour 1939–45; overseas and military (GRO) BMD indexes 1761–2006 – and much more.
- **British Library 19th Century Newspapers** – for the full searchable text of 71 British regional and national newspapers, 1800–1900, including Jackson's Oxford Journal.
- **Digital mapping:** OS 'County Series' 1:2500 maps 1875-1942 digitised sheet by sheet, and seamless searching of OS digital maps 1875-2011 via 'Planweb' software, to help identify where your ancestors lived.
- **Oxford City Guardians of the Poor Reports.** OFHS Name Index 1853-1929 and digitised copies of Reports for 1874 -1915 (excluding 1885 & 1887) on CD-Rom.
- **Heritage Search** (<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch>): indexes to the resources of Oxfordshire History Centre including thumbnails of digitised images held by the Oxfordshire Photographic Archive.

In addition to these online resources, Oxford Central Library has an extensive collection of general reference publications for family historians. They range from beginners' guides to in-depth publications on specific topics (e.g. historical criminal records, wills & probate, armed forces records or tracing pauper ancestors) from The National Archives and similar authoritative sources. Also available are books on heraldry; directories of the peerage, baronetage and landed gentry; a selection of trade & street directories for Oxford, Oxfordshire & Berkshire<sup>(1)</sup>; village histories; histories of Oxford City and Oxford University; and a range of published works on the history and heritage of Oxfordshire (including the villages and towns north of the Ridgeway in the Vale of White Horse which were in North Berkshire until 1974).

Oxford Central Library holds the following materials on microfilm:

- Jackson's Oxford Journal / Oxford Journal Illustrated 1753-1799, 1901 & 1903-1927 (with 19<sup>th</sup> Century issues available online via British Library 19<sup>th</sup> Century newspapers on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/referenceonline](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/referenceonline))
- Oxford Times Sept 1862 – Dec 2003 (and paper copies 2004 to date, though this file may be incomplete)
- Oxfordshire wills 1547-1857 (microfilm copies of probate court manuscript wills held at the Oxfordshire History Centre)
- Oxfordshire county electoral registers for Banbury & Henley Divisions 1832-1888, 1890-1900 & 1918-1938  
(note: we do not have the equivalent for Oxford City)

The library holds an almost-complete file of *Oxfordshire Family Historian* back to 1977. We also have a file of *Genealogists' Magazine* from 1925 but with significant gaps, so enquirers wishing to consult articles in this journal are advised to phone before making a special journey.

The Local & Family History reference collection at Oxford Central Library is enhanced by general reference resources on British history; official histories of and published Rolls of Honour relating to both World Wars; files of Crockford's Clerical Directory and Army, Navy & Air Force lists; and an extensive collection of Victoria County History volumes. It is further augmented by a collection of lending copies of local & family history publications on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Oxford Central Library (and an extensive store of older titles) plus the combined local & family history lending resources of our county-wide network of libraries available through a reservation service. All our printed volumes are listed on the library catalogue, [www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk). It is worth noting that the Advanced Search facility on Heritage Search ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch)) is more sophisticated than keyword searching on the Library Catalogue, so it is worth using both catalogues in association with each other to get the best from our combined county resources.

For further information, please contact:

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Tel: 01865 815409

E-mail: [oxfordcentral.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordcentral.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries) or [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordcentrallibrary](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordcentrallibrary)

(1) Years represented in some form - print, CD, microfilm or online.

Those marked \* are available online via [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org)

Kelly's Directory: Oxford with Abingdon, Woodstock & neighbourhood 1913/14, 1926, 1928, 1936, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1945,

1954, 1956, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976

Oxford pages from Holden's triennial directory 1805

Rusher's Banbury list & directory Pt 1, 1882-89\* & Pt 2, 1890-96\*

Berkshire directories - various

1823, 1830, 1844, 1847, 1852, 1854, 1864, 1868, 1876\*, 1891, 1928

Oxfordshire directories – various

1823, 1830, 1844\*, 1847, 1852, 1854, 1864, 1868, 1876\*, 1891, 1895, 1907, 1911, 1924, 1928, 1931, 1935, 1939, 1967