

Social History and Family History

Local and social history is important for establishing the conditions in which your ancestors lived and their way of life, most places have changed substantially over the years and so the study of local and social history is important to obtain a true picture of our ancestor's lives.

Whether you are interested in discovering more about an ancestor's place of birth, his or her occupation, customs from the time at which he or she lived, you should be aware that there will probably have been a book published on the subject in the past. A huge number of old books and historical directories are freely available online...

Digital Books Index is a good place to start, this includes a wide range of texts from the *'highly scholarly to the contemporary and popular subjects'*. More than 14,000 of the 165,000 texts are available to read for free – www.digitalbookindex.org

The Internet Archive: Digital Library started in 1996 to provide free access to researchers, historians, scholars, the print disabled, and the general public. Their mission is to provide Universal Access to All Knowledge and today, the archive contains: 11 million books and texts – www.archive.org

Historical Directories of England & Wales – the University of Leicester Special Collection Online proves for free, many digitised local and trade directories for England and Wales, 1760s to 1810 – <http://specialcollection.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingplace/collection/p16445coll4> (Open the home page, scroll down & click on 'browse by location' and choose your county)

British History Online – key primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland mainly between 1300 and 1800 – www.british-history.ac.uk

National Library of Wales – www.libraries.wales/my-digital-library

Histories of Scottish Families – <http://digital.nls.uk/histories-of-scottish-families>

World War One Document Archive – <https://wwi.lib.byu.edu>