

## Researching the Archives

Today, more time is now spent researching online at home, where in the past we would visit the local archive and, the not so local archives. However, not all digitised records online are complete, especially parish registers, where some records are missing and others have inaccurate information which could be most important for your family history research. So, a visit to your local archive or county record office could prove beneficial to your research.

The first step, check out the archives that could be helpful, log in and look at: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive> with a searchable list of over 2,500 archives in the UK; enter the location which interests you for your research, check out their websites and what records they hold, then plan your visit but do check if they are members of the 'Archives Card' scheme or have other reader's ticket requirements.

The **ARCHIVES CARD** is a single archive reader's ticket which gives you access to a wealth of original archive documents held in archives and record offices across the UK. You need to apply for a Card online if you wish to view the documents in any of the archives participating in the scheme, and to apply for a card, which is **free** and valid for 5 years, just log into the link <https://archivescard.com> for more information.

County Record Offices (CROs) usually hold the records of the local courts, schools and Boards of Guardians (who administered the poor law from 1834), but also electoral registers, poll books, taxation and militia records, business records and many documents concerning property. Most CROs hold those census returns for the county or other areas which they serve, some also act as diocesan record offices and therefore hold church records such as parish registers, other parish records, bishop's transcripts, wills, other probate records, marriage licence records, church court records and tithe documentation. Most CROs also have large collections of local history books, engravings, maps and photographs also, publications by local history societies and the area family history society. In addition to CROs, there are also the regional archives such as the *National Library of Wales* [www.llgc.org.uk](http://www.llgc.org.uk) and the *National Records of Scotland* [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) and the *Borthwick Institute for Archives*, part of the University of York [www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/](http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/)

Finally, the *Society of Genealogists* library located in London holds the best collection of genealogical information in Britain. Members have free use of the library and non-members can use the library for an hourly fee. The [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) is now home to both the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and the London FamilySearch Centre's microfilm collection.

