

Tracing your Family History: sources at Cambridgeshire Archives

Parish registers (Church of England) for most parishes. A few churches retain ancient registers and almost all have some current registers which may date back several years.

Microfilm of many Cambridgeshire parish registers which remain in the care of parish churches or which are deposited in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum.

Indexed transcripts of registers and bishop's transcripts for most parishes. Available to browse on the searchroom shelves.

Cambridgeshire Family History Society's indexes to Cambridgeshire baptisms, marriages and burial on CD.

Indexes of baptisms and burials in Cambridgeshire 1801-37*. These include entries in almost all surviving registers, both Anglican and nonconformist.

Registers, church books, members' rolls, etc., of nonconformist churches and chapels in Cambridgeshire, including microfilm of relevant registers, 17th-20th century. Indexed transcripts of these and of Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire entries in the national registry. Society of Friends (Quaker) records for Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, including microfilm of TNA class RG6 and 'digests' (alphabetical abstracts) of these registers.

Transcripts of monumental inscriptions, war memorials, etc., in churches, churchyards & cemeteries.

Boyd's index of marriages in Cambridgeshire 1538-1625, 1676-1837, with supplements completing the index for 1626-75 and 1801-37 (all in book form), Thorney 1754-1837 is omitted, but it is included in **Layng's index of marriages in Huntingdonshire** 1754-1837, which is also available.

Probate records (wills, administrations, inventories) of the Courts of the Consistory of Ely, the Archdeaconry of Ely and the Peculiar of Thorney. *These are usually made available on microfilm.* There are published indexes (British Records Society, vols. 88 (1976), 103, 106-7 (1994-96). Microfilm of probate records of the court of the vice-chancellor of Cambridge University 1501-1765 [whose jurisdiction extended beyond university members] (published index 1907).

Census Returns: transcripts for Cambridgeshire, as follows:

1841 – 1861 Indexed transcripts for each parish

1871 – 1901 Indexed transcripts for some parishes

1911 Free index searches available on our public access computers.

Censuses are also available on Ancestry website including original schedules from 1841 – 1911. Free access to Ancestry on our Public Access Computers.

Quarter Sessions order [i.e. minute] books for Cambridgeshire (excluding the Isle of Ely 1660-1971) (indexed for judicial cases to 1886), Cambridge Borough 1733-1945 (indexed to 1846), and Isle of Ely 1801-1971 (indexed to 1812). Complete index to all cases in progress.

Overseers' records, including poor rates (see handlist), accounts and various papers. Surviving settlement, apprenticeship and bastardy records (varying in quantity for different parishes and of most value for late 18th cent.–1834) included in *Index to Parish Poor Law Papers*.

Poll books for contested parliamentary elections for Cambridgeshire 1705-1868, Cambridge Borough 1774-1868, and the University 1727-1882. **Register of electors** for Cambridgeshire, Isle of Ely and for Cambridge Borough/City. Please ask details for availability of years as there are gaps.

Taxation records, including lay subsidies, poll tax, etc., 1347-1678; hearth tax 1662-74 (1662/64 published, 1674 transcribed), and land tax (mainly 1750-1948 but wanting for varying periods for many parishes); Ely & South Witchford division 1750, 1829, northern Isle of Ely 1798, and Cambridgeshire excl. Isle 1829 indexed.

All catalogued records are now searchable on-line at
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/catalogue/>

General sources:

Family Search website (formerly known as the IGI) www.familysearch.org/ for Cambs and surrounding counties, 1992 microfiche edition. The index for the British Isles is searchable on-line at

Microfiche of indexes to General Register Office registers of births, marriages and deaths 1837-1999. *Indexes also available on Ancestry website.*

Published indexes to probate records of other local courts of probate (mainly eastern England, including Sudbury Archdeaconry and Norwich Diocese courts with significant Cambridgeshire jurisdiction around Newmarket), of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1383-1700, 1750-1800, 1853-58, and of the Principal Probate Registry ('*Calendars of Grants*') 1858-1966. Those 1853-1943 are usually produced on microfiche.

General biographical reference books including Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, Burke's *Peerage and Landed Gentry*, old editions of Crockford's *Clerical Directory*, etc. Virtually complete runs of county and town directories for Cambridgeshire, some indexed including Spalding's *Cambridge Directory 1891*. Published heralds' visitations.

Genealogical guides, including, for example, Gibson and McLaughlin guides, *Genealogical Research Directory*, heraldry reference works, etc.

Public access computers for internet access to a variety of free family history-based websites including free access to *Ancestry*.

Ely Diocesan Records

Bishop's transcripts ('BTs'), allegations & bonds for marriage licences, and other diocesan records for most of Cambridgeshire are in the University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR. Information from BTs is however included in many of the parish register transcripts available at Cambridgeshire Archives. *An appointment is essential* for non-library ticket-holders before visiting the University Library and should be made with the Manuscript Room (tel: 01223-333143). A letter of introduction is available for those who visit Cambridgeshire Archives first.

Cambridgeshire Archives

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