

Principal Sources for Genealogists at Cambridgeshire Archives

Cambridgeshire Sources

In this leaflet, unless stated otherwise, 'Cambridgeshire' refers to the ancient county including the Isle of Ely, which was a separate administrative county until 1965. It does not include Huntingdonshire (amalgamated with Cambs. and Isle of Ely 1974) or Peterborough (amalgamated with Hunts. 1965, separated as a unitary authority 1998)

Parish registers of the Established Church (Church of England) for most parishes. A few churches retain ancient registers and almost all have some current registers, sometimes quite old.

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

Indexed transcripts of registers and bishop's transcripts for most parishes and many Huntingdonshire and Soke of Peterborough parishes.

Registers, church books, members' rolls, etc., of nonconformist churches and chapels in Cambridgeshire, including microfilm of relevant registers in class RG4 at the Public Record Office, 17th-20th century. Indexed transcripts of these and of Cambs & Hunts entries in the national registry formerly at Dr Williams's Library*. Also Society of Friends (Quaker) records for Cambs. and Hunts., including microfilm of P.R.O. 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), and supplement on cards for 1754-1800 (husbands only). Thorney 1754-1837 is omitted, but it is included in **Layng's index of marriages in Huntingdonshire** 1754-1837, which is also available, as are the Huntingdonshire marriage indexes by Hunts FHS for 1601-1754.

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

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 enumerators' schedules: microfilm and transcripts for Cambridgeshire, as follows:

1841* Original schedules on roll film. Indexed transcripts for each parish and also for Huntingdonshire, arranged by hundreds (the ancient administrative division of counties).

1851* Original schedules on roll film. Indexed transcripts for each parish, and also for Huntingdonshire, arranged by registration sub-district, with some sub-district indexes and union surname indexes in two parts.

1861* Original schedules on roll film. Indexed transcripts for each parish, arranged by registration sub-district.

1871 Original schedules on roll film. Indexed transcripts for some parishes.

1881 Original schedules on roll film. Indexed transcripts for some parishes. Surname indexes by registration district. Transcript and county index by Genealogical Society of Utah (Mormons) on microfiche (*see also below*).

1891 Original schedules on microfiche. Indexed transcripts for some parishes only, and also for most of Hunts.

1901 Original schedules on microfiche. Indexed transcripts for some parishes only, and also for most of Hunts.

*denotes searchable databases available at www.cfhs.org.uk/Search.html

A parish-by-parish guide to census holdings is in the Search Room. A fuller census leaflet is in preparation.

Quarter Sessions order [i.e. minute] books for Cambs. excl. 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* and from parish catalogues on SRCA database.

Poll books for contested parliamentary elections for Cambridgeshire 1705-1868, Cambridge Borough 1774-1868, and the University 1727-1882. **Register of electors** for Cambridgeshire excluding Isle of Ely, 1853, 1885 (West Division only, incl. Cambridge), 1913-15, 1926, 1930-39 (with gaps), 1945 to date, Isle of Ely 1832, 1864, 1868 (Ely Division only), 1881, 1918, 1930-39 (with gaps), 1951 to date, and for Cambridge Borough/City 1847, 1862/3, 1913-15, 1920-37, 1939, 1966 to date, University 1925, 1939, 1945.

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.

Card indexes of personal names in office catalogues. This is very gradually being superseded by computerisation of catalogues (SRCA database), which permits easy access to any name in the catalogues direct.

General sources

International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.) for Cambs and surrounding counties, 1992 microfiche edition. The index for the British Isles is searchable on-line at www.familysearch.org/

Microfiche of indexes to General Register Office registers of births, marriages and deaths 1837-1999 (sometimes called 'St. Catherine's House indexes' from their former location). *Please note that occasionally these may be difficult to read due to the poor original and film quality but they provide a free alternative to pay-to-view on the internet.*

Microfiche indexed edition of the 1881 Census for Flintshire and same counties as I.G.I. except London & Middlesex. The CD-ROM version of this is available for use on our public access PC's or can be consulted through www.familysearch.org/ on our *People's Network* computers.

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. Collections of directories for Eastern England including 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, Whitmore, Marshall and Barrow's *Genealogist's Guide*, Gibson and McLaughlin guides, *Genealogical Research Directory*, heraldry reference works, etc.

Public Access Computers (People's Network) for internet access to a variety of free family history-based websites.

List of recommended sites available in the searchroom.

Library of Cambridgeshire Family History Society (mainly pamphlets, members' interests, and journals of exchanging societies throughout U.K. and overseas).

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 modern 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.

Telephone us on 01223-699399 if you would like a copy of this leaflet in large print or another language.

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