Ancestral Past

Summary of Presentation**: Online Resources for Researching British Ancestors**

November 20, 2026 – Bay Area Genealogical Society

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- General Concepts for Researching British Ancestors Online
  - You will need to investigate multiple resources
  - Have a plan; stay organized; document your searches
  - Be economical with your money and time
  - Start with the sources you are most familiar with
  - You will be most successful the more you can narrow the time and place of your search; this presentation will focus on the larger, national sites, but if you know specific county or town information, search for sites specific to the exact location
  - Some of these site's collections expand dramatically each 2-3 years
  - When possible, don't settle for an indexed record – locate the actual document
  - Remember, not all existing records are available online
- Records Available on the Old Standards
  - Start with US available records
  - Search as much as you can from the sites you are already familiar with: ***Ancestry.com*** ($); ***Familysearch.org***; *Myheritage.com* ($); *Newspapers.com* ($)
- British-Wide Sites
  - **Find My Past** ($) (*findmypast.com*)
  - **UK and Ireland Genealogical Info Service** (*genuki.org.uk*)
  - The National Archives (*nationalarchives.gov.uk*)
  - Society of Genealogists ($) (*sog.org.uk*)
  - Connected Histories (*connectedhistories.org*)
  - The Genealogist ($) (*thegenealogist.com*)
- England Specific Sites
  - General Register Office (*gro.gov.uk*); has a really good family history guide (https://www.*gov.uk/research-family-history*); this site is applicable to both England and Wales
  - Free Vital Record Index (partial) (freebmd.org.uk)
  - *Englishancestors.byu.edu* – a great guide

- Scotland Specific Sites
    - **Scotland's People** ($ for accessing documents) (*scotlandspeople.gov.uk*)
    - Scottish Genealogical Society (*scotsgenealogy.com*)
- Wales Specific Sites
    - Archives Wales (*archives.wales)*
    - Welsh Newspapers (*newspapers.library.wales)*
    - Association of Family History Society of Wales (*fhswales.org.uk)*
- Northern Ireland Specific Sites
    - Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) (*nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni*)
    - General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) (*nidirect.gov.uk/services/go-groni-online)*
    - Ulster Historical Foundation (*ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com*)
- Some key years to keep in mind:
    - 1536 Wales unites with England
    - 1538 King orders Church of England to keep christening, marriage & burial records
    - 1707 Scotland unites with England and Wales to form United Kingdom
    - 1783 America officially separates from United Kingdom
    - 1800 Ireland merges with the United Kingdom
    - 1837 Civil registration begins in England & Wales
    - 1841 10-Year United Kingdom census begins recording names (100-year requirement for public access)
    - 1855 Civil registration begins in Scotland
    - 1922 Southern Ireland breaks from United Kingdom, with Northern Ireland (6 counties) remaining a part of the United Kingdom; most Irish civil records are lost in the War of Independence

Summary of Sites Mentioned (along with a few others):

General

- Findmypast.com ($)
- Ancestry.com ($)
- Familysearch.org
- Myheritage.com ($)
- Thegenealogist.com ($)
- Familyrelatives.com ($)
- Genesreunited.co.uk ($)
- Emeraldancestors.com (NIR) ($)

Vital/Census/Government

- Scotlandspeople.gov.uk (SCO)
- Nationalarchives.gov.uk (ENG, WAL)
- Gov.uk/research-family-history
- Freebmd.org.uk
- Archives.wales (WAL)
- Nidirect.gov.uk/services/go-groni-online (NIR)
- Gro.gov.uk (ENG, WAL)
- Nrscotland.gov.uk (SCO)

Reference & Linking Sites

- Genuki.org.uk
- Englishancestors.byu.edu (ENG)
- Connectedhistories.org
- Nls.uk/family-history (SCO)

Church

- Fhs-online.co.uk
- Parishmouse.co.uk (ENG & WAL)
- Library.wales (WAL)
- Eddiesextracts.com (NIR)

Cemeteries/Burial

- Deceasedonline.com
- Findagrave.com
- Billiongraves.com
- Scottishindexes.com (SCO)

Military

- Uk.forceswarrecords.com ($)
- Nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Scottishmilitaryresearch.co.uk (SCO)

Newspapers

- Britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk ($)
- Newspapers.com ($)
- Newspapers.library.wales (WAL)

Probate/Wills

- Ulsterancestry.com (NIR)

Surname Prevalence

- Forebears.io/surnames

Societies

- Sog.org.uk
- Familyhistoryfederation.com
- Scotsgenealogy.com (SCO)
- Fhswales.org.uk (WAL)
- Ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com (NIR)
- Safhs.org.uk
- Americanancestors.org

Please note that there are dozens of county-level and town-level websites and databases that can be helpful to your research. If you know the specific county or town, Google "*Insert Name of County/Town* Family History Research".

Scott Norrick welcomes feedback and questions on the presentation. He also sends out a quarterly email on various genealogical topics. If you have questions, feedback or would like to receive the monthly genealogy info, please contact him at scott@ancestralpast.com.