For those interested in British and Irish family history, Findmypast is a must-use resource. With the largest online collection for the UK, and the home of the Catholic Heritage Archive – bringing Catholic records from around the world online for the first time – you need to know about Findmypast.

Findmypast is the recognized leader in British and Irish genealogy. The record collection contains more than 8 billion records from around the globe. Our partners include The National Archives (England), The British Library, The National Library of Ireland, the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, Ontario Ancestors, the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, FamilySearch, and more. Our goal is to be the key resource for you to trace your English and Irish lineage, no matter where in the world their journey took them.

Findmypast is also The National Archive’s sole trusted partner to digitize and publish the 1921 Census of England and Wales, enabling the public to discover the previously unseen stories within the lives of those living in the aftermath of the most traumatic events of the country’s history. Having been sealed for 100 years, Findmypast will be telling the fascinating, unearthed stories of individuals, families, businesses, and places found within the census.

- 8.5 million households
- 38 million individuals
- 30,000 bound volumes
- 1.6 kilometers of shelving to house the collection!

Parish Records
The massive collection of Parish Records from across the United Kingdom is the backbone of genealogy in this part of the world. If you are looking for baptisms, marriages, and burials of family in the UK, you need to be familiar with the collection on Findmypast.
Searching Online

- Everything on Findmypast can be found via the navigation bar at the top of the screen. Use this as your way to easily move around the materials offered. Whether you are searching records, adding information to your online tree, or need to adjust your account, you can find those tools in that primary menu bar.
- Use the “Search all records” screen to utilize a variety of filters, categories, and locations to conduct a detailed search. Familiarize yourself with the various options available.
- Remember that newspapers and periodicals have their own unique search functions, so you will need to specifically choose that category to find those results.

The ‘Search all records’ page on Findmypast. https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records

Understanding the Records Categories: On any genealogy site, it’s important to understand how the site is designed and how the records are sorted. On Findmypast, you will find eight basic category filters. You will find a number of different sub-categories in each of these main types of historic records:

- Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
- Census, Land & Substitutes
- Churches & Religion
- Directories & Social History
- Education & Work
- Immigration & Travel
- Institutes & Organizations
- Military Service & Conflict

A general best practice – for all online providers – is to start your search very broadly and narrow down your results as you work through the system. Learn the various filters and features provided by each individual site to make the most of the collection provided.
There are a number of ways to search on Findmypast, and it is always suggested to experiment and utilize all of these options. Remember, the search is designed to bring back quality results, vs quantity, so the more you work with the system, the better your results will ultimately be.

- **Search All Records**: a blanket search of all the historical materials on Findmypast.
- **Advanced Search**: offers more search fields and customization.
- **Category Search**: offers the ability to search by type of record (vs name or location).
- **All Record Sets**: the ‘card catalog’ of Findmypast.
- **Filters & Wildcards**: tools applied to individual record collections that allow you to manipulate the search in various ways.
- **Address Search**: the ability to search any of the UK census collections by address (vs name).
- **Radius Search**: removes the geopolitical barriers and searches all records within a certain radius by miles of the point of interest.

Remember to watch for unique search fields, such as “Other Household member” in the Irish Census substitutes, or the Soldier Number in military records. Also take note of the ability to “Browse” through the categories, sub-categories, countries, and other data points to ensure you are seeing every possible variation of the information.

**The All Record Sets** page is one of the best features of the Findmypast platform. What you will find here is a complete directory of all record sets available on the site, by name, territory, category/subcategory, or collection size. By utilizing this tool, you can build a more precise search strategy. Experiment with this feature to make the most use of it, you may find it to be the door you need to record collections you have never heard of!

Getting Around Record Loss

Record loss on any scale can be a large obstacle for any genealogist. At Findmypast, we recognize that researchers are looking for unique material to replace government produced collections. Our strategy includes looking at creative options, that may not be the most obvious substitute, but can prove to be incredibly helpful.

- Creative Records in Ireland: Genealogists everywhere suffered a great record loss in 1922 when a fire broke out in the Public Records Office of Ireland in the historic Four Courts in Dublin. As a result, Findmypast has supplied a variety of materials to lead you to the same type of information. One example of this is the Dog License Registers, which gives us a name, a location, and a year – just as we would achieve with a census. Although the remainder of the census information remains lost, we can at least place our ancestors in a specific location and continue to utilize unique materials to research their lives in context.

- Newspaper Content: Newspapers and periodicals can be a wonderful tool to any genealogist and historians of all kinds. Searching newspapers and other contextual materials requires an alternate approach. It is wise to search by location, by topic, by keyword, and by name when using newspaper content. Findmypast has partnered with the British Library to digitize their incredible historic newspaper collection, and the materials can be found online on either Findmypast or the British Newspaper Archive. Currently, newspaper content from this fabulous collaboration is available for every county in England and Ireland, and most areas of Scotland. There are even four newspaper titles available in Welsh! There are also a number of titles that span across the historic British Empire.

The Catholic Heritage Archive

Covering the United States, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and beyond! The Catholic Heritage Archive project at Findmypast was launched in February of 2017 with the Sacramental Registers from the Archdiocese of Pennsylvania online for the first time. You will also find the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Baltimore and the ongoing project in partnership with the Archdiocese of New York, as well as numerous Catholic diocese’s and organizations across the British Isles and Ireland.

Note that the Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Records collection is free, forever on Findmypast. You will need a free account to log in, but not a subscription! To utilize the Catholic Heritage Archive records, you can find the Diocese of interest via the All Record Sets list, using the search page to identify the location of interest, or by simply running a basic search in our religious records collection. You can also see the collection along with helpful guides and research suggestions at Findmypast.com/catholicrecords.

A Global Story, A Global Collection

Findmypast has incredible resources for those working on their British and Irish heritage, but it also provides must-utilize records for those seeking that original immigrant. Our goal around the world is to make it possible for you to tell the story of your British and Irish ancestors, no matter where life took them. Take advantage of materials from other parts of the world to create as specific a timeline as possible, while enjoying records from his (or her) homeland.

We are proud to partner with prestigious organizations to bring this content online, including: the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and more.

- British & Irish Roots: Search all of the possible records that may hold a clue to the origin location at one time by using this mega-search functionality! Only available on Findmypast!
- **United States Marriages** for those essential vital records. The collection contains over 214 million records, covers every state, and 60% of the records have never been made available online before.

- **Historical Society of Pennsylvania**: If you are looking for your Pennsylvania ancestor, then the records held exclusively on Findmypast are a must-utilize starting point. Covering nearly the entire state, from the earliest of years of record keeping, these vital records are essential.

- Canadian records and indexes, such as the **Oddfellows Life Insurance Applications**, in partnership with the Ontario Genealogical Society. These unique records often list your ancestor’s medical history, physical description, and more, as individuals applied to one of the world’s oldest fraternal orders for insurance purposes. The collection ranges between 1875-1929.

- For those seeking Colonial-era records, try the **Registers of Licenses to Pass Beyond the Seas** (1573-1677), to see images of the original records kept by the English government for those seeking overseas voyages to the Americas, Europe, the Caribbean and more. Remember that Colonial era records are likely to be held by the colonial territory, and that is how they will be organized on Findmypast. Look in our UK holdings for records that relate to the early years of the United States and Canada.

### The Findmypast Tree and Hints

When you create your account on Findmypast, it is a good idea to upload your tree via a GEDCOM, or create a new tree. By doing so, you will be the recipient of Findmypast Hints – a tool that may allow you to identify record sets that were previously unknown to you for your English and Irish ancestors.

- From the primary blue menu bar, click on “Family Tree.” You will see an option to either upload your GEDCOM file or start a brand-new tree. The system will guide you through either option.
- Once you have your tree on the site, watch for notifications in the blue menu bar next to the “My Account” section to the far right – this is where we will notify you of new hints, new record sets that may be of interest to you, and other news from Findmypast.

### Tree to Tree Hints

This feature will allow users of the Findmypast tree to receive hints against the data in other user’s trees. Collectively, our trees contain millions of ancestors spanning hundreds of years; as a research tool, these hints can prove to be very valuable.

1. Privacy remains a top priority at Findmypast. No one can see your tree in full, and living individuals are hidden to everyone but the researcher who ‘owns’ that tree. There is no sharing of other user’s details at this time. (Collaboration tools are in active development.)
2. Any person in a tree who is labelled as living by the user, or any person who was born less than 110 years ago, will not be visible.
3. This is not a wiki-style tree; thus no one can change any element of your research.
4. Hints are created based on the facts known about each individual person, and the user has full control over what is integrated into their tree/research.

Tree to Tree hints are presented in the same fashion as all of our other hints, and you can access them for a variety of locations inside the tree platform.
Some of the hints for members of the Lawrence family. Access hints directly from your online tree and note the ability to rearrange by percentage match, oldest or most recent record date. [www.findmypast.com/tree](http://www.findmypast.com/tree).

Depending on your location, prices and packages vary. Be sure to review the options available to get the best package to suit your needs. Findmypast is available at many major libraries and in all Family History Center’s.

Contact us!
We greatly appreciate any and all comments on the research experience at Findmypast. You can reach us via email at support@findmypast.com, on Facebook, Twitter @findmypast, or Instagram, or by utilizing the on-screen chat function to speak directly to our customer service team. Give us a call if you want to hear their fabulous Scottish accents! US: 855-246-8234.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptism</th>
<th>Banns</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Burial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-1837 births</td>
<td>Impending marriage</td>
<td>Anglican records, but can include other denominations</td>
<td>Pre-1853 Burial Act, nearly all are in local parish churchyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name, date, place, parents names.</td>
<td>Look for “by banns” or “by license”</td>
<td>Divorce very uncommon</td>
<td>Public Cemeteries created in 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually occurred shortly after birth, but not always.</td>
<td>Post-1753 more common; eventually became a legal requirement</td>
<td>Minimum age for marriage was 16 in 1763 – but special license could be obtained</td>
<td>Post-1850, parish churchyards decline, but still an option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 16th Century: mothers names are more common.</td>
<td>Many fewer Banns books survive vs marriage registers</td>
<td>Post-1837, includes same information as on civil registration</td>
<td>Refer to special Acts for other key dates/understanding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Which Records do you Need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looking for?</th>
<th>First Choice:</th>
<th>Also:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Census, Civil Registration, Church Records</td>
<td>Cemeteries, Obituaries, Military Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Date</td>
<td>Civil Registration, Church Records</td>
<td>Obituaries, Newspapers, Military Records,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Occupations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Place</td>
<td>Census, Civil Registration, Church Records</td>
<td>Obituaries, Newspapers, Occupations, Military Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of foreign birth (not England)</td>
<td>Church Records, Census</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration, Military Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries (parish, district, county)</td>
<td>Gazetteers</td>
<td>Maps, Historical References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Information</td>
<td>Civil Registration, Church Records, Obituaries, Newspapers, Cemeteries</td>
<td>Probate Records, Court Records, Land and Property, Military Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiden Name</td>
<td>Civil Registration, Church Records</td>
<td>Obituaries, Newspapers, Cemeteries, Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Information</td>
<td>Church Records, Civil Registration, Published Genealogies, Periodicals</td>
<td>Newspapers, Biography, Nobility, Cemeteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Church Records, Census, Directories, Civil Registration, Occupations, Probate Records</td>
<td>Court Records, Obituaries, Officials and Employees, Military Records, Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents, Children or Other Family</td>
<td>Census, Obituaries, Probate Records</td>
<td>Church Records, Newspapers, Civil Registration, Published Genealogies, Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of Residence</td>
<td>Directories, Census, Probate Records, Civil Registration</td>
<td>Church Records, Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Research</td>
<td>Biography, Published Genealogies, Societies, Periodicals</td>
<td>Nobility, Lineage Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Church Records, Biography, Obituaries, Civil Registration</td>
<td>Cemeteries, Published Genealogies, History, Probate Records, Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schooling &amp; Education</td>
<td>School Records, Newspapers, Periodicals</td>
<td>Military Records, Published Genealogies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>Periodicals, Newspapers, Directories, Organization Records</td>
<td>Probate Records</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from FamilySearch Wiki: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Record_Selection_Table