

Basic Reference Collection

This handout is based on a recommendation by Sherry Irvine in her book Your English Ancestry: A Guide for North Americans. There is a section in her book "Know How to Get Help" where she states, "The very best sort of help is self-help. If you intend to carry out extensive research over a long period of time, be sure to build a good, basic reference collection." Using her self-help recommendations as a guide, I have developed the following list of suggested items for a basic reference collection. These are based on my personal experience and preferences, and you may find others you prefer.

- an overview of English history
- a good atlas or map book
- a good gazetteer
- a genealogical dictionary
- a good general reference book for England genealogy; one to read and one to look stuff up
- a decent "how to" book

Bibliography

History

"England History" reference page in FamilySearch Research Wiki:
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Genealogy

"England Historical Overview" reference page in FamilySearch Research Wiki:
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Historical_Overview

"History of England" (Wikipedia): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_England

Reference table for "Historical Events Related to Genealogical Research". Genealogical Research in England and Wales, Vol. 2 by Smith and Gardner;
<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/789616-redirection>

Atlas/Map book

Ordnance Survey National Atlas of Great Britain

Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers (OCFSL: REF 942 E7pa)

Gazetteer

Genealogical Gazetteer of England by Frank Smith (OCFSL: 942 E5g)

The Topographical Dictionary of England by Samuel Lewis (OCFSL: 942 E5L)

Dictionary

The Dictionary of Genealogy: A Guide to British Ancestry Research by T.V. H. FitzHugh (OCFSL: 942 D26f)

General reference

Genealogical Research in England and Wales-Volume 1 by Smith and Gardner (OCFSL: 929.142 G172g)
--also available in digital format on the FamilySearch.org website:

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/415142-genealogical-research-in-england-and-wales-v-1>

Ancestral Trails: the Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History by Mark Herber (OCFSL: 942 D27hm)

How to

Your English Ancestry: A Guide for North Americans by Sherry Irvine (NOT in OCFSL)

In Search of Your British & Irish Roots by Angus Baxter (OCFSL: 942 D27ba)

Tracing Your English Ancestors by Stuart Rogers (OCFSL: 942 D27r)

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davidflint@cox.net