

## **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](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](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Historical_Overview)

“History of England” (Wikipedia): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_England](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)