

Carolyn Gurney – Tracing English Ancestors: Beyond the Basics (2022)

(RootsTech video recordings)

This series encourages and equips family historians to move beyond vital and census records in their hunt for their ancestors.

1. **Probate Records** (14 mins.)

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/english-ancestors-probate>

This first class explains the nature of English probate records before and after the crucial 1858 changeover from church to civil administration of probate. It describes the different types of probate records available – wills, letters of administration, inventories, death duty records, and court records of inheritance disputes. It provides examples of the type of information they contain and guidance on where to find the records.

2. **Parish Chest Records** (18 mins.)

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/english-ancestors-parish-chest-records>

This second class unpacks the contents of the English parish chest, including records of the vestry, churchwardens and overseers of the poor. The different types of records are explained with examples of the information they contain and guidance on how to find them.

3. **Manorial Records** (15 mins.)

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/english-ancestors-manorial-records>

This third class provides an overview of the wealth of English manorial records available, covering a period of 800 years. The different types of records are explained, with examples of the information they contain and guidance on how to use them.