

Discover
North Tyneside



A Beginner's Guide
to tracing
your ancestors
in
North Tyneside



North Tyneside Council

Records available for genealogical research are varied in type and location. This guide includes the main sources which may be useful.

FIRST STEPS

Read one or more of the many books on the subject. These outline the various kinds of records you will have to look at and the places where they can be found.

Join a class on family history. You will get advice from someone who has experience of the problems, and you will visit libraries and archive offices where their contents will be described to you.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Many records that you can see in libraries and archives (e.g., the Census) are a hundred years old and more. First of all, it is essential to gather together as much information as you can on dates and places of births, marriages and deaths in your family. Ask your parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts for all the information they have, especially birth, marriage and death certificates, family bibles, old photographs etc.

ORIGINAL RECORDS

Civil Registration.

If you have no family records, you will have to get the information from the records of civil registration which covers all births, marriages and deaths from 1837. These records are available for particular areas, from the local registrar's office (see telephone directory under REGISTRATION. North Tyneside Registrar can be contacted on 0191 643 6164, email: registrars@northtyneside.gov.uk) or nationally from The General Register Office, www.gro.gov.uk . Both charge fees. Several libraries and Record Offices have the index to these records which is the – General Register of Births, Marriages & Deaths (GRO) Index.

From **1st July 1837** all births, marriages and deaths occurring in England & Wales should be registered. In the early days many were not registered, however by **1875** penalties were introduced to compel registration.

Church Records

If you know the church which your ancestors attended, you should be able to search its registers. For a full list of parish register transcripts and microfilms held in the Local Studies collection see Genealogy **Guide No. 1**

Church of England

Most original registers are now in county record offices.

Those for parishes south of the Tyne are in Durham County Record Office, those for parishes north of the Tyne are in Northumberland Collections Service (Woodhorn).

Tyne and Wear Archives has microfilm copies of registers for areas within the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear.

Non-conformist

Some registers in record offices, others in churches.

Roman Catholic

Some are in county record offices but to date registers have normally been kept at churches, consult parish priest if records are not in the county record office.

Census Records

Potentially the most useful source for family history.

Records are available for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Returns are released after 100 years. They are arranged by registration sub-district within the Borough.

Returns for 1841 are difficult to read. The ages of adults are rounded down to the nearest 5 years. Place of birth is not recorded.

Returns from 1851-1911 provide precise details of age, status and place of birth. They can be accessed via the People's Network computers at any library in North Tyneside using the Ancestry or Findmypast websites.

Durham Record Office, Tyne and Wear Archives, and Northumberland Collection Service all have returns for their respective areas.

Libraries in Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and County Durham have returns for their own areas. The Northumberland and Durham Family History Society

have compiled a surname index to the **1851** census covering much of the area.

The Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) have compiled a **surname** index to the **1881** census arranged in A-Z sequences within each county.

Wills

Most wills and inventories for the diocese of Durham from 1540 to 1858 (which includes the counties of Durham and Northumberland) are in the Archives and Special Collections of Durham University.

Wills for the peculiar of Hexham & Hexhamshire are at the Borthwick Institute, York. Wills proved at Newcastle 1858-1949 are at Woodhorn (part indexed).

There is an index to wills proved at Newcastle since the 1920s, in the Probate Registry Office, 1 Waterloo Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4DR, 0191 211 2170.

The National Archives has all wills proved in England and Wales from 1858, as well as wills for those who died overseas but had property here. There is an annual index.

Wills may mention descendants, collateral and ancestors. They can also be used to confirm or find deaths.

Street / Trade Directories

These can vary in quality, are selective in their listings and are often inaccurate.

For Trade Directories held in the Local Studies collection, please see **Genealogy Guide No 2**.

Electoral Lists (i.e., voters' lists, Burgess Rolls, poll books)

Until the mid-1870s these are often arranged alphabetically by name. From 1880 they are arranged by electoral ward then street name. Up until 1918 they are selective.

They were not produced from 1915 to 1919 or from 1940 to 1944.

For details of electoral registers and poll books held in the Local Studies collection, see **Genealogy Guide No 3**.

OTHER SOURCES OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

FAMILY NOTICES

The local Studies Centre has an index of deaths from the Evening Chronicle covering the 1970s to 1990s, and an index for the Shields Daily News from 1864 to 1960.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

The Local Studies Library contains microfilmed copies of the following newspapers: Shields Daily News, Whitley Seaside Chronicle & Visitor's Gazette, North & South Shields Gazette, Port of Tyne Pilot, Wallsend Herald, Wallsend news, Herald & Post, Chronicle Extra.

To use these effectively, dates of deaths etc. are required since few newspapers are indexed. However, The Shields Daily News is partially indexed and is available on microfilm from 1864 to the present date.

Obituaries and reports of funerals can be useful sources of family information. They are selective. **See Genealogy Guide No. 4**

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Bound transcriptions are held for the following:

- Tynemouth Priory
- Tynemouth General Cemetery
- Preston Cemetery (section B consecrated; section C unconsecrated)
- Christ Church North Shields

MAPS

The Local Studies Collection contains hundreds of maps in various styles and formats. First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps are the most popular.

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA

By the mid-nineteenth century, church graveyards were beginning to pose serious health risks due to overcrowding. The Burial Acts of 1852 and 1853 enabled local authorities to administer their own cemeteries. Parish vestries elected Burial Boards to manage them. **See Genealogy Guide No. 5.**

WEBSITES OF INTEREST. A list of websites which may be helpful in your research. **See Genealogy Guide No 6.**

North Tyneside Libraries subscribe to the Ancestry, Findmypast and British Newspaper Library websites which can be accessed from any library computer.

Please ask a member of staff for further information.

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Discover North Tyneside
North Shields Library
Northumberland Square
North Shields
NE30 1QU

Tel: 0191 643 5270

Email: discover@northtyneside.gov.uk



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