

## 200 Years of Resources

**1805**

### **The Battle of Trafalgar**

The British Navy under Nelson defeat the French and so beginning a century of British Naval dominance.

If your ancestor was a Naval Officer perhaps you can find them in Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy 1660 - 1815

**1820**

### **The Age of Emigration**

Security at sea meant that Britain could send colonisation expeditions around the world. Colonies in Canada, Australia, The Caribbean, India and China begin to flourish alongside emigration to the United States.

If your ancestors emigrated to the US search the incoming passenger lists for New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore which begin from 1820.

**1833**

### **Old Wills**

If you are looking for records of ancestors going back into the 1700s search the Wills and Probate Records available for the UK dating up to 1833.

**1837**

### **Queen Victoria**

The coronation of Queen Victoria coincided with the establishment of Birth, Marriage and Death Registration in England and Wales. Previous records which were made in Parish Registers pre1837 go as far back as 1500s

**1841**

### **The First National Census**

The impulse to keep records grew strong in Victorian times as those running the country began considering the supply of food, housing and labour.

The first Census recording the name of each citizen was held on 6 June when the Uks population was 15 million

**1848**

### **Railway Mania**

The 1840s saw the growth of the railways which employed over 300,000 men. Coal mining, steel, textiles and manufacturing became powerful economic sectors.

**1851**

### **The Great Exhibition**

With the endorsement of Prince Albert Britain expressed its growing dominance in Science, Engineering and Culture.

The Great Exhibition was housed in an enormous glass and steel building erected in London's Hyde Park some 13,000 exhibits were visited by over 6 million people. The 1851 Census put the UK population at 27 million

**1863**

### **The Football Association**

Sport was becoming increasingly related to physical gains and the football association was founded and established one set of rules for the game. The first match under the rules was played between Barnes and Richmond and ended 0 – 0.

**1868**

**Convicts**

The last convict ship sailed for Australia in this year. Contrary to popular belief only 17 per cent of settlers were convicts.

If your ancestors were among them they may be in the Australian Convict Transportation Registers. Other criminal forebears might appear in England and Wales Criminal Registers 1791 to 1892

**1870**

**Universal Education**

The Education Act called for children aged 5 to 12 to attend school. This became compulsory a decade later. School aged ancestors recorded in the 1871 and later Censuses have Scholar written under occupation.

**1872**

**Ballot Act**

Prime Minister Gladstone's Act brought in the democratic secret ballot – but not equal voting rights.

**1882**

**Charles Darwin**

The explorer and naturalist Charles Darwin had revolutionised scientific thinking by the time he died in 1882. His 1859 book *Origin of the Species* outlined his theory of natural selection. He expected to be buried in his local churchyard but the Royal Society arranged for his entombment in Westminster Abbey near the grave of Sir Isaac Newton

**1901**

**Queen Victoria Dies**

With the Boar War in full swing Britain's then longest reigning monarch passed away leaving the Kingdom and Empire Edward VII. The UK Census held in this year is a great resource for locating your turn of the century ancestors and the population now stood at over 32 million.

**1914-18**

**The Great War**

A catastrophic chain of events was set off with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Europe's complex structure of treaty's dragged the major nations into World War I. It was supposed to be over by Christmas but last until 1918 with over 8 million lying dead

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**1939-45**

**World War II**

Britain responded to the aggression of Nazi Germany by declaring war. In all 70 million people died worldwide – the deadliest conflict in human history. If your relative was among them they may be

listed in the UK Army Roll of Honour 1939 -1945. Keep searching for older ancestors too as there are Army and Navy Records stretching back to 1522.

### **1953**

#### **TV Nation**

After two world wars and a great depression good times were returning to the UK Economy and one symptom of this was television ownership. In 1953 the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was the UK's first real TV event

### **1960**

#### **Home and Away**

The era of emigration was coming to an end but with an array of colonies and former colonies the UK was still a popular destination for immigrants from around the world. If your ancestors arrived in the UK or passed through a UK port then search in UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878 - 1960

### **1965**

#### **End of Empire**

Prime Minister Winston Churchill passed away in January 1965. Having led Britain through World War II he continued to advocate Britain's International Role but the USA and the Soviet Union emerged as the new super powers of the age.

### **1969**

#### **Not Meant To Be**

The liberalisation of society in the 60s led to many things including the legislation of homosexuality as well the Divorce Reform Act of 1969. The number of divorces doubled from 56,000 in 1969 to 125,000 in 1972 and for Family Historians researching more recent years it means potentially more marriages to look for.