

Free Resources for Family Historians - Part III

Alternatives to paying for Ancestry, Find My Past, etc



FamilySearch Wiki

Not a website for finding your ancestors but a place where you can find out about their locality and find where to look for their records!

FamilySearch Wiki Videos - Links

- Firstly, a general introduction lasting around 30 minutes showing that the Wiki is used for background information by location and not for trying to find data on individual ancestors directly.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-bJdRRPZNM>
- Then, a good video on how to use the Guided Research facility within the Wiki. Skip to 40 minutes in to view just the Parish Register sections.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u79mnDqAZCU>
- Then two short videos on the FamilySearch site, 5 and 15 minutes long:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/using-the-familysearch-research-wiki-introduction>
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/types-of-wiki-pages-for-research>
- Finally, a useful 15 minute video on the English Parish Tables in the Wiki:
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/mind-the-gap-fill-in-the-gaps-with-the-new-england-parish-tables>

FamilySearch Wiki - English Parishes

With an example of Yorkshire parishes - (*an area of which I knew nothing beforehand*)

- Go to the Home page of the Wiki and enter England in the “All locations” box then select “England Genealogy” from the top of the drop down list - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Genealogy
- Counties are generally those that existed pre-1974 - not modern counties or metropolitan boroughs etc
- Scroll down to the England Clickable Map - that uses county boundaries as at 1851 - and click on the map near the word “Yorkshire”
- Or select “Yorkshire” from the list of “Counties and Parishes pre-1974” shown beneath the map - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Yorkshire,_England_Genealogy
- On the Yorkshire page read generally about the County of Yorkshire
- Click on “H” in the box of alphabetical links to Parishes
- Select “Hoyland Nether” in the alphabetical list of parishes - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Nether_Hoyland,_Yorkshire_Genealogy

FamilySearch Wiki - English Parishes

With example of Hoyland Nether in Yorkshire

- Page explains that this is not strictly a parish but a chapelry in the parish of Wath-upon-Deerne, using a description from the 1848 book “A Topographical Dictionary of England” by Samuel A. Lewis
- Links to website “A Vision of Britain through time” which gives additional view of parish via John Wilson’s “Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales”
- Parish Record table gives links to datasets of relevant record types within FamilySearch and elsewhere but not links for the individual parish
- Gives link to view the location and boundaries of the parish in the England Jurisdictions 1851 map
- Gives guidance on how to find neighbouring parishes via the England Jurisdictions 1851 map - <https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/>
- Note that there are two letter “P”s in the link above!

FamilySearch Wiki - English Parishes Map -

1) Basics

- Parishes may be found simply by zooming in on the map within Yorkshire - viewing nearby towns, then villages, then parishes
- Or click on the county to find link to list of parishes in Yorkshire
- Alternatively - tick the "Search" TAB and enter the Parish name "Hoyland" in the search box and view the numbered list of similarly named parishes in the list in the left margin
- All matching places appear as lollipop "icons" on the map with numbers corresponding to the places in the list
- These icons persist, even after one place from the list is chosen
- Click "Nether Hoyland" to view fully zoomed in map of the parish
- Read that parish was in fact created from the chapelry in 1741 - hence dates for records
- Note also the range of Non-conformist churches in the area
- Follow the boundary lines on the map itself to see the contiguous (touching) neighboring parishes

FamilySearch Wiki - English Parishes Map -

2) Options & Jurisdictions

- Alternatively while viewing the Parish, the Options tab in the pop-up box gives link to list of neighboring parishes
- Or use the “Radius place search” in the Options tab to view parishes within say 5 or 10 mile radius - to see just how many parishes existed
- Alternatively while viewing the Parish, the Jurisdictions tab in the pop-up box gives the name of the relevant Civil Registration District and a link to a map of the District boundaries
- The pop-up box on the District map then shows links to show the list of parishes in that district (displayed in the left hand margin)
- There is also a link to show the contiguous (touching) Registration Districts (also displayed in the left hand margin)

FamilySearch Wiki - English Parishes - Map

3) Layers

- TABs in the left hand margin give the Search box or the list of parishes/districts etc as outlined above
- Use the middle “Layers” tab to turn on one or more sets of boundaries
- For example tick the the “Civil Registration District” box for the boundaries to locate Census records and General Register Office records
- May need to wait a few seconds to make them display correctly
- If nothing visible then zoom in further and further until the boundaries appear - County boundaries appear while zoomed out but parish boundaries only when zoomed well in
- Multiple boundaries can be displayed at the same time...
- Can turn off the ecclesiastical parish boundary to simplify the picture - one District will typically contain many parishes

Remember

FamilySearch Wiki

To find details of your
ancestors'
surroundings



Happy hunting!

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