

October 2025

Opening Hours: Every Monday and Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon
Other times available by appointment

TARANAKI
HERITAGE MONTH
3rd OCTOBER - 8th NOVEMBER 2025

In the Name of God Amen
 John Wotton of London in the County of Middlesex Governor of said
 and disposing mind and understanding hereby ^{in writing} doth give, devise & as-
 signeth unto the said John Wotton his son & Heirs forever in a
 manner following that is to say first I do hereby constitute & appoint my
 son John Wotton the younger my sole & lawful Heir & Heirs
 and Peter Thomas Long of Spalden in the said County of Lincoln one of
 the Executors of this my will also give & devise unto the said John Wotton
 the younger Thomas North & Peter Thomas Long of their heirs all
 their part & parts and so much of my Inheritance or Inheritance as
 I shall by a final Oath whatsoever & whatsoever should require living &
 as are or shall be or hereafter be held to them & their heirs for
 ever upon trust that they the said John Wotton the younger Thomas
 North and Peter Thomas Long or the Survivors or Survivors of them or
 his heirs do & shall with all convenient speed after my decease all and
 dispose thereof for the best part & parts that can be obtained for the
 same and the living and living persons and their heirs my lawful
 Executors or the Survivors or Survivors of them or the Executors or Survivors
 of such Survivor with the like convenient speed after my decease to sell
 or dispose of all such part & parts and so much of my Inheritance or Inheritance as are

Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last month: AI telling the story

At our September meeting, Sally Morch showed us how Artificial Intelligence can be used to make great stories for your family history. It can take dry genealogical data and produce engaging family stories in different styles (for example, something written for children to read).



DNA Interest Group

Save up to \$75* on AncestryDNA®

Now with 3,600+ places around the world, it's the best time to explore your DNA story.

Product	Price	Buy now	What's included
AncestryDNA®	ONLY \$69 * \$149	Buy now	AncestryDNA® Autosomal DNA DNA Matches
AncestryDNA® + Traits	ONLY \$84 * \$159	Buy now	AncestryDNA® Autosomal DNA DNA Matches Traits

Ancestry DNA is the cheapest I have ever seen it – shipping is added to this cost but then there is no cost to mail back.

Next DNA meeting: Sunday 12 October 2025, 1:30pm at the rooms. For this DNA Interest Group meeting, I'd like some feedback from those who come or are interested to come to them.

Is there a subject or area you would like explained to you or would like help on? Is there one of the websites that you don't understand something on? Do you understand ThruLines? Would you like me to show you how to make a research tree?

Please could you email me on sharynjguthrie@gmail.com and let me know.

Thanks

Sharyn Guthrie

Chairperson's Report

I'm writing this as I sit in our Genealogy Rooms and look around at all our records. I hope you, as members, realise what a plethora of information we hold down here in our library. If you've never been here for a good look around, it's time you came!

We concentrate on New Plymouth records, but also have Taranaki-wide information, like school admission records, some birth, deaths & marriages and cemetery records. We are open on Saturday morning and Monday morning, 10am to 12:00.

To make things easier to find we have our large biographical index where you can look up people by name and see what records we are holding for them and their families.

This week I am giving a Power Point talk about wills and how important they are for your research. Some are more helpful than others, but you are sure to learn something from each one you see.

I have a will from 1652 for my 8x great grandfather! Before I started writing this talk I had forgotten I had it, but it is full of so much information. This, in turn helps put some of the meat on the bones of that particular family. The tone of the will, what he leaves different people and the measures he takes to make sure his wife is taken care of give an insight into what sort of man he was. It also states he was sick and that was why he was writing the will. And of course, it shows how wealthy he was – or wasn't.

I've even had a will from the time of Queen Elizabeth the 1st. It wasn't hers of course, but of an Equerry who was on her staff. It was fabulous to have found something so old still existing – it was written half in latin, so that made transcribing it interesting to say the least, and I learnt a new skill in doing so. Unfortunately I also learned he wasn't related to me later.

So, on Tuesday night, come along and find out what I'm talking about – wills are mines of information. It is very satisfying to work out what the old script says and discover more about your ancestor.

On a different note we are now heading at great speed towards the end of the year. We plan to have our Christmas pot luck lunch as we have for the past couple of years. The date escapes me at the moment but we will let you know in plenty of time.

See you Tuesday night

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

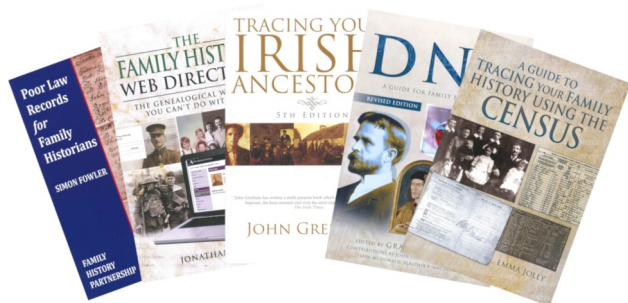
New Books for Our Library

Our society has invested in twelve new books for our library. These books have been selected to provide useful and up to date information and guidance on topics that our members can use for their research.

A wide range of books were considered, with recommendations and requests collated by committee member Russell Smith.

- A Guide to Tracing Your Family History Using the CENSUS by Emma Jolly
- DNA – A Guide For Family Historians, edited by Graham S. Holton
- Poor Law Records for Family Historians, by Simon Fowler
- The Family Tree – Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy, 2nd edition by Blaine Bettinger
- The Family History Web Directory – The Genealogical Websites You Can't Do Without, by Jonathan Scott
- Tracing Your Army Ancestors – A Guide For Family Historians – 3rd edition, by Simon Fowler
- Tracing Your IRISH Ancestors 5th edition, by John Grenham
- Tracing Your IRISH Family History on the Internet – A Guide For Family Historians, by Chris Paton
- Tracing Your LONDON Ancestors – A Guide For Family Historians, by Jonathan Oates
- Tracing Your SCOTTISH Family History on the Internet – A Guide For Family Historians, by Chris Paton
- Bound For Australia – A Guide to The Records of Transported Convicts and Early Settlers
- Tracing Your Merchant Navy Ancestors – A Guide For Family Historians

Details for each book are provided in an attachment to this newsletter, each with a narrative from Russell. These books will be available in our library soon.



Cyber Smart Week 2025

Genealogy involves a lot of time online, but there are hazards and bad guys out there on the internet. Know what to do so that you can protect yourself online.

Cyber week is on from 6 to 10 October 2025.

The New Zealand [National Cyber Security Centre](#) is running a [series of webinars](#) to help you understand more about how to protect yourself online. These webinars include;

- Cybercrime isn't personal, it's profitable
- Online security basics for individuals
- Older people staying safe online
- AI, deep fakes and cyber security

Click the logo below to register for a webinar, or go to the website at www.ownyouronline.govt.nz.



Additions to Papers Past

[PapersPast](#) is the online archive of historical New Zealand newspapers, brought to us by the National Library of New Zealand.

This is a tremendous resource for genealogists and family historians. Recent additions include;

- Ruapehu Bulletin 1989-1999, 2001
- Taupo Times 1952-1974
- Waimarino Bulletin 1983-1989



Library Roster: October 2025

Monday 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

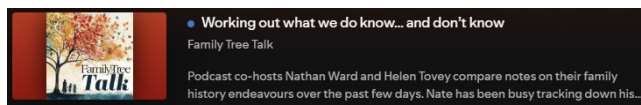
Sat 4 Oct Karen Crowe
Mon 6 Oct Liz & Grahame Bingham
Sat 11 Oct Jeff Grange
Mon 13 Oct Lorraine Austin
Sat 18 Oct Lea Bellini
Mon 20 Oct Annette Larsen
Sat 25 Oct Russell Smith
Mon 27 Oct closed – Labour Day
Sat 1 Nov Karen Crowe
Mon 3 Nov Charles Le Breton

Facebook Group

Our numbers slowly increase week by week – keep an eye on our Facebook group as I post a variety of information. Others are free to post too and there have been some good queries that have been answered.

If you read the Family Tree magazine that we receive each month from the UK, you would see that they have a Facebook page which highlights some of their courses, their podcast and their Family Tree Plus subscription. I purchase my own digital copy of the magazine and also belong to the Family Tree Plus group. This entitles me to several free webinars a month plus other very helpful information.

Helen Tovey and Nathan Ward also have a weekly Podcast which I am loving listening to. Have a look.



Sharyn Guthrie

Internet Connection

The internet connection for our society rooms is generously sponsored by Primo.



Primo has supported us with internet connectivity since 2017. Please consider Primo for your internet service and for mobile phone plans. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Library News

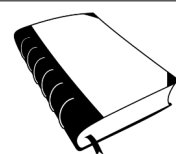
Magazines received;

Family Tree (Oct)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawera, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, South Waikato, Wellington

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, please contact Peter Hewett.



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact the editor (Peter Hewett) at newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com.



Library Additions

September 2025

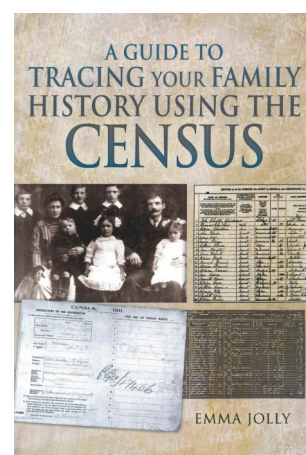
Our society has invested in ten new books. These are to be added to our Society library. These books have been selected to provide new and up to date reference material, on topics that our members can use for their research.

Details for each book are provided below, with a narrative by Russell Smith.

A Guide to Tracing Your Family History Using the CENSUS

By Emma Jolly

- Covers England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, The Channel Islands and The Isle of Man
- Offers detailed expert advice on how to explore and interpret census records
- Covers the latest census records to become available on line
- A valuable guide for the local as well as the family historian



THE CENSUS is an essential survey of our population, and is a source of basic information for local and national government and for all sorts of organizations dealing with education, housing, health and transport. It also provides the researcher with a fascinating insight into who we were in the past, and that is why Emma Joll's new handbook is such a useful tool for anyone who is keen to find out about their family history. The coverage is detailed, accessible and authoritative, and it is full of advice on how to explore and get the most from the records.

Each census from 1841 to 1911 is described in detail, and late censuses are analysed too. The main focus is on the census in England and Wales, but censuses in Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are all examined and the differences explained. Particular emphasis is placed on the rapidly expanding number of websites that offer census information and make the process of research so much easier to carry out. There is an extensive appendix that gathers together all the key resources in one place.

Emma Jolly's guide is an ideal introduction and tool for anyone who is reaching the life and times of an ancestor.

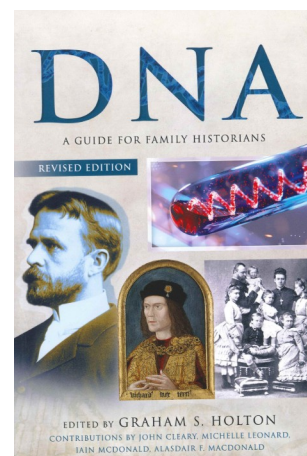
DNA – A Guide For Family Historians

Edited by Graham S. Holton

- Offers practical guidance to help readers make the most of their genetic genealogy journey.

DNA research is one of the most important and rapidly advancing areas in modern science and the practical use of DNA testing in genealogy is one of its most exciting applications. This accessible, wide-ranging introduction, the first British publication in this field, has been revised in a completely new edition with new topics and illustrative case studies. It offers a clear and practical way into the subject, explaining the scientific discoveries and techniques and how it can be used by genealogists to gain an insight into their ancestry.

The subject is complex and perhaps difficult for traditional genealogists to understand but, with the aid of this book, novices who are keen to take advantage of it will be able to interpret test results and use them to help answer genealogical questions which cannot be answered by documentary evidence alone. It will also appeal to those with some experience in the field because it places the practical application of genetic genealogy within a wider context, highlighting its role as a genealogical tool and suggesting how it can be made more effective.



Poor Law Records for Family Historians

By Simon Fowler

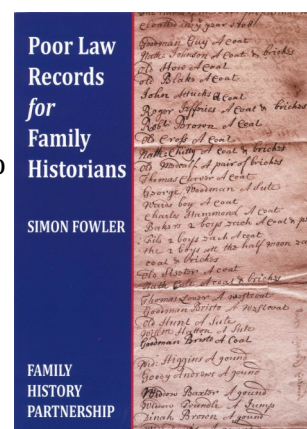
Poor Law Records are the most important records of a parish after the parish registers. Through them we can discover ancestors who were “paupers” who were helped through the Poor Law as well as ancestors who were Poor Law officers.

The Old Poor Law 1601-1834 includes the records of the Parish Overseers of the Poor who were concerned not only with relieving the poor but with matters of settlement, removal, vagrancy, bastardy and apprenticeship.

The New Poor Law 1834-1948 includes the records of the Poor Law Unions with their workhouses before the introduction of the old age pensions and the Welfare State in the twentieth century.

In this book, Simon Fowler describes many of the Poor Law records that may survive and where to find them as well as those of other organisations who helped to relieve families in desperate need.

Simon Fowler is well known as a family history writer, lecturer and researcher. He has also been editor of *Family History Monthly* and *Ancestors* magazines. He currently works at The National Archives.

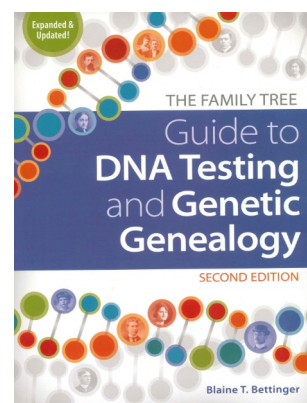


The Family Tree – Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy Second Edition (Expanded and Updated!)

By Blaine T. Bettinger

Unlock the family secrets in your DNA

Discover the answers to your family history mysteries using the most cutting-edge tool available. This plain English guide (newly updated and expanded to include the latest DNA developments) will teach you what DNA tests are available; the pros and cons of the major testing companies; and how to choose the right test to answer your specific genealogy question. And once you've taken a DNA test, this guide will help you use your often-overwhelming results, with tips for understanding ethnicity estimates, navigating suggested cousin matches, and using third-party tools like GEDmatch to further analyse your data.



This book features:

- Colourful diagrams and expert definitions that explain key DNA terms and concepts such as haplogroups and DNA inheritance patterns.
- Detailed guides to each of the major kinds of DNA tests: autosomal-DNA (atDNA), Y-chromosomal DNA (Y-DNA), mitochondrial-DNA (mtDNA), and X-chromosomal (X-DNA).
- Tips for selecting the DNA test that can best help you solve your family mysteries, with case studies showing how each test can be useful in research.
- Information about third-party tools you can use to more thoroughly analyse your test results once you've received them.
- Test comparison guides and research forms to help you select the most appropriate DNA test and organise your results.
- Insight into how adoptees and others who know little about their ancestry can benefit from DNA testing.

All in all, 270 pages including colourful charts, tables and graphs.

The Family History Web Directory – The Genealogical Websites You Can't Do Without

By Jonathan Scott

- Identifies and explains over a thousand websites covering every aspect of genealogical research
- An essential reference tool for experienced researchers and newcomers to the field
- Compiled by one of the leading experts on website sources for family historians

The Family History Web Directory is an information-packed reference guide that distils the best of the internet into one easy-to-use format. Themed sections cover different topics, from 'getting started' to specific occupations, and is an index reproducing all the websites in A-Z order. This handbook is a vital source for the less experienced researchers, and a valuable aid-memoire for more seasoned campaigners.

Web addresses are listed by topic, then in order of importance and usefulness. An extraordinary range of sites that will interest family historians is included – from records of births and deaths, tax, crime and religion, to military records and records of work and occupations. Also featured are sites that give information about archives, blogs and forums, social networking and sharing research.

The internet can be an overwhelming place for the genealogist, Jonathan Scott's book provides readers with online shortcuts, tips for getting the best from well-known websites, plus the details of all kinds of lesser-known and hard-to-find sources.

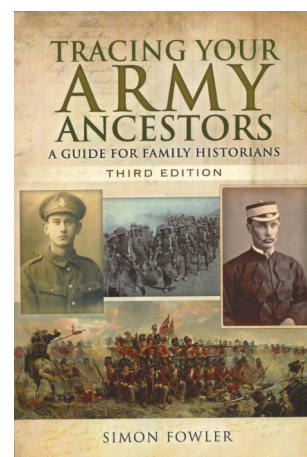


Tracing Your Army Ancestors – A Guide For Family Historians – Third Edition

By Simon Fowler

- Revised, Updated and Expanded to Include the Latest Online Resources
- Shows how to trace the careers of Individual Soldiers from 1760 to the 1960s
- Explains how your ancestor fitted into the Army's organization.
- Information on all the major archives and museums including the National Archives.

Whether you are interested in the career of an individual officer, researching medals awarded to a soldier, or just want to know more about a particular battle or campaign, this book will point you in the right direction. Assuming the reader has no prior knowledge of the British Army, its history or organization, Simon Fowler explains what records survive, and where they are to be found and how they can help you in your research. He shows how to make the best use of the increasing number of related resources to be found online, and he pays particular attention to explaining the records behind their creation, as this information can be very important in understanding how these documents can help your research.



Tracing Your IRISH Ancestors (5th Edition)

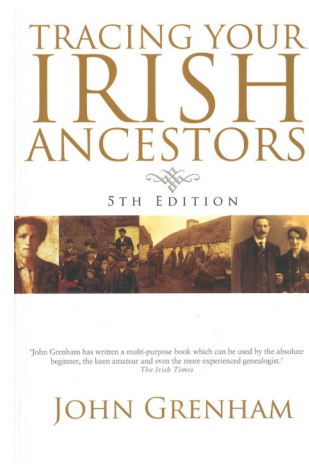
By John Grenham

John Grenham has written a multi-purpose book which can be used by the absolute beginner, the keen amateur and even the more experienced genealogist. *The Irish Times*

With online access to records making it easy for most people of Irish origin to trace their family background, there has never been a better time to research your family history. This guide contains everything you need to know to speed up the process, making sense of the deluge of online material and guiding towards records and methods you may not have known existed.

This fifth edition of John Grenham's bestselling and seminal text is expanded, updated and indexed to make it easier to use than ever before. As well as guides to new developments online and DNA testing, find out where to start if you're a beginner and how to access and understand registry office records, census records, church and property records, and county-by-county source lists.

It is an essential part of any Irish family history project.



Tracing Your IRISH Family History on the Internet – A Guide For Family Historians

by Chris Paton

Second, fully revised and updated edition of Chris Paton's practical guide to researching Irish Scottish Ancestry using the internet.

- Shows the extraordinary range of sources that can now be accessed online.
- Case studies demonstrating how online records can be integrated with other research.
- Covers historical sources from across the Island of Ireland.

In this, the fully updated second edition of his bestselling guide to researching Irish history using the internet, Chris Paton shows the extraordinary variety of sources that can now be accessed online. Although Ireland has lost many records that would have been of great interest to family historians, he demonstrates that a great deal of information survived and is now easily available to the researcher.

Thanks to the pioneering efforts of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the National Archives of Ireland, organizations such as FindmyPast Ireland, Ancestry.co.uk and RootsIreland and the volunteer genealogical community, an ever-increasing range of Ireland's historical resources are accessible from afar.

As well as exploring the various categories of records that the family historian can turn to, Chris Paton illustrates their use with fascinating case studies. He fully explores online records from across Ireland, from the earliest times to the present day, including coverage of resources for the current Decade of Centenaries (1912-1923) commemorations. Many overseas collections are also included, as well as exciting new developments within genetic genealogy and social networking.

His book is an essential introduction and source of reference for anyone who is keen to trace their Irish roots.

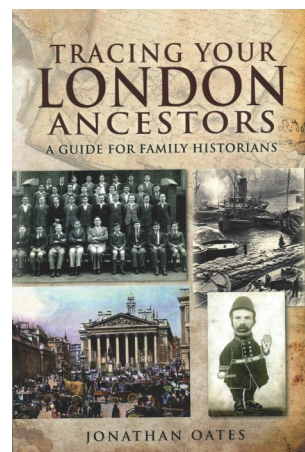


Tracing Your LONDON Ancestors – A Guide For Family Historians

By Jonathan Oates

- Essential reference guide to London family historians.
- Information on relevant archives, records, museums, websites.
- Puts ancestral research in a historical perspective.

London is a crucial site for family historians. Many researchers, seeking to trace their ancestry back through the generations, will find their leads to London or through it. Yet, despite the burgeoning interest in genealogy and the importance of London in so many life stories, few previous books have explored the city's history or provided guidance on the research resources family historians can use to discover the life of a London ancestor. This is the purpose of Jonathan Oates's invaluable handbook.



In a series of short, information-packed chapters he describes the principal record offices, archives, libraries and other places researchers can go to, and shows how Londoners can be tracked through censuses, registers and directories over the last 500 years. Then he explores key aspects of London's history from a family historian's point of view. Crime, religion and education – and the body of evidence associated with them – are covered, as is the historical trail left by taxation, health, welfare, work and business. He looks at the military and wartime records available in the city, and at the records of immigrant communities who have had such a notable impact on the development of the capital.

Each section introduces the reader to the relevant sources, indicates where they can be found, and offers essential advice on how this information can be used to piece together the lives of distant and not-so-distant relatives.

Tracing Your SCOTTISH Family History on the Internet – A Guide For Family Historians

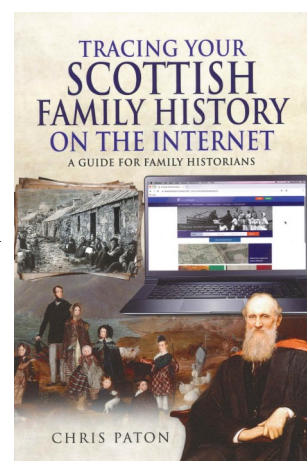
by Chris Paton

- A practical guide to researching Scottish ancestry using the internet.
- Chapters on many classes of records and online offerings sourced nationally and from every Scottish county.
- Covers national institutions, commercial sites and sources generated by local family history societies and individuals.

Scotland is a land with a proud and centuries long history that far pre-dates its membership of Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Today in the 21st century, it is also a land that has done much to make its historical records accessible, to help those with Caledonian ancestry trace their roots back to earlier times and a world long past.

In *Tracing your Scottish Family History on the Internet*, Chris Paton expertly guides the family historian through the many Scottish records offering available, but also cautions the reader that not every record is online, providing detailed advice on how to use web-based finding aids to locate further material across the country and beyond. He also examines social networking and the many DNA platforms that are currently further revolutionising online Scottish research.

From the Scottish government websites offering access to our most important national records, to the holdings of local archives, libraries, family history societies, and online vendors, Chris Paton takes the reader across Scotland, from the Highlands and Islands, through the Central Belt and the Lowlands, and across the diaspora, to explore the various flavours of Scottishness that have bound us together as a nation for so long.

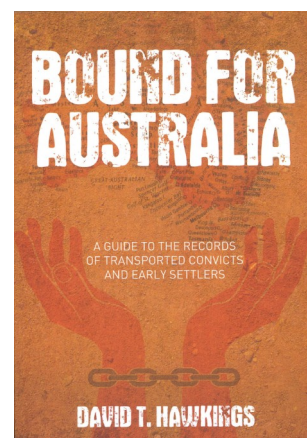


Bound For Australia – A Guide to The Records of Transported Convicts and Early Settlers

By David Hawkings

2012 Marks the 225th Anniversary of the sailing of the eleven vessels of the First Fleet from England, bound for Australia. From the arrival of the first 778 convicts in 1788, to the end of transportation in 1864, a staggering 165,000 criminals were sent to Australia for a range of crimes. In addition to those transported, hundreds of thousands of free persons emigrated from Britain and Ireland to colonies in Australia. Because of the vast distance involved, few returned, and the descendants of many of them now live in Australia.

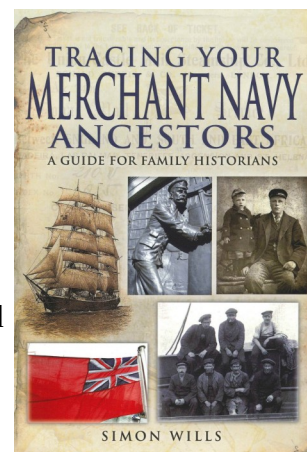
Tracing those ancestors today may seem like a daunting task, with The National Archives alone holding over 100 miles of shelving for historical records. Now completely revised and expanded to include new research. *Bound for Australia* is the essential guide to these records. By directing the reader straight to the relevant files and providing a case study to follow the stages necessary to research your Antipodean relatives, David T. Hawkings makes locating your Australian ancestors more achievable than ever before. Who knows you may ever trace your ancestor to the victualling list of criminals on the First Fleet.



Tracing Your Merchant Navy Ancestors – A Guide For Family Historians

By Simon Wills

- Find your ancestors who worked on passenger or cargo ships using websites, archives, and records.
- Concise account of the history of Britain's Merchant Navy.
- Describes the lives of merchant seamen across the generations and helps you investigate the ships they served on.



What was a merchant seaman's life like in the past, what experiences would he have had, what were the ships like that he sailed in, and what risks did he run? Was he shipwrecked, rewarded for bravery, or punished? And how can you find out about an ancestor who was a member of a long British maritime tradition? Simon Will's concise and informative guide takes the reader and researcher through the fascinating story of Britain's merchant service, and he shows you how to trace individual men and women and gain an insight into their lives.

In a series of short, information-packed chapters he explains the expansion of Britain's global maritime and the fleets of merchant ships that sustained it in peace and war. He describes the lives, duties and tribulations of the generations of crews who sailed in these ships, whether as ordinary seamen or as officers, stewards, engineers and myriad of other roles. And he identifies the websites you can explore, the archives, records and books you can read, and the places you can visit in order to gain an understanding of what your seagoing ancestor did and the world he knew.

Simon Will's practical handbook will be essential reading and reference for anyone who is keen to discover for themselves the secrets of our maritime past and of the crewmembers and ships that were part of it.