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Bishopsgate Library is an independent library, wholly funded by the Bishopsgate Foundation. It is open to everyone, with no membership required. All visitors are welcome to explore the Library's unique and internationally recognized collections.

> **Opening hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday\*: 10am–5.30pm. Wednesday: 10am–8pm. \*Please note: the Library closes at 2pm on the 1st Friday of the month.

# Researching family history at Bishopsgate Library

Whether you are new to family history or an experienced researcher, Bishopsgate Library will have material of interest to you, particularly if your family is from the East End.

Our collection focuses mainly on London and the South East, with miscellaneous records for the rest of the country. We are currently undertaking a major retrospective cataloguing project, please visit our website to view progress on our online database, or visit to browse the existing card catalogues and microfiche listing.

## **Getting Started**

To get you started we have a wide variety of books on how to conduct family history, how to use and locate records, and how to use the internet for family history.

We also subscribe to *Ancestors, Family Tree, Genealogist's Magazine,* and *Practical Family History* in addition to many other family and local history magazines.



### Census records

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Many people start their research with census records.

We have the 1881 census for England, Wales and the Channel Islands transcribed on microfiche, and images of the original enumerators books for 1891 (all London, CD-ROM) and 1901 (City and East London districts, microfiche), plus surnames indexes to various districts for the 1811–1871 censuses.

### Records of births, marriages and deaths

You might next look for records of where you family were born, married or buried. We have the transcribed registers for most of the Anglican churches in the Cities of London and Westminster, and many across Greater London. These include the Harleian Society registers series, Phillimore's Middlesex marriages series, Cansick's epitaphs of Middlesex, records of monumental inscriptions and indexes to marriage licence allegations.

We have transcribed non-conformist, Roman Catholic and Jewish records, including the Huguenot Society registers of French Protestant churches in London, St Mary Moorfields RC Chapel, and Bevis Marks synagogue.

Additionally, we have the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints 'International Genealogy Index' on microfiche and 'British Isles Vital Records' on CD-Rom.

### Trades, professions, occupations, biographies, pedigrees and peerage

If your ancestors were in trade, or if you are looking to see who or what used to be at an address, we have a long run of Post Office, Kelly's, Pigot's and Robson's directories for London, starting with the City of London guides in 1740 and continuing to the present.

To find out more about your ancestors occupation, you could try our many lists of professions, such as Crockford's clerical directory, Thames Watermen and Lightermen bindings, or the Army, Navy and RAF lists for the 20th century.

If your ancestor was a little more famous or well-heeled, we have the *Dictionary of National Biography* (2005 edition), *Who's Who* and *Who was Who* (1897 onwards), Sherwood's *Pedigree Register*, G.E.C's *The Complete Peerage* (2nd edition), Debretts, Burke's, and Kelly's guides to the peerage and baronetage, plus the Visitation of London in 1568 and 1687, and the Visitation of England and Wales in 1893.

### Local history, photographs, maps, deeds and archives



If you are looking for information about the area your family lived in, our London collection contains approximately 45,000 published works, with a focus on the City and the East End, and is particularly strong on 19th century topographical and social history. It also includes maps of London from the 18th century onwards, and deeds and newspaper cuttings relating to the Bishopsgate and Spitalfields areas.

We have c.2000 photographs illustrating the architectural and social history of much of London from the middle of the 19th

century to the present day. Many images of our images have been included in 'Ten Generations' <u>www.tengenerations.org.uk</u> and *photo*London <u>www.photolondon.org.uk</u>.

#### London Co-operative Society and Women's Co-operative Guild

These archives include share registers, lists of members and records of attendance at branch meetings, and records of local co-operative societies back to the mid 19th century.

#### London Provident Institution 1821-1864

Three large registers of depositors of the London Provident Institution recording depositor, address, occupation, age and sum deposited.

**St Botolph's Bishopsgate: Rent Roll 1787-1852** Rent roll listing streets, buildings and occupiers.



#### St Botolph's Bishopsgate: List of Applicants for Gifts 1884-1888

Handwritten list of applicants for gifts from St Botolph's, listing name, address, age, marital status and general notes on the circumstances of each case.

#### White Dog Benevolent Society 1810-1889

Minute and cash books, records of election of generals, membership book, laws and rules relating to this society, formed to grant aid to the poor during Winter.

#### Services

2 microfiche readers and 1 reader/printer (20p/page) are available. Published material since 1900 can be photocopied (15p/page), subject to copyright and the condition of the material. Computers with internet access can be hired for £1/hour, printing 10p/page.

We have much more material than can be adequately described here; please visit us or our website to find out more.