

Unlocking family and local histories
and other news from The National
Archives

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Print of Lanhydrock House and church, 1831. Kresen Kernow. Catalogue ref:
EN/2476/45

Unlocking family and local histories... and other news from The National Archives

This January marks one year since we launched the 1921 Census, so we're bringing you a range of resources relating to unearthing family and local histories. Delve into the complicated nature of English inheritance laws and learn what happens when there were no male descendants. Plus, get started with your own research via a new offer from FindMyPast, our handy research guides, and an upcoming webinar all about using our online catalogue, Discovery.

Here's what we have for you this week:

- [What is a coheiress? Manors, moieties and English inheritance law](#)
- [FindMyPast: 21% off subscriptions](#)
- [How to look for Census Records](#)
- [Using Discovery webinar](#)
- [Shop family and local research guides](#)
- [#TreasonSeason - 'Compassing and imagining': treasonous words](#)
- [What's On: Upcoming family and children's events](#)

What is a coheiress? Manors, moieties and English inheritance law

by Robert Chipperfield



As any Downton Abbey fan will know, the Dowager Countess of Grantham is a force to be reckoned with. Known for her sarcasm and wit and guaranteed to make any dinner party memorable, some of her ripostes are infamous. However, her remark that 'there's no such thing as an English heiress with a brother' sums up centuries of English inheritance law.

Read on to gain an insight into what happens when there is no son to inherit an estate.

[> Read more](#)

FindMyPast: Celebrate one year of 1921 Census discoveries with 21% off subscriptions

FindMyPast have launched a new offer to mark one year since the launch of the 1921 Census.

Use promocode SAVE21 for 21% off all 3-month and 12-month subscriptions (including Premium). The offer ends on 15 January.

Begin finding your past today.

[> Get the offer](#)



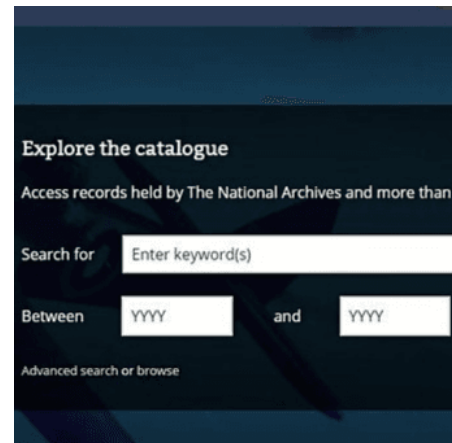
Research guide: How to look for Census Records

Get started with your research today.

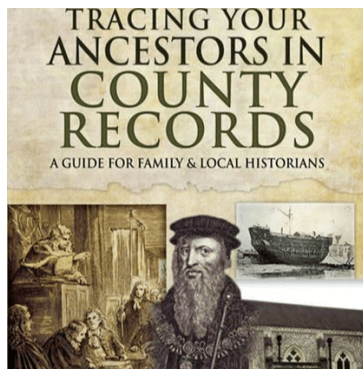
> Learn more

We're carrying out essential maintenance on Sunday 15 January from 09:00 GMT that will affect Discovery and related services, including the booking system and record copying. We're aiming to complete the work as quickly as possible during the morning to keep disruption to a minimum.

> Sat 14 Jan, 10:30

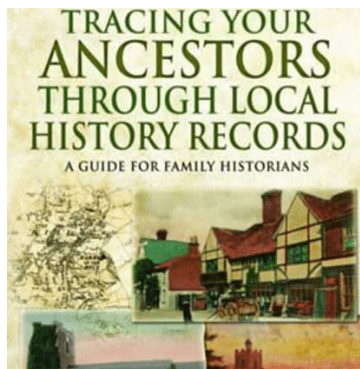


A Guide to Tracing Your Family History using the Census



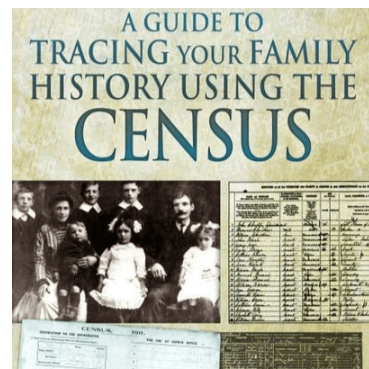
For over 500 years, the Justices of the Peace were the embodiment of government for most of our ancestors. The records they and other county officials kept are invaluable sources for local and family historians, and Stuart Raymond's handbook is the first in-depth guide to them.

[> Shop now](#)



Jonathan Oates's detailed introduction to local records is a useful tool for anyone who is trying to piece together a portrait of family members from the past. In a series of concise and informative chapters, he looks at the origins and importance of local history from the sixteenth century onwards.

[> Shop now](#)



Providing the researcher with a fascinating insight into who we were in the past, Emma Jolly's new handbook is a useful tool for anyone keen to discover their family history. With detailed and accessible coverage, it is full of advice on how to explore and get the most from the records.

[> Shop now](#)

#TreasonSeason

Our fantastic exhibition, *Treason: People, Power & Plot*, is **open** and **free to visit** at The National Archives in Kew. Why not get your year off to a cultural kick-start?

[> Plan your exhibition visit](#)

'Compassing and imagining': treasonous words

By Euan Roger

The crime of high treason, as first defined in law in 1352 and still on the statute book today, was set out in five key clauses. Of these was a clause which we might consider to be the clearest form of treason, plots against the life of the monarch or leading members of the royal family: *'When a Man doth compass or imagine the Death of our Lord the King,*



or of our Lady his Queen or of their eldest Son and Heir'.

In a series of blogs, our exhibition curators will explore some of the ways that this clause has been interpreted over the last 700 years as seditious thoughts, words and writings were pulled into this Anglo-Norman French definition.

[> Read more](#)

Upcoming family events, including half-term treats

Sensory storytelling for under-3's: Beep Beep!



From trains, planes and automobiles... Dani the Storyteller will use music, play and toys to excite and stimulate your child's senses whilst going on a wonderful adventure inspired by archive pictures of different forms of transport.

[> Fri 20 Jan 10:30](#)

Time Travel Club: Fantastical Fairy Tales (5-7 year olds)



Step into the worlds of Cinderella, Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk to discover an exciting adventure in this storytelling session! Afterwards you can get crafty using inspiration from the characters you meet along the way.

[> Tue 14 Feb, 10:30](#)

Time Travel Craft Club (all ages)



Spend time getting crafty during the school holidays! Join us for some fun activities, all inspired by the records in our collection.

Craft Club takes place between 11:00-14:00 in our café and you can come along at any time.

[> Tue 14 Feb](#)






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