

My ancestors are from Britain - What do I do next?



Speaker Summary:

Myko Clelland, family historian for Findmypast has regularly discussed family history on television, radio and in print, as well as presenting everywhere from national institutions & Regional archives to local societies. With over 100 presentations under his belt he's a frequent international speaker, the most popular British genealogist on Twitter and a specialist in records that bring stories to life. His passion for genealogy was inspired by his own experiences researching his family of colourful characters who come from opposite ends of Europe.

Key Resources:

<http://www.findmypast.com> – Vast collection of British records, many exclusive

<http://maps.nls.uk> - High resolution maps of England, Scotland & Wales

<http://www.histpop.org> – Historical population reports & abstracts to give social history

<http://www.cwgc.org> – Details of those who died in the two world wars

Ordering documents:

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk> – UK wills & probate 1858 to present

<http://www.gro.gov.uk> – England & Wales civil registration certificates 1837 to today

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> – Scottish civil registration certificates 1855 to today

Societies & researchers:

<http://www.sog.org.uk> – National society of Genealogists & their library holdings

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk> - An index of English & Welsh family history societies

<http://www.safhs.org.uk> – An index of Scottish family history societies

<http://www.local-history.co.uk/Groups> - British Local history society index

<http://www.agra.org.uk> – Association of Genealogists & researchers in archives

<http://www.asgra.co.uk> – Association of Scottish genealogists & researchers in archives

National archives & libraries:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk> – British National Archives catalogue

<https://www.llgc.org.uk> – National Library of Wales

<http://www.nls.uk> – National Library of Scotland

Further questions? Contact your speaker!



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5 September 1538	Parish records ordered to begin
1553	The oldest Scottish Parish records survive from this point
1598	Bishops transcripts were created for the first time
1642-1651	The English Civil War, many Parish records lost, destroyed or not taken during this period
1752	Calendar reforms, prior to this the year moved forward on Lady Day (25 March) rather than 1 Jan as today
2 Sep 1752	British calendar advanced 11 days when moving to Gregorian from Julian, the next day was 14 Sep 1752
1754	Lord Hardwicke's Marriage act
1760	Earliest British military service records online
1763	Minimum age for marriage fixed at 16 (earlier only with a bishops licence) and parental consent needed for anyone under 21.
10 Mar 1801	1801 census of Britain - Survives only in fragments
May 1803	Start of the Napoleonic Wars
27 May 1811	1811 census of Britain - Survives only in fragments
1812	Rose's act, great improvement of parish registers
18 Jun 1815	Battle of Waterloo, end of the Napoleonic Wars
28 May 1821	1821 census of Britain - Survives only in fragments
30 May 1831	1831 census of Britain - Survives only in fragments
1 Jul 1837	Mandatory civil registration of births, marriages & deaths in England & Wales first introduced
6 Jun 1841	1841 census of Britain - The earliest surviving national census
30 Mar 1851	1851 census of Britain - The first to include correct ages, place of birth and relation to head of household
1853	Cemetery Act, civic cemeteries appeared for the first time
1 Jan 1855	Scottish Civil registration begins
7 Apr 1861	1861 census of Britain
17 Feb 1870	Elementary Education Act - compulsory education came into force for the first time (children aged 5-13)
2 Apr 1871	1871 census of Britain
1875	Births & deaths act of 1874 came into force - moving responsibility for registration to the individual present with heavy fines for noncompliance
3 Apr 1881	1881 census of Britain
1890	Earliest British passenger list collection online
5 Apr 1891	1891 census of Britain
31 Mar 1901	1901 census of Britain
2 Apr 1911	1911 census of Britain - the last currently available census due to the 100 year privacy rule
4 Aug 1914 - 11 Nov 1918	11 Nov 1918 - British participation in the First World War
1920	Latest year of online service records
3 Sep 1939	Britain Declares war on Germany, WW2 begins
29 Sep 1939	1939 Register taken

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Key Record set spans

Outwards UK Passenger lists - 1890-1960 • Civil Registers - from 1837

Parish Records - from 1538 • Military Service Records - from 1760-1920

Local British Newspapers - 1710-1956 online • Census Records - 1841-1911 Nationally

Criminal Records - 1770-1935 online • Electoral Registers - 1832-1932 online



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