


STRATEGIC SEARCHING ON FINDMYPAST



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Findmypast offers billions of historical records for family historians around the world. With a unique focus on the British Isles, we have created the most extensive online collections for England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

Our collections date back hundreds of years and offer an incredible opportunity to extend your family tree but also to explore the history and culture of the timeframe and places in which your family lived. In addition, you will find a variety of records on Findmypast for North America that you will not find anywhere else, giving you the chance to “cross the pond” with your emigrant ancestor.

There are several key features on Findmypast that you should be aware of:

1. The All Records Search
2. The search filters and functions
3. The Findmypast Tree
4. Findmypast Tree to Tree Hints

All Records Search

Think of the All Records Search on Findmypast as a card catalog combined with your favorite search engine. It is within this list that you will find every individual collection of records. This is especially helpful if you know exactly which records you want to search – this is the fastest route. Even when doing a general search, you can explore the All Records Search for historical collections that may be of interest.

1. Search by location, country then county, state or province.
2. Search by name of record set in free-form text box.

- a. Catholic
 - b. Periodical Source Index or PERSI
 - c. Prisoner of War
3. Search by Keyword
- a. Army
 - b. Merchant Marine
 - c. Immigration
 - d. parish
4. Search by provider (North America only)
- a. New York Genealogical & Biographical Society
 - b. Historical Society of Philadelphia
 - c. Ontario Genealogical Society

All Record Sets
Search more than 1000 years of historical record sets

Catholic

Filter by Clear All

Where

United States

countries, counties, cities...

When

YYYY to YYYY

52 record sets

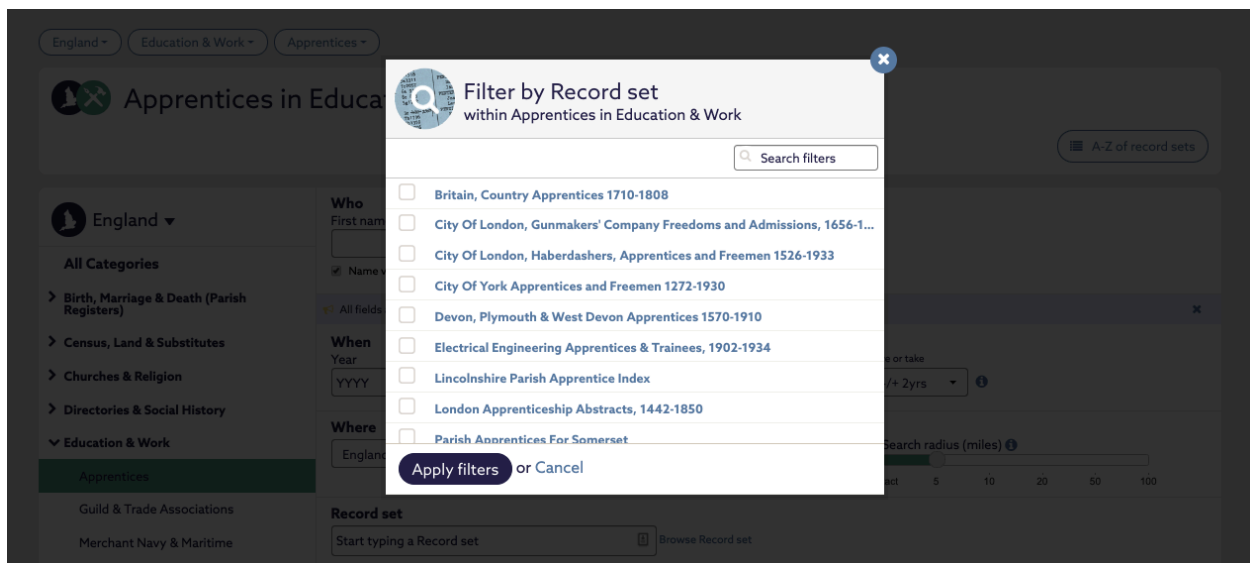
Record Set	Category	Subcategory	No. of Records
New York Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Baptisms	2,267,131
Chicago Roman Catholic Cemetery Records, 1864-1989	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Burials	1,920,895
Chicago Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Baptisms	1,564,480
New York Roman Catholic Parish Marriages	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Marriages	1,171,316
Philadelphia Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Baptisms	1,022,490
Cincinnati Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Baptisms	524,118
Philadelphia Roman Catholic Parish Marriages	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	Parish Marriages	466,214

The All Record Sets page on Findmypast allows you to easily locate specific collections, such as the Catholic Sacramental Registers from Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago. www.findmypast.com/historical-records.

Search Filters & Functions

The search filters and other functions on Findmypast are designed specifically for the Findmypast collections. You will see different options depending on what type of record you are looking for. If your search is narrowed to Parish Baptisms, for example, you will have the options for the name of the individual, their year of birth and location, but also each of their parents. If you are searching in the Apprenticeship records, however, you will not see a name search option for parents, as their names are not likely to be shown in those records. A few key items to know:

1. Try the global search, or "Search all records," but also search through the various categories of records (Birth, marriage, death; Churches & religion; Education & work; Institutes & organizations; Newspapers & periodicals; Census, land & substitutes; Directories & social history; Immigration & travel; Military service & conflict). The search functions will be unique for each of these (as noted in point 2.)
2. Always use the "Browse Record Set" feature for each collection. This tool allows you to see exactly which record sets are included in the category you are searching. Below, you can see all the materials included in a generic search for Apprenticeship records.
3. Remember that the Newspapers & Periodicals category is best searched as a stand-alone resource. If you conduct a standard name search, you will get results from these sources, but if you spend time in those areas specifically, you will see a great deal more and be able to craft a search that works for you.



"Browse Record set" list in the Apprentices category on Findmypast. Using this filter allows you to see each collection that is included in a category-based search.

Wildcard Search

Utilize these techniques on all websites; check their use guides for assistance.

? = a letter that could be any character at all. Helpful when something may have been mis-transcribed or use alternate spellings.

* = Use when you do not know if there are letters in that space at all, how many there are or what they may be. Such as, when spellings change over

time or when a particular definition is unknown.

Examples of Wildcard Searches

?	Ryl?nd	Ryland, Ryland, Ryland, Ryland
*	Clel*nd	Cleland, Clelland, Cleland, Clelland
*	Coal*	Coal miner, Coal Hower, coal mine worker

Findmypast Tree & Hints

With the recently introduced tree to tree hints on Findmypast, North American researchers who are seeking clues to their British Isles origins now have a much more valuable and untapped resource: tree's created by researchers from around the globe.

Utilize these hints as just that - a hint for further research. Findmypast encourages its community to thoroughly examine each hint for additional research opportunities. In many cases, this individual research cannot be found elsewhere online.

Strategy

There are several techniques to apply to online research that can be utilized on numerous websites, including Findmypast. Utilize these strategies to ensure you are seeking out all of the possibilities.

1. Upload your GEDCOM and allow the Findmypast site to provide you with hints. This automated process can be a crucial "research assistant" in identifying potential records and locations.
2. Watch for new tools and features to be released, which focus on helping genealogists solve common research problems.
3. Access the All Records Set page and search that system in a variety of ways to access as much as possible.
4. Utilize the filters: in many cases, records are transcribed exactly as they appear on the original. For example, if you are searching for Boston as a destination in the "Early Emigration from Britain 1636 - 1815" collection, you should select all of the following locations in your search criteria: Boston, Massachusetts, America, North America, and New England.

5. Seek out the “help” content for details on dates, where the information was sourced originally, and other collections that may interest you.
6. Search the blog for relevant case studies or other success stories that may provide additional resources for your research.
7. Join the Findmypast Forum on Facebook to connect with other like-minded genealogists tracing their British & Irish heritage!
8. Always watch for new developments and features across the site.

Website functionality, design, and features change over time. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome, please address those to support@findmypast.com or utilize the on-screen live chat.

Customer Support hours as of March 23, 2020: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday, UK time.

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