

Session 4:  
Saturday, September 30 2017, 15:15 – 16:30

## Genealogy and the Age of Shakespeare

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Four hundred years after the death of Shakespeare we stand to be the beneficiaries of many substantial improvements in access to sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century records of great interest to family historians. As well as giving a solid review of new and important developments, James will cover recommended resources for mastering secretary hand and discuss what implications the new generation of cutting-edge SNP-based Y-DNA tests, and even advances in the field of population genetics, may come to have for researching inhabitants of England and Wales in the age of Shakespeare.

### Parish Registers and Similar Records

There have been, and continue to be, vast enhancements in access to extant parish registers and similar records (including extant non-conformist records) from the age of Shakespeare.

For England, Wales and the Isle of Man, we can look for newly-accessible records in resources such as:

Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.ca/>

FamilySearch <https://familysearch.org/>

Historical Record Collections: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list>

\* Catalog: <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search> \*

(We'll discuss the exciting research implications of large-scale microform digitisation.)

Family History Research Wiki: [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page)

FindMyPast <http://www.findmypast.com/> or <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

FreeReg <https://www.freereg.org.uk/>

The Genealogist <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

We also can search for newly-accessible records in county-specific resources, such as

Essex Archives Online <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk>

For Scotland, see in particular:

ScotlandsPeople <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Church Court Records Online (announcement):

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/church-court-records-online>

For Huguenot records, see the section *Immigration – Selected Resources*, below.

### Wills and Testamentary Records

Notable enhancements in access to wills and other testamentary records from the age of Shakespeare have been made, and it is reasonable to anticipate further exciting developments. For newly-available records, we would look both in the places mentioned in the previous section and in the resources listed in the next section.

A very useful finding aid is Andrew Millard's excellent site *Recent Indexes to English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Probate Records* (<https://community.dur.ac.uk/a.r.millard/genealogy/probate.php>). Last updated in July 2015, it is designed to complement *Probate Jurisdictions* (Gibson and Churchill, 2002).

## Archives, Libraries and Related Websites – A Selection

The National Archives (TNA) <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>  
Discovery (records at TNA or at other UK archives): <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>  
Find an Archive: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive>  
(County archives / record offices are likely locations of interesting records.)  
Manorial Documents Register: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>  
Research Guide: Medieval and Early Modern Family History  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/medieval-early-modern-family-history/>

The British Library <https://www.bl.uk/>  
National Records of Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>  
Scottish Archive Network <http://www.scan.org.uk/index.html>  
National Library of Scotland <http://www.nls.uk/>  
The National Library of Wales <https://www.llgc.org.uk/>  
The National Archives of Ireland <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>  
National Library of Ireland <http://www.nli.ie/>  
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>  
Copac (UK and Irish academic, national & specialist library catalogues) <http://copac.jisc.ac.uk/>

While the types of records mentioned in the preceding sections currently are the focus of much nominal indexing and digitisation, access to other Shakespearean-era records of interest to genealogists (including land, court, and state records) also is being improved in various ways, as will be outlined in the session. The ambit of one's search should include not only the websites above and the resources listed in the first section, but also the publications and ongoing work of family history and other societies.

For the Southern Ontario researcher, the holdings of the Toronto Family History Centre (Don Mills and Eglinton) are worth checking for any sort of British Isles genealogical research; undigitised testamentary indexes on microfilm and family history society publications on CD or DVD are among the items held. A free “List of All Resources” is at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.ca/p/resources.html>.

Since the nineteenth century, a substantial number of records from the age of Shakespeare have been transcribed and published, often by antiquarian or record societies. Naturally, as with other out-of-copyright publications which may be of interest to us with respect to the Shakespearean era, the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) and similar sites are excellent places to look for digital versions. As noted, another place to look for digital copies, growing in important at breakneck speed, is in the FamilySearch Catalog (<https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>); there are many treasures here which may not pop up at the top of a Google search. Many titles also are accessible, either as original volumes or on microforms, in academic libraries, and the Toronto Public Library (which has an “Ask a Librarian” lookup service) has a very substantial collection ([www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca)). Digitised transcriptions of interest for early Irish research, which deserve to be better known, include Irish Manuscripts Commission titles found at [http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/servlet/Controller?action=digitisation\\_backlist](http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/servlet/Controller?action=digitisation_backlist). The RHS (Royal Historical Society) finding aid is at <http://royalhistsoc.org/publications/national-regional-history/>.

## Other Online Resources for British and Irish History – A Selection

British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>  
Connected Histories <http://www.connectedhistories.org/>  
Digital Repository of Ireland <https://repository.dri.ie/>  
History of Parliament <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/>  
Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707 <http://www.rps.ac.uk/>  
Victoria County History <https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/>

## Online Maps and the Age of Shakespeare - Examples

Old Maps Online <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>  
John Speed Proof Maps <http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/1>  
Map of Early Modern London <https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/>  
Mapping Shakespeare's London <http://map.shakespeare.kcl.ac.uk/>

## Digital Humanities Projects and the Age of Shakespeare – Examples

The Casebooks Project <http://www.magicandmedicine.hps.cam.ac.uk/>  
Centre for Editing Lives and Letters: Projects <http://www.livesandletters.ac.uk/projects>  
Henslowe-Alleyn Digitisation Project <http://www.henslowe-alleyn.org.uk/index.html>  
The Holinshed Project <http://www.cems.ox.ac.uk/holinshed/index.shtml>  
Records of London's Livery Companies Online <http://www.londonroll.org/>  
Office-Holders in Modern Britain <http://www.history.ac.uk/publications/office>  
CCED: Clergy of the Church of England Database <http://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>  
York's Archbishops' Registers Revealed <https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/>  
Cause Papers in the Diocesan Courts of the Archbishopric of York, 1300-1858:  
<http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/causepapers>  
Further examples of projects respecting periods before or after the age of Shakespeare:  
Mapping the Medieval Countryside <http://www.inquisitionpostmortem.ac.uk/>  
The Down Survey Project (1656-1658) <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>  
Hearth Tax Online <https://hearhtax.wordpress.com/> <http://www.hearhtax.org.uk/index.html>

## Academic Subscriptions to Online Resources – Examples

(Check university catalogues and enquire about public on-campus access.)

Bibliography of British and Irish History <http://www.history.ac.uk/projects/bbih>  
Early English Books Online <http://eebo.chadwyck.com/marketing/about.htm>  
*Iter Gateway to the Middle Ages & Renaissance* <http://www.itergateway.org/>  
Lexicons of Early Modern English (licensed version) <http://leme.library.utoronto.ca/>  
State Papers Online <http://gale.cengage.co.uk/state-papers-online-15091714.aspx>  
The Cecil Papers [http://www.proquest.com/products-services/cecil\\_papers.html](http://www.proquest.com/products-services/cecil_papers.html)  
British Literary Manuscripts Online <http://www.gale.com/primary-sources/british-literary-manuscripts-online>  
Adam Matthew Digital (various databases) <http://www.amdigital.co.uk/m-products/view-all/>  
(Other examples include subscription journals and journal databases.)

## University of Toronto and the Age of Shakespeare – Selected Resources

REED (Records of Early English Drama) <http://reed.utoronto.ca/>  
Patrons & Performances <https://reed.library.utoronto.ca/>  
Early Modern London Theatres <http://www.emlot.kcl.ac.uk/>  
How to Track a Bear in Southwark <https://trackabear.library.utoronto.ca/>  
Lexicons of Early Modern English (public version) <http://leme.library.utoronto.ca/>  
British Armorial Bindings <https://armorial.library.utoronto.ca/>  
Mayors and Sheriffs of London <https://masl.library.utoronto.ca/>  
  
Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies <https://crs.ca/>  
Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies <http://www.pims.ca/>  
University of Toronto Libraries <https://onsearch.library.utoronto.ca/>

## Immigration – Selected Resources

England's Immigrants, 1330-1550: Resident Aliens in the Late Middle Ages

<https://www.englishimmigrants.com/>

The Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland <https://www.huguenotsociety.org.uk/>

See also: Chater, Kathy. *Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2012.

## Palaeography / Secretary Hand – Selected Resources

Early-modern palaeography <http://paleo.anglo-norman.org/empfram.html>

English Handwriting 1500-1700: an online course <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/>

The National Archives: Palaeography: reading old handwriting, 1500-1800 (online tutorial)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/>

Reading English Handwritten Records <https://www.familysearch.org/ask/learningViewer/96>

Rediscovering Rycote: Palaeography Tutorial & Exercises <http://rycote.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/palaeography>

Scottish Handwriting.com <http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/index.asp>

BYU Script Tutorial <https://script.byu.edu/Pages/home.aspx>

Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) – selected resources:

Transkribus <https://transkribus.eu/Transkribus/>

tranScriptorium <http://transcriptorium.eu/>

## Genetic Genealogy and Population Genetics – Selected Resources

International Society of Genetic Genealogy <https://isogg.org/>

Wiki: [https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki\\_Welcome\\_Page](https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page)

23andMe <https://www.23andme.com/en-ca/>

Ancestry Composition: [https://www.23andme.com/en-ca/ancestry\\_composition\\_guide/](https://www.23andme.com/en-ca/ancestry_composition_guide/)

AncestryDNA <https://www.ancestry.ca/dna/>

Family Tree DNA <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

Big Y: <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/y-dna-testing/big-y/>

myOrigins: <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/autosomal-ancestry/myorigins/walkthrough/>

Living DNA <https://www.livingdna.com/en-ca>

Full Genomes <https://www.fullgenomes.com/>

GEDmatch <https://www.gedmatch.com/login1.php>

Geno 2.0 (Genographic Project, NGS) <https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/>

People of the British Isles <http://www.peopleofthebritishisles.org/>

The Big Tree <http://www.ytree.net/> YFull <https://www.yfull.com/> YSEQ <http://www.yseq.net/>

*Racial Admixture in Elizabethan London*

<https://dna-explained.com/2012/07/22/racial-admixture-in-elizabethan-london/>

## Select Bibliography and Resource List

Chambers, Paul. *Medieval Genealogy: how to find your medieval ancestors*. Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 2005. [Coverage includes the period up to 1603.]

Chambers, Paul. *Early Modern Genealogy: researching your family history, 1600-1838*. Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 2006.

Oates, Jonathan. *Tracing Your Ancestors from 1066 to 1837*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2012.

*Some Notes on Medieval English Genealogy* (Chris Phillips) <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk>