

Northern English resources in History & Genealogy

Many North Americans can trace their heritage to Northern England. At the turn of the 17th century, the area emerged as an epicenter of religious and political dissent, reform, and separation; religious denominations and societies such as the Baptists, Seekers, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Presbyterians, and Puritans would find significant support in the region. These religious denominations were later termed non-conformist by act of King Charles II in 1662 (Act of Uniformity).

The first migrations of Northern English non-conformists to North America pre-dates Charles II—in fact, it goes back to his grandfather, King James I. It occurred in the early 17th century following the Jamestown settlement in 1607 and the formation of the Ulster Plantation of Northern Ireland in 1609. Groups of Baptists and Puritans departed Northern England seeking opportunities to practice their beliefs freely and establishing communities in present-day New England and Virginia. The Quakers, unwelcome in Puritan communities, established their own settlements in Rhode Island, Virginia, and on Long Island beginning in 1656. A flood of Northern English would follow when, in 1681, William Penn established the Pennsylvania colony in present day New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. These migrations were not limited to non-conformists as many Catholics would relocate from Northern England to North America.

Genetic geography of Northern England

The geographic term “Northern England” is used loosely to describe the English counties along the Anglo-Scottish border, including Cumberland, Westmoreland, Northumberland, Durham, and portions of Lancashire and Yorkshire. These historical counties date to the Normans in the 10th century and were replaced in 1889 by administrative counties. Boundaries have been redrawn a number of times with counties added and deleted over the years. Perhaps a better

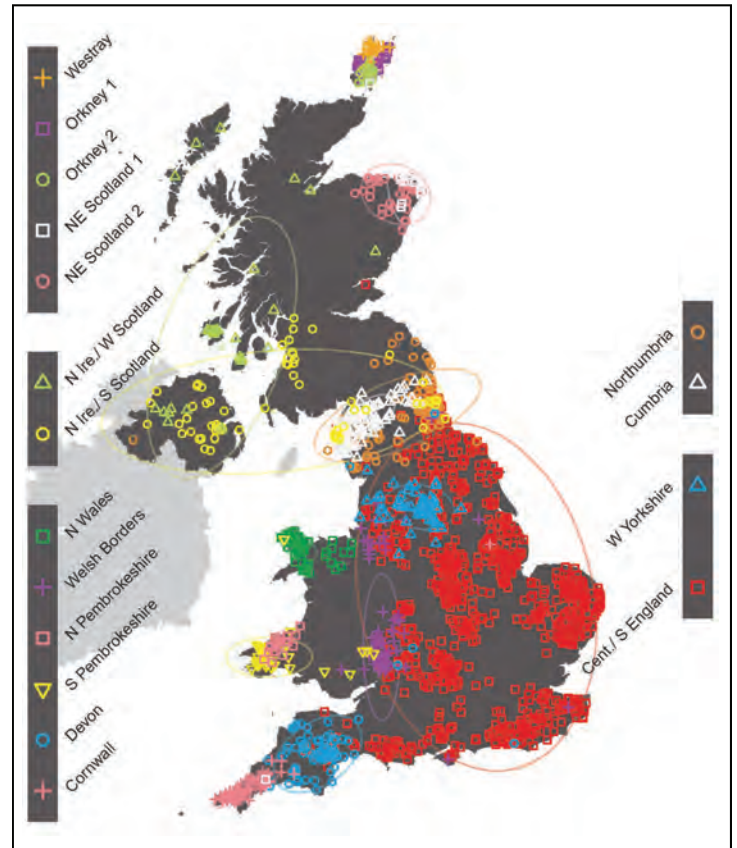


Figure 1 | This fine scale map illustrates the correlation of DNA clusters and geography in the United Kingdom. Reprinted by permission from Macmillan Publishers Ltd.: *Nature* (<http://www.nature.com/news/uk-mapped-out-by-genetic-ancestry-1.17136>), copyright 2015.

way of defining Northern England can be found in recent research from the University of Oxford in which genetic differentiation has been discovered between the Northern English and the English peoples in Central and Southern England (see map, above).¹

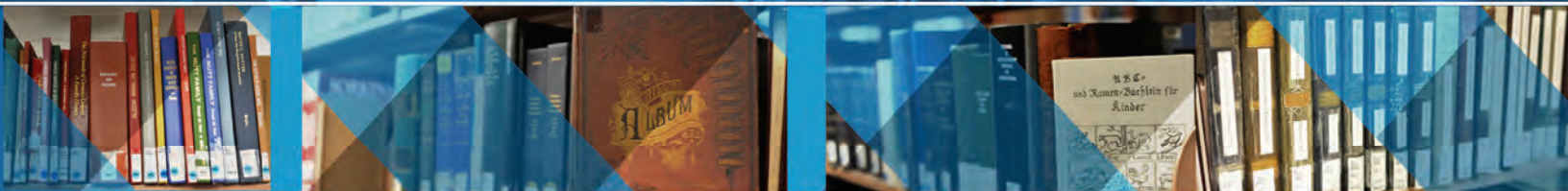
The Oxford study reveals genetically distinct groups of people in Northern England, many of whom share genetic heritage with Southern Scots. This should be of no surprise. The Anglo-Scottish border is simply a line drawn as a result of the Treaty of York in 1237. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Because of discrepancy in county lines, it is recommended that you consult *Genealogical Resources in English Repositories* (R 942 M927G) to aid in tracking where Northern English records are now kept. As the Reformation and non-conformists play such a large role in Northern English research in North America, it is also recommended that you consult *The Counties of Britain: A Tudor Atlas* by John Speed (R 942. H395C).

Researching county history

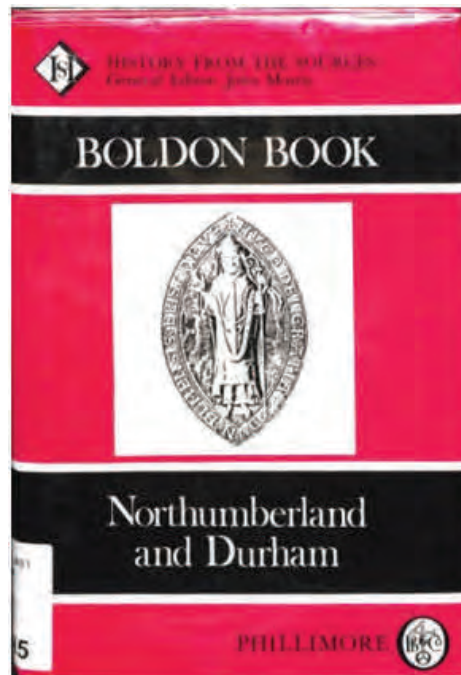
Research into county history should begin with the *Victoria History of the Counties of England* (VCH), a series featuring histories of counties, parishes, towns, and manors, as well as detailed information pertaining to individuals, regional geography, agriculture, politics, industry, military, and socio-cultural history. The following volumes pertaining to Northern England are available in History & Genealogy.

- Cumberland (R 942.78 V645 V. 1–2)
- Durham (R 942.86 H 673 V. 4)
- Lancashire (R 942.76 V645 V. 1–8)
- Chester (R 942.71 H673 V. 1–3, 5.1)
- Yorkshire (R 942.81 V645 V.1)
- York East Riding (R 942.839 V673 V.3–8)
- York North Riding (R 942.84 V645 V.1)
- Townscape of Darlington (R 942. 863 C 773T)

Northumberland is the only English county not represented by VCH. A 15-volume set was produced by the Northumberland County History Committee by author John Hodgson in 1940. [The series is available online from the University of California Libraries and can be accessed from the Internet Archive](http://tinyurl.com/zowhggz) <<http://tinyurl.com/zowhggz>>.

History & Genealogy has other histories available for Northern England including:

- Cardew, John Denton. *A History of Cumberland* (R 942.78 D415J).
- Raistrick, Arthur. *West Riding of Yorkshire* (R 942.81 R159W).
- White, Andrew. *Lancaster: a History* (Q 942. 769 W582L).



The first tax survey of Northern England is published in the *Boldon Book*, Vol. 35 of the *Domesday Book*.

Record-keeping in Northern England

Prior to civil registration in 1837, English records were predominantly kept by ecclesiastical jurisdictions. The majority of English records will be recorded and kept by the local parish or diocese. In Northern England, there are two primary dioceses to consult: the Diocese of Durham (transferred from Lindisfarne and Chester Le Street in 995) and the Diocese of Carlisle (formed in 1133 from western portions of Durham). *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers*, 3rd ed. (R 942.P556) documents the ecclesiastical jurisdiction for all of England, Scotland, and Wales and outlines all parishes within each county and episcopal jurisdiction. Common records found for each diocese include: tax surveys, administrative records, parish registers, and court records.

Tax records and surveys

The earliest records for English research are tax surveys. In 1086, William I commissioned a tax survey of landowners: *The Domesday Book* (also known as Domesday) (R 942.021 D668). It is a commonly utilized resource for medieval research in England. Because of the strength of the Northern English Earls, the Normans had not yet conquered all of Northern England at the time of the survey.

Researchers should consult *The Domesday Geography of Northern England* (R 942.02) for Domesday coverage.

The first tax survey of Northern England was conducted in 1183 by Bishop of Durham Hugh de Puiset. The survey identifies the lands of Northumbria and Durham under authority of the bishop, settlement by settlement. This survey, known as *The Boldon Book*, is an appendix to the *Domesday Book* (R 942.021 D668 v.35).

In 1293, Durham was officially recognized as a Palatinate County establishing the bishop as possessing legal autonomy from the king. Prince-Bishop Thomas Hatfield conducted a survey of Durham and Northumberland between 1377 and 1380, producing a full list of tenants, quantity of land, manors, justices, and knights within the Bishop's realm. Bishop Hatfield's Survey (R 942.86 D961) was published by the Surtees Society and includes Court Baliff's rolls from Auckland Castle, the Prince-Bishop's manor. These rolls include accounts of repairs for the manor listing local masons and carpenters. The Surtees Society, a publication society founded in Durham, published Bishop Hatfield's Survey. The Society is named after Robert Surtees, a noted Northern English historian. Many of the works listed in this article are Surtees Society publications.

Administrative records of the Church

As both the religious and governmental authority in Durham and Northumbria, the Diocese of Durham produced a number of administrative records published by the Surtees Society. These include *Bursar Rentals, 1230–1496* (R 942.86 D961) and *Manorial Accounts, 1277–1310* (R 942.86 D961), which are useful for locating local tradesman, farmers, and other individuals in employ of the diocese.

Bishop's registers document the administrative functions of the bishopric: admissions to priesthood, commissions, licenses, wills, orders, indentures, ordinations, memoranda, and preferments (rewarded lands, money, payments, kindred acts, as well as records of special treatment of institutions or individuals). Among those registers available for Carlisle are those of Thomas Appleby, 1363–1395 (R 942.789 C363R), John Kirkby 1332–1352 (R 942.789 C363R V.1–2), and Gilbert Welton 1353–1362 (R 942.789

C363R). Two Bishops of Durham which might be of interest are Cuthbert Tunstall and James Pilkington (R 942.86 T927R). Tunstall served during four Tudor reigns: Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I, and his successor was James Pilkington, Bishop of Durham, 1561–1576. Pilkington was the first protestant Bishop of Durham, and was noted for his emphasis on recusancy—bringing religious objectors into compliance with the Anglican Church—and his struggle for authority over Northern English nobles.

Parish records

When the Church of England split from Rome in 1583, it decreed that every parish begin keeping registers of births, banns, marriages, and burials. Register start dates can vary. Consult *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers* to identify the parish and the available date range of its registers. History & Genealogy is in the process of obtaining parish registers from county historical and genealogical societies. An example is the *Parish Registers of Sedbergh* (R 942.78 W776R V.1–4) documenting the baptisms, marriages, and burials in the parish from 1594–1800. FindMyPast, a recent addition to the library's database offerings, provides access to a number of Northern English registers.

Family Search has made available online *Parish Registers and Marriage Bonds for the Diocese of Carlisle*, covering the 17th–19th centuries, and *Marriage Bonds & Allegations in the Diocese of Durham, 1692–1900*. In both cases, the records are hand-written and non-text searchable. In addition, Family Search has developed an index of over one million entries covering parishes in Lancashire, Chester, and Yorkshire.

Court records

Prior to 1858, probate records were the responsibility of ecclesiastical courts. As with other record sets, consult *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers* for ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Before delving into probate research in Northern England, it is recommended you review the work *Researching British Probates 1354–1858*, Vol. 1 (R 942.P913R), which provides a comprehensive breakdown of what probate records are available for which courts in Northern England. For additional assistance, consult *Wills and Other Probate Records* (R 941.G759W).

Four volumes of *Durham Wills and Inventories* (R 942.86 W741 Pt. 1–4) held by the Consistory Court of Durham are available from History & Genealogy covering 1000–1649 CE. Similar publications include *Darlington Wills, 1600–1625* (R 942.863 D221), a collection of 58 wills drawn from the third largest parish in the Diocese of Durham, and *Sunderland Wills and Inventories, 1600–1650* (R 942.87 S958).

Other available court records include the *Records of the Borough of Crossgate, Durham, 1312–1531* (R 942.86 R311) which is divided into two types of records: Court Rolls, 1312–1400 and Court Books, 1498–1531. *Durham Quarter Sessions Rolls, 1471–1625* (R 942.86 D961) documents the only records of Durham not administered by the bishop. The Surtees Society has also published numerous Eyre Rolls, that is, circuit court records of itinerate justices, including the *Northumberland Eyre Roll for 1293* (R 942.88 N878), which documents 1,150 cases heard at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Non-Conformists records

Ancestry has made available the *Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970*, which include a number of non-conformist denominations. *A List of the Non-Parochial Registers and Records in the Custody of the Registrar-General* (R 942 L773) documents all of the non-conformist churches which turned their records over for civil registration in 1837. Meeting records for the Society of Friends in the Northern English counties of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland are available from Family Search on microfilm, some of which have been made available electronically.

Trade records

Although much of Northern England is rural, Newcastle upon Tyne is a major port city with a long history of shipbuilding. *The Records of the Company of Shipwrights of Newcastle upon Tyne* (R 942.87 C737R V.1–2) includes all shipwrights and apprentices employed within the company, 1622–1967. The records are published in two volumes and also include all the minutes, orders, and accounts of the company.

Visitations

A number of heraldic visitations exist for Northern England. Heraldic visitations were tours of inspection undertaken by the King of Arms to regulate and register the coats of arms of nobility and gentry. These visitations occurred 1530–1688 and can be utilized by genealogists as a census of the upper class. Those visitations available for Northern England from History & Genealogy include:

- *The Visitation of Cumberland, 1615* (R 942.78 S139V)
- *The Visitation of Yorkshire, 1663–1664* (R942.8 F 644V)
- *The Visitation of Cheshire, 1613* (R 942.71 S139P)
- *The Royal Visitation of 1559: Act Book for the Northern Province* (R 942.7 R888).

Notes

1. For more information about genetic clusters in the United Kingdom, see: Leslie, Stephen. "[The Fine-Scale Genetic Structure of the British Population.](#)" *Nature* (2015): 309–314. <http://tinyurl.com/z8md39k> (accessed March 25, 2016).

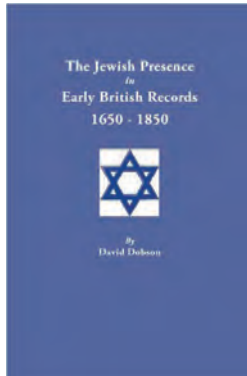
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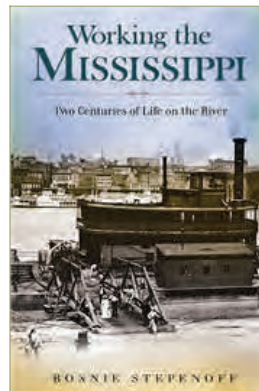
The Jewish Presence in Early British Records, 1650-1850

By David Dobson

Clearfield, 2014
R 941 D635J

This sourcebook attempts to identify some of the Jewish references hidden in British records from the mid-17th to the mid-19th century. Some 17th-century records include specific references to people identified as Jewish. In later records Hebrew forenames coupled with surnames—sometimes in conjunction with an occupation or place of birth—were used to identify people of Jewish origin. Each of the roughly 2,000 entries identifies a Jewish man or woman by name, date, location, and record source. In some cases the individual's vocation, education, relatives, place of origin, and more are mentioned. The author extracted his

findings from scores of primary sources whose references to Jewish persons would otherwise have remained buried for additional years to come.—*Adapted from the publisher*



Working the Mississippi: Two Centuries of Life on the River

By Bonnie Stepenoff

University of Missouri, 2015
R 977 S827W

Bonnie Stepenoff takes readers on a cruise through history, showing how workers from St. Louis to Memphis changed the river and were in turn changed by it. Each chapter of this fast-moving narrative focuses on representative workers: captains and pilots, gamblers and musicians, cooks and craftsmen. Readers will find workers who are themselves part of the country's mythology from Mark Twain and anti-slavery crusader William Wells Brown to musicians Fate Marable and Louis Armstrong.—*Publisher*

Help Me to Find My People: The African American Search for Family Lost in Slavery

By Heather Andrea Williams

University of North Carolina, 2012
R 306.362 W723H



After the Civil War, African Americans placed poignant "information wanted" advertisements in newspapers, searching for missing family members. Inspired by the power of these ads, Heather Andrea Williams uses slave narratives, letters, interviews, public records, and diaries to guide readers back to devastating moments of family separation during slavery when people were sold away from parents, siblings, spouses, and children. Williams explores the heartbreaking stories of separation and the



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DATABASE SPOTLIGHT

■ NewspaperARCHIVE

NewspaperARCHIVE makes newspapers from North America, Europe, and Asia available to researchers. Coverage includes both historical and recent newspaper content, and many of the papers are from small U.S. towns. Users can click on the state or country of interest to see the papers available from that area. The database is easy to search by name or keyword, and results can be narrowed down by decade and location. In addition to simple search options, several advanced search features exist to help researchers narrow down results and pinpoint articles.

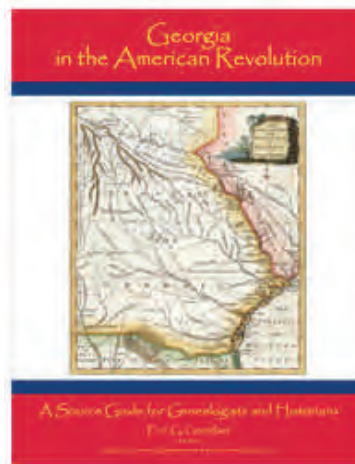
A variety of cropping and highlighting features are available and are represented as icons on a red banner above the newspaper image. Users are able to save images cropped by the service as PNG files, and the entire newspaper page can be saved as a PDF file by clicking on the “save” icon, located on the red banner at the top. If you do not see these icons, click on “Switch to JPG viewer,” located just above the banner.

■ More databases for History & Genealogy

St. Louis County Library subscribes to over 30 databases for genealogical and historical research, most of which are accessible at home to library card holders living in the St. Louis metropolitan area. From the [History & Genealogy webpage](http://www.slcl.org/genealogy) <<http://www.slcl.org/genealogy>>, click on “Databases and Websites” on the left side of the page, then choose a database from the resulting list. If you are not using a computer at the library, you will be prompted to enter your last name, library card number and library account PIN number. If you have forgotten your PIN number, call (314) 994-3300 or stop by any St. Louis County Library location for assistance.

long, usually unsuccessful journeys toward reunification. Examining the interior lives of the enslaved and freed people as they tried to come to terms with great loss, Williams grounds their grief, fear, anger, longing, frustration, and hope in the history of American slavery and the domestic slave trade.

Williams follows those who were separated, chronicles their searches, and documents the rare experience of reunion. She also explores the sympathy, indifference, hostility, or empathy expressed by whites about sundered black families. Williams shows how searches for family members in the post-Civil War era continue to reverberate in African American culture in the ongoing search for family history and connection across generations.—*Publisher*



DAR State Source Guides for Genealogists and Historians

by Eric Grundset

Daughters of the American Revolution

The DAR Library is publishing a series of source guides focusing on research in each of the original American Colonies during the American Revolution. Each volume features detailed information on the availability of manuscript and archival material for each state, along with listings of published historical and genealogical studies that supplement the original sources. History & Genealogy recently acquired the following volumes in the series:

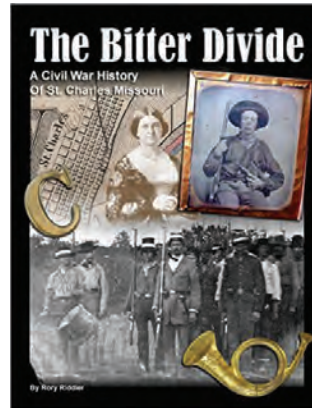
- *Georgia in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, 2013, R 975.8 G889G
- *Rhode Island in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, 2014, R 974.5 G889R
- *Virginia in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, 2015, R 975.5 G889R

MEET THE STAFF



Sharion Duncan

As Cataloger for History & Genealogy, Sharion is responsible for ensuring that books and other library materials are accurately described in the library's [online catalog](http://webpac.slcl.org) <<http://webpac.slcl.org>>. She also assists the department in other ways, including tracking orders for new materials and ensuring that shipments received from vendors are accurate. Sharion is a St. Louis native. After graduating from Lutheran North High School, she earned a business degree at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, and received her Masters in Library Science from the University of Missouri, Columbia. In her free time, Sharion can be found working in her flower garden, reading on her porch swing, or competing in Go-Kart racing competitions.



The Bitter Divide: A Civil War History of St. Charles, Missouri

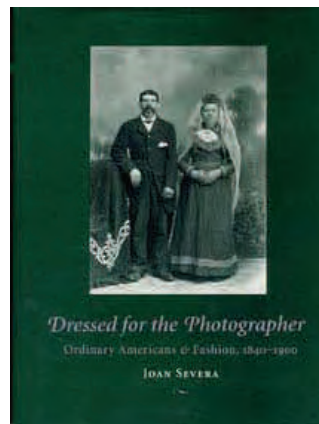
By Rory Riddler

St. Charles County Historical Society

R 977.839 R543B

Published for the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil

War by the City of St. Charles, this 360-page book is lavishly illustrated in full-color and documents the lives and struggles of average men and women caught up in a frightening and dangerous time. The book includes thousands of names making it a tremendous asset for genealogists and helps add to the rich Civil War history of Missouri. Written by local author and history enthusiast Rory Riddler, with research assistance from Maureen Bouxsein—*Publisher*



Dressed for the Photographer: Ordinary Americans and Fashion, 1840-1900

By Joan L. Severa

Kent State University

R 391.0097 S498D

Joan Severa gives a visual analysis of the dress of middle-class Americans from

the mid-to-late 19th century. Using images and writings, she shows how even economically disadvantaged Americans could wear styles within a year or so of current fashion. This desire for fashion equality demonstrates that the possession of culture was more important than wealth or position in the community. Intended as an aid in dating costumes and photographs and as a guide for period costume replication, *Dressed for the Photographer* provides extensive information for understanding the social history and material culture of this period. It will be of interest to general readers as well as to social historians and those interested in fashion, costume, and material culture studies.

—*Adapted from the publisher*