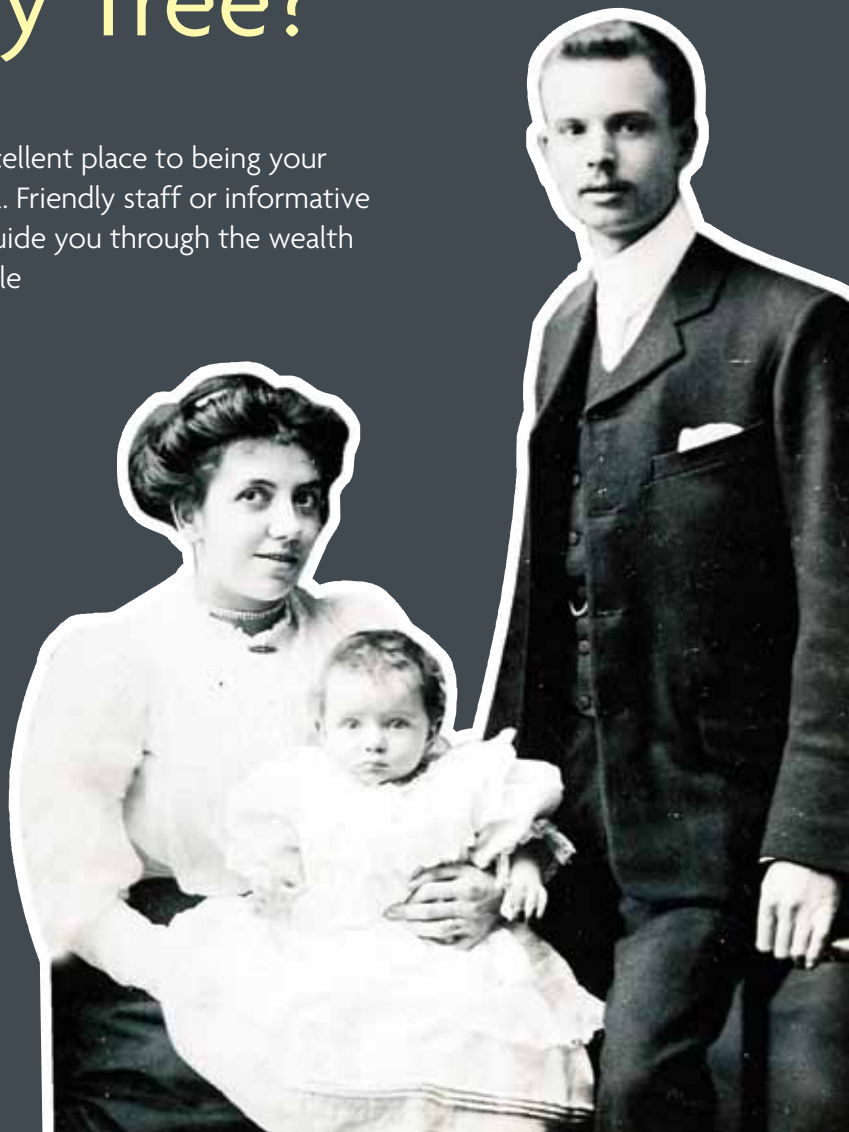


Want to trace your Family Tree?

The Hive is an excellent place to begin your family history trail. Friendly staff or informative finding aids will guide you through the wealth of sources available



What's first?

Get ready!

- Read through some of the magazines and publications written about Family History that can be found at the The Hive or ask the staff.
- Can you use a computer? Many records that you need to look at are now available 'online' and this makes researching a lot easier.
- Decide which line of the family you want to trace.
- Ask the family -Who married who?
Where did they marry? Did they have any children?
Have they got any old birth, marriage or death certificates or photos of your ancestors?
- Check everything you have found for useful information and decide how you want to store it.



Now you're ready to start your research.

Basic records that will be most useful to you:

Civil Registration:

This was introduced in 1837 when all births, marriages and deaths had to be registered however registration of births was not enforced until 1875.

In order to obtain copies of certificates it would be helpful to know the person's name, the approximate date of the event and the district where the event took place. You can then look through indexes of names to find the date of the event

These indexes can be found 'online' at www.freebmd.org.uk. You cannot see certificates 'online', they have to be ordered from the local Registrar or from the General Register Office at www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm. At The Hive there are computers you can use to look at these websites. These indexes are also held on microfilm for 1837-2004 and you will need to use a microfilm reader to view them. Certificates will give you lots of information e.g., dates, parents and addresses

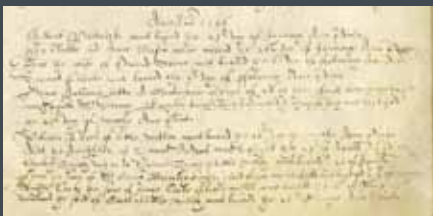


Parish Registers:

Parish Registers are lists of baptisms, marriages and burials. These generally start around 1538 and show the events held in an Anglican parish church. The early registers were sometimes written in Latin and usually all of the events for the year would be registered together. After 1754, marriages

were registered separately and in 1813 burials and baptisms had their own registers.

At The Hive the parish registers for Worcestershire are held on microfilm. We have some indexes of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for some years.



Census:

A census for the population has been taken every 10 years since 1801 and the information contained is released every 100 years, names for individuals are only given from 1841. The Census returns are government records and the originals are held in London but microform copies of the Worcestershire census 1841-1901 can be found at The Hive.

Wills and Probate Records:

These records can reveal information about family members and their relationship to the deceased.

Inventories of property for those who died without making a will can show their possessions and will describe items left in each room.

Inventories are more likely to be found in the 16th-18th centuries, becoming more scarce after this. Worcestershire wills from 1451- 1928 are held at The Hive on microfilm.

The National Probate Index is found on microfiche and covers wills proved between 1858 -1943



Trade Directories:

These began to be published in the 18th century and list tradesmen and private residents for each town and village across the county. Although not everyone would have been included in these lists they give a good description of the area and include information about schools, churches and public buildings around at the time. These volumes are held in the Local Studies Library in The Hive and some are on microfilm.





The Internet:

At The Hive we have over 250 public computers and you will need a Worcestershire library card to use one of these, which can be obtained from here.

There are a wide range of online family history resources containing a wealth of information. However, a great number of these websites are not complete and it is always advisable to check the coverage for the information they contain. All information taken from the Internet should be confirmed by using original or copies of documents where possible.

Some useful free websites that can be accessed at The Hive:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas - our website, listing our resources and containing a list of links to other websites.

www.familysearch.org - incomplete database containing millions of names taken from national parish registers and other sources.

www.freebmd.org.uk - England and Wales civil registration indexes to births, marriages and deaths.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk - information about national records held at The National Archives, along with some documents that can be downloaded.

www.Ancestry.co.uk - a major website for family historians. The England and Wales Census 1841-1901 is on this site plus some Military records that are indexed. This website can be used free of charge at The Hive.

Other Useful Sources

Other sources available for research within the Archive and Archaeology Service include Photographs, School records, Hospital records, Maps and Plans, Poor Law, Family papers and Diocesan records.

You can also find a selection of books at The Hive

Details of which can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries.

If you need any assistance please ask a member of staff to help you.

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service

The Hive
Sawmill Walk
The Butts
Worcester
WR1 3PB

Telephone:
01905 822866



Opening Hours for The Hive

Open seven days a week 8.30 until 22:00.

For staffed hours and contact details
please see the website

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas

