



LIBRARY & ARCHIVE SERVICE

SOURCES FOR FAMILY HISTORY

RESEARCHING MANX GENEALOGY

Researching your family history can be an exciting hobby and most of the sources for the study of Manx genealogy are available in the Manx Museum Reading Room. Many of these are held on microfilm or microfiche. Please note that there is no need to book a reading machine in advance. If you need assistance the staff will be only too happy to help.

This information sheet outlines some of the available sources held in Manx National Heritage's Library & Archive collections, the Isle of Man Government's Civil Registry and Public Record Office.

Family History

"Unlocking The Past: a guide to exploring family and local history in the Isle of Man" by Matthew Richardson.

Manx National Heritage, 2011 (Library Ref: G.90/RIC).

This is an invaluable guide on how to use the enormous variety of records that exist for the Isle of Man in the National Library & Archive collections, including the growing number that are accessible online through the Museum –

www.imuseum.im

A shorter introduction to family history is **"The Manx Family Tree: a guide to records in the Isle of Man"** 3rd edition, by Janet Narasimham (edited by Nigel Crowe and Priscilla Lewthwaite). Isle of Man Family History Society, 2000 (Library Ref: G.90). This 60 page booklet gives guidance on how to set about research and the types of records available.

Both can be purchased at the Manx Museum shop –

www.manxheritageshop.com

The Isle of Man Family History Society was formed in January 1979 to encourage the study of genealogy and family history, particularly within the Isle of Man. Being a member of the society benefits all those researching their families, whether they are Manx born or not. SECRETARY: Pat Nicholson, 4, Eleanora Gardens, Douglas, IM2 3NR.

Email: iomfhssec@gmail.com Web: www.iomfhs.im

Internment

We provide a separate collection guide of sources of information for people interned on the Isle of Man during the First and Second World Wars.

Civil Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Adoption

Records of the compulsory registration of births and deaths began in 1878 and for marriages in 1884. Certificates can be obtained, for a fee, from the Civil Registry: Civil Registry, Deemsters Walk, Buck's Road, Douglas, IM1 3AR

Tel: (01624) 687039

Email: civil@registry.gov.im

Web Site: www.gov.im/registries/general/civilregistry

The Civil Registry also maintains the Isle of Man's Adopted Children Register. Manx National Heritage does not hold and cannot supply certificates but has a microfiche copy of the indexes of births, marriages and deaths, covering the period 1878 to 1993. There is also a copy online at www.manxBMD.com Non-compulsory marriage certificates were issued from 1849 for dissenters who chose not to have their union solemnised in a parish church.



Manx Parish Registers

In 1910 all parish registers were passed temporarily to the General Registry in order that handwritten copies could be made of all records prior to 1849 by government staff. These copies together with original registers spanning 1849-1883 were subsequently microfilmed in the late 1940s. Together with indexes arranged by parish for baptism and marriage entries, they are available for family history use in the Library. The Isle of Man Family History Society has produced detailed transcripts of burial registers, which are available in the Reading Room. Indexes to parish registers are also available on www.imuseum.im through the "Explore Family History" section. There are gaps so please check with enquiries@mnh.gov.im

Non Conformist & Roman Catholic Churches

The Reading Room holds some registers and other records for local nonconformist churches and chapels, together with some Roman Catholic registers.

These are not name indexed and are incomplete. It is worth noting that by law nonconformists were required to marry in parish churches until 1849. After this they could marry in their own churches in the presence of the Deputy Registrar in whose records these marriages were entered. Hence before 1849 most if not all nonconformist marriages should appear in the parish registers and after 1883 in the records of compulsory civil registration.

International Genealogical Index

This has been compiled by the Genealogical Society of Utah, funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (The Mormon Church) and is an alphabetical listing by surname of entries compiled from church registers relating to baptisms and marriages. It is a useful way of finding which of the Island's parishes to check for your ancestors. This index is regularly updated and is available world-wide on line at www.familysearch.org and in the church's family history centres. The Library has a copy of the 1992 edition on microfiche for consultation.

Census Returns

Microfilm copies of the Isle of Man census returns for 1841 - 1871 and microfiche of the 1891 and 1901 enumerations are available at the library. These returns record each person in a 'household', the relationship of every person to the 'head of household', ages, occupations and places of birth. The Isle of Man Family History Society has published transcripts of all of the 1851 and 1881 censuses. Indexes to the 1841, 51, 61, 71, 91 & 1901 Censuses in printed form, compiled by the late Brian Lawson, are available in the Library and also on the IoM FHS website at: www.iomfhs.im

The Genealogical Society of Utah have name indexed the 1881 census and a microfiche copy is in the Reading Room. In addition some parishes and the town of Ramsey have been indexed for the intervening decades by private researchers and these hard copy indexes are available at the Reading Room Enquiry Desk.

Indexes to Isle of Man Census returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 1901 and 1911 are accessible online through www.imuseum.im

By arrangement, the 1911 census schedules may be consulted in the Reading Room.

Wills

Many people in the Isle of Man left wills. These are often a good source of family relationships and sometimes include an inventory of personal effects. The library holds wills for c.1600 to 1910 and microfilm copies to 1916. Later wills can be consulted at the Deeds & Probate Registry, but may need to be ordered in advance. The majority of the wills have been indexed though there are still gaps in the 17th century.

Researchers of 18th century wills, parish registers and other documents should remember that the calendar change of 1752 also altered the official start of the year at that time.

Details are available at

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/quick_reference.htm

Directories

The Island never had an equivalent of the UK 'Kelly's' series, but is included in a number of early British directories. Some examples held (all at Library Ref. L10) are:

- Holden 1811
- Pigot 1824, 1837, 1843
- Slater's 1846, 1852, 1857
- Thwaites 1863
- Brown's 1882, 1894
- Porter's 1889
- Bent's 1902, 1907
- Barrett's (Borough of Douglas) 1955
- Barrett's (Isle of Man) 1963

In addition there is an early list of Inhabitants of Castletown c.1751 listing nearly 900 people. Archive Ref MS 01770 C

Biographies - Library Sections G88, G90 & G91

From printed books to short articles, there are a large number of entries catalogued alphabetically in the card index to these stock classes in the Reading Room. Details are also being released online through the library catalogue at

www.imuseum.im

N.B. 'Manx Worthies or Biographies of Notable Manx Men and Women' compiled by A. W. Moore, 1901, (Library Ref: G4) and 'New Manx Worthies' by Dollin Kelly (Library Ref: G4/17f).

Manuscript Sources

For unpublished research notes and articles about families and individuals, check the card catalogue in the Reading Room using the personal name indexes to the manuscript collections. Archive Ref: MD 20 and other references

N.B. As with any personal research these manuscript sources can be inaccurate and researchers should check the information given.

Electoral Voters' Lists

- 1867-1915, 1919/20, 1950-84 - incomplete (Archive Ref: MS 09842)
- 1985-2004 (incomplete) at IoM Public Records Office 2005 to date. (Archive Ref: MS 11110)
- Douglas Burgess Roll 1924/25 (Library Ref: F71/16X)

N.B. Extension of Franchise:

1866 - Male property owners and tenants; 1881 - Female property owners (widows & spinsters), Male lodgers.

1892 - Female occupiers (widows & spinsters).

1903 - Female lodgers (widows & spinsters).

1919 - Adult suffrage, ex-servicemen aged 18-21.

2006 - Minimum voting age lowered to 16.

For fuller detail see relevant Acts of Tynwald (Library Ref: D200/1).

Telephone Directories

1900, 1906, 1925 – date (Library Ref: B102/1f).

These were issued at frequent intervals but until fairly recently are very slim volumes because, until the late 20th Century, most people did not have a private telephone. They are mainly of use for checking businesses or professional people such as doctors or managers.

N.B. In recent years many more telephone users choose to be 'ex-directory' and are therefore not listed. Likewise, mobile phones are not usually listed. Current UK (including the Isle of Man) telephone numbers that are not ex-directory are available online at www.thephonebook.bt.com

1880 -1984 telephone listings are available through www.ancestry.co.uk

Cemetery Records, Burial Registers and Monumental Inscriptions

The Isle of Man Family History Society (IOMFHS) have transcribed entries from the original parish registers. They have compiled the monumental inscriptions and burial registers, which are arranged by parish and indexed to the late 20th century (end dates vary). These indexes are available on request at the Library counter. Partial indexes to burials, prepared by Brian Lawson, are on the IOMFHS website - www.iomfhs.im

The Isle of Man Government has commissioned an inventory of war memorials, details of which can be obtained from the Reading Room and is being made accessible online at www.imuseum.im

First World War, 1914 -1918 Roll of Honour

This lists all known casualties, including some Manxmen who had previously emigrated and served in units from other parts of the British Empire. It gives (where known) full name, rank, unit and home address, cause and date of death (Library Ref: B114/8).

King William's College Register 1899 - 1989

Lists all past pupils of this public school, with, where known, a career summary, date of birth and date and place of death.

Library Ref: D427. The King William's College Society maintains a database of former pupils and staff.

Email: okws@kwc.sch.im

Journal Articles

A variety of local journals are worth checking for biographical details. Indexes are available in the Reading Room and will gradually be released online through www.imuseum.im They include:

- IOMFHS Journal 1979 – 2007 (Library Ref: L3FAM)
- Manx Life 1971 – 1996 (Library Ref: L6ML)
- IOM Victorian Society Newsletter 1980 – 2007 (Library Ref: L3VIC)
- Manx Tails 1982 – 2007 (Library Ref: L6A4)

The following journals have cumulative indexes at the Reading Room Counter:

- IOM Nat History & Antiquarian Society Proceedings 1879 - date (Library Ref: L6)
- Manx Museum Journal 1924 – 1980 (Library Ref: A365) - accessible online at www.imuseum.im by subscription.

Newspapers

Manx papers date from the late eighteenth century, (with some additional coverage in the Cumberland Pacquet' from 1793-1803) and are useful for biographical notes on individuals and obituary notices. The latter can inform you of the churchyard or cemetery in which a relative is interred. With the exception of the Cumberland Pacquet, Manx Newspapers in the Library collection from 1792 -1960 are now accessible online at www.imuseum.im by subscription.

All Manx newspapers to 2010 have been microfilmed and are available in the Reading Room along with partial indexes by name and subject from 1957-1994.

Isle of Man Examiner Annuals, 1900 - 1979

These include an annual chronology Events of the Year which often mentions individuals. For the First World War it includes a large number of photographs and brief personal details of servicemen killed in the previous year. For the Second World War it has a roll of honour for each year (Library Ref: L9EX).

Norris Modern Press Yearbooks, 1906 - 1972

These have detailed listings of public officials (Library Ref: L6N1).

Land and Property Records

The system used to record ownership of land is somewhat complicated but incomplete series of records exist mainly after 1511.

The Setting books (Libri Assedationis) are arranged by parish giving the names of the landowners and the lord's rent paid. Changes of ownership through sale, inheritance, bankruptcy etc. are recorded in the Wast books (Libri Vastarum). Both these series are microfilmed and available for consultation but it is advisable to familiarise yourself with the land holding system before jumping into the original records. Bear in mind also that barony and abbey lands have their own specific series of records.

There is also a substantial collection of deeds from the late 17th century to 1910, (later ones are at the Deeds & Probate Registry), and these are indexed by parish and then by name of the grantor (i.e. seller). Grantee (i.e. purchaser) indexes exist at the Deeds & Probate Registry from 1911. Indexes to Registered Deeds for 1847-1910 are now accessible online at www.imuseum.im

Parish / Place Histories

Bride, Maughold and Ramsey have detailed histories by W & C Radcliffe. These publications contain information about many families from these areas:

- **"History of Kirk Maughold"** (Library Ref: F64/148)
- **"Kirk Bride: a miscellany"** (Library Ref: F64/157)
- **"Shining by the Sea: History of Ramsey 1800-1914"** (Library Ref: F72/14)

Books by other authors include:

- **"Andreas"** by Sally McCambridge & D.S. Dugdale (Library Ref: F75/1/7q)
- **"The annals of Kirk Christ Lezayre"**, By R.D Kermode (Library Ref: F75/8).

Holiday Guides

In the heyday of Manx tourism when the Island was the getaway place for much of the North West, Scotland and Ireland, a surprising number of places issued small guide books. These are useful for holiday premises and their proprietors although not everyone advertised as you usually had to pay to be included.

Guidebooks were issued for the following places:

Castletown (F73), Douglas (F71), Laxey (F78), Onchan (F79), Peel (F74), Port Erin (F77), Port St Mary (F76) and Ramsey (F72).

Island Guides published by the Tourist Board were issued for most years and list registered accommodation (B266) and guides (1896-1914) were also issued by the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company (B160/4).

Ecclesiastical Court Records

Presentments: If you only find a mother's name in the register of baptism there is a chance of finding details of the father in these records. The series spans up to 1874.

Early presentments (1659 -1790) are available on microfilm in the Reading Room. Church Court Orders 1790s-1918: these include the names of fathers affiliated to a child and possibly charged with lying in expenses. An index to orders 1815-1918 can be checked by asking Reading Room staff to assist or using a genealogist or local researcher to check.

People Associated with Particular Employers and Occupations

They may appear in company or organisation histories, for example the Police, Railways, Lifeboats, the Steam Packet Company, and the Douglas Centenary Book 1896-1996.

Genealogical Research Service

We do not provide a genealogical research service but the following Manx genealogists will, for a fee, undertake research on behalf of private clients. Their inclusion here should not be taken as a specific recommendation by Manx National Heritage.

Mrs C. Carine, email: carolec@manx.net

Sarah Christian, email: ManxFamily@gmail.com

Kevin Garrad, email: kgarrad@gwx.com

M.& N. Richardson, email: ManxAncestry@manx.net

Transcription Services Ltd, email: tsl@manx.net

OPENING TIMES

MANX MUSEUM READING ROOM:

For current opening hours at the Manx Museum Reading Room and iMuseum, please check online at:

<http://www.manxnationalheritage.im/what-we-do/our-collections/library-archives/>

REGISTRATION

In order to use the Reading Room at the Manx Museum or the iMuseum you need to register your contact details. Proof of ID (driving licence or utility bill) showing your current address is required. A single registration covers the use of either or both facilities.

A range of Manx publications are available for purchase from the Manx Museum shop or online at www.manxheritageshop.com



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