

Highlights of British History as they pertain to genealogy.

- 1290 Jews expelled from England (~16,000). GRa254
- 1324 John Wyclif, broke from the church of Eng, publ Bible in English, sought religious freedom. GRa229
- 1483 Martin Luther born. GRa230
- 1509-47 Henry VIII reigned GRb185
- 1512 War with France. GRb185
- ~1521 English version of Bible secretly distributed. GRb185
- 1522 War with France. GRb185
- 1534/5 Henry VIII appointed himself the head of the Church of England. GRa230
- 1536-38 Rebellions in northern counties against suppression of monasteries. GRb185
- <1538 By 1538 most English people were using surnames. GRa268
- 1538 Parish registers law enacted. GRa14,156 (They were kept on paper, which deteriorated. GRa143).
- 1540 Wills became legal under the Statute of Wills. GRb22
- 1544 War with France. GRb22
- 1555 Return to Catholicism under Queen Mary. GRa231
- 1557 War with France, loss of Calais. GRb185
- 1558 Parish registers copied to parchment book (effective date – 1<sup>st</sup> yr of QE1's reign).
- 1560 War with Scotland. GRb185
- 1579 Act of Uniformity in matters of religion enforced. GRb186
- 1588 Spanish Armada defeated by Sir Francis Drake. GRa18
- 1593 Heresy, schisms, & nonconformity cracked down on because Elizabeth I was pressured by Pop encouraging European rulers to make war on England. GRa231
- 1597 Bishop's or Archdeacon's Transcripts (dupl), permanent copies in parish, and reinforce 1538 Act. GRa156
- 1606 Groups of Separatists fled to Holland. GRb186
- 1607 Virginia founded by Captain John Smith. GRa18
- 1611 King James Version of the Bible published. GRb186
- 1618-48 30 years War with Germany. GRb186
- 1620 Pilgrims sailed for New England, having previously fled from England to Holland,. GRa18
- 1626 War with France and Spain. GRb187
- 1634 Maryland colonized by English Catholics. GRa19
- 1640s Abolition of monarchy (temporary), Royalists vs. Roundheads. GRa18
- 1642-49 Civil War GRb184
- 1649-60 Cromwell, interregnum (many ministers left their parishes), many destroyed. GRa158, GRb184
- 1653-60 Probate courts closed. GRb184 Some parish registers not kept at all. GRb188
- 1653 Justice of Peace appointed to perform civil marriages. GRa158 Lasted til 1660. GRa206
- 1654 War with Spain. GRb188
- 1662 New year** officially began March 25 (prior, some used Jan 1, some Dec 25, some Mar 25).
- 1662 Act of Settlement: working class who moved had to obtain a "Settlement Certificate" from old GRa124
- 1665 War with Holland. GRb188
- 1665-66 Plague in large towns. GRa159 Plague kills 100,000 in London. GRa19
- 1666 London Great Fire, many parish churches burned. GRa159
- 1667 Wool burial clothes required. Until 1814. GRa159, GRb188
- 1671/2 Declaration of Indulgence freed nonconformists from prison & permitted free worship. GRb189
- 1672 War with Holland, British army 10,000 men. Catholics banned from public office. GRb189
- 1679 Freedom of the press in England via Habeas Corpus Act. GRa19, GRb189
- 1682 Pennsylvania settled by William Penn & Quakers. GRa19
- 1685 Thousands of refugees from France settle in the London area. GRa19
- 1688 Monarchy changed from Catholic to Protestant. GRa19
- 1693 Parish register entries taxed. Repealed yrs later because some weren't having children Chr. GRa159
- 1695 Act imposing a fine on all who failed to inform parish minister of birth of a child. GRb189
- <1700 Hardly any Nonconformist church records. GRa241
- 1700s Industrial revolution – movement of workers from rural to industrial towns. GRb184
- 1707 Union with Scotland. GRa19
- 1711 Conformity Bill against Protestant Nonconformists from qualifying for office, repealed 1715. GRa235
- 1727 War with Austria & Spain. GRb190
- 1733 Latin no longer used in parish registers and courts of justice. (Law passed, mostly obeyed). GRb190

- 1735 Latin no longer legal for parish registers. (Many had ceased long before). GRa153
- 1739 War with Spain and France. GRb190
- 1743 40,000 English and Hanovarian soldiers fighting in Europe. GRb191
- <1750 Old style handwriting, difficult to decipher. GRa153
- <1752 New year 25 March** GRa159. 7ber = Sept, 8ber=Oct, 9ber=Nov, & 10ber=Dec.  
Prior to 1752 Jan, Feb & Mar were not at the beginning of the year they were at the end of years.
- 1752 New year 1 Jan.** was brought forward from 25 March to preceding 1 Jan. Many dates prior to this time are shown using the old reconing and the new, eg. 5<sup>th</sup> of Feb 1626/7 (26 old reckoning, 27 new). e.g. 31 Dec 1683, 1 Jan 1683/4, 24 Mar 1683/4, 25 Mar 1684. GRa160
- 1752 11 days lost.** The day following 2 Sept 1752 was renumbered 14 (From Julian to Gregorian).
- 1753 Banns required fro 3 successive weeks in the parish of both intending to marry.
- 1753 Marriages ceased in parochial chapelries until 1837. GRa160
- 1754 Marriage records in a new register, & to prevent clandestine marr. (25 Mar 1754) GRa143, GRb191
- 1755 7 yrs war. Europe, India, and America (French & Indian Wars.) GRb191
- 1759 Pittsburg conquered by George Washington. GRb191
- 1762 French surrender Canada and Florida. GRb192
- 1776 Declaration of independence in America.
- 1783 Stamp duty of 3 pence on every entry in the parish register, repealed 1793 GRa161
- 1789 French Revolution GRb192
- 1803 Napoleon plans to conquer Europe and invade England. GRb193
- 1812-13 French armies driven out of Spain, Portugal & Germany. GRb193
- 1812 New forms required (providing more detail on some contracts.
- 1812 American War of 1812 vs England & Canada. GRb193
- 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo. GRb193
- 1837 Civil Registration established in England. GRa46
- 1837 Duplicate marriage records kept by Church of England. One at Parish, one at register ofc. GRa47

Banns: Intention to marry, publ. 3 successive Sundays prior. Less expensive than marriage license. GRa206

Burials: Families could choose the burial ground, some had residence on one parish & buried in another. GRa151

Counties (52) in England & Wales. Counties are divided into large areas known as hundreds, wapentakes, sokes, liberties, commots, rapes, lathes, and wards (territorial divisions of various sizes).

Parishes: Within each of these divisions are the parishes, which form the smallest unit of both church and civil administration. Parish may refer to either the Church of England or the local civil government.

Sometimes a parish is a civil designation which does not have a church with registers. GRa118-119

Mother Churches (main church in a parish), Parochial Chapelries, Chapels of Ease or Daughter Church (other churches in parish). GRa122.

Recusants: Inactives (those who refused to participate in the services at the parish church).

Names (derived from):

Garrod, Garrett (bloody spear, war and warlike occupations). GRa268

Interchangeable Names

Ann – Agnes GFa270

Ann – Hannah GFa271

Ann – Nancy GFa271

Elizabeth – Betty GFa271

Jane – Jenny GFa271

Mary – Mally, Molly, & Polly GFa271

Peggy – Margaret GF271

Sally – Sarah. GFa270

GRa Genealogical Research in England and Wales, Volume 1. David E. Gardner & Frank Smith. 1956, SLC, Bookcraft.

GRb Genealogical Research in England and Wales, Volume 2. David E. Gardner & Frank Smith. 1959, SLC, Bookcraft.