

The purpose of the Jersey Archive is to identify, select, collect, manage, preserve and provide access to the Island's records on behalf of the whole community, promoting Jersey's culture, heritage and sense of place, both within its shores and beyond.

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Opening Hours: 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm, Tuesday to Thursday. Open 9am to 1pm on the third Saturday of the month. To book an appointment please phone or email.

The information in this leaflet is accurate as of October 2020. Please be aware that the Jersey Archive receives new collections on a regular basis and ask staff if you have any queries.

Family History in Jersey

General Information

A number of factors facilitate family history research in Jersey. The size of the Island means that there is a limited number of Parishes in which to search for your ancestors. Jersey is also lucky to have an extremely active Family History Society (the CIFHS) who have indexed and transcribed a number of important records. The small numbers of both forenames and surnames in use in the Island, such as Josue, Philippe, Jean, Marie, de Gruchy, Ahier and Le Sueur, can create problems when trying to establish direct relationships. It was only in 1948 that English became the official written language in the Island many older records are written in French.

Access

Jersey Archive indexes all its catalogued records by name, place and subject. Therefore any name mentioned in the catalogue description of a record will be indexed on Archives and Collections Online (ACO) available in the reference area of the Jersey Archive and on the Internet at www.jerseyheritage.org. To search for a name either use the simple search box or click on the advanced search link and then enter the name of the individual or family you are looking for under Person or institution. Please remember in the advanced search to enter the surname first and then a comma and space before the first name, e.g. de Carteret, Philippe.

It is important to note that not all names have been indexed from all documents so just because someone's name is not indexed does not mean that there are no records relating to that person.

Each collection held by Jersey Archive has a unique reference code. These references have been included in the following information after the title. Should you wish to find out more about a certain collection go to the online catalogue and under the advanced search enter the reference given, e.g. D/Y/A under the Reference number search option.

The following collections include official public records, records from local churches and records from private associations, individuals and families.

Census Records, S/01 - S/07

Jersey Archive has facilities available for the consultation of census records for the Channel Islands on microfilm for the following years: 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and microfilm and fiche for 1901. The Archive holds digital copies of the 1911 census. The CIFHS Collection includes indexes and transcriptions of the censuses. Information available on the census includes names, place of birth, relationship to the head of the household, age, occupation and address.

Wills and Testaments, D/Y/A & D/Y/B

Jersey Archive holds all wills and testaments of movable property from 1660 - 1999. Wills and testaments can contain information relating to the heirs of the family and division of property. All wills and testaments from 1660 - 1976 have been catalogued and are indexed under Person/institution on ACO. Please ask staff for wills and testaments after this date until 1999. Early wills and testaments are currently being scanned and copies will be available to be purchased from ACO or to be viewed if you are a subscriber.

Immigration and Nationality - Registration Cards, D/S/A

The civil population of Jersey was required by the German authorities to register under the Registration and Identification of Persons (Jersey) Order, 1940. Each registration card contains personal details, such as name, address, date of birth and a photograph. Any child under the age of 14 is recorded on the back of the father's card. The registration cards have all been indexed and placed on the Jersey Archive database; simply enter the surname of the individual under Person/institution on ACO. They have also all been scanned and copies of the registration card and registration form can be purchased on ACO or can be viewed if you are a subscriber.

Immigration and Nationality - Alien Cards, D/S/B

In 1920 the States of Jersey introduced the Aliens Restriction Act, which stated that all Jersey residents not of British origin over the age of 16 had to register with the Immigration Officer. From this process a set of cards were created with personal details such as name, address, date of birth, movement in and out of the Island and a photograph. Aliens cards are closed for 100 years from the individual's date of birth. All of the open aliens cards have been scanned and copies can be purchased on ACO or can be viewed if you are a subscriber.

Royal Court Records, D/Y

Jersey Archive holds the records from the Royal Court. The Royal Court records are concerned with the civil and criminal matters that were presented to the courts. The courts are divided into different sections dealing with separate actions. Copies of individual cases from the early poursuites criminelles (criminal court records) are currently being added to ACO and can be purchased or viewed if you are a subscriber.

Land Registry and PRIDE system, D/Y/K & S/06

Sir Walter Raleigh instituted registration of contracts at the Public Registry in 1602. Contracts generally concern the transfer of property from one individual to another. They often include details concerning family relationships and division of property. Microfilms of contracts from 1602 to 1963 are available to view. The PRIDE system is a computer system that allows you to search the Public Registry volumes from 1800 to the present day and view a digital image of the specific page in the volume. The microfilms (S/06) and the PRIDE system are available in the Audio Visual area and at Reception.

Education Department Records, D/J

Jersey Archive holds a number of log books and some admission registers for the Island's schools. These can provide some information relating to the ages of individuals and their addresses. However, it is important to note that there are some closure periods on more recent admission registers.

Militia Nominal Rolls and Pay Lists, D/AP/R1 & D/AP/R2

Jersey Archive holds official nominal rolls and pay lists of the Jersey Militia. Information contained includes names and addresses of soldiers and details of pay, 1902 - 1938.

Royal Jersey Militia Attestation Papers, L/F/97/M22

Jersey Archive holds attestation papers of the 11th Battalion Hampshire Regiment/Royal Militia Island of Jersey. These papers include details of individuals joining the Militia during the period 1929 - 1940.

Rate Lists, D/AP/AC

Printed list of Island ratepayers, listed in alphabetical order in vingtaine include lists of parish officials, parish accounts, dog licence holders and gun licence holders. Information contained in rate lists includes name of property, name of person paying rates and the amount rates to be paid. Duplicate rate lists can be consulted in the Reading Room.

Almanacs, L/D/21

Early almanacs contain lists of notable inhabitants, Jersey officials, categorised lists of professions, mercantile and trading classes of St Helier with name and addresses. Officers of the Royal Jersey Militia are named. Also included are officers of the Island's commercial associations, banks, societies, clubs, public schools, Churches and religious organisations, shipping companies and lists of vessels. The almanacs at the Archive date from 1863 - 1997.

Telephone Directories, D/AR/A1

Information contained in the directories includes names, addresses and telephone numbers. Also includes details of businesses in the Island - 1924 - 2014.

Superintendent Registrar, D/E

The Superintendent Registrar collection includes full transcriptions of all pre-1842 baptism, marriage and burial records. The pre-1842 original Church Registers have all been closed as a result of these being available. The CIFHS collection includes indexes to the Superintendent Registrar's records, detailing all births, marriages and deaths in the Island after 1842. These are available in the Help Desk area. The Superintendent Registrar collection also includes post-1842 copies of marriage registers for all Parishes.

Parish Registrars, E

Records from some parish registrars are also held and can be searched for local birth, marriage and death records. Draft registers of death for the Parish of St Helier are also available.

Hospital Admission Registers, D/AN

The Jersey General Hospital acted as both a medical hospital and a place of assistance for those who could not support themselves and their families. Admission

registers to the hospital date from 1839 and many of the 19th century admission have been indexed by name on ACO. Images of the hospital admission registers are currently being added to ACO and can be purchased or viewed if you are a subscriber.

Pitcher and Le Quesne Limited - Funeral Directors, L/A/41

The Pitcher and Le Quesne Limited collections holds records from a number of local funeral directors including, Sinnatt and Sons, J B Le Quesne, Philippe Picot and Croad and Sons. The collection dates from 1820 and includes details of funeral arrangements and burial accounts. Records from Sinnatt and Sons have been indexed by the CIFHS. Images of the Pitcher and Le Quesne registers are currently being added to ACO and can be viewed if you are a subscriber.

Church Records

Ecclesiastical Parish Churches, G/C

Jersey Archive holds baptism, marriage and burial registers for almost all of the parish and district churches.

The CIFHS collection includes transcriptions of the pre-1842 records. These have been scanned and are available for subscribers to view on ACO (L/D/21/B). Baptism registers for St Helier from 1842 - 1909 have been transcribed and indexed on ACO.

Ecclesiastical Court Records, G/B

The earliest records of the Ecclesiastical Court date from 1557. The Jersey Archive holds the rolls of the Court from 1557 until 1899. The Court was used to try people who were accused of 'moral crimes' e.g. adultery. The Ecclesiastical Court was also responsible for probate in the Island until 1949 when this function was taken on by the Judicial Greffe. All probate documents that were created by the Ecclesiastical Court have been transferred to the Archive.

Methodist Records, J/C

Jersey Archive holds baptism, marriage and burial registers for the majority of Methodist Chapels in the Island. The Methodist collection also contains lists of Sunday School attendees, membership lists and class books which can prove useful for the family historian. Early registers appear within the Circuit records and then later within individual chapels and span the years 1836 - 1989.

Independent Church Records

Salavation Army, J/D
Halkett Place Evangelical Church, J/F
New Church Society Records, J/E
United Reformed Church, J/G
Presbyterian Church Archive, J/H

Catholic Records, H

The Jersey Archive holds the baptism, marriage and burial records of the following Roman Catholic Churches; St Thomas', St Mary and St Peters, St Matthew's, Sacred Heart, St John and St Anthony Chapel (baptisms only) and St Anne's (baptisms only). There are also indexes for the St Thomas' records available in the Help Desk Area.

Channel Islands Family History Society

The CIFHS and their collections are based at the Archive. Their wide-ranging collections include:

- Indexes to and transcriptions of the censuses.
- Indexes to the Parish, Nonconformist and Roman Catholic Registers.
- Indexes to burials in Almorah, Mont à L'Abbé, Green Street, St Peter's Church and Macpela Cemeteries.
- Indexes to Sinnatt's funeral records.
- Indexes to births, marriages and death records post-1842. These have been scanned and attached to ACO and can be viewed if you are a subscriber (D/E/E, D/E/F and D/E/G).

There are also a number of family trees, rate books, electoral lists and newspaper almanacs, which are available to study. The CIFHS has volunteers who are pleased to help with any family history enquiry.

They can be contacted at:
PO Box 507, St Helier, Jersey, JE4 5TN
and by e-mail - cifhs.research@gmail.com