



the national archives

Caribbean genealogy: useful resources

Useful addresses:

The National Archives

Kew, Surrey, TW9 4DU

Website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Contact: 020 8876 3444; web forms: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/

- Records of British central government departments and courts of law including Royal Navy, Board of Trade (for merchant navy), Army, Treasury (including the Office of Colonial Slaves (slave registers) and Slave Compensation Commission) and the Colonial Office. Online catalogues of holdings and papers in other archives.

Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints (Hyde Park Family History Center)

64-68 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PA

Website: www.familysearch.org

Contact: 020 7589 8561

- Microfilms and microfiche of many Caribbean records and publications. Many held on site but others can be obtained from their main library in Utah (for a small fee).
- Online index to many baptism, birth and marriage records, some contain links to digitised resources

Society of Genealogists

14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA

Website: www.sog.org.uk

Contact: 020 7251 8799

- Good collection of books and journals relating to Caribbean families, society and history. Online catalogue from their website. There is a fee to use their library.

Books:

- Paul Crooks, *A Tree without roots: The Guide to Tracing African, Anglo and Asian Ancestry in the Caribbean* (BlackAmber Books, 2008)
- Guy Grannum, *Tracing your West Indian ancestors*, 2nd edition (PRO Publications, 2002) Out of Print
- Geraldine Lane, *Tracing ancestors in Barbados* (Genealogical Publishing Inc, Co, 2006)
- Madeleine Mitchell, *Jamaican ancestry: How to find out more*, revised edition (Heritage Books, 2009)

Websites:

- www.rootsweb.com/~caribgw - Rootsweb Caribbean genealogical web project. Link to Caribbean resources and a public mailing list.
- www.afrigenes.com - sources and guidance for African-American genealogy

- www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm - resources, links and research tools for Hispanic, South American and Caribbean genealogy; www.cyndislist.com/african.htm for African and African-American resources
- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/caribbeanhistory/ - an exploration of The National Archives' Caribbean Colonial Office records
- www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com - Jamaica resources – a subscription site but some information free
- www.everygeneration.co.uk - empowering and influencing the black community through history, family genealogy and heritage
- www.movinghere.org.uk - guidance on Caribbean genealogy and history of immigration images and indexed passenger lists to the UK (1948-1960)
- www.candoo.com/surnames/index.php - lists of names being researched
- www.newspaperarchive.com - indexed newspapers includes Jamaica Gleaner from 1854 – subscription service
- www.ancestry.com - large number of UK and American genealogical resources such as newspapers, passenger lists, censuses, slave registers – useful if your family migrated to the UK, Canada or USA – subscription service but some information free.
- www.caribbeanroots.co.uk – links to online Caribbean genealogical resources

Discussion groups:

- <http://groups.google.com/group/soc.genealogy.west-indies> - mirror site of soc.gen.west-indies from your Internet provider's news server
- <http://www.rootsweb.com/~caribgw/maillinglist.html> - Caribbean genealogy web discussion board
- <http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=an&p=localities.caribbean> - Ancestors' Caribbean discussion boards

Note: these discussion groups are public groups and it is possible that by contributing to discussions your email may become public.

DNA sites:

(Numerous companies offer to undertake DNA analysis – I cannot recommend any particular companies but a few seem to specialise in African DNA and reconnection – try an internet search with the phrase “African DNA”). Many articles have been written on the subject:

- www.everygeneration.co.uk/Motherland/index.htm - information about BBC2's Motherland documentary
- http://genealogy.about.com/od/dna_genetics/ - links to articles on DNA
- www.dnaandfamilyhistory.com/ - companion website to the Chris Pomery's book *DNA and Family History*
- www.ancestry.com/learn/ - Ancestry's learning centre contains many articles on DNA (search using the term “DNA”)