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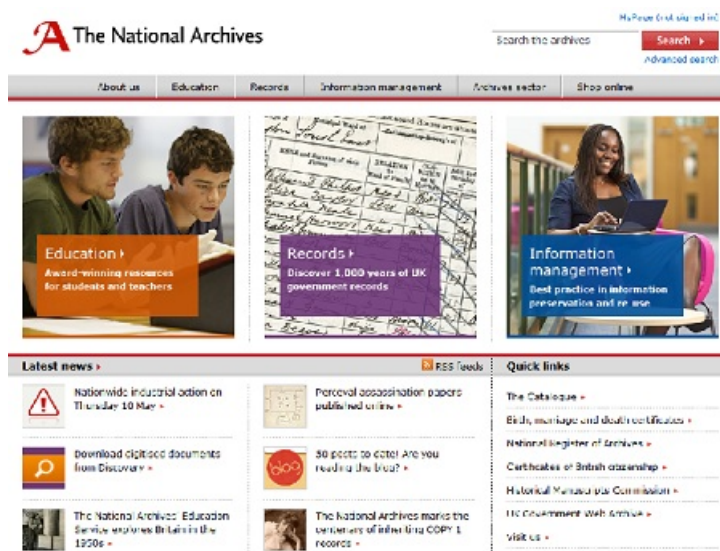
Best ... family history websites

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Once the study of history and delving into the archives were left to academics. But no longer: today, millions of people in the UK are investigating their family trees, their towns and villages, even their houses.

Try these websites - they're great for both beginners and the more experienced!

The National Archives <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>



This government site can point you to various types of documentation and has guidance on what to look for when you start to trace your family. You can order copies of birth or death certificates and also access armed services records, employment registers, adoption, wills, records of migrants and more.

1911 Census - [The Office of National Statistics](#)



This website contains a record of everyone living in England and Wales in 1911. It's easy to search, but once you've located a record you'd like to read, you need to buy credits in order to view it. There's further census information available going back every 10 years to 1841.

Genes Reunited www.genesreunited.co.uk/

The screenshot shows the Genes Reunited homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Family Tree, Relatives, Keepsafe, Community, Messages, News, and Search. Below this, a large banner area features the text "Every family has a story We'll help you discover yours" on the left, and a registration form titled "We need your details" on the right. The form includes fields for "Your forename" (with example "eg. John"), "Your birth surname" (with example "eg. Smith"), "Your birth year" (with placeholder "YYYY"), and "Your place of birth" (a dropdown menu with "Please select..."). A "Let's begin" button is at the bottom of the form. To the left of the form, there are three overlapping cards with text: "We're going to help you build your family tree", "See your ancestors in our records", and "save everything you find along the way". Below the banner, a section titled "What can I do on Genes Reunited?" contains two main options: "Build your family tree" with a "Build tree" link, and "Research a relative" with a "Start searching" link. The "Research a relative" section also mentions having over 550 million family history records.

Allows you to sign up for free and build your family tree online. Has over 515 million family history records and enables members to link up to other family trees and build a picture of their past and present families. Additional premium tools and services available on a subscription or 'pay per view' basis.

Ancestry.co.uk

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.co.uk homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Family Trees, Search, Community, Help & Advice, DNA, Living Relative Search, Publish, and Shop. Below this, a large banner area features the text "Who will you discover?" and "Search our records, start your family tree and we'll help you uncover your ancestors' stories." To the right of this text is a "14 Day Free Trial SIGN UP NOW" button. Below the banner, there's a search form with fields for "First & Middle Name", "Surname", "Name a place your ancestor might have lived" (with placeholder "City, Town or Country"), and "Est birth year". A "Calculate it" button is at the bottom of the form. Below the form, there's a "Search now" button and a link to "Read our Privacy Statement". To the right of the search form, there's a large image of a person in a historical setting with the text "We started your Christmas traditions". Below the search form, there's a section titled "We offer more than anyone else!" with text about the world's largest online library of family history information. To the right of this section, there's a promotional banner for "WAR HORSE IN CINEMA 13TH JANUARY" with the text "WIN A FAMILY HOLIDAY TO A MAJESTIC WAR HORSE LOCATION" and an "Enter now" button.

An easy-to-search site with guidance, tips, a forum for advice, and international records, as well as access to UK family tree data. You need to register to access the information. They request a small subscription fee for 'premium membership', which then allows access to more records.

Find my past www.findmypast.co.uk/



The first company in the world to publish the complete birth, marriage and death indexes for England & Wales online. To access the records, you need to pay a subscription. The site claims to have records that are much more accurate than its competitors’.

Scotlands People



Here you can access almost 80 million Scottish records. As with most of these sites, searching is only sometimes free and you have to pay a charge to view documents.

Irish Genealogy



This is recognised as one of the better sites for searching records in Ireland.

Directgov www.direct.gov.uk/

The screenshot shows the Directgov website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Directgov' logo and 'Public services all in one place'. Below it, a search bar contains the text 'search family history'. The search results page displays 'Results 1-10 out of 18' and 'Page 1'. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Narrow your search' and a list of keywords including 'family history', 'death certificates', 'sources of information', 'Local councils', 'Register Office', 'Treasury Solicitor', 'Site section', 'Government, citizens and rights', 'Home and community', 'Parents', 'Money, tax and benefits', 'Do it online', 'Education and learning', 'Useful contacts', and 'Newsroom'. The main content area lists several search results, including 'Research your local, family or house history', 'Using the General Register Office to research family history', 'Researching family history using official records', 'First steps in researching your family history', and 'Using the census to trace your family history'.

This huge government directory of public services includes some useful tips on where to look for resources and documents. Type ‘search family history’ into the search box at the top of the page and you’ll be taken to a list of information and pointers.

Genuki www.genuki.org.uk/

The screenshot shows the Genuki website homepage. The header features the 'GENUKI UK & Ireland Genealogy' logo. Below the logo, there's a paragraph stating: 'GENUKI provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. It is a non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and a group of volunteers. All material on this site is © GENUKI and individual contributors. For permission to re-use material please contact the GENUKI trustees.' The page is organized into several sections: 'Regional Page Links' (UK and Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands), 'Technical Links' (Referring to GENUKI, For potential contributors, For maintainers), 'Quick Links' (Contents and Site Map, Search GENUKI, Gazetteer, Church database, Societies, Frequently Asked Questions, Guidance for first-time users, Getting started in genealogy, Genealogical events, Who are we?, GENUKI service status), and a footer with the text 'GENUKI is a registered trade mark of the charitable trust GENUKI Copyright © 2011, Genuki.' and a 'W3C HTML 4.01' logo.

This website is run by volunteers, many of whom are members of Family History Societies around the UK. It has a vast array of information, broken into countries of the UK and further into counties, so that information can be narrowed to your field of interest. It gives advice about where to find information in each county as well as online.

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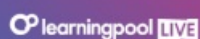
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