

Household Research Guide

1. Directories
2. Census Returns
3. Electoral Registers
4. Maps

1. Directories

Directories are a useful resource in family history. Some can help in identifying your ancestor's working and home life, but they can also offer an insight into the population of a town or city, providing significant details into industry, education, geographical information and how it changes over time.

The directories at St Helens Archive Service and in branch libraries start at 1819 and continue in irregular intervals until the 2000s. Including:

Directory	Title	Date	Location
Slater's Directory	Warrington, Widnes, St Helens	1883 – 1884	Eccleston Library
Pigot & Co's Commercial Directory	Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Cumberland, Lancashire, Westmoreland	1828 -1829	Eccleston Library

Pigot Directory	Lancashire	1834	Eccleston Library
Mannex History & Directory	Mid-Lancashire	1854 & 1855	Eccleston Library
St Helens Directory	St Helens	1924	Eccleston Library
Slater's Directory	Lancashire	1847 & 1869	Eccleston Library
Mannex Directory	St Helens & District	1871	Eccleston Library
Industry Directory	St Helens	1871	Eccleston Library
Worrall's Directory	Warrington, Wigan & St Helens	1871 & 1876	Eccleston Library
Commercial Directory	St Helens	1819 – 1820	Eccleston Library
Directory	St Helens & Widnes	1887 & 1895	Eccleston Library
Thomson Directory	St Helens & Wigan	1981 - 1982	Eccleston Library
Slater's Directory	St Helens	1891, 1891, 1984	Eccleston Library
Telephone Directory	Liverpool & Southwest Lancashire	1935	Eccleston Library
Directory	Liverpool & District	1907 & 1935	Eccleston Library
Commercial Directory	Manchester, containing the names, trades and residences of the Merchants Manufacturers and Tradesmen etc	1819-20	St Helens Archive Service, Gamble Building
Pigot's Directory	St Helens Tradesman	1828	St Helens Archive Service, Gamble Building
Aubrey's Directory	St Helens Tradesman	1938	St Helens Archive Service, Gamble Building
Slater's Directory	St Helens and Neighbourhoods & St Helens, Crank, Eccleston, Parr, Peasley Cross, Rainford, Sutton, Windle and Neighbourhoods	1844 – 1848 & 1889	St Helens Archive Service, Gamble Building

Whellan's Directory	St Helens, Townships of Windle, Sutton, Eccleston, and Parr	1853	St Helens Archive Service, Gamble Building
Worrall's Directory	St Helens, Eccleston, Parr, Sutton, Windle	1871	St Helens Archive Service, Gamble Building.

The directories are both telephone directories and trade directories. Your local library may hold present day telephone directories.

You can also search for historical directories here from the University of Leicester -

<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/en/archive/20080211161145/http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/index.asp>

The collection above contains 689 directories, with at least one directory for every English and Welsh county for the 1850s, 1890s and 1910s. Searchable by name, place, and occupation, this is an essential tool for local, urban, and family history. You can find Kelly's and Pigot's directories there, as well as those by regional publishers.

2. Census Records

Locations

Census records of the Borough and Outer Borough	Location	Format
1841	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1851	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1861	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1871	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1881	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1891	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1901	Eccleston Library	Microfiche
1841	Eccleston Library	Transcript
1851	Eccleston Library	Transcript
1861	Eccleston Library	Transcript
1871	Eccleston Library	Transcript
1891	Eccleston Library	Transcript
Scotland		
1891	Gamble Building	Microfiche
Ormskirk & Scarisbrick		
1891	Gamble Building	Microfiche
Leeds (including omissions)		
1851	Gamble Building	Microfiche
Quisley		
1851	Gamble Building	Microfiche
Hunslet		
1851	Gamble Building	Microfiche
1881 British Census Scotland Region	Gamble Building	CD

1881 British Census and National Index, England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and Royal Navy.	Gamble Building	CD
Newton-le-Willows		
1841 - 1901	Newton-le-Willows Library	Microfiche

Census records are an essential resource for family historians. Taken every 10 years since 1841, census returns are a snapshot of society, and each return describes a family unit on a given day, making it possible to discover names, addresses, occupations, age, or birthplace. Depending on who was in the household at the time of enumeration, returns could also provide details of any other occupants or residents living at the same address.

Much of the UK census information for England and Wales 1841 – 1921 is now on www.findmypast.co.uk

If you cannot find an ancestor on a particular census –

- There could have been different variations of the same name, as well as being incorrectly transcribed from the enumerator. So, don't forget to cross-reference names, ages etc. with known family members names and compare details with other census entries if possible.
- Your ancestor might not have been in the building on the night of when the census was taken, or might have moved towns/neighbourhoods altogether, and did not receive or complete the census return.

Find My Past can be accessed for free in any St Helens Borough library. For details of how to access, please see here:

<https://sthlibrarieswp.koha-ptfs.co.uk/online-reference/>

3. Historic Electoral Registers

Historic Electoral registers (registers over 10 years old) are a list of names of people entitled to vote during a lifetime of the register (usually one year.)

Why Registers may be used

- Legal cases e.g. to help prove “right to buy” and for criminal record checks
- Historical research including political and local history
- Genealogical research

What the electoral registers can tell you

- The people registered to vote at a given address (although some people deliberately did not return their electoral registration forms and do not appear on the registers. For instance, this has found to be common in the 1980s to 1990s as people thought it would be a way to avoid paying Poll Tax.)
- Sometimes, from the layout you can guess the family structure (although later the entries started to appear in alphabetical order.)

What the electoral registers can't tell you

- If you only have a name, you cannot search for which address someone is registered, you must know the address.
- No one under 18 (21 before 1969) is listed unless someone comes of voting age during the year.
- When people move – no list of where they have moved to or from.
- Gender or date of birth of registered people.
- Elections were not held during both world wars, so there are no lists 1914-1918 or 1940-1945.

How to research using the historic registers –

Our registers start at 1870. Between 1870 and 1886 each volume is separated into Townships: Township of Eccleston, Township of Parr, Township of Windle, Township of Sutton. The registers are listed in alphabetical order of surname, not by street name, so looking up certain family members will need to be done individually. The other columns name the dwelling place e.g. house or shop, and then notes the street name, but does not show house numbers.

From 1886 – 1974, the Electoral Registers are sorted by ward, then in alphabetical order by street name. It is not always obvious which ward covers a particular street and the researcher may not know. You look up the most likely first and see if the street name is listed in the first page of that ward. It may also help you to enter the street into the following website: www.streetcheck.co.uk/ which will tell you the current ward location (if the street still exists).

1886 - 1974	
a	North Eccleston Ward
b	South Eccleston Ward
c	Central Ward
d	North Windle Ward
e	South Windle Ward
f	Hardshaw Ward
g	Parr Ward
h	East Sutton Ward
l	West Sutton Ward

If you are searching for an address in Billinge, Newton-Le-Willows, Rainford, Rainhill, Haydock and part of Eccleston, we only acquired those areas and all Eccleston after the Local Government reorganisation of 1974.

St Helens Wards from 1974 – 2022

Wards from 1 April 1974 (first election 10 May 1973) to 1 May 1980

1	No. 1 (St Helens: Central and South Eccleston) (3)
2	No. 2 (St Helens: East Sutton) (3)
3	No. 3 (St Helens: Hardshaw and Parr) (6)
4	No. 4 (St Helens: Moss Bank) (3)
5	No. 5 (St Helens: North Eccleston and South Windle) (3)
6	No. 6 (St Helens: North Windle) (3)
7	No. 7 (St Helens: West Sutton) (3)
8	No. 8 (Haydock) (3)
9	No. 9 (Newton-Le-Willows: Crow Lane-Town Hall-Viaduct) (3)
10	No. 10 (Newton-Le-Willows: Newton and Wargrave) (3)
11	No. 11 Billinge and Seneley Green (3)
12	No. 12 Rainford (3)
13	No. 13 (Eccleston and Windle) (3)
14	No. 14 (Rainhill and Bold) (3)

Wards from 1 May 1980 to 10 June 2004

1	Billinge and Seneley Green (3)
2	Blackbrook (3)
3	Broad Oak (3)
4	Eccleston (3)
5	Grange Park (3)
6	Haydock (3)
7	Marshalls Cross (3)
8	Moss Bank (3)
9	Newton East (3)

10	Newton West (3)
11	Parr and Hardshaw (3)
12	Queen's Park (3)
13	Rainford (3)
14	Rainhill (3)
15	Sutton and Bold (3)
16	Thatto Heath (3)
17	West Sutton (3)
18	Windle (3)

Wards from 10 June 2004 to 5 May 2022

1	Billinge and Seneley Green (3)
2	Blackbrook (3)
3	Bold (3)
4	Earlestown (3)
5	Eccleston (3)
6	Haydock (3)
7	Moss Bank (3)
8	Newton (3)
9	Parr (3)
10	Rainford (3)
11	Rainhill (3)
12	Sutton (3)
13	Thatto Heath (3)
14	Town Centre (3)
15	West Park (3)
16	Windle (3)

Wards from 5 May 2022

1	Billinge and Seneley Green (3)
2	Blackbrook (3)
3	Bold & Lea Green (3)
4	Eccleston (3)
5	Haydock (3)
6	Moss Bank (3)
7	Newton-Le-Willows East (3)
8	Newton-Le-Willows West (3)
9	Parr (3)
10	Peasley Cross & Fingerpost (1)
11	Rainford (2)
12	Rainhill (3)
13	Sutton North West (2)
14	Sutton South East (2)
15	Thatto Heath (3)
16	St Helens Town Centre (2)
17	West Park (3)
18	Windle (3)

After 1981, the street index within the registers is in volumes starting with BLA on the spine.

BLA - BLF	Blackbrook
BOA - BOG	Bold and Lea Green
BSA – BSF	Billinge and Seneley Green
ECA – ECH	Eccleston
HAA – HAE	Haydock
MBA – MBG	Moss Bank

NEA – NEE	Newton Le Willows East
NWA – NWE	Newton le Willows West
PAA – PAG	Parr
PFA – PFC	Peasley Cross and Fingerpost
RFA – RFK	Rainford
RHA – RHG	Rainhill
SNA – SND	Sutton Northwest
SSA – SSD	Sutton Southeast
TCA – TCC	Town Centre
THA – THF	Thatto Heath
WIA – WIH	Windle
WPA – WPF	West Park

Any enquiries about the Current Electoral Register, please contact Electoral Services on elections@sthelens.gov.uk, 01744 676464.

Historical registers are kept at Eccleston Library, ecclestonlibrary@sthelens.gov.uk, 01744 677575, and St Helens Archive Service, The Gamble Building, archives@sthelens.gov.uk, 01744 671748.

4. Maps

Tithe maps are different to ordnance survey maps. Tithe maps were based on old estate maps, and the word 'tithe' originates from when landowners used to pay in tithes to the church or parish for the land they occupied. They are an excellent resource for discovering landholders, and tenants pre-census. The year 1840 saw the change of paying tithes in a percentage of payment in kind such as goods and food, to cash payments. This transition generated apportionments throughout the parish, producing accompanying maps and recording details such as landowners, land occupiers, the land's use, and the name of the field(s).

Our Tithe maps and Tithe Schedule are currently held at Ecclestone Library, along with other detailed maps of the Borough.

How to use a Tithe Map for research –

- Find out the person's address.
- Extract the relevant Tithe Map from the Map Bin
- Use an A to Z map of for enquirer's address for comparison of road shapes.
- Find the field numbers of the area that the enquirers house is built located, on the Tithe Map
- Use the Tithe Schedule to find field number
- Field number will show landowner, occupier of the land and name of field at 1840.

Tithe Map Schedules

- Use the Tithe Schedule to find field number
- Field number will show landowner, occupier of the land and name of field at 1840.

Ashton in Makerfield	1839
Billinge Chapel End	1843
Billinge Higher End	1843
Burtonwood	1839
Eccleston	1840
Haydock	1839
Newton le Willows	1839
Parr	1843
Rainford	1843
Rainhill	1843
Sutton	1843
Whiston	1842
Windle	1808
Winstanley	1838
Winwick	1848

Ordnance Survey (OS) maps were formed in 1791 and was the UK's official mapping system. Its formation was initially for the military, to observe potentials threats from overseas and sometimes from within the country, so it was important for the army to

have an accurate detailed map showing land, roads, and geographical information. For family historians, OS maps are an excellent tool to research where and how ancestors lived, and geographically, how a land changed overtime due to the construction of new homes, change in businesses, and different road layouts.

Look below at the PDF of what Ordnance Survey maps we hold, or ask a member of staff for a hard copy or to send as an attachment:

<http://calmview.sthelens.gov.uk/CalmView/Docs/Ordnance%20Survey.pdf>

St Helens Archive Service holds a collection of maps and plans donated from St. Helens Borough Council's Technical Services Department (STS) and contains:

- Boundary plans of St. Helens and surrounding boroughs
- Clearance Areas and Compulsory Purchase Orders in St Helens Council
- Geographical surveys of coal and other mineral workings in St. Helens and wider area
- Community buildings in St. Helens
- Housing Estates in St. Helens
- Industrial Sites and Survey Maps
- Land Projects and developments
- Land population and land ownership, and more.

Please contact St Helens Archive Service for more information or consult the online catalogue on www.sthelens.gov.uk/history.