

HINTS AND TIPS FOR BRITISH RESEARCH

USING



Caroline Gurney, QG, 2020

British records at MyHeritage

	Collections	Records
UK	591	1,043,289,922
England	385	441,939,520
Wales	17	157,502,313
Scotland	113	31,649,734
Isle of Man	4	1,691,014
Channel Islands	1	124,102
Ireland	110	13,994,724

Collection Catalog

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Birth, Marriage & Death

Census records

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Research > United Kingdom - Collection Catalog

591 collections with 1,043,289,922 records in United Kingdom, Europe Sort by: Number of records ▾

Collection	Last updated	Number of records
 England & Wales, Birth Index, 1837-2005 Birth Records IMAGES	July 25 2017	208,383,575
 England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 Birth Records	Dec 22 2013	192,686,202
 England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1837-2005 Marriage & Divorce IMAGES	July 31 2017	95,986,780
 England & Wales, Death Index, 1837-2005 Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries IMAGES	July 25 2017	87,011,471

All Collections 591

- Census & Voter Lists 13
- Family Trees 8
- Birth, Marriage & Death 155
- Military 38
- Immigration & Travel 1
- Newspapers 1
- Books & Publications 5
- Schools & Universities 5
- Directories, Guides & References 48
- Histories, Memories & Biographies 269
- Government, Land, Court & Wills 35
- Maps 13

Refine by location:

- Europe ✕
- United Kingdom ✕
- Refine further

Refine by years:

- 1490 - 1599 17

180 years of English/Welsh ancestry

- Births and Baptisms 1538 - 1975
- BMDs 1837 - 2005
- Censuses 1841 - 1911
- Probate Index 1858 - 1943
- 1939 Register



Geoffrey Cyril Bentley, 1919-2004



1939 Register of England & Wales

District	Lambeth	TNA Reference	RG101/0365H/006/41
County	London	Piece	0365H
Country	England	Item #	006
Date	Sep 29 1939	Line	41
Schedule	106		

Household

RELATION TO HEAD	NAME	BIRTH	MARITAL STATUS	OCCUPATION
Head	Vivian M Bentley	Oct 24 1874	Married	Printers Warehouseman
Wife (implied)	Alice Bentley	Mar 9 1882	Married	Unpaid Domestic Duties
Possible relative (implied)	Donald S Bentley	Jan 25 1915	Single	Local Government Offic
Possible relative (implied)	Geoffrey C Bentley	Dec 23 1919	Single	Civil Servant Air Ministry

Tips for the 1939 Register

- Only England & Wales available
- Bridges 1921 / 1931/1941 census gap
- Very complete as used for ration books
 - But doesn't include armed services
 - Except those on leave!
- People displaced because of evacuation
 - Children, mothers, pregnant women, teachers
- Used as basis for NHS in 1948 and updated
 - Woman's name change noted on marriage
 - Absentees / those yet to be born not published
- Redacted if under 100 and still alive



England & Wales, Birth Index

Geoffrey C Bentley

In England & Wales, Birth Index, 1837-2005

Save this record and choose the information you want to add to your family tree

Save record

Name	Geoffrey C Bentley
Birth date	Jan-Feb-Mar 1920
Birth place	 Lambeth, London, England
Mother's maiden name	Eaton
Volume	1d
Page	1151



Tips for the Birth Index

- Registration started on 1 July 1837
- Date is when event was registered
- Not necessarily date of event
- Date is quarter, not month
- Place is registration district
- Mother's maiden name given from Sep 1911
- Order certificate for:
 - Exact birth date and place
 - Parents' full names, mother's maiden name
 - Father's occupation
 - Name of informant



1911 census transcript 1

Name	Vivian McCaulay Bentley	
Gender	Male	
Birth	Circa 1875  Lofthouse, Yorkshire	
Residence	Apr 2 1911  89. Briscoe Buildings, Brixton Hill, London, London, England	
Age	36	
Marriage	Circa 1905	
Years of marriage	6	
Marital status	Married	
Occupation	Publishers Dresser	
Wife	Alice Bentley	
Children	Francis Percy Bentley Reginald Vivian Bentley	

1911 census transcript 2

Household

RELATION TO HEAD	NAME	AGE
Head	Vivian McCaulay Bentley	36
Wife	Alice Bentley	29
Son	Francis Percy Bentley	5
Son	Reginald Vivian Bentley	2
Visitor	William Munden Stewart Bentley	27

1911 census

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules 104
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
		Males	Females	Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Divorced," or "Widow," or "Widower," or "Orphan," or "Boarder," or "Servant."	Completed years of present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.					
1. <i>Viriam McLaulay Bantley</i>	2. <i>Head</i>	3. <i>36</i>	4. <i>Male</i>	5. <i>Married</i>	6. <i>6</i>	7. <i>2</i>	8. <i>2</i>	9.	10. <i>Publisher Overseas £27</i>	11.	12. <i>Widow</i>	13.	14. <i>Leighton, Yorkshire</i>	15. <i>036</i>	16.
2. <i>Alice Bantley</i>	3. <i>Wife</i>	4. <i>29</i>	5. <i>Female</i>	6. <i>Married</i>											
3. <i>Francis Percy Bantley</i>	4. <i>Son</i>	5. <i>5</i>	6. <i>Male</i>						10. <i>School</i>						
4. <i>Reginald Viriam Bantley</i>	5. <i>Son</i>	6. <i>2</i>	7. <i>Male</i>												
5. <i>William Gordon Steiner Bantley</i>	6. <i>Visitor</i>	7. <i>24</i>	8. <i>Male</i>	9. <i>Single</i>					10. <i>Specie's Assistant 320</i>		12. <i>Widow</i>		14. <i>Leighton, Yorkshire</i>	15. <i>140</i>	
6.															
7.															
8.															
9.															
10.															
11.															
12.															
13.															
14.															
15.															

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Verify that—

- All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
- I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sums with the total number of persons.
- After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have marked such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator *WJ*

Total.		
Males	Females	Persons
4	1	5

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Houses, Tenements, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

3 Rooms.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature *Viriam McLaulay Bantley*

Postal Address *19 Queen's Building, Glaston Hill & W*

Tips for the 1911 Census

- Completed by householder in own hand
- For each married woman it gives:
 - Length of marriage
 - Number of children
 - Number of children still living
 - Number of children who had died
- Often filled in by widows and widowers!
- Number of rooms including kitchen

UK CENSUS



England & Wales, Marriage Index

Vivian MacAulay Bentley

In England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1837-2005

Save this record and choose the information you want to add to your family tree

Save record

Marriage date	July-Aug-Sep 1904
Marriage place	 Kingston, Surrey, England
Volume	2a
Page	951



England & Wales, Marriage Index

Alice Eaton

In England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1837-2005

Save this record and choose the information you want to add to your family tree

Save record

Marriage date	July-Aug-Sep 1904
Marriage place	 Kingston, Surrey, England
Possible spouses (implied)	Edward V Cooper-Willis Edward Vivian C Willis
Volume	2a
Page	951



Tips for the Marriage Index

- Registration started on 1 July 1837
- Date is quarter when marriage took place
- Place is registration district
- Spouse's surname given from 1912
- Pre 1912 algorithm sometimes wrong
- Order certificate for:
 - Exact date and place of marriage
 - Full names, ages, occupations, residence
 - Marital status
 - Fathers' names and occupations

1891 census transcript

Vivian M Bentley

📄 1891 England & Wales Census

Birth	Circa 1876 - Loftus, Yorkshire
Residence	1891 - Kingswood, Lansdown Bath, For Sons of Wealeyan Ministers, Charlcombe, Charlcombe, Somersetshire, England
Relation	Scholar



Ernest J Bentley

📄 1891 England & Wales Census

Birth	Circa 1877 - Lofthouse, Yorkshire
Residence	1891 - Kingswood, Lansdown Bath, For Sons of Wealeyan Ministers, Charlcombe, Charlcombe, Somersetshire, England
Relation	Scholar



Tips for institutions in the censuses

- Institutions included:
 - Schools, hospitals, workhouses, prisons
- Special forms used
- Details of institution at start of form
- Transcribed by MyHeritage



1881 census

Under Lane, Holsworthy, Devon

15	Under Lane	1	Joseph Bentley	Head	40	Wesleyan preacher	Devon Holsworthy
			Emma H do	Wife	33		Yorkshire Barnley
			Ernest do	Son	4		Hampshire Fordingbridge
			Constance do	Dau	3		Yorkshire Loftus in Cleveland
			Joseph M. Bentley	Son	6m		Hampshire Ringwood
16			Emma Kee	Servant	18	Servant Domestic	Devon Holsworthy do Sutcombe

- Joseph Bentley, Head, 40, Wesleyan preacher, YKS Barnsley
- Emma H Bentley, Wife, 33, HAM, Fordingbridge
- Ernest Bentley, Son, 4, YKS, Loftus in Cleveland
- Constance M Bentley, Dau, 3, HAM, Ringwood
- Joseph **U** Bentley, Son, 6m, DEV, Holsworthy
- Emma Kee, Serv, 18, Servant Domestic, DEV Sutcombe

General census tips

- Don't take anything for granted
- Names not necessarily birth names
- Ages can vary widely - rounded down in 1841
- Places often generalised
- Enumerator's mistakes
- Transcriber's mistakes
- Check whether house or household
- Always check complete household
- Always check neighbours

England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1837-2005

Joseph Bentley

In England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1837-2005

Save this record and choose the information you want to add to your family tree

Save record

Marriage date	July-Aug-Sep 1868
Marriage place	 Ringwood, Hampshire, England
Spouse (implied)	Emma Harriet Munden
Volume	2b
Page	921



1851 Census

20 Larchfield Street, Hunslet, Yorkshire

John Bentley	Head	37		Linen yarn packer	YKS Barnsley
Ann do	Wife	37			Manchester
Thomas do	Son	13		at flax mill	YKS Barnsley
Joseph do	Son	11		Scholar	do do
James do	Son	9		do	do Horsforth
Alonzo do	Son	5		do	Spain (British Subject)
Ann E. Bentley		Dau	3		YKS Horsforth
John W Bentley		Son	1		YKS Hunslet

- John Bentley, Head, 37, Linen yarn packer, YKS Barnsley
- Ann Bentley, Wife, 37, Manchester
- Thomas Bentley, Son, 13, at flax mill, YKS Barnsley
- Joseph Bentley, Son, 11, Scholar, YKS, Barnsley
- James Bentley, Son, 9, Scholar, YKS, Horsforth
- Alonzo Bentley, Son, 5, Scholar, Spain (British Subject)
- Ann E Bentley, Dau, 3, YKS Horsforth
- John W Bentley, Son, 1, YKS Hunslet

England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975

Name Thomas Bentley
Gender Male
Christening Dec 16 1838
Darton, York, England
Father John Bentley
Mother Ann



Name Joseph Bentley
Gender Male
Christening Sep 27 1840
Darton, York, England
Father John Bentley
Mother Ann



Tips for Parish Registers

- Don't just rely on indexes/transcriptions
- Check originals for accuracy
- Check originals for additional information
- Baptisms - birth date, age, residence, father's occupation
- Marriages - residences, groom's occupation
- Burials - age, residence, occupation
- Vicar's remarks!
- Remember nonconformists

1901 Census

50 Dundonald Road, Wimbledon, Surrey

4	Ernest J. Bentley	Head	M	24	Draper	Worker	Yorkshire Loftus in Cleveland
	Amelia S. do	wife	M	29	Dressmaker	own room. alone	Surrey Chertsey
	Amelia C. do	Daur		1			do Englefield Green
	Ethel S. do	do		7mo			do do
	Joseph do	Father	Wid	60	Wesleyan Minister		Yorkshire Barnsley
	Joseph H. do	Brother	S	20	Assistant Schoolmaster		Devon Holsworthy

- Ernest J Bentley, Head, M, 24, Draper, YKS Loftus in Cleveland
- Amelia S Bentley, Wife, M, 29, Dressmaker, SRY Chertsey
- Amelia C Bentley, Daur, 1, SRY Englefield Green
- Ethel L Bentley, Daur, 7m, SRY Englefield Green
- Joseph Bentley, Father, W, 60, Wesleyan Minister, YKS Barnsley
- Joseph Hugh Bentley, Brother, S, 20, Assistant Schoolmaster, DEV Holsworthy

England & Wales, Index of Wills and Probates 1853-1943

BENTLEY Joseph of 103 Pelham-road Wimbledon Surrey died 7 August 1903 Administration **London** 22 August to Vivian Macaulay
Bentley commercial-clerk Effects £265 18s.



General search tips

- Search by collection
- Start broad and narrow down
- Search flexibly
- Try name variants and initials
- Try different combinations
- Search for a family member (Alonzo!)
- Use keywords (Wesleyan)

