

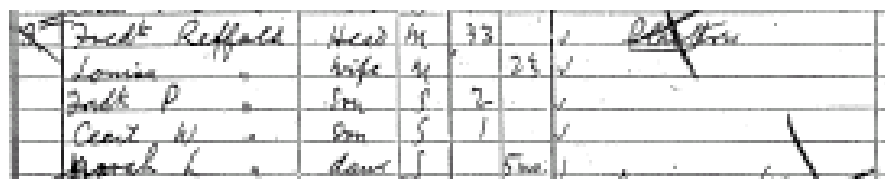
| Source | What is it? | Where Found? |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Rate Books | Records of tax – similar to Council Tax showing address and name of house owner. From the 1601 Act for the Relief of the Poor. Extended to include repair of highways and other local amenities. | Library or Archives |
| Hearth Tax Returns | Hearth Tax Act of 1662 – established a tax of 2shillings per hearth in each house as a tax. Includes name of house owner, address, number of hearths. | Archives |
| Poll Books | Began in 1696. List of voters and what they voted. The first secret ballot was in Pontefract in 1872. The information they contained varies between regions. | Library or Archives |
| Probate Inventories | List of all possessions that was presented to a court after someone died having left a will. | Ask at the Archives. |
| Wills | List of possessions, land and who the deceased bequeathed it to. | Post 1857 – District Probate Registry (York) or St Catherine's House. |
| Guardians Minute Books | Set up by the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 the workhouses were organised by a committee – the Poor Law Guardians. They had weekly meetings and minuted all proceedings. Some names of inmates are mentioned eg. Banns of Marriage. | Archives |

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|---------------------------|--|---|
| Workhouse Records | Of more use than Guardians Minute Books. Lists of inmates, date of arrival, reason for admittance or amount paid as poor relief, who brought them in to the workhouse etc. | Archives |
| Enclosure Awards and Acts | Land used to be divided into strips for tenant farmers to work. The Enclosure Acts were passed in England by Parliament from about 1760 to 1840. The enclosure acts did away with all of this public land. This meant that peasant farmers usually did not get land in the division of land. Major landowners divided up public land for themselves. | Archives |
| Church Wardens Accounts | Elected parishioners – usually the richest - were appointed to collect money from the parish and distribute it to the poorer members. Other tasks were added to this list and the job (unpaid) became very demanding. Records were kept of name of recipient, what they needed the money for and how much was paid. Began in 12th century. | Archives or churches (not many records still exist) |
| Constables' Accounts | Oldest records are from 13th century. Elected officials worked for the Justices of the Peace, they reported to the Quarter Sessions on crime statistics, state of the poor, condition of the roads, | Archives (not many records still exist) |

| Source | What is it? | Where Found? |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Overseers' Accounts | The Poor Law Act of 1601 made it the responsibility of parishes to take care of their own poor. Two rate payers were appointed (unpaid) to raise money by setting a poor rate, collect it and distribute it to the poor. Records were kept informally and vary from region to region. | Archives |
| Apprenticeship records | The Poor Law Act of 1597 allowed Overseers of the Poor to give poor children work so that they could support themselves. Compulsory apprenticeship was abolished in 1844. | |
| Bastardy Bonds | The fathers of illegitimate children were sought, again by parishes, to ensure that they took financial responsibility for their children. The mothers were encouraged to name the father of their child, which was then recorded on an official document. | Parish records |
| Apprenticeship records | The Poor Law Act of 1597 allowed Overseers of the Poor to give poor children work so that they could support themselves. Compulsory apprenticeship was abolished in 1844. | Archives Parish records |

| Source | What is it? | Where Found? |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Parish Registers | <p>A law of 1538 declared that each parish should record all baptisms, marriages and burials. Most of the earliest registers date from 1558.</p> <p>There was no standardisation of entries until the 1754 Lord Hardwicks Marriage Act which also required Banns to be read.</p> <p>In 1781 Parish Register pre-printed books were introduced which helped increase uniformity in what was recorded.</p> <p>In 1812 separate books were introduced for Baptism, Marriage and Burial. From 1813 the address of the family was included.</p> <p>Parish registers only include the “established” church records. Non-conformist churches are not included.</p> | <p>Archives</p> <p>www.familysearch.org</p> <p><i>has recorded many parish registers online – should always be double checked with the original.</i></p> |
| Bishops Transcripts | <p>A copy of the Parish Register was sent annually to the Bishop of each Diocese. Other information is included such as bastardy papers, and disputed bastardy cases.</p> | <p>Archives</p> |

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|----------------|--|---|
| Census Returns | <p>Taken every 10 years in England and Wales from 1801, usually on a Sunday night in March or April. Very little detail existed in early censuses.</p> <p>In 1851 the information was recorded with a ruled line per individual, grouped in households including each person's relationship to the head of the household.</p> <p>An enumerator filled the details into an enumeration book. The original householders' schedules from 1841 to 1901 were destroyed so that the National Statistical Office kept just the enumerators' books. The information is kept secret for 100 years. The next census to be published is that of 1911.</p> | <p>1881 census on www.familysearch.org is available free.</p> <p>1901 census costs £1 per household online.</p> <p>1891 census is being made available free on http://freecen.rootsweb.com/ but is not yet fully transcribed.</p> <p>Other paper-based censuses are available on Microfiche at Archives in the record office closest to where they were taken.</p> |



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|---|---------------|----------|----|----|----|---|---------|
| ✓ | Fredk Redford | Head | M | 33 | | ✓ | Retiree |
| | Louisa | Wife | 44 | | 24 | ✓ | |
| | John P | Son | 1 | 2 | | ✓ | |
| | Carol W | Daughter | 5 | 1 | | ✓ | |
| | Martha L | Daughter | 1 | | 5 | ✓ | |

Figure 1 Example of 1901 census for one family

| Source | What is it? | Where Found? |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Births, Marriages and Deaths | <p>Civil recording of Births, Marriages and Deaths began in 1837. Previously only the religious ceremonies of Baptism and Burial were recorded in parishes.</p> <p>The information is recorded as Surname, First name, District, volume and page number of the record. It is recorded quarterly in March, June, September and December. The event had to be reported with a certain number of weeks so, for example, occasionally a December birth could be reported in the following January and so would be given a March quarter.</p> <p>This information merely allows the full certificate to be ordered from the General Register Office.</p> <p>The certificates are not available online.</p> <p>As well as certificates being held nationally at the General Register Office, they are also held locally within Local Register Offices. These offices keep the same certificates but with a different, local, reference number. Neither system recognises the number of the other.</p> | <p>www.freebmd.org.uk www.1837online.co.uk www.ukbmd.org.uk</p> <p>General Register Office Local Register Offices</p> |

Sources for Family History

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| | Prices for certificates vary from £7.00 each at local register offices with a known local reference number to £11.50 at the General Register Office where the reference number is not known. | |
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Sources for Family History

References:

http://students.imsa.edu/~lsport05/laura_fa/enclosure%20acts.htm

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Munby, LM, Short Guides to Records, (1994), The Historical Association)