



# Using Great Britain's DocumentsOnline

Download your history...

## What is DocumentsOnline?

**DocumentsOnline** is a service of the National Archives of Great Britain. It allows you to access the National Archives' collection of digitized public records, including both academic and family history sources. Searching the index is free, and costs £3.50 to download an image.

Documents are separated into topic-based categories, which you can search or browse. They are divided into two main areas - Family History and Other Records. The same documents can feature in a number of categories, wherever it is relevant for you to find it. Here's a quick overview of what is available. Most of what they have will not go back far enough to be of value; however, those parts that are currently available are listed below. Remember, this is an on-going project, so check the site a couple of times a year to see what has been added.

### Wills

Find your ancestor's last will and testament from the complete series of more than 1 million copy wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury from 1384 to 1858.

### Death Duties, 1796 - 1811

This collection focuses on the wills and letters of administration proved in the "country courts". You can search over 66,000 names. Read more about Death Duties

### Royal Naval Seamen

Search and download the service registers of more than 500,000 seamen who joined the Royal Navy between 1873 and 1923. Read more about the registers of seamen's services

## Accessing DocumentsOnline

- Go to <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/>
- Click the **Search DocumentsOnline** button.
- Click on the desired category such as **Death Duty Registers**.
- Fill in at least the last name, but if you have a date range or a place, fill that information in.
- Click the **Search** button.
- If you have results appear, scan the list for the desired individual.
- Click the **See Details** button to see the details for the record. Do NOT expect to see the will or a transcript thereof. You will get to see the department and series as well as the date of the document. (I found one from 1654! So, dates may go back further than they list.)
- You can, of course, click on the button to order the will, but, with the information in hand, you can also just go to the Family History Library and locate the film that should contain that will.
- Click **Return to Search Results** button to go back to **Results** list.