

# Resources for researching family history:

This guide is intended as a rough overview of the material within the British Jesuit Archives that might be useful for those researching their family history. It is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather serves as a guide highlighting some collections that it may be worth starting to look at.

There may be other resources in the British Jesuit Archives which contain information of interest. If you discover other sources during your research in the Archives, please notify a member of staff so that this list can be updated for the benefit of other researchers.

Where series have been catalogued the link to the online catalogue is provided and where resources have been digitised this has been indicated in the guide. Equally where closure restrictions apply this is noted.

## JESUIT SCHOOLS

If you know that your relative attended a Jesuit school, then the following resources might be useful. In some cases, we have provided contact details for the relevant school as they are likely to have records of interest.

Since the early years of the Society of Jesus' foundation, Jesuits have been involved in education. The Jesuits established various schools in Britain, of which some are still active with close ties to the British Province.

In cases where there are no individual student records or registers, account books might be another avenue that could be explored. These financial records sometimes detail fees being paid and can therefore provide information about when a boy is likely to have attended a school.

### Stonyhurst College (1593- )

- Stonyhurst College – lists dated 1794-1886 (The *Stonyhurst Lists 1794-1886* were published by the “Stonyhurst Magazine Office” in 1886.)
- *Stonyhurst Magazine* (1881-2010, incomplete)
- *Stonyhurst Record* (2011-2018)

Stonyhurst College has its own archives <https://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/about-us/stonyhurst-college-historic-collections/archives>

### Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill (1842-2025)

- List of boys who have entered Mount St Mary's College, Chesterfield, 1842-1926 (Ref: MR/4) - alphabetical list of boys and dates of entry
- *The Mountaineer* (1905-2004, incomplete)

The archives are in process of being transferred to the British Jesuit Archives.

St Francis Xavier College, Liverpool (1842-1974)

- List of 'Pupils at St Francis Xavier College, Liverpool: 1845-1900', which appeared in the *Catholic Ancestor* in 2004. [Vol 10 No 1 p24 A-G, Vol 10 No 2 p65 H-M and Vol 10 No 3 p 100 N-Z]
- *St Francis Xavier College Magazine* (1920-1973, some later editions too)

Liverpool Record Office holds log books and other records for SFX College see

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/N13717318>

St Aloysius College, Glasgow (1859- )

- *St Aloysius College* (1949- , incomplete)

Contact the school.

Beaumont College, Old Windsor, Berkshire (1861-1967)

- [ABSI/SCH/3/7](#) lists of students, 1863-1966
- [ABSI/SCH/3/24/5](#) & [ABSI/SCH/3/24/7](#) Student Portrait Album 1861-1909
- [ABSI/SCH/3/24/6](#) Student Portrait Album 1874-1898
- [ABSI/SCH/3/8/5](#) Parents' Address Book [1896-1899]
- *Beaumont Review* (1894-1967): A series of centenary lists (of previous pupils) were published in the *Beaumont Review* in batches between October 1963 and October 1964, which provide basic general outline information on each student, e.g. years of attendance at the school. Each issue of the magazine also tends to include some short articles about recent sporting achievements and events at the College, which may be of interest.

St John's Beaumont, Old Windsor (1888-2025)

- *St John's Beaumont* (1998-2005)
- St John's Newsletter ("Roundup") (2004-2008, incomplete)

The archives are in the process of being transferred to the British Jesuit Archives.

Wimbledon College, London (1892- )

- [ABSI/SCH/1/4/1](#) Fee book 1917-1923: Lists pupils' names, amount paid and date paid.
- [ABSI/SCH/1/5/2](#) Entrance exam book: Lists names of students, date and place of birth, former school, address and examination results. Later entries do not include examination results but provide date of arrival, previous school and class.
- [ABSI/SCH/1/17](#) School photographs 1951-1967
- [ABSI/SCH/1/6/1](#) Old Boys with the Forces 1941-1943

## Resources for researching the Second World War (1939-1945)

- *Wimbledon College Magazine* (1968-1992, incomplete)
- *Wimbledonian* (1996-2016)

Contact the School.

## St Ignatius College, originally at Stamford Hill (1894-1967), now at Enfield (1967- )

- Ledger of fees 1907-1912 (821/23A)
- *The Ignatian Record* (1908-1937, incomplete)
- *Ignatian* (1943-2007, incomplete)

Contact the School.

## Donhead Preparatory School, Wimbledon (1933- )

Contact the School.

## Barlborough Hall, Chesterfield (1939-2025)

In process of being transferred to the British Jesuit Archives.

## St Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst (1946- )

- *Stonyhurst College & St Mary's Hall Magazine* (2005-2007)

## INDIVIDUAL JESUITS

If your relative entered the British (formerly English) Province of the Society of Jesus, then the following sources may contain information of interest.

- Province Registers for those who entered 1803-1914  
A Jesuit may be listed as dismissed, in which case note that 'Dismissed' is the official terminology used, but often it indicates that an individual chose to leave.
- *Little Lives* for 1877-1898 and 1904-1932.
- Annual Catalogues-digitised up to 1950 online at  
<https://arsi.jesuits.global/en/repositories/catalogs-of-new-society-of-jesus/>  
If searching for an ordination date, note that these were not generally kept and only appear in the catalogues in about 1900. It may be possible to find an ordination date by looking at the minister's register from St Beuno's or Stonyhurst, wherever the theologate was at the time, and possibly looking in *Letters and Notices*.
- *Catalogues Defunctorum*  
The *Catalogus Defunctorum* lists all the members of the Society throughout the world who died during this time period. They only include those men who died as members of the Society and not all those who entered. *Catalogus Defunctorum* are available here: <https://arsi.jesuits.global/en/repositories/catalogus-defunctorum/>

- Photograph Series – individuals catalogued online under PH/SJ:  
<https://archive.catholic-heritage.net/TreeBrowse.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&field=RefNo&key=ABSI%2fPH%2fSJ>
- Community records such as minister's log books;
- Publications:
  - *Letters and Notices* (1863- )
  - *Letters and Notices Supplement: Necrology of the English Province of the Society of Jesus, 1 Jan. 1561 – 31 Dec.1937* (Manresa Press, Roehampton, 1938).
  - *Blandyke Papers*
  - *Juvenilia*
  - *Chaplain's Weekly* (1915-1919; 1939-2011; 2014-)
  - *Jesuits & Friends* (1985- )
  - *To Our Friends* (1953-1985)
  - Missionary Magazines:
    1. British Guiana Mission Journal (1923-1934, incomplete)
    2. Missionary Magazine (1935-1960, incomplete)
    3. Jesuit Missions: A Quarterly of World Mission News (1961-1984)
- Personal papers – as individuals are catalogued and are open these are shared online under SJ <https://archive.catholic-heritage.net/TreeBrowse.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&field=RefNo&key=ABSI%2fSJ>
- Curia personnel files – as individuals are catalogued and are open these are shared online under CU/1 <https://archive.catholic-heritage.net/TreeBrowse.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&field=RefNo&key=ABSI%2fCU%2fSJ%2f1>
- Treasurer's personnel files – as individuals are catalogued and are open these are shared online under CU/TRE/1 <https://archive.catholic-heritage.net/TreeBrowse.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&field=RefNo&key=ABSI%2fCU%2fTRE%2f1>

Among the reference library the following might be of particular use when studying 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries:

- Foley's Records  
 Br Henry Foley SJ (1811-1891) was an English Jesuit Roman Catholic church historian. *Foley's Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus: historic facts illustrative of the labours and sufferings of its members in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries* – published in the late nineteenth century – is comprised of seven volumes and covers the early history of the mission and of the Jesuit priests who served it. It is a compilation of research that is invaluable to historical research, which has now been digitised by various organisations including the Hathi Trust Digital Library:
  - <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015013751642&view=1up&seq=35>

- <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015013751808&view=1up&seq=29>
- Fr Thomas McCoog SJ's biographical dictionary, *English and Welsh Jesuits, 1555-1650*, published by the Catholic Records Society in vol 74 and 75 of their Records Series.
- Fr Geoffrey Holt SJ's *The English Jesuits 1650-1829: A Biographical Dictionary*, published by the Catholic Record Society in vol 70 of their Records Series, 1984. The entry consists of outline dates for x, eg dates of birth, ordination, death etc, and also lists the manuscript and printed sources consulted by Fr Holt in the course of compiling the said dictionary.
- Volumes 1-4 of Godfrey Anstruther OP's *The Seminary Priests: A Dictionary of the Secular Clergy of England and Wales 1558-1850*.

For those who left the Society before death:

- Catalogus Dimissorum 14/3/13 if SJ left between 1807-1947.

*Catalogus Dimissorum* (14/3/13) contains both the *Catalogus Defunctorum* ab anno 1805 and the *Catalogus Demissorum e Societate* ab anno 1803-this later in the actual volume is called 'Syllabus Dimissorum ab anno 1803' and dates covered is 1807-1947.

There is a note of possible interest at the front of this book. This reads: '*The date of dismissal should be the day on which the dimittendus receives his letters of dismissal: so wrote Fr. Assistant (H. Walmesley) in Dec.1912. In my entries till then I had not adhered to any system, putting sometimes the date of Fr. General's letter according the dismissal, sometimes the date of issue of the notices informing each house of the dismissal, sometimes the date of departure of the person dismissed, + sometimes the date when he received the formal letter of dismissal. F King SJ 22.2.13*'.

If no entry is found in any of the above sources, then this would indicate that he was not a Jesuit, or no longer a Jesuit on his death. There may be other ways to trace someone who was briefly in the Society of Jesus such as through the annual catalogues.

## OTHER

Catholic directories, 1837-2013