

Family History at King's College

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Getting Started

01223 331444

It's helpful to start with as much information as possible.

For example:

- What is your ancestor's full name?
- When did he start at King's?
- Was your ancestor a student or an employee?

Researchers should be aware that:

- Archivists are bound by Data Protection so they might not be able to give out information on living individuals.
- There are gaps in the colleges records, sadly not all records survive.
- Some older documents may be in Latin.

We're on the web

www.kings.cam.ac.uk/library/archives/index.html

If you would like to visit the archive please call (01223 331444) or email the Archivist to make an appointment.

King's College, Cambridge

The College was founded by Henry VI in 1441 and is one of the 31 colleges which make up the University of Cambridge.

Unlike most universities, Cambridge does not have a central campus. It is made up of 31 autonomous colleges & over 150 departments and other institutions. Like the 'central university' each college has its own statutes, regulations and governing procedures – no two colleges are the same.



The Archive Centre at King's holds the administrative records of the College dating back to the fifteenth century. In some cases, the archive holds documents pre-dating the College's foundation. In addition to the College internal records the centre holds a very important Modern Archives collection containing the papers and records of influential and significant members of the college, both past and present, and their associates.

General Sources

- Venn and Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses* provides biographical details for all matriculated members of the university from 1650 – 1900.
- If your ancestor was famous you can try the *Dictionary of National Biography* www.oxforddnb.com (available in most public libraries)
- Many Kingsmen joined the Church so you might try the Clergy of the Church of England Database www.theclergydatabase.org.uk



King's College Foundation Charter

Research Guide

The following documents in the King's College Archives provide some clues into the lives of King's College staff and students from the 16th century to the present time. These are only a few of our records and the Archivists might be able to help you find more information about your specific area of interest.

Sources about students

F.L. Clarke's writings

F.L. Clarke was the Bursar's clerk and sub-librarian 1872-1927. He extracted prodigious quantities of information from the records to answer queries about former members, the College site, its accounts, estates, livings etc. **KCHR/3/1**

Room rents (staircase lists)

These list which students and Fellows were occupying College rooms each year. **KCAR/4/13/4**

Registers Each student record contains the name, Tripos taken, university prizes won, examination results & distinctions after College. Some entries include news cuttings. (1849 -1922)

KCAC/1/3/1/5

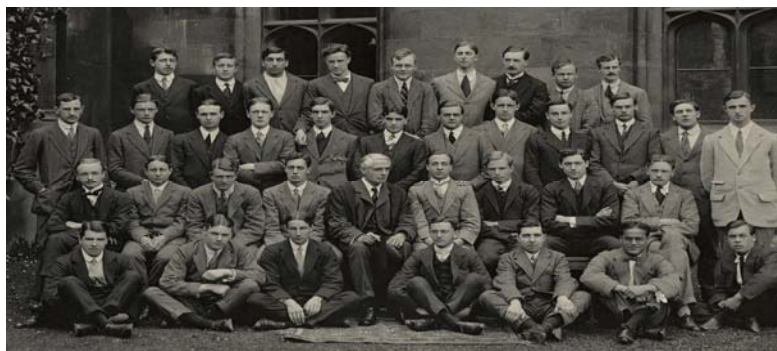
Admissions registers

These volumes record each student's signature, date of admission, date and place of birth, school, address, parent's name and profession, degree, and occasionally comments upon his subsequent career. (1865-1962)

KCAC/2/13

List of gentlemen in King's (1851) **KCAC/1/1/16**

Tutor's letter book (1918-1945) **KCAC/4/3**



Matriculation Photo 1912

Boards books (1881-1966) **KCAC/1/3/1/8**

Record of members' changes of address and academic status

Detail expanded to include military rank and death in World War I or II. (1918-1945)

KCAC/1/1/5

Absence register

In Latin (1619-1720) **KCAC/1/3/1/6**

Porters' Address Book

For students while 'off boards' (compiled in 1908-1945) for students matriculated from 1879 onwards **KCAC/1/3/1/1/9**

Sources about College staff members



Peter Wright, the College shoe black

Staff register Lists the date of employment, date of birth, allowances, marital status, hours, wages, position, pension contribution. (1960-1969) **STF/1**

Staff list Typescript list giving name, department, address, age and whether married. (1938) **STF/5**

Kitchen wages book (1899 -1919) **KCAR/5/6/12/1/1**

Kitchen and buttery records Accounts and cash books. (1884 - 1904, 1910 - 1953) **KCAR/5/6/5**

Council minute books Staff being hired and retired are often listed in the minutes. **KCGB/5**

