

Timeline of English Events

Prepared by Lee County Genealogical Society, Inc. (Florida)



- 1086 Domesday Book is completed.
- 1099 Crusaders capture Jerusalem.
- 1215 Magna Carta is signed.
- 1530 Inventories now mandatory in most probate courts.
- 1536 King Henry VIII unites England and Wales under the same system of laws and government.
- 1538 Parish registers begin.
- 1540 Statue of Wills allowed most land to be devised according to the testator's wishes, and not automatically to his heir(s). Allowed males from age 14, and females from age 12 to make wills.
- 1544 War with France.
- 1601 The Poor Law Act devised a system of relief for the poor based in the parish, which was intact until 1834 when paupers were required to enter workhouses.
- 1607 Jamestown, Virginia is founded.
- 1620 Mayflower lands in Massachusetts.
- 1634 Lord Baltimore founds Maryland as a haven for English Catholics.
- 1642 Civil War begins as Oliver Cromwell seeks to overthrow the monarchy. Record keeping until the end of the Commonwealth period (1660) is irregular.
- 1649 King Charles I is beheaded.
- 1660 Monarchy is restored under Charles II.
- 1670 Statute of Distributions enacted confirming those entitled to receive an estate in cases of intestacy.
- 1707 Act of Union forms Great Britain from the Kingdom of England, Wales and the Kingdom of Scotland.
- 1733 Parish registers keep in English instead of Latin.
- 1752 Gregorian calendar is adopted.
- 1754 Lord Hardwicke's Act outlaws marriages outside of the Church of England

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with the exception of the Quakers and the Jews.

- 1768 First edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica is published.
- 1778 End of Penal Laws.
- 1796 Death Duty Tax levied on a deceased estate.
- 1801 Ireland unites politically with Great Britain to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
First national census taken.
- 1811 Second national census taken.
- 1814 Treaty of Ghent ends final war between England and its former American colonies.
- 1821 Third national census taken.
- 1825 Great Britain repeals its anti-emigration laws.
- 1831 Fourth national census taken.
- 1837 Queen Victoria begins her reign.
Civil registration begins on July 1st.
Wills Act says nuncupative wills made invalid, except for members of the armed forces who died in combat.
- 1841 Fifth national census taken on June 7.
- 1851 Sixth national census taken between March 31 and April 8.
- 1857 Probate Act established the civil Court of Probate effective beginning 11 January 1858.
- 1861 Seventh national census taken between March 31 and April 8.
- 1863 World's first subway opens in London.
- 1871 Eighth national census taken.
- 1881 Ninth national census taken.
- 1882 Married Women's Property Act allowed married women to own their own property and be able to leave it through their will at their discretion.
- 1891 Tenth national census taken between March 31 and April 8.
- 1901 Eleventh national census taken between March 31 and April 8.

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- 1911 Twelfth national census taken between March 31 and April 8.
- 1921 Republic of Ireland separates from the United Kingdom.
Thirteenth national census taken between March 31 and April 8.
- 1925 Administration of Estates Act revised the 1670 statutes.
- 1931 Fourteenth national census taken between March 31 and April 8.
- 1940 Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister.
Hitler launches the Battle of Britain.
- 1951 Fifteenth national census taken.
- 1952 Elizabeth II becomes queen.
- 1969 Illegitimate children become entitled to benefit from their father's estate, even if unnamed in a will.