

Ideas for Non-Conformist Research

Items mentioned and more	Focus / Use it for:-
The Dictionary of Genealogy : Fitzhugh	Definition and dominations
Terminology - some indicators	Dissenters, Puritans, Ranters, Recusants, Rivalists, Radicals, Reformers, Revolutionaries. Biblical / Old Testament names
Maps eg National Library of Scotland Geo-referenced : England, Wales, Scotland	Not in Anglican Registers? What else in area? Almshouses? Burial grounds?
County Archive Collection and Research Guides	Holdings and often key dates list
Hardwick's Marriage Act 1754	Quakers and Jews exempt
Non-Conformist Records online	Ancestry card catalogue : findmypast All Records : The Genealogist : The Society of Genealogists
Note reference numbers - cross check	Deposits to The National Archives
Registers different	Sponsor, Godparent, Cradle Roll, Dates
Anglican burial ground and cemeteries	People not necessarily Ch of England
Marriage by Licence / Registry Office (No religious element post 1857)	Clue to Nonconformity? Follow up
Local History	eg Wesley visiting, 1 st meeting house
Google street view	Proximity to Churches
Quarter sessions	Licensing of premises for meetings
Parish Registers	Record birth & death? Not baptism & burial : Marriages 1754 - 1837
Jesuit gravestones, Quaker graves	Feast, Saint days / Numeric months
Marriage Certificate	Church denomination
Alan Godfrey Maps : National Library of Scotland maps online	Internal layout of church inc Minister's table, burial grounds
Church diaries	What's what, Who's who, pew rents
Localised and / or national material	Archive, Library, University Special Collections : eg Huddersfield University
Archive.org	Out of copyright publications
Local geography	Leanings of Landowner
www.genuki.org.uk	Volunteer transcriptions / Gazetteers
Trade Directories	Denominations, Ministers. Bulk Ancestry
Newspapers - British Newspaper Archive & findmypast, The Times Digital Archive	Meetings, Church openings, Obituaries, Announcements, Trustees, Hearings
British Library, London Boston Spa, Yorkshire General Catalogue	Check for denominational publications
Google searching	phrase "Thomas Smith" Exclude - opera

My Methodist Heritage websites	Pieces on people & Minsters, add yours
Education, Schools, Children's Homes	Denomination specific = travel, migration
Religious training	Where? Dissenting academies
Buildings	Specific style tendencies / terminology eg Manse, Vicarage, Lodge
Pamphlets	Celebrations and anniversaries
Distinctive elements	Dress, symbols, services
e-bay	Memorabilia and publications
Missionaries	Books, websites, atlases, narrative accounts, publications. Where? Why?
The Gazette	Announcements inc building solemnized
Church properties	Deeds especially Yorkshire, Middlesex, Dublin (+ indexing project)
Persecution	Hidden churches, Court records, lists of, Newspaper cases, Workhouses
Quarter Sessions	Meeting house licences, unrest
Archives, Libraries, Museums, Village Websites	Dedicated collections? Artefacts, Diaries
1851 Census of Religious Worship : HO 129	The National Archives, free download
Theology, Denomination background	Own Church's website, Wikipedia
Businesses, employees, suppliers, trade network, marriages, migration, Families Associations & Neighbours (FAN), Network of Trust	Burberry, Cadbury, Carrs, Clarks, Frys, Lunn Poly, Thomas Cook, Rowntrees +?

Key Dates

- 1534 : Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy established the Church of England
- 1689 : The Toleration Act. Own places of worship, teachers, priests (not Catholics)
- 1791 : The Catholic Relief Act : Own chapels and schools
- 1836 : Marriage Act : In any registered place of worship
- 1837 : Royal Commission : Deposit Registers with Registrar General : to TNA 1961
- 1898 : Marriage Act : A member of congregation authorised to act as Registrar

Select Book List

- Tracing Your Nonconformist Ancestors : Stuart A Raymond : Pen & Sword
- Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestors : Kathy Chater : Pen & Sword
- Tracing Your Roman Catholic Ancestors : Stuart A Raymond : Pen & Sword
- English Nonconformity : John Marsden : Manchester & Lancashire FHS 2006
- Nonconformist Ancestors : Eve McLaughlin
- Methodist Records for Family Historians : Richard Radcliffe
- Understanding the History & Records of Nonconformity : Patrick Palgrave-Moore
- My Ancestors were (Society of Genealogist series) Baptists, English Presbyterians / Unitarians, Inghamites, Jewish, Methodists, Mormon, Quakers, Salvation Army

National Register of Parish Registers : Guide to Anglican, Roman Catholic and Nonconformist Registers (Society of Genealogist series)
Basic Facts about : Methodist Records, Catholic Records, Quarter Sessions
The Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll : Richard Ratcliffe
Catholic Missions and Registers : Series compiled by Michael Gandy
Sources for the History of English Nonconformity 1660 - 1830 British Records Assoc.
The Compton census of 1676 : Edited by Ann Whitmore. Survey of religious affiliation
Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting-houses : Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England : HMSO
Select Websites
Check for Collection and Research Guides for individual county record offices
West Yorkshire Archive Service Non-Conformist Guide - Check reference numbers to those on Ancestry to determine the specific church https://www.wyjs.org.uk/media/69613/collection-guide-2-nonconformist.pdf
The National Archives Research Guides : http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/nonconformists/
FamilySearch Wiki : https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Non-Conformist_Churches https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Religious_non-conformity_in_England https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_and_Wales_Nonconformist_Record_Indexes_(RGA_4-8)_,1588-1977_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestation_Returns_of_1641%E2%80%931642
Parliamentary Archives : https://archives.parliament.uk/research-guides/family-history/protestation-returns-for-family-history/#
Dissenting Academies Online : background and database : Dissenting Academies Online - The Queen Mary Centre for Religion and Literature in English (qmul.ac.uk)
John Rylands Research Institute and Library : 70,000 Methodist Printed Book & Periodicals : Special Collections A to Z : https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/
Dr Williams Library : The Library of Protestant Dissent : http://dwl.ac.uk/
Biographical Index of Congregational Ministers : Surman Index - qmul.ac.uk
My Primitive Methodists : www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/
My Wesley Methodists : www.mywesleyanmethodists.org.uk/
My United Methodists : www.myunitedmethodists.org.uk/
My Methodist History : www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/
Wesley Historical Society : www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk
A Dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland : Individual people, places, connections : https://dmbi.online
Oxford Centre for Methodisms and Church History : https://ocmch.wordpress.com/
Quaker Family History Society + Will index : https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk
Quaker Collections : tinyurl.com/leeds-uni-quakers
Catholic Family History Society + Burial database : http://catholicfhs.online/
Baptist History : baptisthistory.org.uk Baptist Union of Wales : buw.org.uk
Nonconformity in Wales : welshchapels.wales
Strict Baptist Historical Society : sbhs.org.uk