

A Guide to the Key Print Sources for Genealogists at the Library of The Royal College of Surgeons of England

Photocopying

The suitability of material for photocopying should be checked with library staff as some sources may be fragile.

Sources which provide good background information on the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Barbers and Barber-Surgeons of London: a History of the Barber's and Barber-Surgeon's Companies by Jessie Dobson and R Milnes Walker, published 1979

Council Minutes, Royal College of Surgeons of England – contains summarised proceedings of college business, 1880-2004

The Royal College of Surgeons of England: a History by Zachary Cope, published 1959

The Royal College of Surgeons of England: 200 years of history at the Millennium by John P. Blandy & John S. P. Lumley, published 2000

Current journals produced by the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England – 1947 onwards
The official surgical journal of The Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England – 1983 onwards
The Bulletin is aimed at keeping fellows, members and affiliates informed of College business and interests.

Sources of information on members and fellows of The Royal College of Surgeons of England

Corporation of Surgeons Lists (the predecessor to the Royal College of Surgeons of England) – 1777-1799
Useful for those tracing ancestors practising before 1800.

Calendar, Royal College of Surgeons of England – 1868-1963
Contains lists of members and fellows of the College as well byelaws, charters and regulations of the College.

List of Fellows, Royal College of Surgeons of England – 1964-1999 Incomplete.

List of Members, Royal College of Surgeons of England – 1800-1867
Lists those who were members of the College and sometimes the date they became a member and their place of residence.

Royal College of Surgeons Examination Books – 1745-1800

These state the date of passing and town of residence and are useful for tracing members of the College prior to 1800.

Plarr's Lives of the Fellows – 19th century-2002

A collection of biographical memoirs of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Journals

British Medical Journal – 1853 onwards

Useful for locating obituaries and also contains an index.

The Lancet – 1823 onwards

Also contains obituaries and each volume contains an index.

Medical sources

The Dentist's Register – 1879-2002

18th Century Medics by PJ and RV Wallis, published 1985

Contains details of subscriptions, licences and apprenticeships.

Medical Directory – from 1845

Lists physicians, surgeons and general practitioners giving qualifications, place of residence and other noteworthy information.

Medical Register – from 1859

A register of all qualified medical practitioners in the UK. Similar to the *Medical Directory*.

Munk's Roll – 1518 onwards

A list of obituaries of all former fellows of the Royal College of Physicians.

Society of Apothecaries Calendar – 1894 -1897

Contains a list of licentiates of the society.

Society of Apothecaries List of Licentiates – 1815-1850, 1854-1894

Lists those qualified to practise as apothecaries or apothecaries' assistants with date of qualifying and place of residence.

Military Sources

Medical Officers in the British Army by Sir Robert Drew, published 1968

A list of commissioned medical officers of the army 1660-1960.

Navy Lists – Various issues from 1808-1944

Contains lists of ships, establishments and Officers of the fleet, including those who were Navy surgeons.

Overseas Sources

Medical directories for Australia, Canada, South Africa (various years)
Useful for tracing international members and fellows.

General Biography

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Biographies of people who shaped the history of the British Isles and beyond.

Who's Who, various editions

International Medical Who's Who, published 1985