

Information sheet no 072

Naval officers: sources of information

The following are a variety of sources that can be used for tracing relatives by surname who were naval officers. Please note that all those listed are secondary sources. For primary sources of personnel records for both officers and ratings, please consult Information Sheet no 47 (Naval and maritime information sources).

Items marked * are available on open access in the NMRN Library Reading Room.

Personnel lists

Navy lists: 1797-current edition*

Sea Officers lists: 1807-1846

Collective biographies: naval

Campbell, John ***Lives of the British Admirals***. 8 vols. 1817*

Charnock, John ***Biographia Navalis*** 6 vols. 1798 (coverage of naval personnel from 1600) (index in each volume – special cumulative index being prepared) *

Marshall, John ***Royal Naval Biography*** 12 vols. 1823-1830 (coverage from 1760-1820) (with index)*

O'Byrne, William ***Naval Biography*** 2 vols. (reprint) Originally published 1848 (coverage 1800-1861 of naval officers still living in 1845)*

Ralfe, J ***Naval Biography of Great Britain*** 4 vols. (coverage of naval personnel during the reign of George III 1760-1820)*

Syrett, David & Di Nardo R L ***Commissioned Sea Officers 1660-1815****

Collective biographies: general

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Journals

Gentleman's Magazine 1731-1865 (index in each volume)

London Gazettes 1776-1986

Naval Chronicle 1799-1818 (with index)*