

Session Title: Tracing your industrial laborer ancestors**Presenter Name: Dr Nick Barratt**nickdavidbarratt@gmail.com**Class Description:**

This presentation will help you to identify any English ancestors who worked as industrial laborers and discover more about their everyday lives.

What to Expect:

The session will provide an introduction to some of the key sources you'll need to use if you discover you have English industrial laborers in your family tree from the late eighteenth century onwards, covering key professions such as coal miner, factory worker, foundry laborer or railway construction staff. It will explain some of the basic first steps you'll need to take, with a particular focus on local history so that you understand more about the area or community in which they lived, and how they changed rapidly with the onset of factories, workers cottages and new transport links..

The session will explore how to trace the history of the various towns and cities where they worked, which may give you more information on their employment conditions, tasks and activities. It will also cover a range of areas related to daily life, such as sport, leisure, politics and religion, as well as introduce various archives and museums that contain images, tools and machinery that they would have used when working as well as immersive experiences so you can get a sense of their daily routines.

Skill Level:

Intermediate to advanced

Objectives:

- Identify an industrial laborer
- Undertake key steps to establish which industry and company they worked for so that you can undertake further searches of relevant records in archives or online
- Explore what their lives were like, including political beliefs, economic status and wider community environment

Reading list:

My ancestor worked in textile mills, Adèle Emm (2020)

My ancestor was a coalminer, David Tonks (2003)

Railway ancestors, David Hawkings (2001)

Online guides and links:

Context

[Towns and cities - The National Archives](#)

Locating a company or personnel records

[Companies and businesses - The National Archives](#)

[Company and business history records held by other archives - The National Archives](#)

[Mines and mining - The National Archives](#)

[Railways - The National Archives](#)

[Railway workers - The National Archives](#)

Industrial life

[Poverty and the Poor Laws - The National Archives](#)

[Workhouse inmates and staff - The National Archives](#)

[Newspapers - The National Archives](#)

[Labour history records held by other archives - The National Archives](#)

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/queen-street-mill-textile-museum>

<https://weaverstriangle.co.uk/onthebanks/onthebanks.htm>

<https://www.visitlancashire.com/things-to-do/helmshore-mills-textile-museum-p7153>

<https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories>

<https://www.ironbridge.org.uk/>

<https://www.beamish.org.uk/>

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/>