

| Repository, Reference and website ¹ | Details of collection | Coverage |
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| TNA ² BT 98 Musters | Masters of merchant vessels required to keep a muster, filed by year and port ³ Sometimes named full crew, but often only master and number of crew. Not online. | 1747 onwards |
| TNA CUST 66/227 | Muster Rolls for ships registered at Plymouth. | 1776 – 1780 |
| TNA CUST 91/111 - 112 | Muster Rolls for ships registered at Scarborough | 1747 - 1765 |
| TNA IR1 | UK Registers of Duties paid on apprenticeship indentures | 1710 - 1811 |
| TNA IR1 | Duties paid on apprenticeship indentures 1774 onwards – no index, so search by year. 1793 – 1802: Master index. | 1710 - 1811 |
| TNA17 SoG ⁴ | Index to apprentices, and to apprentice masters named within apprentice entries | 1710 - 1774 |
| CRO ⁵ | Charitable and parochial apprenticeships were not subject to duty so were not usually included. Look at parish records for these. | Parish c.16c onwards. Charities might be medieval |
| TNA BT 150 TNA BT 150 | Apprentices indentured in the Merchant Navy | 1824 - 1910 |
| MHA ⁶ | c.70% of surviving crew lists and agreements | 1863 – 1938 and |
| TNA BT 99 | 10% sample of agreements and crew lists 100 % of surviving agreements and crew lists 10% of surviving agreements and crew lists | 1861 – 1938 1939 – 1950 1951 - 1994 |
| NMM ⁷ | 10% of surviving agreements and crew lists | 1861 – 1938 and 1951 - 1976 |
| CRO | Agreements and crew lists. | 1863 - 1913 |
| FMP | Index to crew lists | 1861 - 1913 |
| TNA BT 98 TNA RG9 – RG13 | Ship or Crew lists 1851 – 1901 compiled from BT 98 (1851) and census returns, searchable by name | 1851 - 1901 |
| MHA | CD Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada: Masters and seamen | 1863 - 1914 |
| NLW ⁸ | Crew lists transcriptions for vessels registered at the port of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion | 1856 – 1914 |
| TNA BT 120 | Registers of Service introduced for Merchant Seamen in 1835. Included: registered no., name, age, place of abode, rank and details of the vessel where currently serving | 1835 – 1836 |
| TNA BT 112 | 2 nd Register: Included: registered no., name, age, place of abode, rank and details of voyages undertaken | 1835 - 1844 |
| TNA BT 119 | Surname index to registers of service | 1835 - 1844 |
| TNA BT 113 | Registered ticket system. Tickets might include description of seaman, date of first sea trip, whether previous service in RN, and address. | 1844 – 1853 (abolished) |
| TNA BT 114 | Index to tickets giving name, place of birth and ticket no. | 1845 - 1854 |
| TNA BT 115 | Alphabetical Register of Masters compiled from the register of Seamen's Tickets kept be the General Registry and Record Office of Seamen | 1845 - 1854 |
| TNA BT 116 | Register listing seamen alphabetically by name, giving age, place of birth and details of voyages (ship's name, date and port of departure) | 1853 – 1857 (abolished) |
| TNA BT 158 | Details of births, marriages and deaths from ships' log books passed to the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen | 1854 - 1890 |
| NMM | UK & Ireland Masters' and Mates' Certificates | 1850 - 1927 |
| TNA 240/43 | Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Service Records by date of seniority | 1915 - 1920 |
| TNA BT 348 | Central Index, Numerical Series arranged numerically by discharge A numbers. | 1921 - 1941 |

¹ Yellow highlight = availability on the website Ancestry £ (www.ancestry.co.uk) Blue highlight = Find My Past £ (www.findmypast.co.uk), purple highlights = The Genealogist £ (www.thegenealogist.co.uk)

² The National Archives, Kew

³ South Shields/other northern ports from 1747; Plymouth 1761; Dartmouth 1770; Liverpool 1772; other ports from 1800

⁴ Society of Genealogists

⁵ County Record Office/local archive

⁶ Maritime History Archive, Memorial University of Newfoundland

⁷ National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

⁸ National Library of Wales

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| TNA BT 348/1 | Central index to Register of Seamen: numerical series | 1921 - 1941 |
| TNA BT 348/2 Microfilm | Central index to Register of Seamen: a small alphabetically arranged supplementary series of cards (CR2), which do not have discharge 'A' numbers associated with them. Surnames beginning with the letters A to Y | 1921 - 1941 |
| TNA BT 349 | Central Index to Register of Seaman: Index to the cards for 1921 – 1941, and also discharge no. of each seaman | 1921 - 1941 |
| SAO D/PM25⁹ | Original register cards archived here. Index and images available on Find My Past. | |
| TNA BT 382 | "5 th Register" information similar to the 4 th Register | 1941 - 1972 |
| TNA BT 372 | Seaman's Pouches: Records relating to individual seamen filed together in a pouch. In order of discharge number. Might include application forms (most with a photograph of the seaman), certificates, identity cards, cessation documents and notifications of death. The contents of any particular pouch, however, may cover any period starting after 1913 and ending up to c2002. When seamen were discharged some or all of their documents (including the index cards) were placed in the pouches, and these include discharges of seamen who were originally registered in the Central Index Register of 1913 to 1941. | 1913 - 1972 |
| TNA BT 158, BT 159 and BT 160 | Registers of births, marriages and deaths at sea (Merchant Navy only) from the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen | 1854 - 1891 |
| FMP | Records of births, marriages and deaths at sea on British registered ships (Royal Navy and Merchant Navy) registers of maritime births (1854-1960), marriages (1854-1972) and deaths (1781-1968) drawn from various TNA record series (including records in ADM, BT, CO, FO and CUST departments) as well as from the GRO. For some years, however, there are no records at all. | 1781 - 1972 |
| Censuses Censuses TNA BT 98 | Search Ancestry census collections using "vessels" as the parish of residence. Search The Genealogist selecting Occupational followed by Shipping Crew Lists Shipping lists compiled from the Shipping Agreements and Crew Lists | 1851 – 1901 1851 |

| Website | Address/link | Information |
|---|--|--|
| The National Archives (TNA) | Research guides keywords - The National Archives | Guidance to specific Merchant Seamen sources |
| The National Maritime Museum (NMM) | Research guide A3: Tracing family history from maritime records Royal Museums Greenwich (rmg.co.uk) | Guidance about maritime records specific to family history |
| NMM | Research guide C8: The Merchant Navy: Wrecks, losses and casualties Royal Museums Greenwich (rmg.co.uk) | Guidance to the various sources for tracing wrecks, losses and casualties |
| TNA | Births, marriages and deaths at sea or abroad - The National Archives | Guidance to collections and online availability |
| TNA | Abbreviations in Merchant Navy records - The National Archives | |
| Maritime History Archive at the Memorial University of Newfoundland | Maritime History Archive (mun.ca) | Collects and preserves documents relating to the history of maritime activities in Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout the North Atlantic world. Includes British crew lists and other records. |
| Lloyd's Register of Ships | Lloyd's Register Of Ships Online Archive & Library Heritage & Education Centre (lrfoundation.org.uk) | |
| Books, Boxes and Boats | https://www.maritimearchives.co.uk/ | Excellent site detailing information and sources online and off it including Lloyds |
| Crew List Index Project (CLIP) | www.crewlist.org.uk | Excellent search site for ships, ships' numbers and seafarers |
| Mariners | http://www.mariners-l.co.uk/ | "Researching your Mariner Ancestors and the Ships they sailed on". Dated, but many links, resources and information. |

⁹ Southampton Archives

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| Royal Museums Greenwich | Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital registers, 1826-1930 Royal Museums Greenwich (rmg.co.uk) | Details of the hospital record collection, online and off it. |
| Centre for Maritime Historical Studies | https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/research/centres/maritime | Under "Resources" is a section on Maritime and Naval Ancestors |
| Maritime & Coastguard Agency | https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency | For service records after 1972 |
| P & O Heritage | https://www.poheritage.com | Information and links to P&O's history |
| Guidance for Births, Marriages & Deaths at sea and abroad | https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/birth-marriage-death-sea-or-abroad/ | National Archive Research Guide |
| Overseas births, marriages and deaths and burials on FMP | https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-armed-forces-and-overseas-births-and-baptisms https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-armed-forces-and-overseas-banns-and-marriages https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-armed-forces-and-overseas-deaths-and-burials | Subscription is necessary, but free trial periods are available. Check the coverage of the records in the information on the search pages. |

| Book/Source | Where held | Coverage | Notes |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Lloyd's List | Caird Library at NMM (Greenwich), Guildhall Library (London), Merseyside Maritime Archives & Library (Liverpool), Southampton Central Library, National Library of Scotland (Edinburgh) | 1741 - present | Shipping intelligence Further information: Lloyds List (maritimearchives.co.uk) |
| Lloyd's Register of Ships | Maritime Museum at Greenwich Lloyd's list Royal Museums Greenwich (rmg.co.uk) TNA | 1764 - 2017 | Journal. More recent dates need pre-booking at the NMM |
| Mercantile Navy List | Maritime Museum at Greenwich The Mercantile Navy list. Royal Museums Greenwich (rmg.co.uk) TNA. Details of online copies: Mercantile Navy List (maritimearchives.co.uk) | 1850 - 1983 | Journal. 1951 – 1977 needs pre-booking. |

Bibliography: (ask in your county or city library if any of the older books are in the reserved stack)

Tracing your Merchant Navy Ancestors by Simon Wills (Pen & Sword, Barnsley, 2012) [Useful bibliography included]

My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman by Christopher and Michael Watts (2nd ed) (London: SoG Enterprises, 2011)

Records of Merchant Shipping and Seamen by Kelvin Smith, Christopher T Watts and Michael J Watts (Kew 1998) [Useful bibliography included]

Ancestral Trails by Mark Herber (SoG 2005)

A History of the British Merchant Navy by R Woodman (5 Volumes: The History Press 2008 – 2010)

A Guide to the Lloyd's Marine Collection by D T Barriskill (London 2006)

The British Merchant Service by R J Cornwall-Jones (London 1898)

The Merchant Navy – A Social History by Captain A G Course (Frederick Muller Ltd, 1963)

Seafaring Under Sail: the life of the merchant seaman by Basil Greenhill and Denis Stonham (Patrick Stephens Ltd 1981)

Shipping: a survey of historical records edited by Peter Mathias and AWH Pearsall (Newton Abbot 1971)

Tracing your Naval Ancestors by Bruce Pappalardo (Kew 2003)

Making Sense of the Census Revised: Census Records for England and Wales, 1801-1901. by Edward Higgs (London 2005)

The Merchant Fleets series by Duncan Hawes

LUCY BROWNE GENEALOGY

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