



Cam & Dursley Family History Group.

Purpose of the group:-

- To share experiences (triumphs and frustrations)
- To gain help and advice
- To improve research skills and knowledge
- To enjoy the fellowship of other researchers.

Purpose to be achieved by:-

- Sharing resources
- Arranging local instruction
- Visits to relevant places
- Monthly meetings
- Using the Internet and email to research and communicate.

Monthly meetings:-

- Generally split in 2. 1st half to be a 'topic', 2nd half to be general discussion, questions, and helping each other.
- Ideally the meeting 'topic' can be a short presentation of a group member's research especially if they have made an exciting discovery, or have found an ancestor with an interesting bit of history, or to explain how they have arrived at a dead end. Could be an external speaker, or the leader may give a presentation.
- Usually, 4th Monday in the month at 2.30pm.
- Normally held in the back room of the Dursley Methodist church, but may be elsewhere.
- Meeting may be replaced by a visit in the month.
- There will be a cost per attendee per meeting to cover the room hire and refreshments. Visits or external speakers will be extra.
- Volunteers for a refreshments rota would be appreciated.

Possible different objectives of research – you choose which:-

- Find the earliest ancestor.
- Find living distant relations. (ie find earlier ancestors, then work down to modern times).
- Detail what family members did in a war.
- Find 'black sheep', criminal, or royalty connections.
- Find out ancestor's living conditions or other aspects of ancient life.
- Who lived in my house in the past?
- Show family members their connections to their ancestors.

Tips:-

- Don't always take other people's word for it. Memories fade or could be embellished. Take special care to validate anything found on other people's trees on the Internet.
- Ancestry, Findmypast, British Newspaper archive and several others can be accessed FREE on the library computers. All you need is a library card.

- Keep a ‘to-do’ list of all the things you come across that are of interest, but not important for your current task. You can return to these at some other time.
- Make sure you record the source information (ie where you found the information.). If from the Internet or Google search, then keep a record of the web address.
- Talk to living family (or even neighbours and friends) before it is too late.

Potential sources:-

- Family members.
- Birth, Marriage, death (BMD) indices and certificates.
- Parish records (usually in county record offices)
- Census (every 10 years from 1841 to 1921)
- 1939 register.
- National Archives, Kew.
- War medals and pension records.
- Ship’s passenger lists
- Wills and probate
- Gravestones – photos and transcribed inscriptions.
- Gloucester constabulary archive.
- Commonwealth war graves
- Various occupation records.
- Crime, prison, workhouse records
- Local history societies.
- Google!

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