

Family History

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Session 2

Topics for this week

- Searching on-line - FamilySearch.org;
- Civil Registrations – BMDs
 - aka Vital Records
- Censuses

Searching on-line

- Work backwards from what you are sure about
- Uses Indexes & transcriptions
 - **imperfect** but sometimes it's all we have
 - Errors types:
 - Authors and/or transcriber
 - Lies/inaccurate/incomplete info from ancestors, gaps,
 - Lost docs - fires, wars, incompetence's, church mice
 - Assume some of your own info may be wrong e.g. Anglicized form

Overcoming errors

- Use broader search terms - less chance of missing 'the' record
 - Spelling was only formalised in late C19
- Use Wildcards – replace letter(s) with *
- Soundex – mainly used by ScotlandsPeople
 - Sounds like
- NameX – modern version of close word matching

Family Search.org

<https://www.familysearch.org>

- Latter Day Saints (LDS) aka Mormons
 - [Myth - they re-baptise dead people!!!]
 - Free, large & worldwide coverage and DYNAMIC, but coverage varies per country
 - Was called IGI – just bapts & marriages; unverified!
 - Now all LDS records are re-indexed → quality higher
 - See: 'browse by location'; home page; 'learn more' wiki

Civil Registration - BMDs

- Births, Marriages & Deaths (BMDs) - certificates
 - Compulsory in England & Wales – from 1837 [Victorian idea]
- Local Registrar Offices - Hold the **originals**
 - Search UKBMD – obtain the **local** reference details
 - <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>
- General Registration Office (GRO) – Copy of local
 - Search on FreeBMD -
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>
- Bapts, Marriages & Burials – recorded by churches [1538-date]


Obtaining Certificates

- Postal system usually;
 - need the ref index details from FreeBMD
 - local & GRO refs differ
- Need to register & log-in via p/w sent by email
 - Pay £9.25 on-line (it is £11 at local registries....)
 - You do not need to pay more than this!

.General Register Office

- Go to the website
 - <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp>
 - Click ‘Order certificates online now’, then....
 - [Order Certificates Online and search the GRO historic birth and death indexes](#), then ...
 - Register & note your password somewhere [for next time]
 - Now you can ‘Search the GRO Indexes’, but not for Marriages – you need to know those from FreeBMD
 - Or, you can ‘Place an Order’ if you know the reference

Ordering your Certificate

- Choose your certificate TYPE
- Complete the boxes with a red star at least
- Enter 'surname', 'forename', 'gender', then  enter 'year' & 'quarter'
 - Change 'exact matches only' if necessary
- Enter registration details
 - Year, quarter, district, volume & page come from GRO or FreeBMD
 - Check details to checkout

FreeBMD

- See: <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>
 - Almost complete...
 - Save your search - next time you only see new entries
- Commercial sites
 - FMP has best search facility; has pre 1984 indexed
 - Ancestry has FreeBMD index 1837-1915 & own index 1916-83

Census 1841-1911

- 3 different transcriptions & errors - all commercial
 - **Ancestry**
 - **FMP/GR/1911census/Origins**
 - **The Genealogist/RootsUK**
- 1841: Place of birth - only yes/no to ‘in this county?’
 - Adult ages rounded to down (after 15 yrs old) [to 0 or 5]
 - Taken in July so missed some folks due to harvesting
- 1851-1911 taken at Easter, better age, place of birth
- 1911: Record page for each individual household
 - Extra details: Years married; signature of head; no. rooms

Sources of census records

- The National Archives [TNA] 1911-1841
 - Here is the Census guide:
 - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/census-records.htm>
 - 1841-1911 - free individual info, not household
- FamilySearch
 - <https://familysearch.org/search/> - input own info
 - Free for individuals, but commercial sites for household
- FreeCen - Only 1841-1891 covered demo
 - <https://www.freecen.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>
 - Limited coverage – Staffs coverage poor

Interesting Census

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The names should be written in full.

The contents of this Schedule will be treated as confidential. Great care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX		MARRIAGE				EDUCATION or ACQUISITION of English and other spoken languages				SINGLENESS of last person	NATIONALITY of last Person last in a Foreign Country	INFANTILE	
		Age in Years	Age in Months	Male	Female	Married	Widowed	Single	Divorced	General Education	Learning or Service with which English is connected				Other Languages spoken or written in the House
1. <i>Johnnie</i>															
2. <i>Katherine</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>46</i>		<i>Single</i>											
3. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>Single</i>											
4. <i>Maria</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>24</i>													

*No Note No Census
 I am intelligent enough
 to fill in this Census form
 I can surely make a X
 on a Ballot Paper.
 I would Barakham
 192 Elm Road*

The National Archives Catalogue
 reference: RG 14/2277

Do to fill up by the Enumerator

1. Name of Enumerator	2. Date	3. District	4. Ward

Do to fill up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in connection with the filling up of this Schedule.

Write below the Number of Names in the Schedule (Women, Servants, or Apprentices, being the children of a man, but do not count military, hospital, sailors, soldiers, and workmen, etc., etc.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: _____
 Postal Address: _____