Family History - Getting Started

- What are you looking for?
- Write down what you know/remember
 - names, dates, stories, memories
- Ask the family talk to elders
 - start now!!
- Check old family documents, photos etc.
- · Create basic pedigree family tree
 - put you or parent as starting point
- Work backwards in time from known facts

Main Sources of Information

- Official certificates
 - record key events of life birth, marriage, death
 - introduced in 1837
- BMD indexes
- Census every 10 years (1841-1911)
 - address, who lived there, ages, where born, relationship, occupation
- Parish records baptisms, marriages & burials
 - can date back to 1600s but not full coverage
 - many registers missing or unreadable

Where to look

- County Archives/Record Offices/Libraries
 - census, PRs, BMD indexes (microfiche/original)
 - access to commercial FH websites
- Churches, cemeteries
- Family History societies
- Lots of websites!!

Useful Websites

- Ancestry, Find My Past (pay sites)
 - censuses, some PRs, BMD index
 - military, criminal, ship passenger records
- BMD Index sites GRO, FreeBMD
- LancashireBMD & other county BMD sites
- LancsOPC & other county OPCs
- Family Search (LDS site)
- Newspaper Archives free with library card?
 - court cases, inquests, BMD notices
 - business ads, society meetings & events

Other Sources

- Wills & Probate records
- Newspaper archives
- Military records
- Electoral rolls
- Criminal records
- School records
- · Business directories
- Ship passenger lists
- Books

Keeping Records

- Lots of papers, notes, ideas, certificates etc. what to do?
- First Information Sheet
- Pedigree Chart
- Research log
 - where looked, what found & didn't find
- Consider ring binders for each family line
 - transparent sleeves

Website Search – Can't find someone?

- Use name & spelling variations
 - "soundex", wildcard
 - search by first name, nickname, relative's name
- Try less information in search
- Check coverage e.g. dates, places
- Census
 - look for family members
 - address search, neighbours search
 - reverse names in search
 - check census missing pages list







































