

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 1

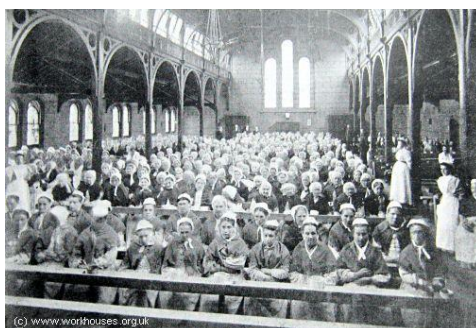


What's your plan for this weekend?

### WORKHOUSES

Union Workhouse admission and discharge registers are arranged by admission date; therefore finding an ancestor can be difficult.

Look for creed records instead. The entries in these registers (usually starting in 1876) are arranged alphabetically by surname. They also list all admissions and discharges, with dates.



### USING SUBSCRIPTION SITES FOR FREE

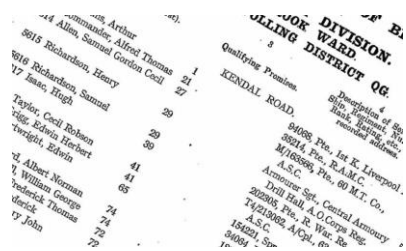
Many websites, such as Ancestry and FindMyPast, offer free trials from time to time usually lasting for 7, or even 14, days



It is therefore a good idea to build up a list of searches you want to do, from all branches of your family tree, and tackle them all in one go



## WORLD WAR ONE SURVIVORS



If you're researching a First World War survivor and don't know his unit - but know where he lived - then try the **ABSENT VOTERS' LIST** for 1918-1921 which survive at many record offices and libraries

Online, FindMyPast have them at: [https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-absent-voters-lists-1918-1921?fbclid=IwAR3YY7bF6n-IqmLW5kP9GFG0u5u0kTaCb6dsIR6ykRFTU\\_uY2yt-JDnGzWk](https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-absent-voters-lists-1918-1921?fbclid=IwAR3YY7bF6n-IqmLW5kP9GFG0u5u0kTaCb6dsIR6ykRFTU_uY2yt-JDnGzWk)

Find out more details at: <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/finding-soldiers-through-the-1918-absent-voters-lists/?fbclid=IwAR3Vc20IE6iD5uUqVY4t6SZG6Vc5yFNr4hpHjGAqHeepLgBfY2GmwD9-PWk>

## USING BRITISH NEWSPAPERS TO EXTEND YOUR SEARCH



Digitised online newspapers can be found at: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> , The British Newspaper Archive (BNA), where searching is free but, to view the content in a newspaper page image, there is a choice of time-limited Pay As You Go or subscription packages.

FindMyPast have uploaded much of the BNA at <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/newspaper-archives/british-newspapersso?fbclid=IwAR20gpJLAMpq7bZE9EgOMY9z98BkYN5nI3dTqVrcVgc335ltMPa62jDOTiw> so, if you subscribe to the 'Pro' package, you will have access to 22 million newspaper pages.

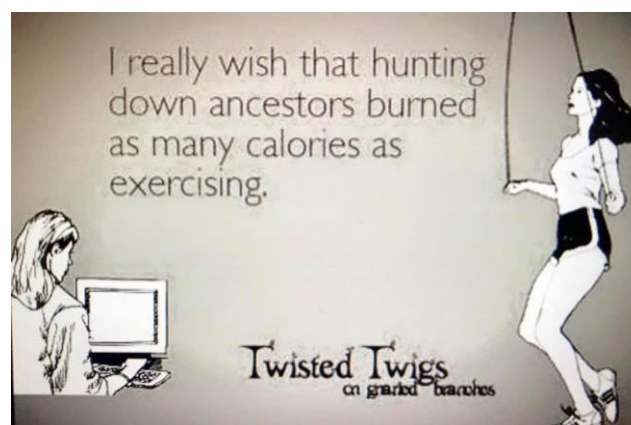
There is also a useful guide at [https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/newspapers/?fbclid=IwAR26hBlxhWbbAni\\_g1XZUHgHCqkZHWMCebgCQ-KXDjkUDLGQ4SA\\_e-Hj1-w](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/newspapers/?fbclid=IwAR26hBlxhWbbAni_g1XZUHgHCqkZHWMCebgCQ-KXDjkUDLGQ4SA_e-Hj1-w) , The National Archives (TNA)

You may find details of your ancestors in the Births, Marriages and Deaths sections of local newspapers:

- Births may just be an announcement of a new baby's arrival but, if your ancestor was 'of the middling sort', there may be more detail about the baby's parentage
- Sometimes there are detailed reports of weddings, including what the bride wore, where the reception was held and other priceless details. There may even be a photograph
- Obituaries will provide so much more than just a death certificate. When little may be known about an individual, other than birth, marriage, occupation and death, an obituary will often reveal all kinds of extra details leading to further investigation

If your ancestor was mixed up in any sort of scandal, look for newspaper reports to find out more. For example, you may have come across, sadly, a case of suicide. Not many Coroners' Reports survive but you may be able to find a report of an inquest in newspapers.

Watch out! Make sure the person in the newspaper article is indeed your ancestor and not simply someone with the same name. Look for details such as an address, occupation, the name of a relative or any other information in the article to compare with your other sources and confirm their identity.



## CHECK YOUR TIMELINES!

You think you have found an ancestor's place of residence in an electoral roll but – double check - if he was only 2 years old at the time, you cannot have the correct individual, can you?

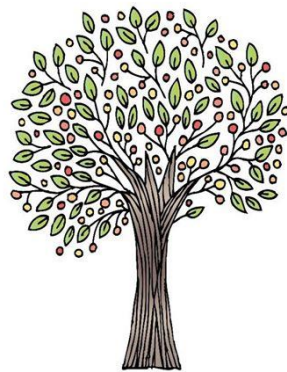
Similarly, you find someone in the 1939 Register, in the right place and with what seems to be the likely birth date, and add him to your tree. The trouble is you then add his death – in 1937?

How many of us have struggled with a forebear who seems to lose years as s/he grows older? It may be that one child died as an infant and a sibling who came along later was given the same name. Check deaths/burials as well as births/baptisms.

## Family Timeline

showing 1-20 of 101 events | [reverse order](#)

1789	October 4, 1789	Birth of John Millard Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire
1802	1802	Birth of Andrew Thomas Hamilton Glasgow, Scotland
1804	1804	Birth of Jane Lucas Shoreditch, Hackney, Middlesex, England
1807	August 13, 1807	Birth of Isabella Sue McBain UK
1808	November 20, 1808	Birth of Thomas Watts Southwark, Surrey, England
1810	March 8, 1810	Birth of Elizabeth Ann Potto Hadleigh Suffolk, England
1819	July 4, 1819	Birth of Benjamin Boulton Hoover Stafford Township Renfrew, Upper Canada
1821	May 19, 1821	Birth of Charles Foshay NB, Canada
	1821	Birth of John Orser Northumberland, Ontario
1824	August 19, 1824	Birth of Frances Poff County Kerry, Ireland *
1825	September 25, 1825	Marriage of John Millard and Jane Lucas Greater London, UK
1830	December 3, 1830	Birth of Rhoda Cronk Babbitt Gagetown, NB, Canada
1831	October 21, 1831	Birth of Henry Richard Millard UK

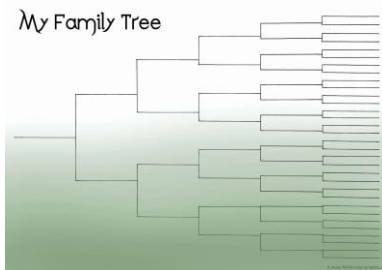


If we know where we came  
from, we may better know  
where to go. If we know  
who we came from,  
we may better  
understand who we are



# HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 2

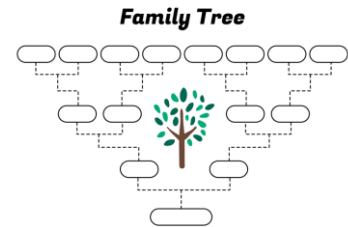
## FAMILY TREE TEMPLATES



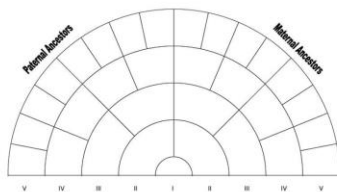
10 generation pedigree chart



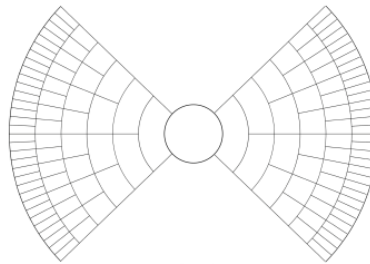
Pedigree chart with the root person on the right



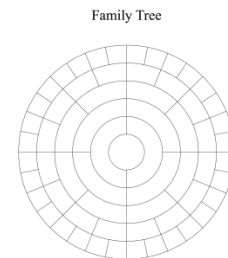
Cascade



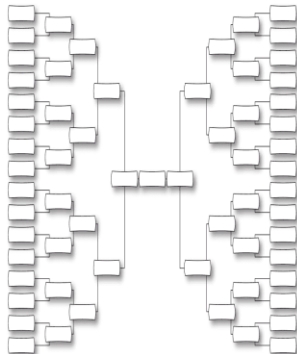
Fan



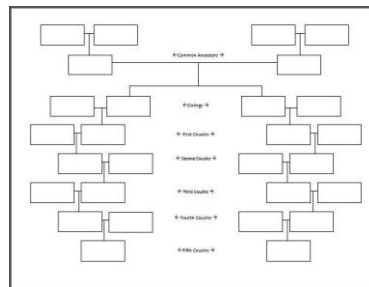
Bow-tie



Full circle



Butterfly



Cascade showing cousins



Hourglass



An idea for scrapbooking

**Which is your preference?**



A feature of your living room wall? Here's Elvis's at Graceland...

I had a lot of things to do but then I started researching census records...

now I don't know what day it is.

Twisted Twigs  
on gnarled branches



#### A CASE OF ILLEGITIMACY?



Watch Out! A putative father does not necessarily mean that he is the real father. An unmarried woman with a child to support might have been tempted to simply name a man whom she felt could support the child. There is always scope for doubt but remember to check whether or not the "father" admitted his paternity.

#### ADOPTION IN THE FAMILY?

Remember that, even before official adoption began (1927 in England & Wales, 1930 in Scotland), a child adopted either by a step-father or entirely new parents could have changed their name so may have been called something different at birth and marriage. Census returns and as many supporting documents as you can gather might be able to clarify the identity of the child. It is not an easy task!



## DIRECTORIES

In various formats, directories have been published for over 300 years and offer unrivalled information for both family and local historians.

However, information gathering took some time. A directory dated 1871 was probably correct only in 1870 and even then should not be relied on too heavily as being precise, accurate or comprehensive.

Ordinary working people who did not own a business will not usually be included in trade directories

BT's historical phone directories 1880-1984 are available on [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Remember, very few collections, either local or national, are complete. The very nature of a directory is that when a new edition comes out the old one gets dumped.

Do not rely on one single collection in your research - see what volumes other libraries or online collections may have.





#### DID YOUR ANCESTOR FIGHT IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS?

Look for him in muster rolls but don't always assume the first person you find with his name is actually him! Usually, however, if two soldiers in the regiment had the same name, the parish where each was born will be noted alongside his name which will help you identify your man.

The General Service Medal, awarded retrospectively, by Queen Victoria in 1847, was issued with "bars" naming the battles a man had taken part in. Listed on the medal rolls, they'll tell you much about his service.

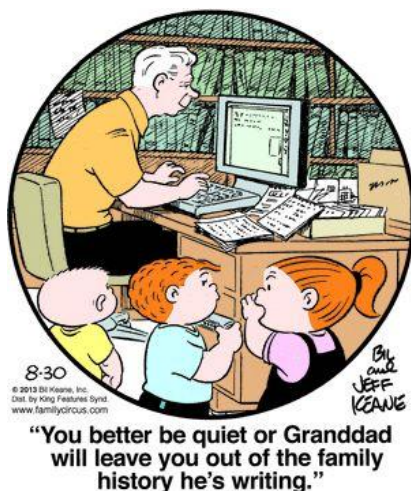
Waterloo veterans often became local celebrities. It's worth double-checking for them in the local press.

Their tombstone may also reveal some interesting details about their life and death.

**Genealogy**  
without sources is  
**Mythology**



## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 3



### PUT YOUR ANCESTORS INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES

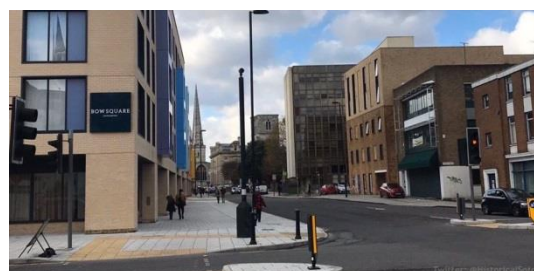
Use census returns to build a profile of people who lived in the neighbourhood. Were they immigrants or local-born? Look at the job details - did particular trades cluster in certain streets or districts?

Town and city boundaries often changed from the late 19th century onwards as areas expanded. With people moving into the towns from rural areas, urban populations grew with great speed.

What were once small villages and hamlets have been swallowed up and incorporated into towns and cities as suburbs.

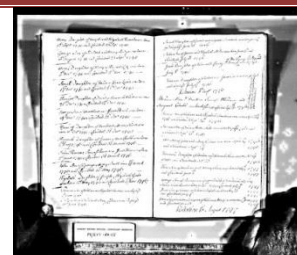
Some areas changed in entirety; e.g. the beauty of Cwm Rhondda in South Wales turned into an area of poor housing, public health problems and environmental devastation

Just look at how Bernard Street, Southampton, has altered...



### IF THERE'S ONE TIP YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY TAKE ON BOARD, IT IS THIS...

Always check the original record! Indexes and transcriptions can be wonderful at directing you to the source record but you should always confirm the information by viewing the original for yourself.





## USING THE PARISH CHEST TO PUT ANCESTORS INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES:

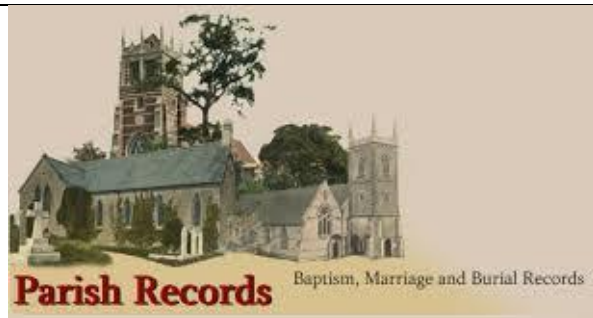
Parish records may be the backbone to any family history research but they should not be only used for specific references to family members. Use them also to determine the environment within which they lived.

What was their quality of life? What were the trades, occupations and industries they and their neighbours worked in? Answers to these questions can give us clues as to why they either stayed in the area or moved away.

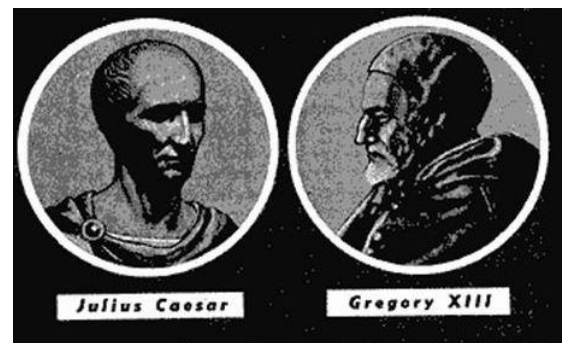
## REMEMBER - PARISH RECORDS DID NOT END WITH THE ADVENT OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

If you are unable to find a birth, marriage or death certificate of an ancestor post-1837, look for a baptism, marriage or burial in the parish registers

Watch out - civil and parish records may often compliment or substitute one another but they can, at times, contradict one another too!



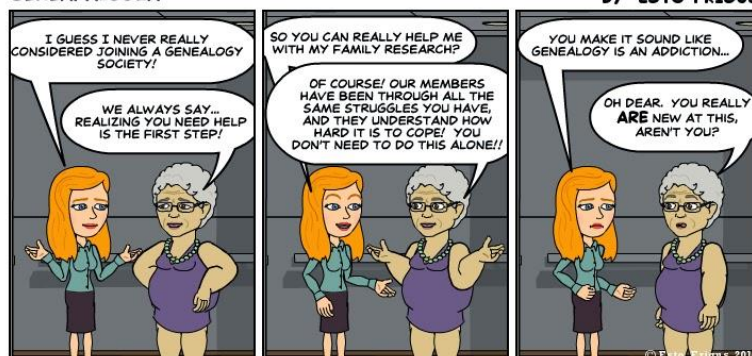
## A CHANGE OF DATES



Before 1752, Britain used the Julian calendar, when each new year began on 25th March, so you may become confused by chronological parish record collections. For instance, December 1630 was followed by Jan 1630. It wasn't until Britain changed to using the Gregorian calendar that January fell into the following year. In transcripts, the discrepancy is often denoted by January 1630/31.

## GENEAPALOOZA

BY ESTO FRIGUS



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WWW.BITSTRIPS.COM

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 4



### LETTERS LOST FROM THE ENGLISH ALPHABET

Most of us know that quite a few records at FamilySearch, Ancestry, and FindMyPast have been mis-transcribed, with the long 's' erroneously recorded as an 'f'. Whilst the errors are obvious once you find the entry, it's something to bear in mind when searching otherwise you may never find the entries you're looking for!

Another source of difficulty is 'thorn', the Old English character which has now been replaced by 'th'. Originally written like a 'p' but with an ascender, over time it came to be written more like a 'y', and in print a 'y' was often the only character available in the font. This led to the common misreading in modern times of 'the' as 'ye', even though contemporary readers would always have read it correctly. Therefore 'Ye Olde Inne' is actually 'The Old Inn'.

Note: the first printing of the King James Bible in 1611 used a 'y' with a superscript 'e' for 'the' and you'll often see a similar form in parish registers, especially when referring to dates.

To find out about more letters that have been dropped from our English alphabet since medieval times, watch this YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUrDUxh5xS0&feature=youtu.be>

f f Pp



## BANKING ANCESTORS

The major high-street banks (Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, RSB) have substantial archives and include a wealth of resources to help a family historian

Find how to contact them from The National Archives (TNA) online directory

Many smaller banks have been taken over by the major banks of today and a useful source for tracing their records is "British Banking: a Guide to Historical Records" by John Orbell and Alison Turton (Ashgate, 2001) - this tells you who took over the bank and where the archives are held if they survived

"The Banker's Almanac" is a sensible place to start. First published in 1845, it can tell you who your bank merged with or if it failed. It includes names of branch managers and agents up to 1832

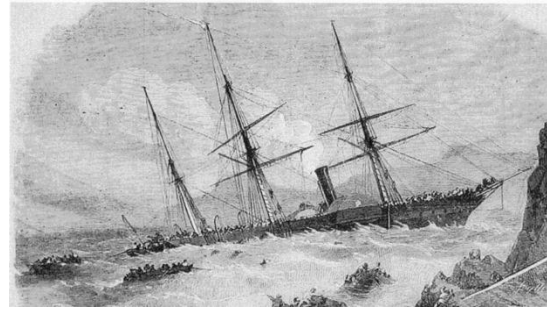


Wedge Bank, Alton

Finding the path our  
ancestors walked  
is not always easy  
but the rewards  
of the journey  
make the effort  
worthwhile

From Twisted Twigs

## SHIPWRECKS



The last resting places of ancestors lost at sea are not easy to find, even if their bodies were retrieved, so you may never find them

Before 1837, some parish burial registers may note a person was 'drowned' but the name will be unknown

It was sometimes the practice, before 1808, to bury drowned men in unconsecrated ground because this was deemed an unnatural death - that means there is no headstone or parish record of the burial

When searching, you may need to think about non-UK sources; shipwrecks happened all round the world. For example, if a ship sank after sailing from New York, you will need the relevant passenger embarkation record from the American end, not UK. Similarly, if a British ship was wrecked off the coast of Queensland, look for reports in Australian newspapers as well as UK ones

Lloyd's List has a 'casualties' section:  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lloydslist](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lloydslist)

I had a lot of things to  
do but then I started  
researching census  
records...

now I don't know  
what day it is.

Twisted Twigs  
on graded branches





# HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 5

## THE BRITISH OVERSEAS



There are many reasons why some of our ancestors ended up abroad. Many chose to emigrate to escape poverty or maybe for religious or political reasons. Work took some; e.g. merchants, government employees or those serving in the army or navy. Generally it would have been a temporary stay but sometimes emigrants decided to stay on.

You may have to do a fair bit of 'homework' to discover where to find records and what actually survives for your particular country of interest.

Bear in mind that country boundaries changed over and over again and, in more recent times, countries have even changed their names. Make sure you know where you are researching at any particular point in history.

- Cyndi's List, [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com), providing many useful links to your country of interest, is a great place to start
- FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), has a mine of records from all around the world and it's increasing
- The Society of Genealogists, [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk), has an excellent collection of overseas material
- The 'India Office Family History Search' at <https://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI> and the 'Families in British India' at [www.fibis.org](http://www.fibis.org) are the places to go for those of you with forbears who worked, served and lived in India
- 'Non-statutory Returns' are a record collection of miscellaneous births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials abroad collected by the GRO and are available at TNA in series RG 32-36. They have been digitised, indexed and are available on [www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk)
- Some Regimental Returns are available on [www.the-genealogist.co.uk](http://www.the-genealogist.co.uk) and [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

## ARE WE LOSING THE ROMANCE?

Catalogues, finding aids, electronic and online resources are all of enormous value - especially in present circumstances - but are we becoming more, or too, dependent on them for our work?

Are we getting too far away from the particular thrill of discovering the past from original documents as we gingerly unfold the sheets of paper and parchment that may not have seen the light of day for a century or more?

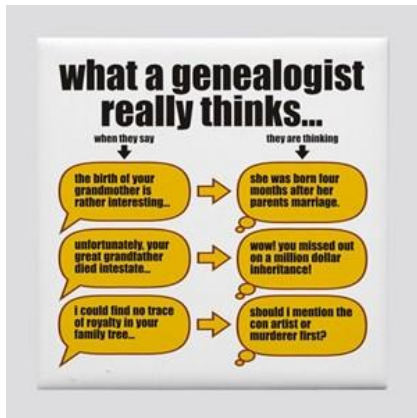
How many of us still have notes, made at local archives, museums, churches and churchyards, but have forgotten about as we now sit in front of our computers tapping away at the keys?

What a sad day it will be when none of us can look at an original document!



## SEEING DOUBLE!

Very occasionally, you may come across ancestors listed twice in a census!



"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."

—George Bernard Shaw

- Sometimes a child may have been staying with grandparents but is also listed with the parents' household
- In 1841, a family of 'Ag Labs' in Dorchester were recorded twice with exactly the same details, at the same address, but on different pages in the enumeration book
- In 1861, a mariner was recorded with his wife and children in Essex. He also appears listed by himself under 'Shipping at Sea' and in 'Ports Abroad'
- There is the case of a widowed mother being recorded in two different households - both were those of her two married sons. Was there a family dispute as to where she should be living?
- A 29 year old single Wolverhampton man is recorded twice in 1891. He is included in his own family household return but also in the home of the woman he was to marry 3 years later. At the time they were 'stepping out' but they didn't marry until both her parents had passed away.

Have you found any double entries in your research?



Labels for the census return include:

- House names and numbers
- Name and surname of occupants
- Age
- Rank, profession or occupation
- Place of birth
- Relationship to the head of the family
- Marital status

## WAS YOUR ANCESTOR A NURSE?

Documents to look out for are The Queen's Roll 1891-1969, Badge Registers 1907-1945 and Registers of Candidates Training as Queen's Nurses 1928-1965 which can be found at the Wellcome Institute in London.

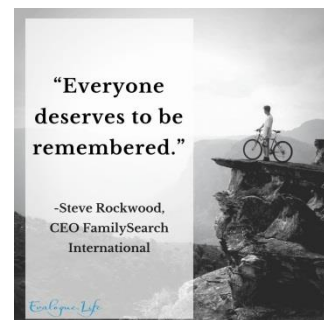
Online, go to <https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/archives/family-history> or <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/doctors-and-nurses/>

The Queen's Roll gives the name of the hospital where a nurse trained as a probationer. You can then check the Hospital Records Database to find out whether registers still exist for the period you're interested in. A nurse trained for three years (or six months for district nurse training). If the dates of your ancestor's training are longer, ask yourself why? It could indicate a serious illness or a crisis at home forced her to postpone her studies.



*The Royal College of Nursing*

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 6



### ENCLOSURE RECORDS

If your forebears were farmers, smallholders or minor landowners you may well find much of interest in Enclosure Awards found among the Quarter Sessions documents in the county record office or its equivalent.

They are large and unwieldy! Comprising a number of parchment sheets and a detailed map, they were rolled up and (from the middle of the 18th century) signed, sealed and then deposited with the clerk of the peace of the county concerned. Most county archives have a list of the local Enclosure Awards.

The wording in the documents can be extremely repetitive, using the same wording in successive clauses with just names, numbers and acreages changed. It is easy to miss a line - or several - so be particularly careful not to overlook a key clause relating to your ancestor!

The documents may include awards made by 'private agreement' between landowners and tenants where there was no Parliamentary Act. These agreements had the same effect but were cheaper! It is therefore advisable to check local record office listings as National lists cover only Parliamentary Enclosure Awards and don't give a full picture.

The accompanying maps illustrate the land allocations to new owners:

- Allotment shape shown in coloured lines
- Allotment size – larger ones held by people of more importance and therefore wealth
- Name of landowner
- Reference number of each allotment which tallies with the written description
- The area of each given in acres, roods and perches
- Auction details if a plot was sold, the money being used to help pay for the costs of enclosure





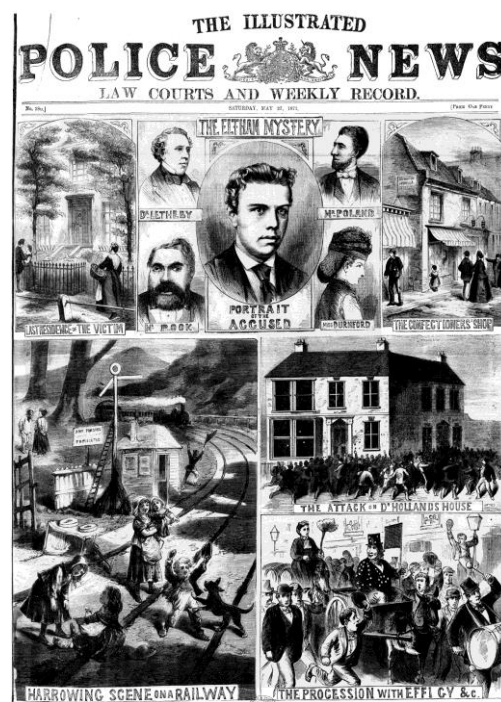
## THE ILLUSTRATED POLICE NEWS

First issued on 20 Feb 1864, this was the only illustrated paper of its day to focus on crime and disaster.

The illustrations were from wood engravings, not photographs, and artists were allowed access to even the most private of scenes. Although the graphic content of the pictures did attract criticism, the reader could often be stirred by pity and compassion rather than shock. One thing it did do was to encourage its readers to treat animals with kindness.

It reported on acts of daring and courage as well as crimes and women were shown to be just as brave, or even cruel, as men.

Online, you can find runs of this publication at:  
<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/illustrated-police-news>



## VIEWING HISTORICAL MAPS



Many family history programs' mapping features use modern maps which don't reflect changes that have happened since your ancestors lived in an area. It is better to locate addresses on maps which date from their own period.

Go to: <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/>  
or <https://mapco.net/>  
or <https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/>  
to start your searches

You can also purchase hard copies from:  
<https://mapseekerdigital.co.uk/>

## GOOGLE

<https://www.google.com/>

It may seem like looking for a needle in a haystack but have you tried searching for ancestors using Google?

If the name you are searching is common, try filtering it down by putting another search term in; e.g. a parish of birth or a spouse's name to see if your ancestor pops up on any message boards.

Remember Google is case insensitive so use just lower case in your searches.

You can also use wildcards and commands; e.g. \*, and, or, not, +, ~

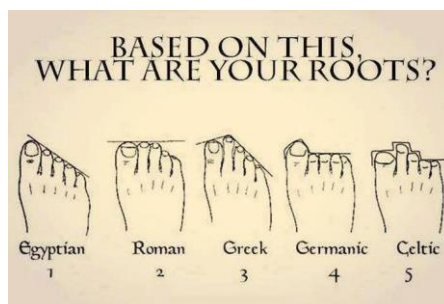




## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 7

CHECK THIS OUT FOR SOME HELPFUL HINTS...

<https://www.whowhenwheregenealogy.org.uk/viewforum.php?f=8>



Here are some of the many free online resources to help with your searches:

<https://www.cyndislist.com/uk/>  
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>  
<https://www.freereg.org.uk/>  
<https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/>  
<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>  
<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/.../collec.../p16445coll4>  
<https://www.curiousfox.com/>  
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>  
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/>  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>  
<https://www.cwgc.org/>  
<https://www.nationalarchives.ie/>  
<https://www.library.wales/>

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF BECOMING A TRANSCRIBER?

We all make use of a myriad of digitised records that are available online that have been transcribed by hosts of volunteers. Why not give back by doing some yourself?

An example of how you can do this is with [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)



Go to their website and click on 'Join FreeBMD' to find out how you can become part of their volunteer force.

There is also a 'Transcribers' Page' where lots of advice is given to help you get started and support is provided too

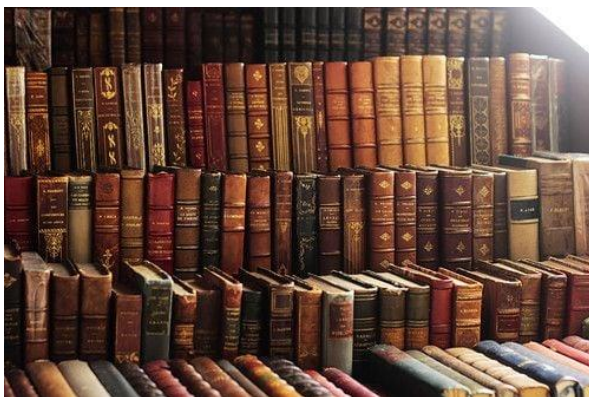


## 10 STEPS TOWARDS TRACING LIVING RELATIVES:



1. From your tree, pick a person who was alive but young and unmarried in 1901 or 1911
2. Use the 1911 census to corroborate details, locate marriage and death records that post-date the census
3. Purchase the certificates and use the information on them (surnames, maiden names, area they lived) to search birth records for possible descendants
4. Share your tree on websites such as [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) - even if you don't subscribe, you can still upload your tree as a GEDCOM file to find matches with others
5. Sign up to [www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com) to find matches with other living people
6. Use trade directories to find family businesses
7. Keep tracing forward by using modern archive material such as phone books or trace movements at [www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com)
8. Locate current contact details at [www.onlinesearches.info](http://www.onlinesearches.info) or [www.192.com](http://www.192.com) which can give you information via the Electoral Roll
9. Go to Ancestry to look in their Living Relative section
10. Above all, if you find a living relative, be respectful when making contact. Get in touch in such a way that they can decide if they wish to respond or not.

### FREE BOOKS ONLINE



Most family historians like to browse through books to gain extra information about their ancestors' lives, livelihoods, social and historical circumstances; you can do this online too!

Here are some sites for starters...

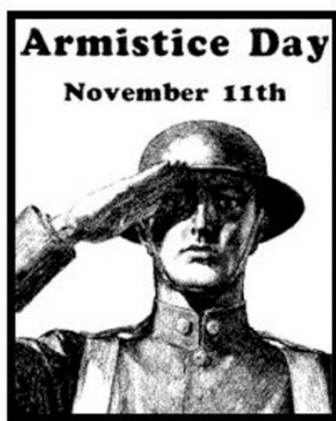
<https://archive.org/>  
<https://books.google.com/>  
<https://www.connectedhistories.org/>  
<https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>  
<https://www.pepysdiary.com/>  
<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/.../collec.../p16445coll4>  
<http://www.buildinghistory.org/books/primary.shtml>

# HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 8

## NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

### ARMISTICE DAY

The terms of the Armistice were signed at 5.00 am on 11th November 1918 to take effect 6 hours later and, at 11 o'clock, a silence fell across the Front.



Sources for researching what happened afterwards include:

- Local newspapers, containing a valuable source of information concerning the events, should be available either online or at local libraries and record offices
- The Illustrated London News and The Times both give extensive coverage of the events and are available online
- Published memoirs
- Unpublished memoirs which can be located at: [www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk) and [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk) and [https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections/collection/723?fbclid=IwAR3uzo5TvDwsxaGowJdx-CKeBSM6mcVrBzGOI40hW\\_Dh9sRGsx7JUjUkqvQ](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections/collection/723?fbclid=IwAR3uzo5TvDwsxaGowJdx-CKeBSM6mcVrBzGOI40hW_Dh9sRGsx7JUjUkqvQ)
- Documents, including the Allies' Armistice demands and the Kaiser's Abdication Proclamation, which can be found at [https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/1918\\_Documents](https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/1918_Documents)

### PHOTOS IN YOUR ARCHIVES, PERHAPS?

1st November is All Saints Day and 2nd November is All Souls Day – twin commemorations of the departed. Since 1918 another important element has been added to the calendar – remembrance of those who have given their lives fighting for their country.

How many of you have photos like this one of men in uniform; men who may, or may not, have survived the conflict they found themselves part of? Do you share their stories in order that their sacrifice will never be forgotten?



### GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Sir, I joined the army to look up my genealogical military records, sir!

### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR MILITARY RESEARCH:

- Subscription sites such as Ancestry, FindMyPast, The Genealogist and Forces War Records all have sets of military records.
- Free sites include: The Long, Long Trail, The British Red Cross, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, The War Graves Photographic Project.
- The National Archives has plenty of research guides to help you locate the records you need for your searches, many of which are online now.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The word 'cenotaph' comes from the Greek and means 'empty tomb'.

The Cenotaph in London, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was unveiled in 1919. Afterwards, several towns and cities also engaged Lutyens to design their war memorials. He designed one of the first large town memorials at SOUTHAMPTON, unveiled on 6 November 1920, making this its centenary year. It is similar in form to the London Cenotaph, though with more sculpted ornament. It was originally inscribed with 1,800 names, later increased to 2,008. Here it is...



Because of the current Covid-19 situation, a short, closed Remembrance ceremony will take place with key members of the armed forces community in attendance. The service will be filmed at different war memorials across the city and shared on Council social media channels on Sunday 8 November 2020 at 11:02am.



### ROMSEY WAR MEMORIAL



In recent years, particularly during the years 2014-2018 when the centenary of The Great War was acknowledged, many cities, towns and villages have run projects into researching the men named on their local war memorials. Just such a task was taken up in Romsey and the Romsey War Memorial Archive was co-founded by Victoria Burbidge and Marc Thompson.

With help from pupils at The Romsey School a two-year project was undertaken, which culminated in the screening of an hour-long documentary at the Romsey Town Hall. They set out to research the WW1 soldiers listed on the Romsey War Memorial which uncovered a number of moving stories, really brought to life the names carved into the stone and made it clear that having loved ones' names on the memorial was very important to their families.

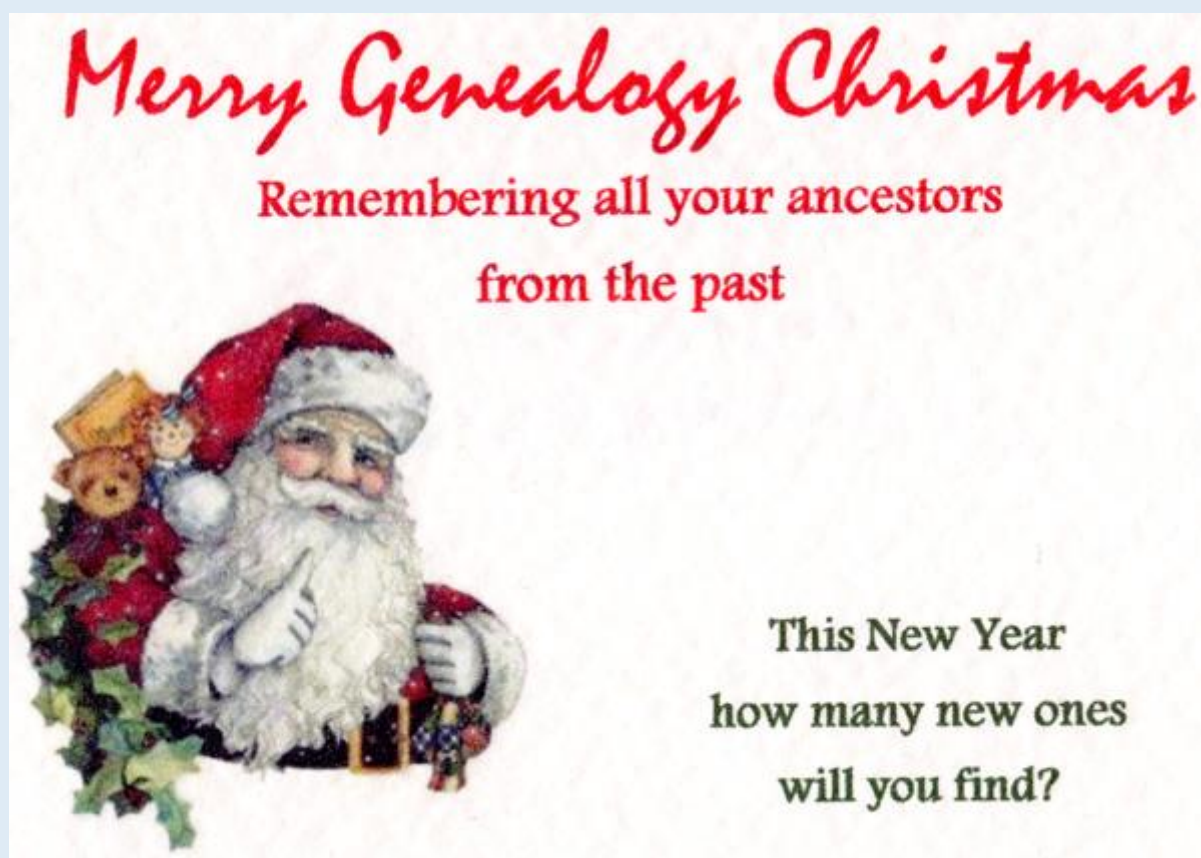
Perhaps you'll find information about an ancestor commemorated in this way. Try a search on Google, etc. to find out.

This year, the Civic Remembrance Service planned for Sunday 8th November in Romsey Abbey and the parade to Memorial Park will no longer be able to take place.

Romsey Abbey will however stream its own Service of Remembrance on Sunday 8th November at 10.15am and include an Act of Remembrance at 11.00am which members of the public are welcome to watch through the following link: <https://youtu.be/oJMnJ0W4gWs>



**HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 9**  
**IT'S CHRISTMAS!**



**IS THIS THE OLDEST CHRISTMAS  
PUDDING IN EXISTENCE?**



A Christmas pudding originally sent to the Naval Brigade in the Boer War, donated to the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth in 2011, dates from 1900!

**HOW BRITAIN CELEBRATED  
CHRISTMAS DURING THE SECOND  
WORLD WAR**

Find out here:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-britain-celebrated-christmas-during-the-second-world-war>

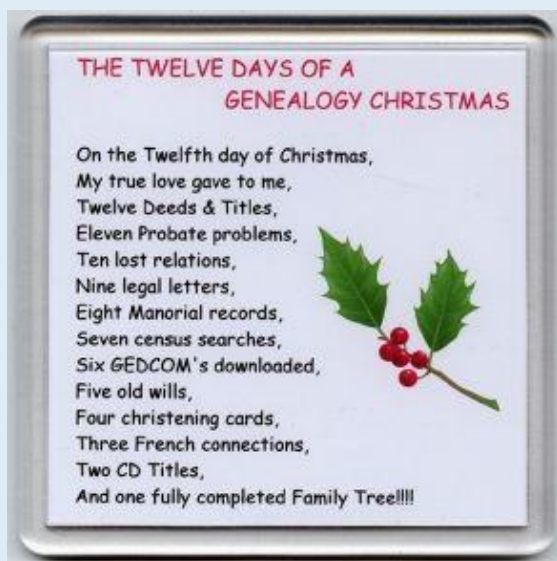


## A FAIRY-TALE CHRISTMAS?

The traditional Christmas scene of snow and frost is not entirely make-believe. In the late 18th century and early 19th century, winters were especially cold, so much so that even the River Thames froze over.



The winter of 1783-4 was arguably the coldest for 500 years and the Hampshire vicar, Gilbert White, wrote about how the chamber pots under the bed turned to solid ice and birds dropped out of the sky, frozen in flight. Just imagine what your ancestors went through in times with no central heating, no double-glazed windows and no electric blankets!



## GROW YOUR TREE THIS CHRISTMAS

This year, Christmas will be different for many of us. It may not be possible to have a houseful of family and friends and we may find we have time on our hands so why not try adding even more to our family history? Bring individuals alive by researching the times they lived in and how events may have affected their day-to-day lives. Look for pictures and photographs to enhance their stories and add maps to put them into their locations. If ancestors migrated, show where they moved to and from and find out why they did so.



## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 10

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!



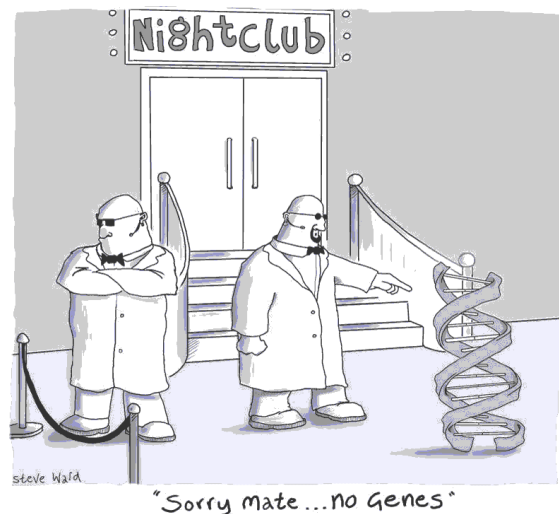
#### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: WRITE YOUR OWN LIFE STORY!

Apart from researching for more names, dates and details to add to your family tree, why not compile your own memoirs for future generations? Have you, for instance, kept a diary of your 'life in lockdown'? Will your family know what life was like when you were a child? If you are married, do your children know when, where and how you met your other half? Are you passing on the memories you have of your elder relations who may no longer be here?

If you need help or inspiration to get started, try <https://www.wikihow.com/Tell-Your-Life-Story>



1. Make Your Research Plan for the Year
2. Make Travel Arrangements for Any Genealogical Excursions (when it becomes possible again!)
3. Put Away Loose Research Items
4. Review Your Work from the Previous Year to Get New Insights
5. Read a New Genealogy Research Book
6. Read a New Book on the History of One of Your Ancestor's Towns or Counties
7. Organise Your Digital Photos from Last Year
8. Work on One New Chapter of Your Family History Book/Blog/Website
9. Book your tickets for Family History Shows and Fairs which may, of course, be online events
10. Take an Online Genealogy Class





## CENSUS JARGON BUSTER

Census returns were copied at speed. Hence they are full of abbreviations and symbols. Here are some of the most common...

- **DITTO/DO/"** You will quickly become familiar with the 'ditto' sign meaning 'same as above'. It is often denoted by 'do' or a ditto mark ("). You may find, for example, a head of household named George Brown with his wife listed below him as 'Jane do'
- **ABBREVIATED NAMES** First and middle names are sometimes shortened: e.g. 'Wm' for William, 'Chas' for Charles, 'Jas' for James, 'Elizth' for Elizabeth
- **OCCUPATIONAL ABBREVIATIONS** Common abbreviations include 'Ag Lab' for agricultural labourers, 'FS' for female servant, 'dom serv' for domestic servant
- **SLASH MARKS (// OR /)** Double slashes indicate the end of one property. A single slash is a separate household within the same property
- **CROSSINGS OUT** Don't be put off by apparent crossings out. They are marks made when information was collated and do not mean that the entry is wrong

## READING OLD DOCUMENTS



Has your research taken you back beyond 1837? Are you challenged by the writing you see when viewing original documents of yore? Are some of those documents written in Latin? Why not try some online tutorials to help you? Here are a few suggestions...

The National Archives at <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../reading-old.../>

Ancestry at <https://support.ancestry.com/.../Tips-for-Reading-Old...>

FindMyPast at <https://www.findmypast.com/blog/help/tips-for-reading-old...>

Genealogy.com at [https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/68\\_sperry.html](https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/68_sperry.html)

AncestralFindings.com at [https://ancestralfindings.com/simple-tips-for-reading-old...](https://ancestralfindings.com/simple-tips-for-reading-old.../)

There are even a multitude of mobile phone 'apps' you can download to help you. Use your search engine to find one to suit you!

**IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THIS YEAR TO DO THE THINGS THIS YEAR YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING LAST YEAR?**