

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 11 [CENSUS]

### HINTS FOR SEARCHING CENSUSES

1. Always remember how the censuses were compiled. Forms sent to households to be completed then collected by an enumerator, who subsequently transcribed them, always gave opportunity for errors to creep in
2. Start with a wide field – enter as little info as possible to start with, then narrow down if you get too many results
3. Use 'wild cards' and 'Soundex' to try and pinpoint a name
4. If you cannot find a specific ancestor, try searching for someone else you would expect to find in the household
5. If a family eludes you in one census, find them on the census immediately before and immediately afterwards – it may throw up clues about names, ages and occupations
6. A name may not be enough - using an unusual occupation or a distinctive birthplace in the keyword box may help
7. Try searching on more than one website as indexes vary from one to another and transcribers make mistakes too
8. Top tip – always take a look at the original image!



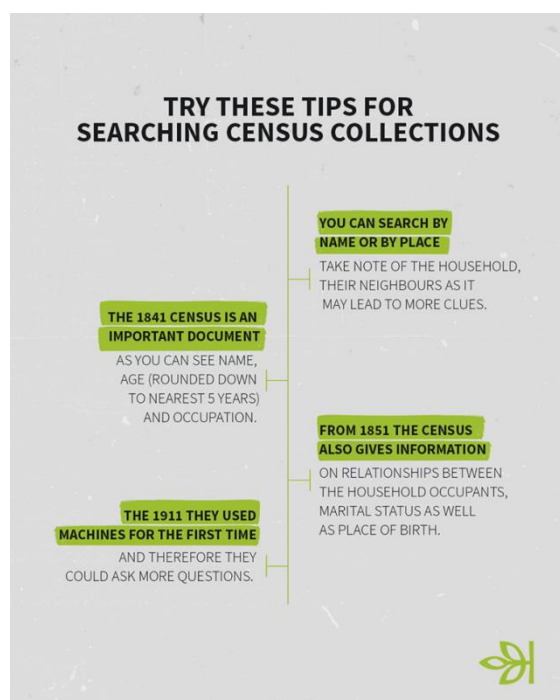
### PITFALLS WHEN SEARCHING CENSUSES



Cartoon from "Punch", nineteenth century

1. Some people were illiterate and needed help, resulting in many spelling errors when a friend or neighbour wrote down what they heard – or thought they heard!
2. Details were not always precise; e.g. nicknames and middle names may be entered rather than a correct name
3. Some people did not know how old they were so made a guess
4. Untruths occur; e.g. to avoid scandal, couples often claimed to be married who weren't or a daughter's illegitimate child may well be listed as a child of her parents
5. Names vary from one census to the next; e.g. Jimmy White, James White, James Francis White, Francis J. White, J. White can all be the same person
6. Birthplaces may be incorrect – a person may have thought they were born where they remember growing up but were actually born elsewhere such as their mother's home parish
7. Birthplaces may also vary from census to census; e.g. London and Bow, or Amport and Andover (Hampshire).
8. Some people appear twice but in different locations! A person may be away from home on the census night but still be included within their usual family unit whilst also being recorded where they actually were.

Ancestry says ...



Census collections are one of the most important record sets you can use when researching your family history. Not only does it tell you about the person you are looking for but also their family, neighbours and surroundings. For more tips and tricks on searching census collections, watch this video:

<http://bit.ly/2XC1Tan>

I think that I shall never see  
The finish of a Family Tree.  
As it forever seems to grow  
From roots that started very low.  
'Way back in ancient history times,  
In foreign lands and distant climes,  
From them grew trunk and branching limb,  
That dated back to time so dim,  
One seldom knows exactly when  
The parents met and married then.  
Nor when the twigs began to grow.  
'Though a verse like this is made by me,  
And the end's in sight as you can see.  
'Tis not the same with Family Trees  
That grow and grow through centuries.

Willis G. Corbitt

Thank you to a friend and fellow genealogist,  
Rod Whale, for the above poem.

## OVERSEAS CENSUS RECORDS

If you have found an ancestor who originated elsewhere, you can catch up with them in the censuses of their former home. Likewise, if an ancestor emigrated, you may find them in the censuses of their new home.

- A good place to start is at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) which hosts free census indexes and images for multiple countries around the world.
- To view all of the images/indexes available online, go to:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list>
- Select Census & Lists from the left-hand column under Collection Type



## CENSUSES FROM NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

- Locating a family in an overseas census isn't always as easy as popping a name into a database.
- Many European census records are not indexed so you will first need to identify your relatives' location and then browse the records manually.
- Censuses from non-English speaking countries will require you to search for personal and location names in the native language but, happily, many of the online archives have an English language option so you can find your way around.

Image courtesy of:

<https://beyondexclamation.com/the-sweetest-languages-in.../>





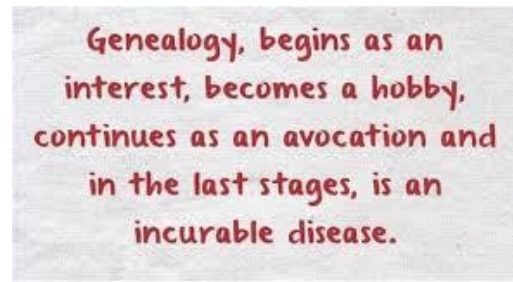
# HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 12

## HOUSE HISTORIES



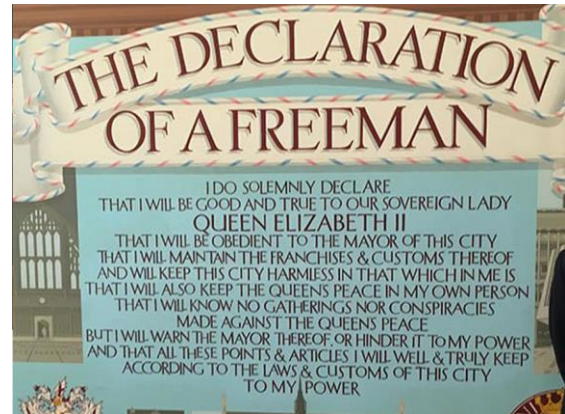
Researching the history of a building in which an ancestor lived is a natural sister hobby to genealogy. Here are six suggested websites to help get you started...

1. National Library of Scotland Maps  
<https://www.nls.uk/>
2. ScotlandsPlaces  
<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>
3. Historic England  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/>
4. MyHouseMyStreet  
<http://www.mhms.org.uk/>
5. British History Online  
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>
6. TheGenealogist  
<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>



## FREEDOM OF THE CITY or FREEDOM OF ENTRY?

Do you have an ancestor who received such an honour?



FREEDOM OF THE CITY is an honour bestowed by a municipality upon a valued member of the community, or upon a visiting celebrity or dignitary. Arising from the medieval practice of granting respected citizens freedom from serfdom, the tradition still lives on in countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand – although today the title of "freeman" confers no special privileges.

FREEDOM OF ENTRY is granted by municipal authorities to serving uniformed organisations (not necessarily military) which have earned the city's trust. This allows them the freedom to parade through the city "with fixed bayonets, drums beating and colours flying" as an affirmation of the bond between the organisation or regiment and the citizens.

## WHAT A DNA TEST [AS YET] DOES **NOT** TELL YOU...

- From whom you inherited a talent, e.g. music, art, acting
- From whom you inherited a skill, e.g. needlework, carpentry, engineering
- From whom you inherited a trait, e.g. intelligence, dexterity, jealousy
- From whom you inherited a characteristic, e.g. height, hair colour, pigeon-toes
- From whom you inherited your personality, e.g. patience, optimism, belligerence
- From whom you inherited a habit, e.g. biting your nails, phobias, disliking certain foods

Depending on the depth of your research, or how much you learned from other and older members of your family, you may be able to work some of it out.

## WHAT'S YOUR ARCHETYPE?

[www.good.co](http://www.good.co)



[www.good.co](http://www.good.co)

Which of your forebears do you think you take after?

## IN GENEALOGICAL TERMS, WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED MOST SINCE COVID-19 HIT?

- Attending local family history groups?
- Attending family history fairs and events?
  - Chatting to like-minded enthusiasts?
  - Visiting archives and libraries?
- Getting out and about to walk in the footsteps of your ancestors?



## “HOW HAVE YOU MADE THE MOST OF THESE CURIOUS TIMES?”

- Taken your first steps into researching your family history?
- Broken through a brick wall or two?
- Written a journal cataloguing these times for future generations?
- Transcribed records for local archives, societies or websites?
- Organised your papers, documents and photos?



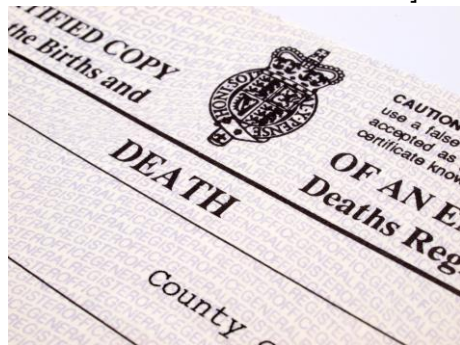
## WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED...?

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 13

### RESEARCHING DEATH RECORDS

#### DEATH CERTIFICATES

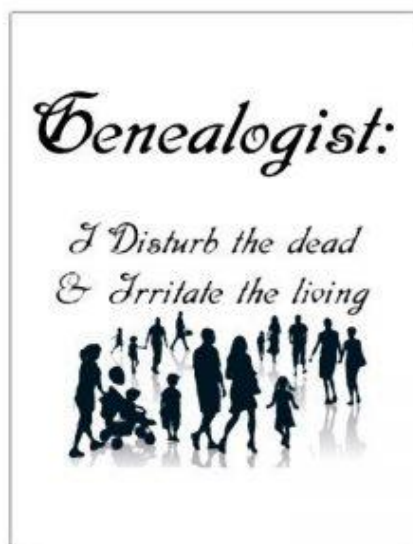
[from 1837 in England & Wales, 1855 in Scotland & 1864 in Ireland]



Details to be found on these documents:

- Name
- Age
- Date of death
- Place of death (which may be away from home)
- Cause of death (which may be from an illness/disease prevalent at the time or as the result of an accident and led to an inquest)
- Occupation (for women, this is often 'wife of' or 'widow of'; for children 'son of' or 'daughter of')
- Identity of the informant

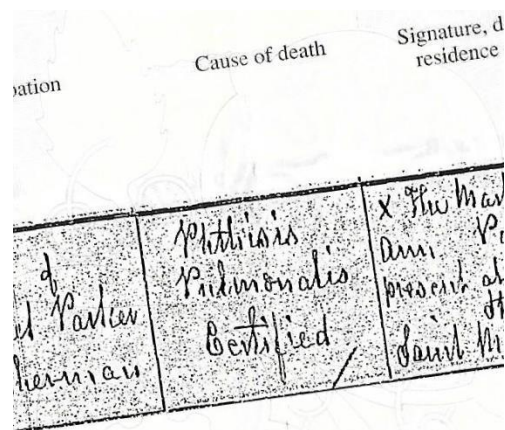
Use these details to round off your ancestors' lives with a fuller understanding of what those lives were like. Take into account what was happening in the country, and in the world as a whole, in order to interpret how they lived and died.



#### DEATH CERTIFICATE GLOSSARY

Some of the terms that routinely appear on death certificates are a mystery to those of us without medical training. Here is a selection of the more common terms:

- ♣ ATROPHY – wasting away
- ♣ DROPSY – swelling, often caused by disease of the kidney or heart
- ♣ KING'S EVIL – TB of the neck and lymph glands
- ♣ MARASMUS – Failure to thrive, usually in young children
- ♣ MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION – commonly called a heart attack
- ♣ PHTHISIS (related to TB) – a big killer in the 19th century
- ♣ PUERPUAL EXHAUSTION – death from childbirth
- ♣ SCROFULA – TB of the lymph glands, especially those in the neck
- ♣ SYNCOPE – fainting



To find out more, go to

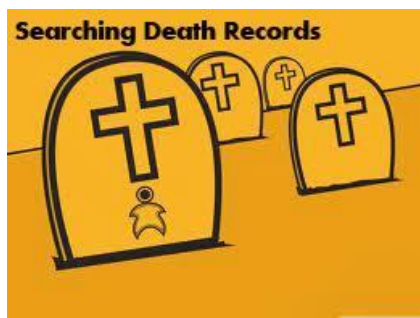
<https://www.cyndislist.com/dictionaries/diseases/> or

<https://www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html>



## REASONS WHY YOU CAN'T FIND A DEATH RECORD?

- ♣ Your ancestor didn't die where you think he did - just because he lived his whole life in one place does not mean he died there!
- ♣ The death may be recorded under a different name – e.g. Mrs John Smith rather than Mary Smith or, as in Scotland, a married woman's death may be registered under her maiden name
- ♣ Initials, rather than full names, may be used
- ♣ Nicknames or middle names may be used too
- ♣ Ages may be inaccurate - often informants were not sure how old someone was and so they guessed
- ♣ Names may be spelt in a variety of ways, e.g. Bailey/Bayley
- ♣ If searching online, there may be transcription errors, e.g. Russell may have been transcribed as Rufsell
- ♣ Even the GRO indexes can be incorrect, e.g. Masters indexed wrongly as Martin



**Top tip** – if you cannot find the death registration, try to find a burial record, an obituary or a notice in a local newspaper which may lead you in the right direction. Patience and perseverance is the key!



## INQUESTS

Historically, Coroners' Inquests were held within forty-eight hours of a suspicious death, and were normally conducted at a local alehouse, parish workhouse or in the building in which the death occurred.



The official inquest report into an ancestor's death may have been destroyed, or is still deemed confidential, but do not despair! Proceedings are likely to have been reported in some detail in the local newspaper. Now, with so many newspapers available online, it is becoming easier to trace these events.

If your ancestor died in a serious incident, which involved many, you may not find specific details about that person but you will find out about the circumstances in which they died.

## MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Epitaphs on your ancestors' gravestones can provide many details:

- dates of birth and death
- who was related to who
- occupation
- even personal characteristics

Many Family History Societies record tens of thousands of monumental inscriptions in their area. Many of these will be available to purchase either on CD or as a PDF by email from their websites.

It's always worth a look!

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 14

### HAVE YOU 'LOST' A BRITISH ANCESTOR DURING VICTORIAN TIMES?

Maybe he went abroad.

Looking for opportunity and adventure, hundreds of young men applied for appointments in any one of the many British territories of the time. Educated clerks and lawyers, clergymen, young men in the Army or the Navy, politicians who had lost their seats, policemen, engineers, doctors and surveyors; all applied to the Colonial Office for positions vacant overseas. Many aspired to, and some achieved, the position of Governor.

However, the peoples, climates and relationship with Britain were different in every colony. Communications took weeks, even months, and resources were few. Many British administrators lived surrounded by hostile inhabitants and, of course, there were all sorts of diseases which could lead to an early death.



Image: c1895 Original photograph British family & Indian servants, British Colonial India

### Six steps to finding your Colonial Service Ancestors:

1. Collect family evidence, e.g. letters, diaries, photos, passports and try to recall past conversations
2. Use Google (or your preferred search engine), starting with the name of your ancestor and the countries where he may have worked
3. Find records of Colonial Service – [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) has a very useful and thorough guide to the Colonial Office records it holds
4. Find their friends and colleagues – even if your ancestor was not famous, he may have

been a friend of, or worked with, someone who was

5. Look abroad – British style censuses were conducted in British colonies every 10 years from 1851 and BMDs were usually retained in the former colony. Start searching online, then contact the relevant country's archives

6. Put your ancestor's experience into context – read as much as you can about the colony itself and its history of the period

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### BANKRUPTS AND INSOLVENT DEBTORS

To qualify for bankruptcy you were supposed to be a trader, making your living by buying and selling. By the late 18th century this was extended to include most skilled craftsmen.

Insolvent debtors were individuals unable to pay their debts. Only after 1861 could insolvent debtors apply for bankruptcy.

People who were not traders might spend their whole lives in jail, unable to raise the money to pay their debts.

Start your research at The National Archives – they have a useful guide at

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../bankrupts.../>

Research can continue at a relevant local archive.

Bankrupts are also listed in the London Gazette: [www.london-gazette.co.uk](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk)

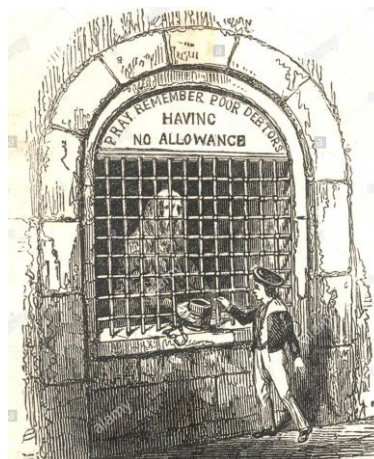
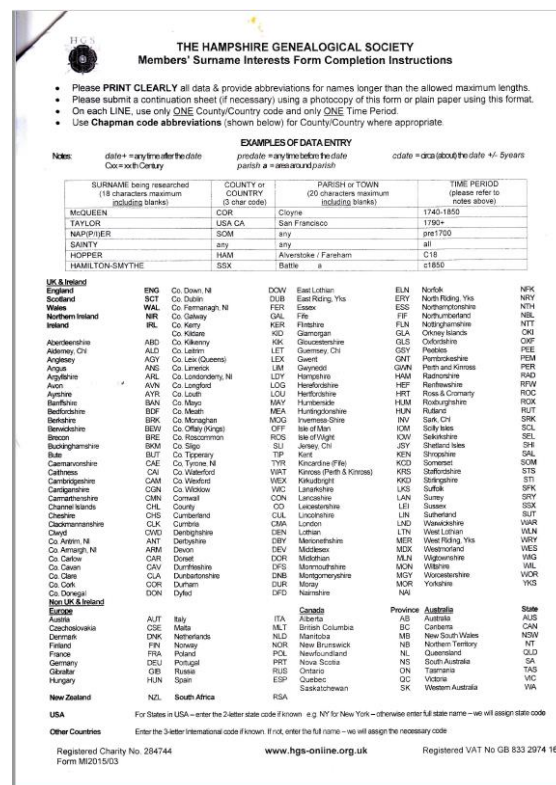


Image: DEBTOR'S PRISON, London, 1846 (courtesy of <https://www.alamy.com/>)





# HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 15

## TRACING ARMY ANCESTORS ONLINE

Whether you have ancestors who fought in medieval times or family who served in the 20th century, it's possible to track them down from the comfort of your own living room.



Try the following essential sites to get started:

- <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.nam.ac.uk/>
- <https://www.britishbattles.com/>
- <http://www.historyofwar.org/>
- <https://www.cwgc.org/>
- <https://www.armymuseums.org.uk/>
- <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>
- <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

### 1369-1660: from Medieval Knight to the Civil War...



Principal wars in this period include Edward I's conquest of Wales, several wars with Scotland, the Hundred Years War against France (including the battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt), the civil war known as the Wars of the Roses and the civil war between King and Parliament, 1642-1660

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/.../medieval-soldier...>  
<https://archive.org/details/armylistsofround00peacuoft>  
<https://www.robert-temple.com/.../Offprint-OfficerList.pdf>  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/English-Civil-Wars>  
<https://www.warsoftheroses.com/>

The main commercial websites have little for this period but you may find some small databases such as a 1552 Military Survey of the Suffolk Hundred of Babergh on Ancestry.

### 1660-1815: Professional Soldiers up to the Battle of Waterloo...



This was the period which saw England's first 'standing army' and introduced pensions, many records of which are online

<https://www.militaryheritage.com/7yrswar.htm>  
<https://glostesters.tripod.com/memindex3.htm>  
<http://www.spanishsuccession.nl/>  
[http://www.peninsularwar.org/penwar\\_e.htm](http://www.peninsularwar.org/penwar_e.htm)  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2366620>

Commercial websites offering plenty of material relating to this period include: Ancestry, FindMyPast and Forces War Records

**1815 – 1914:  
Soldiers of the Empire  
up to WW1**



Soldiering became more professional throughout this period and, as a result, generated more records

Online records can be found at;

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

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

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

Free websites include:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<http://ww1.britishmedals.us/...>

<https://www.victorianmilitary.org/>

<http://cwrs.russianwar.co.uk/>

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

**1914-1939:  
Soldiers from the start of  
WW1  
to the start of WW2**



WW1 brought about profound changes to the Army and the lead-up to WW2 produced funding to increase the Territorial Army [known as the Militia]

Guides to WW1 records are at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) but remember that many records were destroyed or damaged in the Blitz. However research of your WW1 ancestor can be done through Pension records, Medal Cards, Absent Voters' Rolls and Unit Diaries.

Records online can be found at:

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

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

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

Free websites include:

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

<https://www.gallipoli-association.org/>

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>

<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/>

<http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/>

**1939-1956:  
From WW2 to the  
Suez Crisis in Egypt**



Service records for WW2 [including The Home Guard], and later, are held by the Ministry of Defence [MOD] but can be ordered online, though not cheaply, by veterans or their next of kin from

<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records>

Some online records can be found at:

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

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

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Free websites include:

<http://battlefieldsw2.50megs.com/>

<https://www.home-guard.org.uk/>

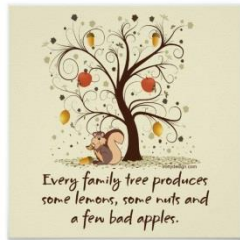
<http://britains-smallwars.com/>

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 16

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Mister Smith, could I ask how you got your name?



Family Tree Humor Poster by irondesign

Zazzle



"Oh, yeah? Well MY Great, Great Grandmother would have had it up to HERE with YOUR Great, Great Grandfather!"

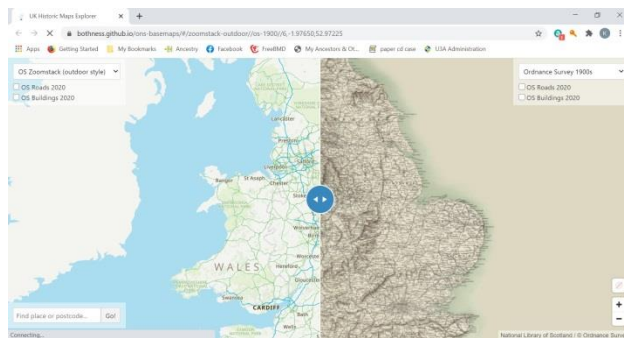


"According to this genealogy website, I'm 60,765228th in line to the throne!"

### USING MAPS TO COMPARE THE LIE OF THE LAND IN YOUR ANCESTOR'S TIME WITH TODAY'S LANDSCAPE

If you want to see how mainland Britain has changed over a period of 100 years, go to this website: <https://bothness.github.io/ons-basemaps/...>

It compares Ordnance Survey maps of 1900 and 2000. Enter a place name bottom left then hit 'Go'. Move the double arrow 'button' left or right to see it then or now and you can zoom in to reveal greater detail.



### DEATHS OVERSEAS



Occasionally, try as we may, we cannot find a record of an ancestor's death. Perhaps our forebear died overseas.

An extensive guide to searching can be found on TNA's website at

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../birth-marriage.../>

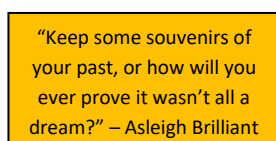
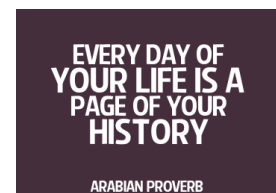
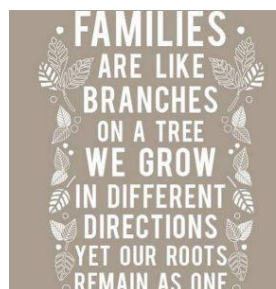
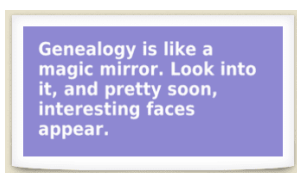
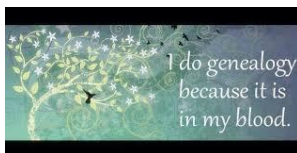
Overseas death records can also be found at <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> and

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

WW1 and WW2 deaths can be searched at <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Deaths that occurred in British India can be found at

<https://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/Home.aspx> or <https://www.fibis.org/>





## PRISONS and PRISONERS

If you find an ancestor who spent time in prison, the best place for advice on how to get started is at The National Archives <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../prisoners-or.../> where you can familiarise yourself with the subject

Increasingly, more data relating to prisons is becoming available through commercial sites such as Ancestry and FindMyPast. Depending on the era and area of interest, useful resources may also be found in local archives. Prison registers created after 1878 are more likely to be found here.

Even if you don't chance upon records of an actual relative, you can find out details of individual prisons or jails. You can investigate what life was like for those sentenced to hard labour, or were locked up in debtors' prisons, or left rotting in prison hulks.



*Photo: Winchester Prison*

### STEP-BY-STEP TIPS FOR LOCATING AN ANCESTOR'S GRAVE

- ☐ Scrutinise the death certificate to ascertain place of death
- ☐ Search for burials online
- ☐ Try local record offices and archives
- ☐ Check national records too
- ☐ Research the graveyard
- ☐ Look for a grave plan
- ☐ Visit the cemetery
- ☐ Add your findings to existing projects

## RAILWAY WORKERS

The invention of railways ushered in the modern age and became the nation's biggest employer during their heyday. The first thing to do when researching information on railway ancestors is to ascertain which railway company employed them. Prior to 1923 there were over 200! Many were local so start with finding the address where they lived and then trying companies that operated nearby with the help of a railway atlas.

Some towns such as Swindon, Eastleigh and Crewe grew up solely because of railway works so most of the local men were employed there.

One notable feature of railway work is that jobs were often kept in the family – many sons followed in their fathers' footsteps into the same company.

As is often the case, begin your research at TNA:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/railway-workers/>



*Photo: Staff at Eastleigh's carriage works, c1906, which operated before the opening of the locomotive works in 1909. (Hampshire Record Office)*

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 17

### WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM WILLS...



- ⌘ The goods and chattels owned by the departed – often very personal bequests such as books, jewellery or tools of their trade
- ⌘ Who was in, or out of, favour by the legacies awarded, or not awarded, to them
- ⌘ Your ancestor's attitude towards family, friends and the world in general
- ⌘ Conditions linked to bequests; e.g. to a wife unless she should remarry!
- ⌘ The location of property they owned
- ⌘ What kind of funeral they wanted
- ⌘ Whom their daughters married
- ⌘ Which of their children were still minors
- ⌘ Who their friends, executors, servants or business partners were
- ⌘ Their social position and achievements during their lifetime
- ⌘ Whether there were rifts within the family
- ⌘ The existence of children born out of wedlock

### WORKHOUSES

I have covered workhouses before but here are a few more tips...

- Don't assume that a forebear's stay in the workhouse was a one-off event. Some, known as the 'in-and-outs', treated the workhouse like a free hotel with frequent admissions and discharges
- Noting the times of year, and the length and number of stays, can throw light on an ancestor's circumstances
- The survival of workhouse admission/discharge and creed registers is variable. Alternatives are punishment books, registers of inmates' clothing, bathing registers, leave of absence registers, infirmary records, etc.
- Families tended to enter a workhouse together – the absence of a husband/father could indicate his death



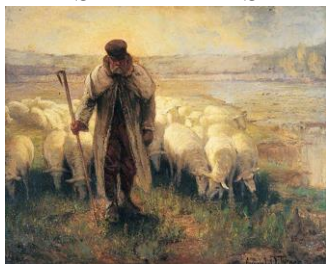
*Romsey Workhouse*

### RESEARCH TECHNIQUES - TEN TIPS

- Always keep the questions "Who? Where? When? Why?" in mind
- Create a realistic research target
- Set parameters to restrict 'research drift' [the tendency to go off at tangents]
- Create time-lines
- Overcome stumbling blocks by researching place rather than person
- Try researching siblings if an ancestor becomes elusive
- Try to think, and do things, differently
- Don't be stubborn but be tenacious
- Slow down; haste often means mistakes!
- Create spreadsheets to log your findings and keep a record of your research



## SHEPHERDS



Picture credit: The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds

- The status of the shepherd was recognized as separate from other Ag Labs on 19th century census returns – he was amongst the top three workers on a farm
- Shepherds were almost always men – ‘Little Bo Peeps’ were an unusual occurrence
- Shepherding meant long hours, work in all weathers and obstinate sheep to deal with
- A shepherd would regularly spend weeks alone and away from home
- Lambing time saw the shepherd working almost 24 hours a day which is when shepherds’ huts came into their own – temporary homes for the shepherd and shelter for ailing lambs
- Lowland shepherds, such as those in Hampshire, used to have wide areas of land, known as sheep walks, for their sheep to graze. Following enclosures, shepherds and their flocks became confined to fields
- Shepherding was often a family occupation, passed from father to son or uncle to nephew

Suggested resources:

Museum of English Rural Life [MERL]

[www.reading.ac.uk/merl](http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl)

Newspapers – reports of hiring fairs, local agricultural fairs, etc.

“A Shepherd’s Life” by WH Hudson can be downloaded from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

## WILDCARD SEARCHES

The spellings of our ancestors’ names were not always set in stone – many were unable to read or write – and exact spellings were not as important as they are today.

In addition, so many records have been copied, indexed and re-copied that there is plenty of scope for errors to appear.

A wildcard search usually replaces zero or more letters by an asterisk [\*] and many online indexes have the capacity to run them which often helps identify an ancestor who hasn’t come to light the first time you search.

*Example:* Searching for the entry in the GRO Death indexes for Mary Masters in 1852 proved difficult. By using a wildcard search (Mary Ma\*), the entry was found for a Mary Martin which turned out to be a mis-transcription of the handwriting on the original document. Other details on the document confirmed this was the correct person.

|     |                                            |             |        |             |                                                      |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 292 | Fourth<br>March<br>1852<br>Horton<br>Worby | Mary Martin | Female | 48<br>years | Wife of<br>William<br>Martin<br>Plumber &<br>Glazier |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|

Ordnance Survey has recently launched a new walking app for families. It's called Secret Stories and, for now, most of the walks are in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset. There are quite a few local ones, including a Romsey walk which has stories about WW1 horses trained in the camp near Romsey, the nun who was told off for keeping an ape in her chamber, a king's body that was transported up Bell St and a heroic tailor who rescued more than one child from drowning in Middlebridge St.

It's family inspiration at your fingertips — discover fun, local mini adventures with Secret Stories from Ordnance Survey

Download Secret Stories from the App Store here:

Apple = <https://app.adjust.com/rkops4s...>

GooglePlay = <https://app.adjust.com/x6ohw5e...>



## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 18

### SIBLINGS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS



In the 19th century, double-sibling marriages between middle-class families often occurred, strengthening economic and emotional ties. First cousin marriages also made useful alliances.

The upbringing of boys and girls differed immensely. A boy would be expected to make his mark in life, seeking adventure and branching out into business. A girl, on the other hand, should be demure and grow up to fulfil domestic duties. What was considered 'spirit' in a boy would be regarded as 'forwardness' in a girl!

Every year, from 1830, the matter of whether a man should be allowed to marry his dead wife's sister was raised in Parliament until the Marriage to Deceased Wife's Sister Act was passed in 1906. We know, of course, that the law had been disregarded by many for decades which meant that second marriages often took place away from the home parish, making it difficult for family historians to track them down.

By 1900, attitudes were beginning to change. Women were having fewer children and marrying close relatives was no longer regarded positively. By 1990, the idea of two sisters marrying two brothers was seen as very strange.

### UNMARRIED MOTHERS

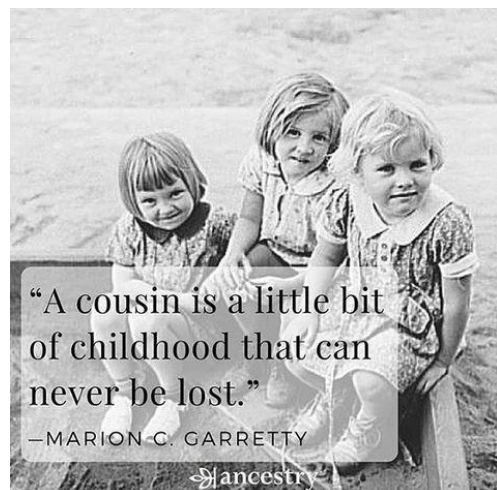
You may have come across a child born in the Workhouse to an unmarried mother. She would have been unpopular with the authorities – moral disapproval and expensive to maintain – and their stay would be made very unpleasant:

- Stigmatised
- Segregated accommodation
- Uniform distinguishable from other inmates
- Unappetising diet
- Expected to work following confinement [baby in the workhouse nursery]
- Coerced into giving child up for adoption



*Workhouse nursery*

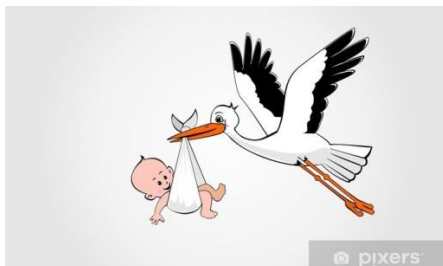
Placing unmarried mothers in the Workhouse was a deterrent against 'moral failings'. However, it was also fact that their labour in the daily work of running the institution had considerable practical value.



## MISSING BIRTH?

Things to consider:

- If you cannot find an entry for a birth in the GRO Birth Index, it just may be that it simply isn't there!
- It may be worth checking out a different website with independently compiled indexes.
- A name or two may have been missed out when the indexes were compiled at GRO from copies sent in from the various districts
- Search for a baptism record to find details to help you in your search – you may even find the date of birth has been noted too!
- A child would normally be registered before being baptised but a name may not have agreed upon. The child may have been registered as 'Male' or 'Female' but finding the baptism will give you the name
- Knowing the mother's maiden name is a great help and can now be used when searching the GRO indexes
- Perhaps the child was born where you're not expecting – if a firstborn, maybe in the mother's home district; maybe even abroad
- From 1969, the date of birth is given on a death certificate.
- The 1939 Register also gives birth dates
- The registration may not be in the yearly quarter you expect – a child born in March, for instance may not have been registered until April and will appear in the next quarter; i.e. June
- The child may have been registered under a different surname, especially if born just before the parents actually married
- Transcription errors are always a possibility, especially for the early years when the original records were hand-written; e.g. Parker/Parkin, Russell/Rufsell, Adams/Adnams



## 1920S MIDWIFE IN YOUR FAMILY?



In less than half an hour, with just a name, you could find details such as address, enrolment date and qualifications attained. You may even find more.

Go to <https://www.familyrelatives.com> > Search > A-Z records, then type Midwives Roll 1920 into the search box.

It is free to search and you will find out if there is a relevant entry. If you wish to view the entry, you will need to subscribe:

- Day Pass £17.00 [Family Tree Connect; Access Free Records; England & Wales – Births, Marriages, Deaths; Military Records]
- Silver Worldwide £25.00 annually [Family Tree Connect; Access Free Records; England & Wales – Births, Marriages, Deaths; Military Records]
- Platinum All Access £34.95 annually [Access all records including Special Collections, Censuses, Worldwide records as well as Family Tree Connect; Access Free Records; England & Wales – Births, Marriages, Deaths; Military Records]



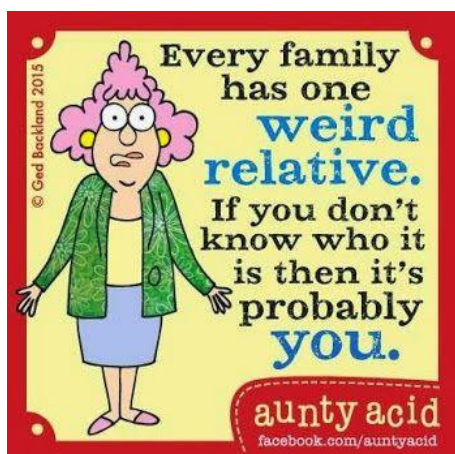
*Again? But we read from Mummy's family history book last night!*

## HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 19

### FAMILYSEARCH – TEN TIPS



1. Search by given name only + a place name
2. Search by surname only + a localised place name + a narrow time frame
3. Search without any names at all but enter a birth year + a small place name
4. Use a wildcard (asterisk) in both given name and surname but you must specify at least three letters; e.g. Th\*n
5. Use up to 3 wildcards in a name; e.g. B\*ch\*I
6. Use a wildcard to represent letters at the beginning of a name; e.g. \*hins
7. Use wildcards to represent letters at the end of a name; e.g. Shake\*
8. On a parent search, enter the surname with no given name. Enter one or both parents' names but including a birth year and a place name will help narrow down the number of results
9. Sometimes using 'exact match' is appropriate – works for given names, surnames and place names
10. Occasionally, where an associated batch number is shown, it can be helpful to check all the transcribed entries in that batch so you can see everyone with the name you are searching



### TEN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES' RECORDS ON FAMILYSEARCH:

1. Australia
2. Bahamas
3. Barbados
4. Canada
5. Ghana
6. India
7. Jamaica
8. New Zealand
9. South Africa
10. Zimbabwe

Search the FamilySearch Research Wiki to get started with research in a new country. Type in the name of a country and you will be given a historical overview, a description of records and resources plus helpful lists of relevant websites.



### EXPLORE MAPS OF ENGLISH JURISDICTIONS WITH FAMILYSEARCH

Go to <https://www.familysearch.org/map> to explore this clever tool. You can use it to search several types of jurisdictional boundaries such as parish, Poor Law Unions and Civil Registration Districts.

1. Enter a parish or locality into the search box and click 'search'
2. Alternatively, you can click on a specific county that you are interested in – a box of options will appear. If you choose parishes, a list of all the parishes in that county will appear on the left hand side. Click the one you are interested in.
3. A blue pin will appear on the loaded map. Click on it to open a box with 3 tabs – info, jurisdictions and options
4. Back to the left side of the page, click on 'layers' and you can choose which type of jurisdiction you wish to view on the map
5. You can view the maps on full screen; you can zoom in and out; you can hover and move the map around.

It's a fantastic resource and worth 'playing around' with!



## RESEARCH ON THE GO

Using a smartphone or a tablet away from home can keep you connected whilst on the move. The potential advantages are:

- Wherever you go, you can take your research with you
- You can share your tree, photos, scans, video & audio recordings with family anywhere
- You can refer to your research when 'out in the field'

### Android or Apple?



It's up to you, of course, but keep to one or the other so that all your devices can synchronise their data

### APP

This is a program that runs on a smartphone or tablet just like programs on your home computer

- **Apple** uses an operating system called iOS and the official source of their apps is at APPSTORE. The user needs an iTunes account to download and purchase apps
- **ANDROID MARKET** is where apps can be downloaded or purchased, using a single account, for Android devices

### FAMILY HISTORY APPS to consider:

- If you already use Ancestry, FindMyPast, FamilySearch, MyHeritage etc. there are associated apps available for free
- AncestryDNA also has an app
- Find A Grave (Ancestry) and BillionGraves (FamilySearch) apps are great for using when you're visiting cemeteries and graveyards
- Evernote, although not geared specifically towards family historians in particular, enables you to edit and create notes directly from your phone or tablet and everything synchronises automatically
- Google PhotoScan can step in to save the day by allowing you to snap the best possible image. The free app does so by taking not one, but four images of an item, then stitching the photos together.

There are many more apps out there – just search for them online!

## PRESERVING RECORDS



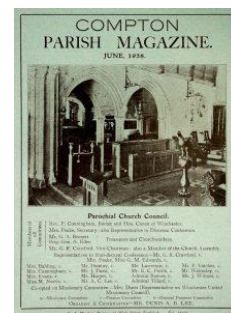
The Institute of Conservation (ICON) has a 'how to' section on its website at <https://www.icon.org.uk/.../ca.../caring-for-your-treasures.html>

You will find information and advice about how to care for various objects, including documents, papers, photographs and suchlike that we family historians collect as we research. The most important thing when caring for old records is storage!

Paper, for instance, should be stored where there are no variations in humidity and temperature so not in the loft or garage! Under the bed or in a cupboard is preferable. Before storing, remove metal fastenings such as paper clips as these can corrode and cause staining.

## PARISH MAGAZINES

Tracking down the parish where your ancestor was baptised, married and/or was buried can sometimes be tricky but, once located, have you ever thought about searching out archived Church Parish magazines?



They can often provide details of an ancestor that would not be found elsewhere. Perhaps your ancestor was the Parish Clerk; perhaps he or she was the Parish philanthropist; perhaps you'll come across an obituary which includes more detail than in a local newspaper, for instance.

Not only will you be given a fascinating insight into the life of the individual but you might stumble across a clue which will lead you to new areas of research.