

HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 20

WAR HORSES

Below is a photograph of the war horse statue in Romsey, Hampshire, where there was a Remount Depot during WW1 for the training and conditioning of horses for use in battle. In nearby Southampton, the Swaythling Depot sent horses direct to France.

The Army required huge numbers of horses and thousands were requisitioned for army duties. In time it became necessary to import, firstly from Canada and then as far away as Argentina.

Every Army Command had a few small training depots. However, most records were unfortunately destroyed post-war but some do still survive. It's worth trying County Record Offices, Local District Councils and Local History Societies to find information.



Picture credit: Romsey Local History Society <https://www.ltvias.org.uk/>

THE HOME FRONT: WAR WORK 1940-1945

In May 1940, Anthony Eden, the Secretary of State for War, addressed 'men of all ages' on the BBC's Home Service and launched a new drive for Local Defence Volunteers. In a month there were over 1.4 million volunteers. The following year, in Spring, women between 18 and 60 years of age were registered too.

Life for a British Home Guard or a Land Girl was tough and deadly serious. To find out what those recruited into these UK home services undertook as part of the war effort, you can do no better than explore the "Home Sweet Home" website at www.homesweethomefront.co.uk

You will find:

- ☐ Information about the Home Guard [formerly called the Local Defence Volunteers – LDV]
- ☐ Information about the Land Girls
- ☐ Details about Anderson shelters, rationing, blackout procedures, the Dig for Victory campaign, propaganda, evacuation and much more

TIPS FOR WW1 ARMY PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION...

- Cap badges are vital for identifying regiments and corps
- Metal shoulder titles give the regiment name and a letter 'T' indicates the Territorial Force
- Regimental badges often appear on an officer's jacket collar and sometimes the sleeves for cavalry, engineer or artillery sergeants
- Ranks are indicated by one, two or three stripes on the upper sleeve for lance-corporals, corporals and sergeants with sergeant-majors and staff sergeants having a crown above
- Officers wore a combination of pips and crowns on cuffs or shoulders
- Trade and proficiency badges indicate skills – crossed rifles: marksman; horseshoe: farrier; crossed flags: signaller
- Service chevrons [on right cuff] indicate years served abroad
- Wound stripes [on left cuff] show the number of wounds
- Divisional patch [right shoulder] shows the division served with
- Spurs or bandoliers indicate horses – cavalry or artillery
- Hard-peaked cloth caps show a date of 1914/15
- Soft peaked caps indicate 1915 onwards
- Tin helmets were introduced in early 1916
- Sun helmets and shorts suggest tropical/desert service
- Lorries/buses usually indicate Army Service Corps
- Artillery guns indicate the Royal Artillery
- Horses can mean cavalry or transport
- Other clues may be place names or unit references



Photo: Lovell collection

WERE YOUR ANCESTORS IN INDIA?



From the late 16th century until 1947, there were British colonies in India [today's India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh] as well as Burma, Nepal and Bhutan. During this period, thousands of Britons went to live and work there, either temporarily or permanently. Was your forebear one of them?

An excellent source for research is at <https://www.fibis.org/>, the website of The Families in British India Society.

A particularly impressive feature on the website is their 'fibiwiki', an online encyclopaedia providing useful background information to help you enhance the biographies of your ancestors' lives.

BE A FAMILY HISTORY TOURIST!

Making trips to a place where your ancestors lived, worked, loved and died can be an emotional experience. Sometimes it brings a feeling of sadness; sometimes it can be very uplifting; it certainly adds a whole new dimension to the sense of family.

You may find the places you visit will be transformed beyond all recognition from the days your ancestors lived there. Sometimes you may find them distinctly unappealing. However, you'll relish that tingly feeling you get when you know that your ancestors were baptised there, lived there, walked there, worked there, married there and in the end are buried below that weathered headstone.

To touch the gravestone, to look at or even go inside the house where they lived, to look at the views they saw, to travel the highways and byways they travelled are hugely important links to the past which somehow brings them closer. Nothing can beat it!



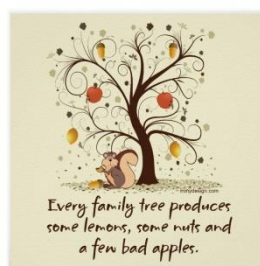
Photograph: Visiting All Saints Churchyard, Minstead, Hampshire [Lovell collection]



"According to this genealogy website, I'm 60,765,228th in line to the throne!"



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



Family Tree Humor Poster by IronyDesign



"I GUESS GRAMPA IS PRETTY IMPORTANT. HE SAYS IF HE HADN'T BEEN BORN... NEITHER WOULD I."

HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 21



What's in a Scottish name?



Find out how the Scots named their children down through the generations.

For many centuries, the **Scots** have followed a relatively simple set of rules when assigning given names to their successive children. While these **traditional naming patterns** were not followed by all families, they were widespread enough that a basic understanding can come in handy when you need help in your hunt for Scottish ancestors.

Being familiar with these Scottish naming patterns will allow you to make **genealogical inferences**, identify potential **new avenues of research**, and reveal all sorts of **clues** about the lives of your ancestors.

However, by the latter part of the nineteenth century, these patterns did begin to break down and fade out of use so be cautious when using them to identify more recent ancestors.

Scottish boys' naming patterns Scottish girls' naming patterns

First Born Son – named for the paternal grandfather

Second Born Son – named for the maternal grandfather

Third Son named for the father – unless he shares a name with one of the grandfathers

Fourth and subsequent sons were often named after father or mother's brothers

First Born Daughter – named for the maternal grandmother

Second Born Daughter – named for the paternal grandmother

Third Daughter – named for the mother – unless she shares a name with one of the grandmothers

Subsequent daughters were generally named for mother or father's sisters

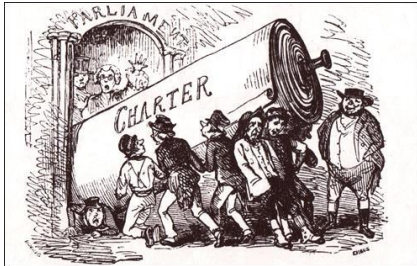
These formulae may come in handy when identifying potential members of your ancestor's immediate family. However, it's always worth bearing in mind that certain family circumstances could divert these patterns from their usual course.

For example, you may find that certain given names were duplicated within the same generation. This could be the result of both grandfathers sharing a common name that was then given to two children, or, it could hint at the death of an earlier child within the family. Another common naming tradition saw parents name later children after dead siblings.

It is also worth considering the middle names of later ancestors as they were often the mother or grandmother's maiden name.

CHARTIST ANCESTORS

Chartism is the umbrella term for a working-class movement for political reform in Britain which was born out of the Reform Act of 1832. The Chartist movement flourished between 1838 and 1848 and, although it ultimately disappeared after failing to achieve its goals, it did pave the way for future politicians, trade unionists and political agitators to continue the fight for a fairer democratic system.



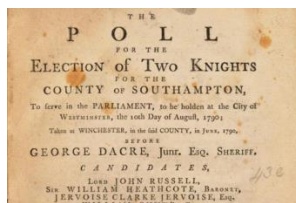
If you find an ancestor who was caught up in the unrest, the website <https://www.chartistancestors.co.uk/> would be a great place to start.

If you type 'chartists' or 'chartism' into your search engine, a myriad of resources will come to light.

POLL BOOKS [ENGLAND & WALES]

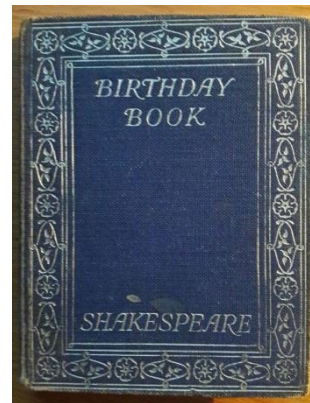
Before the introduction of the secret ballot in 1872, the votes at parliamentary elections were publicly declared. No ballot paper was involved but, at the hustings, a record was made of the name and address of the voter and of the candidate(s) for whom he voted. The resulting "poll books" were often printed afterwards and many manuscript and printed poll books survive, the majority between 1694 and 1872. They form useful county and borough directories of those who held a small amount of freehold land.

Besides names and details on the election itself - when it took place, who was running and for what - poll books may list address, occupation, qualifications for voting, and a place where the property that qualified a voter is located.



Ancestry has 'UK, Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538-1893' at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2410/>

THE BEAUTY OF A BIRTHDAY BOOK



Amongst your family memorabilia, you may be lucky enough to find a **Birthday Book** which belonged to a grandmother, great grandmother, great aunt, etc. Yes, they were normally amongst women's possessions!

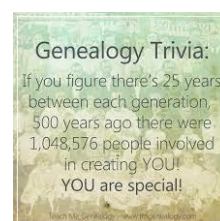
Many of them were associated with a famous poet or playwright, e.g. Alfred Lord Tennyson or William Shakespeare, and include quotations from their works.

Apart from recording family members' birthdays, these little books may also contain information about baptisms, engagements, marriages and deaths. What a wonderful springboard for your research!

However...do not just accept that all the dates are correct. You must find proof, at least two pieces of evidence, to support them. Use BMD records, baptism records, censuses, the 1939 Register, probate records and newspapers to confirm everything you read.

Use the information to build a picture of happy families and social contacts.

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SOUTHAMPTON – TOWN, CITY OR COUNTY?

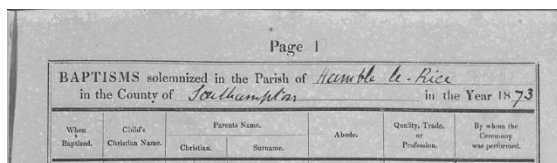
The county of Hampshire has in the past been called "Southamptonshire" and appears as such on some Victorian maps. Many historic documents, e.g. parish records, refer to it as the County of Southampton.

The old name appears as the place of embarkation of many of the immigrants into Ellis Island. It is also recorded in the Commonwealth Instrument of Government, 1653, which was adopted by Oliver Cromwell when he assumed the office of Lord Protector in 1654.

The name of the administrative county was changed from 'County of Southampton' to 'County of Hampshire' on 1 April 1959.

In 1964 the town of Southampton acquired city status and, because of the Local Government Act 1972, was created a non-metropolitan district within Hampshire County in 1973.

Take care to view images of original records in order to be sure whether 'Southampton', in transcription or indexes, means the town, the city or the county.



BOURNEMOUTH & CHRISTCHURCH

Historically, the towns of Bournemouth and Christchurch were in the County of Hampshire.



Bournemouth is a coastal resort and sandwiched between Poole to the west and Christchurch to the east. Originally a deserted heathland, it was founded in 1810 and, with its growth accelerated with the arrival of the railway, it became a town in 1870.

Following the reorganisation of UK local government in 1974, the once Hampshire town of Bournemouth, along with its neighbour Christchurch, joined Dorset for administrative purposes. In 2019, the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole unitary authority was created.

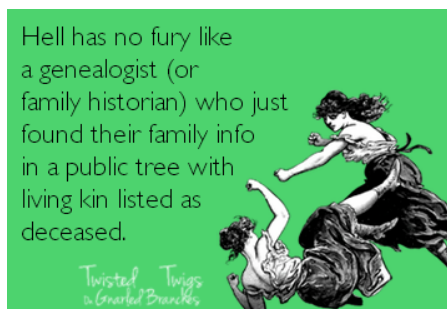
If you have pre-1974 ancestry in either Christchurch or Bournemouth, you must remember to search amongst Hampshire records.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Isle of Wight has been for some purposes in the past treated traditionally as part of Hampshire, but has been administered separately from Hampshire for over a century, having obtained a county council of its own in 1890. It became a full ceremonial county in 1974, when there was a reorganisation of UK local government, and is the largest and second-most populous island in England. Apart from a shared police force there are now no formal administrative links between the Isle of Wight and Hampshire.



Whereas most records relating to the Isle of Wight, including parish registers, are kept at the Isle of Wight Record Office, because the Isle of Wight was at one time a part of the county of Hampshire and the Diocese of Winchester, some records are held at the Hampshire Record Office. These records include contemporary Bishop's Transcripts of Isle of Wight parish registers for some years in the 18th and 19th centuries, census returns from 1841-1901, wills, maps, some Quarter Sessions records and various other records of the Isle of Wight



HAMPSHIRE TO AMERICA

If you have ancestors or relatives who arrived in America from UK from 1892, discover their arrival on the Ellis Island website at <https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/>

You'll find loads of helpful background information and a collection of arrival records to discover new layers in your ancestry and retrace your family's journey to the United States.

You can research both passengers and ships.



TOP TIP FOR FINDING A BIRTH RECORD...



Don't dismiss a birth record because the information is not what you expect, especially if you base your search on census information. Details are often 'hidden' or 'not quite truthful' on censuses.

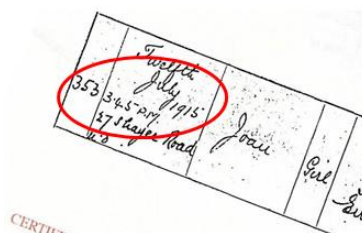
A child you are researching may be an illegitimate grandchild, rather than the youngest of a large family.

A child's mother might have died between the birth and the next census, and the father remarried, meaning that the certificate may well be right.

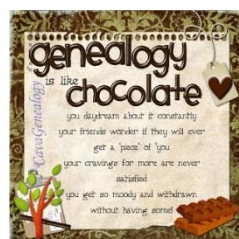
HAVE YOU FOUND A TWIN?

If a time of birth is recorded on an England & Wales birth certificate, it's often a sign that the child was one of a twin or more.

Have a second look in the indexes for others registered in the same quarter and district, with an identical or similar reference number.



N.B. In Scotland, the time of birth is a routine piece of information on certificates so does not give the same hint.



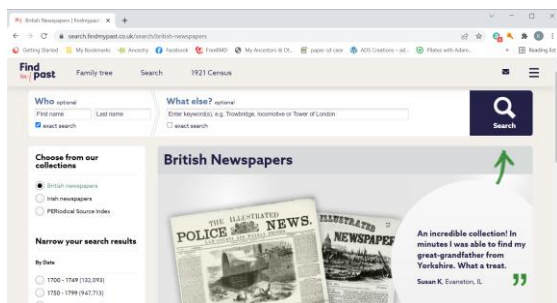
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WHY USE NEWSPAPERS?

Newspapers can help us to reveal the daily lives of our ancestors. Local newspapers include more than just announcements of births, marriages, and deaths or coverage of major, national events. You can read about who visited the town, what special events took place, court cases, the settling of estates and land sales, disasters, advertisements and so much more, allowing you to further understand your ancestor's place within their local community.

At FindMyPast, you can view nearly 10 million newspapers for free. If you are a subscriber, there's nearly a whopping 650 million! What's not to like?

- Search for an individual, by entering first name and last name in the 'Who' box
- Search for a specific topic or place by entering a location, keyword, occupation, or phrase in the 'What else?' box
- Use the filters to refine and narrow your results by newspaper title, publication date, or region.



DO YOU WISH YOU HAD ASKED?



You may have fond memories of a grandparent, or elderly aunt, and the lively stories they told. However, do you now wish you had asked more questions when they were alive? It may have broken down some brick walls but, sadly, once they are gone, their knowledge has gone with them!

The moral of this tale...

We must record our own knowledge, not leave it in our heads or on scraps of paper. We must leave it properly organised and accessible for future generations...and we must label all those photographs, including the digital ones!

COMPANY RECORDS



When you come across an ancestor who worked for a specific business or organisation, it's always well worth checking to see if they have their own archive collections and surviving staff records.

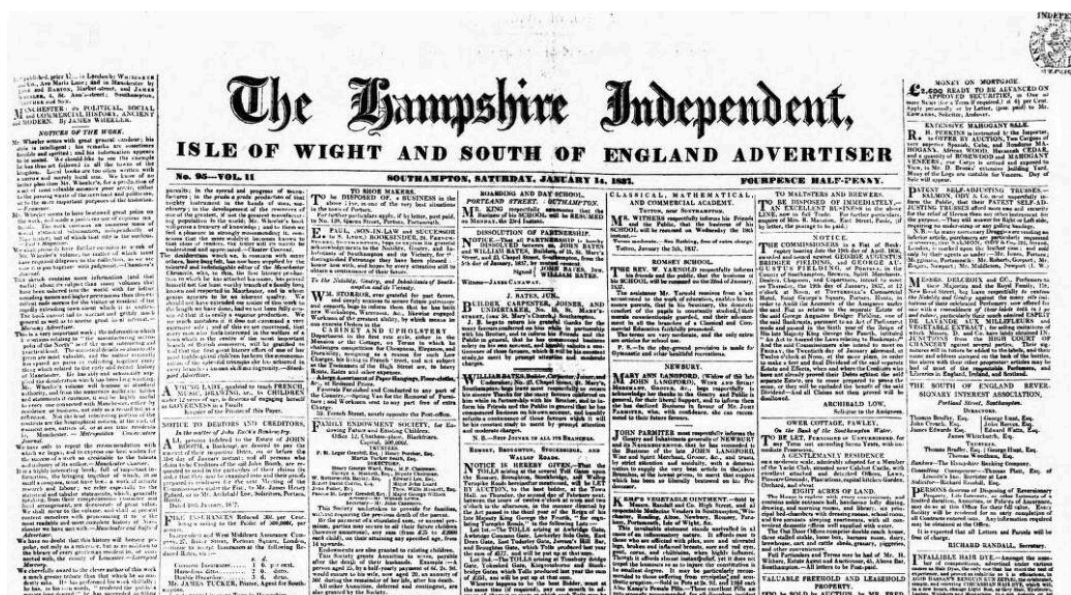
Look the company up online and make contact. If you don't ask, you don't get and you never know what gems you might find!

Why not start with this helpful guide at TNA?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/companies-and-businesses/>

THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN SEARCHING NEWSPAPERS ON OR OFF LINE

- Don't assume that because you come across a name the same as your ancestor's that it is your ancestor. Make the same checks you would of any document and find other proof to back it up
- Not all newspapers have been digitised
- The British Library does not hold every newspaper – search locally for early editions
- Birth, marriage & death announcements didn't appear just in newspapers – upper & middle classes featured in, for instance, The Gentleman's Magazine
- Professional journals, parish magazines, etc. as well as newspapers, would report news of your ancestors
- Early newspapers did not include illustrations
- The first English newspaper was not really a newspaper – The Oxford Gazette [1665] was dictated by the government of the time!
- When exploring online digital newspapers, make sure you read the search instructions – each site is different and if you don't search correctly, you may miss something vital
- Look for digitised newspapers from overseas – a great way to research you ancestors abroad
- Be aware - not everything in print is true!



**THE BEST LOVED
STORIES ARE NOT
FROM BOOKS
OR FILMS
BUT
THOSE FROM OUR
OWN FAMILIES**

Joan McCarthy Family

**SO MANY
ANCESTORS
SO LITTLE
TIME!**

7-30
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www.familyquest.com

**"When Grandma was young, she
had to walk all the way to the
TV to change the channels."**

HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 24

CAN'T FIND A BIRTH IN THE GRO INDEXES?

You may have made a wrong calculation...

GRO entries are divided into quarters and it is possible for a birth or death to be registered in the quarter following the actual event; e.g. a birth on 29th March may not be registered until the beginning of April making it fall into the June quarter for GRO purposes and not the March quarter as you might expect.

Sometimes a relative may have given you a date of birth. Consider, for instance, whether they may have got the day and month correct but the year wrong.

If calculating a date of birth from a census return, look at the exact date the census was taken and draft a 'calendar' for yourself so you can work out in which year the birth would have fallen.

Ages on censuses may, of course, not be accurate. It is therefore a good idea to track an individual through a series of censuses to try and find a clue about a person's age. An added bonus is that, by doing this, it may also throw up any name variants you could try.

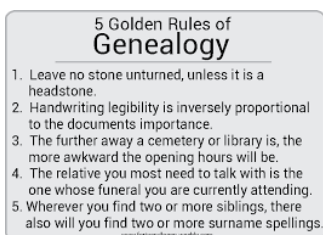
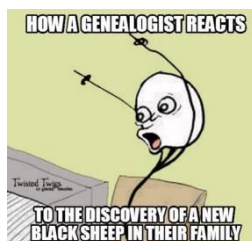
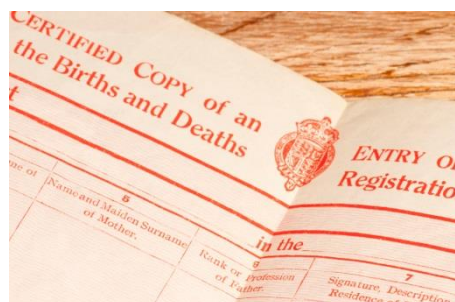
Calculating age from a marriage certificate needs extra caution. 'Of full age' means 21 years and over – sometimes well over! There was a tendency for people to lower their age at marriage, especially when

marrying someone much younger than themselves. Conversely, some added years to their age. Sometimes minors passed themselves off as 'of full age' and did it successfully, particularly if marrying away from their home parish.

Although registration began in September 1837, it was not compulsory to register births until 1875. After that, parents were given a 6-week window in which to do it before a fine was payable for not doing so. You might therefore find a parent has adjusted their child's age in order to avoid the fine!

Some babies were registered before the parents had decided on a name and will be recorded as 'male' or 'female'. Look for these at the end of its surname section.

Look for baptisms as an alternative strategy but bear in mind that people sometimes altered the order of their given names or became known by another name altogether!



LOOKING FOR AN ELUSIVE MARRIAGE?

You cannot assume that a marriage preceded the birth of the first child by at least nine months. Real life is not that tidy!

Consider the possibility that the couple in question did not marry at all.

Consider the couple may not have married until many years of living together with a family. This may happen if one or other was actually already married to someone else and could not afford divorce or face the scandal. Once released by the death of the first spouse, a marriage could take place.

If you have not been able to find a marriage in the GRO Index, try looking in parish registers of any churches connected with the family; e.g. where siblings had married or where baptisms had taken place.

This may not have been the wife's first marriage. If widowed, she will marry under her former married surname rather than her maiden surname. If divorced, she may have reverted to her maiden surname.

Marriage certificates have the potential for containing inaccuracies that any others:

- Lying about age
- Embellishing their father's station in life; e.g. an Ag Lab can become a Farmer
- Embellishing their own station in life
- A deceased father can be replaced by an elder brother or uncle who is then named as 'father of the bride'
- A person born illegitimately may not know their father's name so just makes one up!



SEARCHING FOR A DEATH?



If a death is proving elusive in the GRO Index, try pursuing a burial or monumental inscription which may well give you a clue when the death occurred. This can be useful when searching for someone with a common name and you cannot confirm a GRO entry is the correct one or not.

Before the 20th century, most people were buried within a few days of their death. Longer gaps occur from then onwards or earlier if a coroner's inquest was called.

If a local church yields nothing, find out if there was a civic cemetery in the area.

After 1858, one of the simplest ways of establishing a death is through the Probate Registry's wills indexes. Not everyone made a will but it is a useful way of eliminating someone from your enquiries.

Newspaper announcements of a death or reports on a funeral are also of great use.

Electoral rolls and trade or street directories can be helpful. Trace a person through the years until they no longer appear which will give you a range of dates in which to search. Bear in mind, though, that some time will have passed before the entries were altered.

Finally, the age of death may not be correct. The age given by a close family member is more likely to be accurate than if the death was registered by a friend, neighbour or manager of an institution.

"Every family has a story that it tells itself, that it passes on to the children and the grandchildren. The story grows over the years, mutates; some parts are sharpened, others dropped and there is often debate about what really happened. But even with these different sides of the same story, there is still agreement that this is the family story" - A. M. Homes

HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 25

NONCONFORMITY

England had remained a completely Catholic country until 1533 when Henry VIII broke away from Rome. However, it wasn't until 1559 that the Act of Uniformity rendered the Protestant Church of England the Established Church of the land. This led to dissenters forming their own congregations.

The term Nonconformists came into use in 1662 and refers to those people who would not conform to the Act of Uniformity.

By 1851, 17% of England's population, and 45% in Wales, were attending weekly worship in nonconformist chapels

Clues to finding nonconformist ancestors:

- Use of Old Testament names as forenames
- Inability to find baptisms, yet marriages and burials are recorded
- Following Hardwicke's Marriage Act from 1754, nonconformists who were forced to marry in the Anglican parish church may have chosen to be married by licence rather than by banns
- Civil marriage certificates from 1837 may show a venue other than an Anglican church

METHODISTS

Methodism began in the 1730s following the teachings of John Wesley. Originally members attended the parish church on Sundays and were baptised, married and buried by Anglican clergy. However, they attended preaching services in their own chapels during the week.



John Wesley

The term 'Methodism' came about because they used 'rule' and 'method' in their religious affairs.

By the end of the 18th century, having split away from the Anglican Church altogether, they were having their children baptised in their own chapels.

The movement itself split into various factions but eventually came back together in 1932 as the Methodist Church.

PRESBYTERIANS

Presbyterianism originated primarily in Scotland, led by John Knox, as a result of the Scottish Reformation in 1560 but its roots lie in the European Reformation of the 16th century and the reformer John Calvin.



John Knox

Presbyterian theology generally adheres to the Calvinist tradition which emphasises the sovereignty of God, the authority of the Scriptures and the necessity of peace through faith in Christ.

Government of the Presbyterian Church is based on rule by presbyters [elders]. The presbyters who govern the church are grouped in a hierarchy of courts, the highest of which is the general assembly.

QUAKERS

Quakers, or 'Friends', are members of a family of religious movements collectively known as the Religious Society of Friends.

In the 1640s, George Fox became dissatisfied with the teachings of both the Church of England and Nonconformists. He believed that it was possible to have a direct experience of Christ without the aid of ordained clergy.

Quakerism gained a large following with numbers increasing to 60,000 in England and Wales by 1680.



George Fox

UNITARIANS

The flaming chalice
is the Unitarian
logo



The Unitarian movement grew out of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century and began in Eastern Europe during the mid-16th century. In England, the first Unitarian Church was established on Essex Street, London, and it was the first church in Britain to accept women as ministers, in 1904.

The concept of the Trinity is rejected by the Unitarian faith. Followers adhere to a belief in 'the oneness of God' maintaining that Jesus was a prophet and the 'son' of God but not God himself.

Unitarians believe religion should make a difference to the world, so they are often active in social justice and community work.

Unitarian communities have developed in Britain, Ireland, South Africa, Central Europe, India, Canada, the United States, Jamaica, Nigeria, and Japan.

CONGREGATIONALISTS

The origins of Congregationalism are found in 16th-century Puritanism. They sought to separate themselves from the Anglican Church in every possible way and even had no church buildings of their own, meeting in ordinary homes for many years.

This is best identified as a movement rather than a single denomination. Congregationalists distinguish themselves by committing to the complete autonomy of the local congregation under God and therefore do not submit to any outside, human authorities. In essence, it means each congregation independently and autonomously runs its own affairs.



Southampton
Congregational
Church

BAPTISTS

The earliest record of a Baptist church dates back to 1609 in Amsterdam where English Separatist, John Smyth, was its pastor.

His interpretation of the New Testament inspired him to reject the baptism of infants in preference for baptising only believing adults.

The practice spread to England where the General Baptists considered Christ's atonement extended to all people in contrast to the Particular Baptists who believed it extended only to the elect.



Romsey
Baptist
Church

OTHER GROUPS

In addition to the main nonconformist groups highlighted previously, there were many others, including:

- Anabaptists
- Brownists
- Calvinists
- Calvinistic Methodists
- Swedenborgians
- Muggletonians

There were also many other sects whose principal beliefs were aligned with main line Protestants.

Many were fearful of persecution, even during times of tolerance, and therefore did not want to keep records. However, in the 19th and 20th century, record-keeping did improve.

You may well find:

- minutes of meetings
- records of property and finance
- church histories and magazines
- registers of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials

NONCONFORMIST REGISTERS

George Rose's Act of 1812 which introduced standard forms for recording baptisms and burials in Anglican parishes, did not apply to nonconformists. Therefore their records are in many different formats and often contain far more information – a bonus for family historians!

Nonconformist registers often belonged to the ministers who took them with them as they travelled their 'circuits'. Sometimes they took them with them if they were transferred to another part of the country!

In London, in 1742, the General Register of Births of Children of Protestant Dissenters (more commonly known as Dr Williams's Library) was set up and, by 1837, 48,975 births had been registered, some retrospectively from 1716.

A similar Metropolitan Registry for Wesleyan Methodists was established in 1818 but it closed in 1838 by which time nearly 10,300 births had been recorded.

Bunhill Fields, in London, was a Dissenters' burial ground which opened in 1665. Surviving burial registers, recording 47,622 burials, date from 1713 to 1854.

USEFUL SOURCES

- Society of Genealogists (SoG) <https://www.sog.org.uk/>
- Religious Society of Friends Library <https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/library>
- Dr Williams's Library <https://dwl.ac.uk/>
- Parliamentary Archives <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/>
- The National Archives <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (also online)

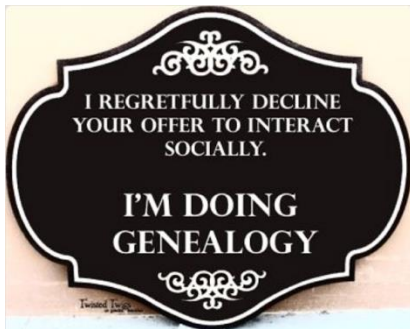
Books:

- The 'My Ancestors were...' series published by SoG includes: Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists, Quakers and others.
- "Nonconformist Ancestors" by Eve McLaughlin

Online:

- The Genealogist <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>
- Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>
- FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>
- BMD Registers <https://bmdregisters.co.uk/>

HINTS, TIPS, SNIPPETS & SMILES: Edition 26



DIGITAL LEGACY

Thank you to u3a member, Barbara Potten, for alerting me to this important issue...

It's not something any one of us likes to think about...but...what happens to our digital footprint when we die? The Law Society advocates including a digital element in our will; i.e. anything from your social media profiles like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to videos, photos and music you may have stored online. As family historians this, of course, includes online family trees, websites, personal blogs, etc.

While the simple solution would seem to be leaving a list of passwords and PINs for family members to find, it is in fact a criminal offence to do so! An executor should not even use them to access an account after someone's passing. What they should do is contact each online service to request accounts are closed.

Break down your digital assets into four categories:

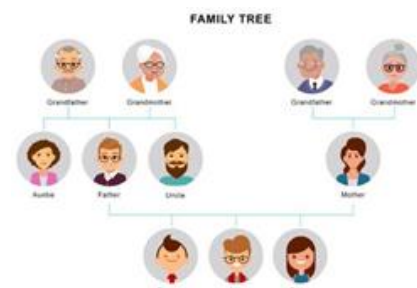
- financial
- social
- sentimental [music, photos, videos, media]
- intellectual [blogs, websites and other online content of value; e.g. online family trees]

The Digital Legacy Association (digitallegacyassociation.org) provides a template for a social media will. It lists:

- username or email address for each account
- whom you choose as its executor
- whether you wish the account to be closed, memorialised or deactivated
- whether you have backed up and also downloaded a copy of files from the site

It is a matter of concern that fewer than 10% of people have made plans for the legacy of their social media and other digital assets. The advice is make a will and name executors for ALL your estate; i.e. your 'real-world' one and your digital property and accounts.

Think about it!



NAMING PATTERNS

Geographical location, local culture and religion usually determined traditions in the naming of our ancestors' children. The key is for us to work out our own family's naming patterns, which often ran through three or more generations, because it can help us pin down the correct family to research.

Unfortunately, the use of naming patterns in Hampshire and the south of England was not as prevalent as in the northern counties or in Scotland and Ireland where they were frequently used.

The most common convention used for males in England from about 1700 was:

- 1st son named after paternal grandfather
- 2nd son named after maternal grandfather
- 3rd son named after father
- 4th son named after oldest paternal uncle
- 5th son named after second oldest paternal or maternal uncle

The most common convention used for females in England from about 1700 was:

- 1st daughter named after maternal grandmother
- 2nd daughter named after paternal grandmother
- 3rd daughter named after mother
- 4th daughter named after oldest maternal aunt
- 5th daughter named after second oldest maternal or paternal aunt

Sometimes, names were given according to religious principles; e.g. Faith, Hope and Charity amongst nonconformist communities

Remember: as children frequently died in infancy, names were often re-used. Even more bizarrely, sometimes the same name was given to more than one living child, especially if a father and a grandfather had the same forename!



THE SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

<http://archive.spectator.co.uk/>



The weekly magazine, The Spectator, has an online archive of editions from 1828 onwards. It is the oldest weekly magazine in the world and focuses on politics, culture, and current affairs.

The site is fully searchable so you can look for your forebears by entering details such as name and date.

Even if you do not find family members, you can browse the site to find out about specific historical events which will help you add context to your ancestors' lives.

HAMPSHIRE HISTBITES



The Hampshire Histbites Podcast Channel was launched in the summer of 2020 and has more than 60 episodes.

www.winchesterheritageopendays.org/introduction-histbites

The episode "Archives Galore", presented by Barry Shurlock, is particularly interesting as he reviews the wealth and variety of material to be found in Hampshire Archives. <http://www.winchesterheritageopendays.org/.../archives...>

Have a listen – you'll find plenty of inspiration for taking your Family History research that bit further.

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WEBSITES FOR MILITARY RESEARCH:

- The National Archives - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Canada Veterans - <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/.../how-to-find-service-records>
- National Archives of Australia - www.naa.gov.au
- The London Gazette - www.london-gazette.co.uk
- Ancestry - www.ancestry.co.uk
- FindMyPast - www.findmypast.co.uk
- The Imperial War Museum - www.iwm.org.uk
- Forces War Records - www.forces-war-records.co.uk
- Commonwealth War Graves - www.cwg.org
- The War Graves Photographic Project - www.twgpp.org



WEBSITES FOR WW1 MILITARY RESEARCH:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross – www.icrc.org
- The Long, Long Trail – www.1914-1918.net
- The Western Front Association (WFA) – www.westernfrontassociation.com
- Hellfire Corner – www.hellfirecorner.co.uk
- The Gallipoli Association – www.gallipoli-association.org

TRACING RAF ANCESTORS & RELATIVES...



You can trace ancestors with careers in the RAF, from its establishment in 1918 to WW2, using these websites...

- Air of Authority www.rafweb.org
- The RAF Museum www.rafmuseum.org.uk
- The RAF Website www.raf.mod.uk
- 156 Squadron www.156squadron.com

TRACING NAVAL ANCESTORS & RELATIVES...



You can trace ancestors with careers in THE ROYAL NAVY and THE MERCHANT NAVY using these websites...

- The Royal Navy www.royalnavy.mod.uk
- The Royal Navy Museum at Portsmouth www.nmrn.org.uk/
- Fleet air Arm www.fleetairarm.com
- Uboat.net www.uboaat.net
- Michael Phillips Ships of the Old Navy www.ageofnelson.org/MichaelPhillips
- The Index of 19th Century Naval Vessels <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~pbtvc/18-1900/Index.html>
- Battleships-Cruisers www.battleships-cruisers.co.uk

PIONEERS IN FLIGHT

Do you have a pilot amongst you ancestors? You can learn more about them in the early aviation records set on The Genealogist website.

The Royal Aero Club, which became the national governing body for all private and sporting flight in the early 1900s, has provided the majority of these records.

The records can be found in the Occupational Records section and Diamond subscribers to the site can search by name and date to find documents such as aeronaut certificates, biographies and photographs.



There is also a website dedicated to early aviation pioneers at <http://www.earlyaviationpioneers.com/pmf4%20pioneers.htm>

MULTIPLE ARMY SERVICE NUMBERS

Prior to 1920, every soldier was given an individual service number.

If the soldier changed regiments, he was given a new number.

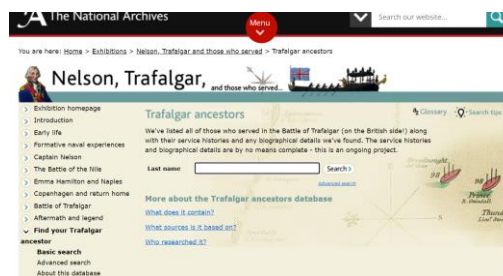
Sometimes, if he changed battalions within the same regiment, he was given a new number.

Having three or four numbers was not unusual during the First World War.

For more detailed information, go to: <https://armyservicenumbers.blogspot.com/>

"If we tried to sink the past beneath our feet, be sure the future would not stand"
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

TRAFALGAR ANCESTORS DATABASE



If you have an ancestor who served in the Royal Navy during 1805, it may be worthwhile searching this database to see if they were involved in the famous Battle of Trafalgar.

- To access the database, go to <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors/>
 - Enter the surname of the person you are interested in and press 'search'
 - A list of results will come up
 - Choose the one whom you think may be your ancestor and click on 'more'
 - The next page will provide some personal and service details
 - It also gives you a catalogue reference which refers to the muster from where the information was taken
- The original muster roll can be consulted at The National Archives in Kew.

THE MARINE SOCIETY



During the 18th century, there was war after war and the country needed more and more sailors. The Marine Society was founded to help supply men for naval service.

From 1756 to 1940, over 110,000 men and boys were recruited, trained and supplied to the Royal Navy, the British East India Company and the Merchant Service.

Records of the boys who joined up through the Society are kept at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London.