

Ancestry Solutions

Essential Resources for your Family History Research



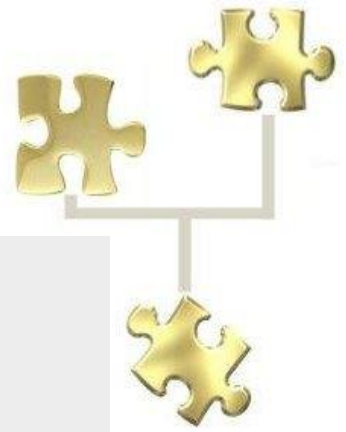
Getting the Most out of Records

How to interpret the records you find and the questions you need to ask.

Genealogical Proof Standard

3. The evidence is reliable and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.
4. Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.

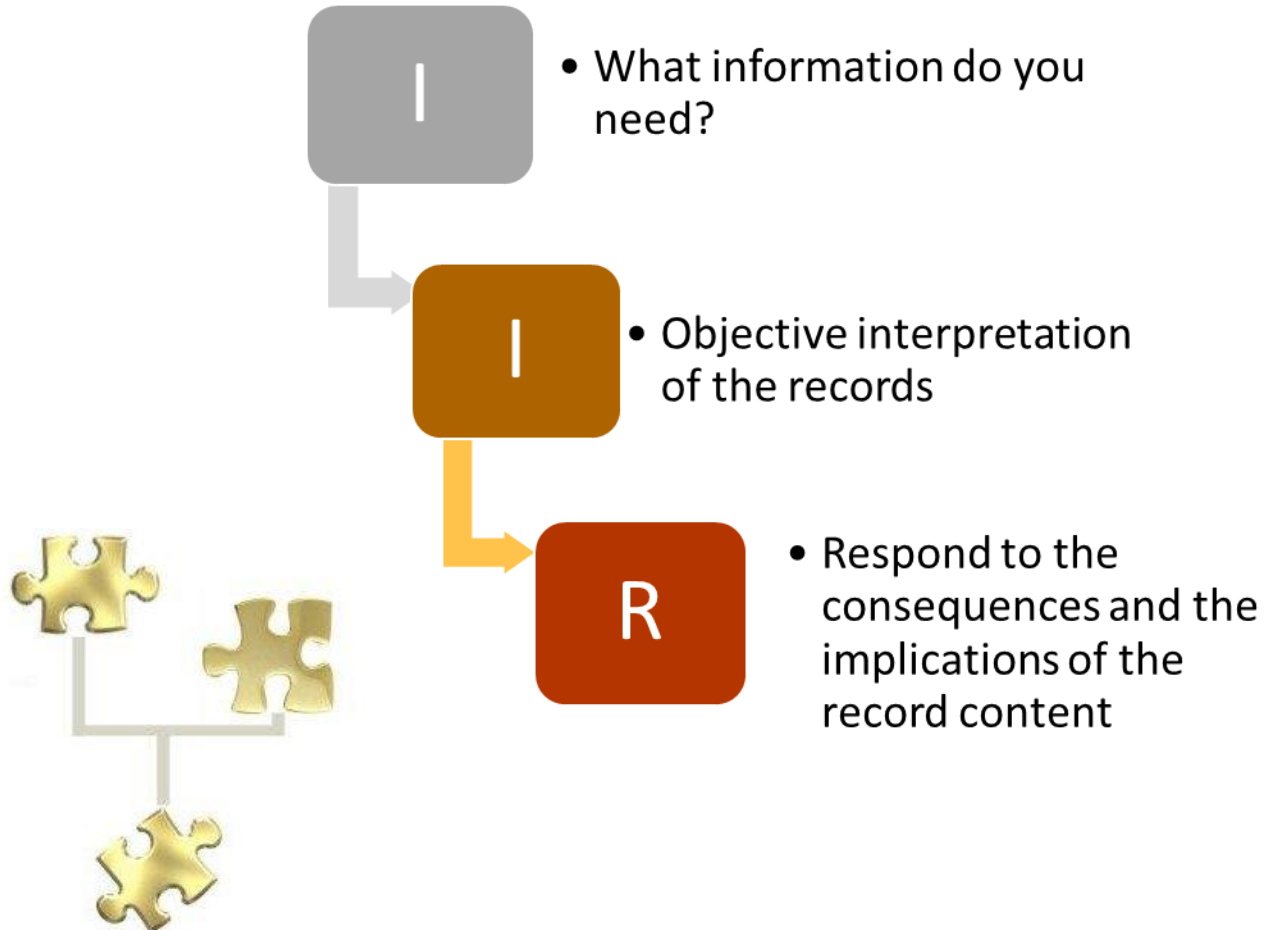
- Focusing your powers of observation and investigation on these two points will raise the quality of your research and will blast away brick walls that block your line of ancestry.
- Your research should always be subject to re-evaluation when new evidence arises.



KNOW

There are paradigms that can help you determine how to get the most out of the records you have found and still likely need to find.

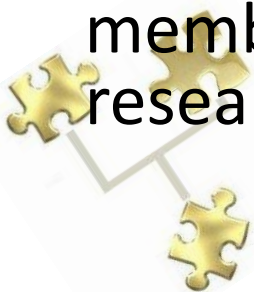
Not finding answers, ask a different question then look again at your records.



Undefined Assumptions

Are you a Victim?

Many a genealogical roadblock can be unjammed by a critical examination for the unconscious use of undefined assumptions by yourself or others. Did you, another family member, or a previous researcher, assume:



- That if they were in a place for 2 consecutive censuses that they stayed there for the 10 years in between.
- That they knew how old they (or their spouse) were, and where they were born. Signature on a document means they could read and write.
- That at times of family stress, like births, marriages and deaths, their minds were clear and their memories perfect when asked for personal details.
- That the vicar/enumerator cared what spelling he used.
- That those home on census night were the usual and/or total residents of the household. All the children in one family on the census had the same parents.
- That because it doesn't say 'deceased' then he must be still alive. That older relatives always died before ones born later did.
- That none of their family emigrated, or, that they all came on the same ship.
- That all parts of the town are consecutively arranged on one census film. That neighbours weren't important.
- That they didn't leave a will because they were only agricultural labourers. That no-one else in their family left a will.
- That there is a body under every tombstone.
- That he married only one girl named Sarah. He couldn't possibly have had a previous or later wife or children.
- They lived there therefore they must have been born there.

Historical Context is Vital!

As you evaluate the information you find in genealogical records, you must always measure the content of those records in terms of how well and in what historical context the facts were recorded. As every reader interprets text in records differently, you must also be certain that you are looking at the records and their content from an objective standpoint devoid of current day prejudices.



Politics are critical!

Don't make the mistake of thinking that our ancestors had to report to a home town for any particular purpose.

Every record type may have a different jurisdictional form. i.e. census different than Wills, court cases different than Wills, etc.

In the UK, Wills were proved at one of several courts depending on where the person lived but also taking into account where a person held property. If in close by places then one of local courts would take jurisdiction, but if in different counties but in one province then jurisdiction moved to the upper court at the capital of that province. If in two different provinces then the upper court in London took jurisdiction.



Distinguishing Between People who are Similar or Identical!

Develop a detailed ancestor fact sheet or detailed timeline. Include extra details such as names of witnesses found on records and religious details. Then, repeat the process with the twinned individual. Pay particular attention to the economic status revealed via every record you gather.

Relationships are often inferred. But, are your assumptions correct? Relationship terms in past years often had different meanings from today. In the 1800s, the term father-in-law also meant step-father. Understanding an individual's relationships with parents, spouses, children, friends, and extended relatives can unearth clues that lead to other ancestors or that could break down the inevitable brick wall in your research. People didn't live in a vacuum.



Location, Location, Location!

Understand the Institutions, Trends and Events That Impacted Locations

Always stop to think about the impact *locations* had on people's lives. Location research is an extremely important part of building your family tree and can help solve some of your long-standing dead ends, as well as reveal details that may otherwise go completely undiscovered.

Shifting boundaries – when did these happen in the context of your ancestor's life?

Major employers – factories, cottage industries, major farms

Major institutions – schools, hospitals, asylums

Major events - migrations, disasters (such as fires or train wrecks), unusual laws, local epidemics, or annual festivals or gathering



Education – Help or Hindrance?

Compulsory attendance at school came into force at vastly different times throughout Europe, Britain and North America. Many elementary and secondary schools were founded circa 1840s through 1850s – in Canada.

In most cases children were only required to attend school until age 10.

Standardized education did not come into common practice until the 1900s.

England and Wales were slow to introduce compulsory education as the upper class passionately defended its educational privilege.

Not every official or cleric holding the same or similar offices were educated to the same degree.



Myths and Realities!

Myth: People never lied to officials.

Reality: Ages were adjusted to reflect a societal acceptability of the parties. Marital status was often fudged. Father's name may have been manufactured to hide an illegitimate birth or a birth of lower social standing than the other party.

Myth: People were always called by their registered or name given at baptism.

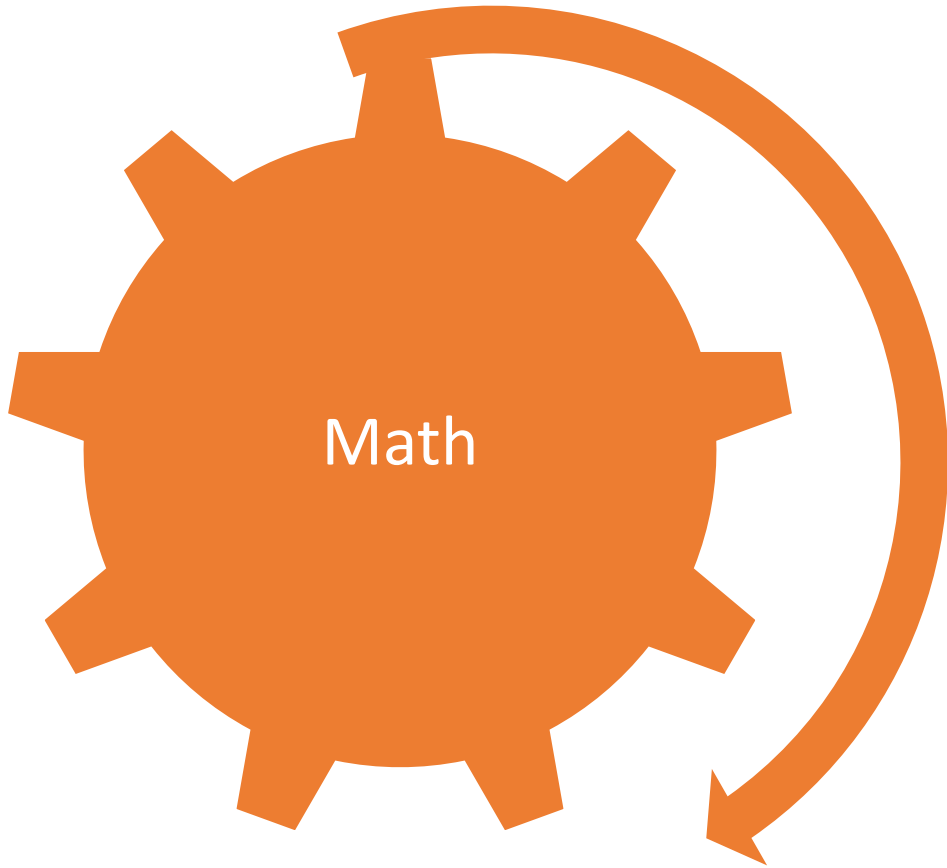
Reality: Every name has variations - check them all! Diminutives were commonly used.

Myth: Senior and Junior are the same as 'elder' and 'younger'.

Reality: No! Senior and Junior always refer to father and son or mother and daughter. But, so can 'elder' and 'younger'.

Verify information in one record against other contemporary records, i.e. marriage certificate with closest census with birth record with city directories with Wills and so on. Words have interpretations assigned by readers. Therefore, possible interpretations are infinite.

More Undefined Assumptions



It was very common for one parent to remarry fairly quickly after the death of their spouse, especially if young children were involved. Also, if the marriage was of an older man to a younger woman they may have had children, too.

Consider this: Those children are biologically related to you. Research those children's families and lives. You may just turn up critical missing information.

Use simple math to quickly accept or reject a record. Is an event a biological possibility, or not? It is almost a certainty that a woman cannot have a child less than 9 months after a previous birth. Is a child born after the mother died? Is there a burial or death after a Will was probated?

Using Timelines to identify holes - new records


7 Feb 1875

- Eli's last child baptised at Bishops Hull, Eli a labourer residing Bishop's Hull, Somerset, England, child named after his mother, Mary – PR Chr

27 Oct 1875

- Eli's last child buried at Bishops Hull, burial records states her age as 10 months – PR Burial

3 Apr 1881

- census Bishops Hull, still at Shutewater with wife and 4 children at home, working as a shepherd 

23 Jan 1882

- Eli labourer of Bishops Hull appeared at Police Court, Taunton, for assault with co-accused Robert Smith (brother-in-law), altercation took place at the New Inn, Bishops Hull where the two accused allegedly assaulted Thomas Howard and his wife. Case was dismissed. News report downloaded from 2 newspapers.

9 Aug 1882

- Eli won 1st place for peas at a regional Horticultural Show, Amateurs and Gardeners –newspaper downloaded

1883

- 12 Apr Eli's mother died at Bradford – 2.6 miles away – PR Burial
- 8 Oct Robert Smith, brother-in-law is buried at Taunton – 1.9 miles away – PR Burial


12 Aug 1885

- Norton Flower Show, Division III-Fruit, 1st place for red currants, named as gardener for 1st place winner Mr. J. R. Blandford - 1883 Kelly's Directory Joseph Richardson Blandford of Barr house a Grade II listed substantial building with two cottages. Query: Did Eli move his family into one of those cottages while he was a gardener there. What employment/family records are available? Barr House opposite Oldbury Lodge, which was for sale recently. Barr House, today, is Broadleigh Gardens <http://broadleighbulbs.co.uk/wp/> NB: Check Directories and County & PRO archives

19 Mar 1886

- Eli's mother-in-law buried at Bishops Hull – PR Burial


11 Aug 1886

- similar award as in 1885 downloaded news article but not assimilated it into sources 



28 Feb 1891

- father-in-law buried at Bishops Hull – PR Burial

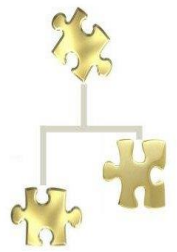
5 Jun 1891

- census Bishops Hull, moved in to the village with wife and 1 child, working as a gardener  for who?

1901-1905

- census Bishops Hull, moved back to Shutewater with wife and 1 adult child, working as a market gardener on his own account 
- 10 Jun 1905 Eli's 1st born child, James, died at Stapleton, Bristol, probate to his brother Frederick and 2 others. Effects GB1164 11s 7d - Probate Grant  NB: Should get Will.

The Ultimate in misleading records!



Family Tree Search Memories Indexing

Messages Volunteer Help

Susan Young

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Zimbabwe Death Registers, ... Death Register, 1892-1977 ▾ Death indexes Surnames FG-H ▸ 1892-1976 ▸

Source Box

Attach to

Image 3 of 49

Print Download

✓ GALINOS, Manuel	MISC 1973	
✓ GALINOS, Penelope	D.R. 69/179	
✓ GALLAUCHER, ALFRED JOSEPH	D.R. 81/180/16	11079
GALLACHER, JAMES	MISC 1973	
○ GALLACHER, JAMES MILLOY	MISC 1971	
● GALLACHER, JOHN	D.R. 905/70	22754
✓ GALLAGHER, Charles	D.R. 1624/73	
✓ GALLAGHER, Daniel	D.R. 33/77	3280
● GALLAGHER, Dorothy Joan	D.R. 20/15	
✓ GALLAGHER, Ethel Louise	D.R. 146/65	
✓ GALLAGHER, John	D.R. 177/58	15758
✓ GALLAGHER, John	D.R. 19/111	
✓ GALLAGHER, John	D.R. 25/203	
✓ GALLAGHER, Olivia Marjorie	D.R. 928/60	
✓ GALLAGHER, Patrick Michael	D.R. 37/107	

Image Index

Information

No indexes are available.

Feb. 6, 1998.

GALLAGHER, Joseph - At the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Friday, February 6, 1998 with is [sic] devoted wife Mary by his side. Joseph Gallagher, beloved **father** of Barry and his wife Sherry, Scott and his wife Dana, **Debbie H..... and Laurie and her husband Dale A.....**; much loved **grandfather** of Tyler, Kean, Travis, **Joshua, Sabrina, Ryan, Devin and Brennin**; dearly beloved son-in-law of Edith McAloney; also survived by brothers and sisters.

Ancestry Solutions

Essential Resources for your Family History Research



Thank You!

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