

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society



Chorley Branch Education Group Talk Handout Further Steps Reconstitution

Reconstitution Techniques

What is reconstitution and what is it for?

- Reconstitution helps in overcoming those brick walls.
- Find that ancestral missing link
- But it also helps to fill in the life and background of your ancestors.
- It does this by rebuilding entire families if not communities.
- FAN research is part of reconstitution.

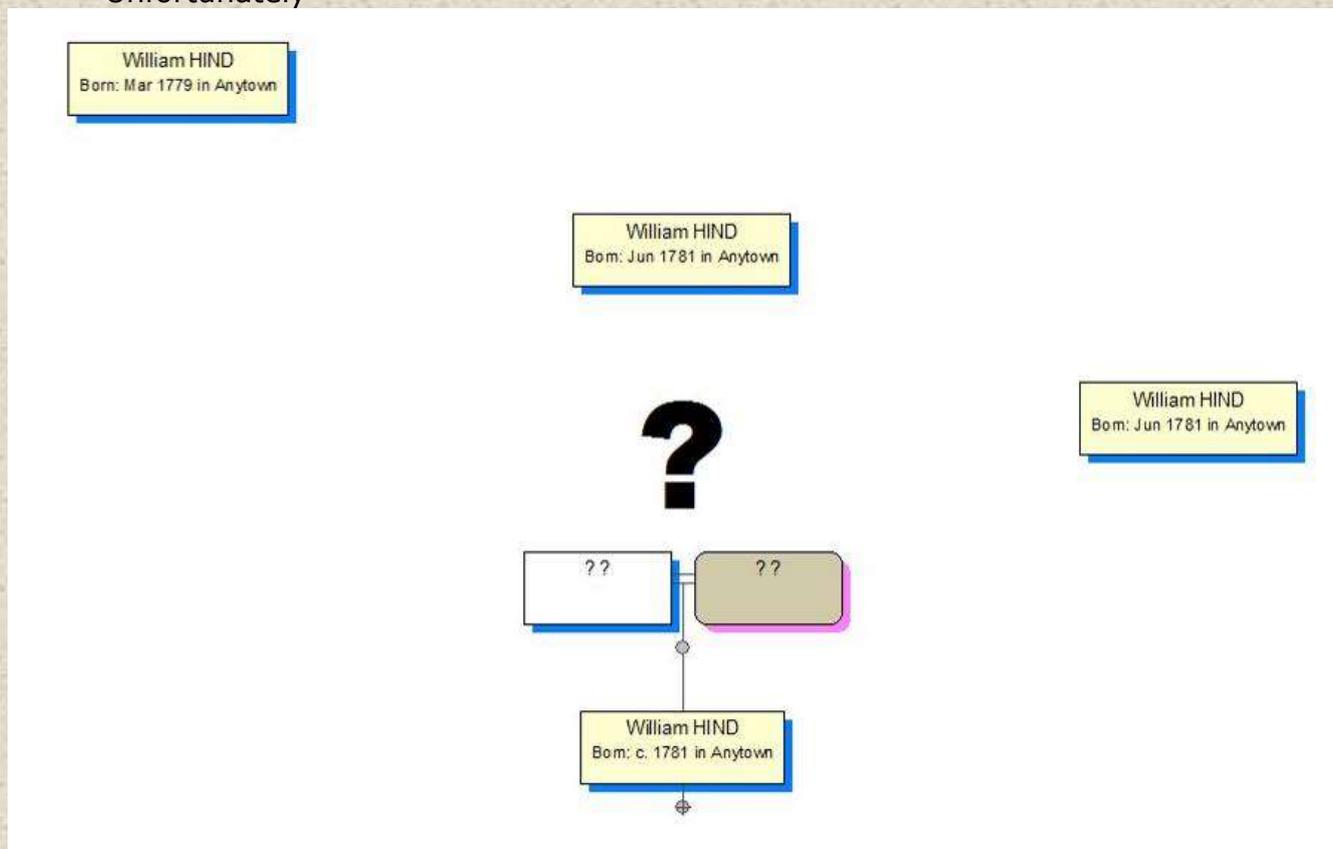
Irish Ancestor (An example)

- Find your Ancestor in every census
 - They might have left a clue
- Do the same for his wife if she was born in Ireland
- Do the same for any of his children born In Ireland
 - Even after when their parents are dead
- For all of these people check wills
 - They might bequeathed to Aunt Mary in Ballylennon
- Also obituaries
- Other newspaper reports
 - Especially if your become or did something important
- Check military records
- Do the same for brothers and sisters and other relatives
- Look and see if any of them went back to Ireland
- Find everybody of the same surname that lived in the same town as your ancestor who declares that they come from Ireland and do all the same searches for them and their families.
 - Families often moved together or moved where other relatives lived
- And if that fails look for anyone from your ancestor's settled town who declares that they come from Ireland and do all the same searches for them and their families.
 - The same applies to friends and neighbours

Next example

A fictional example

John Hind was born about 1781 in Anytown.
We want to find his parents.
Unfortunately -



Three William Hind's were born in Anytown about that time.

This problem can occur at any time or place in history.

But there is a Genealogical Sods Law that there is a glut of them between 1750 and 1850, just as we have a change from Church Records to Civil Records.

... Why is that???? ...

Fashion

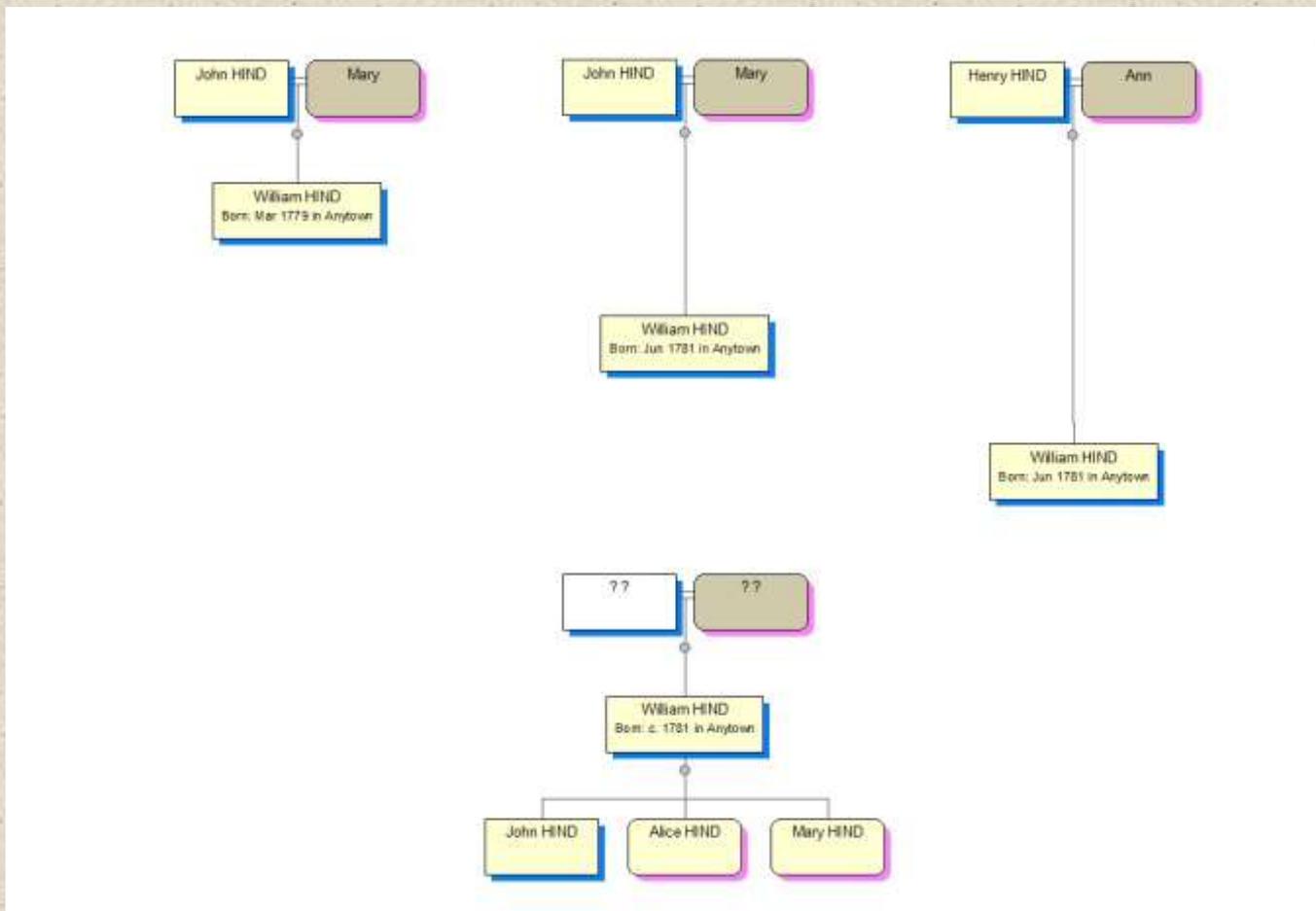
In the times before 1750 the Puritans gave us names like Faith, Hope and Charity. 1830 onwards middle names became fashionable, but in this period people restricted themselves to a much reduced range of names.

John, Mary, William, Ann, Thomas, Elizabeth and the like.

... So what do we do to find which is the correct William???? ...

First find the names of the parents.

Then the children of your William.

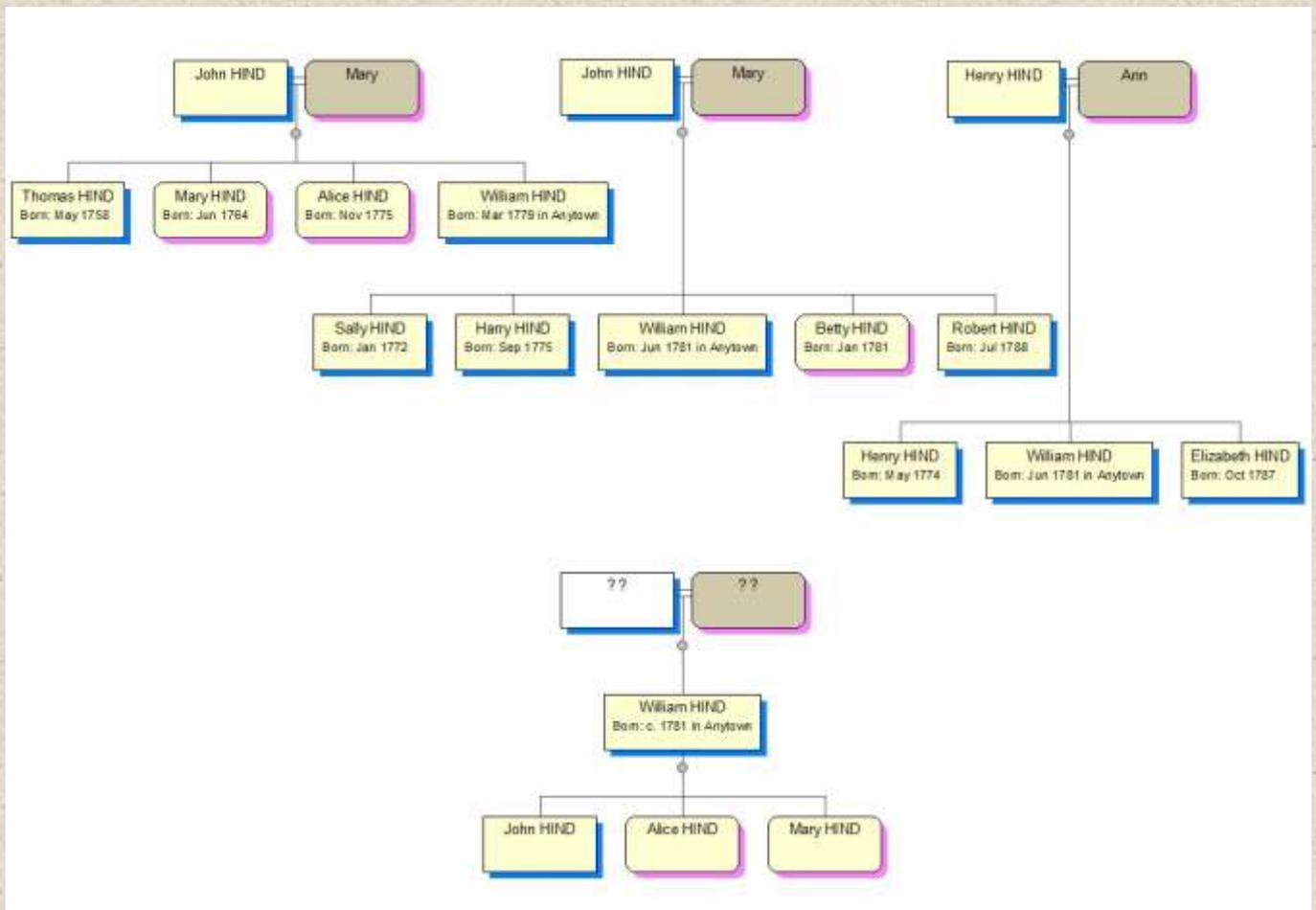


... How does this help???? ...

TIP Keep an eye out for mixed up families

... How do we check? ,,,

Look for the other children?



First note that you would not find the children for the John & Mary's neatly separated into two families like this.

They would be mixed together and difficult to separate.

I show it like this to illustrate a point.

... What can you read into this???? ...

Two things

First - Alice Hind and Harry Hind birth dates are too close together, suggesting two families.

TIP - Check for children born too close together.

Second - A 33 year gap between Thomas and Robert being born is too much again

suggesting two families.

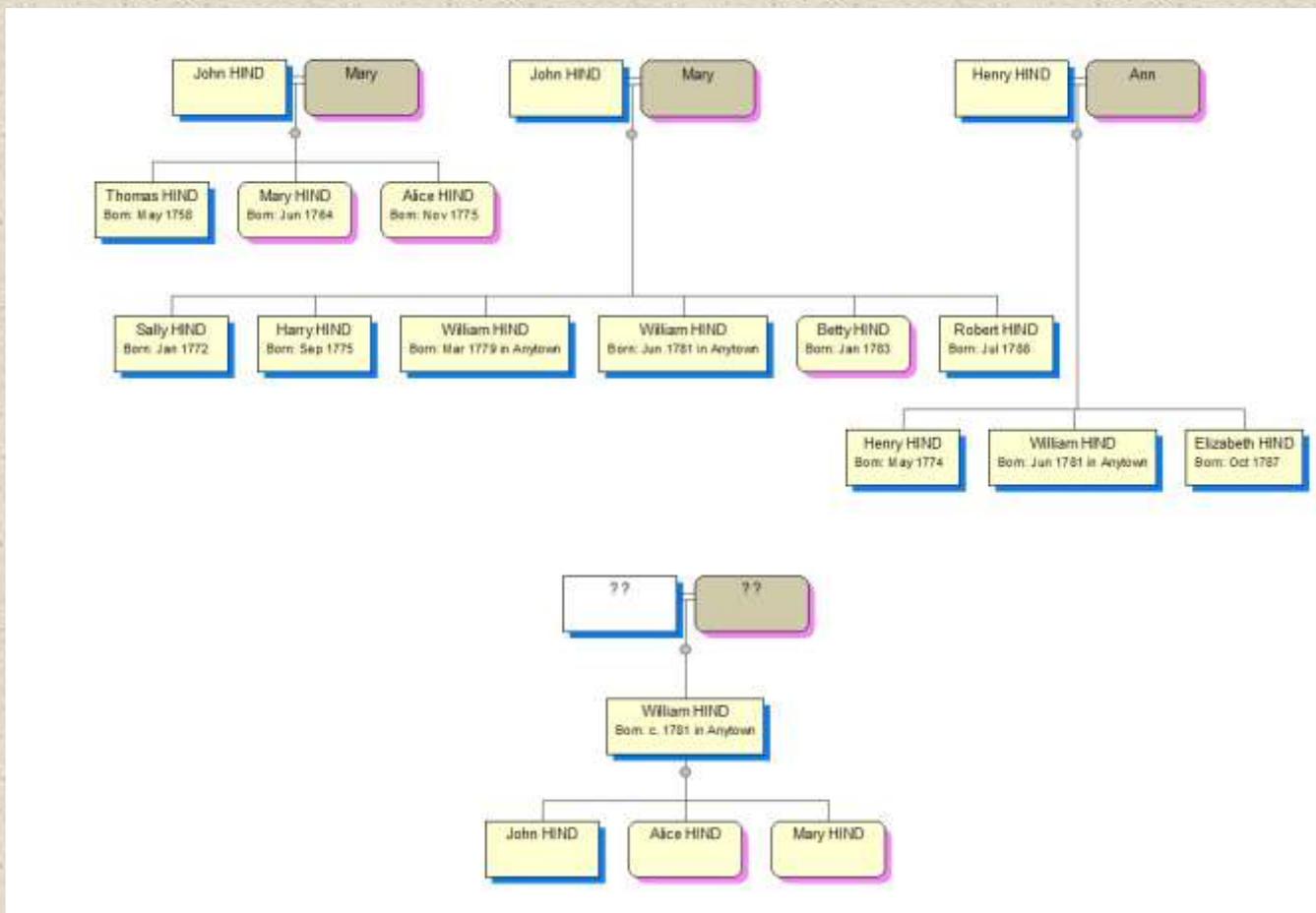
TIP – Check for child bearing range normal max 25 years, absolute max 30 years

This would indicate two separate women. I could be the same man!

As I said the children would be found to be all mixed together.

So finding that two John / Mary families exist does not mean that the two Williams were not born to the same parents.

E.g.

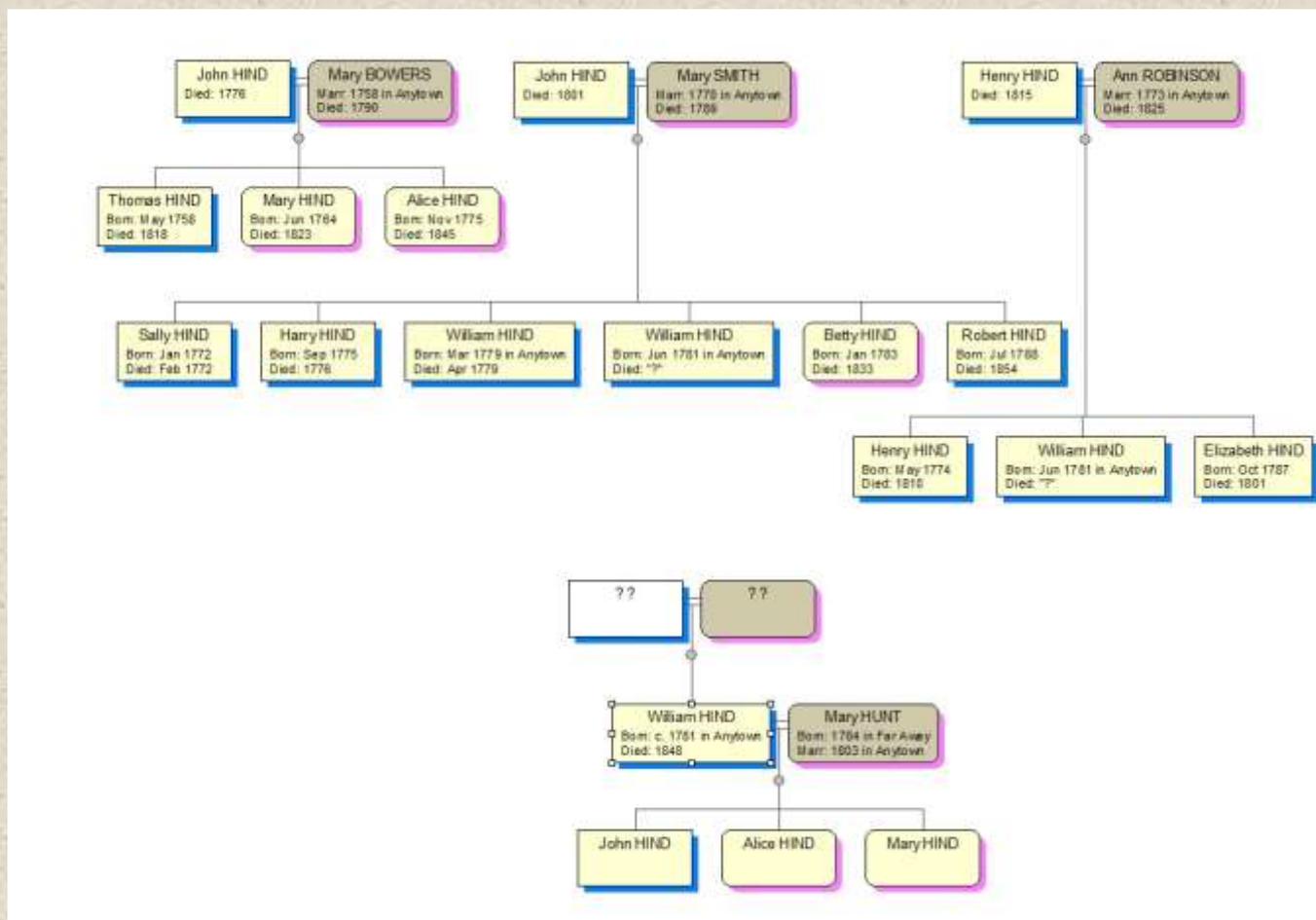


... How do you prove it???? ...

Tip - Kill the children off!

In fact kill everybody!

And while we are at it get some marriages!



... Did that help???? ...

Well the first William appears to have died.
The death register entry said
16th April 1779 William son of John Hind and his wife Mary.

... Can you spot anything else???? ...

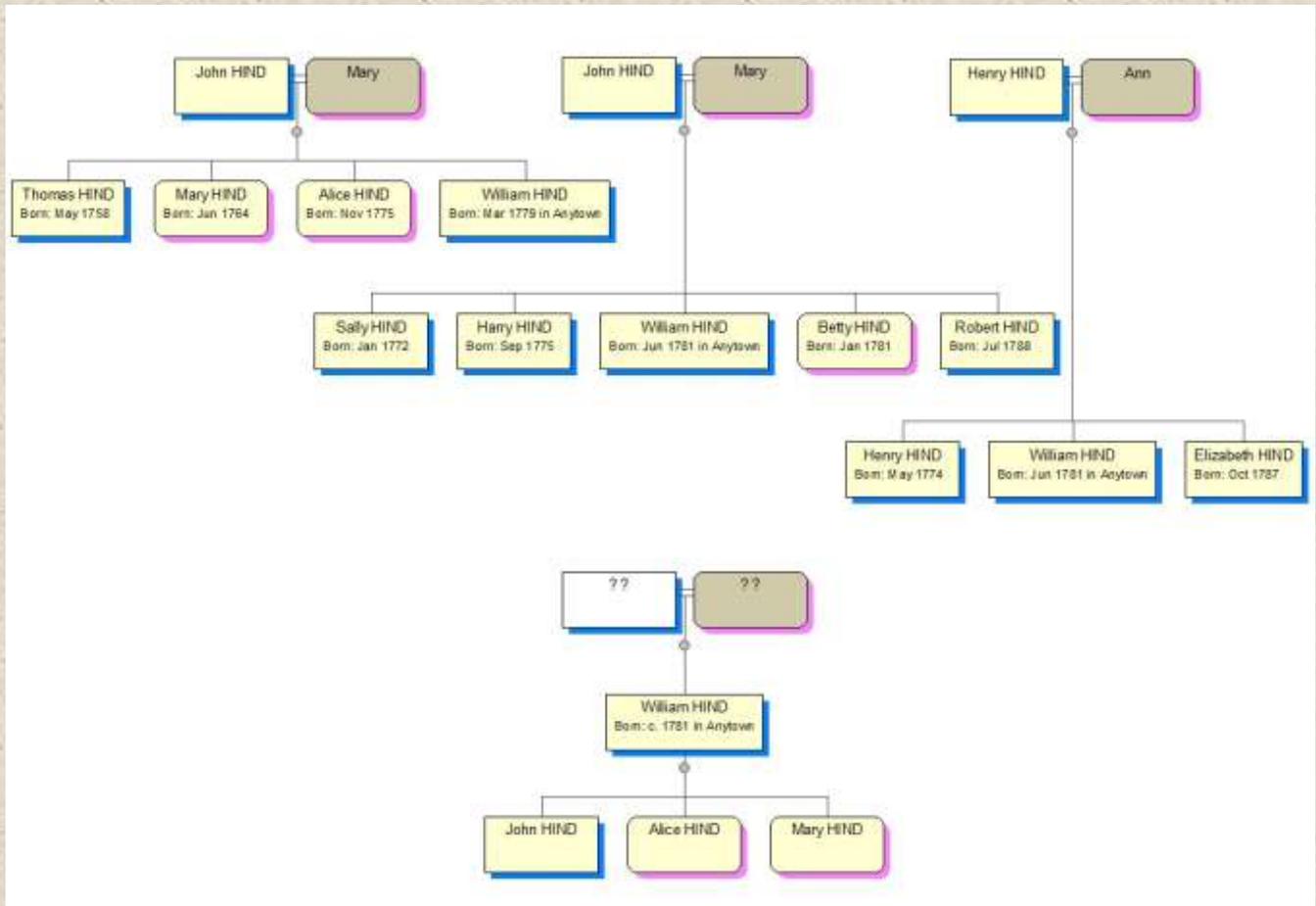
The first John Hind that married Mary Bowers died before any of the Williams were born.

Fortunately the Dade death register read

23rd March 1776 John Hind, son of Arthur Hind. Husband of Mary formerly Bowers, buried at Anytown. Aged 38

So that rules out one tree

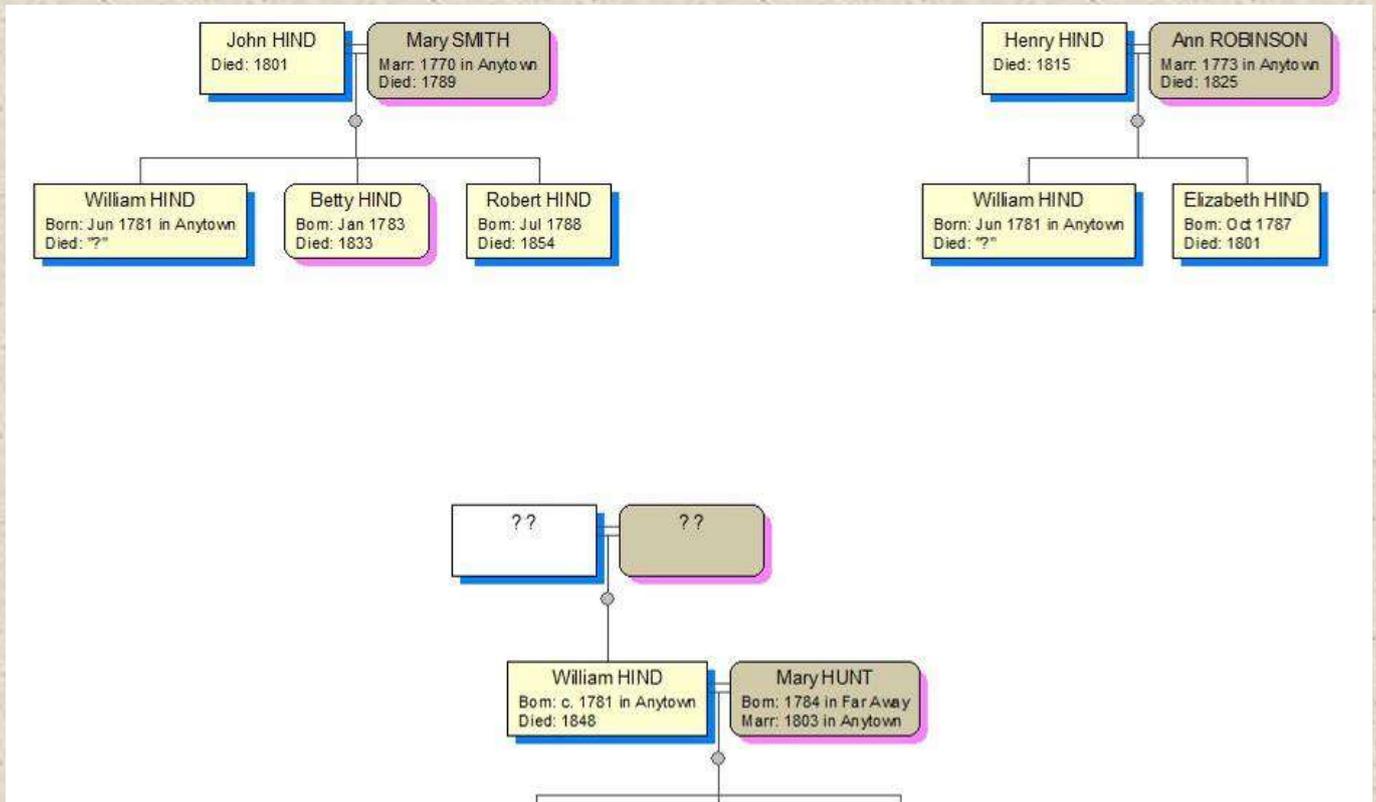
(In theory Mary Bowers could have continued having children illegitimately after John's death by someone else!)



... What now???? ...

Well this could be the death of either of the first two Williams, but if it subsequently turned out to be the first pair then the two Williams must be different.

So the problem is now like this.

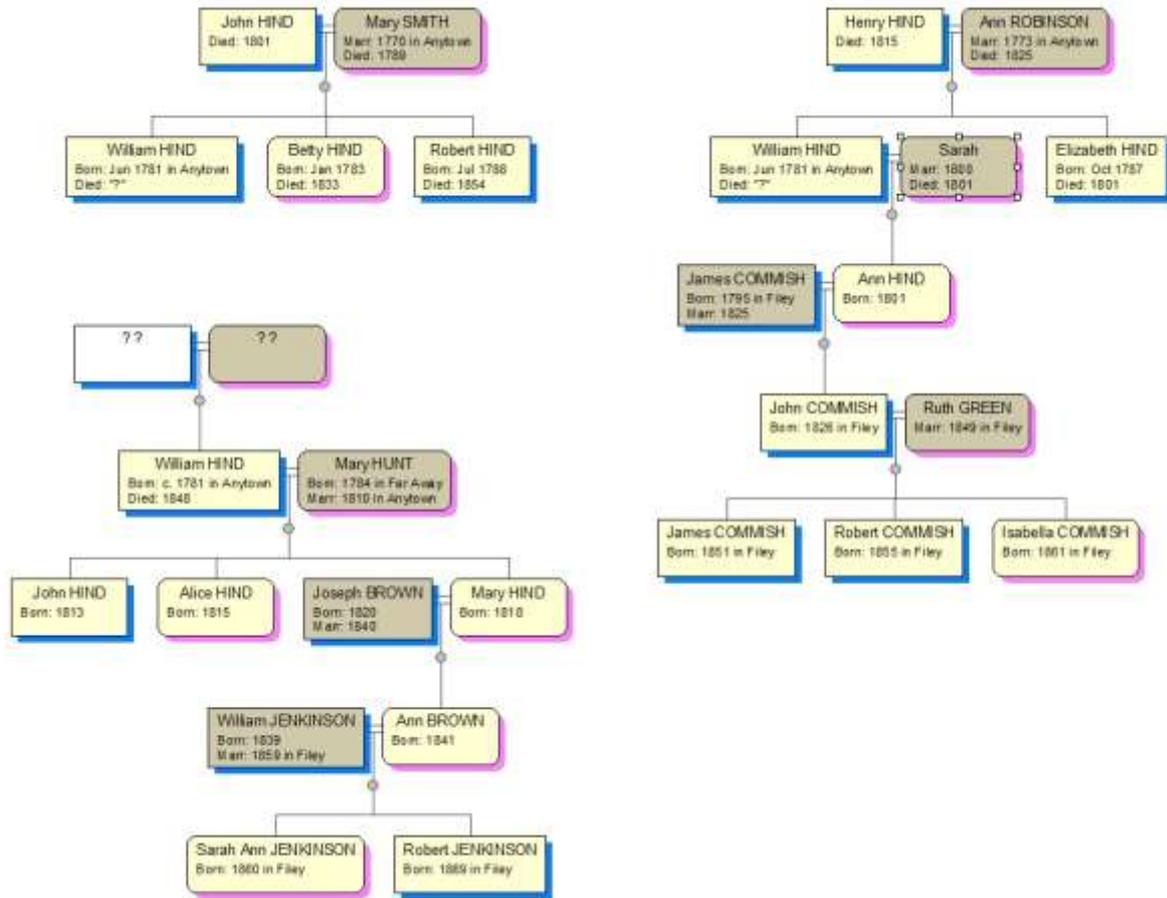


(I have missed off the children who died in infancy)

... What do we do next???? ...

Tip - Extend the trees

Add cousins.



All three trees would have to be extended but I have reduced it to just show how a solution was obtained
 The trees were extended down many generations and the solution was found in the 1871 census

Page 40

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

* Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or [Improvement] Commission District of	Parliamentary District of		
No. of House-holds	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSE No. or No. of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of Male / Female	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether Deaf-and-Dumb Blind (Specify or Blind) or Lame
227	Spring Row	1	Edward Baker	Head	Mar.	27	Distrierman	Yorkshire, Filey	
			Bartholy De	Wife	Do	62	Do Wife	Do Do	
			George De	Son	Mar.	20	Do Son	Do Do	
			Edward De	Do	Do	16	Do Do	Do Do	
			Mary De	Daughter	Do	10	Do Daughter	Do Do	
			Elizabeth De	Do	Do	8	Scholar	Do Do	
			William De	Son	Do	2	Do	Do Do	
228	Do	1	William Jenkinson	Head	Mar.	30	Distrierman	Do Do	
			Ann Jenkinson	Wife	Do	30	Do Wife	Do Do	
			Sarah Ann De	Daughter	Do	11	Scholar	Do Do	
			Robert De	Son	Do	2	Do	Do Do	
			Isabella Commish	Sister	Do	10	Do	Do Do	
229	Do	1	John Chapman	Head	Mar.	37	Distrierman	Do Do	
			Lucy Ann De	Wife	Do	33	Do Wife	Do Do	
			James De	Daughter	Do	12	Scholar	Do Do	
			Mary Ann De	Do	Do	8	Do	Do Do	
			Robert De	Son	Do	4	Do	Do Do	
			Ann De	Daughter	Do	2	Do	Do Do	
230	Do	1	John Wheeler	Head	Mar.	38	Mariner	Do, Bridlington	
			Elizabeth De	Wife	Do	24	Do Wife	Do, Filey	
			Bartholomew De	Daughter	Do	10	Scholar	Do, Filey	
			Francis De	Son	Do	4	Do	Do Do	
			John De	Do	Do	8	Do	Do Do	
			Elizabeth Ann De	Daughter	Do	1	Do	Do Do	
231	Do	1	George Maypole	Head	Mar.	29	Distrierman	Do, Drington	
Total of Houses..		5	Total of Males and Females..		12	13			

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

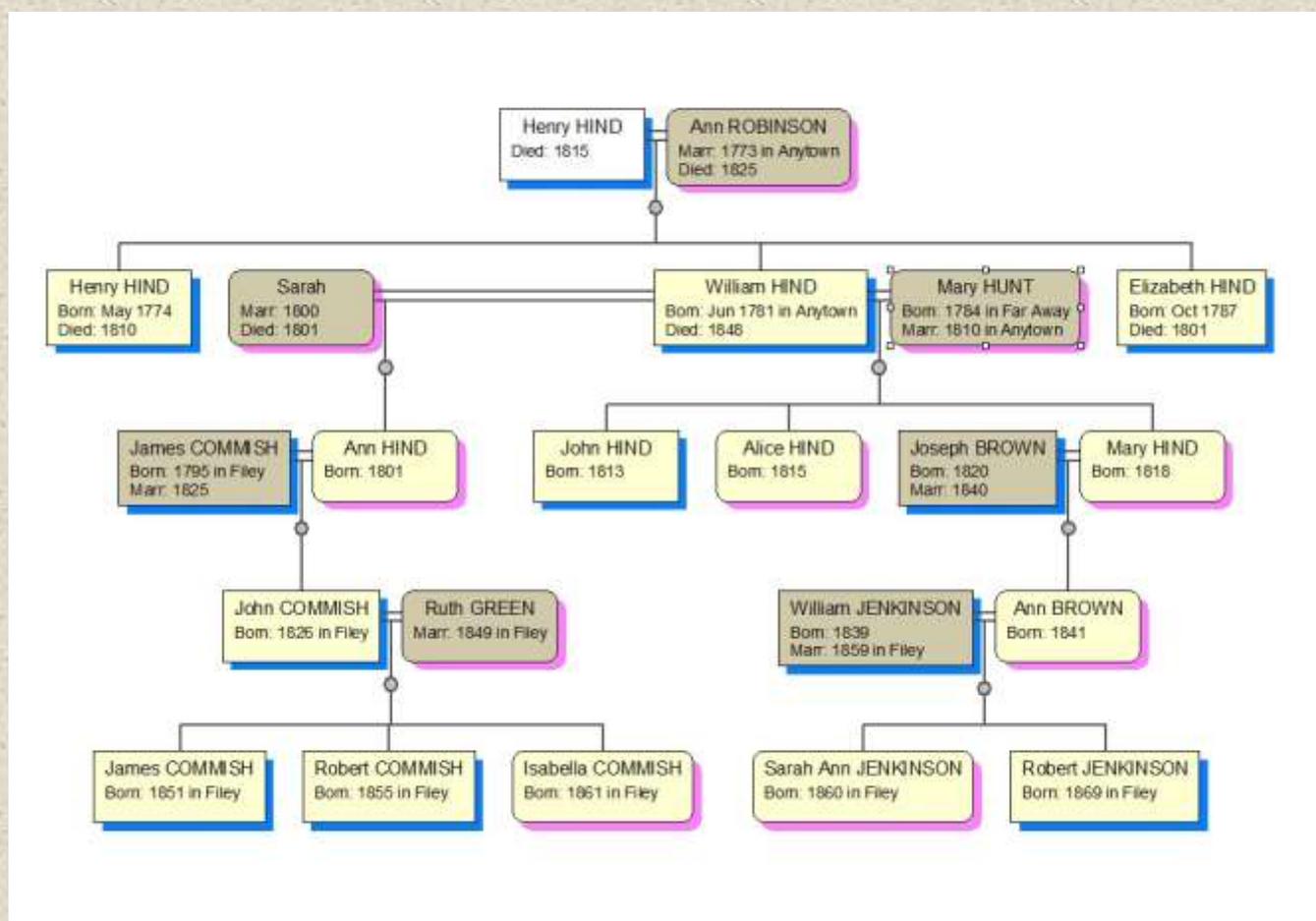
R.C. 10/484
 REPRODUCED ANTHROPOGENICALLY BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

William	Head	Mar	32	-	Fisherman
Ann	Wife	Do	-	30	Do. Wife
Sarah Ann	Da.	-	-	11	Scholar
Robert	Do.	-	2	-	Do.
Isabella Commish	Cousin	-	-	10	Do.
John Chapman	Head	Mar	34	-	Fisherman

This census shows William Jenkinson and his family but staying with them is cousin (sic) Isabella Commish 10 years old
 The link is not with the John / Mary but with the Henry / Ann
 But I have two wives for William HIND.

... Can this be true???? ...

Well Yes in this case
 The tree now becomes -



Note that William married twice and had two families.
 The link was 90 years apart.
 This story is a mix of fiction and fact.
 None of these people really existed except those on the census, but that 90 year cousin link really did exist.

And now for another tale.

Now for another completely true story from my own family
I don't know who my Grandad's (Charles Thornton) parents are.
I asked mum about what she knew and this tree summarises it.

THORNTON

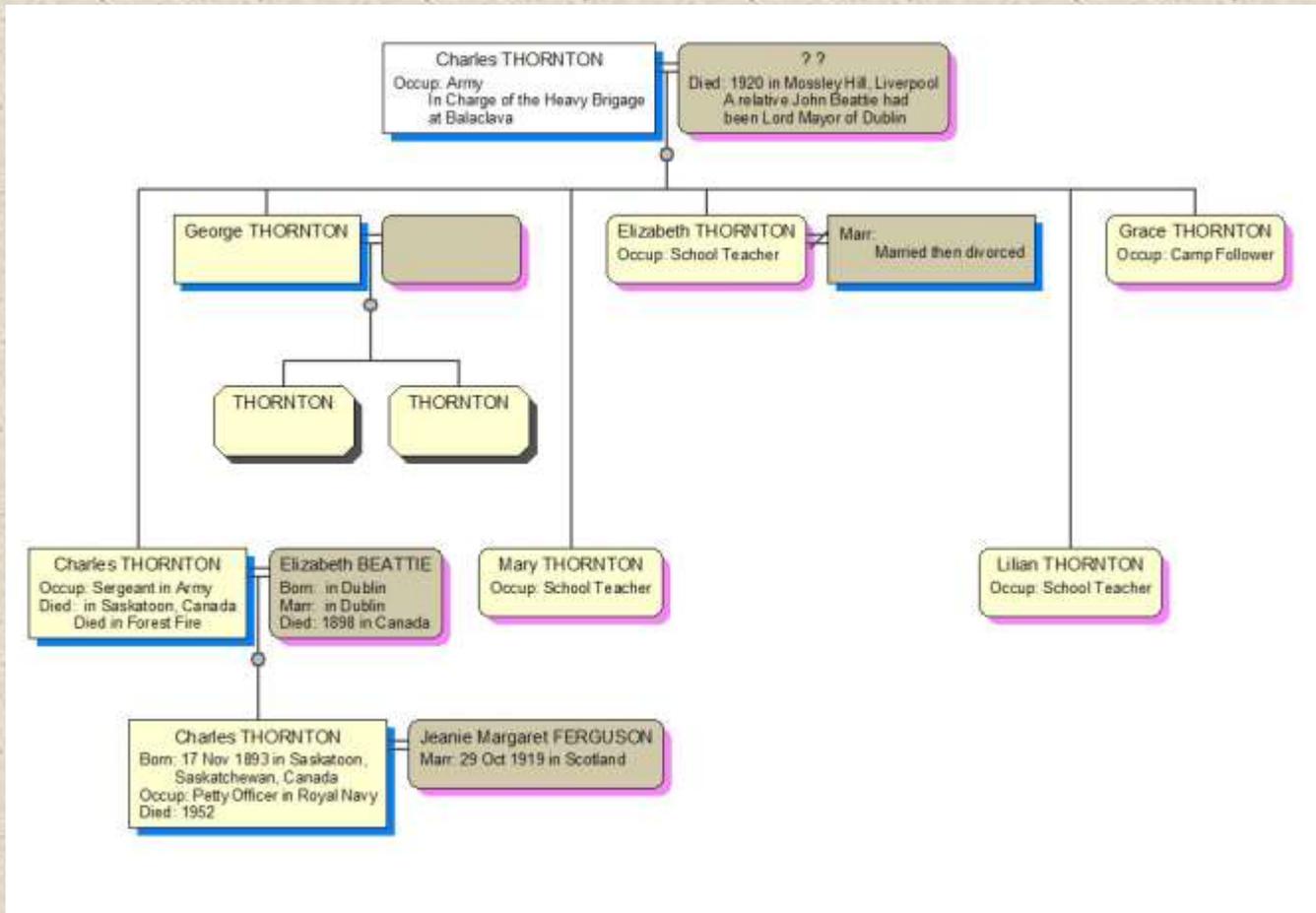
Information from Jeanie THORNTON (CHAPMAN)

Charles THORNTON - in Army (Charge of the Heavy Brigade - Balaclava) when son born. Widow lived in Mossley Hill, Liverpool, & died about 1920.

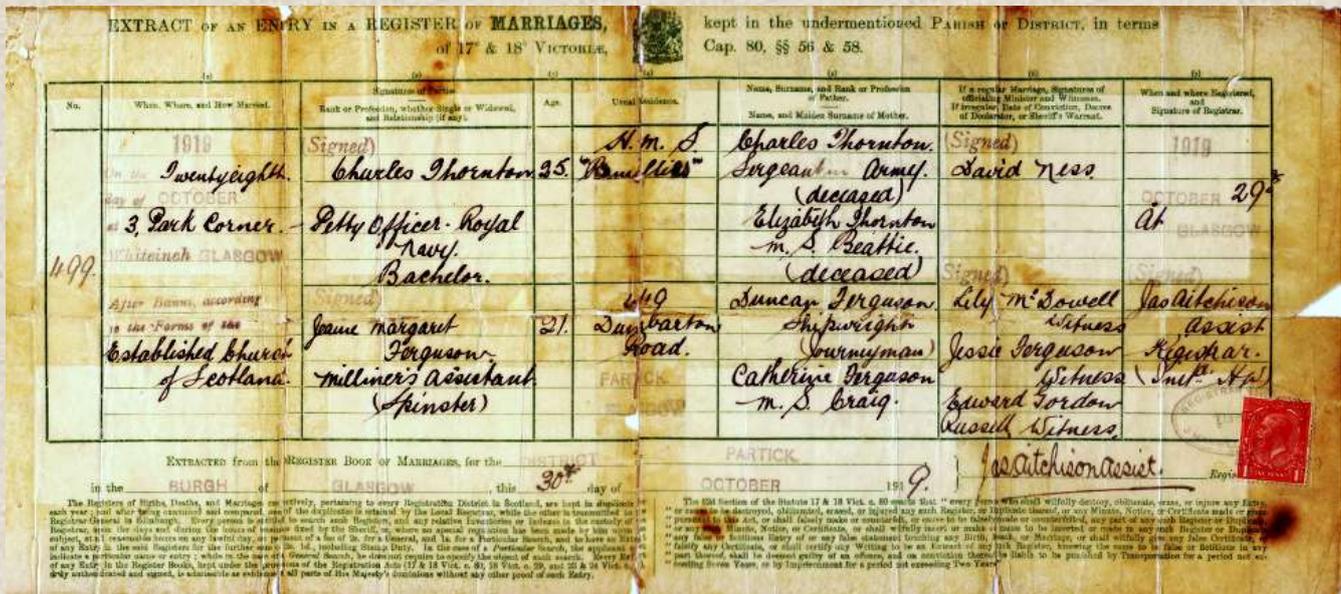
6 children:-

1 Charles - also in Army. Married Elizabeth BEATTIE of Dublin, poss. in Dublin. Sergeant in Army - killed fighting forest fire in Saskatoon, Canada in 1895. Elizabeth died in Canada about 1898. (Some relation of Elizabeth BEATTIE supposed to have been Lord Mayor of Dublin - John BEATTIE).

1 son:- Charles, b. 17 Nov 1893 in Saskatoon. Sent back to Liverpool by himself aged about 18 mths. Brought up by Grandmother & spinster aunts. Married 29 Oct 1919 - Jeanie Margaret FERGUSON - milliner's assistant. Charles then Petty Officer in Royal Navy. Died 28 Dec 1952 at Longridge, bur. 2 Jan 1953. Maintenance electrician, electrical engineer, owned wireless shop in North Wales.



This is as mum told it.
 And this is it in tree form
 She was not certain about quite a few bits but her story was backed up by two documents and three photographs.



Grandad's marriage certificate. (Scottish)
 Clearly Grandad's parents were
 Charles Thornton - Sergeant in the Army (deceased)
 And
 Elizabeth Beattie (deceased)

bluesport.

J. 6664

J. 6664

Name in full

Charles Thornton

Date of Birth 17 November 1893.
Place of Birth Saskatchewan, Canada.
Occupation Grand Reg.

Date and Period of Engagements.	Age	Height	Class	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Wounds, Scars, or Marks.
17 November 1911 - 12 years.	18 18	5' 4" 5' 5"	33	Brn	Brn	Fair	

Ship, No., or Serial No.	Lit. and No.	Rating	Substations			Period of Service	Character	If Discharged, Within and for what cause.	Remarks
			Rating	From	To				
Banges	1500	Boy 2 nd	12.6.11	3.7.12	19.11.12	Dec 10			
"	"	Boy 1 st	30.11.12	13.3.13	29.10.13	21 Sept 13			
Linnæus	1502	"	1.1.13	12.6.13	1.1.14	25 Sept 13			
"	1503	"	1.1.14	1.1.15	1.1.15	19 Jan 14			
King Alfred	1504	"	1.1.15	1.1.16	1.1.16	7 Feb 14			
Prince I	1505	"	1.1.16	1.1.17	1.1.17	31 May 14			
Septimia	1506	"	1.1.17	1.1.18	1.1.18	21 June 14			
Argyll	1507	"	1.1.18	1.1.19	1.1.19	14 March 14			
King's	1508	"	1.1.19	1.1.20	1.1.20	6 March 14			
Defiance	1509	"	1.1.20	1.1.21	1.1.21	4 July 14			
Randall	1510	"	1.1.21	1.1.22	1.1.22	4 March 14			
St George (Vict)	1511	"	1.1.22	1.1.23	1.1.23	20 July 14			
Wellington	1512	"	1.1.23	1.1.24	1.1.24	20 August 14			
Torvald	1513	"	1.1.24	1.1.25	1.1.25	18 August 14			
Hopeless	1514	"	1.1.25	1.1.26	1.1.26	1 July 14			
Prince I	1515	"	1.1.26	1.1.27	1.1.27	4 May 17			
Hambleton	1516	"	1.1.27	1.1.28	1.1.28	5 May 17			
"	1517	"	1.1.28	1.1.29	1.1.29	1 August 17			
"	1518	"	1.1.29	1.1.30	1.1.30	18 Aug 17			

Found educationally for Petty Officer on 4-6-13 and granted Rank, Coast, with effect 1-1-13

PAID WAR GRATUITY, S.M.S. Hambleton 1917

PAID WAR GRATUITY, S.M.S. Hambleton 1917

CLASS FOR CONDUCT.

Grandad's Royal Naval Service sheet, And clearly his birth date is 17 November 1893 and Birth place Saskatchewan, Canada



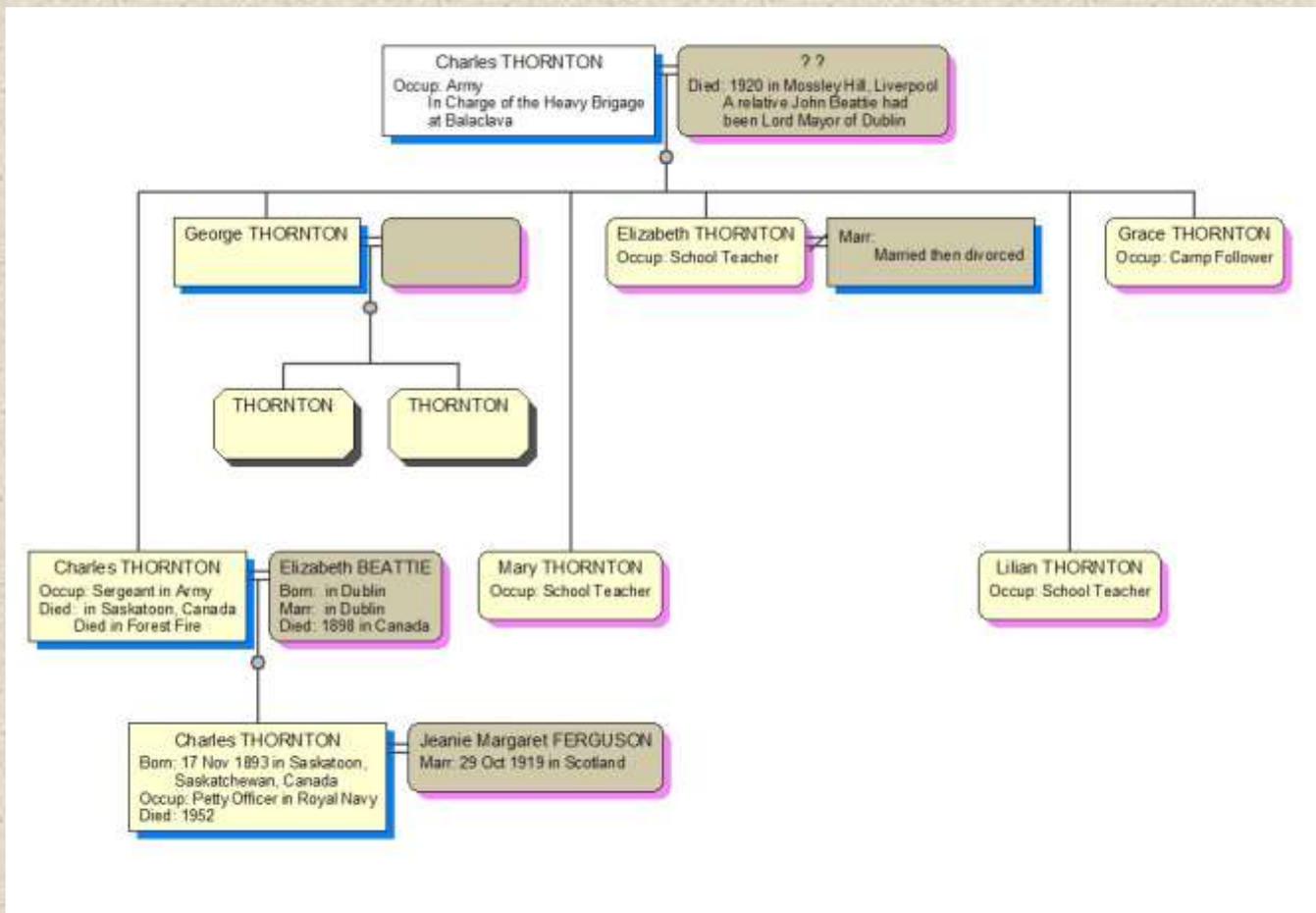
Photo of Great Great Grandad.
The one that fought in the Heavy Brigade



His Wife and four daughters.



A photograph of my Grandad as a boy and cousin Grace.
How Grace was related was unknown



Here is the tree according to the information that Mum gave me combine with the information from the Marriage Certificate and the Service Record.

The Grace in the Photo is not the same Grace who was the camp follower.

... So where should I go from here???? ...

I could not find Great Grandad or his wife's marriage, birth or death in Canada or in Ireland or in England or in Army records

The birth records for Saskatchewan do not start until 1895 – Grandad was born in 1893

Army bmd registration records have no indication of a birth or marriage

No news reports of any major forest fires at the right time.

I did find a Charles coming from the USA of approximately the correct age (2) at approximately the right time (1893) but traveling with his parents Charles and Lydia plus a sister Hilda.

Could this be them?

Ports of Emigration	Names of Passengers	Age of each Adult of 17 years and upwards				Children between 1 and 12 Years		Infants		Profession, Occupation, or calling of Passengers	Height	Build	Sex	Particulars	Ports at which Passengers have been landed
		Married		Single		M	F	M	F						
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F						
New York	George Anderson	15	4	19	2						33				Liverpool
	Wm. A. Johnson	50								Groom	1				
	John Moon				22					Stonemason	1				
	Sarah Robinson		29							Miner	1				
	Minnie Greenhalgh		32							Wife	1				
	George		38								1				
	James Burns			26						Engineer	1				
	George Windar			21						Wife	1				
	Mark Goldfarb	41								Electrician	1				
	Elizabeth Goodman		35							Wife	1				
	Albert					11				Child	1				
	Helenae						10				1				
	John Claydon	60								Shoemaker	1				
	Wm. S. Cook	40								Blacksmith	1				
	Charles Thornton	33								Painter	1				
	Lydia		30							Wife	1				
	Charles					2				Child	1				
	Hilda									Infant	1				
Gene E. White	28								Wife	1					
Albert Etheridge	36								Blacksmith	1					

But he is with his parents and a sister on board the Umbria!

Not in the Army but a Painter

Perhaps mum has been wrong?

But I then found them again in 1897

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 14	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban Sanitary District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban Sanitary District		Rural District		Parliamentary Division or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
House No.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES	NO. of HOUSES
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
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631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644
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729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742
743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756
757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770
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785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798
799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812
813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826
827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854
855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868
869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882
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897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910
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981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994
995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008
1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022
1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036
1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050
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1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106
1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120
1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134
1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148
1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162
1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176
1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190
1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204
1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218
1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232
1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246
1247	1248	1249	1										

Great Grandad Charles would have only been 11 in 1881
 Great Great Grandad Charles was in the Army but was probably too young to have served at Sebastopol (1854)

... What do you think? Is this them? ...

Perhaps it was another generation back
 Great Great Grandma was from Canada
 Elizabeth was born in Canada!
 Alfred Paul was born in Malta!
 Elizabeth and Lillian matched the story and Alfred Paul was a Teacher
 Great Great Grandma could still old enough to have had some more children and some might have already left home.
 This looked a good fit.

Administrative County		The administrative House are shown within the boundaries of the										Page 27
Civil Parish		Registration District		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban Sanitary District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban Sanitary District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ROAD, STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	MOVERS	UNREGISTERED	REGISTRATION	NAME and SURNAMES of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	EMPLOYED, WORKS, or Owns animal	IF Working at Home	WHERE BORN	<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf and Dumb <input type="checkbox"/> Blind <input type="checkbox"/> Lunatic <input type="checkbox"/> Infirmity, Public School	
1				John Paul	Head	29	Teacher			Devonport, Devon		
				Elizabeth	Wife	27	Housewife			Devonport, Devon		
				Charles	Son	12	Monday School			Devonport, Devon		
				Alfred	Son	9				Devonport, Devon		
				Lillian	Daughter	7				Devonport, Devon		
				Elizabeth	Daughter	5				Devonport, Devon		
				John	Son	4				Devonport, Devon		
				Charles	Son	3				Devonport, Devon		
				Elizabeth	Daughter	2				Devonport, Devon		
				John	Son	1				Devonport, Devon		
				Charles	Son	1				Devonport, Devon		
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				Elizabeth	Daughter	1				Devonport, Devon		
				John	Son	1				Devonport, Devon		
				Charles	Son	1				Devonport, Devon		
				Elizabeth	Daughter							

TIP Always look on the next sheet.

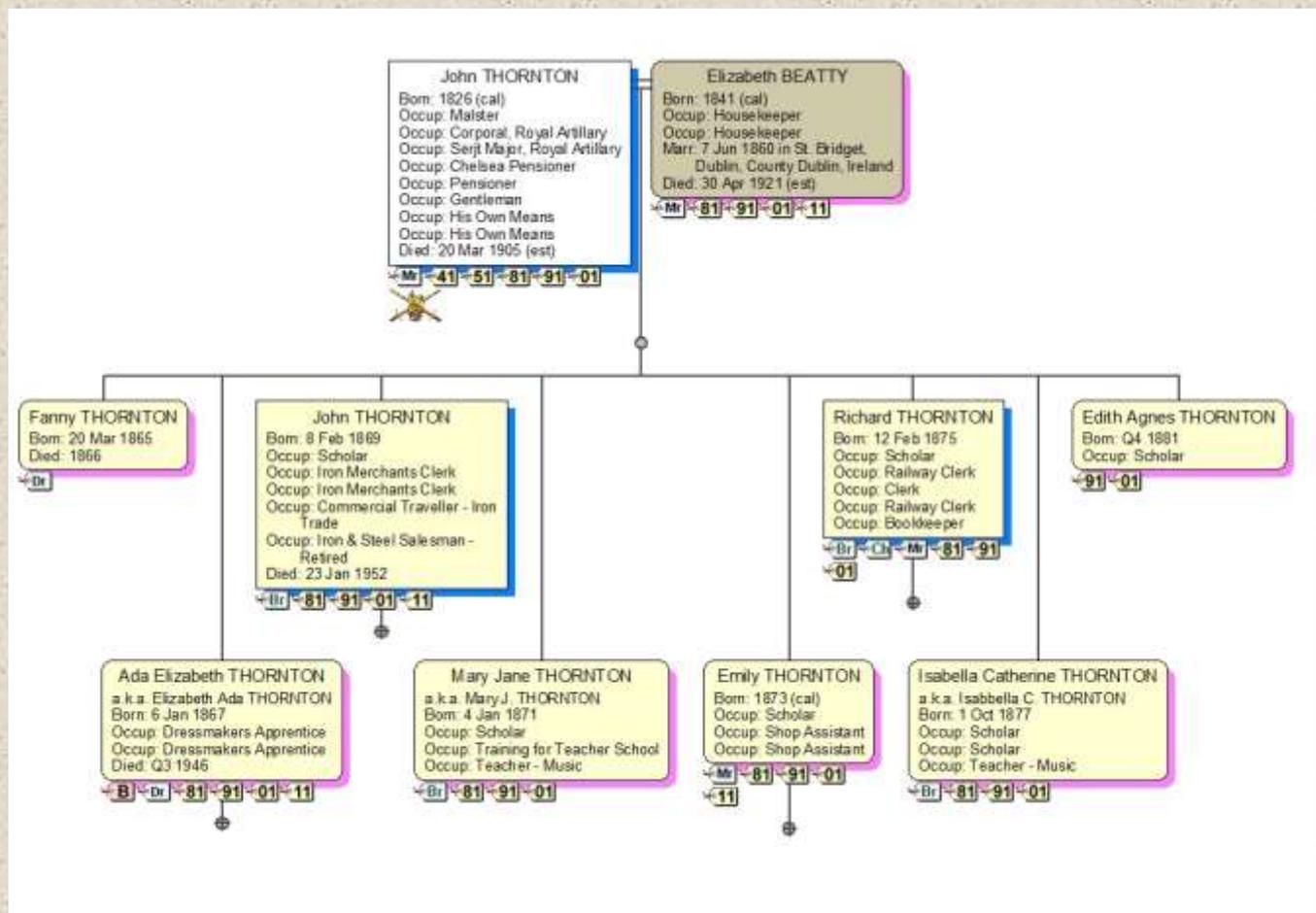
Given Name	Surname	Sex	Age	Year	Month	Day	Place of Birth
Charles	Thornton	M	5	1893	3	5	Birmingham, Warwickshire

There he is aged 5
Yippee!!
Where was he born?
Birmingham, Warwickshire?
Ugh!

I have purchased every birth certificate for a Charles Thornton in and around Birmingham in about 1893 bar one. (2)
And none fit. I was able to show that the other one was not mine either.

... So where do we go from here? ...

TIP - Fill in the detail.



The big surprise was that GGGranddad married **Elizabeth Beatty!**

If this is not the family then it is one hell of a coincidence!

Could mum and Granddad have got it wrong?
Were his parents Charles and Elizabeth Beattie?
Could these parents and the Canadian forest fire be a fiction?

Illegitimacy?

Calm down let's look at all the children

One child died in infancy.

Four got married.

Ada Elizabeth was already married before Grandad was born

John is possible why did his new wife take on the child?

Could be Mary Jane?

Emily would have been 20 when Charles was born.

Richard would have been 18.

Isabella would have been 16

Edith Agnes would have been 12 too young I think

Two became teachers and did not marry.

And one I have lost sight of.

Four daughters in the photo and five on the tree and 14 years between the first and the last.

Tip – Vary your approach to a problem **Closely look at all evidence**



10 years between the first and the fourth daughters.

10 years between 2nd and 5th.

... What do you think? ...

... How old is each one? ...

... How old is Great Great Grandma? ...

She was 81 when she died in 1921.

My guess

Photo taken in 1906

Elizabeth Beatty 65

Ada Elizabeth 39

Mary Jane 35

Emily 33

Isabella 29

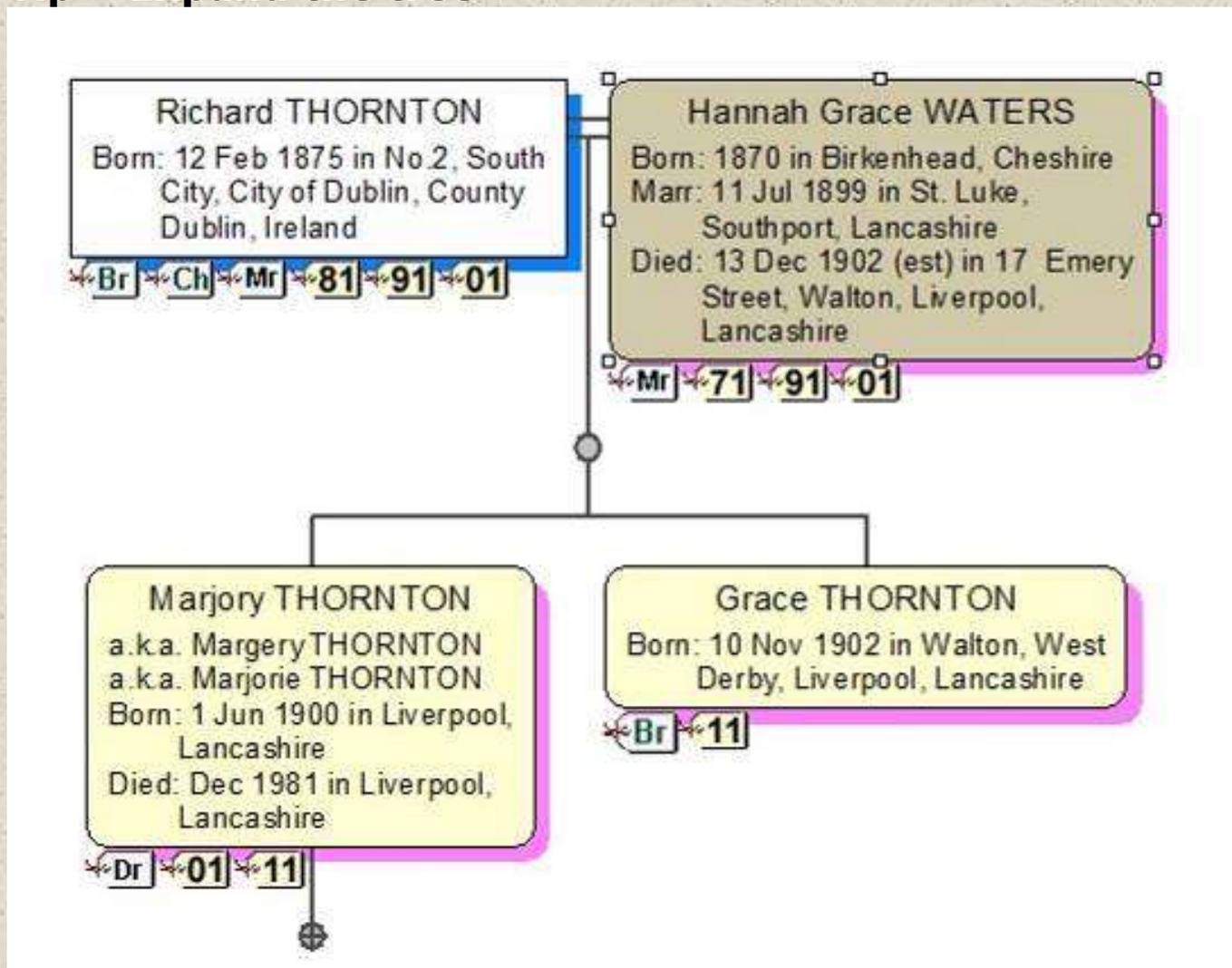
Edith Agnes 25

I cannot find Edith Agnes after 1901. Is she the 'Camp Follower'?

... Where do we go from here? ...

Look for cousins.

Tip – Expand the tree



Now we can be fairly certain that this is the correct family.

A cousin Grace!!!

Looks to be the correct date of birth!



... How old are they? ...

According to Grandads Naval record

Charles born in 1893 and Grace 1902

9 years between them

Grace 2, Charles 11?

Or

Grace 3, Charles 12?

Their ages do not seem to fit the photograph

According to 1901 Census

Charles born in 1896 and Grace 1902

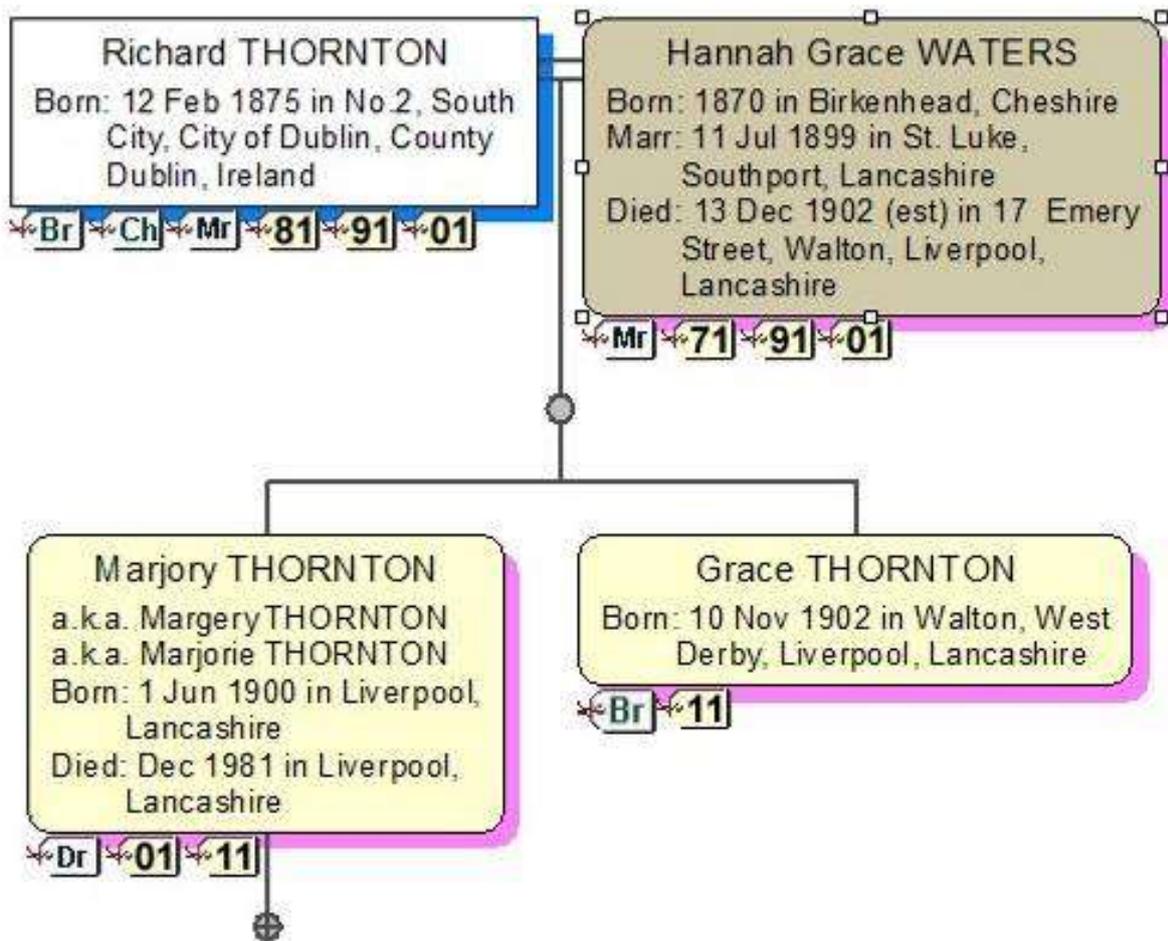
6 years between them

Grace 2, Charles 8?

Or

Grace 3, Charles 9?

This looks better! If this is true he joined up when he was 15 years old and not the 18 he said



Mum has died!

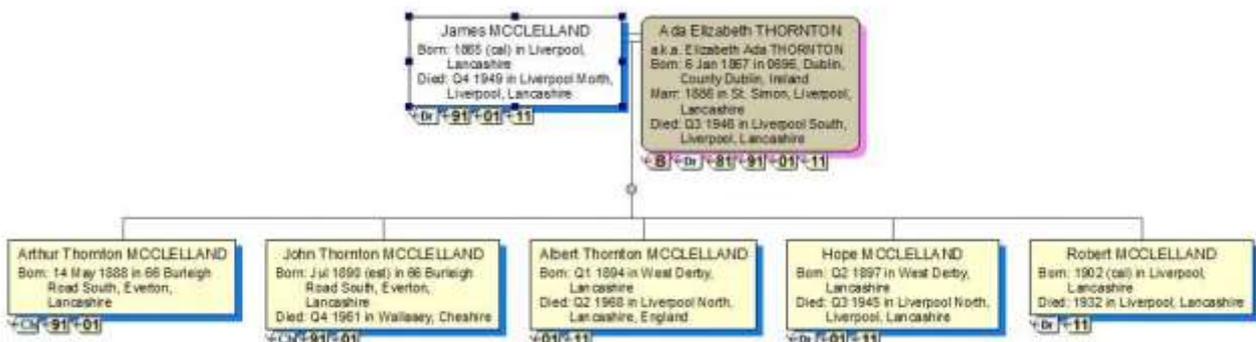
What about Majory?

She is with her mums sister Sarah.

So we have found a probable link between my Granddad and this family. Where was Granddad in 1911 – He had Joined up and was at Devonport!

Do we stop here?

No!



Charles Thornton
Aged 50
Widower
Van Driver (Delivery Company) – Pensioner
Dublin – Dublin

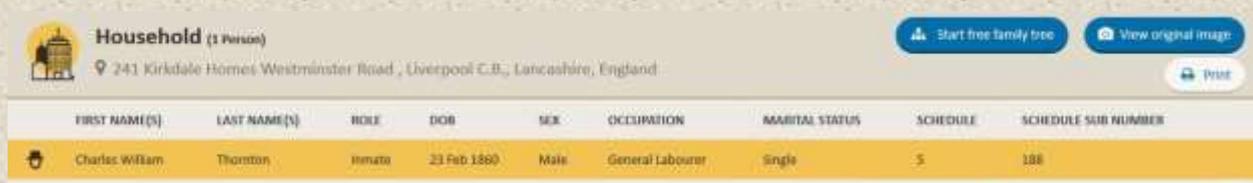
A reasonable fit. He would have been 32-35 years old when Charles, my Granddad was born.

He is at the Workhouse, West Derby Union, Rice Lane, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool. It is not know which ward he is on or why he is there. No workhouse record for this period has been found so far. They might not yet be digitised but they might be missing.

Can he be found again in the Workhouse?

- ✘ I first found him in the Workhouse / Hospital in 1898
- ✘ In between 1898 and 1920 he admitted 10 or more times.
- ✘ The records have not been released yet after 1920 so he may have been in and out after that date.
- ✘ In the records his sister (Mrs. Ada Elizabeth McClelland) is often cited as next of kin

What about the 1939 Register?



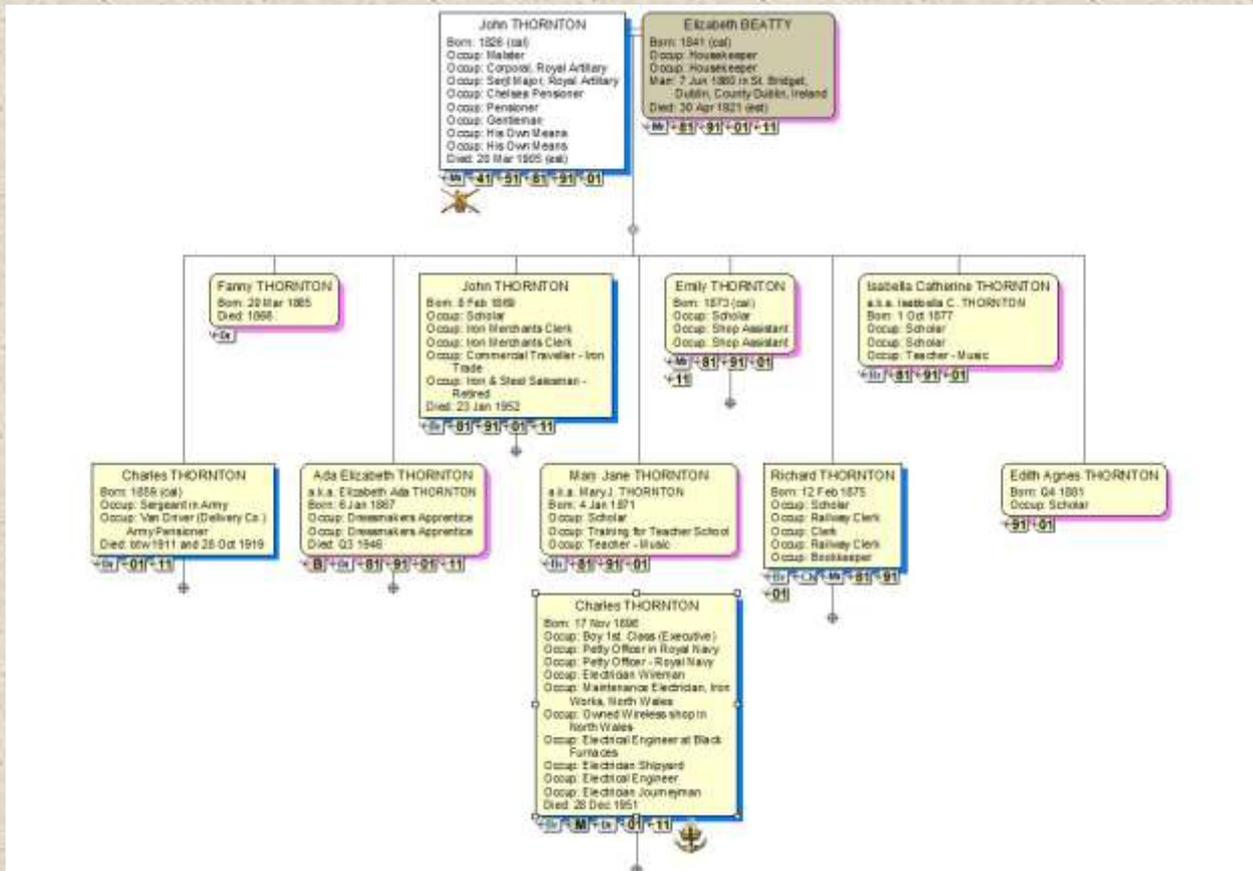
The screenshot shows a digital record for Charles William Thornton from the 1939 Register. The record is for a household of one person at 241 Kirkdale Homes, Westminster Road, Liverpool C.B., Lancashire, England. The individual's details are as follows:

FIRST NAME(S)	LAST NAME(S)	ROLE	DOB	SEX	OCCUPATION	MARITAL STATUS	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE SUB NUMBER
Charles William	Thornton	Inmate	23 Feb 1860	Male	General Labourer	Single	5	188

A 19 year gap in the records before he turns up in the 1939 Registration records. He would be about 79 years old. They show that Charles is now in an Old Peoples Home that Specialises in looking after inmates that have senility problems. In this census the people were regarded as inmates and not patients. That is no treatment was being offered. Kirkdale Homes was a large institution. The buildings had originally been built as Kirlands Industrial School for Pauper children. In 1904, the school closed and the site became Kirkdale Homes for the elderly and infirm.

It is not clear if he was single or widowed, with no any indication who the mother of my Granddad was.

He died in 1941. None of the family new of his existence.



So here is Grandad with his family!

But I still don't know who his parents are!

...Where do I go from here? ...

Tips on Recording your Research

Tip – Do a 'research plan'

A Research Plan constructed as follows –

- A title with the Research Subject
 - Usually a Person but could be place etc.
 - E.g. John Thornton b. c1826
- Objective
 - E.g. Find the Birth & Baptismal date and place and the name of his parents
- Known Facts
 - List of Known facts
- Working Hypothesis
 - Your initial guess
 - E.g. John Thornton b. c1826 in Birstall, Yorkshire
- Research Strategy
 - E.g. Find John in the earlier censuses and this might give the names of his parents. Find out more about Wyke and Birstall. Search the Parish birth records. Find out about the limitation of the surviving databases.
- Identify Sources
 - List of known sources
 - E.g. Baptisms on Find My Past

Tip – Do a time line

- Creating a timeline for an individual or family may help you solve genealogical problems.
- By putting family events side by side, you will be able to spot continuity issues (e.g. if a child was born after the death of the mother, couples marrying very young, etc.).
- This will also help in surname studies, when trying to figure out if candidates with the same name can fit into your family tree.
- Visualizing the family's lives this way will help save you the time of fixing errors later in the research process.

Tip – Start a research log

- Research Subject
 - As in Research Plan
 - Date research done
 - This is useful to check how long ago you did the research and if it is worth repeating
 - What you looked for
 - E.g. John Thornton in 1851 census
 - Repository and Source used
 - Ancestry.co.uk
 - Years Searched
 - Result of research
 - E.g. Not found.
 - Notes
-
- The three forms will not be static and will keep changing.
 - I would suggest keeping them as excel files.
 - I keep all three in a single Excel file
 - I have included a sample file in the talk notes but you can always design your own.
 - I have formatted them so that they can be printed.
-
- My first stab at finding John's birth and parents has not produced definite results.
 - I now need to go back and revise my assumptions. E.g. Date of birth. Perhaps he was born outside Birstall parish. Look for the original of John's marriage etc. Look at the original registers. Now put these on the forms.

Tip – Keep going back to check

- What if we had found that in the census that John's parents were John the Farmer with Elizabeth his wife?
- When checking some time later we found an alternative. John the mechanic with Mary his wife.
- If we had our thoughts put down in the Research Plan we could quickly check if the new finding fitted or not.

Tip – Think about it.

- It is important to not only look at records, but to take some time to think about what you learned from that record and how it relates to other information you had previously.
- Does everything match what you knew before?
- Is there a fact that is different than what was previously known?
- Is there any new information that can be proved?
- These questions are essential to a family historian to make accurate assumptions about their research.

Tip – Know your sources

- Pauline was careful to tell you how the records changed over time
- Where you might expect gaps
- The amount of information contained
- How reliable the information might be
- Be careful with transcripts
- Are they accurate
- Are they complete
- These things are important
 - What did you learn about Civil Registration?
 - What changes happened?
 - E.g. Change in responsibility for recording births from the registrar to the parents
- In the above example I checked the dates of the earliest registers.
- Are any years missing?
- Which company has the most records?
- Do they have all the records?
- In the example FreeReg had no information but in another I did recently they had the only record that fitted
- An example
 - I had found the marriage of John Thornton to Elizabeth Beatty in Ireland on Ancestry and this is what I found about the source.

Search Filters Broad Exact

John

Thornton

MARRIED: 1860

IN: Dublin, Du...

[Edit Search](#) | [New Search](#) | [UPDATE](#)

[All Categories](#)

> [Birth, Marriage & Death, including Parish](#)

> [Marriage & Divorce](#)

Ireland, Select Marriages, 1619-1898

This collection includes marriage records from Ireland.

[Learn more about this database...](#)

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *Ireland, Select Marriages, 1619-1898* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
Original data: *Ireland, Marriages, 1619-1898*. Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.: FamilySearch, 2013.

About Ireland, Select Marriages, 1619-1898

This collection includes marriage records from Ireland.

You can learn more about this collection at the [FamilySearch](#) website.

Ireland Marriages (FamilySearch Historical Records)

Ireland

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- [1 What is in the Collection?](#)
- [2 Coverage Table](#)
- [3 Collection Contents](#)
- [4 Known Issues with This Collection](#)
- [5 How You Can Contribute](#)
- [6 Citing this Collection](#)

What is in the Collection?

This index is an electronic index for the years 1619 to 1898.

This index is not complete for any particular place, region or time period. This collection may include information previously published in the [International Genealogical Index](#) or Vital Records Index collections.

Coverage Table

The Coverage Table shows the places and time periods of the original records in this collection. The table indicates how many records the collection has from each place. Most of the records in the collection are from the time periods listed in the table; however, the collection may have a few records from before or after the time period.

Locality	Marriages, 1619-1898	Marriages, 1619-1898
Antrim		44,445
Armagh		5,108
Carlow		924
Cavan		5,740
Clare		3,588
Cork		24,776
Donegal		42,283
Down		33,025
Dublin		13,063
Fermanagh		6,386

Ireland Marriages (FamilySearch Historical Records)/Known Issues



This page was created by FamilySearch Historical Records personnel. It details problems identified within [this collection](#) and answers to those problems.

If you wish to comment, please visit the [talk page](#) to post your comments.

Known Issues

Question #1: The records found in Batch M70041-1 list the source film as 784438. Is this correct?

Answer #1: No. The correct film number for Batch M70041-1 is 874438

Question #2: Many of the search results do not show the marriage location. I would like to view the original record on the film but need to know the location to be able to find it. How can I know the marriage location other than Ireland?

Answer #2: At the moment, some of these indexed records do not include the marriage location. If the marriage was included in the Civil Registration, you will be able to find information as to the marriage location and where to look on the film.

Aside – What is a source?

- Well a source is NOT Ancestry or Find My Past.
- They are repositories in the same way as the Library or Record Office
- Original Records: the original source. In our digital era, the concept of “original record” also extends to high-quality images of those originals.
- Derivative Records: transcripts, translations, abstracts, extracts, indexes, and database entries. The best derivatives will preserve all the essential details of the original. Still, errors are frequent.
- Secondary Records (Authored Narratives): The result of a study into many sources and synthesized into a book. Because the information comes from other materials, much of an authored work is derivative
 - Is a MI an original source?
- All can be used but the further from the original the more probable that we get errors.

So what is a Citation?

Family Search suggest how you should cite a source

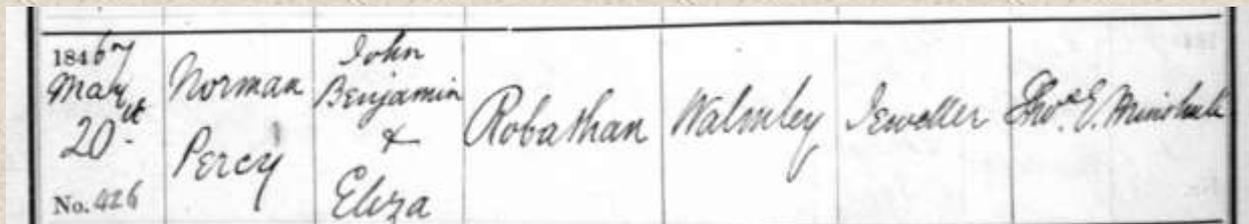
Citing this Record

"Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898," database, *FamilySearch*
 (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FG6R-RH6 : 12 December 2014),
 John Thornton and Elizabeth Beatty, 07 Jun 1860; citing St. Bridget, Dub,
 Ire, reference 2:3Q5G8W1; FHL microfilm 101,416.

This is how I do it

[Page 54]

BAPTISMS solemnized in the District Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Walmley, in the Parish of Sutton Coldfield, in the County of Warwick, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and 67						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1867 April 1 No. 420	Thomas	Eli ^a	Brookbank	Walmley	—	Gilbert W. Robinson
1867 April 13 No. 421	Alisa	Henry & Hester	Hart	Cat Hill	Labourer	G. W. Robinson
1867 May 6 No. 422	Mary- Ann	George Marg. Ann	Gilbert	Falcon Lodge	Labourer	G. W. Robinson
1867 May 5 No. 423	James	Thomas Taylor Elizabeth	Langley	Falcon Lodge	Labourer	G. W. Robinson
1867 12 No. 424	Walter Harry	Edward & Harriet Ann	Garland	Pinns Cottages	Labourer	G. W. Robinson
1867 19 No. 425	Ann	Thomas & Martha	Gannaway	Signal- Hayes	Brick- layers	G. W. Robinson
1867 May 20 No. 426	Norman Percy	John Benjamin & Eliza	Robathan	Walmley	Scavenger	Rev. S. Minchell
1867 Aug 4 No. 427	Edward	Joseph & Eliza Anne	Huband	Langley Heath	Labourer	G. W. Robinson



The information I would record from this baptism entry is as follows

- ✗ Repository – Find My Past
- ✗ Source – Warwickshire Baptisms – Warwickshire County Records Office - <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=gbprs%2fwarwickshire%2fbap%2f001931215>
- ✗ Citation – 1867
 - + Archive Reference DRB0150/1 Page 54 Entry Number 426, St. John's Church, Sutton Coldfield, Records Year Range 1846-1916
 - + Transcription – Baptism Date - 1867 May 20th, No. 426, Child's Forenames – Norman Percy, Parents - John Benjamin & Eliza, Surname - Robathan, Abode - Walmley, Occupation - Jeweller, Ceremony Performed by - Thos. E. Mins??

I would also include an image of the information.

Note I include my own transcription. If I have made a mistake in transcribing the entry then people will see it here. If the transcription would be very long I might cheat and write "See image".

This is sufficient to allow anyone to go back and find the original source.

Tip – three legs to a stool principle

- Your evidence has to be strong enough to convince others
- Qualify less certain conclusions as probable or possible so that others are not misled
- Acknowledge and attribute the research done by others and use of such work as a secondary source only

Tip – Vary your approach to a problem

- No record for the Birth of John Thornton seems to have survived. Where do we go from here?
 - Wills – Are Brothers and Sister Named?
 - Do they fit in with either family?
 - Was an obituary written?
 - Will his military record name either of his parents
 - Will directories help?
 - Occupation might help
 - I have a John Medd who started out as a Rope Maker, became a Policeman and returned to rope making after retiring from the police.
 - Do a Family Reconstitution

Recommended (Beginners) Book on Reconstitution

Nuts and Bolts (Second Edition), Family History Problem Solving through Family Reconstitution Techniques by Andrew Todd

This widely-acclaimed book describes how you to research wide -- i.e. look for brothers, sisters, cousins and the many networks to which your ancestors belonged. As well as helping you to understand their lives more fully, these little-known techniques should help to progress the direct line.

'This book is excellent for a beginner. From the first page it is packed full of tried and tested methods with added illustrations to explain the points. Just what I wanted'

Mrs CM, France

Recommended (Advanced) Books and Articles on Record Linking (Reconstitution)

1. "News from the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure: Automatic record linking for family recognition," *Local Population Studies*, vol. 40, pp.10-16, 1988.

A summary account of the work of the Centre. States that they can now perform fully-automatic family reconstitution. "We have tested the record-linking algorithms extensively against manual reconstructions, and we have found that they provide comparable or superior results in a fraction of the time taken to link the records by hand..." Provides a brief but useful narrative description of the techniques, but no references to publications giving detailed accounts of the techniques.

2. P. Adman, S.W. Baskerville and K.F. Beedham, "Computer-Assisted Record Linkage: or How Best to Optimize Links Without Generating Errors," *History and Computing*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp.2-15, 1994.

"Record linkage is arguably a more complex process than most of its practitioners realize. Once a historian decides to settle for a subset of the potential links that can be made between two sets of nominal records s/he is already involved in the process of sampling. Fine, if that is relevant to the enquiry at hand: but if the objective is to achieve the maximum number of 'true' links, then accurate judgement becomes paramount. The key assumption underlying this paper is that 'judgement' is the function of the historian, not the computer. It is our belief that no systematic algorithm, however sophisticated, can perform this task as well as can an experienced team of researchers equipped with an appropriate set of software tools. In this paper we develop this line of reasoning in the context of our work on early eighteenth-century elections, and describe the functions of a software package

known as CARL - Computer-Assisted Record Linkage."

3. R. Barker, "Reconstituting the Family," *Genealogists' Magazine*, vol. 21, no. 9, 1985. Based on a talk given at the Society of Genealogists. Gives a fairly full account of manual techniques for performing family reconstitution; in describing the work of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structures mentions use of a computer only in connection with the analysis of the results of such a manual reconstitution. Then describes how genealogists could use essentially the same manual system of coloured record slips to analyse all the data they collect on surnames of interest, arguing: "This systematic way of attacking genealogy leaves much less margin for error, in my view. You cancel out many births by means of infant mortality - and know you've done so. You can slot births in because you recognise the pattern of birth interval. A five-year gap which should contain a baby may be filled from another parish. You can keep your finger on the variations of surname. There is, however, one other important advantage. Genealogy is a very self-indulgent form of research. It benefits, in the last instance, no-one but you, because no-one sees it. . . Don't stop being genealogists. Become *responsible* genealogists. Become family historians. If you use the Cambridge system, then you are not only helping yourself, you are making a useful contribution to historical research. Write-up your findings; deposit your slips in the record Office for others to borrow. Let the Record Office microfilm your reconstitutions. . ." (An editorial note refers to the Local Population Studies Society, formed by the Cambridge Group, as a source of further information.)
4. G. Bouchard, "The Processing of Ambiguous Links in Computerised Family Reconstructions," *Historical Methods*, vol. 19, no. 1, pp.9-19, 1986. Follows on from Bouchard (1980), and gives a detailed account of the methods used. Starts by pointing out the (often minimized) problem of deciding which records are candidates for matching, stating that in fact this, and hence the whole matching procedure should depend on the characteristics of the data being matched. States that in this case the data being used (Saguenay registers for 1842-1951) was of sufficiently high quality to use nonprobabilistic methods of record matching to achieve progressive linking, starting with the most secure situations (involving couples) and dealing later with clusters. "During the operations, the accumulation of information in the family records allows more and more difficult decisions to be made: thus each step is based on the preceding one . . . from one step to another, the algorithms for matching and decision making are modified according to the nature and quantity of the information available in the family records and the complexity of the situations to be dealt with."
5. G. Bouchard, "Current Issues and New Prospects for Computerized Record Linkage in the Province of Quebec," *Historical Methods*, vol. 25, no. 2, pp.67-73, 1992. "Most of this article focuses on [work on a database of 665,000 baptism, marriage and death records for the period 1838-1971 in the Saguenay region of Quebec] in order to single out a few basic theoretical and methodological issues relating to automated record linkage. Some major lessons must be learned from our own accomplishments (and failures) and from the varying fates of the various well-known, large-scale automated record-linkage projects set up in the 1970s in the fields of history, demography and genetics. One of these lessons has to do with the close relationship between the nature and the quality of the data, the research goals, and the linkage strategies. The diversity of the pioneer projects has provided ample evidence of (1) the need to devise linkage systems consistent with the purposes of the research and the capacity of the data to support them; (2) the consequent contradiction that may arise between some ideal accuracy and efficiency levels; and (3) the difficult choice that has to be made in such circumstances."

6. G. Bouchard and C. Pouyez, "Name Variations and Computerised Record Linkage," *Historical Methods*, vol. 13, pp.119-125, 1980.
An excellent account of some of the techniques developed, in connection with a large-scale parish register and census data linking project in Quebec, for matching data concerning couples (rather than individuals). Five different types of name variation are described: spelling variations, phonetic variations, double-names, double first names, and alternate first names, with details given on the techniques used for dealing with first two of these. The first was handled by a specially created scheme of phonetic encoding for the French language, containing 64 rules - the article points out that Soundex is not really a phonetic encoding scheme, but rather just a crude sorting device. The second type was handled by a technique based mainly on Guth's scheme for assessing the extent to which two words contain the same letters in the same order. Another aspect of the scheme is that it builds up a dictionary of equivalent names, using separate criteria for isolated names, and names in the context of all the name data available for a couple. On one test, involving 2,000 records, the scheme succeeded in finding 98.5% of the possible links, whereas only two thirds of the possible links could be found if one tested simply for name identically.
7. C. Bourlet and J.-L. Minel. "A Declarative System for Setting Up a Prosopographical Database," in *History and Computing*, ed. P. Denley and D. Hopkin, pp.186-191, Manchester Univ. Press, 1987.
Brief description of a 70,000 item database of data from 13th century French tax registers, and the use of a Prolog-based scheme for determining whether items refer to the same individual.
8. J. Carvalho. "Expert Systems and Community Reconstruction Studies," in *History and Computing*, II, ed. P. Denley, S. Fogelvik and C. Harvey, pp.97-102, Manchester Univ. Press, 1989.
Brief description of a small-scale project that is to use a database, and a set of Prolog modules for record linking, life-story reconstruction, genealogical analysis and network reconstruction.
9. P.G. Cook, "Is Your John Cooke my John Cooke: introducing the "C-Vector" for finding common ancestors among databases." *Genealogical Computing*, vol. 10, no. 1, pp.37-38, 1990.
A heuristic for matching individuals in two lineage-linked databases, based on so-called C-vectors. Each vector corresponds to a separate individual, and lists in sequence the birth years of the individual, his/her parents and his/her grandparents, and the individual's sex, and name. (The scheme involves finding pairs of C-vectors which match on three or more known dates.)
10. P. Cooley, "Biographs for 19th Century Family Records," *Computers in Genealogy*, vol. 4, no. 3, pp.104-111, 1991.
Shows how a biograph ("a potted life story on one individual", generated automatically from a PAF file) can be used together with some simple heuristics, to predict census returns, survivors, and electors, for checking against the actual lists.
11. P. Cooley, "Generation and Usage of Machine-Readable files from the GRO Indexes," *Computers in Genealogy*, vol. 4, no. 5, pp.190-199, 1992.
Describes some techniques that have been developed for automatic enhancement of the output obtained from using a scanner to scan St. Catherine's House indexes, and describes the sort of test (making use of names and dates) that could be used to check whether two registrations refer to the same individual.

- 12.C. Davey. *Reconstructing Local Population History: the Hatfield and Bobbingworth districts of Essex, 1550-1880*, Cambridge Ph.D., 1990.
- 13.C. Davey and A.S. Jarvis, "Microcomputers for Microhistory: a database approach to the reconstruction of small English populations," *History and Computing*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp.187-193, 1990.
Describes a scheme, based on the use of a relational database, for assisting local amateur historians to perform family reconstitutions. Baptisms, Marriages and Burials are kept in three base tables. "For every marriage, or implied marriage, all associated baptisms, burials and remarriages are found. Links between entities are made by matching the character strings that represent names. In addition, certain logical, biological and social conventions [Wrigley, 1966] are observed which limit the number of possible links to only probable links." Possible links are kept in separate tables. Uses Soundex, plus a list of special cases, for matching names. The user is then provided on request with all the relevant information on screen in order that he/she can perform resolution of competing links manually.
- 14.G. De Brou and M. Olsen, "The Guth Algorithm and the Nominal Record Linkage of Multi-Ethnic Populations," *Historical Methods*, vol. 19, pp.20-24, 1986.
Discussion of experiments comparing the letter-by-letter comparative Guth surname matching algorithm (Guth 1976) against language-specific surname matching algorithms, as Soundex, Henry and FONEM. "Although relatively successful for the particular projects for which they were designed, each language-specific system suffers from a major drawback: Its effective application is limited to the language for which it was originally created. . . . [Guth's] algorithm does not depend on recognition of phonetic similarity . . . Our study suggests that Guth is correct to claim that her algorithm has an important advantage over other systems: It is able to identify variant spellings through the position of letters in names. Because of this, the Guth algorithm, unlike the language-specific programs, is well-suited to the linking of a multi-ethnic population. The algorithm, however, is not perfect. It can produce incorrect matches between surnames that bear little resemblance to one another. This problem becomes particularly acute when comparing short names, where one or two incorrect vowels can produce an incorrect match. One way of overcoming this would be to include a new function that would assign a level of 'confidence' in the link according to the number of letters that occur in the same positions of the names being compared."
- 15.G.J.A. Guth, "Surname Spellings and Computerized Record Linkage," *Historical Methods Newsletter*, vol. 10, pp.10-19, 1976.
Provides a full description of a surname matching ("name-recognition") algorithm that takes account of letter ordering, rather than being phonetic in character, and its use in a project to link various sets of early 18th century Norwich records: poll books, land tax assessments, window-tax assessments and registers of freemen. Details are given of how linking was performed first of all within individual sets of data, then taking pairs of sets of data at a time. "The limited number of identifiers available in the Norwich data did not justify establishing an elaborate weighting scheme for making links automatically. However some percent of the 'true links' were formed by the program, enabling the historian to select the remaining links clerically."
- 16.J. Hitchon, "Russell Soundex Code: a BBC Basic program," *Computers in Genealogy*, vol. 1, no. 5, pp.122-123, 1983.
- 17.C.J. Jardine and A.D.J. MacFarlane. "Computer Input of Historical Records for Multi-Source Record Linkage," in *Proc. 7th Int. Economic History Conf.*, pp.71-8,

Edinburgh 2, 1978.

A fascinating account of the means by which completely transcribed documents were marked up in order to make the individuals, property, etc., and the relationships that they refer to evident, ready for computer input.

- 18.S. King, "Record Linkage in a Protoindustrial Community," *History and Computing*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp.27-33, 1994.
- 19.A. Macfarlane, S. Harrison and C. Jardine. *Reconstructing Historical Communities*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1977, 222 p. ISBN 0 521 21796 2
This fascinating book describes the development and use of a sophisticated manual technique for creating a set of inter-related indexes to data obtained from a variety of documents in order to perform a "total reconstitution" of a given small community. The technique is illustrated mainly by reference to a fourteen-year long study of the history of the villages of Earls Colne in Essex, and Kirby Lonsdale in Cumbria, covering the period 1500-1750. The twelve document types dealt with in detail are: Anglican parish registers, manorial rentals, court baron land transfers, frankpledge listings, court leek cases, church court cases, quarter sessions cases, assize depositions, hearth tax records, wills, probate inventories, and population listings. For each of these document types, details of the indexing techniques used are described. In the case of Earls Colne, whose population was about 1200, the parish registers alone resulted in about 30,000 index cards, and the total for the twelve sets of records was nearly 140,000 cards. The analyses that the integrated set of indexes make feasible are very impressive. Far more complete family reconstructions can be produced than would be possible using just the parish register data. (One example shows a family tree which includes 25 marriages only four of which could be traced from parish register entries alone.) Similarly, extremely detailed historical accounts of the ownership and land and property are made feasible. (For Earls Colne it is "possible to know who owned every one of the approximately 650 separate parcels of property, land or housing, at any point in the last four hundred years.") Moreover, much can be learnt about the accuracy and the completeness of the data contained in the various types of document, and indeed about what some of the documents really mean, so that the author claims that one can learn far more about a typical English community during the period covered, both on an individual basis, and as a whole, than had hitherto been thought possible. The final chapter, incidentally, contains a careful analysis of how the manual techniques described could be aided by computer processing (albeit written in terms of then-current large mainframe computers). The task of doing a complete family reconstitution project manually for a village of 1000 inhabitants over a period of 300 years, based solely on parish registers, is estimated at 1,500 hours. A "total reconstitution" of the type described of such a community is estimated as needing 10 to 20 man-years if performed manually, or about 3 to 4 man-years if aided by computer.
- 20.F. Nault and B. Desjardins. "Computers and Historical Demography: the reconstitution of the early Québec population," in *History and Computing*, II, ed. P. Denley, S. Fogelvik and C. Harvey, pp.143-148, Manchester Univ. Press, 1989. Description of a very large family reconstruction project; it is stated that the method used, though "often incorrect at the individual level . . . yields results that are statistically valid."
- 21.H.B. Newcombe and J.M. Kennedy, "Record Linkage: making maximum use of the discriminating power of identifying information," *Comm. ACM*, vol. 5, pp.563-565, 1962.

22.H. Rhodri Davies, "Automated Record Linkage of Census Enumerator's Books and Registration Data: Obstacles, Challenges and Solutions," *History and Computing*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp.16-26, 1994.

"In this paper the need for individual-level longitudinal data to study nineteenth century fertility and migration is highlighted and reasons why so little work has been carried out in this area using record linkage techniques are given. After hopefully alleviating the fears about data quality we discuss a computer package which can be used to speed up the linkage process."

23.R.S. Schofield, "The Standardisation of Names and the Automatic Linking of Historical Records," *Annales de démographie historique*, 1972.

24.K. Schürer. "Historical Demography, Social Structure and the Computer," in *History and Computing*, ed. P. Denley and D. Hopkin, pp.33-45, Manchester Univ. Press, 1987.

A general overview of the work of the Cambridge Group on computer-based record linking of parish register records, and of successive census records. Mention is made of the use of Soundex, and of standardized coding (e.g. of occupations), in establishing links, and of the programs for finding logical inconsistencies in the data. (35 refs.)

25.K. Schürer, J. Oeppen and R. Scofield. "Theory and Methodology: an example from historical demography," in *History and Computing*, II, ed. P. Denley, S. Fogelvik and C. Harvey, pp.130-142, Manchester Univ. Press, 1989.

Summary of the "Cambridge" approach to family reconstruction, which is described as based on two principles: "First an agnosticism about the number and identity of individuals whose life histories are represented by the events recorded in the registers leads us to form all possible links, and to take note of cases where records cannot be linked together. Second, a belief that in situations of uncertainty it is better to prefer links in which the information content of the records gives one the greatest confidence leads us to adopt a hierarchical, sequential approach to the resolution of ambiguities." It argues that this approach to deleting competing links is to be preferred to that by Skolnick, of searching "for the combination of links with the lowest aggregate total confidence score that would need to be deleted to resolve the network . . . [because] there can be a very large number of possible combinations of links that could be deleted."

26.M. Skolnick. "The Resolution of Ambiguities in Record Linkage," in *Identifying People in the Past*, ed. E. A. Wrigley, pp.102-127, London, Edward Arnold, 1973.

The method described is based on the estimation of maximum likelihoods, and applied to the linking of records from medieval Italian parish registers, for purposes of genetic research. "The method [uses] the decision making techniques developed in artificial intelligence projects . . . The artificial intelligence approach consists of building a family of related solutions, developing a method of keeping the family of reasonable solutions small, and selecting the best solution with minimum effort and maximum accuracy. . . The frequencies of the nominal identifiers in the records to be linked forms the basis of the likelihoods. If one has the distribution of each forename and surname by parish, by time period and by type of record, one can calculate the probability that a link between two records will be made by chance. Thus if a record has much missing data, and the only data which is compatible consists of common names, the probability of a match, made at random, being compatible is quite large. If there are many identifiers, and some of them are rare names, the probability of a compatible match occurring is quite low, and can be estimated. . . Likelihoods are also computed from age error distributions which are formed from records whose links are most certain. . . A heuristic computer program, LINK, is being developed for

the resolution of ambiguities in record linking. It is being constructed in a manner similar to the heuristic DENDRAL computer program."

27. Squire, "Expert Systems in Genealogy," *Computer in Genealogy*, vol. 3, no. 8, 1990. Briefly argues the potential utility of expert systems for various genealogical applications.
28. N.C. Stevenson. *Genealogical Evidence; a guide to the standard of proof relating to pedigrees, ancestry, heirship and family history*, Laguna Hills CA, Aegean Park Press, 1979, 233 p.
An excellent account by a lawyer and genealogist of the standards of proof that should be sought in establishing an individual's ancestry, whether for producing a documented genealogy, or for legal purposes. Though aimed at an American readership, and dealing mainly with American records and laws, it is well worthy of study by genealogists in other countries, particularly the UK given the links (both of emigration, and of legal heritage) between Britain and the USA. Quotes from many legal judgements, but nevertheless is very readable. Provides careful and thought-provoking analyses of the strengths and weaknesses, as genealogical evidence, of various types of official records (vital, court, land and census records), church and family bible records, newspaper files, monuments, etc., and published and private genealogies and genealogical directories - a number of which are roundly criticised, Burke's Peerage in particular. To quote from the introduction: "... there are some who believe that the rules of evidence in our legal system and in effect in our court proceedings are too technical and not completely practical for genealogical, historical and biographical research. This belief is not valid." This is perhaps shown best by the excellent chapter on "Rules of Evidence Applied to Genealogy". The book is thus a great antidote to the motherhood statements about the need for careful research found in many guides to genealogy.
29. E.R. Swart, "A Computer Simulation of the Ineradicable Uncertainty in Genealogical Research," *Family History*, no. 118, pp.389-396, 1989.
30. M. Thaller. "Methods and Techniques of Historical Computation," in *History and Computing*, ed. P. Denley and D. Hopkin, pp.147-156, Manchester Univ. Press, 1987. A general discussion of desirable characteristics and capabilities of database systems used for various types of "historical computation", including record linkage.
31. J.E. Vetter, J.R. Gonzalez and M.P. Gutman, "Computer-Assisted Record Linkage Using a Relational Database System," *History and Computing*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp.34-51, 1994.
"Our intent is not to present a theoretically or methodologically correct approach to nominal record linkage, but to describe the evolution of a semi-automated linkage technique particularly suited to the needs and resources of a university demographic research setting."
32. J.D. Willigan and K.A. Lynch. *Sources and Methods of Historical Demography*, New York, Academic Press, 1982.
A scholarly treatise on the whole subject of historical demography, but containing only a brief section on techniques for family reconstruction. This describes, as an example method, that of the Montreal group.
33. I. Winchester, "The Linkage of Historical Records by Man and Computer: techniques and problems," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 1, pp.107-124, 1970.
34. I. Winchester. "A Brief Survey of the Algorithmic, Mathematical and Philosophical

Literature relevant to historical record linkage," in *Identifying People in the Past*, ed. E. A. Wrigley, pp.128-154, London, Edward Arnold, 1973.

"This survey consists of a discussion of the chief problems of record linkage which are relevant to historical data, followed by a select bibliography [of 54 items]. The discussion takes the form of a critical survey of literature about record linkage." An excellent account.

35. E.A. Wrigley, (Ed.). *Family Reconstruction, An Introduction to English Historical Demography*. 1966, 96-159 p.
Contains a very detailed account of a manual technique, using Family Reconstitution Forms (FRF), for organizing parish register record linking pioneered by L. Henry. (The method to be used for resolving ambiguities is described in less detail, and would appear to be fairly subjective.)

36. E.A. Wrigley, (Ed.). *Identifying People in the Past*, London, Edward Arnold, 1973, 159 p.
From the introduction: "In recent years there has been a spate of historical studies involving nominal record linkage on a scale which requires the linkage rules to be set out formally and in detail. Most of these studies have been based on parish registers (or a comparable source of genealogical information), or on nineteenth century census schedules. And at the same time there has been a marked tendency to abandon manual methods in favour of computers. The six chapters which follow represent an attempt to describe some of the methods currently in use, and to discuss the problems and opportunities of record linkage work."

37. E.A. Wrigley and R.S. Schofield. "Nominal Record Linkage by Computer and the Logic of Family Reconstruction," in *Identifying People in the Past*, ed. E. A. Wrigley, pp.64-101, London, Edward Arnold, 1973.
Detailed account of the record linkage techniques used by the Cambridge group, including a section on Matchscoring and an Appendix on Name Spelling. The section on demographic constraints upon record linkage gives the following rules/heuristics:

"1. Age at death is never greater than 100 years, unless age information in the burial record overrides this rule.

2. At the birth of a child the mother is never less than 15 or more than 50 years old, nor the father less than 15 or more than 75.

3. No two successive birth events to the same mother occur in less than 10 months and no three successive birth events in less than 22 months.

4. The interval between the end of a marriage and the remarriage of the surviving spouse must be less than 20 years.

5. First marriages (for both sexes) occur only when the bride or the groom is above 15 years of age and less than 50, unless age information in the marriage record overrides the rule.

6. All brides and grooms are less than 75 years of age at marriage unless age information in the marriage record overrides the rule.

7. Whenever an age is given in either one or both of the records involved in a possible link the difference between the dates of the two records must be compatible with the age information given.

8. Where occupations are stated in both records involved in a possible link and they mismatch in a manner which is thought to be incompatible even with the most extreme assumptions about lifetime occupational mobility, no link is made (for example labourer/vicar).

9. In addition to the requirement that the names of the principal on two records should agree before a link is made, there must also be no disagreement about the names of any relatives named in both records (for example, if the names of both parents are recorded at the baptism of a child, and again when he is buried, they must not disagree if a BAP-BUR link is to be made)."

38.E.A. Wrigley and R.S. Schofield, (Ed.). The Population History of England, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989.

Well that's all Folks!

Keep looking!

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