

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society



Chorley Branch Education Group Talk Handout Further Steps Tips on Recording your Research

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.
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- 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
- Were 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

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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 5]						
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.
1867 April 1 No. 620	Thomas	Eliza	Bronkhan Walley		—	G.W. Robinson
1867 April 13 No. 621	Alice	Henry of Walley	Aske	Cat Hill Labourer	G.W. Robinson	
1867 May 5 No. 622	Mary Ann	George Mary. Ann	Gibson	Falcon Lodge	Labourer G.W. Robinson	
1867 May 5 No. 623	James	Thomas Taylor	Langley	Falcon Lodge	Labourer G.W. Robinson	
1867 12 No. 624	Walter Harry	Edward Arriet Ann	Garland	Piney Cottages	Labourer G.W. Robinson	
1867 19 No. 625	Ann	Thomas Martha	Gannaway	Signal Hayes	Bricklayer G.W. Robinson	
1867 May 20 No. 626	Norman Percy	John Benjamin Eliza	Robathan	Walmley Jeweller	G.W. Robinson	
1867 Augt 4 No. 627	Edward	Joseph Eliza Anne	Haband	Langley Health	Labourer G.W. Robinson	

1846 May 20. No. 426	Norman Percy	John Benjamin & Eliza	Robathan	Walmley	Jeweller	Thos. E. Mins??
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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

**Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society
Chorley Research Centre at Astley Hall Farmhouse**

Opening times

First & Third Saturdays Noon—4:00pm
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00am—4:00pm

Last appointment 3:00pm

Booking advisable—Tel. 01257 231 600 (When centre is open),
Tel 01257 262 028 (When centre is closed)
Or

Book in line at - Chorley Family History Research Centre Website – www.cfhrc.com

Research Enquires - chorleyresearch@lfhhs.org.uk

Chorley Branch Website - www.lfhhschorleybranch.com

LFHHS

President – Steve Williams
Society Website – www.lfhhs.org.uk
Reg. Charity Number - 513437