

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society



Chorley Branch Education Group Talk Handout Next Steps

Next Steps Introduction

When we start our Family History we follow basic procedures and use several basic sources.

- Can you remember what they are?
- Where do we find them?

Basic Procedures

- Start with yourself & work backwards
- Do a generation at a time & **prove** your facts
- Write everything down – details & sources
- Keep your research tidy
- Be honest with yourself and your research

Basic Sources

- Household ephemera
- Family memories
- Certificates – Civil Registration
- Census
- Certificates – exams, baptism, confirmation, awards
- Church records
- Family Search
- Newspaper cuttings

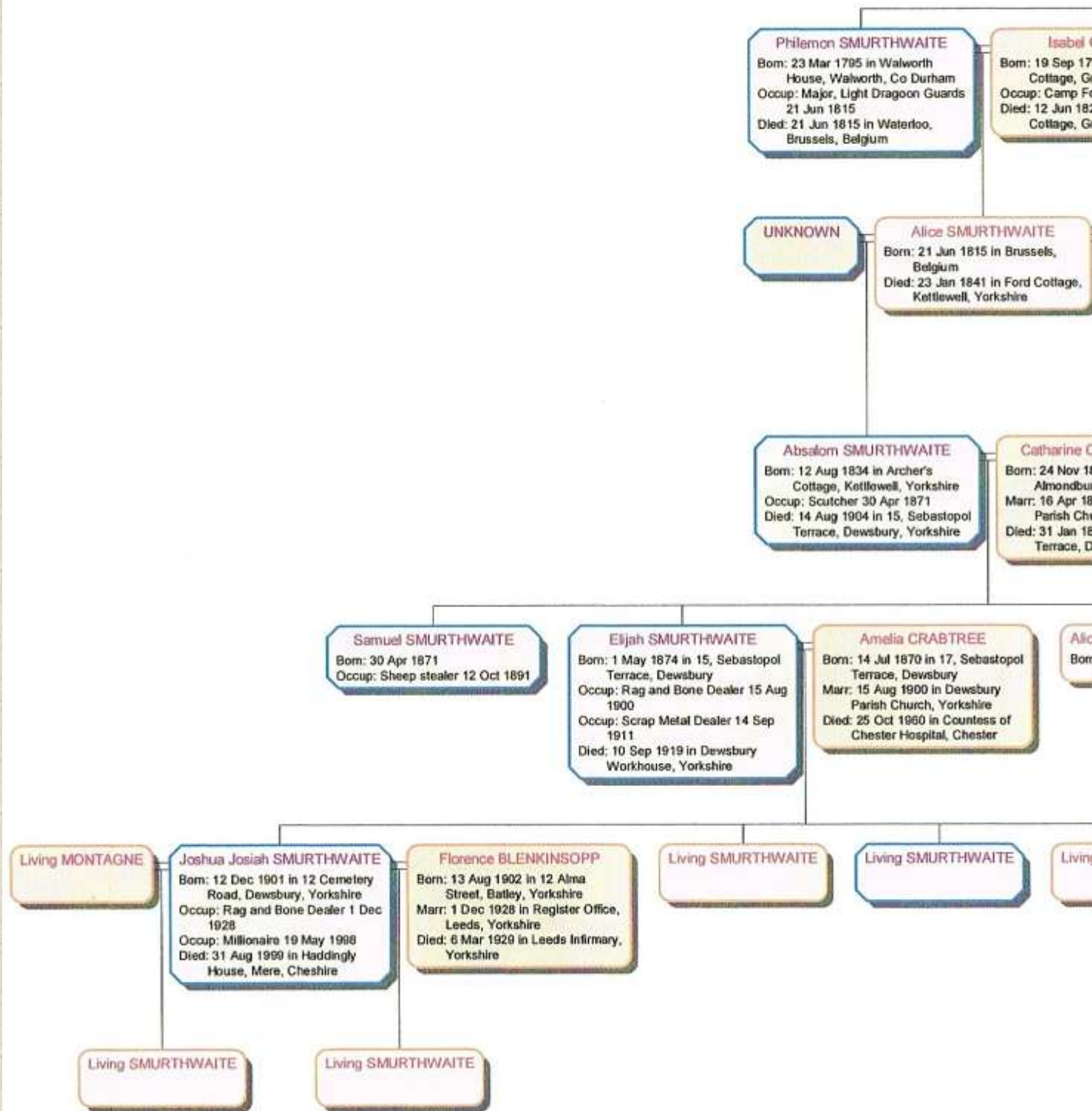
- Wills
- Maps
- Photographs

Repositories

- Register Offices & Smedley Hydro
- County Record Offices
- Libraries
- Family History Centres
- The Internet
- And ...of course ...our own Research Center at Astley Hall Farmhouse

Going further back into the mists of time

Here is a chart that takes a family tree beyond the watershed year of 1837



Joshua's family

- Joshua's family shows that all is not straightforward in tracing our own lines
- What extra sources do you think we can use?

Our families.

- Our families are all different and although you may have a common surname, such as Smith or Jones, your family history belongs to you and your family and nobody else
- During the lifespan of your family they have gone through all sorts of trauma, social standing and stigma, hunger, epidemics, and seen so many different things happening during this time

- Being skilled in reading **Old Handwriting** helps us to read old wills, parish records and earlier records to be found at Record Offices
- Any of our ancestors could have held some form of church office, from clerk to bell ringer – **Parish Chest**
- Graveyard visiting may seem a strange occupation but many **Monumental Inscriptions** (MI's) can give you an insight into Victorian attitudes (and poetry)
- ...and extra generations and family members
- There are so many other resources we can use to put the skin on the bones of our ancestors – **Newspapers**
- **Maps** help to locate the homes of our ancestors, where they worked, how they got to work, where the raw materials for their trade came from, etc
- Our **Surnames** can help us to trace the home area of our family and also the origins of the name
- Some of our male ancestors could have been bored at home and so accepted the King's shilling or even been press-ganged – **Military Records**
- We will look at **Army Records, Royal Naval Records** and **Royal Air Force Records**
- Many will have made a Will or had an administration (admon) made on their property - **Wills and Probate**
- Records of **Immigration** and **Emigration** help in tracing families as they move about the world.
- Many children were unofficially **adopted** by other members of the family before adoption became a legal formality in 1929
- Every family in the country, from the highest to the lowest, had **illegitimacy** in the family, which could be dealt with in various different ways, many cases leaving a paper trail
- **DNA** can often clear up these cases
- Some of your ancestors might have carried '*armorial bearings*' and their **Heraldry** could give clues to their family history
- Some of them could have emigrated from, or been immigrants to, Scotland, Ireland, Wales or the wider world – **Scottish, Welsh, Irish, records**
- Our family members could have been subject to the laws that governed the manor, in the way they lived and worked and where they lived and worked – **Manorial records**
- Lancashire is a strong **Catholic** county & records can be accessed to help you trace your Catholic ancestry
- People were moved around the country when there was a possibility they could be a drain on local resources. They could also have been apprenticed, adopted, born the wrong side of the blanket or lived 'o'er t' brush' – **Poor Law**
- They could also have got on the wrong side of the law, both criminally and in a religious sense – **Quarter Sessions**
- There are so many other resources we can use to put the skin on the bones of our ancestors – **Directories, Land & Taxation Records** to name but few.
- You might have lost one of your ancestors, but using parish, and other available records, you can reconstitute families and find the right one - **Reconstitution**

Conclusion.

- These are all ways, going beyond the 1837 divide which we hope to show you and enable you to take your Family History research further back in time.
- You never know, you may even get back to 1066.....
-and pigs might fly!

Good luck.
Get searching.

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

Opening times

Saturday Noon—4:30pm
Monday & Friday 10:00am—4:30pm
Last appointment 3:00pm

Booking advisable—Tel. 01257 231 600 (Answer phone when centre is closed)

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LFHHS

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