

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society



Chorley Branch Education Group Talk Handout Next Steps

Next Steps – Dates and Calendars

Roman Months

- ✿ Quintilius was the fifth month on the early Roman calendar - Latin quint=five It was renamed in honour of Julius Caesar
- ✿ Sextilis was the sixth month on the early Roman calendar - Latin sex=six It was renamed in honour of Augustus Caesar
- ✿ September was the seventh month on the early Roman calendar - Latin septem=seven
- ✿ October was the eighth month on the early Roman calendar - Latin octo=eight
- ✿ November was the ninth month on the early Roman calendar - Latin novem=nine
- ✿ December was the tenth month on the early Roman calendar - Latin decem=ten

- ✿ In approximately the year 700BC the Roman's added two extra months to their calendar. Going from a 10 month year to a twelve month year
- ✿ The months added were January and February
- ✿ But they kept their old months names

Roman Months – Why does this matter

- ✿ September is written in old documents as **7ber**
- ✿ October is written in old documents as **8ber**
- ✿ November is written in old documents as **9ber**
- ✿ December is written in old documents as **10ber**

Regnal Dates

- ✿ In many old documents Regnal dates are used.
- ✿ Typically a Regnal date looks like –
The 3rd day of June in the 1st year of the reign of King George II
- ✿ This is complicated as the counting starts from the date in which the Reign of the Monarch began.
- ✿ The above example is for George II who's reign began **11th June 1727** so the example would be **3rd June 1728** whereas the **12th day of June in the 1st year of the reign of King George II** would be **12th June 1727**
- ✿ Fortunately two websites can translate
- ✿ http://people.albion.edu/imacinnis/calendar/Regnal_Years.html
- ✿ http://www.genproxy.co.uk/king_queen_reign_dates_regnal.htm

Calculate dates based on regnal years

Welcome Ecclesiastical dates Old & New Style Dates Day of the Week
Regnal Years

Dates based on regnal years refer to the year of the current monarch's reign and usually have the format "year + monarch" (e.g. "4 Mary"). This page will take a date in regnal years and return an ordinary date. For instance, if you enter 6/1 1 Elizabeth I, you will get the year 1559 because June 1st in her first regnal year occurred in 1559.

Enter the month and year: **Month: (January=1)** **Day:**

Enter the Monarch and Regnal Year: **Monarch:**

Regnal Year:

* Double years such as "1324/5" reflect Old Style dating (see note below).

Notes

1. Keep in mind that a monarch's last regnal year is cut short by death or deposition and may not include all dates.
2. Also, remember that while the so-called "Christian year" began on January 1, the legal year began on March 25. For example, January 1 in Elizabeth I's 1st

Converter for English Regnal Years to Calendar Years

Day:
 Month:
 Year of Reign:
 Ruler:

Calendar Year:
 Reign:

Notes: from Ascension Day, which varied from year to year

This simple chart of chronology showing Regnal Years of Kings and Queens of England with parentage, Death year and Birth year where known, helps to put each Royal succession into historical context.

Name of Ruler	Lineage - Descent	Birth	Reign Began	Reign Ended	Death
ANGLO-SAXONS					
Egbert	First Ruler of all England	775?	827	830	839
Ethelwulf	Son of Egbert	?	839	857	858
Ethelbald	Son of Ethelwulf	?	857	860	860?
Ethelbert	Second son of Ethelwulf	?	860	866	866?
Ethelred I	Third son of Ethelwulf	?	866	871	871
Alfred the Great	Fourth son of Ethelwulf	849	871	899	899

Ecclesiastical dates

- ✿ These are similar to Regnal dates – for example
 - The sixth day after Michaelmas**
- ✿ These dates are often seen in wills
- ✿ The Ecclesiastical dates are the Quarter Days
 - ✘ In England and Wales
 - ✿ Lady Day = March 25
 - ✿ Midsummer = June 24
 - ✿ Michaelmas = September 29
 - ✿ Christmas = December 25
 - ✘ In Scotland
 - ✿ Candlemas = February 2
 - ✿ Whitsunday (legislatively fixed on May 15)
 - ✿ Lammas = August 1
 - ✿ Martinmas = November 11
 - ✘ Dates also used in northern England until the 18th Century
 - ✘ In Ireland (Pre-Christian)
 - ✿ Lunasa = August 1
 - ✿ Samhain = November 1
 - ✿ Imbolc = February 1
 - ✿ Beltaine = May 1
- ✿ Other Ecclesiastical dates are movable feasts
 - ✘ Easter
 - ✘ Septuagesima
 - ✘ Ash Wednesday
 - ✘ Ascension day
 - ✘ Pentecost
 - ✘ Trinity Sunday
 - ✘ Advent Sunday
- ✿ Fortunately another website comes to help
- ✿ http://people.albion.edu/imacinnis/calendar/Ecclesiastical_dates.html

Calculate the date of Easter & other moveable holidays

Welcome Ecclesiastical dates Old & New Style Dates Day of the Week
Regnal Years

Enter the year in question:

Christian Year*

* The Ecclesiastical year begins on January 1.

Easter:	<input type="text" value="April 20"/>
Septuagesima:	<input type="text" value="February 17"/>
Ash Wednesday:	<input type="text" value="March 5"/>
Ascension	<input type="text" value="May 29"/>
Pentecost	<input type="text" value="June 8"/>
Trinity Sunday	<input type="text" value="June 15"/>
Advent Sunday	<input type="text" value="November 30"/>

Full list of moveable and fixed holidays

The "octave" of any holiday = eight days after the holiday- count itself. Thus the octave of a Sunday is the following Sunday.

Key Dates in the governance of England for Family Historians

★ 1066

- ★ Feudal system started
- ★ Although manors existed before 1066 they were taken over by the Normans
- ★ National Laws are only for major crimes or where the crown might make some money.
- ★ Crimes within the church or against the church are dealt with by the church courts
- ★ Other crimes are dealt by the manors or the towns. The laws and punishment vary from place to place.
- ★ The towns and manors also had courts to manage their running.
- ★ Almost no records about ordinary people

- ✿ **c1260**
 - ✿ The Norman's start to write down the record of their court meetings.
 - ✿ These are the first written records of ordinary people.
 - ✿ Monasteries look after the sick and poor.

- ✿ **1532-1540**
 - ✿ Monasteries were dissolved
 - ✿ The power of the manors began to reduce
 - ✿ The new Church of England is required to record Baptism's Marriages and Burials (1538)
 - ✿ In Elizabeth's time the church also had also to look after the sick, poor and elderly.
 - ✿ In fact much of the local government functions of the manors and towns were done by the church.
 - ✿ This leads to more records of ordinary people

- ✿ **1649-1660**
 - ✿ Cromwell - The English Commonwealth
 - ✿ In this period the recording of Birth, Marriage and death was transferred to the state.
 - ✿ In fact the recording of these events was sporadic
 - ✿ After the commonwealth these functions returned to the church.

- ✿ **1733**
 - ✿ A change from using Latin in official documents into English

- ✿ **1752**
 - ✿ The Change from Julian to Gregorian Calendars

- ✿ **1834-1858**
 - ✿ With the coming of Victoria very many changes took place
 - ✿ Many of the local authority type of work was transferred from the church to national and local authorities
 - ✿ **1834**
 - ✿ The New Poor Law was set up such that the poor, sick and old were to be looked after by local administrators.
 - ✿ **1837**
 - ✿ The registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths
 - ✿ **1837**
 - ✿ The Poor Law Unions with their workhouses were set up.
 - ✿ **1841**
 - ✿ The first full family national census
 - ✿ **1847**
 - ✿ A standardized time system was first used by British [railways](#) on December 11, 1847, when they switched from local mean time, which varied from place to place, to Greenwich Mean Time ([GMT](#)).
 - ✿ **1858**
 - ✿ A national probate system set up to replace the ecclesiastical system.

Change from Julian to Gregorian Calendars

- ✿ Britain was late in adopting the change in calendars
- ✿ Catholic countries in Europe changed in 1582 but Britain changed in 1752.
- ✿ But Britain was not, by far, the last European country to adopt it. That was Greece in 1923.

- ✿ Two changes took place.
 - ✧ First
 - ✿ The start of the year changed from Lady Day, the 25th March to January 1st in 1752 in England Wales and Ireland
 - ✿ Scotland made this same change but in 1600
 - ✧ Second
 - ✿ This was the change in calendar
 - ✿ England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and the British colonies changed from Julian to Gregorian Calendar at midnight on Wednesday 2 September 1752; the next day was Thursday 14 September 1752

- ✿ For example the execution of Charles I was recorded at the time in Parliament as happening on 30 January 1648 (Old Style)
- ✿ In modern English-language texts this date is usually recorded as "30 January 1649" (New Style) or in dual date form "30 January 1648/9)
- ✿ A full conversion of the date into the Gregorian calendar is 9 February 1649; the date by which his contemporaries in some parts of continental Europe would have recorded his execution.

- ✿ The Battle of the Boyne took place in Ireland on 1 July 1690 "Old Style".
- ✿ However, it is commemorated as taking place on 12 July "New Style" by the Orange parades on "The Twelfth".

- ✿ This can lead to some confusion for Family Historians
 - ✧ Burial: 27 Mar 1713 St Mary the Virgin, Bury, Lancashire, England
Edwd. Brown -
Died: 24 Mar 1712
Abode: Holcomb
 - ✧ Baptism: 27 Mar 1744 St John, Preston, Lancashire, England
Samuel Smith - Son of Samuel Smith & Eliz.
Born: 19 Mar 1743
 - ✧ Baptism: 7 Jan 1710 St Mary the Virgin, Bury, Lancashire, England
James Smith - Son of Tho. Smith
Born: 29 Dec 1710

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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