



Notice Board

➤ 1950s US Records

The 1950 US census is now available. So anyone of you looking for ancestors over there will be able to look closer in time. I have found the US records very helpful and they have so much more information.

www.ancestry.com

➤ National Archives

On the National Archives website you can now download or listen to pod casts on particular topics. One example there is a pod cast of Transportation to Australia. Which a man called Roger Kershaw gives a talk on the documents and people transported from different parts of the UK to Australia.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

➤ Other Peoples Photographs

This seems to be a fairly new site where people have put on photos of either their family or areas from all dates. I never had much luck with it but it's a good website to have a quick browse.

www.opp2.org

➤ 1939 Census for England

During the Second World War an emergency census was created. It was carried out on the 29th September after the National Registration Act established an identity card scheme and register to prepare the government for war. This census is what we may be able to have access to in the near future.

Organizing Your Records



If you're anything like me and you have more pieces of paper than you do ancestors, then as a fresh start to a new year, why not organise your research better. This can be your new year's resolution!

Firstly, there is no wrong way of organising your research, if it works for you then go with it, these are just a few ideas that will get you started.

1. **Family Folders** - Depending on how much detail you have on each ancestor you could have a folder for each Ancestor which includes *their* family, certificate and other information.
2. **Fact Sheets** - These are very handy for quick reference. On the fact sheet you can include all the facts you know about you ancestor also mention the facts your missing.
3. **Checklist Sheets** - When visiting record centres or libraries you need to know certain things like names, dates or whether you've got a specific record so don't re-ordering it. But many record centre won't allow folders and if the folders a getting a bit heavy, you don't want to be carrying them around. This is where a checklist sheet is handy.

With this months newsletter is an Ancestor Checklist Sheet. You write you ancestors name and fill in the rest of the information then make tick in the column to let you know what records you got for each ancestor but more importantly what you missing. Digital copies can be send via email

more downloads are available at
www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk/genealogy/downloads

4. **Page Separators** – Quick, easy and cheap. Using page separators is one of the easiest ways or organising you research. Often these can buy these in 10's. Each separation is a new ancestor or a new family.
5. **Computer Storage** – Using a computer to organise you research is a good idea as it sorts its self out. They are some free programs which you can use. These are;
 - a. **Legacy Family Tree:** Download from www.legacyfamilytree.com
 - b. **Family Tree Builder** Download from www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder

If you don't mind spending money I personally recommend **Family Tree Maker**. This starts from around £24.95 for the most up to date version.

Tips on Keeping Notes

1. Have you ever said "Where did I find that from?" Keep a note of where you got your information from. Often sources of information can hold more than you know and you may need to revisit your record source to find something else out.
2. If you keep a note book write down the date when you find a new piece of research, this will help keep your research up to date.

Genes Reunited, Friend of Foe?

Have you ever been to Genes Reunited and found someone with 1000's of name in the tree? This can look impressive however miss-leading.

On Genes Reunited you can add other people's entire tree to yours. Great!! But its not, how much of that did they research themselves? How much has been copied from someone else? Where did their information from? If one person has an error in their research then someone copies it, then someone else copies that, a snow ball of errors builds up and your left thinking you related to some stranger.

Not so say that Genes Reunited should not be used, it is a good tool, but do your own research, you'll find it more rewarding.

Brick walls –

Can't Prove It? Disprove it!

We've all got our own brick walls where we can't prove someone it is our ancestor or we can't find a birth, marriage or death certificate. So if nothing else is working and you can't prove your research then is time to disprove. Try the surrounding areas for evidence of you ancestor. Once you've eliminated the impossible you must be left with a couple possibilities.

Have you got a certificate that you don't know if it's your ancestor because the date is a little off? Or the name is spelt differently. Then try and find that person with those dates and that name. If you can't find him/her you must have the right person

Some Forgotten Resources

Forums – Try posting your ancestors information onto a family history forum, you never know.

Family History Magazines – Most family history magazines have a section called "Looking For" or "Seeking". Have a look, even at back issues, for your ancestors name or even write to the magazine yourself

Newsletter by Cheryl Horncastle
If you want to contribute to the newsletter with your stories and research please feel free to contact by email. [**cheryl@familypast.co.uk**](mailto:cheryl@familypast.co.uk)