

6 Professional Genealogists tips.*

Tip 1: Talk to your relatives and find out what they know. But above all be healthily sceptical about what they tell you and check that they are giving you the right names and the right dates. Never take what they tell you as "Gospel"...go away and look at the original records such as birth, marriage or death records to back up what you have been told.

Tip 2: When looking for Birth Marriage or Death data on websites go and buy the certificates. Remember it is cheapest direct from the General Register Office site (www.gro.gov.uk). Why buy them? Some people want to save money by not purchasing and then they try to second guess what may be on the certificate. This is a really dreadful strategy as you can go so badly wrong. With a certificate you will be on solid ground and you can work further back with confidence.

Tip 3: Have a DNA test. Getting your genes tested can be exceptionally useful especially if you are able to get yours or a close male relative's Y chromosome tested. This, male line test, will tell you where your family tree is going in terms of thousands of years. Once you know where the family tree is going to go then all the rest of the genealogical research you do is building back on a path which you already, to some extent, have laid out.

Tip 4: Don't neglect Death Records, they are some of the most enlightening. While the census and BMD documents will give you a pedigree, death records will show you what your ancestors were actually like. Obituaries can shed light on their personalities and tell you about things that they were involved in. Very often the information revealed will not appear in any other types of record. Wills can tell you what and who they cared about and sometimes reveal facts that are to be found nowhere else. Inquest records, for those who died sudden or tragic deaths, can give us not only the details of a forebear's death but also their life, such as that they were separated from their spouse at the time and so on.

Tip 5: You'll find that you hit brick walls as your research becomes more complex. Conflicting information on an ancestor could make it necessary for you to work different lines of the family and investigate different individuals from the one who appears problematic.

This is sometimes beyond the experience and the expertise of the average family historian and the solution may be to do a course to brush up your skills, or hand over your research to the professionals. Be aware that even a professional may draw a blank if an ancestor didn't want to be found by officialdom. You stand a better

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chance if know about the scope of other documents that can be used and so that is why we often need the professionals' help because they have learnt what resources they can use.

Tip 6: Learn more about the subject by reading all you can, or by taking a course such as that offered at: FamilyHistoryResearcher.com/course

These 52 informative tutorials are sent weekly to do at your own pace and build into a reference resource to come back to time and time again.

* Interviews with professional genealogists carried out by The Nosey Genealogist at WDYTIA?LIVE and published on www.NoseyGenealogist.com

Testimonials from past students of FamilyHistoryResearcher.com

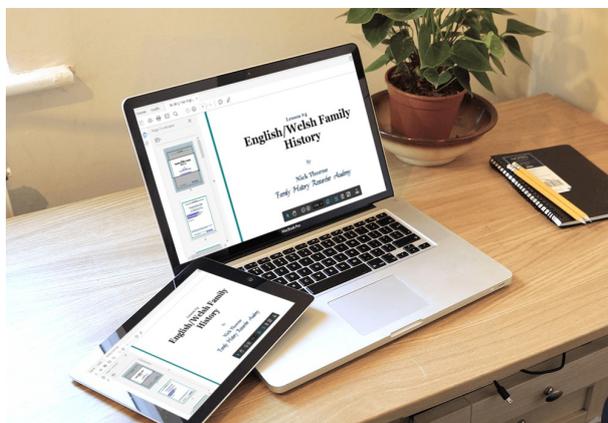
"You communicate in an understandable way! Thank you for the modules that I have had so far." P.Martin.

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"Thank you very much for this series. I have learnt such a lot and it has increased my knowledge considerably." A.Vallis.



www.familyhistoryresearcher.com/course