

Back to Basics

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When was the last time you looked at your family tree to see what was missing? Start with you and check even the closest relatives.

With new records available online weekly, it is worth another look to see what new information you can find to finish your folks off. A lot more social history is available now and you can add all sorts of information about people.



New Deliveries



Have you a few in your tree delivered by the stork? I certainly do, I have been looking for Elizabeth Graves since I was 13 and she still remains unfinished. I know plenty about her family but she was never born, only glimpsed fleetingly aged 6 in 1851 then under the radar until marrying in 1866, from then on its plain sailing. I have tried freebmd.org.uk (including several unwanted birth certificates). She was born in several places according to which census you would like to choose - Poplar, Brompton, Kensington. So where do you go next? In 1901 she decided she would be Susan Elizabeth - real or made up? Tall tales tell of Graves of Sheffield (another red herring?) Her marriage certificate shows her father is George, not deceased. Another fictitious character? certainly not on any other record I can find.

With the parish registers for West Yorkshire now online at Ancestry, it is worth another look for people, at least for a baptism date. Don't forget: some folk left it until their teens and others did them in batches.



You are cordially invited to



I have found a few marriages recently on ancestry.co.uk through the parish registers. I was quick to learn that the marriage and birth of the first child were often quite close together, and not necessarily in that order, some trends are not new to this century.

On freebmd, after September 1911 it helpfully shows the mother's maiden name to help you go further back. If your relative is a few years older than that, try younger siblings that you know of.

Military records are being released thick and fast and state whether someone is married and often next of kin.

Graveyards also give great clues as spouses were often buried together. Undercliffe cemetery has some records of who paid for the graves as well, which can be useful.



And so ... The End



FreeBMD - freebmd.org.uk

Complete from September 1837 -1970, and a few after that. It is free and user friendly. It gives you the reference for ordering the certificates. I always order mine from gro.gov.uk - £9.25 a time. Some websites charge a lot more.

National Probate Calendar - ancestry.co.uk

From 1858 - 1966. The index is alphabetical and yearly, so you can check adjoining years and also any other likely candidates in the close family while you are there. It helps with the address and beneficiary - good information. It does not contain Letters of Administration, neither do the West Yorkshire Archives - if the entry is not on Ancestry, they don't have a copy.

Family Search - familysearch.org

This was IGI before re-branding. It is free and covers parish records, Death Registration Index and census. I have found at times by clicking on the name afterwards, it will bring up quite a family tree if someone has linked it before.

Newspaper articles - findmypast.co.uk

Often less is more on this, just search for a name and a county can help. I looked for my great-grandfather, George Rogerson. It came up with an article but upon reading it was actually his grandfather, also George whom I knew hadn't appeared in the 1871 census. He had fallen off scaffolding whilst building the roof at Badsworth Hall and died of his injuries a few days later. Not only do I now have his date of death, I have the whole story, what a bonus.