

"Find Your English Ancestors"

6 Tips to
Find your English Ancestors

By

Nick Thorne
Family History Researcher Academy

<https://www.FamilyHistoryResearcher.com>
<http://www.NoseyGenealogist.com>

**NOTICE: You Do NOT Have the Right
to Reprint or Resell this Report!**

You Also MAY NOT Give Away,
Sell or Share the Content Herein

If you obtained this report from anywhere other than
<https://www.FamilyHistoryResearcher.com/> **or**
<http://www.NoseyGenealogist.com> you have a pirated copy.

Please help stop Internet crime by reporting this to us at
<mailto:nick@noseygenealogist.com>

© Copyright Nick Thorne

A note on spelling. I shall be using British spelling of words but for those of you accustomed to American English I shall put some words in brackets. For example: In Britain a marriage licence (U.S. - license) is a document that we may wish to search for evidence of.

6 Tips for Family Historians.

Are you looking for some helpful tips to enable you to find your British ancestors and discover what English ancestry records are best for you to use?

I'm Nick Thorne from Family History Researcher Academy and I have been researching my British family tree for several years now. You may have seen my website NoseyGenealogist.com and the [blog](#) that I write there. I also write articles that appear in several of the monthly family history magazines published in Britain.

Have you searched for hours on end trying to find an elusive ancestor's birth, marriage or death with no luck? Like many of us who, have been in that very same situation, did you begin to think that it had to be something or other that you were doing wrong?

Well relax, there are a few tips that I'm going to release in this report that you can use and see if they can help you unblock the logjam that you are experiencing.

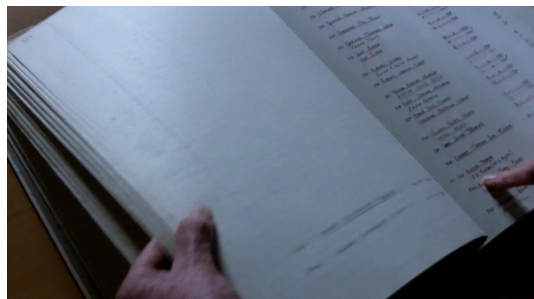


1. Incorrect Area.

Firstly, are you looking in the wrong area? Perhaps it is a town or district that you have assumed your ancestor should have been registered in? Sometimes it may well be worth taking a look in the surrounding area and neighbouring (*U.S. Neighboring*) districts and towns as this may be where they will be found instead.

There is a very good reason for this. You see early registrars were paid by results and they were made responsible for gathering the information from folk. A financial incentive could lead to them gathering as many registrations to their area rather than to the one where naturally you had expected to find your ancestor registered within.

Later on the responsibility of registering vital events were transferred on to the public and so they would go to register births, marriages and deaths at the registrar for their correct place of abode.



2. Wrong Year.

Looking in the wrong year is a quite common mistake to make. Perhaps you are acting on some family tale or written note that is the 'received wisdom' in the family?

I know that I saw something, that had been written down by a close relative of mine, that indicated that my great-great grandfather was born in a particular year.

You've guessed it, he wasn't born then at all! And what is more the writer was out by more than five years.

Did you know that professional probate researchers, those people whose work takes them to court to give evidence, will often look for a person right up to 100 years of age when they are searching for a death?

They will, as a matter of course, look for a woman's marriage up to the age of 100 and search up to 25 years after marriage for the birth of a child. We need to keep in mind that some people may marry several years after a child was born, as well. Not everyone conforms to the expected.

3. Wrong name

Could it be that you are looking for an ancestor who had been known by their middle name instead of their first?

Quite a few people are known, in life, by a second name rather than their first. So a man baptised (*U.S. baptized*) by his parents as John Alan Smith may have, for preference, have been called Alan Smith all his life.

Consider this also. His name may have been spelled Allan, or Alun so do try to watch out for spelling variations. You need to be aware that people may be mis indexed, as well, or just spelled differently than you expect.

Another thing that can trip up the unwary is that an ancestor may have chosen to revert to a previous name after the collapse of a marriage.



4. Family stories

Family stories can be great as they give you information that you can go on to do further research on. But there is the downside - sometimes they can send you off on a wild goose chase.

In my family there is a story, that all my cousins know as well. It is that allegedly there was a handsome Irishman not that far back in one branch of our family. The problem is that when I started researching back up the direct lines of this branch all our ancestors seem to be from Devon - with the exception of a small bit of Cornish that crept in! So the elusive handsome Irishman may have been in a collateral branch and therefore will take some finding, or it was just a lovely story

to cover an unidentifiable man that no one really knew where he fitted into the scheme of things.

Not everything that you are told is true!

5. Inconsistent searching

Not recording what you have already done, can lead to forgetting and then going over again a search. Wasting time and possibly credits on pay-as-you-go sites can be frustrating. I know that many of us can hold our hands up to doing this!



6. Not registered

In some cases the reason that you can not find an ancestor in the vital records is that, simply your ancestor was never registered for one reason or another. This may occur, especially in the early years after the introduction of civil registration in 1837, when it was not compulsory.

The Births and Deaths Registration Act 1874 made registration compulsory, imposing fines for late registration. The onus for registration of a birth was now passed to the parents of the child, or the occupier of the house where a birth took place.

Once it was a requirement to register people missing from birth registers should be a more rare occurrence, though it is not absolutely impossible for someone to slip through the net. In between 1837 and 1875 some districts were certainly under registered.

For more help see my weekly blog at www.noseygenealogist.com/blog

or check out my videos at YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/NoseyGenealogist>



Watch my videos on my YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/NoseyGenealogist>

I hope that these tips have been of some use to you in your own family history research and that in days, weeks and months to come you find that you are able to break down what ever brick walls may appear in your way.

All I can advise is that you learn as much as you can about English and Welsh family history research by reading around the subject to acquire the essential tools needed.

I believe it was an article by the Genealogist at the Society of Genealogists, Else Churchill, that first introduced me to the concept of being an *advanced beginner*, never accepting that we know all there is to know.

This idea revolves around the thought that the best family historian is one who thinks of themselves as being an *advanced beginner*. That is, they are constantly wide open to learning more skills. And the more proficient you become, the better you'll be able to uncover those elusive ancestors!

"Find Your English Ancestors"

I have put together a private membership site packed with tutorials that will take the beginner through to an intermediate stage in English Family History and if you would like to find out more then please head over to:

<https://www.FamilyHistoryResearcher.com/course>

Each week, for one year, I go into depth on a topic of English or Welsh family history and reveal techniques that you can use to break down your own brick walls, for as long as you wish to remain a member.

I have planned the lessons carefully using my own experience in tracing my diverse English ancestors and I am confident that you will find it both interesting as well as of practical use.

For as long as you remain a member I release the lessons to you on a weekly basis. There are 52 modules but you can cancel your membership with just one click at any time without any hard feelings on my part.

So what have you to loose? Join me now in this journey at this link:

<https://www.FamilyHistoryResearcher.com/course>



[Check out my blog at www.noseygenealogist.com/blog](http://www.noseygenealogist.com/blog)

for helpful tips to finding your British ancestors and discovering English ancestry records to use.