

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY

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How I started:-

Started in 1978/9 and initially asked older relatives what they knew.

No web sites in those days!

Visited The General Register Office (St Catherine House) Manual registers

Visited Church of the Latter Day Saints in Kensington.

Visited County Records Offices Plymouth and Reading

What's on Ancestry.co.uk:-

Cost – Membership UK Records....1 month £13.99 Annual £119.99

Worldwide.....1 month £19.99 Annual £179.99

Certificates £22.99

Where else to research:-

Local Studies Offices (Trade Directories etc)

Cemeteries, cemetery offices and churchyards.

Skeletons & Pitfalls:-

Infirmities / Illegitimacy /Workhouse/X the mark of /COMMUNIAL GRAVES

Change of name over time or use of 'nickname'

Selective memory of relatives/ancestors

Family "Legends"

What to do for next time:-

Search for any records and documents you may have at home:-

Letters with names, addresses, dates etc.

Certificates (birth, marriage, death etc.)

Wills.

Family bibles.

Photographs (which often may have useful information on the back.)

Ask relatives what they know.

Once you have as much information as possible construct a draft family tree starting with yourself and work backwards.

Next time, hopefully, we could then verify this information, and using a Family History web site to expand the tree.