

## **Researching Your Family Tree FAQ's**

### **Q. Where do I start?**

A. Start with yourself, then add your family, your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. All relatives that you can remember or are aware of. Ask older relatives for information on different family members that you may not be aware of.

### **Q. I've recorded everything that my relatives have told me. What do I do next?**

A. Births, marriages and deaths have been registered from 1 July 1837 in England and Wales. Any certificates of events from this date forwards can be obtained from local register offices or you can search the GRO indexes to these registrations at the FRC in London. Also you may find some of this information in local libraries on microfilm.

### **Q. What information can I get from a certificate?**

A. A birth certificate usual names both parents, including the mothers maiden name. Once you know both parents full names, you can search indexes for a reference to their marriage. A marriage certificate usually supplies the names of the fathers of both parties.

### **Q. So far, this information applies only to England and Wales, what do I do if my ancestors come from Scotland or Ireland?**

A. In Scotland civil registration started in 1855 and in Ireland in 1864. Certificates can be obtained from their registration offices.

### **Q. I have managed to trace my line back to the mid 1800's using the GRO indexes. How do I find information before that?**

A. Anything before 1837 will be recorded mainly in parish registers. These registers were introduced around 1537 and will contain baptisms, burials and marriages. You can find some of these registers on microfilm/microfiche in local libraries or county record offices. Some are still held in Churches.

### **Q. What are Bishop's transcripts?**

A. Once a year the local priests had to send an "annual return" to the Bishop, which is a copy of their register. The ones that still exist are very useful.

### **Q. What is the IGI?**

A. The IGI is the International Genealogical Index. It is an index of about 250 billion births, baptisms and marriages from around the world. It is produced by the Church of the Latter-Day Saints. You can find it on the internet, in some libraries and in the Church's own Family History Centres

### **Q. I have lots of names and dates, how do I find out more about my ancestors?**

A. You can look at Census records. The census is taken every 10 years and are available for people to see once the records are 100 years old. The census data is available for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901. It is arranged under addresses and not names, so depending on how you are searching, you may need to know where your ancestors lived. If you are using Ancestry on the internet, then you will be able to search by name.

### **Q. Where can I search through census returns?**

A. A complete set for England and Wales is located at the Family Records Centre in London. You may also find ones for your local area at your local records office and in some libraries.