

England Beginning Research Series - Handout



Lesson 1: Getting Started

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Overview

Welcome to the England Beginning Research Series. We hope that this series of classes will open doors for you to find your ancestors. This research series includes five lessons:

1. Research Overview
2. Census Records
3. Civil Registration
4. Church Records
5. Find Your Ancestors

The Research Process involves five main steps:

1. Begin by identifying what you do know and also what you do not know. Do this by gathering records, photographs, and artifacts from your home and other places. And then make a list.
2. Decide what you want to learn, write down all your thoughts, and then formulate a specific research goal.
3. Learn what sources are available to help you accomplish your goal.
4. Explore these resources to gather more family information.
5. Evaluate the information you have gleaned, and add it to your records. And finally, make sure that you share your findings with others.

Note that at the center of this diagram are the words “Get Help.” In every part of this research process, we encourage you to obtain the help you need so that you will have a successful research experience.

Organize Your Research

It is important that you organize what you know and determine what you want to know. Two useful tools for this are:

- Pedigree Chart – also called an “Ancestor” or “Lineage” chart with space for four or five generations (parents, grandparents and grandparents).
- Family Group Record – also called family group sheets; forms with space to record



information about parents and children in one family.

Locate the Home Town

The most important detail needed for further research is the town of origin. With that information you can find out which records exist and how you can access them. To do this you will need to understand English Jurisdictions.

Children		List each child in order of birth.	
Sex	Name	Hyrum J. Lucas	
Born	Abt: 1863	Place	Newbold On Avon, Warwickshire, England
Christened		Place	

A jurisdiction is geographic area where a government or church has authority. Government and ecclesiastical jurisdictions are divided by size as follows:

Understand Jurisdictions

Government Jurisdictions:

Country - A nation or state

County (Shire) - A territorial division within the country of England; 40 counties

District - A governmental designation for a unit created under the government's civil registration system, encompassing a number of parishes

Parish -The smallest unit of civil administration; the center of community life also known as a township; it may include part or one or several ecclesiastical parishes

Village, Town or Hamlet - A small locality within a parish

Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions:

Province - A large area over which an archbishop has authority and consists of a number of dioceses

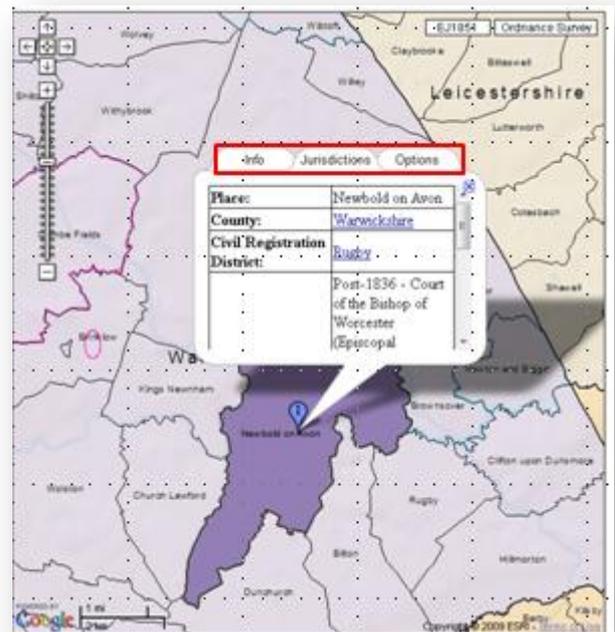
Diocese - An area or district over which a bishop has authority and consists of one or more archdeaconries (with their rural deaneries and parishes); the seat of power or authority of a bishop

Archdeaconry - An area consisting of a number of rural deaneries (with their parishes), headed by an archdeacon

Rural Deanery - An area consisting of a number of ecclesiastical parishes, headed by a rural dean (usually one of the parish ministers within the deanery)

Parish - A district served by a clergyman which could be either a Vicar or Rector of the established Church of England. It is the smallest unit of the Church of England and contains at least one church. It is often the center of community life.

Chapelry - A congregation with its own church within the parish boundaries and supervised by the parish officers; these are usually created from a rise in population or convenience in distance.



Use Maps & Websites

When studying jurisdictions, maps are very helpful.

Here are links to two websites that have information about English maps:

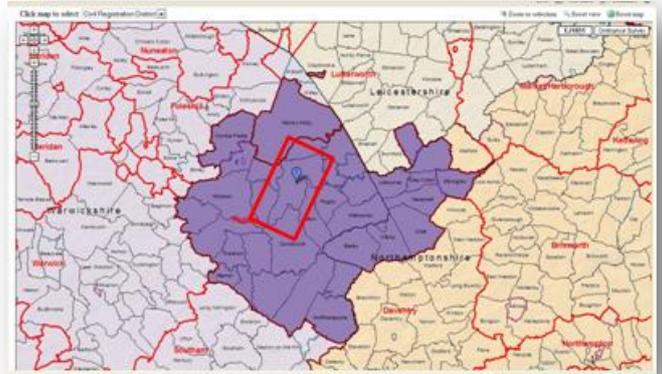
<http://maps.familysearch.org> (free)

www.old-maps.co.uk (\$)

In addition you will find these sites to be very helpful:

Other Important Web Sites:

- www.visionofbritain.org.uk (free) – from Imperial Gazetteer (authority for time period); includes maps and historical information of parishes and other places in England
- www.familysearch.org (free) – Home Page
 1. Basic and Advanced Search
 2. Learn – 5 minute Genealogy; Research Wiki, Research Courses, Discussion Forums
 3. FamilySearch Centers – locate a center near you for help
 4. Indexing – Internet Indexing project open to all who can contribute
 5. Blog – Explore for research ideas
 6. Browse by Location – indexed, transcribed and digitized records to explore
 7. Bottom of Home Page – explore for other useful links
- www.genuki.org.uk (free) – Virtual reference library at the country, county and parish level.



Utilize the Three Major Record Types

The record types you will find most useful are:

Census Records - A statistical count of the population of a country - 1841 to 1911

Civil Registration – Government's method of registering births, marriages and deaths (beginning July 1, 1837)

Church Records – State Church = Church of England, recorded christenings/baptisms, marriages and burials; other denominations known as non-conformists