

FAMILY HISTORY METHODS

Approaches to Researching British Ancestry and Genealogy

Family history research is not only about putting together a family tree, but using your family's stories and materials to answer broader historical questions.

WHERE TO START WITH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

- Interviewing relatives: produce legacy videos to ensure your relatives' stories are preserved.
- Dating old photographs: date, organise and preserve family photos using *The Handbook of Antique Photographs*.
- Save family materials: old postcards, letters, scrapbooks, albums, artwork, In memoriam cards are all historically valuable.
- Search for records: use the General Register Office to search for your family's birth, marriage and death certificates.
- Share research: use websites like Ancestry to build your tree.

DEEPING YOUR RESEARCH: MAKING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY HISTORICALLY RELEVANT

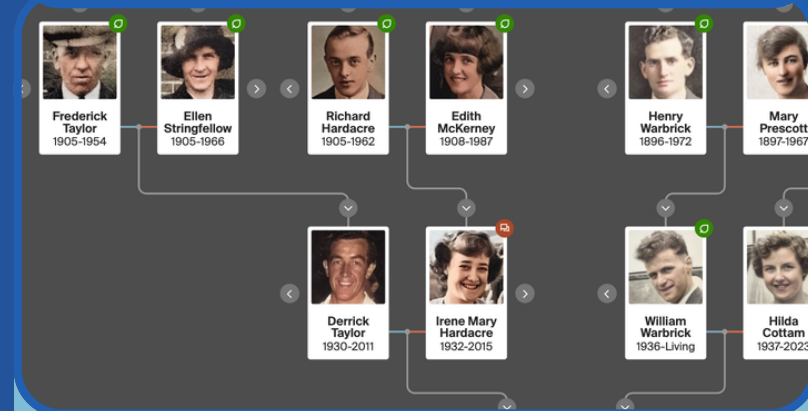
- To develop your family history research into making a historical contribution, you need to answer a broader question using your family stories as case studies.
- This involves searching for themes in your family history case studies that could tell historians something new about a topic like migration, crime, religion or the culture of a particular place or period.
- Key to this is not to simply retell your family history but to use it as a tool to explore and give new insight on broader historical questions.
- Family archives are full of previously unpublished materials that can be used to help historians understand topics by either challenging current theory or supporting it.

TRAVERSING GRAVEYARDS



An important part of a family history research is finding the graves of your ancestors. Ensure you photograph all of your family's headstones.

CLEAR FAMILY TREE LAYOUT



Your online family tree is your information hub. Ensure each person's name is clearly and as much detail is given as possible as well as either a face or headstone picture.

FREE HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

the handbook of

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APPROACHES TO RESEARCHING
BRITISH ANCESTRY AND GENEALOGY

Brandon Reece Taylorian

Associate Lecturer and Research Associate
at the University of Lancashire



You can download *The Handbook of Family History Methods* for free online. It contains tips on how to develop your research for historical relevance.

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HISTORY IN
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