



British Research Problem Solving Strategies

24 March 2016

Research Question:

Diane: Joseph Needham, b. 1813 to George & Catherine Needham in Ballinamore, Leitrim, Connaught and married in 1837 in Quebec, Canada. Looking for Mother's maiden name, any siblings and how and when he came to Canada.

Suggested Searches and Strategy:

When searching with Catholic records in Ballinamore, we should start with the christening of Joseph Needham about 1813. For what time period do the records exist?

Sponsors in church records

Search for marriage of George Needham to Catherine in Ballinamore.

What is the religion of the Needham family?

Quebec Catholic records

Census records in Canada for the siblings of Joseph

Also often maiden name is listed with one or more of the christening records of the children

If not Catholic, what is the equivalent Church of Ireland parish register? What records exist?

Look at other children of George and Catherine Needham, they could have children born in both Ireland and Canada

Research Question:

Mary in NC: John J Connor/Conner born 1864 in Leeds, England. Father Anthony, Mother Catherine O'Neal/O'Neil. No record in GRO. Have parents Marriage record and 2 additional births from GRO. No Baptism in parents marriage church. Where else can I search for John?

Suggested Searches and Strategy:

Was John born around 1864? Are there several John Connors in civil registration?

Irish Catholics were notorious for not registering their children

Census records to confirm birthplace

How confident are we that these are the actual parents?

Are they non-conformist, besides Roman Catholic?

2. Search Yorkshire BMD which indexes the local Superintendent registrar records which we believe is mostly complete for the Leeds area. Mother's maiden name.

Look for Roman Catholic Church records for Leeds

3. Check for middle name or "male" in the birth registration. Registration was not mandatory until 1874.

Research Question:

Sandy, Ohio: Robert Fearne, a Quaker, was of Padley Hall, Pentrich, Derbyshire, and "was sent to Derby prison 9 July 1679 until 22 October 1679 at the suit of Thomas Mossley Priest, of Darley, where Fearne previously lived. The said priest at the time could not demand of him, as the priest himself said, above one shilling and sixpence for some small tithes." He was buried 10 October 1680. Where can I find documents that will confirm or shed more light on this, such as prison records or court records?

Suggested Searches and Strategy:

Check manor court records which could be deposited local or at National Archives

Local court quarter session records typically at the county record office

Assize court records at the National Archives.

Could contact local library for additional records

Churchwarden accounts for Darley, may or may not be microfilmed. Could be at local parish church

Newspaper accounts - findmypast, British Newspaper Library

Search the FamilySearch Catalog at the County level rather than parish level

Check probate record for Fearne, Consistory Court of Lichfield, online index and also on microfilm through FamilySearch

Many Quaker ancestors left wills

Minutes for Friends' local meeting

British Society of Friends Library

Research Question:

Jan Murphy (California 1): I'm trying to find out more about Ellen Maud Wills / Wells and her mother Mary, both of whom seem to have been born out of wedlock. Ellen was baptised on 17 Nov 1878 in Stokeham, Devon, the daughter of Mary Wills of Stokenham. Ellen is in the 1881 census in Slapton, Devon as the stepdaughter of William Tabb, along with William's wife Mary Ann, both born in Stokenham. When I went looking for a possible marriage, I found an entry in Slapton on 2 August 1879 for William Tabb and a Mary Elizabeth Wills, with no father's name given. I also have a 1861 Census household with Abraham Wills, his three unmarried daughters, and a granddaughter Mary Ann Wills, aged 5. What other records can I use apart from the census, church records, and civil registration to find out more about Mary Ann or Mary Elizabeth and her daughter Ellen Maud? Could there be more information in churchwarden's records?

Suggested Searches and Strategy:

The church probably would not have been involved with illegitimacy that late so check the records of the Board of Guardians, the local workhouse records might have birth or care records. All of this would be under the poor law union. Poor Law started in 1834.

FamilySearch and the FHL has poor law records. The local county record office also has poor law records.

Workhouses.org and the book, Workhouses by Peter Higginbotham gives good information. Quarter Session records may also have information about the father who may or may not have

been willing to pay for the child. When a father was unwilling to pay for the child he could have been taken to court and the records would be in the Quarter Session records. Keep in mind that between 1850 and 1875 it was illegal to name the father on the certificate of an illegitimate child.

Research Question:

Chris-Australia: My Research Query is for: Daniel LLOYD, born c1810, Gloucestershire/Wales. Daniel was a valet at the birth of his daughter, Ann in 1829, and I think I might have found him in the 1841 census (Birmingham), but as a coachman. I might also have found his death in Dursley in 1850. How can I confirm these possibilities and find out more about him?

Suggested Searches and Strategy:

It's good to go to maps.familysearch.org to get an idea of where these localities were in relation to each other and to understand the jurisdictions of various localities.

Look within a 20 mile radius of where Ann was born to try to find specifically where Daniel was born. Look for christenings of Daniel. However, keep in mind that Lloyd is a common Welsh surname and there will be a number of Daniel Lloyds.

There are Gloucestershire parish registers at Ancestry and other records for Gloucestershire and other counties.

Follow Ann in census records to see if there is other family residing with her. Check marriage and census records. Follow up on the marriage of Ann to see if says that her father is deceased.

Look at FamilySearch for Gloucestershire records because FamilySearch has indexed well over 75% of the records.

Valet and coachman were the same.

Research Question:

Barb from Oregon: John Briggs L8V5-579 born about 1737 in Coleraine, Londonderry, Northern Ireland. How do I verify his father James Briggs born about 1715 in Argyll, Scotland and his possible mother?

Suggested Searches and Strategy:

Ulster-Scots, they were be very offended by being called Scotch-Irish :)

Estate records, the owner could live in Scotland and recruited there for people to go to Ireland.

These estate records would be in Ireland. Go to wiki.familysearch.org, Land and property for Ireland there are lists.

Also, go to www.irishtimes.com/ancestor and check for estates and estate records. Many families held the estate for generations so don't be thrown off by the time period.

Check with Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast

Likely Presbyterian, finding the name of the Presbyterian minister for the congregation in Coleraine. Check the Fasti Ecclesiasti (spelling?) which would have a biography with a place of origin in Scotland for the minister. Many of the people who come from Scotland to Ireland follow the minister.

Church of Scotland parish registers often have the mother's maiden name. Is Briggs Scottish or English?

Check for John Briggs christenings in Scottish Church records. If it's not a common name, find the possibilities and then attempt to eliminate the possibilities. FamilySearch has many of the Scottish established church records online.

Estate records could also be in Scotland

Look online at SCAN which is the Scottish Archive Network with catalogues and records