

Using Vital Records Index to Locate Ancestors

Instructor: Lamont Saunders

Where to begin?

1. Do you have any original data?
2. What area of the British Isles is your ancestor from?
3. Acquire the appropriate vital records index.



The general rule of thumb is that families don't move very far from their birth place. This is especially the case before 1800 in Europe and the British Isles.

4. Do a birth/christening search for your surname in the country and county that your ancestor lived in.
5. Select all or part of the list. Keep your selection to less than 100.
6. Copy these names by creating a gedcom file.
7. Open Personal Ancestral File and create a new file.
8. Import the gedcom file you created from the Vital Records Index.



These names will be mostly unlinked except for child to parent. Some things to do to find appropriate links:

- a. Do a search for the person's marriage in the Vital Records Index.
- b. Look at the other names in your original search for common parents.



After you have gathered all the data you can easily find:

9. Do a match and merge.

Websites used in this presentation:

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/>

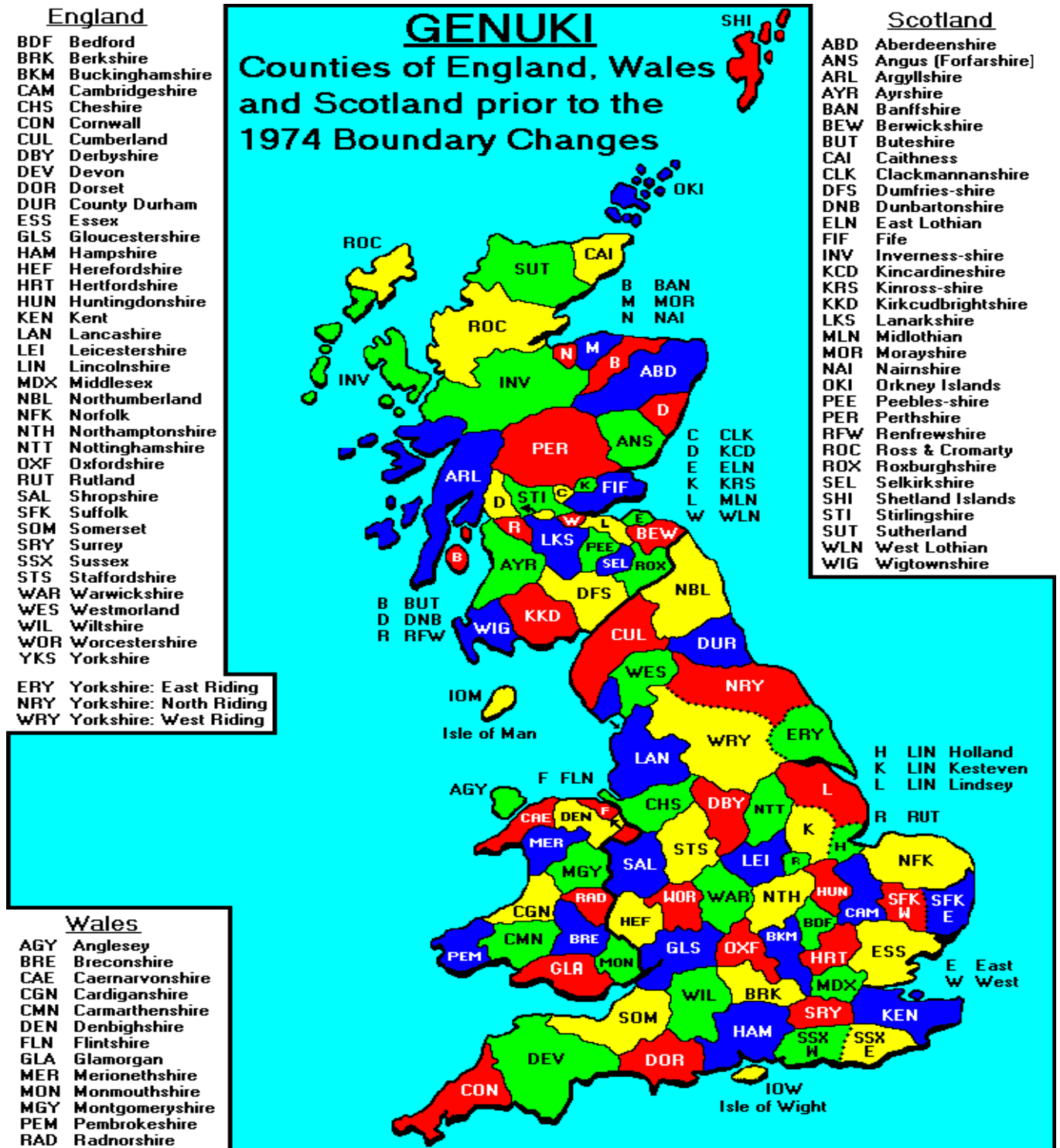
<http://www.soham.org.uk/>

<http://www.multimap.com>

<http://earth.google.com/>

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Approximating dates

- You may estimate dates for events based on other information.
- You may use standard genealogical approximations. For example, from a marriage date you can estimate birth dates. You can estimate that a man was married at age 25 and a woman at age 21. You can also estimate that a first child was born one year after the marriage and that subsequent children were born every two years after that.
- **Tip:** You need at least the approximate year of an event for ordinances to be performed. Below are some examples of how you may estimate a date.
- When you type an approximated date onto an individual or marriage record, you can type one of the following words or abbreviations to indicate that the date is not exact:
- About or Abt
Before or Bef
After or Aft
Estimated or Est
- **Assumed places**
- You may assume places of residence based on a place where one member of a family was born, died, or lived at some time, or where the husband and wife were married. This place can be used as a probable place of residence for other members of the family.
- **Tip:** You could make note of the assumption in your notes.

Notes: