

Welcome to this issue, from **RootsBasic™** [www.rootsbasic.com](http://www.rootsbasic.com)



If you have a specific question about how and where to find sources for your family tree, or wonder about genealogy classes online (run by certified genealogists), drop me an email and I'll include my answers in the next issue of TreeTips. - Celia

*Note: All web links in the newsletter go to primarily free sites*

## TreeTip #1: Old Occupations on Documents

Once you find yourself looking at 1800 Census records for your ancestors, you may find unusual or confusing occupation titles listed. Do you know what a Fletcher is? or, a Paneler? What about a Plomer? And what truly is a Yeoman? Answers found on the site listed below (Olive Tree).

- Here's a fascinating listing of obsolete occupations and their description – once on the site, scroll down past all the advertisements and read the centre (free) section: <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/occupations.shtml>
- GENUKI (UK & Ireland) has details of occupations from Agricultural to Theatre! Have a stroll through the site: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Occupations.html>

## TreeTip #2: What to search for first -? So many options, so little time!

First of all - what are you missing? Vital Events? Biographical Events or Details?. Associations/Memberships? Basic Relationship Details? You need to focus, first!

- **Vital Events** these are the true basics: Birth, Marriage, Death (BMD), often including Baptism records, and Burial records. But BMD are the basic data you need for your ancestors and for your successful searching for the correct family and individuals. BMD records may be housed in State/Provincial/County archives, and/or in local Parish registers, as well as online in a number of free or commercial sites. Information may be listed in family Bibles. Notices of BMD may be in local newspapers. OR, take note that an individual's birth date may also be found on other legal documents such as a WW1 Draft Card registration (USA), or a Naturalization registration, or a Passport Application. Specific Censuses in the USA also requested the month and year of a person's birth, which can be helpful as long as you recognize that the information is only as accurate as the person giving it and the person recording it! Verify the information with another document or two, to be more certain of the details.
- **Name/Date/Place** wherever possible, try to fill in not just the BMD, but these additionally very important details of full name of the individuals, date (of events, residence, etc.), and place. Specific details are what you are looking for, every time.
- **Biographical/Timeline Events** migration, travel, military service, occupations, education, medical information, lawsuits, wills, imprisonment, naturalization or citizenship records, religious affiliation, memberships in societies or organizations, and more: these details and stories are so exciting in bringing your ancestors to life in your family tree. Much of this information is online, or can be requested from a reasonable source. Passenger lists, military pensions, school/university records, organization or society minutes/records – think outside the box, and you may find excellent details which will fill out your ancestors' lives, and make them come alive for you!

## TreeTip #3: Genealogy Sites for Ireland

While there are fee-based sites, savvy searchers will find that several of these sites may allow for excellent detailed information on your Irish ancestors. Don't forget to check out Cyndi's List, first: Ireland & Northern Ireland [www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm), to search for more specific sites of interest on your ancestors. In addition, check out the several Irish forums online before you search – someone may be looking up the same ancestors! Read through both <http://genforum.genealogy.com/ireland> as well as <http://irish.genealogyforum.eu/>

- **Census of Ireland** Check out the National Archives of Ireland website, [www.census.nationalarchives.ie/](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/) as well as Ireland Census Records: [www.censusfinder.com/ireland.htm](http://www.censusfinder.com/ireland.htm)
- **Online Records of Ireland** An excellent well-organized site to search is GENUKI: Ireland, [www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/index.html](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/index.html) The Ireland GenWeb Project is also worth a search: [www.irelandgenweb.com](http://www.irelandgenweb.com) And there are additional free sites such as the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland archives, which hold Freeholders' Records as well as Will Calendars: [www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/) Check the left side of their site for details of what is available.
- **Fee-based sites:** Several to search on if relevant to your ancestors: [www.AncestryIreland.com](http://www.AncestryIreland.com), [www.irishorigins.com](http://www.irishorigins.com), [www.ireland.com/ancestor](http://www.ireland.com/ancestor), and the Irish Family History Foundation: <http://www.irish-roots.ie/> All are relatively expensive, but if you have good information and are looking for documents, these may be helpful. I'm a skinflint – I'm always looking for a free site to search!

## TreeTip #4: Marriage Dates Uncovered!

Often it can be difficult to find the actual date of a marriage of your ancestors, yet there is more than one way to find the details. If you're stopped at this brick wall, here are a few suggestions of date searching, looking at clues available:

- Approximately 9 months before the date of the first recorded birth will give you a date to start your search (within a year or less of the birth). Ahh, but maybe she was pregnant at the time – most babies take 9 months, but the first baby – highly variable!
- Census records in the USA asked for marriage information – look at the Census forms for the county/state or country carefully for the specifically requested information such as how many years married, or age at first marriage, or whether married the year of the census. Very helpful if there was an earlier unknown marriage – the wife and current husband may have different details of age at first marriage!
- Historical newspapers may have mentioned the marriage date – particularly if the town was relatively small, all these details would be recorded! Check out newspaper archives held by newspapers or universities or other archives.
- Family sources: always remember that someone in the family – a third cousin, for instance! – may have a family Bible that records marriages of some of your ancestors, or may have a letter or a wedding invitation or engagement notice.

**Happy searching!**

**- Celia**

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