

Using Free Research Tools Online

By Joseph F. Petrie

Joe Petrie September 10, 2016

We'll Cover!

- **My Definition of Free Tools including Free Tools Available on the Friends of Irish Research Web Site (www.friendsofirishresearch.org)**
- **Starting Genealogy – Genuki's Getting Started in Genealogy (Genuki.org.uk) – Please note the Regional Page Links on the left) : UK and Ireland, UK, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, etc.**
- **Starting Genealogy by using a Pedigree Chart**
- **Filling in Vitals: Place and Date of Birth, Marriage and Death (I'll tell you what are my favorite databases .)**
- **Using trusted relatives as a resource (Oral History which I try to validate)**
- **Serendipity**
- **Working backwards using Birth and Marriage records - the latter usually includes parents' information especially mothers' Maiden Names**
- **Verifying information (I try to have a minimum of 2 sources.)**
- **Collecting “quasi-vital” information not on the Pedigree Chart:**
 - **Date and Place of Christening as well as Sponsors (often family members)**
 - **Wills**
 - **Obituaries**
 - **Census information**
- **GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules**
- **Selecting a genealogy software (I like free software)**

We'll focus on Free Databases

- **Ordinary definition** of free covers on-line databases that are available on the internet 24/7. Examples: Family Search, Castle Garden, Ellis Island, Automated Census of Canada, National Library of Ireland, Ask About Ireland
- **My definition** includes databases that are available locally like at libraries – but may not be available 24/7. Examples: Ancestry Library and sometimes even American Ancestors.

Use 3 FIR Resources: Links to our Friends; Joe's Free Web Sites; and Publications



Need Advice on Getting Started? Read Genuki's Getting Started in Genealogy (www.genuki.org.uk)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying www.genuki.org.uk. The browser's address bar also shows a search bar and several bookmarks, including 'Apps', 'Morrill Memorial Libr...', 'Weather', 'Norwood Light Email', 'Google', 'Bookmarks', 'Joe's APG Gmail', 'Joe's Gmail', and 'Ellen's Gmail'. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the time as 11:19 AM on 8/14/2016.

The website content includes a central logo for GENUKI UK & Ireland Genealogy, which features a map of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The logo is surrounded by the text 'GENUKI' at the top and 'UK & Ireland Genealogy' at the bottom.

On the left side, there are two sections of links:

- Regional Page Links**
 - [UK and Ireland](#)
 - [England](#)
 - [Scotland](#)
 - [Wales](#)
 - [Ireland](#)
 - [Isle of Man](#)
 - [Channel Islands](#)
- Technical Links**
 - [Referring to GENUKI](#)
 - [For potential contributors](#)
 - [For maintainers](#)

On the right side, there is a section of links:

- Quick Links**
 - [Contents and Site Map](#)
 - [Search GENUKI](#)
 - [Gazetteer](#)
 - [Church database](#)
 - [Societies](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Guidance for first-time users](#)
 - [Getting started in genealogy](#)
 - [Genealogical events](#)
 - [Who are we?](#)
 - [GENUKI service status](#)

In the center, below the logo, there is a paragraph of text:

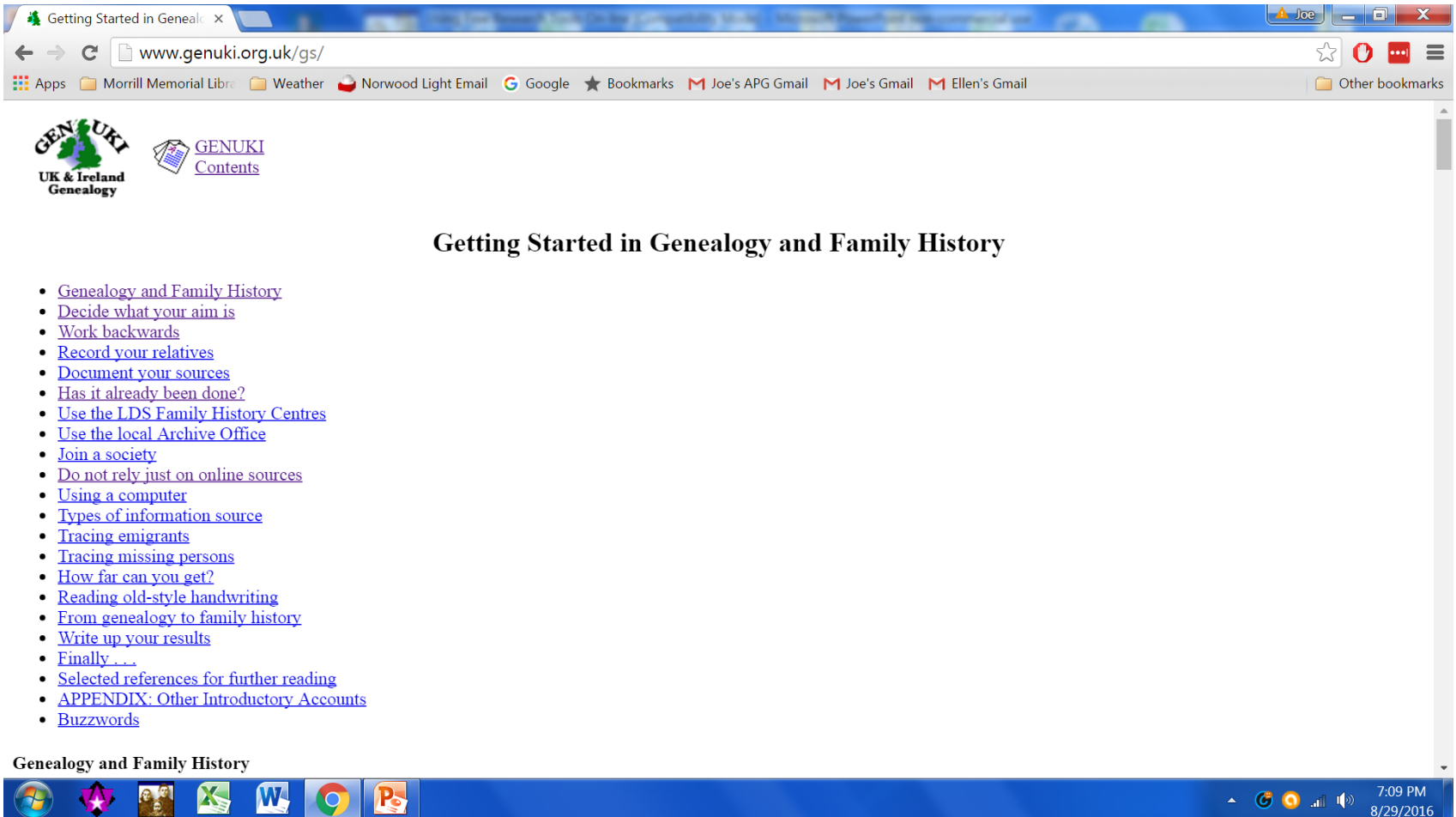
GENUKI provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. It is a non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and a group of volunteers.

Below this paragraph, there is another paragraph of text:

All material on this site is © GENUKI and individual contributors. For permission to re-use material please contact [the GENUKI trustees](#).

Genuki's Getting Started in Genealogy and Family History

(www.genuki.org.uk/gs/)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying www.genuki.org.uk/gs/. The browser's address bar also shows a search bar and a list of bookmarks including 'Apps', 'Morrell Memorial Libr...', 'Weather', 'Norwood Light Email', 'Google', 'Bookmarks', 'Joe's APG Gmail', 'Joe's Gmail', and 'Ellen's Gmail'. The website's header features the Genuki logo (a map of the UK and Ireland) and a link to 'GENUKI Contents'. The main heading is 'Getting Started in Genealogy and Family History'. Below this heading is a list of 20 links, each preceded by a bullet point. The links are: 'Genealogy and Family History', 'Decide what your aim is', 'Work backwards', 'Record your relatives', 'Document your sources', 'Has it already been done?', 'Use the LDS Family History Centres', 'Use the local Archive Office', 'Join a society', 'Do not rely just on online sources', 'Using a computer', 'Types of information source', 'Tracing emigrants', 'Tracing missing persons', 'How far can you get?', 'Reading old-style handwriting', 'From genealogy to family history', 'Write up your results', 'Finally...', 'Selected references for further reading', 'APPENDIX: Other Introductory Accounts', and 'Buzzwords'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'Genealogy and Family History' with a row of icons for various applications: Windows, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and Microsoft Word. The Windows taskbar at the bottom of the screen shows the time as 7:09 PM on 8/29/2016.

Getting Started in Genealogy and Family History

- [Genealogy and Family History](#)
- [Decide what your aim is](#)
- [Work backwards](#)
- [Record your relatives](#)
- [Document your sources](#)
- [Has it already been done?](#)
- [Use the LDS Family History Centres](#)
- [Use the local Archive Office](#)
- [Join a society](#)
- [Do not rely just on online sources](#)
- [Using a computer](#)
- [Types of information source](#)
- [Tracing emigrants](#)
- [Tracing missing persons](#)
- [How far can you get?](#)
- [Reading old-style handwriting](#)
- [From genealogy to family history](#)
- [Write up your results](#)
- [Finally...](#)
- [Selected references for further reading](#)
- [APPENDIX: Other Introductory Accounts](#)
- [Buzzwords](#)

Genealogy and Family History

Over 30 years ago, I started with a Petrie Pedigree Chart – At Individual Consultations I often Start with a Pedigree Chart for a Direct Line Research

- Start with yourself and work backwards through generations. (Most people can name their parents and grandparents.)
- Using a pencil, post the information to a Pedigree Chart. Remember that you are number 1 on the chart. Your father is number 2. Your father's father is number 4. Your father's grandfather (your great grandfather) is number 8.

Blank 5 Generation Pedigree Chart

PEDIGREE CHART (No. _____)

Preparer: _____ Date: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State: _____ Zip: _____

1
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

2
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

3
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

4
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

5
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

6
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

7
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

8
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

9
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

10
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

11
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

12
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

13
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

14
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

15
 Born: _____
 Where: _____
 Married: _____
 Died: _____
 Where: _____

16
 continued on chart no. _____

17
 continued on chart no. _____

18
 continued on chart no. _____

19
 continued on chart no. _____

20
 continued on chart no. _____

21
 continued on chart no. _____

22
 continued on chart no. _____

23
 continued on chart no. _____

24
 continued on chart no. _____

25
 continued on chart no. _____

26
 continued on chart no. _____


27
 continued on chart no. _____

28
 continued on chart no. _____

29
 continued on chart no. _____

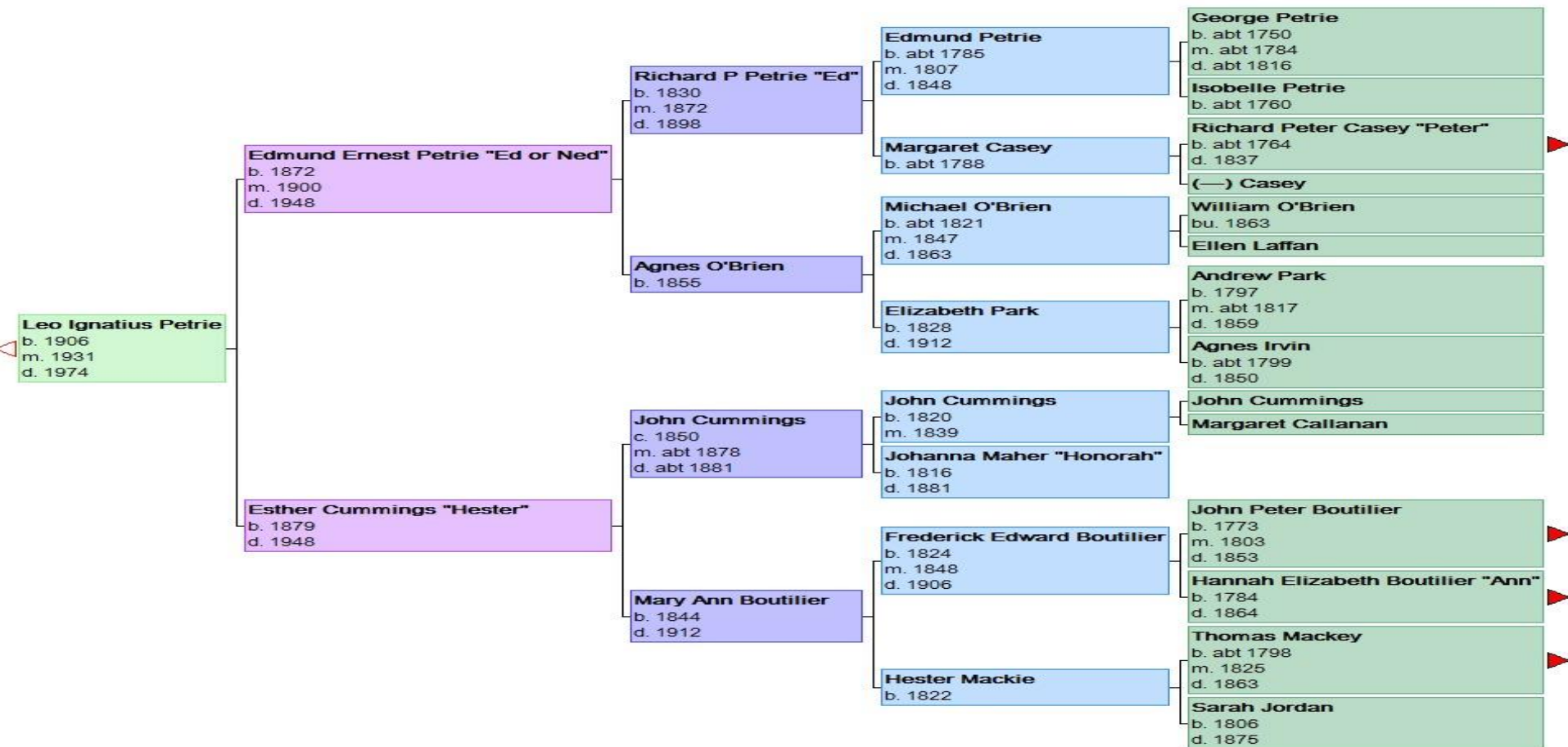
30
 continued on chart no. _____

31
 continued on chart no. _____

 © 2009 Ancestral Connections, Inc.
<http://www.ancestralconnect.com>

A View of my Dad's Pedigree Chart Using PAF Companion

Note that in this format the brick walls and more generations are easily shown



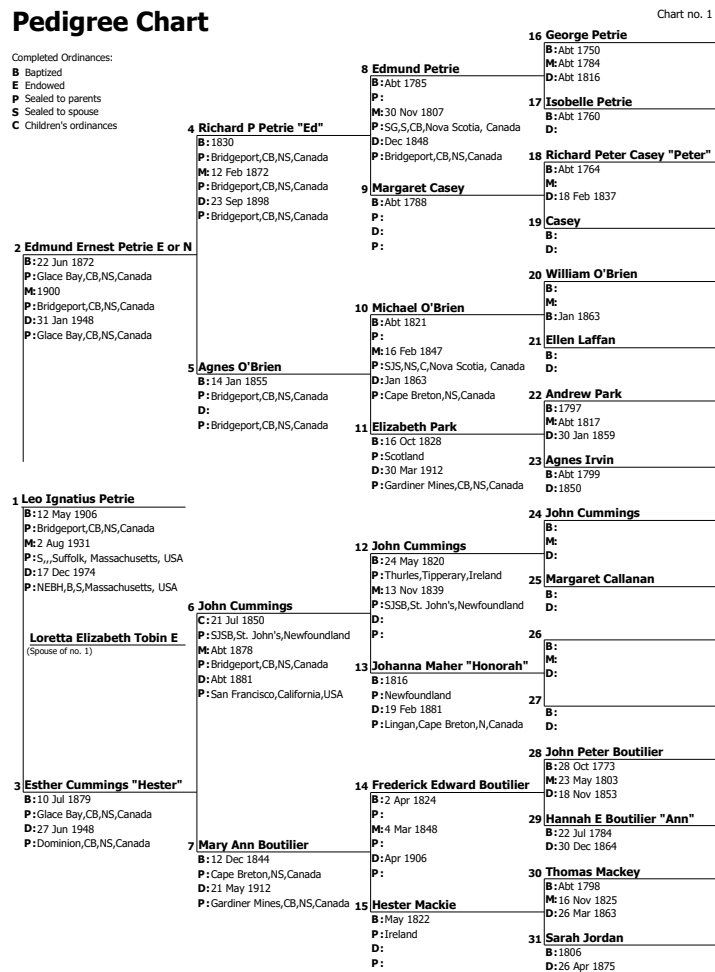
Another View of My Father's Sample Pedigree Chart

Please remember: the 5th generation is incomplete

Pedigree Chart

Completed Ordinances:

B Baptized
E Endowed
P Sealed to parents
S Sealed to spouse
C Children's ordinances



29 Jun 2016

Using Ancestry to fill-in a Pedigree Chart

Dad's Brick Wall was his Paternal Grandmother

- I like to start with Censuses.
- I'll show you what happens when I search for my Dad in the US Census of 1930.

The Ancestry Transcript

Ancestry Transcript's Suggested Records

Federal Census, 1930, for My Dad, Alien - Canadian Citizen, boarding in Brookline MA

AncestryLibrary.com - 193 x

interactive.ancestrylibrary.com/6224/4607669_00977?pid=737793&backurl=http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc%3DENh1021%...

Apps Morrill Memorial Libr Weather Norwood Light Email Google ★ Bookmarks M Joe's APG Gmail M Joe's Gmail M Ellen's Gmail Other bookmarks

1930 United States Federal Census for Leo Petrie

Massachusetts > Norfolk > Brookline > District 32

SAVE

Line No.	House No.	Street	Dwelling	Family No.	Name	Relation	Home Value	Radio	Farm	Sex	Race	Marital S	Attended	Reads & V	Birthplace	Father Birthplace	Mother Birthplace	Language	A	B	C	Immigrat	Naturaliz	Speaks E	Occupation	Industry	D	Worker C	Employer	Unemplo	Veteran	War	Farm Sch
9					Petrie, Leo	Head				V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Blotter	Commission	9990	1	2					
10					Thelma, Catherine	Daughter				V	F	40	20	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	20	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
11					Charles, Henry	Son				V	M	24	5	71	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	English	00	43	1	1920	20	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
12					Edison, John	Son				V	M	24	5	71	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	English	00	43	1	1920	20	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
13	123	123	231		Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
14					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
15					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
16					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
17					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
18					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
19					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
20					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
21					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
22					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
23					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
24					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
25					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
26					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
27					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
28					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
29					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
30					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
31					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
32					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
33					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
34					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
35					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
36					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
37					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
38					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
39					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
40					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
41					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					
42					Charles, Leo	Head	50			V	M	24	5	71	Canada	England	Canada	English	00	43	1	1920	42	Domestic	Private Family	8596	1	2					

33 of 49

National Archives and Records Administration

6:14 PM
8/19/2016

US Census 1930 Ancestry Transcript

- Name: Leo Petrie
- Birth Year: abt 1906
- Gender: Male
- Race: White
- Birthplace: Canada
- Marital Status: Single
- Relation to Head of House: Lodger
- Home in 1930: Brookline, Norfolk, Massachusetts
- Map of Home: [View Map](#)
- Street address: Linden Street
- House Number in Cities or Towns: 12a
- Dwelling Number: 176
- Family Number: 330
- Attended School: No
- Able to Read and Write: Yes
- Father's Birthplace: Canada
- Mother's Birthplace: Canada
- Language Spoken: English
- Immigration Year: 1925
- Naturalization: Alien
- Able to Speak English: Yes
- Occupation: meat Cutter
- Industry: Provision
- Class of Worker: Wage or salary worker
- Employment: Yes

Dad's Ancestry Transcript's Suggested Records

- [U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956 Leo Petrie](#)
- [1921 Census of Canada Leo Petrie](#)
- [Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950 Leo Ignatius Petrie](#)
- [U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956 Leo Petries](#)
- [U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 Leo Petrie](#)
- [U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014 Leo Petrie](#)
- Please note that Dad was born in the Gardiner Mines Section of Bridgeport, NS before Gardiner Mines became a town. His 1925 Border Crossing record is correct.

Dad's Naturalization Petition – Dad's Place of Birth was Incorrect

ancestrylibrary.com - Ma: X

interactive.ancestrylibrary.com/2361/007778526_00524?pid=1653675&backurl=http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26db

Apps Morrill Memorial Libr Weather Norwood Light Email Google ★ Bookmarks Joe's APG Gmail Joe's Gmail Ellen's Gmail Other bookmarks

Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950 for Leo Ignatius Petrie

District Court, Massachusetts > Petition No. 218728, Sarah Bell - Petition No. 219454, Flora Macpherson

SAVE

ORIGINAL
(To be retained by clerk)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

No. 218883

To the Honorable the U. S. District Court of Massachusetts at Boston

This petition for naturalization hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full name is Leo Ignatius Petrie

(2) My place of residence is 299 Colburn St., E. Dedham, Mass (3) My occupation is Meat manager

(4) I was born at Gardiner Mines, Canada on May 12, 1906 (5) My nationality is British

(6) My race is Irish (7) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on _____ in the _____

Court of Omitted pursuant Act Sept. 22, 1922, as amended

(8) I am _____ married. The name of my wife or husband is Loretta Elizabeth Tobin now resides at with me

_____ ; we were married on Aug. 2, 1931 at Brighton, Mass

(9) he was born at Glace Bay, Canada on Mar. 7, 1904 ; entered the United States at Vanceboro, Me

on Oct. 5, 1926 for per 524 of 2451 naturalized on Jan. 16, 1939

at Boston, Mass certificate No. 4561182 (9) I have 3 children, and the name, date, and place of birth

National Archives and Records Administration

© 1997-2016 Ancestry.com

7:04 PM
8/19/2016

How to fill-in a Pedigree Chart using Free On-line Databases

Search by Given Name, Surname, Location (s), Date(s)

- USA Births – Ancestry Library and FamilySearch; for Massachusetts, Ancestry Library has Indexes up to 1950s. FamilySearch has Massachusetts Register images to 1920. I wrote an article about “hidden” databases. AmericanAncestors.org has lots. They release about 3 databases a week.
- Marriages – Ancestry Library, American Ancestors and FamilySearch.
- Deaths – Ancestry Library, American Ancestors and FamilySearch.
- Naturalization Records – Ancestry Library (especially Petitions).
- Vitals in the UK and Ireland - Ancestry Library and Genuki.org.uk
- Christenings and Baptisms – “Substitute” Birth records in Ireland; Ancestry Library, FamilySearch and American Ancestors (available in some libraries) Please note that “Ireland Catholic Parish Registers” database in Ancestry Library contains over 25 million Baptism, Marriage and Death records.
- US Censuses and Social Security Death records – Ancestry Library.
- Deaths and Burials - FindaGrave (a product owned by Ancestry.com).

How to fill-in a Pedigree Chart using Free On-line Databases (Continued)

- Passenger and Crew Records – Castle Garden, Ellis Island; and Ancestry Library. (Massachusetts records in Ancestry Library are great!)
- Military records – Ancestry Library. Please note that World War I and World War II Draft Records for US aliens identify where and when men were born. Also, Enlistment records identify where and when men were born - Ancestry Library,
- Siblings Marriage Records - Can't find Marriage records, search for sibling marriages. Also, lots of Massachusetts people married in NH. (Examples: Elopements and marriages between 1st cousins.)
- Nova Scotia Vitals – Novascotiagenealogy. Births, Marriages and Death. The latter is probably the most accurate.
- Register Reports – Beware! I left out a “Abt” in a Death Date. There were lots of gathers who used my Register Reports as “gosple”. I have the exact date now. I plan to replace that report before I go to Florida in 2017.

Using trusted relatives

My first brick wall was my Dad's Paternal Grandmother

- My parents had passed away
- I wrote or called Dad's 11 living Petrie 1st cousins
- I asked whether they knew their Petrie grandmother's maiden name
- None of the 11 knew it! They did provide information on their parents, siblings, children and grandchildren
- **The 12th (no one remembered her) knew it.**

Serendipity – Finding the Unknown 12th 1st Cousin

- I believe in serendipity , good luck! I met a lady on a plane from Philadelphia to Boston on a cold Fall night. The plane was one stop from Tampa, Florida. I was the first on at Philadelphia. I tripped over her foot in my seat search.
- I met her again on a mini-van bus going to Norwood. We were the only passengers. I remarked that it was a little cold for a Florida resident. She told me that she was from Cape Breton where cold weather was the norm.
- I told her that my parents were from Cape Breton. When I told her that I was a Petrie, she told me that she was going to meet the daughter of a Margaret Petrie. I did not have a Margaret in my database. Using post-its, I wrote my Petrie genealogy, home address and phone number.
- Later, I was contacted by Pearle, Dad's 12th living 1st cousin. Her mother was grandfather's older step-sister. She knew my family. She lost track of them in 1939 when she moved from Boston. She knew Dad's family. She knew of both of Dad's Petrie grandfather's families. She pointed me to marriage records and death records for her grandmother (Mary Martin) and for Dad's grandmother (Agnes O'Brien).

The images of the official records were on microfilm that I had ordered but had not read from the Family History Library in Foxboro MA. The library is now in Franklin MA.

Working Backwards to Fill in Vitals - Another Brick Wall

Dad's O'Brien Great Grandparents – Michael and Elizabeth Park

Using FamilySearch.org MA Marriage Record for Michael O'Brien, brother of Agnes O'Brien (Dad's Grandmother)

Massachusetts Marriages, 1841-1915

004279535

Image 305 of 1030

Open in a new window Print Download Tools

18	26	Michael O'Brien Mary Ann Tober	Lawrence	26	Town	Married	Michael William	Elizabeth Ellen	First	Rev. J. Spaulding Pastor of the Church	✓	
19	30	Charles E. Blackett Mrs. Luskinton	Lawrence	26	Quinton	Decemher	Terry Mc Hofstadter	John David	Highway Thru	First	Rev. Thomas Lyne	✓
20	30	Michael Carley Jr. Oliver Hooten	Lawrence	23	Comber	At home	Spuchard, M Vernmont	Elizabeth John	First	Rev. John L. Hildner	✓	
21	30	Charles Spout Glover Bela H. John	Boston Lawrence	30 21	Log. worker Quinton	England Spuchard, Co.	Robert Hance	Highway Hwy	First	Rev. F. M. Gardner	✓	
22	31	William H. Thurman Mary Service	Lawrence	22 21	Whitham Hwy	Liberty, Mc Lawrence	Elizabeth C. Robert C.	Highway Hwy	First	Rev. F. M. Gardner	✓	

I hereby certify that the above return is correct according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Rev. J. Spaulding, Clerk

Name	Titles and Terms	Event Type	Event Date	Event Place	Registration Date	Registration Place	Gender	Age	Mar
Michael O Brian		Marriage	26 Dec 1889	, Lawrence, Massachusetts, United States			Male	24	Si

Digital Folder Number 004279535

Spouse's Marital Status Single

Verification: How to verify Pedigree Chart items using Free On-line Nominal Censuses

Genealogists generally start with nominal Census records.

- USA Nominal Censuses start in 1850. Some show years married. Also, the 1900, 1910, and 1920 Censuses show Immigration date. Ancestry Library
- UK Census Records (1841 – 1911) Ancestry Library. Beware!
- Canada Census Records (1851 – 1921) Ancestry Library. Please note that the Canadian Partial Nominal Censuses start in 1851 for New Brunswick. The 1901 Census shows exact date of Birth. The 1911 Census shows year of birth. Beware!
- Archives Canada Census records for 1871, 1881 and 1891. Beware!
- Automated Censuses of Canada for 1851, 1852, 1901, and 1911. I Copy and Paste records into my Notes.
- Irish Censuses for 1901 and 1911 are available “free” from Irish National Archives. Please note that 19th Century Irish Census Substitutes (Griffith’s Valuation and Tithe Applotment) only identify the head of household.

Verification of Vitals using Other Sources

Favorites that I use:

- Ancestry Library/New Collections – Search by Country and filter by Births, Marriages and Deaths Filter
 - US Naturalization Records (terrific resource – few obfuscations)
 - Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers (25+ Million Baptism, Marriage and Burial records)
- Irishgenealogy.ie, includes Protestant records
- FamilySearch Collections List. I use Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese, 1823-1905 and Massachusetts Births, Marriages and Deaths
- Ancestry Library Public Member Trees – Possible clues. Caveat: The records often contain errors.
- Nova Scotia Vitals – Novascotiagenealogy.com
- Newfoundland Grand Banks - ngb.chebucto.org

Verifying Oral History

- One evening, my wife and I phoned her Uncle Tom in Youghal, County Cork, Ireland, Tom asked me whether he had told me about Maurice Morrissey, his first cousin, who rode his motorcycle all over Ireland.
- Tom speculated that Maurice delivered messages for the Irish Republican Army.
- Until that night, we did not know that Ellen's Grandaunt, Johanna McGrath, was married and had children.

Verifying My Wife's Uncle Tom's Oral History Using the Census of Ireland, 1911

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying www.census.nationalarchives.ie. The page title is "The National Archives of Ireland". The main content area is titled "Census of Ireland 1901/1911 and Census fragments and substitutes, 1821-51". It features a large image of a census form on the left and text on the right. The text describes the availability of household returns and ancillary records for the censuses of Ireland of 1901 and 1911, which are in the custody of the National Archives of Ireland. It mentions that all thirty-two counties for 1901 and 1911 are searchable by all information categories, and that corrections and improvements will be ongoing. It also notes that a small amount of material is missing from the site and will be placed online as soon as possible. Below the text, there are links for "What's in the Census records?", "Partners in the project", "Census online: user feedback", "User Corrections", and "Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Other Places to Look" with a link to "Irish Genealogy Websites". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various icons, including the Windows logo, and the system clock indicates 7:35 AM on 8/13/2016.

GENEALOGY

Home Search Census Early 20th century Ireland Browse Census How to Search

Census of Ireland 1901/1911 and Census fragments and substitutes, 1821-51

The household returns and ancillary records for the censuses of Ireland of 1901 and 1911, which are in the custody of the National Archives of Ireland, represent an extremely valuable part of the Irish national heritage. [Read more about their digitisation.](#)

All thirty-two counties for 1901 and 1911, [searchable by all information categories](#), are now available on this site. Corrections and improvements will be ongoing, and we are very grateful to all users who have submitted corrections to us. A small amount of material is [missing from the site](#), and will be placed online as soon as possible.

Surviving census fragments and substitutes for 1821-51 are a valuable, if limited, resource for the pre-Famine period. [Read more about these records](#)

See User Corrections for information about data updates to the site.

[What's in the Census records?](#)

[Partners in the project](#)

[Census online: user feedback](#)

[User Corrections](#)

[Search the census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911](#)

Other Places to Look

- [Irish Genealogy Websites](#)

Verifying Oral History - Search for Patrick and Johanna (McGrath) Morrissey – my wife's grandaunt and her husband

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/results.jsp?census_year=1911&surname=Morrissey&exact=&firstname=Patrick&county19011911=Waterford. The page displays search results for the 1911 Census of Ireland. The search criteria used are Surname: Morrissey, Forename: Patrick, County: Waterford. The results show one record for Patrick Morrissey, born in 1871, living in Shanakill, Dromore, Waterford. The record is displayed in a table with columns for Surname, Forename, Townland/Street, DED, County, Age, and Sex. The record shows Patrick Morrissey, 40 years old, male, living in Shanakill, Dromore, Waterford. The page also includes a search form with fields for Census year, Surname, Forename, County, Townland/street, DED, Age + or - 5 years, and Sex. The search form is set to 1911, Morrissey, Patrick, Waterford, and 40 years old, male. The page is titled 'Search results' and displays 'Displaying one result'. The page number is 1 of 2.

Home / [1901/1911 Census, Ireland](#) / [Search](#)

Search results Displaying one result

Records per page: 10 / [50](#) / [100](#) ☐ Show all information

Sort by: **Relevance** / [Surname](#) / [Forename](#) / [Townland or Street](#) / [DED](#) / [County](#) / [Age](#) / [Sex](#)

Surname	Forename	Townland/Street	DED	County	Age	Sex
Morrissey	Patrick	Shanakill	Dromore	Waterford	40	M

[Previous 10](#) Page 1 2

Search [More search options](#)

Census year: 1911

Surname: Morrissey

Forename: Patrick

County: Waterford

Townland/street:

DED:

Age + or - 5 years: 40

Sex: Male

Verification – Census of Ireland, 1911 Family of Patrick and Hannah (McGrath) Morrissey

National Archives: Census x

www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Waterford/Dromore/Shanakill/664835/

Apps Morrill Memorial Lib Weather Norwood Light Email Google ★ Bookmarks Joe's APG Gmail Joe's Gmail Ellen's Gmail Other bookmarks

GENEALOGY Home Search Census Early 20th century Ireland Browse Census How to Search

[Census Years](#) / [1911](#) / [Waterford](#) / [Dromore](#) / [Shanakill](#) / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 5 in Shanakill (Dromore, Waterford)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	
Morrissey	Patrick	40	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Waterford	Farms Servant	Read and write	Irish and English	Ma
Morrissey	Hannah	35	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Waterford	-	Read and write	Irish and English	Ma
Morrissey	Maurice	5	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Waterford	-	Cannot read	-	Sir
Morrissey	Michael	3	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Waterford	-	Cannot read	-	Sir
Morrissey	John	1	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Waterford	-	Cannot read	-	Sir

[Report any error in transcription](#)

View census images

[Household Return \(Form A\)](#)
Additional Pages: [2](#)

Other original census images available

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the images.

[Get Acrobat](#)

[How do I view the images?](#)

[Report errors in transcription](#)

9:27 AM
8/13/2016

More Sources of Online Vitals for Verifying Birth, Marriage and Death Records

- State and Province GENWEB Sites
- Billion Graves
- Cemetery web sites
- Provincial Genealogy Sites
- Irish GENWEB Sites
- Web Sites with Newspaper Articles and Obituaries
- Library Reference Resources
- Register Reports

Other Free On-line Arrival Databases with Birth data

- Birth and Birth Place information in other official records
 - Border Crossings and Pre-Examination Records (3 Canadian locales), Ancestry Library
- FamilySearch (California records)
- SlaveVoyages
- Gjenvick
- Germanroots
- Jewishgen
- Massachusetts Archives, Index to Passenger Manifests (1848 - 1891)

Collecting “Quasi-Vital” Information

I collect:

- Date and Place of Christening as well as Sponsors (sponsors may be related)
- Marriage information such as parents information especially mother's Maiden Name
- Wills and Probate material
- Burial information and Obituaries
- Other Census information
- Information from Books

Sample of Probate Information for Dad's 2nd Great Grandfather Richard Peter Casey (abt 1764 – 1837)

Material from the Notes section of my database

Web Site: FamilySearch.org, Nova Scotia Probate Records, Cape Breton County Probate Records and FamilySearch.org, Canada, Nova Scotia, RC Antigonish Diocese, Records for Sacred Heart Parish.

Probate papers dated 9-7-1854 indicates that Richard died either without a valid will or the will was lost. Interestingly, the Will was in the Probate Papers provided by the Administrator, James Hall, Richard Casey' brother-in-law, Richard's sister Betsy's husband.

Sample for Dad's 2nd Great Grandfather Richard Peter Casey (abt 1764 – 1837) - Continued

- Richard Casey was the brother of Betsy (Mrs. James Hall). James Hall was re-appointed to Administer the Probate in 1854. There is no accounting for the time that elapsed from Richard's death in 1837 and his estate being probated in 1854.
- The Probate papers indicate that Richard was the father of Michael, Mary (Mrs. Alexander Lee), (her daughter was mentioned in the probate), and Margaret (Mrs. Ed Petrie – Dad's Great Grandmother). I assume that Mary (Mrs. Alex Lee) had passed away before the Probate was completed in 1854.
- When Richard Casey died he owned about a square mile of land in Lingan, Cape Breton. Nova Scotia, Canada.

Sample for Dad's 2nd Great Grandfather Richard Peter Casey (abt 1764 – 1837) – More

- Richard may have been the father or brother of Peter Casey who served in R. N. B. Fensibles and who died in Sydney on Aug 11, 1808.
- Also, I suspect that Richard may have had kin living in Prospect NS.
- Finally, based on James Hall's document (Image 182) in the Probate images, I believe that Richard's father's given name was Richard.

Free Genealogy Software

- American Ancestors Magazine by NEHGS - Volume 17 Number 2 has a great article entitled: Choosing the Right Genealogical Software for You *Our Expert Advice* (It is available on-line.)
- There is a Table on page 28 that lists the following for PCs and Macs: Ancestral Quest; Brothers Keeper; Family Tree Builder; Heredis; iFamily; Legacy Family Tree; MacFamily Tree; Reunion; and Roots Magic. Some have free downloadable versions.

Why do I use PAF?

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) 5.2

- No longer supported by FamilySearch or the Mormon Church
- Free PAF 5.2 download available from the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

PAF Companion

- Supported by Progeny Genealogy

Why?

- I have been using PAF for about 30 years and based on prior experience **fear** the conversion workload. Newer software handles Sources differently.

Number 1 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

“SPELING DUSN'T COWNT”

Many folks couldn't spell and many could barely write. Check all variant spellings of names. Whenever possible, use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of your names.

Number 2 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

ASSUME NOTHING

Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume that

- - your ancestors were married
- - census information is accurate
- - vital (or other) records were correct
- - your ancestor's life events were recorded
- - your ancestors were enslaved
- - newly freed slaves in the same vicinity with the same surname were related

Number 3 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

USE DISCRETION

Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, as it may affect some of your living relatives.

Number 4 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER

Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. But be consistent as you cite your sources. There are all sorts of standard citation formats that you can follow, but even if you just make up your own form for listing your sources, be consistent with it. Future researchers (your descendants) will thank you.

Numbers 5 & 6 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

Prior to the 20th century, anyway. It's okay to state that someone was born "abt. 1845" or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date. And even if you have an exact date from one document, another document may have a different date. And which date is "correct?" They all are.

IF UNSURE, SAY SO

Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts.

Numbers 7 & 8 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE

Yes, we love doing our research online and we think that there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with long lost relatives. But, for genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. You can't do it all online. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE

The internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources of information, even if you paid for the information.

Number 9 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

PASS YOUR RESEARCH ALONG

No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. In that stead, plan on passing along your research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.

Number 10 of GotGenealogy.com's 10 Golden Rules of Genealogy

DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU

Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his Don't die with your music still in you, we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to tell their stories.

That's All Folks!

Your corrections, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at joe-apg@norwoodlight.com.

Joseph F. Petrie, AB (Economics and Business – St. Anselm College)
MA (Economics – Boston College)

Founding Member, Friends of Irish Research (FIR)

Member, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)

Member, Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association (CBGHA)

Member, Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (FHSNL)

Member, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

Member, Friends of Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood, MA

Genealogy Volunteer:

Morrill Memorial Library, Friends of Irish Research (FIR); FIR's School of Irish Genealogy;
Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association; and St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH

Volunteer activities:

- 1-on-1s at Morrill Memorial Library and for FIR at the Irish Cultural Centre, Canton MA
- Seminars at Morrill Memorial Library, FIR at the Irish Cultural Centre, Canton MA and others
- Research Correspondent, Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association, Sydney, NS