

Life at Home and on the Sea – Handout

This handout supports the talk *'Life at Home and on the Sea'* presented online for the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa's conference *England and Wales: at home and on the move* on 2 October 2022.

This talk follows how the simple genealogical facts of a life (in this case my great-great grandfather Joseph RICHARDS (1847-1934)) can be expanded on to discover the full picture of the life they lived. The handout identifies ways of expanding the information known as well as listing some of the sources used while exploring his life.

Expanding a Life

For the person being researched:

- Look for additional clues on the standard set of resources (e.g. birth, marriage & death certificates, censuses and parish records)
- Review events happening to their family members and consider how they may affect or influence the person
- Search for employment records
- Search for mentions in:
 - Newspapers
 - Directories
 - Local Books
 - Magazines
- Also search for events they witnessed or were involved in even if they are not mentioned personally
- Consider why changes occurred in their lives (e.g. a change of location or occupation)
- Take oral histories (or search for oral histories taken in the past)
- Review notes taken in past – record everything in a central database if possible
- Review any personal ephemera (e.g. letters, diaries, postcards, photographs, physical items) for clues about their life
- Draw timelines and/or maps to plot their life and travels – this also allows gaps in the information to be identified
- Consider resources online and in archives
- Consider more unusual sources of information
- Research the wider aspects of an occupation, location, event, etc to improve understanding of their life
- Visit the places they lived and visited and walk in their footsteps
- Visit museums related to their lives

General Resources

Maritime records

- CLIP – Crew List Index Project (<https://www.crewlist.org.uk/>)
- *England & Wales Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1861-1913* at Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-merchant-navy-crew-lists-1861-1913>)
- *Ireland Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1863-1921* at Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/ireland-merchant-navy-crew-lists-1863-1921>)
- UK, *Apprentices Indentured in Merchant Navy, 1824-1910* at Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/60609/>)
- Maritime History Archive (<https://mha.mun.ca/mha/index.php>)
- Find Latitude and Longitude (<https://www.findlatitudeandlongitude.com/>)
- The National Archives Discovery Catalogue (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>)
- Fram – The Polar Exploration Museum (<https://framuseum.no/polar-history/expeditions/the-first-fram-expedition-1893-1896/>).

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Newspapers

- British Newspaper Archive - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> – newspapers also included on Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers>)
- Trove for Australia newspapers (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>)
- Papers Past for New Zealand (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>)
- Newspapers.com for USA/Canada and worldwide (<https://www.newspapers.com/>)
- Library of Congress Chronicling America (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>)
- Illustrated London News via The Genealogist (https://www.thegenealogist.com/book/volume.php?master_event=Newspapers+%26+Magazines&event=Illustrated+London+News)

Online Books and Journals

- Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>)
- Hathi Trust (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>)
- FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>)
- Google Books (<https://books.google.co.uk/>)
- JSTOR (<https://www.jstor.org/>) – access limited via library, educational institution, etc.

Images

- British Library Images (<https://imagesonline.bl.uk/>)
- Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>)
- Wikimedia Commons Images (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Images>)

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