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Steve Huxham & Stephen Cribb's Genealogy Tips

1. Approach the task with an enquiring mind starting with what you already know, but **always** be ready to challenge anything you find.
2. Don't get too excited about what you unearth on first discovery, however excited you feel about it, as this may lead you down the wrong path; always look to back anything you find up to be sure.
3. The more sources of evidence you can find, the more confident you can be in your results and assumptions, so always look for multiple corroborating records.
4. No single source has everything, so it helps to have subscriptions to multiple genealogy websites.
5. www.ancestry.co.uk, www.findmypast.co.uk and www.familysearch.org are recommended research websites.
6. Watch out for '*fake news*'. Linking in with family trees built by others may seem convenient, however in doing so, consider points 1 to 3 above as it is possible that there are mistakes, which can get quickly replicated online.
7. Look beyond the obvious and undertake your searches across numerous different records. Check newspaper records as these are often kept separately and not correlated to other documents on the sites.
8. Think laterally as names were not always spelt the same across all records. It helps to undertake broad searches to capture names that are similar, but not spelt the same to improve your chances of a hit.
9. When it comes to tracing back to parents, a good rule of thumb is to set your search with an age gap (between children and their parents) of c.21 years for mothers and c.25 years for fathers.
10. Not everything is available online or has yet been digitised, so you may need to visit various other sources like the National Archives, local record offices, church registers etc. to look for evidence and records.
11. Keep looking because new records and sources are being added all the time. It helps to set up a calendar to remind you to review past dead-ends as something may pop-up at any time.
12. **Most importantly**, have fun while doing it and remember that you're never going to find everything.