

Personal Standards for Genealogy

by Douglas Hill Feb 2008

This section covers considerations that are independent of the chosen genealogy software.

FOCUS & LIMITS OF WORK

How old are you now?

How many more years will you have the ability and desire to do genealogy?

What do you want to accomplish in that time?

Therefore, what is your plan? In other words,

What will you focus on, and what will you leave undone?

How will you share your results:

- * Charts at family reunions
- * Distribute informal printouts
- * Writing a book
- Writing articles

Paper or on disc? (using Second Site)

Web site(s) – others or your own?

Example: My Own Focus & Limits

Focus on 4 lines:

my maternal grandparents

my paternal grandparents

same two for my wife's grandparents

Example: my maternal grandparents;
their descendants

(my mother, aunts & uncles);

their ancestors for 2 gens;

& sibs & descendants of ancestors (briefly)

No searching back for people who married into these lines but are not on the pedigree charts.

(just get parents names & dpb).

Focus on What? Why that?

- (1) only go back 3 gens from my parents, because
- can find census records for most

- English civil registration for most
- easier to learn women's maiden names
- can hope to find out something more than just the BMDB baseline information.
so more interesting !

- (2) My write-ups will emphasize things I am especially interested in:
- education
 - music
 - business ownership

- (3) Life story interviews based on my own checklist (evolved from experience and from reading several articles on interviewing).

I may write 4 books, one on each of the 4 lines

- (4) First book on Fraser – How family
(140 pages long)

Why this book first?

- more cousins interested
- Only my mother is still alive & interested
- Have more old letters & docs. etc.

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ID numbers

Since people are easily found with the Picklist, I don't use ID numbers in a systematic or structured manner. I just accept the next number.

I do use family grouping flags: a person may belong to between 1 and 4 families. You can belong to a family by blood or marriage.

Example: I belong to all 4 families (my mother's, my father's, my wife's mother's and my wife's father's)

My father belongs to 2 families

His father belongs to 1 family

Tags

I consistently use "cemetery marker" instead of "monument" or "monumental inscription" or "tombstone" or "headstone".

List of Repositories

These are put into groups for ease in finding them. For example, all Ontario cemeteries start at number 40.

Place Names Fields L5 & L6

L5 State (USA) / Province (Can) / County (UK)

L6 Country

For Canada

L5 = Province

In Pre-confederation Canada use full names:

Upper Canada, Lower Canada,
Canada West, Canada East.

In Post-confederation Canada use 2-letter postal codes. From east to west these are:

NL, PE, NS, NB, QC, ON, MB, SK, AB, BC.

L6 = [blank] My intended audience are Canadians, who will know the provinces.

In the USA

L5 = State: name written out in full

L6 = USA.

In the UK

L5 = County

use the standard list of old county abbreviations

(Berks, Beds or full names) in place of the 3 letter county codes

See my separate list of English county codes.

L6 = ENG or SCT or Wales

Personal Name style.

Keep the default U.S. Standard Name style.

The default output is

[Title] [GivenName] [Surname] [Suffix] .

[Title] includes: Sir, Dr., Prof., Major, Rev., Mrs., etc.(many end in a period).

[GivenName] includes middle names: Joan Emily

[preSurname] supposed to include: ap, von, van, de, dit, etc. (never capitalized) , but don't use since not printed under the US Standard.

[Surname] use mixed case "Hill", not all uppercase "HILL" (Recommended by User's Guide & Hoffman's book)

[Suffix] includes: (Sr), (Jr), (Jr2); no periods; parentheses indicate our usage, not necessarily their usage. Persons designated "Sr" and "Jr" must have the same first and last names, but their middle name(s) may differ. "Sr" may be a parent or grandparent.

Primary name for a woman is her full maiden name

Ex: Joan Emily Price

Since she married a Hill, some alternatives are

Joan Emily Price [Hill] or

Joan Emily (Price) Hill

The rules I use are:

women's surnames in parentheses "(Price)" are always maiden surnames

women's surnames in square brackets "[Hill]" are always married surnames

Example: "Jane Unknown [Hill]."

Maiden surname is unknown, but

Married surname is Hill.

As placeholders for unknown persons, you can also use "Unknown son Hill" or "Third child Smith", or "Wife of George Hill".

Rosena Millicent* Fraser

The "*" denotes a middle name they were commonly known by.

Don't put the * in front of a name because it will make the name hard to search for.

A woman married twice might be listed like this. Loghrin is her second married name.

Elizabeth Jane (Fraser) [Hill] Loghrin