

Deep Dive Keeping on Track

Everyone Does It Differently

Sometimes you start searching and you get caught up in “the chase”, you want to find out as much as possible about your subject before the birds wake up and start their dawn chorus. This is how I keep track of an evening of “deep dive” research. There are three main aspects, all recorded on one Word document which quickly becomes your Research Document:

1. **My Family Tree:** insert a Table, 12 columns across, 6 down (to start you off), each column is a different generation and has a different colour. Add people as you come across them in your deep dive, keep it simple.
2. **My Timeline:** insert a Table, 3 columns across (you might add a 4th column for the person’s age). Year – short description – date if known. Add “blank” lines for the things you were going to look at next. The example below shows that I need more information about census returns a child’s birth, and dates of birth for siblings and children (if they are important to my research). Whether you find a wedding or a workhouse, a passenger list or a probate, note it in the timeline and record every detail of the record as a Reference.
3. **References:** as you find facts, ALWAYS transcribe and record them in full. There are examples below. Why? Because typing in Word is often easier than typing into a small box in family tree software. Type it in full here, it’s quick to do, and you can copy and paste as required. A great time saver.

Family history research should be exciting. The details – references, I call them here, and the images, can be added to a family tree program the next night or whenever you next have the opportunity. And when you next look at this Word document for “Ann Salthouse 1812” you can see at a glance what you already know, and what you intended to research next.

Nothing changes the basics facts of research – always try to find clues to corroborate your evidence. For example, the Memorial Inscription for Ann’s husband, James Hathaway, clearly states that his widow was formerly Ann Salthouse – that proves that we are on the right lines, looking at the right Ann Salthouse. If you add the 4th column, for the person’s expected age, you can check that the age on a census matches or doesn’t match the expected age, a large discrepancy should set alarm bells ringing. Use the timeline as a guide to keep you focused and on track through the initial research. Your timeline might only prove that you can’t find the “real” Ann Salthouse – and that is a success, too, because it means you have worked carefully and not latched onto the first likely record and declared it to be true.

The Timeline is not an alternative method of research, it just shows your current research “at a glance”. Pick this up six months later and you can continue from where you left off. In a perfect world, the next evening you would enjoy copying and pasting these details into your family tree software, carefully filing the images in your computer folder called “Ann Salthouse 1812” and double checking the details as you go. A satisfying occupation, leaving you ready for the next deep dive.

Ann Salthouse 1812 © Hilary Hartigan

Daughter of Anthony Salthouse and Sophia Salthouse

My Family Tree

Anthony Salthouse and Sophia Bradley									
	Margaret Salthouse 1802-1814 of Didsbury								
	Anthony Salthouse 1802-1822 of Didsbury								
	Sarah Salthouse 1805 of Didsbury								
	Ann Salthouse 1812-1906 of Didsbury								
		Ellen S Hathaway 1846 of Ewelme married John Justine							
		George F Hathaway 1849 of Ewelme							
		Ann Hathaway 1850 of Ewelme							
	Ellen Jane Salthouse c1816-1869 of Didsbury								

My Timeline

	Ann Salthouse 1812		
1812	Birth	0	
1812	Ann, daughter of Anthony and Sophia, baptised at Didsbury	0	5 Apr 1912
1816	Sister: Ellen Jane Salthouse of Didsbury	4	
1841	Census	29	
1844	Ann Salthouse married James Hathaway, Manchester Cath.	32	20 Nov 1844
1846	Daughter: Ellen S Hathaway (5 in 1851) of Ewelme	34	
1848	Son: George Hathaway, (3 in 1851) of Ewelme	36	
1851	Census (Ellen 5, George 3) at Ewelme	39	30 Mar 1851
	Son: Edwin		
1861	Census	49	
1871	Census	59	
1881	Census	69	
1891	Census	79	
1901	Census	89	
1905	Widowed: James Hathaway, husband of Ann Salthouse, died, 82,	92	24 May 1905
1906	Ann Hathaway died, 94, at Ewelme, midwife <60 years	94	13 Dec 1906

References and Census

1851 Census, Hathaway family at Ewelme

1851 Census of Ewelme, Oxford.

1841 James Hathaway, head, married, 30, baker, grocer (master), born Pyrton, Oxford, living at Ewelme, Oxford;

1851 Ann Hathaway, wife, married, 39, born Didsbury, Lancashire, living at Ewelme, Oxford;
1851 Ellen S Hathaway, daughter, 5, born Ewelme, Oxford; George F Hathaway, son, 3, born
Ewelme, Oxford;
1851 Ann Hathaway, daughter, 6 months, born Ewelme, Oxford.
(1851 Census Ewelme, Oxford, accessed at Ancestry on 17 Sep 2023)

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People

1812 Ann Salthouse, daughter of Anthony and Sophia Salthouse of Didsbury, baptised at St James, Didsbury on 5th April 1812. (Church of England Baptisms, Lancashire, accessed at Ancestry on 17 Sep 2023)

1844 Ann Salthouse married James Hathaway on 20th November 1844 at the Collegiate and Parish Church of Manchester [Cathedral]. Ann Salthouse was of full age, spinster of Didsbury, daughter of Anthony Salthouse, coachman. James Hathaway was of full age, bachelor of Didsbury, son of Thomas Hathaway, wheelwright. Ann and James were married after banns by ... Johnson. The register was signed by James Hathaway and Ann Salthouse and their witnesses Daniel Bann... and John Salthouse. (Marriages and Banns, Manchester (Cathedral), accessed at Ancestry on 17 Sep 2023)

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