

# Considering Age when researching your Ancestors

Davina Wilcock  
*Owner of AGR History*  
*Ancestry Genes Roots History*



Owner of AGRHistory  
Ancestry Genes Roots History  
Founded in 2021, after three  
decades of personal research. I  
took part in RootsTech 2022  
with my talk  
'Considering Surname  
Variations when researching  
your Ancestors'

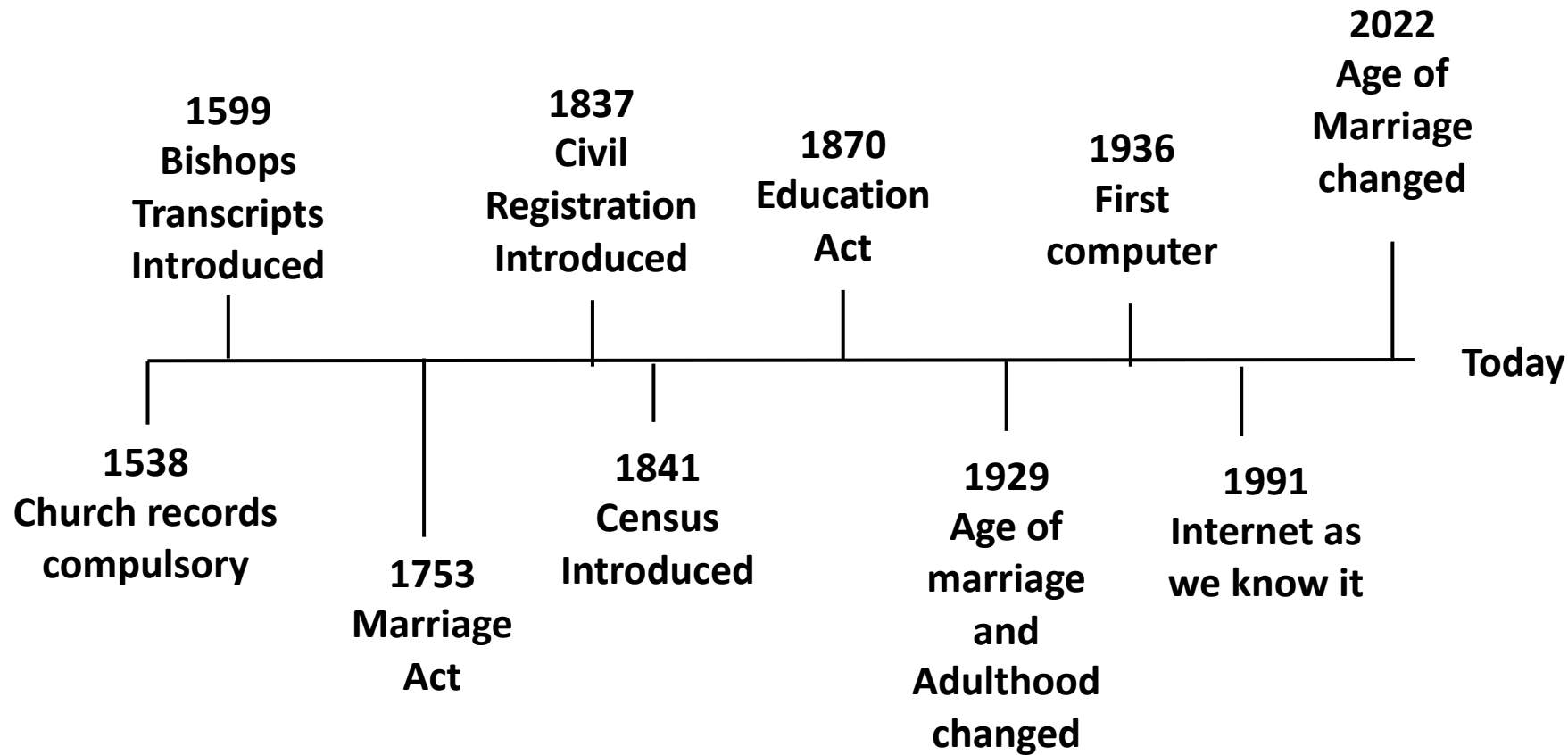
# Why!

What is Age and why do we need to consider it when doing family tree research?

# Reasons for Age Variations

- Key Dates in History
- 1538 – 1837
- Current records
- Common mistakes
- Time line of events
- Problems with documents
- Perception and Honesty
- Hints and Tips
- Underused website

# Key Dates in History



# 1538 to 1837

- Parish records
- Calendar year changed
- Marriage Act 1753
  - Legal age of Consent
  - Clergy liable



# Current Records

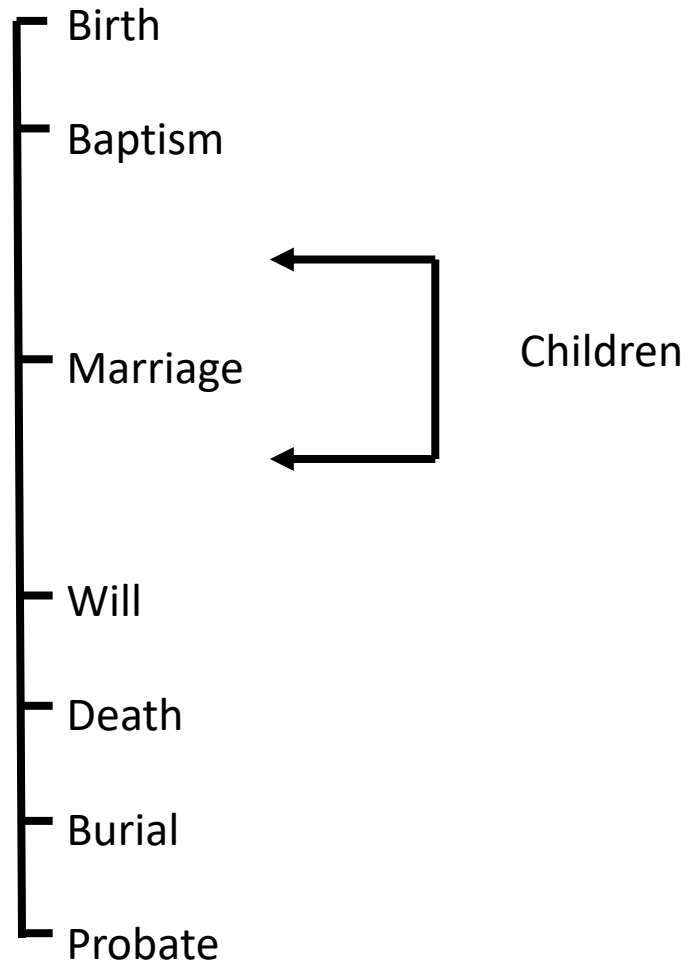
- Civil registration 1837
  - Birth
  - Marriage
  - Death
- Census records
- Enlistment First and Second World War
- Marriage age changes

# Common Mistakes

- Baptism not Birth
- Events to young
- Hints and tips added without checking
- Life too long
- Written Numbers
- Education
- Census ages
- Quarters on civil registration records
- Graves
- Events out of order



# Time Line of Events



# Problems with Documents

- Transcription errors
- Numbers in margins
- Faint / Smudged
- Damaged pages

“Age is an issue of  
mind over matter,  
it's just a number,  
if you don't mind it  
doesn't matter!”

Mark Twain  
1835-1910

# Perception and Honesty

- Importance
- Falsifying



# Hints and Tips

- Use an age range around date
- Be aware of time period
- Calendars
- Type of event
- Look at timelines
- Original Records
- Handwriting
- Other record sets

# Underused Website

General Registry Office (GRO)

➤ Death records

"Always  
Keep an open mind  
and think outside  
the box"

Davina Wilcock

2021©

# Recap

- Don't fixated on a year
- Use a year range when searching
- Be aware ages can be recorded wrong
- Always check original records were possible
- Check which calendar is in use
- Bear in mind the period your researching
- Use multiple sites
- Always use multiple record types
- Check death age on GRO



Presented by  
Davina Wilcock

Contact details  
Email: [agr.history@gmail.com](mailto:agr.history@gmail.com)



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