DISCOVERING YOUR PAST

Before You Add That Ancestor

Seven checks for evaluating a person or family connection

Person _____ Date _____

Question or proposed relationship _____

Tick each box when you have reviewed it. Record gaps and conflicts below.

☐ **Dates** Compare a timeline of births, marriages, children, residences, and deaths. Distinguish birth from baptism and mark estimated dates.

☐ **Places** Compare exact locations and possible moves. Check boundaries and look for evidence linking the person between places.

☐ **Family** Compare spouses, children, siblings, and parents. Evaluate each relationship separately; a shared surname is insufficient.

☐ **Occupation and identity** Compare work, addresses, and other identifying details. Investigate changes rather than assuming a match or a mismatch.

☐ **Witnesses and neighbours** Follow recurring names. Test whether they connect the records; do not assume a witness was a relative.

☐ **Sources** Read available record images, assess who supplied the information, and save full source details. Trace claims beyond copied trees.

☐ **Conflicts and alternatives** Investigate contradictions and other candidates. Note search limitations and explain why the evidence supports your conclusion.

Strongest evidence and source _____
_____

Unresolved issue and next record to check _____
_____

Current assessment ☐ Supported ☐ Tentative ☐ Not supported

Write your reasoning in your research notes. This checklist is a working aid, not a substitute for thorough research or the Genealogical Proof Standard.

A gentle next step Explore the free course Genealogy Foundations: Discover Your Family History and Ancestry.

https://sl1nk.com/xQ5GCV2