



Our Appleby one-name study is growing faster than ever!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here are some practical ways you could help out ...

One of the most important ways we can be certain that the individuals who appear on the trees on the website are IN THE RIGHT TREE (!) is by checking original birth, marriage and death entries. The Indexes which are available on many websites generally only provide basic information ... the original parish registers or GRO certificates often show key pieces of information that can confirm we have put an individual into the correct family and tree. And whilst we can't afford to purchase every GRO certificate, searching parish registers is generally free.

Adding to specific BMD SPREADSHEETS: Any volunteers with access to local Records Offices who would be prepared to spend some time searching for Appleby entries in **Parish Registers** for areas that are not yet available online, would be most welcome. And if you are working in an Archive that covers some of your own family history, you may even discover some new relatives! There are also lots of regions in the UK as well as almost all of Canada and the USA where I have hardly begun to transcribe **CENSUS** records!

Not a lot of people know it, but **Family Search** holds a range of parish register records that have never been indexed (particularly for Northumberland parishes). These are completely FREE to search! But unless you are a member of LDS, you usually need to access these microfilms at a Family History Centre. Some of these cover parishes where we know there were APPLEBYs living but there are no indexed databases online. I can provide the necessary links and a sample spreadsheet to enter the details that can be added to our standard regional spreadsheets – I just need some willing volunteers (who are good at reading old handwriting !) All **Essex parish registers** are also available at the SEAX website, but there is a small subscription charge to access these for a month – We have lots of Appleby lines in Essex, and I have produced a list of which indicates parishes I know they are likely to be found and those which I have already covered (and we have had some volunteers in the past who have checked several registers and sent me their findings). **Kent Archives** also provide free parish registers, though there are fewer parishes where I know we might find Appleby records.

I have started to transcribe Appleby families in **US Federal censuses**, but if anyone fancies taking over these or working on the **Canadian censuses**, I would be hugely grateful.

Collecting details of **PASSENGER RECORDS** and a **variety of other record sets** that hold Appleby entries to add to the data I have already started to collect. If you subscribe to one of the main Genealogy databases (Ancestry, Find My Past, The Genealogist) you could search through specific record sets for all APPLEBY/BEE entries and add the details to an Excel spreadsheet to be added to the Resource pages on the website (I can provide the example format you would need to use to

ensure your data can easily be added to existing excel sheets – and sometimes I have even started a spreadsheet with the first few search results – so check with me before you begin!)

SOME BASIC RULES: If you are going to undertake any record transcriptions – particularly if you are working from original records rather than records that have already been transcribed, in order for your searches to be useful there are some key rules you need to follow:

- First of all, check what has already been done
- Use a spreadsheet that includes columns for all the data and can be merged with my existing regional spreadsheets (I can send you examples)
- Always record the source of your information
- When searching online, use wild cards – AP*L*B* generally picks up all mistranscriptions and variables of the surnames we are covering
- when using a site such as Ancestry, Find My Past or The Genealogist, ALWAYS check the original images when available – it is astonishing how badly these have sometimes been transcribed
- record names of people and places EXACTLY AS THEY ARE WRITTEN what may look like a misspelling may be a variant of the surname that is used by just one family. If you can't read any letters in names or places – don't guess, put a '-' to replace the number of letters you are unable to read

FAMILY TREE RECONSTRUCTIONS ... a job for experienced researchers!!

To undertake this type of work requires an understanding of the importance of checking all the available facts before adding any individual to a tree, so is only something to be undertaken by experienced family history researchers. Sadly, the internet is becoming clogged up with inaccurate trees on public sites like Ancestry ... details from these are copied over and over again by unsuspecting beginners until these details are assumed to be correct (simply because they appear in so many trees!)

I have tried to ensure that every tree that appears on our Appleby website has been properly researched and all details double checked for accuracy. The reason so many of our trees do not go back much beyond 1800 is because unless full (original) parish register entries are available, I can only be certain of the correct family composition by checking them against censuses. And in the UK (where most Appleby lines originate) we only have censuses going back to 1841!

But I would really welcome any such experienced genealogists offering to undertake reconstructions of **NEW AND PARTLY CONSTRUCTED LINES** - perhaps ones that are centred in your own geographical region where you are familiar with the local sources. I am inexperienced in researching American and Canadian records, so would love someone to help with that!

REQUESTS FOR NEW TREES TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

I regularly receive requests from people who are keen to know more about their Appleby ancestors (who may be interested in taking a yDNA test to represent their line), but who do not possess the skills to undertake the research themselves. Whilst our project would benefit from more yDNA testers, we can only afford to subsidise yDNA tests for males descended from lines that have been researched sufficiently to establish they are NOT part of a line that has already tested. We have had so many new members joining in the past few months, there is a growing backlog of trees to be researched – some new members already have trees on sites such as Ancestry, but I always double check each

tree and use this process to add every census entry and BMD even to the spreadsheets – identifying these events with the name of the new tree. This process serves to double check that no marriage or census entry is allocated to more than one tree (if it IS, this alerts me immediately to either a potential error or that the new line is part of an existing line!!)

In particular, there are several lines from **South West England** in the early stages of reconstruction. If there is an experienced family history researcher out there with access to the Gloucestershire, Somerset & Devon parish registers who would like to work on them for me I should be eternally grateful.

Also if anyone has access to a good range of **Australian/NZ local records** I know there are lots of Applebys 'down under'! Most of these non-UK lines that need researching have been triggered by an enquiry from an Appleby descendant – and many will link back to the UK at some point in the 19th century, so may well belong to an existing line.

The most important quality you can offer is enthusiasm - please contact me if you think you can help in any way.

Sue Mastel

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