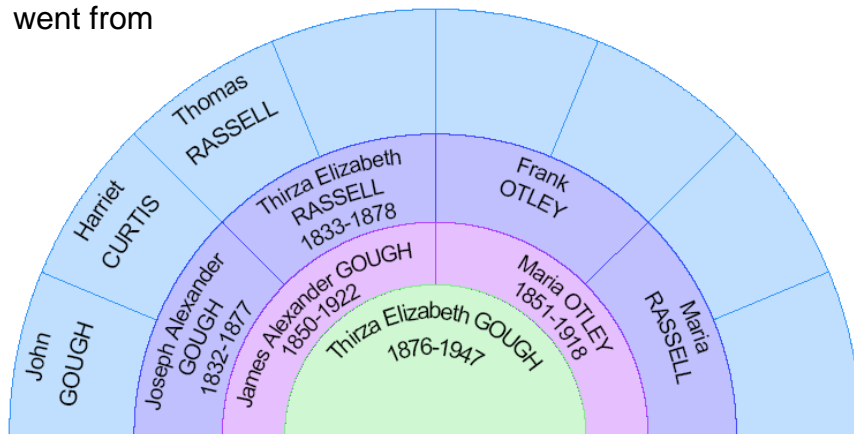


HIDDEN TREASURES OF CENSUS RECORDS

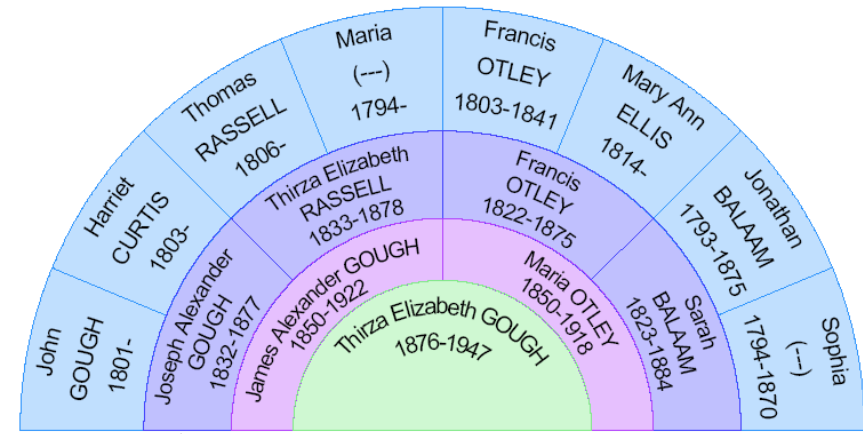
I used the England Census records, but the concepts used apply to all census records.

PURPOSE – to show how, in less than 2 weeks using the England census records, my grandmother, Thirza Gough’s pedigree, went from



THIS on 25 April 2006

TO



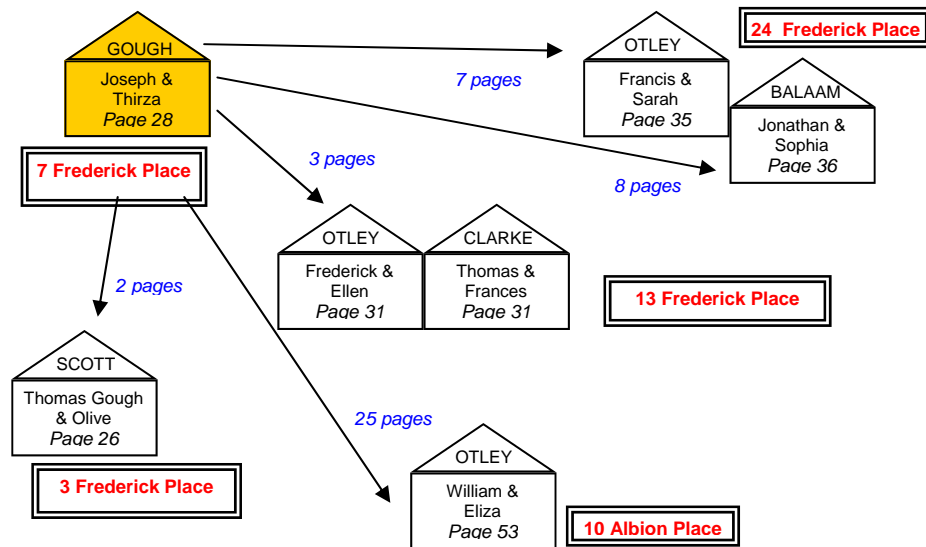
Lyn McOnie, 20 Liberal Ave, Manukau Heights, Auckland, New Zealand, 64 9 262 4590

THIS on 6 May 2006

Before starting this exercise the only census images I had were the 1861 and 1871 for Joseph and Thirza Gough, young Thirza’s grandparents.

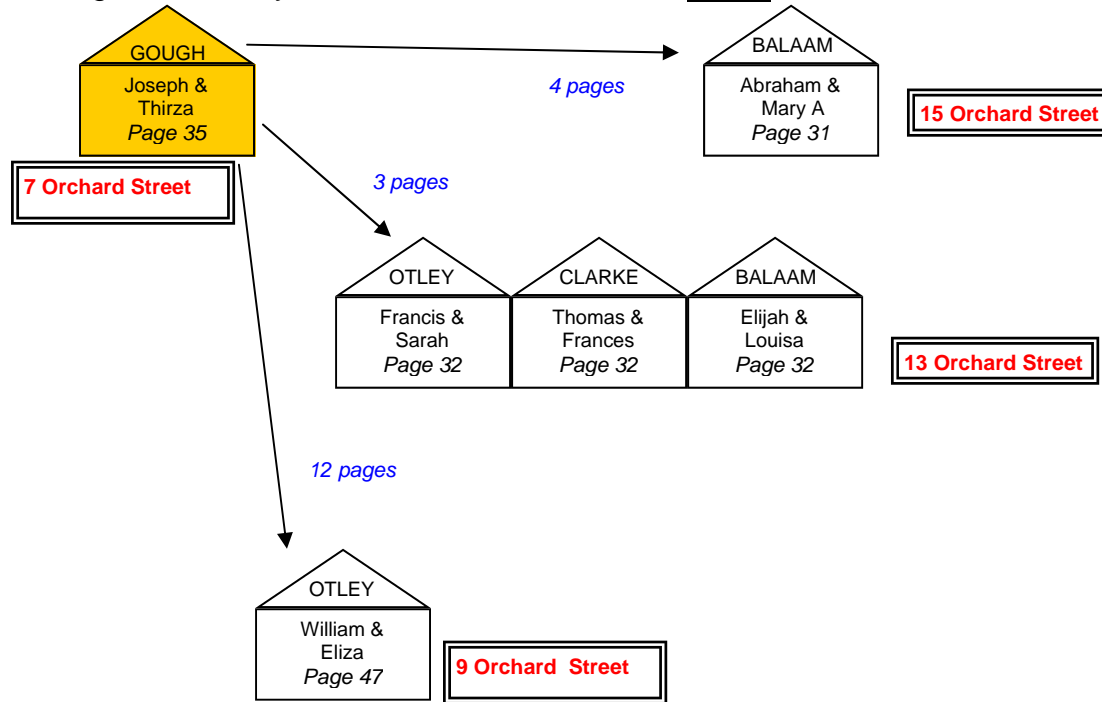
In April 2006 I thought I should look at other pages near Joseph on the **1861** census in Islington, London, England and here is what I found. This added some families to my list – didn't know who they all were but they lived so close to each other with the same names and birth places they had to belong somewhere. The pages refer to how many pages away from Joseph and Thirza they appeared in the census images. I knew Maria Otley was born about 1850 in Norfolk with a father Frank Otley. She was married in Islington in 1873 to James Gough. I found Francis and Sarah Otley with a daughter Maria born about 1850 in Norfolk. Figured this was probably her family even with the wrong mother's name. I could follow through on that later. She was about 10 years old and living in the same street as her future husband James.

Living with the Otleys were Jonathan and Sophia Balaam – about 30 years older than her. Presumably Sophia's parents.



1861 Census

I thought I would try the same exercise with the **1871** Census. This added a few more.



1871 Census

LOOK AT SEVERAL PAGES EACH SIDE OF YOUR MAIN PERSON – IF NOT THE WHOLE ENUMERATION DISTRICT

Page	Address	Names and Surnames	Relationship	Cond	Ages		Rank, profession or occupation	Where born or if born in county	Parish or Township
					M	F			
35	7 Orchard St	Joseph GOUGH	Head	Mar	39		Surveyors Clerk	Middlesex, Islington	Islington
		Thirza	Wife	Mar		38		Middlesex, Islington	
		James	Son	Unmd	20		Bricklayer	Middlesex, Islington	
		Elizabeth	Daur			13	Scholar	Middlesex, St Clements	
		Hannah	Daur			12	Scholar	Middlesex, Islington	
		Alice	Daur			10	Scholar	Middlesex, Islington	
		Edwin	Son		8		Scholar	Middlesex, Islington	
		Francis	Daur			7		Middlesex, Islington	
		Joseph	Son		6			Middlesex, Islington	
		Charles	Son		5			Middlesex, Islington	
		Walter	Son		1			Middlesex, Islington	
47	9 Orchard St	William OTLEY	Head	Mar	44		Laborer	Norfolk	Islington
		Eliza	Wife	Mar		39		Norfolk	
		Emma	Dau	unm		15	Purse maker	Middlesex, Islington	
		Hannah	Dau			13		Middlesex, Islington	
		Alfred	Son		3			Middlesex, Islington	
		Thomas	Son		1			Middlesex, Islington	
		George WELLS	Head	Mar	56		Brickmaker	Middlesex, Islington	
		Hannah	Wife	Mar		50		Hertford, Ware	
		Joseph	Son	unm	18		Laborer	Middlesex, Islington	
		James	Son	unm	15		Laborer	Middlesex, Islington	
		Emma	Dau			12	Scholar	Middlesex, Islington	
		William	Son		9			Middlesex, Islington	
32	13 Orchard St	Thomas CLARKE	Visitor Head	Mar	58		Laborer general	Suffolk	Islington
		Francis	Wife	Mar		54		Norfolk	
		George	Son	unm	31		Laborer general	Norfolk	
		Albert Plagt??	Visitor		14		Messenger	Middlesex, Islington	
		Francis OTLEY	Head	Mar	48		Laborer	Norfolk, Thetford	
		Sarah	Wife	Mar		48		Norfolk, Bannam	
		Maria	Dau	unm		21	Servant Day	Norfolk, Thetford	
		Sophia	Dau			12	Scholar	Middlesex, Islington	
		Elijah BALAAM	Head	Mar	52		Army Pensioner	Norfolk, Thetford	
		Louisa	Wife	Mar		33		Middlesex, Islington	
		Robert	Son		6		Scholar	Middlesex, Islington	

1871

A spreadsheet helps to organize all the image information so it is easier to see the connections at a glance.

Next I went after any **Goughs** in Middlesex and found Josephs father who appeared to have remarried. I decided it was him in the 1851 census because he had a son John Curtis and his wife's maiden name was Curtis. Harriet must have died before the 1851 census as she is on the 1841 census with the children. Then I found young John with his family.

I kept seeing Alexander Gough in my searching so I kept a copy of each census I found him in. It wasn't until I saw him on the 1851 census that I found a connection. Living with him was Harriet Gough, his niece who wasn't with her brother and father and her mother appears to have died. Looks like Alexander is the brother to John Gough.

EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW THE RELATIONSHIP KEEP THE INFORMATION – THE RELATIONSHIP COULD SHOW LATER

My Goughs emigrated to New Zealand in 1874 so I was not looking for them on any more census.

To find the **Otleys** in the 1851 Census would have been very difficult if I had relied on the indexes. By now I was used to searching several pages either side of the first person I found. *Even with doing this I did not find Francis Otley until I looked a second time – there he was – recorded as Hartley!* In the same house was his brother William.

I found a Shadrack and Ellen in the 1871, 81 and 91 censuses with their children, MaryAnn and George. I realised that this must be the person recorded as Frederick with wife Ellen and children MaryAnn and George in the 1861 census.

Finding him in the 1851 census is where it got interesting. He was 17 years old and living with Abraham Balaam and Mary A. He was recorded as the son-in-law to Abraham. They were in the same house as Jonathan and Sophia Balaam and another family. Now what was he doing with these people? Where were his parents? This required a look at the BMD indexes and then the parish records for a marriage of Abraham Balaam. I found him married to MaryAnn Otley, widow, daughter of William ELLIS. The BMD showed that Francis had died and she married her daughter-in-law's brother. So Shadrack was actually the step-son of Abraham.

In the 1881 census Shadrack had Sarah Otley living with him. She was a widow so Francis must have died. Because of the ages of Shadrack and Francis I figured they were brothers and Shadrack was taking care of his widowed sister-in-law.

Back to the 1841 census to see what I could find. There I found Shadrack with his parents Francis and Mary and siblings Francis, William and Sarah. Another piece of the puzzle fell into place.

A couple of houses away lived Sophia Bentley, with her family. Checked the freebmd indexes to find that a Sophia Otley had married John Bentley. Looked like she was the daughter of Francis and Sarah.

ENUMERATORS WROTE WHAT THEY HEARD eg FREDERICK INSTEAD OF SHADRACK

A SON-IN-LAW COULD BE A STEP SON – RELATIONSHIPS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE THE MODERN MEANING

ENUMERATORS WROTE WHAT THEY HEARD eg HARTLEY INSTEAD OF OTLEY

The last 2 families I needed to look for were the **Balaams** and the **Rassells**. Balaam was spelt the following ways throughout the census – Balham, Balam, Balaam, Baalam.

In the 1841 census of Thetford, Norfolk, Jonathan with his wife Sophia and 8 children had a lady with the name F Bollingbrook aged 85 years living with them. Could this be his mother-in-law? Strong possibility. I later found a death index for a Frances Bollingbrook who died in 1842 in Thetford. Jonathan and Sophia's second daughter was named Frances. More evidence to strengthen my theory. Now waiting on certificates from England. Just a few doors away lived A. Balaam who was probably their son Abraham, who was living in the same house as Jonathan in the 1851 census. Also close by was an Elijah Balaam and an Elijah appeared later living in the same house as Sarah which makes him a strong suspect as another son of Jonathan. In the 1881 and 1891 census there is a Robert Balaam who was born in 1838 so he also was likely the son of Jonathan. And just to keep it all in the family he has Ellis Clarke living with him in 1881, the son of Thomas and Frances Clarke which probably makes Frances the sister of Robert.

FORM A HYPOTHESIS - THEN PROVE IT RIGHT OR WRONG

NAMES CAN BE SPELT MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

AN OLDER WIDOW LIVING WITH A YOUNG FAMILY COULD BE THE WIFES MOTHER

To finish with the Rassells, I found Thomas with his wife Maria and daughter Sophia. This solves the puzzle of why I had Maria Russell as the mother of Maria Otley Gough on her death certificate. The name would have been given by a family member at the time of her death and in their grief mixed up the name of her husband's grandmother with her mother.

NOT ALL INFORMATION ON CERTIFICATES IS ACCURATE – USE A VARIETY OF SOURCES

I had not realized the first time I looked at the 1871 census that there was another possible relation living with the Gough family. MaryAnn Symes was born in Thetford and her age suggests she could be the daughter of Francis Otley and Sarah Balaam.

Using the civil registration records and parish records I will be able to confirm or disprove all these relationships.

GO BACK AND LOOK AT THE IMAGES AGAIN AND AGAIN.

CHECK THE HYPOTHESIS AGAINST OTHER RECORDS

At the end of this exercise I had the following 18 new family groups:

Gen. 1 F BOLLINGBROOK

Gen. 2 Jonathan BALAAM = Sophia BOLLINGBROOK with 10 children

Gen. 3 Elijah BALAAM = Louisa with 1 child

Frances BALAAM = Thomas CLARKE with 3 children

Robert BALAAM = Charlotte with 1 child

Gen. 4 Ellis CLARKE = Keziah with 3 children

Gen. 1 William ELLIS with 1 child
Gen. 2 Francis OTLEY = Mary Ann ELLIS with 4 children
Gen. 3 William OTLEY = Eliza with 7 children
Shadrack OTLEY = Ellen with 2 children
Francis OTLEY = Sarah BALAAM with 5 children
Gen. 4 Sophia OTLEY = John BENTLEY with 5 children
MaryAnn OTLEY = Matthew SYMES with 3 children
Gen. 2 John GOUGH = Susannah
John GOUGH = Harriet CURTIS with 3 children
Gen. 3 John Curtis GOUGH = Ann Mary with 2 children
Gen. 2 Alexander GOUGH = MaryAnne with 6 children
Gen. 2 Thomas RASSELL = Maria with 2 children

In less than two weeks I found one 2nd great grandparent, five 3rd great grandparents and two 4th great grandparents, merely by looking a few pages either side of my original family. They all come from Suffolk, Norfolk and Islington in London.