

Clan Tree Style Guide

When I first applied to the Guild of One Name Studies to do a Warburton project they estimated the total number of Warburtons that would fall within its scope to be about 30,000. To date the various clans I have published include about 5,600. I have barely scratched the surface.

I know there are a number of Warburton family trees around various websites (Ancestry, GenesReunited etc.), and I am sure there are other private ones. I would like to see as many of these as possible added to The Warburton Website and hope you do too.

I have already built a number of trees from information passed to me by various people but this is time consuming, and I still have many submissions to work through. Even when the information is in a convenient form such as a GEDCOM file from a Family Tree Program it usually contains non-Warburton branches, is in a different style, and doesn't explore other related Warburton branches.

A major difference between a Warburton clan tree, and a standard family tree is that a clan tree is an inverted form of family tree. Whereas a family tree tends to start with a living individual and follow several lines of ancestors back as far as possible, a clan tree starts with the earliest known Warburton ancestor and follows all possible lines of Warburton descendants towards modern day.

It would be a great help to me, and maybe of interest to the developer if people were prepared to separate and develop their Warburton line in a form that is compatible with other trees on the website. I have therefore developed this Style Guide to help with that.

Scope

As I am concerned with Warburton clans the scope of the clan tree is restricted to Warburtons and their spouses, though additional information may be added as a note. Thus a Mr Warburton's wife will be in the tree but her parents or other ancestors will not. His daughter's husband will also be included but her children will not, except as a note containing any interesting information, including the number and sex of them.

Sources

I don't use the sources feature of family tree programs as I believe the superscripts they generate impact on the readability of Descendant Reports. Therefore I have adopted a simplistic approach to sources in that they are either assumed or mentioned in the text of notes. This is expanded in the section below.

The rationale is that although there are many places to find images or transcripts of church records, it is the record itself that is the source, and it is the only likely source in most cases. Similarly census information, and BMD registrations only have a single source, though these are available and sometimes embellished on various sites.

Information Captured

The following information is recorded where available:

1. Date of Birth. If an exact date of birth is shown it is assumed to have come from parish records, or from a recent death registration, or the 1939 Register which both include date of birth. If it is from elsewhere it should be noted. Normally just the year will be shown. This will be deduced from the date of baptism, or from the quarter when it was registered, though a registration in the first quarter, or a baptism in the early weeks of the year could be for a birth in the previous year so the year could be prefixed with

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'abt'. Although most baptisms occurred 1-3 months after the birth, there are occasional late, or very late baptisms.

2. Date of Baptism. This is assumed to be from church records.
3. Place of birth: This will either be the parent's abode on the parish record, or the place of birth on census entries.
4. Census entries are recorded as census events, and should include date, place and an event memo. The event memo should detail the content of the census entry including names, ages and occupation. The sequence head, wife, children is assumed so only variations need noting. Lodgers and live-in servants should be mentioned but don't need the same level of detail. In the 1911 census the years married, and the numbers of children born and living, are recorded. These should be noted.
5. If appropriate details from the 1939 Register should be handled as an event.
6. Date of Death. Usually this will only be the year, but an exact date will be known if a monumental inscription, obituary, or death certificate is available, or if it has been recorded in the parish register. The last will be assumed if there is no mention of one or more of the others.
7. Date of Burial. This will only be included if an exact date is known from church records, or monumental inscriptions. It is possible the place of burial will be known but not the exact date (e.g. if all we have is a date of death on a headstone).
8. Notes. Notes can include anything of interest that is known and should include the source of any unusual information. Where possible a reference to the Registration index for the birth and death should be noted to aid interested parties in purchasing certificates. If the whole tree is based on a specific source then this should be noted in the Notes for the oldest ancestor.
9. Marriages. Date and location should be noted where known. The event memo should include details from the marriage record in parish records, though before 1840 there is usually nothing relevant. A reference to the registration index entry should be entered if relevant. The bride and groom are assumed to be a spinster and bachelor if it is not stated otherwise.

Living people should not be included though their presence can be indicated by noting the number and sex of children and grandchildren of their most recently deceased ancestor. If unsure people under 90 should be assumed to be alive.