

Early Calendar Dating for Family Tree Maker

Preferred methods used by the Filby Association.

Birth, Marriage and Death Records

In 1538 the Official Church of England instructed vicars and rectors to record the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in their Parish, but alas the repeated injunctions to this effect failed to generally stimulate obedience to this edict, until about 1650 when those recorded were written in Latin or early English script.

From 1754 onwards, special books were devised in London for the recording of Banns and Marriages, and soon ruled books for recording Baptisms and Burials were in use.

How earlier year's dates were recorded

In 1752 the English Parliament revised the 'Julian' calendar then in use, to provide for the New Year to commence with January 1st the 'Gregorian' calendar, rather than on March 25th as had been the custom in previous centuries. For the year 1750 it was decreed that the day after September 1st should be the 13th to make up for the days lost in the change-over of calendars.

Hence prior to 1752 (and in most Parish Records through to 1800) the Months of January, February and March would be written as 1658/59 to include both the old and the New Year. So it was that children might have been recorded as being born a few months after marriage when in fact it may have been a year or more.

In order to comply with current dating using the Gregorian calendar for calculation of ages, in some instances we have converted all birth, marriage and deaths pre-1807, taking place in January, February and March, to the following year. Also as Parish records give only the date of a baptism, in some cases this has been stated as the date of birth, again to calculate the age as near as possible, rather than have no date of birth at all.

Naming 'Unknown' using Family Tree Maker

It was decided in recent years that where we could not identify an individual by either Christian or Surname that instead of using 'unknown' we would leave space for either of the names to be added at a future date. The method when updating our trees has been to use "_____" for the Christian name and "_____" for the Surname. Hence one or the other could be added without the individual being known by one name only. This method also helps when we search our Index of Individuals.

"_____" "_____" instead of Unknown

Mary "_____" when Surname missing

"_____" Filby when Christian name missing

Unfortunately, there are instances where 'Wife of' is stated in Parish Records for early BIRTHS instead of a name. This would also be treated as "_____" "_____"