

# Efficient Genealogical Browsing

## Making best use of your time while searching Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, etc.

I guess most of us are making good use of the Internet for our family research.

With the availability of more resources (particularly Ancestry.com) I have been doing quite a lot of revision and double-checking lately, and in one case found a significant error in identification of a great-grandmother. This led to a new bout of research.

If you have Broadband then web pages load faster. But if, like me, you have been downloading images of census sheets etc., there can still be a lot of waiting. So what can you do to improve your productivity?

I found that setting up your browser for optimum ease of use makes a great difference. I addressed 2 aspects:

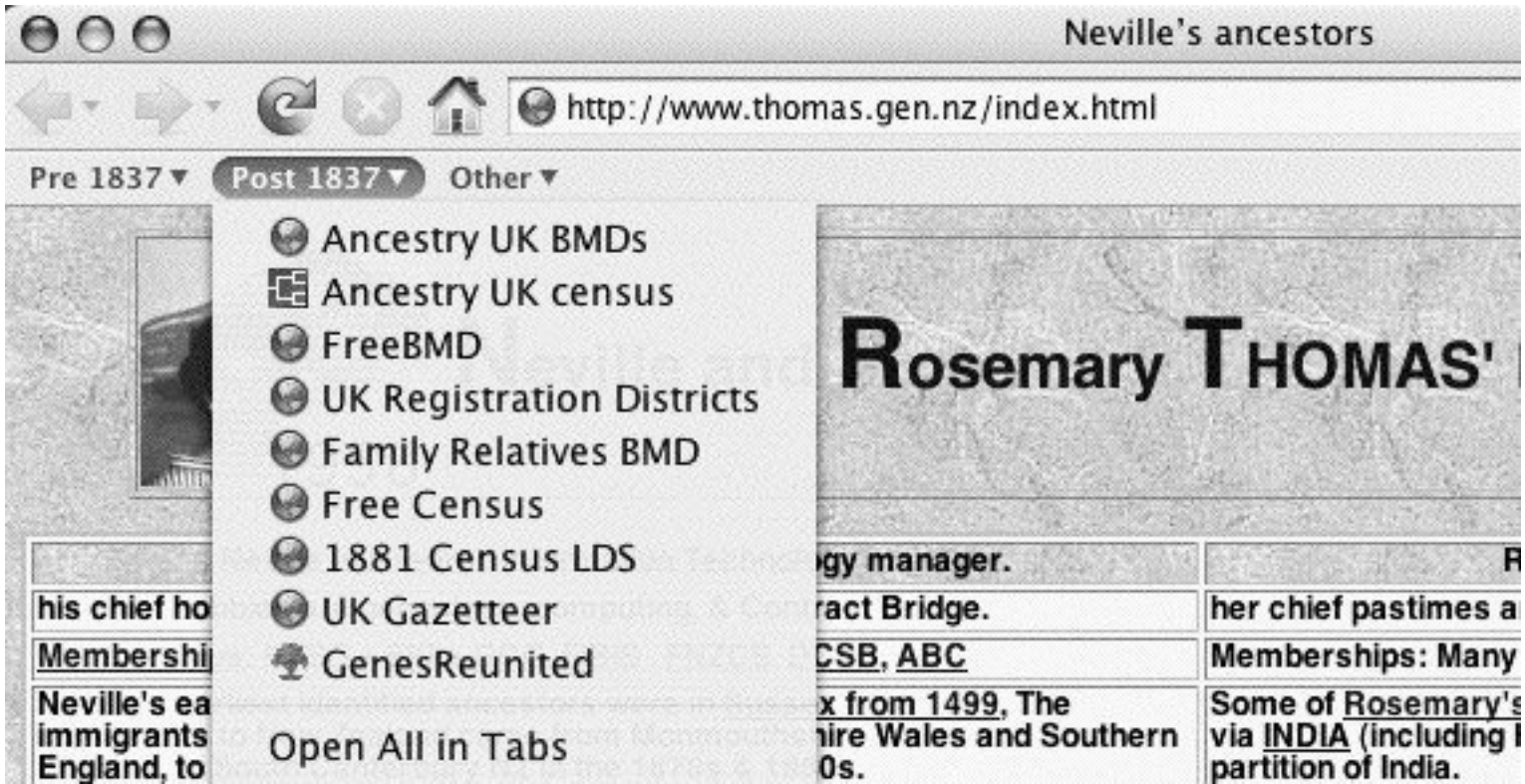
1. Organising Bookmarks for efficient use
2. Using tabbed browsing to perform multiple simultaneous searches and view multiple related results.

### 1. Organising Bookmarks (using Firefox as the example browser)

I wanted the frequently used sites always accessible from the browser **Toolbar** so that I can start searching without delay.

I grouped my frequently used sites into 2 groups, each in a folder in the **Bookmarks Toolbar Folder**

**Post 1837 sites:** (see appendix for URLs)  
Ancestry UK census  
Ancestry UK BMD  
*the above 2 separately so I can go directly to either*  
FreeBMD  
*alternative to Ancestry*  
UK Registration Districts  
*useful if not essential when searching BDMs*  
Family Relatives BMD  
*a UK subscription service completely indexed 1866-1920*  
LDS 1881 census  
*a different transcription from Ancestry.com*  
UK FreeCensus  
*also a different transcription from Ancestry.com*  
UK Gazetteer  
*to clarify place names*



**Pre 1837 sites:**

FamilySearch

*covers more than the IGI*

IGI

IGI batch numbers England

*another essential resource*

Family History Library Catalogue

*to check on Parish Register availability at LDS*

GENUKI Church Database

*to check on adjacent parish names*

Each group appears in the Toolbar with the items in a pull-down menu.



You will probably have a different set of favourite sites to cover your particular areas of research.

## 2. Using tabbed browsing.

I find tabbed browsing so much more efficient for two reasons:

### 2.1

You can initiate one or more additional searches while waiting for results.

I find it time-saving to start a further related search while waiting for a census image to download.

Or start a BMD search as well a census search (usually for the same person!)

You can see when each search is completed, then click that tab to see the result.

### 2.2

You can have two or more related searches to compare and cross-check results

Different census transcriptions often produce different results

You can check folio/page numbers against Registration Districts

You can check place names in the Gazetteer while considering a search result.

And lots more

The following illustration shows three tabs in use:

1. is downloading a census image
2. is searching the BMDs
3. has just downloaded the UK Registration Districts



## REGISTRATION DISTRICTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (1837-1974)

I believe that once you've used this approach you will not want to revert to previous methods. Why not give it a try.

## APPENDIX    URLs

Ancestry UK census	<a href="http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/uk/default.aspx">http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/uk/default.aspx</a>
Ancestry UK BMD	<a href="http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/default.aspx?rt=34">http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/default.aspx?rt=34</a>
FreeBMD	<a href="http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl">http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl</a>
UK Registration Districts	<a href="http://www.fhsc.org.uk/genuki/REG/index.htm">http://www.fhsc.org.uk/genuki/REG/index.htm</a>
Family Relatives BMD	
LDS 1881 census	<a href="http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=census/search_census.asp">http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=census/search_census.asp</a>
UK FreeCensus	<a href="http://www.freecen.org.uk/cgi/search.pl">http://www.freecen.org.uk/cgi/search.pl</a>
UK Gazetteer	<a href="http://www.gazetteer.co.uk/">http://www.gazetteer.co.uk/</a>
IGI batch numbers England ( <a href="http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchNumbers/CountryEngland.htm#PageTitle">http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchNumbers/CountryEngland.htm#PageTitle</a> )	
GENUKI Church Database	<a href="http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb/search.html">http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb/search.html</a>