

# KEY POINTS IN DRAFTING OUT A FAMILY TREE

**B.** = Birth  
**Ch.** = Christening  
 = or **M.** = Married  
**D.** = Died  
**Bur.** = Buried  
 (They can be in lower case, but be consistent)

Print the date like:- **23 Jan 1874**  
 or **23 January 1874**

Include WHERE, if possible i.e.  
 The Church, Village, Parish, County.

**SURNAMES**  
 are always in  
 capital letters.

If you are going to produce A4 sheets with many families - List all those surnames on the page i.e.

**BLOGGS**  
**SMITH**  
**BROWN**  
**WHITE**  
**BROWN**

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The **male** is always on the left of the = symbol.

Putting (**nee SURNAME**) after the female's name indicates:-

1. She married.
2. Shows her **maiden** name.
3. Additional marriages are **numbered**.

**Joe BLOGGS = Mary (nee SMITH) (1)**  
**B.** 12 Jan 1805, Chelsea  
**M.** 26 Mar 1832, Poole  
**D.** 3 Dec 1872, Wimborne  
**B.** 28 Apr 1812, Wareham. Dorset  
 = (2) Alice (nee **WHITE**)  
 = (3) Jane (nee **BLACK**)

The **earliest** born, starts at this end.

The **youngest** will be at this end (also include those that have died; in birth order).

Peter      William = Anne (nee **BROWN**)

The line **drops down** onto the son or daughter, with the = (marriage indicator), showing to whom they married.

**YOU**      ?      ?

Join your **local** Family History Society for support and advice; but also join the society where you think most of your family originates.



Somerset & Dorset FHS - [www.sdfhs.org](http://www.sdfhs.org)

[www.genealogy.hampshire.org.uk/](http://www.genealogy.hampshire.org.uk/) Very useful links for most common key areas.  
[www.ancestor-search.info](http://www.ancestor-search.info) Very comprehensive English & Welsh starter site.

Record from where the facts were obtained. - Start with immediate family and first hand interviews, which are ideal, but remember all the facts may not be correct! - confirm later. If you are not sure of a date or letter, put a ? for each unknown e.g. 18(?)7, SM?TH or even for a person. Go to the original sources, if possible, to confirm what you have discovered. Internet data is notoriously incorrect!  
 Draw out your family tree on paper first, then create one using Word - alterations and additions can be easily added at any time, but include the date modified.