



A Family Tree For Me  
Trace your roots without the digging

## Palaeography Research

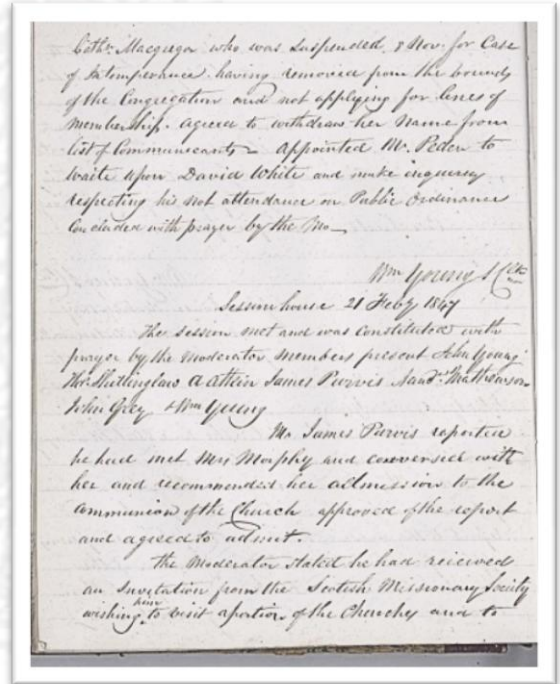
Here at A Family Tree For Me we are able to give you an option to using our professional Palaeography / transcription Services. We feel that by encompassing what we find with the transcription could aid in further discoveries to your families research.

Palaeography: before very long, and certainly as you go back to the 18th century and earlier, you will need some help in reading the documents! Styles of writing such as the elegant 'Secretary Hand' are actually much easier to read than something written now, but students will have to learn the 'code' in order to understand them. Palaeography is a skill that most people learn easily, and in which they take great pride

Palaeography and its transcription has to be one of the core essential skills used by genealogist and historians. There are two main issues that have to be dealt with.

The first of these is the decoding of characters to recoding them in today's language. Because at each main stage in history changes and styles of writing become apparent.

The second of these is the way that the scribes of the time shortened or abbreviated words. They did this a time saving exercise, so that they could save space on the paper.



When looking at what is behind Palaeography we find it is more than just the study of ancient writing. Once you get back to early records, you'll find you're faced with a number of challenges.

- Latin may be used.
- The style of writing may be unfamiliar.
- The ink may have faded or even dropped off the page.
- The pages may be stained with mould.
- The spelling used is, shall we say, 'quaint'.
- Numbers may be written in Roman Numerals.
- Months may be partly written in Roman Numerals. E.g. October may be written **VIIIber**, (it was the eighth month by the old calendar).
- Punctuation was not very good and often omitted altogether.
- Unlike today, a capital letter was often used mid-sentence to emphasis any word, felt important.
- Some expressions were used with which you might not be familiar.

All of these factors make reading early writing a challenge to the amateur genealogist. A useful site with tutorials on reading old documents is that at the UK National Archives.

If these services are of interest to contact us by completing the Palaeography/ transcription form, you can use the contact form link below, where you will be able to specify your personal requirements, if we need any other information we will discuss these requirements with you and give you a firm quotation and await your confirmation before we proceed.



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