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| TITLE | From Acorn to Oak: Building a Family Tree, Part 3 |
| TUTOR | Dr Matthew Ward |

Dear Student,

Thank you for enrolling on this Lifelong Learning course. This letter gives you some further information. If you have any questions, please contact either:

**The LLL Office**: [learning@aber.ac.uk](mailto:learning@aber.ac.uk)

**The Tutor:** Dr Matthew Ward [maw138@aber.ac.uk](mailto:maw138@aber.ac.uk)

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emm32@aber.ac.uk)

We hope you enjoy the course.

Best Wishes,

**The Lifelong Learning Team**

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**GETTING STARTED**

**Aberystwyth University Student Account**

Before you can begin your course, you need to activate your **Aberystwyth University Student Account**. After you pay and enrol, you will be sent your **unique student number** by the Lifelong Learning Administrator. This will enable you to obtain your student username and set a password for your student account.

Having an account gives you many additional benefits such as access to the university library and online journals, an email address, and discounts for university services.

[Click here](https://myaccount.aber.ac.uk/open/activate/) to find all the instructions you will need to set up your student account.

Once you have completed this process login to your [Aberystwyth University email account here](https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&redirect_uri=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office.com%2fowa%2f&resource=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&response_mode=form_post&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid&msafed=0&client-request-id=1a50f117-68e4-464d-b9c3-80fd788cb7e5&protectedtoken=true&claims=%7b%22id_token%22%3a%7b%22xms_cc%22%3a%7b%22values%22%3a%5b%22CP1%22%5d%7d%7d%7d&domain_hint=aber.ac.uk&nonce=637354312838097988.a0319ebd-6272-4475-a59a-e0b8afa5fbe1&state=Dcs7DoMwEEVRO1kJTTobf5lxgbKWNzBIUUCRkBK2HxfndtcaY-7drbOhx9CUKdeSY-LMoVFj9gg5NpXVTYmSK4WqQ21wGoSxoW6i0fZ3GD8Xxuep2I8ZoqfH4r_vx2-dL5UDr_0P)

**Online Learning Environment: Blackboard**

Once you have an active username and password you can login to our **online learning environment** called **Blackboard** by going to[https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk](https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk/). This is where you can access the learning materials for your course, interact online with your tutor and other students and submit your assignments.

**Microsoft Teams**

Your course may include one or more live online learning webinars or seminars. If so, these will be held using the online platform **Microsoft Teams**. Like Blackboard, you can access Teams online by going to <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and logging in with your Aberystwyth University student username and password. Although not essential, we would recommend you download the Microsoft Teams software onto your desktop. Once you have logged in, you can do this from the Microsoft Teams homepage. Click on the circle in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select **Download the Desktop App.**

If an online meeting has been scheduled by your tutor you will receive an email to your **University Email Account** that will contain a link, which you can click on to join the meeting. Alternatively, if you go to your **Calendar** in Microsoft Teams, which is on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see a **Join button** appear by the meeting just before it begins, which you can click on.

If you haven’t used Microsoft Teams before I would recommend watching this one minute [**video (link)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pauAUOl8v4) so you know what to expect.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

From Acorn to Oak, Part Three, is the third of three courses in a genealogy series. It will help you to continue to develop your family tree by introducing you to new historical records and online searching techniques. It is also suitable for those who have already completed a significant amount of family tree research, but would like to learn more about genealogical records and how to research databases more effectively.  
  
This course focuses primarily on British family history research. Students will learn how to effectively search a number of subscription and free genealogical websites, as well as use and interpret non-conformist records and directories. This module will also focus on how to write your family history, how to break down those fiendish brick walls and what DNA tests can tell us about our family history.  
  
This online learning course enables you to study from home and participate in an online community of other students learning about genealogy. The module is delivered through Blackboard, our online learning environment. Wherever possible, alternative free resources are highlighted, and the majority of the subscription websites used are available to access for free through local public library services. Some of the online resources referred to during this course do require a subscription, if accessed from home.  
  
From Acorn to Oak, Part Three can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also the third core module, of three, for the Certificate of Higher Education in Genealogical Studies at Aberystwyth University.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Build and develop their family tree back into the eighteenth century, if possible, by effectively searching a wide variety of historical records to locate information.
2. Perform advance level online searches on a number of genealogical websites to locate relevant records using multiple pieces of information.
3. Collate, analyse and synthesise information, from a wide variety of primary and secondary source material, to produce a research project that positions their ancestors within a wider socio-economic and historic context.
4. Approach a family tree 'brick wall' methodically and critically, using a variety of search tools.

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Activities and tasks will be embedded into each unit so students can practise the techniques they have learned and develop their skills. Students will be encouraged to share their own work and participate in discussions on Blackboard. Alongside the learning materials on Blackboard the tutor will be on hand via email to answer any queries and provide guidance throughout the course. They will also participate in the online discussions.

Unit 1 – Introduction

Unit 2 - Non-conformist records

Unit 3 – Directories

Unit 4 - Telling your story: how to build a narrative from family history data

Unit 5 -How to deal with ancestors with common names

Unit 6 - DNA: how can it complement your DNA research?

This module will contain 1-2 live webinars to bring all the strands of the module together and students can submit questions to be answered.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Written Project (2000 words) 100%

Find our full programme listings here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses/>

Are you interested in completing a Certificate in Higher Education? If you are, speak to your tutor or contact the co-ordinator: [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emm32@aber.ac.uk)