

# Tracing descendants

- Different from tracing ancestry
- Much harder!
- Can be done, but depends on
  - names (how common?)
  - place (some places almost impossible)
  - timescale

Tracing ancestors	Tracing descendants
Self → parents, etc	Someone in the past → children, etc
Going backwards in time	Going forwards in time
Everyone has 2 parents, everyone dies.	Not everyone marries or has children, they may have many children, they may not have died yet, they may have moved

# Mobility factors

- Think of some of the driving forces of the times
  - Enclosures
  - Industrial revolution
  - Coming of the railways
  - Local factors in the area
  - War and mobilisation
  - Emigration

# Approach (England)

- Find out what you can about the person:
  - full name
  - date of birth
  - parents and siblings
  - occupation
- Trace forward using parish records (if available) and censuses to 1911
- Search BMD indexes for deaths (first); marriage (after 1912) then children
- Be prepared to spend up big on certificates

# Approach (other places)

- Access to BMD indexes usually restricted
- May need to rely more on
  - Death certificates (often contain information on marriage and children, not so in England)
  - Electoral rolls
  - PO Directories
  - Newspapers

# Case study in England

- From the 1911 census:
  - 9 Nelson Terrace, Park Road, Birmingham
  - **Henry Walter SMITH, age 7, born B'ham**
  - Father Henry, 47, Driver of Cripple Ambulance, b. B'ham
  - Mother Clara, 44, b. B'ham
  - Sister Ida, 10, b. B'ham
- Three other Henry Walter SMITHS age 6 in London area...