

Genealogical Calendar Dating

Old Style / New Style Dating –

The calendar change made everyone born on or before 2 September 1752 (and after 29 February 1700) 11 days older (by the New Style or Gregorian calendar) than the record of his birth (in the Old Style or Julian calendar) would indicate.

Those born on or before 29 February 1700 need to push their birth dates ahead 10 days.

When a child was born before September 1752 and the birth was recorded contemporaneously, add 11 days to the date to obtain the New Style (Gregorian) equivalent. And when a person born prior to September 1752 dies and a record states his exact age at death, subtract the age from the date of death, and then subtract 11 days more to obtain the Old Style (Julian) equivalent.

When the number of the month was stated in any record prior to 1752, the genealogist should reckon March as the first month and February as the twelfth month.

Before 1752, there is likely to be some confusion with regard to dates between 1 January and 24 March, unless we know what New Year's Day a particular recorder used.

A year that is listed as 1608/1609 means that it would be the year 1608 in the 'Old Style' or Julian calendar, and it would be the year 1609 on the 'New Style' or Gregorian calendar.

Regnal Dating –

Historic documents often use a form of dating called “regnal dating” – based on a particular year in the reign of a particular monarch. For example, citing an event as occurring on the 13 October in the 3d year of the reign of King William I of England (which would be equivalent to 13 Oct 1157).

An excellent online converter from regnal dating to calendar dating can be found at:

http://www.bsswebsite.me.uk/Daysanddates/regnal_year_converter.htm

Useful websites concerning regnal dates and dating also can be found at:

http://www.genproxy.co.uk/king_queen_reign_dates_regnal.htm and

<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/cal/medcal.shtml>

And a detailed monograph (in PDF format), “A Handbook Of Dates For Students Of British History,” can be downloaded from: <http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam032/99027383.pdf>