

# How to Write an Effective Surname Connection

Presented by Marion Peterson

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## What Not To Do

I am researching the Rath surname. Please send all information to me and I will share everything I know with you.

## Better But Still Off the Mark

I am looking for my great-great-great-grandfather, James Rath. He came from Ireland. They had a big family. Are there any other Rath researchers? Please contact me if you recognize the name. Also researching the Bond, Stainton, Kempthorne, Noble, Capstick, Fifield, Baker, Johns, Sloman, Mallett, Weeks, Allison, Inch, Cornell, Jewell, Walter, Boyce and McIntosh families.

## Step One

- Pick the primary surname of your query
- Use a “Laser Beam” not a “Shotgun”

## Step Two

- Start with the specific information you are seeking:
  - I am looking for the parents (or children or descendants) of ...
  - What is the maiden name of ...
  - I wish to correspond with others researching...
  - I seek information on...

## Step Three

- Be as specific as possible:
  - Names
  - Dates
  - Locations
  - Other associated names

## Step Four

- Separate your information into 3 paragraphs:
  1. What you are looking for, who, when and where
  2. What you don't know and what you are specifically looking to find
  3. Add contact information.

## Step Five

- Make sure it is clear.

### **When writing a Surname Connection for *Chinook*:**

- Use complete sentences.
- Do not use abbreviations.
- Use all capital letters for surnames.
- The editor may make changes or contact you for clarification.
- AFHS members are allowed two free surname questions per publication year (by volume number). The charge is \$5 for additional requests from members and any requests from non-members.

### **My Example**

I am looking for information about the family of my ggg grandfather, James RATH, born about 1808 in County Wexford, Ireland and died about December 1855 in North Dorchester Township, Middlesex County, Ontario. He married Jemima HALL in Ireland about 1825. Jemima was born about 1802 in Ireland and died 12 Oct 1893 in Dorchester, Middlesex County. They had twelve children: James, Sarah, Ann, William, Thomas, Elizabeth H., Jemima, John, Matthew, David "Henry", Sam and Joseph. They immigrated about 1840 with their eight eldest children. Their descendants are known to have lived in Middlesex, Huron and Leeds Counties in Ontario. Some associated surnames are ROWSOM, STONEHOUSE, MCMILLEN and CAPSTICK.

To date, I have been unsuccessful in determining his parents or where he was born in Ireland. I wish to correspond with others researching this RATH line.

Please contact [marion.peterson@yahoo.com](mailto:marion.peterson@yahoo.com) or write to Marion Peterson, 487 Canterbury Dr SW, Calgary AB T2W 1J4.