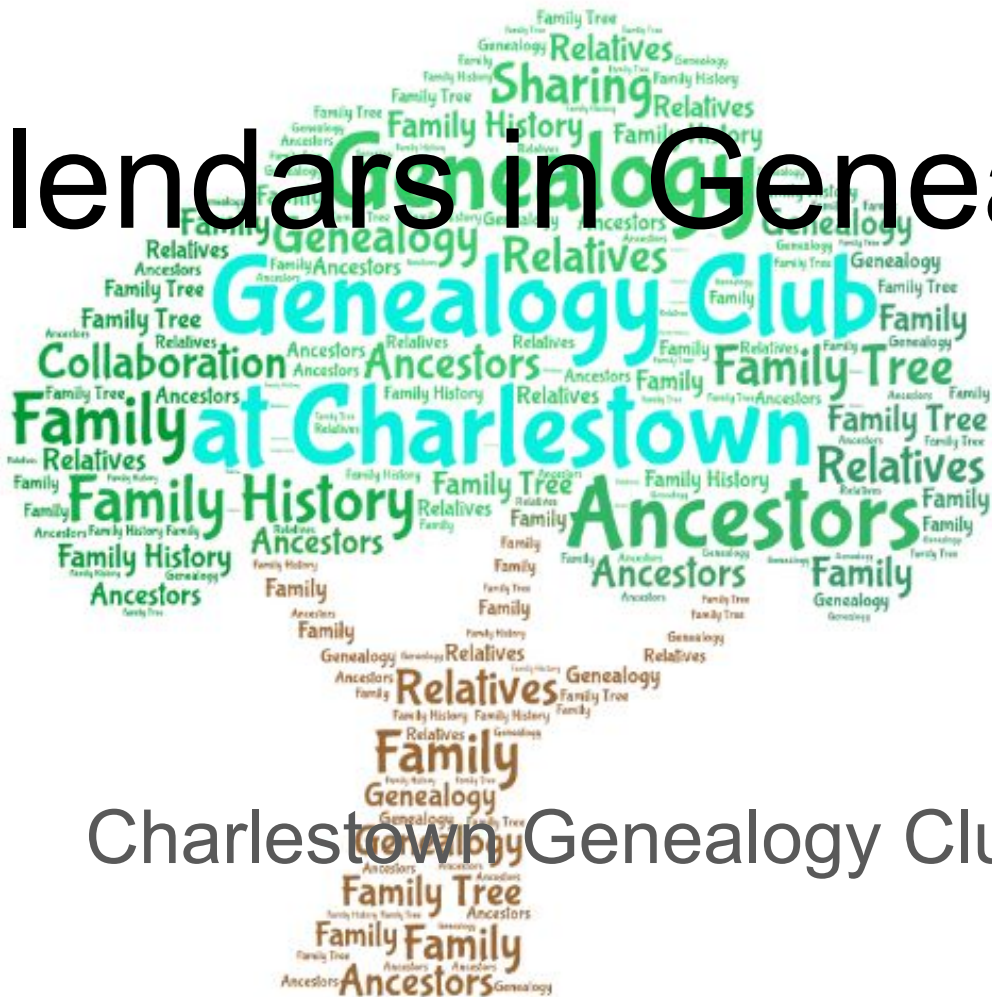


Calendars in Genealogy



Charlestown Genealogy Club

Calendar in genealogy

Genealogies are built by combining events. An event has a date, a place, and individuals playing a role in the event.

Dates are a basic building block of any genealogy.

Dates rely on the calendar, and so depending upon the time period we need to understand the calendar in use.

Date Notation Ambiguity

Countries may notate dates differently. Clear if use is spelled out months but not if use is all numbers (5-3-2018)

Date and time **notation** in the United Kingdom records the **date** using the day-month-year format (21 October 2011 or 21/10/11). The ISO 8601 format (2011-10-21) is increasingly used for all-numeric **dates**. The time can be written using either the 24-hour clock (16:10) or 12-hour clock (4.10 p.m.).

Calendar in use today: Gregorian calendar

Gregorian Calendar • Introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 to replace the Julian Calendar which had been in use since 45 BCE. •

[Six Things You May Not Know About the Gregorian Calendar](#)

Why Gregorian calendar

Julian calendar miscalculated the length of the solar year by 11 minutes and so over many years the calendar fell out of sync with the seasons.

Leap Years don't really occur every four years in the Gregorian calendar but were introduced by an Italian scientist who introduced the system of leap days in years divisible by four unless the year is also divisible by 100. If the year is also divisible by 400, a leap day is added regardless.

The Gregorian calendar differs from the solar year by 26 seconds per year.

Adoption of the Gregorian calendar

Since the concept was created by the Pope, there was pushback by the Protestant community.

[Adoption Dates of Gregorian Calendar by Country](#)

Adoption by the British Empire includes the American colonies

Last Day for Old Style: 1752-09-02

Next Day to begin New Style: 1752-09-14

Local adoption sometimes varied from the standard dates.

Adoption by the rest of the United States

For sections of the United States that were then part of the the French Colonial Empire or Spanish Empire

Last Day for Old Style: 1582-12-09

Next Day to begin New Style: 1582-12-20

Old Style and New Style Dates

Between 1582 and 1752

The American colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, shifting the start of the year from March to January 1st. It became standard when referring to **dates** before 1752 to distinguish between **Old Style** (O.S.) and New **Style** (N.S.).

For example, Thomas Jefferson was born in 1743, and he asked that the date of birth on his gravestone be clearly indicated by including the designation O.S. It reads April 2, 1743. O.S.

The Dual Year Indication

A double date comes from the transition from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. According to the Julian calendar, the first day of the year was March 25. Because the Julian and Gregorian calendars were used simultaneously, calendar dates in the transition period were ambiguous, unless it is specified which calendar was being used. For this reason, many people wrote dates falling between January 1 and March 25 with double dates to clarify. The first year in a double date given is the Julian calendar, and the second given is the Gregorian calendar.

Examples of Ways Dates are Reflected

George Washington's birth date was February 11, 1731 O.S., but you will see that written in Wikipedia as February 22, 1732.

Samuel Howe born 12 February 1727. He died 17 October 1781. Vital records show his birth as 12 February 1726-7.

Wikipedia chooses to use the modern date and not the dual date but usually has a footnote with the old school information, as it does with George Washington.

Most genealogical records do NOT shift the date 11 days but just show the dual-year. Wiktree uses the new style year and original day of the month.

Quaker Dates (Plain Calendar)

The plain calendar emerged in the 17th century in England in the [Puritan](#) movement, but became closely identified with Friends by the end of the 1650s, and was commonly employed into the 20th century.

When Quakers adopted the Gregorian, they objected to using those names of days (Sunday to Saturday) and months (January to August) which derived from pagan gods, substituting numbers. Thus Sunday was for them "First Day."

Quaker calendar

The Quaker calendar has 12 months of 30 or 31 days each, with an additional month of 29 or 30 days added in leap years. The months are named after the qualities and values that Quakers seek to cultivate, such as Simplicity, Integrity, and Community. The calendar also includes four quarterly "meetings" (periods of worship and business), which take place on the solstices and equinoxes.

The Quaker calendar does not include any religious holidays or observances, but many Quakers celebrate certain events based on their own beliefs and practices. For example, some Quakers celebrate "Peace Day" on September 21st, which is also recognized by the United Nations as the International Day of Peace.

Quaker Dates

Until 1752, Quakers had no problem with the months September to December, derived from numbers, but for the other months they wrote out "First Month," "Second Month," and so on. They sometimes used Roman numerals (i-xii) for these, and sometimes Arabic (1-12). After 1752 all months were referred to by Quakers by their number. September became "Ninth Month" and so on.

You can write the old style numbers as in the original text, but add the new style names in square brackets, such as: 27 iv [June] 1731 or 29 4mo. [June] 1731.

Quaker Dates Reference Guides

1. [Quaker Calendar Conversion Tool](#) - This online tool, developed by the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, allows users to enter a Quaker date and receive the corresponding Gregorian date. It also provides information about the Quaker month name and number.
2. The Quaker [Old Style Conversion Chart](#) - This chart, developed by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, provides a quick reference guide for converting Quaker dates to Gregorian dates. It includes the Quaker month names and numbers, as well as the corresponding Gregorian months and days.

Russian Use of Gregorian Calendar

Russia currently uses the Gregorian Calendar, which is the internationally accepted civil calendar used by most countries around the world. The switch from the previous calendar system took place in Russia in 1918, when the Julian Calendar was replaced with the Gregorian Calendar by a decree from the Soviet government.

However, it's worth noting that the Russian Orthodox Church still uses the Julian Calendar for religious purposes. As a result, there is a 13-day difference between the Gregorian and Julian calendars, which is referred to as the "Julian-Gregorian discrepancy." This discrepancy affects the dates of religious holidays and observances celebrated by the Russian Orthodox Church, such as Christmas and Easter, in comparison to the corresponding dates in the Gregorian Calendar used by the majority of the population.

Islamic calendar

The Islamic Calendar: This is a lunar calendar used by Muslims to determine the dates of religious observances such as Ramadan. It is based on the cycles of the moon, with each month starting on the sighting of a new moon.

[Islamic calendar](#)

China

China uses the Gregorian calendar for civic purposes but its lunar calendar for traditions.

[Chinese calendar](#)

[Chinese Use of Gregorian Calendar in addition to lunar calendar](#)

Japanese calendar

[Japanese calendar](#)

Japan's first calendar came from China via Korea. In [1873](#), the **Gregorian calendar** was introduced to Japan. While the Christian way of numbering years is commonly used in Japan today, a parallel numbering system for years based on the reigns of [emperors](#) is also frequently applied. The year 2023, for example, which happened to be the 5th year of the reign of the Heisei Emperor (Naruhito) is called "Reiwa 5".


Before 1873, **lunar calendars**, originally imported from China, were used for many centuries - based on the cycle of the moon, resulting in years of twelve months of 29 or 30 days (the moon takes about 29 1/2 days to circle the earth), and an occasional 13th month to even out the discrepancy to the solar cycle of 365 1/4 days, i.e. the discrepancy to the seasons. Years are commonly associated with the **twelve animals**: mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

Week is subdivided into **six days (rokuyo)**, similar to the subdivision of the modern calendar into seven weekdays. The six days are called taian, butsumetsu, senpu, tomobiki, shakko and sensho, and they are associated with good and bad fortune.

Many Different Calendars are in Use

Depending upon your research, be aware of the many different calendars that you would need to reference (Ethiopian, Jewish, Persian, etc.) .

There are also calendars no longer in use:
Julian, ancient Egyptian, Aztec, Babylonian
Wikipedia is always a good place to start.



	1917	1920	1922	1925	1933	1949	1915	1946	1948
1	Sa-Mar. 2	W-Mar. 13	W-Mar. 9	W-Mar. 4	Fr-Mar. 4	M-Mar. 11	M-Mar. 8	M-Mar. 4	Fr-Mar. 17
2	Su-Mar. 4	Th-Mar. 14	Th-Mar. 10	Th-Mar. 7	Sa-Mar. 7	Tu-Mar. 12	Tu-Mar. 9	Tu-Mar. 5	Sa-Mar. 17
3	M-Mar. 7	Fr-Mar. 15	Fr-Mar. 11	Fr-Mar. 8	Sa-Mar. 9	W-Mar. 13	W-Mar. 10	W-Mar. 6	Sa-Mar. 14
4	Tu-Mar. 8	Sa-Mar. 16	Sa-Mar. 12	Sa-Mar. 9	M-Mar. 7	Th-Mar. 14	Th-Mar. 11	Th-Mar. 7	M-Mar. 15
5	W-Mar. 9	Sa-Mar. 17	Su-Mar. 13	Su-Mar. 10	Tu-Mar. 8	Fr-Mar. 15	Fr-Mar. 12	Fr-Mar. 8	Tu-Mar. 16
6	Th-Mar. 10	M-Mar. 18	M-Mar. 14	M-Mar. 11	W-Mar. 9	Sa-Mar. 16	Sa-Mar. 13	Sa-Mar. 9	W-Mar. 17
7	Fr-Mar. 11	Tu-Mar. 19	Tu-Mar. 15	Tu-Mar. 12	Th-Mar. 10	Su-Mar. 17	Su-Mar. 14	Su-Mar. 10	Th-Mar. 18
8	Sa-Mar. 12	W-Mar. 20	W-Mar. 16	W-Mar. 13	Fr-Mar. 11	M-Mar. 18	M-Mar. 15	M-Mar. 11	Fr-Mar. 19
9	Su-Mar. 13	Th-Mar. 21	Th-Mar. 17	Th-Mar. 14	Sa-Mar. 12	W-Mar. 19	Tu-Mar. 16	Tu-Mar. 12	Sa-Mar. 20
10	M-Mar. 14	Fr-Mar. 22	Fr-Mar. 18	Fr-Mar. 15	Sa-Mar. 13	W-Mar. 20	W-Mar. 17	W-Mar. 13	Su-Mar. 21
11	Tu-Mar. 15	Sa-Mar. 23	Sa-Mar. 19	Sa-Mar. 16	M-Mar. 14	Th-Mar. 21	Th-Mar. 18	Th-Mar. 14	M-Mar. 22
12	W-Mar. 16	Sa-Mar. 24	Su-Mar. 20	Su-Mar. 17	Tu-Mar. 15	Fr-Mar. 22	Fr-Mar. 19	Fr-Mar. 15	Tu-Mar. 23
13	Th-Mar. 17	M-Mar. 25	M-Mar. 21	M-Mar. 18	W-Mar. 16	Sa-Mar. 23	Sa-Mar. 20	Sa-Mar. 16	W-Mar. 24
14	Fr-Mar. 18	Tu-Mar. 26	Tu-Mar. 22	Tu-Mar. 19	Th-Mar. 17	Su-Mar. 24	Su-Mar. 21	Su-Mar. 17	Th-Mar. 25
15	Sa-Mar. 19	W-Mar. 27	W-Mar. 23	W-Mar. 20	Fr-Mar. 18	M-Mar. 25	M-Mar. 22	M-Mar. 18	Fr-Mar. 26
16	Su-Mar. 20	Th-Mar. 28	Th-Mar. 24	Th-Mar. 21	Sa-Mar. 19	Tu-Mar. 26	Tu-Mar. 23	Tu-Mar. 19	Sa-Mar. 27
17	M-Mar. 21	Fr-Mar. 29	Fr-Mar. 25	Fr-Mar. 22	Sa-Mar. 20	W-Mar. 27	W-Mar. 24	W-Mar. 20	Su-Mar. 28
18	Tu-Mar. 22	Sa-Mar. 30	Sa-Mar. 26	Sa-Mar. 23	M-Mar. 21	Th-Mar. 28	Th-Mar. 25	Th-Mar. 21	M-Mar. 29
19	W-Mar. 23	Su-Mar. 31	Su-Mar. 27	Su-Mar. 24	Tu-Mar. 22	Fr-Mar. 29	Fr-Mar. 26	Fr-Mar. 22	Tu-Mar. 30
20	Th-Mar. 24	M-Apr. 1	M-Mar. 28	M-Mar. 25	W-Mar. 23	Sa-Mar. 30	Sa-Mar. 27	Sa-Mar. 23	W-Mar. 31
21	Fr-Mar. 25	Tu-Apr. 2	Tu-Mar. 29	Tu-Mar. 26	Th-Mar. 24	Su-Mar. 31	Su-Mar. 28	Su-Mar. 24	Th-Apr. 1
22	Sa-Mar. 26	W-Apr. 3	W-Mar. 30	W-Mar. 27	Fr-Mar. 25	M-Apr. 1	M-Mar. 29	M-Mar. 25	Fr-Apr. 2
23	Su-Mar. 27	Th-Apr. 4	Th-Mar. 31	Th-Mar. 28	Sa-Mar. 26	Tu-Apr. 2	Tu-Mar. 30	Tu-Mar. 26	Sa-Apr. 3
24	M-Mar. 28	Fr-Apr. 5	Fr-Apr. 1	Fr-Mar. 29	Sa-Mar. 27	W-Apr. 3	W-Mar. 31	W-Mar. 27	Su-Apr. 4
25	Tu-Mar. 29	Sa-Apr. 6	Sa-Apr. 2	Sa-Mar. 30	M-Mar. 28	Th-Apr. 4	Th-Apr. 1	Th-Mar. 28	M-Apr. 5
26	W-Mar. 30	Su-Apr. 7	Su-Apr. 3	Su-Mar. 31	Tu-Mar. 29	Fr-Apr. 5	Fr-Apr. 2	Fr-Mar. 29	Tu-Apr. 6
27	Th-Mar. 31	M-Apr. 8	M-Apr. 4	M-Apr. 1	W-Mar. 30	Sa-Apr. 6	Sa-Apr. 3	Sa-Mar. 30	W-Apr. 7
28	Fr-Apr. 1	Tu-Apr. 9	Tu-Apr. 5	Tu-Apr. 2	Th-Mar. 31	Su-Apr. 7	Su-Apr. 4	Sa-Mar. 31	Th-Apr. 8
29	Sa-Apr. 2	W-Apr. 10	W-Apr. 6	W-Apr. 3	Fr-Apr. 1	M-Apr. 8	M-Apr. 5	M-Apr. 1	Fr-Apr. 9

12 May 2023

Gregorian: 12 May 2023 (Friday)

Islamic: 22 Shawwal 1444 AH

Hebrew: 21 Iyar 5783

Iran: 22 Ordibehesht 1402 (Jomeh)

Chinese (traditional): Year of the Hare, May 12 is Ding-Si (Snake) (3rd month), 23, 4721

12 May 2023 - Japan

Reiwa shows the current year of the Japanese official calendar, reflecting the number of years of the current Emperor. Use Reiwa with current Gregorian date, year, month, day

Year 2023, 5 Reiwa

2023年5月12日 (Nisen Nijuusan-nen Gogatsu Jūnichinichi)