

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



August 2023 Issue 40

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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SOCIETY BRANCHES

Oldham Branch of MLFHS - <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham>

Bolton Branch of MLFHS - <http://www.mlfhs.uk/bolton>

Anglo-Scottish Branch of MLFHS – <http://www.mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots>

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I am writing this whilst in the throws of Covid. Not a pleasant experience so apologies if the news seems a bit rushed this month. I just hope that I can shake off the symptoms before my wife and I take a well earned break during the latter half of August. Cornwall beckons. Please bear with me if the next issue is slightly smaller than usual.

Thank you to those members who contacted me saying how much they appreciate the monthly newsletter.

There are only two meetings planned for August: Bolton Branch - "Life and Times of Smithills Estate" - Tony Greenwood and Oldham Branch - Joseph Healey, of Lees (Friend of Samuel Bamford), an illustrated presentation given by Professor Robert Poole. Both are hybrid meetings.

Once again our volunteers have been busy and there are a number of project updates. A new project is underway to index the names of staff from staff record cards for the Horwich Locomotive Works. More details are given later in the newsletter.

The General Record Office (GRO) have announced a new digital service which is much cheaper than their paper and PDF offerings. Scroll down for more details.

On Friday 7th July 2023 members of the archives team, both staff and volunteers, from Central Library visited DeepStore. Find out more on page 9.

That's it for now so those members who have planned a holiday why not take a good book with you although you may not find the time to read it.

Barry Henshall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Volunteer Opportunity – Central Library Helpdesk

The Society is keen to add volunteers to its Helpdesk Team to maintain staffing levels during the holiday season and to cover for long-term absences when sickness occurs.

This, then, is an opportunity for members, who live within a reasonable travel distance of Manchester Central Library, and are keen to share their research skills with visitors to the Helpdesk in the Library who are less familiar with the processes. The Helpdesk service is open to the public every weekday between 10.30 and 15.30 except for a closed period around the Christmas and New Year season.

Initially, the successful candidates will be asked to be replacements for HD assistants currently on leave or long-term sickness, with a view to joining the team on a permanent basis when on-the-job training is complete.

The successful candidates will also be required to demonstrate:

- 1.The ability to engage comfortably with the visiting public;
- 2.A sound basic knowledge of family history research methods;
- 3.A good understanding of basic sources such as BMD, Census and Parish Registers
- 4.An understanding of the Society's procedures [e.g., for membership renewal];
- 5.A willingness to learn.

A good general knowledge of the resources available in Central Library will also be an initial advantage, though the candidate will be expected to develop this knowledge to a good working level during the initial training period.

The Helpdesk is the society's prestigious and highly successful service to the public of Greater Manchester and greets visitors from all over the world. If you are interested in participating in this interesting volunteer work, please contact the Helpdesk Coordinator at helpdesk@mlfhs.org.uk . Alternatively, if you are in Central Library why not speak to one of the Helpdesk Team Leaders during a daily session.

David Muil

Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

The best and quickest way to contact the society is by emailing office@mlfhs.org.uk we will then direct you to the relevant person to help you. Our phone is very rarely used.

If possible please use the on-line option on our new website to join or renew your subscription. We use Stripe but you can pay as a guest with your card if you wish.

Have you considered taking out a Bank Standing Order? It means you don't have to think about renewing and you can stop it at any time. Always include your membership number. We can always find it for you should you forget.

There is so much you can learn from our website it seems a shame that members don't make the most of it. From the members area on the website you can make changes to your address and email just log in. It is so easy.

We recently held a talk on how to get the best from the website which was very well received. We are looking at ways to bring this to everyone. Most people were amazed at just what was available on the site and I'm sure went home to try it all out.

If you must pay by cheque please send to:
MLFHS, 17 Fortyacre Drive, Bredbury, SK6 2EZ

DO NOT send it to the office and we no longer take cash at the Helpdesk.
The Click and Collect is now available from our shop.

Best wishes
Elsie

EVENTS/TALKS

Manchester Branch

There are no meetings planned for August.

Booking: Eventbrite

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Bolton Branch



"Life and Times of Smithills Estate" - Tony Greenwood

Date and time

Starts on Wed, 2 Aug 2023 19:30 BST

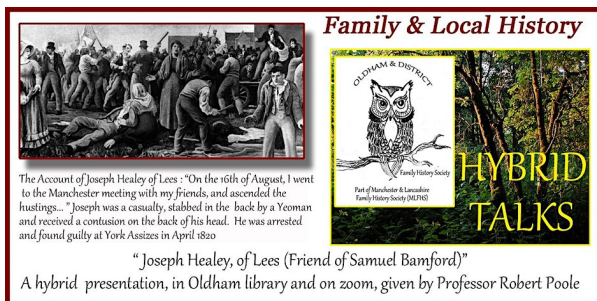
The subject will be a short run through of what the group have found out about life on the Smithills Estate, the families, occupations and work. There could be a couple of family histories, that will be decided as the talk is developed. In other chats I have had, there has been a lot of interest in the recent findings on the possible identity of the murderer of George Henderson on Winter Hill in 1838. There is a lot of intrigue in this story and the subsequent cover-up is quite shocking. I will invite the Author of this chapter to join me at the talk. There is no history of the Ainsworths, there have been many publications and talks about them, we have concentrated on the working people there, although the Ainsworths do have walk-on parts in some of our stories.

This is a meeting in a room and on Zoom.. Zoomers need to register on the [Eventbrite](https://eventbrite.com) site.

Booking: [Eventbrite](https://eventbrite.com)

Full details of Bolton Branch meetings <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton/events>

Oldham Branch



Joseph Healey, of Lees (Friend of Samuel Bamford)

An illustrated presentation given by Professor Robert Poole

Date and time

Sat, 12 Aug 2023 14:00 - 15:30 BST

"The radical quack doctor Joseph Healey must be the oddest hero of Peterloo. Healey led the Saddleworth and Lees contingent with its controversial banner, 'Equal representation or death!', and was gaoled for a year as a result. Samuel Bamford of Middleton wrote warmly of his brave and hilarious comrade, and of their eventual falling-out. Thanks in part to hostile spies we know a surprising amount about 'Doctor Healey', and this talk will bring him roaring back to life."

This is a hybrid meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

* Booking essential for attendance on zoom and will be free to all.

* No booking necessary for attendance in the library; members free.

A meeting reminder email will be send out 3 or 4 days before the talk; a zoom meeting link on Friday morning 11th of August.

Registration closes at 11am on the 12th. A final reminder and link will be sent at 11:15am, on the meeting day.

Login will be from 1:45, for an informal 'meet and greet' of old friends and a welcome to new visitors to our meetings. All are welcome and we hope you will enjoy the meeting and join us again in the future.

Note ... please ensure that you enter your email address correctly in both required boxes, when registering. If you have already registered and do not receive the meeting links, please email me at < mlfhs.oldham@gmail.com > and a link will be sent to you. Any emails requesting a link should be sent before 12noon on the meeting day.

Please also note ... that if more than one person will be joining the meeting, but sharing the same device, in the same room, only one ticket is required.

Booking for attendance on [Eventbrite](#) and free to all.

Full details of Oldham Branch meetings <https://www.mlfhs.uk/oldham/events/meetings>

Anglo-Scots

There are no Anglo-Scots meeting planned for August.

Full details for the Anglo-Scots Branch meetings <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots/events>.

The National Archives

Our exciting programme of online talks is for everyone and delivered by experts, specialists and special guest speakers. When you book an event, you are invited to pay what you can – this is optional and entirely at the discretion of attendees. Some of our events remain completely free.

The National Archives also hosts a range of onsite events. To browse these, please see [Events at Kew](#) page. The new season of events June-September 2023 are now available to book.

Get priority booking to all events every month when you subscribe to the weekly newsletter. Get priority booking – sign up to the [mailing list](#) now.

BOOKSHOP

There were no additions to our bookshop for July.

PROJECTS UPDATE

The following update has been posted to Bolton Workhouse Creed Registers
This project is now completed. All index data and supporting transcript images have been re-worked into a more consistent format and certain errors and omissions resolved.

++++++

The following update has been posted to Zion Letters
Letters from a total of 24 correspondents have now been scanned (about 1/3 of the total).
Transcription is in progress and 68 letters have been transcribed for 10 correspondents.

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Another 1,037 names of streets and buildings have been added to the Godfrey Maps Index.
These are all for the Bolton area and include:

Bolton East 1908
Bolton South 1927
Farnworth 1908
Horwich South 1908
Lostock Junction 1907
Rumworth & Daubhill 1907

Thanks to Graham Holt for this substantial addition to the indexes for the Bolton Area.

If you have any of the maps shown as not yet indexed (i.e. not coloured in) on the master plan at <https://mlfhs.uk/?view=article&id=346&catid=9> and would be prepared to index the streets and buildings, please let me know.

John Marsden

Webmaster:

www.lancashirebmd.org.uk www.cumbriabmd.org.uk
www.1851-unfilmed.org.uk www.mlfhs.uk

++++++

Another addition to the Great Database. This is a continuation of the entries extracted from the Manchester Cathedral Sexton's books and consists of entries for 1812 copied from the John Owen MSS vol 58 and entries for 1803-1811 extracted from the original register book. The first set are, like earlier data from this source, incomplete since Owen extracted entries selectively, however those for the second set represent a complete extract. This second set is accompanied by images of the relevant register page.

Thanks to Geoff Edge for this latest addition which comprises 2,341 records making the total from this source 8,123 records relating to burials 1772-1792 and 1803-1812.

++++++

The following update has been posted to Horwich Locomotive Works Staff Record Cards
The first of seven boxes of record cards has now been scanned in 3 batches. There is a total of around 1,800 cards in this box. The first batch is currently out for indexing.

HELPDESK

If you have not been into the library post-covid please put a date in your diary and pay us a visit. I think you will find the day very rewarding. If you have any questions, please drop the Society an email: office@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS Family History Help Desk Hours: M-F 10:30 am-3:30 pm.

WEBSITE NEWS

MyHeritage: The MyHeritage Blog will keep you up-to-date. Why not drop by using this [link](#). There are 14 categories to search through and I am sure that you will find something of interest.

Family Tree: Keep up to date with the latest happenings in the world of family history with Family Tree News & Views by following this [link](#).

You can also get the latest advice, opinion and updates from the Family Tree team and a range of genealogy experts, from in-depth guides to research and archives to the latest goings on at the Family Tree magazine HQ... by following this [link](#).

Find my Past: There is a wealth of information on the Find my Past website. Just follow the following links

[Getting Started](#)

[Build Your Family Tree](#)

[Family Records](#)

[What's New?](#)

[Help Hub](#)

[Discoveries](#)

[History Hub](#)

[The Findmypast Community](#)

Ancestry: An Ancestry Blog can be found [here](#)

The Genealogist: News and articles can be found [here](#)

FamilySearch: Finally, for this month, why not try the FamilySearch [blog page](#).

ORPHAN BMDs

If you have any BMDs you no longer want then why not consider dropping them off at our Helpdesk or you can send them to:

M&LFHS

61 Queens Road, Urmston, M41 9HF

If you wish to keep your certificates then you can send scans, preferably as a PDF to office@mlfhs.org.uk and they will be passed on to me. If you have problems sending scans to this address then please contact me at newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk and I will suggest an alternative means of forwarding the PDF files.

Thank you to everyone who has sent me certificates during the last couple of months either by hand, post or by e-mail. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter we now have over 8,000 in our database.

UKBMD UPDATES

When you log on to GRO. If you read the instructions for the Digital Image service, it will give you full picture guide and information all about the Digital Image.

This is in the menu on the right side on the Frequently Asked Questions and scroll down to the number '12. Other Services we provide' then you will see the guide on the pdf and under that one is the guide for viewing digital image service.

The pictures are very good to follow and check you dates are within the dates of the digital image service.

I did have one problem, but it was because GRO had transcript the incorrect Surname and it was right on the register and I completed the online form, which they corrected.

From Rhondda Griffiths via the Forum

++++++

Below are the Updates for the Staffs BMD for 6th July 2023

Marriages:

15 for Stoke (Foden Street), Kingdom Hall, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1985-2019)

55 for Fenton (Temple Street), Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1992-2015)

Updated 20 for Cheddleton, St Andrew's Methodist Church, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1949-1966)

Updated 20 for Cheddleton (Wetley Rocks), Cellarhead Road Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1966-1976)

Updated 11 for Biddulph Park, Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1992-2019)

Deaths:

3,275 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1975-1980)

Births:

1,254 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1972-1979)

Updated 2,500 for Dilhorne, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1856-1868)

Updated 2,000 for Leek, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1842-1848)

++++++

Message from Ian Hartas, Kingston.

Hi, Kingston upon Thames BMD has been updated to add:

Marriages:

752 for St John the Evangelist, Kingston, registers at Kingston (1928-1957)

3,025 for St Luke, Kingston, registers at Kingston (1890-1943)

Many thanks to the register office and their volunteers for these.

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Message from Ian Hartas, Bath.

Hi, the Bath BMD website has been updated as follows to add:

Marriages:

37 for Prior Park College Chapel, Prior Park, registers at Bath (2012-2019)

7 for Bath, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Locksbrook Road, Lower Weston, Bath, registers at Bath (1995-2019)

2 for Whitchurch, United Reformed Church, registers at Bath (2017-2018)

Many thanks the register office staff and their volunteers for these.

MANCHESTER ARCHIVES+



Our Journey Down the Salt Mines

On Friday 7th July 2023 members of the archives team, both staff and volunteers, from Central Library visited DeepStore.

DeepStore is part of a working rock salt mine that doubles as an offsite archival storage facility and it is here that a lot of the collections of Manchester Archives are stored. This is generally more obscure items that aren't requested as often as well as items that have been digitised such as our local images collection. Having this additional storage space helps us to continue expanding our collections to ensure the history of Manchester is preserved for present and future generations. [[More](#)]

Archives+ is an exciting, purpose-built showcase and repository for the region's archives and family history opening at Manchester Central Library in spring 2014. The Archives+ partnership will build on the demand for accessible community history and personal heritage. This single location will make it easier than ever before to find what you're looking for under one roof. The main partners in Archives+ are:

- Greater Manchester County Record Office (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities)
- Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives (Manchester City Council)
- North West Film Archive (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre & Education Trust (University of Manchester)
- Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society
- BFI Mediatheque
- Manchester Registration Service (Historic Registers)

Why not visit the Manchester Archives+ [website](#) where you can sign up for their Blog via e-mail and also delve into a huge collection of subjects. There are 25 categories to choose from.

NORTH WEST SOUND HERITAGE

Unlocking our Sound Heritage

Thousands of cassettes, open reels, CDs and MiniDiscs are sitting in archives, museums, libraries and in people's homes all over the UK. All kinds of unique live music, radio and conversation are recorded on these tapes and discs. We've already lost many of the people

captured on them. And the British Library estimates that we have fifteen years to preserve the sounds themselves.

That's why the British Library has received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, an exciting new national project to save thousands sounds which are at risk of being lost forever.

Archives+ is the hub partner for the North West region, which covers Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. We'll be digitising around 15,000 recordings on 5,000 cassettes, reels and optical discs held all over the region here at Manchester Central Library.

This is a fascinating site providing a flavour of times gone by. If you are a food and drink enthusiast then discover what not to eat and drink before a performance!

Follow on Twitter - [@archivesplus](#).

Find more information [here](#). Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

Welcome to the [North West Film Archive](#), the professionally recognised public home for the moving image heritage of the North West of England.

WHO WE ARE

From historical footage and home movies to newsreels and adverts, we find, preserve and share over 50,000 items of film and video, for public, educational and professional use. We love film and how it can open a window into the past and the present in ways that can be powerful, moving and unexpected.

Part of Manchester Met, and based within Manchester Central Library's Archives+ partnership, we are a specialist resource dedicated to saving and growing our region's rich filmed history.

WHAT WE DO

Do you need some footage for teaching, broadcasting or an artistic or community project?

Do you have film of our region's people or places that needs looking after?

Whoever you are, if you need a professional and friendly service, we're here to help.

We offer:

- research support and loan or licence of footage (including for professional broadcast)
- bespoke learning and teaching support
- opportunities to hire or watch unusual and interesting films, with a local and historical theme
- opportunities for community engagement and collaboration
- a home for the region's film and video, where moving images are professionally preserved, stored and made available, for now and for the future

This is a site well worth visiting The NWFA was set up in 1977 and preserves moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and offers a variety of access services to users in the public, academic and commercial sectors.



<https://www.facebook.com/MandLFamilyHistory>

and Twitter



M&L Family History@MLFH

11th U3A Peak District Family History Conference

Saturday 16 September 2023 at the Palace Hotel in Buxton



Presents.....

Mary Evans – ‘Chasing those Brickwalls!’

Dave Annal – Death & Taxes

Jackie Depelle – “Digging into the Parish Chest”

Dr Penny Walters – “Why the Welsh left Wales”

Tickets: £30. Book early to avoid disappointment - it's always very popular.
Includes talks, refreshments & 2-course finger buffet lunch

Parking:

Blue Badge holders – may park or drop off at hotel

Others - use side streets or the pay & display car parks

For car parks in Buxton see: <https://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/buxton/>

Exhibitors:

Once again, about 15 exhibitors will be there – old friends & new:

We plan to offer delegates a free goody bag and a free prize draw again.

To book your place, please complete the booking form on this link:

<https://forms.gle/mXnsgpBhQpmafuNU6>

Please put your surname and postcode as a reference if paying by BAC

[So we can match your payment with your form.]

Tickets will be issued at our reception desk on the day, not posted.



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 35

July 2023

Welcome to the July edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*

inside find...

Lead article this month is *Catholic Ancestry in England and Wales*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

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Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**

Fri 17th Nov 10am - 10pm & Sat 18th Nov 10am - 6pm GMT



LEARN MORE and **BUY NOW** at
www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



Really Useful Bulletin

CATHOLIC ANCESTRY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

by Michael Gandy

In 1533 Henry VIII declared himself to be head of the Church in England and Wales and rejected the Pope and the international Catholic church.

After the pendulum had swung a few times, Protestantism was finally established with the Act of Supremacy in 1559 under Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603). She had no wish to persecute religious belief but everyone had to attend church regardless of what they thought. It was expected that young people would grow up in the new religion while old people would steadily die off. Throughout the period of illegality, Catholics were called recusants from the Latin word meaning 'they refuse' (to come to church).

However, in 1577 Counter-Reformation missionaries began to persuade people to return to being Catholic. Then in 1584 William of Orange, ruler of the Netherlands, was assassinated and England went to war formally with Spain. The war (1584-1603), and above all the Armada of 1588, confirmed Spain, Catholicism and the Pope as rooted enemies and Catholics in this country were now treated as traitors. The anti-Catholic laws were toughened in 1581 and 1585 and were operated seriously. For ordinary people this meant heavy fines but it was *death for a priest to breathe the air of England* and nearly 200 people were executed - mostly priests but a few of those who harboured them. The Gunpowder Plot (1605) was also very bad publicity.

By the time James I succeeded to the throne in 1603 most Catholics had either died off or given up. In many parts of England there were pretty well none. But some areas remained more loyal and there were large numbers in parts of Lancashire, the North Riding of Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Monmouthshire. There were also lots of Catholics in London though not as a percentage of the city's population. Many of those were foreigners to whom the laws did not apply.

Throughout the 1600s and early 1700s Catholics tended



*St. Peter's Basilica and Ponte Vittorio Emanuele II
Vatican, Rome*

to be either upper class or lower class and it was practically impossible for ordinary people to be Catholic unless they lived in a parish where the gentry were Catholic. This is called seigneurial Catholicism. Thus in Puritan Essex there were only five parishes with Catholic communities all dominated by the very

Catholic Petre family. In Cornwall there was only one Catholic gentry family - the Arundells of Lanherne - who also provided a safe haven at Wardour in Wiltshire.

In the Civil War Catholics supported the King; later they felt morally obliged to support the Jacobites and suffered accordingly. Mostly they had now ceased to be thought of as a threat and they paid their fines and suffered the other legal disabilities but were known and were part of the local fabric.

Although active persecution died away they were still looked at askance and it was almost an accident that Catholicism was made legal in 1778 because of the need to recruit Catholic Irish and Highland Scots for the war in America.

Between 1778 and the mid-1840s Catholic numbers grew proportionately with the increase in population but then the Irish famine brought a vast influx of Catholic Irish who mostly settled in the northern industrial towns. At the same time a steady stream of Anglicans began to convert. Numbers were not enormous but they were upper- and middle-class people with money and influence. They could lobby their Anglican relatives and normalise Catholicism as odd but socially acceptable; they could also afford to build churches. The Irish immigrants mostly didn't have a spare penny and the money of the English upper-class converts was vital.

The survival of Catholicism in Scotland was more a question of clan loyalty. In the Lowlands the only Catholics were the Gordons of Huntly (Aberdeen and Banff) and the Maxwells of Kirkcudbright; in the



Really Useful Bulletin

Highlands the Chisholms, Frasers, McDonnells of Glengarry, McNeills of Barra and some McDonalds remained Catholic. Other Highlanders remained Episcopalian but after the 1745 Rebellion there was a concerted and largely effective campaign by the Presbyterians to 'missionise' both Catholics and Episcopalians.

In Wales Catholic survival was weakened by the inability to provide priests who could speak Welsh. In the nineteenth century some Breton priests went to Aberystwyth in the hope that Breton and Welsh would be comprehensible and that sort-of worked a bit!

State Records to 1778

Catholics appear in all the records which are not about religion. In the campaign to suppress, discourage or punish them they may be cited at quarter sessions for non-attendance at church. They were not cited in the ecclesiastical courts (as Baptists were) because the law was not concerned with their beliefs. No ordinary people were tortured or executed simply for Catholicism though some suffered for helping priests.

After the laws were toughened in 1581 and 1585, Catholics who were fined appear in the Pipe Rolls until 1592 and all references have been published by the Catholic Record Society (CRS). In 1592 a special series of Recusant Rolls was established and operated until 1691 except during the Civil War and Commonwealth period when there was no Established Church so people could not be fined for not attending it! The first few volumes (to 1596) have been published by the CRS but the rest have to be searched at The National Archives. They are arranged by year and then county. The paragraphs are quite dense and full of information but the records are easy to browse as the name of each individual fined comes first in the paragraph.

Once fines had become standardised and were looked on almost as an annual tax or licence Catholics were cited before the Committee for Compounding (1627-1642). The records of the Northern Committee (where most Catholics were) have been published by CRS but the records of the Southern Committee have not survived.

Catholics appear in the Lay Subsidies (an occasional tax to finance war) and Parliament decided at a certain point that foreigners should pay double but also Catholics ('who are foreigners at heart').

The Protestation Oath of 1642 was intended to identify Catholics who would refuse to declare their allegiance to the King as head of the Church but quite a lot of Catholics just signed anyway. Life's hard enough...

Between 1662 and 1689 there was a campaign to suppress all groups outside the Church of England and large numbers of people were brought before quarter sessions and fined. This was aimed more at Baptists, Quakers and other 'sectaries' but Catholics were also involved, maybe labelled as 'popish recusants'. However, quite often the lists don't distinguish the reason why people were not Anglican so detective work is needed to sort out the Catholics from the others.

The Association Oath Rolls of 1696 were aimed at identifying Jacobites. Many Catholics naturally supported the deposed King James II but others may have signed for simplicity as in 1642. There was a later Oath in 1723 aimed at identifying people who did not support the Hanoverian succession.

After the Jacobite Rising of 1715 anti-Catholic laws were toughened. Catholics were not supposed to hold or inherit land and from 1717 we have the Registration of Papists' Estates (The National Archives) which details what they owned. The landholders were Catholics but many tenants' names are given though they may be Protestants. The law for registration ran until 1778 but it soon died away and the majority of the entries are for the years immediately after 1717.

At various times Parliaments asked quarter sessions to list the Catholics in their area. This overlaps with the many occasions when bishops instructed parish clergy to list the non-Anglicans of all sorts. Survival is a bit random but there are a lot of lists, some in print. National lists were asked for in 1705, 1767 and 1780. The 1767 return is the fullest; this was probably the lowest point for Catholic numbers and they seemed to amount to about one per cent of the population but concentrated in the usual counties, above all Lancashire. The full returns are in the House of Lords and the one for 1767 was published by CRS. Apart from the diocese of Chester (which covered south Lancashire) names were omitted and substituted with initials from which it is often possible work out the full names. However, the House of Lords returns were a fair copy of material which survive in a number of cases - with full names - in quarter sessions.



Really Useful Bulletin

State Records from 1778

Apart from the return of 1780 Government now had no reason to list or punish Catholics. Individuals appear undifferentiated in all the standard sources; nor did Catholics object to being in them. Until 1834 a lot of local administration was carried out by the Church of England parishes but both nonconformists and Catholics could distinguish between the religious aspects and the non-religious aspects, especially with the Poor Law.

Religious definition sometimes crept back in a positive way. From 1862 workhouses and other Poor Law institutions kept creed registers and poor Catholic children were entitled to be transferred to specifically Catholic institutions taking their funding with them (to use the modern phrase).

Anglican Records

Catholics had no objection to burial in the Anglican churchyard, nor was the prayer book burial ceremony objectionable as it is not a sacrament. Even in the nineteenth century and with the influx of the poor Irish who had quite different traditions (the wake) the Last Rites were given at home and Catholic prayers read at home before the body was taken to the church. From 1854 there were borough cemeteries with a designated Catholic area.

Marriage too was negotiable. The imposition of strict rules came slowly and, although most people were married at church, other types of marriage were acceptable (irregular but not illegal) and until 1754 you were married if you both agreed you were. The problem was proving it if you had no witnesses. Many Puritans and nonconformists objected to church marriage since they did not believe marriage was a religious act so that a Catholic marriage was less objectionable legally than a Quaker one. After 1754 everyone (except Quakers and Jews) had to be married in their local parish church and Catholics all did this. Many Catholics also had a Catholic ceremony and there are some records of these. However, everyone knew they had no legal force.

Baptism felt more important than marriage or burial and many babies (always babies - an adult will be a convert) were baptised by a Catholic priest. We cannot usually prove this although occasionally there is a reference to it in the parish register.

Once nonconformity became legal in 1689 and the pressure against Catholics also diminished, a law of 1696 provided for baptisms and births of any sort to be written into the register. This was part of a movement to establish that the register was for anyone in the parish, not just Anglicans, but the movement failed and Anglicans ring-fenced the register for themselves. There are quite a lot of nonconformist and Catholic entries in parish registers after 1696 but the custom died away by about 1704.

The other Anglican records don't have a religious content to which Catholics might object. The parish was the source of most local administration until 1834 but the whole of the Poor Law system was religiously neutral and Catholics either paid their Poor Rate or applied for Poor Relief. Settlement examinations have plenty of

poor Irish who were probably Catholic but the issue was residence, not religion.

Catholic records

Until 1778 Catholicism was illegal and simply being a priest made you definitely subject to a death sentence in the early years though not in practice later. So in the 1500s and 1600s priests did not sign their own death warrants by keeping registers. The only exception was in 1687, during the short

reign of James II when Bishop Leyburne travelled round the north of England administering confirmation for the first time in probably fifty years. The list of about 19,000 names, arranged geographically, was published in 1997 by the North West Catholic History Society.

A few baptism registers exist from the mid-1700s but numbers grew substantially after 1778. All Catholic registers (mostly of baptism, confirmation and marriage and including Scotland) are listed in *Catholic Missions and Registers 1700-1880* (M.Gandy, 6 volumes, 1993). They are all in Latin.



Westminister Cathedral entrance, London



Really Useful Bulletin

In the late 1830s most nonconformist registers were handed in to the London courts for safekeeping and formed one of the bases of the Public Record Office (now The National Archives). Catholics had the offer but mostly did not take it up and the only substantial group of registers handed in were from Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. However, a large number of registers have now been handed in to Catholic diocesan archives. The Catholic system of dioceses with bishop was re-established in 1850 but this has no consequences for genealogy except that a few dioceses kept central registers of confirmation.

In the late 1500s, during the period of heaviest persecution, seminaries and schools specifically for English Catholics (both boys and girls) had been set up in France, the Low Countries, Spain and Italy. Many of their records have been published by CRS. They were largely intended for young people who would hopefully go on to be priests and nuns but lots of their students returned home to found families. In 1792 when England declared war on France during the French Revolution, all the surviving institutions came to England and put down roots as the great Catholic schools (Ampleforth, Downside, Stonyhurst, etc) and convents. Only a year earlier (1791) Catholics had been permitted to build chapels and there was a steady increase in numbers wherever there were enough Catholics. London was the exception as the embassies of the Catholic countries (Portuguese, Bavarian, Sardinian, Venetian, French and others) had offered open-house to Catholics since the 1500s. Thus in 1791 London had as many chapels as it needed and only a couple were founded (St Patrick, Soho, was the most important). Slowly the embassy connections died away.

With the enormous growth in the number of poor Catholics (mostly Irish) in the industrial towns Catholics tried to set up schools, orphanages, old people's homes and specialist refuges (eg for the deaf). All Catholic institutions are listed in the *Catholic Directory* though it is best to use old copies if possible as a great many institutions have closed over the last fifty years (mostly because they had been run by priests and nuns whose numbers have declined dramatically).

For ordinary Catholics, the basic genealogy is best traced through ordinary state records (births, marriages and deaths, census and cemeteries plus wills to a lesser extent). Although it is good to document where your ancestors were baptised the registers give less information than a birth certificate. After 1908 there is

a system of cross-referencing baptisms and marriages (and confirmations) so that a baptism certificate may tell you if and where the child married.

In describing a chapel we need to be careful. The poor Irish had no money but it was the custom not to dedicate a church until the building debt was paid off. So a chapel may exist for its first twenty years without a name ('baptised at the Catholic chapel'). Then it gets a name ('baptised at St Mary's, Wolverhampton'). Then, in some cases, the name is made more exotic as (particularly) French fashions came in. Thus St Mary's may be revamped as Notre Dame or Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The *Catholic Directory* (which is annual) makes the position clear for any given date.

The records of formal Catholic institutions can be extensive but certain voluntary organisations may also produce records. Once Catholic urban congregations got established many parishes got a branch of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (which gave practical help rather than money) or the Society of a Happy Death (Bona Mors) whose members attended funerals and had a monthly Mass followed by a get-together. The bigger parishes may have had a parish magazine.

Summary

Before 1837 Catholic ancestry is as traceable as any other type of non-Anglican ancestry, that is, the big problem tends to be with baptisms. English Catholics are usually grouped together in specific (known) centres and those who are not gentry tend to be yeomen or artisans like other nonconformists. In many areas there were no Catholics for 200 years from, say, 1600 to 1800+ and the re-introduction of Catholicism is a function of where the Irish went plus a few English middle-class converts. The formal records of state persecution and punishment are mostly in The National Archives or the House of Lords Record Office (this is only because the records of the House of Commons were largely destroyed by fire in 1834).

There are extensive records and macro-indexes of priests and nuns to 1914.



Author Michael Gandy is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. He has been tracing his ancestry for many years gaining specialist knowledge with London and nonconformist ancestors, especially Catholics, Huguenots and Quakers.



Family History Societies



Mid Norfolk
Family History
Society

Mid-Norfolk Family History Society

Mid-Norfolk FHS usually meets at Trinity Methodist Church in Dereham, on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm. Please contact the secretary, or check on the website, to confirm that the meeting is on as planned and, if you are in the area, please come and join us. Everyone is very welcome. (We ask for a small contribution for refreshments.)

The society collects and transcribes records relating to the town of Dereham and the villages within a ten-mile radius and you can see a map of this area on our website at www.mnfhs.org. If you have family from this area we will be able to help you with your research.

Our August meeting is a **guided tour of Dereham** town centre to learn more about the history of the town and you are more than welcome to join us. Please email secretary@mnfhs.org for more details.

We have an additional meeting in August for our members who are not able to attend in person **Using Photographs in your Research** on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 at 7.30pm and if you would like to attend please email: secretary@mnfhs.org for the Zoom link. There will be another meeting in September and then again in November 2023 and we would love for you to join us.

We are also trying NEW **Zoom helpdesks** each month for our members so if you have a family history question you would like answered or some suggestions of where to go next, please join us. These are on Monday 25th September at 3.00pm and Friday 20th October at 10.00am so please register and email secretary@mnfhs.org for the Zoom link.

We are at **Church House, Dereham on Saturday 9th and Saturday 16th September for the Heritage Open Days** so please come and see us if you are out and about. We will be there answering questions about family history and would be delighted to meet you.

We have transcribed many memorial inscriptions in the area and those we have produced are available to download on Parish Chest so please go to www.parishchest.com and make a purchase.

Our annual membership is only £12.00, which is just £1.00 per month, (much less than a cup of coffee), so it is great value. Come and learn more about your ancestors and you will be made very welcome.

Go to www.mnfhs.org for more information and join via Parish Chest. www.parishchest.com

Family History Books plus some local FHS
will be present at this U3A event!

11th U3A Peak District Family History Conference

Saturday 16 September 2023
at the Palace Hotel in Buxton



Presents.....

Mary Evans – Chasing those Brickwalls!

Dave Annal – Death and Taxes

Jackie Depelle – Digging into the Parish Chest

Dr Penny Walters – Why the Welsh left Wales

Tickets: £30.

Book early to avoid disappointment - it's always very popular. Includes talks, refreshments and two-course finger buffet lunch.

Parking:

- ⇒ Blue Badge holders – may park or drop off at hotel
- ⇒ Others - use side streets or the pay & display car parks
- ⇒ For car parks in Buxton see: <https://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/buxton/>

Exhibitors:

Once again, about fifteen exhibitors will be there – old friends and new.

Delegates:

We plan to offer delegates a free goody bag and a free prize draw again.

To book:

Please complete the booking form on this link:

<https://forms.gle/mXnsgpBhQpmafuNU6>

[You may need to copy and paste the link into your browser.]

Please put your **surname and postcode** as a **reference** if paying by BACS, so we can match payment with your form.

Tickets will NOT be posted but will be issued on the day at our reception desk.



Really Useful Bulletin

Open Doors and Heritage Open Days 8-17 September 2023

Each September **Heritage Open Days** (England) and **Open Doors** (Scotland and Wales) feature places open to the public free of charge, plus some venues not normally open also throw open their doors to welcome the public in.

What is your local society doing for the open days? If you let us know by 7 August, we will fit as many dates and places into the next *Bulletin* as we can in order to promote your activities and, hopefully, encourage people to come along, learn more and maybe join their local FHS! Please email: admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



Mid-Norfolk FHS is at **Church House, Dereham** on Saturday 9th and Saturday 16th September for **Heritage Open Days** so please come along and say hello. Members will be answering questions about family history and will be delighted to meet you.



Launching now and at Heritage Open Days...

**New partnership between
Findmypast and National Trust
to reveal stories from inter-war Britain**



**National
Trust**

Find My Past and the National Trust have announced a new partnership to uncover stories from the 1921 census and bring them to life at ten places looked after by the National Trust.

The 1921 census, exclusive to Findmypast, offers a unique snapshot in time of life in inter-war England and Wales. Helen Antrobus, Assistant National Curator at the National Trust says, *We're delighted to be partnering with Findmypast to tell these rich and fascinating stories, which we hope will connect current and future generations with the people that helped shape these places over 100 years ago.*

Alongside the 1921 census, the team has drawn extensively on data from Findmypast's collection of historical records and connected family trees to trace the stories of these places.

Activities for the partnership will begin in **July** at one of Britain's best-preserved industrial heritage sites, **Quarry Bank** in Cheshire. A further nine places cared for by the Trust across the UK will launch their activities in **September** as part of **Heritage Open Days**. This will involve curatorial displays, exhibitions, games, tours and much more, to bring these fascinating century-old stories to life. Places include:

A la Ronde, Devon
Avebury, Wiltshire
Back to Backs, Birmingham
Blickling, Norfolk
Cotehele, Cornwall
Knightshayes, Devon
Sizergh, Cumbria
The Workhouse, Nottinghamshire
Wordsworth House, Cumbria (right)



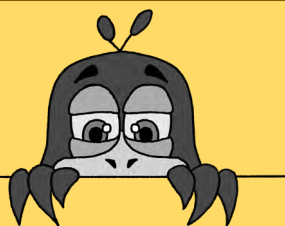
Image courtesy of Find My Past/NT

Records relating to the sites taking part in the pilot activity will be made available to browse for free on a dedicated hub on Find My Past's website, alongside details of the stories of the places and people themselves.



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation



READER SURVEY

- ♦ Are you thinking of joining a family history society?
- ♦ What would you hope to get from that society that would entice you to join?

Don't be shy! We will pass on ideas to our member societies but not your names.

suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com

Do please drop an email with your answers!

THE REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW 2023—ONLINE



Reminder to order your ticket before
31st August at the special **Bulletin**
subscribers' rate of £12.



Don't forget to add
RUB2023 for the shop
to calculate your
discount, just click on
the link below!
Simple!

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/



Getting Out and About

In September, attendance is planned for the following shows and fairs. If attending, do find our stall and stop for a chat!

- 1—3 September **The Creative Craft Show** at Farnborough International
- 2 September **The Family History Show—London** at Kempton Park
- 16 September **U3A Peak District Family History Conference**, Buxton
- 21—23 Sept. **The Creative Craft Show** at Westpoint, Exeter

Copies of our latest publications will be available.

THEIR FINEST HOUR

Their Finest Hour is a new digital history project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and based at the University of Oxford.

The project's aim is simple: to collect and digitally archive as many of the stories and objects that have been passed down to us from the WWII generation as possible. The stories and digitised objects will be made available in a free-to-use online archive in June 2024.

The primary method of collecting stories and objects is by training an army of volunteers from across the UK to organise 'Digital Collection Days' in their communities - in libraries, museums, places of worship, schools, universities, and so on. Members of the public can also directly upload stories and photos of objects to the online archive.

To learn more and join in, visit

<https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>



Really Useful Back Page

Family History Research Aids from the Experts



Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over sixty family history societies and some twenty-plus traders, at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some sixteen categories including:

- Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS
- Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS
- Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists
- Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations
- Folders, printing facilities, giftware
- ..and more!

Societies and suppliers regularly add new lines, so visit to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.

www.parishchest.com

Societies and other vendors interested in joining

Parish Chest should initially contact:

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

Family History Books (FHB) is an online bookshop and publisher; it is owned by the Family History Federation and the aim is to provide a service to the genealogical community. Family History Books offers a range of relevant titles relating to family history research.

How to Discover Your Family History using FREE resources!

An easy step-by-step guide to family history!



Anthony E. Trice

The latest title is *How to Discover Your Family History Using Free Resources*—a subject we all need to know more about! This book is great for beginners too, providing step-by-step guidance to using many online free sources. A few days remain for you to use your SUMMER10 discount code from last month's *Bulletin*, to get ten

per cent discount on the seven latest titles from Family History Books! [**Special reader offer extended to 23.59hrs on 30 July.**] New books are in the pipeline, too!

In addition to its [online shop](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com) Family History Books can also be found at major live family history events around the country. Come and visit us and see all the latest titles available. The stall is always very popular!

Enjoy browsing!

Please explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

17-18 November 2023

Open for booking at: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



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