

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



September 2023 Issue 41

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Website: - <https://www.mlfhs.uk>

Newsletter editor: - newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk

Bookshop: - bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk

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MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St. Peters Square, Manchester, M2 5PD.

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 have just returned from a break in Cornwall, a lovely part of the country, and as the deadline for publication beckons this newsletter may not be quite as up-to-date as normal.

All four branches will be holding meetings during September. There will also two additional events being held at the library, one hosted by Library Live and the second by the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society celebrating their 140th anniversary.

Our volunteers have again been very busy with the first records being added to our database from the Horwich Locomotive Works project. More details can be found [HERE](#). I have also added updates to the UKBMD site.

There are two short articles from Archives + but please go to their website for further information and two additional publications for this month.

That's it for this month: as I said the deadline beckons.

Barry Henshall

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



Deep-dive

Date: 23 September 2023

Day: Saturday, 10.30am

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Barry Henshall and Hilary Hartigan

Deep dive is a fashionable term, of the moment, for taking your family history research to another level, searching deep into archives and online collections to find out more about the life of an individual in your tree, or to research a family group. This is the research that can add colour to your tree, perhaps describe a working life or professional career, or illustrate home life, friends and family, illnesses or good fortune.

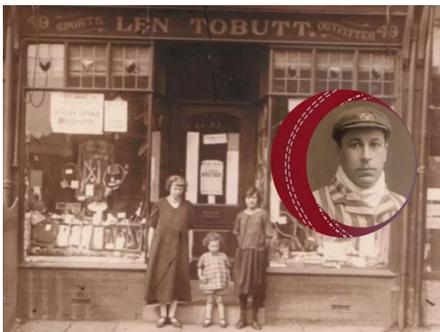
Join us on Saturday, 23rd September at 10.30am to hear two talks about Deep-Dive research and the importance of constructing a timeline to ensure that every avenue of research has been explored. Your speakers will be Barry Henshall and Hilary Hartigan, both members of MLFHS

Booking: will be on Eventbrite, please check the website for details.

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Bolton Branch



How my Grandfather Len Tobutt, pro cricketer, came to Bolton via Scotland and Darwen

Dougie Tobutt local sports outfitter and entrepreneur.

Date: 6 September 2023

Wednesday 7.30pm

Bolton Golf Club & Online via Zoom To be confirmed

Speaker: Dougie Tobutt

"The story of how my grandfather, Leonard Tobutt, a pioneer professional cricketer of the 1920s, moved north from his family home in Middlesex, to eventually settle in Bolton via

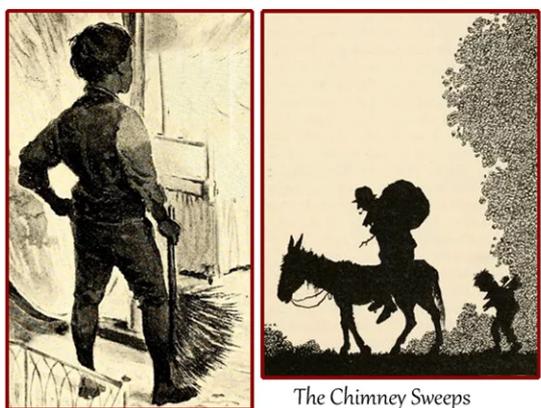
Scotland and create the highly regarded, three generation, sports outfitters and remedial therapy centre that we know today i.e the Tobutt family business”.

Professional Cricketer Leonard Tobutt launched 4 generations local family business, a southerner who moved up north, fell in love with a Bolton lass and stayed. Launching their renowned sports outfitters business. The talk is the story of the family's trials and tribulations through Two World Wars, adapting with the times, and now on to the 21st Century.

Booking: [Eventbrite](#)

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

Oldham Branch



Chimney Stacks and Climbing Boys : the art and mystery of Chimney Sweeping

An illustrated presentation given by Claire Moores

Saturday, 9th September at 2pm

A library-only meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library.

No booking is necessary

Members free; non-members £3

Children were widely used as chimney sweeps in England for about 200 years and the lives of these children who were forced to climb chimneys were the stuff of nightmares.

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

Anglo-Scots



Anglo Scots Mining in Canada and Social Event

Date: 2 September 2023

Day: Saturday, 2.00pm (UK time)

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Social Event

Our meeting this month will be a social event at Manchester Central Library, beginning with a short presentation on Coal Mining in British Vancouver and why you might find your Scottish (Welsh and English) Ancestors there, followed by our usual mix of 'brick walls', 'heirlooms' and discussions that help us to extend our Anglo Scots research.

Booking: Will be on [Eventbrite](#)
Cost: members - free of charge
Cost: non-members - £3
Image: HH

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

Library Live - Events at Manchester Central Library



Elizabeth Raffald – England's Most Influential Housekeeper

Location Manchester Central Library
Performance Space
Wednesday 13 Sep 2023
18:00 — 19:30
Cost Free
Booking required

Manchester-based historian Neil Buttery presents a talk about the rise & fall of one of Britain's most influential cookery writers, Elizabeth Raffald.

Join historian Neil to explore the life, times and legend of the great Elizabeth Raffald of Manchester. Elizabeth was once a household name, and her list of accomplishments would make even the highest of achievers feel suddenly impotent. After becoming the housekeeper at Arley Hall in Cheshire at age twenty-five, she married and moved to Manchester, transforming the Manchester food scene and business community, writing the first A to Z directory and creating the first domestic servant's registry office, the first temping agency if you will. Not only that, she set up a cookery school and ran a high-class tavern attracting both gentry and nobility. She reputedly gave birth to sixteen daughters, wrote a book on midwifery and was an effective exorciser of evil spirits.

More [HERE](#) and details on how to book.



Lancashire and Cheshire
Antiquarian Society

1883-2023

invitation to the 140TH ANNIVERSARY AND BOOK LAUNCH

5TH September 2023 18.00 – 19.30 at Manchester central library, Manchester

This event will also give you the opportunity to meet some of our authors, along with local historians and archaeologists.

We will be launching volume 114 of our Transactions at this event.

Our President, Dr Mike Nevell, as well as members of our Council will be on hand to provide information and advice. It is the 140th anniversary and to continue in our work to preserve the history of our region we need more members.

RSVP - secretary@landcas.org.uk

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 August.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Added 1,528 baptisms carried out at chapels on the Bolton Wesleyan Methodist preaching circuit 1782-1815. These have been transcribed by our Bolton Branch. Thanks are due to Graham Holt.

The following update has been posted to Manchester Memorial Inscriptions
Photographs of several hundred memorials identified as belonging to St. Andrew, Blackley, have been transcribed by Sue Fielding. Added 1,467 names from 340 memorials.
Typescripts donated by Margaret Sloand

The following update has been posted to Manchester Burials
Added Images and index to the register entries for burials 1808-1872 with images of the register 1808-1899 and 1941-1958. Transcribed by Cheyvonne Bower (326 records)

The following update has been posted to Godfrey Map Index
Added 290 references from Prestwich 1915, Higher Blackley 1906 and Heaton Park 1907.
Indexed by James Fieldhouse and Lynne Wilkinson.

Added a further 113 references for Little Hulton, 1907. Thanks to Mike Halliday for these.

An update has been posted to Godfrey Map Index
Added 69 references for Worsley Hall, 1904 indexed by Mike Halliday

The following update has been posted to Horwich Locomotive Works Staff Record Cards
The first 1,322 records have been added to the Great Database. Scanning and indexing continue.

The following update has been posted to Horwich Locomotive Works Staff Record Cards
A further 720 records added for surnames COATES-DODD and 261 records added for surnames EDEN-THOMAS.

The following update has been posted to Newspaper Announcements
Added 5,410 BMD announcements from Manchester Courier for 1847 to the Great Database. Transcribed by Linda Bailey, Laura Lewis, Chris Norcross and Chris Hall

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

Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine

Ancestry adds Second World War POW questionnaires
Over 80,000 questionnaires are now available to search on Ancestry
More details [HERE](#).

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

Staffs BMD Updates for August are as follows

Births - Replaced to add mother's maiden names:

996 for Chedale, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1856-1860)

Deaths:

2,261 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1974-1981)

Many thanks to all our helpers

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

Births:

4,515 for Kingston, registers at Kingston (1885-1888)

Many thanks to the Register Office and their volunteers for these.

Westmidlands BMD Updates for the 24th August are as follows

Marriages replacements for corrections and to fill missing years:

3,810 for Smethwick, St Paul, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1860-1970)

1,457 for Smethwick, St Mark, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1929-1970)

Many thanks to all involved

The Kingston upon Thames BMD site has been updated to add:

Marriages:

1,764 for St Pauls, Kingston Hill, registers at Kingston (1880-1937)

Many thanks to the Register Office and their volunteers for these.

the Shropshire BMD site has been updated to add:

Births:

19,021 for Shropshire, registers at Shrewsbury (1973-2022)

Many thanks to the Register Office and their volunteers for these.

<http://ShropshireBMD.info>

New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 3,232 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Bury, United Reform Church, Rochdale Rd. (2010-2019)
Blackford Bridge, United Reform Church (1966-2013)
Bury, Methodist Church, Bolton Rd. (1999-2018)
Bury, Methodist Church, Linton Ave. (1991-2018)
Bury, Bethesda Pentecostal, Parkhills Rd. (2008-2019)
Bury, Bury Baptist, Manchester Rd. (2002-2018)
Radcliffe, United Reform Church, Water St. (1966-2009)
Radcliffe, The Bridge Methodist Church, Milltown St. (1965-2014)
Whitefield, Besses o'th Barn URC (1989-2013)
Radcliffe, Wesley Methodist Chapel, Ainsworth Rd. (2000-2011)
Tottington, St.John's Free C of E., Kirklees St. (2019-2019)
Tottington, Greenmount URC (2006-2021)
Tottington, Methodist Chapel, Market St. (2008-2017)
Whitefield, Methodist Church, Elm St. (1994-2018)
Radcliffe, New Jerusalem Church, Stand Lane (1953-2013)
Hawkshaw, Methodist Church (2005-2015)
Ramsbottom, Dundee URC, Dundee Lane (1976-2013)
Prestwich, Heaton Park Methodist Church, Bury Old Rd. (1995-2019)
Radcliffe, Stand URC, Chapelfield (1993-2019)
Whitefield, Stand Unitarian Chapel, Ringley Rd. (2006-2019);
Ramsbottom, Methodist Church, Bolton Road West (2010-2015)
Brandlesholme, Brandlesholme Methodist Church, Bouldon Drive (1974-1995)
Prestwich, Church of Our Lady of Grace, Fairfax Rd. (2012-2020)
Elton, Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and The Guardian Angels, Harvey St.
(2013-2021)
Bury, Kingdom Hall, Millett St. (2016-2018)
Tottington, St.Hildas RC, Turton Rd. (2015-2019)
Bury, St.Josephs RC, Peter St. (1997-2018)
Bury, St.Maries RC, Manchester Rd. (2016-2019)
Radcliffe, Catholic Church of Ss.Mary and Philip Neri, Spring St. (2000-2019)
Whitefield, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1999-2015)
Radcliffe, Trinity Baptist Church, Westminster Av. (1988-2015)
Ramsbottom, St.Josephs RC (1998-2019)
Prestwich, Prestwich Methodist Church (2001-2009)
Whitefield, St.Michaels, Ribble Dr. (2018-2018)
Ramsbottom, Christ Church (2004-2012)
Somerset, Rowlands Methodist Church (2007-2020)
Bury, Bury Bible Baptist Church (2007-2019)
Elton, All Saints (1991-2000)
Hawkshaw, St.Mary (1892-2018)
Prestwich, St.Margaret (1995-2020)
Simister, St.George (1986-2017);

Radcliffe, St.Mary (2008-2019)
Radcliffe, St.Thomas & St.John (1998-2019)
Ramsbottom, St.Andrews (1992-2020)
Ramsbottom, St.Paul (2010-2019)
Stand, All Saints (2007-2020)
Tottington, St.Ann (2013-2020)
Unsworth, St.George (1995-2015)
Walmersley, Christ Church (1977-2019)
Walshaw, Christ Church (2011-2019)
Woolfold, St.James (2003-2017)
Added 593 Marriages for Burnley RD comprising:
Burnley, St Stephen (1982-1986)
Habergham Eaves, All Saints (1983-1990)
Burnley, Holy Trinity (1982-1988)
Burnley, St Matthew the Apostle (1983-1983)
Burnley, St Mark (1970-1990)
Burnley, St James (1972-1993)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

Added 8,201 Births for Bury RD comprising:
Bury (1982-1987)

Added 4,009 Deaths for Bury RD comprising:
Bury (1971-1975)
Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

John

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John Marsden

Webmaster:

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

For access to all the UK's major BMD and Census sites visit <https://www.UKBMD.org.uk/>
For access to all the UK's major Family History sites visit <https://www.UKGD.L.org.uk/>
For access to all the UK's major Military Family History sites visit <https://www.UKMFH.org.uk/>

MANCHESTER ARCHIVES+



History and Literature in Archives+

Introduction

Manchester Central library's archives are full to the brim with enchanting, engaging and educational records of time, some of which are in the form of inspirational literature. These include wide variety of poems, plays and stories portraying all kinds of historical events with a

plethora of rich symbolism. Containing everything from Queer protest history to even vintage editions of Vogue, and all names from Shakespeare to Wordsworth, there's something for everyone. Here, I will talk about some of the great pieces of literature which I have had the privilege of selecting and researching first hand from Archives+.

More on this subject [HERE](#)

Manchester's Early Role as a Hub for Campaigning for LGBTQ+ Rights



Whilst knowledge of the Stonewall Riots in America and the impact on the LGBTQ+ rights movement is common, few people are aware of the influential campaigns for LGBTQ+ rights that took place in Manchester, particularly in the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

Allan Horsfall, who was a Labour Party member in 1956, is a prominent figure in these campaigns. His entire collection of papers, where a significant amount of information from this blog comes from, is found in the Manchester Central Library Archives. It was such an interesting experience looking through his collection of newspaper clippings, transcripts from interviews and many other letters and articles relating to the LGBTQ+ rights movement in Manchester.

More on the website [HERE](#)

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 sword swallower 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/mXnsgpBhQpmafU6>

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 36

August 2023

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

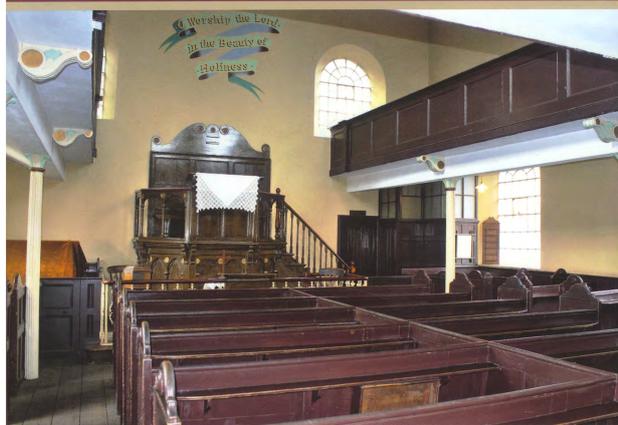
inside find...

Lead article this month is *Exploring the World of your Freemason Ancestor* plus news from FHS, free heritage events in September, and news from the Federation

Plenty to read and enjoy!

SPECIAL OFFER

Introducing Nonconformist Records



Explaining Nonconformist Records for Family Historians

Ian H Waller FSG FGRA

IT'S ARRIVED EARLY!
Ian Waller's NEW Book

Introducing Nonconformist Records
only £10

UNTIL 31st AUGUST
Using Code NCW10

Book Launches 1st September
Normal Selling Price £14.95

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



Really Useful Bulletin

Exploring the Secret World of your Freemason Ancestor

by Yetunde Abiola

Freemasonry, the teachings and practices of the secret fraternal order of Free and Accepted Masons, is the largest worldwide secret society. Spread by the advance of the British Empire, this secret order remains most popular in the British Isles and in other countries originally within the empire. Established in England in 1717, the Freemasons are synonymous with elitism, mystery and secrecy. However, Freemasons who believe in a *Supreme Divine Being* and the immortality of the soul, strongly deny this. They maintain that they are a society deeply rooted in a religious and philosophical system and that this is expressed in their dramatic ceremonies, intended to answer the following questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life?

Freemasons come from a variety of backgrounds: royalty, presidents, writers, composers, educators, doctors, tradesmen and other cultural, social and civic leaders. There are many famous people who were Freemasons: Oscar Wilde (playwright), Neil Armstrong (astronaut), Louis Armstrong (jazz musician) to name but a few. Freemasonry has a presence all over the world, with a sovereign body in each country called a Grand Lodge; in the United States there is one Grand Lodge for each state. Most of the membership (an estimated six million) is in the USA and Canada.



Edward the VII, King of Great Britain

Do you wish to research the masonic past of an individual in your family? Do you suspect that your ancestor may have been a Freemason? Freemasons

often kept details about their involvement with the fraternity private from their families and non-Freemason friends. If your relative was a Freemason, chances are that there will be a record of their masonic life out there, waiting to be uncovered.

Why did your ancestor join the Freemasons? Some of the reasons could be: for brotherhood and friendship, to contribute to charitable causes (fundraising events, scholarships/grants, training and apprenticeships); character building and self-confidence to be a better person; for entertainment (ceremonies, parties, balls and other events); the very impressive regalia (aprons, jewels and other accessories); to be part of the moral fabric of society or to meet in unity and peace with people from all walks of life, irrespective of race, class and social background.

First things first, oral history. When the opportunity arises, interview relatives to get some initial information and see if there is any to find. This must be done with sensitivity and respect. Simple and well thought out questioning is needed, one question at a time. Then, you will need to search for the name of your relative in the relevant membership registers and other available records. Freemasons kept their involvement with the fraternity a secret, but it was not uncommon for them to encourage other menfolk to join the brotherhood. It is also well worth reading up as much as you can on Freemasonry to inform your search; there is a lot to read in libraries, archives and online. Here are two tried and tested free online resources: Archive.org <https://archive.org/details/cu31924030281459> and Google Books <https://books.google.co.uk/?hl=en>.

Grand Lodges often kept records of their membership, however, searching for masonic records can be challenging, but with persistence and focus you can reveal unknown and useful information about an ancestor. So, what next? Do you really need to know any more?

Here are some useful tips:

- ◇ ask your local Grand Lodge whether your relative was a member. Keep in mind that lodges get a lot of requests for help in genealogical searches, so patience is needed.



Really Useful Bulletin

- ◇ remember to provide as much information about your relative as you can: full name; birth and death dates; profession, where he/she lived and religion. Review your notes often and think creatively.
- ◇ search for lists and registration records of Grand Lodges on the internet – Ancestry.com houses membership registers for England and Wales and Ireland. https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/categories/freemason_registers/ [below]

- ◇ other sources are: Pietre-Stones Review of Freemasonry <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>, Masonic Periodicals Online www.masonicperiodicals.com and *Who's Who in Freemasonry, 1913-1914; Masonic Who's Who, 1926* www.thegenealogist.co.uk
- ◇ do not overlook social media—the Grand Lodge you are interested in may have a Facebook page. Run a search and message the page's administrator and members asking for information. It is always worth a try.

We can learn a lot about our Freemason ancestors from the beautiful regalia and jewels they wore—rings, lapel pins, tie tacks and other items. This confirmed their involvement, status, order and the degree: 1° Entered Apprentice, 2° Fellowcraft or 3° Master Mason.



Masonic jewel, 14th degree Mason

**England, United Grand Lodge of England
Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921**

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) _____ Last Name _____

Birth Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ Location _____

Any Event (e.g. London, England)

Keyword _____
e.g. teacher or "Tower of London"

Lodge _____

Gender --Select--

Lodge Location Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ Location _____ (e.g. London, England)

First Payment _____ Year on Register _____

Initiation Date

Search Clear search

Browse this collection
To browse this image set, select from the options below.
Lodge Choose...
Year Range -

Related data collections
1901 England Census
This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1901 Census for England. The census contains detailed information on each individual including name, relationship to the head of the family, marital status, age

**Ireland, Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland
Membership Registers, 1733-1923**

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) _____ Last Name _____

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ Location _____ (e.g. London, England)

Any Event

Keyword _____
e.g. teacher or "Tower of London"

Lodge _____

Gender --Select--

Event Date

Event Place (e.g. London, England)

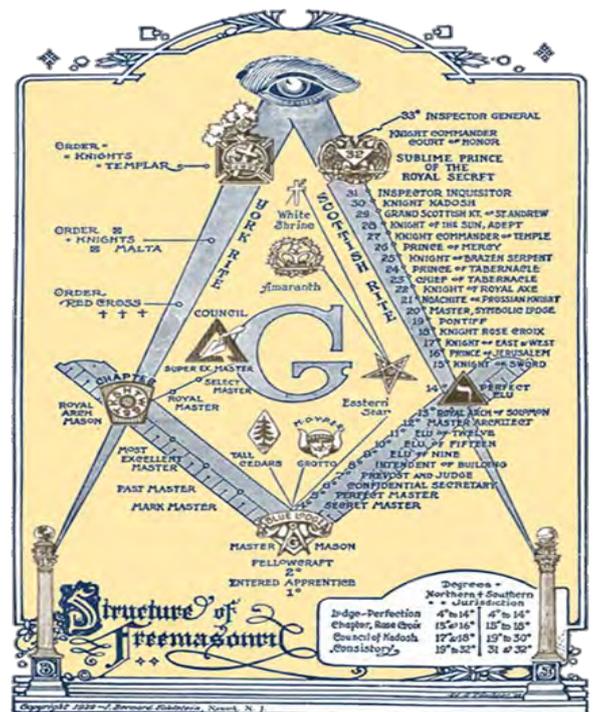
Search Clear search

Browse this collection
To browse this image set, select from the options below.
Date Range and Volume
1733-1806 (Volume I)
1733-1806 (Volume II)
1733-1806 (Volume III)
1760-1808 (Volume I)
1760-1808 (Volume II)
1760-1808 (Volume III)
1760-1859 (Volume I)
1760-1859 (Volume II)
1760-1859 (Volume III)
1760-1859 (Volume IV)
1760-1859 (Volume V)

Related data collections
England, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921
Master Mason in the family? Find out with these membership registers from English lodges.

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/60904/>

- ◇ register as a reader and do some research at the Freemason Museum, England and Wales <https://www.ugle.org.uk/freemasons-hall/museum-freemasonry>, the Freemason, Museum, Library and Archive, Ireland <https://freemason.ie/museum-library-archive/> and/or the Freemason Museum and Archive, Scotland <https://www.grandlodgescotland.com>



An illustration showing the organisational structure, orders and degrees



Really Useful Bulletin

Very few Grand Lodges accepted women, however, female family members may recall being asked to join the Order of the Eastern Star, a women’s group affiliated to the Masons. The Order of the Eastern Star is about charity, service and fellowship and was initiated by Dr Bob Morris and his wife Charlotte in the mid-nineteenth century. There is also the Order of Women Freemasons which was founded in 1908. The Order of Women Freemasons initially had both men and women as members, but by 1935 it became an exclusively female organisation.



Zuzanka Penn: Grandmaster, Order of Women Freemasons

For some people, the discovery of a Freemason ancestor may bring about feelings of suspicion, shock, embarrassment or shame. For others it is just a matter of fact. What do you do next? Do you really need to know more? You may be hesitant on whether to tell the family or wondering how to present this information on the family tree. You can find some useful chapters on ethical dilemmas in the following books by Dr. Penny Walters: *Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy* and *The Psychology of Searching*, both available in paperback and on Kindle from Amazon.

More and more information is being made available for family historians to explore and learn about their ancestors and their past lives. We are increasingly finding ourselves armed with specific information about our ancestors. This encourages us to look more closely and differently at our family histories and at the world we live in. Understanding who we are and where we come from helps in providing a great sense of self, identity and belonging. For most of us, the ideal is that we should appreciate and celebrate who we are, and where we come from.



Grandmaster, Mason: The Grand Lodge of India



Grandmaster, Mason: The Grand Lodge of Africa



Freemasonry in Egypt – a tombstone



About the author:

Yetunde Abiola has been researching her family history for eight years. As a black British woman of Nigerian and Jamaican descent, Yetunde is conversant with the interplay of histories and politics in today’s multi-cultural world. Her special interest areas include Church Missionary Society records for family research purposes, maximising the use of Freemason records, the impact of ancestor stories on the lives of future generations and the complexities and intricacies of Caribbean, diaspora, and colonial genealogies. She has served as an Ambassador for RootsTech at London and Salt Lake City and RootsTech Connect. She is also a regular speaker at events worldwide. Yetunde is a member of the executive committee of the Family History Federation.



Family History Societies



Devon Family History Society

Tree House in Exeter is the research centre of Devon Family History Society. We are open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to welcome visitors. Although our speciality is Devon research, we are happy to help people whose ancestors are from other counties.

Over the years, our members have transcribed hundreds of thousands of Devon records which are available to search at Tree House. We have access to the usual commercial websites and we are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. Our own library is also a fantastic resource – the catalogue is available on our website under the Tree House tab. We are also happy to answer queries and receive research requests by email, phone or by letter or you can book a one-to-one Zoom session with one of our experienced volunteers.

The last few years have presented all family history societies with challenges but also with opportunities. Devon Family History Society instigated regular Zoom meetings early in lockdown and these have been very successful. For the first time, it has enabled members who live far away from Devon to play an active role in the society. We also host small group meetings which meet online to chat about a group of Devon parishes. These now cover the whole county and its 500+ parishes and have proved mutually beneficial to people who have research interests in the locality as well as local inhabitants. All these meetings are open to everyone, please look at our website for details of the programme and how to join

<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/meetings/>

These online meetings have now been joined by face-to-face meetings too.

Our volunteers are often out and about promoting family history to beginners and more experienced researchers alike and raising the profile of the Society. In September we will be at the Romany and Traveller FHS's day at the Mint in Exeter on 16th (see events page) and the same weekend, if you are in north Devon please come and see us at the Great Hobby Weekend at RHS Rosemoor (admission charges apply).

Our website:

www.devonfhs.org.uk/

Picture from Devon FHS website.



Ormskirk and District Family History Society

We aim to produce a series of two short publications on various aspects of life and times in the west Lancashire area over the past three centuries, using our unique collection of material and resources. This will involve researching our subject, gathering together all the information we have and verifying the authenticity of the information. With the use of a desktop publishing programme this will then be formatted into a book of approximately twenty pages. The publications will be:

- ◇ Interesting to the general public
- ◇ Historically accurate
- ◇ Attractive and engaging
- ◇ Enjoyable to read
- ◇ Freely available

The inspiration behind this project is our need to share the wide range of material we hold in our library. At present it is seen by the relatively few people who visit.

Although we are continually expanding our website, this is seen mainly by those members with digital skills, leaving a huge number of local people who can't access this material.

In undertaking this project we will share images, stories and information of long ago in west Lancashire, keeping alive the history and heritage of the area.

We, as a society, will benefit from new skills learned, increased publicity and improved profile and be doing something we are passionate about.

The publications will help people identify more with their community and gain a sense of the of the importance of the area in previous centuries.

A more civic minded population who will take pride in where they live and want to be more involved, resulting in economic benefits and profile.

Our heritage is important and must be preserved.

We estimate that we will need £3084 to enable us to produce two small books, which will be available to our members and the public at no cost.

We have applied to Lancashire County Council for a grant towards this, and if we can raise fifty per cent of the money they will hopefully match fund up to fifty per cent, depending on the size of their budget.

To achieve this project we are trying to raise funds via a *Spacehive Crowdfunding* platform. Our idea is to share the history of west Lancashire as far and wide as possible in an easily readable paper format.

Full details of the project are at www.spacehive.com/sharing-west-lancs-historical-archives

Our website: www.odfhs.website/



Family History Societies



Family History Society of Cheshire

Celebrating in Crewe

Here in Cheshire, and especially in Crewe, there is great excitement about celebrating the 180 years of Crewe Works. The Crewe Heritage Centre has a summer of events to demonstrate how locomotives were a catalyst for change in the town. There is a community-led exhibition *Forging History – 180 Years of Crewe Works* which will tell the story of how the works shaped the development of Crewe into becoming one of Britain's key industrial engineering towns.



Crewe Works early 1920s

The Heritage Open Day fair is on Saturday 9th September – see events listing—at the Centre.



FHS of Cheshire has been instrumental in helping those with railway connections to discover their ancestors using some of the unique records held at its Crewe Research Centre and drawing on the vast breadth of our volunteers' tacit knowledge. To mark Heritage Open Days, the society's Crewe research centre will be open on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th September between 10.30am and 3.30pm for members and non-members alike to visit and discover what is on offer in terms of physical records, online records and also to receive assistance from FHSC volunteers. See events pages.

We really are busy during HODs week! *Women Educating Cheshire: The History of the Cheshire County*



Training College, Crewe [1908-1974] is a talk being presented by our very own Margaret Roberts on the evening of Monday 11th at the Crewe Engineering and Design University Technical College. This is a fascinating talk on the lives of the women who trained to be teachers at Crewe Training College, which was established in 1908 when lectures originally took place at the Mechanics Institute. Early picture of the College buildings above (now demolished). Follow the link on events pages.

Finally, FHS of Cheshire is delighted to be welcoming Mike Esbester of the *Railway Work, Life and Death Project* who, together with local railway historian Di Drummond, Reg Instone of the LNWR Society, and Margaret Roberts of FHSC will be presenting an afternoon and evening of workshops entitled *Crewe: Your Railway, Your Family*. Held at Crewe's Engineering and Design University Technical College on Thursday 14th September. The event will allow visitors to learn more about Crewe's railway heritage, working on the railways and tracing your railways ancestors. The format will be a series of talks to help visitors understand more about the important railway history of Crewe, how it fits into the national picture, what work on the railways in and around Crewe involved and how to find more about your own railway ancestors. When not giving talks the presenters will be available to discuss all things Crewe, railway and family history with you. There are a few last minute timings to be firmed up – see events pages. Alternatively contact: publicity@FHSC.org.uk

Our website: <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/>



Family History Societies

FREE-TO-ATTEND HERITAGE EVENTS

Family history societies are running or taking part in free-access events as part of the national Heritage Open Days or other local festivals. We have listed contributions from member societies and encourage readers to support local events. Entries are brief – use the links for further detail. Enjoy a few trips – with apologies to overseas readers (look for the Zoom events!).

Images have been sourced from websites of organisers or venues to promote the events.



East Surrey FHS on *Saturday 2 September* at West Norwood Library and Picturehouse, 1-5 Norwood High Street, Norwood, SE27 9JX part of Lambeth Heritage Festival. Members will be present to help with family history. <https://www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/>



Gloucestershire FHS on *Saturday 2 September* will be at Gloucestershire Heritage Hub's event, *Curious about the Hub*. FHS members available to help with research 10-4; main event 1-4 featuring talks by Ben Nicholls, John Chandler and Mia Bennett. www.heritagehub.org.uk/events/curious-about-the-heritage-hub/



Nuneaton and N. Warwickshire FHS on *Friday 8 September* *Tour of North Warwickshire in Pictures Old and New* by John Parton as part of North Warwickshire Festival of History coinciding with HODs. 10.30am-4pm. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/nnwfhs-at-atherstone-heritage-centre



Mid-Norfolk FHS on *Saturday 9 and Saturday 16 September* is at Church House, Dereham so please come along and say hello. Members will be answering questions about family history. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/mid-norfolk-fhs



FHS of Cheshire on *Saturday 9 September* will have a stall promoting family history at the Crewe Heritage Centre Fair, Vernon Way, Crewe CW1 2DB special which is celebrating 180 years of Crewe Works. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/forging-history-180-years-of-crewe-works



Huddersfield & District FHS will be at Colne Valley Museum, Golcar on the weekend of the ***9 and 10 September*** and again for ***16 and 17 September***. For more information go to <https://hdfhs.org.uk/our-events/>



Rodbourne Community History Group on *Saturday 9 September* a GWR Factory Trail, free guided tour of the designer outlet and associated GWR factory buildings with guide from the RCHG. Booking essential: secretary@rodbournehistory.org



Huddersfield & District FHS on *Saturday 9 September* we will be at All Saints Church and Community Centre, Netherthong, Holmfirth with a *History Day* event. We also have researchers at St John the Evangelist Church in Golcar for their open day. For more information go to <https://hdfhs.org.uk/our-events/>



Northants FHS on *Sunday 10 September* is taking part in the Northamptonshire Heritage Fair at Abington Park Museum – large variety of stalls and displays. 11am -4pm. Free entry. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/northamptonshire-heritage-fair-apm





Family History Societies

MORE FREE-TO-ATTEND HERITAGE EVENTS



Nuneaton and N. Warwickshire FHS on **Sunday 10 September** at St Leonard's Church Open Day, Over Whitacre from 10.30am. NNWFHS members available to help with family history. Talk by popular local historian Rita Poulson at 3pm in the church. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/open-day-at-st-leonards-church-over-whitacre



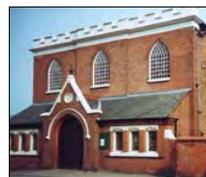
Leicestershire and Rutland FHS on **Saturday 9** and **Tuesday 12 September** visit the Society's Research Centre in Leicester's famous Every Street, find out more and see photographs of Town Hall Square. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/leicestershire-and-rutland-family-history-society



FHS of Cheshire's Crewe research centre will be open on **Monday 11, Tuesday 12** and **Thursday 14 September** 10.30am-3.30pm for members and non-members alike to visit and discover what we have to offer. Use physical records, online records and get assistance from FHSC volunteers. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/introduction-to-the-family-history-unit



Nuneaton and N. Warwickshire FHS on **Thursday 14 September** a *Tour of North Warwickshire in Pictures Old and New* by John Parton. Part of North Warwickshire Festival of History and HODs especially for those unable to visit the area; via Zoom 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Free booking opens 1 September – see <https://www.facebook.com/nnwfhs/> or [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)



FHS of Cheshire Women Educating Cheshire: The History of the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe talk by Margaret Roberts on the evening of **Monday 11 September** at the Crewe Engineering and Design University Technical College. www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/women-educating-cheshire-the-history-of-the-cheshire-county-training-colleg



FHS of Cheshire is running workshops on **Thursday 14 September** with the theme *Crewe: Your Railway, Your Family* at the Crewe Engineering and Design University Technical College with experts Mike Esbester, Di Drummond, Reg Instone and Margaret Roberts. Awaiting HODs listing. See *Societies* in this Bulletin. <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/crewe-your-railway-your-family>



Rodbourne Community History Group on **Saturday 16 September** at 10am, take a walk through the history of Rodbourne with a guide from the RCHG. Booking essential: secretary@rodbournehistory.org



Romany and Traveller FHS and **Devon FHS** on **Saturday 16 September** are jointly holding a HODs event in Exeter. Open to all, not just those with travelling ancestors. Drop in for a chat over a cuppa, meet up with cousins and more! www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/passing-through



Hampshire Genealogical Society on Saturday **Saturday 16 September** will be at *Explore Hampshire Archives* heritage day at Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester SO23 8TH. 11am-3.30pm. www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives/events/art-in-the-archives-160923-11am





Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

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 **USA Peak District Family History Conference**, Buxton
- 21—23 Sept. **The Creative Craft Show** at Westpoint, Exeter

Copies of our latest publications will be available.



SIGN UP, SIGN UP...

We know some readers have the *Bulletin* forwarded to them and occasionally you moan that you missed a great offer...

The *Bulletin* is **FREE**. Just sign up and get your copy on day of issue and never miss a great offer again.

Just click below—then click on the newsletter logo.

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/



LAST CALL AT £12

**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/

DNA



Next month's lead article will be all about DNA

Plus news of some great deals on DNA testing kits, too!



Really Useful Bulletin

TIME TO BREAK DOWN THOSE BRICK WALLS!

Four helpful books with practical ideas to take you through, under or around the brick wall!

An offer from Family History Books especially for Bulletin subscribers



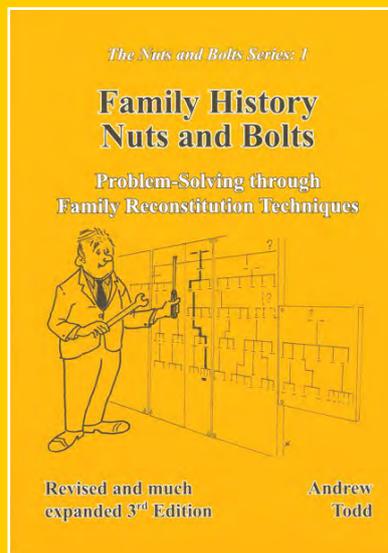
Buy any two or more of these four great books for a fiver each!

Place orders by 18 September at:

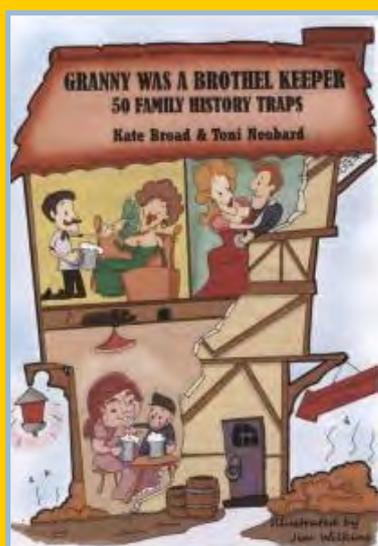
www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

Let's help you to demolish your brick wall!

Family History Research Challenges and How to Solve Them should be on every desk—and in use! Tried and tested recommendations from retired researcher, Ian Waller. Usually £8.95 + p&p



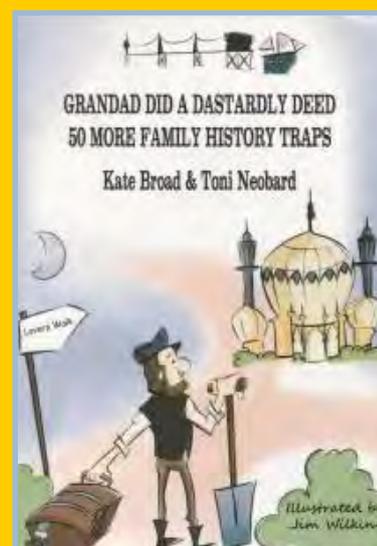
Family History Nuts and Bolts: Problem Solving through Family Reconstitution Techniques The expanded third edition of Andrew Todd's useful guide to family reconstitution. Usually £8.00 + p&p



Don't be misled by the humorous titles! These two books demonstrate the traps we can so easily fall into!

Granny was a Brothel Keeper
Usually £8.99 + p&p

Grandad Did a Dastardly Deed
Usually £9.99 + p&p



Order two or more of these books today and pay a fiver per book!

Yes—just £5.00 each + p&p

Offer closes on Monday 18 September 2023

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



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 others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

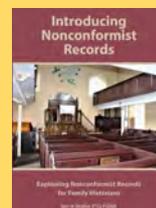


FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

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.

The latest title is a fantastically detailed research guide—featured on the cover of this edition. It will become the ‘must have’ book for nonconformist family history research. Written by Ian Waller who is education officer and vice-chairman of FHF.



Did you miss the great offer on page 10 of this edition? All family historians have a brick wall somewhere. This month’s offer has some super-helpful books to learn tricks to get around those pesky brick walls! These books will also make good stocking-fillers for your genealogical pals this Christmas! (*Hint!*)

In addition to its [online shop](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com) FHB 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!

Happy browsing!

Please explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

17-18 November 2023

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