

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



May 2024 Issue 49

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter. May is a very busy month for the Society with the AGM on Wednesday 22nd together with two talks on this day, 'Salford Through Time' by Paul Hindle and 'Before the Renaissance: The State of Manchester in the 1950s and 60s' by Dr Alan Crosby. On the 25th we are holding our second Explore talk when Leslie Turner will talk about the 1921 Census.

Also this month meetings are being held by our Bolton, Oldham and Anglo-Scots branches. On the 11th May the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society are holding their annual conference at the Friends Meeting House, just across the road from central library. This is free to M&LFHS members but you must book a place as space is limited.

I have included all our regular features including the Family History Federation newsletter for April.

Those of you who have been reading these newsletters from the start may remember a website called [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/mlfhs/78xvhn/s2s/FZ9Up2Ac/R3046/facebook/). Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society is in the top 20% of causes in their category. I support them when I shop online at no extra cost, and you can too! Why not sign up and raise funds for our Society when shopping with over 8,000 big brands being supported and ready to donate. <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/mlfhs/78xvhn/s2s/FZ9Up2Ac/R3046/facebook/>



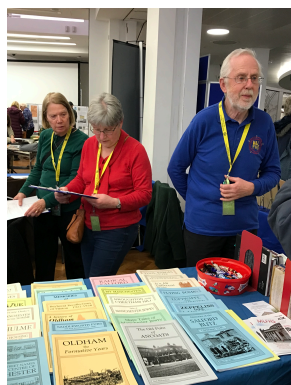
As you can see we have 56 current supporters and have raised almost £1,000 for the Society without any effort. Why not give it a try.

Now for news some of you may not want to hear. May 2020 saw the arrival of the first edition of the newspaper, an attempt to keep members in contact with the Society during the Government's lockdown policy. Four years on we are now at issue 49 and with restrictions long ago lifted. Why am I mentioning this? Well, I feel that the time has come to step down from being editor and hopefully hand over the reigns. Is there anyone out there who is willing to take over? I hope so.

Over the years I have tried to publicise not only the activities of the Society but also to provide a portal to other family history societies and organisations. I have included our partners at Manchester Central Library and others who I have thought would provide some interest and support for our members. In other words provide a 1-stop shop. I know that this is short notice but I am aiming for issue 50 to be my last. If you feel that you would like the challenge then please contact me. Of course I will give my full support.

Barry

Family History Fair held at Manchester Central Library Saturday 13th April 2024



Images: Hilary Hartigan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hands to the Pump

I make no apologies for re-visiting one of my recurring themes. Volunteers are, and have been, the lifeblood of your Society. Their contributions have enabled it to achieve its aims to record the unrecorded and preserve the recorded. Our tradition of generous support for our fellow researchers is widely respected across the FHS family.

Across our history, as volunteers leave the team we have needed to add new hands to the pump, so to speak. Without that regeneration, we could not have hoped to assemble a Great Database of more than 3.5 million entries or share our work with commercial agencies like FindMyPast or contribute 9.5 million names to the national index of Lancashire BMD. It has been the same with our Helpdesk Teams, as well as those who carry out back-office duties. We have been lucky to have retained so many volunteers for so long, but inevitably we must replace those who depart so as to continue to deliver the high level of service our members and the Manchester public have come to expect.

As we confront the next few years, which will impose a heavy demand upon our resources, there will be a pressing need for more volunteers to replace those who depart. I therefore ask that anyone who can find time in their busy lives to commit a few hours whether daily, monthly, even bi-monthly to assisting one or other of our activities, to let us know of your interest. You can do this by contacting the office, preferably by email at office@mlfhs.org.uk and your interest will be acknowledged and followed up with a response from one or other of our team of activity managers.

You ask, what activities and what do I need to know?

Our activities include transcription and indexing assistance with our many projects, guidance and advice to researchers who visit the helpdesk, curating our collection of resource documents, and a variety of administrative tasks. Many of these tasks can be performed remotely at home with the appropriate internet connection. Others will require attendance at one or other of our bases in Manchester, Bolton and Oldham. Sometimes visits are necessary to other locations where original documents are housed in the Greater Manchester area.

Training will be given for every role, but clearly any skills you can bring to the table will ease the process.

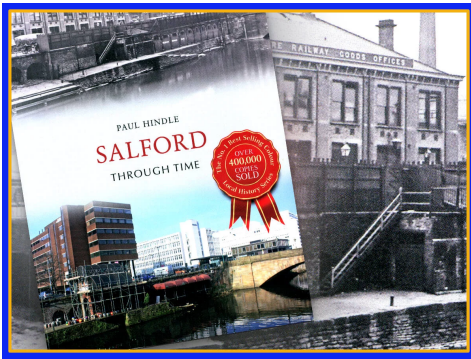
Why not enhance your enjoyment of family history research by offering your experience to others? Together, let us ensure that we carry on the tradition of generous support for our fellow researchers that has lifted your Society high in the esteem of our peers in the sector.

My fear is that without the steady supply of volunteers we have become accustomed to, we will be unable to maintain the high standards we have set ourselves in past years,

David

-

Manchester Branch



Quarterly Meeting - Salford Through Time, by Paul Hindle

Date: 22 May 2024

Day: Wednesday, 10.30am

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Paul Hindle

Booking: will be on [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £5

Paul Hindle tells us that Salford was for many years basically a suburb of Manchester, but that has all changed now. This talk compares old photos with present day images, taking three routes through Salford. Even more changes have happened in the last ten years and these will also be discussed.

We want you to enjoy the morning talk and the AGM which follows on immediately. After the AGM there will be time for some lunch - there is a café in the library on the ground floor, and then return to the Performance space for the afternoon talk.



Date: 22 May 2024

Day: Wednesday, 11.45am

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Trustees

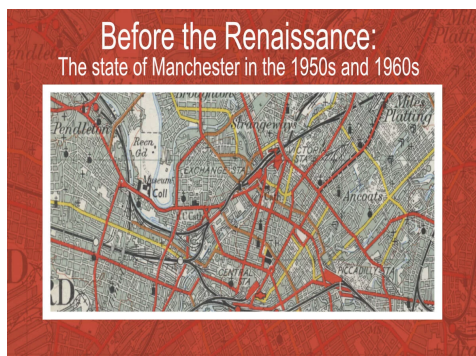
Booking: no booking required

Cost: members - all members are invited to stay for the AGM

Cost: non-members - non-members attending both meetings on the day can stay for the AGM but will not be able to vote.

Our AGM will follow on immediately from the morning talk. If you attend the morning talk we invite you to stay (only members can vote, of course), as there will be a few minutes to wait for the AGM to start at 11.45.

Members who wish to attend the AGM but not the morning meeting can make their way to the Performance Space for about 11.30am, when we can open up the Performance Space. Members and guests who are staying for the afternoon meeting can use the lunch break to chat to other attendees, but books from the bookstall or buy lunch from the library cafe on the ground floor.



Quarterly Meeting - Before the Renaissance: The State of Manchester in the 1950s and 1960s, by Dr Alan Crosby

Date: 22 May 2024

Day: Wednesday, 1.00am

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Dr Alan Crosby

Booking: will be on [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £5

"In the mid-1950s Manchester was in a sorry state. The city had been physically battered by the war, while its economic base had been badly damaged by forty years of decline in key industries. Public health was poor, pollution of air and water was exceptionally high, the housing stock was deteriorating, the transport infrastructure was decaying and, to many observers, it seemed that Manchester had had its day. But the City Council had other plans: carrying on the pre-war policy of 'decentralising' population by building overspill estates; wholesale redevelopment of vast swathes of the urban fabric; replanning the city centre; building urban motorways; and ensuring that gleaming white concrete replaced the sooty black brick and stone. It was a utopian vision, and with the benefit of hindsight we know that it quickly went sour and left a bitter legacy. The 1950s and 1960s made an indelible mark on Manchester - not only physically but also socially, even emotionally. For better or for worse, this is one of the key periods in the city's long history."

If you are spending the day with us, enjoying both meetings, there is plenty you can do during the lunch break. Food and drink is available from the cafe, our bookstall will be open in the meeting room, there is always an exhibition display in the foyer and, further along the corridor from the Performance Space, you will find the local history reference and lending books, a real treasure trove to browse through.



Almost Within Living Memory, the 1921 Census, by Leslie Turner

Date: 25 May 2024

Day: Saturday, 10.30am

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Leslie Turner

Booking: will be on [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £5

Three years after the end of the Great War the nation was still adapting to life in peacetime. Taken on 19 June 1921 because of threatened industrial action, this is the first available census of modern times.

The 1921 census provides information on close to 38 million individuals and contains far more details than previous census enumerations.

Leslie will take a look at how to access the 1921 census from Manchester Central Library for free and look at the variety of information included on this census.

Leslie will also talk about relevant census substitutes which will complement your search of modern ancestors.

Bring your questions and let's talk all things 1921.

Further Explore talks for 2024:

28th September - Two Sisters - Emigration to New Zealand

23rd November - Validating your Research Records

Full details of Manchester meetings <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events>

Bolton Branch



Catholic Research in East Lancashire

Date: 1 May 2024

Wednesday 7.30pm

Bolton Golf Club & Online via Zoom

Booking: In-person at Bolton Golf Club (no booking required)

Speaker: Kate Hurst

Booking: Online via [Eventbrite](#)

This talk will discuss amongst other things:-

- the “Prohibited” Era - anti-Catholic laws, recusant statistics, how recusant records can be useful for family history in the absence of formal parish records.
- the Catholic Relief Act (1791) - why it was important, and what it allowed Catholics to do, establishing the first parish in Bolton.
- give examples of parish records and the opening of new Catholic churches in the Bolton area.
- establishing a community - schools, events and activities, newspaper items about events connected to the churches.

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

Oldham Branch



19th century Boom and Bust- Exploring Business and Family Fortunes.

An illustrated presentation to be given by Jackie Depelle.

Saturday, 11th May, at 2pm

A free, zoom only meeting... all are very welcome
Booking for zoom is on [Eventbrite](#).

Let's consider utilising some of our familiar genealogy sources from a different search angle and see what we can discover. Turning away from traditional family tree building this talk looks at exploring business and family fortunes through elements of a case study. Was your family in business or did they support my ancestors' retail offerings? Join us to review additional sources in Archives, Libraries and Museums as well as those online that can bring surprising results.

Please see the MLFHS, Oldham Branch pages on our website for more details.
<https://mlfhs.uk/oldham/events/meetings>

Anglo-Scots



Who are the Scots? What is a Clan and Why are we not Celtic? by Bruce Durie

Date: 4 May 2024

Day: Saturday, 2.00pm (UK time)

Venue: Manchester Central Library

Speaker: Bruce Durie

Booking: Will be on [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £5

Bruce Durie, a well-known and popular author and speaker on things Scottish, will lead us through the movement of continents, migrations, different languages, kilt-wearing and tartans, the use of different types of DNA tests - and this will interest many of our members whether 'Scots' or not because of its implications for "ethnicity"; haplogroups are discussed because these identify Y-DNA and mtDNA groups with origins as far back as at least 5000 years ago. What is a Celt? - join us and see for yourself!

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

The Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society has a long association with Manchester Libraries and Central Library recently hosted an exhibition to celebrate their 150th anniversary. The Society has its Annual Conference on the 11th May at the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street (just behind Central Library), the details of which are below:

New Research in the North West

Friends Meeting House, Mount St, Manchester, M2 5NS

9.30 - 15.00 Saturday 11 May 2024

[Free to members of Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society and Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, £12 for non members]

On offer is an interesting morning on topics of local history.

Ian Mitchell - Mantles and Myths - Browns of Chester c 1780-2021

Helen Corlett - The Cooper at Old Bridge End: Finding a Place in Early 19c Manchester

John Marsden and Hilary Hartigan - MLFHS transcription projects which give an insight into the lives of local people

Lunch 12.00 – 13.00 - A number of eateries are close by including Manchester Central Library

The afternoon session will concentrate on archaeology

Norman Redhead - Castleshaw Roman Fort, Saddleworth. An illustrated talk on the 1st century AD fort

Neil Coldrick – Medieval Ironworking in Holcome Valley. Uncovered evidence of ironworking in the 13th and 14th centuries

Kelly Griffiths – Scuttled. Excavations on the Historic Canal Basin in Rochdale

To book a place or for more information please contact secretary@landcas.org.uk

Manchester Histories Festival 2024 #MHF2024

Share your story on stage, book a stall, apply for an early/emerging artist commission...
Open Call to Get Involved NOW! bit.ly/OpenCallMHF2024

Get Involved in Manchester Histories Festival 2024: 6-9 June

Be on stage. Do you know something about history that we don't? We all have a story to tell, and histories to share. It could be fascinating, obscure, amusing, geeky, absurd, random, kind, entertaining, or extraordinary. We invite you to take part in the **'R Histories Open Mic Extravaganza'** as part of Manchester Histories Festival on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 June 2024 at Manchester Central Library. You will get 10 minutes on the stage to perform, play, show, sing, speak, tell, or dance your piece of history that you are passionate about. You must be at least 16 years old to take part. To find out more and how to apply [follow this link to Manchester Histories website](https://bit.ly/OpenCallMHF2024). **Deadline Friday 29 March 2024.**

Obviously you are more than welcome to get involved if you fancy it! If you have any questions please do ask.

Many thanks and best wishes,
Janine Hague
Project Manager
0161 306 1982 |
Registered Charity No.1151944

Manchester Histories Festival 2024 #MHF2024

Share your story on stage, book a stall, apply for an early/emerging artist commission...
Open Call to Get Involved NOW! bit.ly/OpenCallMHF2024

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.

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.

[On the Record](#) is our podcast featuring specialists from The National Archives and guests. Each episode unearths the real life stories found in our vast collections.

Discover tales of propaganda, protest, and the everyday people of the past.

BOOKSHOP

Our Catholic Register indexing team under Marie Collier have completed another substantial register and this is now published in the MLFHS shop as a download.

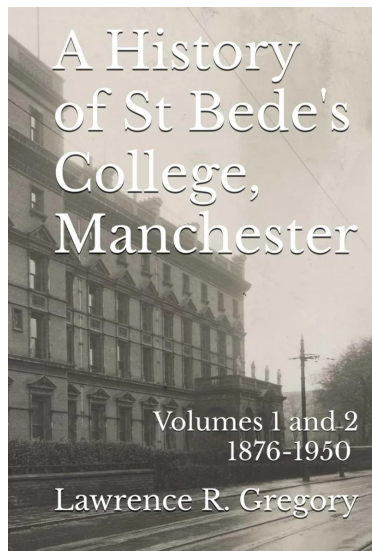
St Gregory the Great Farnworth 1849-1919

This download, which is in PDF format, contains a scanned copy of the original baptism registers complete with a transcript of the 9,057 baptisms performed and an index to the 40,144 names of children, parents and godparents which appear in the register.

You can download from

<https://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk/collections/registers-roman-catholic/products/DL1695>

Thanks to Marie and the team for this latest addition.
John Marsden



New Publication: A History of St Bede's College, Manchester:
Volumes 1 and 2 - 1876 to 1950
Hardcover – 9 April 2024 by Lawrence R. Gregory

Ten years ago in 2014 the first volume of the History of St Bede's College, Manchester, covering the story of the Commercial College and its failure was published

Now a new volume which includes a revised and expanded second edition of Volume One, as well as Volume Two bringing the story of the College up to 1950, including the development of the other Catholic secondary schools of Xaverian, de la Salle, St Mary's, Blackburn and Thornleigh, while delving into other areas of diocesan politics and wider educational battles has been published.

There will be an official launch at the college in the summer, but copies are now available either through Amazon, or directly from me.

It is available in both hardback and paperback.

Thank you

Lawrence R. Gregory MA

Senior Archivist & UK Agent

National Institute for Newman Studies, Pittsburgh

www.newmanstudies.org

Email - lgregory@newmanstudies.org

More details on our website [HERE](#).

PROJECTS UPDATE

A further 319 records have been added to the Great Database for Manchester City Transport staff surnames CRABTREE to CZERNEDA.

Thanks to Barry Henshall and his team for these.

Added what I think is the final part of the Bolton workhouse records. This consists of the 6,444 admissions and discharges 1837-1861 for Turton Workhouse. These have been transcribed by members of the Bolton Branch. Thanks to Graham Holt and the transcribers for these records which bring the total number of workhouse records to over 130,000.

John Marsden

Added a small set of Memorial Inscriptions for Salford, Irwell Street, Wesleyan Chapel to the MI database. These were from ledger stones uncovered during building works and transcribed by Salford University's Archaeologists. There are just 8 stones but 74 names (two are large inscription graves with about 25-30 interments).

Added 2,477 BMD announcements from Manchester Courier for 1850 to the Great Database. Thanks to Linda Bailey, Laura Lewis, Chris Norcross and Chris Hall for the latest additions to this valuable resource.

HELPDESK

MLFHS Helpdesk Update:

"The Society's Family History Help Desk continues to be a firm favourite with visitors to Manchester Central Library. We continue to offer FREE assistance to members and non members Monday - Friday 10:30-3:30. The queries are wide ranging and the visitor feedback is always great: "Informative, helpful, personable", "super helpful", "a great facility", "very helpful volunteers". We are located behind the café on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library. No booking is necessary - just drop in. We look forward to seeing you". Oh, we have some new faster computers for you to try out.

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:

Manchester Rate Books: We've updated our existing collection of Manchester Rate Books, with 384,785 new images and transcriptions covering 1820 to 1940.

Manchester Electoral Registers: This week's biggest update comes to our Manchester electoral registers. Spanning 80 years, there are over 1.2 million new additions to discover.

There is a wealth of information on the Find my Past website. Just follow these 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: Further news and articles can be found [here](#)

FamilySearch: Finally 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.

UKBMD UPDATES

Lancashire BMD

Added 2,444 Deaths for Bury RD comprising:
Bury (1979-1980)

Added 341 Marriages for Lancaster RD comprising:
Lunesdale, Wray, Holy Trinity (1863-2017)

Added 931 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:
Radcliffe Register Office or Registrar Attended (1960-1962);
Prestwich, Higher Prestwich Hebrew Congregation, Bury Old Rd. (1964-2019);

Whitefield, Sha'arei Shalom North Manchester Reform Congregation, Elm St. (1983-2019);
Prestwich, Sedgley Park Synagogue (L&D), Park View Rd. (1992-2018);
Meade Hill, The United Synagogue and Beth Hamedrash Hagodol (1938-2004);
Bury, Beis Hamedrash Chaniche Hayeshivos (2021-2021)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.
John

Shropshire BMD

Marriages:

58 for Clun Methodist Church, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1965)
140 for Bishops Castle Methodist Church, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1990)
15 for Bishops Castle, St John the Baptist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2008)
27 for Bedstone, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1938-1980)
44 for Bucknell St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1937-2011)
46 for Clun, St George, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1942)
8 for Clunbury, St Swithin, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2012)
92 for Clungunford, St Cuthbert, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1989)
98 for Chirbury, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1983)
2 for Chapel Lawn St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2012)
6 for Edgton, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2012)
19 for Hopton Castle, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1939-2006)
71 for Hope, Holy Trinity, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2013)
47 for Hopesay, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1953)
32 for Lydbury North, St Michael and All Angels, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2013)
63 for Llanfair Waterdine, St Mary, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2013)
74 for Middleton, Holy Trinity, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1970)
39 for Marton, St Mark, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2008)
16 for More, St Peter, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-2012)
13 for Mainstone, St John The Baptist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1937-2008)
3 for Newcastle, St John the Evangelist, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2012-2012)
68 for Ratlinghope, St Margaret, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1841-2007)
42 for Stowe, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1981)
2 for Wentnor, St Michael, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (2013-2013)
21 for Worthen, All Saints, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1936-1941)
1 for Clun Register Office or Registrar Attended, Clun, registers at Shrewsbury (1911-1911)

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

Staffordshire BMD

Marriages:

87 for Brown Edge, St Anne, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2011-2019)
215 for Trentham, St Mary and All Saints, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2005-2017)

Marriages: Replacements for corrections

517 for Lichfield, St Michael, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1860-1894)
251 for Civil Marriage (Stoke), registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1956-1956)

Births

7,447 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1962-1982)

Births: replaced to correct errors and add mother's maiden names

1,510 for Biddulph, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1905-1911)
2,500 for Norton, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1860-1869)

Thanks to all involved

Further Updates have been made to the Staffs BMD

Births: replaced to correct errors and add mother's maiden names

1,510 for Biddulph, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1905-1911)

2,500 for Norton, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1860-1869)

2,502 for Newcastle-under-Lyme, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1837-1843)

West Midlands.

Marriages:

106 for West Bromwich, Methodist Chapel - Charlemont, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1968-1987)

56 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - St Paul's Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1976-1988)

57 for Smethwick, St John's Methodist Church - Price Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1971-2011)

86 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - Abbey Road, Warley Woods, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1980-1989)

2 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - Dudley Road, The Cape, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1977-1977)

42 for Oldbury, Methodist Chapel - Causeway Green, Cakemore, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1980-2017)

42 for Oldbury, Methodist Church - Whiteheath, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1982-1994)

495 for Oldbury, Methodist Church - Newbury Lane, Rounds Green, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1973-2016)

5 for Oldbury, Trinity Methodist Church - Barker Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1980-1997)

10 for Oldbury, Methodist Chapel - Hill Top, Warley, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1979-1990)

52 for Rowley Regis, Methodist Church - High Street, Blackheath, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1975-1994)

5 for Cradley Heath, Methodist Chapel - Haysech (87), registers at Sandwell Register Office (1988-1989)

13 for Cradley Heath, Wesley Church - Halesowen Road, Old Hill, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1972-1986)

7 for Tividale, Methodist Church - Tipton Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1995-2011)

5 for West Bromwich, Methodist Church - Swan Village, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1985-1985)

70 for West Bromwich, Beeches Road Methodist Chapel - Beeches Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1961-1965)

Marriages replaced and updated to fill previous gaps:

115 for West Bromwich, Methodist Chapel - Charlemont, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1933-1968)

16 for West Bromwich, Methodist Church - Whitehall road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1951-1956)

32 for Smethwick, Central Baptist Missions - Cross Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1906-1966)

11 for Rowley Regis, Cave Adullum Baptist Church - Beeches Road, Blackheath, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1957-1985)

104 for Cradley Heath, Mission Hall - Holy Bush Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1916-1966)

216 for West Bromwich, West Bromwich Baptist Church - Tantany Lane, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1914-1971)

175 for Smethwick, Methodist Chapel - Regent Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1912-1971)

386 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - Waterloo Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1909-1980)

181 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - St Paul's Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1930-1976)

868 for Smethwick, Akkrill Memorial Methodist Church - Uplands, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1909-1972)

27 for Smethwick, Halford Lane Methodist Church - Brasshouse Lane, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1941-1968)

133 for Smethwick, St John's Methodist Church - Price Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1909-1971)

5 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - Corser Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1938-1942)

18 for Smethwick, Mount Zion Chapel - Baldwin Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1922-1939)

381 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - Abbey Road, Warley Woods, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1930-1980)

21 for Smethwick, Methodist Church - Dudley Road, The Cape, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1941-1967)

51 for Oldbury, Tabernacle, Tabernacle Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1938-1968)

60 for Oldbury, Methodist Chapel - Causeway Green, Cakemore, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1931-1980)

4 for Oldbury, Bethel Chapel - Broad Street, Langley, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1963-1968)

64 for Oldbury, Methodist Church - Whiteheath, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1949-1981)

260 for Oldbury, Methodist Church - Newbury Lane, Rounds Green, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1932-1973)

157 for Oldbury, Trinity Methodist Church - Barker Street, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1905-1980)

134 for Oldbury, Methodist Chapel - Hill Top, Warley, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1919-1978)

296 for Oldbury, Wesley Chapel - Church Street, Oldbury, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1912-1976)

345 for Rowley Regis, Methodist Church - High Street, Blackheath, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1905-1974)

31 for Rowley Regis, Methodist Chapel - Beeches Road, Blackheath, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1941-1968)

358 for Cradley Heath, Tabernacle Methodist Chapel - Old Hill, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1908-1982)

42 for Cradley Heath, Methodist Chapel - Hayseech (87), registers at Sandwell Register Office (1937-1987)

38 for Cradley Heath, Gorsty Hill Methodist Church - High Hayden Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1927-1977)

141 for Cradley Heath, Methodist Chapel - Hayseach (89), registers at Sandwell Register Office (1910-1983)
256 for Cradley Heath, Christ Church, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1905-1969)
127 for Cradley Heath, Wesley Church - Halesowen Road, Old Hill, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1924-1972)
362 for Cradley Heath, Methodist Church - Grangers Lane, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1909-1972)
44 for Tividale, Methodist Church - Dudley Road West, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1917-1970)
21 for Tividale, Methodist Church - Tipton Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1960-1994)
115 for West Bromwich, Methodist Church - Swan Village, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1928-1983)
92 for West Bromwich, Beeches Road Methodist Chapel - Beeches Road, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1930-1961)
93 for West Bromwich, Methodist Chapel - Ryders Green Road, Greet Green, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1926-1980)

MANCHESTER ARCHIVES+

Archives+ will offer a wonderful, purpose-built showcase and repository for the region's archive and family history. The Archives+ partnership will build on the appetite and demand for accessible community history and personal heritage. This one-stop-shop will make it easier than ever before to find what you're looking for.

The main partners in Archives+ are:

Manchester City Council - Libraries & Archives

– 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 Archives and Community Engagement Trust (University of Manchester)

– Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

– Manchester Registration Service (Historic Registers)

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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.

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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.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

Newsletter editor: - newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk

Bookshop: - bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk

MLFHS Office: - office@mlfhs.org.uk

The Manchester Genealogist: - office@mlfhs.org.uk or editor@mlfhs.org.uk

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

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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.

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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:

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The Click and Collect is now available from our shop.

Best wishes

Elsie



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REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 44

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

April 2024

Welcome to the new edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*
inside find...

Lead article this month is *Kill or Cure* – understanding causes of death
plus up coming events and news from the Federation

Expert talks throughout
the day.

Lots of friendly, FHS to
talk to and seek help!

FHF Admin
Debbie with
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Event Photography by Callum Bradley

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Really Useful Bulletin

Kill or Cure – understanding causes of death

by Lady Teviot

Many people are interested in the health and disease issues which confronted their ancestors and this also can raise questions on what illnesses we might inherit. Before the introduction of death certificates in England and Wales on 1 July 1837, the main sources of information on causes of death were the Bills of Mortality which date back to the sixteenth century and were published by the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks for London. These are not, of course, always reliable.

The original Bill for the Registration of Births and Deaths in 1836 did not require the cause of death to be included on death certificates. The medical profession was anxious that the cause of death should be stated, and pressure also came from Edwin Chadwick, who was then Secretary for the Poor Law Commission. Support also came from other sources, particularly proponents of sanitary reform which was emerging as a significant issue given the rapid growth in the urban population. The House of Lords was persuaded to introduce an amendment to the Bill to have the cause of death added to the death certificate. Fortunately for family historians, the Bill was passed in this amended form.

In practice, it was rare for a doctor to be called to a dying person, and the person providing information for the registration of the death could only guess as to the cause. Some conditions, such as smallpox, cholera or typhoid, would have been fairly obvious but in many cases the informant could only guess. The registrar had no alternative but to accept the information as given.

This situation continued until the Birth and Death Act of 1874. This legislation was prompted in part by the practice known as baby farming with the trial and conviction of Margaret Waters and her sister Sarah Ellis. The change in the law required medical practitioners to furnish the cause of death to the informant who would then pass this information to the registrar. Medical practitioners were required to produce a certificate of the cause of death for the patients at whose death they were present. Even with this improvement, there were cases where the cause of death was difficult to determine. To assist with the specification of the cause of death, a revised list of diseases was introduced in 1881 and used by the registrar general



Edwin Chadwick

until 1910. In 1911 the international classification of diseases was adopted for registration purposes.

Some of the official causes of death which appeared on death certificates in the middle of the nineteenth century were more than a little strange. There was something called *black thrush* and also *black jaundice* (after a nasty personal experience of yellow jaundice – it is not hard to believe that something called *black jaundice* could kill someone). There was also *stoppage* (which sounds quite unpleasant) that leads to the question of its whereabouts, and also the vague *visitation of God* (it would be difficult to argue with that one). There are deaths which were labelled as *decline* or *weakness*. A man from Brighton was said to have died from *indiscreet bathing*, and a man in Cardiff was said to have suffered for four years and finally succumbed to *the King's evil* – long after Queen Victoria came to the throne. There were also large numbers deaths from the common childhood diseases of convulsions, measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, scarlet fever and diphtheria together with many incidents of children being scalded or burnt to death. There were periodic epidemics of smallpox and great pox, the latter presumably was more serious (not to be confused with syphilis). A smallpox epidemic struck the city of Brighton in the winter of 1950-51. At this time, Brighton was very much dependent on holidaymakers for its economy and there was interest in downplaying the significance of this event so as not to discourage the summer visitors. There was a similar situation one hundred years earlier when cholera struck Brighton in 1849. Not wanting to draw unnecessary attention to the situation, the registrar used a small cross instead of the word “cholera” on death registrations.

The transmissible nature of diseases was recognised only late in the nineteenth century. A classic example of this was that of puerperal sepsis or fever following the birth of a child. Mothers were very vulnerable – washing and scrubbing-up were rarely employed and basic hygiene was poor so infection of the womb was usually contracted during or immediately after the birth. Acute leukaemia was not properly recognised because no connection was made between lumps and bumps and cancer. The causes of weakness and lethargy were not well understood because the nutritional disorders were not recognised, nor the importance of vitamins and minerals, lack of which could lead to rickets. The recognition of tumours and the existence of dementia had to await the arrival of more powerful microscopes and brain microscopy of the twentieth century.

We know of *Baker's cyst*, *Huntington's Chorea* and *Sydenham's Chorea* (also known as St Vitus' Dance) a disease



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affecting children and characterised by jerky, uncontrollable movements. The normal process would have been for the doctor to attach his name to a disorder he discovered, but some chose otherwise. *Bell's Palsy* was named in 1829 after Sir Charles Bell, a Scottish surgeon, and *Parkinson's* was named after James Parkinson, an English doctor who had published an essay as early as 1817 on *Shaking Palsy*. *Salmonella* was named after Daniel Elmer Salmon, a veterinary surgeon with the American Department of Agriculture. It was actually his assistant, Theobald Smith, who found the cause but it was named in Salmon's honour.

Another disorder which was very poorly recognised and defined was motor neuron disease. The mother of a friend of mine died of this disorder and my friend then examined the death certificates for a number of generations of her mother's family. She found several references to forms of paralysis, thus confirming the influence of genetics in its distribution, and that this condition was a significant cause of death before it was officially identified and named. Interestingly, photographs of a great-grandmother, and of her grandchild in later life, showed both had twisted and deformed hands.

The profile of the causes of death today is different from a hundred or a hundred-and-fifty years ago because our ancestors did not live long enough to die from the diseases that we see today. Evidence of this comes from an examination of the nineteenth-century census returns for a common name such as William Smith or Mary Harris – not many over the age of sixty, with correspondingly less numbers over seventy or eighty. Thus, the diseases which affect us in the older age, like cancers and heart disease, were not so widespread in the earlier period. In the nineteenth century it was uncommon to have three generations of a family alive at the same time, whereas today it is relatively usual to have four generations living at the same time. As another reflection of this change, the expectation of life in 1841 was forty years for men and forty-two for women.

Apart from smallpox, another major infectious disease of the nineteenth century was cholera. There were three very bad

outbreaks of cholera in London in the 1830s. These epidemics and resulting deaths put pressure on the existing cemeteries and led to the establishment of cemeteries such as Highgate, Kensal Green, Abney Park and others. It was not until the outbreak of 1854 that the origin and spread of cholera came to be better understood, and this was due to the work of Dr John Snow and Dr William Farr. These two men found the answer to the spread of the disease. They were working together when the cholera epidemic of 1854 occurred. As part of their work to understand the spread of cholera, these two doctors noted the occupations and residences of afflicted persons. One interesting death occurred on 2 September. Mrs Susannah Ealey was a resident of Hampstead, a community on the northern edge of the city of London, which was considered to be healthy because of its elevation. After closer investigation, the doctors discovered Mrs Ealey regularly sent her footman to fetch water from the Broad Street pump. Mrs Ealey died within two days of drinking the water, as did her niece who was visiting her from Islington, another community regarded as being healthy. With this information, the doctors discovered that the spring which supplied the Broad Street pump was severely contaminated with cholera. The water companies which supplied the water were also thought to be culprits in this affair. When cholera returned to London in 1866, the number of deaths was relatively low, except in the East End of London. Dr Farr suggested that the East London Water Company was responsible for supplying contaminated water. The company denied any culpability, however, it was later discovered that the company, in response to a summer drought, had transferred water from a condemned open reservoir near the heavily polluted river Lea. So Dr Farr was fully justified in his accusations. Upon the retirement of George Graham as registrar general in 1879, Dr Farr was thought to be in the running to be the replacement. But much to his disappointment, the position went to someone else. Dr Farr continued his remarkable career promoting the use of statistics to establish the linkage between disease and social conditions. He worked with Florence Nightingale, and also went on to establish the connection between hydrophobia, as rabies was then called, and rabid dogs. All in all, an impressive career.

Vaccination against smallpox caused much controversy during the nineteenth century. The first Vaccination Act in 1840 allowed free vaccinations for poor people. In 1853 vaccination was made compulsory in the first three months of a baby's life, evasion by parents could lead to a fine or imprisonment and in 1867 the Act was applied more stringently and increased the age to fourteen years and this was followed by the 1871 Act. In 1898 the Act was amended to allow exemption to parents based on conscience. Many people were against vaccination and the Anti-vaccination League was formed. Apart from fines and



Dr William Farr



Dr John Snow



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imprisonment, houses and schools could be searched to find non-vaccinated children and when the parents were summoned before the Justices of the Peace, they were rarely given opportunity to justify themselves or give reasons why they had not complied. There was the case of Charles Nye from Kent who, having lost two children from, as he thought, vaccination, refused to allow his other children to be vaccinated. Between 1869 and 1881 he was served with no less than thirteen summonses; each time he was fined and these were always unpaid, and on five occasions he was sent to prison. During one of his incarcerations the authorities attempted to vaccinate him but such a row erupted and Mr Nye became so angry that the doctor took flight and the warders were called to return him to his cell. Prisoners had to be vaccinated if not previously done and after they were weighed, they would be taken to the infirmary to be vaccinated.

Then there was the introduction of chloroform, first used for childbirth in 1847 by Dr James Simpson, the well-known Edinburgh gynaecologist. It was initially used by sprinkling it on a handkerchief which was then placed over the patient's nose and mouth so that they could inhale the vapour. In 1853 it was used by Queen Victoria for the birth of her eighth child, Prince Leopold, and she was delighted with the experience. Two women seem to have been over grateful for the pain-free delivery as in the birth indexes of 1859 and 1902 list a child registered as Anesthesia.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Dec 1859 (>99%)				
Fennell	Anesthesia Mary	St Giles	1b	386
Births Dec 1902 (>99%)				
LEECH	Anesthesia	Hartlepool	10a	163

Unfortunately, it was not always possible to administer an anaesthetic as is demonstrated in a hospital record of 1855 for William Welfare, a labourer from Wivelsfield. His clothes had been caught in a threshing machine. By the time he arrived at hospital some fifteen miles away he was nearly exhausted, and an amputation was needed without delay. When he was put on the operating table his circulation was so feeble that chloroform could not be used before the amputation. As surgery proceeded they dosed him with half a pint of brandy during which time it was observed he was almost moribund. He survived fourteen days and then sadly he had another haemorrhage and died. There was an extensive post-mortem examination.

One of the most important social changes was related to the

increase in the population. In 1800, it is reckoned that the population of England and Wales stood at nine million. By 1841, the population stood at almost sixteen million, and had reached thirty-six million by 1911. When one considers the task of building the public health infrastructure for this larger population, it must have been a formidable task. There was tremendous overcrowding and a lot of people died of diseases which are commonly prevented or cured today.

When one examines the death certificates, it is possible to see how the causes of death have changed over the last 150 or so years. One particular record shows the death of a woman in 1841. She lived for seventy-four years, quite a long time for that period. Her literal cause of death was *decay by nature*. There is a record of a man dying in 1841 of influenza. And then there was pneumonia, the disease known as "the friend who took people off".

The other disease which is creeping back to a position of considerable importance, especially in the larger cities of Britain, is consumption or tuberculosis. I feel quite strongly about TB having lost so many great-uncles and great-aunts to this disease when eight out of eleven children died before they were eighteen years of age of this disease. They lived in the East End of London. The difference now is that there is effective treatment for this condition.

You may wonder why I have not mentioned syphilis. It is an affliction I have not examined, although the very sad birth and death certificate of little Not Wanted James Colvill, born in 1861 and died a few months later may have been caused by the disease being passed down.

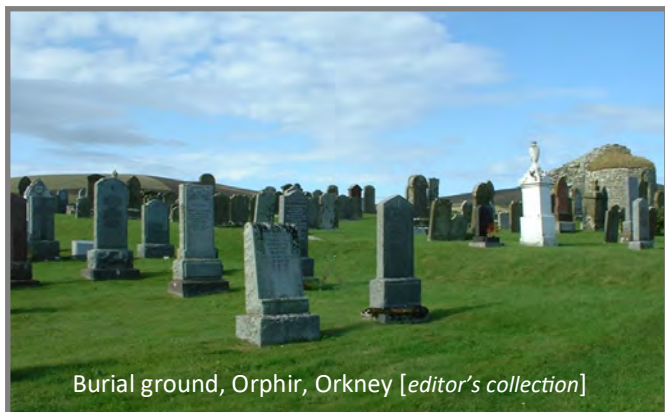
Births Mar 1861 (>99%)				
COLVILL	Elizabeth Ann	Medway	2a	340  
COLVILL	Not Wanted James	Lambeth	1d	312  
COLVILL	William	Whitehaven	10b	515  

It was not always healthier by the seaside! In Brighton, fifty-nine deaths from whooping cough and eighty-six from smallpox in 1841; 130 from scarlet fever in 1842, 217 from consumption and 194 deaths from cholera - a fifth of total deaths in 1849 which was a larger proportion than that of Liverpool - regarded at the time as being the unhealthiest town in England.

Many second-hand teeth came from mortuaries, dissecting rooms, gallows or battlefields. Those supplying them were often Resurrectionists or body-snatchers - some only took teeth but some took bodies. Some of the most popular dentists in nineteenth century kept many people employed to provide a constant supply of teeth. Sir Humphrey Davy, born in 1778 and inventor of the miners' safety lamp,



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Burial ground, Orphir, Orkney [editor's collection]

discovered the properties of nitrous oxide so that when it was inhaled, it first produced euphoria leading to uncontrollable laughter and sobbing, and then effectively passing out. He immediately called it laughing gas. But there was a problem with nitrous oxide in that the effects did not last long so was unsuitable for medical operations. In 1844 an American dentist, Horace Wells, attended a demonstration in Hartford, Connecticut about nitrous oxide and had the idea of using it for pain relief in dentistry.

Some afflictions were named by the work of those affected: *Scriveners' Palsy*; *Grocers' Itch* from mites found in the handling of flour or sugar; *Weavers' Bottom*; *Potters' Rot* – the dust caused the potters' lungs to rot. *Bagpiper's Fungus*, so called because the bagpipes were traditionally made from sheepskin coated inside with treacle or honey to keep them airtight, so they were a breeding ground for spores and fungus. *Railway Spine*, described as post-traumatic symptoms of passengers involved in railway accidents which led to claims for damages although there were no visible signs of injury; it became so controversial that a book was written by John Eric Erichsen and it was subsequently named *Erichsen's Disease*.

If you want to know more about the medical health of your ancestors there are many sources to use. Hospital records, asylum records, workhouse records and always worth thinking about are death certificates. And then, if you are fortunate, when you get into the parish registers, you may find an incumbent who is quite good about recording the causes of death such as for Martha Betton – *Rapid decease upon catching cold after being heated by walking, aged 33*. Another young lady, Maria aged twenty, married William Steadman on 25 February 1837 and was buried two days later having *caught cold on her wedding day*. Ann Dean, buried at Shipley in 1833 aged forty-four, cause of death *Leprosy and Dropsy*. At Shipley in 1828, John Feist aged seventy-six *an executioner*. At Hastings in March 1836 two brothers and a sister aged fourteen, three and just one, all dead within three days of each other after measles, all buried on the same day. Some parish register entries are disturbing. At Fletching in 1818 a pestilent typhus fever took almost the whole Chatfield family, a further two children

were buried on the same day in the same grave. And in 1878 in a small village in Derbyshire, Henry and Sarah Lovely buried six children within seven weeks.

The Historic Hospital Admissions Records Project <https://hharp.org/> provides access to 140,213 admission records to three children's hospitals in London, (Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Evelina and the Alexandra Hip Hospital), and one from Scotland, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. Between them the databases cover a period from 1852 to 1921.

Royal London Hospital Archives and Museum – the archives date back to 1740. www.museums.co.uk/details/royal-london-hospital-archives-and-museum/

The London Museums of Health and Medicine <http://medicalmuseums.org/> list all the relevant museums in London with links displaying what each has available. One of the most useful is the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries - click on the tab for family history. Interesting that although we think of Florence Nightingale as the pioneer in nursing standards, Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer, set up a training college for nurses at Guy's Hospital in 1840.

The Wellcome Collection <https://wellcomecollection.org/> has considerable information on vaccination plus a collection of over 160,000 images. It has a free-to-visit museum, archive and library at 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.



Elizabeth Fry
Wellcome Trust

When visiting archives, be aware that some records can be closed for a hundred years.



About the author

Lady Teviot is a life vice-president of the Federation, and a past president. She has been involved with family history for over thirty-five years and is a regular speaker on a number of family history topics. She has visited Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and South Africa to present talks. She runs Census Searches Ltd., an international probate and genealogical research company based in Sussex.

There are details of her talks on her website:

www.ladyteviot.co.uk/



Ed: When struggling to work out those illnesses encountered in genealogy, try <https://rmhh.co.uk/illness.html> and also www.disease.pricklytree.co.uk/



Really Useful Bulletin



Haplogroups in Y-DNA – part 1

by Martin McDowell



How can haplogroups help me with my family history? This is a question I get asked all the time and hopefully this article will help you to understand the subject a little better. In this series of articles we are specifically looking at the haplogroups we get from Y-DNA, a test that follows the male line

back through the generations, up the surname line, from father to grandfather to great-grandfather, etc.

Haplogroups are a designated group that you find you are part of when you do a Y-DNA test or a mitochondrial DNA test. But sometimes you can also get this information from an autosomal DNA test. Y-DNA and mt-DNA tests give you information on only one line in your family tree and because of this they can help you identify matches who are related to you only on that one specific line.

Haplogroups are a series of letters and numbers which identify a specific mutation (or copying error) which occurred in one individual person somewhere back in time. Only those who are his descendants will share that classification. Haplogroups can be far back in time, identifying a very distant ancestor, or they can be very recent. My most recent one is dated to about 1900AD. When haplogroups are in the last 500 years they become very genealogically relevant.

Ancestry and My Heritage don't provide haplogroups but Living DNA and 23andMe give you some information which can be used to look for someone on your DNA match list with the same haplogroup.

However, Family Tree DNA has, over the last few years, built up a database of information which provides a date for every haplogroup identified that two men share. This is publicly accessible here: <https://discover.familytreedna.com/> and aims to make the whole subject of Y-DNA interesting, understandable - and sometimes fun.

FTDNA Discover provides a date alongside each haplogroup and therefore you can instantly see whether the haplogroup you are looking at is genealogically relevant or not.

It also provides examples of ancient people who you are related to and gives an estimated timescale for when your common ancestor lived.

Yarnton 2445
2325 - 2040 BCE

Shared Ancestor
2200 BCE

You and Yarnton 2445 share a common paternal line ancestor who lived around this time.

Rare Connection

1 in 2,400
Only 131 customers are this closely related to Yarnton 2445.

Yarnton 2445 was a newborn boy who lived between 2325 - 2040 BCE during the European Bronze Age and was found in the region now known as Yarnton, Oxfordshire, England.

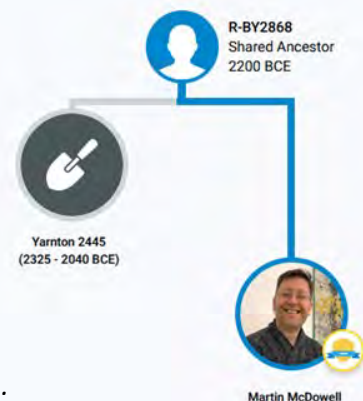
He was associated with the **Bell Beaker Britain** cultural group.

His direct maternal line belonged to mtDNA haplogroup **X2b6***.

Reference: I2445 from *Allen Ancient Genome Diversity Project; Olalde et al. 2018*

Phylogenetic Y-DNA analysis by FamilyTreeDNA. Ancient DNA samples are typically degraded and missing coverage, sometimes resulting in less specific haplogroup placements.

Illustration is Martin's YARNTON 2445 link..



It also does this for notable people whose haplogroups they have – these include such varied persons as Matthew Perry, Woody Harrelson, Michael Jackson, Tutankhamun and Beethoven!

Next time we will look at how to find others who match your haplogroup through DNA tests. In the meantime if you want to find out your own specific haplogroup you can do so by purchasing a family finder and/or Y test from Family History Books here: <https://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376>

I would recommend the Y37 + Family Finder test for reasons I will explain next time.

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* Web Prices & GBP-USD Exchange Rate (Barclays) 1.20319 verified 22nd April 2024

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CDs, maps, postcards and materials from specialist companies.

Visitors have previously said

“Great to chat with various stallholders.
Love the range of stalls and products.”

“Very helpful guides/society members “

“Excellent! Lots of help from lovely people “



For more information including advice on how to
get to the fair visit: www.ofhs.uk/fair2024

email: fair@ofhs.uk

Tel: OFHS Helpline: 01865 358151

Registered Charity Number 275891



Really Useful Bulletin

Really Useful Show—LIVE

We're going LIVE on Saturday 15th June 2024



East Midlands
FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

2024
SAVE the DATE
MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON

FREE entry
FREE onsite parking

LIVE
in 2024

Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**, Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** and **MORE!**
UNIVERSITY of NOTTINGHAM, Kings Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, NG7 2NR

Full programme for Nottingham event in the May *Bulletin*!

NEW event announced in the heart of Belfast! Details later...

We're going LIVE on Saturday 10th August 2024



Northern Ireland
FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

2024
SAVE the DATE
MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON

LIVE
in 2024

Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**, Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** and **MORE!**
Europa Hotel Belfast, Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AP



Really Useful Bulletin

Really Useful Show—Online

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November 2024

Calling for Presentations!



Local, Regional and Specialist Topics



We are determined our online
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
will be even better this year.

What's more, we want YOU
to be a major part of our success!

So, with that in mind, please consider the following:

- ◇ Are you especially knowledgeable regarding a particular aspect of local or regional family history?
- ◇ Do you enjoy sharing your expertise with others?
- ◇ Could you prepare an inspiring 10-20 minute recorded talk on your chosen subject?

If you answered YES to the above, we would most definitely like to hear from you!

Please email suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com and put your idea for a talk topic in the subject line, plus any other information you'd like to share, and we'll get back to you as quickly as we can.



*PS - Don't worry if you're not confident using technology –
we're willing and able to assist!*

**Steve Manning,
Chairman**



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Let's celebrate supporting the family history community for fifty years!



Join the Federation for this celebratory day—see last month's *Bulletin* for full details!

Saturday 11 May 2024

9.30am to approximately 4.00pm

at the renowned Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

This **FREE** day includes presentations by Janet Few, Nick Barrett and FamilySearch, lunch and a guided tour of the famous Bunhill Fields Burial Ground.

If you would like to join everyone for this special celebratory day with informative talks and guided tour of Bunhill Fields, please register by emailing your name and address to:

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com no later than Tuesday 30 April 2024.

Please put *Celebration* in the subject line of your email.



THE GAZETTE

OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD

The Gazette Seeks Writers For Website

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity to submit articles to appear on *The Gazette* website. *The Gazette* is the UK's official public record dating back to 1665, and publishes *The London Gazette*, *The Edinburgh Gazette* and *The Belfast Gazette*. The online archive contains millions of notices, including military citations, medals and promotions which are used by family history researchers worldwide.

The Gazette is looking for members of family history societies to contribute articles relating to genealogy research or significant historical moments, particularly with relevance to gazetted notices. From a WWI hero to the history of a local regiment, they want to hear from you. They are planning content on the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings at present, so would also welcome contributions on that topic.

To find out more or to get involved, please email David.Saunders@williamslea.com with your idea and a bit about yourself. Published authors will receive a by-line and a link to their society or established blog.

Visit www.thegazette.co.uk

Find my past

Archive documenting 100 years of iconic British magazine, *Country Life*, published online

Country Life, one of the world's most celebrated magazines of the British way of life, is available online for the first time.

The full back catalogue of this magazine sees over half a million pages digitised. The magazine dates back to 1897, developing into one of the UK's leading glossy titles.

Fully searchable, the pages record the people, properties and landscapes that defined British country living from 1897 up to 2009. Photographs feature widely, too.

The online pages are fully searchable by name, location, keyword or even phrase, enabling you to browse both the wider social history and more intimate family connections.

Visit www.findmypast.co.uk

Almshouses—an update

Colin Wilson has asked that we tell you about his work on Hertfordshire almshouses. His articles can be found on <https://www.hertsmemories.org.uk/> - put 'almshouse' into the search box.

Thank you, Colin!



Really Useful Bulletin

Family History Books

Practical Books!

FHB is pleased to announce that it now has available two workbooks published by

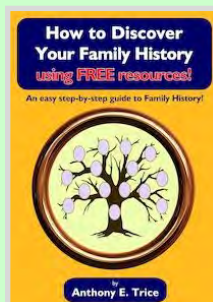


The **Family History Research Skills Workbook** by Dr Sophie Kay is packed with ideas to help you search more thoroughly, methodically and successfully - to trace your ancestors' lives and place them in context. The workbook is packed with ideas to help you research smarter, with clear explanations of useful family history tactics, complemented by demonstrations and case studies. It also provides you with the chance to put your new-found genealogy know-how into practice by trying out the tasks set, gaining hands-on practice with the worksheets - and ultimately using the methodologies in your own family history research. Available at £20 + p&p

The best-selling **DNA Workbook** also published by *Family Tree* magazine, is a packed 52-page guide to help you learn more about DNA for family history and to put your new-found DNA knowledge into practice. Michelle Leonard's expert DNA explanations are accompanied by step-by-step instructions and DNA tasks, woven through the pages, for you to dive in and get hands-on experience in mastering your DNA test results. There are check lists and research logs to help you keep your progress organised. Available at £20 + p&p.



The Family History Books' online shop also has other practical workbooks available to help researchers save money and to carry their research with them in a format accessible even when there is no mobile signal!



FHB's **How To Discover Your Family History Using Free Resources**. The gap in straightforward, practical reference books to assist those starting out on their family history journey which avoid the use of jargon or assumptions of prior knowledge is plugged by this book! Many setting out do not know where and how to start; this book solves that dilemma. It also assures readers that the anticipated costs, particularly for online subscriptions, can be curtailed which is particularly relevant in today's financial climate. The book explores online free sources for birth, marriage, death and census records for England and Wales, and explains how to use them and understand the results. Practical help and advice for even the more experienced researcher! 107 pages, A4 format. Great value at just £9.95 + p&p.

To complete this round-up we have **My Family History—A ten generation family research record book with pedigree charts**. Published by Robert Boyd Publications. This is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying family history research and a handy *aide memoire* to carry with you. It is a record book plus a two-sided ten-generation pedigree chart. This new edition has provision for the 1921 census. The complaint has always been that five-generation books 'don't go back far enough'. This publication resolves that. You can record ancestors stretching back to the early 1700s and beyond. All individuals are allocated unique reference numbers to link entries in the record book with those on the pedigree charts. A4. £9.99 + p&p.



Click on an image to go to that book on the Family History Books Online shop or click on the Family History Books logo left for the shop's front page where latest titles or special offers are featured.



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.

FHB welcomes contact from authors! Works of general and specific interest to family historians with wider social history topics are of interest. FHB does not publish individual family histories or fiction. If you have a book in the making, then do contact FHB via admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

The team at Family History Books is currently working with authors on exciting NEW titles to come out later this year. New topics, too! So keep adding to your piggy bank for book purchases! The books will be launched in the *Bulletin*, giving subscribers early notice.

In addition to its [online shop](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com) FHB can also be found at major live family history events around the country including the **LIVE Really Useful Shows**. Come and visit us to 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

Live shows 15 June and 10 August

Online 15 and 16 November

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for full details



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