

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



August 2022 Issue 28

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

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>

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. Traditionally this is a month for holidays and those of you taking time out for a little relaxation may like to glance through our book list for a little light reading.

The Manchester and Anglo-Scots branches are not holding meetings this month but both the Bolton and Oldham groups will be hosting hybrid meetings.

Do you know of a family member who was involved in the Battle of Britain? If you do you may be able to help the 'Battle of Britain: The Peoples Project'. More details can be found later in this newsletter.

Leslie Turner, our Helpdesk co-ordinator, tells us about the resources that are available that could help you in your research.

This month I have included two websites that I have not come across before - 'Railway Work, Life and Death Project' and 'CuriousFox'. This latter site provides a different approach in assisting us in finding that long lost relation.

Best wishes
Barry Henshall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

Please feel free to contact the office office@mlfhs.org.uk for enquiries about your membership.

If contacting us please give your membership number and the surname of the member.

From the members area on the website you can make changes to your address and email. We have found it is easier to work from home and are able to provide a quicker service. If possible please use the on-line option on our new website to renew your subscription.

We now use Stripe so you can use Stripe or pay as a guest with your card.

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.

If you must pay by cheque please send to:

MLFHS
17 Fortyacre Drive,
Bredbury,
SK6 2EZ

DO NOT send it to the office, 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

No meeting arranged for August

Location
Manchester Central Library
St Peter's Square
Manchester
M2 5PD
[View map](#)

Bolton Branch



Was my grandfather a professional footballer?

Date and time

Wed, 3 Aug 2022, 19:30 BST

The live event will be held at
Bolton Golf Club
Chorley New Road
Bolton BL6 4AJ

To register and find directions go to the [Eventbrite](#) page.

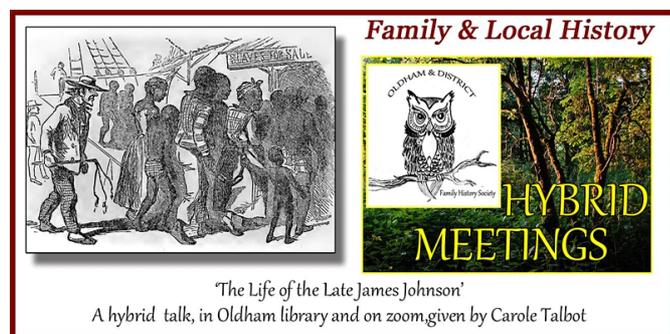
This talk is by Peter Holme, Curator, Research Centre of the National Football Museum, Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester and will identify sources of information and how to trace an ancestor who was a footballer.

At the National Football Museum, we receive quite a few requests from family historians for information from our extensive library & archive. These enquiries are very interesting, and we have members of staff, volunteers and national contacts with a varied expertise who can help answer the questions posed.

To book for the **Zoom meeting only** please register on [Eventbrite](#).

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

Oldham Branch



The Life of the Late James Johnson

Date and time

Sat, 13 August 2022

14:00 – 15:30 BST

Around Sept 1866 James Johnson arrived in Oldham looking for work. Many people did, but James Johnson was different, he was a slave. James escaped from North Carolina in 1862 during the American Civil War. After many escapades and adventures, he settled in Oldham and found work. He married a local woman who taught him to read and write. He remained in the town until his death in 1914.

An illustrated talk given by Carol Talbot, author of 'The Amazing Mary Higgs' and 'Working-Class Suffragette: The Life of Annie Kenney'.

A hybrid meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

* Booking for attendance on zoom will be free to all on [Eventbrite](#).

* No booking necessary for attendance in the library; members free, non-members £3.

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

Anglo-Scots

No meeting arranged for August.

The National Archives

Please note that places are limited for these meetings and so early booking is essential
In the future why not monitor the [National Archives site](#).

Events

An exciting programme of [online talks](#) through to September are for everyone and are 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 the events remain completely free, as are the [online research and academic events](#). Visit [FAQ page](#) to find out more about registering and accessing an event.

Missed an event or can't watch a talk live?

All events are viewable for 48 hours after the published date and time, which means that attendees who registered but were unable view the live event can catch up at their leisure. You can also replay most of our talks on our [Archives Media Player](#), where our curated playlists will help you find talks of similar interest. Please be aware that it can take up to three months for past events to appear on our media player.

Priority booking to all events

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

10th U3A Peak District Family History Conference Saturday 17 September 2022 at the Palace Hotel in Buxton

Presents.....

Dr Janet Few: 'One-Place Names' 'Your Ancestors in their Place'. Ten key steps

Debbie Kennett: 'The Joy of Surnames'. Their past & location over time

Dr Nick Barratt: 'House Histories'. Realistic advice on investigating properties

Helen Tovey – 'Family Tree Magazine'. Its past, present & future

Cost: £30.

Includes talks, refreshments & 2-course finger buffet lunch. Unfortunately, there are no refunds for delegates who do not attend, but places are transferrable provided we are advised in advance.

Parking:

The hotel has changed the free parking arrangements and all cars parked in the car park MUST be registered on the tablet by the hotel reception or they are likely to be fined. Blue Badge holders – may park or drop off at hotel

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

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

Exhibitors:

Once again, several 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
<https://forms.gle/UbSD4YzNVKUcvZas6>
Please put your surname and postcode as a reference if paying by BAC.

Spaces are limited so please book early and hope to see you there. Tickets will be issued at our reception desk, from 08.30, on the day, not posted.

To comply with The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) we will only contact you by email with information about family history and our events. Details are held by Chair, Secretary and Treasurer on secure password protected computer files. Please contact Ian (taylor.ian9@gmail.com) if you wish your details to be removed from our mailing list.

Can you help?

Battle of Britain: The People's Project is the brainchild of Dilip Sarkar MBE, the UK's leading historian on the Battle of Britain who has written over 50 books on aviation history. The concept for the project began while Dilip was researching for one of his books and while visiting the family of Squadron Leader Tom Gleave, a Hurricane Pilot with No 253 squadron. Although he knew the outline of Tom Gleave's life, Dilip was shocked at the sheer quantity of completely unpublished material and photographs held by his family leading him to wonder; if a pilot as noteworthy as Tom Gleave could have so much information about him that was unknown and undiscovered, what other information was out there, tucked away in cupboards and attics across the country? How many untold stories are there about less well-known aircrew, ground crew and civilians who found themselves caught up in the most important battle in British History?

This is what Battle of Britain: The People's Project is all about, finding anecdotes and family stories from people across the country about how they or someone they knew was involved or effected by The Battle of Britain, especially highlighting those who while they may not have flown a Hurricane, or a Spitfire nevertheless played an integral role in this hugely important historical event. Those with information they think is relevant to the project should head to the Battle of Britain: The People's Project website at <http://battleofbritainpeoplesproject.com>

More information can be found in the press release attached and should you wish to speak with Dilip who is available for interviews, please let me know.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Manchester School for the Deaf Admissions

A further volume covering 68 admissions 1881-1893 has been completed and added to The Great Database.

Thanks to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Karen Hugill, Shirley King, Janet Moores, Chris Norcross) for this latest addition.

A additional three volumes covering 157 admissions 1855-1860 and 1870-1874 have been completed.

The following update has been posted to **Godfrey Map Index**

Added 654 index entries for Bolton 1908 and Bolton (NE) 1908 maps, indexed by Graham Holt.

A further 827 references to maps covering Whalley Range 1916, Urmston 1926, Flixton 1904, Trafford Park 1905, Eccles 1905, Walkden South 1908, Chorlton cum Hardy South 1905 indexed by Hilary Hartigan

HELPDESK

HELP DESK AND LIBRARY RESOURCES

I hope that many members have now managed to visit Manchester Central Library and the MLFHS Family History Help Desk, and in particular gain FREE access to the 1921 census. However, besides the use of the library computers to access digital resources such as Ancestry & Findmypast for free have you used any of our other great resources?

Did you know?

So, what else is there that may be able to assist you with your family history research?

MLFHS Resource Cabinets – The Society has four large locked cabinets which contain resource material that is unique to the Society and is for member only use. We have some fabulous books & CD's plus a good collection of magazines from other Family History Societies many which are from overseas, a large quantity of Scottish material, and a sizeable collection of family histories which have been donated to the Society. Many of these unique items in the Resource Cabinets were brought over with us from Clayton House when we moved to Central Library some 8 years ago! Please speak to a member of the Help Desk team to access any of these items.

Prior to your visit why not log in to the Society website and discover what there is by using our online Resource Library Catalogue? You are also welcome to use these resources at our dedicated member table for any of your family history research. And, why not bring a laptop along, log into the free library wi-fi and continue your research while you are at the library?

Maps – the library has a large collection of physical local area maps. These cabinets are locked but we are happy to get the staff to open them up and help you access this collection.

The North West Film Archives (and soon also the North West Sound archives) have a large collection of films and sounds which features all sorts of people, activities and events in the North West and can be viewed in the film pods. Fascinating stuff.

More!

More I hear you say.... yes, there really is so much more, archives collections, microfilm, microfiche, themed digital displays, and the occasional speaker.

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.

Celebrate the 1921 Census with MLFHS

The MLFHS website has a dedicated 1921 Census project page which can be found at <https://mlfhs.uk/blog>. This contains a growing variety of 1921 related information.

Manchester & Lancashire FHS
Introducing the 1921 Census - Now Online!

WEBSITES

Railway Work, Life & Death project.

This is a joint initiative between the University of Portsmouth, the National Railway Museum (NRM) and the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick (MRC) and other institutions including The National Archives of the UK.

The site provides data about railway worker accidents in Britain and Ireland from the late 1880s to 1939, who was involved, what they were doing on the railways, what happened to them and why. Although today most people don't realise it, working on the railways 100 years ago was incredibly dangerous, with hundreds killed and tens of thousands injured each year.

This database is now available, free, [on this website](#), so that anyone who's interested can easily learn more about work and accidents on Britain and Ireland's railways from the later 19th century until the Second World War.

You can carry out a search from the home page or download the full database (6.9MB) in the form of a spreadsheet. There is a wealth of information available and anyone who has had a relative associated with the railways will, I am sure, find this site very interesting.

You can also [follow on Facebook](#) or on Twitter : [@RWLDproject](#)

[CuriousFox](#), the village by village contact site for anyone researching family history, genealogy and local history in the UK and Ireland.

CuriousFox has been created to allow people to post messages about genealogy and local history without exposing their email address to spammers or compromising their privacy. We take privacy very seriously. CuriousFox never releases email addresses for marketing purposes, and only sends out the minimum number of emails for the correct functioning of the site.

The aim is to help people researching common surnames like Smith and Davis. Finding the correct Smith family becomes a lot easier if you can search at a village or hamlet level. But at the same time, families often lived in a small cluster of villages so we geocoded the whole site so users can search for a surname within a specified number of miles around any location. You can also search by traditional county, or throughout the whole of UK and Ireland.

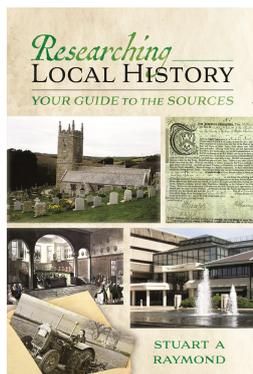
This site takes a different, and refreshing, approach to family history and is well worth a visit.

Rootstech

Rootstech has come and gone but you can still listen to all the talks and highlights from the 2022 event by going to the following [website](#). You will have plenty of time to brows as they will be online until Rootstock 2023.

Our website lists hundreds of links to sites throughout the world which, hopefully, are of interest to many who are carrying out family research. This is not an exhaustive list by any means. If, during your research, you have found a website of particular interest then why not let me know at newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk.

THE BOOKSHOP



Researching Local History

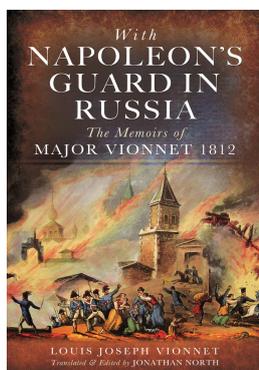
Code: 8631

£11.89 £16.99

How has the place we live in changed, developed, and grown over the centuries? That is the basic question local historians seek to answer. The answer is to be found in the sources of information that previous generations have left us. The records of parish, county, and diocesan administration, of the courts, of the national government, and of private estates, all have something to tell us about the history of the locality we are interested in. So do old newspapers and other publications. All of

these sources are readily available, but many have been little used. Local historians come from a wide diversity of backgrounds.

Further details at the [book shop](#).



With Napoleon's Guard in Russia

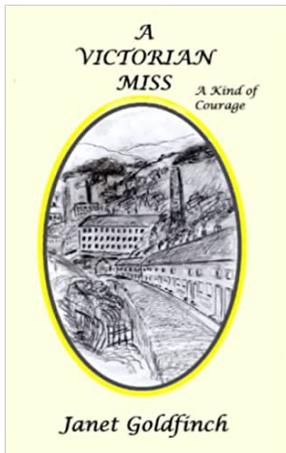
Code: 8632

£10.49 £14.99

Major Louis Joseph Vionnet's memoirs of Napoleons disastrous 1812 campaign in Russia are readable, detailed, and full of personal anecdote and vivid glimpses into the life of the nineteenth-century soldier. His account concentrates in particular on the retreat from Moscow, but he was present at all the major actions and followed the entire course of the campaign from the opening moves in July 1812 to being chased through Prussia by bands of Cossacks in early 1813. He was present at the

destruction of Smolensk, toured the battlefield of Borodino and witnessed the great fire in Moscow. Vionnet was a major in the Fusiliers-Grenadiers, a regiment of veterans in the Imperial Guard, and his account provides a wonderful insight into the lan, morale and cohesion of this elite fighting force.

Further details at the [book shop](#)



A Victorian Miss

Code: 8633

£8.00

Within Victorian Manchester lies the district of Ancoats. It is an industrial wasteland of smoke-blackened brick and polluted streets and waterways. In this grim and barren place, the poor swarm cheek by jowl, living on top of their work. However, here in Manchester, where cotton is king, even a woman can find a job. But hours are long, the work often dangerous and wages low. Eliza struggles to scrape a meagre, dreary existence.

Then the unexpected happens, and Eliza finds shelter in the little Derbyshire village of Spondon. Once again she is a mill-girl. But now she is sharing a cottage with friends. Villagers are welcoming. There is a little scope to make life more comfortable, to better her lot; and she has a determination to make the best of whatever comes her way. Life seems on the upturn.

Will she be able to shed her disgrace and become a respectable member of the community? Will she ever find the husband that she fears her past will deny her?

Eliza was my great grandmother; and this is her story.

Further details at the [book shop](#)

UKBMD UPDATES

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

Added 14,671 Births for Bolton RD comprising:

Bolton A (1992-1994)

Bolton B (1992-1994)

Bolton C (1992-1995)

Bolton D (1992-1993)

Thanks are due to Bob Winder and his team for these

702 Marriages for Blackburn RD comprising:

Darwen, Methodist Church (Spring Vale) (1998-2012)

Blackburn, St Albans Catholic Church (2010-2010)

Blackburn, Zion Pentecostal Church (Wensley Rd) (1974-2000)

Darwen, New Methodist Church (Blackburn Rd, formerly Railway Rd) (2004-2010)

Blackburn, Wesley Hall Central Mission (Feilden St) (2002-2002)

Blackburn, St John Vianney's Church (Livesey Branch Rd) (2003-2010)

Witton, St Luke with St Phillips (1967-2010)

Blackburn, St Michael with St John & Holy Trinity (1954-2006)

Blackburn, Church of the Saviour (1995-2009)

Darwen, St Barnabas (2010-2010); Blackburn, Holy Trinity Worship Centre (1984-1995)

Blackburn, Christ Church (with St Matthew) (1975-2010)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team for the above.

John Marsden

Staffordshire BMD has been updated as follows:

Marriages - additions:

15 for Ellaston, St Peter, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2009-2019)
90 for Mayfield, St John the Baptist, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1994-2020)
11 for Stanton, St Mary, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2006-2018)
15 for Tutbury, Tutbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, Monk Street, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1987-2010)
41 for Chasetown Burntwood, High Street, St Josephs Roman Catholic Church, registers at Lichfield (2004-2019)
100 for Endon and Stanley, St Luke, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2006-2019)
4 for Checkley (Tean), Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2012-2019)
13 for Endon (Leek Road), Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2006-2019)
1 for Ipstones (Mount Pleasant), Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2017-2017)
25 for Kidsgrove, Central Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan), registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2003-2009)
10 for Alsager's Bank, St John, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2008-2017)
38 for Talke, St Martin, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2002-2018)
248 for Audley, St James, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1994-2021)
22 for Fenton (Victoria Road), Methodist Church, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1974-2004)
26 for Perton, The Church at Perton, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1986-2005)
20 for Stafford, St Partrick's RC Church - (Sandon Road), registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2005-2010)
22 for Tittensor, St Luke, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2007-2019)

Marriages - updates, additions and corrections to:

5 for Waterfall - Waterhouses, Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2001-2016)
105 for Cheadle (Chapel Street), Methodist Church, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1991-2013)
74 for Leek (Derby Street), Trinity Church, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1996-2019)
15 for Rudyard, Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2003-2020)
20 for Cheddleton, St Andrew's Methodist Church, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1994-2017)
14 for Cheddleton (Wetley Rocks), Cellarhead Road Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1994-2010)
22 for Ipstones (Mount Pleasant), Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1995-2013)
4 for Bradley in the Moors, St Leonard, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1990-2013)

Births:

3,106 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1954-1979)

These additions, plus one from Lancashire which has still to be finalised, have raised the grand total of indexes online via the Local BMD Project to be over 50 Million !

This is a fantastic achievement and so thanks once more to all volunteers, past and present, who have contributed to the various Local BMD websites over the years.

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.org.uk/>

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

ORPHAN BMDs

If you have any BMDs you no longer want then why not consider sending them to the Society. You can send them to:

M&LFHS
61 Queens Road
Urmston
M41 9HF

However, 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 those members who have sent certificates within the last month. Since the beginning of lock-down we have received over 2000 certificates and now we have begun the process of scanning and entering the details into our database.

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!

Find more information [here](#).

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@MLFHS



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 23

July 2022

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

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

inside find...

Lead article this month is *Tracing your Family History with the Whole Family* plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

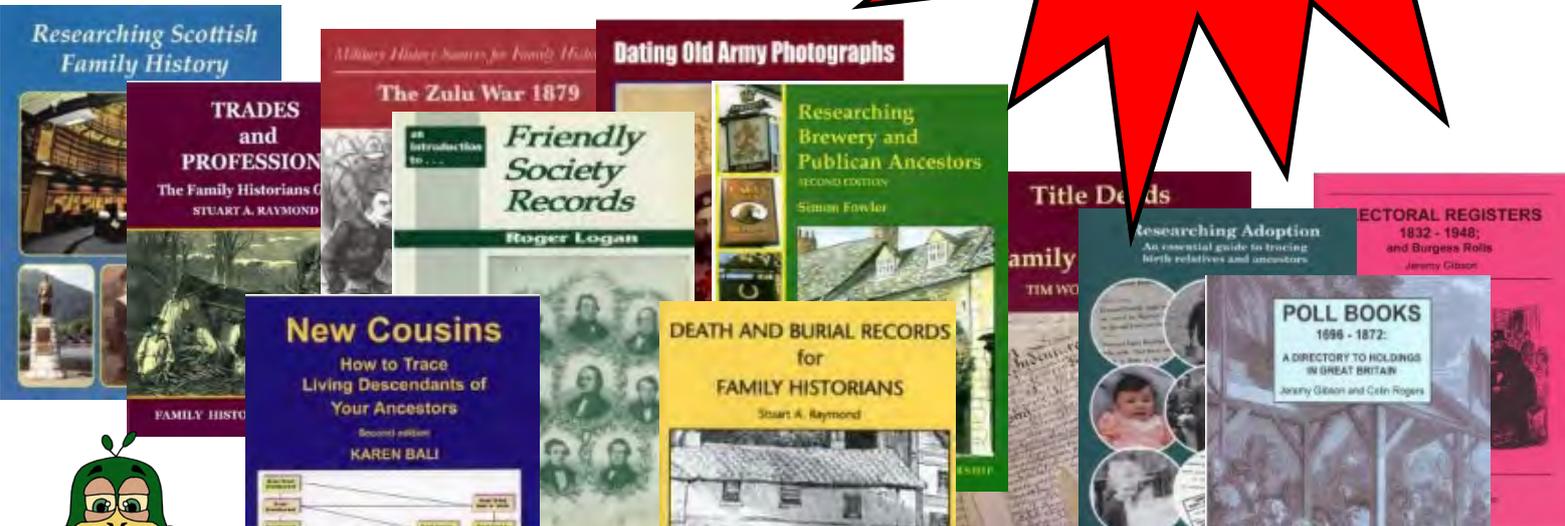


SUMMER

SIZZLER OFFER!

Buy 4—get

75% off!



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS specialises in books *about* family history for family historians.

The legacy titles are valuable research guides covering a wide range of topics and packed with information.

The full range of legacy titles can be viewed at:

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/ffhs-fhp-legacy-titles-294

Buy 4 or more legacy titles and get 75% discount!

When on "basket", click the back button twice to select more legacy titles

[Plus post & packing]

Use checkout code: *SUMMER75* Place your order today!

Your summer sizzler offer closes on 31st August 2022

Offer only available to REALLY USEFUL BULLETIN subscribers



Really Useful Bulletin

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY

DR ROBIN McCONNELL

The opportunities for a revitalising voyage into family history abound *for all family members*. Family history should be a full-family research adventure journey instead of an 'adults only' domain.

My book *Tracing Your Family History With The Whole Family* (Pen & Sword 2022) has pages and pages of practical suggestions for engaging all of the family in tracing their family history. Given the content of the book let us move now into the domain of exploring ideas with all of our family members.

My granddaughters have been instrumental in widening my perspective on involving each family member in this stimulating research field. Given the recent pandemic and subsequent family separations, especially that of grandparents from their grandchildren, sharing your own family history adventure can bring a family's cross-generational members together. This brings its own technical challenges, research, interpersonal interaction and fun. It is not a one-way interaction. Young family members may need assistance in selecting research sites, for example, but may well have computer and research skills that their grandparents and even their parents do not have. Sites such as Ancestry, FamilySearch, FindMyPast and MyHeritage become familiar navigation points.

Consider the following sample activities for your family:

1. Form a picture of our family today for the family members of tomorrow – with its technical challenges, research, interpersonal interaction and fun.
 2. Compile family time capsules in which we record the picture of family life today.
 3. Interview parents, grandparents and selected relatives or long-term family friends.
 4. Focus perhaps on a child's or family member's particular interests through the decades.
 5. Set up a family timeline.
 6. Set up a basic historical timeline.
 7. Encourage young family members to create accounts of their family.
 8. Write your own life history for a personal Christmas or special occasion present.
 9. Select interesting persons from your known family history for, say, grandchildren to research.
 10. Trace family settings on a map of your country and on a world map.
-
1. Imagine if we had a picture of our parents' or grandparents' family life when they were youngsters. This could include photographs, creative writing, diary extracts, interviews of each other, photographs (dated and with names of persons), newspaper cuttings and stories of memorabilia. Children can interview each other, perhaps with some initial parent guidance. Where do the family live, what schools do they attend? Do they have hobbies and/or sport or creative expression interests? Such considerations led me to support books such as *Tracing your Ancestors' Childhood* by Sue Wilkes (Pen & Sword, 2013), and *Tracing Your Ancestors Through Letters and Personal Writings* by Ruth Symes, (Pen & Sword 2016). There are excellent books on the history of toys and games, fashions and sport over the ages that parents can draw on for help.
 2. Given the compilation of the family picture of today we can present this in family time capsules. Consider, creatively, how this can be done. Where will the time capsules be stored? Will there be one for each family member? How do we ensure the challenges will be met of non-fading material, paper discolouring, photographs fading etc. Family history magazines often have very helpful content addressing these issues.
 3. Imagine if you had an interview record of your own parents, grandparents and/or great-grandparents. Organise your present-day family for interviews. Why not have children interview their parents, especially about their childhoods, school and community involvement, church and social organisations, sport, fashions, how they met and what they can say about *their* parents?
 4. How could I get grandson Toby interested in family history? I would take this nine-year old's interest in sport and start with simple questions about his involvement with sport, then move to parental questions about their sport participation





Really Useful Bulletin

and then interview his grandparents about their possible sport involvement. Photographs, possible relevant newspaper clippings and dairy entries could further enhance this record.

- Cleo, aged eleven years, came into my study, talked about what I was writing in my diary and asked if I put family dates in my diary. I said yes, I put family birthdays in my diary so I did not forget them. Cleo pointedly asked if I put family dates in my diary to record births, marriages and deaths of ancestors. "If you did that, you would have a family timeline." (Ah, our discerning young!) So then I quickly insert such records and then could selectively send the grandchildren and my son and daughter email greetings with information on selected ancestor happenings of the day.



Photographs from author's personal collection

- When I was pleased with the family timeline, into my study comes Cleo, again. "I have been thinking about what you said about your father being in a war. You have made a family timeline, why don't you have a history timeline in your diary that marks special history dates and we then know if any of our ancestors were involved?" I then generated the historical timeline as well as the family history timeline.

So, in my diary now, I come across battles such as Gawilghur with Colonel Kenny's death, Seringapatam with Ensign Kenny carrying the colours, Irish famine years, Charles Snell Kensington giving land to Worton Church, the question of Colin Jones at the Siege of Havana, female forebears signing suffragette petitions and my father in the Pacific in World War II. There is also the added impetus of the question, "Where were you when...?" This generates thoughts of such happenings as JFK's assassination, historic sport events, 9/11, the Beatles, the death of Prince Philip and the war in Vietnam.

Adding impetus to this was the recently published *Tracing Your Ancestors Using The UK Historical Timeline* by Angela Smith and Neil Bertram (Pen and Sword 2021).

- Children and young family members - in fact, all ages of family members – can enjoy writing creatively about an ancestor. Maya, Cleo's then eleven-year-old sister, rang me one November and said her class had been set a major assignment of writing about a special aspect of Christmas. "Didn't one of our Maturin ancestors have a key role in getting Mr Handel to have the first public performance of the *Messiah*? Wasn't that in Dublin?" Yes, Maya's Maturin ancestor played such a key role. Yes, the writing assignment was capably done – by a youngster who knew of her Dublin ancestor in 1742. Now I await Maya's discovery of her ancestor, John Larkins Kensington having slaves on his Lure Estate in Tobago and her realisation of the Eyre family coming to Ireland from England.

Immigration generates interest in young people as they then learn about demands of the times, the travails of the family sailing to a land of which they knew little and separation from their wider home family.

- Ironically, the separation of older generations from the young or their having time to reflect, can lead to the elders writing of their own memoirs. This can result in a lasting gift for immediate family members and can be passed down to descendants. A variant of this is the assembling of family tree material into sections for each family surname eg. Kensington and De La Porte, McConnell and McBride, Kenny and Watson and Jennings, Watson and Clay, Coates and Fenwick and Coleman, Jones and Anwyl, Maturin and Garrigue and others of direct relevance. I had accomplished this and had the resultant five volumes bound at university for my daughter's 21st birthday present. I admit that I was surprised at the great reception (and some envy) expressed by her closest friends when they browsed that gift. I did the same for my son on his 21st birthday. The volumes had newspaper extracts, certificates, copies of awards, school records, immigration voyage diaries by fellow passengers, photographs, postcards etc. etc. In retrospect I would have



Really Useful Bulletin

had more information on places. These would have included such family landmarks as Southwell, Gayles, Worton, Dublin settings, Llanystumdwy, Dundalk, 1840s New South Wales and Auckland – each one visited by my wife and me.

A range of friends are currently writing their memoirs. It is fascinating to know of Lorraine, an artist/art therapist who is engaged in this and the creative result of her Cornes and Waite personal memoir. We can learn from each other in this aspect of family history recording.

9. Interesting people located in our family history intrigue our young family members. In our family we have Charles Jephson William Kensington, born in Le Havre, married Olivia Maturin in Criccieth and died of apoplexy (a stroke) in remote Port Charles in New Zealand on Christmas Day 1877. We raise a glass to him on every Christmas Day. We have William Kenny who appears in the historically accurate novel, *Sharpe's Fortress* by Bernard Cornwell (2012). Bella Coleman, was a dedicated and innovative missionary for years in China at the turning of the nineteenth century into the twentieth century. Every family has interesting characters. Imagine your ancestor who had to cope with a new land, the one who wrote acclaimed poetry, the one who coped with her children's deaths or the ancestor who appears in a range of newspaper articles of the past. There is no *ordinary* or *uninteresting* ancestor in any family!
10. Maps can intrigue children. It is an enjoyable exercise to give them family facts relating to their country's map and to world maps and have them place the ancestors, names and happenings on a map. Then add some dates. Why not, later, have the two maps photocopied and given to each child?

The above are examples. Questions do arise though that generate the question of how much we tell younger family members. Two obvious examples in my own family illustrate this quandary. DNA results proved that our father's legal father was not my father's biological father. My father's bloodline father was Dr Bernard Samuel Story! This then led to the fascinating Story family tree and the personal meetings with a special cousin. So now we were into Story, Lawton, Leake, Mazzerella, Bithell, Goldstraw and Wilkinson! We are fortunate in our family to have an outstanding genealogist, my sister Jayne Olsen, whose knowledge of DNA initially opened this puzzle.

The discovery, however, does pose challenges. How many of our father's siblings were sired by Doctor Story? We have located one...so far. How do we explain this to our younger family members and who will do this? When do we do this? What is an adolescent age of readiness and comprehension for this? The adventure continues.

The other challenge regarding what to share with all of the younger family relates to ascertaining the birth of my great-great grandfather, William Henry Kenny, who is stated by each known source as being born in Tasmania in 1811. There is no birth of him recorded but there is a William Henry Grainger, born to Alice Grainger. Is this our WH Kenny? The plot deepens when we note that his presumed father, Captain William Crowe Kenny, an unmarried man, sailed with his 73rd regiment to then Ceylon 'with infant son'. The quest continues.

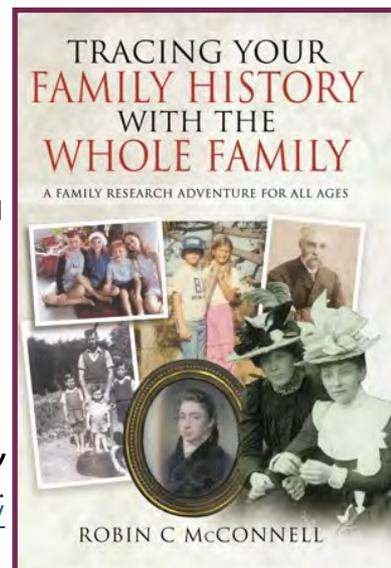
On reflection, the voyage into family history is most fulfilling when it is a voyage with all of the family. This article considers a range of navigational aids to bring pleasure and family unity. My book contains far more.

May you each travel well with your own full family voyage.



Robin McConnell (on right) and son Kit McConnell, Sport Director of IOC (and historian of the family). Co-authors of an *Encyclopaedia of Sport* article.

About the author: Education background: from sole teacher of a country school, riding my horse to school each day, to professor. MPhil thesis on teaching poetry and DPhil thesis on elite team leadership. Lifelong genealogist. Author of seven books, including international bestsellers such as *Inside The All Blacks* and *Iceman: the Michael Jones Story* (biography). Janet Frame's only foreword was for my first poetry collection *Nothing is as Physical as a Poem* which sold out (because of Janet's foreword??!!). Four grandchildren, living in Auckland and Lausanne.



Robin's book *Tracing Your Family History with the Whole Family* is available [HERE](#) from Family History Books. Browse all books at: www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/



Family History Societies



Shropshire Family History Society

From the start of the pandemic Shropshire Family History Society, like many others, had been wondering how to keep ourselves going. Soon we began using *Zoom* for committee meetings and then took the plunge with speakers' meetings. It's something we wouldn't have even thought about before Covid. Other platforms are available that may do the same thing.

For us, not only has it facilitated "remote" committee meetings, but also helped to recruit new committee members living too far away to ever attend in person at Shrewsbury.

It's also been very good for the society by enabling members from all corners of the UK and overseas to join the talks. We now are able to use more "national" speakers on specialist topics who would probably not have travelled to Shrewsbury on a Tuesday night especially in the winter.

So why not join us? We can help with your Shropshire research, provide you with a quarterly Journal with interesting articles and you can see/listen to good quality talks! [Programme: www.sfhs.org.uk/events]

We are also trialling *Talking Family History* on Zoom - a coffee morning type approach for general discussion - numbers limited to a dozen or so to keep it manageable. Our Facebook and social media accounts are also being improved as well as a new website coming in the future.



Early in July we tried an afternoon meeting at our normal Cross Houses venue [above] to see how it would fare. There was a good response with many saying they would welcome a return to "physical" meetings but in the daytime over the winter period. Probably the way forward is to have hybrid meetings utilising Zoom technology with people in the audience as well as online. There are technical challenges as the venue does not have Wi-Fi and is in a poor reception area for mobile data. However, after a small trial we are hopeful that we will be able to do them in the future.

We've recently returned from our first physical family history fair at York, since they started up again. It's good to talk to people and help point them in the right direction to continue their research. Only one floor instead of possibly three, but still quite a lot of people attending. One of the benefits of



doing fairs is being able to talk to other stallholders, societies and organisations, compare notes and pick up ideas to try out ourselves. We had decided that York [above] would be our only national event this year.



In early August we will be at Burwarton Show, an agricultural show in the south of the county which we have attended for many years and which generates much interest. [above] Shropshire books sell well as we keep up-to-date with new publications for towns, villages or features in the county. If attending, do visit our exhibit! Previously we went to other shows and had intended trying more local in-county ones, but the pandemic hit. It may be something we'll try next season when we see how things are going.

It's a new situation for everyone and some people may not be too ready yet to venture out much. However, we will keep going to maintain interest and show our members that we will persevere. We will continue to welcome new members, too!

Please visit our website: www.sfhs.org.uk/



Family History Societies



The Beresford Family Society

As reported in last month's *Bulletin*, the BFS Spring Gathering was held on 28th/29th May, which coincided with the well dressings at Tissington. On the Saturday, members had an opportunity to visit the village and inspect the six wells. Fine weather with sunshine made a memorable day especially for those who had never before seen well dressings. Sir Richard FitzHerbert, Bt., who resides at Tissington Hall, made members welcome and gave a most interesting talk on the history and the art of 'dressing' the wells. Hands Well, Hall Well, Children's Well, Yew Tree Well, Town Well and Coffin Well are dressed by villagers each year. No artificial or synthetic materials are ever used at Tissington. Many biblical/topical themes are usually incorporated.



The Beresford Family AGM was on Sunday afternoon with discussions and decisions. That evening, following the 'grace' by Michael Foulds, thirty-one members sat down for dinner at the *Royal Oak Inn*, Mayfield, Ashbourne; huge helpings of food cooked to the highest of standards were served to all. The Chairman welcomed all members and thanked organisers of the dinner and also donors of the many raffle prizes. Joyce 958 organised the raffle raising £85. So ended a weekend enjoyed by all.

One member's comment on the weekend:
Of course, I should have known how kind and efficient you would be in sending photographs to us because it naturally followed on from the fabulous warm welcome we received and the special weekend we so thoroughly enjoyed. Indeed, words can't thank you and your fellow committee members for the dedication, hard work and loyalty to the Society and to members all for making us immediately feel like part of the clan. I only wish my late father and brother could have taken part. Who knows, perhaps they were there in spirit?

Looking ahead to spring 2023, a provisional booking has been made for a canal boat trip aboard *Birdswood* [right] on the Cromford canal.



If you have a Beresford connection, do join BFS.

www.beresfordfamilysociety.org/

Ralph Beresford, BFS Hon Sec 930

See next page...



Tissington's Hall Well

The Beresford family has close ties with the FitzHerberts, there having been several marriages between the two families. Saturday afternoon members visited Beresford Dale for a traditional 'walking the dale'. Members had the chance to view the world famous Charles Cotton/Isaac Walton "temple to fishing" beside the river Dove.

Members attended St Edmund's Church, Fenny Bentley for Sunday morning worship [below]. The Venerable Carol Coslett, Archdeacon of Chesterfield, led us in an enjoyable service. John 301 (of Dorset) did the first reading. It was the first time Carol had been at a service for the Beresford family, her message was: *"It was a pleasure to be with you, every blessing for your future connections"*. We hope to meet this splendid lady again in the future.



Family History Societies

Well dressing is first documented at Tissington in 1348. Although wells around the country were blessed since pagan times to ensure a supply of water, in the Peak District the displays have become legendary. A wooden frame is soaked for a week before being lined with wet clay. A design is etched into the clay and the picture formed using natural materials – petals, leaves, seeds, bark, sheep's wool, etc. Some places now attract large numbers of visitors to view the well dressings on various dates in spring and summer. Well worth making a special visit!

We mentioned to Ralph Beresford that readers may be interested in well dressing in Derbyshire and he kindly sent this selection of photographs taken in 2022. If your forebears were in this area, were they involved with this craft? *Ed.*



Tissington's Coffin Well



Tissington's Town Well



Buxton—celebrating the Queen's Jubilee



Two examples from
Youlgreave's 2022
well dressings

Incredible
creations!

*With grateful
thanks to
Ralph Beresford*

*Photographs
© Ralph Beresford*





Family History Societies



Dorset Family History Society

Family History Workshops hosted by Dorset Family History Society

One of Dorset Family History Society's objectives is to promote and engage in educational activities, discussions and lectures to help expand the knowledge of our society members. We have a variety of ways of doing this through:

- ◆ Monthly meetings with guest speakers on a range of subjects linked to family/social history or general historical interest. Previous subjects have included *Finding Family in India*, *How to find Naval Records*, *Quarter Sessions*, *What mummy did in the War* and *Sources for Medieval Genealogy* to mention a few. Forthcoming talks include *Transported Prisoners of Dorset* and *The Tolpuddle Martyrs*.
- ◆ Our monthly computer club sessions, hosted by DFHS, provide a discussion forum for group/peer support. Previous sessions have provided support and suggestions for breaking down those brick walls or using Family Tree Maker or Rootschat.
- ◆ Our educational programme.

Our **Introduction to Family History** workshops have been well received and are designed to help those who are beginning or want to begin their family history research. Through presentation and examination of documents we look at births, marriages and deaths, civil registration, census and the 1939 register. We are planning to restart these in the autumn, after a summer break, running these (subject to demand) every two months or so.

"**Tracing your military ancestors online**" is a new workshop for Autumn 2022 being held on 22nd October. [www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/event/tracing-you-military-ancestors-online/]. Our guest presenter will, through presentation and document examples, explore how you can use the popular websites (Find My Past and Ancestry) to search for military ancestors. During the workshop records for pre-World War I, World War I (including women in World War I), World War II and other conflicts and also medal records will be explored. Then there will also be the opportunity to use our research facilities to put it all into practice.

Fees apply to attend our workshops, held at our research centre (pictured) in Poole and places must be booked in advance.

Full details can be found on our website, where you can also find out more about our monthly meetings and computer group sessions, plus our other activities such as planned coach trips, assistance from our volunteers (virtual or in our research centre), browse our shop or use the online form to contact us.



Non-members of DFHS are welcome to join any of our activities.

Visit our website to explore further: www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/

Dorset Family History Society,

Treetops Research Centre, Suite 5, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 3AJ



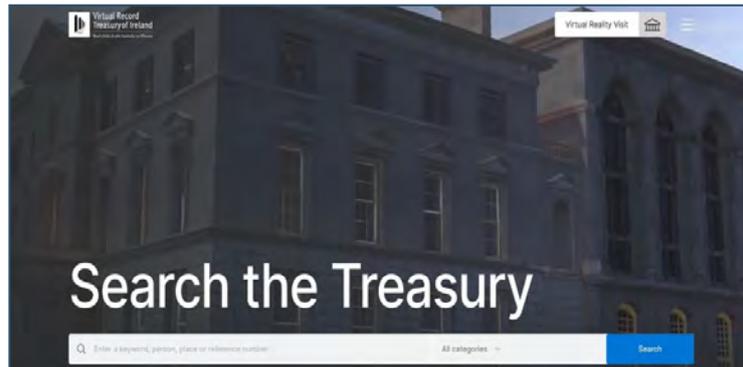
Really Useful Bulletin

Useful Archives or Research Sites

Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury Launched

For many weeks there has been growing anticipation of the launch of the ground-breaking project to bring back to life the records of Ireland. Irish research is no longer "impossible"!

This blog entry posted on 28th June.



If there is one thing to learn about Irish genealogy and history, it is that the glass is always half-full when it comes to the survival of records. It is never half-empty.

You'll hear a lot of doom and gloom from folk about records being destroyed, and how it just can't be done. Ignore them, there is often a way!

Today, Ireland pulled off a miracle in retrieving a great deal of the material thought to be forever lost in the Public Record Office fire of 1922, during the Irish Civil War. Through transcripts, surrogate copies, conservation miracles, and collaboration with other archives worldwide (not least PRONI and TNA), the new **Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland** platform has been launched at <https://virtualtreasury.ie>.

Having watched the official launch online, which I found to be extraordinarily emotional, it's too big to review immediately. I am merely going to suggest that you get stuck in.

A superb effort from all concerned, and a fitting conclusion to the *Decade of Centenaries*.

For more on the launch visit <https://beyond2022.ie/> and <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2022/0624/1306668-virtual-record-office/>.

The glass is half-full, it is not half-empty. Have fun!

Original text by

Chris Paton BA (Hons), HND, PgDip (Genealogical Studies)

Scotland's Greatest Story family history research:

www.ScotlandsGreatestStory.co.uk

Scottish GENES Blog (GENealogy News and EventS): <https://>

ScottishGENES.blogspot.com

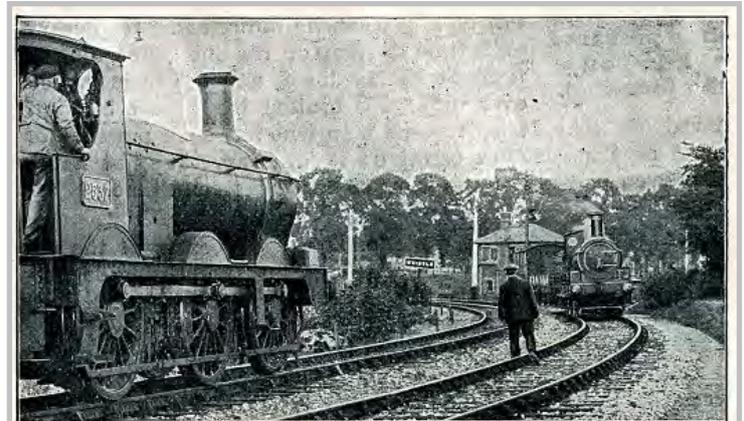


Expanded railway ancestors research tool

From mid-July, the 'Railway Work, Life & Death' project's database of accidents to British and Irish railway staff will include an additional 16,000 cases, covering 1900-1939.

The project looks at accidents to railway staff before 1939, transcribing and summarising details from official accident investigations. With the existing data, the database covers around 21,000 individuals, all transcribed by the project's excellent volunteers. The records tell us who was involved in an accident, what they were doing, where, when and why.

The project is a joint initiative of the University of Portsmouth, the National Railway Museum and the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick, working with The National Archives.



"Into the jaws of Death."

Many a man loses his life through not looking in both directions before crossing the line.

Posed c.1913 accident prevention photograph, from the Great Western Railway booklet *The 'Safety' Movement*.

It wants to see the information it's making available being used by you, in your research - it's all available free from the project website. They're also keen to hear from you if you find someone you're researching, so please let them know.

www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk

Twitter: @RWLDproject

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Railway-Work-Life-Death-108745674380484

The Federation's archive liaison representative is asking UK readers to advise of any reduction in hours at local archive services to "cut costs". Please send details to:

archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation



Follow the Fed on Twitter!

Did you know that the Family History Federation has a Twitter account?

You can find us [@FederationFHS](#) where we

share all kinds of family history news and stories as well as updates from family history societies. If you have a personal or society Twitter account then make sure you follow us.

You can also 'tag' us in any FHS announcements and we will share with our 3,000 followers!



Orkney Family History Society has told the *REALLY USEFUL BULLETIN* about the **Viking Genes Project**.

The study is run by a team at the MRC Human Genetics Unit at the University of Edinburgh led by Professor Jim Flett Wilson. The study aims to better understand a range of diseases and, in turn, find treatments through a better understanding of genes and genetic connectivity. Two stages of the project have taken place which have concentrated on Orkney and Shetland. The project is now in Viking III stage which includes the Hebrides. It needs new volunteers —can you help?

Anyone over sixteen years of age with at least two grandparents born in the Hebrides or Orkney or Shetland, can help with this fascinating and ground-breaking project.

You can find out more at www.ed.ac.uk/viking where you can also volunteer. There is a sample questionnaire and a FAQs section, too. Those who qualify complete a questionnaire and provide a sample of saliva via a specialist kit sent to you. Volunteers are guaranteed confidentiality.

Orkney FHS is a member of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies.

Out and About

The Federation exhibited at many events during 'normal times'. We are delighted to be out and about again!

[Below] Creative Crafts, NEC in June.



The Fed attends a number of hobby or craft events where we are always surprised at the level of interest in family history from visitors, many of whom are combining their craft expertise with their research. There are many ways crafters can display a life story or make a special gift to mark a major birthday or wedding anniversary.

When at events aimed solely at family historians, such as the recent *The Family History Show: York*, we often take the bookshop.

Family History Books stocks a vast range of publications for family historians and the bookshop was a very popular corner at York. Fewer books made the trip back to base—that's what we like! The upsurge of interest in the printed word encouraged the super offer to subscribers on the cover of this edition. Stock your shelves with reference material while you can!



The York show clashed with the craft event at the NEC in Birmingham; difficulties were exacerbated by the rail strikes. We are grateful to members of the Executive who helped out thus avoiding the use of "virtual beings"!



We dipped a toe into the rural world at the Royal Norfolk Show—a very different experience! We met some interesting family historians plus plenty "thinking about doing their tree".

Being out and about is part of the Federation's promotion of family history in general and family history societies in particular. If you see the Federation at an event, do stop by and say hello! (Apologies to our overseas subscribers, but you can visit the Fed at the REALLY USEFUL SHOW online in November!)



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

www.parishchest.com

to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.

Societies and others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk

Family History Books is a shop for books from many publishers on all aspects of family history research. Family History Books is also a publisher of relevant titles relating to research. If you are writing a book dealing with an aspect of family history research—then do contact the Federation's administrative officer. [FHBO does not publish personal family histories.] Family History Books is owned by the Family History Federation in order to provide a service to the genealogical community.

Family History Books has an online shop. In addition, the bookshop can be found at major live family history events around the country enabling you to view the latest titles—the stall is always very popular!

The exceptional offer this month is available only to *Bulletin* subscribers. Grab this super bargain while you can.

FHBO will be publishing new titles in the coming months—watch this space!

Do explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th November 2022

Entirely online—accessible worldwide!

Presentations, workshops, FHS stalls and more!

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details



FFHS does not exercise any control over the content of external website links in this Really Useful Bulletin. It is not responsible for the content or quality. Nor does FFHS endorse any companies or products advertised.
Copyright © 2022 Federation of Family History Societies, All rights reserved.

Family History Federation P O Box 62, Sheringham, NR26 9AR

Family History Federation is the operating name of the Federation of Family History Societies.

The Federation of Family History Societies is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Company Number 2930189 (England & Wales) Registered Charity Number 1038721

Registered Office: 2 Primrose Avenue, Urmston, Manchester M41 0TY

