

# M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the  
Manchester & Lancashire Family  
History Society



## **September 2022 Issue 29**

### **SOCIETY CONTACTS**

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

Newsletter editor: - [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk)

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The Manchester Genealogist: - [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk)

MLFHS mailing address: Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society,  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

We were saddened to learn of the death, in August, of Shirley King. Shirley was a former trustee of the Society and performed various roles over a long association with us. Aside from contributing to a number of projects and other volunteer roles, Shirley held the important posts of book shop manager and librarian. Her funeral has already taken place and we send our condolences to her daughter, Sue Rushton and family. A fuller obituary will appear in the winter edition of The Manchester Genealogist.

This is a busy month for the Society with talks arranged by all our branches. In addition we will be attending the 10th U3A Peak District Family History Conference Saturday 17 September 2022 at the Palace Hotel in Buxton. If you are in the area or feel like a trip out then why not drop in and have a word with our volunteers.

I have also made mention of a ZOOM meeting we have arranged in support of Black History Month in collaboration with Archives+ here at Manchester Central Library.

As you will see our project teams continue to work hard with new entries for the Manchester School for the Deaf for the periods 1855-1860 and 1870-1874 and Bolton Workhouse Creed Books covering 1888-1891 amongst others. I have also shown a breakdown of the BMDs that have recently been scanned and these are now being transcribed and entered into our database.

Best wishes  
Barry Henshall

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello again fellow researchers,

I hear from Pat, Editor of The Manchester Genealogist, that we continue to experience a shortage of research articles for publication. This puzzles me. When I meet with our members over a cup of coffee or a sandwich, we invariably swap details of our recent research in conversational form and can be surprised just how the problems to be overcome and the sources to be used are similar. I don't think I have ever not taken some valuable help from such conversations and, I hope, helped another with comments about my own research.

Why then can't a snapshot of those conversations be the subject of a paragraph or two among the many excellent and fully researched articles that have graced – and continue to grace - the pages of our journal over the last 58 years?

So that's my pitch for this month – please do not think your contribution has to be Pulitzer quality, or even Earwaker standard. Some offerings are of exceptional quality, but the majority of contributions are simply very good descriptions of research carried out, the sources consulted, and the conclusions reached. That can be true of short pieces as well as long. Oddities from local records and descriptions of little-known resources and so on, can be as valuable to the researcher too – these are the things we share over a cuppa.

So please send your contributions – short or long, to Pat by mail to The Editor, Manchester & Lancashire FHS, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square M2 5PD or by email to [editor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@mlfhs.org.uk) or [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:office@mlfhs.org.uk) . For further details consult the Notes for Contributors page in the journal.

We can cope with a glut of contributions. Best wishes for your research,

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

Please feel free to contact the office [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto: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



DNA test results. How do you use them

**Date and time**

Sat, 24 September 2022  
10:30 – 12:00 BST

You have your results and now Hilary will take you through the next steps to finding your matches.

About this event

Your Ancestry DNA test results are in! You have thousands of matches, you can possibly recognise one or two at the top of the list - what do you do next? And why is your second cousin, who has taken the test, not showing up?

Join us for this meeting to find out how to identify more people, the easy way that Ancestry provides for you to organise your matches and how that will help you to find out more about your family.

You will also learn how to keep your own research safe online whilst providing the information that Ancestry (and all the DNA-testing companies) needs to identify good family matches.

Why is your second cousin not shown in the matches? It's very annoying when this happens but there is a good reason and it might have nothing to do with family mysteries!

Booking through [Eventbrite](#)

**Location**

Manchester Central Library  
St Peter's Square  
Manchester  
M2 5PD

[View map](#)



Advance notice of an online talk for Black History Month in collaboration with Archives+ at Manchester Central Library, given by Linford Sweeney.

**The History of Carnival . An online talk for Black History Month**

**Date and time**

Wed, 12 October 2022  
19:00 – 20:30 BST

## The Caribbean Carnival

The history of the Caribbean Carnival is a complex one. It is more than a celebration of colourful costumes, music, and dance. Historically, it is an interesting mix of eighteenth-century European masquerade events, Christian practices, African traditions, and freedom from slavery. Also, in the Caribbean, it is a yearlong celebration; and now takes place around the world. We can be easily distracted by the costumes, music, and dance, but these celebrations have great historical and cultural significance.

Linford Sweeney, a Black history educator, genealogist, and author, with seventeen years' experience in delivering courses, talks, workshops, and projects to a wide variety of organisations, including schools, colleges, universities, local authorities, health services, private companies, and the African and Caribbean communities in the UK and abroad.

Website: [www.inspiredhistories.com](http://www.inspiredhistories.com)

Email: [inspiredhistories@gmail.com](mailto:inspiredhistories@gmail.com)

Booking is through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) and there is considerable interest in this talk. I suggest you book early as tickets may be limited.

## Bolton Branch



### 5 Generations of a British Raj family - a LIVE ROOM Meeting

Date and time

Wed, 7 Sep 2022, 19:30 BST

Jenny Mallin - is a 'Berkshire-based award-winning author and public speaker', Best In World cookbook award winner for 2017 by the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Society for her book "A Grandmother's Legacy"

A fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India. Seen through the eyes of their granddaughter, Jenny captures a period of British history through her Powerpoint presentations with extensive collection of family sepia photographs, and manages to bring her stories to life: her grandmothers' lives as memsahibs and the "legacy" that Jenny has been given, a 170 year old cookbook penned by Jenny's great 4 x grandmother in 1844 when she was aged just 15 and a newly-wed bride, married to an English schoolmaster. Jenny also describes her grandfathers, uncles and relatives who served in the British Army as early as 1798, The Royal Indian Navy, the Railways in Madras, a co-founder of an English Medium School in India in the early 18th century and a great uncle who rose up through the ranks of the ICS to become Postmaster General in the telegraph industry.

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.

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



### 'Agricultural Hiring Fairs of Northern England'

#### Date and time

Sat, 10 September 2022

14:00 – 15:30 BST

An illustrated talk given by Stephen Counce

"Most of northern England remains rural to this day, and its farms played a vital role in feeding the ever-growing industrial workforce. However, its farmworkers are largely ignored by historians despite leading very different lives from those of their southern equivalents. In particular, the widespread annual hiring fairs were the highlight of the year, and show us a very unexpected picture of regional life. This talk brings it all to life, and includes a recording describing fairs from a century ago."

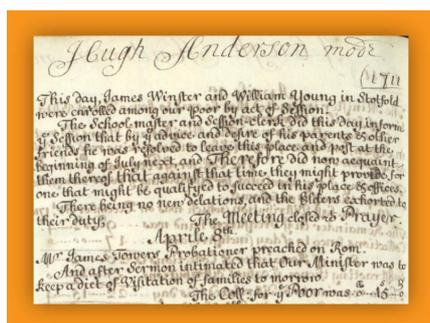
A hybrid meeting in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

\* 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



### September Social Meeting - Palaeography Workshop with Alison Diamond

#### Date and time

Sat, 3 September 2022

14:00 – 16:30 BST

Alison will lead a hands on workshop on "Secretary Hand", the old style of writing that was used in the earlier Kirk Session Records. We will learn about the different scripts, identify the different characters and some of the essential words that are common throughout the texts of the period.

Alison is the Archivist for the Argyll Papers - the family and estate archive of the Campbell family, earls and dukes of Argyll at Inveraray Castle. Her responsibilities are the preservation and development of the archive. She also manages access to the archive.

Before Inveraray, Alison worked as a Curatorial Officer for the National Records of Scotland. Alison has also worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (Project Manager. A Union for a' That), for Access to Mineral Heritage and for Unilever plc.

Booking details at [Eventbrite](#).

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

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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 to 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](#).

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

Full details in the August edition of the newsletter, a copy of which is on our website.

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## PROJECTS UPDATE

The following update has been posted to Manchester Burials  
Added 1,600 burials for St. Stephen, Audenshaw 1898-1901 transcribed by Mark Harrey

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The following update has been posted to Victoria Station War Memorial  
Changes have been made to the war Memorials Database to accommodate pages containing personal data for those named.

The following update has been posted to Newspaper Announcements  
Added 1,062 BMD references from the Manchester Courier 1825 and 806 inquests etc.  
from the Manchester Mercury 1830, 1832, 1834, 1835. Transcribed by Linda Bailey, Chris  
Hall and Chris Norcross

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Another substantial addition to the great Database. This time a further 5,467 names from  
the Bolton Workhouse Creed Books covering 1888-1891.

Thanks to Graham Holt and his team for this addition to an already large record set.

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Indexes to three more Alan Godfrey Maps have been added to the Godfrey map Index at:

<https://www.mlfhs.uk/databases/godfrey-map-index>

The 264 new references cover the largely rural areas of:

Bury South 1907  
Bradley Fold 1910 and 1930 (double sided map)  
Unsworth & SE Radcliffe 1932

Thanks to John Gartside for this latest addition.

As always, if you own any of the maps which have not yet been indexed (or are in progress)  
and will be happy to spend a few hours creating an index, let me know and I will be happy  
to tell you what is needed.

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Three more books of admission papers for pupils at the Manchester School for the Deaf  
have been completed, providing details of 157 further admissions during periods 1855-1860  
and 1870-1874. Thanks, as ever, to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Karen  
Hugill, Shirley King, Janet Moores, Chris Norcross) for the above.

The names concerned appear in Appendix 1 at the end of this newsletter

### HELPDESK

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

For many people ZOOM meetings and Podcasts are a ready way of seeking out information. With this in mind I have listed Youtube sites that may be of interest. All contain a large number of videos and podcasts which cover a wide breath of family history subjects. I have not had any difficulty accessing these sites and no registration was required.

1. Findmypast - [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=findmypast](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=findmypast)
2. Ancestry - [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=ancestry](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ancestry)
3. Family Search - [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=family+search](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=family+search)
4. My Heritage - [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=my+heritage](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=my+heritage)
5. National Archives - [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=national+archives+uk](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=national+archives+uk)

In all cases scroll down the initial page a short way and ignore any adverts and requests to sign in to their website.

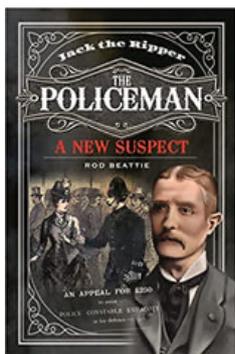
There are many more sites that provide family history podcasts etc. such as DNA studies and individual family history sites. If you find a site that you feel would be of interest to other readers then why not contact me at [newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@mlfhs.org.uk).

## 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](mailto:newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk).

## THE BOOKSHOP



Jack the Ripper The Policeman

Code: 8634

£14.95 ~~£20.00~~

Imagine you were a police officer and had been dominated as a child by an abusive mother who didn't really want you and as an adult had been served bastardy orders twice, firstly by a woman in whose house you lived and then by a woman you had a relationship with. Then, to top it all after you had become a police officer in another city you arrested a woman you thought was a prostitute, whose subsequent actions caused you to be accused of perjury and you ended up in court at the Old Bailey. Although you were found not guilty, it ruined your career and left you seriously in debt and though you were still a policeman you were taken off the streets and assigned to a menial job guarding a museum. As a police officer you were in a perfect position to take revenge on those people you thought had ruined you, prostitutes. This book contains the complete reason Jack the Ripper came to be. It sheds new light on the mystery of the killer. After all, who is going to suspect a policeman going about his daily duties of being one of the world's most infamous serial killers.

Why not order a copy from our [Bookshop](#).

## UKBMD UPDATES

New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:

Amended 34,633 Births for Manchester RD to include mother's maiden name, comprising:  
Newton (1896-1908)

Thanks are due to My Manchester team for the above  
John Marsden

The following update has been posted to LancashireBMD - Manchester RO Births (Mother's Maiden Name)

Mother's maiden names have been added to some 32,000 births for the Newton sub-district, completing this work for the Newton sub-district.

New data has been added at [www.lancashirebmd.org.uk](http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk) as follows:

Added 18,672 Marriages for Salford RD comprising:

Barton-on-Irwell Register Office or Registrar Attended (1961-1967)

Boothstown Methodist (1961-1967)

Brindle Heath, St. Anne (1961-1967)

Broughton Park URC (1961-1966)

Broughton St Clements (1961-1967)

Broughton St John (1961-1967)

Broughton, Church of the Nazarent (1964-1965)

Broughton, Salem, Wellington St East (1962-1967)

Cadishead, Congregational Church (1963-1967)

Cadishead, Wesleyan Methodist (1961-1967)

Clifton St Ann (1961-1967)

Eccles Parish St Mary's (1961-1967)

Eccles St Andrew (1961-1967)

Eccles, Barton Road Methodist (1961-1966)

Eccles, Immanuel Methodist Church (1961-1967)

Eccles, New Congregational Church (1961-1966)

Eccles, Particroft United Reformed Church (1961-1967)

Eccles, United Reformed Church (1963-1967)

Eccles. Eccles Evangelical/Elmwood Church (1967-1967)

Higher Broughton St James (1961-1967)

Higher Broughton Synagogue (1961-1967)

Higher Broughton, Presbyterian (1962-1967)

Higher Crumpsall & Higher Broughton Synagogue (1961-1967)

Holy Angels Claremont, Pendleton (1961-1967)

Hope St James (1961-1967)

Irlam St John (1961-1967)

Irlam, Boundary Road Methodist Church (1961-1967)

Irlam, St. Paul, Methodist (1961-1967)

Irlams O'Th'Height, Congregational Church, Claremont Road (1961-1966)

Kersal St Paul (1961-1967)

Kersal, North Salford & Beth Hamedrash (prev. Romanian) Synagogue (1961-1966)

Little Hulton St John (1961-1967)

Little Hulton, St. Edmund (1961-1967)

Little Hulton, St. George Methodist (1965-1967)

Little Hulton, Wharton Untied Reformed Church (1961-1967)

Manchester, Central and North Manchester Synagogue (1961-1967)

Manchester, Great & New & Beth Hamedrash Synagogue (1961-1967)  
Monton Green, Monton Church (1961-1967)  
Monton St Paul (1961-1967)  
Monton, Monton Methodist Church (1961-1967)  
Patricroft Christ Church (1961-1967)  
Patricroft, Patricroft (formerly Ebenezer) Methodist Church (1961-1967)  
Patricroft, St Michael and All Angels (1961-1967)  
Patricroft, Trinity Methodist (1961-1964)  
Peel St Paul (1961-1967)  
Pendlebury Christ Church (1961-1967)  
Pendlebury St John (1961-1967)  
Pendlebury, Bethel Methodist (1962-1964)  
Pendlebury, Clifton, St Thomas (1961-1967)  
Pendlebury, Methodist Church (1963-1967)  
Pendlebury, United Methodist Free Church, Dumbell St (1961-1964)  
Pendleton St Paul (1961-1967)  
Pendleton St Thomas (1961-1967)  
Pendleton, Charlestown Congregational (1961-1967)  
Pendleton, Enys Street Methodist (1961-1967)  
Pendleton, St. Ambrose (1961-1963)  
Pendleton, Turner Hall, Astley Street (1966-1966)  
Salford Holy Rood (1961-1967)  
Salford Register Office or Registrar Attended (1961-1967)  
Salford Sacred Trinity (1961-1967)  
Salford St Ambrose (1961-1967)  
Salford St Augustine (1961-1967)  
Salford St Barnabas (1961-1966)  
Salford St Bartholomew (1961-1967)  
Salford St Clements (1961-1967)  
Salford St Cyprian (1961-1963)  
Salford St George (1961-1967)  
Salford St Ignatius (1961-1967)  
Salford St Luke (1961-1967)  
Salford St Matthias (1961-1966)  
Salford St Philip (1961-1967)  
Salford, Bolton Road Methodist (1963-1967)  
Salford, Brunswick, Methodist (1961-1967)  
Salford, Central United Reformed Church (1961-1967)  
Salford, Chapel Street & Hope United Reformed Church (1961-1967)  
Salford, Gravel Lane Methodist (1961-1967)  
Salford, Great Clowes Street Methodist (1961-1963)  
Salford, Hope Congregational (1964-1967)  
Salford, Kahal Chassidim Synagogue (1964-1964)  
Salford, Lees Mission Hall, Liverpool Street (1962-1967)  
Salford, Machziei Hadass Synagogue (1963-1967)  
Salford, Memorial Road Methodist (1961-1967)  
Salford, Mount Chapel, Eccles Old Road (1967-1967)  
Salford, St. Andrew, Methodist (1961-1967)  
Salford, St. John, Methodist (1961-1967)  
Salford, St. Paul, Methodist (1961-1964)  
Salford, Trinity Congregational (1961-1964)  
Salford, Unknown (1963-1967)  
Salford, Weaste Congregational/United Reformed Church (1961-1967)  
Salford, Wesleyan Methodist, Regent Road (1961-1966)  
Salford, Westwood Methodist (1961-1963)

Salford, Whit Lane Methodist (1961-1965)  
St Mary's, Cadishead (1961-1967)  
Stowell Memorial (1961-1967)  
Swinton St Peter (1961-1967)  
Swinton, Chorley Road (formerly Primitive) Methodist Church (1961-1967)  
Swinton, Manchester Road Methodist Church (1961-1967)  
Swinton, Methodist Free Church, Worsley Rd (1961-1967)  
Swinton, Worsley Road URC (1961-1967)  
Walkden Moor Methodist (1961-1964)  
Walkden or Little Hulton, Worsley Road North, Methodist (1961-1967)  
Walkden St Paul (1961-1967)  
Walkden, Christ the King (1961-1962)  
Walkden, Congregational Church (1961-1967)  
Walkden, Walkden Evangelical Church (1962-1965)  
Walkden, Wesley Hall Methodist (1965-1965)  
Walkden, Whittlebrook (formerly Primitive) Methodist Church (1961-1962)  
Winton, St Mary Magdalene (1961-1967)  
Winton, St. Matthew (1961-1963)  
Winton, Winton Methodist Church (1961-1966)  
Worsley St Mark (1961-1967)  
Worsley, Barton Road Methodist (1961-1967)  
Worsley, New Jerusalem Church (1963-1963)  
Worsley, Trinity Methodist (1961-1961)

Thanks are due to Sheila Lowe and her team for these.  
John

## Message from Bill Harrison, Staffordshire.

Below are the updates for the Staffs BMD dated 12 August 2022  
Marriages:

17 for Marchington Woodlands, St John, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2014-2019)  
8 for Uttoxeter, St Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2013-2018)  
52 for Longdon, St James, registers at Lichfield (2006-2019)  
24 for Wall, St John the Evangelist, registers at Lichfield (2010-2019)  
17 for Kingsley, St Werburgh, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2015-2020)  
20 for Newchapel, Methodist Church - Newtown, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1991-2017)  
178 for Wellington, St Luke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1974-2020)  
83 for Birches Head, St Matthew, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1978-2016)  
62 for Lapley, All Saints, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1999-2019)  
30 for Huntington, St Thomas, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2011-2018)  
25 for Stafford, Meeting Room Next To 396 Eccleshall Road, Stafford, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2008-2021)  
23 for Stafford, St Austin's RC Church - (Wolverhampton Road), registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2016-2021)  
15 for Berkswich, Holy Trinity, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2010-2020)  
10 for Fulford, St Nicholas, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2016-2018)

Deaths:

4,078 for Burslem, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1965-1970)

Births:

2,508 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1955-1979)

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

The orphan BMDs sent to the Society over the last 18 months or so have now been scanned. The following is a breakdown:

Births	243
Marriage.	1,108
Deaths.	1,020
Giving a total of	2,371

Thank you to everyone who have sent in their unwanted certificates.

Our volunteers are now busy transcribing these and entering them into our database.

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

However, if you wish to keep your certificates then you can send scans, preferably as a PDF to [office@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk) and I will suggest an alternative means of forwarding the PDF files.

## 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

**Appendix 1 - Manchester School for the Deaf for the periods 1855-1860 and 1870-1874.**

ANDERSON Alfred Edwin  
ARCHER Charles  
ASPDEN Francis  
BADDELEY Titus  
BATES John  
BEAUMONT Joseph  
BEECH James  
BIRTWISTLE Charles  
BOTTOM Joe  
BOUCH Arnold Ambrose  
BOWDEN James  
BOYD Samuel  
BRADDOCK Joseph  
BRISCOE Lizzie  
BROTHERTON Evan  
BROWN William Edward  
BUCKLEY Robert  
BURGESS Jane  
BURGESS John  
CHEETHAM Thomas  
CLARKSON Charles Henry  
COLLINSON George  
CREER Edward  
CRONKSHAW Ruth  
CROSSLEY Samuel  
CUNLIFFE Henry Herbert  
DAWSON Joseph  
DICKSON Janet  
DONKERSLEY Annie Elizabeth  
DRAPER Elizabeth  
DUTTON Thomas  
EDMUNDS James  
ELLIS Eliza  
ENGLISH Mary  
EUSTACE Christopher  
FAIRHURST Thomas  
FARRELL Jane  
FAWCETT Henry Frederic  
FEENEY Agnes  
FEENEY Mary Jane  
FLARTY Alice  
FOXCROFT Isaac  
FREEAR Emma  
GARSIDE Eliza Jane  
GARSIDE James William  
GORNELL Thomas  
GOYT George  
GREEN Percy Bintliffe  
GREENHALGH Julius Hilton  
GREENHALGH Phythian  
HACKING Martha Alice

HADFIELD Mary  
HARGREAVES James  
HARLEY John Cheetham  
HARRISON Elizabeth  
HARROP Edwin Frederick  
HARVEY Albert  
HEATON Eliza  
HEYWORTH Martha  
HINE Phoebe Ann  
HITCHIN William Taylor  
HODGSON William Henry  
HOLDEN Henry Herbert  
HOLLOWS Hannah  
HOWARTH Emma  
HOWARTH George  
HOWARTH Wright  
HUCKNALL John  
HUGHES John  
JACKSON Gamaliel  
JACKSON Joseph  
JEFFS Sarah Jane  
JOHN Evan Ederyfin  
JOHNSON Thomas  
JOLLEY Jane  
JONES Margaret  
JONES Mary Ann  
KEAN Elizabeth  
KELLETT Mary  
KILLER Elizabeth  
KIRKHAM Albert Edward  
LAWTON Paul  
LEES John Schofield  
LEIGH Alfred  
LINGARD William  
LIVESEY David  
LOMAX John James  
LOMAX Sarah Ann  
MARTIN Ralph Daniel  
MCEWEN James  
MENZIES Alice  
MERRELL Thomas  
MILLS William  
MORRISON Michael  
MOSS Margaret  
MYCOCK Jane  
MYOTT Sophia  
NICHOLLS William  
NICHOLS Alice  
NIELD Mark Oldham  
NOWELL George Henery  
PALING Ellen  
PARKES Anne  
PARKES Anne  
PEDDER John  
PHILLIPS Margaret

PRESTON James  
PRITT Edward  
PROCTOR John  
RALPH Charles Bentley  
RALPH John William Davies  
RAY Rosehannah  
REDFERN Francis Henery  
REDHEAD Ann  
ROBERTS Mary Alice  
ROBERTSON Annie  
ROSCOW Elizabeth  
ROSTRON John  
ROYLE Mary Elizabeth  
RUDD Sarah Hillam  
SHAW Frances  
SHAW Lewis  
SHREWIN James  
SHUFFLEBOTTOM William Edward  
SMEDLEY George  
SMETHURST Lavinia Ann  
SMITH Margaret Ellen  
SMITH William Henry  
SNOWBALL Harry  
STOCKDALE George Francis  
STURGEON Sarah Jane  
SYKES Ann  
SYKES Elizabeth  
TAYLOR Emma  
TAYLOR George  
TAYLOR Iddo  
TAYLOR James  
TAYLOR James  
TAYLOR James Henry  
TAYLOR Mary  
TAYLOR Richard  
THOMPSON Hamer (Aylmer)  
THORNTHWAITE Marion Alice  
TITHER James  
WAINWRIGHT George Ramsden  
WALSH Edward  
WHITE Joanna  
WILD Joseph Elias  
WILDE Sarah  
WILDE William  
WILLIAMS Egerton Walter  
WILLIAMS Mary  
WITHINGTON Alice  
WOOD Sarah  
WOODCOCK Hannah  
WORSNIP Mary Anne  
WYNNE Sarah

John Marsden  
Webmaster:



# FAMILY HISTORY Federation

# REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

## No 24

August 2022

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

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

*inside find...*

Lead article this month: *Investigating Workhouse Relatives and Archives*  
plus the REALLY USEFUL SHOW's keynote speakers, 1921 census stories wanted,  
news from local FHS and the Federation

[www.familyhistoryfederation.com/](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/)



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# Really Useful Bulletin

## FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION'S 2022 REALLY USEFUL Show

### Keynote Speakers Announced!



FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 7.00PM

#### Diahan Southard

Diahan Southard is a leading voice for consumer DNA testing from her position as founder of *Your DNA Guide*. In addition to her international teaching commitments, Diahan also acts as a consultant with leading testing companies and forensics experts. Southard's company, **Your DNA Guide.com** deploys a team of scientists who provide one-on-one genetic genealogy education and research services. You will walk away from an interaction with her, enlightened and motivated as she has a passion for genetic genealogy, a genuine love for people, and a gift for making the technical understandable.

#### Connecting Your DNA Matches

While it is possible for you to analyse your DNA matches one at a time to determine how you are related, there is much that can be accomplished by first identifying the connections between those on your match list, *organising* those matches, and then working together to determine how you are related to each other. Learn the tips and tricks to this powerful method of match analysis.



SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 10.15AM

#### Paul Nixon

Paul Nixon has a keen interest in military history and in particular the British Army and its campaigns between 1850 and 1920. He has been researching British soldiers for over forty years and has delivered dozens of talks on various aspects of British military history. Professionally, he has worked for *Findmypast* in a content licensing role since August 2010.

#### British Army Detective – Piecing Together the Jigsaw

Paul's presentation will demonstrate how to make the most of what scant information survives in order to build a fuller picture of service, including a deep dive into regimental numbers and what these tell us. Ideal for beginners and seasoned researchers alike.



[www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/)



# Really Useful Bulletin

## How to investigate your workhouse relatives and workhouse archives

by Helen Bainbridge

With over forty years family history research experience, it never ceases to amaze me the number of new sources you can discover. Even then, you know that you will never find it all! However, you may find this article of use in discovering the history of your relative who resided in the workhouse, be it as a member of staff or an inmate, if you are lucky enough to have them.

I hear you question why I say 'lucky'? Well, having an inmate relative may mean there are snippets of information recorded about their lives that you would not normally find, and in some instances more detail than you ever imagined! For example, how would we have discovered that the Poor Law funded the family of Horace Franklin to go to Port Phillip, Australia; that Benjamin Newell was operated on for a cleft lip; that Emily Bilham made sure she left clothes at the workhouse so she could return 'home' when she needed to; that Jacob Thurlow was in the workhouse for three years and went into service for a Medical Officer or; that Charles Hewett was punished by having his tobacco stopped for one week for leaving the workhouse without permission to go to a public house?

As always with family history, there are a couple of caveats. In some cases, you will only ever be able to discover that they were in a workhouse via a census record, or that they were born or died in a workhouse via a birth, death or a parish burial record. You may even find a newspaper article about them appearing before the magistrate whilst being in the workhouse. For others, it may mean searching through a large, eclectic mix of documents that are waiting patiently to be transcribed and become electronically searchable by us all!

So, where do you start when you discover a workhouse relative?

Initially, use a search engine to discover what comes up about the workhouse you are investigating. It is likely that you will be signposted to [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk) in the first instance. On this website, Peter Higginbotham has provided background information about Poor Laws and

individual histories of workhouses, including information about some of the sources that are available. However, there is such a vast array in the type of workhouse records which may survive, that it is nearly always worth looking at the nearest County Record Office to see what they hold. It may mean a trip to the Record Office to look through each type of record, unless you can find that it has been transcribed.

For example, the Board of Guardians' Minute Books for the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse (now Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life – where I have carried out much workhouse research) are held by the Norfolk Records Office, but are currently being fully transcribed by museum research volunteers. Currently available on the museum website is a 'List of Inmates' with notes, from an earlier project.<sup>(1)</sup> If you find your family member and want more information, you can contact the museum curator via email at [gressenhall.museum@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:gressenhall.museum@norfolk.gov.uk) and request more details regarding the full minute book entry. The museum will also ask you to share what you know about the person, and would be especially interested if you have photographs. Photographs of inmates are very rare!



*Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life  
(Photo: Helen Bainbridge, 3 July 2022)*

Here are a few extracts from **ONE** Guardian Minute Book dated from 13 May 1878 to 3 November 1879 to provide you with an idea of what you may find:



# Really Useful Bulletin

**13 May 1878:** *Relief is allowed to the undermentioned able bodied person on the report of the Medical Officer: Christmas Millett of Billingford (Rhuematism).*

**20 May 1878:** *William Phillips and Ann Adcock, two inmates of the Workhouse, each having children, being about to leave for the purpose of getting married and residing at Mattishall, it is, at their request and under the special circumstances of the case, agreed that the Master do allow them to leave without their families, Phillips having this day promised the Board that he will, after his said marriage, take all the children out of the House by Saturday next.*

**22 July 1878:** *Amelia Marsh aged 13 years an inmate of the Workhouse having been guilty of gross misbehaviour by kicking the Schoolmistress, and using abusive language it is ordered that she be punished by solitary confinement for 24 hours and during such period to be dieted on bread and water.*

**7 July 1879:** *The Clerk laid before the Guardians a Letter...from the Local Government Board declining to interfere in the case of the hare lip of the infant inmate of the Workhouse named Benjamin Newell, upon whom the desired operation was reported to have been already successfully performed .*

**29 September 1879:** *The Revd M R Eaton proposed and Mr Warren seconded the proposition that Lydia Curson a deserted woman whose husband had ran away and left her about three years back and who with her five children had been ever since maintained and supported in the Union Workhouse at a cost of £60 a year and upwards, be permitted to emigrate with those children to Canada where her Father is now living and that a sum of £22 be with the sanction of the Local Government Board allowed towards the expenses of their Emigration.*

**29 September 1879:** *On the recommendation of the Visiting Committee it was agreed that subject to the approval of the Local Government Board the sum of £2 10s 0d for clothing be given to Jacob Thurlow a poor boy maintained in the Workhouse on his leaving the same to go into the service of Mr Henry Raven the Medical Officer upon the Terms mentioned in the usual format proposed this day laid before the Guardians.*

As you can see, these snippets often lead to more questions. Always remember that even though it looks as if your relative spent many years in the workhouse

as you find them in two consecutive census records, the walls of the workhouse were built to keep people out, not in, so they may have left and returned a number of times between records.

In the minute books, you may also discover information about local suppliers, staff or the members of the Board of Guardians themselves. For example, this entry provides you with the date that a new nurse, May Ann Bullock, started her employment. She started and finished her employment between census dates, so you otherwise may not have known that she worked there.

**26 August 1878:** *Mrs Mary Ann Bullock, a widow, attended before the Guardians and agreed to accept the office of Nurse at the Workhouse upon the same terms as her predecessor and to enter upon her duties on the 9th September next, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.*

The Norfolk Record Office also hold Creed Registers. Creed registers that survive for Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse date from the 1930s and include details of the inmate's name, address, where admitted, age and date of birth, their occupation, their religious creed, the name and address of their nearest relative or friend, their date of admission, date of discharge and any remarks such as where they moved on to, or if they died. There are also a few baptism and death records, but these are very sparse, therefore in order to research more about the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse we have to use The National Archives (TNA), MH 12 records.

MH 12 records consist of 16,741 volumes of up to one thousand pages each dated from 1834 to 1900. These contain Poor Law Correspondence from the local Board of Guardians to the government's Poor Law Commission (and its successors), in date order. They include papers relating to the appointment of staff, examinations of paupers seeking help, proposals of service, education reports, details of lunatic inmates etc. Some of the Poor Law Correspondence has been catalogued and digitised in detail and can be downloaded at no cost. Information about what can be found is listed here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/poverty-poor-laws/> (although Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse is now available in full). You can also use these records to search for more information about some of the minute book entries.



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For example, from the correspondence below we can discover more information about Benjamin Newell's cleft lip and that the operation was the subject of a lot of discussion. The record states *that the cure of hare lips although essential to personal appearance is not necessary for the preservation of life* and it was stated that the operation itself was *never quite without for risk to life* and pointed out that *professional opinion is divided as to the best time for the performance of the operation with some advocating very early infancy, the major preferring from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> year.*

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, Public Records Office (PRO), MH 12/8489/75 Folio 139; 2 June 2022)

Image above reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 12/8489/101 Folio 191; 2 June 2022)

Also through MH 12, we can discover the names of Lydia Curson's children, which would then help us to find other records relating to them.

From the Proposal of Service record below we can confirm the age of Jacob Thurlow at the time that the document was signed. We can confirm that both his parents were dead and that he had been in the workhouse for three years, having last resided in Brisley, Norfolk.

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 12/8489/129 Folio 240; 2 June 2022)

Within the MH 12 records you can also find out details of new staff members, not only within the general correspondence, but also in appointment forms. Through a notice to the Poor Law Board, for example, we're able to find that an Elizabeth Sackamore replaced Mary Ann Bullock, although we do not have the records for Mary Ann herself. Elizabeth was a fifty-



# Really Useful Bulletin

year-old widow when she was appointed, and had worked for two years at Great Yarmouth Workhouse and nearly three months in Bethnal Green Workhouse, leaving there to try private nursing on 9 September

*Wellford and Lamditch UNION.* 35640/79

APPOINTMENT OF NURSE

1. State the Christian Name and Surname of the Person appointed as Nurse at the Union Workhouse, in full ..... *Elizabeth Sackamore*

2. Her place of Residence immediately previous to her appointment ..... *No. 2, Mactrough Square Wholey Road Gt. Yarmouth*

3. Her Age ..... *50 years*

4. Whether Married or Single ..... *Widow*

5. Whether she has any Children; and, if so, whether they are dependent on her, and where it is proposed that they shall reside ..... *None*

6. Her previous Occupations or Callings ..... *Nurse*

7. Whether she has before held any office in any Union or Parish; and, if so, what office, and in what Union or Parish ..... *Two years in Great Yarmouth Workhouse. and nearly 3 months in Bethnal Green Workhouse - London -*

8. The cause of her leaving the same ..... *Wished to try private nursing*  
and  
The date at which she left ..... *9<sup>th</sup> September 1878.*

9. The day on which she was Elected to her present office ..... *28<sup>th</sup> April 1879.*

(1000 3 | 75 - MeC.)

1878.

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 12/8489/64 Folio 121; 2 June 2022)

Staff workhouse records can also be found in a National Archives in the MH 9 [Registers of Paid Officers and Staff Appointed by the Board of Guardians](#) Registers . You can see both the records for Mary Ann Bullock and Elizabeth Sackamore in the image below.

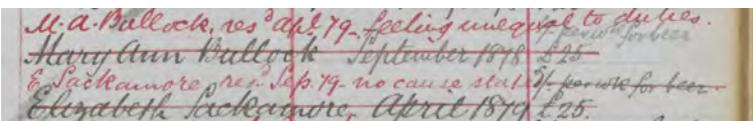


Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 9/11; 2 June 2022)

It is with the help of these records that you can start to piece together biographies of inmates and staff who resided in the workhouse.

Networks and subject groups are also a valuable source of information. Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse is part of the Workhouse Network, for example, and as a member I have researched inmates as part of the More Than Oliver Twist Project.

The Workhouse Network is a Subject Specialist Network (SSN) that brings together museums, heritage organisations, archives and universities interested in welfare history. The Network exists to share expertise, develop skills, knowledge and to promote the understanding of history and contemporary relevance of poverty, welfare and the poor. See [www.workhousenetwork.org](http://www.workhousenetwork.org) for more information and guidance on how to research your inmates as well as ways of writing up your data and the biographies using the More Than Oliver Twist Project training.

The six workhouse museums of Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, Llanfyllin Workhouse, Ripon Museum Trust, The Workhouse Southwell, Thackray Museum of Medicine and The Spike Heritage Centre, Guildford have created a digital exhibition which investigated the lives of Louisa Ledger, Stephen Barry, Levi Newham, Harriet Perkins, Hannah Wade and Benjamin Newell. See: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-workhouse-network>.

As part of the project, the group have created the largest known database of inmate biographies of the historical poor. The database was created to aid development within the fields of welfare and workhouse research and improve public access to and understanding of collections. The digital database can be found at: <https://ehive.com/communities/1167/more-than-oliver-twist>. As more biographies are added to the database, you may find a relative of yours appearing. If you do, then please do contact us. As with all research, it is never fully complete as more archives are discovered and made available.

I am aware that workhouse histories can be contentious, similar to the question of poverty and welfare today. However, as a group of researchers, we are keen to share workhouse histories as the Poor Law was one building block that helped to develop our contemporary systems of education, social welfare, health care and social services to name but a few. Have you discovered your own family's workhouse histories? Was one of those rare stories passed on in the family,



# Really Useful Bulletin

or do you need help finding more information? If this is the case, then please do join us on The Workhouse Network's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/workhousenetwork](http://www.facebook.com/groups/workhousenetwork) as we would love to hear your stories, share your research with other interested members, or hear about a new resource that you have discovered.

Unfortunately, not all workhouse records survive, but there are certainly other records which we may not previously have been aware of which shed light on workhouses. There are too many to list here (and many more to discover), but most recently I came across a Catalogue of Children's case files. These files were part of the *Including the Excluded* project from the Children's Society Records and Archive Centre. The project's aim was to catalogue the records that relate to disabled children, the majority born in 1911 or before and who had been placed in specific homes for disabled children. It provides details of the date and place of application; the reasons for application; details of the disability; a case history (ie. when and where the child went) and a list of what is included in the case file ie. correspondence and documents. I entered 'workhouse' in the search and found 710 entries, which probably relates to over 300 case histories of the 23799

held.

You never know what you will find and that is what makes this type of research exciting!

## References and Links:

1. Gressenhall Workhouse Sources of Inmate Names. <https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/museums/downloads/gressenhall/library-and-archive/workhouse-sources-for-inmate-names-ncc125152.pdf>
2. Norfolk Record Office, Records of the Mitford and Launditch Poor Law Union 1776-1948, C/GP 14-27

## **Helen Bainbridge:**

I am passionate about workhouse history and am a very experienced family historian. I volunteer for Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life where I am a researcher and a research mentor for over fifty research volunteers. I also run the team of library volunteers. I am currently Chair of the Friends of Gressenhall and I am a paid Relief Visiting Services Team member. I am Secretary for the Workhouse Network and I am also the paid digitiser for Free UK Genealogy (FreeBMD etc).



**Find my past**

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in association with

THE  
NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

Has the **1921** CENSUS  
solved your family mystery?

## **Chance to tell your 1921 story!**

Since the 1921 census of England and Wales was launched exclusively online at Findmypast in January, family historians have been busily exploring the century-old stories, secrets and surprises it reveals.

The Findmypast team is now on the hunt for the most jaw-dropping, life-changing 1921 census discoveries.

Has the census helped you break down a long-standing family research 'brick wall'? Perhaps it has unlocked a new family story you knew nothing about or revealed an unexpected ancestor.

Whatever your 1921 census discovery, Findmypast would love to hear about it. Drop them a line with your story at [discoveries@findmypast.com](mailto:discoveries@findmypast.com).

Who knows where your past might take you?

*The following story is what the 1921 census has explained for the Federation's chairman, Steve Manning. We hope it will inspire you to tell FindMyPast about your 1921 discoveries!*

*Right: Steve with Patience in Canada—read on...*





# Really Useful Bulletin

## Stories from the 1921 Census

### Becoming Liliias

The meaning of the term 'family history' seems to vary greatly from person to person.

For some, the DNA 'country of origin' approach works just fine – that's all they need. Others are motivated by collecting an interminable series of names and dates which reach out across the generations. But for me, family history is about people—*my people*—all friends I am learning to love.

My ancestors are totally real people. They lived real lives and dealt with real everyday challenges, exactly as we do now in fact, but in different times, places and/or circumstances.

But that's the rub of course. It's not the 'here and now', but the 'then' which is so important when learning of and reviewing their life choices. So I frequently find myself asking, "In the light of what I know of their situation, would I – could I - have acted any differently?"



#### Early years

Liliias' parents Albert Edward FROOMS and Liliias Rose CHESHIRE met during one of Albert's regular visits to Grantham, Lincolnshire in his capacity as clerk for a London company. Following their marriage in the summer of 1889, they moved to Croydon where they resided for the rest of their lives. But sadly, their union is not to be a classic 'happy ever after' story.

At the beginning all appeared to go well for the couple, with their only daughter, also named Liliias [Liliias Mary], a happy addition in 1897. But within ten years Liliias Rose began a long struggle with mental health issues.

CROYDON MENTAL HOSPITAL.											
Reg. No. 142		Name Liliias Rose Frooms				Date of Admission 12 June 1909					
NATIONALITY.	RELIGION.	EDUCATION.	Transferred from other Asylums.	Age on Admissio. Single Married Widowed Unmarried	Civil State.	First Attack.	Age on First Attack.	Rank, Profession, Occupation.	CAUSE OF INSANITY.		
									Predisposing.	Exciting.	
				45	Married	20	44	Housewife	Chronic	Mental	
(j) Was there any cause for the attack, such as bodily illness, family trouble, anxiety, poverty, drink, exposure, fright, shock, injury, or has any recent event in trade or politics troubled him?..			Anxiety & exhaustion from continuous nursing of child through acute illness								
(k) What have been the various occupations engaged in during the patient's life? . . . . .											
(l) Where was the patient born, and what are the different places (London, country, or abroad) where patient has lived? . . . . .			Grantham, London & Croydon								
<b>B.—PREVIOUS HISTORY.</b>											
(a) Has the patient been insane before? If so, when and how often? Has the patient been in any other Asylum? Which? . . . . .			1 <sup>st</sup> attack 2 years ago								
<small>(a) Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself at time of examination, viz. — 2 other madmen. He alone had lost sight of</small>											

#### Bare Facts

Liliias Mary Cheshire FROOMS (1897-1939—pictured above) was the first wife of my great-uncle Edgar Askew 'Smudge' SMITH (1891-1958) whom I'd met as a young lad. The couple lived in Croydon and had two children, Harry and Hilda. Liliias Mary committed suicide just days before Hitler invaded Poland in 1939.

As you'll appreciate, suicide is not generally a topic for family discussion. However, I was able to learn a little from my father on the topic. This prompted me to locate Hilda's daughter Patience, who lives in Canada. She in turn provided me with sufficient clues to locate other family members in both Australia and the UK. What follows is a précis of what I learned from them, supplemented and enhanced by my own original research, now brought up-to-date by the 1921 census available at Findmypast.

Case notes from Liliias Rose's first admission to Croydon Mental Hospital in 1909 (available on FindMyPast) indicate she'd already been suffering from *mania* for at least two years. This latest attack was attributed to *anxiety and exhaustion from continuous nursing of a child through acute illness*. Although Liliias Rose's condition improved sufficiently for her return home after a two-month stay, she was again hospitalised for another two months in 1911 and again 1912.

As reported in the local newspapers, Liliias Mary was musically talented both as a pianist and vocalist. Indeed, in later life she accompanied the renowned bass-baritone Paul Robeson on at least one occasion. Other articles reveal that Albert, now working as the secretary of the Croydon Saturday Hospital Fund, was regarded as genial, popular and energetic. (Croydon newspapers are now easily accessible online via the British Newspaper Archive).





# Family History Societies



**Northamptonshire  
Family History Society**



**Derbyshire  
Family History Society**



Heritage Open Days are a great opportunity to showcase what family history societies can offer to the wider public who have an interest in their local heritage.

**Northamptonshire FHS in partnership with  
Northampton Transport Heritage and  
Northants Heritage Forum  
are organising a  
Heritage Fair on  
Sunday 11 September 2022  
from 10am – 4pm**

This is being held at two locations; the newly refurbished Northampton Museum and Art Galley in the centre of the town and at Abington Museum, which is about two miles away and surrounded by parkland.

Northants FHS will be at both venues!

There will be lots of stands showcasing local organisations as well as activities for the children. Some of those joining us are: Northampton Transport Heritage; Heritage Hunters; Northampton and District Model Railway; Chester House and Northamptonshire Archives, along with many local history societies and heritage groups.

You can also travel in style! Northampton Heritage Transport will be providing free classic bus services in and around Northampton linking venues participating in Heritage Open Days.

**For more information on all the other venues and attractions open during Heritage Open Days visit:**  
[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

**And visit Northants FHS page at:**  
[www.northants-fhs.org/](http://www.northants-fhs.org/)

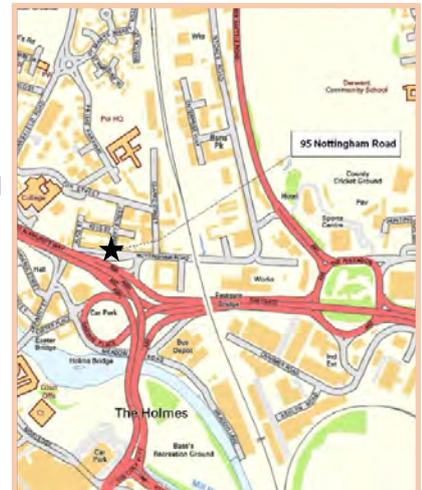


Our new premises at 95 Nottingham Rd, Derby DE1 3QR are on the ground floor providing easier access now for elderly or disabled visitors. It is within an easy ten-minute walk of Derby Bus Station. There is parking on the street: twenty minutes free on Nottingham Rd; two hours on Clarke St; or permit parking if staying longer. We have permits for the day at 50p.

We are open as before on Tuesday and Thursday 10am-4pm, or Saturday by prior arrangement. Our email address, website and phone number remain the same.

Volunteers with twenty-plus years' experience are available to do research or there are computers that individuals can use to do their own research. We still have an extensive

library with information on Derby and Derbyshire plus family trees that have been donated to us. (Surnames are listed in our Library Contents, along with an index of other documents, on the website). A donation is requested for any research.



**Email - [queries@dfhs.org.uk](mailto:queries@dfhs.org.uk)**

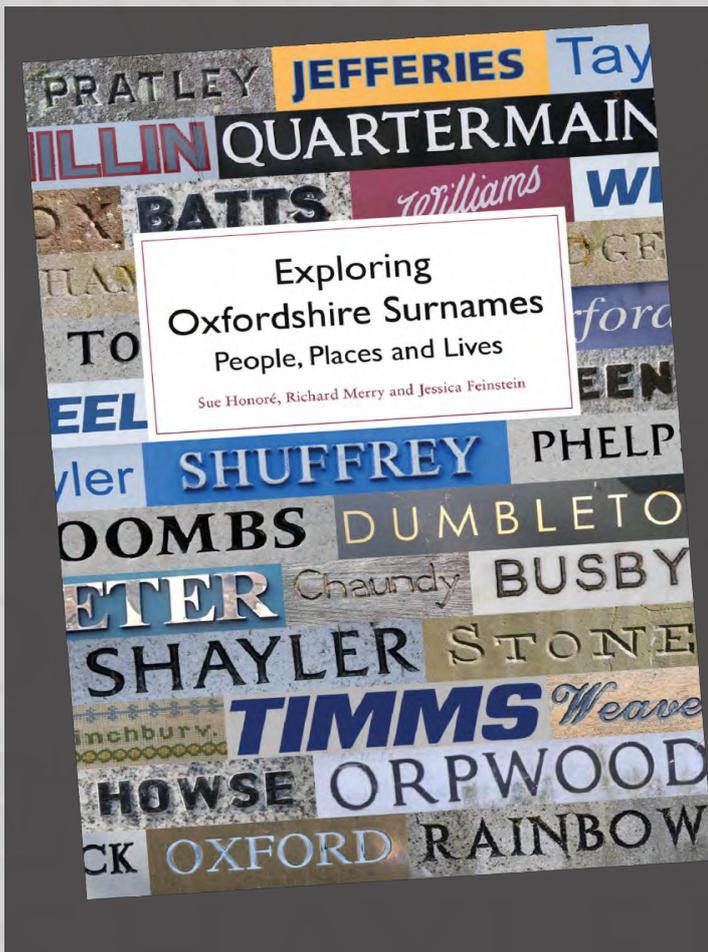
**Website - <https://www.dfhs.org.uk/>**

**Phone - +44 (0)1332 363876**



# Family History Societies

Sue Honoré, Richard Merry and Jessica Feinstein  
**Exploring Oxfordshire Surnames**  
People, Places and Lives



**Exploring Oxfordshire Surnames: People, Places and Lives** is a new book from **Oxfordshire Family History Society**.

The chapters are based on themes associated with surnames in the county – surname changes over time, DNA, occupations, advertising, religious groups, medieval surnames, 19<sup>th</sup> century village populations and much more. Each chapter is written by an expert in the subject and contains case studies and examples from Oxfordshire as well as extensive mentions of individual surnames. The hardback is lavishly illustrated with images and colour graphs.

Through its examples, the book aims to stimulate thought on further ways to explore family and local history in the county and beyond.

ISBN 9781803132037 | £ 24.99 plus p&p

The book also includes a summary for family historians both within and outside Oxfordshire, reviewing the chapters in the book and the implications for your own research.

[www.ofhs.uk/shop](http://www.ofhs.uk/shop)

The Really Useful Bulletin welcomes contributions from all Federation member organisations.

It is opportunity to promote *your* society to the extensive Bulletin readership.



# Family History Societies



## Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Family History Society

NNWFHS may be small and it does not have a research centre to visit, but it can pack a punch when it comes to research tactics. The society prides itself on helping members, particularly those who are unable to get out and about or those unable to visit the area.

One quest was for a photograph of a well-remembered great-aunt who died in Nuneaton in 1953; contact had been lost with her side of the family. How the helpdesks team made the connection is beyond most of us. Not only did they find the great-granddaughter of the lady (now living in a different part of the country), but a raft of family photographs were shared. The search proved that we do have to think well outside the box at times but that people can be very kind and helpful even if not themselves into family history research.

Shown in a rather faded photo is the lady as a young woman in her Salvation Army uniform probably 1880s to mid-1890s, but who is the mystery lady on the right of the picture? Do you have a copy of the same photo? Was it deliberate that one was sitting on a higher seat? It may have been taken in Warwickshire, or Cornwall where great-aunt went to serve with the Salvation Army.



There are many family history issues that members come across. At NNWFHS we try to help members find solutions by drawing on a wealth of shared experience and knowledge; our forebears roamed the country and we have to do likewise, at least metaphorically! That is what family history societies are good at and why everyone searching for their roots should join!



On **16<sup>th</sup> August** there is a special “open Zoom” session **Family History Chat and Helpdesk** which anyone can join (see our Facebook page or programme of events on our website). Everyone will be welcomed. Following on from several summertime visits, the society is concluding the season with a **September walk around Bedworth** which boasts notable almshouses [*below*] and, in its day, had a multitude of nonconformist chapels—and pubs! The society will also be exhibiting at **Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre’s** [*left*] heritage open day on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**, and on **1<sup>st</sup> October** we will be at the **Oxfordshire FHS Fair** at Woodstock. From October through to March, the regular monthly “expert speaker” meetings are on Zoom which non-members are always welcome to attend.

Each month the details are on Facebook. For members-only there are regular Zoom sessions discussing family history issues, and others dealing with DNA topics. This method of operation enables members around the country, or even the world, to join in and be part of our society. Plus, for members there is a monthly digital *Newsletter* and quarterly *Journal*, too!

NNWFHS welcomes new members wherever they live or their research takes them! Subscriptions start from £10 a year—you get a lot for your money! Join today!

NNWFHS website: <https://nanwfhs.org.uk/>

Contact: [enquiries@nanwfhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nanwfhs.org.uk)

The programme: <https://nanwfhs.org.uk/events-programme/>

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/nnwfhs/](http://www.facebook.com/nnwfhs/)

You can join direct: [www.parishchest.com/society-subscriptions-2494.php](http://www.parishchest.com/society-subscriptions-2494.php)



*Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust's Almshouses, Bedworth*



# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

### Access to Repositories

We need you to let us know of any proposed changes to your local record offices or archives



Having already curtailed opening hours or services, and while trying to generate more income to cope with earlier budget reductions, local authorities are faced with having to make further savings for the coming year. Some councils are already looking to make further cuts in archive budgets.

Whilst we are all grateful that more material is becoming available online there is still a need to be able to access original documents held in repositories. Shorter daily opening hours, limited weekdays and frequently no Saturday opening (even if only one Saturday a month), is becoming the norm. This works against researchers travelling from a distance and particularly restricts the opportunities to access records for those who work Monday to Friday.

Visitors to archives and records offices include a wide variety of researchers, not just people interested in family history, and we feel that those who make the decisions about access are unaware of the importance of the records to academics, researchers and the wider public.

Popular TV programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are*, *A House Through Time*, *DNA Family Secrets* and *Long Lost Family* couldn't happen without access to the documents available in record offices and archives.

We know that many archives are threatened with budget cuts. We would therefore ask that, when you become aware of proposed or actual changes to access at repositories, you let us know at [archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com) so that we can continue to build up a picture of the wider situation.



**Dianne Sutton,**  
**FHF Archives Liaison**



### Look what's on!

Come along to visit the Federation stand at any of these events and do chat to our officers and volunteers on duty!

**Friday 2nd—Sunday 4th September:** ICHF *Creative Craft Show*, Farnborough. [www.ichfevents.co.uk/](http://www.ichfevents.co.uk/)

**Saturday 17 September—***The Peak District U3A Family History Conference 2022* at The Palace Hotel, Buxton 9.30am - 4.30pm.

**Saturday 24th September:** *The Family History Show London*, at Kempton Park. This will be the Federation's full bookstall—time to stock up for your autumn and winter reading! <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

**Thursday 22nd—Sunday 25th September:** ICHF *Creative Craft Show*, Exeter. [www.ichfevents.co.uk/](http://www.ichfevents.co.uk/)

Don't forget that you can find many interesting talks, and events that **family history societies** have coming up at: [www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events)

### **NEW: Zoom sessions for member societies' role holders**

From September we are starting a series of monthly Zoom 'Get-together' sessions, akin to our previous coffee mornings, each specifically aimed at a role/position within a family history society to share ideas or discuss problems that arise for that particular role.

The meetings will be very informal but hopefully very useful for Federation member societies.

Each 'Get-together' will take place on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm and last for no longer than ninety minutes. In September it will be for social media officers discussing how to get started with platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, strategies for good engagement, pitfalls and problems.

Ask your local society for booking details or email: [admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)

We look forward to a full house on Zoom.



# 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](http://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](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)



# FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk](http://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. 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!



# FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com)

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Buy 4—get 75% off!



**Don't forget the SUMMER SIZZLER offer from the last Bulletin! Ends 31st August!**

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Explore the full range of books at

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com)



## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Keynote speakers announced: watch for further announcements!**

Please view [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com) for details



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