

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



April 2023 Issue 36

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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SOCIETY BRANCHES

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

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

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

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to this bumper edition of the newsletter. Not only do we have the regular Family History Federation newsletter but also the Friends Of Salford Cemeteries Trust Spring 2023 quarterly report.

On the 25th March the Society held the 'Discovering Family Lives' fair at Manchester Central Library. Talking to exhibitors during the day all said they were enjoying the event and those who attended the previous year felt that this year was better than last. This year we opened up the whole of the performance space allowing us to invite more organisations and family history groups.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge those who made the event possible. They include the Promotions & Education Committee who organised the event with a special mention to Elsie and her team for designing and organising the printing of the Society's new banner. Also the many volunteers who helped at the event and those at our help desk opened especially on the day. Thanks must also go to the library staff for setting out the room, for advertising the event through the many libraries in Manchester, to Archives+ for displaying maps and trade directories and the North West Film Archive who provided a film of the 1920's era in and around Manchester that was displayed on a large TV screen throughout the day. I must also thank our chairman David Muil who introduced our guest, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Donna Marie Ludford who officially opened the fair.

Barry Henshall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes
Elsie

'Discovering Family Lives' 25th March 2023



M&LFHS chairman David Muil and the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Donna Marie Ludford.



The Society's new banner.



General views in the Performance Suite at Manchester Central library



The M&LFHS Bolton Branch.



Archives +

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our volunteers were out in force on Saturday 25th, when the Society hosted the renewal of our annual Family and Local History Fair, on the theme Discovering Family Lives, in Manchester Central Library. We were privileged to welcome our Patron, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Donna Ludford to open proceedings and spend time with the exhibitors. We were fortunate to be able to field a number of additional stalls this year, exhibited by community groups within the city. A further additional feature was the availability of our Helpdesk service, normally only open on a weekday, on this special Saturday.

During the day, representatives from all your Society's interest groups responded to many enquiries from visitors, carrying the message of family history research to the citizens of Manchester and elsewhere. Our book stall proved highly popular with heavy sales of many publications exploring many aspects of Greater Manchester's historic past. We are grateful for the support we received from our Archives Plus partners [Archives & Library and North-West Film Archive] and the many community groups who engaged with us to display the multi-faceted identity of family and local history research.

Everything is interconnected, as I learned about the possible relationship of Channel Swimmer, Sunny Lowry and L.S. Lowry [explored by the Friends of Victoria Baths, but still unproved], and how the role of writers contributed to the development of the region with connections to Elizabeth Gaskell House. And who knew that the graves of poet, Sylvia Plath and the infamous 'Coiner' David Hartley could be found just over the border into the West Riding [revealed by our Oldham Branch]? The significance of the port of Liverpool featured strongly in the literature published by our colleagues with Liverpool & South-West Lancashire, perhaps rightly named the Gateway to the World for its role as an emigration hub and halfway house for the import of cotton en route for Manchester and the Lancashire cotton towns.

I could go on telling you about the work of our fellow societies, in Salford, Tameside, Cheshire and Lancashire and the museums of Greater Manchester – Police and Transport and several more groups but space is limited. It is sufficient to say that our community groups do its citizens proud by curating so much of our past.

All in all, it was a compelling mix of Greater Manchester's social and industrial history thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended – none more so than perhaps our Patron, who participated enthusiastically throughout the morning, meeting stallholders and visitors alike.

I thank all who were responsible for arranging the smooth running of the event and look forward eagerly to next year's renewal.

David

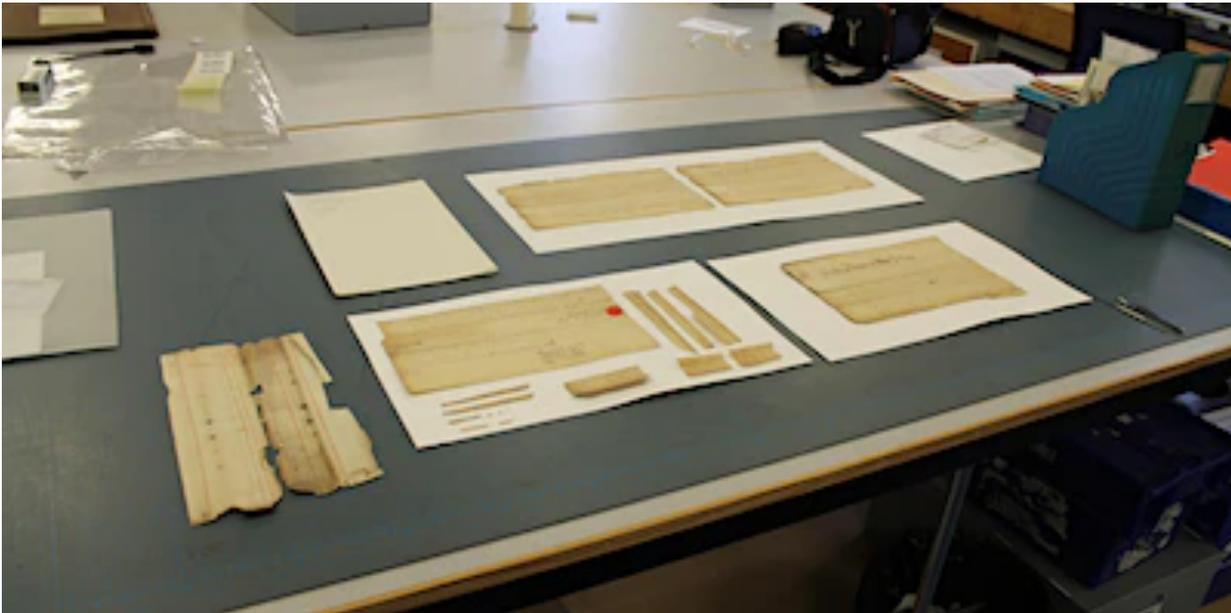
EVENTS/TALKS

Manchester Branch

At the time of going to press there were no talks planned.

Please check the website <https://mlfhs.uk/manchester/events/meetings> for more details and to register.

Bolton Branch



Document Preservation, Conservation & Digitisation - A Hybrid Meeting

Date and time

Wed, 5 Apr 2023, 19:30 BST

Location

Bolton Arena Arena Approach Horwich BL6 6LB

Mark O'Neil of the Lancashire Archives, Preston, is making a return visit to give another talk about his work dealing with the preservation of documents.

The talk will highlight why conservation is a vital aspect of archives to not only allow or restore access to the unique documents within archival collections, but also enable their long-term survival and continued enjoyment, use and accessibility for future generations. Highlights will include several preservation and conservation projects that Lancashire Archives have undertaken over the last year to improve, enable and restore the ability the access unique and irreplaceable documents and collections, and will showcase some methods of archival repair.

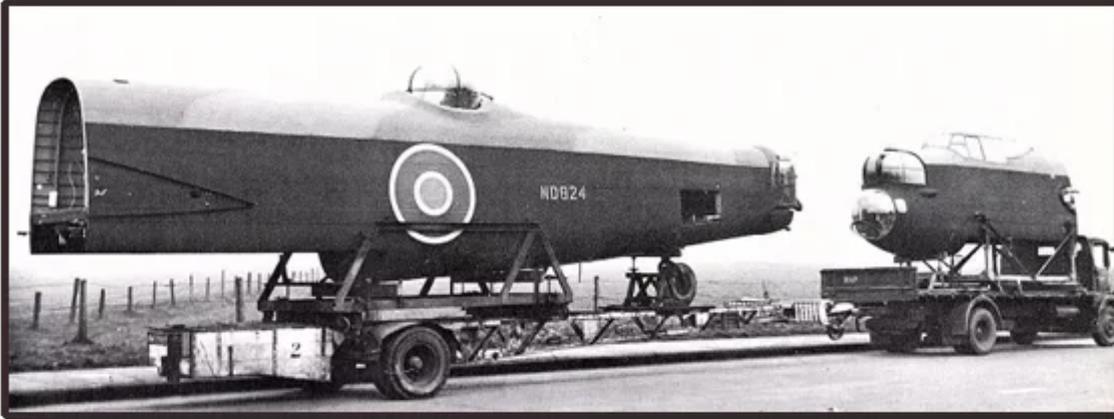
Attendance in Room or by Zoom is free for MLFHS Members, £3 for non-members of MLFHS.

Tickets are not required for Room Attendance but are necessary for Zoom attendance.

Booking: [Eventbrite](#) details here

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

Oldham Branch



Lancaster sections transported from Chadderton by road
to Woodford for assembly

Manchester Avro

Date and time

Saturday, 8th April at 2pm

Location

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

No booking is necessary

Members free; non-members £3

Avro is one of the most famous names in the aircraft industry. It is synonymous with some of the most iconic aeroplanes ever built. As a company it was based around Manchester and the north west for its entire life: but we are very lucky that it was. My talk isn't about the various fabulous aircraft that they produced, though some will get mentioned, but details the fascinating history of the company and its long association with our region.

An illustrated presentation given by Frank Pleszack

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

Anglo-Scots



Prisons and their Records by Emma Maxwell

Speaker: Emma Maxwell

Date and time: Saturday 1 April 2023, 2.00pm (UK time)

Venue: Online via Zoom

As a large proportion of the 'working class' Victorian population was in prison at one point or another, there is a high chance that one of your ancestors will appear in a prison register. Most Scottish prison records are held by the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh and over 23,000 records have now been indexed. Emma Maxwell will discuss the nature of these records in depth and give us an insight into people's lives as well as the details of their time in prison.

Booking: [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3.00

Image: HH

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

Society of Genealogists Events in April

Live online events in January - April

More information can be found [HERE](#) and for the latest news and subscribe to their newsletter [HERE](#).

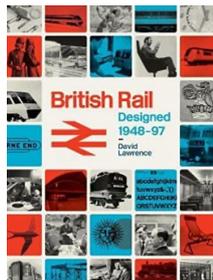
The National Archives

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

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

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

BOOKSHOP

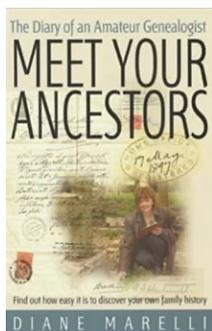


British Rail Designed 1948 - 1997

Code: 9010
£20.00 £40.00

British Rail Designed 1948-97 is about the design successes, and failures, of Britain's most extensive state-sponsored industry. It is a story of people and ideas, movement and design, speed and colour; it is a comprehensive celebration of the crafting, operation and marketing of a national railway system, by which four main-line companies with steam-powered empires were transformed into a modern transport system.

More details at the [bookshop](#).
Only 1 copy available.



Meet Your Ancestors

Code: 9011
£5.00 £9.95

"Meet Your Ancestors", written by Diane Marelli, provides an introduction to the whole process of discovering your own family history. Topics covered include searching for birth, marriage and death certificates, census and church records, newspaper archives, and using the Internet.

Order from the [bookshop](#).
Only 1 copy available.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Just added to the **Great Database** are the admission registers for the **Royal Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb** for 1885-1908 and 1908-1922. These 1,667 records mirror the existing collection of admission documents, but can contain differing information. Many entries, for example, contain the date of leaving and the reason for leaving. A few names may be included for which no documents survive.

Thanks to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Karen Hugill, Janet Moores and Chris Norcross.) for these.

The following update has been posted to **Manchester School for the Deaf Admissions** Added 2,777 records from the Pupil Rolls, 1825-1922. Scanned and indexed by Jim Chadwick and his team: Marie Collier, Karen Hugill, Janet Moores and Chris Norcross.

The following update has been posted to **Manchester School for the Deaf Admissions** The missing volume of admission documents covering admissions circa 1850 has been found and will be scanned and indexed at the earliest opportunity.

Another 616 records added to the **Great Database**. These are stray entries relating to Lancashire people who appear outside the county in records as follows:

6 Source: Norwood Cemetery Burials, West Norwood, (Metropolitan) Surrey

469 Source: Surrey History Centre, Recruitment registers, Ref 2496

141 Source: West Surrey FHS, West SRY (1851 census)

Thanks to Chris Willis for these.

A brief reminder to members that anyone can submit strays for inclusion in this collection. Simply go to <https://mlfhs.uk/research/find-out-more/strays> and then to the submission form.

For those who have not come across the idea of 'strays' before, they are people from Lancashire, particularly Manchester, who appear in records outside the county. For example on a headstone or in a death notice or a membership list (or, indeed, any document which puts them in a specific place at a specific time).

The following update has been posted to **Manchester Burials** 3,444 entries from the Manchester Collegiate Church Sexton's Books 1782-1792 have been transcribed from Owens MSS Vol 58 by Geoff Edge. Geoff proposes to transcribe further records from this source.

The following update has been posted to **Manchester Burials** A number of memorials were uncovered by Salford University Archaeological Unit on the site of Irwell Street Chapel. They have transcribed these. They will be indexed and added to the MI database once permission has been obtained from SUAU.

The following update has been posted to **Manchester Burials**

Photographs of several hundred memorials identified as belonging to St. Andrew, Blackley, have been transcribed by Sue Fielding. Once checked, these will be indexed and added to the MI database.

Newspaper Announcements

Added 2,636 BMD announcements from Manchester Courier for 1845 to the **Great Database**. Transcribed by Linda Bailey, Laura Lewis, Chris Norcross and Chris Hall

HELPDESK

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

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

WEBSITE NEWS

MLFHS: New Website Section - Reference Library

John Marsden has added a new section to the mlfhs.uk web site under the main public menu - Research/Research Library. This will be the place where in future public reference documents will be placed. It contains (initially) three documents:

Census Details

The dates of each of the decennial censuses from 1801 to 1931 and a summary of the details which were requested for each.

Civil Registration Key Dates

A list of key dates for civil registration including dates at which the Manchester Registration District was reorganised.

Manchester 60 inch OS Map Index

An index to the 60 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey maps for Manchester and the surrounding district. Clicking on any street name will link to the area of the appropriate map on the National Library of Scotland web site, with the selected place at the centre of the page. Created by Chris Willis.

Chris's street index is particularly interesting. It parallels the information for the 60" maps in the Godfrey Map index but covers a wider area around central Manchester. Also, it links to the NLS online maps so you don't have to buy a map to make use of it.

MyHeritage - 1.7 million Israel immigration records added

TheGenealogist - 629,000 Chelsea Pensioner records added.

Did you ever want to see where your ancestors lived in 1871?

Now you can thanks to georeferencing. When you view an 1871 census record on TheGenealogist site it will show a map indicating the location.

FindMyPast - 65,000 new records opened in the 1939 register

The National Archives - Over 200,000 records of imprisoned soldiers in the Second World War have been catalogued and many are available to search on The National Archives' [website](#)

Lost Cousins

In the issue of the [newsletter](#) – 17th March 2023 there is a short article by Dr Sophie Kay - Negative Space: using research gaps to grow your family tree.

ORPHAN BMDs

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

M&LFHS

61 Queens Road, Urmston, M41 9HF

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

MANCHESTER ARCHIVES+

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

NORTH WEST SOUND HERITAGE

Unlocking our Sound Heritage

Thousands of cassettes, open reels, CDs and MiniDiscs are sitting in archives, museums, libraries and in people's homes all over the UK. All kinds of unique live music, radio and conversation are recorded on these tapes and discs. We've already lost many of the people captured on them. And the British Library estimates that we have fifteen years to preserve the sounds themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

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

WHO WE ARE

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

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

WHAT WE DO

Do you need some footage for teaching, broadcasting or an artistic or community project? Do you have film of our region's people or places that needs looking after?

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

We offer:

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

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



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

and Twitter



M&L Family History@MLFH

Appendix 1

UKBMD Updates

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

Added 17,034 Births for Bolton RD comprising:

Bolton A (1997-2000)

Bolton B (2000-2003)

Bolton C (2001-2007)

Thanks are due to Bob Winder and his team.

Added 113 Births for Lancaster RD comprising:

Lancaster (1942-1942)

Added 2,252 Deaths for Bury RD comprising:

Bury (1968-1973)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

Added 5,844 Births for Bury RD comprising:

Bury (1982-1986)

Added 812 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Elton, St.Stephen (1991-2019)

Holcombe, Emmanuel (1997-2020)

Prestwich, St.Hilda (1949-1959)

Prestwich, St.Mary (1981-1996)

Shuttleworth, St.John (1970-2015)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

Added 266 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Prestwich, St.Hilda (1975-2017)

Prestwich, St.Mary (1997-2021)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

John Marsden

Message from Bill Harrison, Staffordshire.

Marriages:

240 for Bucknall, St Mary, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1996-2019)

92 for Northwood, Holy Trinity, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1987-2020)

53 for Shelton, St Mark, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (2004-2017)

Marriages, replaced for additions and corrections:

198 for Normacot, Holy Evangelist, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1977-2018)

Births:

1,584 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1970-1977)

Newsletter

FRIENDS OF SALFORD CEMETERIES TRUST

SPRING 2023

A Note from the Chairman, Paul Sherlock

As I mentioned in my last “Notes” there still aren’t many group activities that our local members can get involved in. So we have decided to try some cemetery “walkabouts” this year, starting with Peel Green Cemetery at 1pm on Tuesday 14th March. The aim of the walkabouts will be to look at cemetery improvements, suggest further improvements to Bereavement Services, ask questions about people buried there or perhaps tell others about them, in an informal way. As our “official” membership isn’t very large, hopefully by posting a notice of this event on our Facebook page, we might attract some more of our “friends” who are not yet on our members list. We’re also exploring ways of promoting such events via local community forums. Hopefully a number of people will turn up, not just committee members and cemetery managers. You don’t need to book, but do feel free to contact me or Pete, our Secretary, if you want to share a bit of enthusiasm or if you need any more information.

I’m looking forward to representing our Group at the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Fair to be held in the Performance Space at Manchester Central Library on Saturday, 25th March from 10am - 3.30pm. It’s an opportunity to share what we are doing here in Salford with a wider audience from Greater Manchester and other areas. If you’re free on the day, please come along and support us and enjoy learning what 20 or so, nearby Family and Local History Organisations are up to. We’ll have another chance to present ourselves later in the year when Salford Histories Festival returns to Swinton on 28th October. We do have some interesting display material produced by our members relating to our cemeteries and hopefully there will be other opportunities to make it accessible in public places around Salford (such as Gateways), rather than keeping it squirrelled away in between these history fairs / festivals.

Other events on the Horizon are (some subject to confirmation):

(NEW). A “Walkabout” at Peel Green Cemetery NEXT Tuesday 14th March, at 1pm. Meet at the Crematorium. (Toilets available).

The Lancaster Bomber Memorial Service at Agecroft, Sunday 30th July, 11am.

Another “Walkabout” in Swinton Cemetery on Tuesday 15th August, at 1pm.

Weaste Cemetery Heritage Tour, Sunday 10th September, 2pm to 3.30pm.

The regular November Remembrance events and the wreath laying for Blitz victims at Agecroft and Peel Green in December.

Cemetery News from Bereavement Services Manager, Barry Ellis.

Tree planting. Greater Manchester's City of Trees is working in partnership with Salford City Council, using funding secured from Central Government, via the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund. Thirty, semi-mature trees have been planted at Weaste Cemetery, incorporating species such as hornbeam, birch, maple and sweet gum. The cemetery was identified as an ideal location for planting, not least because a large number of trees have been removed, or earmarked for removal due to age or disease. Trees provide so many benefits and are crucial to the fight against climate change and these long-lived species will benefit the cemetery for many years to come.

Green Cemeteries. As well as new trees at Weaste Cemetery, Bereavement Services is committed to improving the local environment. We are planning to install bike stands at both Agecroft and Peel Green Cemeteries, to offer visitors an environmentally friendly alternative to visiting cemeteries. Travelling by bike is nearly ten times more carbon efficient than petrol cars.

Agecroft Crematorium. Emissions are of concern to us. In addition to the mercury abatement equipment which was installed several years ago, we now have plans to fit a DeNox filtration system this March, which will remove harmful oxides of nitrogen. These oxides are produced when nitrogen and oxygen react together at high temperature during the cremation process. We feel that this investment will be an invaluable benefit for the local air quality in Salford.

Green Flag. The Management Team has recently submitted this year's bids to retain Green Flag status at both Agecroft and Peel Green. An updated management plan for Peel Green can be found at <https://www.salford.gov.uk/media/398917/peel-green-cemetery-management-plan-2023-2028-online-be.pdf>. The Green Flag scheme is the national benchmark standard for parks and green spaces, which includes cemeteries. The objective of the Award is to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways. It aspires to raise expectations of what a public green space can offer.

Cemetery Improvements. At Agecroft, the footpaths at the north end have been resurfaced; Disabled car parking bays have been enlarged and other disabled access improvements are ongoing. Several sanctums (stand-alone tables for ashes) have been installed in plot 27 near the old burial chapel.

Granite flower holders have been installed. At Peel Green, improvements to drainage have been completed after complaints of drains overflowing when it rains. Road marking, parking bay marking, and “no entry” signs marking have been carried out. A survey to protect the edges of paths from damage by vehicles has been undertaken and bollards and knee rails will be installed.

Some Interesting Cemetery Snippets from Jean Coward and Sue Tydd.

Peel Green Cemetery. The Manchester Guardian of 2nd August 1895, reports “The interment of the late Mr Alderman James C Matther of Eccles, who died on Sunday last at Betws-y-Coed, took place yesterday at Eccles Borough Cemetery. Members of Eccles Town Council met the funeral cortege at the gates of the cemetery, and amongst those present were Mr H.J Roby (former member of Eccles Division), Mr Henry Rawlins (Secretary of Eccles Liberal Association), Mr William S. Boddington (president of Eccles Conservative Association), members of the Barton Board of Guardians, and several County and Eccles Borough justices.”

Swinton Cemetery. Manchester Evening News, 9th June 1903, “Volunteer’s Funeral at Swinton. Considerable interest was manifested last evening in the funeral of Pte. Burke of the 1st V.B.M.R. of Pendlebury, whose death occurred in a camp on Salisbury Plain. Bolton and Station Roads were lined with people as the cortege passed to Swinton Cemetery, where hundreds of people had assembled. Three Volunteers attended and fired three shots over the grave.”

Weaste Cemetery. The Manchester Weekly Times of 12th June 1858 reports, “Funeral of an Oddfellow. On Sunday afternoon last, upwards of 150 members of the National Independent Order of Oddfellows attended the interment of PG Samuel Holroyd of the Devonshire Lodge. PG Holroyd who died at the age of 83 years, was the only surviving member of those who established the above lodge 43 years ago, and he lived to see it number 300 members.”

Agecroft Cemetery. The Manchester Courier of 2nd February 1904 reports, “The Late Rev. C. H. Murray. Yesterday afternoon, the remains of the late Rev Charles Hardie Murray, Minister of the Broughton Congregational Church, Bury New Road, were interred at the Agecroft Cemetery. Prior to the cortege leaving, a service was held at the church at which Rev James Clark referred to the remarkably simple, but faithful life of the deceased gentleman. Beside the ministry, he had played a distinct part in the great temperance reformation and was regarded a true observer of temperance principles.”

Peel Green Cemetery. The Manchester Courier of 30th January 1908 reports, “Local Veteran Dies in Workhouse. A veteran named John Robinson has just died at the Patricroft workhouse at the advanced aged of 93. He was formerly

of the 46th Regiment and was discharged from the Army in 1855. In the Crimean War he saw a great deal of active service and endured considerable hardships, having had three toes frozen off in the campaign. For some time he lived in Trafford Park on a pension of eighteen pence a day. The Crimean War and Indian Mutiny Veterans Association is making arrangements for a military funeral to take place at Peel Green Cemetery on Friday.”

Latest Research about People Buried at Weaste Cemetery, by Pete Kilvert

William Alfred Grigg (1886 – 1910) was a Labourer at Salford Docks. Whilst manoeuvring the suction nozzle of the grain elevator equipment, he lost his footing and fell into the water and drowned. He was buried in a common grave.

Anton Berntsen (1889 – 1912) was a Norwegian merchant seaman and Chief Officer of the ship SS Breidablik. Whilst returning to his ship at Salford Docks on Christmas Eve 1922, he lost his footing, fell into the dock and drowned.

Annie Burrows (1862 – 1938) was formerly a Schoolteacher and later became Deaconess at Christ Church, Acton Square, Salford. She died at Hope Hospital on 10th November 1938 aged 76.

William Harvey JP (1787 – 1870) was a Cotton Mill Owner, one of the first Aldermen of Salford Council in 1844, Mayor of Salford twice in 1857 and 1858, and was a founder and Deacon of the Bible Christian Church for 60 years.

William Blundell (1795 – 1859) was an Engineer and Engraver. He was born in Henley-in-Arden, (which used to be part of the ancient Forest of Arden), near Stratford-upon-Avon. He died at Broughton Street, Salford, aged 63.

Dr Edwin Reynolds Chick (1834 – 1860) was a Physician and Surgeon and the junior partner of Robb and Chick, Surgeons, of 116, City Road, Hulme. The partnership dissolved in 1857 when Edwin eloped with Dr Robb's daughter.

Jessie Cross (1884 – 1901) was a 16-year-old mill girl who committed suicide in 1901 by drowning in the River Irwell near Woden St (Mark Addy) footbridge. The Inquest recorded that she was unable to carry out her job as a Doffer.

Unusual Gravestone Inscriptions at Weaste Cemetery from Pete Kilvert.

Leslie Carter, who died 30th March 1914 as a result of an accident on board the “Mersey” and was buried at sea off Cape Horn aged 18 years. The “Mersey” was a fully-rigged, iron-hulled sailing ship of 1,829 tons, used by the

White Star Line as a training ship for sixty cadets. She made 6 'round-trips to Australia, outbound via the Cape of Good Hope and returning via Cape Horn,

Joseph and Mary Chadwick who were Lost in the "Cheerful" whilst in collision with Her Majesty's ship "Hecla" off the coast of Cornwall, July 21st 1858. The "Cheerful" was a 1,000 ton, passenger and cargo, steam ship on route from Falmouth to Liverpool at night in dense fog when it was struck amidships by torpedo boat HMS Hecla. It sank in 4 minutes, 12 people died and 33 survived.

Facebook: Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust. Website: WeasteHeritageTrail.co.uk

Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter is 1st June 2023. petekilvert@virginmedia.com



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

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Supporting Family Historians since 1974

March 2023

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

inside find...

Lead article this month is *IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS: using regimental numbers*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



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Really Useful Bulletin

IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

Using regimental numbers to unlock military service

by Paul Nixon

During my British Army Detective keynote talk at the *Really Useful Show* last November, I spent a little bit of time focusing on British Army regimental numbers and how these can help tell us more about a soldier's service. I want to elaborate on that in this article, and I'll be focusing on the period from July 1881 - when county regimental titles replaced the old regiment of foot titles - and August 1920, when a new system of army regimental numbers was introduced.

From the 1st July 1881, and with the singular exception of the Rifle Brigade (note below), all British Army line infantry regiments began new regimental numbers beginning with the number 1. A man's army career began when he attested for service, but his regimental number was not issued to him until he presented himself for duty at his regimental depot. That regimental number would be written on to his attestation paper and his details would also be entered into a regimental enlistment register. These registers, where they survive, are useful surrogates if a service record no longer exists, and some of these have already been published online by The National Army Museum and Findmypast.

Numbers were issued sequentially which means that if you know that number 1 was issued on the 1st July 1881, and number 100 was issued on the 1st November 1881, numbers 2 to 99 must have been issued between these two dates. I go into a lot more detail about this, and give regimental number sequences for all regular

Note: The Rifle Brigade simply carried on with the same regimental number series they had been using before Cardwell's reforms were effected. By July 1881 the regiment was issuing numbers in the 4000s.

infantry, cavalry, yeomanry and many other units, on my army service numbers blog: <https://armyservicenumbers.blogspot.com/>.

Do be advised that every line infantry regiment worked from its own regimental number series and that the numbering that I have outlined thus far, just applies to men joining the regular battalions; that is to say, men who joined the army as career soldiers. All line infantry regiments had a regimental depot and most had two regular battalions, with one stationed overseas and one stationed at home in the UK or Ireland. A man could move between the depot and the regular battalions and his regimental number did not change. Similarly, after discharge from the army at the end of his term of service, he could choose to enlist as a Section D reservist up to six months after his discharge, and still retain his regimental number. Section

D reservists essentially extended their period of reserve service for a further four years, and earned 6d per day for doing so.

In addition to these regular battalions though, regiments also had militia battalions (from 1908 the militia was replaced by the special reserve and extra reserve) and many also had affiliated Volunteer Force battalions (Territorial Force from 1908) which also had their own unique regimental number series. Let me give an example of my own local infantry regiment, the Essex Regiment, from 1908. One regimental number series was shared by the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion had its own regimental number series, and each of the five Territorial Force battalions each had their own regimental number



One of these two men is T/88 Sgt Charles Frank Farr of the 1st South West Mounted Brigade, Army Service Corps. Born in about 1871 Charles had originally joined the 1st Wiltshire Volunteer Rifle Corps in 1890 and served with it until 1908. When the Volunteer Force was replaced by the Territorial Force in 1908 he joined the Army Service Corps and served with it until December 1914. He posted this card home in August 1908.



Really Useful Bulletin

series as well. Now multiply this scenario by all of the line infantry regiments in the British Army and you will soon see that there was mass duplication of regimental numbers.

7686 Bandmaster, later Warrant Officer, Class II William J Dunn was a long-serving soldier with the King's Royal Rifle Corps and would add to the medals he wears in this picture with a First World War trio and Military Cross. His regimental number dates to August 1892.



In the early 2000s, it seeming like a good idea at the time, I began logging regimental numbers and dates of attestation. I had been researching the lives of soldier patients at two convalescent hospitals in Chailey and Newick in Sussex during the First World War and I later expanded this research to include serving villagers as well. Frustrated by missing papers as a result of bombing during the Second World War, I began paying closer attention to regimental numbers, convinced that there must have been some logic to the way in which these were issued. That research evolved into the army service numbers blog.

Cardwell's re-numbering exercise in July 1881 only affected the infantry, but all other regiments also operated their own logical regimental numbering sequences. Numbering remains largely logical, sequential and uncomplicated up until August 1914, with the singular exception of men who joined Volunteer Service Companies during the Boer War. On the 2nd January 1900, following reversals in South Africa during the so-called 'Black Week' in December 1899, a special Army Order was issued calling upon members of the Volunteer Force to provide trained men to reinforce the army in the field. These men were to be formed into special 'Volunteer' or Active Service Companies, with each company comprising 116 officers and men. Men joining these companies were issued with regimental numbers from the series used by the regulars but with a clear gap of 1000 numbers between the last number issued to an ordinary recruit, at the date on which the Volunteer numbering began. Typically, not all regiments followed the instruction to the letter.

Using regimental numbers to plot your ancestor's service

If you're lucky, you will know your ancestor's regimental number, and if he served overseas in a campaign, you may have medal roll references as well – but this may be the only information you have. In order to work out when he joined up, do have a look at my army service numbers blog which covers most regiments up until 1914. If your ancestor joined up from 1914, or if you want to narrow down his date of joining still further, you'll need access to Findmypast. In the example which follows, I am using Richard Stevens, whom I cited in my talk, and who served overseas with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. His medal index card gives his regimental number as 38028 and also notes that he later had two regimental numbers with the 3rd London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), these numbers being 85263 and 255432.

My first task was to try and find out when the regimental number 38028 would have been issued. Going to Findmypast and searching in All Records for British Army Service Records I typed *Corn* in the regiment field and 380* in the service number field. The asterisk wildcard picks up text either side of that asterisk and so typing *Corn* should catch all regimental variations of Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, whilst 380* will pick up all numbers beginning with those three digits. Lo and behold, when the results were returned, I saw many numbers beginning 380* including one number, for Alfred George James, who had the number 38029. In other words, his regimental number would have been issued immediately after Richard Stevens was issued with his number.

And when I clicked on Alfred James's record, I saw too that he also had a 3rd London Regiment number, 85264, which was one digit higher than Richard Stevens's number. The rest of Alfred's file was a revelation and I could now be pretty certain that Richard joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry on the 3rd January 1918 and was transferred to the 3rd London Regiment on the 16th August 1918. Knowing this was crucial because it enabled me to download the relevant war diaries – still free of charge at the time of writing – from the National Archives website.

Make Findmypast's wildcard your friend

As far as I am aware, no other family history website offers the same flexibility of wildcard searching that Findmypast offers. On the Findmypast site you can use the wildcard as often as you like and with as few or as many characters or numbers as you like. It's a



Really Useful Bulletin



Members of the Special Reserve and Extra Reserve kept their regimental numbers when they were posted to regular battalions. This man is 3/9461 Pte George Byrom who enlisted with the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment in September 1913 and was captured by the Germans in October 1914 whilst serving with the 1st Battalion. This photo was taken in a POW camp in 1917.

on the period 1881 to 1914, but the regimental numbering logic extends way beyond this. Earlier this week, I was researching a man who served with the 64th Foot before transferring into the 31st Foot. Using the wildcard techniques outlined above I was able to ascertain that his 64th Foot number dated to November 1844, whilst his 31st Foot number dated precisely to the 1st January 1860. Furthermore, I quickly realised that he was one of a number of men who transferred from the 64th Foot to the 31st Foot on that date. When searching for his regiment on Findmypast, I had simply typed in *64* and *31* in the regiment field.

I wish you all happy hunting.

About Paul Nixon

In 2017 Paul launched www.britisharmyancestors.co.uk/; a free resource which has become the largest single online archive for photos of named British Army soldiers who served between 1850 and 1945. Paul publishes a number of military themed blogs and, since 2010, has worked in the content licensing team at Findmypast. He is Findmypast's military expert and he leads the company's UK licensing effort.

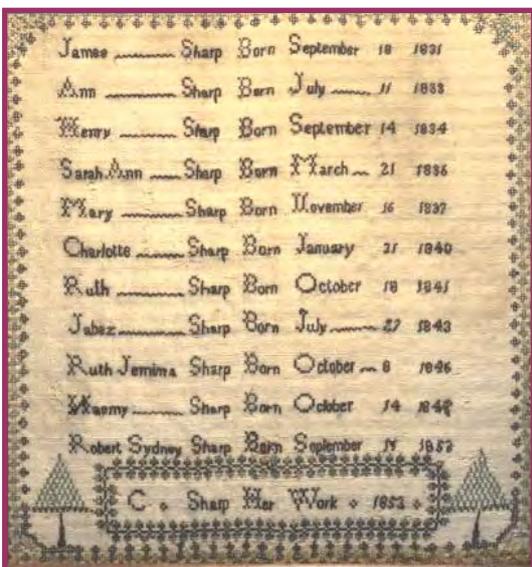


tremendously helpful tool, and it has been invaluable to me over many years of research.

Use the steps that I have outlined above to narrow the focus for your own military ancestor and remember that the same logical issuing of regimental numbers was not restricted to the infantry. Use this technique to find ancestors who served in other army corps as well.

In this article, as I said at the beginning, I have focused

“Lost” Family Heirlooms



Above: SHARP births. A little research found a probable family in Star Lane, Wokingham in 1851. The father was a day labourer.

Google is a powerful tool for finding material, but searching your family surnames may not lead you to a treasure such as a sampler worked by a family member. It is amazing what appears online for sale but you need to be inventive with your searches. “Victorian samplers” will provide you with a selection to search through. Some are modestly priced, some not so. What would you pay for the list of births shown left? Others are more colourful. Not all are named or dated. That said, a set of initials might just be your *Eureka* moment!

Have a rummage online and do let us know if you find a sampler for sale worked by a long-gone member of your family.

These examples were on eBay in early March.



Top right is LOCKEY.

Bottom right: PROCTER family names; this sampler is “his work” so not always a pursuit for the girls!



Family History Societies



Dalton Genealogical Society

Annual Gathering 2023

LINCOLN 3rd and 4th OCTOBER

The society will be visiting Lincoln on the above dates for our annual gathering.

We hope to find places and items of interest that we can visit that relate to the surname Dalton. You will be able to visit the famous castle and cathedral. The nearby International Bomber Command Centre Museum is where the annual dinner will take place.

Lincolnshire has a long history of connections with the Dalton surname.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone of that name or who has an interest in it.

Full details for the Gathering:

[www.daltongenealogicalsociety.org/
events/2023_Gathering_Form.pdf](http://www.daltongenealogicalsociety.org/events/2023_Gathering_Form.pdf)

For any further information please contact:

Howard Dalton. Tel: 01751477806

Email: howard.dalton@hotmail.co.uk

Society website: www.daltongenealogicalsociety.org/



The Chadwick Centre at IBCC



East Surrey Family History Society

Virtual Family History Fair

Hilary Blanford

Saturday 28 January saw the society's second virtual family history fair, which was attended by twenty-seven other societies. While most attendees came from the UK, we also had visitors from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the USA. The chairman of another family history society enthusiastically described our fair as being unique! At the end of the afternoon session, we also held a communal discussion (three screens in gallery view, so almost 75 people) and agreed to hold another virtual fair next year on 27 January. This date has already been placed on the [GENEVA](#) site (the events section on the GENUKI website).

Although we were visited by Zoom gremlins in the second half of each session, they only affected a few people who were prevented from moving out of the main room. So, at the end of the morning, we simply handed the main room over to the Manchester and Lancashire FHS and enjoyed the masterly demonstration of their website.

Another attendee wrote to say, 'A physical fair is always fun, but on Zoom, you can screen share to show your problem. And the stallholders can screen share, to show some of the answers. The high point of my day was Geoff (Fairbairn, East Surrey) showing another attendee the house where her ancestor had lived, and the map demonstrating the changes that had taken place.'

We received lots of very nice comments in the chat boxes and in emails and a new member wrote to me afterwards to say, 'I joined the ESFHS a few weeks back not only because I kept attending Zoom talks and wanted to support the society, but also because I thought it was impressive that you were bringing together so many organisations from around the country for the Fair!'

Next year – the world! Do join us in 2024 as we had a lot of fun in 2023.

Visit our website:

www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk/





Family History Societies



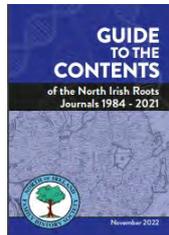
North of Ireland Family History Society

NEW Publication

Introduction to a Searchable Guide to the Contents of the North Irish Roots Journals (volumes 1984-2021)

The North of Ireland Family History Society is over forty years old and in that time has regularly produced a highly-regarded journal, packed with useful information for people researching their roots. Although the journal is available online within the Ireland Collection on JSTOR, until now there has not been an easily accessible guide to the wealth of content the volumes contains.

Over the last eighteen months, the Journal Editor (Audrey McKeown) has co-ordinated an international team of NIFHS members to produce an electronic guide of the contents of the previous North Irish Roots Journals. The team members were from the USA, the Canadian Maritimes, Australia, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. The searchable Guide of 262 pages covers seventy-five volumes of the Journal.



The newly-completed Guide will enable members to search for their ancestral names as well as places where their ancestors may have lived both in Ireland and worldwide. They can also find key and less well-known family history resources including websites, transcriptions, books reviews, etc.

The North Irish Roots Journals are stored electronically within the **Ireland Collection on JSTOR**. This is a digital library of journals, books, and primary sources. **Free membership is available to people when they join NIFHS.**

Already, members have been expressing their thanks for the usefulness of the guide. One member commented *"What an achievement this is. I love receiving the journal and always find something of interest in it. So this makes my heart sing! Wonderful to have all these past journals so accessible."*

How to obtain the new guide?

It is a benefit that is provided free to members of the Society. If you would like a copy, join NIFHS as an Associate member - it is just £18 for 2023. NIFHS membership also provides free online access to the Irish Collection on JSTOR, the digital library where copies of the journal are available to read. Additionally, if you are interested in improving your Irish genealogy or connecting with others researching the same area, the Society organises over 100 meetings and talks each year, most of which are now online.

Useful Links: Find out more about the journal here:

www.nifhs.org/resources/north-irish-roots/

Find out more about membership here:

www.nifhs.org/membership/associate-membership/

NIFHS COURSES SPRING 2023 PROGRAMME

Starting Out on Irish Family History—Audrey McKeown
Thursday 23 & 30 March 2023 (2.30pm also at 7pm)

Ideal for beginners to Irish records and those wanting a refresher, this two-session course has been developed to help you find useful up-to-date resources and websites. You will be introduced to records for your family history research, including civil, church, census, burial and land records. This also covers the resources made available to NIFHS members.

Look-Up Live—NIFHS Volunteers

Wednesday 19 April 2023 (7.00pm) FREE

Our popular evening returns to give opportunity to reap the benefits of our society look-up service. Find out more about items that the society holds in its research library. Come along and ask a question - you may even get a lookup done during the session! If you are interested in attending then send an email to education.zoom@nifhs.org for the zoom link.

Paternal and Maternal DNA Matches - Martin McDowell

Friday 21 April 2023 (7.00pm)

Dividing up your DNA matches into maternal and paternal can be a useful first step in working out how you are related to your DNA matches. This class explains how to do this and looks at how the companies provide this information.

Tips for breaking through brick walls—Martin McDowell

Friday 5 May 2023 (7.00pm)

We all encounter brick walls at some point in Irish genealogy. Whilst some of these may seem insurmountable, sometimes there is information awaiting you that can help to break these down. This class provides some tips that could be useful!

DNA Ethnicity Estimates—Anne Johnston

Wednesday 17 May 2023 (7.00pm)

This session will explain how ethnicity percentages are calculated and how they can be useful in analysing your DNA cousin matches.

Using WikiTree—Anne Johnston

Wednesday 31 May 2023 (7.00pm)

WikiTree is a free genealogy website that allows users individually to research and contribute to their own personal family trees, whilst building and collaborating on a single worldwide family tree within the system. It also allows users to record DNA tests, linking them to relevant cousin profiles. This course will provide an introduction to WikiTree and by the use of practical examples it hopes to encourage you to join the WikiTree community with the overall aim of linking our shared heritage in the North of Ireland and beyond.

Things I wish I had known when I started Irish family history

Friday 2 June 2023 (7.00pm) FREE

NIFHS Volunteers

Tips and tricks regarding Irish research with discussion amongst those present. Topics to be discussed will include: is it better to record a family tree online or off-line? How do you record sources? How should you handle variants of names and townlands? How can the society help with your research?

Full details of courses: www.nifhs.org/courses/



Family History Societies

**Tay Valley Family History Society
invites you to our**

Family History and Local History FAIR

**Saturday 15th April
Glasite Hall, St Andrew's Church
King Street, Dundee
10.00-16.00**

Meet Family History societies
incl. Tay Valley, Highlands, Fife, Lanarkshire...
Stalls from Local Archives and Museums,
Abertay Historical Society
Books on history and genealogy
... And a raffle!

Admission free.

Tay Valley Family History Society tayvalleyfhs.org.uk

Tay Valley FHS is a member of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies
which is a member of the Federation.



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

The Bottle Top Family Tree

Family historians have ingenious ways of displaying their family history research. At hobbies events, the Federation has often displayed some of the family history craft items produced by Marie Manning. These have attracted attention and interest, noticed by event organisers. As a result, chairman Steve Manning, hosted workshops at the recent *Creative Crafts* event at SEC, Glasgow. The workshops provided all the necessary parts to enable crafters to take home a completed work. The roundels are bottle tops which form an attractive raised frame for each small photograph enhanced with decorative tree and edgings, set in a display “box” frame. Those who brought photographs were able to incorporate them into their design on the day.

[R] Two participants at Glasgow proudly display their results.



Out and About

The Federation will be at the ICHF ***Creative Craft Shows*** around the country promoting member societies and family history generally:

Birmingham NEC: 16—19 March

Birmingham NEC: 23—25 June

Farnborough: 1—3 September

Exeter: 21—23 September

Glasgow: 26—29 October

Birmingham: 2—5 November

The Federation will also be at ***The Family History Shows*** where the bookshop will be available:

York Racecourse: 25 June

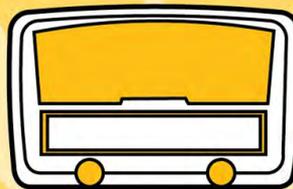
Kempton Park Racecourse: 24 September

If you are attending any of these, please visit the stand and talk to our volunteers.

There are a number of societies holding fairs, see:

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

Also check the lists on [Genuki/Events](#) for events near you.



• REALLY USEFUL •
• PODCAST •

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast

The podcasts are open for listening!

Series 2 topics already online include:

Beginning Your Family History

Online Resources

Talking to Relatives

Historians Collaborate

Occupations: Work, Leisure, Health

Series 1 editions are also available.

These are all free!

Simply go to:

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast

Scroll to the topic of your choice, click and listen.

STOP PRESS: We understand that the CWGC War Graves Week is to take place 20-28 May.

Join your local family history society—full list at www.familyhistoryfederation.com/societies-az



Really Useful Back Page

Family History Research Aids from the Experts



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

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

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

www.parishchest.com

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

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

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

The latest title is ***Dating by Design Volume 2 – Twentieth Century***. This is a follow-on volume for dating photographs.



Will this month's lead article tempt you to explore your military forebears? ***Tracing your***

First World War Ancestors is a comprehensive guide to researching men and women from Britain and its dominions and colonies who took part in WWI at home or on the front. This book will enhance your progress! Available in the FHB online shop:

10% discount (see cover).



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

Happy browsing!

Please explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

17-18 November 2023

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details



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