

M&LFHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter of the
Manchester & Lancashire Family
History Society



November 2023 Issue 43

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

Hello and welcome to the November newsletter. We have a full programme of talks this month which will include a full week of on-line talks. More details in the Events/Talk section.

The 11th November is Armistice Day and I have put together a short list of books available from our bookshop which some of our members may find interesting. As usual our volunteers have been very busy and this month sees the first entries giving details contained in the Manchester Corporation Transport Staff records.

Archives+ have provided an article looking at the history of Manchester Victoria Baths.

As always I have appended the FHF newsletter for October.

I have been asked to remind members to update your address, phone number etc. Failure to do so will mean that you will cease to receive information from the society via email. More details will be in the next edition of the journal.

Best wishes
Barry Henshall

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The Year To Date

Hello again fellow members, at this time of year in northern England, when the nights draw in and Halloween and Bonfire Night both beckon, my thoughts turn to the achievements the Society can claim for the year 2023. Those achievements are really those of our posse of volunteers, in Manchester, our branches and often at home elsewhere in the world.

My trawl of achievements will feature ultimately in the Trustees Annual Report filed with the Charity Commission and my Chairman's Annual Report submitted to members at the Annual General Meeting. Every year they fortify the massive contribution the Society makes to the world of Family History research and to the local communities and generations of folk who hail from Greater Manchester.

So, what can we claim this year?

The Public Face

I begin with the helpdesk services we provide in Central Library and at the branches. This is the public-facing view of the Society and never fails to draw compliments from those who gain from the guidance it offers as well as our Archives+ partners. This year is no exception. Despite operating often with reduced numbers because of illness and holidays, our daily teams in Manchester and elsewhere continue to provide unequalled research help to more than 4,000 visitors during the year.

Preservation of Records

Not to be outdone, our project work, often unnoticed, sees the completion of a number of long-term projects [Baguley Sanatorium Admissions, Victoria Station War Memorial for example], the beginning of several more [Horwich Locomotive Works Staff Record Cards, Manchester City Transport Staff Records], as well as the continuance of many ongoing projects [Lancashire BMD in its many guises, Manchester Catholic Registers, Bolton Workhouse Admissions, Godfrey Maps Index for example]. In this way our volunteers fulfil our twin charitable aims to promote the study of British family history and preserve archived material. In making many of our records available to the public as well as sharing the

results with our Archive partners and other organisations, we also fulfil our public benefit obligation required as a registered charity.

Education

Our programme of meetings throughout the year continues to attract both members and visitors to all our venues as well as welcoming many from outside the Greater Manchester boundary including members overseas via online links. This year, alongside our Quarterly and Branch meetings, we have begun a new programme of talks under the banner of Explore. This initiative is intended to provide guidance to both the novice as well as the more skilled researcher.

Engagement with the Public

Our annual family and local history fair is now an established date in our calendar when we invite many local organisations to exhibit alongside us as we play host to many visitors to Manchester Central Library. We carry our message beyond our venues, too. Our Promotions team provides a healthy programme of visits to outside communities and organisations. This takes the form of hosting stands at fairs held elsewhere in the North of England engaging with the public in Salford, Buxton and Huddersfield for example.

Back Office

None of the above would be possible without the work of our administration volunteers who maintain the services essential to an efficient society. Thus, we operate a first-class office facility for handling correspondence, finance, publications, book shop, member forum and website.

Our Volunteer Contribution

I could expand on the above, but you get the picture, I'm sure. We are active in many different ways bringing the skills and techniques of family history research and the need to preserve and use archival material to the full to both members and the wider public. We cannot do this without our willing volunteer members. Each of them deserves the gratitude of trustees and members alike for her or his contribution to the continuing development of your society as it awaits the onset of its 60th anniversary in 2024.

Want To Volunteer?

If you would like to offer your services as a volunteer, whether in person at one or other of our venues or from home via an online link, please contact our office, preferably at our email address – office@mlfhs.org.uk and your message will be passed on to an appropriate activity manager who will respond.

Best wishes in all your research,

David Muil

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes
Elsie

EVENTS/TALKS

Manchester Branch



The Road to the Aisle - Rita Greenwood

Date: 25 November 2023
Day: Saturday, 11.00am
Venue: Manchester Central Library
Speaker: Rita Greenwood

Join us for the second of our series of Explore talks - talks designed to help both beginners and those who are more advanced in their research. Rita's talk on The Road to the Aisle will take us through marriage settlements, bonds and allegations.

We look forward to meeting you. Your speaker will be Rita Greenwood, a member of the Bolton branch of MLFHS with many years of experience. The talk will be both informative and entertaining.

Booking: [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Image: David Wilkie (1785-1841), National Galleries of Scotland, image Wikimedia Commons

New Meetings Added for 2023

We have added some new ONLINE meetings for November 2023. Make a note - full details and booking arrangements will be on our website soon - keep looking!

Monday 13th November ONLINE: "DNA and Ethnicity" by Hilary Hartigan
Tuesday 14th November ONLINE: "My Grandad and the Black Harry Tunnel Disaster" by Carol Lee

Wednesday, 15th November ONLINE: "Convicts Galore" by Hilary Blanford

Thursday 16th November ONLINE: An Irishman Lost in Manchester by Carol Lee

Friday 17th November ONLINE: "James Nasmyth, inventor of the Steam Hammer"

Bolton Branch



BOLTON FHS - Researching First World War Soldiers

Speaker - Dr Jim Beach

Wednesday, 1 November 2023, 7.30pm
Meeting Room, Bolton Golf Club - tickets not required
Online via ZOOM - [Eventbrite](#) tickets required.

Dr Jim Beach is a senior lecturer in History at the University of Northampton and taught previously at the University of Salford. His main interest is British military intelligence in the First World War, but his investigations sometimes lead him into other areas such as the artillery officer he will be talking about. Jim will discuss a collection of wartime diaries written by an ancestor of one of our members Major William Harcourt (second from left standing), who served in Siege Battery 330 on the Messin Ridge. This collection has now been accepted by the National Army Museum Chelsea to be available for public research, and Jim has plans to use some for his own project.

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

Oldham Branch



Fairfield
Moravian

Settlement,
Droylsden



'The Moravians' ... An illustrated presentation given by Jean Bailo

Sat, 11 Nov 2023 14:00 - 15:30 GMT
Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

The Story of their Journey from Eastern Europe to Fairfield Manchester. In this illustrated talk we can follow their progress and learn a little of their philosophy and way of life, their advanced ideas on education and equality, focusing especially on the Moravian Settlement in Fairfield Droylsden. We take a virtual walk around the community as it is today.

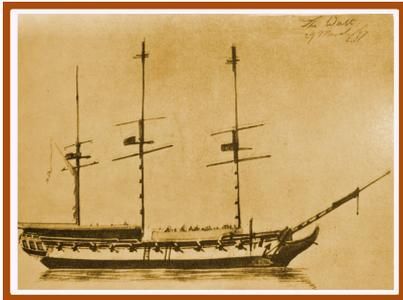
This is a hybrid meeting simultaneously in the Performance Space at Oldham Library and on zoom.

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

* No booking necessary for attendance in the library. MLFHS members free.

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

Anglo-Scots



Banishment and Transportation

Speaker: Ken Nisbet

Date: 4 November 2023

Day: Saturday, 2.00pm (UK time)

Venue: Online via Zoom

When and why were people banished? How far away were they sent, for how long and for what crimes? How many Scots were transported - are there records? This is sure to be another interesting talk from Ken Nisbet that may give us some clues as to the whereabouts of "lost" ancestors.

Booking: [Eventbrite](#)

Cost: members - free of charge

Cost: non-members - £3

Image: HH

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

The National Archives

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

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

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

Manchester Central Library



Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration

Saturday 04 November 2023 13:00 — 16:00

Join us for this special ancient Mexican celebration celebrating the cycle of life. Dia de los Muertos features traditional dances performed by Colibri Mexican Folkdance UK, followed by themed activities and craft workshops. An example of an ofrenda, a Mexican altar typically present in Mexican households at this time of the year, will be on display.

Suitable for all ages

Free – please consider making a donation if you can either online or at one of our cash or contactless donation boxes in Central Library

More details about events at the library can be found at the Library Live website [HERE](#).

ONLINE EVENT: Participate from Home - WORLDWIDE!

2023

**FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show**

Explore Your
Genealogy



**Friday 17th November 10 am - 10 pm GMT and
Saturday 18th November 10 am - 6 pm GMT**

**2023 SHOW DISCOUNT CODE
SOCIETY**

Do your members a **BIG FAVOUR** by reminding them that show tickets are **ONLY £12** with discount code **SOCIETY**.

For society members on a tight budget, £3 is a lot of money - but only you can update them because we can't see your mailing list!

And while you're about it, don't forget to mention that late-comers can use code **SOCIETY** to buy a £12 ticket during the show itself!

Head to the [website](#) for details and to book tickets

BOOKSHOP

The 11th November is Armistice Day and the following describe some of the campaigns and difficult and tragic times experienced by men and women who fought in the Great War and the many who lost their lives.

[The 6th Battalion the Cheshire Regiment in the Great War \(Hardback\) A Territorial Battalion on the Western Front 1914 - 1918 By John Hartley](#)

£25.00

The 6th Battalion, the Cheshire Regiment, was a pre-war Territorial battalion that recruited in the North Cheshire towns of Stockport,...

[First World War Trials & Executions](#)

£11.99 ~~£19.99~~

Between the beginning of the First World War in the summer of 1914 and the armistice in 1918, 51 men...

[Children at War](#)

£14.99

For most British readers, the phrase children during the war conjures up images of the evacuees of the Second World...

[Manchester Scottish](#)

£6.00

Manchester Scottish Roger J Dawson A4, 91pp, £5-75, 250gms This is the story of the Manchester contingent of the 15th...

[Tracing Your Great War Ancestors: The Egypt and Palestine Campaigns](#)

£14.99

Tracing Your Great War Ancestors: The Egypt and Palestine Campaigns is the first book explicitly aimed at helping the descendants...

[The Recollections of Three Manchesters in the Great War](#)

£6.00

ed. by S. Richardson. Second edition, published 2006. Replaces A5 size Code 4551. Contains more information than previous edition, along...

[The Dark Cloud](#)

£4.75

David Kelsal. Stockport Life in the Great War, 1914-1919. The town on the eve of war. Recruitment, conscription and conscience...

[The Somme: The Epic Battle in the Soldiers' Own Words and Photographs ... Paperback.](#)

£14.99

The offensive on the Somme took place between July and November 1916 and is perhaps the most iconic battle of...

[Fallen in the Fight](#)

£5.00

N & S Richardson. Record of over 700 Farnworth and Kearsley men who died in the Great War. Illustrated with...

[Chorley Pals](#)

£4.75

J Garwood. Account of 'Y' Company, 11th (Service) Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment in the Great War 1914-1919. Well illustrated. A4...

[Oldham Absent Voters List 1918](#)

£4.25

The disruption to society caused by the Great War resulted in considerable numbers of eligible voters being absent from their...

[Oldham Absent Voters List 1918 \(Download\)](#)

£3.50 ~~£4.25~~

[2Mb File] Download. The disruption to society caused by the Great War resulted in considerable numbers of eligible voters being absent...

[Men of Dukinfield](#)

£4.50

Mike Pavasovic. A History of Dukinfield during the Great War. Lists Dukinfield men who were decorated and those who are...

[Saddleworth 1914 - 1919](#)

£10.30

Saddleworth 1914 - 1919 by K.W.Mitchinson. A4, 240pp. The experience of a Pennine Community during the Great War. Includes: With...

PROJECTS UPDATE

Added 362 records, mostly for inquests, taken from the Manchester Courier for 1841 (plus some other items for 1836-1840) to the Great Database. These are often very lengthy accounts and can contain a lot of detail about the circumstances of the deaths. Thanks to Linda Bailey for these.

Zion Letters

Scanning is now completed and around half of the letters have been transcribed. All are now on the web site with transcriptions included where available.

Godfrey Map Index

Added 344 references for Heap Bridge, 1908 and Levenshulme, 1905. indexed by John Marsden

Added 96 references for Hulton Park 1907 and Rainsough, Kersal & Hilton Park 1907. indexed by Graham Holt

Horwich Locomotive Works Staff Record Cards

Scanning is now completed of the contents of boxes 1-4 (of 7) of cards. Indexing is now completed to surname MACAWENEY (6,034 records)

Manchester City Transport Staff Records

Scanning commenced and 2,169 records scanned with cards indexed AARON-ALCOCK and CADD-CHURCHMAN.

HELPDESK

MLFHS Helpdesk Update:

"The Society's Family History Help Desk continues to be a firm favourite with visitors to Manchester Central Library. We continue to offer FREE assistance to members and non

members Monday - Friday 10:30-3:30. The queries are wide ranging and the visitor feedback is always great: "Informative, helpful, personable", "super helpful", "a great facility", "very helpful volunteers". We are located behind the café on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library. No booking is necessary - just drop in. We look forward to seeing you".

WEBSITE NEWS

MyHeritage: The MyHeritage Blog will keep you up-to-date. Why not drop by using this [link](#). There are 14 categories to search through and I am sure that you will find something of interest.

Family Tree: Keep up to date with the latest happenings in the world of family history with Family Tree News & Views by following this [link](#).

You can also get the latest advice, opinion and updates from the Family Tree team and a range of genealogy experts, from in-depth guides to research and archives to the latest goings on at the Family Tree magazine HQ... by following this [link](#).

Find my Past: There is a wealth of information on the Find my Past website. Just follow the following links

[Getting Started](#)

[Build Your Family Tree](#)

[Family Records](#)

[What's New?](#)

[Help Hub](#)

[Discoveries](#)

[History Hub](#)

[The Findmypast Community](#)

Ancestry: An Ancestry Blog can be found [here](#)

The Genealogist:

Further news and articles can be found [here](#)

FamilySearch: Finally why not try the FamilySearch [blog page](#).

ORPHAN BMDs

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

M&LFHS

61 Queens Road, Urmston, M41 9HF

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

Thank you to everyone who has sent me certificates during the last couple of months either by hand, post or by e-mail. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter we now have over 8,000 in our database.

UKBMD UPDATES

Message from Ian Hartas, Local BMD Project.

This week on one of the many facebook genealogy pages I saw that someone was looking for Sylvester Warrington. The first person to reply stated that they had found a reference to Silvester Warrington instead. I.e. spelled with an 'i' rather than a 'y'.

This made me think about the way that I had written the search code in the Local BMD Project websites and I realised that it is possible to search for both Sylvester and Silvester first names in one search.

The same software updates that I made many moons ago to allow searches to specify multiple initials instead of just a first name would also allow for this:

S[iy]lvester

i.e. if a first name has varieties that differ by only one letter, then listing the different letters within square brackets will return both Sylvester and Silvester in one search.

Note: This only applies to the forename field and only on the Local BMD Project websites.

If you want to see this in action, try it out on the Cheshire BMD births search:

<http://CheshireBMD.org.uk/birthsearch.php>

Date Range: 1915-1917

Surname: Warrington

Forename: S[iy]lvester

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

Added 3,543 Deaths for Bury RD comprising:
Bury (1973-1977)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

BMD updates for West Midlands.

Marriages replacements for corrections and to fill missing years:

2,888 for Tipton, St John, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1854-1970)

1,501 for Tipton, St Matthew, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1881-1922)

2,834 for Smethwick, St Michael & All Angels, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1893-1970)

2,481 for Smethwick, St Stephen, registers at Sandwell Register Office (1903-1970)

BMD updates for Staffordshire:

Marriages:

10 for Cannock, Church of Latter Day Saints, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2010-2021)
26 for Norton Canes, Cannock, Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar St, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1992-2011)
13 for Heath Hayes, Cannock, Methodist Church, Hednesford Rd, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1996-2013)
13 for Cannock, St Aidan, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2012-2019)
155 for Chadsmoor, St Chad, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1992-2019)
8 for Lichfield, St Chad, registers at Lichfield (2019-2020)
65 for Wiggington & Hopwas, St Leonard, registers at Lichfield (2007-2020)
72 for Great Wyrley, Methodist Chapel, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1996-2019)
57 for Bobbington, Holy Cross, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2012-2020)
216 for Codsall, St Nicholas, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2010-2020)
3 for Swindon, St John, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2019-2019)
37 for Walton on the Hill, Berkswich Methodist Church - (The Rise), registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2000-2018)
110 for Adbaston, St Michael, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1968-2019)
102 for Stafford, St Mary, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2007-2020)
121 for Stafford, Forebridge, St Paul, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (1996-2019)
22 for Trentham, St Mary and All Saints, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2017-2020)
11 for Norbury, St Peter, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2008-2020)
20 for Moreton, St Mary, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2002-2018)
3 for High Offley, St Mary, registers at Newcastle-Under-Lyme (2019-2021)

Deaths:

6,377 for Stoke, registers at Stoke-On-Trent (1974-1980)
Many thanks to all involved

Kingston upon Thames BMD has been updated to add:

Marriages:

184 for St John the Evangelist, Kingston, registers at Kingston (1957-1969)
425 for St Pauls, Kingston Hill, registers at Kingston (1950-1970)
507 for St John, Kingston Vale, St Lawrence, registers at Kingston (1850-1931)
1,113 for St James, New Malden, registers at Kingston (1933-1969)
395 for St John the Baptist, Worcester Park, registers at Kingston (1838-1933)

Births:

4,011 for Kingston, registers at Kingston (1888-1892)

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

Bath BMD has been updated to add the following Marriages:

222 for Bath, St Barnabus (Twerton Hill, Southdown), registers at Bath (1977-2018)
149 for Bath, St Luke Lyncombe (Wellsway), registers at Bath (1996-2020)
35 for Bath, St Michael with Paul (Broad Street), registers at Bath (2010-2019)
87 for Bath, St Stephen (Lansdown Road), registers at Bath (1998-2020)

453 for Bath, The Ascension (Claude Avenue), registers at Bath (1945-2018)
 154 for Bath, St Saviour (Larkhall), registers at Bath (1991-2019)
 8 for Larkhall Methodist Chapel, Claremont Road, registers at Bath (1987-2002)
 4 for Twerton, St Josephs Catholic Church, Sladebrook Road, registers at Bath (1985-2005)
 12 for Bath, Kingdom Hall, 57A The Triangle, Oldfield Park, registers at Bath (1997-2012)
 2 for The Friends' Meeting House, Bath, registers at Bath (2013-2019)
 146 for Bath, St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick, registers at Bath (1987-2021) with some renumbering of previously loaded registers.
 82 for Bath Abbey & St James (formerly St Peter & St Paul), registers at Bath (2009-2021)
 40 for Bath, St John the Baptist, Bathwick, registers at Bath (1976-2019)
 70 for Bath, St Phillip & St James, Odd Down, registers at Bath (1989-2019)
 180 for Bath, St Swithin's Walcot (Paragon), registers at Bath (1971-2017)
 89 for Bath, Christchurch, Walcot (Montpelier), registers at Bath (1989-2018)
 13 for Bath, St Andrew, Walcot (Julian Road), registers at Bath (1964-1975)
 11 for Bath, St Bartholomew, W Lyncombe (Junction Rd. Oldfield Pk.), registers at Bath (2017-2020)
 128 for Bath, St Michael, Twerton, registers at Bath (2002-2019)
 51 for Bath, Weston All Saints (Weston Village), registers at Bath (2013-2020)
 50 for Bath, St John the Evangelist, Weston (Upper Bristol Road), registers at Bath (1987-2017)
 13 for Bath, Emmanuel (Apsley Road), registers at Bath (1988-2016)
 21 for Bath, St Thomas a Beckett, Widcombe, registers at Bath (2015-2021)
 36 for Bath, St Matthew, (Widcombe Hill), registers at Bath (1966-2020)
 7 for Bath, The Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, (Widcombe Hill), registers at Bath (2006-2016)

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

<http://BathBMD.org.uk>

<https://UKBMD.org.uk/localbmd>

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

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

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

MANCHESTER ARCHIVES+



From Public Baths to Community Landmark: A Look at the Fascinating History of the Manchester Victoria Baths

[Find out more](#) about Manchester's historic swimming pool and its transformation into a popular heritage, events and community venue. A blog post by Tesni Boughen.

Tesni Boughen is a MA Public History and Heritage student from Manchester Metropolitan University. Through her placement at Manchester

Histories Tesni has been involved with doing some historical research on the museums and libraries that form the [HiDDEN](#) network to produce a series of blog posts to promote their work. In her first post she explores the history of Victoria Baths.

The main partners in Archives+ are:

- Greater Manchester County Record Office (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities)
- Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives (Manchester City Council)
- North West Film Archive (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre & Education Trust (University of Manchester)
- Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society
- BFI Mediatheque
- Manchester Registration Service (Historic Registers)

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

NORTH WEST SOUND HERITAGE

Unlocking our Sound Heritage

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE

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

WHO WE ARE

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

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

WHAT WE DO

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

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

We offer:

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

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



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

and Twitter



M&L Family History@MLFH



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 38

October 2023

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

Lead article this month is *Births, Marriages and Deaths in Scotland before 1855*

Plus extra workshops added for the REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

with a taster of presentations on Show Friday

And news from local FHS and from the Federation

Family History BOOKS & DNA kits make GREAT PRESENTS



CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR BULLETIN READERS

Buy **DATING BY DESIGN VOLS 1+2** for £20

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[See page 8 for more...](#)



Really Useful Bulletin

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Scotland before 1855

by Emma Maxwell

On 1 January 1855, civil registration of births, marriages and deaths commenced in Scotland. As registration was compulsory from the start, very few events are missing. Searching these records is straightforward as they have all been indexed. You can find these records on www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.



Top Tip: For genealogy purposes, you do not need to order a certificate. View the image online and save £££.

Due to the comprehensive nature and easy availability of post-1855 records, we rarely use church records of baptism, marriage and burial after 1855. There are occasions when they prove useful but on the whole it's cheaper and more efficient to use the civil registration records. However, before 1855, it is a completely different story.

Background to the records

In 1616 the Scottish Government, by an Act of the Privy Council, ordered that a register of persons baptised, married or buried within each parish was to be kept. This register was to include those who did not attend the parish church, the Church of Scotland.

This means that no matter what church your family attended, the place to begin your search is the Church of Scotland records. The majority of surviving registers have been indexed and the images are available to view on ScotlandsPeople. Go to 'Church Registers'. These are also known as Old Parish Registers which you may also hear referred to as OPRs.

Findmypast has also indexed these records; it's actually more than a simple index. In many cases, all the information on the original has been transcribed. As there may be some additional information on the original record, it is always best practice to look at the original where possible—certainly for your direct line ancestors.

Where to find Church of Scotland Parish Registers

Images

- ◆ ScotlandsPeople
- ◆ Family History Societies (microfilm)
- ◆ Local libraries (microfilm)
- ◆ ScotlandsPeople Centres in Scotland (£15 per day)

Indexes

- ◆ Findmypast
- ◆ Ancestry
- ◆ FamilySearch

Kirk Session Records (Church of Scotland)

Theoretically, the Church of Scotland birth, marriage and death registers were sent to the General Register Office for Scotland. In 1855 those up to 1820 were sent in with the 1820-1855 registers following a few years later. This is what forms the basis of the OPRs.

A few problems occurred with this. Some registers were a mixture of minutes, baptisms and accounts. These were often kept by the church and are part of the Kirk Session series of records. In some churches, there was no register of deaths, and all we may have is a note in the accounts showing that the mortcloth was hired. These have not been indexed but may be the only clue as to when an ancestor died.

Illegitimate children often do not appear in the baptismal register but their parents may have appeared before the Kirk Session to be disciplined and this will be recorded in the minutes. These are just a couple of the many reasons why it is good to consult Kirk Session records. These are free to browse on ScotlandsPeople so it's easier than ever to become familiar with them. For more information see our Learning Zone: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningkirksession.aspx>

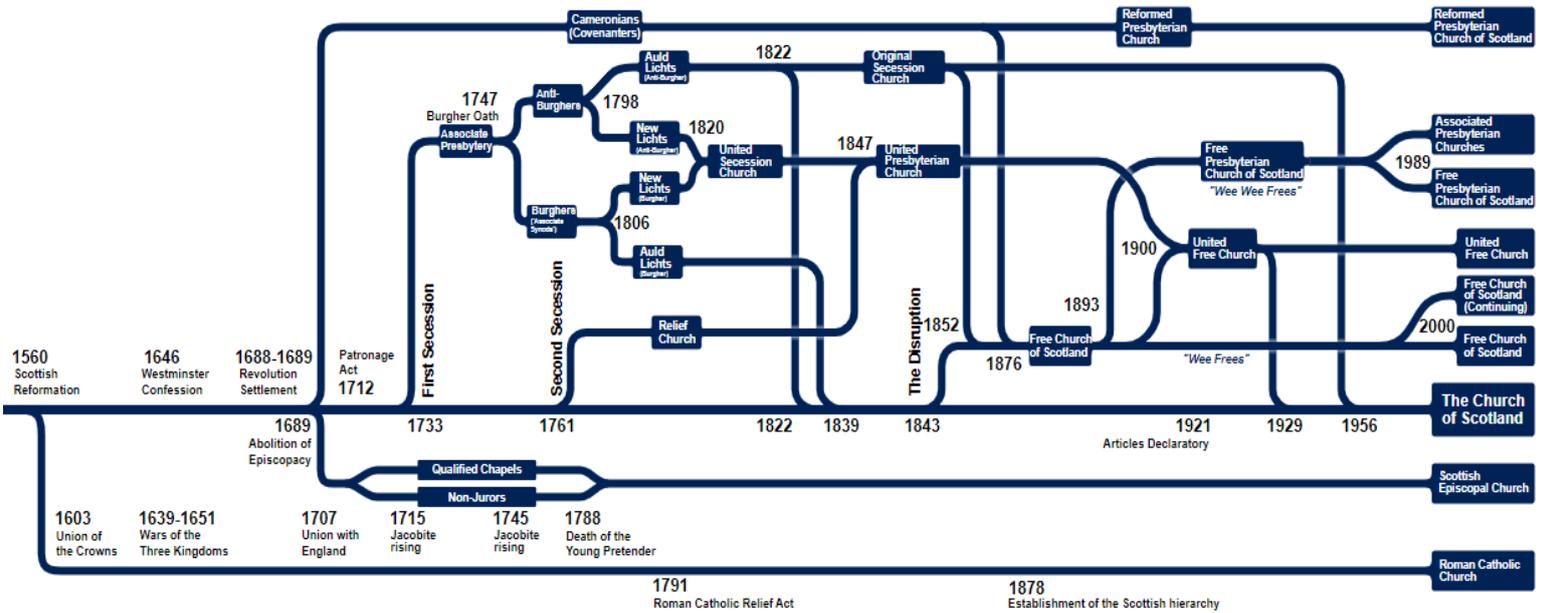
If a couple married 'irregularly', that is by declaration, not banns, they are unlikely to appear in the church register. Check the Kirk Session records for a fine, usually about the time their eldest child was born.

Non-Church of Scotland Churches

Sometimes people who did not attend the Church of Scotland were described as non-Church of Scotland. Officially there is no such word as non-church; these people are actually nonconformists or dissenters. Some people feel passionately about which term is used, however, I like the term non-Church of Scotland because it's simple and explains clearly what this article is all about. The purpose of this article is to help you access the records rather than look in depth at the history of religion in Scotland.



Really Useful Bulletin



You can view image at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Churches_of_Scotland_timeline.png Attribution: Hogweard, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Free Church

In 1843, the Free Church broke away from the Church of Scotland and took around half of the church members in many parishes and nearly all in some. Many ministers became Free Church ministers, too. This period is known as 'The Disruption'. As it happened in 1843 it will affect many of us as we trace our Scottish family history and we try to make the link from the civil registration era back to the early nineteenth century when the Free Church was the largest religious denomination in Scotland.

The good news is that many surviving Free Church baptism, marriage and death records have now been indexed and are available on ScotlandsPeople. These are the records of the Free Church, most of which was eventually reunited with the Church of Scotland in 1929. If you can't find a baptism in the Church of Scotland records after 1843 this is the first place to look. Simply navigate to Church Records next to select church tick *Other Churches*.

This is by far the easiest way to search Free Church records. If you don't find what you are looking for it's time to search the catalogue of the National Records of Scotland (NRS). Most Free Church records are catalogued under the reference CH3 which is entitled *Records of Free, United Presbyterian, United Free and Other Protestant Churches*. Although many of the baptism, marriage and death registers are now online, the minutes and cash books are not. You can now compare the NRS catalogue with ScotlandsPeople (use the drop-down box under *Parish/Congregation*).

The good news is that ScotlandsPeople have now added most of the standard registers so searching is usually straightforward. The bad news is that the survival rate of the records is not great. As there was no requirement for the Free Church (or other churches) records to be sent to Edinburgh, many were not deposited until a much later period and sadly that allowed more time for records to be lost or damaged.

A note about Free Church records. As the flow chart shows, the denominations of Scottish churches have a complicated history. The Free Church still exists today and some of its historical records are held by the National Records of Scotland under the reference CH16. These are not the records which are on ScotlandsPeople. The records on ScotlandsPeople come from CH3, so what is this? Some Free Church parishes rejoined the Church of Scotland in 1929, these are referenced CH3. The parishes which did not rejoin have their records catalogued under CH16. Confused? I don't blame you. In fact, there can be so much confusion that not all records are what they purport to be. Ministers moved around and may have taken their notebooks with them. Be prepared for some overlap of records and don't expect everything to be neat and tidy.

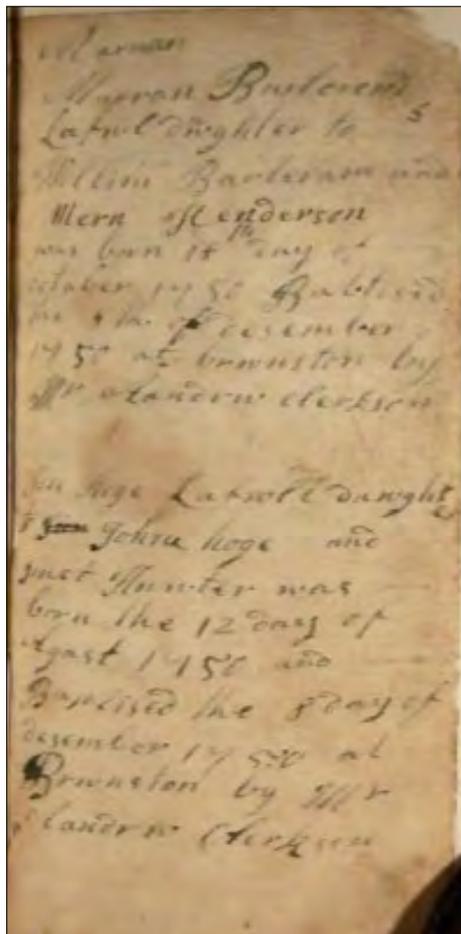


Top Tip Look at a post-1855 marriage certificate to see who married the couple. If it's a Free Church minister, that's a clue that you will need to search the pre-1855 Free Church records.



Really Useful Bulletin

Other records held by the National Records of Scotland



A page from the *Howgate Antiburgher*, 1750. Ref: CH13/1363/11 pg 5.

ScotlandsPeople is one of the websites of the National Records of Scotland. It's their platform to provide access to a cross section of their records. It's an excellent website and they now provide access to a diverse set of records, however, it's a drop in the ocean of the records they hold. For any research purpose, it's good to be familiar with the records they hold and how to use their catalogue:

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>.

Here is a list of records of other religions held by the National Records of Scotland:

- ◆ CH10 Records of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- ◆ CH11 Records of the Methodist Church in Scotland
- ◆ CH12 Records of the Episcopal Church of Scotland
- ◆ CH13 United Free Church of Scotland
- ◆ CH14 Records of the United Reformed Church (including Congregational Church in Scotland)
- ◆ CH15 Unitarian Church
- ◆ CH16 Free Church of Scotland Records [the parishes that did not reunite with the Church of Scotland in 1929]
- ◆ AD9 Crown Counsel Procedure Books (including Sudden and Suspicious Deaths)
- ◆ AD12 Registers of sudden deaths, fatal accident inquiries and accidents in mines
- ◆ MH1 The Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland: Inspector's Registers

Quaker Digest

An index to the *Quaker Digest* of births, marriages and deaths (1647 to 1879) can be searched on scottishindexes.com (NRS reference CH10/1/64). As with all records on Scottish Indexes, the index is free to search and the full NRS reference is given.



Also within the CH10 series are monthly meeting minutes. As with Kirk Session records these can contain information about births, marriages and deaths. Although many of these dates were included in the *Digest* some entries are missing. Also, consulting the original monthly meeting minutes could give additional information. Searching the index on scottishindexes.com is the place to start your search.

Sadly, not all of the records are indexed. If you find a record in the NRS catalogue that you want to search, you can arrange to view the original for free in the NRS. If you can't visit in person, many genealogists are available to search for you.

Crown Office Sudden and Suspicious Deaths (1823-1857)

Most of the time we are looking for records of other churches but even before 1855 there are two collections of civil records which you may find useful. There are no coroners in Scotland. Instead, deaths that need to be investigated are reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The Procurator Fiscal determines if the case should be reported to the Crown Office. Some of these lead to criminal proceedings, but many do not.

On scottishindexes.com you can search Crown Office Sudden and Suspicious Deaths 1823-1857. The volumes AD12/11-12, which cover the years 1848 to 1857, give a cause of death in almost all cases. The earlier volumes AD9/1-11 do not usually give this information.

Married women are recorded with their maiden and



Really Useful Bulletin

married surnames. For example, the death of Nelly Hogg or Jamieson was transmitted to the Procurator Fiscal on 1 October 1850. Hogg is Nelly's maiden surname and Jamieson is her married surname. This makes finding and identifying women in this record set very easy.

Entries in the Crown Office Sudden and Suspicious Deaths may be the only record of a death or they may be duplicated in a parish register. Obviously, from 1855 there will also be a corresponding civil registration death certificate. Even if you have found the parish register entry, there can be an advantage to search the sudden and suspicious deaths.

For example, Robert Drew's death is recorded in the records of the Church of Scotland (reference ScotlandsPeople, OPR 644-1/67, image 0247). The entry reads as follows:

*1848 Sept[embe]r 15
Rob[er]t Drew; 19 [years]; Turner; Accident; 2 6 [fee paid of two shillings and six pence].*

The entry in the Sudden and Suspicious Death records tells us more [NRS reference AD12/11 p. 4]:

*1848
A[dvocate] D[epute]: E Maitland
Date of Receipt: Novem[ber] 29
Name: Robert Drew, [cause:] Killed by fall[in]g off wing of house being taken d[ow]n
Jurisdiction: Glasgow
Date of Transmitting: Novem[ber] 29
Additional Procedure: [blank]
When returned, with opinion: Decem[ber] 2
How disposed of: No proceedings.*

The Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland: Inspectors' Registers

The Anatomy Act of 1832 gave legal access, by holders of a licence, to obtain unclaimed corpses. The resulting registers [example below] are very useful as they include age, address, date and place of death, and date and place of burial. An index to some of these registers is available on <http://www.scottishindexes.com/deathsearch.aspx> with more coming soon.

No	Name & Surname	Age & Sex	Last place of abode	Date & place of Death	Disease of which Died and by whom certified	Time of Death	Place to which removed and name of Surgeon	Day and hour as which received and from whom received	Date and place of Burial
9	Jane McHenry	36 F	Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	25 October 1842 Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	Anaemia of Arteries & Disease of chest Thomas D. Ross	29 October 1842	1 Surgeons Square Dr. Forsyth	29 th Octbr 1842 11 A.M. J. Sinclair City Burialary	16 th Decemr 1842 Greyfriars C. B.
10	Richard Woods	41 M	Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	27 th October 1842 Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	Disease of the lungs & Spine Thomas D. Ross	1 st Novemr 1842	University of Edin Dr. Allison	1 st Novemr 1842 1 P.M. J. Sinclair City Burialary	13 th Decemr 1842 Greyfriars C. B.

Scottish Archive Network Catalogue (SCAN)

If you have not found the records you need at the NRS, SCAN is the next port of call.



Scottish Archive Network

Online catalogue

SCAN provides a catalogue of the many records in Scottish Archives. Please note that this catalogue will soon be replaced by a new portal, *Your Scottish Archives*. Covid temporarily put a stop to this project but work has now resumed and the Scottish Council on Archives are working hard to release the new portal soon. For the old SCAN catalogue go to <https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/scancatalogue/> but keep an eye on <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/> for news of the new portal.



The National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS)

If you don't find what you need at the NRS or in the SCAN catalogue it's time to expand your search. The National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS) aims to compile a record of papers of historical significance in private hands in Scotland. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of all surviving records but it's the next place to search:

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/>.

The NRAS do not hold the records, rather their catalogue gives you a contact person. The key here is that these are records in private hands and are not public records. When approaching a record-holder, be mindful that you are asking a favour. It may take time and expense for a private record holder to give you access and they may receive many requests. There is no obligation on a private record holder to allow access to their records—even if they name one of your ancestors.



Really Useful Bulletin

Jewish Genealogy

www.jewishgen.org is the global home for Jewish genealogy. If you are researching people with Jewish heritage, it's the place to look. Michael Tobias OBE specialises in Scottish research and has vast experience and knowledge of Scottish Jewish families. Michael is also the vice president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. Start with JewishGen but if you need assistance check out Michael's website: <https://gene-genie.com/>.

Roman Catholic Genealogy

The Scottish Catholic Archives hold the records of our Catholic ancestors. The good news is that many of their birth, marriage and death records are now available online. Findmypast has the largest collection. Sadly, accessing a precise coverage of records on Findmypast is not always easy so it's a challenge to work out what they don't have.

ScotlandsPeople also has a collection of Catholic records. ScotlandsPeople and the Scottish Catholic Archives sometimes hold duplicate records but both seem to have some unique records. It is advisable to search both.



Final Tips

In general, before 1855 we are looking at records of baptisms. If your ancestor did not have their children baptised, there it's unlikely to find a record. Between 1783 and 1794 there was a Stamp Duty (tax) on baptisms in Scotland of three pence, as elsewhere. It's therefore not unusual to see a gap in the baptisms of children in some families. Older or younger children may appear in the register but not children born between 1783 and 1794.

Irregular marriage or *Per verba de praesenti* was legal in Scotland until 1939. This form of marriage was a declaration by the couple that they were married. There was no need to register the marriage or have a marriage contract. You will find a reference to some of these marriages in the Kirk Session records when the couple were disciplined by the Church. For many marriages, however, there is no record. If you want to learn more about this topic, invite genealogist Chris Paton to speak to your society. Chris delivers a fascinating presentation, *Instantly Buckled for Life - Scottish Marriage Records*. See <http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/p/diary-2.html>.

There was no parish chest in Scotland to keep the registers safe; there probably should have been. Fire, mice and water damage led to loss of information. There are gaps in the records so we may simply not be able to find all birth, marriage and death records before 1855. There is a detailed list of surviving Old Parish Registers of Scotland (OPRs) available from the National Records of Scotland: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/old-parish-registers/list-of-old-parish-registers#Detailed%20list>. This can be helpful to have to hand while researching. I can quickly see, for example, that there is no surviving register of deaths for Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire. There's no point trying different spelling variations, etc., and I can't presume an ancestor died somewhere else, there is simply no register. I need to try monumental inscriptions.

Illegitimate children do not always appear in the baptism register. If your ancestor is the eldest child, check the Kirk Session records for a discipline case. Even if parents subsequently married, you may see an antenuptial (prenuptial) fornication case.

By far the hardest records to find are pre-1855 death records. Many registers have not survived and even if they do, the detail is very limited. Monumental inscriptions are a good substitute and many family history societies have worked tirelessly to index these. Many (although not all) are available on Findmypast.

Still struggling to find birth, marriage and death dates? Records such as wills, deeds and other legal records may help. Dig deeper by reading articles in our [Learning Zone](#) which cover these topics and join us for our free conferences where a variety of topics are covered.



About the author: Emma Maxwell and her husband, Graham, operate Scottish Indexes. As well as an index to thousands of historical records, Graham and Emma have created a Learning Zone where you can learn more genealogy skills. From a beginner's guide to using High Court records, you'll find a wealth of information on their website. The asylum section of Scottish Indexes will help you find out about every Scottish asylum, where the records are held and how to access them.

www.scottishindexes.com/default.aspx





Really Useful Bulletin

REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW EXHIBITORS' DAY—FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER



Friday will have an emphasis on the Exhibition Hall.
 Visit the booths where you will meet family historians with a wealth of local knowledge.
 In addition, there are lots of short talks, many linked to local societies.
 Here is a taster of some of those already “in the can” with more to come!
www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/



BARRIE Janet
One-Place Studies for Free



MCMULLEN Sadie
**Building the Local Population before 1841:
Case Study – Fletton, Huntingdonshire**



BOSTOCK Roland
**Our Memorial Inscriptions:
West Middlesex FHS**



ODDIE Gary
Farm Checks of the Fens



BOWNASS John
Spotlight on Yelling, Cambridgeshire



ORRELL Karen
Customs and Folklore of the Fens



BROWNING Sarah
**Monumental Inscriptions – Use and Usefulness
for Family History Research**



SHIELDS Helen
**Ryedale FHS Zoom ‘Chat’ includes ‘Potato
Farming on Prince Edward Island’!**



BURLING Elizabeth
Where Were They Buried?



SMITH Janice
Scottish 19th Century Kirk Session Records



COSTIN Jo
**Three Lives of the First World War – Using
Examples from Cambridgeshire**



TIBBITTS Wendy
Longford: A Heathrow Village in Limbo



DEPELLE Jackie
Researching Yorkshire Ancestors Online



TWENTYMAN Mary
**1910 Valuation - Using Bradford as an
example**



JAKEAWAY Julie
Mental Illness in the Nineteenth Century



MALIN Angela
**Researching Boot and Shoe Ancestors in
Northamptonshire**



Some presenters are doing a second talk!
 We have another eight short talks confirmed
 plus a raft of promises!
 The show special *BULLETIN* will have final details.



Really Useful Bulletin

REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW

EXTRA WORKSHOPS—SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER



All workshops will be LIVE and ONLINE on Saturday 18 November.

None will be recorded—due to privacy issues for participants.

Booking is essential. Bookings are now open.

Have your show ticket and log-in details to hand!

Click to book your workshop: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/



Chris Lightfoot

HOW TO WRITE A FAMILY HISTORY

I show people how they can use their family history research to start writing stories that will capture the imagination of family and friends to create an enduring legacy for future generations. This workshop will offer practical tips on how to look for the individual stories behind the names of people, places and events rather than trying to write a complete family history.

STOP PRESS: this will now be a recorded talk,



Malcolm Austen

WORKING WITH GENUKI

Working live on the GENUKI site, the workshop will demonstrate the key elements of the site's hierarchical structure and the various navigation features within the site.

Particular attention will be given to the gazetteer and church databases. The site's objectives and system of distributed maintenance responsibility will be described briefly. The problem report/contribution mechanism will be demonstrated and the online diary GENEVA will be shown.



Janet Barrie and Anna Darelli-Anderson

BEYOND BASICS:

ADVANCING YOUR ONE-PLACE STUDY

You've identified your place, collected some material, so what next? This workshop will explore ways to go about organising and making sense of your information. We will also show how you can go about publicising what you are doing to enthuse others.



Jane Harris and Helen Shields

FROM IDEA TO REALITY:

LAUNCHING YOUR ONE-PLACE STUDY

This workshop will explore the what and how of one-place studies, including recognising when you have already collected material that is the beginning, or more, of a one-place study. We'll also discuss the benefit a one-place study can bring to your family history research.



SATURDAY WORKSHOP TIMINGS

Group 1: 10.30am—11.15am

Group 2: 11.45am—12.30pm

Group 3: 1.30pm—2.15pm

Group 4: 2.45pm—3.30pm

Group 5: 4.00pm—4.45pm

When booking is enabled, details for each group will appear on the website. Timings have been arranged so that there is no overlap with each group's timings, There is no limit to the number of workshops you can book but only one session in each group can be booked. All times are UK time.

See Bulletin No 37 for other workshop topics and presenters.





Family History Societies



FENLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Wedding folklore—proposing on one knee

In the Middle Ages, a man would bend down in front of the woman he adored. In religion, kneeling in front of someone is a sign of respect, loyalty and obedience.

Fast forward to today. Most men will still go down on one knee to propose. It is a show of deep emotional connection, showing you are willing to commit the rest of your life to one another.

The hen or stag do: It was only in the mid-1960s that hen parties began to grow in popularity. Stag nights emerged around the same time, These can relate to the traditional Greek feasts held to toast the groom and mark the end of youth.

The first dance is also something fairly new. Up to the 1960/70s, the newly married couple used to leave soon after the wedding feast was completed.

COMPUTER RESEARCH SESSIONS: These continue to be very popular; we help visitors with researching their family history, no matter where their family came from. Our first monthly research session is in Wisbech Library on the first Tuesday of each month from 10am-12 noon, when we can use the wonderful research resources available in the library. Our second session is on the second Monday of each month from 11am-2.30pm in the restaurant at Baytree Garden Centre in Hilgay near Downham Market. We offer help with family research to visitors to the garden centre. Please note: we are willing to go to other venues if WiFi is available.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Our November meeting on Thursday 23rd November will be a celebration of Family History and Research. Since it is our last meeting of the year we like to enjoy participation from all members. No meeting in December. We meet again on Thursday 25th January. Our meetings are held in Wisbech Library from 7 - 9pm. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Everyone welcome. Members free, visitors a donation of at least £2.

OUR SPEAKERS are available to attend groups and clubs to give talks in the local area. The talks offered include: *The Fun of Family History* about a long journey by land, air and sea to find her roots. *My Naughty Great Aunt Eliza* unravelling a story of lies and deceit. *The Ups and Downs of Being a Magistrate* a real life experience. *The Sad Tale of the Blacksmith's Family* the story of a great-great-grandfather. *We're going down the pub:* a "local" history.

For further information on any of the above please phone Bridget Hunter 01945 587723. bridget25hunter@btinternet.com



NEXTGENERATION



Call for presentations

The Society of Genealogists and Family History Federation are jointly arranging an online conference to be held on Saturday 5 October next year.

Those aged sixteen to thirty-five years of age on 5 October 2024 are invited to submit proposals for presentations.

Topics

We are looking for a variety of genealogy and family history topics on the theme of "Discoveries".

A focus on topics of interest to younger genealogists is preferred.

Format

Presentations may be between ten and thirty minutes.

- ◇ They may be presented live or pre-recorded.
- ◇ They should be delivered in English.
- ◇ They may be individual or joint by two or more presenters.
- ◇ They may be talks, workshops, interviews, chaired discussions or other format.

Terms

We expect to be able to pay presenters through sponsorship, details to be confirmed. Prior to the event, accepted presenters under eighteen years of age will be required to submit evidence of parental approval to take part.

Submit

Proposals should be emailed to events@sog.org.uk and should include:

- ◇ The presenter's name(s), email address(es) and age(s)
- ◇ Brief bio (approx. fifty words)
- ◇ Draft title
- ◇ Short summary of presentation

Dates

Deadline for submission of proposals:

Monday 15 January 2024

Notification of acceptance:

Friday 8 March 2024

Conference:

Saturday 5 October 2024



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

CWGC Cemeteries and Memorials

Fifty-one cemeteries or memorials have been inscribed with World Heritage status by UNESCO. Details plus list of those included [here](#)

For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen

This is the next step by the CWGC to honour and remember those from the Commonwealth forces who lost their lives in the world wars.

*We've always been thrilled at the Commission when people share the stories about the people we commemorate. It adds real impact to the important work we do. **For Evermore** now lets us permanently capture these deeply touching and impactful stories online.*

Do you have a story about someone CWGC commemorates? Please share it today and ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

www.cwgc.org/stories/



Family historians unearth fantastic stories about their families from newspapers. From salacious scandals to local legends and family folklore, all of life's moments were captured in newspapers generations ago.

The team at Findmypast is on the hunt for the most heart-breaking, life-changing or downright jaw-dropping family discoveries you've made in their ever-growing newspaper archive.

Share your stories by email to discoveries@findmypast.com

Who knows where **your** past might take **you**?

YOUR Christmas Memories

In the December *Bulletin*, the lead article will be *Christmas Past and Present* by Charlotte Soares.

We would like to hear your stories too! Tell us about your treasured memory of a Christmas past or about a special Christmas story you have unearthed about an ancestor.

Please keep under 250 words. We will include as many stories as we can. Include your name and email address on your submission, please.



Please **send by 18 November** at the very latest. Send to admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

Family History Books will award a book to the submitter of the most interesting brief story!



Listen to Findmypast's new podcast, hosted by Professor Suzannah Lipscomb

Walk in your forebears' footsteps with *Step into the Past*, an immersive new podcast from Findmypast. Each episode connects the past and present as we take a stroll with historian Suzannah Lipscomb through places that made history, revealing incredible family stories along the way.

In series one, we're getting to know host Suzannah Lipscomb (and her ancestors) a little better. Then, we travel back in time with special guests who have connections to some of Britain's best-loved places cared for by the National Trust, to uncover the lives of their ancestors who lived and worked there.

Listen now to all episodes, simply search 'Step into the Past' on your favourite podcast platform, or visit:

www.findmypast.co.uk/page/podcast

We are deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of the Hon. Charles John KERR, Baron Teviot, on Sunday 15 October 2023. The Family History Federation has lost a staunch supporter. Our thoughts are with Lady Teviot, former president of FHF and now a life vice president, and their family.



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

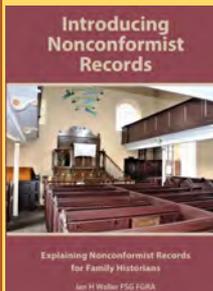


FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

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

FHB welcomes work from new or existing authors that will appeal to family historians, and in some cases also local and social historians, too. Please note that “family histories” or fictional material cannot be accepted.



The latest title is *Introducing Nonconformist Records*. This popular title offers guidance to researchers on all things nonconformity .

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