

FREE



www.ffhs.org.uk

our really useful information leaflet 2016

Welcome to *Our Really Useful Information Leaflet*, the FFHS's guide to family history. This is a great time to research your tree; with online resources you can often grow a tree back to 1800 in just a few hours. While some websites charge, many offer free trials and your local library may well have free access.

If you want to paint a richer picture of your ancestors' lives, however, you will need to turn to other resources. Here we give guidance on both how to begin and go further, starting with *Useful Websites* on page 2 and *Researching Your Family History* on page 6.

We also include an article on Quarter Sessions, a fascinating set of archives. These are a perfect example of how you can gain valuable insight into your ancestors' communities – and, most excitingly, a relative may even be mentioned!

We list another must-use resource: family-history societies. FFHS has over 180 members who include regional, national/international, specialist and one-name groups. These are people with a passion for family-history research and often many years of experience. They are delighted to welcome new people, share their knowledge and give ideas for you to pursue. They know of many of the more hard-to-find resources, such as those tucked away in archives. They also often undertake and publish transcriptions and indexes.

Membership of a society typically only costs £10 to £15 a year, and tapping into their expertise will save lots of time and money in the long run. It could be a society close to you; one based where your family came from; or a one-name or special interest organisation. You can go to their meetings and get to know people who share your hobby, and they often organise visits to places of interest. It could be just what you need to kick-start your research or break through that brickwall. Join a society today!

Follow the Federation of Family History Societies:



@ FederationFHS



FederationFHS

USEFUL WEBSITES

- I92.com: People-finder site (pay-per-view), including a comprehensive database of current UK residents www.i92.com/people
- Adoption Search Reunion: First port of call for anyone searching for, or making contact with, birth and adopted relatives, or researching an adoption that took place in the UK www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk
- AIM25: Provides access to collection-level descriptions of the archives of over 100 higher-education institutions, learned societies, cultural organisations and livery companies within the Greater London area www.aim25.ac.uk
- Ancestry: 1 billion searchable UK family-history records, including censuses; birth, marriage and death records; passenger lists; phone books, military and parish records (subscription service) www.ancestry.co.uk
- Archives Hub: Descriptions of archives in over 250 UK universities and colleges www.archiveshub.ac.uk
- Archives Network Wales: Information about more than 7,000 collections of historical records in the holdings of 21 archives in Wales www.archivesnetworkwales.info
- Army Museums Ogilby Trust: Details of regimental museums www.armymuseums.org.uk
- Blind Veterans UK (Formerly St Dunstan's): Holds details of veterans' military service; enquiries by email www.blindveterans.org.uk
- Borthwick Institute for Archives: Holds a large number of archives of regional, national and international importance www.york.ac.uk/borthwick
- British History Online: Digital library of primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland, with a primary focus on the period between 1300 and 1800 www.british-history.ac.uk
- British Library: Catalogue of over 12 million books, serials, printed music and maps; newspaper catalogue of over 52,000 newspaper and periodical titles; India Office Select Materials www.bl.uk
- Caribbean Roll of Honour: Whilst incomplete, a useful website for those researching Caribbean service personnel www.caribbeanrollofhonour-ww1-ww2.yolasite.com/
- Children's Homes: The institutions that became home for Britain's children and young people www.childrenshomes.org.uk
- Clergy of the Church of England database: References to the careers of Anglican clergy from 1540 to 1835; approximately 155,000 clergymen already appear theclergydatabase.org.uk
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Debt of Honour Register of Commonwealth forces who died in WWI or WWII; War Grave app available for download www.cwgc.org
- Connected Histories: Currently includes 22 major digital resources for the period 1500–1900 www.connectedhistories.org
- Cyndi's List: Long-established genealogical research portal www.cyndislist.com
- Deceased Online: UK burial and cremation records www.deceasedonline.com
- Ellis Island: Searchable database and copies of passenger manifests of ships arriving at Ellis Island from 1892–1924 www.ellislandrecords.org
- Faces of the First World War: Photographs of men who served in WWI www.1914.org/faces
- FamilySearch: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' baptism, marriage and burials index; census; Family History Centres and more www.familysearch.com
- Federation of Family History Societies: Long-established genealogy charity that supports ancestry research and family-history societies around the world; bimonthly newsletter www.ffhs.org.uk
- Find a Grave: Searchable database of graves www.findagrave.com
- Findmypast.co.uk: Comprehensive collection of UK family-history and military records; Irish, US, Australian and NZ records plus 1939 Register www.findmypast.co.uk
- Forces War Records: Military genealogy resources www.forces-war-records.co.uk/
- FreeBMD: Search birth, marriage and death GRO index for England and Wales www.freebmd.org.uk
- FreeCEN: Search UK census data www.freecen.org.uk
- FreeREG: Indexes transcribed from millions of parish and non-conformist registers of England, Scotland and Wales freereg2.freereg.org.uk
- Gazetteer of British Place Names: Place Name Index to Great Britain www.gazetteer.co.uk
- Geneabloggers: Genealogy-related blogs www.geneabloggers.com
- Genealogy in Time: Online magazine and website with search facility, news and newsletter www.genealogyintime.com
- General Register Office (GRO): Order birth, marriage and death certificates online; official site www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/
- Genes Reunited: Online family-tree-linking website; 1841–1911 census; birth, marriage and death entries from GRO indexes 1837–2004; military records; passenger lists; parish records www.genesreunited.co.uk
- GENUKI: Virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland; forthcoming genealogical events on GENEVA www.genuki.org.uk

- Guildhall Library: Holds a variety of genealogy resources relating to London and beyond www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/visitor-information/pages/archives-guildhall-library.aspx
- Guild of One-name Studies Various online indexes, including marriage and probate one-name.org/the-guild-indexes/
- Historical Directories of England and Wales: A digital library of local and trade directories 1750–1919 cdm16445.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4
- Imperial War Museum: WWI/WWII collections www.iwm.org.uk/collections
- London Metropolitan Archives: Includes Middlesex wills www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/Pages/default.aspx
- Lost Cousins: Matches you with others researching the same ancestor www.lostcousins.com
- Maritime Memorial Trust: Dedicated to all who lost their lives at sea during the conflicts of the 20th century; merchant navy, naval, army and civilian records www.maritimememorialtrust.com/
- Measuring Worth: Valuations of British money, from 1270 to present www.measuringworth.com/ppoweruk/
- Military Service Records: How to obtain more recent service records including personnel who served in WW2 www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records
- MyHeritage.com: Build your family tree; search millions of international records www.myheritage.com
- National Archives of Ireland: Census 1901 and 1911; census survivals 1821–51; census search forms 1841–51; tithe applotment books 1823–1837; soldiers' wills 1914–1917; calendars of wills and administrations 1858–1922 www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/
- National Library of Ireland: Online searchable catalogue including books and periodicals, photographs, prints, drawings, manuscripts and newspapers; plus online images of Catholic parish registers www.nli.ie
- National Library of Scotland: Scotland's only legal deposit library; main catalogue of over 3 million records plus Scots Abroad database www.nls.uk
- National Maritime Museum: Over 1.5 million items relating to seafaring, navigation, astronomy and time measurement. Many available to view online www.rmg.co.uk/discover/researchers
- National Railway Museum: WWI resources and exhibition; free searchable database of over 20,000 railway employees www.nrm.org.uk/RailwayStories/worldwarone.aspx
- National Records of Scotland: Research guides plus relevant links; also see Scotland's People www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history
- Naval & Naval-History.net: Royal Navy Log Books of the WWI era; ship histories; WWI casualty list information; Royal Navy despatches; Royal Navy honours and gallantry awards www.naval-history.net/#ww1
- Naval Biographical Database: People, places, ships, organisations and events associated with the Royal Navy since 1660 www.navylist.org
- Old Bailey: Proceedings at the Old Bailey 1674–1913; nearly 200,000 London criminal trial records www.oldbaileyonline.org
- Old Maps: Historical map archive covering England, Wales and Scotland www.old-maps.co.uk
- Pharos Teaching & Tutoring: Specialists in online courses in genealogy and family history www.pharostutors.com
- Prisoners of the First World War: International Red Cross Archives; index cards of 5 million servicemen and civilians who were captured in WWI and sent to detention camps grandeguerre.icrc.org/
- Probate: Access to post-1858 England and Wales wills; index of wills for soldiers who died on active service from 1860–1982 www.gov.uk/search-will-probate



DIARY DATE

2017 International Germanic Genealogy Conference

28-29 July 2017

Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Early-bird registration begins in January 2017
with a discounted rate for early bookings.

For details see www.ggsnmn.org
(click 'German Partnership' in the left menu).

FFHS BOOK REVIEW CLUB

The FFHS is grateful to members of the Book Review Club who are all members of our member societies and who regularly review new publications which we feel may be of interest to family, local and social historians.



To read the latest reviews please visit our website:

www.ffhs.org.uk/news/books.php

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TheGenealogist

- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland: Deposit for public records in Northern Ireland www.proni.gov.uk
- Register of One-Place Studies: Online studies of the history of particular places register-of-one-place-studies.org.uk
- Roll of Honour: War memorials from counties across the UK www.roll-of-honour.com
- Rootsweb.ancestry.com: Largest and oldest free genealogy information website; host to mailing lists, news groups, message boards, volunteer projects, websites, etc www.rootsweb.ancestry.com
- S & N Genealogy: Broad range of family-history-research material, software and related products; online databases, including non-conformist registers www.genealogysupplies.com
- ScotlandsPeople: Early BMD indexes; early parish registers; censuses 1841–1901; Scottish wills and testaments 1500–1901 www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk
- Society of Genealogists: The National Library and Education Centre for Family History; online search www.sog.org.uk/index.shtml
- The Aerodrome: Aces and Aircraft of World War I: Forum and resources www.theaerodrome.com/index.php
- The British Newspaper Archive: Vast treasure trove of historical newspapers www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
- The British Postal Museum & Archive: Online resource of British postal heritage www.postalmuseum.org/research
- The Gazette: Official Government notices, including wills, probate, civilian and military awards, insolvency, planning and transport notices www.thegazette.co.uk
- The Genealogist: Wide variety of online resources (subscription charge) www.thegenealogist.co.uk
- The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies: School of Family History founded in 1961 www.ihgs.ac.uk
- The Long, Long Trail: The British Army in the Great War of 1914–1918. Including where to find records and how to interpret them www.1914-18.net/
- The National Archives: Searchable resources to help you find UK records; Catalogue; digitised records; WWI records, including a vast collection of letters, diaries, maps and photographs discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
- The National Library of Wales: Online catalogue containing over 4 million printed volumes books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, and music; WWI programme of remembrance www.llgc.org.uk
- The Royal Flying Corps 1914–1918: Introduction to the history of The Royal Flying Corps and its aircraft during the First World War www.airwar1.org.uk
- The Scottish Archive Network: Single electronic catalogue of more than 20,000 collections of historical records held by 52 Scottish archives www.scan.org.uk
- The Scottish Association of Family History Societies: Find societies that have an interest in the same subject, surname or topic as you www.safhs.org.uk
- The War Graves Photographic Project: Free searchable database; photographs of graves or memorials available for a minimum donation www.twgpp.org/search.php
- The Western Front Association (WFA): Aims to perpetuate the memory, courage and comradeship of all those on all sides who served their countries in France and Flanders and their own countries during The Great War www.westernfrontassociation.com
- The Workhouse: Dedicated to the workhouses of Britain; buildings, inmates, staff and administrators, even poets www.workhouses.org
- U-boat.net: Details of German U-boats of both World Wars, their commanding officers and operations including all Allied ships attacked, technological information, etc www.uboat.net:8080/index.html
- University Research Libraries (COPAC): Merged catalogues of 24 of the largest university research libraries in the UK and Ireland, plus the British Library, National Library of Scotland, and National Library of Wales www.copac.ac.uk
- UKBMD Project: Family-history-society initiative to publish local registrars' indexes online www.ukbmd.org.uk
- Wales Remembers: Details of news, events and signposting information for the commemoration of the centenary in Wales www.walesremembers.org
- War Memorial Archive (formerly UK National Inventory of War Memorials): Free searchable location database of war memorials www.ukniwm.org.uk
- War Memorials Online: Participate in creating the UK's most comprehensive understanding of the condition of war memorials; some images available www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/about-us
- World Vital Records: Search worldwide datasets containing more than 4 billion names in historical records www.worldvitalrecords.com

For those with a smartphone, this symbol provides easy access to extras on our website. Download a free QR reader from your app store and scan the code to go to the Home Page at: www.ffhs.org.uk



RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

If you are just embarking on researching your family history you will probably be aware that an ever-increasing amount of information is available on the Internet provided by commercial as well as volunteer organisations. In fact, there has never been a better time to start your research! You might be researching on your own or with other family members. Perhaps you have a friend who wants to trace their family history and you are going to help each other. Whatever your situation, it is true to say that in the early stages of research, quite a bit of progress can be made using online resources, however, there might be times when you need some guidance or you are not sure what to do next. The following questions and answers may help you to decide on your next step.

Q. Where do I start?

A. Draw a basic family tree. Start with yourself, and then add your family, your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. In fact, any relatives you can remember. You might prefer to do this on paper first. There are a number of family-history software programs available and commercial websites, such as findmypast.co.uk, ancestry.com and myheritage.com, which offer the facility to build your family tree online. Question older relatives, they might be able to fill in some of the gaps with their knowledge of ancestors you may not know of or have forgotten.

Q. I've recorded everything I can. Where do I go next?

A. In England and Wales people have been able to register births, marriages and deaths since 1 July 1837. Certificates of events occurring from this date can be obtained from local Register Offices or the Registrar General (www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/). Several commercial companies provide online digitised images of the index page for free or for a fee (see our *Useful Websites*, pages 2 - 5). An ongoing volunteer project to transcribe the index can be found online at www.freebmd.org.uk which contains information for the period 1837–1983. See also www.ukbmd.org.uk. If you do not have Internet access your local library may provide free access to commercial websites. You can search the General Register Office (GRO) indexes to these registrations at some local libraries and record offices have copies in microform.

Q. What information can I expect to obtain from a certificate?

A. A birth certificate includes the date and place of birth, the name, residence and maiden name of the mother, and the name and occupation of the father (where given). Knowing both parents' full names, you can search the indexes for a reference to their marriage. A marriage certificate normally includes occupations, residences, and the date and place of marriage—and additionally names and occupations of the father of both bride and groom. Simple steps like these can take your line well back into the nineteenth century. The General Register Office has useful information on how certificates can help you research your family tree at www.gov.uk/research-family-history

Q. But this information only applies to England and Wales: My ancestry is Scottish and/or Irish. What do I do?

A. Civil Registration began in Scotland in 1855 and in Ireland in 1864. For Scotland, certificates can be obtained from New Register House, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT. Also see www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. Irish certificates are available from the General Register Office, Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon. Also see www.hse.ie. Registrations for Northern Ireland from 1922 are at Oxford House, 49–55 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4ML. Also see www.nidirect.gov.uk. Before commencing this part of this research, however, you are strongly advised to read the relevant chapter in one of the many books available.

Q. I think my relative was born overseas. What do I do?

A. The General Register Office (GRO) also holds overseas records containing details of births, marriages and deaths of British Citizens that have taken place abroad since the late eighteenth century. It is not compulsory to register every birth, marriage and death that occurs overseas and the GRO is not notified of every event that has taken place. For non-British Citizens www.familysearch.org has details of many vital record collections available to view free of charge. You might also find details of records available for your country of interest at www.cyndislist.com.

Q. My family history is mainly names and dates; how do I find out more about my ancestors' families?

A. A census is taken every 10 years and the records become available for public scrutiny when they are 100 years old. We can therefore see those returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911. Details such as age, occupation and place of birth may be found on the census returns for 1851 and after. The 1841 census omits place of birth and relationships.

Q. Where can I search the census returns?

A. All the available 1841 to 1911 censuses have been surname indexed for the whole of England and Wales, by organisations. They are online, together with digitised images of the census pages. A complete set for England and Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man can be accessed online at The National Archives at Kew. See also www.freecen.org.uk. Additionally, those relating to your area may be found at your local record office or library. Census returns can also be viewed at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Family History Centres. All available 1841–1911 censuses for Scotland are online. A newly released dataset, The 1939 Register, is also online at Findmypast for a fee, or free at The National Archives.

Q. I have traced my line back to the mid-1800s using the GRO Indexes and Census Returns; how do I get further back?

A. Now you will be largely dependent on the church (or parish) registers. These registers were introduced in 1538 and contain baptisms and burials (as distinct from births and deaths) and, of course, marriages. Although many early registers have been lost over the years, a surprising number still exist.

Q. Where do I find parish registers?

A. Today, very few registers, other than those which are still in use, are held at churches. Many of the registers have been surname indexed and are available online together with digitised images. See www.familysearch.org and www.freereg.org.uk. Many family-history societies have produced transcriptions of parish records, some of which are available online, or in printed form or on CD. Visit the online catalogue at www.genfair.co.uk and www.pariahchest.com. Our member societies have published over 40 million parish records at findmypast.co.uk in partnership with FFHS. In addition to the registers, from 1598 parish priests had to send an 'annual return' to their Bishop, a copy of the register, known as a Bishops' Transcript. Those, which still exist, can be very useful in supplying entries omitted from the register or replacing a missing register. You can also ask at the relevant county record office or local studies library, or your nearest Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Family History Centre for details of the records available.

Q. I've heard that Wills can be useful; how do I go about using them?

A. The Probate Service has closed the London office where members of the public used to find and order wills proved from 1858 onwards. If you want to find a will that was proved from 1858 to the present day you search online at www.gov.uk/search-will-probate. Included are the records of some soldiers who died in active military service between 1860 and 1982. The older Indexes broadly from 1858 to 1940 have been deposited at several record offices and libraries. Original wills have likewise been deposited. Some of the indexes have been made available online by commercial organisations.

Q. What if my ancestor died prior to 1858; how do I go about finding out if a will exists?

A. Before 1858 there was no national probate registry and research is more complicated as a result. Church Courts administered the system from the 14th century until 1858. A considerable number of Indexes are online and available from commercial organisations enabling you to obtain copies of the documents from appropriate record offices. During the Commonwealth period in the 17th century practically all were proved in London and are now held at The National Archives (TNA). These wills and those proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are available to download for a fee on discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Q. What else can I expect to find out about my family?

A. There are many other sources which you can search; far too many to list here. There are numerous books and specialist magazines that may help, so ask at your local library or search the Internet. Family-history societies have a wealth of information and local expertise to help you with your research and the location of source material. See their websites (pages 8 - 15).

Q. Are there any courses on researching family history?

A. Try your nearest family-history society, Workers' Educational Association and your Local Education Authority, all of which may offer adult classes. County record offices and libraries often advertise, as well as run classes. There are also courses available online.

Q. Where can I find information on any family-history societies that I might want to join?

A. Most societies have websites with contact details. Those that are members of the Federation are listed in this leaflet (pages 8 - 15) or details can be requested from The Administrator, Federation of Family History Societies, PO Box 8857, Lutterworth LE17 9BJ; Tel. 0800 085 6322.

Q. Supposing there is someone already researching the same family as me, how do I find them?

A. Many family-history societies publish directories of Members' Interests. The Guild of One-Name Studies is the world's leading organisation for one-name studies. A listing of registered surnames is available on its website at www.one-name.org. There are also commercial organisations which provide a means of building your family tree and the possibility of connecting with wider family.

FFHS MEMBER SOCIETIES

FFHS thanks our member societies for advertising in *Our Really Useful Information Leaflet*

'A society's strength lies in their local and specialist knowledge'

FAMILY-HISTORY SOCIETIES BY REGION

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS INC

www.affho.org

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

www.botanybayfhs.org.au

CAPE BANKS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

www.capebanks.org.au

CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.centralcoastfhs.org.au

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC

www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

www.gsq.org.au

HERALDRY & GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

familyhistoryact.org.au/

MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

www.maryboroughfamilyhistory.org

QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

www.qfhs.org.au

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS

www.sag.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

www.saghs.org.au

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

www.tasfhs.org

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

www.gsv.org.au

WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.waggafamilyhistory.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC

www.wags.org.au

BRITISH ISLES

CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHANNEL ISLANDS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, THE

www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org

LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE

www.societe.org.gg/sections/familyhistory.php

ENGLAND

ENGLAND: EAST MIDLANDS

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.cadfhf.org.uk

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.dfhs.org.uk

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.lrfhs.org.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.northants-fhs.org

E: secretary@northants-fhs.org

The Society holds monthly meetings at Kettering, Northampton, Oundle and Rushden, and a help desk at Northamptonshire Record Office. NFHS produces a quarterly journal and monthly email newsletter, has 160+ memorial inscription books in stock, plus transcription and members' interest databases.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.nottsffhs.org.uk

E: nottsffhsresident@nottsffhs.org.uk

The NFHS exists to promote/encourage the study of family history, particularly within Nottinghamshire. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday evening of each month. A Research Room is available free to members. See the website for full details.

ENGLAND: EAST OF ENGLAND

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.bfhs.org.uk

E: bfhs@bfhs.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

BFHS publish a quarterly journal, hold monthly meetings; provide research; publish CDs of Bedfordshire Parish Registers; publish monumental inscriptions from churchyards and cemeteries within Bedfordshire; run a library; and provide a range of look-up services. New members welcome.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.cfhs.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.societies.cam.ac.uk/cuhags

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY

T: 01245 261600

www.esfh.org.uk

E: treasurer@esfh.org.uk

For everyone interested in family and social history anywhere, not just in Essex. The Society meets regularly in five centres for talks and other activities. Their website's private Members Area gives access to a growing database of transcriptions and other information.

FELIXSTOWE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.felixstowefhs.onesuffolk.net

FENLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.fenlandfhs.org.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.hertsfhs.org.uk

HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.huntsfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@huntsfhs.org.uk

Small friendly society for those whose families have links with the old county of Huntingdonshire before it became part of Cambridgeshire in 1974. For details of membership, meetings and publications please visit their website.

ISLE OF AXHOLME FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.axholme-fhs.org.uk

LETCWORTH & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.ldfhg.org.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01522 528088

www.lincolnshirefhs.org.uk

E: secretary@lincolnshirefhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/LincolnshireFamilyHistorySociety

The society has eight branches which meet monthly and where help can be obtained. LFHS also publishes a magazine for members, and has a research centre open for all, two days a week, with help available for your research.

MID-NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs

NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.norfolkfhs.org.uk

PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.peterborofhs.org.uk

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.roystonfhs.org.uk

STEVENAGE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stevenagefhs.site88.net

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.suffolkfhs.co.uk

E: chairman@suffolkfhs.co.uk

A friendly society that holds monthly meetings throughout Suffolk, as well as in West London. SFHS offers local expertise and regularly issues birth, marriage and death CDs, plus a quarterly journal: Suffolk Roots. For further details visit the website.

ENGLAND: LONDON

EAST OF LONDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.eolfhs.org.uk

HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.hfhs.co.uk

LONDON GROUP OF YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

www.yorkslondongroup.tumblr.com

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.lwmfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/LWWMFHS?ref=ts

The society covers the cities of London and Westminster, plus much of Middlesex. Three subscriptions: £12; £15 and £20 allow for paper/electronic journal and UK/overseas membership, which includes members' interests' database, quarterly journal and five monthly branch meetings.

WALTHAM FOREST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wffhs.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

E: chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/West-Middlesex-Family-History-Society-473689156145174/

twitter.com/WestMiddlesexFH

Living in West Middlesex or researching your West Middlesex family history? Feeling that you've got a lonely hobby? Why not visit us at one of our monthly talks in Hounslow? Need some help? Ask one of our experienced members.

WOOLWICH & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.woolwichfhs.org.uk

ENGLAND: NORTH EAST

CLEVELAND, NORTH YORKSHIRE & SOUTH DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.clevelandfhs.org.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 0191 261 2159

www.ndfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@ndfhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/FamilyHistorySociety

twitter.com/NDFamilyHistory

Library and Research Centre, 7th Floor, Percy House, Percy Street, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE14PW. Within easy reach of central Newcastle, car parking, metro and bus stations. Open to members and general public Monday-Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm.

ENGLAND: NORTH WEST

CHESHIRE, THE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF

www.fhsc.org.uk

CUMBRIA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.cumbriafhs.com

FURNESS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.furnessfhs.co.uk

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY & HERALDRY SOCIETY

T: 01254 239919 (ANSWERPHONE WHEN CLOSED)

www.lfhhs.org.uk

E: secretary@lfhhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/LFHHSOnline

twitter.com/LFHHSOnline

The LFHHS is an active society with a worldwide membership and holds meetings in 13 Lancashire centres and London. We are committed to helping our members through our email forum; mentoring service; surname interests; pedigree database; helping hands and two Research Centres.

LANCASHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY

T: 0161 794 5096

www.lprs.org.uk

E: jr.corrie@ntlworld.com

LPRS has published 184 volumes of parish records, a unique source of information about our ancestors' lives dating from the 16th century. The highest degree of accuracy is guaranteed; many registers include precious information about place of residence or occupation.

LANCASTER & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

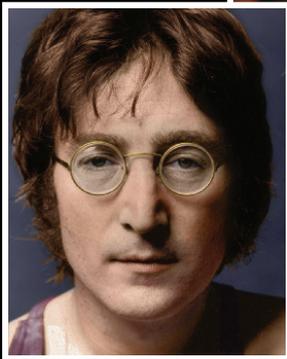
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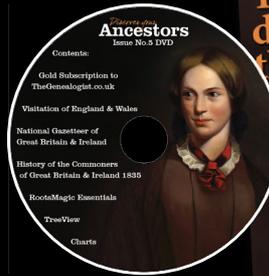
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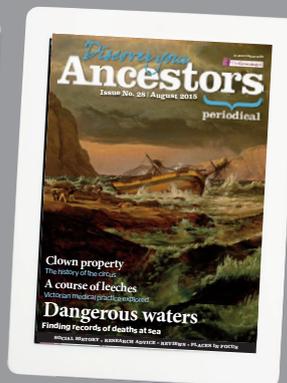
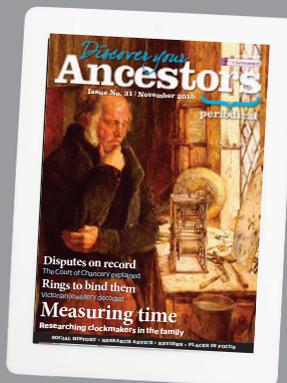
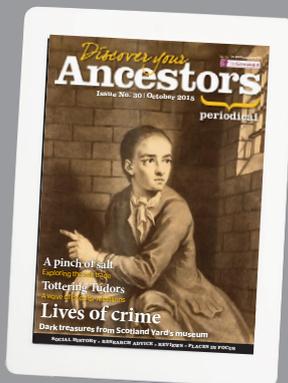
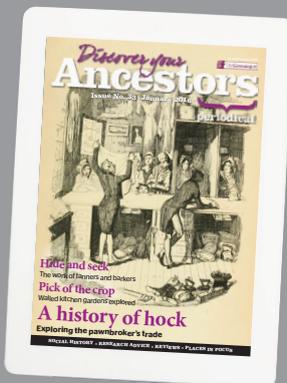


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DiscoverYourAncestors.co.uk

**LIVERPOOL & SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

T: 07983 435118

www.Liverpool-genealogy.org.uk

E: treasurer@liverpool-genealogy.org.uk

www.facebook.com/groups/lswlfhs/

twitter.com/LSWLancsFHS

Did your ancestors live in Liverpool or its surrounding areas? Let L&SWLFHS help you track them down. Visit their website and discover the benefits of joining their Society.

**NORTH CHESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

T: 0161 4392635

www.ncfhs.org.uk

E: liz.demercado@ntlworld.com

www.facebook.com/NorthCheshireFamilyHistorySociety/

Are you searching for your ancestors in North Cheshire? NCFHS has monthly meetings in Sale and Hazel Grove, except in December. Membership includes a quarterly magazine. NCFHS covers Sale, Stockport, Wilmslow, Macclesfield and surrounding parishes. See their website for details.

**NORTH MEOLS (SOUTHPORT) FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY**

www.nmfhssouthport.co.uk

**ORMSKIRK & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.odfhs.org.uk

**ST HELENS TOWNSHIPS FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY**

www.sthelenstownshipsfhs.org.uk

**WIGAN FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.wiganworld.co.uk/familyhistory

ENGLAND: SOUTH EAST

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

**EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT (FAMILY
ROOTS) FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

www.eastbournefhs.org.uk

**EAST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

E: secretary02@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/ESFHS

Covers the eastern part of the ancient county of Surrey, which includes the current London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Lambeth, Merton, Richmond, Southwark, Sutton and Wandsworth. Membership includes a quarterly journal and regular meetings in Croydon, Lingfield, Richmond, Southwark and Sutton.

**FOLKESTONE & DISTRICT FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY**

www.folkfhs.org.uk

HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.hgs-online.org.uk

**HASTINGS & ROTHER FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

T: 01424 437493

www.hrfhs.org.uk

E: lindamarilyn.smith@btinternet.com

The Society was formed in 1986 to encourage the research of family history in the already rich historical area of Hastings & Rother in East Sussex. The Society has a research room at Ore Centre, which is open two mornings a week.

**ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk

E: secretary@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk

www.facebook.com/groups/iw.fhs/

IoWFHS members include people with island ancestry, as well as locals whose families came from elsewhere. Membership includes four journals a year and access to the website Members' Area. The Society also hosts monthly meetings, a conference and organises day trips. Membership costs from £6.

KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.kfhs.org.uk

E: chairman@kfhs.org.uk

Established in 1974, Kent Family History Society has 2500 members. Monthly branch meetings, at Ashford, Canterbury, Deal, Maidstone, Strood and Birchington; an online Members' Forum, quarterly Journal and CDs of Kent parish registers are available. New members welcome.

**NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.nwkfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@nwkfhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/North-West-Kent-Family-History-Society-185363068176998

Covering South East London and North West Kent since 1978. Along with many other services the Society has a library, research service, mailing list, emailing information service, monthly e-newsletter, flickr pages and publications. Annual Membership costs £10/£12. Full details on the website.

**OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

T: 01865 358151

www.ofhs.org.uk

E: help@ofhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/oxfordshirefhs

twitter.com/oxffamhistory

Oxfordshire Family History Society offers: meetings every month, an annual Fair (Woodstock, Saturday 1 October 2016); award-winning journal; drop-in helpdesk sessions; telephone and email helplines; Oxfordshire DNA project; many PR/MI/Census transcripts for sale; free online wills library, surname interests and more.

OXFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

www.oxfordshire-record-society.org.uk

E: oxfordshirerecordsociety@gmail.com

Founded in 1919, the Society publishes transcripts, abstracts and indexes of archival records relating to the modern county of Oxfordshire. Membership includes a copy of the Society's annual publication and discounts on previous publications. More details on the website.

SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.sfhg.org.uk

E: secretary@sfhg.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SussexFamilyHistoryGroup/?fref=ts

The Group can help you research your Sussex ancestors. Membership brings: their quarterly journal, free online access to searchable, transcribed Sussex records and use of their Research Centre at 'The Keep', Brighton. Monthly meetings at six centres. More on the Website.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.tunwells-fhs.co.uk

E: secretary@tunwells-fhs.co.uk

This is a small Society with around 250 members who either live or have family history connections with the Tunbridge Wells area. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in Groombridge Village Hall. New members are welcome.

WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wsfhs.co.uk

E: secretary@wsfhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/groups/322446563003

twitter.com/WestSurreyFHS

Since 1974 the Society has been transcribing, indexing and publishing Surrey records, plus many for London and Middlesex. Over 300 are currently available. Full details, plus information about monthly meetings, quarterly magazines, Annual Open Days and much more are on the website.

←
ENGLAND: SOUTH WEST

BRISTOL & AVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01275 830869

www.bafhs.org.uk

E: Geoff.bafhs@thegardeners.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/pages/Bristol-Avon-Family-History-Society/149418551794987

BAFHS provides research advice and resources in the former Avon County area. The Society has an excellent website, publish a quarterly journal, hold monthly meetings in three locations and their Research Room has a wide range of printed and electronic resource materials. See their website or Facebook page for more details.

CORNWALL FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01872 264044

www.cornwallfhs.com

E: secretary@cornwallfhs.com

 www.facebook.com/cornwallswarhistory

Database of over 5 million records, including baptisms, deaths, marriages, monumental inscriptions, and other records unique to CFHS. Membership from only £14, with access to our database on payment of further subscription. Research service available—reduced rate for members.

DEVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.devonfhs.org.uk

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01202 785623

www.dorsetfhs.org.uk

E: contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/Dorset-Family-History-Society-248122705332476

Visitors welcome at Treetops Research Centre BH15 3AJ, where experienced, friendly volunteers give one-to-one assistance to ALL researchers; access internet sites and parish register transcriptions. Join the monthly meetings with speakers at St John's Church BH14 0AA. Lots more details on their website.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01452 524344

www.gfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@gfhs.org.uk

Whether your ancestors came from the Severn Vale, the Cotswolds, the Forest of Dean or other parts of the UK, Gloucestershire Family History Centre can help with an extensive local library, books and CDs; downloads are also available on their website.

RODBOURNE COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP

www.rodbournehistory.org

E: secretary@rodbournehistory.org

 www.facebook.com/RodbourneCHG

The Group records the rich history of the community of Rodbourne, in Swindon. Annual membership costs £10/£15. The Group hosts meetings with a guest speaker on the last Wednesday of each month except December in the Even Swindon Community Centre SN2 2BJ. More details on the website.

SOMERSET & DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.sdfhs.org

WESTON-SUPER-MARE & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wsmfhs.org.uk

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk

E: society@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/wiltshirefhs

For everyone with Wiltshire ancestors and for Wiltshire people with ancestors anywhere. Six local branches; visitors welcome. Resource Centre in Devizes with research and advice service by post/email. New members welcome for only £12 per annum, with informative quarterly Journal, members' interests, etc.

ENGLAND: WEST MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY

www.bmsgh.org

BURNWOOD FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.bfhg.org.uk

COVENTRY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.covfhs.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk

MALVERN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.mfhs.org.uk

NUNEATON & NORTH WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.nnwfhs.org.uk

E: chairman@nnwfhs.org.uk

or secretary@nnwfhs.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/pages/Nuneaton-North-Warwickshire-Family-History-Society-118089394924672?fref=ts

The helpful society for all with roots past or present in north Warwickshire — an area of prolonged bi-directional migration. Regular meetings, quarterly journal plus help from friendly and knowledgeable volunteers. Visit the expanding website or go to the Facebook page. Join - and access resources online.

RUGBY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.rugbyfhg.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.sfhs.org.uk

ENGLAND: YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

BARNSELEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.bradfordfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@bradfordfhs.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/groups/1425861784383338/?fref=fbif

 www.twitter.com/bradfordfhs1

The Society uses the 1851 census registration district of 'Bradford, West Riding' as its geographical area of interest. It meets twice a month and has an expenses-only, limited research facility (the Link Scheme) for members. See their website for more details.

CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.cfhsweb.com

E: secretary@cfhsweb.com

Calderdale FHS covers the ancient parish of Halifax with the addition of the townships of Todmorden and Walsden. Free search facilities and a quarterly magazine are available to members. Internet membership is £5.50 or Overseas membership costs £17. See website for details.

CITY OF YORK AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01904 412204

www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk

E: yorkfamilyhistory@btopenworld.com

 www.facebook.com/pages/York-Family-History-Society/118089394924672?fref=ts

 [twitter.com/YorkFHS](https://www.twitter.com/YorkFHS)

Membership includes a journal three times a year. Monthly meetings with a range of speakers are held and our well-resourced Study Centre, open Tuesday and Thursday (except January), is available for local and countrywide research. See their website.

CLEVELAND, NORTH YORKSHIRE & SOUTH DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.clevelandfhs.org.uk

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

EAST YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.eyfhs.org.uk

HARROGATE AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.hadfhs.co.uk

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01484 859229

www.hdfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk

[www.twitter.com/HDFHS01](https://twitter.com/HDFHS01)

The Society provides advice and research services for all family historians. HDFHS has baptism, marriage and burial transcriptions for churches in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and surrounding areas. A research room in Meltham is staffed by experienced volunteers – please see their website.

ISLE OF AXHOLME FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.axholme-fhs.org.uk

KEIGHLEY & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.kdfhs.org.uk

LONDON GROUP OF YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

www.yorkslondongroup.tumblr.com

MORLEY & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.morleyfhg.co.uk

PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.pontefractfhs.org.uk

RIPON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.riponhistoricalsociety.org.uk

E: rhsinfo@aol.com

Ripon Historical Society is concerned with local and family history for the City of Ripon and surrounding areas. See the publication pages on their website.

ROTHERHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.rotherhamfhs.co.uk

RYEDALE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

T: 01653 628132

www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org

E: secretary@ryedalefamilyhistory.org

www.facebook.com/Ryedale-Family-History-Group-147270825334589/

twitter.com/RyedaleFamilies

Ryedale Family History Group is based at Hovington Village Hall YO62 4LX. The well-equipped Research Room is open Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm. The team can help you find ancestors anywhere. Please see their website or phone them for more details.

SELBY & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.selbydistrictfamilyhistory.btck.co.uk

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk

E: secretary@sheffieldfhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sheffieldfhs

Sheffield FHS covers the Sheffield Metropolitan District – from Bradfield in the west to Tinsley in the east; Stocksbridge in the north to Mosborough and Totley on the Derbyshire border. The Society promotes the study of local, social and family history.

WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wdfhs.co.uk

E: secretary@wdfhs.co.uk

The Society has a large collection of publications of most parishes in the Wakefield area. They also include census returns and TDs. A quarterly journal and monthly meetings. See website for more information.

WHARFEDALE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

www.wharfedalefhg.org.uk

YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY – FAMILY HISTORY SECTION

www.yorkshireroots.org.uk

GERMANY

DEUTSCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT GENEALOGISCHER VERBÄNDE E.V. (DAGV)

www.dagv.org

info@dagv.org

DAGV is the umbrella organisation of the genealogical and heraldic associations in Germany. It supports the work of its 67 member associations, as well as the interests of genealogists and the public. More information on the organisation and current projects is available on the website.

IRELAND

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

www.familyhistory.ie

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.ifhs.ie

E: ifhs@eircom.net

www.facebook.com/IrishFamilyHistorySociety

Established in 1984, the IFHS is based in Ireland with a worldwide membership. Membership includes annual journal and news sheets. The Members' Area of the website includes 25 years of the society's historic journals. IFHS arrange lectures and outings throughout the year.

IRISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY, THE

www.irishancestors.ie

ISLE OF MAN

ISLE OF MAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.iomfhs.im

NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.nifhs.org

www.facebook.com/NIFHS

twitter.com/NIFHS

We cover the 9 counties of Ulster with 11 branches, plus meetings and church/gravestone projects. We have local knowledge. Our library records are available via a free Members' look-up service. Submit your surnames for publication in our journal and website.

SCOTLAND

For details of all Scottish societies, see the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) www.safhs.org.uk

WALES

CARDIGANSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01970 632 821

www.cgnfhs.org.uk

E: yholiadau@cgnfhs.org.uk

www.facebook.com/pages/Cardiganshire-Family-History-Society/280266565349115

The Society was formed in 1995 to help those with family connections within Cardiganshire/Ceredigion. Annual membership includes 3 journals and monthly meetings. New publications include monumental-inscription booklets. Visit the website for further details.



CLWYD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.clwydfhs.org.uk

DYFED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

GLAMORGAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.glamfhs.org

GWENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.gwentfhs.org.uk

GWYNEDD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.gwyneddfhs.org

MONTGOMERYSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.montgomeryshiregs.org.uk

POWYS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.powysfhs.org.uk

CANADA

ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY

www.afhs.ab.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.bcgs.ca

BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF GREATER OTTAWA

www.bifhsgo.ca

NEW ZEALAND

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC

www.ffhs.org.uk/members2/overseas/newzealand.php

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS INC

www.genealogy.org.nz

USA

BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – USA

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

www.fgs.org

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BRITISH GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY

www.isbgfh.org

WALES, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, ENGLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wise-fhs.org

ONE-NAME SOCIETIES

ALABASTER SOCIETY, THE

www.alabaster.org.uk

ALDERSON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.afhs.org

BADHAM ONE NAME SOCIETY

www.badham.org.uk

BERESFORD FAMILY SOCIETY, THE

www.beresfordfamilysociety.org

BLISS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

T: 01489 783662

www.blissfhs.co.uk

E: MichaelJFBliss@btinternet.com

Bliss FHS issues the *Bliss Magazine* every six months to their worldwide membership, containing information and news about Blisses. Bliss FHS also provides free assistance to members and non-members regarding tracing their Bliss ancestors and relations. Details on the website.

BLO(O)R(E) SOCIETY, THE

www.bloor.org

BROOKING SOCIETY, THE

www.brookingsociety.org.uk

BUNTING SOCIETY, THE

www.buntingsociety.org.uk

CAVE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.cavefhs.com

E: admin@cavefhs.com

www.facebook.com/Cave-Family-History-Society-214405705363101/?fref=ts

Cave FHS welcomes descendants of, and from, the Cave family (and all its variants) throughout the world and anyone with an interest in the surname. Let the Society help you further your Cave family-history research. Please visit their website to find out more.

CHANDLER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

T: (00) 1 250 832 3179

www.ChandlerFamilyAssociation.org

E: DickChandler@ChandlerFamilyAssociation.org

www.facebook.com/groups/ChandlerFamilyAssociation/?fref=ts

The Association provides free assistance with Chandler genealogy to members and non-members worldwide. More than 500 have been helped already. Tell the Association about your brick wall and they'll try to help you, too. All is explained on their website.

CLAN DAVIDSON ASSOCIATION

www.clandavidson.org.uk

CORY SOCIETY

www.corysociety.org.uk

COURTENAY SOCIETY, THE

www.courtenaysociety.org

DALTON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, THE

www.daltongensoc.com

ENTWISTLE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

www.entwistlefamhistory.org.uk

FILBY ASSOCIATION, THE

www.filby.org

GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES

www.one-name.org

KAY FAMILY ASSOCIATION (UK), THE

www.kayfamilyassociationuk.com

LEATHER FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, THE

www.ffhs.org.uk/members/leather.htm

METCALFE SOCIETY, THE

www.metcalfe.org.uk

MOXON SOCIETY, THE

www.moxonsociety.org

PALGRAVE SOCIETY, THE

www.ffhs.org.uk/members/palgrave.htm

RELF SOCIETY, THE INTERNATIONAL

www.relfsociety.org

RIX FAMILY ALLIANCE

www.rix-alliance.com

SILVERTHORN(E) FAMILY ASSOCIATION

www.silverthornefamily.co.uk

SOLE SOCIETY, THE

www.sole.org.uk

STONEHEWER TO STANIER SOCIETY, THE

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~stanier

SWINNERTON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.swinnerton.org

WITHERIDGE GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, THE

www.witheridgefhs.com

OTHER SOCIETIES

ANGLO-ITALIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk

ASSOCIATION OF GENEALOGISTS AND RESEARCHERS IN ARCHIVES (AGRA), THE

www.agra.org.uk

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA

www.bacsa.org.uk

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

www.balh.org.uk

CATHOLIC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

catholicfhs.co.uk

E: sylviadibbs@hotmail.com

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Founded in 1961, the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies provides a range of courses. The highly acclaimed 24 module correspondence course is also available online. Their examinations lead to professional qualifications. They house a bookshop and library, and offer expert advice on genealogical and heraldic research.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

www.jgsgb.org.uk

PEDIGREE USERS GROUP

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www.rtfhs.org.uk

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SCOTSLOT

www.ffhs.org.uk/members2/others.php#SCOTSLOT

FFHS ON THE ROAD

During 2016 and 2017 the FFHS will be attending a number of events around the country. Do come along and say hello! We are happy to help with general family-history enquiries and make suggestions for future research.

Please check our website for up-to-date information: www.ffhs.org.uk/events/fairs.php

Come along and meet us at:

The Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft Show, Westpoint, Exeter, 22–25 September 2016

www.stitchandhobby.co.uk/exeter/autumn/

The Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft Show, NEC, Birmingham, 3–6 November 2016

www.stitchandhobby.co.uk/birmingham/autumn/

Huddersfield & District Family & Local History Fair, Cathedral House,

St Thomas' Road, Huddersfield, 12 November 2016

www.hdffhs.org.uk/the-family-history-fair/

The Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft Show, ExCeL, London, 17–19 November 2016

www.stitchandhobby.co.uk/london/autumn/

The Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft Show, NEC, Birmingham, 16–19 March 2017

www.hobbycraftshows.co.uk/birmingham/spring/

In addition the FFHS will be attending various events organised by its member societies. A list of known family-history fairs, events and activities can be found on the online calendar GENEVA – GENEalogical EVENTS and Activities: www.geneva.weald.org.uk/

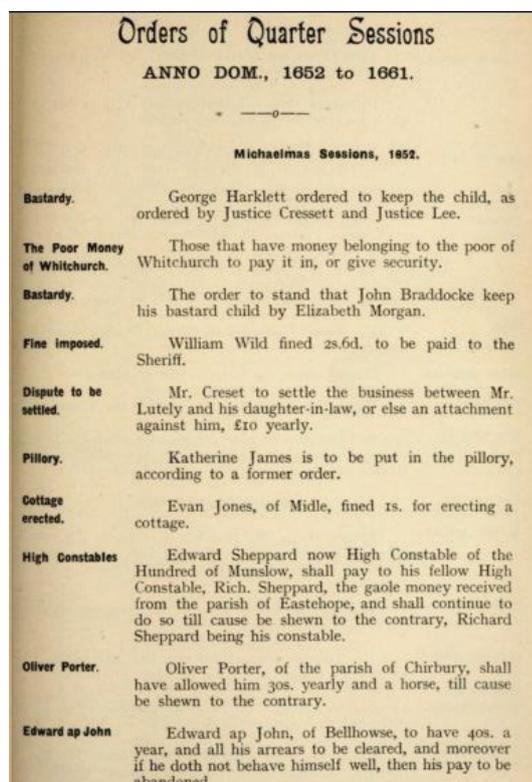
Always check the event organisers' website for up-to-date details of the event before travelling. Please note that pre-booking for talks or workshops at events may be necessary.

FOCUS ON: QUARTER SESSION RECORDS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Quarter Session records can be a treasure trove for family historians, giving a great insight into the life and times of our ancestors. Richard Ratcliffe tells us more

Justices of the Peace presided at Quarter Sessions, where they were tasked with addressing many matters. These ranged from criminal offences, to questions relating to settlement rights and paternity, which affected entitlement to poor relief. Quarter Sessions records are often overlooked by genealogists, but including them in our research can be very rewarding.

Quarter Session archives in England and Wales survive in some counties from the mid-15th Century until 1972 when they were replaced by Crown Courts. Look for the records in County Record Archives, the British Library and smaller City and Town Record Offices.



A transcription of a Shropshire minute book

As few Quarter Session records have been indexed, consult Quarter Session Minute Books in the first instance. These give a summary of the business transacted and list the names of

those who appeared, or should have appeared, to give evidence. The verdict of the jury is also recorded.

Poor law records in Quarter Sessions

From 1597 to 1834, a considerable amount of time was spent at each Quarter Session dealing with offences against the Poor Law. The Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor oversaw the collection of the Poor Rate and ensured it was carefully spent on the needs of the poor. As it was in the interests of a parish to keep the Poor Rates as low as possible, the Parish Officers frequently attended the Quarter Sessions to obtain Bastardy Orders, Removal Orders and seek the aid of the Justices in disputes over Settlements and Apprenticeship.

What do they cover?

- Offences against local byelaws and licensing laws
- Non-payment of tithes and taxes
- Poor Law offences, particularly vagrancy, settlement and removal, Bastardy Orders and the failure of the reputed fathers to pay maintenance
- Felonies – crimes that could be described as wicked, cruel or murderous.

In 1820 there were over 200 crimes that were designated as felonies for which the death penalty could be passed, including highway robbery, horse stealing, trespass and threatening gamekeepers, stealing from gardens or orchards, murder, rape, theft and eavesdropping.

What you can find?

A typical example is the case of Joseph GARNISH who was charged with stealing a cheese at Lindsey (in Lincolnshire) Quarter Session on 14 January 1785. The Minute Book entry reads:

- Thomas GREAVES of Gainsborough, Waterman, in £20 for his appearance and to prosecute Joseph GARNISH for stealing a cheese out of a boat on the River Trent which he the said Thomas GREAVES had the charge of – discharged. [ie Thomas had appeared at the Sessions and given evidence, otherwise he would have been fined £20, as he was the principal witness for the prosecution.]
- Bill against Joseph GARNISH, late of Gainsborough, Sailor, for a petty larceny – plea not guilty. Jury say Guilty.
- To be whipt at Gainsborough next Market Day.

When you find something of interest in a Minute Book, you can then seek out the corresponding Quarter Session rolls to read a fuller account.

Bastardy Orders

Many Overseers of the Poor went to the court to get a Bastardy Order requiring the reputed father to pay maintenance for the child which had become chargeable to the Parish. The Quarter Session papers may include a confession by the mother taken by a Justice naming the father. The Minute Book for Lindsey Quarter Session of 23 October 1835 records:

Robert ADCOCK of Gainsborough, Gardener, reputed father of a female bastard child born September 21st, 1835 by Alice MILSON, single woman of Kirton [in Lindsey] – to pay 8/- from birth until October 23rd, then 1/9 per week.



'The Workroom at St James's Workhouse' from the Microcosm of London (1908)



Settlement

Settlement Acts of 1662, 1691 and 1697 allowed Parish Officers to remove poor people from a Parish who did not have legal settlement.

Sometimes the Quarter Sessions were asked to confirm a Settlement as in the case of Richard LADBROOK, his wife Mary and their three children – Esther aged about four years, John aged about two and Elisabeth aged about eleven months. On 21 April 1789, Warwickshire Quarter Session issued a Certificate confirming their settlement in the Hamlet of Little Wolford in the Parish of Great Wolford.

The Overseer of the Poor for Great Wolford who attended the Quarter Session and received a copy certificate for the Parish Records was my great, great grandfather, Richard RATCLIFFE (on the Certificate he signed his name as Richard RACTLIFF).

In most settlement cases, the Parish Officers came to the court to seek the removal of an illegal incomer who would become chargeable to the parish.

The Constable of a Parish would convey Vagrants to the Constable of the next Parish on their way to their place of legal settlement and provide food and shelter as necessary. Some Vagrancy Passes may be found in collections of parish records showing the names of parishes through which the Vagrants had been conveyed.

Many Removal Orders issued by a Quarter Session show that Vagrants claimed that their legal place of Settlement was a considerable distance from the parishes in which they had been apprehended.

The parish records for Odiham in Hampshire include a Removal Order issued by Lindsey Quarter Session dated 14 February 1821.

Margaret WILSON in Barton upon Humber was conveyed from Kirton in Lindsey House of Correction to Odiham which she claimed was her late husband's last legal place of settlement. Her Vagrancy Pass shows that she reached Odiham via Lincoln, Newark, Leicester, Banbury, Oxford,

Clapcot, Wallingford, Cholsey and Shinfield. At Odiham the order was endorsed with the comment: "Gave her £1 and sent her to Yarmouth. Cannot find that her husband belonged to the parish as stated within this pass". It is worth noting that the introduction of Parish Registers in 1538 and the revised regulations in 1598 were brought in to help Parish Officers check such claims.

Apprenticeship Indentures

To reduce demands on the Poor Rate, the Parish Officers put large numbers of pauper children out as apprentices as soon as they reached the age of seven. An Apprenticeship Indenture would be signed by the Overseers, Churchwardens, the Master and two Justices. If the relationship between the Master and an Apprentice broke down, or an Apprentice had been maltreated, the case went to the Quarter Sessions and the Justices could quash the Indenture.

At Lindsey Quarter Session on 10 July 1781, Robert CHAPLIN of Gainsburgh, Innholder, appealed against an Indenture on 24 May placing Jane CHAPLIN, a poor child, aged 9 years as Apprentice until she reached the age of 21 years. The Quarter Session quashed the Indenture [after a full hearing of all parties] and awarded Robert CHAPLIN the sum of Five Pounds and Five Shillings for his costs.

Matrimonial matters

If a husband deserted his wife and left her chargeable to the Parish, the Overseers could apply to the Quarter Session for permission to seize the goods and chattels of the husband, and sell them by auction with proceeds of the sale going towards the cost of maintaining the abandoned wife. An example can be found in the Lindsey Quarter Session Papers for 1789, when the Overseers of the Parish of Glentworth sought reparation for the Parish against the personal estate of Thomas LUNN, Miller who had run away from his wife leaving her chargeable to the Parish.

Crimes and felonies

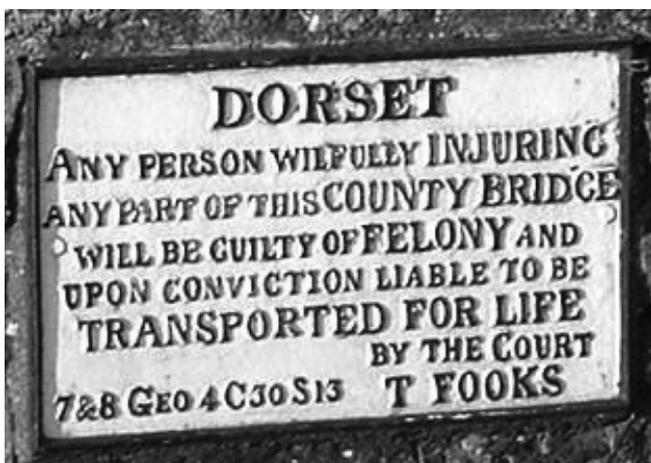
In the 18th and early 19th centuries, many petty criminals were punished by being transported to America or Australia. *The First Fleeters* lists convicts who left England in May 1787, reaching Sydney Cove in Australia in January 1788. Among them was Rebecca BOULTON from Lincolnshire, who was convicted at Spilsby in 1784. The Minute Book for Lindsey Quarter Session – Midsummer 1784, records:

John GRANT the Younger of Withcall, Yeoman, appeared to prosecute Rebecca BOULTON, wife of Thomas Boulton of Thimbleby, Labourer for stealing a cotton gown and a silk handkerchief, the property of his sister Ann Grant and a cotton gown the property of his mother Ann Grant.

Bills found against Rebecca Boulton for two petty larcenies.

Sentence of the Court – Rebecca Boulton be transported as soon as conveniently maybe to some of His Majesty's Colonies or plantations in America fore the term of Seven years.

Rebecca BOULTON never arrived in America. Following her conviction, she was sent to Australia. Rebecca died shortly after arriving in Australia and was buried in Sydney Cove on 21 April 1788. A daughter Rebecca born in Lincoln Castle in April 1786 survived her by one week and was buried in Sydney Cove.



Warning notice on a bridge in Dorset

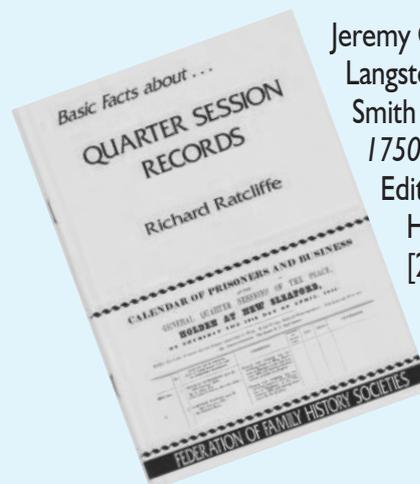
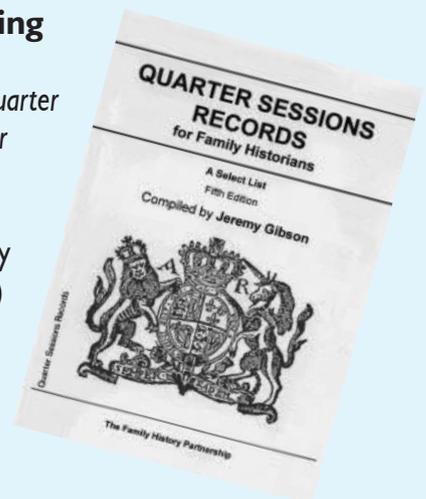
Local newspapers reported on the proceedings of the Quarter Sessions in considerable detail

and supplement the information that can be found in the Minute Books and in the Quarter Session papers. Lists of such newspapers can be found in *Local Newspapers 1750–1920 – A select location list*. It should be noted that the names of people attending the Quarter Sessions may be incorrect. Some prisoners gave false names while Keepers of the Houses of Correction and Clerks of the Court may have recorded names inaccurately due to no standardised spelling of surnames until the second half of the 19th Century when elementary education was made compulsory.

Further reading

Jeremy Gibson, *Quarter Sessions Records for Family Historians* (Fifth Edition, The Family History Partnership, 2007)

Richard Ratcliffe, *Basic Facts about Quarter Session Records* (FFHS Publications, 2007)



Jeremy Gibson, Brett Langston and Brenda W. Smith *Local Newspapers 1750–1920* [Third Edition], The Family History Partnership [2011].

All the above can be ordered online from the Family History Partnership.

PG Fidlon and JR Ryan, *The First Fleeters* (Australian Documents Library, 1981)

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www.safhs.org.uk

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The Quarter Sessions article is based upon notes which appear in an article by Richard Ratcliffe, published in Canadian magazine Chinook (© Richard Ratcliffe 2013) and in the publication Basic Facts About Quarter Sessions Records which is available from The Family History Partnership. Copyright of Richard Ratcliffe in both is acknowledged with thanks.