



**FAMILY  
HISTORY  
Federation**

**Supporting Family Historians since 1974**

**REALLY  
USEFUL  
Bulletin**

**No 30**

February 2023

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

*inside find...*

Lead article this month is the fascinating *What Can a Postcard Tell Us?*

plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



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# Really Useful Bulletin

## What Can a Postcard Tell Us?

Helen Baggott

Almost twenty years ago, I began researching postcards that were sent more than a hundred years ago. For me, the easiest way to reveal the stories behind the cards was to use the same resources you will be familiar with as a family historian and to create family trees.

I begin by confirming the person who received the card at the address in an official record – census return, probate record, marriage register, etc. That's not always as straightforward as you might assume. So much happens to us between the years of these official milestones and it was the same for our ancestors. Sometimes, I will find the person in a directory and can use that as my starting point.

The messages on the cards are often interesting – telling of a train's arrival later that same day, a visit to an exhibition in London, the health of a relative, etc. But sometimes they include clues – the names of other family members, perhaps their spouses. Each card is really a giant jigsaw puzzle.

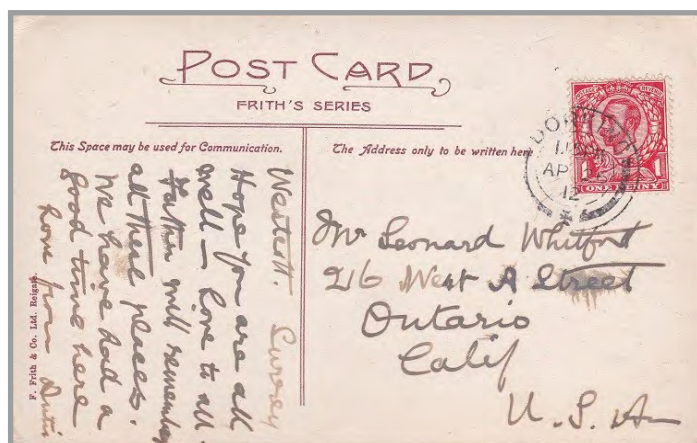
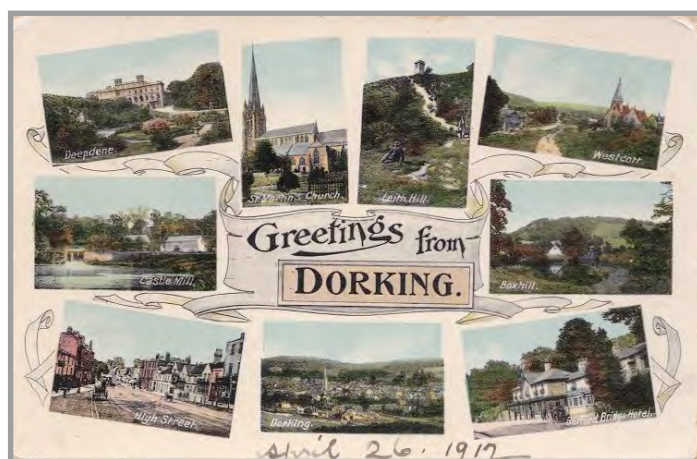
When possible, I like to trace the sender. Some cards are sent by friends and that means creating another tree. I have managed to trace senders by matching their handwriting to the 1911 census (the message will often suggest they live near to the recipient). All of the trees I create are snapshots – not the detailed tree that you might have for your own family. I don't need to stray too far from the immediate family, although I do go back several generations.

One card I have (I actually have hundreds!) was sent to a spinster music teacher in London from someone in Australia who signed the card with their initials. I later discovered the teacher married a man with the same initials and the sender's distinctive writing was a perfect match to the marriage register. Edgar Nodes, the groom, was an undertaker and his family were involved in the bringing home of the Unknown Warrior – a story we're familiar with, but perhaps the Nodes family's connection adds a new dimension. These new aspects are one of the reasons

exploring the cards is so addictive (yes, I admit I am addicted!).



A card sent to a family in California, revealed they had emigrated to America from England towards the end of the nineteenth century.



The Whitford family were from the London area and Samuel Whitford, whose son and his family moved to America, was the first secretary of Great Ormond Street's Hospital for Sick Children. Whitford was there for more than thirty years and during that time he helped raise money and awareness about the needs for sick children. Later, the hospital benefited from the generosity of JM Barrie's legacy of *Peter Pan's* royalties. But in the 1850s, the hospital was desperately in need of support and Whitford was an important member of the team that helped establish perhaps the most famous children's hospital in the world. Yet, he's hardly mentioned in books about those early years – so, revealing and sharing his story is extremely satisfying.

When I was researching this particular card, I was able to draw on the help of the hospital's archivist. Never be reticent in contacting an institution. A clearly worded email will undoubtedly be received favourably. After all, archivists are dedicated to their role and helping others must be as satisfying to them as it is for us to receive that information.



# Really Useful Bulletin

When I was looking at the Whitford story, I came across a resource that was hugely useful – The Historic Hospital Admissions Project ([HHARP.org](http://HHARP.org)). This is a free to use database of children admitted to hospitals in London (and other locations). Through the site I was able to trace the records of two children who received postcards whilst they were patients. I'd found the cards when I was searching for an image of the hospital. The seller had included all the details in the descriptions. HHARP provided their dates of birth, home addresses, conditions, etc. Knowing that Doris was successfully treated and grew up to become a secretary, was a relief. Poor Harry was admitted with a disease that affected his kidneys and died within days of the card being sent. That was a sad story, but for every Harry there are hundreds of successes like Doris.



I'm often asked where I source the cards. Well, most come from eBay and this is useful for your own family history research. Perhaps you want cards that depict where your ancestors lived. Or maybe you're looking for cards that are actually connected to your family. Creating searches – filtering out the irrelevant information – means you will receive an email every time there's a match. It might take months, but wouldn't it be wonderful to see a card your ancestors handled? You would do this by creating searches

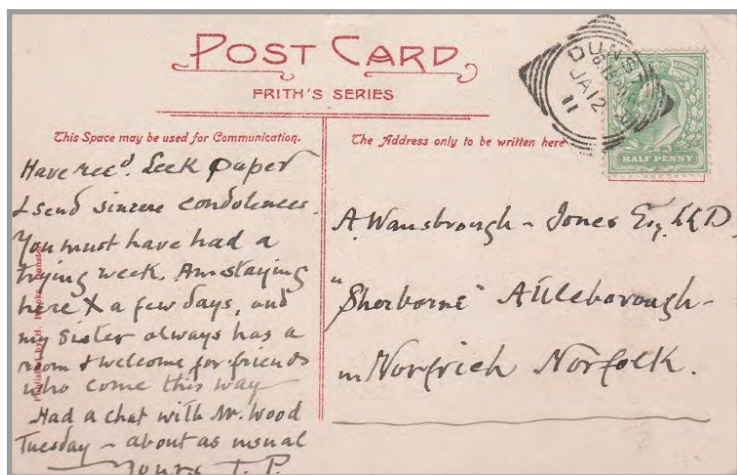
for actual addresses or family names. I've had some success with finding cards sent to my ancestors' addresses.

Other cards are found at car boot sales, second-hand bookshops and the like. One favourite card was one of three bought for £1 – it's tatty and almost in pieces. I discovered it was sent by a ship's cook to his young sister. That sailor was aboard HMS *Hampshire* when it hit a mine in the First World War. Most of those aboard lost their life, as did the sailor and Lord Kitchener who was heading a diplomatic mission to Russia. You can see how the cards almost open the door to events that affected the world, not just the sender and recipient.





# Really Useful Bulletin



The thrilling part for me is that I never know where the research will take me. A card sent in 1911 to Norfolk, led me to a family who lived in Bristol's Guinea Street and a branch that had emigrated to America's remote Washington State.

At the moment I'm working on my third book. This one is slightly different but I still follow the same research practices as before. All the postcards are connected with sea travel – daytrips, cruises, emigration, etc. The images and messages have to fit that criteria and inevitably there are stories of heartbreak. One thing the research reveals is how often our ancestors crossed the Atlantic on return trips. Remember, these are mainly working-class people and even today such journeys require careful financial planning. Although buying postcards associated with *Titanic* would be well beyond my budget, I have two cards telling different stories of the ship. And I have postcards sent or received by people connected with the tragedy – I didn't know this when I chose the cards, that's come out in my research.

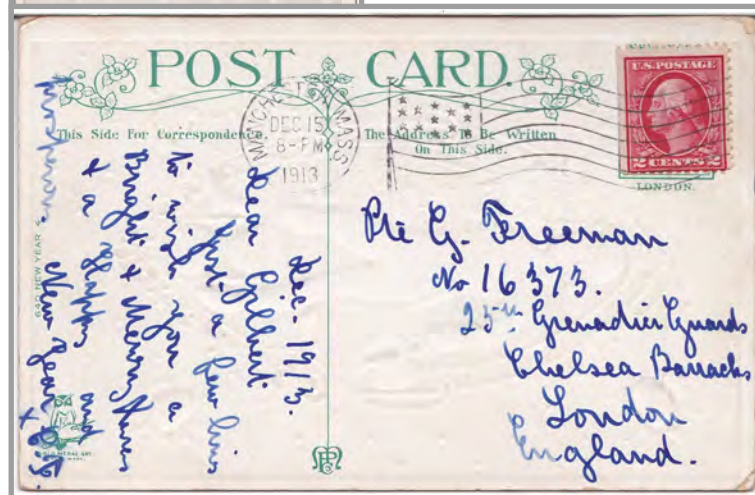
A card sent between cousins that I included in my first book, revealed that Edith Stainer, who sent the card, was one of hundreds lost when RMS *Empress of Ireland* sank in 1914. Although the total lost was far greater on *Titanic*, more passengers were lost on the *Empress*. Overshadowed by the statistics – and the imminent outbreak of the First World War – the story of the *Empress* is almost forgotten. It's remembered in Canada, where it occurred, and by the

Salvation Army who lost a great number that were returning to England for an event at the Royal Albert Hall. Despite the number of passengers and crew that were from the United Kingdom, there is no memorial – not even in Liverpool from where the ship sailed. Sharing that story was important to me and I'm due to give a Zoom talk in 2023 about it to a group in Canada. And that's something that's paramount to me – raising awareness and the remembrance of these people.

The first card I ever researched was sent to a soldier in the Chelsea Barracks. Gilbert Freeman was killed in the Battle of the Somme and has no known grave. Over the years that followed my father buying that card, I dipped in and out of



Gilbert's story and eventually connected with his brothers' families in America, where they had lived. Sharing Gilbert's story is an act of remembrance. He may not belong within my family but he was fighting for king and country, his friends and family, and for future generations – strangers like us.



All the trees I create are on Ancestry and set to 'private'. This is so I can explain the motivation behind my research – and why I haven't necessarily researched all the branches connected to the card. Also, some of the research reveals harrowing events and dealing with them sensitively is crucial. One brother that I researched died at his place of work – a factory. I found this in his probate records and wondered if it would be an opportunity to explore health and safety. His death certificate revealed in graphic detail that he had committed suicide. This wasn't my ancestor but when I opened the envelope and read those details I was greatly affected. If it had been my ancestor, I would have



# Really Useful Bulletin

had the opportunity to decide how and with whom I shared the news. That information doesn't belong in a book about postcards. Although the man never married, he lived in a small community and the descendants of his siblings would possibly be identifiable.

I have been contacted by people who have realised they are reading or hearing about their own ancestors. They have all been pleased with my research and I have been able to fill some gaps in their own trees. This isn't because my research is more thorough, it's because I've tackled it from a different starting point.

You might read about someone who shares the surname of your neighbour and you might know they came from the same part of the country. But unless you know your neighbour's parents, grandparents, etc. you would not know they were from the same family. If they choose to confirm the details, that's up to them – as it should be. This is why none of my research is brought up to date. Gilbert Freeman's family contacted me – I didn't seek them out (even though I knew exactly who and where they were). They found an online article that I had written – by pure chance it had been uploaded the day before they searched.

I think this philosophy of respect is essential to everyone who undertakes research. What might appear sensational is actually a tragedy and should be regarded as such.

I know from my talks and emails I've received from readers of my books, that many people have their own collections of cards – that either illustrate family locations or were sent to their ancestors. I also know that once people start looking at their postcards in a new light, they're hooked!



*Helen Baggott is an editor, writer and speaker from Dorset. She has written for local magazines and those that cover genealogy and postcards. Her work has been recognised in regional and national newspapers.*

Helen's website: [www.helenbaggott.co.uk/stourcastle.html](http://www.helenbaggott.co.uk/stourcastle.html)

Helen is available as a speaker—live or Zoom. See [www.familyhistoryfederation.com/speakers-az](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/speakers-az)

## Audrey Collins—R.I.P.



Audrey Collins, born in 1954, and for many years family history specialist at the National Archives at Kew, passed away on 4th February 2023 following a short illness.

Audrey was an absolute giant of the UK genealogy world, thanks to her role at The National Archives, and was key in explaining many of the record sets being released online from Kew, including the censuses and the 1939 National Identity Register. Most recently she helped contribute a surviving schedule from the 1921 Scottish census to the National Records of Scotland's coverage for its own launch. Although schedules in Scotland have not survived, Audrey had located one at TNA, taken south by a holidaymaker from Scotland (see below). A read of Audrey's

blog, *The Family Recorder*, will keep you enthralled and enlightened for hours. Also, she co-authored *Birth, Marriage and Death Records—A Guide for Family Historians* with Dave Annal, a superb account of the systems of church records and civil registration records kept in Britain, Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Audrey was originally from Glasgow's Govan area and moved down south many years ago. I had the pleasure to meet her at conferences and events, as well as at TNA. She was always so good natured, humorous, and an absolute encyclopaedia of knowledge. One of her recordings made many years ago and which we often talked about, was a lecture she gave for *FamilySearch* trying to explain exactly what the UK, the British Isles, Great Britain, etc., meant as terms. We shared a common exasperation at how often folk overseas use them to mean the same thing, that is England!

Although she lost her native Govan brogue, Audrey was very proud of her Scottish roots, constantly citing her flame-red hair as proof of her Scottish credentials! Our thoughts are with her family.

*Picture: Audrey at RootsTech in 2017*

*Tribute by Chris Paton: <http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/>*

Scottish census chance survival: <https://blog.nrscotland.gov.uk/2022/12/11/a-chance-survival/>

*The Family Recorder* blog: <http://thefamilyrecorder.blogspot.com>

Book: *Birth, Marriage and Death Records—A guide for family historians*: available at [Family History Books](http://FamilyHistoryBooks)

FamilySearch lecture: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/what-is-britain>



# Family History Societies

Ormskirk and  
District  
Family History  
Society

## Ormskirk and District Family History Society

Ormskirk and District Family History Society recently published their thirteenth virtual talk, inspired by records relating to an early nineteenth century charity, first found in 2017 at the Lancashire Archives in Preston, by one of the Society's committee members.

Based on transcriptions of the Burscough Township Books and fourteen lists of names from a collection described as "Poor Housekeepers of Burscough who had Beef", the thirty-five minute talk "Christmas Beef in Burscough" explores how a village on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal provided food parcels to residents in need every December between 1800 and 1825. The video makes use of pre-1841 census statistics, extracts from ODFHS publications, local scenes, graphs based on data from the lists of people who benefitted from the charity, and uses local parish registers to create a family tree chart for a family group on the beef lists who are only identified as "John Orril's daughters".

The virtual talk can be viewed at the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnOo6lMJqIQ>

The Burscough Beef Awards (1800-1825) are available as a download from the ODFHS shop on Parish Chest, priced at £5:  
[www.parishchest.com/burscough-beef-awards-cd-3466.php](http://www.parishchest.com/burscough-beef-awards-cd-3466.php)

A bundle containing the Burscough Beef Awards (1800-1825) and Burscough Township Books (1770-1850) is also available, priced at £10. Both publications include photos of the original documents:  
[www.parishchest.com/burscough-township-books-and-also-burscough-beef-awards-zip-download-11639.php](http://www.parishchest.com/burscough-township-books-and-also-burscough-beef-awards-zip-download-11639.php)

ODFHS website: <http://www.odfhs.website/>



## Dorset Family History Society

Dorset Family History Society is once again hosting a Family History Day following last year's successful event.



**Dorset Family History Society  
Family History Day  
Saturday 22nd April 2022  
10am till 3pm  
St George's Church Hall,  
Darbys Lane, Oakdale,  
Poole, BH15 3EU  
Free admission and parking**

The Society will be welcoming other family history societies and commercial companies from around the country.

Dorset Family History Society will have its own stall and research advice will be offered especially now the 1921 census is available at their Treetops Research Centre.

Hot drinks and refreshments will be on sale and there will be a raffle.

Please check the website [www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/) for up-to-date information.

This event is for all those interested in their family history, whether your ancestry is in Dorset, elsewhere in the UK or worldwide. It is for beginners or those who have been researching for years.

Dorset Family History Society is completely run by volunteers and looks forward to welcoming everyone at St George's on St George's weekend!



# Family History Societies



## Burntwood Family History Group

BFHG was founded in 1986 by a group of local enthusiasts, many of whom remain involved. We draw much of our current membership from in and around southern Staffordshire. This includes the Burntwood area itself, the three-spined cathedral city of Lichfield, the villages of Cannock Chase, and the northern parts of the Black Country (most of which was originally part of Staffordshire!). However, the Group's membership is very broad, with members dotted all across the UK; we even have members in the Netherlands, Canada and Australia. Our membership is open to anyone with an interest in local and family history. Details of how to join can be found on the "How to Join" page on our website.

The famous Staffordshire Hoard was discovered in a field less than three miles from our meeting place. Evidence of the area's mining past abounds in the memorials to the miners and in the names of public houses. The controversial M6 Toll Road now provides a fast route through the area, a modern alternative to the Roman Watling Street (A5). A canal restoration project is well underway linking past and present. The population of the area has expanded significantly in the last few decades and the family history interests of BFHG members reflect the changes in that population. We may be locals, we may be incomers, but we are all keen to discover, research and share the rich history of this area and the families that have lived here!

**Monthly Meetings** In common with many groups, BFHG was forced to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic. Through meetings held on Zoom, we uncovered a hidden benefit as distant members were able to join in for the first time. We now hold hybrid meetings, with the physical proceedings being streamed live to members who cannot attend in person. A major website upgrade in 2018 has allowed edited versions of many of our Zoom talks to be posted on our website, normally for a limited time period, and we are grateful to our speakers for their generosity in allowing us to make their talks available to as wide an audience of our members as possible.

Our meetings are held 7pm to 9pm at Chase Terrace Academy, Bridge Cross Road, Burntwood WS7 2DB. The second Monday in the month sees a formal meeting, usually with a guest speaker. We also hold a drop-in surgery/research evening on the fourth Monday of the month, where members and non-members alike can obtain help and support with their research. They can also use the computer facilities at our venue and this allows access to the Group's subscriptions to Ancestry and Find My Past. Occasionally meeting dates are amended where there is a clash with a Bank Holiday.

Maps showing how to reach our meetings are on the website page "Where and When We Meet" which also lists our upcoming speakers and the talks they will be giving. A

warm welcome awaits any visitor to BFHG and, should you live further afield, please do contact us through our website: <https://www.bfhg.org.uk/>. There is an enormous amount of material freely available on our website. This includes information and a large number of photographs of Burntwood and the towns and villages of the surrounding area, their landmarks and their war memorials.

**Burntwood Memorial Project** The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Group's formation saw the launch of the Burntwood Memorial Project, the Group's way of marking the centenary of the First World War. Members researched surnames that appear on local war memorials, or in local newspapers and documents of the time. Commemorative biographies were written about the soldiers who served and – in most cases – gave their lives for their country. These biographies can be found on the "Servicemen" page of our website. The project, which was supported by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, also includes some biographies for servicemen who served in subsequent conflicts.

**BFHG Journal** is published quarterly and is available free of charge to group members. The editor is always pleased to receive items. If you have articles or photographs, stories or artwork that you would like us to include in the Journal, please contact the group using the link on the "Contact Us" page on our website and we will arrange for the item(s) to be forwarded to our Journal Editor.

**Help and Support** If you are researching your ancestors from the towns and villages in our area, you are welcome to contact us for help and advice. We are only too glad to get you started and to provide our local knowledge. We are generally able to offer a limited amount of voluntary research. To contact us, please use the proforma on the "Contact Us" page on our website.

**Transcriptions** The Group has transcribed many of the local Parish Records and Non-Conformist Registers from the surrounding area. Originally released on CD, these are now being made available to members and non-members on USB memory sticks. Once again, specific details can be found on our website. Thanks to the help, support and encouragement of the Family History Federation – Data Manager Kevin Todman in particular – these records are also available now through Find My Past and the National Burial Index. The income derived from making these transcriptions more widely available has brought in valuable income that is helping our Group to navigate its way through financially challenging times. We have been part of the fabric of Burntwood and the surrounding area for more than 36 years now; long may that continue.

For more information please see <https://www.bfhg.org.uk>  
Or to contact us please go to <https://www.bfhg.org.uk/contact-us>

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

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



# Family History Societies



**Chesterfield and District Family  
History Society**

**Presents  
our very own**

## **Who Do You Think You Are**

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### **Family History Showcase Event**

**Saturday 20th May 2023—10am till 4pm**

**The St. Thomas's Centre, Brampton,  
Chesterfield S40 3AW**

**The theme is *Old and Curious Occupations***

#### **Displays**

**Two free talks 11.30am and 1.45pm**

|                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Ask the expert</b>   | <b>Genealogy helpdesks</b>      |
| <b>Family history</b>   | <b>Local history</b>            |
| <b>History displays</b> | <b>Heritage</b>                 |
| <b>Social studies</b>   | <b>Derbyshire Record Office</b> |

**Books and much more**

**On site refreshments available**

**Plenty of on site and street parking available**

**Easy access routes by road, bus and rail**

**Entrance £2.00 Children under 16 are free**

**Website: [www.cadfhs.org/](http://www.cadfhs.org/)**



**Suffolk Family History Society**

Suffolk FHS has just released a composite index of all Anglican baptisms transcribed from Suffolk parish registers 1813-1900. It is available as a CD or as a download from the Suffolk FHS shop for £25 (plus postage for CDs). The online shop is at <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/shop/index.php/>

We have also released a composite index to transcriptions of burials in Suffolk, in this case, from 1538-1900 so all the recorded Anglican burials for all of Suffolk! Also available as CD or download for the amazingly bargain price of £15.32 (plus postage). Other indexes to Suffolk parish register transcriptions are available, please check our shop.

We have a regular monthly (usually) Zoom presentation, open to all, not just members. The ones for March, April and May are as below. Please check our website news page closer to the dates for the Zoom details, <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/news>

**March 13th, 2023, Rachel King** of the British Museum got in touch for our help identifying a family linked with a signet ring found by a metal detectorist. I asked for members' help, and got a great response. Rachel will present on ***the British Museum and early modern objects*** including the signet ring. Suffolk is and has been a place of significant archaeological finds, much predates our family history interests or capability, but there are more recent finds which will be linked with families being researched by members.

**Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>**, Valmay Young will talk about *how to use Facebook for family history*.

**Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Richard Marks will talk about *Munitions Workers in World War II for Family Historians*, with a Suffolk view on the subject

We welcome new (and returning) members. We publish a quarterly journal and this is available by post or electronically, downloaded from our website members pages. Membership fees reflect whether you are in the UK or not, and whether happy to download an electronic copy of our journal or want a physical copy though the post. Members get a variety of benefits, not just the high quality journal, but also for example, a 20% discount on publications such as CDs or downloads. For more details on membership check this page <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/membership> or just write to our membership secretary ([membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk)).

We have five groups in the county who put on regular meetings and events - parish walks in summer, and quizzes and presentations and starter sessions the rest of the year and a West of London group who meet three or four times a year in Hillingdon.

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

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# Family History Societies



## Hampshire Genealogical Society

### LATEST NEWS

#### Exhibition at Hampshire Record Office

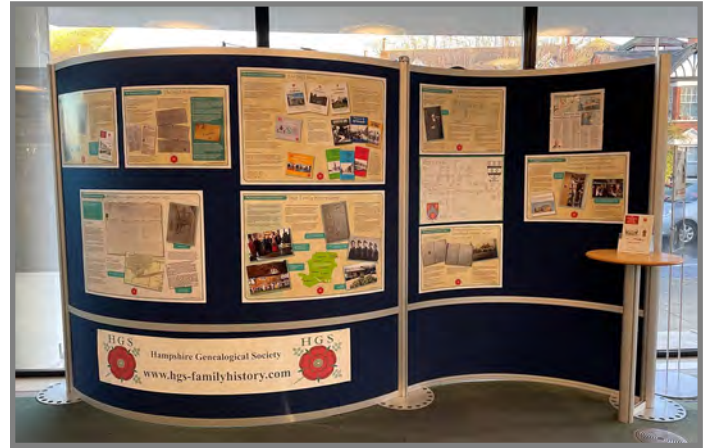
Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS) works in partnership with Hampshire Record Office in Winchester where our research centre has been based for the last eighteen months. We run a helpdesk in the search room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am - 4pm.

Currently we have an exhibition on display in the foyer of the Record Office until 23<sup>rd</sup> February, which highlights the work of HGS volunteers over the years, ranging from transcribing parish records and documenting memorial inscriptions to volunteering on our helpdesk. It also introduces our current project – the digitisation of about 90,000 handwritten cards comprising an index of Britons dying overseas. This is one of the biggest projects ever undertaken by HGS which will take until 2024 to complete.



Work on our exhibition began in May 2022 when HGS members Phil Brown, Jane Painter and Tony Sinclair met together to plan what themes should be covered in the display boards. They also started research into original documents and old books belonging to the society and used them to demonstrate how such items can be invaluable resources for family historians. Phil documented the origins and development of HGS, including the changing style of the *Hampshire Family Historian* over the years. Tony presented the story of how an old book kept in the family for generations helped his daughter trace the link through her maternal line to the Dorset poet William Barnes. Jane presented a case study detailing how a family meal in a local pub sparked her interest in family history! Using HGS resources she was able to trace her 3x great grandfather John Frederick TEES to Titchfield. His son-in-law had been the landlord of the Queen's Head, Titchfield, the same pub Jane had visited.

Our exhibition also documents how the partnership between Hampshire Genealogical Society and Hampshire Record Office came into being and how it has benefitted both partners.



The plan is to keep these display boards for future use so if you can't get to Winchester there will be other opportunities to see the exhibition later. For further details visit [www.hgs-familyhistory.com](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com)

#### National and international groups

Created specifically for our out-of-county and overseas members, these groups have been established so that members who cannot get to see us at our base in Winchester Record Office or cannot attend our local meetings still benefit from a feeling of inclusion with their membership.

Meetings are held on Zoom with programmes designed to help these members with their Hampshire research from afar. Those who regularly attend these meetings now have a sense of "belonging" and a friendly atmosphere has arisen amongst them all. Some have even found new relations through it!

HGS National Group <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/groups/national-group/>

HGS International Group <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/groups/international-group/>

#### FACEBOOK

HGS has run a Facebook page for a number of years. It is a public page which helps to raise awareness of our existence and encourages our audience to engage with us.

We are proud of the fact that a post is published every day of the year; sometimes, there may be more than one! The posts include helpful research tips, notices of forthcoming HGS meetings or Zoom sessions, questions to spark discussion, genealogical jokes and the like.

With over 1,700 people who 'follow' our page, we feel we must be getting something right!

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



# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

### OUT AND ABOUT

The FHF team enjoyed meeting many family historians at Sandown Park's craft event last month when many were introduced to their local family history societies! A frequent phrase is "We didn't know there was a local group" so we do our best to put them right!

FHF will again be at **SEC, Glasgow** for the Creative Craft Show from **2nd to 4th March**. Please note this show is not running on Sunday. FHF will also be at the Creative Craft Show at **NEC, Birmingham 16th to 19th March**.



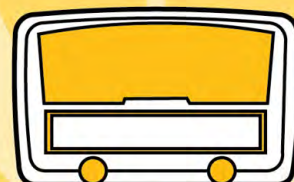
The **Bottle Top Family Tree workshop** with FHF Chairman Steve Manning is available to book at both events: [www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/workshops/](http://www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/workshops/) See you there!

There is a ticket offer for Glasgow: for a 40% reduction quote code **SPRING40**.

[www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/glasgow-march-2023/](http://www.creativecraftshow.co.uk/glasgow-march-2023/)

### REALLY USEFUL PODCAST

Latest series now available!



• REALLY USEFUL •  
• PODCAST •

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

### Podcasts already online in Series 2:

Beginning Your Family History  
Online Resources  
Talking to Relatives  
Historians Collaborate

Plus, all six episodes from Series 1.  
And it is all **FREE!**

## Useful Stuff!



The **Belgian State Archives** has launched a new website dedicated to genealogy. It holds some 38.6 million official documents. You can search in English, German, Dutch or French. The search link is: <https://genealogie.arch.be/search/>



The **Museum of Freemasonry** is open for visits. There is a guide for family history research online, too. <https://museumfreemasonry.org.uk/freemasonry-and-family-history>  
Details of the museum: <https://museumfreemasonry.org.uk/>



Are you searching for information about owners of ships? Historic editions of *Lloyds Register of Ships* are available online. Details about access: <https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/archive-library/lloyds-register-of-ships-online>



My Methodist History has statistical returns for all church buildings 1940. Listed by circuit. [www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/research-resources-2/1940\\_statistical\\_returns\\_of\\_methodist\\_buildings](http://www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/research-resources-2/1940_statistical_returns_of_methodist_buildings)



**Women's Land Army & Timber Corps**

Cherish Watton's website includes an article on interpreting Women's Land Army Record Cards: [www.womenslandarmy.co.uk/contact/interpreting-wla-record-cards/](http://www.womenslandarmy.co.uk/contact/interpreting-wla-record-cards/)



# 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*
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**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](http://www.parishchest.com)

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

[admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)



# FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

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

Family History Books is a shop for books from many publishers on all aspects of family history research. Family History Books is also a publisher of relevant titles relating to research. Family History Books is owned by the Family History Federation in order to provide a service to the genealogical community.

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



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You can search the online bookshop by author, or by title. Remember to check the list of offerings when you enter *legacy* in the search box! Some of these older booklets contain lists of what is held in local archives and this can be invaluable when trying to find what is where. Visit the website regularly as some legacy titles are being digitised and will be available as downloads.

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



## The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

### 17-18 November 2023



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



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