



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 28

December 2022

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

inside find...

Lead article this month is *How to use The Gazette to search your family history* plus giveaways, news from local FHS and from the Federation



Season's Greetings



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

brings you...

Volume 2 of a **NEW WAY** of dating old photographs



another **NEW BOOK** from Family History Books

20% OFF

CHECKOUT CODE

RUB23

ends 31st Jan

It is here!

The sequel to *Dating by Design 1840-1915*

DATING BY DESIGN VOLUME 2 TWENTIETH CENTURY

*Treat yourself today—
buy one for a friend*

Hardback book printed on quality paper
Volume 2 is £19.95 plus post and packing

Use code RUB23

for your 20% discount

Discount code applies to BOTH
Dating by Design books as a
Christmas reward to our loyal readers

Offer closes on 31st January 2023

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

for full details of both *Dating by Design* books—and all other titles available in the shop



Really Useful Bulletin

Jeremy Sumner Wycherley Gibson

22 Oct 1934 - 28 Oct 2022

Jeremy Gibson was undoubtedly one of the names most spoken of among British family historians from the mid-1970s. Over many years, Jeremy compiled and published his *Gibson Guides* in association with the Federation of Family History Societies, as the Family History Federation was formerly known. These *Guides* covered areas including *Militia Lists*, *Muster Rolls*, *Probate Records*, *Hearth Tax Returns*, *Coroners Records*, *Quarter Sessions Records*, *Poll Books*, *Protestation Returns*, *Marriage* and *Census Indexes*, opening up possibilities for researchers far beyond traditional records of birth, marriage and death, parish registers and census returns. The *Guides* are a wide-ranging series of low-priced booklets offering county-by-county locations, with addresses and telephone numbers, across Britain of just about every type of record that all researchers need to study when seeking ancestors. Jeremy spoon-fed us all in telling us where to go for original records, copies, transcriptions and indexes. He enlisted the assistance of many fellow genealogists in gleaning data from local and national archives and libraries and also from history and genealogical societies; but it was he who, by utilising his editing skills, manually sorted and typed up the information ready for publication in easy-to-access formats that so many of us came to consult and value.

Jeremy's sterling work was recognised by the Federation in 1995 when it presented him with its



medal for outstanding contributions to family history. He had been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1968 and of the Royal Historical Society in 1985. The Society of Genealogists, which he had joined in the 1950s, whose executive committee he later served and whose *Magazine* he jointly edited 1972-76, awarded him a Fellowship in 1963 and an Honorary Fellowship in 1999.

Intensely proud of his Oxfordshire roots, it was Jeremy's maternal Banbury

ancestors that attracted him to initially work in Banbury, where he co-founded its Historical Society and edited thirty-seven volumes of its record series. Likewise in 1976 he co-founded the Oxfordshire Family History Society, edited its *Journal* until 1982 and was elected President in 1993. He composed articles for the *Local Historian* and sat on the Council of the British Record Society contributing to volumes on Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Even in today's era of digitisation, computerised indexes and commercial family history websites, through his many written works Jeremy continues to give us just that vital link to demolish an all too familiar brick wall. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Colin Chapman
Vice President

We thank Lady Deborah Hayter for kindly giving permission for use of her photo of Jeremy.



Really Useful Bulletin

How to use The Gazette to search your family history

Having been published since 1665, The Gazette has over 350 years of history waiting to be explored. Whether it's military records or British honours, our digital archives are the perfect place to start searching your family history for free.



What information is contained on The Gazette?

The Gazette has been the UK's official public record since 1665. As such, it contains official information on individuals (and companies) which is found in the form of notices. These notices generally fall into one of four sectors:

- [awards and accreditations](#) – for all awards, state awards and military decorations and medals, including the New Year and Birthday Honours recipients
- [insolvency](#) – for all personal and corporate insolvency notices
- [wills and probate](#) – for all deceased estates and unclaimed estates notices
- [companies](#) – for all companies registered at Companies House

This means that if a family member received the likes of a military promotion/award or a British honour, such as an MBE, an OBE or a CBE, you will be able to find them in The Gazette. They will also be in The Gazette if they entered bankruptcy or were the subject of a [deceased estates notice](#).

How do I search The Gazette?

The easiest way to start searching The Gazette is by heading to the [All notices](#) section of the website and using the search tools on the left-hand side of the page. However, you can also refine your search, using some of the same tools, on the four different sector pages listed above.

The Gazette website is free to use, however if you would like to save your searches, specific notices, or create [bespoke editions](#), you will need to [create an account](#), which is also free.

Searching for soldiers, promotions and medals

The Gazette is the official bearer of War Office and Ministry of Defence (MOD) events, and for hundreds of years The Gazette has been publishing honours and awards for gallantry and meritorious service in the armed forces, often referred to as 'Mentioned in Despatches'. When searching for a soldier, the best place to start is at the [All notices](#) page and use the *Text search* on the left-hand side.

Being successful in finding an entry will depend on the style used to *gazette* your family member at the time of entry. There was no standard way of submitting and displaying information. For example, often no first name is used, just the initial and the soldier's surname. However, there are certain fields of information that had to be included in The Gazette for a soldier:

- name
- rank
- regiment
- date
- regimental service number (pre-1920) - *note that often soldiers would move regiments and have a new service number assigned to them*
- service number (post-1920)



Really Useful Bulletin

The screenshot shows the 'THE GAZETTE' website with the 'OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD' tagline. The navigation bar includes 'All notices', 'Coronavirus notices', 'Resources', and 'The Gazette: 350 Years'. The 'Search and filter' section on the left has a 'Text search' box with the placeholder 'lorem' and a 'Notice type' filter. A red circle highlights the 'Text search' section, which includes instructions: 'Please use this option to search all Gazette data and specifically for notices published before 1998. You can also filter using the publication date and Gazette edition below.' The 'All notices' section displays a list of notices, each with a 'Publication Date' of '2 June 2021' and a 'View full notice' link. The notices are titled 'Lorem DOLOR' and 'Dolor Sit'. The 'Resources' section on the right lists various articles, including 'Monthly UK insolvency statistics - August 2022' and 'The honours system during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II'.

It should also be noted that due to the column widths used in the printed Gazettes, a name could run over two lines and will be hyphenated, making it harder to find. The name of a soldier may also have been submitted in several different ways. Using the example of Arthur James Smith, it could have been listed as:

- "Arthur James Smith"
- "Arthur J. Smith"
- "A. J. Smith"
- "A. James Smith"
- "Arthur Smith"
- "Smith, [service number] A. J."
- "Smith, [service number] A."
- "Smith, [service number] Arthur J."
- "Smith, [rank], A. J."
- "Smith, [rank], A."
- "Smith, [rank], Arthur J."

Providing details of a soldier will greatly improve your chances of success:

- Add a date range if the time of publication, if known.
- Add the award type to your search, for example typing 'Jacka Victoria Cross' into the search box returns Albert Jacka's VC awarded in 1915 ([Gazette issue 29240](#)). It should be noted that often certain awards will be awarded to multiple individuals at once. This means the lists of recipients may run over multiple pages and the award may only be mentioned in the first page.
- Add the regiment or service number to your search, for example typing 'Apthorp Royal Norfolk Regiment' or 'Apthorp 56653' into the search box returns a mention in 1946 for Desmond Pretymen Apthorp ([Gazette issue 37720](#)).



Really Useful Bulletin

The screenshot shows the 'The Gazette' website search interface. On the left, the 'Search and filter' sidebar includes a 'Text search' section with a search box containing 'Apthorp 56653', which is circled in red. Below it are 'Notice type' and 'Show all' options. The main 'All notices' section displays three search results, each with a 'Publication Date' and a title link. The first result is dated 10 September 1946 and titled 'The London Gazette, Supplement 37720, Page 4573'. The right sidebar contains 'Actions', 'Resources', and a date filter set to '20 September 2022'.

Add the citation to your search. It should be noted that due to the sheer volume of soldiers being *gazetted* during conflicts full citations were not common. However, there are several websites that provide information about servicemen, including Gazette citations, such as the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#). For example, the entry for [Charles Yate](#) contains his citation. By typing "*led his nineteen survivors against the enemy*" into the search box, it returns his Victoria Cross entry ([Gazette issue 12744](#)).

It should also be noted that The Gazette has a dedicated search area for [World War 1](#), as well as a [World War 1 medals](#) page.

Searching for awards and honours

The Gazette is the official home of the monarch's Birthday Honours and New Year Honours, which recognise the achievements and service of people across the UK. The [honour lists](#) are published in a special Gazette supplement in the new year and on the reigning monarch's official birthday. Other awards officially announced in special Gazette supplements include the [Awards for Voluntary Service](#), the [Prime Minister's Resignation Honours](#) and the [Dissolution Honours](#).

When searching for individuals who have received an award, the easiest place to start is the [awards and accreditation notices](#) page. Providing details will greatly improve your chances of successful search:

- Add a date range. The monarch announces the New Year Honours at the end of each year and their Birthday Honours (for Queen Elizabeth II, in June), therefore if someone was awarded an MBE in the 1970 New Year Honours list, for example, use the date range starting from 28/12/69 to 01/01/70. If you know the year of an award but do not know whether someone was awarded in the New Year Honours or Birthday Honours, for example) it's best to change the date range starting from 28/12/69 to 01/07/70, for example.
- Add the citation to your search. For both New Year and Birthday Honours, if you know what the individual was awarded their honour for, use the keywords '*for services to*'. For example, if you search '*Kevin Sinfield for services to rugby*', the search will return [Kevin Sinfield's MBE](#) in 2021.
- If you want to find the recipients of a certain award, use the *Honours and Awards* search function to narrow your search. *Note that MBEs, OBEs and CBEs are part of the Order of the British Empire.*



Really Useful Bulletin

The screenshot shows the 'Search and filter' section on the left with 'Honours and Awards' selected. The main content area displays 'Awards and Accreditation notices' with three entries, each dated 2 June 2021 and titled 'Lorem DOLOR'. The right sidebar includes 'Actions' with a link to 'Take advantage of The Gazette research service', 'Awards & Accreditation resources' with a link to 'Winners of the 2021 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service', and 'The Queen's Birthday Honours list 2021'.

Unfortunately, we cannot confirm that knighthoods, other than those invested directly by the sovereign, were gazetted pre-1922; for Irish Knighthoods, you may wish to consult the Dublin Gazette archives (online for the period 1750-1800, with editions from 1800-1922 available to view in person at the National Library of Ireland), and for all others pre-1906, William Shaw's 'Knights of England' is considered to be the authoritative text.

Can I get help searching The Gazette?

You can find out more about [searching The Gazette](#), however if you need more guidance [The Gazette Research Service](#) can help. Our team of experts can complete an exhaustive and thorough search of our archives and indexes for a small charge. All we need from you are a few details, and once we have discovered the record, we'll send you a comprehensive and personalised results document in the form of a pdf.

To send us your request, please complete the [PDF form](#) and send it to customer.services@thegazette.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can

- call us on 0333 200 2434
- post your completed form to: The Gazette, PO Box 3584, Norwich, NR7 7WD

Ed: We thank The Gazette for providing the above article and screenshots.



Transcription Tuesday is on 31st January!

Launched in 2017, *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine runs an annual day when all family historians can contribute to a variety of transcription projects. There are four projects for 2023:

Medieval London property records * Navy records from the American Civil War

FamilySearch * Parkside Asylum records from Cheshire

Full details on how to take part can be found on the magazine's website at:

www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/transcription-tuesday-2023/

Don't miss the Christmas give-aways—read on!



What's in Santa's sack?



The Federation is helping Santa deliver some goodies!

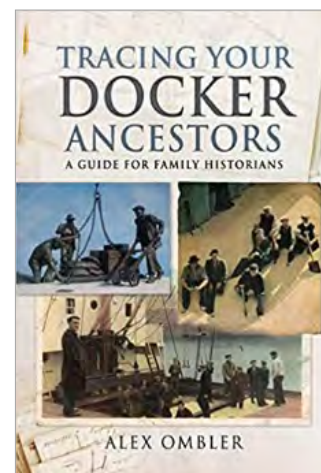
All you have to do for EACH item is send an email to: competitions@familyhistoryfederation.com and put the short title into the subject line. Every email will go into the bag—and in January lucky recipients will be invited to provide their mailing details so the item can be sent. Could not be more simple, could it?



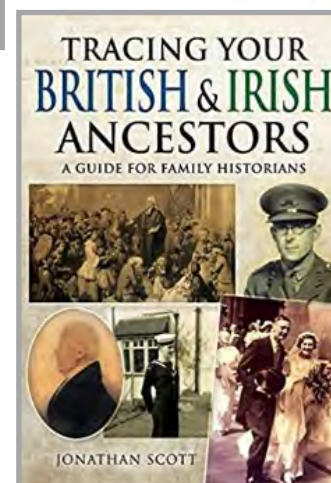
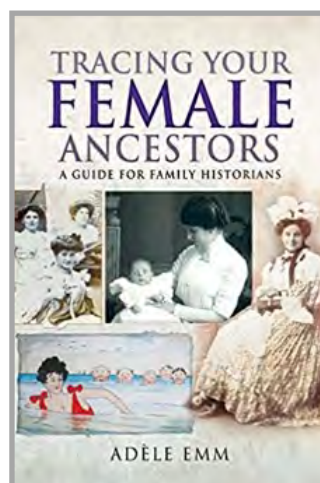
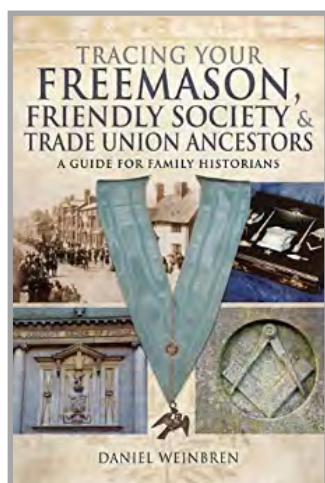
For this book put
Dating 2
in the subject line.



For this book put
Docker Ancestors
in the subject line.



For this book put
Female Ancestors
in the subject line



For this book put
Sharing Online
in the subject line



For this book put
British and Irish
in the subject line



Send emails to: competitions@familyhistoryfederation.com

Do it **before 6th January 2023.**

Use the short title in **bold** beside each option—put it into the **subject line** of your email.

Send **one email for each book** you would like to receive.

One copy of each will be given away. Winners will be asked for their mailing details.

Good luck—and have a wonderful Christmas!



Family History Societies



Family Roots

Family History Society for Eastbourne and District

We are pleased to announce the release of our latest data CD, the transcribed memorial inscriptions for Ripe and Chalvington, East Sussex. The CD has over 500 searchable entries, the cost is £5.00 and is available on our website www.eastbournefhs.org.uk

Did you know we have an online database *index of names on CD*? This database has over 40,000 data entries and covers all of our transcribed memorial inscription CDs.

We also have pre-owned original BMD certificates for sale at £2.00 each. There is a searchable database with a link taking you to the certificate of your choice. These certificates are offered on a first come first served basis.



Other organisations



The Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society has launched a new website about the fascinating bygone times of Altrincham and the surrounding area.

<https://www.altrinchamheritage.com>

The website was created under the umbrella of Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society, supported by the HLF. It was only made possible by a host of volunteers, as well as the collectors, societies and institutions, who very kindly provided items to be digitised and shared. Many thanks are due to them all.



Archives & Records Association

UK & Ireland

The Archives and Records Association has recently launched *Outside the Box* podcast as part of the *Explore Your Archive* campaign.

All episodes are detailed at <https://www.exploreyourarchive.org/celebrating/>

and will be available here <https://sites.libsyn.com/448569/coming-soon-outside-the-box> and via most podcast hosting services (eg Spotify etc).

Main website: <https://www.archives.org.uk/>

Canal & River Trust has a most useful leaflet for those researching family history on the waterways:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/refresh/media/thumbnail/42205-research-family-history-booklet.pdf>

Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2023



Tessa Spencer, Head of Outreach and Learning at the National Records of Scotland, will join the Scottish Indexes Conference on Saturday 14th January to present 'Secrets of the 1921 Scottish Census'.

Come along to this free Zoom event. Scan the QR code to register or visit www.scottishindexes.com to find out more.

'Secrets of the 1921 Scottish Census'

Scan to register



www.scottishindexes.com

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

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



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation



Busily Getting Out and About



The Federation will be attending the following events in 2023. The list is subject to confirmation at this early stage, but we will bring you periodic updates during the coming months. We hope to see many readers of the *Really Useful Bulletin* at the major shows! Always stop by for a chat or just to say hello!

East Surrey FHS Virtual Fair	28 th January 2023
Crafting Live—Sandown Park	28-29 th January 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Glasgow	2-4 March 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Birmingham	16 – 19 March 2023
FFHS AGM – Stevenage	20 May 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Birmingham	23-25 June 2023
Family History Show—York	24 June 2023
Crafting Live—Doncaster	15- 16 July 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Farnborough	1-3 September 2023
Family History Show—Kempton Park	2 September 2023
U3A Family History Conference—Buxton	16 September 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Exeter	21-23 September 2023
Oxfordshire FHS	Saturday 7th October 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Glasgow	26-29 October 2023
ICHF Creative Craft—Birmingham	2-5 November 2023

The REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

Do you receive your copy from a friend? You can sign up free of charge and have your copy direct to your inbox.

Never miss a last-minute offer—sign up now! www.familyhistoryfederation.com and click “newsletter”

The Federation Family





Really Useful Back Page

Family History Research Aids from the Experts



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

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

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

www.parishchest.com

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

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk

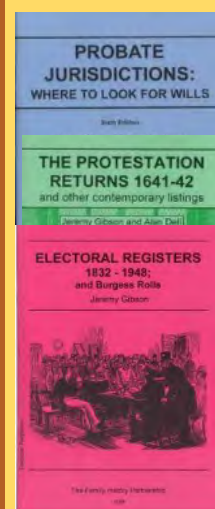
Family History Books is a shop for books from many publishers on all aspects of family history research. Family History Books is also a publisher of relevant titles relating to research. Family History Books is owned by the Family History Federation in order to provide a service to the genealogical community.

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

The latest title is *Dating by Design—Volume 2 Twentieth Century*. This is a follow-on volume continuing the dating photographs in a new way. See front page plus full details are on the FHBO website.

The *Gibson Guides*, as referred to in the tribute to the late Jeremy Gibson, are available from FHBO. These

continue to provide lists to aid family historians particularly when battling with online catalogues. Knowing what exists, and where it should be, is a huge aid for our searching techniques. Do keep an eye on the FHBO website because the four volumes on the Poor Law are being launched as a download—probably in spring 2023.



Please explore the range of books, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

17-18 November 2023

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details



FFHS does not exercise any control over the content of external website links in this Really Useful Bulletin. It is not responsible for the content or quality. Nor does FFHS endorse any companies or products advertised.
Copyright © 2022 Federation of Family History Societies, All rights reserved.

Family History Federation P O Box 62, Sheringham, NR26 9AR

Family History Federation is the operating name of the Federation of Family History Societies.
The Federation of Family History Societies is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Company Number 2930189 (England & Wales) Registered Charity Number 1038721
Registered Office: 2 Primrose Avenue, Urmston, Manchester M41 0TY