



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 24

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

inside find...

Lead article this month: *Investigating Workhouse Relatives and Archives*
plus the REALLY USEFUL SHOW's keynote speakers, 1921 census stories wanted,
news from local FHS and the Federation

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FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION'S 2022 REALLY USEFUL Show

Keynote Speakers Announced!



FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 7.00PM

Diahn Southard

Diahn Southard is a leading voice for consumer DNA testing from her position as founder of *Your DNA Guide*. In addition to her international teaching commitments, Diahn also acts as a consultant with leading testing companies and forensics experts. Southard's company, **Your DNA Guide.com** deploys a team of scientists who provide one-on-one genetic genealogy education and research services. You will walk away from an interaction with her, enlightened and motivated as she has a passion for genetic genealogy, a genuine love for people, and a gift for making the technical understandable.

Connecting Your DNA Matches

While it is possible for you to analyse your DNA matches one at a time to determine how you are related, there is much that can be accomplished by first identifying the connections between those on your match list, *organising* those matches, and then working together to determine how you are related to each other. Learn the tips and tricks to this powerful method of match analysis.



SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 10.15AM

Paul Nixon

Paul Nixon has a keen interest in military history and in particular the British Army and its campaigns between 1850 and 1920. He has been researching British soldiers for over forty years and has delivered dozens of talks on various aspects of British military history. Professionally, he has worked for *Findmypast* in a content licensing role since August 2010.

British Army Detective – Piecing Together the Jigsaw

Paul's presentation will demonstrate how to make the most of what scant information survives in order to build a fuller picture of service, including a deep dive into regimental numbers and what these tell us. Ideal for beginners and seasoned researchers alike.



www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/



Really Useful Bulletin

How to investigate your workhouse relatives and workhouse archives

by Helen Bainbridge

With over forty years family history research experience, it never ceases to amaze me the number of new sources you can discover. Even then, you know that you will never find it all! However, you may find this article of use in discovering the history of your relative who resided in the workhouse, be it as a member of staff or an inmate, if you are lucky enough to have them.

I hear you question why I say 'lucky'? Well, having an inmate relative may mean there are snippets of information recorded about their lives that you would not normally find, and in some instances more detail than you ever imagined! For example, how would we have discovered that the Poor Law funded the family of Horace Franklin to go to Port Phillip, Australia; that Benjamin Newell was operated on for a cleft lip; that Emily Bilham made sure she left clothes at the workhouse so she could return 'home' when she needed to; that Jacob Thurlow was in the workhouse for three years and went into service for a Medical Officer or; that Charles Hewett was punished by having his tobacco stopped for one week for leaving the workhouse without permission to go to a public house?

As always with family history, there are a couple of caveats. In some cases, you will only ever be able to discover that they were in a workhouse via a census record, or that they were born or died in a workhouse via a birth, death or a parish burial record. You may even find a newspaper article about them appearing before the magistrate whilst being in the workhouse. For others, it may mean searching through a large, eclectic mix of documents that are waiting patiently to be transcribed and become electronically searchable by us all!

So, where do you start when you discover a workhouse relative?

Initially, use a search engine to discover what comes up about the workhouse you are investigating. It is likely that you will be signposted to www.workhouses.org.uk in the first instance. On this website, Peter Higginbotham has provided background information about Poor Laws and

individual histories of workhouses, including information about some of the sources that are available. However, there is such a vast array in the type of workhouse records which may survive, that it is nearly always worth looking at the nearest County Record Office to see what they hold. It may mean a trip to the Record Office to look through each type of record, unless you can find that it has been transcribed.

For example, the Board of Guardians' Minute Books for the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse (now Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life – where I have carried out much workhouse research) are held by the Norfolk Records Office, but are currently being fully transcribed by museum research volunteers. Currently available on the museum website is a '*List of Inmates*' with notes, from an earlier project.⁽¹⁾ If you find your family member and want more information, you can contact the museum curator via email at gressenhall.museum@norfolk.gov.uk and request more details regarding the full minute book entry. The museum will also ask you to share what you know about the person, and would be especially interested if you have photographs. Photographs of inmates are very rare!



*Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life
(Photo: Helen Bainbridge, 3 July 2022)*

Here are a few extracts from **ONE** Guardian Minute Book dated from 13 May 1878 to 3 November 1879 to provide you with an idea of what you may find:



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13 May 1878: *Relief is allowed to the undermentioned able bodied person on the report of the Medical Officer: Christmas Millett of Billingford (Rhuematism).*

20 May 1878: *William Phillips and Ann Adcock, two inmates of the Workhouse, each having children, being about to leave for the purpose of getting married and residing at Mattishall, it is, at their request and under the special circumstances of the case, agreed that the Master do allow them to leave without their families, Phillips having this day promised the Board that he will, after his said marriage, take all the children out of the House by Saturday next.*

22 July 1878: *Amelia Marsh aged 13 years an inmate of the Workhouse having been guilty of gross misbehaviour by kicking the Schoolmistress, and using abusive language it is ordered that she be punished by solitary confinement for 24 hours and during such period to be dieted on bread and water.*

7 July 1879: *The Clerk laid before the Guardians a Letter...from the Local Government Board declining to interfere in the case of the hare lip of the infant inmate of the Workhouse named Benjamin Newell, upon whom the desired operation was reported to have been already successfully performed.*

29 September 1879: *The Revd M R Eaton proposed and Mr Warren seconded the proposition that Lydia Curson a deserted woman whose husband had ran away and left her about three years back and who with her five children had been ever since maintained and supported in the Union Workhouse at a cost of £60 a year and upwards, be permitted to emigrate with those children to Canada where her Father is now living and that a sum of £22 be with the sanction of the Local Government Board allowed towards the expenses of their Emigration.*

29 September 1879: *On the recommendation of the Visiting Committee it was agreed that subject to the approval of the Local Government Board the sum of £2 10s 0d for clothing be given to Jacob Thurlow a poor boy maintained in the Workhouse on his leaving the same to go into the service of Mr Henry Raven the Medical Officer upon the Terms mentioned in the usual format proposed this day laid before the Guardians.*

As you can see, these snippets often lead to more questions. Always remember that even though it looks as if your relative spent many years in the workhouse

as you find them in two consecutive census records, the walls of the workhouse were built to keep people out, not in, so they may have left and returned a number of times between records.

In the minute books, you may also discover information about local suppliers, staff or the members of the Board of Guardians themselves. For example, this entry provides you with the date that a new nurse, May Ann Bullock, started her employment. She started and finished her employment between census dates, so you otherwise may not have known that she worked there.

26 August 1878: *Mrs Mary Ann Bullock, a widow, attended before the Guardians and agreed to accept the office of Nurse at the Workhouse upon the same terms as her predecessor and to enter upon her duties on the 9th September next, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.*

The Norfolk Record Office also hold Creed Registers. Creed registers that survive for Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse date from the 1930s and include details of the inmate's name, address, where admitted, age and date of birth, their occupation, their religious creed, the name and address of their nearest relative or friend, their date of admission, date of discharge and any remarks such as where they moved on to, or if they died. There are also a few baptism and death records, but these are very sparse, therefore in order to research more about the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse we have to use The National Archives (TNA), MH 12 records.

MH 12 records consist of 16,741 volumes of up to one thousand pages each dated from 1834 to 1900. These contain Poor Law Correspondence from the local Board of Guardians to the government's Poor Law Commission (and its successors), in date order. They include papers relating to the appointment of staff, examinations of paupers seeking help, proposals of service, education reports, details of lunatic inmates etc. Some of the Poor Law Correspondence has been catalogued and digitised in detail and can be downloaded at no cost. Information about what can be found is listed here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/poverty-poor-laws/> (although Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse is now available in full). You can also use these records to search for more information about some of the minute book entries.



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For example, from the correspondence below we can discover more information about Benjamin Newell's cleft lip and that the operation was the subject of a lot of discussion. The record states *that the cure of hare lips although essential to personal appearance is not necessary for the preservation of life* and it was stated that the operation itself was *never quite without for risk to life* and pointed out that *professional opinion is divided as to the best time for the performance of the operation with some advocating very early infancy, the major preferring from the 4th to 5th year.*

As regards the performance of the operation in question to which the sanction of the Bd is requested the Board have thought it advisable right to communicate with their Inspector O'Mount and he has advised them that the cure of hare lips although essential to personal appearance is not necessary for the preservation of life. There are several instances. The operation is never quite without risk to life even in

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, Public Records Office (PRO), MH 12/8489/75 Folio 139; 2 June 2022)

EMIGRATION.
Form of Resolution.

MITFORD & LAUNDITCH UNION

AT a Meeting of the Guardians of the Poor of the
Mitford & Launditch Union, held at the Board Room
this 28th day of July 1879.

IT WAS RESOLVED—by the Resolution
passed at a meeting of the Board—
That the several* Poor Persons, whose names are hereunder
written, residing in the said Union,
being desirous of emigrating to Bourbon in
Canada
the necessary steps be immediately taken to effect the Emigration,
and that a sum, not exceeding £3.13.4.
be expended for each Person, and be charged upon the Common Fund
of this Union.

Names of the proposed Emigrants.

Lydia Carson.
Kate Carson.
William Carson.
Anne Carson.
George Carson.
Marion Carson.

* If only one person alter the Form accordingly.

Image above reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 12/8489/101 Folio 191; 2 June 2022)

Also through MH 12, we can discover the names of Lydia Curson's children, which would then help us to find other records relating to them.

From the Proposal of Service record below we can confirm the age of Jacob Thurlow at the time that the document was signed. We can confirm that both his parents were dead and that he had been in the workhouse for three years, having last resided in Brisley, Norfolk.

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH UNION.

PROPOSAL of Service for Pauper Child maintained in Union Workhouse.

RECEIVED
5 OCT
1879

Name of Pauper Jacob Thurlow

Age of Pauper 13 years

Occupation and position of parents Parents dead

Parish where last resident Brisley

How long maintained in Workhouse About 3 years

Name, occupation, and address of proposed master or mistress Henry Raven Ey
Surgeon
Litcham

For what time proposed to be hired one year

What wages, or other remuneration, proposed to be given by master or mistress £3.0.0 with Board
Lodging and Washing.

What allowance proposed to be given by Board of Guardians to the pauper on leaving Workhouse for such service £2.10.0 in Clothing

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 12/8489/129 Folio 240; 2 June 2022)

Within the MH 12 records you can also find out details of new staff members, not only within the general correspondence, but also in appointment forms. Through a notice to the Poor Law Board, for example, we're able to find that an Elizabeth Sackamore replaced Mary Ann Bullock, although we do not have the records for Mary Ann herself. Elizabeth was a fifty-



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year-old widow when she was appointed, and had worked for two years at Great Yarmouth Workhouse and nearly three months in Bethnal Green Workhouse, leaving there to try private nursing on 9 September

Bedford and Lamditch UNION. 35640/99

APPOINTMENT OF NURSE

1. State the Christian Name and Surname of the Person appointed as Nurse at the Union Workhouse, in full *Elizabeth Sackmore*

2. Her place of Residence immediately previous to her appointment *no 2. Mactonough Square Wholey Road Gt Yarmouth*

3. Her Age *50 years*

4. Whether Married or Single *Widow*

5. Whether she has any Children; and, if so, whether they are dependent on her, and where it is proposed that they shall reside *None*

6. Her previous Occupations or Callings *Nurse*

7. Whether she has before held any office in any Union or Parish; and, if so, what office, and in what Union or Parish *Two years in Great Yarmouth Workhouse. and nearly 3 months in Bethnal Green Workhouse. London.*

8. The cause of her leaving the same, and the date at which she left *Wished to try private nursing 9th September 1878.*

9. The day on which she was Elected to her present office *28th April 1879.*

(1009 3175-MeC.)

1878.

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 12/8489/64 Folio 121; 2 June 2022)

Staff workhouse records can also be found in a National Archives in the MH 9 [Registers of Paid Officers and Staff Appointed by the Board of Guardians](#) Registers. You can see both the records for Mary Ann Bullock and Elizabeth Sackmore in the image below.

M.A. Bullock, res 2nd Apr 79, feeling unequal to duties.
Mary Ann Bullock, September 1879, 25
E. Sackmore, res 2nd Sep 79, no cause stated for her
Elizabeth Sackmore, April 1879, 25.

Image reproduced by kind permission of TNA, PRO, MH 9/11; 2 June 2022)

It is with the help of these records that you can start to piece together biographies of inmates and staff who resided in the workhouse.

Networks and subject groups are also a valuable source of information. Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse is part of the Workhouse Network, for example, and as a member I have researched inmates as part of the More Than Oliver Twist Project.

The Workhouse Network is a Subject Specialist Network (SSN) that brings together museums, heritage organisations, archives and universities interested in welfare history. The Network exists to share expertise, develop skills, knowledge and to promote the understanding of history and contemporary relevance of poverty, welfare and the poor. See www.workhousenetwork.org for more information and guidance on how to research your inmates as well as ways of writing up your data and the biographies using the More Than Oliver Twist Project training.

The six workhouse museums of Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, Llanfyllin Workhouse, Ripon Museum Trust, The Workhouse Southwell, Thackray Museum of Medicine and The Spike Heritage Centre, Guildford have created a digital exhibition which investigated the lives of Louisa Ledger, Stephen Barry, Levi Newham, Harriet Perkins, Hannah Wade and Benjamin Newell. See: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-workhouse-network>.

As part of the project, the group have created the largest known database of inmate biographies of the historical poor. The database was created to aid development within the fields of welfare and workhouse research and improve public access to and understanding of collections. The digital database can be found at: <https://ehive.com/communities/1167/more-than-oliver-twist>. As more biographies are added to the database, you may find a relative of yours appearing. If you do, then please do contact us. As with all research, it is never fully complete as more archives are discovered and made available.

I am aware that workhouse histories can be contentious, similar to the question of poverty and welfare today. However, as a group of researchers, we are keen to share workhouse histories as the Poor Law was one building block that helped to develop our contemporary systems of education, social welfare, health care and social services to name but a few. Have you discovered your own family's workhouse histories? Was one of those rare stories passed on in the family,



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or do you need help finding more information? If this is the case, then please do join us on The Workhouse Network's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/workhousenetwork as we would love to hear your stories, share your research with other interested members, or hear about a new resource that you have discovered.

Unfortunately, not all workhouse records survive, but there are certainly other records which we may not previously have been aware of which shed light on workhouses. There are too many to list here (and many more to discover), but most recently I came across a Catalogue of Children's case files. These files were part of the *Including the Excluded* project from the Children's Society Records and Archive Centre. The project's aim was to catalogue the records that relate to disabled children, the majority born in 1911 or before and who had been placed in specific homes for disabled children. It provides details of the date and place of application; the reasons for application; details of the disability; a case history (ie. when and where the child went) and a list of what is included in the case file ie. correspondence and documents. I entered 'workhouse' in the search and found 710 entries, which probably relates to over 300 case histories of the 23799

held.

You never know what you will find and that is what makes this type of research exciting!

References and Links:

1. Gressenhall Workhouse Sources of Inmate Names.
<https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/museums/downloads/gressenhall/library-and-archive/workhouse-sources-for-inmate-names-ncc125152.pdf>
2. Norfolk Record Office, Records of the Mitford and Launditch Poor Law Union 1776-1948, C/GP 14-27

Helen Bainbridge:

I am passionate about workhouse history and am a very experienced family historian. I volunteer for Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life where I am a researcher and a research mentor for over fifty research volunteers. I also run the team of library volunteers. I am currently Chair of the Friends of Gressenhall and I am a paid Relief Visiting Services Team member. I am Secretary for the Workhouse Network and I am also the paid digitiser for Free UK Genealogy (FreeBMD etc).





HOME OF THE 1921 CENSUS ONLINE
in association with
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Has the 1921 CENSUS solved your family mystery?

Chance to tell your 1921 story!

Since the 1921 census of England and Wales was launched exclusively online at Findmypast in January, family historians have been busily exploring the century-old stories, secrets and surprises it reveals.

The Findmypast team is now on the hunt for the most jaw-dropping, life-changing 1921 census discoveries.

Has the census helped you break down a long-standing family research 'brick wall'? Perhaps it has unlocked a new family story you knew nothing about or revealed an unexpected ancestor.

Whatever your 1921 census discovery, Findmypast would love to hear about it. Drop them a line with your story at discoveries@findmypast.com.

Who knows where your past might take you?

The following story is what the 1921 census has explained for the Federation's chairman, Steve Manning. We hope it will inspire you to tell FindMyPast about your 1921 discoveries!

Right: Steve with Patience in Canada—read on...





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Stories from the 1921 Census

Becoming Lillas

The meaning of the term 'family history' seems to vary greatly from person to person.

For some, the DNA 'country of origin' approach works just fine – that's all they need. Others are motivated by collecting an interminable series of names and dates which reach out across the generations. But for me, family history is about people—*my people*—all friends I am learning to love.

My ancestors are totally real people. They lived real lives and dealt with real everyday challenges, exactly as we do now in fact, but in different times, places and/or circumstances.

But that's the rub of course. It's not the 'here and now', but the 'then' which is so important when learning of and reviewing their life choices. So I frequently find myself asking, "In the light of what I know of their situation, would I – could I - have acted any differently?"



Bare Facts

Lillas Mary Cheshire FROOMS (1897-1939—pictured above) was the first wife of my great-uncle Edgar Askew 'Smudge' SMITH (1891-1958) whom I'd met as a young lad. The couple lived in Croydon and had two children, Harry and Hilda. Lillas Mary committed suicide just days before Hitler invaded Poland in 1939.

As you'll appreciate, suicide is not generally a topic for family discussion. However, I was able to learn a little from my father on the topic. This prompted me to locate Hilda's daughter Patience, who lives in Canada. She in turn provided me with sufficient clues to locate other family members in both Australia and the UK. What follows is a précis of what I learned from them, supplemented and enhanced by my own original research, now brought up-to-date by the 1921 census available at Findmypast.

Early years

Lillas' parents Albert Edward FROOMS and Lillas Rose CHESHIRE met during one of Albert's regular visits to Grantham, Lincolnshire in his capacity as clerk for a London company. Following their marriage in the summer of 1889, they moved to Croydon where they resided for the rest of their lives. But sadly, their union is not to be a classic 'happy ever after' story.

At the beginning all appeared to go well for the couple, with their only daughter, also named Lillas [Lillas Mary], a happy addition in 1897. But within ten years Lillas Rose began a long struggle with mental health issues.

CROYDON MENTAL HOSPITAL.											
Reg. No. 142		Name Lillas Rose Frooms				Date of Admission 12 June 1909					
NATIONALITY.	RELIGION.	EDUCATION.	Transferred from other Asylums.	Age on Admission.	Civil State.	First Attack.	Age on First Attack.	Rank, Profession, Occupation.	CAUSE OF INSANITY.		
									Predisposing.	Exciting.	
				45	Married 20	1st. 1889-1890			Anxiety.	Mental distress.	
(j) Was there any cause for the attack, such as bodily illness, family trouble, anxiety, poverty, drink, exposure, fright, shock, injury, or has any recent event in trade or politics troubled him?..				Anxiety & exhaustion from continuous nursing of child through acute illness							
(k) What have been the various occupations engaged in during the patient's life? ..											
(l) Where was the patient born, and what are the different places (London, country, or abroad) where patient has lived? ..				Grantham. London & Croydon							
B.—PREVIOUS HISTORY.											
(a) Has the patient been insane before? If so, when and how often? Has the patient been in any other Asylum? Which? ..				1st attack 2 years ago							
(u) Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself at time of examination, viz. :- 2 other madmen. He told me that last night.											

Case notes from Lillas Rose's first admission to Croydon Mental Hospital in 1909 (available on FindMyPast) indicate she'd already been suffering from *mania* for at least two years. This latest attack was attributed to *anxiety and exhaustion from continuous nursing of a child through acute illness*. Although Lillas Rose's condition improved sufficiently for her return home after a two-month stay, she was again hospitalised for another two months in 1911 and again 1912.

As reported in the local newspapers, Lillas Mary was musically talented both as a pianist and vocalist. Indeed, in later life she accompanied the renowned bass-baritone Paul Robeson on at least one occasion. Other articles reveal that Albert, now working as the secretary of the Croydon Saturday Hospital Fund, was regarded as genial, popular and energetic. (Croydon newspapers are now easily accessible online via the British Newspaper Archive).



Send your 1921 stories to: discoveries@findmypast.com



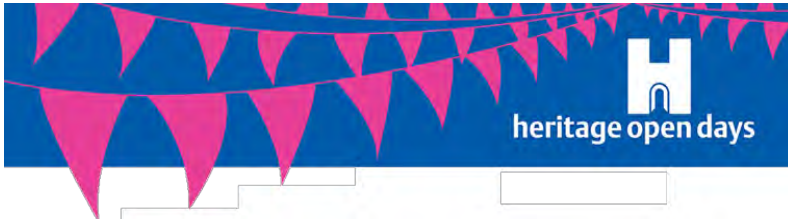
Family History Societies



**Northamptonshire
Family History Society**



**Derbyshire
Family History Society**



Heritage Open Days are a great opportunity to showcase what family history societies can offer to the wider public who have an interest in their local heritage.

**Northamptonshire FHS in partnership with
Northampton Transport Heritage and
Northants Heritage Forum
are organising a
Heritage Fair on
Sunday 11 September 2022
from 10am – 4pm**

This is being held at two locations; the newly re-furnished Northampton Museum and Art Gallery in the centre of the town and at Abington Museum, which is about two miles away and surrounded by parkland.

Northants FHS will be at both venues!

There will be lots of stands showcasing local organisations as well as activities for the children. Some of those joining us are: Northampton Transport Heritage; Heritage Hunters; Northampton and District Model Railway; Chester House and Northamptonshire Archives, along with many local history societies and heritage groups.

You can also travel in style! Northampton Heritage Transport will be providing free classic bus services in and around Northampton linking venues participating in Heritage Open Days.

For more information on all the other venues and attractions open during Heritage Open Days visit:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

And visit Northants FHS page at:
www.northants-fhs.org/



Our new premises at 95 Nottingham Rd, Derby DE1 3QR are on the ground floor providing easier access now for elderly or disabled visitors. It is within an easy ten-minute walk of Derby Bus Station. There is parking on the street: twenty minutes free on Nottingham Rd; two hours on Clarke St; or permit parking if staying longer. We have permits for the day at 50p.

We are open as before on Tuesday and Thursday 10am-4pm, or Saturday by prior arrangement. Our email address, website and phone number remain the same.

Volunteers with twenty-plus years' experience are available to do research or there are computers that individuals can use to do their own research. We still have an extensive

library with information on Derby and Derbyshire plus family trees that have been donated to us. (Surnames are listed in our Library Contents, along with an index of other documents, on the website). A donation is requested for any research.



Email - queries@dfhs.org.uk

Website - <https://www.dfhs.org.uk/>

Phone - +44 (0)1332 363876

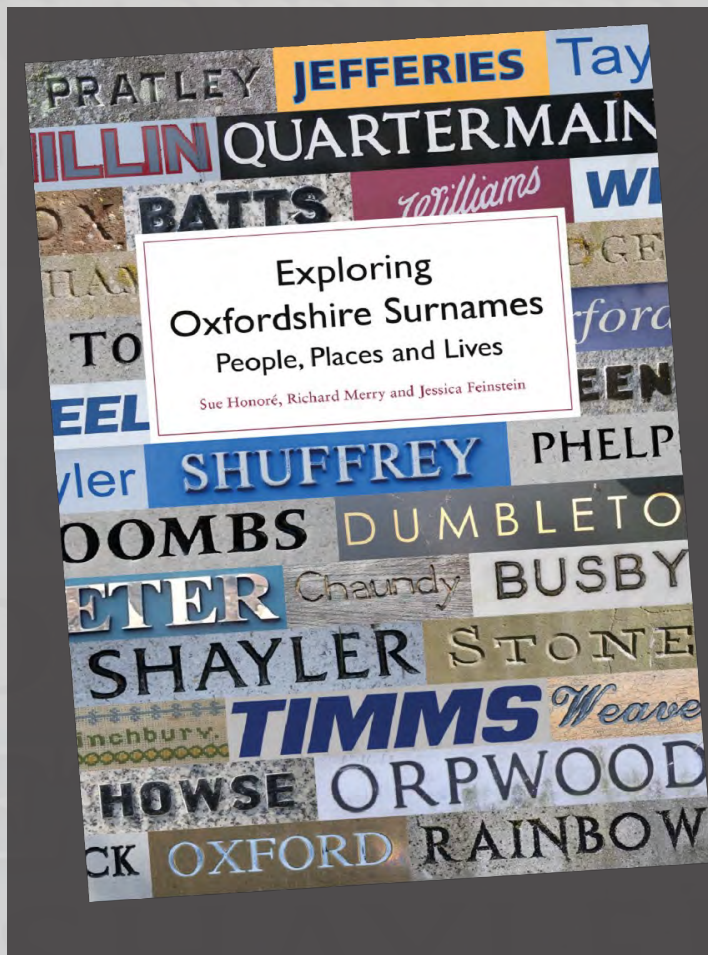
The Really Useful Bulletin welcomes contributions from all Federation member organisations.

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



Family History Societies

Sue Honoré, Richard Merry and Jessica Feinstein
Exploring Oxfordshire Surnames
People, Places and Lives



Exploring Oxfordshire Surnames: People, Places and Lives is a new book from **Oxfordshire Family History Society**.

The chapters are based on themes associated with surnames in the county – surname changes over time, DNA, occupations, advertising, religious groups, medieval surnames, 19th century village populations and much more. Each chapter is written by an expert in the subject and contains case studies and examples from Oxfordshire as well as extensive mentions of individual surnames. The hardback is lavishly illustrated with images and colour graphs.

Through its examples, the book aims to stimulate thought on further ways to explore family and local history in the county and beyond.

ISBN 9781803132037 | £ 24.99 plus p&p

The book also includes a summary for family historians both within and outside Oxfordshire, reviewing the chapters in the book and the implications for your own research.

www.ofhs.uk/shop

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



Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Family History Society

NNWFHS may be small and it does not have a research centre to visit, but it can pack a punch when it comes to research tactics. The society prides itself on helping members, particularly those who are unable to get out and about or those unable to visit the area.

One quest was for a photograph of a well-remembered great-aunt who died in Nuneaton in 1953; contact had been lost with her side of the family. How the helpdesks team made the connection is beyond most of us. Not only did they find the great-granddaughter of the lady (now living in a different part of the country), but a raft of family photographs were shared. The search proved that we do have to think well outside the box at times but that people can be very kind and helpful even if not themselves into family history research.

Shown in a rather faded photo is the lady as a young woman in her Salvation Army uniform probably 1880s to mid-1890s, but who is the mystery lady on the right of the picture? Do you have a copy of the same photo? Was it deliberate that one was sitting on a higher seat? It may have been taken in Warwickshire, or Cornwall where great-aunt went to serve with the Salvation Army.



There are many family history issues that members come across. At NNWFHS we try to help members find solutions by drawing on a wealth of shared experience and knowledge; our forebears roamed the country and we have to do likewise, at least metaphorically! That is what family history societies are good at and why everyone searching for their roots should join!



On **16th August** there is a special “open Zoom” session **Family History Chat and Helpdesk** which anyone can join (see our Facebook page or programme of events on our website). Everyone will be welcomed. Following on from several summertime visits, the society is concluding the season with a **September walk around Bedworth** which boasts notable almshouses [*below*] and, in its day, had a multitude of nonconformist chapels—and pubs! The society will also be exhibiting at **Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre’s** [*left*] heritage open day on **Saturday 10th September**, and on **1st October** we will be at the **Oxfordshire FHS Fair** at Woodstock. From October through to March, the regular monthly “expert speaker” meetings are on Zoom which non-members are always welcome to attend.

Each month the details are on Facebook. For members-only there are regular Zoom sessions discussing family history issues, and others dealing with DNA topics. This method of operation enables members around the country, or even the world, to join in and be part of our society. Plus, for members there is a monthly digital *Newsletter* and quarterly *Journal*, too!

NNWFHS welcomes new members wherever they live or their research takes them! Subscriptions start from £10 a year—you get a lot for your money! Join today!

NNWFHS website: <https://nanwfhs.org.uk/>

Contact: enquiries@nanwfhs.org.uk

The programme: <https://nanwfhs.org.uk/events-programme/>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nnwfhs/

You can join direct: www.parishchest.com/society-subscriptions-2494.php



Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust's Almshouses, Bedworth



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Access to Repositories

We need you to let us know of any proposed changes to your local record offices or archives



Having already curtailed opening hours or services, and while trying to generate more income to cope with earlier budget reductions, local authorities are faced with having to make further savings for the coming year. Some councils are already looking to make further cuts in archive budgets.

Whilst we are all grateful that more material is becoming available online there is still a need to be able to access original documents held in repositories. Shorter daily opening hours, limited weekdays and frequently no Saturday opening (even if only one Saturday a month), is becoming the norm. This works against researchers travelling from a distance and particularly restricts the opportunities to access records for those who work Monday to Friday.

Visitors to archives and records offices include a wide variety of researchers, not just people interested in family history, and we feel that those who make the decisions about access are unaware of the importance of the records to academics, researchers and the wider public.

Popular TV programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are*, *A House Through Time*, *DNA Family Secrets* and *Long Lost Family* couldn't happen without access to the documents available in record offices and archives.

We know that many archives are threatened with budget cuts. We would therefore ask that, when you become aware of proposed or actual changes to access at repositories, you let us know at archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com so that we can continue to build up a picture of the wider situation.



Dianne Sutton,
FHF Archives Liaison



Look what's on!

Come along to visit the Federation stand at any of these events and do chat to our officers and volunteers on duty!

Friday 2nd—Sunday 4th September: ICHF *Creative Craft Show*, Farnborough. www.ichfevents.co.uk/

Saturday 17 September—*The Peak District U3A Family History Conference 2022* at The Palace Hotel, Buxton 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Saturday 24th September: *The Family History Show London*, at Kempton Park. This will be the Federation's full bookstall—time to stock up for your autumn and winter reading! <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

Thursday 22nd—Sunday 25th September: ICHF *Creative Craft Show*, Exeter. www.ichfevents.co.uk/

Don't forget that you can find many interesting talks, and events that **family history societies** have coming up at: www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

NEW: Zoom sessions for member societies' role holders

From September we are starting a series of monthly Zoom 'Get-together' sessions, akin to our previous coffee mornings, each specifically aimed at a role/position within a family history society to share ideas or discuss problems that arise for that particular role.

The meetings will be very informal but hopefully very useful for Federation member societies.

Each 'Get-together' will take place on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm and last for no longer than ninety minutes. In September it will be for social media officers discussing how to get started with platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, strategies for good engagement, pitfalls and problems.

Ask your local society for booking details or email: admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

We look forward to a full house on Zoom.



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

www.parishchest.com

to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.

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

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

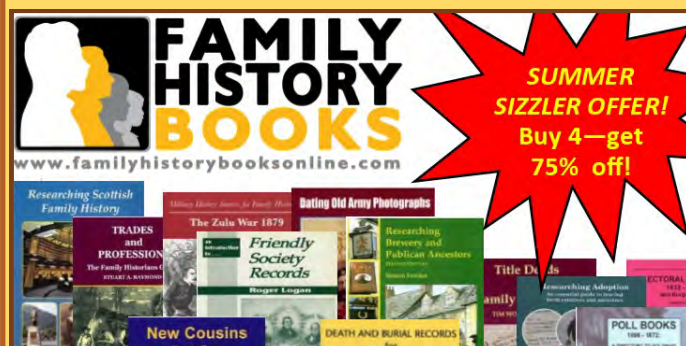


FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

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!



Don't forget the SUMMER SIZZLER offer from the last Bulletin! Ends 31st August!

Don't miss 75% off any four or more legacy titles!

Use the discount code: **SUMMER75** at:

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/ffhs-fhp-legacy-titles-294

Explore the full range of books at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



Friday 11th and Saturday 12th November 2022

Keynote speakers announced: watch for further announcements!

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details



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