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REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 20

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Lead article this month about those fascinating *SCHOOL RECORDS*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

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Really Useful Bulletin

SCHOOL RECORDS FOR FAMILY HISTORY

Lorna Steele-McGinn of the Highland Archive Service

The Highland Archive Service (HAS), operated by High Life Highland (HLH), cares for historic documents, dating from the 1200s to the present day, relating to the Highlands of Scotland.

The service is operated on a 'hub and spokes' basis, the 'hub' being the Highland Archive and Registration Centre in Inverness, with three 'spoke' archive centres located in Caithness, Lochaber and Skye. Each of the centres holds local government records discrete to its area – documents created by the Highland Council and its predecessors. These include school logbooks and admission registers, poor relief records and property valuation rolls, amongst other things. In addition to local authority records all centres are fortunate to hold many deposited collections - records of local relevance which have been deposited by individuals, groups, clubs, businesses, estates, and organisations.

Among the most requested items across all four HAS archive centres are school records - admission registers, logbooks, school board minutes, magazines, feu charters, and photographs.

The 1872 Education (Scotland) Act formalised Scottish education, bringing it under the control of the state and supplanting the previous system in which numerous charities, organisations, and individuals provided varying levels of education to children across the country. The Act made schooling compulsory for children aged 5-13 and led to the opening of hundreds of new schools. In addition it standardised recordkeeping, which had previously been inconsistent. Admission registers started to be widely used to record pupils' personal details and logbooks to detail events in schools.

Admissions registers are now frequently used by people researching their family history as they contain pupils' names, dates of birth, dates of admission and departure, names of previous schools, and the name of each child's parent/guardian. All of this can help genealogists piece together the story of a person's life, putting flesh on the bones of a name and date in a family tree.

Further 'flesh' can be added by consulting relevant school logbooks. HAS holds over 700 school logbooks from across the Highlands and they are a fantastic source of information. Essentially diaries kept by head teachers or schoolmasters, they detail anything which had an impact on the day-to-day life of the school, from lessons and events of local significance to weather and attendance levels.

The percentage of pupils in attendance is a constant focus of logbooks. The grants issued to schools were, to some extent, dependent on attendance levels so these were closely

monitored with reasons given for fluctuation. They reveal periods of poor attendance for a range of reasons – epidemics, severe weather, or pupils assisting with agricultural work; all of these are frequently mentioned. In some areas low attendance levels were a particular problem. In 1885 the teacher of Melness School, in Sutherland, noted that this was due to a lack of understanding about the importance of education, adding that:

"the pupils could come to the school to see a wedding party though they could not come to work".

For rural schools, bad weather often had a deleterious effect on pupils' attendance, especially for those who had long distances to travel on foot. An entry in the Glenfeshie School logbook of 21st March 1938 records that the snowfall was so heavy that:

"snowdrifts have blocked the roads for the scholars... but the Cameron children have been carried to school each morning by their father who returned for them at 3.30pm".

In addition to snow, logbooks also reveal the impact of wind, storms, floods and ice. In Lochinver on 11th December 1914:

"A gale sprang up from the east on Thursday afternoon and blew with terrific [force] during Friday, raising almost continuous spindrift in Culaig Loch. Notwithstanding 55 pupils – some of whom had to be assisted round a specially difficult corner – were present on Friday."

If that sounds bad, spare a thought for the pupils in Strathconon School, Ross-shire, in January 1939:

"The attendance is low, owing to the very cold weather. The temperature in school has never risen above freezing point and today it is 4 degrees below freezing point. Last night there were 34 degrees of frost. During extremely cold weather the fire in school, even when as big as possible, does not make the room even warm. The pupils would be unable to do any work if they were not allowed to take turns in working near the fire."

Another factor that frequently influenced attendance levels was the agricultural calendar; many schools across the Highlands were in rural areas and children often had a role to play on the land. The Clyne School logbook for the 1870s, like many others, is full of references to the cycle of the potato crop, with pupils absent in May for potato-planting and in October for potato-lifting. The importance of this cycle to the Highlands is reflected in that fact that the October holidays are still referred to here as the "tattie-picking holidays". In Abernethy Free Church School in



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October 1879, a different harvest was causing absenteeism. The teacher recorded that:

"Attendance very small as the harvest work is just only commencing. Many of the children are sent by their parents etc. to gather cranberries on the hill about this time of the year, so that it is extremely difficult to gather in the scholars. In ordinary years the harvest and the cranberry season is ended by this date but everything is unusually late this year. Another great excuse is the want of clothes and shoes."

Coastal schools were also affected by the fishing industry. In Oldshore, Sutherland, in 1915, the teacher noted:

"the attendance this week is somewhat affected by a catch of herring at Loch Clach. The children are kept at home while the mothers are at herring-gutting."

In addition to factors affecting attendance, logbooks reveal details about lessons, building maintenance, truancy, punishment, and staff – including the latter's methods. A particularly nice 1917 entry from Rhilochan School recognises the importance of good teachers, saying that since Margaret MacKay took up as Headmistress in 1915:

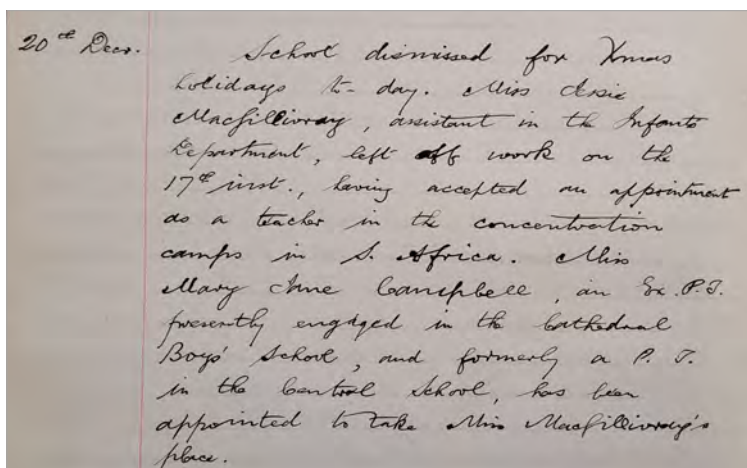
"The children seem to have wakened into a new life of intelligence and smartness".

Less complimentary is the 1886 Inspector's report for Drumbeg School [image at end] which notes that:

"the teacher should desist from his habit of dragging the children into their places"!

Appointments and departures of teachers can be found alongside details of where they have come from or are going on to. This 1901 extract from Central School, Inverness, is an interesting example:

"20th Dec, School dismissed for Xmas holiday to-day."



Central Logbook RE: teacher going to South Africa, 1901 (GB0232.CI.5.3.174a)

Miss Jessie MacGillivray, assistant in the Infants Department, left off work on the 17th inst., having accepted an appointment as a teacher in the

concentration camps in S. Africa. Mrs Mary Jane Campbell, an ex-P.T. presently engaged in the Cathedral Boys' School, and formerly a P.T. in the Central School, has been appointed to take Miss MacGillivray's place."

Logbooks contain numerous examples of H.M. Inspectors' reports which reveal how successful, or otherwise, the teachers were in their work as well as giving details of the facilities they had at their disposal. The Skerray School logbook of 1879 includes a report which states that:

"The new premises entered in May are handsome and commodious. The writing desks however should have shelves or slate racks. The work of the school was very well done. The standard subjects had very few mistakes, the Grammar, Geography and History were very good, and the intelligence of the children was very satisfactory, all the more striking as English is a foreign language to them."

That final sentence illustrating very clearly the role that the Education Act played in assisting English to a dominant place over Gaelic.

Further information about the subjects taught can occasionally be garnered from timetables adhered into books. An example from Lynwilg tells us that in 1920 pupils spent the last half hour of the school week doing 'fairy tale'!

Although teachers' names often appear, references to individual pupils are less frequent and usually only occur when noteworthy circumstances drew the pupil to the attention of the teacher. This could be because a child was persistently truant or unwell, or because they had done something notable, such as winning a prize or something equally significant. The same applies to former pupils who are sometimes named in logbooks, many years after leaving, having made 'the supreme sacrifice' or brought honour to the school in some other way. A nice example of this can be seen in a Central School logbook entry of 10th November 1958 which reads:

"On Saturday evening 8th Nov Ian Black, a former Central School and national swimming champion gave demonstrations of various swimming methods and was presented with gifts from the Town Council and the Inverness Amateur Swimming Club. During 1958 Ian won five ASA titles, five SASA titles, three European titles and one British Commonwealth title. He was elected 'Sportsman of the Year' and at the present time holds 34 records."

In addition to day-to-day events, logbooks can also, depending on the loquacity of the teacher, contain comment about the surrounding area or the wider world. Local markets and religious dates are mentioned, as well as the absences of teachers to attend the funerals/marriages of prominent locals, or to assist with census-taking.



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Like so many aspects of life, the great conflicts of the twentieth century had an impact on education. Entries dating from the First and Second World War years can be very interesting (although in some cases the horrific international events seemed to pass the schools by!).

Between 1914-1918 details of teachers and older pupils joining up to fight can be seen, as in this extract from Portree School logbook, 4th September 1914:

"Twenty-two boys of the Higher Grade School... are members of the 4th Battalion Cameron Highlanders, Territorial Army, and as the British Army has been mobilised owing to the declaration of war between Germany and Britain, they had to go with their Regiment for defence purposes."

Of course, many of those who left the Highlands never returned.

In both World Wars school buildings and grounds were used for the billeting of troops and other purposes. In 1918 Merkinch School, Inverness, overlooked the American naval base, causing great distraction to the pupils!

"The vast preparations made by the American naval authorities in the fields adjoining the school have now almost been completed. What was formerly the school garden has been turned into a large railway siding and the whole district between the school and the canal has been enclosed with a large, barbed-wire fence – the whole guarded by sentries. Some trouble was experienced at first by the close proximity of all the work but the children have got accustomed to the large number of American sailors and no trouble is now experienced."

Pupils raised money, collected sphagnum moss for medical use, and undertook numerous other activities to support the war effort. The Dornie School teacher noted that:

"The pupils of this school have sent a gift of 18 pairs socks and 230 cigarettes to the Seaforth Highlanders. The teachers supplied the wool, the senior girls made the stockings, while the boys and younger girls supplied the cigarettes."

As well as raising money and morale, an extract from Millbank School, Nairnshire, on 8th June 1917 suggests that there might come a time when pupils could support the war in a more direct way:

"In addition to Physical Education a certain amount of military drill has been given to the older boys..."

The First World War was followed by the devastating Spanish Flu pandemic which claimed the lives of an estimated 50 million people. The course of this illness through the country can be charted using logbooks which show school after school falling victim to its spread and having to be closed and deep-cleaned, with an all-too-familiar awareness of the impact these closures had on pupils' learning.

The logbooks covering the Second World War years echo the aim to help. Details of book drives, paper recycling and knitting of vests for children in occupied Europe sit alongside references to clothes collections and, of course, fundraising. In addition, they reveal the impact of the evacuation programme, with children arriving from across the UK to the perceived safety of the Highlands. In September 1939 the teacher of Abernethy School wrote:

"On Sept. 2nd a party of evacuees arrived at Nethybridge. There were 162 children of school age, 42 were pre-school and they were accompanied by 41 mothers, six teachers and 20 other helpers."

A clear example of the impact of the Second World War on children – both in the sending and receiving areas.

School logbooks are full of information and stories. They don't only tell us about the education of our ancestors, they put their lives into context. Through these pages we can learn more about the history of childhood and community, agriculture and weather, war and peace – why not see if they exist for the area you're interested in?

(Please note that due to the possibility of sensitive information HAS admission registers are closed for one hundred years and logbooks for fifty years)

For more information about the collections held by the Highland Archive Service please visit –

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/archives-service/>

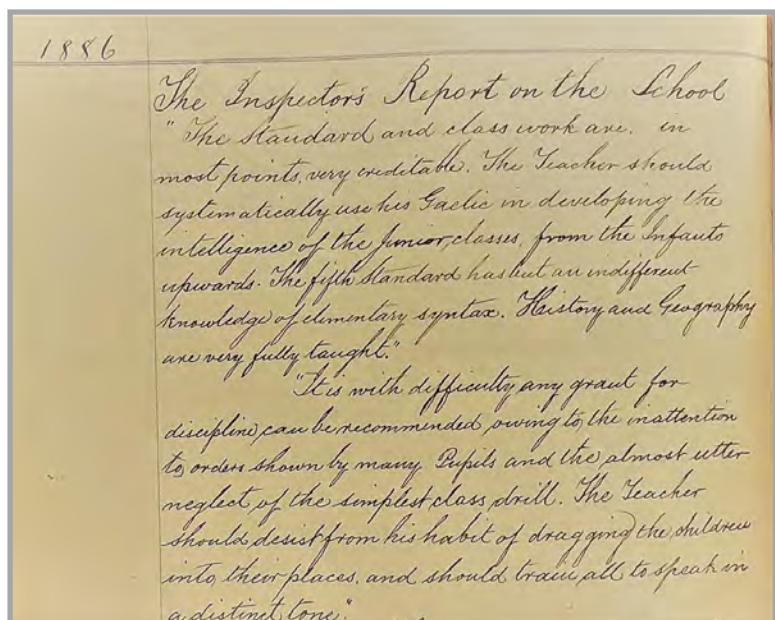
[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyxasYGi8klcL7OThf1QGSHAMACY_1DGE)

[list=PLyxasYGi8klcL7OThf1QGSHAMACY_1DGE](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyxasYGi8klcL7OThf1QGSHAMACY_1DGE)

<https://www.facebook.com/highlandarchives/> (we have four FB pages – this is the one for the central office)

<https://twitter.com/HLHArchives>

Extract from Drumbeg School Logbook showing HMI report, 1886 (GB0232.CS.5.5.38a) [Note final sentence!]





Family History Societies



RYEDALE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

NEWS

Birdsall War Memorial Book Published

Ryedale Family History Group has published the latest book in the *War Memorials of Ryedale* series, *Birdsall War Memorial* researched by volunteer Tessa Mitchell.

Birdsall is a small village in North Yorkshire on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds near to the towns of Malton and Norton. The village is the seat of the Baron Middleton at Birdsall House. Historically Birdsall was in the East Riding of Yorkshire until 1974.

The Birdsall War Memorial book contains mini biographies of twenty-two men who were killed in both World Wars. Virtually all were killed in World War I and had connections with Birdsall, either being born there, working in the village or on the Birdsall Estate for the Middleton Barons, being the Willoughby family. The loss of loved ones was felt across the whole of the village population, the Willoughby family lost three members of the family. The foreword is by Lord Middleton who said, "I am honoured to write this foreword commemorating those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the first and second World Wars."

St. Mary's Church, Birdsall was built in 1824 in its present location and form by Henry Willoughby, the sixth Baron Middleton. The War Memorial is wall mounted; it is an elaborately carved wooden plaque in the shape of a crucifixion, approximately two metres by one metre. The plaque is heavily gilded with a carved pediment at the top. The crucifix divides the plaque into four panels; the top two bearing the names

of the officers and the remaining two the names of other ranks. The one name from World War II has been added at the bottom. The memorial was unveiled by Lord Middleton at a special service held in the church on 1st June 1921.

The soldiers commemorated on the memorial had many medals awarded, including a Distinguished Service Order awarded to Lieutenant Colonel James Cosmo Russell who married into the Willoughby family. Two Military Crosses were awarded to Major Edward Crompton Morgan who was Land Agent for the Birdsall Estate and Lieutenant Arthur Hepton who was born in Birdsall and whose father was a carpenter.

As with many families across the country, tragedy struck more than once in a family, as with the Whiteley family of Birdsall. The eldest son of kennelman William and his wife Maria, also called William, died of wounds in 1914; their youngest son Sidney who returned home from the war and went back to work as a gardener at

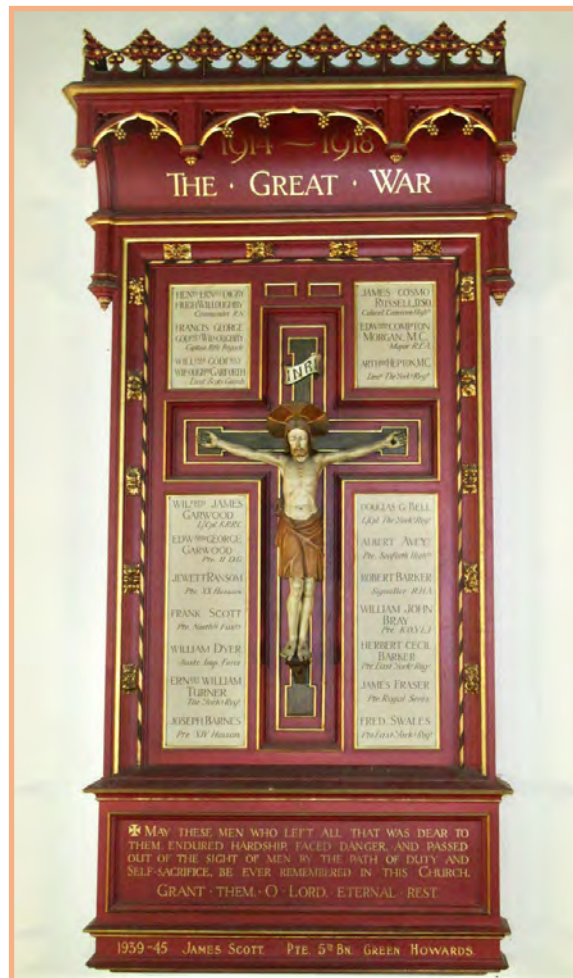
Birdsall took his own life on the anniversary of the first Armistice.

The book is in full colour and includes many photos and official documents. The book is available through the website www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org.

Ryedale Family History Group's area includes the towns Malton, Norton, Pickering, Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley which are at the centre of our area, and the boundaries extend to Hawnby, Bilsdale and Rosedale to the north, Terrington and Sherrif Hutton in the West, Ebberston and Sherburn in the East and to Thixendale and Weaverthorpe on the Yorkshire Wolds to the south.

Parts of this area are also covered by our friends at the East Yorkshire Family History Society, the Cleveland, North Yorkshire and South Durham

Family History Society and The City of York and District Family History Society, all of which overlap our area of interest.





Family History Societies



QUAKER FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Quaker Family History Society (QFHS – Reg. Charity No. 1100843) exists to encourage the study of Quaker family history in Britain and Ireland.

Quakers (formally known as the Religious Society of Friends) are one of the groups of dissenters that arose during the English Civil Wars. During the Commonwealth and the Restoration, Quakers were persecuted, imprisoned, fined and their goods seized because of their militant rejection of the church establishment. They disagreed with the church's forms of worship and teaching and thus the Quakers existed outside the mainstream of society. Their founder was George Fox who said *...Christ has come to teach his people himself*. As a result, Quakers maintained their own detailed records, similar to parish registers, recording births, marriages, deaths and burials. Quakers maintained their own burial grounds as they were denied burial in consecrated ground. In addition, Quaker meetings (congregations) and quarterly meetings (area organisations) also maintained detailed minute books, recording the activities not only of the Society, but of individual Friends as well. Monthly meeting records are particularly rich in detail for family historians although not much transcribed or digitised.

Excluded until the nineteenth century from the professions by the *Test Acts*, which required the swearing of oaths, rejected by Quakers on grounds of integrity, many Quakers went into business and trade where they often played prominent roles. Household names such as Cadbury (chocolate), Clarks (shoes), Huntley and Palmer (biscuits) started out as Quaker family businesses. Keeping apart from worldly society and marrying within, Quaker family relations were consequently very tightly knit. Arising from their faith, Quakers have a long history of involvement in social movements such as the abolition of slavery, prison reform, opposition to war, humane mental health care, women's suffrage, alleviation of poverty, care for refugees, etc.

Quaker family research, therefore, benefits from a rich variety of resources. At its height in the seventeenth century, there were some 60,000 Quakers in Britain and several thousand more in Ireland. Accordingly, many families in Britain and Ireland over the past 350 years may have had members who were Quakers at one time or another. If you are unable to find a record of an ancestor in parish records, it may be worth your while to look at Quaker records. Quakers did not believe in baptising their children, so if you can find no record of their baptism, or if their baptism was recorded at the same time as or just before their marriage – they would need to be baptised in order to marry in a church – they may have been Quakers!

QFHS was founded in 1993. While not a Quaker organisation, and open to all interested family researchers, QFHS is a recognised body by Britain Yearly Meeting, which represents Quakers in Britain. QFHS publishes a journal *Quaker*

Connections three times a year and has been conducting regional meetings over the years across Britain, focusing on local Quakers, often meeting in historic Quaker meeting houses. Due to the pandemic, we have also been holding periodic Zoom meetings on various topics. QFHS also has an updated web page with information on Quakers and Quaker family research as well as many resources. (<https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk/>)

Recently, QFHS has begun a project to transcribe Quaker wills and make these publicly available on our website. <https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk/resources/quaker-wills-introduction/qfhs-wills-database-project> The project is still in the early stages, but over 350 wills and over 5,000 named individuals appear from across Britain. Demographic information on the will testators is also being made available in the hopes that it will provide useful information for researchers in Quaker history.

We have also been indexing Joseph Besse's famous *Sufferings of the People Called Quakers* originally published in 1753, which records the persecution of Quakers during the period of 1652-1690 and contains details on many early Quakers who were imprisoned, distrained or fined. To date we have indexed the *Sufferings* for Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Essex and Oxfordshire. We hope soon to be able to add Yorkshire. <https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk/resources/besses-sufferings>

QFHS participated last year in the FHF's Family History Fair and plans to do so this year as well. In addition, we had a space at last year's Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering and plan to also participate later this year. QFHS Secretary Ben Beck will also be giving a talk on Quakers family history on 12 September to the Oxfordshire Family History Society.

We are in the process of collecting poems written by Quaker family members with the intention to publish them in a special supplement.

QFHS offers annually a Margaret Bennett Small Research Grant of up to £750 for research into Quaker family history. In 2020 a grant was awarded to the Devon Family History Society to film Quaker records held at Devon Heritage Centre at Exeter. Because of the closing of many research facilities due to the pandemic, no grants were offered in 2021 and 2022. 2023 grant applications will be available in November 2022.

Membership in QFHS is open to all interested researchers, including people anywhere in the world who are tracing their British and Irish Quaker roots. An annual membership subscription (which includes three issues of *Quaker Connections*) is £12 (£15 for overseas membership). Family membership is an additional £1. Members also have access through the website to all previously published issues of *Quaker Connections* going back to 1993.



Family History Societies

NUNEATON AND NORTH WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



In family history research there is always more to find, but what about projects undertaken by FHS and 'completed'?

On the base of a marker between Warwickshire and Staffordshire is a plaque that turned out to be a war memorial, missed when the society collated the war memorials. It commemorates Capt. J.H.W. WILKINSON and unnamed comrades of the Staffordshire Regiments. The Imperial War Museum records the dedication was in 1922. A rather grainy contemporary image showed Warwickshire's bear and ragged staff county emblem also on the memorial but now missing.



So who was the man, and why is his memorial at Bassett's Pole by long-gone crossroads, away from the villages? Our sleuths, who enjoy hunting the near-impossible, found that JHW had not lived in the area. They extended his family using traditional research techniques. His uncle was Lt.Col. Joseph Henry WILKINSON, DL, JP, VD, secretary of the Staffordshire hounds, who was regularly in newspapers for extensive philanthropic work and duties as Council Chairman; by the time of WWI he was living a few miles from where the memorial is sited.

A report of the memorial dedication (*Tamworth Herald* 7th October 1922) highlighted the hounds having regularly met at Bassett's Pole. We speculate that Lt.Col. J.H. Wilkinson was the report's unnamed "*local landowner [who] had the memorial erected on a piece of ground set aside for the purpose by Staffordshire County Council*". The Lt. Col. had the necessary connections and the place was where his beloved hounds met on the county boundary. If this family is in your family tree, do please contact secretary@nanwfhs.org.uk.

NNWFHS is a friendly, small family history society that welcomes members wherever they live. Specialist talks are mostly on Zoom, plus activities such as *Walks with your Camera* which include help from a professional photographer. It has a quarterly *Journal* plus monthly *Newsletter* and holds Zoom informal helpdesks for members plus one for DNA. The face-to-face helpdesks in libraries are again running each month. The society's shop, including subscriptions, is at: www.parishchest.com/nuneaton-north-warwickshire-fhs-3842.php. With membership from just £10 a year, why not join? The programme is on the society's website <https://nanwfhs.org.uk/events-programme/>. The programme and regular notices are on www.facebook.com/nnwfhs/

There is always more to discover.

Join our society - we can explore together.

Watch out for the lodger...

We were asked not to show FHS involved to avoid embarrassment. An abridged story of confusion that any researcher can suffer!

A seasoned researcher from another area asked a society for assistance with a man in their area called James who had fought at Gallipoli in WWI, had issue born 1912, who died soon after the war as a result of service but for whom no marriage was found. It was known there were two or three James of right age and living in the "right" area but never all seemingly in the area together. Nothing matched up!

One individual was registered at birth and death as James Thomas; another was James Charles Henry on birth, marriage and death. A possible third was simply James on records.

One candidate, reputedly a multi-decorated WWI soldier, was named solely as James in newspapers and army service records. He was the prime candidate except his war service was in France and Flanders. He was away in barracks in 1911 of correct age and birthplace. Newspapers showed he ended up in court. A key item in the court report was that he had been married for eight weeks in July 1919. That matched the marriage registered to James Charles Henry. The couple parted company, no obvious children. He died shortly after the 1939 Register in which he was recorded.

The man recorded as just James was an incomer. He married locally in the Church of England in 1914 so the register was available naming his father, wife and father-in-law and confirming he was still a bachelor in 1914. He had several issue. He passed away in 1943. Many online trees have him and the above James Charles Henry "morphed" as one adding to the confusion. They are two different men.

James Thomas posed difficulties. He could not be found in the census with his parents – Thomas and Emma. Never ignore the lodger! The same man was with a family on two consecutive censuses enabling 'John T' (mother a much-amended Elisabeth) and later as 'Thomas' (mother Emma) to be identified as one and the same. The 1891 census was full of "enumerator error"; the GRO index showed mother's maiden name matched for all the children and Thomas was registered as James Thomas. To confuse further his marriage was as Thomas in 1909 which explained why there was 'no marriage' for the man whose birth and death were registered as James Thomas. The couple had issue in 1912. Thomas' wife was a widow in 1921 census; she was named on army pension records confirming Thomas was James Thomas.

It turned out that Thomas aka James Thomas, or John T in 1891, was the 'James' sought. His only child was as the enquirer had established. A local newspaper report was found of his burial which confirmed the Gallipoli connection and death as result of war service. He has no CWGC stone.

The moral of this tale is never trust any information without corroborating evidence! Always read those newspaper articles with care, always rootle out others of similar name in the same area, always ensure each possible candidate is hatched, matched and despatched, check every census for all the family, always check use of middle names, *never* rely on those online trees—and watch out for the lodger!



Family History Societies



HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

News

Family history has never been so easy

By Barry Shurlock, originally published in the *Hampshire Chronicle*

A walk-in enquiry and support service in Winchester and other important new developments offer Hampshire family historians a first-class service. An agreement between Hampshire Genealogical Society and Hampshire County Council Office is creating a novel one-stop hub for anyone exploring the history of their family and related enquiries at the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester.

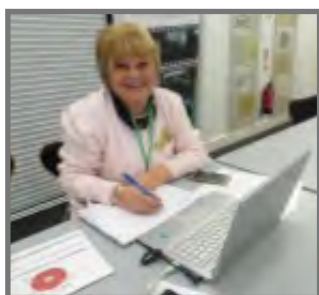
HGS volunteers have been manning a research desk at the entrance to the HRO search room where anyone exploring any aspect of family history can seek advice free of charge. This includes specific enquiries or general guidance on tackling particular problems. It is yet another benefit offered by an all-Hampshire society that for many years has provided unequalled facilities for 'discovering who you are'. With a membership of 1,900 – and slowly rising – HGS is by far the largest group in the county devoted to uncovering the past.

Until last August the HGS Research Centre was based in Cosham, where a dedicated band of volunteers have worked over the years collecting data on a wide front – not only births, marriages and deaths, but also monumental inscriptions and village histories. Over the years an archive of information on specific families and other topics has been assembled. Also in hand for use by members is a huge collection of 'unwanted' BMD certificates for Hampshire that members have bought, only to find they are not relevant to their particular interests.

Commenting on the new arrangement at the HRO, HGS Chairman Paul Pinhorne said: *The move to Winchester was undertaken after careful consideration. The Cosham volunteers have done a great job and we are very grateful to them. But since coming to the Record Office our footfall has increased. Although we have unfortunately lost some volunteers, we have had been delighted to find that there are many new ones that have come in from all about – not only Winchester but Andover, Fair Oak, Romsey and Fareham. Our Research Desk is now in the HRO between 10am and 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we hope to extend it to other days when we have the volunteers.*

HGS also has its own office in the building, as well as space for archives and their large collection of books.

The benefits of membership of HGS, which costs £15 a year, are enormous. They include a quarterly magazine, a members' handbook and access to indexes at Winchester on baptism, marriage, burial, census, monumental inscriptions



Chris Pavey, HGS
Research Centre Manager

and other items. A huge amount of BMD data on all the parishes in Hampshire – some dating from 1537 – transcribed by volunteers and currently on CDs will be available on another storage medium in the near future.

HGS sells a range of publications plus HGS booklets on more than 100 Hampshire villages written by Roy Montgomery, which provide useful information for researchers not familiar with a particular location. The society keeps a database of 'surnames of interest' for members, who can also join one of many local groups, or participate in national and even international discussions.

Paul explained: *One great asset of HGS membership is sharing information with others in the county. Also, we hold separately national and international Zoom sessions every two months. There are speakers on topics of interest and plenty of opportunities to chat with other members and make new links.*

Other benefits of membership include access to news and presentations made exclusively to HGS. Recently, for example, experts from the online genealogy site Find My Past gave members – including some from California, British Columbia and Australia – a master lesson on the 1921 census which has just been released. A video of the session has been posted on the members-only area of the HGS website. The 1921 census will enable many family historians to extend their studies to the period after the First World War. It is available on Find My Past behind a paywall but searches are free. Many features are similar to earlier censuses, but there are also significant additions. For the first time the 1921 census gives the names of employers and their addresses.

This has already enabled Paul to discover the name and address of the restaurant in London where one of his great-grandfathers was working in 1921. It shows that he was born in the small Italian village of Cadenabbia on the west shore of Lake Como. Interestingly, in the nineteenth century this was a popular health resort with English travellers. In 1891 one of the first Anglican churches in the country was built there and Mary Shelley, wife of the poet, wrote about the place after a visit in 1840.

HRO is expecting to soon have access to websites such as Ancestry which are currently available in county libraries.

For more information on Hampshire Record Office see: www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives

Hampshire Genealogical Society: www.hgs-familyhistory.com/



HGS Chairman, Paul Pinhorne



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Out and about—at last!

The Federation may not yet be able to report the return of a full programme of live family history events, but volunteers have been busy waving the flag at some key “crafting” events which attract many family historians, too.

At the recent *Creative Crafts* live shows in Glasgow, Birmingham and London Excel, the stand was rarely without visitors. Questions posed ranged from the fairly “normal” family history brick wall problems through to those thinking of getting started, plus some quite ‘delicate’ research issues.

The helpers promote member societies to the general public. At Glasgow the visitors were largely Scots and local Scottish FHS came to help on the stand. At Birmingham there were interested visitors from the far south-west through to Hadrian’s Wall in the north and many points in between! It is fortunate that our volunteers had a good grasp of geography to know which local society was relevant to each enquirer because this show in the middle of England draws visitors from throughout England and Wales. London Excel certainly appeals beyond the greater London area, too. Thank you to the volunteers who helped on the stand each day!

Another aspect of appearance at events is to promote this Bulletin. It is lovely when someone comes along and thanks us for their monthly “fix”. However, in the main callers at the booth are family historians unaware of either the Federation or local societies so we do our best to “hook them in”. We just hope that local societies respond to the enquiries they may receive as a result of our efforts!

At Birmingham, the Federation promoted the *History for Ukraine* event which featured many UK presentations. It raised £40,000 on the day; this had risen to £50,000 by end of March (and still rising) - all going to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine appeal. Well done everyone!



Come to visit the stand at *Crafting Live*—Sandown Park—7 & 8 May.

You can check what’s on at www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

and also at <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php> (scroll down the page for links to local FHS listings).



Society of Genealogists

The Future of Genealogy – Young Genealogists at the Helm International event bringing young people together Saturday 7th May 2022—online

The Family History Federation, supported by the Society of Genealogists, will be hosting this exciting online Zoom event. We want to provide a platform for genealogists under thirty to come together, exchange ideas and support each other.

This is intended to be an international event bringing young people together to shape the future of the community. The Family History Federation and the Society of Genealogists will support the conference financially and administratively, but we want this to be youth-led. Sessions will include a facilitated safe space, to discuss what young people want from the community and societies and a range of presentations, panels and discussions. If you are wondering what family history and genealogy are about, then come along and find out!

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-federation-the-future-of-genealogy-young-genealogists-at-the-helm-2022-05-07



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

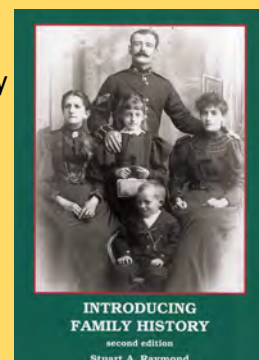
www.familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk

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!

The latest title is *Dating by Design*—a new way of dating photographs which is proving very popular.

The book featured in this edition is also published by Family History Books. It is a handy size, well-indexed, and includes useful lists of abbreviations used in family history plus a full list of the Chapman Codes. A useful reference book to have to hand whatever your level of expertise.



Please explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th November 2022

Register NOW for early-bird ticket offers!

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details



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