



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 15

November 2021

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

inside find...

Lead article this month is *Tracing An Ancestor in the RAF*

plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



November's Show was a huge success!

Book the date in your diary *NOW* for next year's event

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FAMILY HISTORY Federation

NEXT

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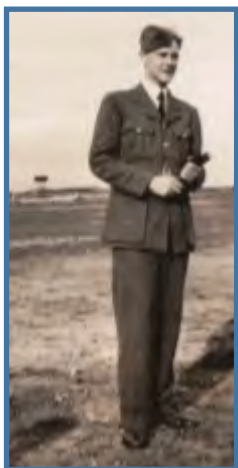


Really Useful Bulletin

Tracing an Ancestor in the RAF

by Helen Tovey

'Sorry I'm late. It was very foggy and we couldn't read the road signs.' This much-loved excuse was made by my grandfather, on arriving late to see his family for lunch, back in the early 1950s. Why it causes such mirth is that he was flying down from an air base in Scotland and, in the absence of any suitable on-board navigation, needed to swoop down, read the signs on the road-side finger posts (in said fog), and continue on his flight. This daring-do of our RAF ancestors is something that makes them so appealing to research, as their lives are always far from dull.



Helen Tovey's grandfather, J.E.S. Hill, at the start of the war, when he had just qualified as a pilot

Only a few years prior to this he'd been flying a Bristol Beaufighter in the Burmese jungle, where the pilots would typically fly at fifty feet – just over the tops of the Burmese jungle trees in order to retain the element of surprise, sometimes flying just ten feet above the ground along the village high streets, so as to be below the level of the anti-aircraft attacks. Things didn't always work out for him, however, and in October 1944 he was shot down

and imprisoned in Rangoon jail, spending the remainder of the conflict as a Japanese Prisoner of War, several of his eight months incarcerated in solitary confinement. These details I gleaned from the 177 Squadron history, *Silently into the Midst of Things* by Atholl Sutherland Brown.

..and her grandfather six years later after his recent release from Rangoon jail



What about your RAF ancestors, however? To follow I'll outline a few of the sources that I've come across when researching the lives of both my grandfathers, who served in the RAF, and that of one of my great-grandfathers, who served in the RFC, and hope that you may find them useful too in pursuit of your family heroes' RAF years. I've also included a few key historical dates and some skeleton details,

to act as an aid to getting to grips with the various iterations of the air force, and the way in which it has been organised over the years. It can seem a little baffling otherwise!

[A little background history to the RAF & WRAF/WAAF & Fleet Air Arm](#)

1912 - The RFC (Royal Flying Corps), founded by the Army in 1912, had an Army and Navy wing.

1914 - The Naval branch separated, becoming the RNAS (Royal Naval Air Service).

January 1918 - The Air Ministry was set up, the first Chief of the Air Staff, being Major-General Sir Hugh Trenchard.

April 1918 - The Royal Air Force was established, by an amalgamation of the RFC and the RNAS. That same day the WRAF (Women's Royal Air Force) was also established, and remained in existence until April 1920, when it was disbanded.

1924 - The Fleet Air Arm was established as a specific branch of the RAF.

1939 - The Fleet Air Arm became under the direct control of the Admiralty and is still part of the Royal Navy to this day.

June 1939 - The WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) was established.

February 1949 – The WAAF was renamed the Women's Royal Air Force.

1994 - WRAF and RAF merged.

[Did you know?](#)

Initially, the RFC tended to serve at the Front during WWI – its one observational balloon squadron and four aeroplane ones providing observational, strategic and artillery help for the troops below. The RNAS meanwhile tended to serve as home defence, notably protecting the dockyards and ports.

[A growing force](#)

- In 1914 the air force personnel numbered in the hundreds.
- By November 1918, 291,000 officers and other ranks were serving in the RAF, operating 22,647 aircraft.
- By 1945 nearly a million people were serving in the RAF (963,000), and since 1939 the UK had produced 131,549 aircraft.

These vastly growing figures, through the first half of the 20th century, mean that today there are a lot of ancestors with RAF connections – in the air, on the ground, in the factories.



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Which records will help you research your RAF ancestor's history?

Airmen's service records

- ♦ The service records of RFC airmen who didn't serve after the amalgamation into the RAF will have been kept with the British Army soldiers' service records (the estimated surviving 30 per cent infamous burnt records, WO 363, and in WO 364, the pension records) – see Ancestry and Findmypast.
- ♦ The service records of RFC airmen who served after April 1918 up to 1939 are in AIR 79 and online at Findmypast. Findmypast's collection has coverage back to 1912 for those airmen who transferred from the RFC to the RAF.
- ♦ ADM 188 RNAS service records available as a paid download from TNA.

[Currently downloads from The National Archives are free, while there is limited access to the archives due to Covid restrictions; this point applies to further mentions of paid downloads from TNA below too].

- ♦ For those who served in the Second World War onwards, apply via www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/apply-for-someone-elses-records for their service records as they're still held by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) (you will be directed to write to RAF Disclosures). [Note: there is a long, Covid-induced delay.]

Officers' service records

- ♦ AIR 76 has the service records of more than 99,000 officers who served during the First World War. The collection was created with the establishment of the RAF, but includes coverage of those previously serving in the RFC and RNAS. These records can be downloaded from TNA's website for a small fee or via Findmypast.
- ♦ For RFC officers' service records up to March 1918 have not survived, but some kept a personal correspondence file which are in WO 339 and WO 374 (£ download from TNA) with a name index on Findmypast.
- ♦ For RNAS officers' service records up to the amalgamation into the RAF see also ADM 273 (£ download from TNA).
- ♦ RFC, RNAS and RAF officers' records, for those who relinquished their commissions after 1920 are held by the MoD (see gov.uk web link as above for airmen).
- ♦ *The Air Force List* has been published since 1919 (frequency varies) and includes details of officers' ranks and units served in. Find examples, with coverage from the Second World War era at <http://digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/97343434>
- ♦ Find *The Air Force List* in AIR 10 at Kew.
- ♦ RFC/RAF Casualty Cards 1915-1928, covering accidents, injuries, illnesses and death suffered by RFC, RNAS and RAF aircrew (with Court of Inquiry summaries on most backs) are free at www.rafmuseumstoryvault.org.uk

Fleet Air Arm

Fleet Air Arm squadron diaries (1939-1957) are in ADM 207 at Kew. For officers' and aircrew's service records, see the MoD gov.uk web link mentioned above.

Women in the Air Force

WRAF airwomen service records 1918-1920 are in AIR 80 at Kew; but the WRAF officers' records for these years have not survived. For WRAF records (airwomen and officers) 1920 onwards see the MoD gov.uk web link mentioned above.

Countries who served with RAF

In December 1939, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) was agreed between the UK, South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This plan became responsible for training about half of those who served in the RAF, and led to the formation of multi-national squadrons where people were chosen according to skills rather than organised by nationality. This co-operation of military international air personnel also drew on people from many other countries (from refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe, to those from the British Dominions). So if you find that your British grandfather was listed as having trained in Canada, or was listed as a PoW with Australian service personnel, the set-up of the BCATP will help to explain why.



Here we see Helen Tovey's grandfather, A.S.D. Burke, pages from whose log book are illustrated overleaf



Your ancestor's log book

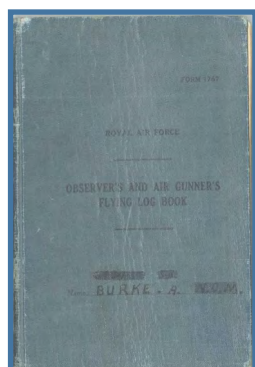
Last but not least: your ancestor's log books. If you can access this (perhaps one of your relations has them in their safe-keeping), you will gain the journal entries of, for instance, the hours flown, and the nature of the job. Pages from one of my grandfather's log books give insights as to his training, and the nature of his work as an air gunner in 1941 – escorting convoys and searching for the German battleship *Von Tirpitz*.

What are the roles of personnel in the RAF?

- ♦ Each RAF squadron would be made up of ground crew, and aircrew, officers and other ranks (confusingly often referred to as Airmen).
- ♦ The roles involved would vary depending on the planes flown by each squadron (each squadron tended to fly one type of aircraft – eg 177 Squadron flew Bristol Beaufighters). Depending on the aircraft, the air crew



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Instructions.

1. This log book is an official document and the property of H.M. Government.
2. Observers and air gunners will maintain an accurate and detailed record of all flights undertaken on service aircraft.
3. Results of ab initio courses will be recorded on either pages 2, 3, 4 or 5, for which purpose a rubber stamp is available.
4. Proficiency assessments will be recorded on the appropriate page at the back of the book annually on 31st December, on posting or on attachment to another unit for flying duties.

Certificates of Qualification.
(to be filled in as appropriate)

1. This is to certify that 413783 CPL. BURKE W.M.
has qualified as AIR GUNNER
with effect from 28-6-41 W/CD
Date 2-7-41 Unit 50th School
York

2. This is to certify that 413783 FLSGT BURKE ASD.
has qualified as WOM/AG GRADE 1
with effect from 21/4/43 W/CD
Date 29/4/43 Unit 413
York

3. This is to certify that Bonded to Pilot Officer
has qualified as 15th APRIL
with effect from 1943

JANUARY - 1942						Time carried forward :-	
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Flying Times	
						Day	Night
4.1.42	0830	W8427	S/L SCOTT	W.O.M	CONVOY ESCORT. LANDED INVERGORDON	8.30	5.00
5.1.42	1130	"	"	"	A/SUB PATROL. INVERGORDON - JALLUM VOE	4.15	
7.1.42	1500	"	P/O RIDDY	"	TEST	.35	
8.1.42	2015	"	S/L SCOTT	"	RECCO - NORWAY - CURTAILED DUE TO WEATHER		9.50
14.1.42	1355	"	W/CD TWIGG.	"	LOCAL.	1.45	
18.1.42	0950	"	S/L BIRCHALL	"	SEARCH - VON TIRPITZ (SENTRY 2).	7.10	8.10
26.1.42	1530	"	P/O RIDDY	"	TEST.	.45	
27.1.42	1805	"	"	"	TEST.	.45	
TOTAL JANUARY -							
DAY 23.45. TOTAL OPS. - 48.10							
NIGHT 23.00. 42.55 (MONTH).							
TOTAL 46.45							
M Randall S/L							
FLT/CDR.							
413 SQDN. R.C.A.F							

The logbook of Helen's grandfather, A.S.D.Burke Cover of a WWII RAF log book; the introductory pages, which make useful reading as they explain the sorts of details that were supposed to be recorded in a log book; an example page from a log book, showing the escort of convoys, and the taking part in the search for German battleship Von Tirpitz.

would vary. For instance, the famous Supermarine Spitfire was a single-seater fighter plane, while a Lancaster bomber had a team of seven: pilot, navigator, bomb aimer, flight engineer, wireless operator, mid-gunner and rear gunner.

- ◆ The squadron would also have a commanding officer, and appointments such as engineering officer and intelligence officer. The ground crew would comprise fitters (who worked on the engines) and riggers (who worked on the aircraft).

Which medals might your RAF ancestor have been awarded?

First World War campaign medals

- ◆ ADM 171 Admiralty medal rolls for 1914-1919 cover those in the RNAS.
- ◆ WO 372 WWI medal index cards on Ancestry (£) cover some RAF and RFC personnel.

Second World War campaign medals

Unlike WWI, for WWII there is no centralised medal roll for the public to check to see which medals your ancestors were eligible for. If you do have medals in your family possession



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(which, unlike WWI, were not name engraved – though your ancestor may have had them engraved privately), and would like to know more about how your family member qualified for them, see www.gov.uk/guidance/medals-campaigns-descriptions-and-eligibility#world-war-2-medals

What medals might you find?

When considering the campaign medals that an ancestor may have gained for service, there are a few of specific interest to those tracing RAF ancestors, in addition to the wider range:

- ♦ **1939-45 Star** (clasps: Battle of Britain or Bomber Command).
- ♦ **Atlantic Star** (clasps: Air Crew Europe or France and Germany)
- ♦ **Air Crew Europe Star** (clasps: Atlantic or France and Germany)

What are the units of the RAF?

The RAF is organised into squadrons; two or more squadrons form a wing (commanded by a wing commander; several wings form a group (commanded by a group captain). Groups are organised into operational commands, eg 'Fighter Command'.

From a family history point of view, finding the squadron will allow you to learn about your ancestor's service – where they served, the planes in operation, tracking down unit histories, diaries and accounts by the people who served with your family member.

Unit records

- ♦ Operations Record Books (ORBs) will give you the official account of the activities of a squadron.
- ♦ ORBs for each squadron are at The National Archives (TNA) in AIR 27, 1911-1980 to 1911-1986, can be downloaded for a small fee from www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- ♦ Air Ministry Combat Reports 1939-1945 (AIR 50) can also be downloaded from TNA's website.

Your research

For the Royal Air Force there are a wealth of resources from websites and books, to biographies and official histories.

Handy RAF reads & background research aids

- ♦ On the 'Air of Authority' website, go to the 'organisations structure' page: www.rafweb.org/Organsation/Org-index.htm – here you will find links through to specific units. [NB there is supposed to be an 'i' missing from the word 'Organisation' in this url; it is not incorrect!]
- ♦ The RAF Ministry of Defence is a mine of information relating to the history of the organisation and can be found at www.raf.mod.uk

- ♦ The Military History Encyclopaedia on the Web has useful squadron information at www.historyofwar.org/subject/RAF_units.html
- ♦ Check out the Osprey Publishing and History Press titles and Pen and Sword's extensive range of RAF related ones, including *Tracing Your Air Force Ancestors: a Guide for Family Historians* by Phil Tomaselli (2nd ed, Pen and Sword)
- ♦ The Naval & Military Press includes histories, the 'Airmen Died in the Great War' database on CD, and replica training manuals, such as *Truing-Up of Aeroplanes 1916* – www.naval-military-press.com
- ♦ Explore the Air History website www.airhistory.org.uk – particularly the RFC people index at www.airhistory.org.uk/rfc/people_index.html

Getting out & about

In addition to your background reading there are numerous places to visit, from museums and archives to the air stations your ancestor might have served on, and even the memorials where they may be commemorated.

- **Museums:** www.rafmuseum.org.uk and www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford
- **Find an air base:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_former_Royal_Air_Force_stations
- **Find a memorial:** The official RAF memorial, on the Victoria embankment, was unveiled in 1923 and commemorates not just those of the First World War, but also subsequent conflicts.
- **St Clement Danes, London**, is the central Church of the Royal Air Force and has books of remembrance of the 125,000 people who have died serving in the RAF (also covering the early years of military flight prior to the RAF).
- **Runnymede** names the 20,288 airmen and women who lost their lives in WWII and have no known grave. Download a memorial plan identifying name panels to locate your ancestor's name: see www.wyrdlight.com/stories/airforcerunnymede.htm
- **Bomber Command** Green Park London commemorates 55,573 WWII bomber aircrew who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As you can see there are numerous resources to help you trace your ancestors who served in the air force and it truly is a rewarding experience, investigating their story, and passing it on to the next generation – perhaps something that is particularly apt as another November Remembrance Sunday has just passed.

This piece is based on the article by Helen Tovey in the April 2018 issue of *Family Tree*.





Family History Societies



The Moxon Society

A One-Name Family History Society dedicated to the name Moxon and its many variants

www.moxonsociety.org

The Moxon Society is a One-Name Family History Society dedicated to the surname Moxon, and its many variants such as Moxon, Moxen, Moakson, Mokeson, Moxan, Moxham, Megson, Maggson, Moxom, and more. We currently have 140 members including thriving Australian and North American sections.

The Society was founded in 1991 by James Roland 'Jimmy' Moxon, and we have members worldwide who research their family histories, create family trees of which there are now fifty-three, one of which contains 8,089 entries, and there are fourteen trees which contain fewer than fifty entries.

We maintain two websites: one is a dedicated members-only site where we keep all our research material, completed trees and much more information. The other website is public and is found at www.moxonsociety.org. We also have a dedicated private Facebook page, The Moxon Society UK and International.

One of our major aims over the years has been to link as many individual Moxon trees as possible, and dedicated work by many members has allowed us to merge many of our individual trees. But over the years, we have inevitably found many Moxon (or variant) name references which we have been unable to link to any of our existing trees, and we are currently developing a new section of our research website, the *Missing Links* section, specifically asking for any hint which might help us allocate those missing links to a Moxon family tree.



Family History Society of Cheshire



For over fifty years FHSC has provided support and assistance to those who either have Cheshire ancestors or who live in the county. We are proud of our strong commitment to family history research and of how we are evolving to encourage participation, not only within the wider community but also across the age spectrum, making ourselves relevant to the next generation of family historians.

The Society has two well-stocked research centres, thirteen groups, a number of helpdesks in libraries across the county, and an online computer club. Groups each hold their own programme of events, online via Zoom or face-to-face. In fact, we were one of the early adopters of Zoom and now offer



around seven talks a month, including our innovative monthly online *Seminar Series* featuring speakers of national standing. All these events enable members from abroad and around the UK to fully engage in our activities, adding to the richness and diversity of our meetings.

Library section of our Mobberley Research Centre

Our award-winning quarterly journal *The Ancestor* is available for members to download or as a printed version and contains a wealth of information, news, and interesting articles. Members also receive a monthly newsletter filled to the brim with genealogy news, offers, and links to useful websites. Family historians with links to Cheshire are fortunate in having a wealth of transcribed data at their fingertips from our website shop, including parish registers, MIs, CDs, books, downloads, and a whole lot more

The Society has a dynamic social media presence on both Facebook and Twitter, where much lively discussion is generated. Regular features include our *Friday Roundup* and *Archive of the Week*.

To take advantage of all our membership benefits, for only £18 a year, pop along to the website at www.fhsc.org.uk and fill in the application form. What have you got to lose?



Family History Societies



THE NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Focussing on the nine counties in the Province of Ulster

Have you ever been told that there is no point trying to research your family in Ireland because all the records were burnt? We heard that a lot when we first attended family history fairs in Britain. Yes, there were records burnt in Dublin, but there are a lot more that survive.

Civil registration records of birth, marriage and death from 1864, with protestant marriages from 1845, are all freely available online for Northern Ireland up to 1921 www.irishgenealogy.ie These and later records may also be purchased online from the General Register Office (Northern Ireland) <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>

The complete 1901 and 1911 census records are also freely available online and include images of the forms that the householder completed. In addition, some remnants of earlier census records are available, and they also include images of the forms.

Pre-civil registration there are many surviving church records of baptism, marriage, burials and lists of communicants. One of the objects of the Society is to transcribe records as a means of preservation and to make them available to our members in an easy to search form. Since the society was constituted in 1979 members have transcribed records from over 160 churches, more than 400 graveyards, several school admissions registers and countless newspaper announcements. Members who cannot visit our research centre have the option to request a 'lookup' in the transcriptions, and other publications in our library.

Various land records and estate papers enable us to find out more about where our ancestors were living, and along with directories track their movements. Some are online and some are at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Newspaper records covering most counties in Ireland are available on several websites. They cover many aspects of daily life including court cases, prize winners, business deals, and of course births, marriages and deaths.

It was those comments about it not being worth trying to research here that sparked the idea to write some books drawing attention to the records that are available and where they can be found. The North of Ireland Family History Society has published more than a dozen books to provide help to those researching their ancestors in the north of Ireland. To date we have published five books on general topics, five books specific to counties in Ulster, and two focussed on a parish or townland. Most have been updated and reprinted several times, and our 'Websites' book is on its fifth edition. All are available from the 'shop' on our website, along with publications from our Branches <https://www.nifhs.org/shop/>



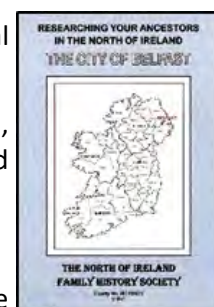
Our newest publication is focussed on the City of Belfast, covering the area of the 1896-1973 municipal boundary.

The book covers topics such as land records, burial records and gravestone inscriptions, war memorials, wills, workhouses, information on the available church records and where they can be found, selected source books and much more. The 106 pages include five maps and many photographs.

The cost is £12 and details of how to order may be found at www.nifhs.org

Our membership is worldwide and now with the advent of Zoom our members can join any of the meetings of our ten branches from wherever they live.

See our website for information on membership, resources, DNA projects, courses, and branch meetings. www.nifhs.org



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

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



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News from the Federation

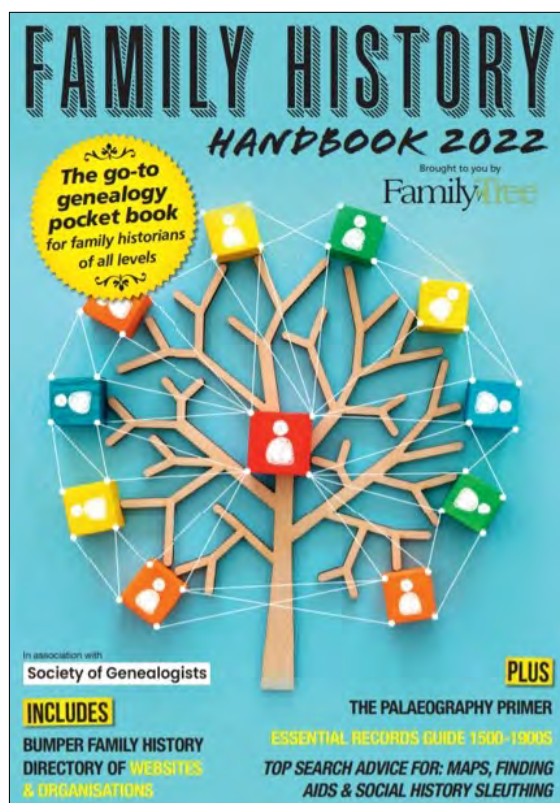
PROMOTE YOUR SOCIETY!

The *Really Useful Bulletin* welcomes articles from all members of the Family History Federation. Articles can attract new members to your group! Do prod your society's publicity person into writing something interesting to promote your group. Logo and a picture or two can be included. Articles from 200-400 words.

Family History Handbook

Our friends at *Family Tree* magazine are launching their 2022 Handbook. The Handbook lists societies, organisations, archives and more. Something to keep handy with your research kit! Subscribers to *Family Tree* receive a copy with their magazine. In addition, copies can be purchased through the magazine's website www.family-tree.co.uk/store/genealogy-tools/family-tree-magazine/familyhistoryhandbook/

A useful gift for your genealogy friends!



COFFEE (*alternatives allowed!*)

MEETINGS



Whether morning, afternoon or evening, these sessions are proving popular. They bring together member societies informally on Zoom for sharing of ideas, issues and a general "what's going on" opportunity.

The Federation's administrator, Debbie Bradley, sends details out to member societies regularly. Is your local society taking part—or missing out?

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Are you trying to find inspiration on gifts for your family history friends and family? There are lots on offer at www.parishchest.com



You can search on topics, or on vendor where materials will largely relate to that shop's location. Masses of useful items!

There are masses of family history books at: www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



NEXT MONTH

We will bring you some tempting competitions with useful prizes to herald the festive season!

Plus, we have a lead article about the 1921 census due to be launched on 6th January for England and Wales.

While waiting, there is a useful introduction to the digitisation project on the FindMyPast website, plus an interesting short video on some unusual items found between the census pages:

www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census

**THE 1921 CENSUS
IS COMING**

In association with
THE
NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



Really Useful Bulletin

The Federation Podcast



The Family History Federation's podcasts are proving very popular! They are on the website and available for you to listen at your leisure—free. There has been a change in the schedule due to some technical issues. Podcasts are released late in each month, and previous ones remain accessible from the website.

Occupations – September

Joe is joined by Mish Holman, professional genealogist who is particularly interested in theatre ancestors and census enumerators <https://www.familyhistorygifts.co.uk/>, Mike Esbester, academic historian and co-lead on the *Railway Work Life and Death Project* <http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/> and Judith Batchelor, professional genealogist, writer and former tutor at IHGS <https://genealogyjude.com/>

Work affected our ancestors and shaped their fortunes. Occupational records can be used to research your family history and give a fuller picture of their lives. Among other things our speakers touch upon women's work, what drew people to certain occupations and offer some top tips for researching.

Young People – October

Joe is joined by Janet Few, historical researcher, writer, speaker and President of the Family History Federation <https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/>, Margaret Roberts, editor of the *Playing Pasts* online sports history magazine <http://www.playingpasts.co.uk/> and Publicity Officer for the FHS of Cheshire <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/> and Daniel Loftus, Gen-Z Genealogist and founding member of *The Hidden Branch* group for young family historians. <https://beacons.page/thehiddenbranch> <https://danielsgenealogy.weebly.com/landing-page.html>.

Young people aren't just the future of family history but the present. We discuss some of the problems young people face and how older genealogists and organisations can best interact with them for the massive benefit of all.

Online Events – November

Joe is joined by Kelly Cornwell, professional family historian, blogger and speaker <https://whoamifamilytreereasearch.co.uk/>, Jane Hough, amateur genealogist and blogger <https://www.allthosebefore.org.uk/>, and Margaret Roberts, editor of the *Playing Pasts* online sports history magazine <http://www.playingpasts.co.uk/> and Publicity Officer for the FHS of Cheshire <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/>.

During the pandemic of 2020-1 many events in the family history world moved online and it looks as though many meetings, talks and conferences will have an online element ongoing. We discuss the excitement and variety of online family history events and how attendees and organisers can get the most out of them.

Social Media – December

Joe is joined by Andrew Martin, family historian, author, digital archivist and host of *The Family Histories Podcast* <https://li.sten.to/familyhistoriespodcast> <https://www.familytreeuk.co.uk/>, Margaret Roberts, editor of the *Playing Pasts* online sports history magazine <http://www.playingpasts.co.uk/> and Publicity Officer for the FHS of Cheshire <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/> and Daniel Loftus, Gen-Z Genealogist and founding member of *The Hidden Branch* group for young family historians. <https://beacons.page/thehiddenbranch> <https://danielsgenealogy.weebly.com/landing-page.html>.

Social media can be a fantastic tool for both the individual family historian and societies to communicate and connect. We discuss the different platforms, their pros and cons and our guests offer some top tips on using them.

One-Place Studies – January

Joe is joined by Janet Few, historian, President of the Family History Federation, former chair of the Society for One-Place Studies and author on the subject <https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/>, Pam Smith, former professional genealogist and passionate local historian who is co-founder of the local history data management app Name & Place <https://www.nameandplace.com/> and Elizabeth Walne, professional genealogist, writer, tutor, speaker and One-Place researcher <https://elizabethwalne.co.uk/>

One-Place Studies are rich local and community histories that involve similar skills and sources as family history. We discuss how to choose and carry out your own study and the pleasures of doing so.

Newspapers – February

Joe is joined by Mish Holman, professional genealogist who is particularly interested in theatre ancestors and census enumerators <https://www.familyhistorygifts.co.uk/>, Margaret Roberts, speaker, editor of the *Playing Pasts* online sports history magazine <http://www.playingpasts.co.uk/> and Publicity Officer for the FHS of Cheshire <https://www.fhsc.org.uk/>, Paul Chiddicks, blogger and Family Tree Magazine's 'Dear Paul' <https://chiddicksfamilytree.com/> and Natalie Pithers, professional family historian, blogger and host of the YouTube/Podcast series #TwiceRemoved <https://genealogystories.co.uk/>

Newspapers are a superb yet under-used resource for family history. We discuss the kinds of information you can find ranging from accidents to awards and best to go searching for genealogy gold.

Identity – March

Joe is joined by Dr Penny Walters, lecturer and author on various genealogy topics including ethical dilemmas and the psychology of searching <https://www.searchmypast.co.uk/> and Yetunde Abiola, family historian and expert on the impact of ancestor's stories on the lives of future generations and the complexities of Caribbean, diaspora and Colonial genealogies <https://twitter.com/HSerendipities> <https://www.facebook.com/thegenealogypiedpiper>.

Identity is a crucial part of family history and can be both a difficult and joyful thing. We discuss race, belonging, ethnicity and DNA as important factors around identity and how important it is we manage expectations, perceptions and how we must understand genealogy within historical context.



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Looking Forward to the 1921 Census Release

National Library of Scotland Online Maps

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