



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 13

September 2021

Welcome to the September edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*
inside find...

Lead article this month is *Welsh Family History: Top tips for a successful search*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



We hope you enjoyed having a "show special" Bulletin with details for all the presentations and speakers

Take a peek at the REALLY USEFUL Show "freebies"

Yes, they are *really* useful!

Key ring

Ruler / magnifier

Lanyard (*brilliant for when live events are back!*)

Bamboo pen or
propelling pencil

Available to all who book:

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

Orders will be via Parish Chest

Sorry, but we need to ask overseas visitors to cover the cost of shipping.

Look out for the next
Show Special announcing
mini-classes and workshops

We thank Sam Manning for her design for the show logo plus
the bird, nicknamed 'Friendly Fred' and who loves family history!



Really Useful Bulletin



Welsh Family History: Top tips for a successful search by Eilir Ann Daniels



Welsh family history research can be deceptive for the uninitiated. On the surface it involves the same types of documents – census returns, parish registers, civil registration certificates – as seen in England. But you only need to dig a little bit deeper to find that the social and cultural differences between the two countries mean that even the most seasoned researcher has to shift their perspective when they start to get to grips with the clues left behind by our Welsh ancestors.

Many researchers feel daunted when they find that so many people shared the same name, or they become trapped in some place name pitfalls because they aren't familiar with the Welsh language.

And so I've gathered together some tips that will, hopefully, help steer you away from some potential dead ends.



Tip no. 1 – Make sure you're looking in the right place!

This may sound obvious, but it's important to remember that all successful genealogical journeys start by establishing exactly where your ancestors lived. Over the years, many starting out on their Welsh quest have confused Carmarthen with Caernarfon, Aberystwith with Aberystwyth, Llanfihangel -y-Pennant in Caernarvonshire with its counterpart in Merionethshire, and Llangadog in Carmarthenshire with Llangattock in Monmouthshire and, by doing so, come face to face with a brick wall they simply can't find a way around.



[Image source: www.geograph.org.uk]

There are hundreds of place names in Wales which start with the prefix 'Llan', meaning 'church', which is usually followed by a saint's name. Some of the more significant saints have *several* Llans named after them, and this is where the headache starts for many. Here are just some examples:

So – make sure you establish the correct village, town or parish from the outset, and that you don't confuse one Llan (or Aber or Betws for that matter) with another.

St Teilo

Llandeilo Fawr (Carmarthenshire). This is largest and probably most historically significant Llan associated with this saint. 'Fawr' (mawr) means 'big' or 'major'

Llandeilo Graban (Radnorshire). Graban means marigold and could refer to the prevalence of the plant in the area

Llandeilo Talybont (Glamorgan). Talybont refers to the Llan's location near a bridge

St Padarn

Llanbadarn Fawr (Cardiganshire). The main Llan associated with this saint

Llanbadarn Fynydd (Radnorshire). 'Fynydd' is the mutated form of 'mynydd', meaning mountain

St Michael (Sant Mihangel)

Llanfihangel y Traethau (Merionethshire). 'Traethau' means beaches

Llanfihangel yn Howyn (Anglesey). 'yn Howyn' is a variation of 'yn Nhywyn' and 'yn Nhowyn'. 'Tywyn' means 'sand-dune'

So, when reading the documents always double-check the county in which your ancestor's 'Llan' was located, and don't assume that references to 'Llandeilo' or 'Llanbadarn', etc, always mean the most well-known or the largest place with that name. The Wales pages of the GENUKI (UK & Ireland Genealogy) website at <https://www.genuki.org.uk/> are a great ready reference guide that will help you to sort out one Llanfihangel or Llanbadarn from another.



Tip no. 2 – Pay Attention to Place Names

In general it pays to read place names, including property and village names, very closely indeed. It's often the case that the spellings you come across in the historical documents will be quite different to the modern, standardised forms used today. They can therefore be difficult to decipher. If you can only read part of a name, then try feeding those letters into the Historic Place Names Database

<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/placenames> which will present you with a potential list of properties, villages and fields and, if the place you are looking for is listed, will lead you to maps pinpointing the exact location.



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The FamilySearch website also has a handy glossary of Welsh place name elements that can help you decipher a farm, cottage, or village name:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Welsh_Place_Name_Elements



Tip no. 3 – Get to Know Wales

In order to successfully follow your ancestral trail back in time, it helps enormously if you have a broad understanding of Wales's history and geography.

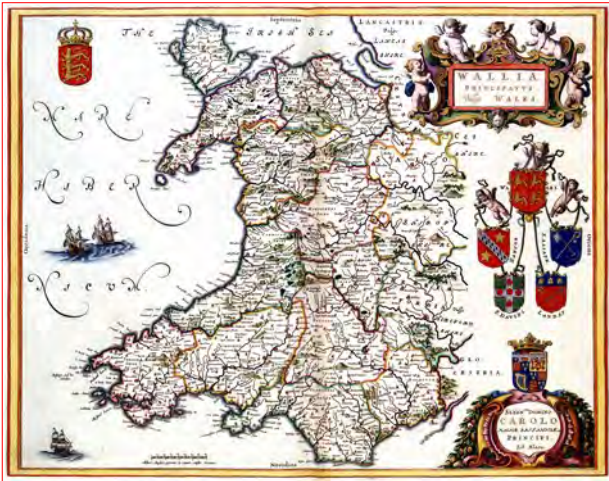


Image source: Wikimedia Commons

Knowing the lie of the land, as well as the historical reasons behind some migration and occupational patterns, will help you in your quest. Mountains and hills often served as barriers to cut one community off from another, while features such as valleys helped to create natural connections between communities. Historical events and trends would also have affected our ancestors' lives, and the lure of the nearest city or large town, or the promise of work opportunities in the new industrial centres would have influenced where they moved to.

All this will help you to understand why, for example, it's *highly unlikely* that most couples who lived in parishes near to the Snowdonia mountain range in the 1830s or 1840s would, at some other time, be living (or baptising any children) a hundred miles to the south. And it will also help you to appreciate why, at that same period in history, families who lived in communities situated in fertile valley plains, such as the Tywi valley in Carmarthenshire, may have been more likely to venture slightly further from their birth parish than their compatriots who lived in more mountainous areas, as the landscape characteristics of such places (as well as, in the example of the Tywi valley, a relative proximity to and economic links with the developing industrial centres to the south), would have helped to facilitate connections with more populous areas slightly further afield.

A map and a general Welsh history book should therefore be your companion as you start your searches.



Tip no. 4 – Understand the Importance of the 'Chapel' in Welsh Life

If you have struggled to find your ancestors' baptisms in the Anglican parish registers then it may be because they attended a nonconformist chapel instead of the local parish church.



Calfaria Baptist Chapel, Llogyn, Carmarthenshire

Source: National Library of Wales (Wikimedia Commons)

The importance of the 'Chapel' in Welsh life cannot be overestimated. The religious census of 1851 suggested that around three-quarters of the Welsh population attended or were associated with a nonconformist chapel. The number of chapels dotted around the country (outnumbering Anglican parishes by a considerable degree) certainly bear testimony to this. Chapels were not only places of worship, but were also regarded as cultural and social centres, for the congregations often arranged community events such as *eisteddfodau* (literary and musical festivals), dramas and social outings.

Here is a brief guide to what you need to know when searching for your nonconformist ancestors' baptism, marriage and burial records:

The nonconformist religious revival started in earnest in Wales during the mid to late eighteenth century. During those very early years of religious change you are generally still likely to find your ancestors' baptism and burial records in the parish register, but as the nineteenth century progressed, as more and more started to attend a nonconformist chapel, you are far less likely to find their baptism records there.

A good proportion of pre-1837 nonconformist baptism records are kept within the National Archives' RG4-8 series. They have been digitised and can be searched and viewed on many pay-to-view genealogical websites.



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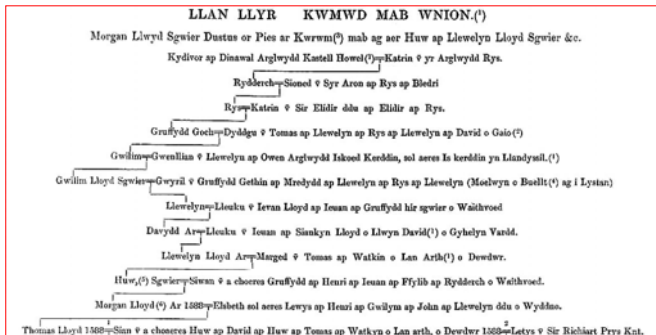
Unlike parish registers which have, generally, been deposited with the county archives across Wales, there is no centralised repository for chapel records (apart from the pre-1837 RG4-8 series). Many remain in the possession of the chapel in question, while many more, unfortunately, have simply not survived.

Up until 1837 it was illegal to marry in a nonconformist place of worship, and so you should find your ancestors' marriage record in the parish register, if that register has survived intact of course. After the change in the law in 1837, many nonconformists continued to marry in their local parish church, or chose instead to marry in a registry office, if the chapel they attended had not yet received a licence to conduct wedding ceremonies.

If they lived in the countryside, nonconformists are likely to have been buried in the parish churchyard if their chapel did not have a cemetery, or up until the time when the chapel they attended had acquired land to bury their members (usually from the mid or late nineteenth century onwards).



Tip no. 5 – Understanding Welsh Patronymics



Ancient Welsh Pedigree - Source: Excerpt from *Heraldic Visitations of Wales*, Ed, S.R. Meyrick, 1846, via www.archive.org

The majority of Welsh surnames stem from the traditional Welsh patronymic tradition. Originally there were no fixed surnames in Wales, most men and women were identified by their given names followed by their fathers' names; sometimes their grandfathers' names were used too. The apparent 'surname' therefore changed with each generation. For example, a man called John whose father was Owen would have been known as 'John mab Owen' (literally, John the son of Owen). John's son – Griffith – would be known as 'Griffith mab John' (or often Griffith mab John Owen), and so on. Over the years 'mab' was shortened to 'ap' and generally discarded by the end of the eighteenth century, although the patronymic system was still being used in day-to-day life, especially in the western half of Wales. By then, 'John mab/ap Owen' would simply be known by the shortened form of John Owen(s) or John Bowen. John's son would be Griffith John or Griffith Jones.

It was after the 1536 Act of Union with England, that the Welsh population was encouraged to use fixed surnames as

seen in England. But the transition from patronymic to fixed surnames was totally unsystematic, and, generally, it took almost three centuries for the whole of Wales and every family to adopt fixed surnames. Some alternated between the old and new systems for many years, or over a couple of generations, effectively using different 'surnames' during that time. This is why Welsh families can be very complicated, and sometimes impossible, to research prior to the nineteenth century.

The gentry and upper echelons of society were first to follow this trend, and it was only very gradually that the rest of the population adopted the new, fixed surname system. In certain parts of Wales, such as near the border with England, southern Pembrokeshire, or in larger towns, individuals and families fixed their surnames earlier than in the and north and west for example. In some places individuals were still using the traditional system as late as the 1840s and 1850s. And so, if your ancestors lived in the western half of Wales (away from southern Pembrokeshire), and you simply can't find them on the earlier censuses, try looking for a family grouping by using their given names only. You may find they were living the same house or farm in which they later lived, or nearby, but that they were recorded with a different surname – this is often a sign of a family or individual alternating between the traditional Welsh way of naming and the fixed surname system. The surnames they used could provide you with some useful clues as to the name of the head of household's father or grandfather.

These tips give you an idea of some of the differences between Welsh and English family history research – differences which stem from issues relating to the Welsh language, as well as from specific Welsh social, cultural and religious customs. Shifting your perspective to take heed of these differences, and to develop research strategies which take them into account (including how best to tackle common Welsh names), is therefore key in being able to successfully track down your Welsh ancestors.



*Eilir Ann Daniels is a Full Member of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA), a Pharos Tutor, and is the founder of the research service **Your Welsh Ancestors**: <https://www.yourwelshancestors.com/>*

*She carries out research for private clients, solicitors and TV programmes, including *Who Do You Think You Are?*, produces online video courses and guides to Welsh family history research, and also provides one-to-one training and consultations. More details on her courses and consultation services can be found on the **Welsh Family History Courses** website: <https://welshfamilyhistorycourses.podia.com/>*



Family History Societies



Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair 2 October 2021

If you have missed our annual get-together in The Marlborough School, Woodstock, here is your chance to catch up with fellow family historians. The Executive has decided to hold a virtual fair via Zoom on Saturday 2nd October 2021. It is **free** to all.

Registration for the Zoom Fair is now open!

The ZoomFair will run over two sessions, morning (10am to Noon BST) and afternoon (2pm to 4pm BST) and as an attendee you can register for either session or both. If you do wish to attend both please register twice, once for each session. You will receive registration confirmation by email.

For session 1 (10am to Noon BST) please click [Registration1](#) and for overseas visitors here is the [International Clock setting1](#)

For session 2 (2pm to 4pm BST) please click [Registration2](#) and for overseas visitors there is the [International Clock setting2](#)

It will provide you with the opportunity to talk to representatives of a number of Family History Societies as well as those from OFHS.

Access to societies will be via a series of breakout rooms from the main meeting room. You will have the ability to visit as many rooms as you wish.

<https://www.ofhs.uk/news/ofhs-fair-2-october-2021> will get you straight to the event's page.



Established in 1984, the **Botany Bay Family History Society** (BBFHS), today boasts a membership of 450, six interest groups covering DNA, Scottish, Irish, and Australian research, Writers, Family Tree maker, Reunion and Legacy and a team of dedicated volunteers, that keep the research centre running.

The research centre houses twelve computers, with access to subscription sites, Ancestry, Findmypast, TheGenealogist, British Newspaper Archive, the Biographical Database of Australia, and Internet History Resources (NSW) and an extensive library of research books covering many countries and topics. The research centre is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am to 4pm and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Covid-19 restrictions have made 2020 and 2021 a challenge, with lockdowns and number restrictions causing the centre to be closed for extended periods.

These restrictions also caused the monthly meetings to be suspended and President, Jennie Fairs, took the meetings online using the Zoom platform. This has proved to be a wise move as those, who were unable to go out in the evenings were able to attend and the monthly speakers have come from across Australia and overseas.

The interest groups have also gone to Zoom and have given members the opportunity to participate and keep the groups growing.

The website has information about the society, its history, news, events and the library catalogue. There is a Members Only section, where there are resources available, to access from home. These include 'how-to presentations' on a selection of topics.

The society has a web project, Botany Bay Connections www.bbfhsconnections.com.au where you can find the names of people around the world with a link to the Sutherland Shire, where the society is based. There are stories about early residents and people who have contributed to the Shire in different ways, through their war service, or endeavours in commerce, industry, sport or the arts.

Apart from the monthly Zoom meetings, there is a Facebook page, eNEWS, a second evening meeting, with the members catching up on news and their journal, the *Endeavour*, published four times a year.

Email. botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au

Website. www.botanybayfhs.org.au

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



AGRA announces the 2021/22 season of family history podcasts

Family historians will get the opportunity to pick up valuable research tips from professional genealogists in a new series of podcasts which start this autumn.

The podcasts will feature AGRA experts in discussions aimed at helping researchers uncover more information which will assist them in building their family trees. The podcasts will be released on a monthly basis beginning in September. Each edition will tackle one aspect of family history and it will link to a section on the AGRA website with details of helpful resources and search tools.

Podcasts will be available on the AGRA website <https://www.agra.org.uk/> as well as a range of podcast hosts such as Apple. The genealogists taking part have years of experience in their field helping unlock doors and break down brick walls for their clients. Last year's series of podcasts was well received in the genealogical community and this autumn we explore a new set of subjects.

AGRA genealogist Nick Serpell, who has produced this year's series said: "These podcasts give family historians a valuable chance to listen to professionals, all of whom have an in-depth knowledge of their subject. Whether listeners are just starting off on their research journey or have already progressed down their ancestral line, there will be something new to discover."

Each podcast is due to be released on the 1st of each month.

September: Commissioning Effective Research: How to commission a professional genealogist and ensure you get the results you want and the best value for money.

October: Legal & Chancery Records. Equity Court records are a rich mine of information and can be vital in researching even humble ancestors and their families.

November: Researching Welsh Ancestors. Wales has its own history and culture which requires a different approach to researching family history. Our experts show you the best way forward.

December: Manorial & Estate Records. For hundreds of years the Manor was the basic system of local government in England & Wales. This podcast explains how to access and use the many documents it produced.

January: Researching Liverpool Ancestors. Liverpool became a colourful melting pot of immigrants from Ireland and further afield as well as having strong connections with the slave trade. It provides a rich field for family research.

February: The Poor Law Before the Welfare State the Poor Law was the only source of relief for the poor and destitute. Our experts examine how it worked and what records it produced.

The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives was founded in 1968 to maintain and promote high professional standards in the field of genealogy and historical research, and remains the professional body that promotes excellence in research. All AGRA genealogists have passed a rigorous selection procedure and abide by AGRA's Code of Conduct.



Malvern Family History Society for Worcestershire

W: <https://mfhs.org.uk/>

E: info@mfhs.org.uk

Malvern lies on the Worcestershire side of the Malvern Hills and the Malvern Family History Society researches the whole of Worcestershire. Admittedly, it is a small society, but it has a strong commitment to family history and helping those out-of-town researchers with family history in our county. The society was founded in 1996 after a local group of family history research students wanted to continue to meet on a regular basis. Since then, the Society has grown to having 368 enthusiastic members based in Malvern, the British Isles and the rest of the world. We belong to the West Midlands Branch of the Federation of Family History Societies and the Worcestershire Local History Forum.

Following the discovery that Worcestershire Archives did not contain a complete indexed copy of pre-1837 Worcestershire baptism records, it was suggested that we try to complete this vital part of family research. In 2008, the Worcestershire baptism project started in partnership with Worcestershire Archives and S&N Genealogy. This has continued to include those parishes which no longer are situated in our county but were at some point in their history. We are now including both marriages and burials in our index and our volunteers have indexed over 783,152 lines of baptism, marriage, and burial records to date.

We have published memorial inscriptions for the parishes of Hanley Swan, All Saints Coddington, Leigh, Mathon and Cradley. Indexing work has been carried out on Malvern cemetery burials and Malvern's WWI War Memorials.

The largest of all these projects is the Worcestershire Records Index. There is still some way to go but in spite of the poor writing, the old English script and sometimes Latin, we have all acquired new skills. Once a parish has been completed, it is freely available at the Worcestershire Archives and our members are able to search it online at FHSONline. If you are interested in what our projects hold, with respect to your own research or would like to join the Index Volunteers, please contact us via our website.

Our journal, *Tree Tappers* is published quarterly and features members' experiences in family research and Worcestershire history for those interested in our county's history.

Whether your ancestors worked at the glove factories, the porcelain factory or the sauce factory and you are having difficulty finding them, we may be able to help you locate them. For full details of membership and activities, please go to our website – www.mfhs.org.uk – which gives you the whole picture. Details of how to join us, can be found at 'About MFHS', click 'Membership' and follow the instructions.

We invite you to join our enthusiastic group.

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Family History Societies



The Channel Islands Family History Society

The Channel Islands Family History Society (CIFHS) has been assisting family historians for over forty years. The Society has a membership both in Jersey and worldwide.

Initially it was hoped that there would be a Guernsey branch as well as a Jersey branch. However, this did not happen as Guernsey chose to organise family history research in a different manner. The Society has retained the name CIFHS, though the website address is www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org reflects its main focus.

CIFHS has a reference collection which is housed at the Jersey Archive. The Society has supported the Jersey Archive by providing a rota of volunteers providing help to local and visiting researchers, both in person and email. However, personal attendance has been curtailed recently.

The Society has transcribed the baptism, marriage and burial registers for the twelve C of E parishes in Jersey from 1540 to 1842 – these can be found in <http://catalogue.jerseyheritage.org> – civil registration started in 1842, five years after England, when all births and deaths had to be registered.

CIFHS has also transcribed all the Jersey censuses from 1841 to 1911 by parish and district and published the indexes. These are more accurate than those available online, given that many of the surnames are French in style and several are unique to Jersey.

The Society has been working closely with Jersey Archive for many years, whose email address is www.jerseyheritage.org. As a member of CIFHS, there is an opportunity to subscribe to the Jersey Archive website at a reduced annual subscription, thus giving the family historian valuable extra data. This data is available free when visiting Jersey Archive in person.

There have been no CIFHS monthly meetings in St Helier, Jersey, for some time, however, the Society held a Zoom meeting in June this year which was attended with members from the Channel Islands, UK, US as well as the antipodes who stayed up late or broke their sleep to attend the virtual meeting. Sir Mark Boleat gave a talk on migration from Jersey to New Zealand, particularly in the 1870s. The following month CIFHS held an outside meeting in the cemetery of one of the Roman Catholic churches. For those members who missed the talk by Georgia Le Maistre, details will appear in the next quarterly journal. CIFHS members are due to meet for their annual visit at the Jersey Archive on 20 September to discuss the new collections added to the Archive & Collections online catalogue. On 25 October, Chris Bright, a retired editor of the *Jersey Evening Post*, will be speaking about the history of the *Jersey Evening Post*. The November meeting will see Heather Morton, who was a Reference Librarian at the Jersey Library, give a talk on the book she has written entitled *Traces of War on the Dunes in St Ouen*. This talk was due to take place in 2020, the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Jersey from German occupation.

With some members unwilling or unable to travel to Jersey at the moment, it is more important to be able to access as much information as possible online. CIFHS are in the process of finalising details for a new website.

Our Research Committee undertakes searches in the pre-1842 records, in census records and in other research material to which we have access. Rates for research at £15 per hour for non-members and £10 per hour for members. cifhs.research@gmail.com

Membership

Resident in the Channel Islands, UK or Europe: Single £18 Joint £20
Resident overseas: Single/Joint £25

Website: www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org

Postal Address: P O Box 507, JERSEY JE4 5TN



Images from the Society's website.

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Family History Societies



Tollesbury Ancestry Group

Contact me at helen.matten@gmail.com

I want to use this space to tell you a bit about our group. I often talk to people in our village who say to me "I would like to do my family history, but I just don't know where to start." Well, **Tollesbury Ancestry Group** would be a very good place to start! Tollesbury is near the river Blackwater estuary in Essex.

We are a small, self-funding, non-profit group with one thing on our minds: discovering our family histories.

It is not something you can do in a couple of weeks – it takes a lot of research, but seventy-five per cent of the information you will find is now available on the internet, so it does not involve traipsing round churchyards looking for gravestones and records. (You can do that as well if you want to – it can be fun and rewarding!).

We hold a meeting on the first Wednesday of each month except January and August. Our membership subscription is £25 for the year; guests are always welcome to join us at £3.50. We meet in the school room of the centre in Tollesbury.

We have been going for seven years, founded by Joan Birchley as a way for people interested in family history to help each other and share how they have researched and discovered who they are and who their forebears were. This is still the principle of the group which has evolved over the years. We are of course more experienced now, having shared our methods and discoveries with each other, and we are in a good position to help beginners to set out on their journey.

Each month we set a theme for the meeting. We invite local speakers in to give us informative, instructive and entertaining talks, we enjoy a Christmas party and quiz, fuelled by a plethora of mince pies!!! Last year we put on a *Tollesbury Time-team Treasure Hunt*, which everyone enjoyed and scratched their heads over!! How much do *you* know about your village?



What is this symbol, and what does it mean? (answer at the end!)

Finding your family history is so much more than getting 1,000 names onto a roll of wallpaper!! Programmes like *Who Do You Think You Are*, and *Heir Hunters* have sparked people into wondering about their own pasts but taking that first step is often quite daunting. The TV ad for Ancestry.co.uk claims you 'just type in your name and your family past appears before your eyes'. Actually, no it doesn't!! It does take research and work to discover your past, but the rewards are amazing!

We have members at all levels within the group, and we all revel in helping each other make new discoveries, smash down brick walls and have that joyous moment when you make a breakthrough to find a whole new side of your family history! Getting back to the seventeenth or eighteenth century is an achievement in itself as you will be researching pre-official records and censuses. One of us has researched back to the fifteenth century using wills and local history information.

So, apart from recording all the names on that roll of wallpaper, what do you *do* with the information you have discovered? Who do you want to tell? How do you want to record this for your children or grandchildren to continue your personal 'never-ending story'?

In our meetings we will be discussing that exact topic. Our committee will be talking and showing everyone through how you can start to record all your information for posterity. You could make recordings of what you have found, or record granny's memories. (One of our members played us a recording of his great-grand aunt Alice talking about her time in service as a young girl!) You can visualise your findings in a PowerPoint and keep it on a memory stick. Start a scrap book of photos, newspaper cuttings, information, for family to browse through. Write a book!! Or a poem chronicling your story. Timelines are also a good way to chronicle the lives of your ancestors. There are endless ways you can put down your family history so that your family and future generations can enjoy your work and have a memento of how you got to where you are, and **WHO** you came from!

The other cry I get from people is "I just don't have time!" Well, we have just had eighteen months of 'time' and I think many people actually have more 'time' than they think they do. Yes, it does take time; no, nothing will happen quickly, but when you *do* find information you didn't know before, it is truly amazing! It is also something which the whole family can join in, during the long dark winter months, instead of staring at the TV, or the Xbox or computer games.

Or, come to Tollesbury Ancestry Group and learn how you can discover a whole new world of Georgians, Victorians and Edwardians, weird occupations your ancestors may have done. Was one of your ancestors a straw plaiter, or a Bible Woman, an oyster shucker or a fur puller? (Or even a Tollesbury smuggler or pirate!! One of our members can actually lay claim to that ancestor!) Were any of your ancestors born in a workhouse? (Shock, horror!!) Actually, many children of working-class women *were* born in the 'workhouse' as it was the only place offering hospital beds and medical assistance!! Doctors and midwives cost money – there was no welfare state, no National Health Service, the workhouse was often the only alternative to a very high-risk home birth.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to come to a meeting to discover a whole new world of discovery. Please email me to let me know that you are coming, and if you are bringing a friend with you (good for moral support the first time!).

The symbol on the wall is on our village bakery. It is a fire insurance mark, which indicated to the fire brigade that the building was insured, and they would have any fires put out!! In 1710 Charles Povey formed the Sun, the oldest insurance company in existence which still conducts business in its own name. It is the forerunner of the Royal & Sun Alliance Group.



Other Notices



An introduction to genealogy University of Bristol

This online eight-week course, run by international speaker and author Dr Penny Walters, will consist of an introduction to family history and genealogy, and the many resources available. 6-8pm GMT, 5 October to 30 November, 2021.

Book here:

[Genealogy courses](#) | [Department of English](#) | [University of Bristol](#)

We will find out:

- how to start and fill in a tree
- how to analyse birth, marriage and death certificates
- how to analyse and deconstruct censuses
- incorporating oral and social history into our narratives

We will also look at:

- DNA testing options, discussing the merits of different companies
- how to mix DNA results with a paper trail
- fragmentations from biological family, through adoption, for example
- ethnicity and identity, heritage, diaspora, homelands, oral histories, including the black British experience
- the role of specific religions and countries when compiling a tree

An underlying theme will be that some people may uncover ancestors' secrets and lies, so we will also address ethical dilemmas in genealogy. Towards the end of the module, individuals will be encouraged to share their genealogy journey with the group.



SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Saturday, 25 September – 2pm

In Pursuit of Lots! Using Forenames to Build the Family Tree

All too often we accept an ancestor's given names without much thought about their choice. But a new or changed pattern of naming can indicate an important event that you should consider.

Sue Swalwell demonstrates how paying more attention to the usual and unusual naming patterns within the family can:

- Provide a shortcut to tracking individual families within the wider ancestral family;
- Demonstrate migration patterns of the ancestral and the collateral family within the UK and globally.

A one-hour talk with Sue Swalwell, cost £10.00

Booking link: <https://societyofgenealogists.arlo.co/w/events/cat-23-occupations/>

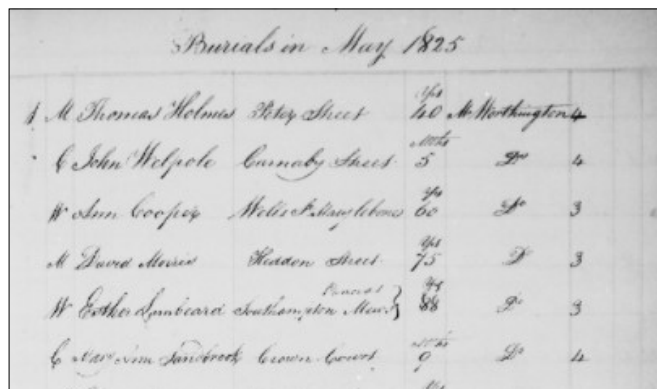


Stories of St James's Burial Ground

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDS

We are seeking volunteers to assist with the transcription of burial records in order to create a searchable digital archive.



These records contain information about the thousands of ordinary Londoners buried at St James's, including their names, addresses, occupations and more. With your help we can begin to understand the everyday details of who these people were and how they lived, contributing to an unprecedented record of Georgian and Victorian urban life in London. All contributions can be made online, no previous experience is needed and you can choose to do as much or as little as you like.

In London, contractors Costain Skanska Joint Venture (CSJV) are managing work for HS2 near Euston Station where construction is taking place on the site of St James's Burial Ground, a major eighteenth-nineteenth century cemetery site. Ahead of this work archaeologists and specialists from MOLA Headland Infrastructure were brought in to excavate and record over 40,000 burials, the largest archaeological excavation of its kind ever undertaken in the UK. While this is giving us unique insight into the people who lived in London during a time of rapid growth and social change, much more still needs to be done. We need your help!

"Unlocking these burial records will bring to light key details about what life was like for the residents of the London parish of St James's, at a time when it was changing beyond all recognition."

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/mola/stories-of-st-jamess-burial-ground>

Zooniverse also has a project for transcribing the manuscript notebooks of Sir Humphry Davy.



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

A special discussion for all societies!

Genealogy: the Next Generation

Friday 12th November—7.30pm

A Zoom presentation and discussion about how family history societies can be relevant to the next generation of family historians, led by Janet Few.

What are the needs of younger genealogists?

How can our societies evolve to meet those needs and encourage participation across the age spectrum?

This will be relevant to society volunteers looking to do more, society members who feel that their society could do more and younger genealogists with ideas and suggestions about what societies need to do to appeal to their age group.

This will be a live discussion on Zoom. You need to register via the Show website next month. You do not require a Show ticket to book this live talk:

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

We invite all societies' representatives to come along to explore and share ideas to save our societies for the future!



SPEAKERS

Many groups need speakers for meetings live or on Zoom. The Federation has a list with links to speakers' own website with topics covering just about everything possibly connected to family history and beyond! Take a look...

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/speakers-az

Meet the Federation—18th September

A most useful day. We will bring you a report of in the next edition. Thank you to those who attended.

Make use of the Federation website!

www.familyhistoryfederation.com

The Federation operates as an umbrella organisation for family history. Its member groups benefit from access to specific advice and specialist services. However, there is a wealth of useful information on the Federation's website available to everyone interested in family history—a hobby that is far more than collecting names!

Explore the website, try the tabs and the links, and see what you can find—you could be surprised!

Resources includes:

- ◆ Ask the Federation podcast
- ◆ Can DNA tests help you?
- ◆ Research tips
- ◆ Really Useful leaflet
- ◆ Really Useful Bulletin
- ◆ Using original records
- ◆ Free online resources
- ◆ Free websites
- ◆ My Family Tree booklet

While under the **Education**:

- ◆ Everyone has roots
- ◆ Using FamilySearch Family Tree
- ◆ Genealogy from a gravestone
- ◆ Presenting skills using PowerPoint

The **NEW** podcast schedule is now on the website.

There is also a "members only" website section for organisations which are FHF members where there is a large amount of guidance for running societies and more.

While it has to be said that many groups join the Federation in order to avail themselves of affordable and relevant insurances for their activities, the Fed offers much more support to its members from access to special arrangements with *FindMyPast* when out at events, through to Parish Chest providing online "shop" facilities with special commission rates for member groups, to legal guidance.

The Federation also operates Family History Books which has its own online shop and is well worth browsing while there are no fairs for you to browse books in person!

And there is the FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show too!

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/

www.parishchest.com/

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



Really Useful Bulletin



FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS ONLINE

formerly THE FAMILY HISTORY PARTNERSHIP



www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

www.parishchest.com

www.familyhistoryfederation.com

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION

Place your order. at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



What's on Parish Chest

The number of societies and others featuring on Parish Chest continues to expand. The content of Parish Chest already has a good base upon which to increase quantity, quality and type of information on offer and includes some of the following and much more:

- *Parish register transcriptions of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and much 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!*

Visit www.parishchest.com to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.

Family History Books and Parish Chest are both under the umbrella for the Family History Federation

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th November 2021

Tickets are just £10—many local FHS have codes for their members

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



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Company Number 2930189 (England & Wales) Registered Charity Number 1038721

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