



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 7

Welcome to the current edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*
We hope this will provide you with ideas for your family history



Saturday 10th April 2021

Only 2 weeks to go until the Show

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for current details

New Website Coming Soon

SO DON'T DELAY

BOOK NOW

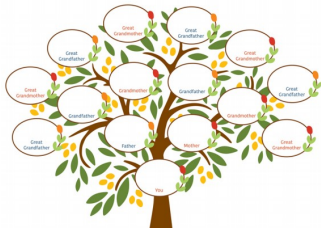
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Really Useful Bulletin

England and Wales Family History Research

Whether you are new to family history research or have been researching for a while, please find some hints and tips to help you with your research in England and Wales



Civil Registration - Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

Civil registration started in England and Wales in 1837 – but in Scotland it was not introduced until 1855 – and thus began the formal registrations of births, marriages and deaths. This was very new to the general population; for example pre-1837, they believed a baptism for a child was sufficient to be legal. Therefore you may find some births were not registered between 1837 and 1874. The authorities noticed this and so the *Births and Deaths Act* 1874 was introduced which imposed fines on people for late registrations.

Births and deaths are indexed (except for the period 1935 -1983) and can be viewed online for free before purchasing the certificate through the General Register Office (GRO) website at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp>

You will need to create a login to view the indexes and to order a certificate.

The maiden name of the mother is also shown on the birth indexes which can be very useful – and indeed informative! Death indexes show ages at death. Both these nuggets of information, free to browse remember, can really help with your research.

Historic birth and death certificates ordered from GRO are available as a downloadable PDF version for £7.00. Paper ones can also be purchased at £11.00. Marriage certificates have to be ordered and they cost £11.00. (All prices at the time of writing March 2021).

Certain information is required to complete your order with the GRO

Freebmd is a reputable website where you can find the civil registration indexes enabling you locate the information needed to order birth, marriage and death certificates. You need to know...

- * Registration district
- * Year registered
- * Which quarter (Jan – Mar; Apr – Jun; Jul-Sep; Oct – Dec)
- * Volume and Page number of the record.

For example a birth registration for someone would read...Derby 1847/2 Vol 3 p10

This is for someone whose birth was registered in Derby district between April and June in 1847.

If you have an ancestor who is registered in the first quarter (Jan – Mar) be aware that the child may well have been born the previous year in December!

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>

Some of the information you will need is included on the subscription web sites of www.ancestry.co.uk , www.thegenealogist.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk. You should always view or purchase the original document to establish whether or not information relates to your ancestor.

If you do not have the indexed reference, the General Register Office will carry out a search for you but this will cost extra and more details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>

For marriages, if you wish to see the actual signature of bride or groom, you will need to order from the *local* registrar's office. The GRO registration district will guide you to the right area. See <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/> for details of local offices and areas they cover.

From 4th May 2021 changes are being made to marriage certificates in England and Wales. From that date, marriage certificates will include the names of both parents on the certificate rather than just a father's name.

Using Census Returns

A census has been taken in England and Wales every ten years since 1801. The 1801-1831 censuses are statistics and do not provide names of people, however some names of heads of household are included on the 1831 census. This changed in 1841 and the names of all the people living in the house were included together with their ages but without relationships. In the 1841 census the adult ages are rounded up or down so are not always accurate; neither does the 1841 census give the place of birth but it does indicate whether a person was born in the county of residence or not, indicated with a Y or N. An indication of a birth in Ireland is denoted by an I, by an S for Scotland and F for everywhere else.



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The census returns from 1841-1911 are available to view online via the subscription websites: www.ancestry.co.uk, www.thegenealogist.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk. Some census returns have been transcribed and are available free on <https://www.freecen.org.uk> and on www.familysearch.org

If you are unable to find your ancestor, this could be because some returns went missing and some did not survive. You can check for any missing pieces here:

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/census-for-england-wales-and-scotland-missing-pieces>

After 1841, each subsequent census has more information included about your ancestor. The 1911 census provides the most details to date including if a couple were married, how many years the couple have been married, how many children were born to that marriage, how many are still living and how many have sadly died.

The 1911 census also includes not only the occupation your ancestor had but what in what type of industry they were employed. For example, if your ancestor was a commercial traveller, it will say what type of company employed them e.g. photographic materials or clothing or toys and gifts.

You should always view the original record page because some entries may have been mis-transcribed. For example, a child who was six months old may be recorded as just *six* with the word months missed off, so you could be looking for a birth in 1905 when they were actually born in late 1910!

The next census due for release is the 1921 census. This will be released by Findmypast and will be published online in January 2022. The date has yet to be determined so keep checking back for more information. <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census?> Initially the 1921 census will be viewable on a pay per view basis and not form part of a Findmypast subscription package.

**Find
my
past**

The next census to be released will not be until 2052; this will be the 1951 census. The 1931 census was destroyed in a fire in World War II and no census was taken in 1941 due to the World War II.

The census in 2021 has just been taken in England and Wales and was to be completed on 21st March by every household. (In Scotland the census has been delayed until 2022 due to Covid.)

1939 Register

The gap between the 1921 and 1951 censuses makes the 1939 register an important interim record of our ancestors. The Register is a record of civilian individuals taken on the 29th September 1939, just after war broke out, in order to issue identity cards to people in the UK and plan for food and clothing rationing. It was eventually also used as the basis of the 1948 National Health Service. The Register is not complete as many military personnel did not appear as they were absent from home.

The Family History Federation has released a podcast of the 1939 Register explaining what information you can find on this. This is available to listen to from the front page of our website.

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com>



Parish Registers

Prior to 1837 when Civil Registration was introduced, you can still research your ancestors using the Anglican Parish Registers to locate baptism, marriage and burial entries. Parish registers date from 1538 around the time of the Reformation and it was Thomas Cromwell who issued these orders to all churches on behalf of the King.

These registers were held by the church or chapel usually in the parish chest. This was a huge wooden chest with metal straps, bands and large locks as it was the repository of all important registers, papers and records of the parish as well as important precious religious objects. Some registers did not survive probably because the parish chest would have been vandalised; or because the contents were water-damaged, eaten by vermin, stolen or destroyed by fire. If the parish register you need has not survived, you should consult the Bishop's Transcripts. These are duplicate copies of the register which every church had to send annually to their diocese as an extra record.



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These parish register records and Bishop's Transcripts are now usually held by the local Record Office but some are held by the individual church and many are also available online. Many family history societies have transcribed some of these documents pertinent to their local area so it is worth checking with the FHS of the area to see if they have any transcriptions available. Findmypast hosts a massive collection of parish register data supplied by members of the Family History Federation.

Parish registers for England and Wales do not provide as much information as found on civil registration certificates today but they do exist and are well worth investigating. Post-1837 when civil registration began in England and Wales, church marriage registers contain the same information as the GRO certificate.



Baptisms: Some baptism registers contain the date of birth of the person being baptised. Sometimes you will find several members of the family baptised on the same day!

The 1812 Rose's Act introduced a standard formatted way of recording the information. This began in 1813; prior to 1813 it was up to each church to determine how they recorded this information.

If your ancestor was born in Yorkshire (and a few other parishes around the country) prior to 1813 you may find them on the [Dade's Parish Register](#). Introduced by William Dade in 1770, this style of register contains a great deal of information about your ancestor.

Marriages: To find the marriage of your ancestor in parish registers you will need to know the name of the actual parish where the marriage was solemnised.

Searching in big cities is challenging as there are many churches and parishes. This is important because many parishes existed in a town or city—Norwich, for example, has 107 parishes! Using available marriage indexes may provide this information. You do need to think of where your ancestor lived and worked - and remember they could appear in a church record on the other side of the town!

Before 1837, as with baptisms, there is limited information included in the register for marriages and you will not find the names of the fathers as in civil registration. Sometimes marital status or place of residence is not given.

The 1754 Hardwicke's Marriage Act meant that all marriages, irrespective of religion, had to be performed in a Church of England parish unless you were a Jew or Quaker. The couple would have been married either by banns or by licence and it is worth noting this on the entry. If you wished to marry without having your banns read, you could apply for a licence instead. These licences can hold information about family members and the marriage bond and allegation are worth viewing. These are mainly held by diocesan record offices - usually the same as a county record office - and you would need to visit an archive to research these. Only rarely would an actual licence be available.



Burials: Burial registers contain the least amount of information about an ancestor providing only the name of the deceased, where they lived and how old they were when they were buried. In some localities you may find that a complete addresses has been given.

Unless your ancestor had a very unusual name, finding the correct entry will be challenge especially if there are other people in the town or village with similar name. Females were buried using their name at death, so if your ancestor remarried, she would be buried under her current surname – that of her second husband.



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Prior to 1813 there was no set format and sometimes the name of a woman may not have been recorded and just appear as widow and the surname as this is how they were known in the parish. In some parishes in Scotland though, you will find females are buried and recorded throughout life by their maiden surname.

How Family History Societies can help with your research

- * they have lots of local knowledge
- * many have transcribed parish registers of their area
- * many have transcribed memorial inscriptions in churchyards

If you are attending the FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show visit the society which covers the area your ancestors lived and ask them to help you. They will be there to talk to you at the Show from 10.00am—6.00pm (BST). Visit their stand and see if they can help.

View the link to find your nearest Society -
www.familyhistoryfederation.com/societies-az

Family tree image: www.familysearch.org/blog/en/family-tree-templates-family-tree-maker/

Other images from author's collection.

Steve Manning, Chairman of the Family History Federation, will be giving a useful presentation at the FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show entitled **Beginning Your Family History**

Plan your visit to the

FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

All the talks are timed and details are on the Show website—remember most are available for a week!

Ask yourself what you need to find out during the Show. List the questions, then work out which local family history societies cover the region where your question is situated (geographically or topically).

Check the full list of exhibitors—you may well find other societies or vendors are exhibiting where you could find more information on a topic.

Make your show ticket work for you—get your money's worth! One ticket covers all sections of the show!



Do you wish to start your family history?

Do you know someone who does?

Do you wish to brush up your knowledge of records in England and Wales?

Family History Federation is running a FREE online course via Zoom

Beginning Your Family History

4th, 11th, 18th and 25th May

7.00pm—8.30pm (British Summer Time)

Hurry - BOOK NOW there are limited places available

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beginning-your-family-history-tickets->



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Kirk Session Records

ScotlandsPeople has just announced that the Kirk Session Records from the National Library of Scotland have been digitised and are now available for the first time to view on the ScotlandsPeople website <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

These images are now available to view and download from ScotlandsPeople and include more than a million pages from the kirk sessions and other court records of the Church of Scotland.

These records contain details of key events in communities across the country between 1559 and 1900 and are one of the most important sources for Scottish historical research.

The kirk session - the local court of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland - comprised the minister, the elders and a session clerk.

The records they created offer remarkable insights into the everyday lives of ordinary Scots, capturing important moments such as births, marriages and deaths. The church court also adjudicated on the paternity of children, awarded relief to the poor and needy and provided basic education, as well as disciplining parishioners for what could be called anti-social behaviour – drunkenness, cursing and breaking the Sabbath.

The most commonly known punishment was public repentance or penance.

The newly added records document how people dealt with exceptional historical events such as wars, epidemics, crop failures and extreme weather.

The volumes are free to view, but are not indexed though there are date tabs to narrow the area to be searched. Downloads require ScotlandsPeople credits.



Changes to the way information is recorded on marriage certificates in England and Wales

This will take effect from 4th May 2021 in England and Wales and will include the names and occupations of both parents. They have been using this system for many years in Scotland but this is the first time the mother will be recorded in England and Wales.

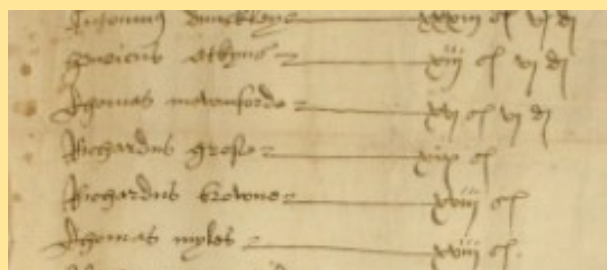
Kent Manorial Documents Register

Kent—the latest addition to the Manorial Documents Register— has just been released by The National Archives and funded by the Family History Federation.

This is the comprehensive index to locate manorial documents and provides details plus in which archives the documents are held, and how many are in the collection.

Full details are at: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

Below is a sample from a Northamptonshire manor rental roll online at <http://www.westnorthantshistory.co.uk/>





Family History Societies



The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society comprises four branches: Manchester, Anglo-Scottish, Bolton, and Oldham. Together they have been supporting family historians since 1964 and comprise one of the largest societies in the UK. Facing up to the challenge of the changing role of family history societies in the 21st century, MLFHS has put partnership and an online focus at the heart of its work.

Located within the refurbished Manchester Central Library, the MLFHS is a member of the Library's Archives+ Partnership that includes the North West Film Archive, Race Relations Centre, and the Greater Manchester County Records Office. This brings together some of Manchester's leading archives and creates opportunities for users to access an unparalleled range of resources for family and local history. The Anglo-Scottish Branch <https://mlfhs.uk/anglo-scots> are also located there whilst Bolton <https://mlfhs.uk/bolton> and Oldham <https://mlfhs.uk/oldham> Branches have their own centres.

It has long been clear that a strong online presence is an important factor in attracting and retaining members and with this in mind MLFHS is continually developing its online services. The Society has very recently revamped its website, "Manchester Ancestors" (<https://mlfhs.uk/>) where there is access to over 2.7 million of the Society's records. These include our extensive databases, and local resources not to be found on other sites. These include virtually all the recorded memorials for Manchester's old churchyards and war memorials; institutional records such as Bolton Workhouse creed books, admissions to the schools for the blind and the deaf and, for the more specialized, the early motor vehicle registrations in Salford. The Society also has a presence on both Facebook and Twitter, with a healthy following on each.

Apart from online resources, the Society also operates a Help Desk at Manchester Central Library with four volunteers, drawn from a team of twenty-eight, on duty from 10.30 am to 3.30 p.m. every weekday. They work, free of charge, with both members and non-members to help them with their research and to get the best out of the extensive physical and online resources available. The Society website also gives access to the online "virtual" Help Desk where you can ask advice or access the Help Desk Videos. The Branches also offer help desk facilities at their respective venues.

Membership of the Society grants access to all of the Society's record collection, free attendance at the monthly meetings and courses with invited speakers and copies of the quarterly Society journal, *The Manchester Genealogist*. The Society Journal has been digitized and there is access to the journal archive that dates back to 1964. The Society also has an arrangement with other national and international family history societies with access to their journals. Each of the branches also produces a monthly newsletter available to all members with information, hints and tips to help with research.

The MLFHS online bookshop <http://www.mlfhs-shop.co.uk> offers in excess of 1,000 books and also maps and CDs with a local relevance. The Society also has an online forum that members can make use of to seek help from other members, to share resources and to comment on developments in family history.

During this time of lockdown much has changed but much remains familiar. MLFHS still holds traditional meetings and provides educational courses currently offered by way of Zoom and details of these can be found on the Society website.

How to join. It could not be easier. Single or Family Membership costs £15 per year. Visit the website to sign up online or find more about MLFHS at <https://mlfhs.uk/join>.

Come and chat to Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society at the

FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show



Family History Societies



Calderdale Family History Society

Lying in the foothills of the Pennines in West Yorkshire, Calderdale covers some 140 square miles and is supported by a population of approximately 200,000. Stretching from Todmorden in the west down the Calder Valley through Hebden Bridge, Sowerby Bridge and Elland to Brighouse in the east, the historic market, mill and minster town of Halifax sits at its centre.

Against the backdrop of a rich industrial and commercial heritage, the Society was formed in 1985 and over the years has attracted a large number of active members, not only in the local area but throughout the UK and overseas from as far afield as the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The Society is administered by an Executive Committee, whose officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

With the primary purpose of encouraging and supporting research into families with roots in the area, the Society holds monthly meetings (virtual since July 2020 owing to Covid-19 restrictions) in Halifax, which are open to both members and non-members alike. These are held on the 4th Thursday of each month during which guest speakers present topics relevant to family history researchers.

A Research Room is also available at Brighouse Library for those wishing to investigate their family histories in perhaps a little more detail. This facility is staffed by experienced volunteers only too happy to assist visitors, members or otherwise, with their research enquiries. For those perhaps unable to visit the Research Room, support is available remotely either by email or possibly virtually via Zoom, as appropriate.

In addition, the Society publishes a members' quarterly journal, the *Scrivener*, together with a monthly Newsletter. These offer a platform for sharing news and information amongst the membership, much of which is provided by the members themselves.

The Society is also active in transcribing and indexing original records, supported by a team of enthusiastic members. These include BMDs, burials, monumental inscriptions, newspapers, school logs & admissions, which today totals over two million records. Whilst free searches of the transcription index are available to non-members on the Society's website, the "Members Area" offers full access to the recently launched database.

Calderdale Family History Society – www.cfhsweb.com

Contact: publicity@cfhsweb.com

Calderdale FHS is a member of the Family History Federation (familyhistoryfederation.com) & Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies (yorksgroup.org.uk)



Image from Society website.

Come and chat to Calderdale Family History Society at the

FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show



Family History Societies



As this is written, it is almost a year since our regular world of activities was suddenly interrupted by unforeseen events. The ensuing months have seen the chaos caused by that gradually replaced by inventive new methods of working and keeping in touch with members and providing them with services in different ways.

Our Research Room, normally open for ten or so half-days each month, has been closed to visitors as it is within Bristol Archives office complex and we have to observe the rules they operate under apart from our own protocols. We are hoping to re-open in a limited way sometime after Easter dependent also on the availability of our volunteers. In the interim period a research service has been provided through our website; enquiries have been processed as best as possible by volunteers working at home with limited remote access to the facilities in our Research Room. This has worked very well with dozens of happy customers each month.

With no live meetings possible, the talks programme has largely been delivered to members via the Zoom platform and from March we are presenting two talks a month. These are available only to members by invitation and anyone not able to see a talk as it is transmitted in real time can access a recording to watch at a time more convenient, for example some members in Australia have found that very helpful.

One particular success of this has been the involvement of members living in other parts of the UK and overseas. We have received comments such as 'I now feel that I'm part of the Society' and 'It was lovely to hear some West Country accents and I'm sure my ancestors must have sounded like that'. The only downside to the Zoom programme of course is that it has not been enjoyed by the small number of members who do not have computers or the internet, these being people who enjoy the experience of attending real meetings.

Zoom is undoubtedly here to stay and the challenge for the future is to deliver a balance of events through this medium and also to ensure that live meetings and talks still remain on the agenda to provide the personal contact that so many people value.

Our webshop has seen a remarkable increase in activity in recent months with orders doubling from the same period in the previous year. This is doubtless due to people being at home more and having the time to further explore their researches.

On the projects front, we are now almost in a position to publish the transcriptions of the Bristol Administration Bonds 1661 -1775. A new project to transcribe Bristol's Workhouse Creed Registers held at Bristol Archives would have started but for the pandemic getting in the way. A team has been assembled to do this work at their homes from filmed copies of the Registers provided electronically.

<https://bafhs.org.uk/>



The Bliss Family History Society is continuing during the Covid-19 pandemic with its mission to facilitate the Bliss Genealogical Research. The celebration of the Bliss name and fellowship with all who are connected to the name in all parts of the World.

We are keeping in touch with our members by email, Zoom and sometimes by phone as they share information to build their family trees.

Many members have found they have extra spare time to continue research started years ago, whilst others are hard press working with the problems caused by the overwhelming spread of the virus. Whichever applies to you, it is good to exchange news and share in the fellowship.

If you have Bliss on your family tree let us know so we can share information

For more information visit their website at
www.blissfhs.com

**Come and chat to Bliss FHS and
Bristol and Avon FHS
at the
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show**

**For more exhibitors see the website
www.fhf-reallyuseful.com**





Family History Societies



FACHRS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

*Are you interested in finding out more about the day-to-day
lives of your ancestors?
What their communities were like?
What their jobs actually entailed?*

That's what we at FACHRS like doing – researching various aspects of their lives to find out more about what life was like for them. We do this in various ways. The most popular with our members are our mini-projects. These are what they say – they don't take too long and can be done just using your computer. We have researched a variety of occupations, taking individuals from the 1881 census. Each member is sent details of a person with the particular job in 1881 and it's then up to us to find out all we can about them, their lives, their families, what they did before and after the 1881 census, even going off at tangents if something comes to light that piques our interest.

Of course, if you would rather dig deeper and perhaps go to your local record office (COVID-19 notwithstanding) to try and find more references to the individual then please do! It's amazing what you can dig up about individuals. We also do major projects, which take much longer and are more in-depth. In the past we investigated the reasons why allotments were started – and, no, it wasn't the First World War that instigated them! We've also looked into the establishing of almshouses. These go way back to the 11th century at least in the form of hospices run by monks, but you can read all about that in our publication *The British Almshouse: new perspectives on philanthropy ca 1400-1914*.

Members receive a Newsletter three times a year and can submit articles for publication from their mini-project research, or from a major project they've been involved in, or even an article about their own private research.

We also hold an annual conference over a weekend in May and encourage those attending, members or not, to join the committee for dinner in the hotel on Friday and/or Saturday evenings; to attend the conference on the Saturday; and to join in with the Sunday morning activity, which can either be a seminar, workshop or historical walk.

Do you like reading history books? If so, we run a small book review team, who seem to devour books! The only qualification is that you love reading history books and agree to write a review. All you do is select a book or books that appeal to you from a list that is sent out three or four times a year and, hopefully, if you are the first to request it, you will receive a FREE copy to review. Your only commitment is to write a review of the book that is published in the Newsletter. That's it. Books for free!!

We have lots of other benefits – perhaps you'd like to have a look at our information leaflet, which details more – and all are more than welcome to attend committee meetings, virtually or, if we are allowed again, in person; to contribute articles of their research and take part in our research projects.

We'd love to see/meet you and if you'd like to join, Brita, our membership secretary, would be delighted to welcome you. You can email her on membership.secretary@fachrs.com or go to our website, www.fachrs.com, where you will find lots more information about us.

Our **latest major research project** is on asylums, investigating the experience of patients in these institutions around the country. Again, more information can be found on the website.

Our **latest mini-project**, starting early in 2021, will be on carters.

Our **latest publication** is the second volume in a series on *The Home Front 1914-1915*, entitled *Industry, Agriculture, Food and Rationing* by Christine Seal.

Our **next Conference** will be a hybrid one on

Saturday 15 May 2021

'The Starvation Act': The Poor Law Amendment Act 1834

Full details of all these and more are on our website

www.fachrs.com

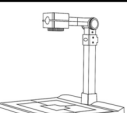
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Really Useful Bulletin

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHING 1ST APRIL

 FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS www.familyhistorybooksonline.co.uk			
 Beginning Family History Research	 Military History	 Occupations	 Parish Registers & Civil Registration
 Crime & Punishment	 Census	 Special Offers	 Local & Social History
See our UPGRADED WEBSITE at the FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show www.fhf-reallyuseful.com 			
 Photographs & Pictures	 Latest Publications	 Regional & Locality	 Poll Books
 General Family History	 Facsimile Publications	 Gibson Guides	 Poor Law & Workhouses

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



What's on Parish Chest

There are more societies than ever featuring on Parish Chest. 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*

Head over to www.parishchest.com to see what is new to help you add to your Family Tree.

Saturday 10th April 2021

Just 2 weeks to go until the Show—book NOW!

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for current details



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