



REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 45

May 2024

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

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

inside find...

Lead article this month is *Researching British India Family History*

plus news from local FHS and from the Federation—NB: book offer ends 31 May!

FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Saturday 15 June

10.00am to 4.00pm

University of Nottingham, King's Meadow
Campus, Lenton Lane, NG7 2NR

FREE admission and FREE parking

**LIVE
SHOW!**

Exhibitors

Family History Federation and Bookshop
Nottinghamshire Family History Society
Derbyshire Family History Society
Lincolnshire Family History Society
Chesterfield and District Family History Society
Family Tree Magazine
Nottinghamshire Archives and Record Office
University Manuscripts and Collections *
Families in British India Society
Romany and Traveller Family History Society
Arundel Books (Alan Dance; Nottm author)
National Justice Museum
Northants Family History Society
Bob Massey (author and speaker)
Pharos tutors

Outline Programme

Parking available onsite any time, ready for:

10:00	Doors Open; Welcome (FHF) <i>Café open throughout event</i>
10:30	Optional Manuscripts tour *
11:00	Talk: <i>DNA for Family History</i>
11:30	Hot lunch available (till 14:00)
13:30	Talk: <i>Ancestors before 1600</i>
15:00	Optional Manuscripts tour *
15:30	Closing comments (Notts FHS)
16:00	Public depart; doors closed

* Limited numbers; sign up on arrival at the
University Manuscripts stall.
First come, first served.



Really Useful Bulletin

Researching British India Family History

by Valmay Young

In *Sahib: The British Soldier in India 1750–1914* the military historian, Professor Richard Holmes, wrote *In 1837, the number of Europeans in India numbered about 41,000. 37,000 of them were soldiers.* So, it's more than likely that at some point you will come across an ancestor who was in India.

You may have a brick wall ancestor for whom you can't find a birth, marriage or burial record. If so, have you looked in India? I was once talking to someone who was researching his family history in Suffolk and he had hit a brick wall looking for the baptisms of two of his ancestor's daughters. I asked him if he had looked in India and he looked at me in disbelief and said *Why would I look in India? He was a window cleaner and was born and died in the same town. All his other children were baptised here too.* I did a quick search of the British India baptisms on Findmypast and there were the missing baptisms he had been looking for. His ancestor had joined the British Army and served in India. So, if you ever hit a brick wall, don't forget to look in India.

So, how do you research family history in British India? As with all family history you start by asking family members what they know and if they have any family documents that may help. Make notes about any details they may give you about your family in India and you are ready to go. Once you have done that you are ready to start.

India Office Records (IOR)

The India Office Records at the British Library are the main source of records for British India family history research. They contain a wealth of information about people who came into contact with the East India Company (EIC) and the British administration in India during the period of British rule.

Background to the Records

The India Office Records mainly cover the territories that are now included in India, Pakistan, Burma and Bangladesh. India is about thirteen times larger than the United Kingdom, so the administration of British India was divided into three Presidencies. These presidencies developed from the EIC's factory bases.

These three factory locations developed to become the centres of military and political control as the EIC's influence grew during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and they became known as the:

- ♦ Presidency of Bengal - which was established 1690 and included Burma and the Straits Settlements.

- ♦ Presidency of Madras - established in 1640.
- ♦ Presidency of Bombay – The EIC's headquarters moved from Surat to Bombay in 1687.

The IOR are the archives of the administration in London of the pre-1947 government of India which includes:

- ♦ East India Company (1600-1858)
- ♦ Board of Control or Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India (1784-1858)
- ♦ India Office (1858-1947)
- ♦ Burma Office (1937-1948)
- ♦ British agencies overseas linked with above.



There are fourteen kilometres of shelving at the British Library containing volumes, files, boxes of papers, volumes of official publications, manuscripts and printed maps that are all part of the collection. Most of the above is yet to be catalogued!

Luckily for the family historian some of the IOR records have been digitised and can be viewed online, but some can still only be viewed by visiting the British Library.

There is so much available online now that I recommend researching what is available online for free before moving on to subscription based websites and visiting archives.

Free Online Records

The below websites are listed in alphabetical order and list just some of the records available that may help you with your research.

British Association of Cemeteries in South Asia

(www.bacsa.org.uk)

The British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) is an organisation that seeks to maintain and record European cemeteries in the former Indian subcontinent and South East Asia territories of the East India Company. Their website contains:

- ♦ burials index
- ♦ cemetery files
- ♦ photographs of graves, cemeteries and memorials.

British Library Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue *

The British Library Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue contains details of the Library's collection items including:

- ♦ manuscripts and unpublished documents
- ♦ personal papers, correspondence and diaries
- ♦ family and estate papers
- ♦ India Office Records and Private Papers
- ♦ India Office Prints, Drawings and Paintings
- ♦ Photographs.



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India Office Family History Search

(indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/Home.aspx)

This database is the result of FIBIS's first transcription project about twenty years ago in collaboration with the British library. It contains information taken from a card index compiled over the years by members of staff at the IOR from the mid-1970s onwards to meet the growing interest in genealogy. Only a small fraction of records can be found on:

- ◇ East India Company warehouse labourers appointed 1801-1832
- ◇ civil servants
- ◇ military personnel & mariners
- ◇ medical staff
- ◇ chaplains
- ◇ railway workers
- ◇ law officers
- ◇ non-official inhabitants such as merchants and planters, free mariners, and missionaries.

Oral History (sounds.bl.uk/Oral-history)

The British Library (BL) has several oral history collections relating to British India. Not all are available online yet.

Remote EResources (www.bl.uk/help/electronic-resources) This is only available to BL readers' ticket holders. Search for "Electronic resources" Scroll down to Remote access. Log in (Reader ticket holders only.)

**Note: at time of writing, the British Library online services are still recovering from a cyber attack in late 2023.*

FamilySearch

(www.familysearch.org)

- ◇ baptisms 1786-1947
- ◇ burials, 1719-1948
- ◇ marriages, 1792-1948
- ◇ archdiocese of Goa, Roman Catholic priesthood candidates, 1724-1996
- ◇ Gujarat Diocese Protestant church records, 1854-2012
- ◇ Madras Diocese Protestant church records, 1743-1990.

Families in British Society

(<https://www.fibis.org/>)

It is estimated that only sixty per cent of ecclesiastical returns (bmb) made it back from India, so the Families in British India Society (FIBIS) are seeking to fill in the missing gaps. Researchers will find the FIBIS database, FIBIwiki and Gallery useful.

In the FIBIS database you can browse or search over two million:

- ◇ bonds
- ◇ cemeteries, monuments and memorial inscriptions
- ◇ censuses
- ◇ civil service records
- ◇ directories
- ◇ ecclesiastical and registry office
- ◇ military and maritime records
- ◇ personal papers
- ◇ railways
- ◇ schools and orphanages
- ◇ wills and probate.



An English Cemetery

Particularly useful for alternate sources for BMDs in this database are:

- ◇ East India register and directory 1809-1844
- ◇ *Allen's India Mail* 1843-1891
- ◇ newspapers (*Times of India*, *Times of London* and *South Africa Commercial Advertiser*)
- ◇ *Gentleman's Magazine* 1731-1850
- ◇ *Bombay Almanac* 1806-1867.

The FIBIwiki is a growing knowledge bank of information for people researching ancestors in India during the period from 1600 to 1947. You will find:

- ◇ research guides
- ◇ sources – biographical books cemetery and school links
- ◇ general background info about the culture, society and history of India
- ◇ directories online – military and civilian
- ◇ newspapers online.

I have heard that it is even used by the APAC staff at the BL! It contains links to many online databases. There is a variety of ongoing projects such as railways, armies and postcards. Basically if FIBIS doesn't have the record it will tell you how and where to find it.

The FIBIS Gallery contains a collection of over 3,500 photographs and images of British India.

FIBIS has also saved thousands of Google Books relevant to British India research in a Google Books Library to make searching for information easier. Many of these books are also linked from the FIBIwiki.

Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>)

The Internet Archive is a non-profit online library. It is searchable and you will find military and regimental histories, cemetery records, school registers, family histories and more.

Another useful feature of this website is the Wayback Machine which is a service that allows people to visit archived versions of websites. It's great for viewing those websites that we know once existed but have vanished. You can also add a webpage to the Wayback machine. So, if you want to ensure a webpage isn't lost forever you can go to <https://web.archive.org/save/> and enter the URL and click *save the page*.

The Gazette (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>)

This website is useful for finding:

- ◇ military notices and citations
- ◇ insolvency notices
- ◇ estate notices
- ◇ changes of names
- ◇ naturalisation as a British subject.

The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)

Searchable catalogues

Wills can be searched free - but you pay for copies.

Some digital microfilms are free to download.

Some records are linked to subscription websites.



Really Useful Bulletin

National Archives of India Portal (<https://www.abhilekh-patal.in/>)

The portal catalogue is searchable and contains more than 2.7 million files held by the National Archives of India with a digitise-on-demand service, but even the viewable snippets can be useful.

Next steps

So you've exhausted your searches on the websites and records freely available online and now it's time to visit the IOR in person to consult the records not yet online.

The British Library is next to King's Cross and St Pancras International rail stations. You will need a reader's ticket to consult any records and to enter the reading rooms. You can pre-register online, but you will still need to bring proof of ID and address with you to the Reader Registration Office on the day. You will also need to sit a short interview to make sure you are there to consult records that are not available elsewhere.

Once you have your reader's ticket, head to the *Asian and African Studies Reading Room* on the third floor.

What type of records can I find?

First of all, before you check any new sources for your research it might be worth double-checking for anything you couldn't find online, such as a missing baptism or will. Just because you didn't find it online doesn't mean it doesn't exist. There are errors in the Findmypast indexing and several volumes that got digitised, but never seemed to make it onto the website.

Baptisms, marriages and burials

The East India Company established Anglican churches in India and chaplains were required to record baptisms, marriages and burials. They were also required to send copies to the presidency ecclesiastical authorities, and for later periods to the relevant Registrar-General of Births, Death and Marriages. The latter are part of the India Office Records at the BL. Ministers, priests and missionaries that were not employed by the EIC were not required to send these returns, but some did on a voluntary basis.

These records are available on microfilm and indexes are available on the open shelves of the Asian and African Studies Reading Room, broken down by Presidency, alphabetically and by year.

Most of these records have been digitised and are available online through Findmypast. If a record is not found, continue the search amongst the India Office records at the BL. Note that digital images on Findmypast are restricted for privacy reasons and a limited

transcription only is available. The microfilms will show the full details.



Cannanore
St. John's Church

N/1	Bengal 1713-1948	RC 1842 – 1844
N/2	Madras 1698–1948	RC 1835 – 1854
N/3	Bombay 1709–1948	RC 1842 – 1844
N/4	India and Pakistan 1949-1968	
N/5	Indian States 1890–1946	
N/6	St. Helena 1767–1835	
N/7	Ft. Marlborough 1759–1825	
N/8	Penang 1799–1829	
N/9	Macao & Whampoa 1820–1834	
N/10	Burma 1937–1957	
N/11	Registry Office Marriages 1852-1911	

Records on the Open shelves

As well as the bmb microfilms there is other material available on the open shelves. Records available include:

- ◇ India Office Records and Private Papers hand lists
- ◇ indexes to bmb of Europeans and Anglo-Indians in pre-independence India and Burma
- ◇ microfilmed civil fund and pension records, cadet papers and Bengal and Madras army records
- ◇ Indian Army Medal Rolls
- ◇ Indian Directories and Almanacs
- ◇ cemetery record books
- ◇ Indian Army and Civil Service Lists.

Also computer access to:

- ◇ online electronic databases, including ProQuest (*Times of India* newspaper)
- ◇ Adam Matthew 'East India Company' e-resource. All the volumes in the E/2, E/3 and Z/E/4 sub-series are available. E/2 covers EIC correspondence with the Board of Control, 1784–1858; E/3 is correspondence with Asia, from the early days of the Company to 1753; Z/E/4 are the indexes to the E/4 sub-series which deals with correspondence with India. Most of E/4 has also been digitised.
- ◇ FindMyPast
- ◇ online catalogue.

Wills

Some wills are online at Findmypast, but still check the indexes on the open shelves if you haven't found the one you want. Wills available include:

- ◇ wills, probates, administrations, inventories from 1774-1948
- ◇ soldiers' wills 1820-1881
- ◇ officers' wills 1831-1875
- ◇ treasury deposits (EIC and Indian armies) 1792-1915
- ◇ returns of estates of deceased European officers and other ranks
- ◇ military estate papers 1849-1937.



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At least one bound book of early Madras wills, that isn't online at Findmypast, can be found on the open shelves.

Pensions

There is a vast array of pension records covering marine, civil service and military personnel. These records are an important source of family information that can provide details of birth, marriage and death of the subscribers, their wives and children. Pensions available include:

- ◇ Popular Pension Fund
- ◇ Bengal, Madras and Bombay civil funds
- ◇ Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund
- ◇ Lord Clive Fund
- ◇ Bengal Military Fund
- ◇ Indian Military Widows' and Orphans' Fund
- ◇ Bengal Military Orphan Society
- ◇ Madras Military Pension Fund
- ◇ Madras Medical Fund.

It is also worth noting that unmarried daughters received a pension for life.

The pensions date from about 1770 onwards.

Biographical records - O Series

Biographical records are good for information about non-official inhabitants. Indexes to these are on the FIBIS website. Records available include:

- ◇ O/1 series - Covenants of appointment, articles of agreement 1771-1946
- ◇ O/5/26-31: Europeans in India, European inhabitants in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay 1702-1830
- ◇ O/5/1-25. Notes on people in India
- ◇ O/6 series. Personal records.

Railway employment records

Railway staff records that were created in India before 1947 remain in India, as do the records of railways built, owned or operated by the Indian Princely States. The records that survive today in the BL, and elsewhere, do so mainly because they were originally created in the UK.

There is a wide range of records available for State Railways. The list is extensive and details can be found in the FIBIS wiki (wiki.fibis.org). Some records available include:

- ◇ appointments made in UK 1855-1946
- ◇ histories of service, 1884-1953
- ◇ civil lists, Public Works Department 1861-1904
- ◇ civil lists, Railway Board, Department and Ministry 1905-57
- ◇ lists of state railway employees
- ◇ half-yearly lists of officers of the Burma Railway Company 1922-28
- ◇ annual lists of Covenanted Railway Employees 1927-36 and 1937-47.

Lists of railway employees are also given in Bengal, Madras and Bombay directories and in *Thacker's Indian Directory*.

And the same goes for other railway companies.

- ◇ Bengal Central Railway Company
- ◇ Burma Railway Company
- ◇ Calcutta and South-East Railway Company
- ◇ Eastern Bengal Railway Company
- ◇ East India Railway Company
- ◇ Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company
- ◇ Sind (Punjab, Delhi) Railway Company
- ◇ South Indian Railway Company.

East India Company Army and Indian Army

European NCOs and private soldiers

Recruitment records

Embarkation lists 1753-1861, give names of the NCOs and private soldiers. Some Lists also supply details of place of origin, and names of the few wives and children who accompanied recruits to India. L/MIL/9/85-106.

Registers of recruits give details of a recruit's place of birth, age, former employment, and a physical description.

Depot registers are available for:

- ◇ infantry recruits 1801-60, L/MIL/9/37-46
- ◇ artillery recruits 1811-60, L/MIL/9/29-34
- ◇ cavalry recruits 1857-60, L/MIL/9/35-36.

Registers are arranged chronologically by recruiting district from 1817-18, L/MIL/9/1-28.

European NCOs and private soldiers

Annual unattached lists provide details of recruitment and present posting. Before 1906, they generally gave details of age and place of birth. Lists available are:

- ◇ Bengal Army 1859-1907, L/MIL/10/201-252
- ◇ Madras Army 1863-1907, L/MIL/11/186-231
- ◇ Bombay Army 1860-1907, L/MIL/12/209-280
- ◇ Indian Army 1908-1944, L/MIL/14/144-175.

Service Records

Muster Rolls and Casualty Returns usually give details of the battalion or troop to which each soldier was attached. They also include casualty lists and lists of invalids, pensioners and NCOs on the Town Majors' Lists.

Muster rolls available are:

- ◇ Bengal Army 1716-1861
- ◇ Madras Army 1762-1861
- ◇ Bombay Army 1708-1865.

Registers of EIC European Soldiers Services give details of enlisted men still serving in 1831 and recruited up to 1860. Includes place of origin, in rough alphabetical order by year of arrival:

- ◇ Bengal Army 1793-1860, L/MIL/10/122-129
- ◇ Madras Army 1793-1860, L/MIL/11-101-108
- ◇ Bombay Army 1793-1860, L/MIL/12/109-116.

Services of European soldiers after 1859 can be traced year by year through Unattached Lists for:

- ◇ Bengal Army 1859-1907
- ◇ Madras Army 1863-1907
- ◇ Bombay Army 1860-1907
- ◇ Indian Army 1908-44.



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Officers, 3rd
Queen's Own
Bombay Lt.
Cavalry



European officers

Entry papers are available for:

- ◇ officer cadets 1789-1860
- ◇ Queen's India cadetships 1858-1930
- ◇ Sandhurst cadets commissioned onto the Indian Army unattached list 1901-1940
- ◇ Wellington and Quetta cadets 1915-1918.

Service Records

Most of the service records for European officers are listed in a number of published compilations which are shelved in the Asian & African Studies reading room reference section.

For officers of the Bengal Army 1758-1834, see V.C.P. Hodson, *List of the Officers of the Bengal Army*, 4 vols.

British Army

Records for the British Army are held at TNA, Kew.

NCOs

- ◇ service records to 1882 if retired to pension
- ◇ service records 1883-1913 if pension or discharge for termination of limited engagement etc
- ◇ muster rolls
- ◇ medal rolls.

Officers

- ◇ Army lists - since 1740
- ◇ service records
- ◇ commission appointments
- ◇ medal rolls.

Indian Civil Service

Covenanted Civil Service

Honourable East India Company's Civil Service (HEICCS) was the name given to the top general administrative civil servants in India until 1858. From 1858, it was superseded by the Indian Civil Service. The last UK appointments were made in 1942.

- ◇ pre-1749 records of appointment can be traced in Court Minutes: B series.
- ◇ writers' petitions 1749-1856: J/1/1-90 series; appointment papers for EIC civil servants with baptismal certificates and educational testimonials
- ◇ bonds and agreements, overseas servants, 1771-1946, see Biographical Series, O/1/1-196
- ◇ brief service records for higher-ranking civil servants appear in India Office List 1886-1947 on open shelves

- ◇ histories of service (V/12 series) for higher-ranking officers from 1879 give promotions and postings, sometimes dates of birth.
- ◇ civil lists (V/13 series) for lower-rank officials from 1840 don't give continuous career record so researchers need to consult a sequence of annual volumes to establish an individual's career.

Uncovenanted Civil Service and Special Civil Services

This is the lower echelon of the general civil service in India under both the EIC and Crown. They are recruited almost entirely from persons born in India, whether European, Eurasian or Asian. In 1892 it was divided into an Upper (Provincial) Service and a Lower (Subordinate) Service.

Special departments of the Indian administration, e.g. Indian Forest Service, Indian Police, Indian Political Service, etc. Top echelons were recruited in a variety of ways. Records available include:

- ◇ few early appointments can be traced in Court Minutes: B series
- ◇ bonds and agreements for staff, e.g. engineers may be found in the Biographical Series 1834-65 (O/1/367-392)
- ◇ personnel employed in government railways, police, PWD, PO, etc. 1818-1900, 1922-28: L/F/10 series-name, occupation, salary and period of residence in India
- ◇ civil lists 1840-1957: V/13 series - annual or twice yearly published lists of civil establishments give details on posts of all grades
- ◇ deaths in the Uncovenanted Civil Service 1870-1949: L/AG/34/14A series. Name of deceased, date and place of death, rank, probably age, native town and country, next of kin, custody of property if any. Separate card index in the Reading Room.

Note: From 1892 the Uncovenanted Civil Service and Special Civil Services were subdivided into a Provincial (Upper) Branch and a Subordinate (Lower) Branch.

Conclusion

That's all from me for now. Remember that the FIBIS wiki (wiki.fibis.org) covers everything anyone researching British India family history could possibly need to know and point you in the direction of the records you need to find.

As my friend and colleague, the late Peter Bailey, always used to sign off ... "HAPPY HUNTING!"

About the author:



Valmay Young is an avid family historian and collector of antiquarian books and postcards of British India. She is trustee, website and social media manager at the Families in British India Society and also executive committee member of the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia. You can explore her family history(onics) at

<https://valmayyoung.wordpress.com/>

Illustrations are from the FIBIS website gallery.



Really Useful Bulletin

Really Useful Show—Online

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November 2024

Calling for Your Presentations!



Local, Regional and Specialist Topics

We are determined our online
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
will be even better this year.

What's more, we want YOU to be a major part of our success!
Your presentation will reach out to a large Zoom audience!

So, with that in mind, please consider the following:

- ◇ Are you especially knowledgeable regarding a particular aspect of local or regional family history?
- ◇ Do you enjoy sharing your expertise with others?
- ◇ Could you prepare an inspiring 10-20 minute recorded talk on your chosen subject?

If you answered YES to the above, we would most definitely like to hear from you!

Please email suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com and put your idea for a talk topic in the subject line, plus any other information you'd like to share, and we'll get back to you as quickly as we can.



*PS - Don't worry if you're not confident using technology –
we're willing and able to assist!*

**Steve Manning,
Chairman**



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Family History Societies



Calderdale Family History Society

Workhouse Records— Challenges and Rewards

Here at Calderdale FHS we are constantly looking for sources of information to add to our online sources.

One of the more neglected sets of data is workhouse records. In collaboration with West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS), we have a project to transcribe named information from the surviving Calderdale workhouse records. This has proved rewarding, if at times frustrating, for the team of forty-plus dedicated society members.

As is well known, archives are not at the top of local government lists when it comes to funding. This means that, understandably, archives are wary about allowing unfettered access to the data that they hold, when there is always the possibility that they can either sell it to the commercials or, at least, maintain their footfall of visitors when their offices are the only source of access.

Happily, our society has a good relationship with WYAS, so we agreed “rules of engagement” which suited us both. We were allowed to transcribe as much of the data as we wished provided that it was only made available to our membership. For distribution to non-members via our index and through the Findmypast arrangements, we agreed only to provide abbreviated information.

It is vitally important to maintain good relations with local archive services, as they are often the main source of data and they provide an invaluable service to genealogists whilst at the same time struggling with their own financial constraints. Our society is most grateful for the willing cooperation that we get from WYAS.

This project presented new challenges. The records were divided across two of WYAS offices – Halifax and Wakefield – which meant our photographic team had to travel.

Although there were many workhouses across our area, only records for three have survived – Todmorden, Ovenden, Halifax and Gibbet St., Halifax. However, happily, there was abundant documentation from all three – enough to provide nearly 700 image files.

The various volumes were not to a standard format. The earlier ones, from the mid-eighteenth century, were freehand with little formality, whereas the later ones, up to 1924, were in printed books which made the various data fields clear. We had to make a decision on what fields to include in the database, to ensure that we got across as much information as was practical.

On some of the more formal layouts, there was a host of information, such as the type of diet that each inmate was to have, as well as the number of times (with dates) that a person was admitted and discharged – sometimes up to a dozen different times. Given the volume of books and

entries we had a dilemma. We decided on a policy of transcribing directly-relevant genealogical information which involved name, dates, ages and movement in and out of the workhouse. The data advises researchers when there is more information on records which could be seen by application to WYAS. We are thus helping the archives maintain their visitor numbers and justify their existence.

The decision to limit the data transcribed helped with handling the earlier books due to the haphazard method of entry. We also had a “notes” field into which to enter interesting and relevant pieces of information that didn’t have a specific field for itself.

To help volunteers, we developed a set template for each type of book—five different templates, along with guidelines on entry. Additionally, we have a sheet which itemised significant queries raised by team members and the answers that were given. This saves us having constantly to email the team with advice that had been derived from queries along the way.

So each template is an MSExcel workbook containing individual spreadsheets: guidelines; queries raised and their solutions; a sample page of two or three rows of typical entries; live data where the transcriber entered the data from the image file.

The image files are made up of up to ten pages from the source books. The limitations on files size were the maximum size of a file that could be sent as an email attachment and the number of entries that the transcriber was expected to key – generally no more than 150. On rare occasions larger files are sent out via WeTransfer, a free data transfer service.

So what will we have achieved by the end of the project

- ◆ Production of information of use to researchers.
- ◆ An index of entries available to the public via the transcription index on the society website.
- ◆ Full genealogical information for society members via the database in the members area on the website.
- ◆ An abbreviated set of information on Findmypast which generates royalties.
- ◆ A downloadable system available for purchase by anyone wanting bulk workhouse information.
- ◆ Encouragement to researchers to use WYAS for extra information on any given inmate.

At the time of writing, we are around a third of the way through the project. The records for both Ovenden-Halifax and Todmorden workhouses are completed. Gibbet St., Halifax provides the main bulk of the records available. It is likely that the two completed workhouses will be available via the transcriptionIndex and the online database by the middle of the year and the whole project is scheduled for completion by the late autumn.

Visit our website: www.cfhsweb.com
or contact us at: membsec@cfhsweb.com



Family History Societies



Fenland Family History Society

We cover the Fenland including south Lincolnshire, north Cambridgeshire and west Norfolk

INTERESTING FACTS

We have many birds visit our bird feeders, but I have not seen a thrush this year. Do you know the collective name for a flock of thrushes? I was saddened to see so few birds on a half-hour drive through the countryside I only counted about ten. Where have they all gone, so very sad.

The collective names for birds is fascinating and vary with where you live. A murmuration of **starlings**, an exultation of **skylarks**, a wisdom of **owls**, a gaggle of **geese**, a quarrel or ubiquity of **sparrows**, a parliament of **rooks**, a pride or ostentation of **peacocks** and— I love this one – a bellowing of **bullfinches**. The name for thrushes next time.

COMPUTER RESEARCH SESSIONS. Our team of researchers help visitors with their family research, no matter where their family came from. We are in Wisbech Library on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month from 10am - 12 noon using all the wonderful research resources available in the library. If you need our help and are unable to attend please contact us, see below. And on the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month from 11am - 2.30pm in the restaurant at Baytree Garden Centre in Hilgay near Downham Market, where we offer help with family research to visitors to the garden centre.

Please note: we are willing to go to other venues if WiFi is available. Just call and we will try to arrange it.

MONTHLY MEETINGS Held at Wisbech Library 7 - 9 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month, non-members welcome. On Thursday 27th June we look forward to welcoming Sue Paul with her presentation *My Ancestor was a Pirate*. Everyone is welcome to attend. Visitors are asked for a donation of at least £2.

OUR EVENTS TEAM Members are now researching and preparing displays for two more events coming soon. We will attend the Newton-in-the-Isle village event 6th July with a display of village events in the past. The team create special displays to suit each event. If you have an event, please make contact and we will be happy to create a special display to bring added interest to your event.

OUR SPEAKERS are available to attend groups and clubs to give talks in the local area. The talks offered include *The Fun of Family History* about a long journey by land, air and sea to find her roots;

My Naughty Great Aunt Eliza a story of lies and deceit; *The Ups & Downs of Being a Magistrate* a real life experience. *The Sad Tale of The Blacksmith's Family* the story of a great-great-grandfather. *We're going down the pub* a "local" history talk about the many pubs in the area.

For further information on any of the above please Phone Bridget Hunter : 01945 587723.

Email: bridget25hunter@btinternet.com

Please visit our website: www.fenlandfhs.org.uk/



Oxfordshire Family History Society

Oxfordshire FHS will be ready to release its *Big Oxfordshire Names Database* (BOND) later this year.



BOND is a name rich data source of anyone who left their mark in Oxfordshire with search facilities which will bring to light ancestors across multiple sources previously all held separately. These include:

- ◆ parish registers transcriptions: baptisms, marriages, banns and burials
- ◆ monumental inscriptions - with images
- ◆ surnames - developed from hundreds of books/lists containing Oxfordshire names amounting to nearly 200,000 lines of people data (in 2024) dating from the medieval period to the twentieth century
- ◆ surname variants and Oxfordshire places
- ◆ war memorials.

The search facilities available will include varied and targeted searches – by surname, first name and date as well as filtering by place and a powerful advanced search that can search many of the fields in the whole database.

BOND represents the next generation in OFHS' family history data; collated, indexed and made available via our website to members in support of their genealogical research. The first release will not contain all the data available but we will be increasing the data over the next months with more parishes and data sets such as Wills and Quarter Session records.

For further information please contact publicity@ofhs.uk

OFHS Family History Fair 2024

Saturday 26th October at Cherwell School, Oxford

www.ofhs.uk/fair2024



Oxford Canal

From OFHS website



Family History Societies



Hampshire Genealogical Society



The year 2024 marks the fiftieth anniversary since the inauguration of the Hampshire Genealogical Society. Initially, being formed by a group of like-minded people who lived in the south-east of Hampshire, it was called the South East Hampshire Genealogical Society and held its first AGM in April 1974.

However, at that time in the mid-1970s, family history as a hobby was beginning to really 'take off', so it was agreed at the following year's AGM to rename the society as the Hampshire Genealogical Society - HGS - "before somebody else took that name!" That was according to Muriel Allen, one of the Society's founding members, who is still a member fifty years on, and with whom I had a lovely chat recently.

And so, here we are fifty years later and still going strong.

To celebrate this momentous achievement, HGS has planned several events during 2024, the biggest of which is a two-day Golden Jubilee Event, being held over the weekend this coming 6th and 7th July.

The venue is the Victoria Halls in Hartley Wintney in north Hampshire, just off junction 4 or 5 of the M3 and adjacent to the A30.

On the Saturday, we have four well-known national speakers: Dave Annal, Dr Janet Few, Dr Melsia Tomlin-Kraftner and Dr Penny Walters. We have also invited neighbouring family history societies as well as national professional organisations and companies who sell family history paraphernalia; they will have their stands at our event on Saturday 6th July.

On Sunday 7th July, we are hoping for a more relaxed atmosphere by providing visitors with the opportunity to attend workshops by Dr Sophie Kay, Jackie Depelle, Joe Saunders and Dr Caroline Adams, as well as the opportunity to "ask the experts" - the above four people plus Dr Nick Barratt - on matters affecting visitors' research issues.

On the Sunday morning, we will have an entertaining, informative and very amusing talk from Paul McNeil, during which he will tell us how he ended up a family history researcher, some things he has found out about famous people and telling us about his time as a researcher and participator in the ITV programme *DNA Journey*. He may well share intriguing details about his own personal DNA journey!

On Sunday afternoon, to round off the weekend, HGS President, Dr Nick Barratt, will be hosting an "In conversation with ..." session, involving a discussion with Dr Sophie Kay, Joe Saunders, Jackie Depelle and Dr Caroline Adams on the future of family history. This conversation will hopefully open up to questions 'from the floor'.

For further details about our Saturday speakers, the content of their individual presentations, plus full details of who will run the Sunday workshops and be available for the "ask the expert" sessions, please visit our Hampshire Genealogical Society website - <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/2024/04/golden-jubilee-event-saturday-6th-july-sunday-7th-july/>

There, you will also find a link to buy tickets via Eventbrite. The cost will be £35.00 per day or £60.00 for a two-day ticket. For that very competitive price, you will get to meet and listen to nine well-known speakers, visit stands from national organisations and neighbouring family history societies, be able to attend family history-related workshops and get to "ask the experts" in the family history field with regard to your own research and any brick walls you may be encountering.

We will also feed you! There will be a full buffet lunch included in the price on both days, plus refreshments being served during each day.

We promise it will be a weekend you will remember for a long time afterwards!

For details of other events planned during our "Golden" fiftieth year, please visit our website over the next few months. www.hgs-familyhistory.com/

Tony Sinclair,

chairman@hgs-online.org.uk



Victoria Halls, Hartley Wintney



Really Useful Bulletin



Haplogroups in Y-DNA – part 2

by Martin McDowell



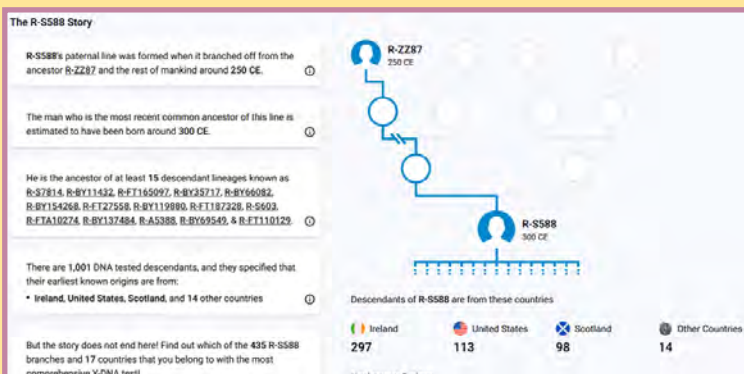
In the first part of this series of articles we looked at what a haplogroup is and how it can be genealogically relevant. This time we are focusing on how to find others who match you on a specific haplogroup.

Why would you want to find matches you may ask? Well, it gives you clear evidence that people are related to you on a specific line in your family tree, what could be more useful than that?

Y haplogroups are only allocated to male testers as only males inherit Y-DNA. All males who do the family finder test with Family Tree DNA have a small number of points in their Y-DNA examined and this enables the company to give you the most recent haplogroup that they can. This is a free addition to the autosomal test. It is being provided for anyone who did the family finder test and will be backdated to all previous customers over the coming months.

Once you have this you will see this section on your homepage:

If you click on 'Discover Haplogroup Reports' it provides a date estimate for your haplogroup. Some are a few thousand years ago and some may be much more recent.

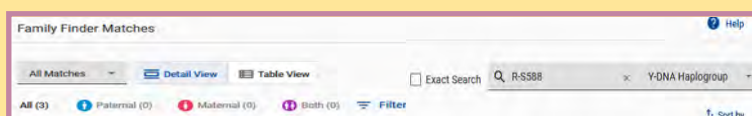


In the example above I would note that only 1,001 people share this haplogroup currently. It is dated to 300AD and it is very clear that its origin lies in the British Isles, in either Ireland or Scotland.

Now that you know your haplogroup you can look for others on your match page that share the same haplogroup.

It is very possible that people who share the same haplogroup are related through the Y line. There is always the possibility that they are related to you on two lines, but it is still a very good clue that you can follow.

Simply go to your family finder match page and enter the haplogroup in the search box and press enter.



In the above example three people were matches. These must be three of the 1,001 people designated as R-S588.

So I now know that three of these people share my haplogroup and match me on autosomal DNA which focuses on the more recent generations. Already the odds are looking good.

I can now contact these matches and see if I can find a link in recent generations to that specific line in my family – the surname line.

Next time we will look at what haplogroups tell you about your more distant ancestors. If you want to find out your own specific haplogroup you can do so by purchasing a family finder and/or Y test from Family History Books here: <https://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376>

DNA TESTS
SAVINGS on current list price
- with FHB whilst stocks last -

FamilyTreeDNA

Family Finder (Autosomal) DNA Kit
Current FTDNA 'Special Offer' List Price \$59 = £49*
FHB Price £47

Y-37 (Paternal) DNA Kit
Current FTDNA 'Special Offer' List Price \$99 = £82*
FHB Price £77

* Web Prices & GBP-USD Exchange Rate (Barclays) 1.20319 verified 22nd April 2024

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

ANNUAL MEETING DAY 2025

Saturday 10 May

This year's gathering proved most popular with a mix of expert talks alongside the formal Federation AGM.



In response to requests to continue with a live day of talks along with the formal meeting, Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission has again been booked for next year.

The AGM will be available on Zoom for those unable to get to London.

It would be appreciated if member societies could please keep 10 May 2025 free of commitments.

FEDERATION BOOKSHOP OUT AND ABOUT

The ever-popular bookshop will be at the following upcoming events. Come and see the new items—you might even grab a bargain!

Sat. 15 June **Really Useful Show, Nottingham** (see advert)
Show is open 10am—4pm
Volunteers on hand to help with your queries

Sat. 22 June **The Family History Show—York**. For details see: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/york/>
Again, our volunteers will be most happy to meet with you.



London Family Search Centres

FamilySearch Centres are pleased to announce expanded resources in central London.

The London **Hyde Park FamilySearch** Centre at 64-48 Exhibition Road SW7 2PA will open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm and the first and third Saturday of the month 10am-4pm.

The London **Wandsworth FamilySearch** Centre at 149 Nightingale Lane, Balam, SW12 8NG will open Tuesdays and the second and fourth Saturdays, 10am-4pm.

<https://locations.familysearch.org/en/gb/england/london/>

ATTENTION OWNERS OF ONLINE DATA!



With thanks to Chris Paton

In March it was announced that Ancestry had removed a database of Isle of Man civil registration indexes (www.manxbmd.com/) which it had crawled from another user's website and added to its platform without any given consent; a move labelled as "apparent data theft" by the data creator. Ancestry has since removed its *Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Index to Memorial Inscription Booklets 1500-2021*, appropriated from the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society (www.anesfhs.org.uk/databanks/memorial-inscriptions/miindex) again without any apparent consent.

Ancestry has an initiative called **Ancestry Web Records**. There is a guide at https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Finding-Records-Online-with-Ancestry-Web-Records?language=en_US which includes:

If a website has a robots.txt file that prohibits crawling the genealogical records, we don't search those records.

In essence, Ancestry is sweeping the web for data that it can add to its site. It does not charge for such data. However, Ancestry has previously created third-party indexes to records held on other platforms in *agreement* with those parties. To arbitrarily take without permission content that others have created may potentially break trust with many people and organisations.

Maybe Ancestry should think again about this practice.

The above is edited from Chris's Blog.

Read the full posts on 29 March and 3 May:

<https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/>

FHF urges all FHS and other owners or creators of online genealogical data to check that their content has not been similarly affected.

Join everyone in Belfast on

Saturday 10 August

REALLY USEFUL Family History Show



Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**, Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** and **MORE!**
Europa Hotel Belfast, Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AP



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

◆ NextGENERation ◆

2024 Discoveries



NextGENERation Discoveries: A Global Genealogy Event

Are you ready to embark on an extraordinary journey through time and around the world? Join us on 5th October when the Society of Genealogists and the Family History Federation present NextGENERation Discoveries, an online conference with a difference. Where the past meets the future. Want to know more, then read on!

Set to unfold from 9.30 am to 9 pm, this event is not your ordinary gathering of genealogists. The sessions will all be presented by young speakers who hail from across the world. *NextGENERation Discoveries* opens at 9.30am BST and offers almost twelve hours of inspirational talks.

The organisers are proud to present a diverse array of talks that explore genealogical methodology in ways you've never imagined before. From fun and unorthodox strategies to breaking down brick walls and tackling genealogical complications such as adoptions, illegitimate births, criminals, slave owners, and runaways. Our lineup of speakers will equip you with the tools and knowledge to conquer any challenge that comes your way.

But that's not all. The programme also includes sessions on the classification of sources and data, fascinating case studies featuring DNA analysis, oral history, and even the uncovering of false identities. Discover the benefits of delving into your family history, from exploring biological and cultural identities to making connections with your ancestors.

We're particularly excited to shed light on the tangible benefits of genealogy, especially for the younger generation. Learn how tracing your roots can provide invaluable insights into your own identity, can shape your understanding of the world around you while also celebrating the diverse tapestry of human history from every corner of the globe.

Moreover, *NextGENERation Discoveries* isn't just about the past—it's also about the future. Explore the intersection of genealogy and healthcare as we discuss the role of family history in understanding conditions like Alzheimer's, dementia and terminal illnesses.

The event closes with a panel discussion called *Transitioning from Passion to Profession*. Whether you're a seasoned genealogist or just beginning your journey, log in and join the conversation. The panel consists of many experts from different genealogical disciplines who have turned their passion for family history into a rewarding profession and those on the cusp of this transition.

Don't miss this opportunity, book your place today and join us on 5th October for *NextGENERation Discoveries*. See you there!

Book here: <https://members.sog.org.uk/events/66141a9f1fce380008a49ebe/description>

Pay what you can



Really Useful Back Page

Family History Research Aids from the Experts



Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over sixty family history societies and some twenty-plus traders, at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some sixteen categories including:

- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations*
- *Folders, printing facilities, giftware*
- *..and more!*

Societies and suppliers regularly add new lines, so visit to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.

www.parishchest.com

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

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



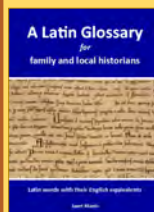
FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

Family History Books (FHB) is an online bookshop and publisher; it is owned by the Family History Federation and the aim is to provide a service to the genealogical community. Family History Books offers a range of relevant titles relating to family history research.

FHB welcomes contact from authors! Works of general and specific interest to family historians with wider social history topics are of interest. FHB does not publish individual family histories or fiction. If you have a book in the making, then do contact FHB via

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



There are books which are evergreen gems that remain key for researchers. One such is *A Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians*. A revised NEW edition is coming out next month with *much* improved legibility! Watch this space!

In addition to its [online shop](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com) FHB can also be found at major live family history events around the country. Come and visit us and see all the latest titles available. The stall is always very popular!

Happy browsing!

Please explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

Live shows 15 June and 10 August

Online 15 and 16 November

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



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