



FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 50

October 2024

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

with apologies that we are a little late this month—our volunteers have been busy

inside find...

Lead article this month is *An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy—part 1*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

It's Halloween ...



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www.familyhistorybooksonline.com



Really Useful Bulletin

An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy—part 1 and how the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain can help

by Leigh Dworkin, chair of JGSGB

Many have discovered the joys of genealogy – just how much fun it is and how addictive it can become. If you are a problem solver and a life-long learner and teacher, genealogy ticks all the boxes. Jewish genealogy is much the same but more so. By finding your ancestors you will find yourself – who you really are. You will unleash the *wannabe* detective in you and find yourself pulling all-nighters again. The task is never done, as there will always be more generations to discover, more records becoming available, and you may get to meet relatives that you never knew you had. I envisage myself being a hard-core genealogist to the end and picture my entire family tree engraved on my embarrassingly large tombstone.

With Jewish genealogy there is the likelihood that you will be learning history, geography and new languages. Focusing on Jewish history in the United Kingdom, there were no Jews here between 1290 and 1656/7 between the expulsion of the Jews by King Edward I until the readmission of the Jews by Oliver Cromwell. To my knowledge, nobody has managed to trace their ancestry back to the pre-expulsion Jews. What this means is that anybody in the UK with Jewish ancestors will have to trace them in other countries before they made it to our fair isles. Ashkenazi Jews typically came from Eastern Europe or Germany and Sephardi Jews came from Spain/Portugal, perhaps via Holland or Africa. The reason that Jews tended not to stay put in particular countries is usually the story of persecution and expulsion, be it from the UK in 1290, Spain and Portugal in 1492/97, the pogroms in Eastern Europe in 1880-1910 or of course the Holocaust in the 1930s-1940s from Germany, Western Europe and again Eastern Europe. Sadly, the Jews that did stay put tended to have no living descendants.

In terms of geography, Jews fleeing persecution ended up in the UK, with a lot more venturing to the USA. However, many went to Canada, Australia, South America and South Africa – wherever was safe and welcoming at the time. In many instances siblings and other family members ended up in different countries. This can be beneficial to genealogists, as, for example, richer record sets in the USA can help you research your UK ancestors by studying such siblings and common ancestors.

So, what is so different about UK Jewish genealogy? In general, we get stuck more quickly than non-Jewish UK genealogy. Civil registration goes back to 1837 in England, but most Ashkenazi Jews didn't get here until the 1880s. If you are a Sephardi Jew, you may have ancestors in the UK for longer, but church records going back to the 1500s

rarely help and instead synagogue records in the seventeenth century may. There is also the concept of the "old country brick wall" where many genealogists have exhausted their research in the UK (the new country) and do not know where to start researching in the countries from where their ancestors originally came. For me, all eight great-grandparents came to this country and all four grandparents were born in this country. For others it might be grandparents who made the journey if older than me, or great-great-grandparents who made the journey if younger than me. One of the problems with the old country brick wall is that of the available records in the UK, you may be lucky enough to find the names of the father of the immigrant (say on marriage records or on tombstones) but the mothers' names are often not recorded, which makes it much harder to trace them in the old country.

So, how do you do Jewish genealogy? The pithy answer is to ask someone else who knows how. The easiest way to do this is to join the JGSGB and then you will be surrounded by experts and people with experience. There is a structured education programme with mentoring, meetings with like-minded people, conferences, a journal, frequent newsletters and how-to guides, all for a very modest annual fee. If you want to do it for free, you can join various Facebook groups, but I favour the former.

This article attempts to detail what you will learn if you follow my advice and join the JGSGB to help you with your research into Jewish ancestry. Starting with traditional, word-of-mouth sources, then progressing to typical genealogical records such as birth, marriage, death and census – which often have a Jewish twist. Next, atypical genealogical records, specific to the Jewish condition, will help. Specific Jewish genealogical records do exist and are next to consider, followed by those records from the old country, from which your ancestors hailed. Contrary to popular belief, these were not all destroyed and can be a goldmine of information. Thinking laterally, having exhausted research in the UK – the new country – research in sister new countries can pay dividends, where research of siblings of your ancestors who ended up elsewhere, such as the USA, is valuable. Finally, DNA research is the new frontier and works quite well for Jewish ancestors too.

Traditional Sources

Ask your parents! If you can, ask your grandparents or your oldest living relative. Ask the existing family historian, on whose work you can build. In all cases find out names, dates, places, relationships and stories. It's a



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great start, even though some details may need to be taken with a pinch of salt. Go through family photo albums with your relatives. Find any birth, marriage and death certificates held in the family as well as wills. Don't forget about the family bible or *Chumash* (Hebrew bible) which might have names and dates of newly born relatives.

I was lucky to find several oral interviews with elderly relatives in the course of my genealogical research. One example was of my favourite grandma, in 1995 - the year before she died aged 87, taken by her other grandchildren, my first cousins. Other recordings have turned up similarly in the pursuit of the wider family, in other countries to my own. Whereas in the past you needed time, an opportunity to meet and a cassette recorder, these days it is so much easier as it can be done using Zoom and remotely. Indeed, I must find the time to interview my mother (aged 87) and my paternal uncle (aged 91) while I still can.

In the interview with my grandmother, she recalls the names and birthplaces of her parents, my great-grandparents, including the early death of her mother in 1922. Also, what life was like in the East End of London including seeing zeppelins going over when she was aged five during the First World War. Finally, there were gems describing her brothers' involvement in the Battle of Cable Street on 4th October 1936 when the local Jews stopped Oswald Mosley and his Blackshirts from marching through the streets of the East End: "They shall not Pass!". Although subsequent research corrected the birthplace of her mother, it was her belief that her mother was from Riga, Latvia instead of Kaunas, Lithuania. It just goes to show that not everything that is recorded or written down is one hundred per cent true, but you must consider the quality of the informant and understand that occasionally they will be mistaken.

"IZZY, YETTA, FANNIE, EDIE, TILLY, ALICE AND ME"

Edited transcript of interviews with Sophie Burke, December 1995 and February 1996

Sophie Burke: Born 20th May 1909 in Stepney, London.

Died 21st May 1996 in Northwick Park Hospital, North London.

Parents: Morris Friedlander, born Kovno

Betsy Stoller, born Riga

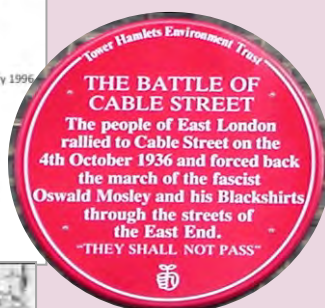


Figure 1: Sophie Burke nee Freedlander's interview with references to *The Battle of Cable Street*

Another traditional source is of course family photos. My passion for genealogy originates from going through many of these with my favourite grandma, but I have collected scores if not hundreds since. Some of the highlights are the colour photo of the 1901 marriage of my Dworkin great-grandparents, but only colour because the bride had painted some blue onto the wedding dress and some green onto a strategically placed plant pot. The 1901 marriage of my Berkowicz great-grandparents is special too, as it was taken by a Warsaw photographer whose address is on the back of the thick card it is printed on. Two other wedding photos were by the London-based photographer Boris Bennett, including both sets of my grandparents. "Boris" - and his studio—was famous for turning poor East End Jews into Hollywood film stars through the medium of wedding photography.



Figure 2: Wedding photographs of great-grandparents in London and Warsaw and of grandparents, by Boris Bennett

Typical Genealogical Records

These include birth, marriage and death records, censuses, wills, entries in newspapers – there are many. Although there is nothing different about these types of records for Jews as opposed to non-Jews, sometimes there is a Jewish slant, which is interesting. We already saw the marriage photo for Harris and Leah Dworkin getting married in 1901. On the civil marriage certificate not only do we see the bride's maiden name "Yellin" and the names and professions of the fathers of the bride and



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B 3538

CERTIFIED COPY of an
Pursuant to the Marriage
Acts, 1836 to 1898.

Registration District Stepney

1901. Marriage Solemnized at East London Synagogue
in the District of Mile End Old Town in the County of London

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
57	Twenty second December 1901	Harris Dworkin	23 Years	Bachelor	Cabinet maker	8 Red Lion Street	Joseph Dworkin	Cabinet maker
		Leah Yellin	31 Years	Spinster	—	same place	Louis Yellin	Dealer

Married in the East London Synagogue according to the Usages of the Jews by Certificate

This Marriage was solemnized between us,
{ O The mark of Harris Dworkin in the Presence of us,
O The mark of Leah Yellin

1. Henry Hart Secretary for Marriages of a Synagogue of persons professing the Jewish Religion at East London Synagogue in the County of London, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 57 in the Register Book of Marriages of the said Synagogue, and that

WITNESS MY HAND this 6th day of November, 1941.

Henry Hart Secretary for Marriages.

Figure 3 left: Marriage certificate of Harris Dworkin to Leah Yellin in 1901, original copy, but also available from the General Register Office (GRO)

groom, as you might expect, but we also get to see “kikes”. A kike is not just a pejorative name for a Jew, but it is also the Yiddish word for a circle. This is because the bride and groom were not literate in English writing, so signed with the mark of a circle, as, being Jewish it would have been offensive to them to draw a cross.

Married in the East London Synagogue according to the Usages of the Jews by Certificate

This Marriage was solemnized between us,
{ O The mark of Harris Dworkin in the Presence of us,
O The mark of Leah Yellin

Figure 4: Close-up of kikes

On the 1907 birth certificate from Whitechapel of Harris and Leah's son, my grandfather Louis, it appears that Leah has become more literate as she has signed the certificate. Unfortunately, she has signed it “Nanlriqs”, which doesn't make much sense. Eventually the original marriage record was ordered from the local archives showing that Leah has signed “Leah Yellin” but in Hebrew handwriting, written right to left. When ordering the certificate from the General Register Office (GRO) some kind registrar must have diligently copied the Hebrew into similar looking English producing a nonsensical signature.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Whitechapel

1907. BIRTH in the Sub-district of Spitalfields in the County of London

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered
387	Twenty fifth January 1907 136 Brick Lane.	Louis	Boy	Harris Dworkin	Leah Dworkin formerly Yellin	Cabinet maker (Paameynman)	Nanlriqs The signature of Leah Dworkin Mother 136 Brick Lane Spitalfields	Twelfth March 1907

Figure 5: Birth certificate of Louis Dvorkin to Harris and Leah in 1907, also ordered from the GRO

Nanlriqs
The signature of Leah Dworkin Mother
136 Brick Lane Spitalfields

Figure 6: Close-up of mangled Hebrew along with original handwritten cursive Hebrew

The signature of Leah Dworkin Mother
136 Brick Lane Spitalfields

The death certificates for Leah and Harris don't show much Jewish-specific information, as cardiac problems and carcinomas are not unique to the Jewish condition, but between Leah's death aged seventy-five in 1955 (meaning a birth date of 1880) and Harris's death aged ninety in 1969, information about the birth date and place was captured on the death record as standard showing Harris to be born in the USSR in 1878.

In the 1911 census this family group proved hard to find, because the surname was corrupted to Walkin rather than Dworkin or Dvorkin, most probably because an enumerator wrote down what was heard. However, they are definitely the right people because the given names

match including Harris, Leah and Louis but more definitively Leah wrote herself down as “Leah Yelin” before this was crossed out to be replaced with the more correct “Walkin”. This is indicative of the problems with English literacy that some Jewish families faced. Ten years previously in the 1901 census, Harris was tricky to find as he used a fictitious name “Boles Koworna”. He was only found

because he is of the right age, right profession (cabinet maker) and living at the same address mentioned on the 1901 marriage certificate (8 Red Lion Street). This is



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indicative of being economic with the truth caused by mistrust of authorities, especially when having recently fled Russia.

1	Leah Yelin		31	31
2			6	4
3	(1) Harris Walkin	Hraa	31	
4	(2) Leah Walkin	Wife		31
5	(3) Esther Walkin	Daughter		6
6	(4) Louis Walkin	Son		4

Figure 7: 1911 census for the Dworkin family aka the Walkin family - from Ancestry UK

Boles Koworna border 3 24

24 No 8

ROAD, STREET, &c., and
No. or NAME of HOUSE
Red Lion St

Figure 8: 1901 census for Harris Dvorkin under the alias Boles Koworna - also from Ancestry UK

By the 1921 census, the information on this family group is the same as non-Jews, however, the fact that both Leah and Harris were born outside of the UK means that the country and area of birth were especially valuable for genealogical research. For Leah, Lomza, Russia turned out to be Lomza, Poland and for Harris, Barstervitz, Russia turned out to be Vyalikaya Byerastavitsa, Belarus.

1	Harris Dworkin	Head	41	M	Married	Russia	Russia
						Barstervitz	Resident
2	Leah Dworkin	Wife	41	F	Married	Russia	Russia
						Lomza	Resident

Figure 9: 1921 census excerpt for Harris and Leah Dworkin - from Findmypast

Atypical Genealogical Records

While not being specific to Jews, records such as naturalisation, alien registration books, passenger lists and mentions in *The London Gazette* for name changes or naturalisations are quite common for Jews immigrating to this country. Unfortunately, UK passenger lists from Eastern Europe to the UK were created but destroyed, unless the passenger was going on to countries outside of Europe such as the USA. You can still be lucky to find Hamburg shipping lists if your ancestors went through that port on their journey, and these are available on Ancestry Worldwide Edition.

Naturalisation records are a rich source of information if they can be found, but for many of the poor Jews coming to the country it was too expensive to naturalise. In my case none of my eight great-grandparents naturalised. Their children who were born in this country did not need to naturalise as they were automatically British citizens. Typically, the children who were born before coming to this country became a bit more affluent than their parents and did naturalise though, for business reasons. Two of my great-uncles came with their parents from Poland, and the details of this are found on the naturalisation certificates held at The National Archives in Kew. So, great-uncle Barney Burke or Berkovitch was really Ber Berkowicz born in Warsaw Poland on 20th May 1902 to Harris and Sarah, a hairdresser, and was later married to another Sarah. Also available at Kew are the background papers of the naturalisation application which include further details stating that the mother Sarah's maiden name was Gruska and that the family came to England in 1904. A police report that states that young Barney was caught in charge of a bicycle when drunk makes interesting reading too!

PARTICULARS RELATING TO APPLICANT.	
Full Name	Ber Berkowicz, known as Barnett Bercovitch.
Address	46, Rectory Square, Stepney, in the County of London.
Trade or occupation	Hairdresser.
Place and date of birth	Warsaw, Poland. 30th May, 1902.
Nationality	Polish.
Married, single, widower or widow	Married.
Name of wife or husband	Sarah.
Names and nationality of parents	Harris and Sarah Bercovitch. Polish.

Bercovitch is a single man, and resides with his parents, Harris Berkowicz and Sarah, Berkowicz nee Gruska. Both are registered with police as Russians in t

He came to England in 1904,

Figure 10: Naturalisation certificate and background papers excerpts for Ber Berkowicz aka Barney Burke from The National Archives

For those that didn't naturalise, such as my great-grandfather Harris Dworkin, some of his alien registration cards have been passed down in the family. Sadly, there is no central repository of these at The National Archives, but they may exist in a suitcase in your family too. These can include a picture, the year and place of birth, the year of arrival in the UK, work information and, in Harris's case, that he served in the Russian army from 1898-1900.



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Figure 11: Alien Registration card for Harris Dworkin (composite)

Sources:

General Register Office (GRO) - Official information on births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>
Genealogy, Family Trees and Family History Records online - Ancestry.com at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>
Find Your Ancestors & Family History - Genealogy & Ancestry | Findmypast.co.uk at <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
<https://www.ancestry.com/>

In part 2, we will focus on Jewish genealogical records as well as tombstones in the UK, the old country and sister new countries, before touching on DNA research.

About the author

Leigh Dworkin is a professional genealogist, running *Your Kin* by Dworkin, see <https://www.yourkin.co.uk>. He has been chairman of the JGSGB since May 2016. Genealogically speaking, he considers himself to be five-eighths Polish, quarter Lithuanian and one-eighth Belarusian, judging by his great-grandparents' nationalities, which is far more interesting and exotic than being just an Essex lad.



Visit: www.jgs gb.org.uk/

Dorset Family History Society
in partnership with Devon Family History Society
and the Family History Federation

South West FHF Really Useful Family History Show

Saturday 29 March 2025

Kinson Community Centre (Pelhams Park),
Millhams Road, Kinson BH10 7LH. 10am-4pm.



- Free entrance ■ Free parking
- Knowledgeable speakers
- Family History Societies
- Local History Societies
- Commercial exhibitors
- Meet the experts
- Refreshments ■ Raffle



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Visit our website to see updates and for more information
<https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/events-activities/family-history-day/>

BOOK THE DATE!

The next *LIVE REALLY USEFUL*
Family History Show is at Kinson—
on the northern edge of
Bournemouth.

See you there!





Family History Societies



West Surrey Family History Society

New date for the West Surrey FHS Fair
16 November 10am – 4.30pm
Woking Leisure Centre,
Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA
Free admission!



Research Area

The Research Area will provide a wide range of resources for research. Transcripts of the parish registers, West Surrey poor law index, Surrey soldiers who died in WWI.

There will be a large selection from the society's reference library to look at and will include Surrey items, London/Middlesex items (including the Victorian A-Z of London) and some that cover the whole country such as *Phillimore's Atlas of Parish Registers*.

Volunteers will be on hand to give help and advice with these resources.

Bring your research!

Specialist Helpdesks

Army research - Graham Bandy

Canadian ancestry - Penny Allen

Census Detectives - Graham Walter and Heather Nowlan

DNA - Brian Swann

General research - Sue Turner

General, Irish, Poor Law and Children's Records -
Surrey History Centre, Jane Lewis

Irish and Scottish - Ruth Mathewson

Family History Fair

The West Surrey FHS Bookstall will be present with a full range of our publications, together with many family history and local history books.

The following organisations have reserved tables:

East of London FHS

East Surrey FHS

*Hampshire Genealogical Society

London Westminster and Middlesex FHS

Somerset and Dorset

Suffolk FHS

West Middlesex FHS

*Wiltshire FHS

AGRA (Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives)

Brookwood Cemetery Society

FACHRS

Family History Federation

Friends of Woking Palace

Graham Grist Orders and Medals Research

Heritage Walks

Keith Farmer Family History Research

Surrey History Centre

Surrey Post Card Club

Eureka Partnership

Peter & Jenny Duncan Postcards

R A Longley Publications

The Crafty Genealogist

This Way Books + Cassini Historical Maps

* indicates societies or organisations bringing research material

Note:

The Fair was originally scheduled for 9 November and now moved to 16 November.

For further information, please contact:

fair@wsfhs.org

<https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Consultation on proposed changes to reform the law regarding burial grounds and cremation

It has recently come to the Family History Federation's attention that there currently is a consultation at The Law Commission to reform the law of burial and cremation in the UK.

They have produced a consultation paper and a summary and are looking for comments by **9th January 2025**.

We suggest that you view the papers and respond using their online questionnaire if you wish to comment as an individual or as a society.

There is a short video to watch as well explaining this and all the details at the link below.

<https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/>

Have your say!



Podcast launched giving ordinary people their own 'Who Do You Think You Are?' experience

Family tree website Findmypast launches new season of popular 'Step into the Past' podcast, using records to trace the extraordinary lives of ordinary people.

Each episode sees a living descendant walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, discovering the stories that connect them to a place in the UK.

New series sees host Professor Suzannah Lipscomb reveal guests' connections to National Trust sites in Birmingham, Wiltshire and Derbyshire.

Popularity of family history has exploded in recent years, and podcast fulfills public requests for 'ordinary person's Who Do You Think You Are?'

Professor Suzannah Lipscomb said: *I'm delighted to launch the new season of Step into the Past. Generations of people lived and worked at National Trust properties, like Calke Abbey, Avebury and the Back-to-Backs, and our research using Findmypast's extensive records has uncovered the rich details of their lives and revealed unknown stories about these places. If you love 'Who Do You Think You Are?', this is the podcast for you – listen wherever you get your podcasts.*

Listen to the 'Step into the Past' podcast: <https://podfollow.com/step-into-the-past>

National Library of Wales Transcribathon

Welsh Women's Peace Petition

Tuesday 5 November

10am-4pm

**Join us, either in person or online,
for a transcription marathon**

In 1923, following the First World War, 390,296 Welsh women signed a petition appealing to the women of America to call on the United States Government to join the new League of Nations as a step towards everlasting world peace. The Peace Petition, as it became known, was stored safely until its return last year to Wales as a gift from the North American Museum of History to mark its centenary. The National Library of Wales has recently completed its digitisation and has now embarked on an ambitious project to transcribe this 'world-inspiring' artefact so that it can be searched electronically for the first time.

Over half the names and addresses have been transcribed, and you can become part of this Petition's amazing story by helping to complete this work.

Join the effort in this in-person and online event. This is an opportunity to get together, meet other transcribers, celebrate the success so far and contribute to the goal of transcribing the 390,296 names in the Petition. During the day participants will receive guidance to help them and enjoy a series of pop-up talks about Petition's story and the impact that the transcription work has had on the communities of Wales.

This is a free, drop-in event that people can join anytime during the day.



Trawsgrifathon: Deiseb Heddwch
Menywod Cymru | Transcribathon:
Welsh Women's Peace Petition

Book your place here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lgcnlw/evt-3JRGa1YKpBLkXWdr> or by emailing post@library.wales



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

OUT AND ABOUT 2024

As the season of live fairs and shows comes to a close for this year, we bring you a brief selection of events attended. We urge family historians to support live events next year. The Federation takes the bookstall to family history events whereas at hobby/craft events, the Federation promotes family history generally and societies in particular.



Left: Busy hall at the Really Useful Show—East Anglia.



Above: the Really Useful Show—Nottingham.



Left: the Really Useful Show—Belfast which drew a busy crowd.

Below: the new posters designed for hobby/craft shows where help with family history issues (and how to get started!) is provided to visitors.



Left: Oxfordshire FHS Fair bookstall at their new venue.

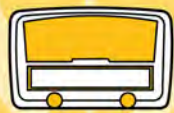
Come and find the Federation's stand at next year's live shows! The volunteers are always pleased to talk with visitors.



The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show South West will be at Kinson, near Bournemouth, on Saturday 29 March 2025



Really Useful Bulletin



• REALLY USEFUL •
• PODCAST •

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast

Really Useful Podcasts Series 4

The Federation is launching a new series of podcasts on its Explore Your Genealogy website. Once again Joe Saunders is our host. Brief details are given below.

Researching Women

It is important and fascinating to research the women in our family histories. In this episode we discuss different things to consider and ways to approach researching, often forgotten women. Joe is joined by Janet Few who has a particular interest in researching the lives of the marginalised, including women. She is currently serving as president of the Family History Federation and had a book about women's occupations in preparation; Margaret Roberts, chair of FHS of Cheshire and trustee of the Family History Federation and British Society of Sports History, speaker and author, as well as editor/owner of the sport and leisure history research website Playing Pasts; and Liz Craig, who is researching the *Temple Lodge Home for Inebriate Women*, as well as One-Place Studies of Dunster and Sudbourne, and a One-Name Study of Willsman.

Introduction to Archives

Archives are key to family history and visiting them is essential to developing your research. Our guests demystify archives and dispel any fears you may have getting started using them. Joe is joined by Karen Cummings, professional family historian and managing director at Pharos Tutors; Andrew Martin, family historian, digital archivist, and host of the Family Histories Podcast; and Maxine Willett, freelance archivist and historical researcher with twenty-five years in the heritage sector helping you unlock your history see <https://archiveangel.co.uk>.

Yorkshire Ancestors

Many of us have ancestry from Yorkshire, the largest English county. Our guests share things to consider when researching your Yorkshire family history. Joe is joined by Sue Swalwell, family and local historian, story seeker and speaker who runs the Swalwell One-Name Study; Jackie Depelle, based in West Yorkshire with research interests across the historic county as well as further afield who has been involved with family and local history for over thirty years teaching, talking and working (Your Fair Ladies) <https://depellejg.wixsite.com/mysite>; and Jane Hough, family historian, Pharos student, occasional speaker, who blogs at www.allthosebefore.org.uk/.

Talks

Talks are a great part of our family history world where we learn from one another. In this episode we discuss what makes a good talk and share advice on organising them. Joe is joined by Dr Sophie Kay a professional genealogist, geneticist and speaker (www.khronicle.co.uk) and the ancestry and genealogy expert for popular archaeology show, *Time Team*; Ruth Willmore the events and education manager at Society of Genealogists, co-organiser of All About That Place who is studying for a masters in genealogy, palaeography and heraldry at Strathclyde University; and Margaret Roberts, sports historian and editor of the Playing Pasts online sports history magazine, publicity officer for the FHS of Cheshire and society liaison officer for the Federation and part of the A Few Forgotten Women research team.

Sporting Ancestors

Joe is joined by Margaret Roberts, chair of FHS of Cheshire and trustee of the Family History Federation and British Society of Sports History, speaker and author, as well as editor/owner of the sport and leisure history research website Playing Pasts; Dave Day, emeritus Professor of Sports History with a particular interest in the history of sports coaching and training as well as the biographies of the men and women involved; and Dr Amanda Callan-Spenn, historian, biographer, and professional genealogist, a trustee on the executive board of the British Society of Sports History. Some of our ancestors were amateur and professional sportspeople. Our guests discuss important things to know when researching sporting ancestors.

Beyond the 19th Century

Researching further back past the nineteenth century can mean developing our skills and knowledge. In this episode we discuss how to research our ancestors into the eighteenth century. Joe is joined by Dave Annal, professional family historian, speaker and writer, who runs Lifelines Research; Sarah Pettyfer, who is a family, house and historical researcher and vice chair of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (you can find out more about Sarah as www.spfhhistory.co.uk); and Judith Batchelor, a genealogist, writer and tutor with the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. You can find her family history blog here Genealogy Jude.

The Federation's REALLY USEFUL podcasts are located here Explore Your Genealogy



Really Useful Bulletin

Family History Books

New Titles Coming Very Soon!

Winter is time to curl up with a good book and what better than one to take you back in time to better understand the trials and tribulations of your forebears? We also have Christmas looming; a good time to suggest what you would like to find in your stocking!

Registered readers of the *Bulletin* should keep an eye open for an offer on a fantastic set of four books coming out in a few weeks' time...

INTRODUCING HEALTH CARE IN TIMES PAST - How our ancestors coped with illness and death

In this series of four illustrated volumes, the life and times of our ancestors and their health care is revealed. It is an immense topic, and after years of meticulous research, a comprehensive chronicle about illness and health care from cradle to grave is the result.

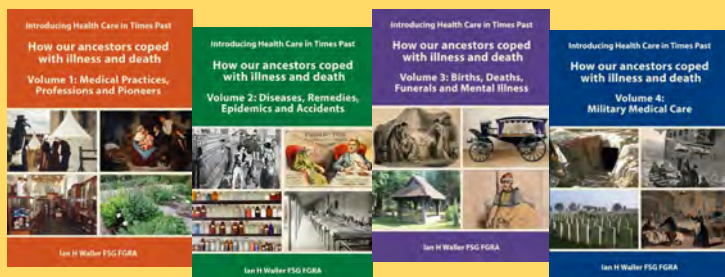
The two underlying themes are how our ancestors dealt with their own health and how the medics coped with each new disease or epidemic that came along. We learn what our ancestors did when they were ill - where did they go for help...who treated them...and how? The fables and folklore behind early medicine are exposed as well as myths and traditions which lived on for decades. The everyday hazards of life in bygone days are explained well as the author paints a vivid picture of the various difficulties faced and overcome by our forebears and medics alike.

We are introduced to doctors and surgeons; pharmacists, apothecaries and quacks; barber-surgeons, dentists and medical specialists; nurses and midwives; pioneers, medical researchers, inventors and by no means least, medical volunteers and charities. We visit their places of work including the temporary ones in time of war.

The four volumes are:

- Vol. 1: Medical Practices, Professions and Pioneers
- Vol. 2: Diseases, Remedies, Epidemics and Accidents
- Vol. 3: Births, Deaths, Funerals and Mental Illness
- Vol. 4: Military Medical Care

The four-book set is by popular author Ian Waller so you know you are in for an informative read!



What does *Family History Books* do?



In the past, the Federation was famed for its short straightforward books - what we might perhaps call booklets - that provided a basic introduction to a topic relevant to family history research. These were A5 size, folded, stitched and about sixty pages in length. Affordable, factual texts without verbose padding but which provided a practical guide plus information on specific sources available for further research by family historians. The booklets also included the famous *Gibson Guides* to what is to be found where; a selection of these will be made digitally available in the coming months.

Shorter booklets are a format which Family History Books wishes to continue as a service for family historians. Shorter publications on specialist topics will lend themselves well to digital publication which is fitting for the modern age. Family History Books believes this is the way forward for some topics. Ideally texts of 12,000 up to a maximum of 20,000 words on topics that will appeal to family historians, particularly those which are insufficiently "mainstream" to justify the costs (or risk) of printing in quantity, will be ideal as digital downloads.

Topics are unlimited – it just needs to be relevant for the family historian. Those trades which need guides are those which appear in the records of the ancestors and leave family historians wondering what their ancestor actually did, where they would have worked in different eras, and where to go for more information. Titles might be along the lines of *A Basic Introduction to xxxxxx for Family Historians* or *A Brief Guide to xxxxxx for Family Historians*. We hope this gets your creative juices flowing!

If you have a text in the making which you would like Family History Books to consider, do please get in touch. Initially email sales@familyhistoryfederation.com

Alternatively, if there is a topic on which you would like to have a basic guide, let us know and we will attempt to find a willing "relevant expert".

In the meantime do investigate the full range of books available from the online shop—you may be surprised at the range of topics included from Family History Books and other publishers!

The Federation's FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS are available online www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/



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:

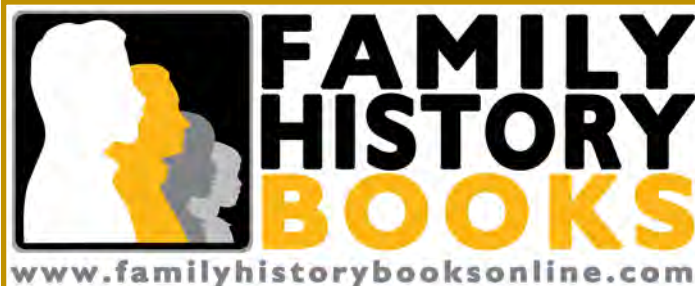
- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations*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

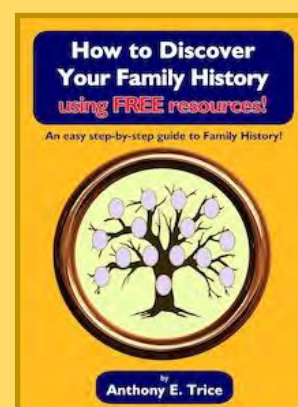
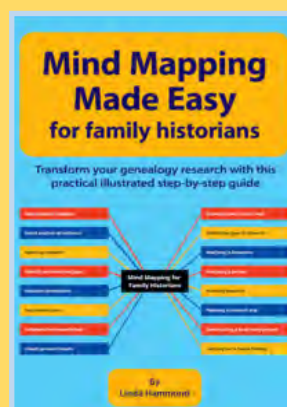
www.parishchest.com

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

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



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Recent practical guides from Family History Books are [*Mind Mapping Made Easy for Family Historians*](#) and [*How to Discover Your Family History using Free Resources*](#). Both are A4 format, full of illustrations to guide you as your experiment or visit websites. At £9.95 each they are excellent value, too!

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