



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

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REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 32

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

inside find...

Lead article this month is **THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE 1939 REGISTER**

plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

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Really Useful Bulletin

The hidden secrets of the 1939 England and Wales National Register

Linda Hammond

What is the 1939 National Register?

The 1939 National Register is often referred to as an additional census for England and Wales. However, it is much more than that. While the register was compiled in 1939, the government continually updated it to reflect changes in circumstances or to correct errors. Some of these changes are clearly visible, whilst others are hidden within the annotations and scribbles written next to entries.

Researchers can significantly improve their research efforts by knowing how to search the register in order to discover its hidden mysteries. Because of this, it is crucial for everyone interested in researching their ancestry in England and Wales to become familiar with the 1939 National Register and everything it has to offer.

The 1939 National Register is a vital contemporary document that was compiled on 29 September 1939, on the eve of World War II. It should be noted that the 1939 National Register is not a census, but due to the destruction of the 1931 Census for England and Wales during the war and the absence of a census in 1941, it is one of the few comprehensive surveys of the population of England and Wales that spans the period between 1921 and 1951. This makes the 1939 National Register one of the most valuable genealogical resources for the twentieth century for researching family history in England and Wales during this period.

The Register was created and used for a variety of reasons. Initially, it was used to issue identity cards and, later, in July 1940, ration books. The information contained in the register was also used for conscription purposes and the direction of labour, such as the land army. Additionally, it helped to monitor the movement of the population during the mass evacuations that took place during the war.

What Information does the register contain?

The 1939 National Register schedules were completed by the head of the household, but the digital records we now have access to are the enumerators' schedules. The register includes the name, address, gender, marital status, and occupation of each person, as well as their date of birth (as opposed to just their age). However, it is worth noting that the accuracy of the information provided is dependent on the person supplying it. If they wanted to alter their age, maybe to avoid conscription, the year of birth shown may not be accurate. Also, because these are the enumerators' schedules there is a higher likelihood of transcription errors.

It is important to remember that the 1939 National Register does not include the place of birth or the relationship of family members. Additionally, certain information has been redacted, including the records of individuals who may still be alive (those born within the past 100 years). As a result, it is possible that some entries may be partially or completely hidden, as shown in the image below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15 Birch Road Cont	233	2	Andrews Florence H.	-	F	22 Aug 1915	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties	
This record is officially closed.									
13	"	"	234	1	Hands Bertie	-	M	20 July 1883	M Clerk (Electrical Engineer)

If a record is closed, it will not be included in the search results of the index. However, it is possible to request that a record be opened upon production of a death certificate.

Two supplemental registers were also compiled. These registers, however, are not available to the public. One covers members of the armed forces who were on duty on 29 September 1939, the day the 1939 National Register was compiled. The other covers individuals born between 29 September 1939 and 1951, the date the paper register ended.



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One aspect that sets the 1939 National Register apart from other censuses taken in England and Wales is that it is not just a one-time snapshot, but rather a continuously updated record, due to its connection to the National Health Service.

Where can I search the Register and who does it include?

The register can be accessed through online platforms such as FindMyPast and Ancestry, plus MyHeritage and TheGenealogist which offer transcriptions only. It should be noted that the register is only available to search online and that the original register books are held by NHS Digital.

It is worth noting that the digitized records for the 1939 National Register only cover England and Wales, and do not include the Channel Islands (which were surveyed but the documents were subsequently destroyed during the invasion) or the Isle of Man (where the documents have not survived). It is also important to note that the records are not available online for Scotland or Northern Ireland, though it is possible to request a copy of a record from the National Records of Scotland or PRONI, respectively.

The 1939 National Register only includes the civilian population, which totalled over 41 million people. However, it is important to remember that military personnel who were on leave or civilians on military bases at the time of the survey would still be included in the register.

How can I search the Register and is it just individuals?

There are several ways to search the 1939 National Register. It is possible to search for a person by name, an address, or by browsing the register page-by-page. It is also possible to search by birth date, as you'll see on the search page.

The screenshot shows the FindMyPast website's 1939 Register search page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Family tree, Search, DNA, My records, Help & more, and My Account. Below this is a banner for the 1939 Register, featuring a historical photograph and text explaining the register's significance. The main search area has a toggle for 'Person' (selected) and 'Address'. Under 'Who', there are input fields for 'First name(s)' and 'Last name(s)', both with 'Name variants' checkboxes. Below this is a section for 'Birth year' with a 'YYYY' input and a 'Give or take' dropdown set to '-/+ 2yrs'. The 'Birthday' section has 'DD' and 'MM' inputs. The 'Where' section has a 'Location in 1939' input with an example 'E.g. Boston, Lincolnshire or England' and a 'Start typing a County' dropdown. The 'Borough / District' section has a 'Start typing a Borough / District' input and a 'Browse Borough / District' dropdown. The 'Sex' section has a 'Start typing a Sex' input and a 'Browse Sex' dropdown. A note at the bottom left states 'All fields are optional'.

All establishments were registered in the 1939 National Register, as can be seen in the first extract below which shows the Continental Hotel in Plymouth and the nearby Royal Marine Barracks.

The register also includes entries for establishments such as schools. The entry for Church Stile Industrial School in Exminster, which includes not only the staff, but also the pupils is shown here. However, it is worth noting that many of the records for young pupils have been redacted due to their age, as they could still be living. Second extract overleaf.



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WELS
Letter Code
Borough, U.D. or R.D. Plymouth CB
Registration District and Sub-district 276-2

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
Continental Hotel	1	45	Richards John C.	-	M	25 Feb	1913	S	Electrical Engineer
Sealage 7. Millway Rd		46	FRISER	-	F	29 June	1918	S	Electrician
		47	Fraser Jan	-	M	13 July	1918	S	Govt Clerk
		48	Hinton Hugo S.	-	M	26 Mar	1885	W	Marine Engineer
Royal Marine Barracks	2	2	Brockman Elizabeth	-	F	8 April	1912	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
Amey Rd		3	Brockman Jan. G.	-	M	12 July	1933	S	Under School Age
This record is officially closed.									
		5	Hugh Margaret B.	-	F	10 July	1919	S	Nursery Nurse
		6	Gladson Lilian E.	-	F	19 July	1918	S	Cook
		7	Jammatt Doris B.	-	F	7 Dec	1911	S	Housewife. has Vol. T.S.D.
		8	Glunicka Doris G.	-	F	2 Nov	1885	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		11	Strader Kathleen	-	F	75 Dec	1909	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		13	Potter Doris F.	-	F	3 Aug	1910	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		14	Potter Ernest W.	-	M	18 June	1906	M	Marine R.M.B. 2205
This record is officially closed.									
		16	Hicks Iris H. K. C.	-	F	25 Feb	1910	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		17	EVANS	-	F	31 May	1921	S	Nursery Nurse
		20	Taylor Grace	-	F	6 Aug	1917	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		22	Joly Isobella	-	F	12 Nov	1921	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		23	Collins Irene R.	-	F	1 Feb	1921	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties

Continental Hotel and the nearby Marine Barracks.

Church Stile Industrial School in Exminster.

WICK
Letter Code
Borough, U.D. or R.D. Devon
Registration District and Sub-district 270-1

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
Church Stile School, Exminster	2	1	Harman Ernest	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	2	Harman Ernest	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	3	Harman Ernest	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	4	Harman Ernest	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	6	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	7	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	8	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	9	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	11	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	12	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	17	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	18	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	20	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	21	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	22	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	25	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	26	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	27	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	28	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	29	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	30	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	31	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	32	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	33	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	34	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	35	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	36	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	37	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	38	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	39	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	40	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster
"	2	41	Street Henry	0	M	10 Feb	1890	M	Headmaster

Another example is the record for St Joseph's Home for the Aged in Plymouth [overleaf], where all the records are open due to the advanced age of the residents.

These examples illustrate the various types of establishments and individuals that are included in the 1939 National Register and how it can be used to research different aspects of life during this time period.



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E.D. Letter Code

WEVH

Borough, U.D. or R.D.

Plymouth CB

Registration District
and Sub-district

276-3

ADDRESS

SCHEDULE
No Sub
No

SURNAME
AND
OTHER NAMES

Sex

Age

Date

Year

Month

Day

PERSONAL OCCUPATION

See INSTRUCTIONS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
St Joseph's Home for the Aged	46	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	47	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	48	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	49	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	50	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	51	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	52	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	53	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	54	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	55	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	56	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	57	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	58	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	59	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	60	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	61	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	62	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	63	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	64	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	65	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	66	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	67	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	68	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	69	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	70	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	71	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	72	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	73	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	74	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	75	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	76	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	77	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	
Ida	78	Waller Emma	F	25	Mar	61	11	11	Discharge	

162 - Ditto - 3.35 /

2

3

4

CR 283 17.359

17.359

St Joseph's Home for the Aged in Plymouth.

What do the various annotations and codes mean?

The 1939 National Register was designed as a working document, which meant that it was updated as changes occurred. As a result, it is common to see annotations in red or green ink on the pages of the register. Some of these annotations, such as NR (National Register), refer to the 1939 National Register itself. Others, written after 1952 when the NHS Central Register was established, may include CR (Central Register), such as this entry below.

162	Ditto	335	1	Tallen Sydney	-	N
			2	Bryan Fredrick	-	N
			3	Bryan Stephen	-	F
			4	Bryan Roy	-	N

It appears that CR283 was the form number used for a change of name due to marriage. The annotation NR230, on the other hand, denotes a name change for reasons other than marriage.

The NHS Central Register was created because, when the National Health Service was formed in 1948, there was no central index of patients registered with a general practitioner. This led to individuals appearing on multiple GP lists when they moved, which inflated the lists. To address this issue, the 1939 National Register was used as an index for NHS patients.

Another annotation you will see on the register is IC, which stands for "identity card." If a woman married, she would be required to obtain a new identity card in her married name. The register would then be updated to reflect this change and annotated with the date and the area code (which we will discuss later).

84-6-43	AOA M(10)	4	MCCORMACK	WEST ALMA D	F	31 DEC
			012	ROSE THOMAS T	M	04 MAR

These annotations provide important information about changes to the records in the 1939 National Register and can be useful in tracing the movements and changes in the lives of individuals listed in the register.

Another annotation that appears on the 1939 National Register is ½ M/C or ½ med, which refers to a medical card. This entry includes a notation for a medical card, as well as a change in surname to Crawford. The date given is



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likely to be the date the entry was made in the register, rather than the date the card was issued.

5	BOURNE EDWARD H
6	CRAWFORD BOURNE EILEEN E

12 med NF 30641

This record is officially closed.

Column 5 of the form includes a notation for O, V, S, P or I which was mainly used by institutions to denote the status of an individual as an Officer, Visitor, Servant, Patient, or Inmate. Here we see an extract from HMP Dartmoor prison record showing "I", for inmate:

No	Sub No	OTHER NAMES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	397	Jord Victor	1	M	12-12	10	S	casual	La		
1	398	Harris Cyril W.	1	M	21-8	06	M	Heavy	Army		
1	399	Kavanagh Christopher P.	1	M	28-3	09	S	casual			

In this image below for Bracebridge Heath Mental Hospital, you can clearly see a visitor, followed by some of the officers and then the servants, hence V, O or S:

This record is officially closed.

55	Cooper Jane A.	V	F	16 Apr	70	W	Unpaid Domestic Duties
56	Munro Robert	O	M	6 May	89	S	medical Officer Mental Hospital
57	Forbes Alice A.	O	F	8 Feb	93	S	Matron (Mental Hospital)
58	Robson Jennie C	O	F	19 Mar	97	S	Assistant Matron -do-
59	Johnson Daisy F	O	F	23 Mar	04	S	Assistant Matron -do-
60	Bass Dorothy A	S	F	17 Aug	99	S	Nurse (Mental Hospital)
61	Baxter Kathleen M. ^{RUSSELL}	S	F	19 Jan	15	S	-do- -do-
62	Baxter Grace E. ^{TRAVERS}	S	F	19 Dec	13	S	-do- -do-
63	Bean Edith H.	S	F	10 Apr	03	S	Housekeeper -do-

Column 11, which is on the facing page and only partially visible, provides additional information about an individual's war service or other activities, such as serving as an ARP (Air Raid Precautions) warden, special constable, or Red Cross volunteer. It may also include a military reserve or service number for those who later

joined the armed services. Later annotations may include codes such as PWC (Post War Credits) or FA (Family Allowance).

Here we can see someone noted as a Stretcher Bearer ARP and another as working in the Metropolitan Police War Reserve.

Clerk	Stretcher Bearer ARP
ber	Metropolitan Police War Reserve
Mr S. Henry	NWR 836



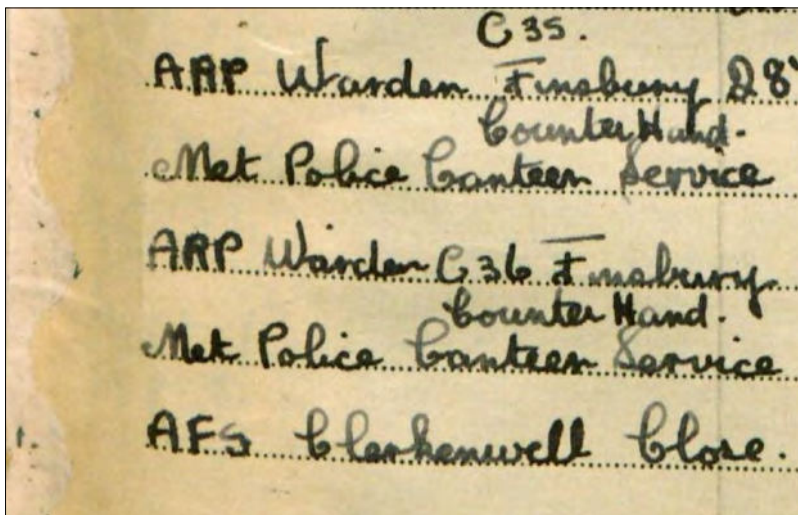
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Here is another example showing ARP wardens and even Metropolitan Police Canteen staff.

It is worth noting that there is no master index of the abbreviations and code letters used in the 1939 National Register, and as the books were annotated by a variety of people over the course of about sixty years for different purposes, it is unlikely that the meaning of all the annotations will ever be fully understood.

One annotation that has been well-documented is the area code, which relates to the enumeration districts and boroughs. The register is organized by enumeration districts and households, similar to a census. Enumerators went door-to-door to collect the information. England and Wales were divided into approximately 1400 enumeration districts, each of which was intended to have no more than 300 individuals. The National Archives has listed these enumeration districts, and they are further detailed on FindMyPast. (<https://www.findmypast.com/articles/1939-register-enumeration-districts>)

This extract from the FindMyPast index shows how each area code consists of three letters, and they can be found throughout the register in annotations. The area codes included in the 1939 National Register can be particularly useful, especially when researching individuals who married during wartime and may have done so in places far from their place of birth. This is because the area codes can help to identify the location of a marriage or other significant event and may provide clues about an individual's movements during this time period.



Area Code	Enumeration District	Borough/District	Type
AAA	London	London	City
ABA	London	Battersea	Met B
ACA	London	Bermondsey	Met B
ADA	London	Bethnal Green	Met B
AEA	London	Camberwell	Met B
AFA	London	Chelsea	Met B
AFG	London	Deptford	Met B
AFS	London	Finsbury	Met B
AGA	London	Fulham	Met B
AHA	London	Greenwich	Met B

Analysing some examples

Below is an example from a page in Stone, Staffordshire, which shows the entry for the Brassington family. It appears to be parents, Percy and Doris, although obviously we do not have relationships shown, with their apparent daughter Jean who was just ten years old.

Ismaelia	"	"	31	1	Brassington Percy	M	Apr 6	96	M	stay - straw + fodder merchant
"	"	"	31	2	Brassington Doris	F	Feb 4	98	M	unpaid domestic duties
" M. RBR "	"	"	31	3	Brassington Jean	F	June 30	39	S	at school

Jean's entry has a notation, which appears to indicate a marriage (likely the reason for the letter M). The RBR is the area code, designating Long Eaton, Derbyshire, and the date following it, 10.8.51, is the date the change was recorded in the register. The date shown is therefore not the date of the marriage, but rather the date the change was recorded in the register. In this case, the marriage took place in Derbyshire, but the person was registered in Staffordshire—the two actual places are about 45 miles apart and located in different counties. This illustrates how the area codes can be useful in identifying the location of significant events, such as marriages.



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This next entry includes no code, but rather two names written in green: Charles William. This appears to be an addition to the second initial, to identify it as standing for Charles, and the addition of a third forename, William. Quite often these additions/corrections have the number 310 next to them, as in this case.

30 ditto	310	250	1	Todd Good Charles William	M	9 June 04	M	✓	dog
see 250-3			2	Todd Marie	F	10 July 09	M	✓	boat

Next, we have an entry for a Hilary Mann who is living in Newton Abbot, Devon with her family.

Bartholomew ditto	255	1	Mann Thomas J	M	22 Dec 46	M			Insurance collected
		2	Mann Violet M	F	16 Feb 00	M			Unpaid Domestic duty
		3	Mann CRISPIN Barbara J	F	27 Feb 24	S			County Clerk Sub Post Office
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
18.3.70 2283 DN		6	Norish ABRAHAM Hilary	F	19 Jan 38	S			Under School age

There are six people in this household. This time Hilary's surname is crossed out and the name Norish is written above, but also barred out, and then we have again in green ink, Abraham. Now, we can see that Hilary was born on 19 January 1938, so she is only nineteen months old at the time of the register. As the name Mann has been crossed out, we know her name has been changed, most likely by marriage. Since Norish has also been barred out, it looks likely she married twice.

By checking the marriage indexes, using these surnames, we see that she did indeed marry in the June quarter of 1961 in Newton Abbot to a William J Norish. A further search under her married name of Hilary Norish, reveals she married again in the June quarter of 1982 in Torquay, Devon to John C. Abraham.

Now although there is a code to the left of her name "CR 283 DN 18.3.70", there is no area code. It could be that the DN stands for Devon, as both marriages took place in Devon. The 18.3.70 designates the date, 18 March 1970, when the record was amended for the first time. This entry shows how useful the annotations can be in going forward on a line. Remember, Hilary was less than two years old, and yet we have both her marriages over the next forty-two years. How many other genealogical documents can help us in this way!

One last piece of advice—check the colour of the ink and the handwriting, especially when there are multiple amendments, to see which ones were written by the same person at the same time.

Hopefully you can see how useful the 1939 Register is to researchers. No other document exists which gives us a snapshot in time and then a continued update like this. It is also worth noting that changes to the register were recorded even after the end of National Registration in 1952. In fact, the register was manually updated until 1991, when paper-based record keeping was phased out and the system was computerized.

About Linda Hammond



Linda Hammond is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG). She has over thirty years' experience researching for private clients www.lindahammondresearch.com and regularly gives talks to family history societies and at shows worldwide. She is also a genealogy tutor with the University of Strathclyde on their Postgraduate Genealogical Studies Programmes. Linda is currently writing a book on mind mapping and its use in genealogical research. She also has a special interest in reformatory and industrial schools and created the website www.DERIS.org which has indexed many of the records of the Devon and Exeter Reformatory and Industrial schools.

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Family History Societies



Suffolk Family History Society

Suffolk FHS is holding FREE Zoom talks!

Monday 24 April: **Valmay Young will talk about how to use Facebook for family history.** Use this link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/Facebook4FamilyHistory> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

NB: NB: For those who miss this, but especially for our members in the Antipodes, there will be a repeat in *Watchalong* the following day, 25 April at 10:00hrs UK, 20:30hrs Sydney, 17:30hrs Perth, 22:00hrs NZ. You need to register separately - using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Facebook4FamilyHistory2> Our zooms are open to everyone, whether you are a member or not, but you do need to register.

Zooms in upcoming months - all are at 19:30 UK time.

Tuesday 23 May: **Richard Marks will talk about Munitions Workers in World War II for Family Historians**

Monday 12 June: **Stuart Durrell: -Research and records using the CWGC Archives – explore some of the gems in the collection and discover more about CWGC war records.**

Monday 3 July: **Janet Few: The ill, the impoverished and the insane.**

We welcome new (and returning) members. We publish a quarterly journal available by post or electronically. Membership fees reflect whether you are in the UK or not, and whether happy to download an electronic copy of our journal or want a physical copy though the post.

Members get a variety of benefits, not "just" the very high quality journal, but also a 20% discount on publications such as CDs or downloads. For more details on membership check this page <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/membership> or just write to our membership secretary (membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk).

We have five groups in the county who put on regular meetings and events – parish walks in summer, and quizzes and presentations and starter sessions the rest of the year and a West of London group who meet 3-4 times a year in Hillingdon.

An updated version of Derek Palgrave's *Suffolk Chronology*, packed with key dates in Suffolk history from founding of a monastery at Beodricsworth (later Bury St Edmunds) in 633, the Black Death in 1349, to more recent events like the opening of the Orwell Bridge. Fascinating facts. Copies will shortly be freely downloadable from our webpage <http://suffolkfhs.co.uk/>, where you will find more details.

Andy Kerridge, Chair



Ontario Genealogical Society's

Scottish Interest Group

Free webinars from the Scottish Interest Group of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Everyone is welcome! Please feel free to attend!

There is no limit to attendance and all are free to watch live. They all begin at 10 am eastern which is 3 pm in Scotland and England. We are not seeking members, simply offering resources.

Please note that while there is no limit to attendance, registration is required in order to get the link to join.

17th May - **PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING presented by IRENE O'BRIEN**

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkf-mgqzgpHNSz4Q6idORPDdb7YD-id_s1

31st May - **EMPRESS OF IRELAND: CANADA'S TITANIC presented by HELEN BAGGOT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rcu6rrT4jGNywyY7fCuvLrUg8f80gVu6>

6th Sept - **A DIFFERENT ANGLE FOR SCOTTISH RESEARCH presented by CLARE WILSON**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlf-mpqTMjGtCLYIXKgZx9ijJ7JiyxJ8TV>

27th Sept - **1820 RISING presented by LORRAINE MURRAY**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd--pqjgrHdMT690xLBIP9-Yh0VSA1ymO>

25th Oct - **SCOTTISH PRINTING INDUSTRY presented by HELEN WILLIAMS**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpc-uvpigoHNdK2KfCYCYmy801rfm8pX>

For more information about the Ontario Genealogical Society and its specialist Scottish group: <https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca>

Christine Woodcock

Search Your Roots; Discover Your Heritage

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

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



Family History Societies



AGRA
ASSOCIATION OF GENEALOGISTS
AND RESEARCHERS IN ARCHIVES

Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives

AGRA is delighted to announce that the 2023 AGRA conference line-up for **Navigating Your Family History: Journeys with Ancestors** is now officially live.

Curated alongside industry experts Dr Helen Doe (Fellow of the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies), Penguin Press publishing director Richard Atkinson and Dr Sam Willis (BBC, The Silk Road), this year's event features a packed programme of informative and engaging presentations and themed panel discussions, proudly sponsored by FamilySearch.

The third AGRA Conference will explore the theme of navigating your family history with topics from migration to naval and military records to finding your way round local and national archives and the records they hold. Attendees will be able to learn about all this and more over the conference, at prestigious Downing College, Cambridge on 8 and 9 September.

AGRA Chair said: "AGRA Members and Associates look forward to welcoming anyone with an interest in family history research, whether a professional or keen amateur, to our 2023 Conference. We are thrilled that Dr Sam Willis will be speaking, heading a list of experienced presenters for our programme of talks. Our last conference at Pembroke College, Oxford was a great success and our experienced organising team have been working hard to assemble a packed programme, including new Expert Panel Sessions. Our theme, Navigating Your Family History – is designed to do just that, encompassing a broad spectrum of topics from ship to shore, across the seas and beyond. We look forward to welcoming new faces and returning friends."

The conference will also be live streamed for those unable to attend in person, further details on how to purchase these will be announced soon. For more details on the conference, the line-up and to stay up-to-date visit the AGRA Conference website: www.agra.org.uk/conference/.

The 2023 AGRA Conference, **Navigating Your Family History: Journeys with Ancestors**, takes place at Downing College, Cambridge on the 8 and 9 September. Tickets for the conference are on sale now and open to the public. Prices range from £45-£320 including a package deal which includes a day ticket to the conference, drinks reception, dinner, one night accommodation and breakfast.

Early bird discounts are available if booked before 30 April. For all ticket pricing and booking visit: eventbrite.co.uk/e/agra-conference-2023-tickets-465282060167



The City of York Family History Society

The Raylor Centre,
James Street,
York YO10 3DW

Come along and celebrate the
Research Room's
21st Anniversary
on Tuesday
25th April 2023
10am—4pm

Tea, coffee, cake and...
sale of books—cheaper than eBay!

The Society covers the modern Archdeaconry of York which stretches from Coxwold, Hovingham and Sherburn-in-Harfordlythe in the north to Ledsham, Birkin, Selby and Drax in the south.

As well as from Bramham, Bilton and Sherburn-in-Elmet in the west to Huggate and Bubwith in the east.

To learn more about the City of York FHS please visit our website:

www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk/



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation



Free Podcasts are available online NOW!

Beginning Your Family History

Online Resources

Talking to Relatives

Historians Collaborate

Occupations: Work, Leisure, Health

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast



GenUKi is an excellent website for information on the UK and Ireland.

It is totally free to use, too!

It is always worth looking for what is on in your area or being run online. You may need to prod your local organisation into putting their event details on the site!

See the link to *Genealogical Events* at:

www.genuki.org.uk/

Come and Meet the FHF Events Team!

The Federation will be at the

ICHF Creative Craft Shows

around the country promoting member societies and family history generally.

Birmingham NEC: 23—25 June

Farnborough International: 1—3 September

Exeter Westpoint: 21—23 September

Glasgow SEC: 26—29 October

Birmingham NEC: 2—5 November

The Federation will also be at

The Family History Shows

where the bookshop will be available:

York Racecourse: 25 June

Kempton Park Racecourse: 2 September

If you are attending any of these, please visit the stand and talk to our friendly volunteers.

A number of societies are holding fairs, see:

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events

Please support your local events!

The FHF Annual Meeting

This is on Saturday 20 May in Stevenage and online via Zoom. FHF member societies are invited to attend. The papers are now on the FHF website, in the members-only area. Local society officers have a login to access this.

Is your local society involved?

Online events by The National Archives

The programme of events is available here: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/online-events/

The upcoming programme includes *Researching Your Family History: 20th Century Resources*, *Everyday Life in Victorian London* and *Small Inventions that made a Difference*. Free, though donations are appreciated.



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 wide range of relevant titles relating to family history research.



Recent publications designed to help researchers have varied from dating old photographs to researching Dorset forebears. A popular title is ***Family History Research Challenges and How to Solve Them*** by Ian Waller [click title for details]; it is well indexed and covers many of the obstacles encountered!

Coming out this summer is a book to help newcomers to family history and those wishing to use free resources. Details will be included in the Bulletin when it is in stock. Meanwhile, check the online shop!

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 17-18 November 2023

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details



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