



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin

No 38

October 2023

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

Lead article this month is *Births, Marriages and Deaths in Scotland before 1855*

Plus extra workshops added for the REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

with a taster of presentations on Show Friday

And news from local FHS and from the Federation

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18 November

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live online.

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and login to hand

[See page 8
for more...](#)



Really Useful Bulletin

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Scotland before 1855

by Emma Maxwell

On 1 January 1855, civil registration of births, marriages and deaths commenced in Scotland. As registration was compulsory from the start, very few events are missing. Searching these records is straightforward as they have all been indexed. You can find these records on www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.



Top Tip: For genealogy purposes, you do not need to order a certificate. View the image online and save £££.

Due to the comprehensive nature and easy availability of post-1855 records, we rarely use church records of baptism, marriage and burial after 1855. There are occasions when they prove useful but on the whole it's cheaper and more efficient to use the civil registration records. However, before 1855, it is a completely different story.

Background to the records

In 1616 the Scottish Government, by an Act of the Privy Council, ordered that a register of persons baptised, married or buried within each parish was to be kept. This register was to include those who did not attend the parish church, the Church of Scotland.

This means that no matter what church your family attended, the place to begin your search is the Church of Scotland records. The majority of surviving registers have been indexed and the images are available to view on ScotlandsPeople. Go to 'Church Registers'. These are also known as Old Parish Registers which you may also hear referred to as OPRs.

Findmypast has also indexed these records; it's actually more than a simple index. In many cases, all the information on the original has been transcribed. As there may be some additional information on the original record, it is always best practice to look at the original where possible—certainly for your direct line ancestors.

Where to find Church of Scotland Parish Registers

Images

- ◆ ScotlandsPeople
- ◆ Family History Societies (microfilm)
- ◆ Local libraries (microfilm)
- ◆ ScotlandsPeople Centres in Scotland (£15 per day)

Indexes

- ◆ Findmypast
- ◆ Ancestry
- ◆ FamilySearch

Kirk Session Records (Church of Scotland)

Theoretically, the Church of Scotland birth, marriage and death registers were sent to the General Register Office for Scotland. In 1855 those up to 1820 were sent in with the 1820-1855 registers following a few years later. This is what forms the basis of the OPRs.

A few problems occurred with this. Some registers were a mixture of minutes, baptisms and accounts. These were often kept by the church and are part of the Kirk Session series of records. In some churches, there was no register of deaths, and all we may have is a note in the accounts showing that the mortcloth was hired. These have not been indexed but may be the only clue as to when an ancestor died.

Illegitimate children often do not appear in the baptismal register but their parents may have appeared before the Kirk Session to be disciplined and this will be recorded in the minutes. These are just a couple of the many reasons why it is good to consult Kirk Session records. These are free to browse on ScotlandsPeople so it's easier than ever to become familiar with them. For more information see our Learning Zone: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningkirksession.aspx>

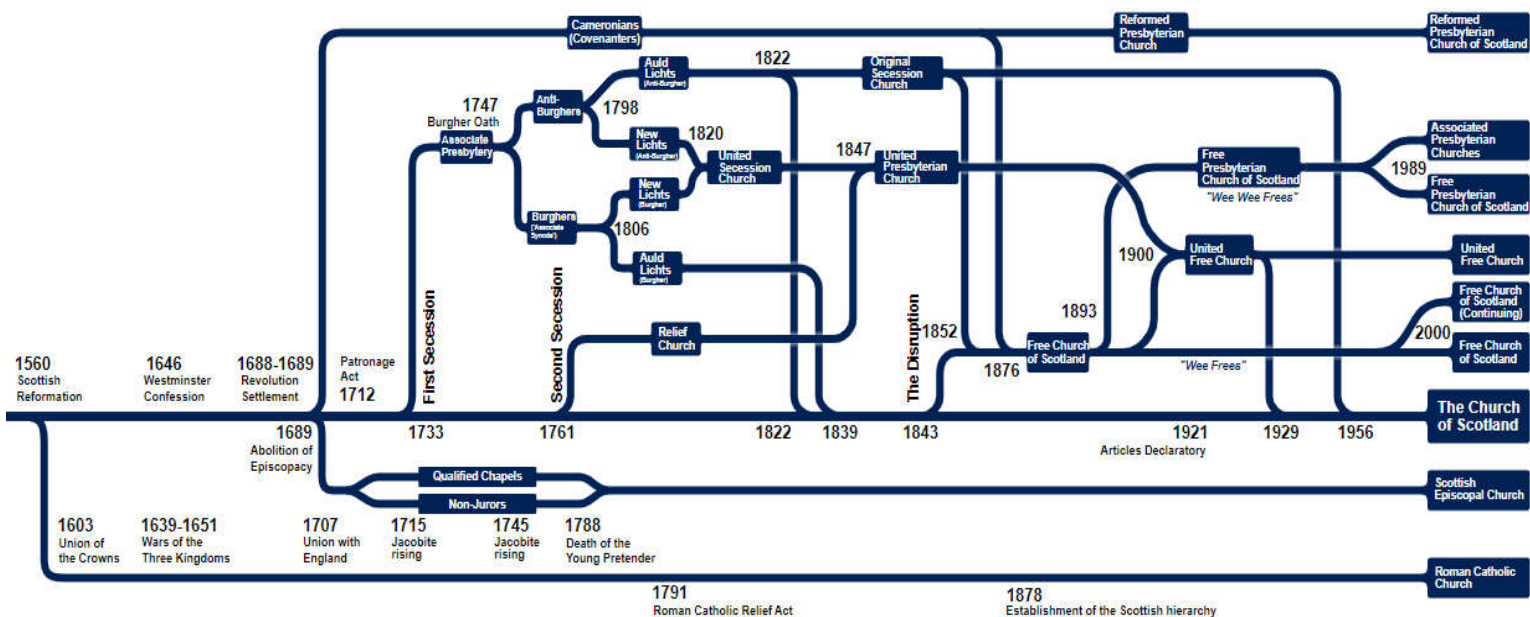
If a couple married 'irregularly', that is by declaration, not banns, they are unlikely to appear in the church register. Check the Kirk Session records for a fine, usually about the time their eldest child was born.

Non-Church of Scotland Churches

Sometimes people who did not attend the Church of Scotland were described as non-Church of Scotland. Officially there is no such word as non-church; these people are actually nonconformists or dissenters. Some people feel passionately about which term is used, however, I like the term non-Church of Scotland because it's simple and explains clearly what this article is all about. The purpose of this article is to help you access the records rather than look in depth at the history of religion in Scotland.



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You can view image at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Churches_of_Scotland_timeline.png Attribution: Hogweard, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Free Church

In 1843, the Free Church broke away from the Church of Scotland and took around half of the church members in many parishes and nearly all in some. Many ministers became Free Church ministers, too. This period is known as 'The Disruption'. As it happened in 1843 it will affect many of us as we trace our Scottish family history and we try to make the link from the civil registration era back to the early nineteenth century when the Free Church was the largest religious denomination in Scotland.

The good news is that many surviving Free Church baptism, marriage and death records have now been indexed and are available on ScotlandsPeople. These are the records of the Free Church, most of which was eventually reunited with the Church of Scotland in 1929. If you can't find a baptism in the Church of Scotland records after 1843 this is the first place to look. Simply navigate to Church Records next to select church tick *Other Churches*.

This is by far the easiest way to search Free Church records. If you don't find what you are looking for it's time to search the catalogue of the National Records of Scotland (NRS). Most Free Church records are catalogued under the reference CH3 which is entitled *Records of Free, United Presbyterian, United Free and Other Protestant Churches*. Although many of the baptism, marriage and death registers are now online, the minutes and cash books are not. You can now compare the NRS catalogue with ScotlandsPeople (use the drop-down box under *Parish/Congregation*).

The good news is that ScotlandsPeople have now added most of the standard registers so searching is usually straightforward. The bad news is that the survival rate of the records is not great. As there was no requirement for the Free Church (or other churches) records to be sent to Edinburgh, many were not deposited until a much later period and sadly that allowed more time for records to be lost or damaged.

A note about Free Church records. As the flow chart shows, the denominations of Scottish churches have a complicated history. The Free Church still exists today and some of its historical records are held by the National Records of Scotland under the reference CH16. These are not the records which are on ScotlandsPeople. The records on ScotlandsPeople come from CH3, so what is this? Some Free Church parishes rejoined the Church of Scotland in 1929, these are referenced CH3. The parishes which did not rejoin have their records catalogued under CH16. Confused? I don't blame you. In fact, there can be so much confusion that not all records are what they purport to be. Ministers moved around and may have taken their notebooks with them. Be prepared for some overlap of records and don't expect everything to be neat and tidy.

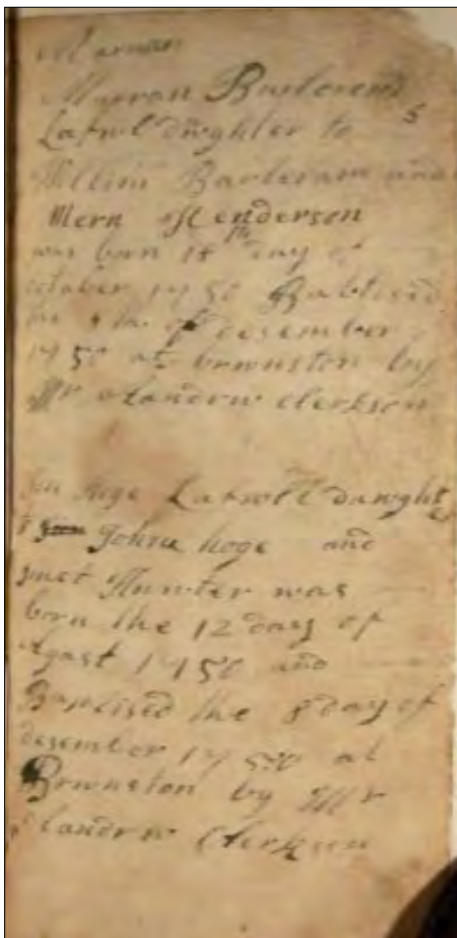


Top Tip Look at a post-1855 marriage certificate to see who married the couple. If it's a Free Church minister, that's a clue that you will need to search the pre-1855 Free Church records.



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Other records held by the National Records of Scotland



A page from the
Howgate Antiburgher,
1750. Ref:
CH13/1363/11 pg 5.

ScotlandsPeople is one of the websites of the National Records of Scotland. It's their platform to provide access to a cross section of their records. It's an excellent website and they now provide access to a diverse set of records, however, it's a drop in the ocean of the records they hold. For any research purpose, it's good to be familiar with the records they hold and how to use their catalogue:

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>.

Here is a list of records of other religions held by the National Records of Scotland:

- ◆ CH10 Records of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- ◆ CH11 Records of the Methodist Church in Scotland
- ◆ CH12 Records of the Episcopal Church of Scotland
- ◆ CH13 United Free Church of Scotland
- ◆ CH14 Records of the United Reformed Church (including Congregational Church in Scotland)
- ◆ CH15 Unitarian Church
- ◆ CH16 Free Church of Scotland Records [the parishes that did not reunite with the Church of Scotland in 1929]
- ◆ AD9 Crown Counsel Procedure Books (including Sudden and Suspicious Deaths)
- ◆ AD12 Registers of sudden deaths, fatal accident inquiries and accidents in mines
- ◆ MH1 The Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland: Inspector's Registers

Quaker Digest

An index to the *Quaker Digest* of births, marriages and deaths (1647 to 1879) can be searched on scottishindexes.com (NRS reference CH10/1/64). As with all records on Scottish Indexes, the index is free to search and the full NRS reference is given.

Scottish Indexes	
Home Advanced Search Record Sets Search Help Research 5	
Banns/Marriages Index - Search Result	
Groom's Name	James Allane
Bride's Name	Jeane Hamilton
Year of Banns/Marriage	1668
Marriage County	Lanarkshire
Register Name	Quaker Digest
Register County	Midlothian
NRS Reference	CH10/1/64 p. 53

Also within the CH10 series are monthly meeting minutes. As with Kirk Session records these can contain information about births, marriages and deaths. Although many of these dates were included in the *Digest* some entries are missing. Also, consulting the original monthly meeting minutes could give additional information. Searching the index on scottishindexes.com is the place to start your search.

Sadly, not all of the records are indexed. If you find a record in the NRS catalogue that you want to search, you can arrange to view the original for free in the NRS. If you can't visit in person, many genealogists are available to search for you.

Crown Office Sudden and Suspicious Deaths (1823-1857)

Most of the time we are looking for records of other churches but even before 1855 there are two collections of civil records which you may find useful. There are no coroners in Scotland. Instead, deaths that need to be investigated are reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The Procurator Fiscal determines if the case should be reported to the Crown Office. Some of these lead to criminal proceedings, but many do not.

On scottishindexes.com you can search Crown Office Sudden and Suspicious Deaths 1823-1857. The volumes AD12/11-12, which cover the years 1848 to 1857, give a cause of death in almost all cases. The earlier volumes AD9/1-11 do not usually give this information.

Married women are recorded with their maiden and



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married surnames. For example, the death of Nelly Hogg or Jamieson was transmitted to the Procurator Fiscal on 1 October 1850. Hogg is Nelly's maiden surname and Jamieson is her married surname. This makes finding and identifying women in this record set very easy.

Entries in the Crown Office Sudden and Suspicious Deaths may be the only record of a death or they may be duplicated in a parish register. Obviously, from 1855 there will also be a corresponding civil registration death certificate. Even if you have found the parish register entry, there can be an advantage to search the sudden and suspicious deaths.

For example, Robert Drew's death is recorded in the records of the Church of Scotland (reference ScotlandsPeople, OPR 644-1/67, image 0247). The entry reads as follows:

1848 Sept[ember] 15
Rob[ert] Drew; 19 [years]; Turner; Accident; 2 6 [fee paid of two shillings and six pence].

The entry in the Sudden and Suspicious Death records tells us more [NRS reference AD12/11 p. 4]:

1848
A[dvocate] D[epute]: E Maitland
Date of Receipt: Novem[ber] 29
Name: Robert Drew, [cause:] Killed by fall[ing] off wing of house being taken d[own]
Jurisdiction: Glasgow
Date of Transmitting: Novem[ber] 29
Additional Procedure: [blank]
When returned, with opinion: Decem[ber] 2
How disposed of: No proceedings.

The Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland: Inspectors' Registers

The Anatomy Act of 1832 gave legal access, by holders of a licence, to obtain unclaimed corpses. The resulting registers [example below] are very useful as they include age, address, date and place of death, and date and place of burial. An index to some of these registers is available on <http://www.scottishindexes.com/deathsearch.aspx> with more coming soon.

October & November 1842. Edinburgh.									
No.	Name & Surname	Age	Last place of abode	Date & place of Death	Disease of which Died and by whom certified	Place of Burial	Place to which removed and name of Teacher	Day and hour at which received and from whom received	Date and place of Burial
9.	Jane McInnes	26	Royal Infirmary	25 October 1842 Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	Anaemia of Arteries & Disease of Heart Thomas D. Ross	25 October 1842	1 Surgeons Square Dr. Forsdale	29 October 1842 11 A.M. J. Sinclair City Burial Ground	10 December 1842 Greyfriars C. G.
10.	Richard Woods	41	Royal Infirmary	27 October 1842 Royal Infirmary Edinburgh	Disease of the Lungs & Spine Thomas D. Ross	1 November 1842	University of Edinburgh Dr. Monro	1 November 1842 1 P.M. J. Sinclair City Burial Ground	13 December 1842 Greyfriars C. G.

Scottish Archive Network Catalogue (SCAN)

If you have not found the records you need at the NRS, SCAN is the next port of call.



Scottish Archive Network

Online catalogue

SCAN provides a catalogue of the many records in Scottish Archives. Please note that this catalogue will soon be replaced by a new portal, *Your Scottish Archives*. Covid temporarily put a stop to this project but work has now resumed and the Scottish Council on Archives are working hard to release the new portal soon. For the old SCAN catalogue go to <https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/scancatalogue/> but keep an eye on <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/> for news of the new portal.



The National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS)

If you don't find what you need at the NRS or in the SCAN catalogue it's time to expand your search. The National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS) aims to compile a record of papers of historical significance in private hands in Scotland. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of all surviving records but it's the next place to search:

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrasregister/>.

The NRAS do not hold the records, rather their catalogue gives you a contact person. The key here is that these are records in private hands and are not public records. When approaching a record-holder, be mindful that you are asking a favour. It may take time and expense for a private record holder to give you access and they may receive many requests. There is no obligation on a private record holder to allow access to their records—even if they name one of your ancestors.



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Jewish Genealogy

www.jewishgen.org is the global home for Jewish genealogy. If you are researching people with Jewish heritage, it's the place to look. Michael Tobias OBE specialises in Scottish research and has vast experience and knowledge of Scottish Jewish families. Michael is also the vice president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. Start with JewishGen but if you need assistance check out Michael's website: <https://gene-genie.com/>.

Roman Catholic Genealogy

The Scottish Catholic Archives hold the records of our Catholic ancestors. The good news is that many of their birth, marriage and death records are now available online. Findmypast has the largest collection. Sadly, accessing a precise coverage of records on Findmypast is not always easy so it's a challenge to work out what they don't have.

ScotlandsPeople also has a collection of Catholic records. ScotlandsPeople and the Scottish Catholic Archives sometimes hold duplicate records but both seem to have some unique records. It is advisable to search both.



Final Tips

In general, before 1855 we are looking at records of baptisms. If your ancestor did not have their children baptised, there it's unlikely to find a record. Between 1783 and 1794 there was a Stamp Duty (tax) on baptisms in Scotland of three pence, as elsewhere. It's therefore not unusual to see a gap in the baptisms of children in some families. Older or younger children may appear in the register but not children born between 1783 and 1794.

Irregular marriage or *Per verba de praesenti* was legal in Scotland until 1939. This form of marriage was a declaration by the couple that they were married. There was no need to register the marriage or have a marriage contract. You will find a reference to some of these marriages in the Kirk Session records when the couple were disciplined by the Church. For many marriages, however, there is no record. If you want to learn more about this topic, invite genealogist Chris Paton to speak to your society. Chris delivers a fascinating presentation, *Instantly Buckled for Life - Scottish Marriage Records*. See <http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/p/diary-2.html>.

There was no parish chest in Scotland to keep the registers safe; there probably should have been. Fire, mice and water damage led to loss of information. There are gaps in the records so we may simply not be able to find all birth, marriage and death records before 1855. There is a detailed list of surviving Old Parish Registers of Scotland (OPRs) available from the National Records of Scotland: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/old-parish-registers/list-of-old-parish-registers#Detailed%20list>. This can be helpful to have to hand while researching. I can quickly see, for example, that there is no surviving register of deaths for Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire. There's no point trying different spelling variations, etc., and I can't presume an ancestor died somewhere else, there is simply no register. I need to try monumental inscriptions.

Illegitimate children do not always appear in the baptism register. If your ancestor is the eldest child, check the Kirk Session records for a discipline case. Even if parents subsequently married, you may see an antenuptial (prenuptial) fornication case.

By far the hardest records to find are pre-1855 death records. Many registers have not survived and even if they do, the detail is very limited. Monumental inscriptions are a good substitute and many family history societies have worked tirelessly to index these. Many (although not all) are available on Findmypast.

Still struggling to find birth, marriage and death dates? Records such as wills, deeds and other legal records may help. Dig deeper by reading articles in our [Learning Zone](#) which cover these topics and join us for our free conferences where a variety of topics are covered.



About the author: Emma Maxwell and her husband, Graham, operate Scottish Indexes. As well as an index to thousands of historical records, Graham and Emma have created a Learning Zone where you can learn more genealogy skills. From a beginner's guide to using High Court records, you'll find a wealth of information on their website. The asylum section of Scottish Indexes will help you find out about every Scottish asylum, where the records are held and how to access them.

www.scottishindexes.com/default.aspx





Really Useful Bulletin

REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW EXHIBITORS' DAY—FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER



Friday will have an emphasis on the Exhibition Hall.

Visit the booths where you will meet family historians with a wealth of local knowledge.

In addition, there are lots of short talks, many linked to local societies.

Here is a taster of some of those already “in the can” with more to come!

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/



BARRIE Janet
One-Place Studies for Free



BOSTOCK Roland
**Our Memorial Inscriptions:
West Middlesex FHS**



BOWNASS John
Spotlight on Yelling, Cambridgeshire



BROWNING Sarah
**Monumental Inscriptions – Use and Usefulness
for Family History Research**



BURLING Elizabeth
Where Were They Buried?



COSTIN Jo
**Three Lives of the First World War – Using
Examples from Cambridgeshire**



DEPELLE Jackie
Researching Yorkshire Ancestors Online



JAKEAWAY Julie
Mental Illness in the Nineteenth Century



MALIN Angela
**Researching Boot and Shoe Ancestors in
Northamptonshire**



MCMULLEN Sadie
**Building the Local Population before 1841:
Case Study – Fletton, Huntingdonshire**



ODDIE Gary
Farm Checks of the Fens



ORRELL Karen
Customs and Folklore of the Fens



SHIELDS Helen
**Ryedale FHS Zoom ‘Chat’ includes ‘Potato
Farming on Prince Edward Island’!**



SMITH Janice
Scottish 19th Century Kirk Session Records



TIBBITTS Wendy
Longford: A Heathrow Village in Limbo



TWENTYMAN Mary
**1910 Valuation - Using Bradford as an
example**



Some presenters are doing a second talk!

We have another eight short talks confirmed
plus a raft of promises!

The show special **BULLETIN** will have final details.



Really Useful Bulletin



REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW EXTRA WORKSHOPS—SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER



All workshops will be LIVE and ONLINE on Saturday 18 November.

None will be recorded—due to privacy issues for participants.

Booking is essential. Bookings are now open.

Have your show ticket and log-in details to hand!

Click to book your workshop: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/



Chris Lightfoot

HOW TO WRITE A FAMILY HISTORY

I show people how they can use their family history research to start writing stories that will capture the imagination of family and friends to create an enduring legacy for future generations. This workshop will offer practical tips on how to look for the individual stories behind the names of people, places and events rather than trying to write a complete family history.

STOP PRESS: this will now be a recorded talk,



Malcolm Austen

WORKING WITH GENUKI

Working live on the GENUKI site, the workshop will demonstrate the key elements of the site's hierarchical structure and the various navigation features within the site.

Particular attention will be given to the gazetteer and church databases. The site's objectives and system of distributed maintenance responsibility will be described briefly. The problem report/contribution mechanism will be demonstrated and the online diary GENEVA will be shown.



Janet Barrie and Anna Darelli-Anderson
BEYOND BASICS:

ADVANCING YOUR ONE-PLACE STUDY

You've identified your place, collected some material, so what next? This workshop will explore ways to go about organising and making sense of your information. We will also show how you can go about publicising what you are doing to enthuse others.



Jane Harris and Helen Shields
FROM IDEA TO REALITY:

LAUNCHING YOUR ONE-PLACE STUDY

This workshop will explore the what and how of one-place studies, including recognising when you have already collected material that is the beginning, or more, of a one-place study. We'll also discuss the benefit a one-place study can bring to your family history research.



SATURDAY WORKSHOP TIMINGS

Group 1: 10.30am—11.15am

Group 2: 11.45am—12.30pm

Group 3: 1.30pm—2.15pm

Group 4: 2.45pm—3.30pm

Group 5: 4.00pm—4.45pm

When booking is enabled, details for each group will appear on the website. Timings have been arranged so that there is no overlap with each group's timings. There is no limit to the number of workshops you can book but only one session in each group can be booked. All times are UK time.

See Bulletin No 37 for other workshop topics and presenters.





Family History Societies



FENLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Wedding folklore—proposing on one knee

In the Middle Ages, a man would bend down in front of the woman he adored. In religion, kneeling in front of someone is a sign of respect, loyalty and obedience.

Fast forward to today. Most men will still go down on one knee to propose. It is a show of deep emotional connection, showing you are willing to commit the rest of your life to one another.

The hen or stag do: It was only in the mid-1960s that hen parties began to grow in popularity. Stag nights emerged around the same time. These can relate to the traditional Greek feasts held to toast the groom and mark the end of youth.

The first dance is also something fairly new. Up to the 1960/70s, the newly married couple used to leave soon after the wedding feast was completed.

COMPUTER RESEARCH SESSIONS: These continue to be very popular; we help visitors with researching their family history, no matter where their family came from. Our first monthly research session is in Wisbech Library on the first Tuesday of each month from 10am-12 noon, when we can use the wonderful research resources available in the library. Our second session is on the second Monday of each month from 11am-2.30pm in the restaurant at Baytree Garden Centre in Hilgay near Downham Market. 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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Our November meeting on Thursday 23rd November will be a celebration of Family History and Research. Since it is our last meeting of the year we like to enjoy participation from all members. No meeting in December. We meet again on Thursday 25th January. Our meetings are held in Wisbech Library from 7 - 9pm. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Everyone welcome. Members free, visitors a donation of at least £2.

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* unravelling a story of lies and deceit. *The Ups and 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.

For further information on any of the above please phone Bridget Hunter 01945 587723. bridget25hunter@btinternet.com



NEXTGENERATION



Call for presentations

The Society of Genealogists and Family History Federation are jointly arranging an online conference to be held on Saturday 5 October next year.

Those aged sixteen to thirty-five years of age on 5 October 2024 are invited to submit proposals for presentations.

Topics

We are looking for a variety of genealogy and family history topics on the theme of "Discoveries".

A focus on topics of interest to younger genealogists is preferred.

Format

Presentations may be between ten and thirty minutes.

- ◇ They may be presented live or pre-recorded.
- ◇ They should be delivered in English.
- ◇ They may be individual or joint by two or more presenters.
- ◇ They may be talks, workshops, interviews, chaired discussions or other format.

Terms

We expect to be able to pay presenters through sponsorship, details to be confirmed. Prior to the event, accepted presenters under eighteen years of age will be required to submit evidence of parental approval to take part.

Submit

Proposals should be emailed to events@sog.org.uk and should include:

- ◇ The presenter's name(s), email address(es) and age(s)
- ◇ Brief bio (approx. fifty words)
- ◇ Draft title
- ◇ Short summary of presentation

Dates

Deadline for submission of proposals:

Monday 15 January 2024

Notification of acceptance:

Friday 8 March 2024

Conference:

Saturday 5 October 2024



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

CWGC Cemeteries and Memorials

Fifty-one cemeteries or memorials have been inscribed with World Heritage status by UNESCO. Details plus list of those included [here](#)

For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen

This is the next step by the CWGC to honour and remember those from the Commonwealth forces who lost their lives in the world wars.

*We've always been thrilled at the Commission when people share the stories about the people we commemorate. It adds real impact to the important work we do. **For Evermore** now lets us permanently capture these deeply touching and impactful stories online.*

Do you have a story about someone CWGC commemorates? Please share it today and ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

www.cwgc.org/stories/



Family historians unearth fantastic stories about their families from newspapers. From salacious scandals to local legends and family folklore, all of life's moments were captured in newspapers generations ago.

The team at Findmypast is on the hunt for the most heart-breaking, life-changing or downright jaw-dropping family discoveries you've made in their ever-growing newspaper archive.

Share your stories by email to discoveries@findmypast.com

Who knows where **your** past might take **you**?

YOUR Christmas Memories

In the December *Bulletin*, the lead article will be *Christmas Past and Present* by Charlotte Soares.

We would like to hear your stories too! Tell us about your treasured memory of a Christmas past or about a special Christmas story you have unearthed about an ancestor.

Please keep under 250 words. We will include as many stories as we can. Include your name and email address on your submission, please.



Please **send by 18 November** at the very latest. Send to admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

Family History Books will award a book to the submitter of the most interesting brief story!



Listen to Findmypast's new podcast, hosted by Professor Suzannah Lipscomb

Walk in your forebears' footsteps with *Step into the Past*, an immersive new podcast from Findmypast. Each episode connects the past and present as we take a stroll with historian Suzannah Lipscomb through places that made history, revealing incredible family stories along the way.

In series one, we're getting to know host Suzannah Lipscomb (and her ancestors) a little better. Then, we travel back in time with special guests who have connections to some of Britain's best-loved places cared for by the National Trust, to uncover the lives of their ancestors who lived and worked there.

Listen now to all episodes, simply search 'Step into the Past' on your favourite podcast platform, or visit:

www.findmypast.co.uk/page/podcast

We are deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of the Hon. Charles John KERR, Baron Teviot, on Sunday 15 October 2023. The Family History Federation has lost a staunch supporter. Our thoughts are with Lady Teviot, former president of FHF and now a life vice president, and their family.



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

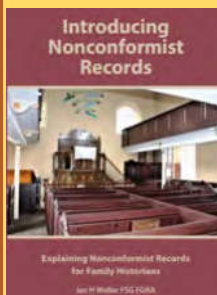


FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

Family History Books (FHB) is an online bookshop and publisher; it is part of 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 work from new or existing authors that will appeal to family historians, and in some cases also local and social historians, too. Please note that "family histories" or fictional material cannot be accepted.



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