



FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 41

January 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin* for 2024

inside find...

Lead articles this month are *Quaker Genealogy*

also *Proposed Destruction of Wills* plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

DNA TESTS

Web Prices at
22nd Jan 2024

BIG SAVINGS on current list price
- with FHB whilst stocks last -



Family Finder (Autosomal) DNA Kit

Current List Price: \$ 79 (£62) **FHB Price: £49**



Y-37 (Paternal) DNA Kit

Current List Price: \$119 (£93) **FHB Price: £79**



Family Finder + Y-37 DNA Kit

Current List Price: \$181 (£142) **FHB Price: £109**



mtDNA (maternal) DNA Kit

Current List Price: \$159 (£125) **FHB Price: £119**

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376



Really Useful Bulletin

Quaker Genealogy

by Lucy Saint-Smith

Who are Quakers?

The Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, is a faith group who believe that there is something of God in everyone. They don't have a fixed creed, but generally adhere to the values of simplicity, truth, equality and peace.

Quakerism began in the 1650s in Britain as a radical Christian movement. They allowed women to speak on religious matters and refused to swear oaths, use titles or pay tithes (mandatory taxes levied by the Church of England). These subversive ideals led to Quakers suffering persecution under both Cromwell and the returning King Charles II. As a result of this, they kept detailed records to use as evidence of their actions, and as a witness to how they were treated. This record-keeping became ingrained in Quaker culture and has left behind many useful documents for historians and genealogists.



Left: A Woman Forbidden to Speak in the Church was published in 1654. It was the first of many pamphlets Quakers wrote using biblical arguments to defend the right of women to preach.

*Courtesy of the Library of the Society of Friends
© Britain Yearly Meeting*

The term Quaker was actually coined as a slur, used by the judges and guards who were oppressing the Society of Friends. It's generally suggested that the term refers to Quakers trembling as they worshipped. Members of the Society use the word Friends to describe one another, but they have also adopted the word Quaker and it is fine to use either.

Later generations of Quakers became involved in the abolition of slavery, war relief work and the support of conscientious objectors. Many Friends became successful in business. Several companies that are well-known on the British high street, including Cadbury's chocolate, Barclay's bank and Clark's shoes, were started by Quaker families.

There are around 23,000 Quakers in Britain today. As well as being a faith community, they do peace work and campaign for climate and economic justice. You can find out more about this here:

www.quaker.org.uk.

This article is about British Quakers, but there are also communities of Quakers all around the world. To find out more about this see: <https://fwcc.world>

Meeting structure

Quakers use the single term 'meeting' to mean church, congregation and service. During a meeting, Friends will sit in silence unless they feel themselves called upon to speak by God.

It is useful to have a basic understanding of the administrative structure of Quakers in Britain in order to find any relevant records. You can find a complete guide to the terminology here: www.quaker.org.uk/documents/subject-guide-meetings-glossary-2020.

The most important thing for a genealogist to know is that local meetings in a region send representatives to a monthly meeting (since 2007 monthly meetings have been known as area meetings, but as we are advising on historical research, we will use the term 'monthly' meeting throughout). This is where issues of membership are dealt with, so Quakers are considered members of their monthly meeting rather than their local worshipping group. It is the monthly meeting records that are most likely to be useful to genealogists.

You will also see references to quarterly meetings. These are no longer part of the organisational structure, but they used to be comprised of representatives from the monthly meetings across one or two counties. Some records, such as the membership lists, are grouped by quarterly meeting.



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How do I know if my ancestors were Quakers?

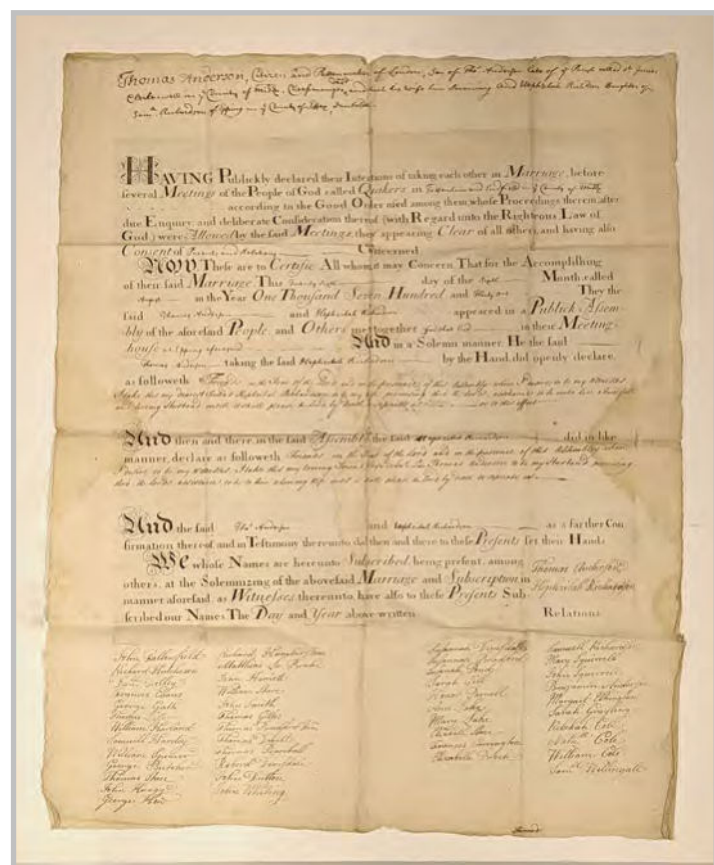
Birth, marriage and death records

From the mid-seventeenth century, nearly all monthly meetings, some local meetings and some quarterly meetings kept register books of births, marriages and burials (Quakers do not practise baptism). These records are the first place to look if you believe one of your ancestors was a Quaker.

Between 1840 and 1842, under the Non-Parochial Registers Act, the Society surrendered these original registers to the Registrar General. The registers are now all kept at the National Archives in Kew, and the contents are available on most of the big genealogy websites.

Scottish Quaker BMD records are held at the National Records of Scotland, and they can be searched online using Scottish Indexes: www.scottishindexes.com

There are often multiple records for the same event, one in the Quarterly Meeting register and one in the Monthly Meeting register for example. It is worth looking at both as they may contain slightly differing information. The information recorded was not standardized until the late eighteenth century, so can vary from area to area.



Birth records often include the name of the midwife and any other people who were present at the birth. Depending on the location they might also contain the occupation of the father. Quakers who were not born into the faith sometimes added a back-dated birth record, particularly in the earlier years of the movement.

As early Quaker marriages were not recognized by the state, Friends had every person who had witnessed a marriage sign the wedding certificate to give the marriage more validity. These names are mostly transferred into the registers, so most Quaker marriage records have a list of who attended the wedding. Many wedding records, particularly later when they were standardised, include the names of the bride and groom's mothers as well as their fathers.

Below left: The wedding certificate of Thomas Anderson and Hepzibah Richardson who were married in 1731. This is the file copy of the certificate, demonstrated by the names of the witnesses all copied in the same hand. Each person would have signed the original themselves. Courtesy of the Library of the Society of Friends © Britain Yearly Meeting

Although Quaker records are generally substantial, Friends sometimes failed to make entries in the registers, and some of the earlier registers were lost prior to the handover to the Registrar General. Additionally, after the original registers were surrendered, most Quaker meetings continued to keep their own birth, marriage and burial records but these are not available online, so these are not as useful for identifying later Quakers.

An indication that a person was not a Quaker is the existence of a Church of England baptism, marriage or burial record. Having any of these services performed in the established Church was a disownable offense (see below), so, at the time they were performed, the person was either not a Friend or was willing to forfeit their membership.

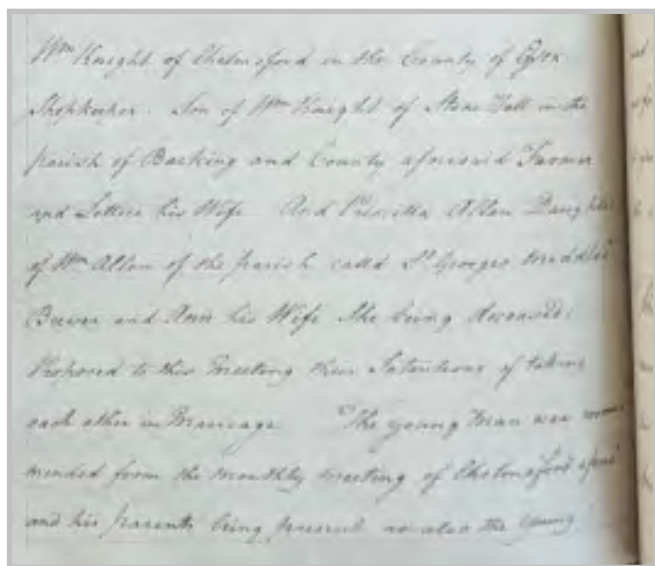
Meeting Records

Meeting records are the next most useful place to search for details of individual Quakers. They are kept in the local area, deposited in the appropriate local archive or library. The majority are not available online. To find meeting records, visit <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> and search for the county of the location of the meeting you're looking for + 'society of friends' e.g. 'Lancashire society of friends'. If you are still unsure of where the records

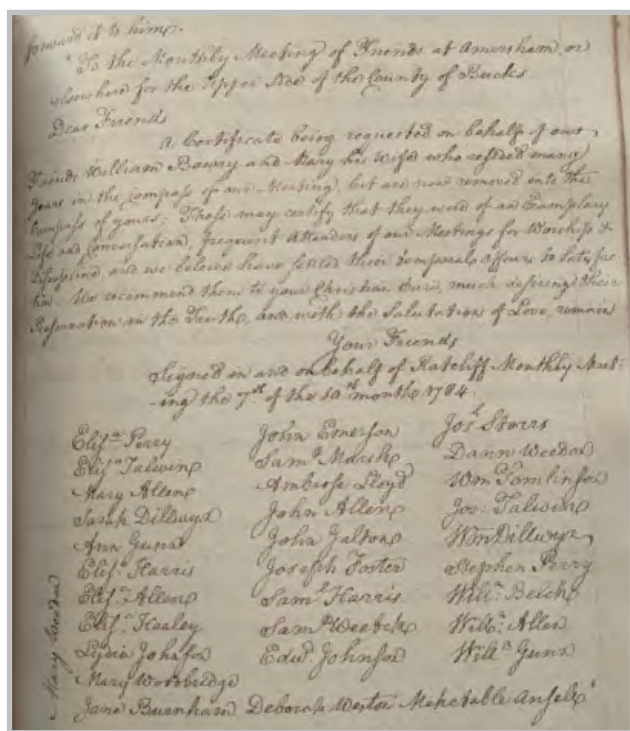


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are, you can contact the Library of the Society of Friends for further help.



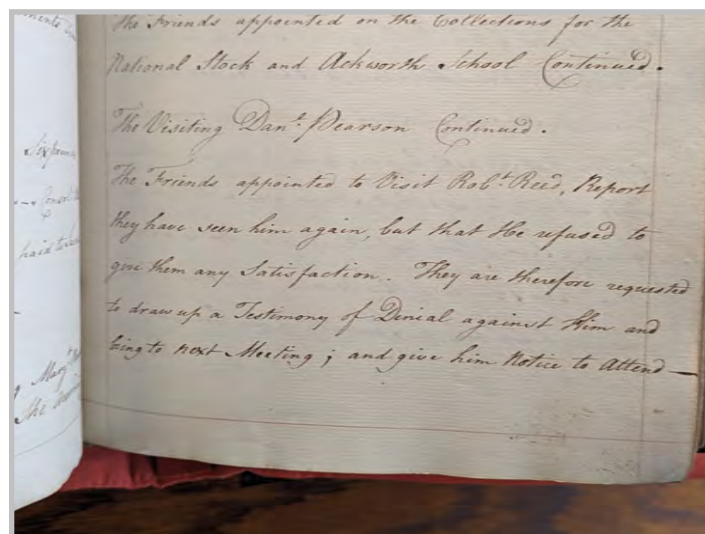
Above: William Knight and Priscilla Allen propose their intention to get married to Ratcliff Monthly Meeting. The meeting would have assigned members to meet with the couple to ensure that they were ready for marriage and a suitable match for each other before giving them permission to go ahead with the wedding. Courtesy of the Library of the Society of Friends © Britain Yearly Meeting



Above: A copy of the removal certificate for William Bowry and his wife of Ratcliff Meeting. The certificate itself would have been given to the Bowrys to present to their new meeting, proving them to be members in good standing. Courtesy of the Library of the Society of Friends © Britain Yearly Meeting

The meeting records will generally be in the form of minute books and some supporting documents. The monthly meeting minute books record the activities of the meetings in the area and matters of membership. You may find applications for membership, declarations of intent to marry, transfer of membership from one meeting to another and disownments, or the termination of memberships.

Disownments were the formal recognition that a member's behaviour was contrary to the beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends and/or brought it into disrepute. Reasons for disownment included drunkenness, arms manufacturing and not attending meetings. The most popular reason was marrying in a church, or "before a priest". This happened when a Friend wanted to marry a non-Quaker or when, as getting permission from the meeting to marry could take a long time, two Friends didn't want to wait. Those who were disowned could continue to attend meetings and could have their membership reinstated at a later date.



Above: The disownment of Robert Reed from Ratcliff Meeting. The disownment process involved nominated Friends meeting with the offending party to discover the truth behind whatever accusation had been thrown at them. If sufficient cause for disownment was found then a testimony of denial was drawn up and circulated to meetings in the area. Courtesy of the Library of the Society of Friends © Britain Yearly Meeting

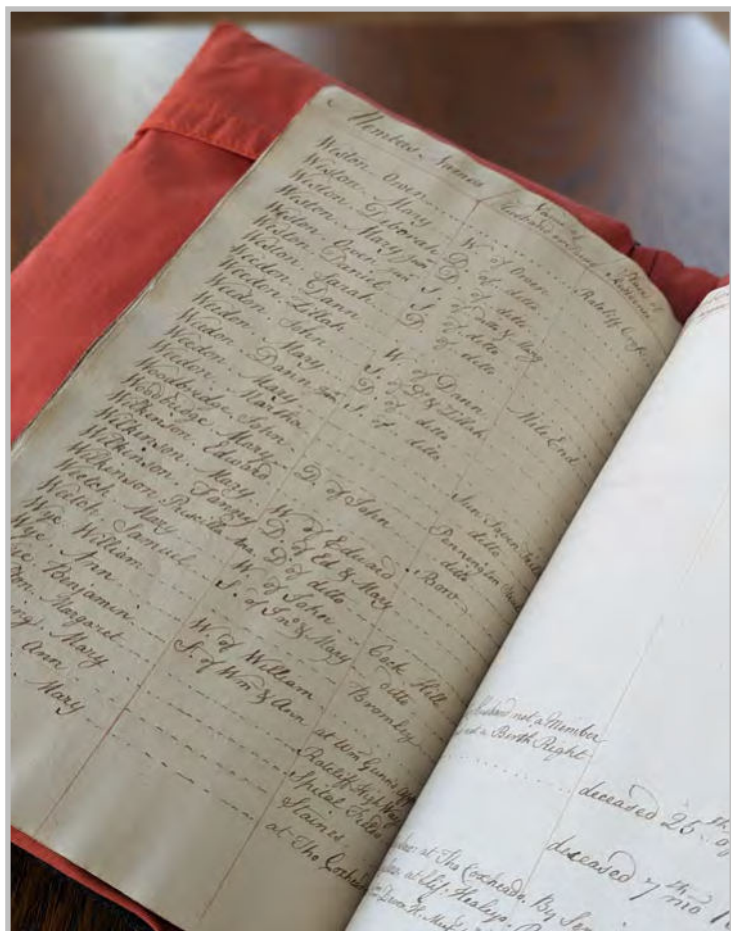
Membership Lists

Handwritten lists of members were started by some meetings in the eighteenth century and were in general use by 1837. Printed lists were produced annually by many meetings from the 1870s. Some list



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only members, whilst others list those who attended meetings without joining as well. These are usually available alongside the meeting records, and the Library of the Society of Friends holds a collection of the printed lists from around Britain, organised by quarterly meeting, then year. For the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this is the easiest way to see if someone was a Friend or not.



Above: An early membership list from Ratcliff Monthly meeting, 1784-1788. Courtesy of the Library of the Society of Friends © Britain Yearly Meeting

Are there any other resources?

The Library of the Society of Friends holds the records of Britain Yearly Meeting, the body that represents Quakers in the UK and carries out work on their behalf. This includes work Quakers organised at a national level such as war relief and overseas missionary work. It also includes national level church governance such as the minutes of Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings (the two highest level governance meetings for the national church). In addition, the library holds the meeting records for London and Middlesex, the world's biggest collection of Quaker publications and a

number of family and personal archives from British Quakers. The library also has large collections relating to British conscientious objectors of all religions.

It is often worth contacting them to see if they have any material relating to your Quaker ancestors, particularly if they were involved with national work. The library cannot carry out extensive research on behalf of enquirers, but they can let you know what they have got and point you in the right direction. You Find out more here: www.quaker.org.uk/library You can also find their genealogy guide here: www.quaker.org.uk/documents/subject-guide-genealogy-2019

The Quaker Family History Society offers a responsive mailing list, a useful journal and a website with several fantastic and freely available resources, including database of Quaker will transcriptions and spreadsheet digests of the birth, marriage and death records for Durham, Essex, London, Norfolk and Suffolk. They are an indispensable resource if you are researching Quaker ancestors. You can find out more about them here: <https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk>



About the author: Lucy Saint-Smith is a Library and Archives Assistant at the Library of the Society of Friends. Her work includes supporting researchers in navigating the Library and talking about the collections to groups of all ages. Lucy is pictured alongside a bronze bust of George Fox in the Library of the Society of Friends.

You can find out more about the Library of the Society of Friends at www.quaker.org.uk/library

Ed: There is a chapter devoted to Quaker research in *Introducing Nonconformist Records—Explaining Nonconformist Records for Family Historians* by Ian H Waller FSG FGRA, which is available from Family History Books [click here](#) for details.



Family History Societies



FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

LIVE
in 2024

Saturday 15 June 2024

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

Open 10am—4pm

Calling all societies...

If you would like to book a stall at this event, please email:

shopmanager2@nottsfhs.org

Not for profit groups—free for one or two tables

Commercial exhibitors—£25 for two tables

Join us in

Celebrating fifty years of the Family History Federation

Stalls — Talks — Local advice

Free admission

Free on-site parking

On-site café

www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

East Anglia **LIVE** Really Useful Show will be held on Saturday 20 April 2024

Full details last month—and on www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

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



East Surrey Family History Society

THE FABULOUS VIRTUAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR Saturday 27 January

East Surrey FHS is proud to announce that it will again be hosting The Fabulous Virtual Family History Fair, using Zoom, on Saturday 27 January. Find further information and the links to register on our website at

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/

If you've not visited us before, we host 2 sessions on Zoom, morning and afternoon. We invite lots of other family history societies to join us and put each society into its own breakout room. This is a method of holding lots of little simultaneous meetings using Zoom.

We set up the meeting so you can take yourself around the different societies, just as if you were at a real fair. We even have a virtual pub where you can meet like-minded people to put the family history world to rights as well as a temperance café and the workhouse if you want to park yourself somewhere quiet to consider your next move. We have a designated room for the hard of hearing where we bring helpers to you so you don't have to keep explaining your needs and you are in a one-to-one situation with no noisy background.

And for the first time we will be joined by staff from the Surrey History Centre as well as representatives from the Guild of One-Name Studies.

We run training sessions beforehand so you can practise moving yourself around and we also teach you to screen share so you can produce your own documents for advice or maybe look at a map – in fact we try to do anything that can help you to get the best experience from your visit to our fair.

At our last fair we had societies from Scotland, East Anglia, the south west, home counties, the north west and others. Our most successful customer visited 6 different societies in one session and obtained answers to all her questions. Why not try to beat her record?

If your society has not signed up, it is not too late to book a room – the sooner the better to publicise your presence!



Some of our dedicated band of researchers dealing with enquiries.



Dorset Family History Society

OPEN WEEKEND AT DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY'S RESEARCH CENTRE

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th February

It's a new year and time for many to take up new pursuits or to resume old ones. For experienced family history researchers, anyone just thinking of researching their family tree or those who have started but need some helpful advice to continue their research, Dorset Family History Society is here to help at their Treetops Research Centre in Fleets Lane, Poole.

To give everyone the chance to see what the society has to offer they are holding an Open Weekend at

**Treetops Research Centre,
Suite 5 Stanley House,
Fleets Lane, Poole,
BH15 3AJ**

10am to 3pm



Inside the research centre

The centre has access to all the major family history websites, parish register transcriptions for Dorset and miscellaneous information from other counties, monumental inscriptions, an extensive library and a sales area.

Experienced volunteers are available to give one-to-one help and guidance to everyone, not only those with Dorset ancestors but for wherever your ancestors came from. Both members of the society and non-members are welcome to call in.

Find Dorset FHS, a Registered Charity No 801504, on www.dorsetfhs.org.uk, FaceBook, X (formerly Twitter), phone us on 01202 785623 or email contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk

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Really Useful Bulletin

The Proposed Destruction of Original Wills

by Richard Holt

Bonkers, Barmy, Bananas

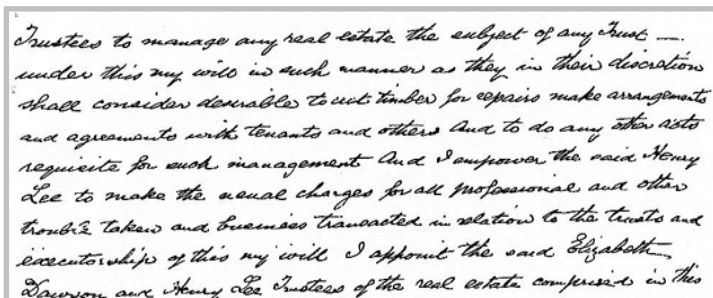
On 15 December 2023, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published a consultation <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/storage-and-retention-of-original-will-documents> seeking views on the proposed destruction of post-1858 original wills and other documents. The MoJ also published a press release <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/easier-access-to-historic-wills-under-new-government-plans> on the same day, as well as sharing a video <https://x.com/MoJGovUK/status/1735642204809351595?s=20> on their social media accounts. The published information suggests that the estimated cost of ~£4.5m for the probate contract with Iron Mountain cannot be justified. As a result the MoJ is looking to digitise and then destroy millions of documents. This has been labelled as 'bonkers', 'barmy' and 'bananas', not to mention 'insane'.

Read on to find out what you can do to try and prevent the destruction of these documents.

Does Digitisation = Preservation?

While I, for one, welcome digitisation as a means of access to original wills, it is ***not*** a method of preservation. Digital preservation is an entirely different matter and involves attempts to enable digital files to be available for as long as possible. The original documents cannot be preserved unless they are kept. Many of us have experienced the issues with the British Library following the cyber attack that occurred in October 2023. What would happen to probate documents should there be similar issues?

Those of us who use digital images of documents on a daily basis, for example via *Ancestry* or *FindMyPast*, know that digitisation projects are not infallible. Issues that we come across daily include pages or entire documents that have been missed, poor quality images and images that are incorrectly catalogued. This list is by no means exhaustive!



Extract from 1900 will in editor's personal collection.

Digitisation: an infallible process?

In August 2023, I ordered a copy of a will that had been proved in 2022, so had been digitised under the current scheme for original wills that has been running since 2021. It is this same scheme that the MoJ is looking to extend to all wills. The original will I received was missing a page and the document had to be retrieved and rescanned. What would have happened had I not ordered the will until twenty-five years after it has been proved? The current proposals suggest that the original will would have been destroyed and thus the information that the page contained would have been lost forever.

Genealogist Jane Roberts ordered a soldier's will, but received the wrong document. Soldier's wills have all been digitised, but Jane uncovered what seemed to be an issue with the digitisation of a whole batch of soldier's wills. Iron Mountain responded to her by saying:

... we are looking at rescanning the affected soldiers' wills and will correct yours in due time...

So how expensive is it to preserve the physical documents?

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the MoJ, Mike Freer, explained that

genealogists, historians and amateur family archivists will be better able to access historic wills under [the] proposals...

Unfortunately, some of the information provided does not seem to line up with other published information.

For example the costs of the probate contract are not in the region of ~£4.5m. Figures released by the MoJ in response to my Freedom of Information request show the following:

2022/23 = £3,692,899
2021/22 = £3,435,533
2020/21 = £3,627,597
2019/20 = £3,191,070

These figures are, according to the MoJ, *annual spends for the contract as it stands*.

It's inaccurate to say that the costs rise each year, when this was not the case in 2021/22. Information released to another member of the public via Freedom of Information shows that the MoJ holds no information relating to *the annual costs... that will be required for the digitised system*.



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It's very difficult to respond to the issue raised by the MoJ in relation to costs, or indeed the possible savings that will be made by keeping digital-only copies of documents. The MoJ is placing the responsibility for seeking alternatives to destruction of the documents on the public when it asks: *Are there any alternatives, involving the public or private sector, you can suggest to their being destroyed?*

Who is currently responsible for the documents?

The responsibility for these records, in law, lies with the High Court. This law was formally expressed under the Public Records Act 1958, but was replaced by the Supreme Court Act 1981, Section 124. HMCTS, an executive agency of the MoJ, is responsible for probate documents which are housed by Iron Mountain at the Probate Records Centre in Birmingham.

I am no legal expert, but I believe the law would need to be changed or amended in order for these records to

- a) have responsibility for them passed to another organisation or
- b) destroyed.

Changing the law is definitely something that is being suggested by the MoJ consultation.

I am not certain how the Electronic Communications Act 2000 (ECA) provides the basis for digitising and then destroying documents that were originally created on paper or parchment. It was my belief that the ECA provided the legislative basis for creating a digital version of a communication or document that had only been previously made in physical form. I may have misunderstood this and welcome comments from others who may be more informed. I am aware that the MoJ is also looking into testators creating a will in digital format only. The *Law Society Gazette* reported in October 2023 that "electronic wills could become an immediate reality if parliament wishes."

What can I do about the proposals?

There is much more that could be said on this issue, but here is what you can do make your views known. I would encourage you to do one or all of the following:

1. Respond to the consultation by 23rd February

Anyone, anywhere in the world can respond to the consultation. This is a worldwide issue! The proposals may affect people anywhere in the world with English and Welsh ancestry, as well as historical researchers in other countries. You can view the consultation documentation here <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/storage-and-retention-of-original-will-documents> and respond to the address or email below:

Write to:

Will Storage Consultation, Ministry of Justice,
Postpoint 5.25,
102 Petty France,
London SW1H 9AJ

Email: civil_justice_poli@justice.gov.uk

2. Sign the petition

I created the petition as a way to let the Government know that original wills should be preserved. Not the digital files, the actual original documents! British citizens anywhere in the world can sign the petition, as well as UK residents. The Government will respond at 10,000 signatures and will consider the petition for debate in Parliament at 100,000 signatures. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/654081>

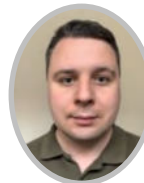
3. Write to your MP

Write to your MP and share your views on the MoJ proposals.

4. Invite others to do the above

You could help raise awareness by inviting others to do the steps above by sharing via social media, email, text message and so on and so forth. Think of people you could personally send an invitation to, be they family members, friends or associates.

Please help us to #SaveOurWills.



About the author: Richard Holt is a professional genealogist who runs [Holt's Family History Research](https://www.familyhistoryresearch.co.uk). Prior to becoming a professional researcher, he worked in a number of schools as an early years teacher and senior leader. He has a deep-rooted belief that learning is a lifelong endeavour. Richard also tutors for Pharos Tutors, teaching their *Apprenticeship Records* and *Victorian Crime and Punishment* courses. He presents talks to family history societies, the Society of Genealogists and Legacy Family Tree webinars. Richard is an Associate of AGRA (Association of Genealogist and Researchers in Archives) and currently serves on their council as the associate representative. He is also the co-chair of AGRA's East of England network group, and chair of the marketing committee.

The above article is by independent author Richard Holt.

The executive committee of the Family History Federation (FHF) supports the stance that there is no case for destruction of original wills.

Every FHF member society has been invited to comment to FHF to enable FHF to make a formal response.

Each individual family historian should take action.

Sign the petition now and respond to the Ministry of Justice by 23 February.

SAVE OUR WILLS!



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Federation



The celebrations include the Annual Meeting on 11 May which will be held at **Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission**, City Road, London with a special format.

There is to be a guided tour of the famous **Bunhill Fields Burial Ground** in the afternoon.

Each member society has been sent full details and invited to send representatives. Please ensure your society responds promptly to:

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

Also this year there are LIVE REALLY USEFUL Family History Shows, two are already confirmed.

Come and join the celebrations!

Calling Speakers

The Federation is updating the list of available speakers which is included on its website. This is a key link for groups to locate speakers on particular subjects—and equally for speakers to promote themselves! If you are a speaker and would like to be included, please email admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

Editorial Comment

It is sad to report closure of friendly and helpful family history societies (overleaf). Why are they closing? Because they cannot get people to take on roles!

This problem is not restricted to family history. We hear of other groups struggling to find volunteers for their committees, yet they have plenty of members.

Do you belong to a family history society? If so, get volunteering! If not, you should join either that near to where you live, or that in the area from which your forebears came.

Do please volunteer to support and help run your family history society. **You** could be key to it both continuing and flourishing.

Check the Date!

It is such a pity when key family history activities clash! We encourage all groups to put their dates onto GENEVA. It stands for genealogical events! Also, do check what is on GENEVA *before* fixing your local key meetings or events. GENEVA is part of GenUKI.

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

Join the Family History Federation

All groups concerned with family history, whether directly or indirectly, are welcome to join the Federation. Groups should have existed for at least twelve months, have a governing document, have at least ten members, and publish a journal or newsletter and/or run a website.

There are various membership types to suit groups in Britain or overseas, and also those which are within other umbrella organisations.

Full details of who can join, and how to apply, are on the website: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/join> or email admin@familyhistoryfederation.com to discuss what would suit your group best.



We look forward welcoming new members to the Family History Federation family.

The door is always open!

Out and about

Here we are at the beginning of 2024 and planning to attend events to promote the Federation and its member groups, and also attend those local family history fairs when the bookshop will be included.

Confirmed for March are:



7-9 March

Creative Craft Show, Glasgow

14-17 March

Creative Craft Show, Birmingham



16 March

The Family History Show, Malvern + bookshop

Book the dates—drop by our stand to say hello to our friendly volunteers. They love talking to family historians!





Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Christmas Giveaways—the Results



There was an amazing response to our Christmas Giveaways with over seven hundred entries from *Bulletin* subscribers. Those drawn at random have all been contacted. They are:

Sally, West Sussex
David, Hampshire
David, Wales
Anne, Derbyshire
Dave, Gloucestershire
Marion, Kent
Kerry, Australia
Sharon, Northern Ireland

Well done, everyone! Enjoy your winnings.



**Catholic
Family History
Society**

**CATHOLIC FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY**

Sadly this society has been dissolved due to lack of volunteers to run it. It was founded in 1983 and since that time has brought to light a large amount of material for family history research.

The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society will now add the Catholic FHS material to its already substantial Catholic collection.

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society—
<https://mlfhs.uk/>

Sylvia Dibbs

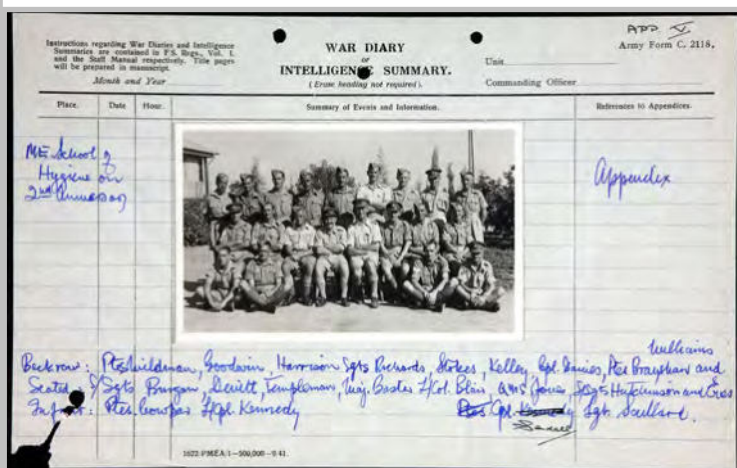


FREE WEBINARS

The National Archives are running online family history webinars focusing on researching the military history of family members. They are free and include a live Q&A with the speaker at the end of the talk so attendees can ask any questions they would like relevant to the subject. The final two webinars in the series are below.

Family History: Using Prisoner of War Records Saturday 27 January 2024, 10:30

Discover all you need to get started researching ancestors who were taken as prisoners of war during the Second World War. You'll be introduced to POWs from across different theatres of war and some of the key records held by The National Archives. We'll cover records which relate to individuals as well as records about the administration of individual camps. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-history-using-prisoner-of-war-records-tickets-753883153807?aff=oddtcreator>



Middle East School of Hygiene second anniversary group photo, war diary 1941-45

Family History: Using Second World War Army Records Saturday 3 February 2024, 10:30

Learn about records relating to army service including personnel records and operational records such as war diaries. Much of this material is available for the first time following the recent transfer of historic service personnel files from the Ministry of Defence to The National Archives. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-history-using-second-world-war-army-records-tickets-753889522857?aff=oddtcreator>



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*
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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

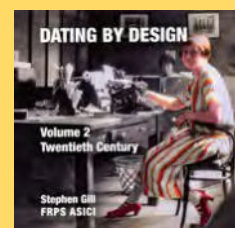
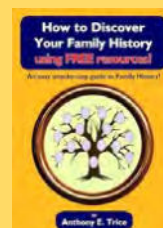
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Company Number 2930189 (England & Wales) Registered Charity Number 1038721

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