



FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 49

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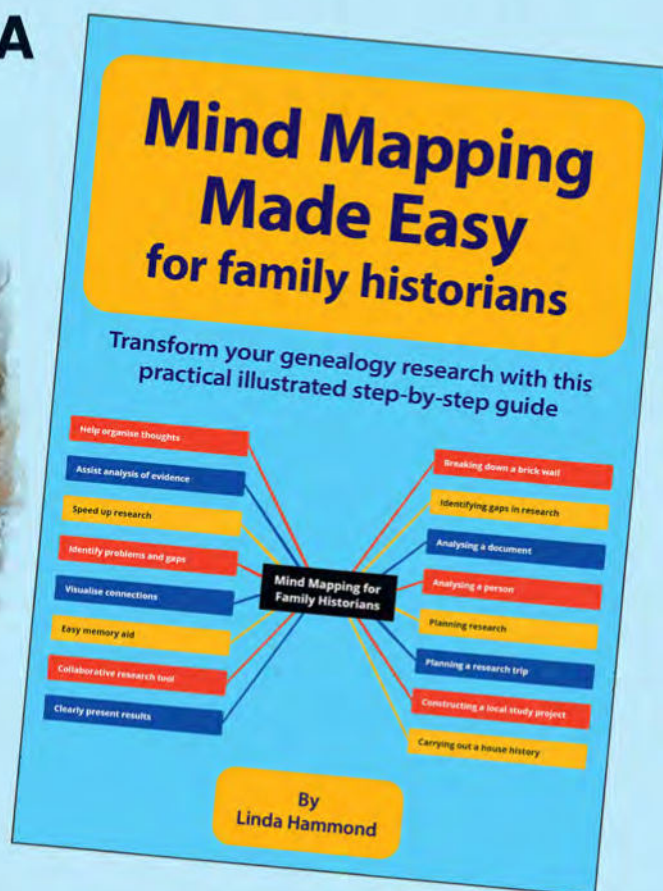
Welcome to the latest edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*
inside find...

Lead article is *The Importance of Researching Women in Family History*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

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Really Useful Bulletin

The Importance of Researching Women in Family History

by Emma Jolly

One of the joys of family history research is the discovery of our ancestors' stories. Once we have plotted the bare bones of birth, marriage and death details, we have the richer experience of adding layers of life through the use of various historical documents. Sadly, in the past, genealogy research has tended to overlook the detailed lives of women in the family tree. Women's contributions and experiences were frequently under-recorded or marginalised, making them less visible in historical records. Despite the challenges, uncovering the lives of our female ancestors can give us a more nuanced understanding of our ancestry. This article explores the significance of researching various categories of women in family history, including women at war, unmarried women, women without children, women who died young, and remembering to check the wills of unmarried sisters of direct ancestors.



Women at war

Women have played crucial roles in wartime, often stepping into roles traditionally held by men. Researching women in your family who were involved in wars, whether as nurses, factory workers, or even in military service, can reveal stories of resilience and courage. For example, during the First and Second World Wars, many women served in auxiliary roles, such as in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps or as VADs carrying out nursing or

transport duties. They provided essential services, from medical care to logistical support, which were crucial to the war efforts.

The image left is of the Monument to the Women of World War II, situated in London's Whitehall near the Cenotaph. This monument commemorates over seven million women, including 650,000 in military service, symbolising their sacrifices during wartime. Unveiled in 2005 by Queen Elizabeth II as part of the sixtieth anniversary of VE Day events, it pays tribute to women's contributions on both the battlefield and the home front, as represented by the seventeen sets of clothing symbolising diverse wartime roles. It's crucial to acknowledge that despite their pivotal roles, many women did not receive proper recognition until decades later. It's quite shocking how the contributions and skills of women, particularly, appear to have been disregarded after the war. This emphasises how valuable it is for us as genealogists to research this area. It remains under-researched and as more veterans die, there are fewer people left to record what took place. We owe it to our relatives to share their stories: for many the time for them to share their own experiences never arrived.

Exploring military records, war diaries and personal letters can help uncover these hidden stories. For instance, the diaries of female nurses can offer personal insights into the experiences of women on the front lines, highlighting their bravery and the challenges they faced. Additionally, understanding the societal expectations and limitations placed on women during these periods can provide context to their roles and actions. One of my top tips for researching women in war, as well as women in our family trees generally, is to create a detailed timeline of your female ancestors' lives between 1939 and 1945 is invaluable for thorough research. Compile existing records, including addresses, occupations, hobbies and details from newspaper reports, into a structured timeline using a database, a writing app, or traditional pen and paper.

I wrote *My Ancestor Was a Woman at War* (Society of Genealogists, 2013), a guide to researching female ancestors in wartime, over ten years ago. Despite being a decade old, the book's fundamental guides on locating records remain relevant. While I may be biased, I still refer to it as a starting point for researching women of the Second World War and recommend it as a useful primer on the topic.



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Unmarried Women

Unmarried women, often referred to as spinsters in the past, have often been marginalised or overlooked in traditional family history approaches. Typically, genealogists focus on their direct line and have had to search harder to find records relating to the unmarried female forebears. However, we should note that it was often these women who played pivotal roles within their families and communities. For example, many took on responsibilities such as caring for ageing parents, raising siblings or nieces and nephews, or contributing economically by working in various trades or professions. It's worth looking out for details of these relations in records as diverse as death certificates (where they may appear as informants), in local trade or street directories or on electoral registers, and in the log books or magazines of schools or Sunday schools that may be held in a local record office.

Census records, employment documents, and community records can provide valuable information about these women's lives. Unmarried women might be found in educational records, as they often became teachers or governesses. In some cases, they were involved in social reform movements or charitable organizations, which you may discover through local newspaper research or in records relating to the First World War.

Women without children: the untold stories

Some women in our family trees may have married, and been regularly referred to as "wife of X" dismissing all other aspects of their identity, but those without children often had unique life experiences and contributions that differ from those of their counterparts with children. These women may have been involved in careers, social movements or other pursuits that were less accessible to women tied to traditional family roles. For instance, childless women in the early twentieth century might have been more likely to engage in political activism, education, or travel as they were not bound by the same domestic responsibilities.

Exploring newspapers, personal diaries and correspondence can all help to provide insights into their lives. We may even be lucky enough to find diaries, letters, memoirs or other recollections that can offer a different perspective on the social norms and opportunities of their times. Understanding all women's lives helps us to fully engage with broader societal attitudes towards women and the roles they were expected to play in decades and centuries past. Also, it is important to be open to messages from relatives or others on subscription sites or via social media.

I was recently astounded to learn via an academic researcher that my first cousin 3x removed, Dr Mary Selina Share Jones (Selina), was a pioneering figure in law, being among the first women barristers in England and Wales. She was also a trailblazer in education and medicine. Selina was my great-grandmother Annie Jones Jolly's first cousin. Though Annie lived in London and Selina in Wrexham, the close-knit Jones family frequently travelled and spoke Welsh. While Annie has many living

descendants, Selina had no children. In 1914, she became the first woman to graduate with an LLB from Liverpool with first-class honours. And in 1920, Selina was among the first three women admitted to the Inns of Court but was never called to the bar. She also served as a Medical Officer for Health in Denbighshire, reducing child mortality in Cefn Mawr near Wrexham.

Women who died young

The stories of women who died young are often lost to history, overshadowed by the more extensive records of those who lived longer. However, these short lives can have a profound impact on family dynamics and history. Young women might have died in childbirth, from diseases, or due to accidents, and their untimely deaths could lead to significant changes within a family, such as remarriages or relocations - locally, nationally or overseas.

Researching these women requires careful examination of death certificates, obituaries and burial records. Church, chapel, synagogue and other religious records can also be valuable. These records can provide details on the cause of death, familial relationships and the social circumstances surrounding their deaths. The stories of these women can highlight the fragility of life in past eras and the resilience of families in the face of loss.

I often reflect on the short life of my 4x great-grandmother, Violetta Venables, née Whick, who lived from 1809 to 1832. Her cause of death is not recorded but it may be relevant that she died during a cholera epidemic in Bilston, Staffordshire. The disease spread



From *The Sketch* 8 July 1914, p.8



Really Useful Bulletin

from Bilston into Sedgley, the Black Country parish where she lived. Even though she only lived for twenty-three years, her influence was huge, and she lives on in her many descendants. She had three children before she died: Harriet, Ann, and Elizabeth. My ancestor Harriet had seven children and her daughter, my great-grandmother, had nine. And that's just one branch! I wonder what Violetta would think of all her many descendants. And what, if anything, have I inherited from her . . . There is no photograph or painting, no handwritten words, and she has long faded from living memory but she certainly made her mark.

Wills of unmarried sisters

The wills of unmarried sisters of direct ancestors can be a source of hidden treasures for family historians. These documents often contain details of family relationships, property ownership and personal possessions, offering insights into the daily lives and values of the deceased. Unmarried sisters might have acted as custodians of family history, for example, passing down heirlooms and stories which can be recorded in their wills. I am often surprised at the insight the records of these family tree offshoots can provide into the lives of my direct ancestors.

Wills can also provide clues about the social networks and economic status of these women. For example, bequests to nieces and nephews can reveal connections to other branches of the family that might not be immediately apparent. They can also indicate the financial independence of these women, challenging assumptions about women's economic dependence during certain historical periods.

My 2x great-grandfather, Henry Joseph Barnes (1857-1933) had two sisters who were close to my grandmother's family. The younger sister, Amelia "Millie" Barnes (1861-1930) remained childless and unmarried. Her will was written on 13 February 1925 and she died on 7 April 1930; her will was proved on 8 May that year in London. Despite her working-class occupation of laundress, Millie managed to leave a net estate of £605 7s. 9d. Despite having several siblings and living in Islington in north London, Millie left most of her estate to a "cousin" who lived south of London in Wimbledon. Millie originally had seven older siblings. By 1925, when Millie wrote her will, most of her Barnes siblings were dead: Joseph had died in 1853, George Albert in 1900, Alfred Evans in 1905, and Eli in 1910. This left Mary Ann (Polly; b. 1849), and my great-great-grandfather Henry Joseph (Nen; born c1856) who both had children and lived close by, and James Edward (1853-1940), who had relocated to Leicestershire.

I had not heard of this cousin before reading the will and I was able to add several relatives to the extended family tree. It also interested me to note that Millie's world extended further than the north London boundaries in which I knew her to be active. Through researching backwards to Millie and Pamela's (and my) mutual Ashley family, I discovered they retained links to both Wiltshire and London through the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Millie seemed close to this cousin, Pamela Rachel Gibbs and her daughter Hilda. Notably, she gave little to my ancestor, her brother Henry, who was technically a lodger in her home at the time of her death. As well as bequeathing him "the sum of ten pounds", she describes all the furniture in their shared house that belonged to him: "the bedstead and bedding leather sitting room suite sideboards fender and fire irons and looking glass all of which are present in the front room . . . which is now occupied by him".

As the Stoke Newington area was home to several active churches in the early twentieth century, I didn't know which one Millie attended, if indeed she was a regular churchgoer. However, thanks to the will I know that Millie had an association with St Matthias, Stoke Newington. I have been able to discover more about this church and its parishioners in Thomas Francis Bumpus' *An Historical London Church. A record of sixty-five years' life and work in the church and parish of S. Matthias, Stoke Newington ... With a chapter on "S. Matthias of the Present," by the Rev. Ernest Driver. [With plates.]* (London: Jonathan King, 1913.)

This will provokes further questions for me to explore: how often did the north and south London branches of the family meet? What shared interests did Millie and Pamela have? How close were Mary and Amelia? Did the London branches make regular visits to Wiltshire? Without the answers to these, I remain puzzled as to why Millie chose her cousin as the main beneficiary of the will over closer relatives.

One of the most tantalising parts of the will was the fact that Millie left Pamela Gibbs a photograph of herself and another of my great-great-great-grandmother, Mary: "my photo and my mothers (sic) photo in gilt frames". Pamela Gibbs had only one child - a daughter, referred to in the will as "my second cousin Hilda Pamela Amelia Gibbs". Although she married, Hilda, who died in 1998, appears to have had no offspring. I contacted a relative of Hilda, but, sadly, he did not know what happened to the photographs. So, for now, although I know more about their lives, I still have no idea where those photographs are or how Millie, Pamela, Mary or Nen looked. Hopefully, these photographs still exist. I can only keep my fingers crossed that one day I may find them.



Really Useful Bulletin

Practical tips for researching women in family history

1. **Explore All Available Records:** Women are often under-represented in official records, so it's essential to explore a wide range of sources. Census records, church records, employment records, and newspapers can all provide valuable information.
2. **Look Beyond Marriage Records:** While marriage records are a common starting point, they often mark the beginning of new challenges in tracing women's lives - and only for those who did marry. Consider using other types of records, such as wills, land records and probate files to uncover more details.
3. **Consider Social Contexts:** Understanding the historical and social context can provide insights into the lives of the women you are researching. Consider the societal roles and expectations of women during the periods you are studying.
4. **Connect with Family Members:** Older relatives can be invaluable sources of oral history, providing stories and details that may not be recorded anywhere else. Engaging with family members can also help in identifying photographs, letters and other personal items that belong to women in the family tree.
5. **Join Specialised Forums and Societies:** Many genealogy societies and online forums/social media groups focus on women's history. These can be excellent resources for finding specialised information and connecting with other researchers who share your interests.
6. **Use Creative Search Techniques:** Women's names can change due to marriage, making them harder to trace. Consider searching using maiden names, married names, and even variations or misspellings. Also, explore records where they might be mentioned in connection with male relatives, such as fathers or husbands.

The power of women's stories in family history

Researching the women in our family trees is not just about filling in the gaps in the family narrative; it helps us recognise and appreciate the contributions and experiences of our ancestors. Women's stories add depth and richness to family histories, providing a fuller understanding of the past. They help us appreciate the diverse roles that women have played, from the battlefield to the home, and challenge us to think critically about the societal norms that have shaped their lives.

The contributions of women at war, especially those of the working or lower middle classes have been ignored or undervalued in too many cases. During the centenary

commemorations of the First World War, all kinds of projects and events took place that researched and detailed individual stories, usually of men who died in the war. The basis of this is that each life is of value and that no one should be forgotten. Previously, there were too many names on village and town war memorials of people who had been forgotten. As family historians of ancestors of whatever background, through our research, we are helping others to remember that each of these people lived and had value. Without our research, too many people will be lost to the past. No one will remember them. By extending this to women in all wars, it is essential to remember and honour them. There are women who died or were killed, some of whom had no direct descendants to remember them; and there were others whose contributions went unrecognised in their lifetimes. As family historians, we have a responsibility to honour their memory by recognising and paying tribute to their courage, resilience and determination, thus ensuring they are remembered and appreciated for generations to come.

By exploring the lives of women in various contexts—whether at war, as unmarried individuals, without children, or those who died young—we uncover a more complete picture of their heritage. The wills of unmarried sisters and other legal documents often reveal personal connections and economic realities that are often overlooked. In the course of this important research, we not only honour the women who came before us but also further our understanding of the broader human experience.

About the author:

Emma Jolly is a professional genealogist who deals with a wide range of family history research. She is an expert on genealogical problem solving and writes regularly for family history publications. Her books include *A Guide to Tracing Your Family History using the Census*, *Family History for Kids*, *Tracing Your British Indian Ancestors*, and *My Ancestor Was a Woman at War*.



Emma's book [*My Ancestor was a Woman at War*](#) is available from Family History Books at £9.99 + p&p.

Also her [*A Guide to Tracing Your Family History Using the Census*](#) at £14.99 + p&p.



Family History Societies



Ryedale Family History Group

Where are we? Ryedale is in the heart of Yorkshire, an area centred on the market towns of Malton, Pickering, Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside and a much wider area. Founded in 2005, we followed the boundary designated by the Ryedale District Council, to avoid confusion, however, now that the District Council has been swallowed up into the new North Yorkshire Council, we are anxious to preserve our identity in the largest county in England.

Please see details and the map on our website, www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org



Picture from society website

Research room In the centre of our area, at Hovingham, is our Research Room, open every Thursday, from 10.00am to 3.00pm and other times by appointment, to help both members and guests to discover their family stories. We have one rule – we do not allow anyone to leave until they know something they didn't know when they arrived! We have a team of volunteers on hand to help, with a wide range of knowledge.

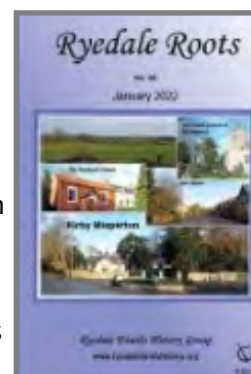
Monthly meetings On the third Wednesday in each month, except December, a speaker is invited. Many of our meetings are held by Zoom, allowing our members all over the world to join in. Where possible, our meetings are hybrid, ie live at a venue in Ryedale and Zoom worldwide, which is absolutely FREE to anyone who would like to join in to hear our speakers.

Zoom Free to members, our Zoom sessions are very popular. There are three sessions every week. On Monday evenings we have the benefit of the vast experience of a member in British Columbia, who gives us hints and tips about various aspects of research. On Tuesday evenings, we have a session all about DNA and, on Thursday mornings, coinciding with our Research Room, a very popular session for general family history. Whilst these sessions are free to all members, visitors are

also welcome to attend, free of charge for a session, but encouraged to become members of the Ryedale Family History Group for further visits.

For a link to join in any of our Zoom meetings, please contact members@ryedalefamilyhistory.org.

Ryedale Roots Our quarterly journal, usually featuring a town or parish within Ryedale and full of stories and articles submitted by members as well as useful information, is issued to members in January, April, July and October.



Membership Our membership year begins on 1st July and membership is only £12 single and £15 for family or overseas members.

Exhibition:

Pastimes of the Past - Growing up in Gilling East

This is the theme for our exhibition which is to be held at the

**Church of the Holy Cross,
Gilling East,
North Yorkshire,
12th and 13th October**



Our plan is to exhibit all our own publications and to introduce a new book, written by four former residents of the village and edited by the one remaining author who now lives in South Australia. The book, *Gilling East, Ryedale: the 1940s and 50s Remembered* is now available from our website and the Parish Chest and will be on sale at the exhibition.

Our team of volunteers will be on hand at the exhibition to help with family history questions.

For further details and local information, please contact editor@ryedalefamilyhistory.org

Society website:

www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org

Parish Chest shop:

www.parishchest.com/ryedale-fhg-3497.php



Family History Societies



Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society

The Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society, which celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year, began life as the Leicester Family History Circle. The first members were attendees from family history classes run by local historian Jonathan Wilshire, who was appointed as the first chairman. A limit of fifty members existed at first and the annual fee was just fifty pence!

To commemorate our fiftieth year we have created an exhibition charting our history and with a range of members' stories. Our main celebratory event takes place on

Saturday 5th October
at the
Adult Education Centre,
Belvoir Street, Leicester
from 10.00 – 15.00

This a **FREE** family history day with a programme of talks, local exhibitors, a family history helpdesk and lots of activities for children including the creation of memory boxes. Full details are on our website www.lrfhs.org.uk and all are welcome, with no need to book.

The LRFHS currently has a Research Centre in Leicester's famous Every Street which has a great view [below] over the city's historic Town Hall Square. We're open three days a week (plus second Saturday) and alongside these regular sessions, we also run half-day courses on various aspects of family history research for both members and non-members.



We provide a search service via email or post for members (and non-members) with family history queries or challenges and these searches are wide-ranging in scope. We have recently helped with researching the lives of those involved in the Manton Tunnel accident of May 1924, someone finding a link with Leicester suffragette Alice Hawkins and an enquiry which led to us locating a local house where a founder member of Club Athletico, Penarol lived. Our first enquiry from Uruguay!



Photo researchers at work

Over the last fifty years the society has produced a large number of indexes and although a lot of this data is now available online the LRFHS does have quite a few resources which have not yet been digitalised. A full list of our seventy-five resources (available via download, memory stick or CD) can be found under Shop on our website and prices start at just £2.

The society has four local groups – in Leicester, Market Harborough, Hinckley and Oakham – and during the winter months we also organise a series of zoom talks.

LRFHS Publicity Officer, Sue Lester, says, 'Our Golden Jubilee year is an exciting milestone in the society's history. We are very grateful to all the members and volunteers who, over the last fifty years, have supported the society and worked hard in so many capacities to ensure we are still in existence today.'

Interested in joining us as we move into our fifty-first year? Special Golden Jubilee Offer - join now and get the rest of 2024 and **ALL** of 2025 for one membership fee.

To find out more :-

LRFHS, Rutland Suite,
7-9 Every Street, Leicester
LE1 6AG

Website: www.lrfhs.org.uk
Email: publicity@lrfhs.org.uk

Tel (during opening hours) : 0116 255 9738

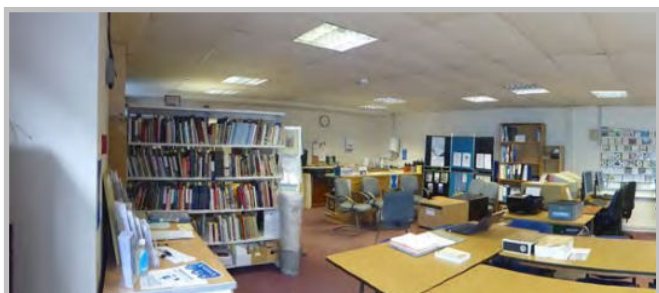


Family History Societies



Dorset Family History Society

OPEN WEEKEND AT TREETOPS



**Saturday 5th
& Sunday 6th October 2024**
10am to 3pm

**Dorset Family History Society's Research Centre,
Suite 5 (downstairs) Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane,
Poole, BH15 3AJ**

Everyone Welcome

No booking necessary

See website www.dorsetfhs.org.uk for details



Dorset Family History Society also offers

Introduction to Family History Workshop

Thursday 17 October 2024
10.00am—2.30pm

This event is for those who are wanting to start or have recently started their family history research. During the workshop there will be a presentation plus the opportunity to look at a range of census returns plus birth, marriage and death certificates and discuss the findings.

A very limited number of places are available, so booking is essential.

Cost: £7 per person; non-members are welcome.

To book a place email education@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Venue: Treetops Research Centre, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole BH15 3AJ



Doncaster & District Family History Society

Doncaster and District Family History Fair

Saturday 12th October 2024
10.00am - 4.00pm

Two free history talks!

In the morning at 11.15am a talk on the history of Hyde Park Cemetery.

In the afternoon 2.15pm a talk on the Falklands War.

Lots of Heritage Displays.

Raffle prizes as well.

The location is the same as last year,
Old Art College events room,
on **Church Walk** behind the Minster.

There will be a small entry fee of £1, but the event will be free for anyone under the age of 16 years.
Refreshments will be available for a small fee.

<https://doncasterfhs.co.uk/ddfhs-fair/>



The above map is from the society's website where it can be enlarged.



Family History Societies

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

Save the
date!

South West FHF Really Useful Family History Show

Saturday 29 March 2025

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



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



Scan me for
more details

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

Suffolk FHS Fair



Fascinating talks, interesting
displays/stalls from Family History
and related organisations

+ Free family history help desk (from 11:00-15:00)

- 11:00 My Ancestor was an Agricultural Labourer
- 12:00 Break
- 13:30 "The Last Revolt" of the Agricultural Labourers:
The Swing Riots in Suffolk & Norfolk 1830
- 14:30 Break
- 15:15 The Suffolk Trinity: Unravelling Ancestral Ties to
Suffolk's county animals & a family connection

Saturday 19th October 2024

10am to 4.30pm

Free entry

The Hold
131 Fore St
Ipswich IP4 1LN
Car parks nearby



Join SFHS

Benefits of being a member of SFHS

- Quarterly Suffolk Roots Journal
- Discount on CD's and downloads
- Members Help Forum
- Extra resources on website

[SFHS Page](#)

[Facebook](#)



Charity No 108774

EAST SURREY Family History Society

Virtual Family History Fair

Saturday, 25 January 2025

Sessions: 10.00 to 12.00 | 14.00 to 16.00

East Surrey FHS will again be hosting our
fabulous Virtual Family History Fair in 2025.

Enjoy all the benefits of a family history show from
your own armchair, **FREE** of charge, using Zoom.

Go to our website to register for either or both sessions.
www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk and follow the [Events](#) link.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing details about joining the fair.

Bring your specific questions to get the best from the event.

Organisations already confirmed as attending

Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS | Berkshire FHS
East Surrey FHS | Essex Society for Family History
Family & Community Historical Research Group
The Guild of One-Name Studies | Hampshire Genealogical Society
London Westminster and Middlesex FHS | Romany and Travellers FHS
Sussex Family History Group | West Middlesex FHS
Keep checking our website for the latest information



www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

NextGENeration

2024

Discoveries



Society of
Genealogists

Are you ready to embark on an extraordinary journey through
time and around the world? Join us on 5th October when the
Society of Genealogists and the Family History Federation
present **NextGENeration Discoveries**, an online conference with
a difference. Opens at 9.30am BST and offers
almost twelve hours of inspirational talks.
Pay what you can. Scan or use link opposite.

Book here: [https://members.sog.org.uk/
events/66141a9f1fce380008a49ebe/description](https://members.sog.org.uk/events/66141a9f1fce380008a49ebe/description)





Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Come and meet the Fed—out and about



In the coming weeks, the volunteer team will be at a number of hobby/craft shows promoting family history generally and advertising member FHS, too. The latest Family History Book titles will also be on display.

The team will also be at several specialist family history events where the bookshop will be present for you to stock up on winter reading—or Christmas gift books.

26-28 September ICHF Creative Crafts, Westpoint Showground, Exeter

5 October The Family History Show, Kempton Park Racecourse (bookshop)

19 October Suffolk FHS Fair, Ipswich (bookshop)

26 October Oxfordshire FHS fair, Oxford (bookshop)

24-26 October ICHF Creative Crafts, Glasgow

Archive Transcription Projects

How many times have you asked yourself

‘If only I had known my local archives had transcribed a certain document’

or

‘If only my local archives had the resources to transcribe a set of documents in their care’

Here is your chance to make this wish a reality.

In my role as the FHF Archives Liaison Officer, one of my aims, with your help, is to ensure that members of family history societies are always made aware of ‘name rich’ projects that are taking place in their area, and where possible to assist archives in moving ‘name rich’ projects forward.

Do you have connections with local archives or museums or local history groups?

Could you be the valuable link between the Family History Federation, the archives and family historians?

If you have an hour to spare once a month and would like more information about this exciting opportunity, to play a valuable role in the family history community, I would love to hear from you.

Please contact Sadie McMullon,

FHF Archives Liaison Officer

archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com



**THE
GAZETTE**
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD

The Gazette invites family history researchers to help test website

The Gazette, the UK's official public record, is getting ready to launch an updated mobile responsive website and is inviting FHF newsletter readers to join a brand-new Research Group to help test it. Group members who help with user experience

(UX) testing sessions will receive a **shopping gift card** for their time.

Feedback on the look, feel and functionality of the website is extremely important to ensure it meets the needs of visitors – including those who use it for family history research. If you're interested in helping, you can sign up to [The Gazette's Research Group](#), where participants will be selected and invited to other research projects in the future too.

Website UX testing sessions are expected to last between 30-60 minutes, but other research projects will consist of quick surveys.

Signing up is easy. It takes just two minutes, and you can leave at any time. If you have any questions, please call The Gazette's customer services team on 0333 200 2434. Sign up and help shape the future of The Gazette.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3LVAjho>



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:

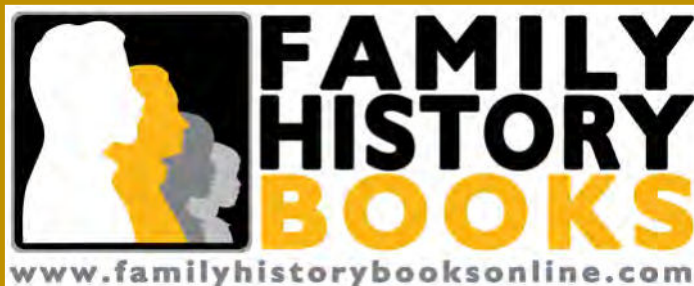
- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations*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



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The latest book is *Mind Mapping Made Easy for Family Historians* featured on the front page. It is selling like hot cakes! *A Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians* was revised and reprinted earlier this year. These titles are what Family History Books exists to do—produce books which help the family researcher!

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LIVE South-West Show 29 March 2025

Kinson Community Centre near Bournemouth BH10 7LH

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