

Fellow Members,

It is my pleasure once again to present a very positive report on the recent activities and progress of our Family History Society. We continue to thrive, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to our core mission of fostering genealogical research and connection.

Our **monthly meetings** remain a cornerstone of our activities, providing invaluable opportunities for members and guests to share their discoveries, learn new research techniques, and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Attendance remains strong, and the diverse range of topics presented continues to be both engaging and informative.

In our ongoing efforts to reach a wider audience and provide accessible resources, our digital presence continues to expand. Our **YouTube Channel** is proving to be a valuable asset, hosting recordings of past presentations, thus allowing those who cannot attend in person to benefit from the expertise shared. Furthermore, our foray into **podcasting** is gaining traction, offering another flexible way for members and the wider community to engage with Society content, and to learn on the go.

Our **Website, Closed Facebook Group and monthly Newsletter** keep everyone up to date with Society information, providing details on upcoming events, membership, resources, and contact information. We are committed to keeping them current and user-friendly.

We are also pleased to announce that **downloadable publications added to the shop** on our website are proving popular. This initiative provides those purchasing our publications with convenient and instant access to our research guides, transcriptions, and historical and local texts, further supporting their individual genealogical journeys.

The **continued support of our IT officer and Webmaster** is absolutely crucial to our ongoing success in the digital realm. Their dedication and expertise ensure the smooth operation of our online platforms and enable us to implement new initiatives effectively.

Our quarterly Journal provides an opportunity for our members and guest authors to publish their work in a periodical well known for its quality. The **exchange journals** we receive from other societies continue to broaden our collective knowledge and provide valuable leads for research beyond our immediate geographical focus. These can now be found conveniently located in the Members' Area of our website.

A recent highlight of our year, to date, was our **successful female convict seminar day**. This focused and insightful event was incredibly well-received, attracting both members and non-members interested in this significant aspect of our history. The positive feedback received underscores the value of these targeted thematic events.

The various **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** continue to be well attended and productive, fostering deeper understanding of specific areas of research and connecting members with shared interests. Their collaborative work is a significant strength of our Society.

I would like to extend **special thanks to the eTeam, the Library Group and Library Volunteers, Snippers, the Publications Group, the Sandgate Group, the Podcasting Team, the Research Group, and to those who coordinate them**. The tireless efforts and dedication of these volunteer teams are the backbone of our Society, and their contributions are deeply appreciated. We are also indebted to those who devote so much time to managing our communications and financial matters to such a high standard.

Finally, I am delighted to **acknowledge the members of the new management committee** shortly to be elected. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm will undoubtedly be invaluable as we continue to navigate the future and pursue our goals.

In conclusion, the Society remains in a strong and dynamic position. With a dedicated membership, a proactive approach to technology, and the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, I have great confidence in our continued growth and success in the year ahead.

Mel Woodford
President, NFHS
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