

# Really Useful Bulletin

No. 67

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provided free by the

**Family History Federation**

Supporting family historians since 1974



Welcome to your latest edition—inside find...

Lead article is *To Work or Get Married – that is the Question!*  
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation



## EXHIBITORS

AGRA; Alde Valley Family History Group;  
Bedfordshire FHS; Burwell Museum;  
Cambridge Ancestry; Cambridgeshire Archives;  
Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire FHS;  
Cambridgeshire Collection; Cheryl Cade Tours;  
Cromwell Museum; Devon FHS;  
East Yorkshire FHS; Essex Society for Family History;  
Family History Federation *plus* Books and Maps;  
Family Tree Maker; FamilySearch; Fenland FHS;  
Families in British India Society (FIBIS);  
Fiona Clare Genealogy; FMP Medals;  
Guild of One Name Studies; Hertfordshire Archives;  
Hertfordshire FHS;  
Huntingdonshire Local History Society;  
Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies;  
Lincolnshire FHS;  
London, Westminster and Middlesex FHS;  
Northamptonshire FHS;  
Nuneaton and North Warwickshire FHS;  
Orders and Medals Research Society;  
Overdale Postcards; Peterborough and District FHS;  
Pharos Tutors; Quaker FHS; R A Longley Publications;  
Ramsey Rural Museum; Romany and Traveller FHS;  
St Neots Museum; Suffolk FHS;  
This Way Books and Cassini Maps; WeAre.xyz

**Take time to visit all exhibitors in the hall!**



## EAST ANGLIA

**Saturday 18 April**

**10am—4.30pm**

**Burgess Hall, Westwood Road,**

**St. Ives PE27 6WU**

Free admission and free parking

**DNA talk by Donna Rutherford**

11am—just £2, book on arrival



**Family Tree Maker**  
software tutorials  
**FREE!**





# Really Useful Bulletin

To work or get married – that is the question!

by Ann Simcock

The early 1960s was an exciting time to be growing up, and like many teenagers, I had hopes and dreams about what I wanted my future to be. Despite being a time of political upheaval, the government was striving to move society forward including giving women more opportunities. The pop culture of the era meant that personally I wanted to marry and not be left on the shelf, but the influences of “women’s lib” and free love clashed with Victorian-reared, parental ideals.

I harboured career ambitions to be either an architect or to go to university and study history; I envisaged these would be feasible alongside marriage. Despite my mother having worked in a drawing office during the war and wanting me to have a superior education, my father considered being an architect as a male preserve! However, school dictated otherwise and the more working-class option of training college and teaching was the path directed for me. The fact that I had hopes and dreams which were far more ambitious than my forebears was just not allowed or worth consideration. They were more concerned with maintaining their socially conditioned roles of “wives, mothers, sisters, mistresses, lovers, employees, political activists and friends”, becoming “social constructs with no physiological context except as a set of symbolic meanings constructing sexual difference”.

So, what has this personal potted history have to do with family history and in particular the discussion of the way external forces shaped the choices which faced women? Firstly, it is important that we do record our own lives for future generations; but it is also important that we are able to divorce ourselves from our own times and consider the world which shaped the choices and decisions that our ancestors faced. Even as late as the 1960s, there were several external forces directing the paths of women’s lives - gender, family, society, class, financial, education and the law. These determinants were stronger and more imposing in times past but still in place when they clouded my choices.

When researching our family history, we begin with the facts, dry statistics on the page. We need to draw people



A first-class postage stamp issued 2018

from those facts and bring them into focus in order to understand how the choices which they had to make not only affected their lives but in turn influenced the direction of our lives. Until recent times recorded history, in the main, had been the preserve of men written by male historians, not least because it is the men who feature most frequently in the records. My studies were dominated by historians like

G.R. Elton and E. Thompson who openly

marginalized women’s place in history. The controlling influences found today were always in place, yet at times changing in emphasis, changing connections complicating the view we take on the paths our ancestors wished to, or could, follow.

It is undeniable that women bore the children and as they became pregnant and recovered, they could be vulnerable. This in turn led to an enduring belief that women were weak and therefore jobs would be restricted to those not needing strength to endure pregnancy. In order to fulfil the expected role of childbearing, society determined that a woman should be married – and childbearing outside marriage a social disgrace. Those unfortunate enough to be born outside marriage were labelled baseborn and illegitimate, with legal restrictions of settlement even at times separating mother and child. Society demanded that the mother provide a home for the family. This ideology lingered until as late as the 1970s. Even the church imposed categories of possible partners; close relations such as siblings which had been allowed in the power politics of earlier civilizations such as Egypt, (Tutankhamun married his sister and so had his father, Akhenaten) were forbidden.

Once married, from earliest times, the wife came under the rule of *couverture* meaning she lost her legal identity. The husband “owned” his wife and all that she possessed and he governed her actions. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, work had been a collaborative, family affair but with industrialization, a rift between home and work appeared; each family member became an independent worker, which included the wife and *couverture* meant that if she worked, her wage went directly to her husband. Shakespeare summed up the situation in Act 3, sc. 2 of *Taming of the Shrew* when Petruchio says...



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*She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house,  
My household stuff, my field, my barn,  
My horse, my ox, my ass, my anything*

Cracks in *couverture* began with the 1857 Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act and this was followed by the 1870 and the 1882 Married Women's Property Acts. Marriage itself imposed its own restrictions of homemaking; the woman's place was in the home, looking after the children, restraining unruly men and providing a stable home life, which in turn, led to a stable society. A woman's sole duty was to home and society. This middle-class ideal filtered down to pervade the lives of all women.

Two considerations arise from the above situations. The weakness of a woman's constitution not only applied to her body but her intellect. Some doctors even believed that a woman's health would suffer if serious study was undertaken. Secondly, a woman did not need an education to perform tasks which she was considered incapable of doing; education would be wasted if not used. Women's education was an unsound financial investment because they would leave, get married and have children. Why, therefore, would women need to go to university and gain a degree when they might also be a disruptive influence at university?



There were committed pioneers in forging a path for women's education both at elementary and higher levels. Frances Buss and Dorothea Beale along with others such as Emily Davies and Anne Jemima Clough, (pictured) the first principal of Newnham College all strove to champion the cause of women's education. In 1878 London University awarded degrees to women

on the same basis as men but Cambridge, even though allowing women to sit for the degree, did not allow them to be awarded until 1947. Throughout the period, subjects and professions for women were limited, not least because of the limitations on education.

As a result of this, many jobs were not open to women. However, they could have training for domestic improvement, and after the 1870 Education Act grants were given to institutions for domestic subjects. This further increased the gender divide and, adding the problem of class, led working-class girls in the direction of one of the few respectable occupations for women, should economic necessity dictate, that of servant. However, some employers demanded that a woman work leave upon marriage.

In many cases, working-class women needed to work to contribute to the support of the family but lack of opportunity forced them into a narrow choice of factory work, service, shop-work, charring or for the poorest, the streets. Middle-class women did not fare much better. Employment was not seen as seemly, particularly for married women as it undermined the male prerogative as the breadwinner. Single women could consider teaching or working as a governess or companion. Upper-class women did not escape either as they were frequently used as pawns in the family power politics of the time.

As the nineteenth century entered its final decades, those women who had been fortunate enough to gain some form of education, had been agitating for rights for women, primarily on the grounds of suffrage; they believed that this would in turn lead to greater freedoms in other areas. Two more determinants were now added into the mix - politics and economics. Despite being vilified, many married working-class women had undertaken employment to keep the family afloat. The First World War meant that men went away to fight leaving a void in the labour market and manufacturing industries needed operatives so married and single women were now encouraged to undertake employment and step into the breach. This was an acceptable situation while the men were away but after the war with returning soldiers, and a surplus of single and widowed women plus national and family economic problems, married women were once again to be restricted to looking after home and family. After all, the husband would provide for his wife and family.

In the late 1890s the ideology that a woman's place is in the home was further endorsed by some firms putting a bar on employing married women; this was introduced in 1894 and not removed until 1946. The ban affected many occupations including teaching, the Post Office and the Civil Service. It had always been a legal requirement that women teachers give up their positions when they married. Where this bar was applied actually forced women into a choice; but it was only a choice if they had the opportunity to choose from the position of having gained the qualifications. Teacher training was both a step forward for women and advancement in a recognized career path but the bar made it a step back imposing severe limitations on their future lives. They were being recognised in a career, but that led to a very difficult life-style choice - if they chose to marry, then after embarking on training and establishing themselves, they had to give it up.

The family of Fanny Gwendoline Gallimore, born in 1902 in Cheshire, illustrates the choices that women had to make. Fanny's mother, Agnetta Matilda Powell had become a teacher under the pupil-teacher system, as had her two sisters. Agnetta met Clement Gallimore, a joiner and they married. Consequently, she gave up her career whilst her



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two sisters remained single, living with their mother and carrying on their teaching careers. Perhaps they were known as “The Miss Powells” working in the same school all their lives and in a small community. Fanny also followed the teaching career path but by the early 1900s she was able to have formal training at Crewe Teacher-Training College. She followed her career for many years but at the age of 56 she married Frederick Oldham, a widower who worked for the Post Office. Fanny died aged 83 in 1975. She had actually followed both a career with a “bar” and marriage, however, marriage coming too late for her to have a family.

By the second decade of the twentieth century more career paths were opening for women; the 1919 Sex Disqualification Removal Act stated that *a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage ... from assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation.* This appeared to make a clearer path for women but whilst in law it enabled married women to work, it did not *entitle* them to do so. Immediately the Civil Service negotiated an exemption.

Training was thought by many to be wasted on women because they would ultimately give up their employment to marry and have children. They would always have divided loyalties between home and work. Society dictated that caring for the family took precedence over a woman working. Single women were more flexible as they could be more geographically flexible. Experienced married women were more expensive and some firms like GWR and the PO offered a gratuity as an inducement to encourage women to marry so that they would leave making way for younger women who were less expensive to employ.

Despite the slowly increasing rights of women in some quarters, restrictions were being imposed in others, and in the aftermath of the First World War, more and more companies were adding the marriage bar to their terms of employment. Companies such as the Bank of England, BOAC, Cadbury’s and GWR stuck to the ideology that *a woman’s place is in the home* in order to provide unemployed men and single women with more opportunities, believing that this contributed to a stable society.

The marriage bar not only forced a lifestyle choice, it affected a married woman’s earnings and pension prospects. The choice affected the options for education paths meaning this decision would be forced on a woman at an early age. There were some categories of women who were not so affected by the marriage bar - those working in the arts, artists, actors and musicians. Women academics were also less affected.

Several women’s groups such as the Open-Door Council and Women’s Freedom League supported the rights of

married women to work. In 1934 they joined together in the Campaign for the Right of the Married Women to Work. However, this came at a time of dire economic depression and many men were out of work; they should be given priority. No organizations recognised the right of a married woman to have fulfilment in a career and family as it was considered that fulfilment could only be achieved in one or the other.

The social responsibility for women’s health was recognised by the 1911 National Insurance Act where women received a maternal health benefit and a one-off maternity grant of thirty shillings until 1913 paid directly to the husband! Today married women who have families are catered for with maternity leave and maternity pay. In the interwar years, this was sadly lacking. Some companies offered unpaid leave and there was no universal practice of maternity pay. The 1931 Anomalies Act barred married women from unemployment benefit unless they could prove that they intended to return to work. It wasn’t until the mid-1970s with the 1975 Employment Protection Act and the introduction of statutory maternity pay in 1987 that these issues began to be addressed. But even with these changes, there were strict criteria to be met and not all women were eligible. It was not until the 2000s that the whole family and employment was considered jointly.

The Second World War meant a shift in the treatment of women and society’s attitude to their marital status. National needs took precedence. The 1941 National Service Act saw the conscription of single women aged twenty to thirty years old and married women were strongly encouraged to work; exceptions were made for those with small infants and school-aged children. The Ministry of Health was still insisting that married women with children should be in the home. The Ministry of Labour disagreed because as many hands as possible were needed for war work.



Poster from WWII

In order to encourage as many women as possible into essential war-work, the government established subsidised provision for childcare. Some local authorities, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, at the insistence of the Ministry of Labour, introduced war-time nurseries. For a small payment, these nurseries offered

childcare for women engaged in war-work in factories. Some nursery schools did exist but their hours were less convenient, so companies wishing to support the war effort



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set up their own crèches. Those women who needed to earn to support families while their husbands were away sometimes had family, friends or neighbours to look after children enabling them to work. Once again, this provision which acknowledged that women could have a family and employment was only supported in time of national crisis and for the good of the state; it was not in any way recognition that a woman had a right to choose to work and raise a family.

Once the war was over, a statement in the House of Commons highlighted the common attitude... *there is a case for saying that since these day nurseries have exhausted their war-time usefulness they should not continue to exist upon an Exchequer grant.* There was of course the same argument that returning soldiers who were unemployed needed jobs and single women who had been employed in the war industries needed peacetime employment. Discrepancies over equal pay for equal work were sometimes camouflaged by jobs being broken down into less skilled tasks for the women, meaning lower wages. However, the assumption was that married women, particularly those with children, should return to look after the home.

We have come full circle to my mother who undertook war work but at the end of the war when she became pregnant, she gave up her work in the drawing office which she had enjoyed in order to look after me and her family. The idea that women should remain at home continued until well into my lifetime. Prejudice against women in many professions has still not entirely disappeared. Prejudice against married women working did not just begin with the introduction of the marriage bar, it was bound up with the attitudes to women which had developed over centuries. Society's opposition to married women working was exacerbated with the family changes which emerged with the Industrial Revolution. Previously, whole families collectively contributed to the family income, however, with the development of factories, family members moved to separate industries and individual contributions were associated with redefined, new, individual social roles. There is one complete about-turn today. It is that women who wish to remain at home and who regard bringing up their children as a career, are now seen as being unfulfilled by not pursuing a career. Of course, for some there are financial pressures that mean that they need to work in order to support the family. However, in many cases, it is the need to purchase the labour-saving devices! These were initially aimed at *keeping the woman in her place* but now they are deemed necessary to enable her to go to work. This in turn maintains her status in today's consumer society – this is in complete contrast to the nineteenth century when the priority was putting food on the table.

## Sources:

Mitchell, Juliet, *Women's Estate* (Penguin 1971).  
Purvis, June (ed) *Women's History: Britain, 1850-1945* (Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon, 1995)  
<https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1945/mar/09/war-time-nurseries>

## Some extra reading of interest:

Newby, Jennifer, *Researching Women's Social History 1800-1939* (Pen and Sword, Barnsley 2013)  
Few, Janet, *A History of Women's Work* (Pen and Sword, Barnsley, 2025)  
Gregory, Philippa, *Normal Women: 900 Years of Making History* (Collins, London, 2023).

**Website:** <https://www.fewforgottenwomen.com/>

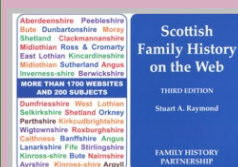
The Forgotten Women website contains research on the lives of women at work in many different situations, providing context to their lives.

## About the author

Ann Simcock (née Mayer) is a retired history and drama teacher who later took a distance learning degree in Theatre Studies and became the secretary to the volunteers raising money for the New Victoria Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme. A natural progression to her interest in history was to follow her family's history. Ann taught her son, Gwilym, at home until he went to Chetham's School of Music in Manchester and then the Royal Academy of Music in London. She has written articles and given talks in person and online covering different topics and to various groups. Just before Covid she joined a group to write your own story and that led to the formation of *The Few Forgotten Women Project* of which Ann is proud to be a member and through which she can be contacted (website above).



## EASTER BOOK OFFER



**Buy any full price book at Family History Books Online and select one of these titles for FREE.**

**Make your selection [HERE](#)**



*Offer closes on 26 April 2026*



# Family History Societies



## Calderdale Family History Society

**URGENTLY REQUIRES NEW CHAIR**

**Please volunteer NOW!**

**Committee meetings held on Zoom!**

**The chair is a role open to anyone, anywhere**

**You do not need to live in Calderdale area**

**Responsibilities are not arduous**

**Retiring chair needs YOU to volunteer**

**Please help Calderdale FHS by volunteering NOW!**

**Retiring chair, Peter Lord, has to relinquish the post in April so this appeal is URGENT.**

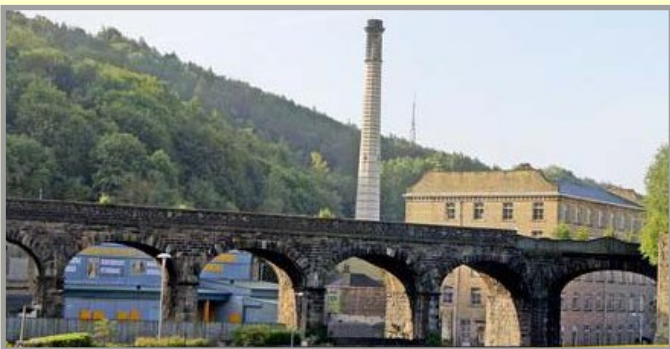
**Do not hesitate, please contact Peter TODAY.**

Peter will be delighted to hear from you and he will happily provide a job specification, discuss the role with you and answer all your questions.

His email is: [chairman@cfhsweb.com](mailto:chairman@cfhsweb.com) or you can phone him on 01484-718576.

This is YOUR opportunity to help and reap the rewards of knowing your volunteering helps the society.

For further information, see Bulletin No 63, November [HERE](#) and go to page 9. Or email Peter!



*Calderdale takes its name from the river Calder.  
It is situated in West Yorkshire.*



## Stanbury Family Society

### Stanbury Family Society Reunion

**22-24 May 2026**

**Falcon Hotel, Bude, Cornwall**

Events include coach trip, family dinner and family fun day

Open to all family from the UK and around the world – opportunity to meet up with family members

For details contact Jane Brenchley  
[stanbury.connecting@btinternet.com](mailto:stanbury.connecting@btinternet.com)  
or write to Jane at 15 Beach Walk, Paignton, Devon, England TQ4 6L

[www.facebook.com/StanburyFamilySociety/?locale=en\\_GB](http://www.facebook.com/StanburyFamilySociety/?locale=en_GB)

## GENUKI—Genealogical Events

If your local group is organising anything that non-members can join, then get the date on GENUKI's *Geneva* listing for genealogical events. It will include a link to the details on your website. And it is FREE!

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php?id=list>

Want to attend something genealogically interesting? Check GENUKI's listing of genealogical events for what's on!

If you are organising an event, do check the Genuki listing **before** you set your date—avoid clashes which could rob you of a relevant attendance! Remember that family historians often travel considerable distance to attend an event relevant to their research!



The **REALLY USEFUL Bulletin** provides FREE opportunity for members of the Family History Federation to promote events, activities, projects and more.

Items should be submitted no later than 1st of month in which you wish your details to appear.

Provide details in Word; include logo, website address, images and, if relevant, contact email address.

Submissions will be edited.

Send items for inclusion to Debbie at:  
[admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)



# Family History Societies



## Dorset Family History Society



### Family Tree Maker tour calls into Dorset

Dorset FHS is pleased to be hosting one of *Family Tree Maker's* 2026 tour events.

*Family Tree Maker* is well known for its genealogy software, which provides family historians with a software program to help grow your tree, using tree-building tools and integrated web-searching facilities. It helps you to preserve and share your family history, manage your data and create charts and reports. *Family Tree Maker* has been a fairly regular subject of discussion at our computer group sessions (first Tuesday monthly).

Join us on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April from 14.30 – 17.00** to meet the ambassadors from *Family Tree Maker*, who will provide interactive demonstrations and the chance to ask questions during the afternoon. Whether you are a regular user of *Family Tree Maker* – or want to find out more about how the program can help you with your research – join us at this **FREE** event at:

**Kinson Community Centre (Main Hall)**

**Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Bournemouth BH10 7LH**

*(Pictured below)*

The venue has parking, including spaces for blue badge holders. [More Bus](#) operates services which stop nearby at Kinson Library.

Light refreshments/snacks can be purchased at the event.

During this week long tour FTM will call at locations including one hosted by Bristol & Avon FHS on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Full details can be found on the [Bristol & Avon FHS website](#).



## Northamptonshire Family History Society

Following the success of previous years' Heritage Fairs, the **2026 fair will once again be hosted by Wicksteed Park, and organised by Angela Malin and Janet Lawrence, with support from Northamptonshire Family History Society and Discover Northamptonshire.**

**Sunday 26 April 2026**

**Wicksteed Park, Kettering NN15 6NJ**

**10am-4pm**

The event will host a large variety of stalls and displays which will showcase Northamptonshire's history and heritage including museums, societies, historic homes, archives and other heritage sites from across the county.

Northamptonshire Family History Society will be there celebrating their fiftieth anniversary with a display reflecting the changes in family history research over the last five decades. Also attending are the Romany & Travellers Family History Society and Northamptonshire Archives.

There will be different activities and demonstrations from various stallholders. See [HERE](#).

The event is free to enter although normal car parking charges at Wicksteed Park will apply. The site is fully accessible and there are refreshment outlets on site. There will be something for everyone with an interest in the county's history and heritage – whatever form that takes!

Wicksteed Park is a Grade II listed unique urban park with over twenty-five exciting rides and attractions. As well as attending the Fair, you can explore 147 acres of lush parkland and a further 134 acres of meadows, lovingly cared for by the Wicksteed Charitable Trust. See: <https://wicksteedpark.org/>



Wicksteed Park © image used with permission





# Family History Societies



## Wiltshire Family History Society

Presents

### FAMILY HISTORY DAY

**Bromham Community Hub,  
New Road, Bromham SN15 2JB**

**Saturday 27 June 2026**

**10:00 to 15:00**

**Free entry and advice**

**Wiltshire Family History Society  
has invited  
surrounding county family history societies,  
The Rifles (Berkshire & Wiltshire) Museum  
Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre**

**Café serving meals and drinks**

**Free parking**



*Bromham Community Hub*



## Wiltshire Family History Society

### BIG NEWS

In 2025, our WFHS President Steve Hobbs found some unattributed sheets of Bishops' Transcripts at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

Our Publications Co-ordinator David Chilton has just completed adding these new parish baptism and burial records to the relevant parish registers. He has also added the new data to the appropriate CMB (baptisms, marriages and burials) files. The parishes concerned are Biddlestone, Bradford on Avon, Calstone Wellington, Little Bedwyn, Ogbourne St. George, Shalbourne, Wilsford cum Lake, Winterbourne Bassett and Woodford.

These additional records are available to view as a free download from the **Free Name Indexes page** of our website. This will be of interest to those who have bought one of the Parish Records or appropriate CMB in the past.

Go to the **Publications** section of our website then **Free Surname Index** then look for **Wiltshire Fragments**.

David has also completed a wonderful new facility for those researching their Wiltshire ancestry. He has now created a single county-wide surname index to over 2 million parish records that appear within our CMB series. This index is freely available to download from the Publications Index Page on our website.

**Look for the Free Wiltshire Surname Index page.**

This index will tell you where your surname interests are in the CMB series. This will be so much quicker than searching all 37 CMB files. You will need to then check the appropriate CMB files name indexes to complete your search.

**Wiltshire Addenda** With so much material to transcribe, it has been inevitable that there have been errors and omissions. The **Wiltshire Addenda document** will be updated with any that are reported to us and confirmed. They will not be added to the already published transcriptions. Do help by reporting and errors or omissions in our transcripts by emailing [publications@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:publications@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

Any of our publications and CMB files can be ordered via the GENFAIR link which is on the first page of our website.

**Good hunting!**

**Website:** [www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/](http://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/)



# Family History Societies



## Irish Family History Society

We are a not-for-profit organisation promoting Irish family history and genealogy worldwide. While the majority of our activities are on Zoom, we do hold occasional in-person activities. Our annual one-day conference is both in-person and on Zoom. While we don't do actual research we aim to teach and help our members how to do their own research. I'd like to inform you of some upcoming events we are running, which may be of interest or benefit of those trying to trace their Irish ancestry and heritage.

Last autumn we ran a course over five weeks showing how to navigate online, mostly free, records and also the benefits of some paid sites and how to get the best for your investment. These courses were recorded and remain on our website ([www.ifhs.ie](http://www.ifhs.ie)) for members-only free access. We have many other resources available free to members via our website.

☘ In April we are running a three- week course, which will follow on from the autumn series. We are focusing on the 'what next' and taking case studies to show where you go when you have exhausted the obvious and the free sites. The keynote study will be given by the inimitable John Grenham, *Mr Irish Genealogy*, an unmissable opportunity to get to ask questions of the expert! His book *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* is the standard guide to Irish family history.

☘ We will be running a further short course in September focussing on the content and context of the different time frames in which we are searching for records. The whys and wherefores of finding records in Ireland and additional knowledge that will aid you in your searches. Courses are free to members.

☘ We also run monthly talks, free to members on Zoom, on the third Tuesday of the month @ 7.30 pm local Irish time on subjects of interest to those searching for Irish ancestors. When the presenters are agreeable, we record and make these talks available for a period of time for members only.

Membership of the Irish Family History Society is €25 per year and runs for January to December each year. We also run members-only informal Zoom 'Meet-Ups' several times a year where you can get help with questions, conundrums and brick walls.

**Louise Maher**

**Treasurer / Secretary**

**Website:** <https://ifhs.ie/>

*Louise and IFHS at Really Useful Show—Belfast*



## Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society

The society is in its fifty-first year and we have had a busy time over the last six months as we have not only launched a new website but have also moved to new premises!

The new website includes more information about events, our search service and a list of books held in the reference library, alongside details about joining, the shop, etc.

We have relocated to the Gwen Cook Room, Clarence House, 46 Humberstone Gate, Leicester, LE1 3PJ. The building has an interesting history, being designed by one of Leicester's leading architects, Edward Burgess, in 1877 and



initially housed the Wyggeston Hospital Girls' School. We completed the move in just a week, thanks to a team of very willing volunteers and we celebrated with an official launch. We are now fully operational and details of opening hours and facilities can be found under 'Research' on our website. Non-members are very welcome to visit. No booking required.

LRFHS has transcribed many baptisms, marriages, burials, cemetery information and other records across the two counties. Although many have been digitised, our transcriptions are available by download or memory stick/ CD via 'Shop' on our website. Prices from £2, plus postage if ordering a CD or memory stick. All of the datasets are available in person at our research centre. We have an information sheet about some of the datasets - free copies from [publicity@lrfhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@lrfhs.org.uk)

Our March journal has a wide range of articles including the story of a Victorian building contractor, a postcard discovery linked to the infamous Green Bicycle murder, research into a war memorial and thoughts on purchasing death certificates. In addition, there are detailed reports of our group meetings and zoom talks.

Membership of the society is £18 per annum (£23 family membership) and provides a monthly newsletter, quarterly journal, a programme of Zoom meetings, a Research Centre, free research help (see LRFHS Research Service tab on our website), a surnames interests service and a talks programme at our four local groups.

Join now and receive a pdf of March and ALL our 2025 journals – that's approximately 400 pages of articles!

For further information, please visit our website at <https://lrfhs.org.uk> or email [publicity@lrfhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@lrfhs.org.uk) with any enquiries.




# Family History Maps

Walk the streets ...  
... your ancestors knew

Yorkshire Sheet 289.11

**OLD  
ORDNANCE  
SURVEY  
MAPS**

Rotherham  
1890



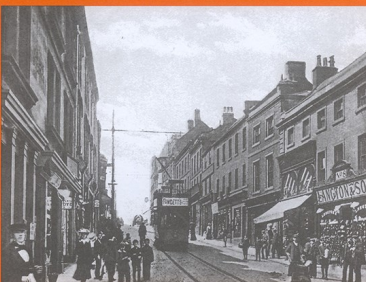
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Family history groups are welcome to join the Family History Federation—see

[www.familyhistoryfederation.com/society-join](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/society-join)



# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

### Call for presentations

#### History of teacher-training colleges in Britain, 1836-1918

Tuesday 2 June 2026

A one-day workshop at the Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT being run by Edge Hill University in collaboration with Lincoln Bishop University.

Speakers are called for by 8 May. Please provide a 250-word (max) overview of your interest and background in this area to enable the organisers to construct a thematic and coherent programme. Please email this to Professor Alyson Brown ([browna@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:browna@edgehill.ac.uk)).

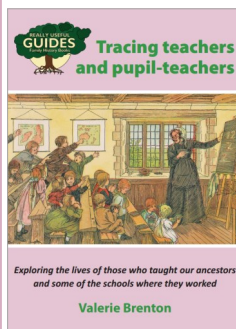
Contact Professor Alyson Brown (above) or Dr Jack Rhoden ([Wilfred.rhoden@lincolnbishop.ac.uk](mailto:Wilfred.rhoden@lincolnbishop.ac.uk)) for full details.

Participants can book [here](#)



Quaker Meeting House  
Liverpool—venue for  
the one-day workshop

### Tracing Teachers and Pupil-teachers



Every family historian had forebears who went to school so this book will be of huge interest to learn about their education through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as understanding all about those who taught them.

This new book by Valerie Brenton will be available mid-April. Customers of Family History Books will receive details when available. Visitors to the *Really Useful Family History Show* on 18 April at St Ives will be able to buy in person.

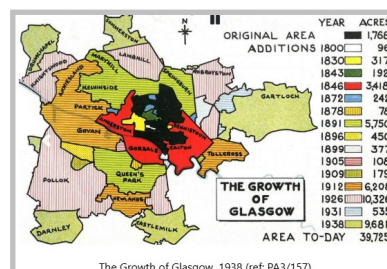
*Teaching is topic of the season!*

### Glasgow City Archives

Glasgow City Archives has recently launched a dedicated online catalogue for its records - a very long time in coming indeed - but all the more welcome for it.

Direct link: <https://cityarchives.glasgowlife.org.uk/>.

With thanks to Chris Paton, <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/>



### Out and about in April, May and June

The Federation's team of volunteers is small and cannot attend all relevant events. They are often in a quandary working out who can do what. Do please avoid clashes with other shows and fairs and particularly so if you wish the team to visit your event! In March, they will have been in Glasgow, Birmingham, Malvern and at a Yorkshire *Heritage Summit*.

[Really Useful Family History Show](#) 18 April

At St Ives, Cambs—books and maps stall

[Suffolk FHS Fair](#) 9 May

At The Hold, Ipswich—bookstall (t.b.c. due to clash)

[The Family History Show—Liverpool](#) 9 May

At Aintree racecourse—books and maps stall

[GOONS Hops, Pubs and People Seminar](#) 13 June

At Fradley, Lichfield, Staffs. — Family History Books' stall

[York City FHS Fair](#) 27 June

At Acomb Church Hall, York—books and maps stall

The team looks forward to meeting many visitors at events in May and June. There is a clash of dates and somehow it is hoped to attend both!

Always stop by the stall, browse what's available and do ask our volunteers if you are looking for a specific item.

The bookstall team can usually take card payments but occasionally it is cash only.

Not all local groups have card machines and not all venues have connectivity or a nearby ATM—so always have cash with you when visiting family history fairs and shows.

For more information about each event, click the event title.





# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

### New records published by Findmypast—*plus* new FMP podcast

*FHS and other notable record sets published between February 24<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March*

**West Middlesex FHS:** Thanks to the fantastic contributions from the West Middlesex Family History Society, you can now explore thousands of additional monumental inscription records for New Brentford Cemetery in Middlesex between 1871-2024. These MI records could help you to discover your ancestor's birth year, death year and place of burial and can often be the key to discovering new branches on your family tree.



**Huddersfield & District FHS:** For those researching ancestors in West Yorkshire, the release of over 10,000 new monumental inscription records thanks to contributions from Huddersfield & District Family History Society should prove an excellent addition. These new MI records date as far back as the early seventeenth century through to present day and include some war memorials. Covering eight distinct churches/graveyards in West Yorkshire and spanning over 400 years, these new additions should prove fruitful for those with ancestry in the area.



**Surgeons' Case Books, University College London:** FMP's other significant releases in March will be in partnership with University College London (UCL). Part of this release will be the UCL Surgeons' Case Books between 1838-1851, which offer a fascinating glimpse into the medical world during the first half of the nineteenth century. These records will allow you to discover admission and dismissal dates, details of disease or ailment, admission age and occupation details of the patients treated by the recorded surgeon.

**Student Registers and Diploma Examinations, University College London:** Records of diploma examinations and student registers from the College of Preceptors will also be made available as part of FMP's partnership with UCL in March for the years 1881-1931. The College of Preceptors was founded in 1846 as the first professional body for teachers in the UK. This will be a fascinating release for any researcher interested in the history of the profession or for those with ancestors involved in the teaching profession who undertook their studies at UCL.

**Kevin Todman**

Data Manager – Family History Federation

E: [data.manager@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:data.manager@familyhistoryfederation.com)



*If your society has records it would like to place on FindMyPast—and earn some money—contact Kevin for information.*

### New podcast launched by Findmypast



Bringing Britain and Ireland's past to life through the real families who lived it.

Historian Lucy Worsley is first guest exploring her grandmother's life in new podcast which offers a radical retelling of the events that shaped Britain and Ireland.

A brand new original podcast, *A Family History of...* launched on Spotify and Apple Podcasts on 5th March, exploring defining moments of British and Irish history through the eyes of real families who experienced them.

The first series of the podcast, *A Family History of Wartime Women*, is [available to listen on all major steaming platforms](#)



# Really Useful Back Page



## Family History Research Aids from the Experts

Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over eighty family history societies and associated suppliers at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some eighteen categories including:

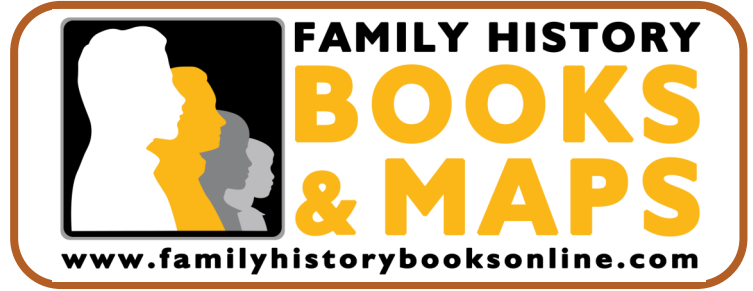
- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and probate indexes of wills and administrations*
- *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](http://www.parishchest.com)

*Societies and others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:*

[admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com)



Family History Books (FHB) is an online bookshop and publisher; it is owned by the Family History Federation and the aim is to provide a service to the genealogical community. Family History Books Online offers a range of relevant titles relating to family history research, plus a range of specialist maps for historians.

FHB welcomes contact from authors! Works of specific interest to family historians with wider social history topics are of interest. FHB does not publish individual family histories or fiction. If you have a book in the making, then do contact FHB via [admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com). We would love to hear from you about your ideas.

Coming in April are new titles in the *Really Useful Guide* series. An exciting new work *Tracing Teachers and Pupil-teachers* by Valerie Brenton. Also a revised version of an original "Gibson Guide" now entitled *Poor Law Unions of England, Wales and Northern Ireland—a really useful listing to places in each union*. The Northern Ireland section is a new addition. This guide to places will be invaluable to all researchers.

In addition to its [online shop](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com) FHB can also be found at major live family history events around the country. Come and visit us and see all the latest titles available. The stall is always very popular! Happy browsing!

**Please explore the range, and place your orders, at**

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com)

The *REALLY USEFUL Bulletin* is published monthly and circulated free of charge. Members of the Family History Federation are encouraged to provide information about their projects and activities for inclusion. The Federation policy is to not include paid-for commercial advertising. However, when space allows, the editorial team includes mentions of activities relevant to readers which are offered by other organisations—plus any relevant special offers, too. The team is considering the option of including relevant commercial advertising for 2026.



## The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

**LIVE on Saturday 18 April 2026—Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs.**

Can FHF members get together and put on a regional show— assistance available.

Contact: [chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com)



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