

Really Useful Bulletin

No. 68

April 2026



provided free by the
Family History Federation
Supporting family historians since 1974

Welcome to your latest edition—inside find...

Lead article is *The 1926 Census of Ireland*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW—EAST ANGLIA

A PICTURE ROUND-UP

It was a great day out with some 500 or so visitors,
in the Burgess Hall at St Ives!



A round-up of views from the balcony, with a few cameo shots!

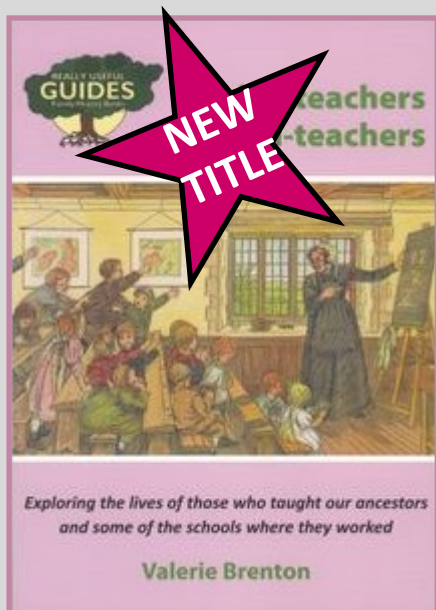
Lots of interesting conversations with visitors.

A great atmosphere all day!



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Family History Books—NEW titles!



Tracing Teachers and Pupil-teachers

This book, by professional genealogist Valerie Brenton, is just out!

At some point, our ancestors either went to school or were taught by someone, somewhere – or they were perhaps teachers themselves. Curious about the different terms used to describe these educators, the author set out to dig deeper and discover the difference between a teacher and a pupil-teacher and how it affected the education of children at that time. What did the terms all mean and in what kind of school did they work?

This useful guide is packed with information on how people became teachers and also covers the large range of schools that existed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There is an interesting section on the problems faced by women teachers who wished to marry. Teacher-training colleges are also discussed and the book ends with three case studies designed to help guide your research plans.

Since the early 1800s, our ancestors went to some sort of school for some part of their life and this book will help put some flesh on the bones!

With examples throughout the text, and details on where to find information, this book will appeal to all researchers.

RRP ~~£7.95~~

Special introductory offer —

just **£5.95**

offer ends 14 May

Click [HERE](#) to order now



Poor Law Unions of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

A really useful listing of the places in each union

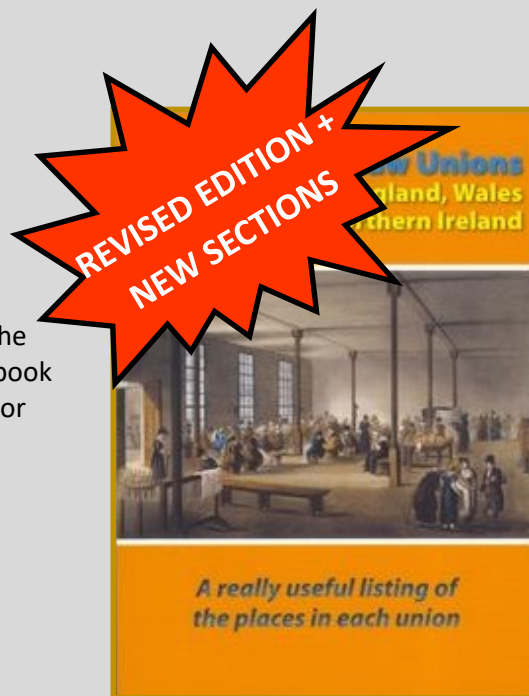
After the New Poor Law Act of 1834, there were union workhouses all over the country – but to which one did that place you have found belong? This new book has all the answers to what is where, whether the place is in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (new for this edition), and includes...

- ◆ Alphabetical list of all unions plus their county designation
- ◆ County-by-county lists showing every place within each union
- ◆ Incorporations and Gilbert Unions which continued after 1834
- ◆ A completely revised Wales section
- ◆ Northern Ireland unions now covered, too.

A brief history of the poor law unions is included as is a section on how to locate the relevant records. There is also a handy list of Chapman codes used to identify counties throughout the book.

This book will also help to identify **places in civil registration districts** which, on formation in 1837 initially used the poor law geographical jurisdictions.

This improved and extended new edition will be hugely useful to all researchers.



RRP ~~£8.95~~

Special introductory offer —

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offer ends 14 May

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Join your local family history society—and that for where the ancestors lived!

See www.familyhistoryfederation.com/find-a-society



Really Useful Bulletin



The 1926 Census of Ireland



by Nicola Morris

On 18 April 2026, the National Archives of Ireland will release the 1926 Census of Ireland, the first census of the Irish Free State.

The census will be made available online at the website of the National Archives of Ireland (NAI), www.nationalarchives.ie where researchers can search for their ancestors, and download digital images of each household return and the accompanying enumerators' return.

Similar to the two earlier, and only, complete surviving censuses of Ireland, enumerated in 1901 and 1911, the 1926 Census will also be entirely free to access. This is an acknowledgement by the Government of Ireland, of the importance of Irish genealogical records, not just to the people of Ireland but to the descendants of Irish emigrants, found all around the world. The project of cataloguing, conservation, digitisation, transcription and publication has all been undertaken in-house at the National Archives of Ireland.

A census was enumerated in Ireland every decade from 1821 to 1911. The returns from 1821 to 1891 were largely destroyed in two critical events in the early twentieth century, leaving, until now, only the 1901 and 1911 censuses intact. A census was scheduled for 1921, but by that time, Ireland was in the midst of the War of Independence and the census was abandoned.

It was not until 1926, after the Irish War of Independence, the Civil War and the establishment of the Irish Free State, that Ireland set about counting itself for the first time. This was a vital undertaking for the new state which needed a snapshot of the population after a period of great change and upheaval.

The 1926 census was somewhat streamlined with only two forms to fill—Form A—the household return and Form B—the enumerators return or house and building return. For the first time, the household return was bilingual and households could fill in their form in Irish as well as answering questions about the extent that both Irish and English were used by the occupiers of each house.

The household return, Form A, asked more detailed questions than earlier Irish censuses. Along with first and



Ireland road map by Peter Fitzgerald.
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

last names, occupiers were asked for their age in years and months, providing a much more specific guide to a person's true date of birth. However, older members of the population may still have provided inaccurate ages, if they were unaware of their actual date of birth.

Place of birth was no longer limited to county or country, but also requested the townland or town of birth. This is vital information for anyone researching their ancestors, particularly for individuals with a common name. For example, my great-grandfather, a Ryan was born in County Tipperary and left his home county as a young man. There were over 2,000 Ryan households in Tipperary in 1911. Identifying my great-grandfather's townland of birth in the

1926 census should help to locate his so far elusive birth record and his family in the earlier census returns.

Occupiers were also asked about their employment. Not only were they asked to record their "profession, trade, manufacture, service, etc.", but also the name of their employer. Farmers or those with agricultural holdings were also asked to record the number of statute acres of land that they occupied. These details will offer insight into the economic standing of each household.

The census also enumerated the extent of the use of the Irish language in each household, with a field specifically detailing the level of Irish spoken. There were four options to describe the level of language used in the household: Irish only; a native Irish speaker who can also speak English; an English speaker, who can also speak Irish; and a person who can only read Irish, but cannot speak it. Those who could not speak or read Irish were to leave the field blank. These details also offer great insight into the use of the Irish language by the population following decades of cultural revival and the work of the Irish teachers of the Gaelic League.

Like the 1911 census, married women were asked to report the length of time they had been married, in years and months, and the number of live births to their marriage. Married men, widows and widowers were asked to enumerate the number of living children and step-children under sixteen years of age, whether or not they were in the household.

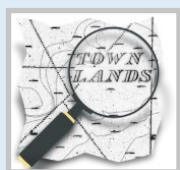


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ancestor's home townland. The 1901 and 1911 census of Ireland are also organised by DED. If you have found your family in the 1901 and 1911 census, inspect the enumerator's abstract or house and building return for the DED).

You can also use the place-name search at www.johngrenham.com, where you can search for a townland and click through to the 1901 or 1911 census for that townland. You will be brought to the DED in which that townland is located. This should be the same DED employed in 1926.

The Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) has also published an *Index of Townlands*, which will identify the DED. <https://www.irishancestors.ie/index-of-townlands-1901-87> as will a search at townlands.ie [logo left].



If you cannot find your ancestor using a name search, navigate to the county, DED and then townland address to try and find their family home.

If you don't know where your ancestor was residing at the time of the 1926 census, try searching for records of vital events relating to that ancestor and that took place around the time of the census, such as a birth, marriage or death.

Civil registration in Ireland commenced in 1864 when it became compulsory to register all births, deaths and marriages, although not all vital events were registered with the civil authorities, even by the 1920s. A large tranche of these records are freely available online at



www.irishgenealogy.ie, where researchers can find births (1864-1925), marriages (1845/1864-1950) and deaths (1870 to

1975). For births that took place after 1925, you can search the civil birth indexes at familysearch.org, findmypast.ie and [ancestry](http://ancestry.com) (mother's maiden names appear in these online indexes from 1928) and email the General Register Office with the reference (registration district, year, volume, page and quarter) to purchase the birth (€5): GROResearchRoom@welfare.ie. The townland address should appear on a birth, marriage or death registration.

Townland addresses recorded on birth, marriage and death registrations can often employ a local spelling, rather than the official spelling established by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland in the 1830s. If you cannot locate the townland recorded on a birth, marriage or death certificate in an index of townlands, try navigating to the list of townlands found in the Poor Law Union and Registrar's District, which appear at the top of the page of all births, marriages and deaths. This can be done using the place-name search

facility at www.johngrenham.com and townlands.ie

While this may be a tedious undertaking, it could prove very beneficial to your research to organise this information before searching the census after 18 April.

While 18% of the population declared that they could speak Irish in one form or another in 1926, a smaller number filled their return entirely in Irish. If you cannot find your ancestor under the English spelling of their name, you may want to search for them using the Irish spelling of their first and surname.

The Irish version of many surnames can be found at <https://www.gaois.ie/en/surnames> although this is not a



comprehensive list. Irish surnames are also set out by Patrick Woulfe in his 1923 publication: <https://www.libraryireland.com/names/contents.php> which also translates first names



from English to Irish and vice versa. The *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names of Ireland*, if you can get your hands on a copy, should also prove useful in this regard.

One little trick to navigate round difficult-to-spell Irish surnames, is to just search by Irish first name and then filter the results down to a specific county, DED or townland. This will present a drop-down list of surnames, which can be checked for a name that approximates the Irish version of your family name. Irish first names are a little easier to spell, in most cases, Pdraig for Patrick, Brigid for Bridget, Seamus for James, etc.

Between 1911 and 1926 the island of Ireland underwent dramatic changes and a great deal of upheaval. Between 30,000 and 35,000 Irish men had died serving in the British Army during the First World War. From 1919 to 1921 the Irish War of Independence was fought across the island and following the July 1921 truce and subsequent negotiation of the Treaty, ratified in April 1922, the Irish Free State was established and the country quickly descended into civil war. The Civil War divided families as was the case with the extended family of Michael Collins, who was assassinated in Cork in August 1922; many had to leave their homes or even home counties in fear for their lives. The 1926 census should locate those who were displaced by the events of the previous decade.

Children who grew up in Industrial Schools in the early decades of the twentieth century, and were sent out into the world to find employment and build their lives, often without the support of a family, may be found in the 1926 census, as might anyone who was committed to an asylum, and lost from family memory.

Northern Ireland had already been established in 1920 by the Government of Ireland Act, although the division of the island did not become a reality until 1922 when British forces vacated the Irish Free State (with the exception of



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the Treaty ports). As the island was partitioned and violence flared in places like Belfast in the early 1920s, families began to move south and leave Northern Ireland. An established family found in Belfast in 1901 and 1911 might be found in the Free State by 1926.



A census was also enumerated in Northern Ireland in 1926, but the returns were lost. The statistical information gathered on population, age, industry, religion and housing can be found at NISRA: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/1926-census-reports> [logo above].

The 1926 census is being released under the “100-year rule” for census personal information. A person living today, born before 18 April 1926, who will appear in the census, can request that their information is redacted from the online records. While the individual’s details may be redacted, the remainder of the household will still be visible.

Genealogists and historians have been lobbying for the release of the 1926 census for over fifteen years and as the release date approaches, the excitement is palpable. The National Archives of Ireland will have an exhibition in Dublin Castle as well as at the British Academy in London and Boston College in Massachusetts. There will also be a

touring exhibition that will travel the country over the course of this year. Local councils, universities, genealogy groups and archaeological and historical societies and others are hosting census-related events, with lectures, conferences, articles and resources around the 1926 census, many of which can be accessed online.

For the first time, the independent people of the Irish Free State recorded themselves, on their own terms and at a time of their choosing and very shortly we will get to meet them!

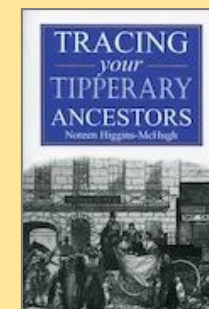
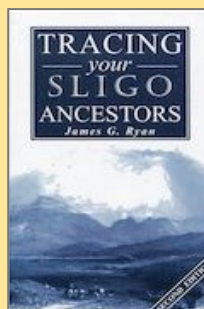
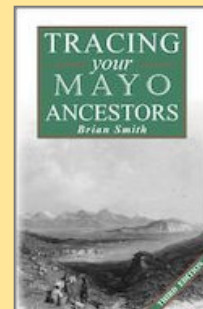
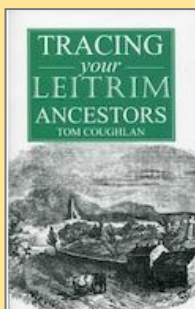
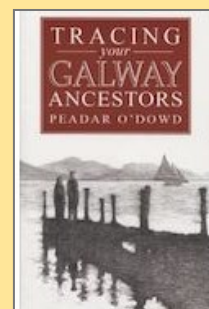
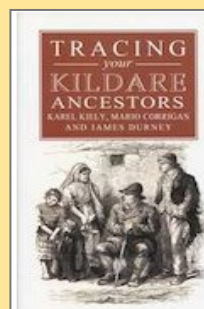
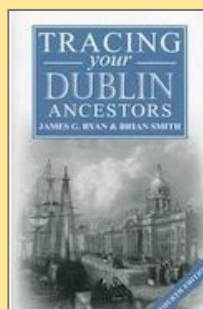
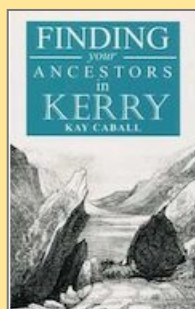
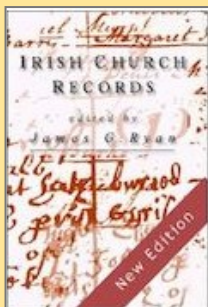
About the author

Nicola Morris, MAGI, is director of Timeline Research Ltd. <https://timeline.ie/> and member and former president of Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI), the only accrediting body for genealogy in Ireland. She also sits on the Irish Manuscripts Commission as well as the Genealogy and Heraldry Committee of the National Library of Ireland. She has been an Irish contributor for the BBC programme, *Who Do You Think You Are?* for 20 years and has worked on many other genealogy television and radio programmes. She writes a regular column for Irish Roots magazine frequently writes about Irish genealogy for *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine.



Books for Irish Research—Special Online Prices!

Family History Books online has a range of books published by Fylleaf Press. Full details are [HERE](#).



Offer ends
20 May
2026.



Family History Societies



Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA)

What is AGRA? AGRA, a member of the Family History Federation, was founded in 1968 to maintain and promote high professional standards in the field of genealogy and historical research, and remains the professional body that all can rely upon for excellence. AGRA is also prominent as a representative voice in matters relating to genealogy. All our members and associates agree to abide by a stringent [Code of Practice and Ethics](#) and AGRA welcomes those who can attain and maintain the highest standards.

Commissioning research. Because AGRA is a professional association it does not as a body undertake research. Prospective clients should approach members or associates directly as only they can accept commissions. Besides family history and genealogy, they specialise in a variety of related areas, including military, naval, British India, house histories, palaeography, Latin transcriptions etc. The *AGRA Directory* has a comprehensive search facility to help you find a researcher with the specialist skills you need.



Interested in joining AGRA? Candidates for membership need to be well qualified, holding a relevant qualification in a related discipline and will have a number of years' experience in paid research. All candidates are subject to an interview/assignment with our board of assessors. Associate status is available to those who are relatively new to the profession who wish to progress towards membership. A pro-active [Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\) programme](#) exists with study days and a conference. There are also regional network groups based throughout England and Wales, which meet regularly and enable members and associates to gather together and exchange ideas.

Find out more about us here: <https://www.agra.org.uk/>



AGRA
ASSOCIATION OF GENEALOGISTS
AND RESEARCHERS IN ARCHIVES



Burntwood Family History Group

BFHG

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Burntwood Family History Group. The inaugural meeting took place in a member's home. A handful of people were expected. It was standing-room only with all available chairs pressed into service. That member is still actively involved. She is very glad that we now have an alternative location for our meetings.



Image of Beaudesert Hall as it was

© www.lostheritage.org.uk/houses/lh_staffordshire_beaudesert.html

A series of special events have been planned to celebrate the milestone. A group visit has been arranged to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in June. July will see the group promoting its activities at the traditional Burntwood Wakes. In August, stout shoes will be required for a tour to the ruins of Beaudesert Hall (pictured above as it was).

To round things off, a special meeting has been arranged in September when the guest speaker will be the County Archaeologist. An invitation will be extended to other like-minded groups to hear more about discoveries in the area. The Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork was found in 2009 only about 1½ miles from our current location. We are excited to learn what else might lie beneath our feet.

BFHG meets holds its regular meetings at the Erasmus Darwin Academy (Pool Road, Chasetown, WS7 3QW), from 7 pm to 9 pm in Room 61 in the Sports Hall. Second Monday for a speaker, fourth Monday for research.

Monthly advice sessions for anyone interested in exploring their family history are also held in the Hub, Lichfield and at Burntwood Library.

Full details can be found on our website: www.bfhg.org.uk



Family History Societies



City of York and District Family History Society

After our successful summer event last year, York and District Family History Society is hosting a fair!

Yorkshire Family History Societies Fair

Saturday 27 June

Acomb Parish Hall, Front Street,

Acomb, York YO24 4BZ

10am to 3pm

Wherever you are in your family history journey from enthusiastic beginners to absolute experts looking to break down those elusive brick walls, you'll get so much from this day.

Meeting friends and colleagues and a chance to look more deeply into your ancestral story.

A great place for society members and interested new starters to network too.

We've got break out talks, free parking close by and an amazing cafe in the hall serving delicious cakes - plus our legendary tombola!

Great fun for all you family history sleuths!

If you're a society or genealogy business looking to set up a stall, please contact the fair organiser John Neale at jfneale69@gmail.com

For more details see www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk/



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/>



Family and Community Historical Research Society

Annual Conference 2026

Sources and Methods in Family History

Saturday 9 May

Premier Inn, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent

Keynote: Dr Nigel Tringham

Social History and the Victoria County History

Speakers: Dr Joan Reid, Brita Wood, Susan Pearson

£30 includes lunch and refreshments

Online attendance £15

For full details and booking see: <https://fachrs.com/>



Wicksteed Park © image used with permission





Family History Societies



Families in British India Society

A call for volunteer photographers!

The Families in British India Society or FIBIS was founded in 1998. Its purpose, then as now, is to support family historians and genealogists researching their family history in the Indian sub-continent.

Why Families in British India? The history is well-known. Between the early 1600s, when the earliest traders working for the East India Company arrived in India, and 350 years later in 1947 when India achieved independence, generations of people from the UK lived, worked, married, had children and died in India. In many cases, these families were in India for generations. The geographical area of the East India Company's activity included pre-1947 India, Burma (now Myanmar), Straits Settlements (including Singapore, Penang and Malacca), other parts of the Gulf (such as Aden), China and the island of St Helena, a watering post for ships travelling between England and the east. This coverage is mirrored by FIBIS's areas of interest.

The volumes of records including much name-rich material created by this 350-year history can only be imagined. Much of what survives is in the British Library in London, with which FIBIS maintains a close working relationship. It is these and other resources that provide the bedrock of FIBIS's main focus, which is to support family history research in the sub-continent.



The British Library
(Wikipedia [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:British_Library.jpg))

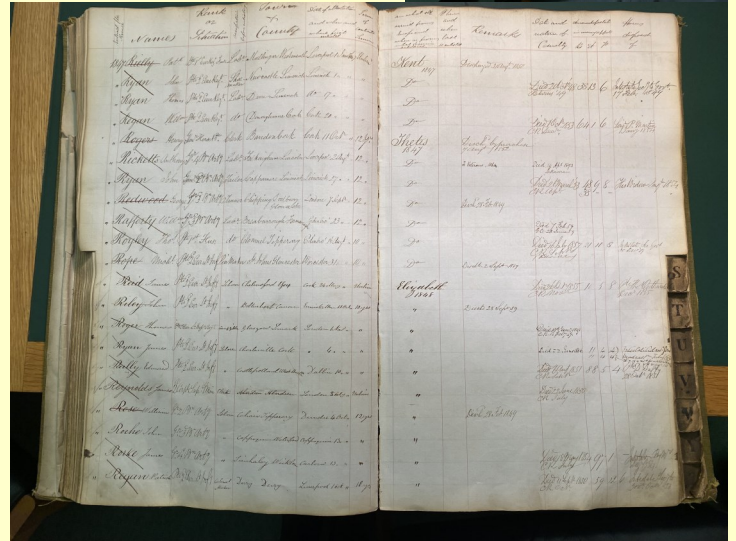
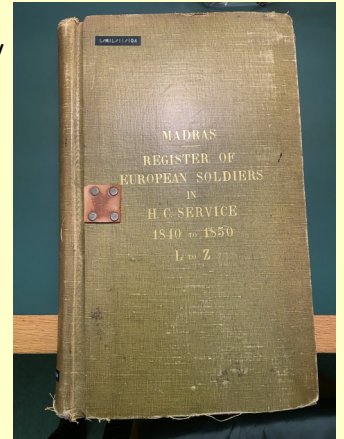
The main tool for this is FIBIS's database of names - estimated at around two million - that have been transcribed from name-rich sources

at the British Library and elsewhere. The transcribed lists are free-to-use, and they include just about every kind of category: military, marine, civilian, medical, pensions, nursing, railways, education, wills, memorial inscriptions and others. The launch-page of the FIBIS database is worth a look: <https://fibis.ourarchives.online/bin/index.php>

The database grows monthly. The process is straightforward: page-by-page photography of name-dense sources - sending the photo-sets to FIBIS's transcriptions coordinator - careful transcription by a small army of volunteer transcribers - checking and editing - publication.

But the vast volume of records held at the British Library means that despite the dedicated work of volunteers there is always more to do.

A record set that FIBIS would like to make accessible to family historians is the eight volumes that constitute the *Madras Register of European Soldiers in Honorary Company's Service*. The Bombay and Bengal Registers of European Soldiers have already been completed, so the Madras registers would be a valuable addition to the FIBIS database.



I had the privilege of visiting the British Library just before Christmas and was blown away by the detail contained in these volumes. This includes name, rank, town and county of birth, date of attestation, ship, date of casualty, amount of gratuity, and means of disposal.

FIBIS needs your help to turn this hope into a reality. Do you want to be part of this exciting project?

FIBIS is looking for a small team of volunteers who would be willing to spend a few hours at the British Library photographing the pages of the eight volumes. All that is required is a steady hand, and minimal photographic experience, in many cases the camera on your phone will work perfectly well. It is then a simple matter to send the images to the transcription team.

Does this sound like you? Full training, and support will be given.

In the first instance, if you would like more information, or to express your interest in this project please contact:

Sadie McMullon

archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com

Images above are *Madras Register of European Soldiers in H.C. Service 1840-50 L-Z*. British Library Collection IOR/L/MIL/11/101-108(104). Cover and a sample page.



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

New records published by Findmypast

Material from Federation members and other notable record sets published late March to early April

Northamptonshire FHS: Thanks to contributions from the Northamptonshire Family History Society, FMP has added over 40,000 new baptism records to the existing collection of Northamptonshire baptisms. These records cover baptisms from twenty-eight distinct churches across the Northamptonshire area between 1543-1838. For those with family roots in the area, these will hopefully be a fruitful addition.



Northamptonshire Family History Society has also contributed over 60,000 new burial records for the Northamptonshire area, which will substantially bolster the existing collection. These new burial records cover sixty-six distinct churches across the Northamptonshire area between 1538-1834.

Jewish Year Book, University College London: In partnership with University College London (UCL), FMP has published a brand new collection focused on the *Jewish Year Book* publication between 1896-1955. The *Jewish Year Book* published an array of content including directories, details of local institutions, summaries of major events, listings of notable Jewish individuals and information pertaining to international Jewish organisations and the wider Jewish world. Finding your ancestor among the pages of the Jewish Year Book may help you to discover new details about their life and the local community.

Britain, School and University Students, University College London: Thanks to FMP's partnership with University College London, those researching their family tree may find an ancestor recorded during their time in education thanks to the addition of a range of new titles being added to this existing collection. The new titles include the Westminster School registers, Highgate School registers and a register of the scholars admitted into Merchant Taylors' School among others. School registers can be a wonderful resource to help pinpoint young ancestors in between census years and can also help you to discover more about what their youth might have looked like.

Kevin Todman

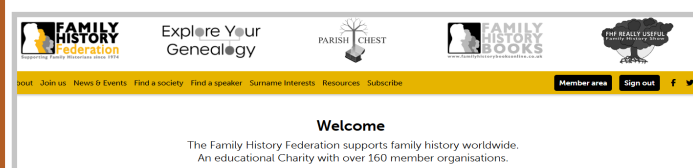
Data Manager – Family History Federation

E: data.manager@familyhistoryfederation.com

If your society has records it would like to place on FindMyPast—and earn some money—contact Kevin who will be happy to help you.

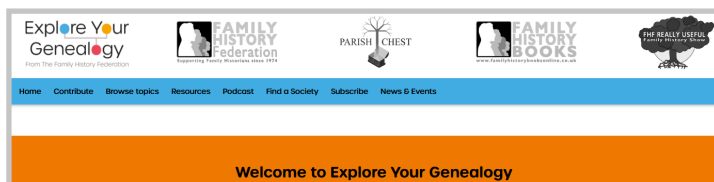


Federation website changes



Regular visitors to the Federation's website www.familyhistoryfederation.com/ may have noticed some subtle changes. This site is becoming a members-only site for Federation members.

Material open for all visitors is being moved to Explore Your Genealogy. www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/ where you will find articles, resources, find a society, podcasts and much more—all open and free to use.



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

www.familyhistoryfederation.com/society-join



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Free stuff!

There is free material accessible on the major subscription websites and other places, too! It is always worth a trawl.

FamilySearch's RootsTech show 2026 has a huge range of recorded sessions on a multitude of family history topics. The show covers countries far and wide which is reflected in the talks. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

GenUKI is totally free and has a raft of material relating to UK and Ireland. Some counties have exceptionally detailed information so drill down and see what you can find! <https://www.genuki.org.uk/>

FreeUKGenealogy You may be a regular user of **FreeBMD** with indexing of births, marriages and deaths from the GRO registers. Its sister sites are **FreeReg** (parish registers) and **FreeCen** (census). All provided by volunteers. <https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/>

UKBMD This site provides 2,792 links to websites that offer online transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses. A wide range of other indexes and transcriptions are also available for most counties, these may include parish records, wills, monumental inscriptions etc. <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

FindMyPast has a new podcast **A Family History of the Irish Famine**. The story of Archibald McKenzie is told across four weekly episodes by his descendant, research specialist Jen Baldwin who is joined by Trinity historian and founder member of the Irish Family History Centre at the Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin, Fiona Fitzsimons. See www.findmypast.co.uk/a-family-history-of

TheGenealogist has freely available articles on many topics at www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/ and also has video tutorials to demonstrate features and records available on this website especially those not available on other subscription sites. See www.thegenealogist.co.uk/help/video-tutorials/ The site offers a variety of subscriptions, too—some include access to the excellent digital magazine *Discover Your Ancestors*.

Talking Family History's Fiona Brooker and Michelle Patient have a free **Ancestry Unpacked** series available via YouTube. On the first Friday of every month until Christmas, they will release a webinar exploring the datasets and tools available on the *Ancestry* subscription website. Family history groups or societies are welcome to play these videos during meetings. <https://www.youtube.com/@talkingfamilyhistory/featured> also <https://talkingfamilyhistory.com/>

Learn with Lorna

We congratulate the Highland Archive Centre which has just released its 250th *Learn with Lorna* video. Lorna Steele-McGinn's determination to share incredible gems from Highland Archives' collections is incredible and interesting for viewers, too! Other repositories please note!

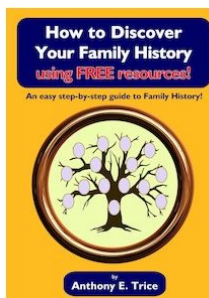


The weekly transmissions are fascinating glimpses into both the collections and life in the Highlands that can be explored through the documents. You can scroll the full

list on www.highlifehighland.com/archives/highland-archive-service/learning-and-outreach/learn-with-lorna and click on those of interest, sit back and listen to Lorna! Most interesting even if you do not have connections to the Scottish Highlands. And these videos are also free!

With the recent release of the Really Useful Guide **Researching Teachers and Pupil-teachers** those with an interest in education will find Lorna's talk no. 208 fascinating – especially the issue of gender or marriage of teachers which also ties in with last month's lead article on women having to choose career or marriage!

Keeping costs down



While on the subject of *free stuff*, there is one book that does exactly what it says on the cover... **How to Discover Your Family History using FREE resources**. At a recent hobbies show our volunteers fielded many enquiries on ways to reduce the costs incurred on the research journey.

This book by Anthony Trice really is worth buying. At under £10 it could save you an awful lot of dosh! **Check for a discount at Family History Books click [HERE](#).**

Copy certificates were occasionally being ordered through third party websites (to be avoided), and many did not realise that marriages can often be accessed in online collections. The post-1837 marriage registers were kept in duplicate with one copy belonging to the registered place of marriage. If Church of England, the historic copies will be in local archive collections and therefore can frequently be found online with scanned images. If ordering marriage certificates from GRO you are charged £12.50 (March 2026) and they come by post. Don't forget that many local libraries have *Ancestry* available and generally it is free of charge too! Use your library!



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

Out and about

A recent outing for FHF chairman, Steve Manning, along with selected maps and books for sale, was to the **Yorkshire Heritage Summit** where useful networking took place. Steve, (second left) is pictured with members and chairman Phil Watson (second right) of **Barnsley FHS** along with the mayor and mayoress of Barnsley.

Last month the FHF team was at the major hobby and crafts shows run by **ICHF at both Glasgow and Birmingham**. It never fails to amaze our volunteers on the number of family historians who are also crafters! That said, it is at these shows where many individuals seek help to start out on their family history research journey.

Also last month was **The Family History Show Midlands** (pictured below). Held at the Three Counties Showground in Worcestershire, this event attracts visitors from a very wide area. The team was there with books and maps for sale!

By time you receive this edition, the team will have been out in force at the **Really Useful Family History Show—St Ives!**



Coming up

- Saturday 9 May **Suffolk FHS Fair** at Ipswich: FHF bookstall tbc (due to date clash!) www.suffolkfhs.co.uk/society-fair
- Saturday 9 May **The Family History Show—Liverpool**. FHF books and maps—all the new releases! [//thefamilyhistoryshow.com/liverpool/](http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/liverpool/)
- Saturday 13 June **Guild of One-name Studies seminar**, Fradley—small FHF bookstall. Prebooked attendance only. <https://one-name.org/seminar-events/>
- Saturday 27 June **City of York FHS Yorkshire Family History Societies Fair** (see inside) - books and maps

Saturday 18 July **Doncaster & District FHS Fair**—FHF books and maps. [//doncasterfhs.co.uk/family-history-fair-2026/](http://doncasterfhs.co.uk/family-history-fair-2026/)

Saturday 1 Aug **Cumbria FHS Jubilee Fair**, Carlisle—FHF books and maps. www.cumbriafhs.com/events/jubilee

When attending local fairs, etc., do ensure you have cash with you as not all FHS can process card payments.

Always visit event websites before attending—just in case there are last minute changes!

Federation Podcasts

Full listing of all series 1 –5. Just click and listen! And it is **FREE!**

www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/podcast



Explore Your Genealogy

Another website from the Federation!

Full of articles on every imaginable family history topic.

It is **FREE!** www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/



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:

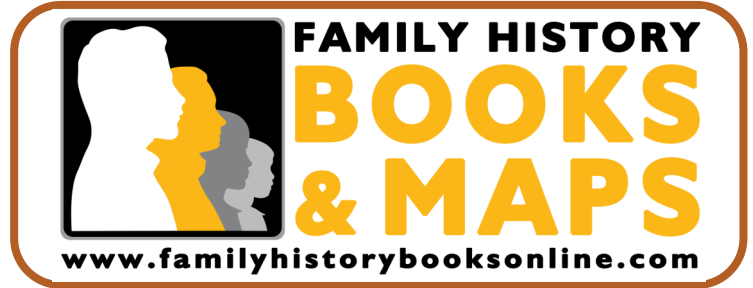
- Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS
- Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS
- Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists
- Wills and probate indexes of wills and administrations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

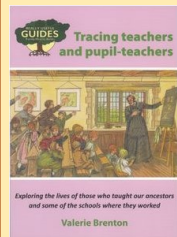
Societies and others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:

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. We would love to hear from you about your ideas.



Just released: **Tracing Teachers and Pupil-teachers: exploring the lives of those who taught our ancestors and some of the schools where they worked** will be of huge interest to all family historians as it sheds light on education available since the early 1800s. [Details HERE](#). See offer on p.2.

In addition to its [online shop](#) 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

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 free of charge.

The Federation policy is to include paid-for commercial advertising providing space allows.

For details of advertising rates, sizes, etc., please email admin@familyhistoryfederation.com— please put “Bulletin Advertising” in the subject line.



The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

Can FHF members get together and put on a regional show?

Assistance available.

Contact: chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com



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