



**FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION**  
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

# REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 44

April 2024

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

Lead article this month is *Kill or Cure – understanding causes of death*  
plus up coming events and news from the Federation

Expert talks throughout the day.

Lots of friendly, FHS to talk to and seek help!



FHF Admin Debbie with the free tote bags for visitors!



Books galore on sale!

Don't miss the next  
**LIVE REALLY USEFUL SHOW**  
- see inside for details!

**A GREAT DAY!**  
20 April saw a crowd of family historians descend on the Burgess Hall, St Ives, for the RU Show LIVE.



Friendly Family History Societies, Knowledgeable Speakers and MORE!

Event Photography by Callum Bradley

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# Really Useful Bulletin

## Kill or Cure – understanding causes of death

by Lady Teviot

Many people are interested in the health and disease issues which confronted their ancestors and this also can raise questions on what illnesses we might inherit. Before the introduction of death certificates in England and Wales on 1 July 1837, the main sources of information on causes of death were the Bills of Mortality which date back to the sixteenth century and were published by the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks for London. These are not, of course, always reliable.

The original Bill for the Registration of Births and Deaths in 1836 did not require the cause of death to be included on death certificates. The medical profession was anxious that the cause of death should be stated, and pressure also came from Edwin Chadwick, who was then Secretary for the Poor Law Commission. Support also came from other sources, particularly proponents of sanitary reform which was emerging as a significant issue given the rapid growth in the urban population. The House of Lords was persuaded to introduce an amendment to the Bill to have the cause of death added to the death certificate. Fortunately for family historians, the Bill was passed in this amended form.

In practice, it was rare for a doctor to be called to a dying person, and the person providing information for the registration of the death could only guess as to the cause. Some conditions, such as smallpox, cholera or typhoid, would have been fairly obvious but in many cases the informant could only guess. The registrar had no alternative but to accept the information as given.

This situation continued until the Birth and Death Act of 1874. This legislation was prompted in part by the practice known as baby farming with the trial and conviction of Margaret Waters and her sister Sarah Ellis. The change in the law required medical practitioners to furnish the cause of death to the informant who would then pass this information to the registrar. Medical practitioners were required to produce a certificate of the cause of death for the patients at whose death they were present. Even with this improvement, there were cases where the cause of death was difficult to determine. To assist with the specification of the cause of death, a revised list of diseases was introduced in 1881 and used by the registrar general



Edwin Chadwick

until 1910. In 1911 the international classification of diseases was adopted for registration purposes.

Some of the official causes of death which appeared on death certificates in the middle of the nineteenth century were more than a little strange. There was something called *black thrush* and also *black jaundice* (after a nasty personal experience of yellow jaundice – it is not hard to believe that something called *black jaundice* could kill someone). There was also *stoppage* (which sounds quite unpleasant) that leads to the question of its whereabouts, and also the vague *visitation of God* (it would be difficult to argue with that one). There are deaths which were labelled as *decline* or *weakness*. A man from Brighton was said to have died from *indiscreet bathing*, and a man in Cardiff was said to have suffered for four years and finally succumbed to *the King's evil* - long after Queen Victoria came to the throne. There were also large numbers deaths from the common childhood diseases of convulsions, measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, scarlet fever and diphtheria together with many incidents of children being scalded or burnt to death. There were periodic epidemics of smallpox and great pox, the latter presumably was more serious (not to be confused with syphilis). A smallpox epidemic struck the city of Brighton in the winter of 1950-51. At this time, Brighton was very much dependent on holidaymakers for its economy and there was interest in downplaying the significance of this event so as not to discourage the summer visitors. There was a similar situation one hundred years earlier when cholera struck Brighton in 1849. Not wanting to draw unnecessary attention to the situation, the registrar used a small cross instead of the word "cholera" on death registrations.

The transmissible nature of diseases was recognised only late in the nineteenth century. A classic example of this was that of puerperal sepsis or fever following the birth of a child. Mothers were very vulnerable – washing and scrubbing-up were rarely employed and basic hygiene was poor so infection of the womb was usually contracted during or immediately after the birth. Acute leukaemia was not properly recognised because no connection was made between lumps and bumps and cancer. The causes of weakness and lethargy were not well understood because the nutritional disorders were not recognised, nor the importance of vitamins and minerals, lack of which could lead to rickets. The recognition of tumours and the existence of dementia had to await the arrival of more powerful microscopes and brain microscopy of the twentieth century.

We know of *Baker's cyst*, *Huntington's Chorea* and *Sydenham's Chorea* (also known as St Vitus' Dance) a disease



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affecting children and characterised by jerky, uncontrollable movements. The normal process would have been for the doctor to attach his name to a disorder he discovered, but some chose otherwise. *Bell's Palsy* was named in 1829 after Sir Charles Bell, a Scottish surgeon, and *Parkinson's* was named after James Parkinson, an English doctor who had published an essay as early as 1817 on *Shaking Palsy*. *Salmonella* was named after Daniel Elmer Salmon, a veterinary surgeon with the American Department of Agriculture. It was actually his assistant, Theobald Smith, who found the cause but it was named in Salmon's honour.

Another disorder which was very poorly recognised and defined was motor neuron disease. The mother of a friend of mine died of this disorder and my friend then examined the death certificates for a number of generations of her mother's family. She found several references to forms of paralysis, thus confirming the influence of genetics in its distribution, and that this condition was a significant cause of death before it was officially identified and named. Interestingly, photographs of a great-grandmother, and of her grandchild in later life, showed both had twisted and deformed hands.

The profile of the causes of death today is different from a hundred or a hundred-and-fifty years ago because our ancestors did not live long enough to die from the diseases that we see today. Evidence of this comes from an examination of the nineteenth-century census returns for a common name such as William Smith or Mary Harris – not many over the age of sixty, with correspondingly less numbers over seventy or eighty. Thus, the diseases which affect us in the older age, like cancers and heart disease, were not so widespread in the earlier period. In the nineteenth century it was uncommon to have three generations of a family alive at the same time, whereas today it is relatively usual to have four generations living at the same time. As another reflection of this change, the expectation of life in 1841 was forty years for men and forty-two for women.

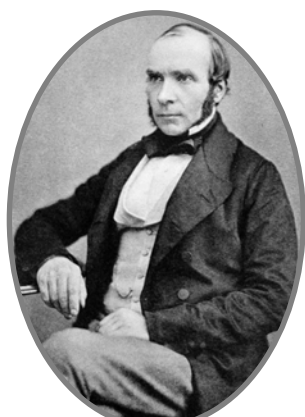
Apart from smallpox, another major infectious disease of the nineteenth century was cholera. There were three very bad

outbreaks of cholera in London in the 1830s. These epidemics and resulting deaths put pressure on the existing cemeteries and led to the establishment of cemeteries such as Highgate, Kensal Green, Abney Park and others. It was not until the outbreak of 1854 that the origin and spread of cholera came to be better understood, and this was due to the work of Dr John Snow and Dr William Farr. These two men found the answer to the spread of the disease. They were working together when the cholera epidemic of 1854 occurred. As part of their work to understand the spread of cholera, these two doctors noted the occupations and residences of afflicted persons. One interesting death occurred on 2 September. Mrs Susannah Ealey was a resident of Hampstead, a community on the northern edge of the city of London, which was considered to be healthy because of its elevation. After closer investigation, the doctors discovered Mrs Ealey regularly sent her footman to fetch water from the Broad Street pump. Mrs Ealey died within two days of drinking the water, as did her niece who was visiting her from Islington, another community regarded as being healthy. With this information, the doctors discovered that the spring which supplied the Broad Street pump was severely contaminated with cholera. The water companies which supplied the water were also thought to be culprits in this affair. When cholera returned to London in 1866, the number of deaths was relatively low, except in the East End of London. Dr Farr suggested that the East London Water Company was responsible for supplying contaminated water. The company denied any culpability, however, it was later discovered that the company, in response to a summer drought, had transferred water from a condemned open reservoir near the heavily polluted river Lea. So Dr Farr was fully justified in his accusations. Upon the retirement of George Graham as registrar general in 1879, Dr Farr was thought to be in the running to be the replacement. But much to his disappointment, the position went to someone else. Dr Farr continued his remarkable career promoting the use of statistics to establish the linkage between disease and social conditions. He worked with Florence Nightingale, and also went on to establish the connection between hydrophobia, as rabies was then called, and rabid dogs. All in all, an impressive career.

Vaccination against smallpox caused much controversy during the nineteenth century. The first Vaccination Act in 1840 allowed free vaccinations for poor people. In 1853 vaccination was made compulsory in the first three months of a baby's life, evasion by parents could lead to a fine or imprisonment and in 1867 the Act was applied more stringently and increased the age to fourteen years and this was followed by the 1871 Act. In 1898 the Act was amended to allow exemption to parents based on conscience. Many people were against vaccination and the Anti-vaccination League was formed. Apart from fines and



Dr William Farr



Dr John Snow



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imprisonment, houses and schools could be searched to find non-vaccinated children and when the parents were summoned before the Justices of the Peace, they were rarely given opportunity to justify themselves or give reasons why they had not complied. There was the case of Charles Nye from Kent who, having lost two children from, as he thought, vaccination, refused to allow his other children to be vaccinated. Between 1869 and 1881 he was served with no less than thirteen summonses; each time he was fined and these were always unpaid, and on five occasions he was sent to prison. During one of his incarcerations the authorities attempted to vaccinate him but such a row erupted and Mr Nye became so angry that the doctor took flight and the warders were called to return him to his cell. Prisoners had to be vaccinated if not previously done and after they were weighed, they would be taken to the infirmary to be vaccinated.

Then there was the introduction of chloroform, first used for childbirth in 1847 by Dr James Simpson, the well-known Edinburgh gynaecologist. It was initially used by sprinkling it on a handkerchief which was then placed over the patient's nose and mouth so that they could inhale the vapour. In 1853 it was used by Queen Victoria for the birth of her eighth child, Prince Leopold, and she was delighted with the experience. Two women seem to have been over grateful for the pain-free delivery as in the birth indexes of 1859 and 1902 list a child registered as Anesthesia.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
<b>Births Dec 1859</b> (>99%)				
Fennell	Anesthesia Mary	<a href="#">St Giles</a>	1b	<a href="#">386</a>
<b>Births Dec 1902</b> (>99%)				
LEECH	Anesthesia	<a href="#">Hartlepool</a>	10a	<a href="#">163</a>

Unfortunately, it was not always possible to administer an anaesthetic as is demonstrated in a hospital record of 1855 for William Welfare, a labourer from Wivelsfield. His clothes had been caught in a threshing machine. By the time he arrived at hospital some fifteen miles away he was nearly exhausted, and an amputation was needed without delay. When he was put on the operating table his circulation was so feeble that chloroform could not be used before the amputation. As surgery proceeded they dosed him with half a pint of brandy during which time it was observed he was almost moribund. He survived fourteen days and then sadly he had another haemorrhage and died. There was an extensive post-mortem examination.

One of the most important social changes was related to the

increase in the population. In 1800, it is reckoned that the population of England and Wales stood at nine million. By 1841, the population stood at almost sixteen million, and had reached thirty-six million by 1911. When one considers the task of building the public health infrastructure for this larger population, it must have been a formidable task. There was tremendous overcrowding and a lot of people died of diseases which are commonly prevented or cured today.

When one examines the death certificates, it is possible to see how the causes of death have changed over the last 150 or so years. One particular record shows the death of a woman in 1841. She lived for seventy-four years, quite a long time for that period. Her literal cause of death was *decay by nature*. There is a record of a man dying in 1841 of influenza. And then there was pneumonia, the disease known as "the friend who took people off".

The other disease which is creeping back to a position of considerable importance, especially in the larger cities of Britain, is consumption or tuberculosis. I feel quite strongly about TB having lost so many great-uncles and great-aunts to this disease when eight out of eleven children died before they were eighteen years of age of this disease. They lived in the East End of London. The difference now is that there is effective treatment for this condition.

You may wonder why I have not mentioned syphilis. It is an affliction I have not examined, although the very sad birth and death certificate of little Not Wanted James Colvill, born in 1861 and died a few months later may have been caused by the disease being passed down.

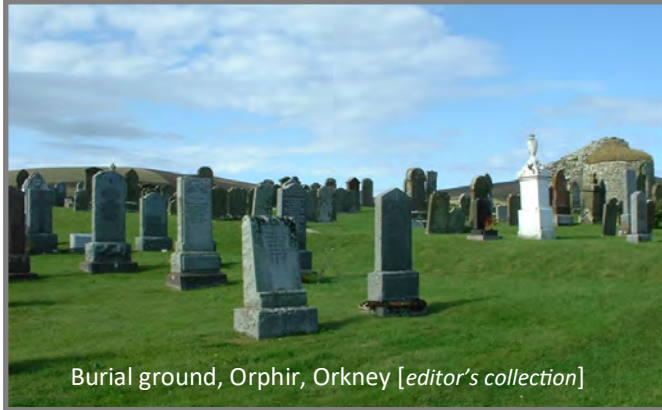
<b>Births Mar 1861</b> (>99%)				
COLVILL	Elizabeth Ann	<a href="#">Medway</a>	2a	<a href="#">340</a> <a href="#">Info</a>
COLVILL	Not Wanted James	<a href="#">Lambeth</a>	1d	<a href="#">312</a> <a href="#">Info</a>
COLVILL	William	<a href="#">Whitehaven</a>	10b	<a href="#">515</a> <a href="#">Info</a>

It was not always healthier by the seaside! In Brighton, fifty-nine deaths from whooping cough and eighty-six from smallpox in 1841; 130 from scarlet fever in 1842, 217 from consumption and 194 deaths from cholera - a fifth of total deaths in 1849 which was a larger proportion than that of Liverpool - regarded at the time as being the unhealthiest town in England.

Many second-hand teeth came from mortuaries, dissecting rooms, gallows or battlefields. Those supplying them were often Resurrectionists or body-snatchers - some only took teeth but some took bodies. Some of the most popular dentists in nineteenth century kept many people employed to provide a constant supply of teeth. Sir Humphrey Davy, born in 1778 and inventor of the miners' safety lamp,



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Burial ground, Orphir, Orkney [editor's collection]

discovered the properties of nitrous oxide so that when it was inhaled, it first produced euphoria leading to uncontrollable laughter and sobbing, and then effectively passing out. He immediately called it laughing gas. But there was a problem with nitrous oxide in that the effects did not last long so was unsuitable for medical operations. In 1844 an American dentist, Horace Wells, attended a demonstration in Hartford, Connecticut about nitrous oxide and had the idea of using it for pain relief in dentistry.

Some afflictions were named by the work of those affected: *Scriveners' Palsy*; *Grocers' Itch* from mites found in the handling of flour or sugar; *Weavers' Bottom*; *Potters' Rot* – the dust caused the potters' lungs to rot. *Bagpiper's Fungus*, so called because the bagpipes were traditionally made from sheepskin coated inside with treacle or honey to keep them airtight, so they were a breeding ground for spores and fungus. *Railway Spine*, described as post-traumatic symptoms of passengers involved in railway accidents which led to claims for damages although there were no visible signs of injury; it became so controversial that a book was written by John Eric Erichsen and it was subsequently named *Erichsen's Disease*.

If you want to know more about the medical health of your ancestors there are many sources to use. Hospital records, asylum records, workhouse records and always worth thinking about are death certificates. And then, if you are fortunate, when you get into the parish registers, you may find an incumbent who is quite good about recording the causes of death such as for Martha Betton – *Rapid decease upon catching cold after being heated by walking, aged 33*. Another young lady, Maria aged twenty, married William Steadman on 25 February 1837 and was buried two days later having *caught cold on her wedding day*. Ann Dean, buried at Shipley in 1833 aged forty-four, cause of death *Leprosy and Dropsy*. At Shipley in 1828, John Feist aged seventy-six *an executioner*. At Hastings in March 1836 two brothers and a sister aged fourteen, three and just one, all dead within three days of each other after measles, all buried on the same day. Some parish register entries are disturbing. At Fletching in 1818 a pestilent typhus fever took almost the whole Chatfield family, a further two children

were buried on the same day in the same grave. And in 1878 in a small village in Derbyshire, Henry and Sarah Lovely buried six children within seven weeks.

The Historic Hospital Admissions Records Project <https://harp.org/> provides access to 140,213 admission records to three children's hospitals in London, (Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Evelina and the Alexandra Hip Hospital), and one from Scotland, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. Between them the databases cover a period from 1852 to 1921.

Royal London Hospital Archives and Museum – the archives date back to 1740. [www.museums.co.uk/details/royal-london-hospital-archives-and-museum/](http://www.museums.co.uk/details/royal-london-hospital-archives-and-museum/)

The London Museums of Health and Medicine <http://medicalmuseums.org/> list all the relevant museums in London with links displaying what each has available. One of the most useful is the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries - click on the tab for family history. Interesting that although we think of Florence Nightingale as the pioneer in nursing standards, Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer, set up a training college for nurses at Guy's Hospital in 1840.



Elizabeth Fry  
Welcome Trust

The Wellcome Collection <https://wellcomecollection.org/> has considerable information on vaccination plus a collection of over 160,000 images. It has a free-to-visit museum, archive and library at 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

When visiting archives, be aware that some records can be closed for a hundred years.

## About the author



Lady Teviot is a life vice-president of the Federation, and a past president. She has been involved with family history for over thirty-five years and is a regular speaker on a number of family history topics. She has visited Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and South Africa to present talks. She runs Census Searches Ltd., an international probate and genealogical research company based in Sussex.

There are details of her talks on her website:

[www.ladyteviot.co.uk/](http://www.ladyteviot.co.uk/)



Ed: When struggling to work out those illnesses encountered in genealogy, try <https://rmhh.co.uk/illness.html> and also [www.disease.pricklytree.co.uk/](http://www.disease.pricklytree.co.uk/)



# Really Useful Bulletin



## Haplogroups in Y-DNA – part 1



by Martin McDowell

How can haplogroups help me with my family history? This is a question I get asked all the time and hopefully this article will help you to understand the subject a little better. In this series of articles we are specifically looking at the haplogroups we get from Y-DNA, a test that follows the male line

back through the generations, up the surname line, from father to grandfather to great-grandfather, etc.

Haplogroups are a designated group that you find you are part of when you do a Y-DNA test or a mitochondrial DNA test. But sometimes you can also get this information from an autosomal DNA test. Y-DNA and mt-DNA tests give you information on only one line in your family tree and because of this they can help you identify matches who are related to you only on that one specific line.

Haplogroups are a series of letters and numbers which identify a specific mutation (or copying error) which occurred in one individual person somewhere back in time. Only those who are his descendants will share that classification. Haplogroups can be far back in time, identifying a very distant ancestor, or they can be very recent. My most recent one is dated to about 1900AD. When haplogroups are in the last 500 years they become very genealogically relevant.

Ancestry and My Heritage don't provide haplogroups but Living DNA and 23andMe give you some information which can be used to look for someone on your DNA match list with the same haplogroup.

However, Family Tree DNA has, over the last few years, built up a database of information which provides a date for every haplogroup identified that two men share. This is publicly accessible here: <https://discover.familytreedna.com/> and aims to make the whole subject of Y-DNA interesting, understandable - and sometimes fun.

FTDNA Discover provides a date alongside each haplogroup and therefore you can instantly see whether the haplogroup you are looking at is genealogically relevant or not.

It also provides examples of ancient people who you are related to and gives an estimated timescale for when your common ancestor lived.

**Yarnton 2445**  
2325 - 2040 BCE

Shared Ancestor  
**2200 BCE**

You and Yarnton 2445 share a common paternal line ancestor who lived around this time.

**Rare Connection**

**1 in 2,400**  
Only 131 customers are this closely related to Yarnton 2445.

Yarnton 2445 was a newborn boy who lived between 2325 - 2040 BCE during the European Bronze Age and was found in the region now known as Yarnton, Oxfordshire, England.

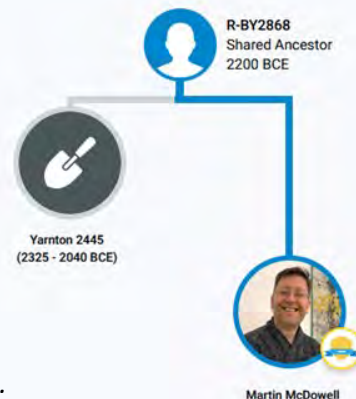
He was associated with the **Bell Beaker Britain** cultural group.

His direct maternal line belonged to mtDNA haplogroup X2b6\*.

Reference: I2445 from *Allen Ancient Genome Diversity Project; Olalde et al. 2018*

*Phylogenetic Y-DNA analysis by FamilyTreeDNA. Ancient DNA samples are typically degraded and missing coverage, sometimes resulting in less specific haplogroup placements.*

*Illustration is Martin's YARNTON 2445 link..*



It also does this for notable people whose haplogroups they have – these include such varied persons as Matthew Perry, Woody Harrelson, Michael Jackson, Tutankhamun and Beethoven!

Next time we will look at how to find others who match your haplogroup through DNA tests. In the meantime if you want to find out your own specific haplogroup you can do so by purchasing a family finder and/or Y test from Family History Books here: <https://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376>

I would recommend the Y37 + Family Finder test for reasons I will explain next time.

## DNA TESTS

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

**Family Finder (Autosomal) DNA Kit**

Current FTDNA 'Special Offer' List Price \$59 = £49\*

**FHB Price £47**

**Y-37 (Paternal) DNA Kit**

Current FTDNA 'Special Offer' List Price \$99 = £82\*

**FHB Price £77**

\* Web Prices & GBP-USD Exchange Rate (Barclays) 1.20319 verified 22nd April 2024

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376](https://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376)



# Family History Societies

## Families in British India Society

### FIBIS 25 YEARS CONFERENCE



27-29 September 2024



#### The FIBIS Conference Location

DoubleTree by Hilton Oxford Belfry

London Road, Milton Common,  
Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2JW

**Join us to celebrate 25 years of FIBIS  
and further your family history research!**

**Speakers and Workshops**

**1:1 Research Advice Special Interests**

**Gala Dinner and much more!**



[www.fibis.org/25-years-conference](http://www.fibis.org/25-years-conference) or call 01932 761768



# Family History Societies



## Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair



**Saturday 26th October 10am – 4pm**

**Free entry, free parking**

*Refreshments available (until 3.15 pm)*

**Cherwell School (North), Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE**

*Wheelchair and child friendly*

Get help with your research – particularly in Oxfordshire but also in other counties and countries.

A variety of subject experts will be present, browse and buy books,  
CDs, maps, postcards and materials from specialist companies.

*Visitors have previously said*

“Great to chat with various stallholders.  
Love the range of stalls and products.”

“Very helpful guides/society members “

“Excellent! Lots of help from lovely people “



For more information including advice on how to get to the fair visit: [www.ofhs.uk/fair2024](http://www.ofhs.uk/fair2024)

email: [fair@ofhs.uk](mailto:fair@ofhs.uk)

Tel: OFHS Helpline: 01865 358151

Registered Charity Number 275891





# Really Useful Bulletin

## Really Useful Show—LIVE

**We're going LIVE on Saturday 15th June 2024**



**East Midlands**  
**FHF REALLY USEFUL**  
Family History Show

**2024**  
SAVE the DATE  
MORE DETAILS  
COMING SOON

**LIVE**  
in 2024

FREE entry  
FREE onsite parking

Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**, Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** and **MORE!**  
**UNIVERSITY of NOTTINGHAM, Kings Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, NG7 2NR**

Full programme for Nottingham event in the *May Bulletin!*

*NEW* event announced in the heart of Belfast! Details later...

**We're going LIVE on Saturday 10th August 2024**



**Northern Ireland**  
**FHF REALLY USEFUL**  
Family History Show

**2024**  
SAVE the DATE  
MORE DETAILS  
COMING SOON

**LIVE**  
in 2024

Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**, Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** and **MORE!**  
**Europa Hotel Belfast, Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AP**



# Really Useful Bulletin

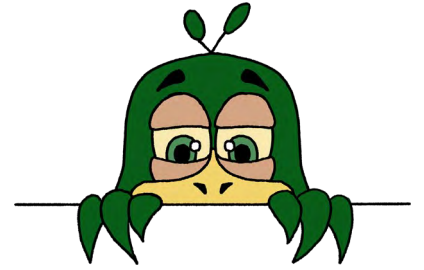
## Really Useful Show—Online

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November 2024

Calling for Presentations!



### Local, Regional and Specialist Topics



We are determined our online  
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show  
will be even better this year.

What's more, we want YOU  
to be a major part of our success!

So, with that in mind, please consider the following:

- ◇ Are you especially knowledgeable regarding a particular aspect of local or regional family history?
- ◇ Do you enjoy sharing your expertise with others?
- ◇ Could you prepare an inspiring 10-20 minute recorded talk on your chosen subject?

If you answered YES to the above, we would most definitely like to hear from you!

Please email [suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com) and put your idea for a talk topic in the subject line, plus any other information you'd like to share, and we'll get back to you as quickly as we can.



*PS - Don't worry if you're not confident using technology –  
we're willing and able to assist!*

**Steve Manning,  
Chairman**



# Really Useful Bulletin

## News from the Federation

**Let's celebrate supporting the family history community for fifty years!**



Join the Federation for this celebratory day—see last month's *Bulletin* for full details!

**Saturday 11 May 2024**

**9.30am to approximately 4.00pm**

**at the renowned Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, City Road, London EC1Y 1AU**

This **FREE** day includes presentations by Janet Few, Nick Barrett and FamilySearch, lunch and a guided tour of the famous Bunhill Fields Burial Ground.

If you would like to join everyone for this special celebratory day with informative talks and guided tour of Bunhill Fields, please register by emailing your name and address to:

[admin@familyhistoryfederation.com](mailto:admin@familyhistoryfederation.com) no later than Tuesday 30 April 2024.

Please put *Celebration* in the subject line of your email.



## THE GAZETTE

OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD

### The Gazette Seeks Writers For Website

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity to submit articles to appear on *The Gazette* website. *The Gazette* is the UK's official public record dating back to 1665, and publishes *The London Gazette*, *The Edinburgh Gazette* and *The Belfast Gazette*. The online archive contains millions of notices, including military citations, medals and promotions which are used by family history researchers worldwide.

*The Gazette* is looking for members of family history societies to contribute articles relating to genealogy research or significant historical moments, particularly with relevance to gazetted notices. From a WWI hero to the history of a local regiment, they want to hear from you. They are planning content on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day Landings at present, so would also welcome contributions on that topic.

To find out more or to get involved, please email [David.Saunders@williamslea.com](mailto:David.Saunders@williamslea.com) with your idea and a bit about yourself. Published authors will receive a by-line and a link to their society or established blog.

Visit [www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk)

## Find my past

**Archive documenting 100 years of iconic British magazine, *Country Life*, published online**

*Country Life*, one of the world's most celebrated magazines of the British way of life, is available online for the first time.

The full back catalogue of this magazine sees over half a million pages digitised. The magazine dates back to 1897, developing into one of the UK's leading glossy titles.

Fully searchable, the pages record the people, properties and landscapes that defined British country living from 1897 up to 2009. Photographs feature widely, too.

The online pages are fully searchable by name, location, keyword or even phrase, enabling you to browse both the wider social history and more intimate family connections.

Visit [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

### Almshouses—an update

Colin Wilson has asked that we tell you about his work on Hertfordshire almshouses. His articles can be found on <https://www.hertsmemories.org.uk/> - put 'almshouse' into the search box.

*Thank you, Colin!*



# Really Useful Bulletin

## Family History Books

### Practical Books!

FHB is pleased to announce that it now has available two workbooks published by

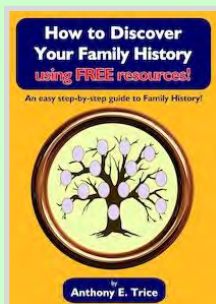


The **Family History Research Skills Workbook** by Dr Sophie Kay is packed with ideas to help you search more thoroughly, methodically and successfully - to trace your ancestors' lives and place them in context. The workbook is packed with ideas to help you research smarter, with clear explanations of useful family history tactics, complemented by demonstrations and case studies. It also provides you with the chance to put your new-found genealogy know-how into practice by trying out the tasks set, gaining hands-on practice with the worksheets - and ultimately using the methodologies in your own family history research. Available at £20 + p&p

The best-selling **DNA Workbook** also published by *Family Tree* magazine, is a packed 52-page guide to help you learn more about DNA for family history and to put your new-found DNA knowledge into practice. Michelle Leonard's expert DNA explanations are accompanied by step-by-step instructions and DNA tasks, woven through the pages, for you to dive in and get hands-on experience in mastering your DNA test results. There are check lists and research logs to help you keep your progress organised. Available at £20 + p&p.

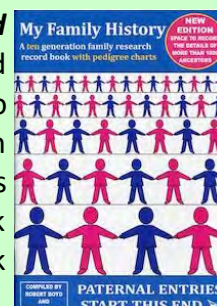


The Family History Books' online shop also has other practical workbooks available to help researchers save money and to carry their research with them in a format accessible even when there is no mobile signal!



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To complete this round-up we have **My Family History—A ten generation family research record book with pedigree charts**. Published by Robert Boyd Publications. This is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying family history research and a handy *aide memoire* to carry with you. It is a record book plus a two-sided ten-generation pedigree chart. This new edition has provision for the 1921 census. The complaint has always been that five-generation books 'don't go back far enough'. This publication resolves that. You can record ancestors stretching back to the early 1700s and beyond. All individuals are allocated unique reference numbers to link entries in the record book with those on the pedigree charts. A4. £9.99 + p&p.



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# Really Useful Back Page

## Family History Research Aids from the Experts



Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over sixty family history societies and some twenty-plus traders, at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some sixteen categories including:

- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and Probate Indexes of wills and administrations*
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**Societies and others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:**

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



# FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

[www.familyhistorybooksonline.com](http://www.familyhistorybooksonline.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 offers a range of relevant titles relating to family history research.

FHB welcomes contact from authors! Works of general and 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)

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Online 15 and 16 November

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Family History Federation P O Box 62, Sheringham, NR26 9AR

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Registered Office: 2 Primrose Avenue, Urmston, Manchester M41 0TY

