



## Family History For You

November 2013

FH4U 001

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to "Family History for You", I would like to share with you information new, old or maybe something that you haven't thought of to hopefully aid you to discover your ancestral roots. Also I would like to offer via the newsletter a chance for you to share with others your experiences, be it that eureka moment, a website site you have found really helpful, or simply something you found interesting. I would also like to think that I would be able to get some discounts for us. So really anything goes that isn't libel, scandal, racist, derogatory to anyone, or breach data protection. Only first names will be used when forwarding and sharing advice and or an article written by another person. All that said there is no guarantee that your article will appear in the next musing or even at all, it will be subject to room and its content.

Time to introduce myself, my name is Heather and I really don't remember when I first started researching my family, but I was in my teens when I wrote my first local history article, that was over 40 years ago. During this time not only have I done my own research but transcribing, society committee, local family history events and even writing on numerous genealogical subjects. I lead a strong mixed level family history group in Ash, Hampshire, I am sentimental in many ways & like to keep ties to my roots and I went to school in Ash many moons ago.

My plan is that this newsletter to be posted up on <http://www.roccoland.plus.com/FH4U/index.html> during February, May, August and November.

Writing this I wonder what you would like me share with you, let me know please. Keeping up with websites isn't easy so here are a few that might interest you, to start the ball rolling.

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### Life in the Dales

<http://www.wrmitcheallarchive.org.uk/> W. R. Mitchell was editor of 'The Dalesman' for over 30 years, has written more than 200 books on local history, and interviewed over 600 people. This website is clearly a 'work in progress' but the transcripts and audio recordings of people in the Dales is quite fascinating.

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### Orphanages

It is never easy to trace orphans, it is hard and normally emotionally draining, if the orphans are in New South Wales, Australia, maybe you thought the task impossible. Never give up, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel, you just need to find the switch to put the light on.

Maybe these three sites could be the switch to that light for you:-

### NSW State Archives - Child Welfare index

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online#child-welfare>

You can search the records for free and you will get limited information, however there is a charge if you want photocopies of the records, which is variable according to the size and format of the original.

There is also <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?q=orphanage&l-decade=191> Trove about 20,000 hits for orphanage 1910-1920, but beware you can have some interesting finds, for example in the paper on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1943, Newton Orphanage sold some Jersey heifers at Bandoms Round yard sale for between 14/6 and 26/6

Lastly on the subject of Orphans try CLAN – Care Leavers Australia Network, homes are listed alphabetically and the site appears to cover the whole of Australia, it is however primarily for those brought up in an orphanage [http://www.clan.org.au/homes\\_listing.php](http://www.clan.org.au/homes_listing.php)

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Back in the UK now, do you have ancestors who worked in the Silk industry? Leigh Local History Society have shared on <http://www.leighlife.com/index.php?page=wiki&id=leighlife:silkman> a really interesting booklet on the subject

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Very recently I heard about <http://www.elephind.com/> and what a wonderful site it is for searching newspapers around the world, although it does have a strong lean towards Australia.

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Exploring Surreys Past have some wonderful information, one that you might not be aware of is John Hassells. [http://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/themes/people/artists/john\\_hassell/](http://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/themes/people/artists/john_hassell/) Images can really help put meat on the bones of your family tree, along with helping you, the researcher, to understand how your ancestors lived, the social and working life and generally helping you to bring your ancestors to life.

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Originally written as ‘Heather’s Reference Guides’, now updated to over 1400 A4 pages it has been renamed Genealogical Compendium and is ONLY available on CD at a cost of £5 per cd or £7 including postage. The data covers 1911 Census Codes, Abbreviations, Acronyms & Short Forms, Medical, Occupations, Problems in Census, Terminology, Start Tracing your Family History, Units & Ranks of the Roman Army, Unlock Your Latin, Useful [Books, Websites & Sources] and Websites for Family Historian's. Just to clarify, the reference guides and ‘Genealogical Compendium’ were written by me personally from all my years of research and gathering snippets of information. If you would like more details of what the ‘Genealogical Compendium’ covers please ask [heather.u3a@roccoland.plus.com](mailto:heather.u3a@roccoland.plus.com) or 07788941246.

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Ireland, not the easiest of places to research, but it is getting a lot better. CAGI, the new Consortium of Accredited Genealogists, Ireland, have reported “they have won the contract to provide the National Archives of Ireland’s Genealogy Service [GS] for the next twelve months. For the consortium members it is a return to familiar ground, as each worked in the GS during the time it was operated directly by the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI). Indeed, as well as having unrivalled experience in providing family history advice to the public, the consortium team has the stamp of approval that comes with APGI membership. On the recommendation of an independent board of assessors, APGI provides accreditation for professional genealogists operating throughout Ireland. Admission to membership recognises a high level of in-depth knowledge as well as the vital ingredient of practical experience. From its establishment in 2003 the Genealogy Service has provided expert advice to visitors at the National Archives in Dublin, free of charge. Each year it has guided thousands of family historians, overseas visitors and Irish residents alike, in doing their own research. It gives them time-saving tips and provided them with a strategy to fit their own particular family. In so doing, it has played a central role in enhancing the research experience for all visitors. In 2004, in an international survey conducted by the Genealogical Society of Utah, the people behind FamilySearch – the APGI operated Genealogy Service was described as providing ‘the most impressive guidance’ amongst genealogical research facilities worldwide. On hearing of CAGI’s successful bid, Pamela Bradley MAPGI, a member of the new consortium, said that she was “delighted to be returning to the National Archives. We hope to live up to APGI’s past record of sterling service - one that has contributed in no small way to raising Ireland’s reputation in the world of genealogy.”

Hopefully this will mean that Irish records continue to become more easily available

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Family Deeds, Indentures and bonds can hold so much information, yet they are rarely used. So what are they, an indenture is a legal contract between two parties, the term comes from the medieval English "indenture of retainer" a legal contract written in duplicate on the same sheet, with the copies separated by cutting along a jagged [toothed, hence the term "indenture"] line so that the teeth of the two parts could later be refitted to confirm authenticity [Chirograph]. Each party to the deed would then retain a part. When the agreement was made before a court of law a tripartite indenture was made, with the third piece kept at the court. The term is used for any kind of deed executed by more than one party, in contrast to a deed poll, which is made by one individual. They are often agreements for labour or apprenticeships, but can be for military service or property. They will usually contain information as to names, places, dates etc giving records of location and occupation of those mentioned at times during their life.

If you haven't come across them before, have a look at what you are missing out on, or maybe this is a site you haven't been aware of <http://www.familydeeds.org/names.php>

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Have you lost an ancestor? could they be on <http://immigrantships.net/>

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Within the world of family history there is what is generally known as 'the big 3' subscription sites. These are Ancestry, FindMyPast aka FMP, and The Genealogist. The latter, I admit, is my favourite although I do use all the sites on a regular basis. So why 'The Genealogist', that is easy to answer, it was started and still is a family run company, based in Britain, with excellent customer service, should you have to phone them you speak to a person.

What is new on these sites? here is just a few of the more recent datasets that might interest you.

FindMyPast aka FMP [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

Ireland's National Roll of Honour 1914-1921, Ireland Dog Licence Registers, Ireland's Petty session Court Records, Canadian newspaper articles 1872-2012, Canadian Books, Chinese newspaper articles 1850-1926, Danish newspaper articles 1884-1936, French newspaper articles 1848-1979, German newspaper articles 1948-1999, Jamaican newspaper articles 1834-2012, Japanese newspaper articles 1920-1999, South African newspaper articles 1904-1945, American newspaper articles 1753-2012

These records can be searched and viewed either as PayAsYouGo credits or a World subscription.

#### Ancestry

London's Clandestine Marriage and Baptism Registers, 1667-1754, England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970, UK, British Prisoners of War, 1939-1945, New Saskatchewan, Canada Records, Images to 1921 Census Canada, Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in "The Boston Pilot 1831-1920", Hungary, Jews in Debrecen, 1945, Poland, German Jews at Stutthof Concentration Camp, 1940-1945, Serbia, Subotica Jews, Victims of the Fascist Occupation, 1941-1945, Hungary, "Jews For Sale", The Rudolph Kasztner Transports, 1943-1945, Poland, Last Letters from the Łódź (Lodsch) Ghetto, 1941, Chernivsti, Ukraine, Various Holocaust Related Lists 1940-1943, Ukraine & Romania, Transnistria Jews Receiving and Romanian Jews Sending Support, 1941-1945, New South Wales, Australia, Teachers' Rolls, 1869-1908

TheGenealogist, I'll expand on because I often get asked questions about it. With over half a billion records available to view and this number continues to rise steadily, it's important to be able to find the records you want in a logical manner and with the confidence of accurate results. The 'SmartSearch' feature to allows family historians to find the records they need in a user-friendly manner. With a full set of birth, marriage and death transcripts, parish and non-conformist records and so much more, there's a wealth of information at your fingertips and help with searching through the records becomes of great benefit.

‘Uniquely to TheGenealogist, it’s possible to find potential birth records from a death record, potential parents from a birth record and potential children from a marriage record. Even if you only have the basic details, TheGenealogist can help you find those long lost relatives.

Search for the children born to a couple using the father’s surname and mother’s maiden name  
See the details for either partner in a marriage  
Find the birth record from the death record at the click of a button

You can search by, name variation, nicknames, family forename search and also home and Street search

What does the website contain?

The Diamond Personal Subscription contains:

Census records 1841- 1911, Best BMD & Census Site, The largest collection of transcripts, Parish & Nonconformist records, Widest coverage 1127 – 2005, WW1 & WW2 Military rolls and lists, Extensive collection of Directories, Unique search tools, Quality data checked by experts, And much more...



How easy is it to search?

TheGenealogist allows you to search for a person directly, a family name or an address of the street they may have lived. The ‘MasterSearch’ feature is a powerful search tool to find those ancestor records.

Search by a ‘person’ through all the records

A screenshot of the 'TheGenealogist Master Search' form. The search criteria are set to 'A Person' within 'All Records'. The form includes fields for 'Forename:', 'Surname:', and 'Keywords:'. Below these are 'Year of Event (or Birth for Census):' and 'Search Mode:' options (Exact, Standard, Phonetic, Include Nicknames). A green 'Search' button and a 'Reset form' link are at the bottom.A screenshot of the 'TheGenealogist Master Search' form. The search criteria are set to 'A Person' within 'Marriages'. The form includes fields for 'Forename:', 'Surname:', and 'Keywords:'. Below these are 'Year of Event (or Birth for Census):' and 'Search Mode:' options (Exact, Standard, Phonetic, Include Nicknames). A green 'Search' button and a 'Reset form' link are at the bottom.

Or search specific records.. in this case, marriage records

Search by a list of family members to narrow down your search..

A screenshot of the 'TheGenealogist Master Search' form. The search criteria are set to 'A Family' within 'All Years' and 'All Counties'. The form includes fields for 'Surname:', 'Forename:', 'Year of Birth:', and 'Relation:'. There is an 'Add a family member' button and a 'Match decade' checkbox. A green 'Search' button and a 'Reset form' link are at the bottom.A screenshot of the 'TheGenealogist Master Search' form. The search criteria are set to 'An Address' within '1901' and 'Bedfordshire'. The form includes a 'Street:' field. A green 'Search' button is at the bottom.

Search by an address to see who lived in a particular street.

For more information please go to  
[www.TheGenealogist.co.uk](http://www.TheGenealogist.co.uk)

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I've covered the Big 3 subscription sites, but don't forget FamilySearch the LDS [Latter Day Saints] have wonderful Family History Centres all around the world. I use the Reading Family History Centre, which is fantastic.

[FamilySearch.org](http://familysearch.org) now have more than 100,000 books they scanned and published online by the partnership of the Family History Library – <https://familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library> Allen County Public Library – <http://genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx> Brigham Young University Harold B Lee Library - <http://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/> Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library - [www.librarytechnology.org/lwc-displaylibrary.pl?RC=1397](http://www.librarytechnology.org/lwc-displaylibrary.pl?RC=1397) Church History Library - [http://churchhistorylibrary.lds.org/primo\\_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=CHL\\_PUBLIC](http://churchhistorylibrary.lds.org/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=CHL_PUBLIC) Clayton Library Centre for Genealogical Research - Houston Public Library – [www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/?p=106](http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/?p=106) Mid-Continent Public Library /Midwest Genealogy Centre [www.mymcpl.org/genealogy](http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy)

All the books are available to you free of charge.

Amongst the millions of other notable files are:-

United States, World War II Prisoners of the Japanese 1941-1945,

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2127320>

United States, Korean War Battle Deaths 1950-1957, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2127893>

United States, Casualties of the Vietnam War 1956 –1998,

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2127907>

England,Sussex Parish Registers 1538-1910, New Zealand, Immigration Passenger Lists 1855-1973, New Zealand, Probate Records 1848-1991, Sweden Orebro Church Records 1613-1918[index 1635-1860, USA Arkansas First Draft Registration Cards 1940-1945, US Texas County Tax Rolls 1846-1910, England, Sussex, Parish Registers, 1538-1910, New Zealand, Immigration Passenger Lists, 1855-1973, New Zealand, Probate Records, 1848-1991 images, Records added to Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin Census 1867, Records added to Hungary, Civil Registration, 1895–1980, Records added to Netherlands, Gelderland Province Civil Registration, 1811–1950, Portugal, Coimbra, Civil Registration, 1893–1980, U.S., Arkansas, First Draft Registration Cards, 1940-1945, U.S., Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1846-1910, Records added to U.S., Louisiana, New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1820–1945, Records added to U.S., New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1925–1942, U.S., Wisconsin, Milwaukee Naturalization Indexed, 1848–1990, Records added to U.S., Washington, Seattle, Passenger Lists 1890–1957, Records added to Chile, Civil Registration, 1885–1903, Records added to Jamaica, Civil Registration, 1880–1999, Records added to Honduras, Catholic Church Records, 1633–1978

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Society of Genealogists

Norfolk and Bedfordshire monumental inscriptions, Apprentices of Great Britain, East Kent marriage index, Nottinghamshire parish registers, Indexes to local histories, Packard special collection, Poll books, St Andrew Holborn marriages (pre 1754), Trinity House petitions, Crisps marriage licences, Crisps Apprenticeship indentures, Wiltshire marriage index (partial), 17th century directory of Londoners

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FIBIS aka Families in British India Society have added Insolvencies from London Gazette 1848-1850 to their website

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New record sets for National Archives of Ireland are:- Letterkenny District Registry: testamentary records relating to the year 1990, Limerick District registry: testamentary records relating to the year 1990, Updated the list of General Prison Board Suffragette Papers

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Yad va Shem, the Jewish Holocaust victims website continues to add more genealogical records. The website records about 4 million names and biographical details. The database is searchable by name and location. Yad va Shem also accepts submissions of testimony and photographs. The site is free to access <http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/resources/index.asp>



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Family in Canada, are you aware that the 1870 census for Manitoba is online and searchable at <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1870/Pages/1870.aspx> . Not your area, then maybe Lower Canada the new modern day Quebec is, the 1825 census is online and searchable but only has limited information <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1825/Pages/1825.aspx> . Other census for Canada are available which might be helpful to you and your research.

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DeceasedOnline have added records for 19 cemeteries and 2 crematoria for the Wakefield area of West Yorkshire. The collection currently consists of about 143,000 burial and cremation records.

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch?MenuSubmit=home>

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Ireland has always been considered a difficult area to research, many records are coming online, don't give up, have patience and keep on checking what is new on line.

<http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/business/online-database-of-limerick-graveyard-to-go-live-1-5328056>

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New concept in marking gravestones I found this article really interesting.

[www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/07/lasers-for-the-dead-a-story-about-gravestone-technology/242601/](http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/07/lasers-for-the-dead-a-story-about-gravestone-technology/242601/)

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Don't forget to check local Family History Society [aka FHS] websites some are really active groups like Oxford FHS and West Surrey FHS. Oxford FHS site also have Wills available

<http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/index.html> amongst many other things.

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If you are planning on visiting a record office or archives hopefully these temporary closures and refurbishments will not effect you.

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As part of the renovations of Manchester Central Library and new archives from 15 September 2013, Greater Manchester County Record Office and The Manchester Room have closed. During the closure a temporary library is open at the Town Hall Extension where PCs, digital maps, and a small local history section can be accessed. Local history books are also available in libraries across Manchester and can be reserved for collection at the Town Hall Extension. Further details

[www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500138/central\\_library/5808/a\\_new\\_central\\_library/2](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500138/central_library/5808/a_new_central_library/2)

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The Royal Free hospital is transferring its archive collections to London Metropolitan Archives aka LMA. The reading room at the Royal Free Archive Centre closed on 13 September. The collections are due to become available at the LMA in early 2014. Any queries about the move should be addressed to the Royal Free press office at [rfh.communications@nhs.net](mailto:rfh.communications@nhs.net) or 020 7317 7590

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This looks interesting 'A History of Places and People in Portsmouth' compiled by Alan King Historical Collections Librarian, Portsmouth City Libraries.

[http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/PENC\\_UPLOAD\\_2011.pdf](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/PENC_UPLOAD_2011.pdf)

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The Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland) - ARA - have signed a deal, on behalf of a large number of archives and schools, with brightsolid to publish online for the first time millions of school records from England and Wales. This is the first project to be undertaken under the framework of the new National Digitisation Consortium, which comprises up to 120 English and Welsh archives and schools working together to offer records for digitisation. It is the first time such a large number of bodies will work together to digitise material, the millions of school registers to be scanned will cover the period 1870-1914. Once the registers have been scanned and transcribed by brightsolid, they will be made available to search online at [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk), which is owned by brightsolid. School registers can hold a mass of information to aid family historians from name of the school and the pupil, their date of birth, year of admission to the school and the name of a parent or guardian. Teachers are also listed and Industrial School registers are also to be included in the collection being scanned.

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Now this is wonderful news, how often do you get to see behind the scenes of the big companies?



S&N Genealogy are now offering family history groups and societies the chance to visit their offices in Chilmark, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, to experience some quality family history talks from respected speakers within the S&N Group.

The talks are free and include the opportunity to discuss with experts any queries you have on your family history in an informal friendly environment.

A number of free talk subjects are available to your group including:

‘Breaking down Brick Walls’ – using unique tools and data’

The talk looks at new methods for researching your family history, which can help break down any brick walls in your family tree.

‘Is a picture worth a thousand words’ – tracing those family records from an old photograph.

Looking at the types of photographic processes available since the 1840s and then using the clues that can be found on a photograph to help date the photo and find out more about the people in the picture.

Both of these talks have been well received and enjoyed at family history fairs around the country and also presented at the offices in Chilmark. There are a number of quality speakers available from S&N, including Mark Bayley and David Osborne to inform your group on the latest developments, including key resources and databases available in family history research.

As well as informative talks, there is also the opportunity to tour the S&N Group offices and take a look at the latest products including data CDs, books, binders and other archival products.

If you’d like to book a day for your group, then please contact 01722 716121 or

<http://www.genealogysupplies.com/contact.htm>



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A much under used resource, are the LDS FHC's [Latter Day Saints Family History Centre]. The LDS FHC in Salt Lake City is the world's largest, and has over 4,500 associated centres throughout the world which are all freely available to the public but vary in size from very large with lots of facilities such as the one currently located within The National Archives building at Kew in London, to ones with only one computer. These computers have a free facility called 'Family History Centre Portal' which has free access to Ancestry, Find My Past and The Genealogist as well as other sites for which you would normally pay. These centres are staffed by enthusiasts who volunteer their time to help anybody who

wishes to use the facilities. To find your nearest LDS Family History Centre go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) then, in the top right hand corner, click on 'Get Help'. Under 'Options' click on 'In-Person Help' and put your location into the box or use this link - <https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>. This will bring up a map showing where the Centres are located and by clicking on the associated shield you will get information about that particular Centre. To ensure a fulfilling visit it is recommended that you ring or email before you go to confirm that the facilities you wish to use are not already booked. Some volunteers are also happy to try and guide you should you have a problem crumbling a brickwall or are new to the hobby and would appreciate some advice. The Latter Day Saint records have been collected over the last 150 years and are still being added to as new collections come on line from all parts of the world. Visit a Family History Centre, find your way about their records and enjoy their free facilities, it is well worth it!

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Papillon Productions have released Relative History for Windows 8. This FREE app reportedly makes it easy to explore the connections between individuals, families and events. "The app takes advantages of Windows 8 features such as maps to show where events took place, snapped view to allow you to see your genealogy data alongside another Windows 8 app and flexible searching to help you dig further into your records. [www.windowsphone.com/en-us/store/app/relative-history/51bf305b-2a6f-4fb6-bf77-297ee902e59c](http://www.windowsphone.com/en-us/store/app/relative-history/51bf305b-2a6f-4fb6-bf77-297ee902e59c)

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Many emigrated to Australia particularly Londoners only to return to Europe in the terrible conflict of 1914-1918. If you are missing someone then this site is worth checking out <http://www.gravesecrets.net/wwi-pictorial-honour-rolls.html>

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Staying with brightsolid, the online publishing and technology arm of the media group DC Thomson, is to be split into two businesses focusing on the genealogy and cloud computing sectors. As a result the chief executive Chris van der Kuyl will step back from the Dundee-based business after six years at the helm.

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I wonder if this is a sign of the times? an article in the Detroit news states that they cannot process any death certificates as they have run out of paper and don't have any money to buy anymore! Apparently the problem arose in July when a paper seller demanded cash payment for the special embossed paper rather than continue to let the city operate on credit. Read the full story <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130829/METRO01/308290046/Death-certificates-took-holiday-wake-bankruptcy-filing?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp>

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The last wishes, thoughts and concerns of more than 230,000 soldiers who died on the front line during World War I are to be made available online. Final handwritten wills were kept by troops in their pocket service books and tucked into their uniforms. Now those original paper records that survived are preserved in 1,300 boxes inside a temperature-controlled warehouse run by data company Iron Mountain in Birmingham. If you haven't read the BBC's article it is here [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-23861821](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-23861821) or you could try searching the Soldiers Wills already available [www.gov.uk/probate-search](http://www.gov.uk/probate-search)

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Are you struggling with finding your ancestors in Ireland? Do you know about the Irish Genealogical Research Society's Marriage Finder? It has now reached 50,000 names, the information gathered from a variety of unusual sources including Chancery bills, diaries, deeds, marriage settlements, memorial inscriptions, wills, family letters and newspaper cuttings are just some of sources the Marriage Finder uses to form this super database. [http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page\\_id=1926](http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=1926)

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Generally family historians are appalled, even disgusted when bodies are exhumed and moved elsewhere. However, Bath Abbey in Bath, Somerset, has extenuating circumstances. Bath Abbey, dates back to 1499, it sits on the remains of a massive Norman cathedral. Three different churches have also occupied the site and, since the early 1500s, thousands of people have been buried under the building. Now, the floor of the 500-year-old building is beginning to lift and collapse, the experts at the abbey have discovered "huge great voids everywhere" beneath its flooring. Read more here [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-23685801](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-23685801)



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Oliver Morley, the Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives (of Great Britain), has accepted a role as Chief Executive of the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) starting from 4 November 2013. Oliver has been Chief Executive and Keeper since March 2010, and over the past three and a half years has made a major contribution to the continuing success of TNA.

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How safe is our research and storage? it is vitally important that we do our best to be as accurate with our recording of family history data as possible. This includes how we organise our files, letters, emails, photographs and much much more. Some however find this harder than others it just depends on how you work. Take your time plan out how you want to search for individuals and then organise yourself around this. Personally I keep all my books in a bookcase, books are all searched from the left of the shelf to the right, then they can be searched by country, county, parish. Another shelf holds my reference books and is alphabetically Census, newspapers, Railway etc. Then I have a couple of shelves for the very big books. CD's and DVD's I storage in a similar way, and microfiche are kept in a microfiche storage drawer.

There are lots of ways you could organise and storing your files but these sites might be helpful.

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_7855333\\_record-family-history.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_7855333_record-family-history.html)

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/info/basicforms>

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research\\_Forms](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research_Forms)

What is really important is your family history information, your computer data is only as safe as your backing up strategy. Backup to another disc, it will help to protect your research from loosing all your research should you have a drive failure. Holding your backups on a disc away from your main computer will help against loosing everything should your computer be stolen. Always remember if you store your family tree online is it as safe as you think it is? make sure you read the terms and conditions and the privacy statement if there is one.

There is quite a bit on the use of clouds as a storage facility, many people do not trust "the cloud" because of security concerns and I admit to being one of them. Simply you rarely know where the cloud is, some countries data protection and privacy rules are vastly lower than those of the UK and in some places they don't exist at all, so do please be very careful.

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It isn't unusual to read about damage to books due to a fires, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes amongst other natural disasters but have you thought of book damage as a result of insects? Christine Duffy has written a fascinating article on the subject

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/collectioncare/2013/08/the-bookie-monster-attack-of-the-creepy-crawlies.html>

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The British Film Institute, aka BFI as it is often called, have a collection of video clips from film and television, from the birth of cinema until to today. To see Great Britain "as it used to be," this online archive is fascinating. I especially enjoyed London in 1927. [www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections](http://www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections)

\*\*\*\*\*

Britain from the air: early aerial photos has over 47,000 high resolution aerial images of Britain from 1919-53. You won't find every location, but I found some photos of interest to me.

[www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/epw022765](http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/epw022765)

\*\*\*\*\*

I have heard that the British Library is to partner with the National Library of Singapore with the intension to digitise Malay manuscripts. The project will digitise the British Library's collection of Malay manuscripts, together with early maps of Singapore and archival material relating to Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, who was the British official responsible for the founding of the city of Singapore.

\*\*\*\*\*

The closure of the British Library's Newspaper Library annex at Colindale has been confirmed. The collections are to be transferred to the British Library's massive storage facility at Boston Spa. The library will close in November 2013.

\*\*\*\*\*

Burke's Peerage was sold to another party and the website closed on 1 September 2013. I am pleased to say that the new owners have created their own website <http://www.burkespeerage.com/> and have put the information back online.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Highland Archive Centre is starting to digitise records and make them available online.

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Clackmannanshire Cemetery Records 1866–2013 for 9 grounds are now available at [www.clacksweb.org.uk/community/cemeteryrecords](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/community/cemeteryrecords)

\*\*\*\*\*

Anyone interested in the marriages that took place within the Rules of the Fleet might find this write up informative [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleet\\_Marriage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleet_Marriage)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Society of Genealogists have launched a new award "Certificate of Recognition" the four recipients this year are:-

'Dick Eastman for having the vision to promote family history through the Compuserve Genealogy Forum and by founding and maintaining the daily Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter'

'Dr Hugh Kearsey for actively ensuring a wider availability of materials enabling others to pursue family history in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire'

'Rosemary Cleaver for her continuous back room contributions to all aspects of the West Surrey Family History Society over many years'

'The Polish Archive of Przemyslu in recognition of outstanding maintenance of local family records, particularly appertaining to Akcja Wista, and in the efforts to making them accessible to researchers from far and wide'

\*\*\*\*\*

This just might explain why people can not be found under the surname we would expect them to be. "A Hawaiian woman whose last name contains a no less than 36 characters claims officials are bullying her and disrespecting her husband's heritage by shortening it because it doesn't fit on state-issued identification cards.

Over the past 20-years, Janice 'Lokelani' Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele (don't ask me how to pronounce that!) has carried two separate IDs - a state ID card and a driver's license. The driver's license was printed with an abbreviated version of her family name and her first and middle name was completely left off.

However, to counteract this, the Hawaiian Governor's office allowed her special dispensation to accommodate her full name on her state ID, but that expired in May and her problems began when her new one arrived with her name shown the same as her drivers license."

If you don't believe me have a look:-

[www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418171/Janice-Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele-Hawaiian-woman-told-trim-long-doesnt-fit-state-ID-cards.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418171/Janice-Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaele-Hawaiian-woman-told-trim-long-doesnt-fit-state-ID-cards.html)

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In order to meet demand for a longer opening on Saturdays, Northamptonshire Record Office is changing their Saturday opening hours from 9am-1pm each Saturday to 9am - 4pm on the first Saturday of the month only. The changes took effect from Saturday 5 October 2013. The free family history help desks

provided by the Northamptonshire Family History Society on the first Saturday will continue from 9am - 1pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you have a problem tracking information on family members who have died aged over the age of 106 years, then I wonder if this site could unravel information not generally readily available.

<http://oldestinbritain.nfshost.com/index.php>

\*\*\*\*\*

Whilst talking about family it is quite possible that we might share information such as photographs via snail mail. However did you know that Royal Mail has cut the maximum level of compensation it pays for lost or damaged post for first and second class letters and parcels within the postal charge range of .50p to £32.40. The amount you can claim has been reduced from £46 to just £20

\*\*\*\*\*

Whilst mentioning family documents and family photographs, I recently came across Flip Pal



Scan anything, anywhere with the Flip-Pal Mobile Scanner.

Preserve, protect and share your historic documents and family pictures. With the Flip-Pal mobile scanner, no longer will your precious photos, documents and other memories be scattered, lost or hidden. The Flip-Pal scanner allows you to digitise framed photos, albums, medals, and pictures larger than the scanner with its stitch software.

You can scan your precious documents, photos, and other memories without taking them out of their album or frame. This means you can easily scan and share relatives' photographs and documents without fear of damage, or take the scanner to libraries or archives to scan documents and save on prints. Using the screen protector, you can scan medals and other items that may scratch the glass without worry. Scan anywhere and scan almost everything. Having digital copies of your photos and documents is as important as having the originals!

Mobile- light and flexible, scan images anytime and anywhere. No computer required as images are stored on a memory card.



Accurate - high quality, digital high resolution images.

Versatile- scan any size original, from coins to newspapers. 'Stitching' software allows you to scan large documents easily.

Quick & Easy – push one button to scan in seconds

At £129.95 the Flip-Pal Mobile Scanner is very good value, if you want more then check the bundle prices.

Things you might find included in a bundle are:-

Window Protector Sheets, Cleaning Cloth, Energizer 1-Hour Charger, Digital Creativity Suite DVD, Deluxe Carry Case [ they come in Blue, Red, Purple or Pink], Craft Edition DVD, and Energizer

Rechargeable AA Batteries. For more information or to place your order, telephone 01722 716121 or visit [www.flip-pal.uk.com](http://www.flip-pal.uk.com)

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Do you fancy a cruise? well 'Unlock the Past' an Australian genealogy company, announced in September, it is planning an eleven-day cruise around the British Isles from 19 through 29 July 2014. The conference program will offer about 40 topics in 25 sessions. Talks will not be scheduled during the day while the ship is in port, however it is possible that some might be planned for late afternoon or early evening when folk are mostly back from being away from the ship.

<http://www.unlockthepastcruises.com/cruises/5th-unlock-the-past-cruise-british-isles-discovery/>

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you know that almost half of England's cemeteries could run out of space within the next 20 years, a BBC survey suggests. As many as 25% of the 358 local authorities who responded to the BBC said "they would have no more room for burials within a decade". To read more on this interesting story the link is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-24283426>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The new £189m Library of Birmingham, which holds over one million books, has now opened. The library has more than 200 public access computers, theatres, exhibition gallery and music rooms, it is also home to the Shakespeare Memorial Room. The library has registers for Anglican churches within the present-day Birmingham Diocese and includes registers of churches which no longer exist and those of churches which were formerly in Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, such as Aston, Handsworth and Kings Norton. Details of many of the registers held can be found through the Archives and Heritage online catalogue Calmview. The library has free access to the General Record Indexes of births, marriages and deaths on microfiche. For more detail [www.libraryofbirmingham.com/](http://www.libraryofbirmingham.com/)

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Ancestry.com has bought another smaller genealogy business, 'Find A Grave'. With over 100 million memorials and 75 million photos, Find A Grave has amassed an unparalleled collection of burial information. [www.findagrave.com/](http://www.findagrave.com/)

\*\*\*\*\*

The General Register Office [GRO] of Ireland's search room in Dublin has recently moved to a new facility at Werburgh Street, Dublin 2. The Research facility is open Monday to Friday, [excluding public holidays] from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Their website is <http://www.groireland.ie/research.htm>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The National Archives of Norway have been digitising thousands of documents, the good news is that all the digitised documents, which include census records, parish records, probate records, court records, and emigrant lists are available online free of charge. Their website is <http://arkivverket.no/eng>. The starting page for parish records is at <http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629>

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Ancestry.ca, have announced the launch of almost 200,000 passenger records dating from 1819 to 1836, documenting passengers travelling between Quebec City and Montreal on the ships of the St. Lawrence Steamboat Company.

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Don't forget that if you are planning to visit the National Archives, they have a range of events from free public talks on records of interest, to training courses for archivists and academics you will find there website very helpful

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/visit/events.htm?WT.mc\\_id=news0913&dm\\_i=MAN,1SXFM,3BNAEV,6G2Z4,1](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/visit/events.htm?WT.mc_id=news0913&dm_i=MAN,1SXFM,3BNAEV,6G2Z4,1) if you can not visit listen to the talks as podcasts here is the link <http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

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Recently launched is the 'Society for One-Place Studies', a 'not-for-profit' organisation for individuals and societies with an interest in family history and local history. The aims of the Society are to encourage and assist those involved in one-place studies. A truly global organisation from the outset, the Committee members are situated around the world from New Zealand, England and USA. The cost of membership to the Society is just £10 per annum with the option of registering your place of interest for a further (one-



off) £10 fee per study. This can be a road, hamlet, village, town ....whatever! Further information is on their website <http://one-place-studies.org/>

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Have you an ancestor who served with the Royal Navy during WW1? could this interest you? [www.naval-history.net/index.htm](http://www.naval-history.net/index.htm) the site has details of Royal Navy Log Books and The Ships Histories, a Citizen History Project. Royal Navy log books of the WW1 era has 350,000 pages transcribed, 175 ships now online including Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, East Africa & China Station. There is also a wealth of other information on this site pertaining to WW1 including Casualty Lists, Royal Navy Despatches and Royal Navy Honours and Gallantry Awards. Also available are War Diaries from August 1939 to March 1942 which are combined with other primary sources into a day-by-day account. The period April 1942 into 1946 is covered by a growing number of War Diaries ranging from the Home and Mediterranean Fleets to the British Pacific Fleet.

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This is free to use site, lists all the titles of the Digitalised Online British and Irish Newspapers (19 different collections covering 17th to 21st Century) which may be helpful to identify whether a title is available and if so, what dates could be available and where you can locate it. The Lists are split into: England (excluding London), London (which splits between Local Borough newspapers and the Main London List), Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man. The lists are sorted by County and then Town except London which is sorted by title and date. The index compiled by Richard Heaton is here <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/BritishandIrishNews.html>

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I wouldn't normally venture outside the realms of family history, however with ever increasing costs I thought I would quickly mention this site maybe if you are planning to visit an archive or record office it will help with cheaper train tickets [www.cheaptraintickets.info/cheap-train-tickets-guide/](http://www.cheaptraintickets.info/cheap-train-tickets-guide/)

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The new CEO of brightsolid online publishing, Annelies van den Belt, has said that the business is to be renamed DC Thomson Family History, to align with its Dundee-based media company owner and to focus on its core business, leading digital family history brands: findmypast and Genes Reunited. The announcement, also boasted it had 18 million registered users across its family of online genealogy brands and over a billion genealogical records online. Read the announcement here <http://goo.gl/r6p3tJ>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch have announced a new long-term strategic agreement. According to the announcement, "The two services will work together with the archive community over the next five years to digitise, index and publish these records from the FamilySearch vault. ... Ancestry.com expects to invest more than \$60 million over the next five years in the project alongside thousands of hours of volunteer efforts facilitated by FamilySearch."

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"An article in the BBC News Magazine has a strange family history twist. Jennifer Teege is a bi-racial woman. Her mother was German and her father was a Nigerian student with whom her mother had a brief affair. A few weeks after her birth, Jennifer was placed in a children's home, then later adopted.

When in Hamburg, Germany, Jennifer was in the central library and came across a book. It was wrapped in a red cover. She was immediately drawn to it. It turned out to be a book about Jennifer's family history. It included many pictures, including pictures of her mother and of her grandfather. The grandfather was Amon Goeth, the commandant of Płaszów concentration camp near Krakow, from 1943 to 1944. Amon Goeth ordered the execution of all non-white and bi-racial prisoners in the camp, as well as many Jews. Goeth was later tried before the Polish Supreme Court, found guilty of murder, and was executed by hanging not far from the former site of the Płaszów camp. Amon Goeth was featured years later in the movie Schindler's List, with his role played by Ralph Fiennes. Jennifer Teege saw the movie when it played in theatres." More on this at the BBC News Magazine website [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24347798](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24347798).

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A Tampa genealogist Dan Perez has found notebooks kept by a midwife who was an immigrant from Sicily, Maria Messina Greco. The prolific midwife had birthed up to six babies a day from 1907 to 1939. A total of 6,734 births are listed in the notebooks. The listings always gave the mother's name and usually the father's name as well. These books are fabulous for anyone with ancestors from Tampa. Many of the births are not found in official vital records. Births are listed for mothers who were Spanish, Italian, German, Albanian and Greek. It is possible to order photocopies of the original notebook pages, it is hoped that records will be available on a web site in the future. You can read more in an article by John Barry in the Tampa Bay Times at <http://goo.gl/iumZZb>.

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Do you know that the historical directories site for trade directories from Leicester University, have moved to a new site?  
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/find/rarebooksandarchives/specialcollections/historical-directories> this is an excellent facility, the move is so that other elements can be added and thus improving the site. One thing that is new is a download facility for the directories, this downloads the whole directory as a .pdf file.

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I had an email from Judith, telling me all about her new book, so I asked her to write a little bit.  
"The Book 'Mary Chrystie and Her Family' by Judith Witter  
[Published by Leatherhead and District Local History Society]

I co-lead Bookham U3A Family History Group. My research for the talks I have given led me to write the book 'Mary Chrystie and Her Family.' I am interested in how villages develop over time and how immigration of new people brings new money and changes. In the book I look at the Chrystie family's move to Bookham, Surrey and how Mary Chrystie became wealthy. She was the third largest property owner/developer in Bookham in the late Victorian period. I feel anyone interested in how changes in the life of one person can influence how a village develops and leave a lasting mark on a village will find the book interesting to read.

Mary Chrystie fascinated me as a woman and I wanted to know what influenced the decisions she made and why she was so active in the Temperance Movement. I had read snippets about how she was in public life, but I wanted to get some idea about what went on behind this picture. She was a member of a middle class Victorian family and the story in the book describes the successes and struggles the many family members experienced. In the book I make suggestions about how events influenced her decisions.

Her father came from Balchrystie in Fife, Scotland and had sugar plantations in Jamaica. He received compensation from the British Government after the Abolition of the Slavery Act. He died at Clifton, Bristol when Mary was only six years old, leaving her mother to bring up eight children on her own. Both Mary's father and mother were buried in her mother's family (Wade) grave at Great Dunmow, Essex. I hope people will want to read the book both because the family story is very interesting and a good read, and also because it provides some insight into social history.

If you have ever thought about researching your family history, this book reveals just how much information is in public records waiting to be discovered. I knew nothing about Mary's family before I began and found a wealth of information, which is in the book. It is very well referenced so it provides a guide to sources of information which will be of great interest and very useful for family historians.

Copies of the book will be available from September at £10 from Amazon or £10 plus £1.50 postage from the Sales Secretary, L&DLHS, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP. Cheques should be made payable to L&DLHS."

Thank you Judith

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From the Federation of Family History Societies:-

"The following message has been received by Ian Cope, Director of Population and Demography Directorate, Office of National Statistics -

I am writing to tell you that we are launching today, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, a public consultation on 'The Census and future provision of population statistics in England and Wales'.

You may be aware that our 'Beyond 2011' programme has been reviewing all of the options. Our research has resulted in a clear view that there are two possible approaches to census-taking in the future:

- a census once a decade - similar to the 2011 Census but primarily online; or
- a census using existing administrative data and compulsory annual surveys.

Both approaches would provide annual statistics about the size of the population, nationally and for local authorities, as we do currently. A census using existing data and annual surveys would provide statistics about population characteristics every year. An online census would provide more detailed statistics but only once a decade.

Different users will have different views on the approaches, depending on how they use the data, and we welcome views from anyone.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013. We have arranged a number of events to support the consultation, listed in the link below. You may wish to be represented. Please feel free to circulate this email to anyone who you think may have an interest.

You can find the consultation document and a link to the online questionnaire here <http://ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/beyond-2011-consultation/index.html>

I very much hope that you or your organisation will be able to respond, and we would be very happy to provide further information or to discuss any issues with you direct.

Please contact us at [beyond2011@ons.gov.uk](mailto:beyond2011@ons.gov.uk) if you have any questions or wish to discuss further."

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An Iraq war veteran's SpongeBob SquarePants headstone has been removed from her resting place because officials at the historic Cincinnati cemetery deemed it inappropriate for their traditional grounds. The headstone on Kimberly Walker resting place was made in likeness of her favourite cartoon character and erected at Spring Grove Cemetery. Despite getting the cemetery's prior approval of the headstone's design, a smiling SpongeBob in an Army uniform, with Walker's name and rank, her family said yesterday that cemetery staff called them the day after it was installed to say it would have to come down, along with a near-exact duplicate erected for Kimberley's living twin sister, have been removed and will not be allowed back up, cemetery President Gary Freytag said yesterday. Freytag is reputed to have said "We've decided that they aren't appropriate for our historic cemetery, and they can't be displayed here." The employee who approved the headstones made an inexplicable error in judgment, given the cemetery's traditional, stately appearance, Freytag said. He

acknowledged that the cemetery is at fault and said that staff members would be meeting with Kimberley's family to try to find a solution, which could include a more traditional gravestone bearing a small likeness of the character. Freytag is also reported as saying that Spring Grove is prepared to reimburse the family for each headstone, which cost a combined \$26,000, and pay for new ones. "I feel

terrible that it got to this point, but I'm hoping we can come out at the other end of the tunnel with a solution," he said.

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I must come to a close, but first Christmas is just around the corner, it is time to get our wish lists underway, but where do we start to look, well my first port of call is S&N Genealogy Supplies.



A company I have been using since they started back in 1992, this family run company is UK based, has many years of experience in supporting those who use genealogy software with dedicated support staff. Most high street stores can offer only one or two packages for genealogy. S&N offer a comprehensive range of software programs plus books, binders, charts and hundreds of data CDs.

The company offers a quality range of software to help you research your family history. The company specialises in offering family tree building software, in particular, 'RootsMagic' - as the sole UK publisher and distributor of the leading 'RootsMagic' family tree building software. S&N also offers Family Historian, Reunion 10 and Family Tree Maker software.



There are a number of exciting new releases available in 2013 including a number of 'data downloads', (if you want access to records instantly), new Parish records and other useful CDs for the family historian. The research CDs cover school, college, university, military and naval records, including World War One and World War Two records and criminal registers.

As well as data and information CDs, S&N also provide everything from books, binders, charts and other useful items for the family historian. This

includes the new 'springback binders' range, charts, mobile scanners and other archival products that help the researcher store and protect their valuable research.

The S&N book range covers both 'computer related genealogy' books and general genealogy books to cover all the major needs of a family historian. From software manuals to tracing your family history on the internet, to standard genealogy help books for family historians of all levels, there's everything you could require at S&N Genealogy Supplies.

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Thank you for taking the time to read 'Family History for You' if you would like to recommend a website, or know of an archive closure or better still free able to write something for the newsletter please share it with me.

Likewise please tell fellow family historians about the newsletter.

Heather

[fh4u@roccoland.plus.com](mailto:fh4u@roccoland.plus.com)