



Family History For You
November 2016
FH4U 013

Hello Everyone,

Very soon after the last newsletter was published I received an email that left me totally gob smacked and extremely humbled. Apparently word of this newsletter has reached those on the Genealogical course run by Strathclyde University.

If you have any ideas and or thoughts on how this newsletter could be improved I would love to hear from you. Remember I am doing this for you, not for me because I have already read, learnt and inwardly digusted [I hope] the information in this newsletter.

Hope you all enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

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As we approach Remembrance Sunday I thought I would open this newsletter with a remarkable tale. Stewart Cooney served with the Royal Artillery in World War 2. Stewart was pre-deceased by both his wife and their adopted son. It was feared that Stewart would have no one attending his funeral, someone mentioned this on social media resulting in hundreds of people turning out for the funeral and the chapel was overflowing with mourners.

You can read the full story with photos of the Chapel over flowing with mourners.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-36859868

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The Commonwealth War Graves site has added a facility that now allows you to search for a particular place. Just type in the name of the town or village in the "additional information" box, you can also download the results as an excel spreadsheet.

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Walesonline.uk has a wonderful tool, which allows you to search for servicemen, or women who lived on your street www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/world-war-one-use-search-7529784

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The Military Archives www.militaryarchives.ie now have a search room at Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin, Ireland.

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The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales has launched its new website at <http://rcahmw.gov.uk>

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Ancestry Academy, have introduced the first of a series videos courses. The first videos are [I believe]:-

Pre-1850 Censuses

1850 Census: An Introduction

1880 Census: An Overview

1890 Census: Where is It?

Introduction to the 1940 Census

More details can be found in the Ancestry Academy web site

www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/short_hosted_videos

Elephind is a great free service that searches online digital newspaper collections. As it says on the site "The purpose of elephind.com is to make it possible to search all of the world's digital newspapers from one place and at one time. Elephind.com allows you to simultaneously search across thousands of articles using key words and phrases"

It is a great source for finding mentions of ancestors, small items and major stories, so just try it.

At this time, Elephind has indexed 149,363,907 items from 2,779 newspaper titles containing more than two and a half million editions, ranging from March 1803 up to January 1, 2015 in some titles. The website is at <http://www.elephind.com/> or search for elephind using google, bing or other search engine. On the site is a getting started section, a search tips section and a full list of titles available. There is a simple search and advanced search, but always look at any original source on the site as the index is computer generated and can get confused.

Remember, DO always look at any original source' I did a search on Peter Hicks, and one entry was in fact for Allerup, Peter in one column and Hicks,C in the next but it had merged the 2 columns to give Peter Hicks.

Click this link to see what I am trying to explain

[#](http://idnc.library.illinois.edu/cgi-bin/illinois?a=d&d=NYC18830217.2.30&txq=)

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Researching our family tree is not the cheapest of hobbies, and I am sure that you, like myself, truly appreciate the free websites. I read a report claiming that the trustees of Free UK Genealogy Freereg, FreeBMD and Freecensus are proposing to make the sites "pay to view".

The initial report that I read stated:-

"The trustees of Free UK Genealogy, Freereg, FreeBMD and Freecensus propose to change the availability of data transcribed by volunteers from being "free" to "pay to view".

This survey is being carried out to determine which option is preferred and is open to all past, present and future volunteers of these organisations.

Feel free to send this message to any website, chat group and anyone with an interest in the future of these organisations.

A vote for "pay to view" indicates support for the new proposed volunteer agreement.

A vote for "free" indicates that the new volunteer agreement must include a clause saying that data transcribed by volunteers will never be used for commercial purposes."

To vote send your responses in the subject line directly to me:

jseakins@gmail.com

You may also wish to email your vote to the Executive Director:

Pat.reynolds@freeukgen.org.uk"

Then I found this:-

Dave Mayall July 25, 2016 at 10:52 am

Hi,

as a trustee of Free UK Genealogy, I can say with absolute certainty that the central plank of Dr Seakin's message (that we intend to make any of the sites pay per view) is completely untrue, and the text that is set out above has NOT come from the trustees.

What we ARE proposing is to make our data available as "open data", which will mean that anybody can re-use that data. That could include people who re-use it commercially, but we will still have it online, free of charge.

Should you be worried about this? Well, rest assured that I and the other trustees have worried about it for several years. Of course, we are concerned that we should do the right thing, and that we shouldn't leave people thinking we are doing the wrong thing.

So, why open data?

Well, whilst we have achieved much, in bringing all that data to people free of charge, we have come to realise that something was happening that we never really considered back in 1999 (yes, that is how long FreeBMD

has been with us). Basically, the data set that we have transcribed is so huge that it seems very unlikely that anybody else would do it again, but WE own that data, and that means that it is only as useful as WE let it be. If somebody else has a good idea about using that data to make it even more useful to genealogists, then they can't do it, and unless we negotiate an agreement with them (or we develop the idea ourselves) that good idea will never happen.

Now that isn't what we are about!

So, we want to say to all those people out there who think they can do something clever with that data "Go, do something clever".

Some of them will do something clever and make some money from it. Others will do clever things for free, and still others will see people making money from the data and decide to do something similar for free.

Basically, unless what somebody wants to do with the data is HUGELY clever, somebody else will do the same thing for free, so there will be little incentive for the pay sites to do simple stuff here, because if they do, somebody else will pull the rug from under them.

So, there you have it.

People will be able to use our data. They can even charge people for their end product, but we are sure that there will be plenty of new FREE content created, and that anybody who created a paid for version of FreeBMD would make no money!

Above all, the existing FREE sites (or rather new, revamped, FREE sites in some cases) will still be there.

Kind regards

Dave Mayall

Trustee, Free UK Genealogy

I will leave you to come to your own conclusion I couldn't say which is right and which is wrong.

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A new partnership has been announced between the Board for Certification of Genealogists and Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

BCG President Jeanne Larzalere Bloom is recorded as saying "We are very excited about our new partnership with Legacy Family Tree Webinars, whose technical expertise in genealogy webinar production and management is second to none". Whilst Geoff Rasmussen, founder and host of the Legacy webinar series said "This collaboration allows BCG to focus on its mission of promoting attainable, uniform standards of competence and ethics among genealogical practitioners".

Take a look at the website www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com, registration is free and is open to the public, the other website you might appreciate is www.LegacyFamilyTree.com

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Did you see the article in the New York Times by Amy Zipkin entitled *A Personal Sort of Time Travel?* www.nytimes.com/2016/07/30/your-money/a-personal-sort-of-time-travel-ancestry-tourism.html?_r=1

Very interesting read, especially with so many people travelling, around the world for various reasons nowadays.

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Lancaster University have announced what their staff called social media of its time. What is it you ask? The Edwardian Postcard Project is [I believe] the first project of this nature, to collect, transcribe and analyse early twentieth Century postcards. Simply type in a surname, address, town or year and the database will show a snapshot of Edwardian social history. Here is a link for you www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/EVIIpc/

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Have you been searching for records of Charles City [one of the 20 Virginian counties] said to have been destroyed / lost. Well they have been found, it appears that a Union soldier took them during the Civil War for safe keeping, they disappeared in August 1862, during the Peninsula Campaign. For more details go to the website:-

www.richmond.com/news/local/central-virginia/charles-city/article_146d2991-c9aa-506a-9d50-8cc8ff8eb69c.html

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For London researchers this is a lovely new website, 'The London Picture Map' is the result of 2 years of digitising as over 150,000 pictures from across the city

<http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/london-picture-map#51.506304405365%2F-0.1259049224854607%2F13%2FRoadMap%2F-1>

There is an article by Feargus O'Sullivan www.citylab.com/design/2016/07/london-picture-map-collage/493178/

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The List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers now has a new updated version. This new online version is packed with information and incorporates previous work, it is colour coded. New to this version, are the live links to other websites holding indexes, transcripts and scanned images of parish registers, along with many more benefits.

<https://beta.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf>

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The largest genealogical organisation is FamilySearch, it is a non-profit organisation, run by volunteers and sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints aka Mormons. There are many Family History Centres [over 4,920] attached to Chapels around the world that are open to everyone, do consider using the centres. The website is <https://familysearch.org/>

In July FamilySearch organised a mammoth Worldwide Indexing event, during which time volunteers from around the world transcribed nearly 10.5 million historic records. What a fabulous effort from everybody involved,

FamilySearch announcement following this event read:-

"Worldwide genealogy event recruits more than 116,000 volunteers and shatters previous record SALT LAKE CITY (July 25, 2016)—From July 15 to 17, FamilySearch International hosted the world's largest known indexing event, bringing 116,475 people from around the globe together, saving nearly 10.5 million of the world's records by making them easily discoverable online for future generations. Volunteers ranged in age from 8 to 65 and pitched in from as far away as Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands. "Last year, we saw a total of 82,039 volunteers participate during our week-long event," said Shipley Munson, FamilySearch International's Senior Vice President of Marketing. "This year, we saw a 40 percent increase—and the event was held for just three days. What's more, at least one fourth of those who participated had never indexed before. We are thrilled!"

The successful crowdsourcing event was the result of a worthy cause and unified efforts on a global scale. "Every one of the 10 million historical records indexed during this event tells a personal story about someone's ancestor. The descendants of those 10 million people—you and me—will now be able to quickly find them online and experience how much fun it is to make personal family discoveries," said Munson.

Asia alone saw 14 times more volunteer participation this year than in 2015. Other participating regions worldwide reflected similar success.

North America: 92,943 (45 percent increase from last year)

Europe: 3,948 (8 percent increase from last year)

Latin America: 16,686 (33 percent increase from last year)

Africa and Pacific Rim: 1,876 (35 percent increase from last year)

Asia: 1,360 (1,317percent increase from last year)

Images of hundreds of millions of historical records are added every year by FamilySearch's philanthropic efforts worldwide, amplifying the need to create searchable indexes to them online. "We are so grateful for the contributions of the many volunteers online during this event. We challenge them and others who did not have a chance to participate to continue to help others make vital family discoveries through their personal indexing effort," Munson said. "Fortunately, we all can continue to contribute to this meaningful initiative throughout the year. "

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Are you researching in Ireland? then I am sure you will appreciate this wonderful .pdf file, which you can view, and download if you so wish, the updated 'List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers'. Originally compiled in-house for the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI), now the National Archives of Ireland (NAI), by Margaret Griffith. Enjoy if you have problem downloading the .pdf, let me know.

<https://beta.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf>

A new Chief Legal Officer has been announced by Ancestry. In the statement I read it said "Carla S. Newell is joining its senior leadership team as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel. Newell will lead the global legal team, supporting privacy, security, and risk management initiatives as the company continues to expand globally while accelerating the growth of its high-demand consumer genomics offering. Newell is succeeding William Stern, who is departing from Ancestry to pursue new business opportunities."

Interment.net was started back in 1997, they have announced that they added over 670,250 cemetery records covering 87 cemeteries in July 2016 alone, taking the records on the site to nearly 1.4 million records. This is a free resource / archive of cemetery transcriptions. I believe they get their records from government offices, private cemeteries and volunteers who are happy to transcribe inscriptions.

Whether you lead a group or are an individual researching as a hobby, we all have times when we could do with a little extra guidance or assistance. The magazine Family Tree has some really useful "How to" guides on various subjects which I am sure many of you will find are supportive to your research.

www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/?_ccCt=VVOqFZUss_mYOgwCPU2a4N7M8lgcD~rZ3Jlb_539l1zN_3huSArtme~gqpRqXqVn

According to the French Genealogy website <http://french-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie/2016/07/celebrate-le-havre-departing-passenger-lists-are-online.html> some departing passenger lists from Le Havre have been made available, click on the link Inscription Maritime for more information you will need to subscribe.

In reply to your questions, yes if you are thinking of purchasing Family Tree Maker go to the www.mackiev.com online store. Don't forget to check out the Family Tree Maker Mailing List, at www.familytreemaker.com especially if you have FTM 2012 or older, MAC versions are also included. Hopefully by the time you read this the offer of a discounted upgrade will still be available.

There has been a lot of controversy regarding privacy issues related to the 2016 census in Australia. The Australian news website <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-22/privacy-advocates-express-concerns-over-2016-census/7653956> has quite a detailed article on the matter.

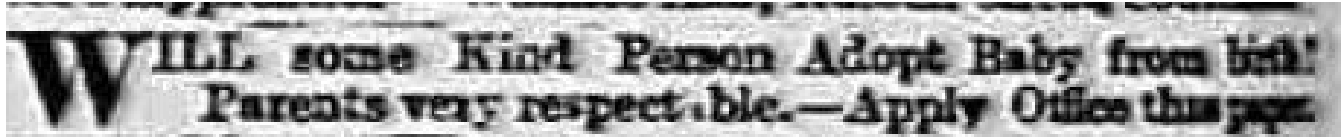
The census took place in August but there were lots of problems, due to a BIG computer crash thousands of Australians were unable to take part. This news website suggests it was hacked

www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-10/australian-bureau-of-statistics-says-census-website-hacked/7712216

This is dreadful news it took away the rights of those entitled to be on the census, it will also hinder future family historians as they will not know if a person had died or was unable to get to register on the 2016 census.

Since writing the above a few weeks ago, I have now read that the security experts investigating the information available and found that it wasn't hacked from overseas nor was it a DDOS attack. So what was it, it appears that when the Australian Bureau of Statistics personnel looked at the servers' log files and "interpreted the alarms as a successful hack...these were little more than benign system logs and the technical staff monitoring the situation poorly understood it." but they went ahead and blocked Offshore traffic in accordance with plans drafted earlier. However, another attack, for which the Australian Bureau of Statistics had no contingency to repel, was directed at it from within Australia, the Australian Bureau of Statistics personnel did not understand the problem and the servers crashed.

A member of the family asked me if it was possible to find their Granddad's ancestors, I replied that generally speaking it was possible. Then they dropped the bomb shell, "Granddad knew his father was advertised in a Newspaper"



For those readers who are visually challenged the image is an advert that appeared in a newspaper that read "Will some Kind Person Adopt Baby from birth Parents very respectable. - Apply Office this paper"

It is an impossible brickwall but is it really?

Due to the very sensitive nature of this article, the next paragraphs have been very generalised.

I double-checked all of the information that had been shared with me, from there I started with the 1911 census, before moving to searching the GRO aka 'General Register Office', and newspapers. Time, patience, checking and double checking records and using a process of elimination, slowly, brick by brick, the brickwall has begun to fall apart.

Born in 1903 and registered as Simon Perlman, to Mary Moynihan, Simon was adopted when his name was changed to 'CG' [short formed in order respect family]. Sadly the lady who adopted 'CG' in 1903 died in 1915 when 'CG' was just 12 years old. Members of his adoptive family then cared for him. In 1917 'CG' joined the Royal Marines in September using an alias 'AK' [short formed in order respect family], he was discharged on Oct 1917 his service record records "discharged underage", his service record also gave a link to 'CG' joining up. At the time of joining up 'CG' his service record also records a link to 'AK' , both 'AK' and 'CG' have different service numbers.

The birth certificate substantiates the details of Simon Perlman, however it does record Simon's mother as "Mary Perlman" but this isn't a problem because in August 1925 there is a sworn statutory declaration by Mary Moynihan. Mary admits that at the time of the registration of Simon's birth she was not married to Louis Perlman, although he was, as recorded, his father. Why was the birth certificate recorded with incorrect information?

When researching always keep your eyes open and don't let them become blinkered.

Mary had married Thomas Moynihan on 30th November 1899, their first child was born in June 1900. However a more detailed search found that Mary had served divorce proceedings on Thomas on the 26th November 1901. The following sections of the divorce papers telling of the married life of Mary are most telling.

Section 3 of the divorce reads:-

"That shortly after the said marriage and from thence continually to May 10 1900 when your Petitioner finally left him, the said Thomas F Moynihan continued to hurt your petitioner with great unkindness and cruelty, that he frequently in gross filthy and obscene language abused your petitioner and threatened her life and neglected her when sick and beat and struck her by reason were of your petitioner went in terror of her life and on the 10th May 1900 [about six weeks before her said child was born] left him and ceased to cohabit with him, future cohabitation with him she said Thomas Frank Moynihan being no longer safe for her"

Section 4

Was just as interesting

" That on an occasion happening in or about the month of April 1900 at the 'Duke of Cambridge' aforesaid the said Thomas Frank Moynihan threw a chair at your Petitioner which stuck and seriously hurt her"

Section 5

"That on an occasion happening about the same time, at the 'Duke of Cambridge' aforesaid the same Thomas Frank Moynihan ? after your Petitioner with a knife and threatened to take her life".

Section 6

"That on divers occasions during the said marriage the said Thomas Frank Moynihan at divers places to your petitioner at present unknown has committed adultery with Susan Stevens"

Section 7

" That on divers occasions during the said marriage the said Thomas Frank Moynihan at divers places to your petitioner at present unknown has committed adultery with Louisa King"

Section 8

"That on divers occasions during the said marriage the said Thomas Frank Moynihan at divers places to your petitioner at present unknown has committed adultery with divers women whose names to your petitioner are at present unknown"

The Divorce took its time, Mary believing she could move on formed a relationship with Louis Perlman, falling pregnant with Simon. Thomas finding out about this relationship countered the divorce with proceeding of his own on the grounds that Mary had committed adultery. Thomas died in 1903 before the divorce decree nisi was granted.

So who was Louis Perlman? He can be traced living with his sister and brother in law in the 1911, also living at the property is another sister. This proved to be a great find as I have been able to find the marriage of Helena Perlman in Berlin, Germany. I have also been able to find the baptism of Helena's first child also in Berlin, Germany.

After a short delay trying to find someone able to translate these certificates for me, I now have another anomaly to unravel in my search for the parents of Louis Perlman. The German marriage certificate states that Helene/a records her father as Nickolas, however Rose the other known sister of Louis records her father as Nathan.

Unfortunately to the best of my knowledge the records of birth / baptism for Helena, Louis and the other sister Rose have been destroyed when the village they were born in was bombed as well as all the records pertaining to the Jewish Synagogue of Eydtkuhnen, East Prussia. If you know differently I would appreciate you dropping me an email.

The moral of the story, is don't give up, have faith in yourself, it is just a case of finding the right resource to start de bricking your wall.

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After many years of campaigning the Heritage Lottery Fund have granted a massive £14.8 million grant. Now work can begin to transform the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, Museum and Art Gallery, South West Film and Television Archive, South West Image Bank, Local and Naval Studies Library, Central Library and St Luke's Church buildings into one attraction.

Check out <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/loveourpast>

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In the last newsletter I mentioned several websites that I have found useful when researching maps. The links were predominating UK based, for those looking for American maps maybe this website will be of help to you.

<http://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads>

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I am sure that at sometime or other we have all had, got, or seen old photographs which have at sometime been damaged, this site is interesting and I feel might be helpful to those struggling with the idea of how to consider repairing or going about repairing photographs.

www.makeuseof.com/tag/easily-restore-old-family-photo-photoshop/

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Another question that has popped up recently is 'Churching'
Churching has been around for hundreds of years and still to day but in a slightly different format. For those wishing to know more here are some links.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Churching_of_women

www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/book-of-common-prayer/the-churching-of-women.aspx

www.newadvent.org/cathen/03761a.htm

There is so much information available out there on the Internet, I feel I couldn't do the subject justice.

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DNA is a subject I have stayed away from talking about because I don't feel I have enough knowledge to talk about it reliably and I would hate to mislead anyone.

Recently I am being asked more and more for my opinion. Although I agree that DNA testing can on occasions have its benefits I still struggle to agree with it in a majority of occasions, WHY?

I have seen at family history fairs testing being done, however this raises concerns:-

Test tubes containing samples are left on tables and could be muddled with other samples from other people, also on the same table as the paperwork and samples are not always tightly together.

The temperature the samples are stored at can degrade results.

The length of time samples take to reach the laboratories can degrade results.

At WDYTYA Live aka Who Do You Think You Are Live this year, I picked up a leaflet about DNA testing. They could do the testing there and then, I replied that I would like to read more about it first. I asked when the samples would be sent to the lab for testing and was told Monday! that would have meant the sample was somewhere for 4/5 days before it was even sent to the lab. I didn't appreciate the verbal vile tirade because I had declined testing, maybe had she been polite and understanding that I could read the leaflet and gone back to the stand on one of the remaining days, I would have considered it.

Still not convinced I rang Ancestry support!! All the information was about taking the sample and sending it to them.

I would receive a letter stating I was ?% this, ?% that, ?% something etc but nothing to say where or how these percentages were come by.

I wanted to know what resources they used, apparently they have picked a selection of about 100 people. He [Ancestry support guy] thought, from the different areas and used the DNA from these people to form a DNA board for that area. However he admitted that he was not aware of any checking that these people ancestors originated from the area. The scenario I put to him was, so the person could have been born in say America, but the parents could be Japanese and Chinese which would give a misleading result, he agreed.

A friend did the Ancestry DNA test and got the following for her fee

Great Britain 46%, Ireland 25%, Europe West 23%, Trace elements Scandinavian 3%, Iberian peninsula 1%, Finland North West Russia less than 1%, and Italy & Greece less than 1%

The gent at Ancestry support also said that if I was a subscriber my DNA result would be shared with other close DNA sharers and I would be have access to those with close DNA. However if I wasn't a subscriber, subscribers would be able to see my DNA profile yet I wouldn't be able to see the profiles of other subscribers, Hmmm.

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I wonder how many of you know about Postman's Park in the City of London? No it is not just a park to walk in but it also it is the home to 'The Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice' a public monument. To fully appreciate this memorial which remembers those who have sacrificed their own lives to save another I feel it best if you visit the website https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tablets_on_the_Memorial_to_Heroic_Self_Sacrifice

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Regular readers of my newsletter will know, I have an interest in reading and finding the weird, crazy or unusual. Hubby and I both search the internet to see what we can find, especially news and newspapers. So you will not be surprised that I am sharing this find with you all, to aid the visually challenged this is the wording of the obituary, the website follows at the end of the obituary.

"William Ziegler escaped this mortal realm on Friday, July 29, 2016 at the age of 69. We think he did it on purpose to avoid having to make a decision in the pending presidential election. He leaves behind four children, five grand- children, and the potted meat industry, for which he was an unofficial spokesman until dietary restrictions forced him to eat real food. William volunteered for service in the United States Navy at the ripe old age of 17 and immediately realized he didn't much enjoy being bossed around. He only stuck it out for one war. Before his discharge, however, the government exchanged numerous ribbons and medals for various honorable acts. Upon his return to the City of New Orleans in 1971, thinking it best to keep an eye on him, government officials hired William as a fireman. After twenty-five years, he suddenly realized that running away from burning buildings made more sense than running toward them. He promptly retired. Looking back, William stated that there was no better group of morons and mental patients than those he had the privilege of serving with (except Bob, he never liked you, Bob). Following his wishes, there will not be a service, but well-wishers are encouraged to write a note of farewell on a Schaefer Light beer can and drink it in his honor. He was never one for sentiment or religiosity, but he wanted you to know that if he owes you a beer, and if you can find him in Heaven, he will gladly allow you to buy him another. He can likely be found forwarding tasteless internet jokes (check your spam folder, but don't open these at work). Expect to find an alcoholic dog named Judge passed out at his feet. Unlike previous times, this is not a ploy to avoid creditors or old girlfriends. He assures us that he is gone. He will be greatly missed." This was published in the The Times-Picayune on the 12th August 2016

http://obits.nola.com/obituaries/nola/obituary.aspx?n=william-ziegler&pid=181033700&utm_source=fark&utm_medium=website&utm_content=link&ICID=ref_fark

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The following has been shared with me written by Dick Eastman, a very interesting article at the time he says he first wrote the article in 2012 when here in the UK family history groups were still appearing to grow, however now there are significant signs that membership numbers are dropping within societies and groups.

'Facing Up to the Long Term Future of Your Genealogy Society'

This article was first published as a Plus Edition article on March 7, 2012. It turned out to be a very popular article. At the suggestion of some newsletter readers, I am re-publishing it today as a Standard Edition article so that more people can read it. I have made a few minor updates to the original article as well. Please feel free to forward this article to others or to republish it anywhere you please for non-commercial purposes. There is no need to ask for permission; "just do it."

NOTE: This article contains several personal opinions.

I travel a lot (I am in Auckland, New Zealand today and going to Singapore on Monday), and I spend a lot of time with officers and members of many genealogy societies. Most everywhere I go, I hear stories of societies that are shrinking in size and even a few stories of societies that are struggling to maintain their existence. Even amongst all this "doom and gloom," I do hear a few rare stories of genealogy societies that are thriving and growing larger. Not only are they attracting more members, but these few societies are also offering more and more services to their members with each passing year.

Why do the majority of societies flounder while a handful succeed?

I hear all sorts of “reasons” why societies are shrinking these days. I suspect many are not true reasons but are merely “shoot from the hip” excuses offered with no statistics or research to back them up. Common excuses include, “It’s competition from the Internet” or, “It’s the economy” or, “People just aren’t interested anymore.”

To be sure, competition and economic difficulties and even lack of interest exist everywhere. If society members and officers do nothing to offset these factors, inertia sets in, and societies suffer. However, these factors affect all societies. The question persists: why is it that some societies thrive and even expand while others are shrinking?

I think the answer is a combination of many factors. However, some of the causes and perhaps even a few of the solutions become obvious when we look at history. Our ancestors witnessed and perhaps participated in similar problems years ago in other industries. Indeed, in recent years, even those of us alive today have seen similar declines and occasional reversals in a number of business endeavors. Perhaps the answer to the future growth of your genealogy society may be found by first looking back at the history of similar problems in other fields of endeavor.

Here is the first question to ponder: What happened to all the railroads in North America?

In the 1800s the railroad industry in the U.S. was a growth business. In some ways it was like today’s Internet businesses. Consumers couldn’t get enough of the railroads’ “product:” convenient and easy travel. People traveled to places they never visited before, even if only to visit relatives in another state. Corporations also rushed to send their products by rail because it was cost-effective to do so. Farmers sent their products to distant markets that had previously been impossible to reach. The economy improved for farmers and for corporations, and the money then “trickled down” into almost all other businesses. The country flourished, in part because of the railroads.

Most every year, inventors created newer and more efficient locomotives. First it was steam, then it was petrol, then diesel. Times were good, and America had a bright, rail-based future.

So what happened? Why isn’t North America blanketed in rail routes today? Why doesn’t everyone commute to work on the railroad?

Today, the railroad companies are a shell of what they once were. Why? Because automobiles and trucks came along and ran the railroads into the ground.

Senior managers at railroad companies seemed to believe “we are in the railroad business.” In fact, they were really in the transportation business, but few executives realized that. A very few railroads expanded over the years into bus lines, trucking companies, and allied transportation businesses.

One company provides a perfect example: Railway Express. This company specialized in brokering and delivering railroad freight, mostly smaller packages that required much less than a full box car for transportation. This was a “railroad company” that eventually was driven to bankruptcy by a newer company that saw the true business was delivering packages (parcels) by whatever means made sense: United Parcel Service. The new company, usually called “UPS,” seems to have done quite well by delivering packages by rail, truck, and airline. In short, the company succeeded nicely by doing exactly what the older company had done except for one major difference: the new company did not limit its services by calling themselves a railroad company, but by calling themselves a freight delivery company and then by doing “whatever it takes” to serve the customers.

The overwhelming majority of railroad companies tried to remain just that: railroad companies. Then they wondered, “What happened to all the customers?”

Let’s fast-forward a few years and look at another business: newspapers.

Again, newspapers used to be multi-million dollar businesses that most everyone respected. They were the primary sources of news and information for most citizens. A very common question was, "Have you seen the paper today?" When was the last time anyone asked you that question?

The newspaper business was almost an exact repeat of the railroad business. New competition arose from radio, television, the Internet, and a host of small electronic devices. Even bloggers are competition to newspapers. Generally speaking, the new competition has been cheaper, faster, and much more flexible, able to change quickly to meet customers' demands.

The result was predictable: stodgy, old newspaper companies with inflexible management started losing business. Customers abandoned those companies where management said, "We are in the newspaper business." Yet a few forward-thinking managers said, "We are in the news and information business," and they survived by adopting the methods of their new competitors. A very small number of newspapers, such as USA Today, adopted modern business methods and built upon their strengths: dozens of reporters, editors, advertising departments, and more. They built multi-media organizations capable of delivering news and entertainment to their customers, wherever and whenever those customers want it.

I will suggest that it makes no difference how a news story is delivered to a customer. One (slow) method is to print it on paper and send it out via overnight trucks to be sold in stores and newsstands. Another is to broadcast the same story on radio and television. Perhaps still better is to place the story on a web site where customers can retrieve it whenever they wish. Another option is to build the story into an RSS newsfeed where customers can access it via a newsreader. Better still, if the customer has a strong interest in some topic (sports, financial news, or most anything else), PUSH that information as it becomes available to the customer's smart phone that is on his hip or in her purse.

Executives who think they are "in the newspaper business" will fail. In fact, the PRODUCT is news and information, and that is important. The DELIVERY METHOD might be paper or broadcast media or Internet. I will suggest that delivery methods are important, but never as important as the product. The product is INFORMATION, and companies in the information business have a better chance of survival than those companies that believe they are in the newspaper business.

Let's look at a third example: Computers

This story has a very different ending. Apple started in the computer business 30 years ago at about the same time as did Microsoft and a few dozen other personal computer companies. Some built hardware; a few created software. A very few, including Apple, tried to do both. In fact, Apple floundered for a few years as the company's managers tried to become the best and most successful computer company in the industry. By most standards of measurement, the Apple executives failed. Sales were down and continued to drop every year. At one time, Apple was close to bankruptcy.

Apple's board of directors then re-hired Steve Jobs. He was a founder of the company but later left to pursue other opportunities. Newly-re-hired Steve Jobs was given one objective: turn the company around. He was given a free rein to do whatever he thought was best.

The rest is history.

Even today, Apple does not build as many personal computers as some of its competitors and does not produce as much software as its biggest competitor. Yet Apple is now more profitable than any other company, even more profitable than Microsoft. In fact, Apple now has the highest corporate valuation IN HISTORY.

How is this possible? There are a number of reasons, but the biggest seems to be that Apple stopped being a computer company years ago. Instead, Apple is now the world's leading PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY.

To be sure, Apple does make a significant amount of income from sales of personal computers. However, that revenue is not as big as the money derived from the sales of personal music players, cell phones, and tablet devices. Apple also produces devices to stream movies and television programs across the Internet. The same company even manufactures and sells battery chargers. Indeed, this is no longer a computer company.

Apple failed as a personal computer company, but it became wildly successful as a personal technology company.

Better than any other tech company, Apple paid attention to the trends of what consumers want, and they've never been afraid to experiment with other products. Some of those products failed miserably, but others succeeded far beyond anyone's expectations. The result is the most profitable company in the industry with more money in the bank than the gross national products of many countries.

The railroad moguls of days past said, "We're in the railroad business!" when they should have been saying, "We're in the transportation business." Newspaper managers used to say they ran newspaper companies when they should have been managing news and entertainment companies.

Steve Jobs and Apple got this right by saying, "We're not a personal computer company; we're a technology company."

So what does this mean for your genealogy society?

Are they societies, or are they providers of genealogy information and education and other services?

First, let's stop calling them "societies." That is a very narrow term that encourages members and officers alike to narrow their focus. We need to look at a bigger picture. Perhaps we should call them "genealogy organizations" or invent some other term that better describes the myriad of services possible. Such services can include:

- 1. Education*
- 2. Publishing (on paper as well as electronic publishing)*
- 3. Travel services to local and distant repositories or even to "the old country"*
- 4. Lobbying services*
- 5. Fraternal organization services, somewhat like the Elks or Lions or Masons or other fraternities and sororities, all working towards common public service goals*
- 6. And perhaps the most important of all: entertainment*

Probably not all genealogy organizations need to perform all of these activities, but I will suggest that most organizations need to perform at least several of the above. Like Steve Jobs' experiences at Apple, some of these services will flounder and become miserable failures. Chalk those up as "learning experiences." All you want is to make sure that enough of your organization's efforts succeed and generate enough revenue to help sustain the organization.

Most societies already perform educational activities for members and sometimes for non-members. All we can do is to expand this. Perhaps societies should be holding classes and information sessions for the general public. How about establishing scholarships for local high school seniors planning to pursue studies in history or allied fields?

Publishing is performed by many societies today although often is limited to small booklets that are published only on paper and are not well advertised nationwide. Yet today's technology allows for electronic publishing at far lower costs than older methods of printing books. Shouldn't we be placing all genealogy publications online and making them available to anyone and everyone worldwide for a modest fee? Or will we continue to act like newspapers?

Travel services can be a major service for members. How many of your organization's members have ever visited the state historical society's library? Or a nearby university's archives? Organize a trip! A trip doesn't always have to involve airfare to distant locations; a local visit can be just as valuable for members and non-members alike.

Lobbying is perhaps one of the greatest needs of genealogy organizations today. We are under constant pressure from well-meaning, but ignorant, legislators to limit access to the very records we depend upon.

Genealogy organizations need to make sure that legislators understand that identity theft is not a factor when looking at death records from many years ago. In short, we need to lobby!

Speaking of members, do services have to be restricted to members? Why not make all services available to the general public? Sure, you might offer a discount to members, but restricting items "as a benefit of membership" rarely benefits anyone. By restricting services to members, all the society is doing is locking out potential new members and others who may have a casual interest in genealogy. The best advertising to attract new members is to let non-members use the organization's present services, although perhaps at a slightly higher price than what members pay. Some of these "outsiders" will be motivated to join. The remainder at least will have added to the organization's treasury.

As proven recently by the television networks, genealogy is also "entertainment." Yes, we are in the entertainment business, whether we realize it or not. Let's entertain our members and especially let's entertain our potential future members!

The above list only "scratches the surface." I am sure you and your associates can create a longer list of worthwhile activities. We need to exist, thrive, and even grow in a high tech world of instant communications and collaboration. We cannot sit back and complain of "competition from the Internet." Instead, we need to embrace the Internet and every other form of technology and use all these tools to further our own interests.

My prediction:

Many genealogy societies will continue to shrink and will eventually die. Genealogy "organizations" with a broad outlook and a willingness to experiment with new methods of delivering services will expand and become influencers within the genealogy world.

Where will you and your society fit into all of this?

The above is Dick Eastman's view on the matter, maybe you have a view, or your group/society has done something different to raise the profile, if so please do share by dropping me an email.

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I am often asked which of the big subscription sites is the best but that is an impossible question to answer, they all have advantages. Take Norfolk records as an example:-

Findmypast claim to have 4.6 million records from Norfolk parish registers.

Ancestry has about 8 million.

The Genealogist has around 10 million.

Are the records the same, just counted differently or are they all different, I don't know and don't think anyone else does really.

The best advice I can give is to do your homework, see what the sites have on offer and then decide for yourself. That said I would say that I am very cautious with anything where I put any personal information on line as it could be stored in any country with any sort of privacy laws, or lack thereof. The genealogist, I do know, has all it's servers and storage in the UK.

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Many of us will have a family history programme of some kind on your own computer and these programmes will normally have the ability to print a family tree of your selection. However sometimes these charting options don't always fit what we are looking for.

The website www.familytreetemplates.net might be what you are looking for, offering you the opportunity to download trees and craft them to your own requirements.

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The Canadians had a much much better response to getting and filling out census forms. It has been reported that they had a 97.8% response for reinstated mandatory long-form census. To read all about it in detail try this link <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/best-census-ever-stats-can-1.3739857>

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When your marriage goes pear-shaped, money is short, so how do you pay for the divorce? According to Ebay a lady in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, has put up her wedding dress for sale to help pay towards the divorce. The ebay advertisement states, "Great condition but needs dry cleaning before wearing to get rid of the stench of betrayal". This advert also states, "If you want a dress that is full of bad memories and shattered hopes and dreams then this is the one for you! Hope this dress brings you a lot more happiness than it brought me in the end and if not...well you can always sell it on here!"

By the close of the auction the wedding dress had raised a staggering £65,900.00, for a dress that originally cost a mere £2,000 in 2014

www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Art-Deco-Wedding-Dress-size-6-/232045213621

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Now for a spot of light humour, which I hope, will bring a smile.

A tourist in Vienna is going through a graveyard and all of a sudden he hears music. No one is around, so he starts searching for the source.

He finally locates the origin and finds it is coming from a grave with a headstone that reads: "Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827". Then he realizes that the music is Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and it is being played backward!

Puzzled, he leaves the graveyard and persuades a friend to return with him. By the time they arrive back at the grave, the music has changed. This time it is the Seventh Symphony, but like the previous piece, it is being played backwards.

Curious, the men agree to consult a music scholar. When they return with the expert, the Fifth Symphony is playing, again backwards.

The expert notices that the symphonies are being played in the reverse order in which they were composed, the 9th, then the 7th, and then the 5th.

By the next day the word has spread, and a crowd has gathered around the grave. They are all listening to the Second Symphony being played backward. Just then the graveyard's caretaker ambles up to the group.

Someone in the group asks him if he has an explanation for the music.

"I would have thought it was obvious," the caretaker says.

"He's decomposing."

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Going back to Monumental Inscriptions, my future son in law posted this one on Facebook, not exactly what we would think of as a Monumental Inscription.

For the visually challenged it reads "In Loving Memory of 'William the Worm' killed by a cucumber 2016".

There are quite a few very unusual inscriptions if you can find them, have you found one if so please would you share it. Or in fact anything else that you have come across that is unusual, weird, or simply brilliant that is family history related, it does not need to be complete with a photo.

My email address is FH4U@roccoland.plus.com

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I guess that some of you will be wondering why I have taken to attempting to be catering for the visually challenged and before you say the blind can not do family history oh yes they can. Unfortunately for them many of the family history magazines and journals are only available in paper format, useless to a blind person.

So if you have written a family history related article for a magazine or family history society journal please would you share it with me so that I can share it in this newsletter. Programmes like 'Hal' and 'Jaws' can read a .pdf and it means that I can improve on keeping this newsletter for anybody and everybody and nobody is excluded.

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In 1975 two baby boys were born three days apart in a remote community in Canada. Now 41 years later Leon Swanson and David Tait Jr. have found out that they had been swapped at birth. For years friends Leon and David had commented how they each looked and had similarities to each other's parents. Then in November 2015 heard that two people also born at the Norway House Hospital, in Manitoba had been switched. Since then they have undergone DNA testing that has confirmed their suspicions that they had been given and sent home with each other's biological parents.

Just imagine researching your family tree believing your parents are your biological parents only to find out after many years of research they your parents are not your biological parents. I can sort of understand how this might feel, because after over 22 years of family history research I was told I was adopted. After extensive research I have concrete proof I am not adopted and that the person who said I was, was just being extremely vindictive, I am told it was because they couldn't have children of their own and were jealous of my mother!!!. Hence I now have a strong interest in adoption.

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Searching the news websites I came across this to me rather creepy story. A bride who married soon after her brother was killed in an accident has had his image inserted into some of her wedding photos, you can read the story here:- www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-37119884

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Tracing adopted relatives is not easy and there are restrictions for those adopted to find information on themselves. If you were born in Missouri before 1941 and were adopted you can now access your records, it is hoped that later adoptees born after 1940 and are at least 18 years old will be able to access their records from January 2018. For those interested in these records you'll hopefully find these links helpful.
www.missouriadopteerightsmovement.com/ and or www.missouriadopteerightsmovement.com/adoption-records/

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The Irish Genealogical Research Society aka IGRS has announced a further update to its ' Irish Genealogist Database' the latest update extends coverage from 1998 to 2005 to investigate further
www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=3039 searching the database is free.

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I really do not know, nor do I understand why some people not only have the desire and need to be disrespectful to others. The Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo, MI, America is the latest I have heard about. Approximately 80 gravestones have either been damaged, chipped or toppled over, this story was recorded in Mlive
www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2016/08/not_all_tipped_tombstones_yet.html

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The Data Protection Commission [DPC] have instructed that the Dublin City Electoral Lists for 1937-64 be removed from free online access at Dublin City Libraries & Archives Heritage Databases site.

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Some readers might also find 'The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Institutional Archive' of help their website is <https://library.rcsed.ac.uk/content/content.aspx?ID=3>

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Another story has reached me from America, this time where a burial ground could become a tyre factory. Apparently officials have been having talks with a tyre company from Germany, regarding the sale of the land in the region of \$1.45 billion, for more details hopefully this link will answer your queries.
<http://alanhuffman.com/graveyards-destroyed-for-mississippi-industrial-project/>

I have received this report that the Representative Church Body Library has re-launched it's online 'List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers'. The list is extremely useful and helpful for all Church of Ireland parochial registers of baptism, marriage and burial [noting what survives, dates covered, and where they are located]. Many records were destroyed when the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) was set alight during the Irish Civil War in 1922. Here are a few links that I hope will assist you in your quest for Irish records.

<http://ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegistersTable.pdf>

The National Library of Wales has made available transcriptions of shipping records from 1856 to 1914, which were transcribed by volunteers at the National Library. <https://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=6670>

The Guild of One-Name Studies and FamilySearch have announced that the Guild's collections will now be searchable at <https://familysearch.org/>. The partnership gives guild members another source for preserving their work this will allow researchers across the world to benefit from exploring the variant spellings of their personal surnames and possibly connect with others throughout the world who have the same last name.

The website for the Guild of One-Name Studies is <http://one-name.org/>

I have said many times before how much I appreciate hearing from and receiving articles from readers. I am truly grateful to Liz for the next item, thank you Liz.

"I was thrilled to make contact with a third cousin through reading a website for one of the villages from which my relatives came in the 1880s.

My grandfather, Frank Weston, was born in Etchingham in East Sussex in the late 1800s. His Weston ancestors back to the early 1700s also came from Etchingham.

I decided to look at the Etchingham village website www.etchinghamvillage.co.uk in case there was anything interesting for my research of the Weston family. First I read about the history of the village and browsed photos of village events. I moved on to reading the church history and then, lower down the menu bar, I found a section for Memories.

I started reading the first memory which was about 100 years a family home. Right there in the first sentence was a reference to Joseph and Mary Weston who I had in my family tree. I read the article through which confirmed some names of other people I had in the tree but what a wealth of names were in that article.

I noticed another memory written by the same person and once again more references to people in my tree. Time to get in touch!!

The only way I could think of getting in touch was by using the contact page on the website and asking if they could contact the author of the articles and find out if she was happy to make contact. Within a day I had a response and a few days later was sent the contact details of what turned out to be my 3rd cousin.

We have shared information about the family and found that some of her close relatives moved to Robertsbridge where my grandfather moved to and lived for the rest of his life. Both my mother and aunt, both in their 90s, recognise the names of those relatives as they were at the same village school.

Robertsbridge also has its own website and has quite a few memories to browse through. My mother has enjoyed reading them and we have spent many an hour discussing them. It is amazing the odd snippet of information she has come up with as a result of reading these.

Do look for websites for the villages your ancestors lived in; you never know what you might find!!"

Thanks Liz for reminding us, to research with an open mind.

I promised in the August newsletter, that this newsletter would have full details of the next U3A Family History study day, which so far has always been fully booked, booking quickly after the application form becomes available, with some delegates travelling over 200 miles in both directions.



This event also has a small number of stands

U3A Network Family History Study Day

Thursday 23rd March 2017

The Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, GU12 5DP

Cost U3A Members £10.00 per person, non U3A Members £12

09.30 Registration

10.00 Welcome

10.15 Roger & Barbara Glancefield

Meet a Royal Horse Artillery Gunner from Wellington's Army and a descendent.
Talk given in costume, the costume will be explained, with many more interesting facts.

11.15 Refreshments

11.45 Alan Johnson 'Making the Most of FamilySearch'

12.45 Lunch

1.45 Jane Hurst 'Using Parish Records'

2.45 Refreshments

3.15 Elizabeth Owen 'Computers, Internet and Family History'

Different computers, accessories & programs that can be used with tips, tricks & problems

4.15 Thanks & close

Members of Ash Family History group will serve simple refreshments.

Please bring your own packed lunch

There is a small free car park at the centre, alternatively there is a bigger free car park a minute or two's walk away at the opposite end of the recreational ground to the Parish Centre.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

There will be NO refunds for attendees who do not arrive.

Please make all cheques payable to Ash U3A

Any queries please email heather.u3a@roccoland.plus.com or phone 07788941246

Return applications with a stamped addressed envelope if you haven't included your email address to:-
Mrs H Hicks, 4 Sandy Lane, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 9EU

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Some family historians record data for fellow researchers, be that transcribing parish records, Wills etc..

Bill Habermann is one of these people he has been entering data pertaining to Pierce County, Washington, pauper cemetery. This cemetery is the resting place of over 1,600 people, Bill has been entering details on to the well known website www.findagrave.com to read more about Bill's data from his funeral directors ledgers go to www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article98258267.html

The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections have recently announced that they have added to their Methodist digital collections the Records of Methodist Episcopal Church Congregations in Louisiana and East Texas during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

For the full press release go to www.centenary.edu/news/2016/0000089 and the archives themselves are at www.centenary.edu/library/archives/methodist/digitalcollections

Following my request for unusual occupations and hobbies, I had just one reply!!.

Carol emailed telling me about her Grandfather, Carol writes:-

"Grandfather Stanley Leonard Barred born in 1896 in Deptford was apprenticed as a Coppersmith at Stone and Company but was very practical and his brother in law gave him an interesting task. Because he was a bookie and before it was legal he had runners who took bets in the area and because the bets had to be placed before the start of the race my Granddad made leather pouches with a clock on and also a locking mechanism to ensure fair play! Sadly none of these were handed down through the family but it makes for an interesting occupation be it part time!"

For the benefit of those who scan read the website updates something you might miss. The subscription website Ancestry have added the 1973-95 Wills to their National Probate Calendar Collection. Lets all hope that it will not be long before they fill some of the gaps, currently little if anything is on their site for the time period 1967-1972.

Don't forget that the subscription websites FindMyPast and TheGenealogist also have searchable Wills online. Don't forget that in the last newsletter there was a discount offer for new subscribers to The Genealogist.

In amongst our family trees it is not unusual to have a skeleton. Do you have a convict in the family? another update to the Ancestry website is 'Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775'.

Also available online are:-

Middlesex, England, Convict Transportation Contracts, 1682-1787

Dorset, England, Convict Transportation Records, 1724-1791

Findmypast:-

Convict Transportation Registers 1787-1870

TheGenealogist:-

HO 10 Home Office: Settlers and Convicts, New South Wales and Tasmania: Records 1787-1859

HO 11 Home Office: Convict Transportation Registers 1787-1870

Tracing your convict ancestor can be absolutely fascinating.

It is always wonderful to hear of and acknowledge new genealogical projects, we already have BillionGraves and Find-A-Grave so I am not sure how this one will fit in. The new project 'Monumental Archive Project' is an open community, creating an open database and aims to be more for preserving historical archives, I am not sure just how wide an area it will cover but here is the website <http://monumentalarchiveproject.com>

Do you like including your research when on holiday? The you might be interest to know that Cunard are starting Genealogy cruises, the first 2 will sail from Southampton, UK to New York City on the newly renovated Queen Mary 2 leaving on 4th November 2018 arriving 11 November 2018. Ancestry's experts will show you 'How data drawn from the largest online collection of family history records can help trace your family's past' and 'Find out how AncestryDNA can introduce you to living relatives you never knew existed and reveal your ethnic mix across 1,000 years.' Additionally there will be speakers on board.

Prices start for inside staterooms from £949 per person, inc flights. For more information please check the website

www.cunard.co.uk/cruise-types/event-cruises/journey-of-genealogy/

Ancestry have added over 300,000 photographs to enable subscribers to take a historical tour of the UK's, City, Town and Village photos covering the period 1857-2005.

The new Chief Scientific Officer has been announced by Ancestry. Dr Catherine Ball originally joined Ancestry in 2011 as Vice President of Genomics and Bioinformatics.

I often get told of brickwalls people have, how they believe they wouldn't be able to resolve this. Generally most brickwalls are crushable but some take time, 'a lot of time'. I have a brickwall that I have had for approaching 25 years, I am sure the answer is out there somewhere it is just a case of finding the answer, and will [I hope] be found one day.

So here are a few of my tips.

Keep an open mind to spellings, surnames / place, names change not just over time but with how people think they should be spelt.

Make sure you keep a record, not just of your positive sources but also records you have checked to no avail. You may need to revisit the source in the future.

Always use original records, I know that for those with a visual challenge this isn't always possible. It is important to remember that transcripts are open to miss transcriptions, what I transcribe as a 5 you might transcribe as a 6 or an 8.

Keep an open mind and DO NOT make assumptions, in all probability it will lead you down the wrong branch

Keep your research notes up to date, it will help you not to get in a muddle and it will also help you to save time because you will be able to refer to your log / notes to see if you have already checked a resource.

Make sure that you regularly backup your research. Should you have a computer failure you will be able to fall back on your backup and saving you possibly hours and hours retyping in your research.

Details of your sources are important, should you need to double check information you will know exactly where you found the information.

If you can not find the answer you are searching for, ask, post a message to a mailing list or on a forum, join a family history group, hopefully someone will be able to suggest a resource you haven't checked.

Try researching a sibling, you might find something, it could be something like a father not on one marriage certificate but on another certificate.

Ask family and relatives, be careful of your wording, some elderly members of the family may have been sworn to secrecy. I once found a child who was born to a cousin and adopted as a baby. He was born whilst his

mother was still a minor, it was all hushed up but when I mentioned my find to his Grandmother she confirmed and gave me additional information.

Visit the area, older members of the community can have a wealth of information. Take the trouble to visit the local public house for lunch or just liquid refreshments, it does not have to be alcoholic. Pubs tend to be where you will find the older members of the community.

Have your truly read, learnt and inwardly digested everything from a certificate, witnesses to a marriage, informant details, either could be all that is needed for a brickwall to crumble.

Attend Family History Study Days / Fairs / where you will be able to other researchers and quite often experts are available.

If you believe a record to be the one you are looking for, but it says say Eliza instead of Elizabeth don't discount it, Bessie and Beth are other forms of Elizabeth. Extend your research to see if this is the person you are searching for. On one occasion I found a Suzanna transcribed as James!!! The original very clearly said Suzanna, the transcriber had simply mixed lines when transcribing. Likewise Clerks will and do make mistakes in writing down names, misspelling surnames and getting forenames wrong, keep that mind open.

Some ancestors don't want to be found. Keep things in proportion. Don't waste your time in pointless searches, on the off chance. Work from known facts.

It is known that I am not the greatest Facebook fan, and the only reason I first had an account was to communicate with my daughter whilst she was travelling around the world. Yes I do use it a bit more now to chat to friends. Recently during one of my "I'm bored" moments:-))) I decided to see what I could find on Facebook.

John Petrik fed up with the disgusting state of LaGrange Cemetery in Titusville, Florida took to Facebook to voice his feelings on a community page. Just three days later the cemetery was filled with volunteers all in 'clear up mode'. Searching I found this article on this enterprising idea www.clickorlando.com/news/residents-rally-around-lagrange-cemetery-found-in-shambles

In a previous newsletter recently I have mentioned Twile when they won awards at RootsTech 2016. Twile have announced updates to importing Gedcoms, and to merging records.

If you are tempted to use the 'Match / Merge' facility on your family history computer programme, then do be careful, some automatic merges will merge unexpectedly. Joseph Bloggs born 1805 could easily be a descendant of Joseph Bloggs born 1660, however they could in some cases be merged together. I always advise to use this brilliant facility manually.

Even more records are now available for those researching their Irish ancestry. The Web address is www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/ the latest release covers historic records of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the time periods, Births:- 1864 to 1915, Marriages:- 1882* to 1940, Deaths:- 1891* to 1965 The website states "The General Register Office is currently working on updating further records of Marriages dating back to 1845 and Deaths dating back to 1864. These will be included in future updates to the records available on the website."

Many will have heard or read like I did years ago "all Irish records have been destroyed" No not exactly, yes some were destroyed in the 'great fire' but many survived and you can more on that here www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/irish-records-burned.html

Wonderful, oh I do like goodies like this:-)))

Tithe maps can be enormous helpful, the National Library of Wales project 'Cynefin Project aims to digitise around 1,200 tithe maps and transcribe over 30,000 pages of index documents by March 2017. In order to do this some repairs will be required to maps.

Subscription website TheGenealogist www.thegenealogist.co.uk has a huge number of tithe maps for England should your research for outside of Wales.

Did you see the interview with Celia Heritage on the BBC 1 programme 'The One Show'. Celia is a lovely lady, and very well respected within the genealogical circle. Celia has some very good handouts available on the internet relating to her talks or to read about the interview on the BBC go to www.heritagefamilyhistory.co.uk/blog/2016/09/surnames-the-norman-conquest/

Over the last couple of years I have been sorting things of my Mothers [she has moved to a care home]. For many many years she had denied having anything related to or of interest to researching the history of the family. I have found so many things and some hidden, may be one day I will share that with you all.

So I can understand how a letter from a dying mother to her daughter, the letter found by a second hand bookseller with the letter was a photograph which has enabled the daughter to be found. You can read the story here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-37289473>

Now for something a little different, some of us will have research in those more difficult to research countries. For me currently I am struggling to find records of Eskimos in Canada, and Jews [Synagogue records] for Eydtkuhnen, in East Prussia.

Hopefully this will help someone, MyHeritage have released over 33 million Finnish Church records this link www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10509/finland-church-census-pre-confirmation-books-1657-1950 will take you to the page so you can see what MyHeritage have to say about the collection. The Collection does cover Baptisms 1657-1890, Marriages 1682-1892 and Burials 1725-1909

Russ Wilding, Chief Content Officer at MyHeritage is recorded as saying " This is the most important collection of historical records for Finland ever published online. We are pleased to have been the ones to index it in its entirety and make it available to our millions of users. Anyone with Finnish ancestors will find them here, extend their family tree by many generations, and make fascinating family history discoveries."

The Family History Guide is a large website for all family historian's here is a link to the beta site www.thefhguide.com/beta/about-beta.html on I believe the 15th November 2016 the beta website will become the main website and the beta pages will disappear. So you only have a short time to get to know the new beta website before it becomes the main website.

From the 2nd November 2016 The South West Heritage Trust will be altering the opening hours of the search room at the North Devon Record Office.

Opening hours will now be:-
Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am-5.00 pm
They will **no** longer be open on Mondays or Tuesdays

These changes are in response to new funding arrangements, hopefully this will allow staff to focus more on outreach opportunities and events.

The Association of Professional Genealogists aka APG has announced their new editor for their magazine as Kerry Scott. Kerry, a professional genealogist and lecturer, also the author of 'How to Use Evernote for Genealogy', Kerry as also written genealogy and technology articles for Family Tree Magazine and other publications.

Parish records for a great many parishes in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire area have been added or updated to the TheGenealogist www.TheGenealogist.co.uk in partnership with Nuneaton & North Warwickshire Family History Society what a wonderful collection. A full list of the parishes, dates and records [Baptism, Banns, Marriage, Burials] are listed later in this newsletter

The records are also available on TheGenealogist's Society website FHS-Online.co.uk where societies get 100% of the income. This new initiative will provide for those researchers preferring online access, while allowing us to continue offering the data on CD. If your society is interested in publishing records online, then Mark Bayley 'Head of Online Content' at TheGenealogist would love to hear from you on 01722 717002 or see fhs-online.co.uk/about.php

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Again with the Irish theme, 'The Irish Famine Eviction Project' co-ordinated by Dr Ciaran Reilly, who incidentally is also an author of a few history related books. Over 400 sites have been identified you can view the locations here <https://irishfamineevection.com/eviction-map>

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Whenever I have a few moments to spare, a search of the Internet is a great way of adding to your knowledge.

One such search found this blog by myheritage <http://blog.myheritage.com/2016/09/were-halfway-to-digitizing-every-cemetery-in-israel/> Wouldn't be lovely if all cemetery records were digitised and available but don't just rely on the bigger subscription sites.

Another recent search took me to this site <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/17148217/Churchyardmap.htm> notice the names which if you click on them will not only give you more detail, but offer you a link to findagrave where you can see a photograph of the gravestone.

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At the beginning of August I offered some help to a Lady who was not only new to family history research, but daily faces more than a few challenges including being visually challenged. Lucy is wholly inspirational, in September came that you eureka moment when she was able to help a fellow research and is her first history article on that you eureka moment.

'Lucy's Eureka Moment'

I recently offered my assistance to help with research for folks who had ancestors who lived in Taunton, Somerset. I received a request from a lady in Surrey who knew her ancestor died in 1977 in Bristol but lived with their family in Taunton. She wondered if I could locate a death notice for more information about their passing, which I said I would have a look for.

I called the Somerset Heritage Centre (<http://www.swheritage.org.uk/somerset-archives>) to arrange a visit. As a person with disabilities, I wanted to book ahead so that they knew I was visiting. They were very helpful and booked a double table and microfiche reader out for me which was able to enlarge the print as I am visually impaired.

On arriving with my partner to assist me, we parked in one of the three disabled bays right in front of the entrance, which had was automatic doors. As advised, we presented the reception staff with letter's confirming our addresses. As they produced our reader's cards, we read the guidelines for the search room, which was available in large print. She pointed us to the search room, which also had a button operated automatic door and showed us to the enquiry desk.

I explained to the gentleman at the desk what my request was and he kindly assisted us with requesting the microfiche for the Somerset County Gazette of 1977 as the request sheet was in small print. It arrived at the desk within 5 minutes. He showed us over to the microfiche machine we would be using and gave us a tutorial on how to use it, as I had never done so before. I began looking through and after a few editions I found the death notice I was looking for. For a small charge of 50p, I was able to print out the notice and let the requester

know more about her ancestor, which she has since been able to follow up on. Although, it was quite a straight forward request, it gave me a sense of pleasure and pride that I was able to help someone with their family history research, particularly as I have only recently started researching myself.

The Somerset Heritage Centre has a little bookshop, sold a small range of snacks and drinks with seating away from the search room if you were there for the day, as it is on a business estate, away from the town centre. They also had lots of different guides on various aspects of Family History research on the Somerset area, which were very helpful and also in large print. I had a lovely hour visiting and look forward to doing so again although I have yet to find any of mine or my partner's ancestors from this part of the world.

Wow, what a success and all within a couple of months of Lucy starting to research her families history. Thank you Lucy for sharing your experience.

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Have you noticed that Plymouth & West Devon Record Office has a new website address,
<https://plymhearts.org/archives/>

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TheGenealogist TheGenealogist.co.uk have added some more very interesting records below are the latest records with a little more information, from their press release.

"If your ancestor held a prominent position in a religious organisation then you may find them in amongst a number of recent releases at TheGenealogist.co.uk. The new records include:

The Year Book of The Church of England in the Dominion of Canada 1926 & 1935 - *These yearbooks contain the details of the members of clergy in Canada.*

New Zealand Methodist Union Index 1913 - *Listing details of Methodist Ministers and their placements in New Zealand up to 1912.*

Catholic Directory 1867 & 1877 - *Directories of Catholic Clergy with addresses for England, Scotland and Wales.*

Biographical Dictionary of English Catholics 1534 to 1885 - *This work by Joseph Gillow gives biographies of prominent Catholics which often include details of their family, education and achievements.*

Shropshire Roman Catholic Registers 1763-1837

The Roman Catholics in the County of York 1604

Various Catholic Record Society volumes - *These include a variety of interesting records including various Catholic Church registers, memoirs and letters of prominent Catholics and Recusant Rolls.*

Jewish Year Books 1896-99, 1901-8, 1910-11, 1918-21, 1925, and 1928-39 - *These year books list the details of prominent people within each synagogue, obituaries, Jewish officers in the Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces, Ministers, MPs, Peers, and even Jewish 'Celebrities' of the time.*

Jewish Synagogue Seatholders in London for 1920, 1922, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1937

The Clergyman's Almanack 1821 & 1822 - *These Almanacks list archbishops, bishops, dignitaries, MPs and Peers.*

Register of Missionaries 1796-1923 - *A register of the missionaries and deputations of the London Society of Missionaries. This book includes many details about each missionary, as well as listing their wives (including their maiden name).*

These records compliment an already wide range of religious occupational records such as Cox's Clergy Lists and Crockford's Clerical Directories, Jewish Seatholders, Catholic Registers, and Directories already on TheGenealogist.

Diamond subscribers can access these records by going to the Search tab on the home page - scrolling down to Occupational Records and then selecting the type of records that they are interested in."

A wonderful collection, which I look forward to searching.

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Researching in Ireland is an area that in the past has had its problems. Depending on the area within Ireland were your research is, by looking at the ending of a website this could help you know whether or not it will cover the area you are researching, if it has the '.ie' ending it is the Republic of Ireland and '.gov.uk' is Northern Ireland, and part of the United Kingdom.

Here are a couple of websites which might help your research:-

For Republic of Ireland Wills www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/index.jsp another similar website is <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/home.jsp>

Alternatively for Northern Ireland Wills www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/genealogy-records/wills-testamentary-records/ or http://apps.proni.gov.uk/DCAL_PRONI_WillsCalendar_IE/WillsSearch.aspx

Be aware that there differences between countries regarding data protection and some countries do not have any data protection rules.

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The Virginia Historical Society having received a grant of \$100,000 are working on over 8 million unpublished records, including letters, diaries, ledgers, books and farm documents from Virginians from the 1600s and so started discovering the lost identities of the slaves. The slave trade began amongst the American colonies in 1619. If these records might be of interest to you you can read more here www.vahistorical.org/collections-and-resources/how-we-can-help-your-research/researcher-resources/guides-researchers-2?legacy=true

Not wishing to wait, the records have started to be uploaded here <http://unknownnolonger.vahistorical.org/>

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One of my soapbox subjects is data protection, many many people do not realise just how much information about themselves they give away without realising that they are doing it. In my book, any information held in a cloud is a risk, why I hear you ask? A majority of the clouds hold their information in countries where there is no known data protection or you simply do not know where in the world your information is held.

Although I appreciate that Dropbox is a great for some requirements, it is not trouble free. Recently MAC [Macintosh] users who upgraded to the new macOS Sierra version of the operating system, may find weird things happening. Thankfully a fix is available go to <http://lifehacker.com/dropbox-isnt-playing-nice-with-macos-sierra-heres-how-1786869080> and hopefully a solution to your problems will be found there.

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MyHeritage has announced that DNA Matching is now available on their website.

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ScotlandsPeople has launched a new website, this is part of an extensive upgrade to the services offered. Searching statutory record indexes including birth, death and marriage certificates are now free for the first time. Now users will only be charged if they wish to view or download a record image. The new website is supposed to be more user friendly on a wider range of digital devices [I haven't checked].

If you have I'd appreciate hearing from you.

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GRAMPS [Genealogy Research and Analysis Management Programming System] was originally developed for Linux, but is now available in Mac, Windows, BSD and Solaris UNIX versions. It has also just been released in a cloud based version where both the program and the data is stored in on line cloud based servers. I have heard the cloud based version described as a work in progress, still with bugs to be sorted, which, along with the fact it is written as a collaboration between dozens of programmers and genealogists, personally I will avoid it. Lots of different people involved on a cloud based system, with bugs, suggests to me that my data would be stored somewhere out of my control handled by a program that could likely have problems that usually occur where lots of people try to produce a single result with different ideas. I'm sure you've all come across things that were organized by a committee that didn't go to the original intention. That said, if you should want to try the cloud based program, go to <https://www.rollapp.com/app/gramps> . You won't see me there, there are other programs either cheap, or free that I would rather use.

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The well known websites Twile and FamilySearch International have announced they have launched a new feature to allow FamilySearch.org users the ability to generate a family history timeline and share their research with other family members online, even automatically adding events [birth, marriage, death etc.]. Personally I would be very cautious, would it add the right details to the right person, I have three Joseph Stevens son of Joseph all born in the same parish and baptised in the same year, which need additional research to prove which Joseph belonged to which Joseph.

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A person who is new to researching their family history, having very wisely been advised to be cautious and to prove her research as she went along. Emailed me asking a really good question, how reliable are certificates, they are only as good as the information given. She had come across William McMullen Dunne, but could he have also been recorded sometimes as William M Dunn, yes, names were spelt how the writer thought they should be spelt.

If someone wished to there was nothing to stop him or her from giving, deliberate or even accidental incorrect information. Let me give you a scenario, someone dies, an informant registers the death, the person who has died has always been called Fred but the death is registered as Frederick, his birth was in fact registered as Fred. Dates and ages can also be variable, I have a relative who always kept the birth date of 28th October but his age varied by as much as +/- 15 years. Had he died in action his death would have recorded his age as 15 years older than his birth certificate!

Marriages, you cannot find a marriage certificate, did they marry or not? A distant cousin is happily recorded on census with his family. They are recorded as married, their children grew up believing their parents were married but it wasn't until effectively 40 years old and just a little while before their death that they did in fact get married.

The witnesses to a marriage might be helpful to confirming a link, however do be very careful, witnesses could just as easily been unrelated and even never previously met, some people worked as witnesses.

Staying with accuracy, don't forget we are all human and therefore could make mistakes. Transcripts of original record could also have errors, always check the original records if at all possible

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Westminster City Council's Archives Service have been celebrating after being awarded the Archive Service Accreditation by The National Archives aka TNA, becoming one of only three sites in London to receive the honour. The website for Westminster archives is www.westminster.gov.uk/archives or to find out more about accreditation here www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/archive-service-accreditation

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As we approach Christmas, it is a wonderful time to introduce the younger members of the family to fascinating hobby of ours. So I thought I'd mention the app 'Little Family Tree', which has recently had a large update. You never know they could unearth the answer to a mystery you have struggled with for years when they ask the family questions to fill in their family tree, and Christmas is the time when traditionally families meet up. Please take a look at the website for more information. www.littlefamilytree.com/

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Lynn, a member of the family history group I lead, came to a meeting in August with a copy of the book John Smith - No Problem !!!!! A Family History of John Smith, with some ideas for tracing a common surname written by L & A Welsford ISBN 978 07223 4510-8 cost £7.95 It was one of those eureka moments as Lynn links to this family and she and authors have been able to swap and share a fabulous amount of material." This book tells the story of the Authors research tracing their Smith line from Surrey to Buckinghamshire and then Oxfordshire, going back through the centuries to 1497 [the Tudor era]. Showing the problems they overcame along the way, the methods used in their research, including some of the more unusual and little known records that readers may not of thought of. Useful for getting around those brick walls. A valuable source for research ideas and inspiration for all surnames.

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Since 2009 Ireland Reaching Out aka Ireland XO has been helping researchers search their family connections. Ireland Reaching Out is non-profit, with financial backing from the Irish government. The website covers Genealogy advice, a large number of Irish Church Records, 1901 and 1911 Census records and much much more. There website is www.irelandxo.com

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Legacy Tree Genealogists, a leading genealogy research firm based near the world's largest family history library in downtown Salt Lake City, has announced their website will now be available to residents of Brazil in their native tongue of Portuguese. The announcement comes after months of development and professional translation services, ensuring that all elements will transition seamlessly for international users. Already translated in Spanish, the website aims to provide resources for those searching for their ancestors who may feel overwhelmed or have hit a brick wall in their personal research, uniting them with a worldwide network of professional genealogists who can help them find the answers they seek. See

<http://www.utahbusiness.com/legacy-tree-genealogists-launches-site-in-portuguese/> for the press release.

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Wow, Well done 'Reclaim the Records' have put online New York Marriage Index [America] having won a battle under the Freedom of Information Law aka FOIL. To search the records and for more information on the project please go to www.nycmarriageindex.com

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Whilst researching my next book which will probably be called 'Dates & Events in History' and will eventually join my other books and become part of 'Genealogical Compendium'. I came across this website, wonderfully if you are researching your relatives at the time of the Battle of Agincourt [1415]. The website is clearly fairly new www.medievalsoldier.org but nether the less interesting.

I also found this which gives you some more information <http://newswise.com/articles/did-your-ancestor-fight-in-the-hundred-years-war>

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If like me you live in Europe, then in all probability you will not have received notification of how to register with MacKiev to receive information pertaining to and about updates and new versions of Family Tree Maker. Ancestry hold our details but because of data protection laws covering Europe they are not allowed to pass on our details to Mackiev.

If you wish to register go to www.mackiev.com/ftmeurope/index.html where you will find detail on how to register to receive information from MacKiev.

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For those desperately searching, early records then hopefully this might be of interest 'Britain, Registers of Licences to Pass beyond the Seas 1573 – 1677' this collection of records is now available on FindMyPast. This includes records for early travellers leaving Britain for Ireland, Europe, New England, Barbados, Bermuda and many other overseas places.

Covering TNA series E 157, lists of soldiers who signed an oath of allegiance before serving in the 'Low Countries' in the early 1600's, licences for individuals travelling to Europe 1573-1677.

<http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/britain-registers-of-licences-to-pass-beyond-the-seas-1573-1677-browse>

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I have received a few queries recently asking for my personnel opinion, generally I prefer you to make your own decisions because we have differing ideas and working practices.

I openly admit that Data Protection is one of my soapboxes for which I do not apologise. Why I hear you ask, a few years ago two banks merged, you'd think bank would safe but no. They divorced me from my husband, shared with another address my date of birth, account number, amount in the account, my mothers maiden name and details of an ISA I had. The result I had no safe and secure identity left, I had no choose but to change my name by deed poll and opt for the option to do this leaving no paper trail.

Yes my name is officially Heather but that is not the name I am recorded as on the GRO [General Register Office] Birth Index.

So remember be careful what information you share, don't share information on living people without their permission.

Don't use obvious passwords but do use a password you can remember without having to write it down.

Spam emails and emails with attachments are becoming more and more, use a really good anti virus programme. Even if you receive an email from a friend or relative with just a website address in it don't be tempted to click the link, phone the sender to confirm they intended sending the email.

In an email to me Peter writes:-

May I take the opportunity to warn people about Bogus e-mails.

These come purportedly from members of your contacts and start Hi whatever your name is followed by a link. DO NOT OPEN the link it is a virus as said this is not a genuine e-mail, if it was, it would have an explanation of what it is not just Hi.

Thank you Peter.

A good anti virus on your computer such as Avast [which is also free] will help to keep your computer safe. Unfortunately not all virus protection programmes update daily, and some are over sellast and stop you from downloading programmes to keep your computer safe.

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What gives me the wow factor or even a eureka moment may not give you that wow moment. I just love to hear about and read about those unexpected finds. Did you see the announcement that a former fire station had been found shut away in the former national works at Dudley, near Birmingham, England?. Used until the 1960's when it was locked up till now. To read the full story please go to www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-37553461 alternatively there is this web link www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-37569556 a really wonderful find.

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Regular readers will recall my ability to search out all things morbid.

In New Zealand a group of friends have formed a 'Coffin Club' no you have not miss read my typing and yes the aim of the club is to build your own coffin. To read the article click this link www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/22/the-coffin-club-elderly-new-zealanders-building-their-own-caskets

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If you are going to West Surrey Family History Society Open Day on Saturday 5th November at the Woking Leisure centre and would like to meet up please drop me an email to agree a time and place. To find out more about the open day you'll find all the details here including details of the talks <http://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php> This is a lovely event, & one that have been to every year that it has run.

Hope to see you there.

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Just as I was finalising the end of this newsletter, I have received this press release from TheGenealogist are launching over 220 million US records.

"We are expanding our international records with the release of:

90 million Social Security Death records 1935-2014

1940 Census Images containing 132 million records with searchable transcripts linked to the Enumeration Maps

Irish immigration records for 604,596 persons arriving in New York 1846-1851

Many people hit a brick wall where an ancestor seems to disappear from all the records in the U.K. It could be that they have gone abroad for a period or emigrated for good. If your elusive ancestor went to the United States of America, TheGenealogist's expanded international records can help.

Social Security Death Records

The U.S. Social Security Death Index is a database of over 90 million death records. These give information of those who died from 1936 whose death has been reported to the Social Security Administration.

The data includes: Given name and surname; Date of birth; Month and year of death (or full date of death for accounts active in 2000 or later); Social Security number; State or territory where the Social Security number was issued; Last place of residence while the person was alive (ZIP code).

1940 Census

The American census is searchable by first name, surname, age, state, county, street address and place of birth (allowing us to find Brits enumerated in the American census). The records give details of over 132 million individuals with a transcription along with the actual image of the schedule. Where available, the record is also linked to the Enumeration Index Map for the area so that you can see exactly which street your ancestor lived on. Our transcripts also have the added benefit of street addresses included, allowing you to search for a street rather than an individual.

The 1940 Census transcripts on TheGenealogist are not the same as those found elsewhere online; apart from the linked maps and street addresses, we have also audited the images discovering many that haven't been transcribed previously elsewhere. These are also being added to our records.

We believe that experienced researchers will welcome this release, knowing that having alternative transcripts to those already available gives the family historian a better chance of finding people whose names have been difficult to read or have contained errors in the other databases.

New York Immigration Records

The New York Port Arrival 1846-1851 series gives the family historian access to useful information about immigrants from Ireland to the United States during the era of the Irish Potato Famine, identifying 604,596 persons who arrived in the Port of New York and giving the name of the ships on which they arrived.

Approximately 70 percent of the passengers listed were natives of Ireland, with the rest being nationals of 32 countries that included Canada, Brazil, Saint Croix, Russia, Morocco, the United States and various European countries. Information contained in these records include name, age, town of last residence, destination, passenger arrival date, and codes for the passenger's gender, occupation, literacy, native country, transit status, travel compartment, passenger port of embarkation, and the identification number for the ship manifest.

These new records join TheGenealogist's growing collection of other U.S.A. data sets such as the WWII PoW records, Early Settlers and Emigrants to America, Passenger Lists, American Wills, Almanacs and Directories."

I know what I shall be doing once this newsletter is finished:-)))

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The Federation of Family History Societies, who received it from the National Archives, has sent out the following.

"We are seeking your views on a new strategic vision for the archives sector.

Over the summer, we engaged www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/projects-and-programmes/consultation-on-a-new-vision-for-archives/developing-a-future-vision-for-archives/ with users, the archives sector, partners and key stakeholders to develop a new strategic vision for archives. We identified key themes and priorities that we need to address in order to deliver the vision.

A period of consultation has now started - based on your views we want to co-create an action plan that supports the vision. The consultation runs from 11 October 2016 to 11 January 2017.

Read the new strategic vision for the archives sector

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/archives/consultation-strategic-vision-for-archives.pdf

We need you to get involved, your views can help shape the future for archives.

Send them to ArchiveVision@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk mailto:ArchiveVision@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

We encourage you to consider the following points as you get involved, and it would be helpful if you could include background details - for example, which part of the archive sector you represent, or if you are an archive user or funder.

Does the vision respond to your needs and opportunities? In particular:

The overarching vision of a digitally enabled sector with a rich range of on-site experiences to cater to a diverse and varied audience

- * Do you agree with this future vision?
- * Is anything missing?
- * Should anything be removed?

The three vision themes

- * Do they express the unique role archives can play?
- * Is anything missing?
- * Should anything be removed?

Emerging priorities for action

- * Do they set out the key issues that need to be addressed?
- * Is anything missing?
- * Should anything be removed?

Join our mailing list to take part in an upcoming survey. We will shortly launch an online survey to seek further detailed comments. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to be told when the survey opens, let us know via ArchiveVision@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk <mailto:ArchiveVision@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

We will also convene expert panels and conduct a number of interviews with key strategic partners, in order to develop an action plan to support the delivery of the vision.

Further information

For further information about the vision and our work over the next few months, please email ArchiveVision@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk <mailto:ArchiveVision@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

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Thank you for reading this newsletter I hope you have enjoyed reading it, and very grateful thanks to those who have emailed me since the last newsletter. Please remember I do need your input, be that in the form of an article, or just sharing thoughts and ideas. Without your feedback and articles this newsletter would not exist. Please keep your emails coming, all the more the merrier, if it was interesting to you or news to you, then it will benefit another reader so do please email me about it. I really would appreciate your feedback.

Heather

fh4u@roccoland.plus.com

What is new on the websites? this isn't intended to be complete.

Ancestry

Africa, South Africa, Free State Dutch Reformed Church Records, 1848-1956 [Updated]
Africa, South Africa, Cape Town, Maitland Cemetery Records, 1888-1959
Africa, South Africa, Church of the Province of South Africa, Parish Registers, 1801-2004
Africa, South Africa, Shipping Index, 1802-1848
Argentina, National Census, 1895 [Updated]
Australia, New South Wales, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870 [Updated]
Australia, New South Wales, Land Records, 1811-1870 [Updated]
Australia, New South Wales, Teacher Applications and School Records, 1850-1960
Australia, South Australia, Police Gazettes, 1862-1947 [Updated]
Australia, Victoria, Cemetery Records and Headstone Transcriptions, 1844-1997
Australia, Victoria, Selected Trial Brief and Correspondence Registers and Other Images, 1837-1993 [Updated]
Brazil, Piauí, Brazil, Civil Registration, 1875-2012 [Updated]
Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Miscellaneous Records [Civil Registration], 1748-1998
Canada, Quebec, Notarial Records, 1626-1935
Canada, Selected School Yearbooks, 1908-2010 [Updated]
Chile, Santiago, Cementerio General, 1821-2011
Colombia, Military Records, 1809-1958 [Updated]
Colonial Families of the USA, 1607-1775
Costa Rica, Civil Registration, 1860-1975 [Updated]
Czech Republic, Censuses, 1857-1921 [Updated]
Czech Republic, Land Records, 1450-1889 [Updated]
Czechoslovakia, Selected Jewish Holocaust Records, 1939-1941 [USHMM] [Updated]
Denmark, Births and Christenings Index, 1631-1900s [Updated]
Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775
England & Wales, National Probate Calendar Index of Wills & Administrations, 1858-1966, 1973-1995 [Updated]
England, 1901 Census [Updated]
England, 1911 Census [Updated]
England, Cornwall, Bodmin Gaol Records, 1821-1899 [Updated]
England, Diocese of Durham, Bishops' Transcripts, ca. 1639-1919 [Updated]
England, Dorset, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812 [Updated]
England, Dorset, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906 [Updated]
England, Dorset, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-2010 [Updated]
England, Dorset, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1921 [Updated]
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England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935 Phase 3

PCOM 4: Home Office and Prison Commission: Female Licences

HO 26: Home Office: Criminal Registers, Middlesex

HO 27: Home Office: Criminal Registers, England and Wales

HO 8: Home Office, Convict Hulks, Convict Prisons and Criminal Lunatic Asylums, Quarterly Returns of Prisoners 1824-1876

HO 47: Home Office: Judges' Reports on Criminals 1784-1830

HO 140: Home Office: calendar of prisoners

PCOM 2: Home Office and Prison Commission: prison records

PCOM 3: Home Office and Prison Commission: Male Licences 1853-1887

Irish Newspapers

Belfast Telegraph – 944,404 articles covering 1871 – 1881, 1886 – 1892, 1897 – 1899, 1903 – 1909

Cork Constitution – 97,088 articles covering 1890 – 1891

Billion Graves Cemetery Index

United States Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 1.4 million]

Canada Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 110,000]

Australia Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 107,000]

England Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 19,000]

New Zealand Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 16,000]

Scotland Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 10,000]

Ireland Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 3,000]

Wales Billion Graves Cemetery Index [Added over 600]

Australia, New South Wales 1891 Census

Australia, New South Wales 1901 Census

Australia, Tasmania Convict records 1800-1893

Australia, Victoria Coastal Passenger Lists 1852-1924

Britain, Absent Voters Lists 1918-1921

Britain, Children's Employment Commission Part 2, 1842

Britain, Chronicles of Crime or the New Newgate Calendar, vols I & II, pub 1841

Britain, Enemy Aliens and Internees, First and Second World Wars [Browse]

Britain, School and University Register Books

British Army Casualty Lists 1939-1945 [Browsable]

British Army, Worldwide Index 1851

British Newspapers [Updated]

Chronicles of Crime or the New Newgate Calendar, vols I & II, pub 1841

City Of London, Gunmakers' Company Freedoms and Admissions, 1656-1936

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935 – Browse

England, Cheshire Vital Records Browse 1500-1991

England, City Of London, Gunmakers' Company Freedoms and Admissions, 1656-1936 [New]

England, England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms [Updated]

England, England & Wales Non-Conformist Burials [Updated]

England, England & Wales Non-Conformist Marriages [Updated]

England, Greater London Burial Index [Updated]

England, London Post Office Directories 1842, 1851 and 1861, Browse [New]

England, London, Docklands and East End Baptisms, 1558-1933 [Updated]

England, Middlesex, London, Old Bailey Court records 1674-1913

England, Norfolk Parish Registers

England, Old Bailey Court records 1674-1913

England, Somerset parish, Gaol and school registers

England, Staffordshire Banns [Updated]

England, Staffordshire Baptisms [Updated]

England, Staffordshire Burials [Updated]
 England, Staffordshire Marriages [Updated]
 England, Staffordshire, Parish Registers Browse, 1538-1900 [Updated]
 England, Thames & Medway Baptisms [Updated]
 England, Thames & Medway Burials [Updated]
 England, Warwickshire Burials
 England, Westminster Burials [Updated]
 England, Westminster, Poor Law and Parish Administration [New]
 England, Worcestershire Monumental Inscriptions
 England, Yorkshire Banns [Updated]
 England, Yorkshire Baptisms [Updated]
 England, Yorkshire Burials [Updated]
 England, Yorkshire Catholic records for Doncaster
 England, Yorkshire Knaresborough
 England, Yorkshire Marriages [Updated]
 England, Yorkshire Rotherham Church of England baptisms
 England, Yorkshire Sheffield, St Vincent and Staveley and St Joseph
 England, Yorkshire St Bede
 England, Yorkshire St Marie Cathedral
 England, Yorkshire St Mary, Rotherham
 England, Yorkshire St Peter in Chains
 Great Britain & Ireland, Society of Friends (Quaker) periodicals
 Ireland, Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls 1701-1845
 Ireland, Children's Employment Commission Part 2, 1842
 Ireland, Merchant Navy Crew lists 1857-1922
 Ireland, Original Will Registers 1858-1920
 Ireland, Outrage reports 1836-1840
 Ireland, Qualification and Convert Rolls 1701 – 1845
 Ireland, Valuation Office Books
 Irish Newspapers
 Lincolnshire Banns [Updated]
 Lincolnshire Baptisms [Updated]
 Lincolnshire Burials [Updated]
 Lincolnshire Marriages [Updated]
 Lincolnshire Parish Register [Updated Browse]
 London Post Office Directories 1842, 1851 and 1861
 New Zealand Birth Index [Records added]
 New Zealand Death Index
 New Zealand Marriage Index [Records added]
 Prisoner of War records last instalment
 Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956
 Royal Naval Seamen Index, 1853 -1872
 Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire & Kincardineshire Monumental Inscriptions
 Scotland, Linlithgowshire 1864- 1931 electoral rolls
 Scotland, Non OPR Banns and Marriages Index, 1656-1874
 Scotland, Non OPR Deaths and Burials Index, 1673-1855
 Scotland, Non OPR Births and Baptisms Index, 1666 -1874
 Scotland, Registers & Records [Updated]
 The Shipwrecked Passenger Book: Sailing Westbound from Europe for the Americas 1817-1875
 USA, Connecticut Town Vitals, The Barbour Collection
 USA, Early American Families [New]
 USA, Early American Vital Records [New]
 USA, Federal Naturalization records 1906-1930 various states

USA, Marriages including Arkansas, West Virginia, Illinois, New England, Tennessee & Massachusetts 1650-2010 [Updated]
USA, Marriages including New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania [updated]
USA, Naturalization Petitions
USA, Passport Applications and Indexes
USA, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record
USA, The New York Researcher
USA, Transatlantic Migration [New]
USA, United States-Canadian Border Crossings
USA, United States births and christenings 1867-1931
USA, United States deaths and burials 1833-1970
USA, United States marriages
USA, United States, Family Histories
USA, United States, State & Local Histories
Valuation Office Books, 1848–1860
Wales, Monmouthshire Electoral Registers 1832-1889 Image Browse
Wales, Monmouthshire Electoral Registers 1839-1889
Wales, Monmouthshire workhouse registers 1837-1929
Westminster, Poor Law and Parish Administration

genealogy.nationalarchives.ie

Catholic qualification & convert rolls, 1700 – 1845
Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds Indexes, 1623 – 1866
Prerogative and diocesan copies of some wills and indexes to others, 1596 – 1858
Shipping agreements and crew lists, 1863 – 1921
Valuation Office house, field, tenure and quarto books 1824 – 1856
Will Registers 1858 – 1900

Irish Genealogy.ie www.irishgenealogy.ie/en

Irish civil registration records:-
Births from 1864-1915
Marriages from 1882-1940
Deaths from 1891-1965.

Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives

Fermanagh Maguiresbridge Presbyterian Marriages 1845-1920

MyHeritage

Finland Church Census and Pre-confirmation Rolls, 1657-1915

NaturalizationRecords.com

Index to Declarations of Intent, New York 1827-1895

Old Scottish Records www.oldscottish.com/records

RootsIreland [not all are new, some are updates]

Roman Catholic Parish Registers

RootsIreland

Ballygarrett RC parish – 1830-1863 and 1865-1899
Wexford RC parish – 1686-1815 and 1838-1883

Stirling Archives www.stirlingarchives.scot/poor-relief-indexes

Poor relief records

TheGenealogist

16th century Militia Musters for Somerset

Army Lists January 1838, December 1838, April 1886 and The Annual Army and Militia List 1855.

The Battery Records of the Royal Artillery 1716-1859

The Manchester Regiment 63rd and 96th 1758-1922

The Waterloo Roll Call of 1815

Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Parish Records

Ansley St Laurence Banns 1762-1881

Ansley St Laurence Marriages 1754-1881

Anstey Marriages 1591-1812

Ansty St James Banns 1773-1873

Ansty St James Marriages 1754-1881

Arley St Wilfrid Marriages 1754-1881

Astley St Mary The Virgin Banns 1799-1871

Astley St Mary The Virgin Marriages 1755-1881

Atherstone On Stour Marriages 1611-1810

Atherstone St Mary Marriages 1758-1881

Attleborough Holy Trinity Marriages 1854-1881

Austrey St Nicholas Marriages 1754-1881

Baddesley Ensor St Nicholas Marriages 1754-1881

Barton-on-the-heath Marriages 1577-1810

Baxterley Marriages 1755-1881

Beauesert Baptisms 1607-1812

Beauesert Burials 1607-1812

Beauesert Marriages 1609-1837

Bedworth All Saints Marriages 1753-1881

Bentley St John Marriages 1837-1872

Bishops Tachbrook Marriages 1521-1812

Bourton On Dunsmore Marriages 1560-1813

Brinklow St John The Baptist Marriages 1756-1871

Bulkington St James Banns 1756-1823

Bulkington St James Marriages 1754-1881

Burton Hastings St Botolph Banns 1774-1875

Burton Hastings St Botolph Marriages 1754-1881

Butlers Marston Marriages 1539-1812

Caldecote St Theobald & St Chad Marriages 1758-1881

Charlecote Marriages 1543-1811

Chilvers Coton All Saints Banns 1755-1881

Chilvers Coton All Saints Marriages 1754-1881

Church Lawford St Peter Marriages 1756-1862

Churchover Holy Trinity Marriages 1806-1881

Coleshill St Peter & St Paul Marriages 1754-1881

Corley Marriages 1754-1881

Coventry Holy Trinity Marriages 1754-1880

Coventry St Michael & All Angels Marriages 1760-1882

Curdworth St Nicholas & St Peter Ad Vincula Marriages 1754-1881

Ettington Marriages 1623-1812

Exhall St Giles Marriages 1764-1873

Fenny Compton Marriages 1627-1811

Fenny Drayton St Michael & All Angels Marriages 1754-1865

Fillongley St Mary & All Saints Marriages 1755-1881

Foleshill St Laurence Marriages 1755-1880
 Great Packington St James Marriages 1754-1881
 Grendon All Saints Banns 1758-1881
 Grendon All Saints Marriages 1754-1881
 Halford Marriages 1552-1812
 Hartshill Holy Trinity Marriages 1848-1881
 Hatton Marriages 1558-1812
 Honington Marriages 1548-1812
 Idlicote Marriages 1557-1812
 Kingsbury St Peter & St Paul Banns 1816-1881
 Kingsbury St Peter & St Paul Marriages 1754-1881
 Knowle Baptisms 1682-1812*ADDED: January 2016*
 Knowle Burials 1682-1812*ADDED: January 2016*
 Knowle Marriages 1682-1812*ADDED: January 2016*
 Lea Marston St John The Baptist Marriages 1754-1877
 Leamington Priors Marriages 1704-1812
 Little Packington St Bartholomew Marriages 1753-1881
 Long Compton Marriages 1608-1812
 Mancetter St Peter Banns 1778-1873
 Mancetter St Peter Marriages 1754-1881
 Maxstoke St Michael & All Angels Banns 1774-1820
 Maxstoke St Michael & All Angels Marriages 1755-1880
 Merevale St Mary The Virgin Marriages 1754-1881
 Meriden St Laurence Marriages 1786-1879
 Middleton St John The Baptist Banns 1759-1877
 Middleton St John The Baptist Marriages 1754-1881
 Monks Kirby St Edith Banns 1754-1875
 Monks Kirby St Edith Marriages 1754-1881
 Nether Whitacre St Giles Marriages 1756-1881
 Newton Regis St Mary Banns 1768-1870
 Newton Regis St Mary Marriages 1754-1881
 Nuneaton St Mary Marriages 1878-1881
 Nuneaton St Nicolas Banns 1757-1857
 Nuneaton St Nicolas Marriages 1754-1881
 Over Whitacre St Leonard Marriages 1753-1880
 Polesworth Marriages 1868-1869
 Polesworth St Editha Marriages 1754-1881
 Priors Hardwick Marriages 1662-1812
 Records of Knowle 1682-1812 [Book]
 Rowington Baptisms 1612-1812
 Rowington Burials 1612-1812
 Rowington Marriages 1612-1812
 Seckington All Saints Marriages 1756-1881
 Shilton St Andrew Banns 1812-1870
 Shilton St Andrew Marriages 1754-1881
 Shustoke St Cuthbert Marriages 1754-1881
 Shuttington St Matthew Marriages 1757-1881
 Snitterfield Marriages 1561-1812
 St Peter's, Birmingham Baptisms 1657-1830
 St Peter's, Birmingham Burials 1657-1792
 St Peter's, Birmingham Marriages 1657-1804
 Stockingford St Paul Marriages 1824-1881
 Stratford On Avon Burials 1558-1652
 Stratford-on-avon Banns 1655-1658

Stratford-on-avon Baptisms 1558-1652
 Stratford-on-avon Marriages 1558-1812
 Temple Grafton Marriages 1612-1811
 Walsgrave On Sowe St Mary Marriages 1758-1858
 Warton Holy Trinity Marriages 1849-1882
 Weddington Baptisms 1663-1813
 Weddington Burials 1663-1812
 Weddington Marriages 1674-1806
 Weddington St James Marriages 1770-1880
 Whitchurch Marriages 1562-1812
 Willey St Leonard Marriages 1753-1881
 Wilnecote Holy Trinity Marriages 1851-1881
 Wishaw St Chad Marriages 1754-1879
 Withybrook All Saints Marriages 1754-1881
 Wolvey St John The Baptist Banns 1786-1881
 Wolvey St John The Baptist Marriages 1752-1881

The National Archives

Podcast "England's Immigrants between 1330 and 1550". The talk explores a new database at www.englishimmigrants.com containing the names of 65,000 immigrants to England in the medieval period.

The Original Record www.theoriginalrecord.com/database/search

1715 French Pensions of the English Civil List
 1774 Warwickshire Voters
 1803 Heritors of Fife
 1830 Sentenced to Death, Transportation or Imprisonment at Gloucester Assizes
 1834 Chimney Sweeps and their Apprentice Boys, London
 1845-1850 Consistory Court of London Divorce Cases
 1861-1905 Women Students Entering Stockwell Teacher Training College
 1891 Fellows of the British Gynaecological Society
 Casualties in the Battle of Alma 1854

Wexford Roots Ireland www.wexford.rootsireland.ie

Ballygarrett RC baptismal records from 1830-1863 and 1865-1899.
 Wexford RC baptismal records from 1686-1815 and 1838-1883.