



www.ffhs.org.uk

our really useful information leaflet

The Federation of Family History Societies

We are an educational charity that exists to represent, advise and support its membership of family history societies and other genealogical organisations world-wide. Membership is open to any society or body specialising in family history or an associated discipline.

Our principal aims are: to promote and assist the work of member societies or other bodies interested in family history, genealogy and heraldry; to foster mutual co-operation and to deliver collaborative projects to help researchers; and to represent the interests of our members, and family historians generally, especially in the preservation of and access to archival documents.

The Federation makes representations to official bodies on matters affecting the study of family history and related topics as well as regular liaising with a number of government bodies and archives. The Federation therefore provides an authentic, audible, and respected voice for the many thousands of individual family historians.

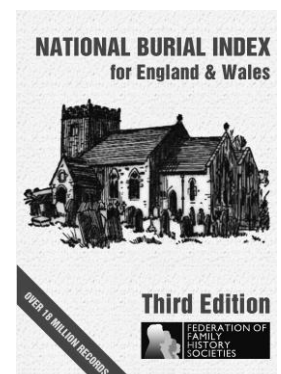
Education is a vital activity for the Federation. This is achieved through the regular meetings and discussions conducted by member societies and through courses on family history organised around the world.

NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX

The National Burial Index (NBI) for England & Wales assists family historians to find burial records and in so doing complements the International Genealogical Index (IGI) which is mainly a finding aid to baptisms and marriages. The NBI is becoming a national archive giving worldwide access to sources held by those local repositories, Family History Societies and groups participating in the project.

For further information about the project and details of coverage see
www.ffhs.org.uk

The latest version of the NBI can be ordered from GENfair at www.genfair.co.uk



COMPETITION – See inside for details

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Access to (English) Archives: Currently contains over 10 million catalogue entries from 414 record offices and other repositories across England. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a
- Adoption Search Reunion: The site contains two searchable databases: a directory of agencies offering support, counselling and intermediary services, and a database to help people find out where adoption records are held. www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk
- AIM25: Provides electronic access to collection level descriptions of the archives of over ninety higher education institutions and learned societies within the Greater London area. www.aim25.ac.uk
- Ancestorsonboard: Features BT27 Outward Passenger Lists for long-distance voyages leaving the British Isles between 1890 and 1960. www.ancestorsonboard.com
- Ancestry: Includes 1841 - 1901 censuses plus a large variety of other data. www.ancestry.co.uk
- Archives Hub: A national gateway to descriptions of archives in over 150 UK universities and colleges. www.archiveshub.ac.uk
- The Archives Network Wales: Contains standardised descriptions of the extent, type and scope of collections of documents held by Record Offices, universities and other bodies in Wales. www.archivesnetworkwales.info
- BMD Certificates England & Wales: Buying online. <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/index.htm>
- British History Online: Digital library from medieval and early modern period. www.british-history.ac.uk/
- British Library: Main Integrated Catalogue of over 12 million books, serials, printed music and maps, Newspaper Catalogue of over 52,000 newspaper and periodical titles and India Office Select Materials. www.bl.uk/
- British Origins: Census, marriage index, marriage licence, will indexes, burial index, Militia Attestations Index. www.britishorigins.com
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Debt of Honour Register of Commonwealth forces who died in WWI or WWII. www.cwgc.org
- Cyndi's List of genealogical websites. www.cyndislist.com
- Ellis Island: Searchable database and copies of passenger manifests of ships arriving at Ellis Island from 1892–1924. www.ellislandrecords.org
- FamilyRelatives: BMD entries from GRO indexes 1837-2004 (pay-per-view) Parish Registers, Military Records WWI & WWII, Soldiers who died in the Great War, Overseas and USA Records. www.familyrelatives.org
- FamilySearch: LDS Church's IGI, Ancestral File, FH Centres, 1881 Census, etc. www.familysearch.com
- FindMyPast: BMD entries from GRO indexes 1837-2004, Death Duty Indexes 1796-1903, BMD at Sea, Divorce Indexes, Army lists etc.; living people search. www.findmypast.co.uk
- FreeBMD: Search GRO Indexes for England & Wales (ongoing). <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>
- FreeCEN: Search UK census online (ongoing). <http://www.freecen.org.uk/>
- Gazetteer of British Place Names. www.gazetteer.co.uk/
- Gazettes, London, Edinburgh or Belfast: These contain a wide range of official notices including state, parliamentary and ecclesiastical notices, transport and planning notices as well as corporate insolvency and personal bankruptcy notices to name a few. In addition, a number of Supplements are published covering honours and awards, premium bonds, armed forces promotions, and company information. www.gazettes-online.co.uk
- Genes Reunited: Online family tree linking website, 1841-1901 census, BMD entries from GRO indexes 1837-2004. <http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/>
- GENUKI: UK & Ireland Genealogy, including forthcoming genealogical events on GENEVA. www.genuki.org.uk/
- Guild of One-Name Studies. www.one-name.org/
- Guildhall Library (London) Manuscripts Section. www.history.ac.uk/gh/
- Historical Directories: A digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales, from 1750 to 1919. www.historicaldirectories.org
- Imperial War Museum, London (WWI & WWII Collections). www.iwm.org.uk/
- Irish Origins: Includes Griffiths' Valuation, Dublin City Census 1851, Census of Elphin 1749, William Smith O'Brien Petition, Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858, Militia Attestations Index 1872-1915. www.irishorigins.com/
- London Metropolitan Archives: Includes Middlesex wills. http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Leisure_and_culture/Records_and_archives/Family_Research

- Moving Here: Irish, Caribbean, Asian and Jewish immigrants, 1800-2000. www.movinghere.org.uk/
- The National Archives [British]: The National Archives has a number of searchable resources to help you find the records you require. Includes the Catalogue, Documents Online plus census records. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- National Archives of Ireland: The National Archives has a selection of online catalogues and lists to help you find the records you require; the records themselves however cannot be viewed online. www.nationalarchives.ie/
- National Archives of Scotland: Number of searchable sources (ongoing) of records created by Scottish government, as well as private records created by businesses, landed estates, families, courts, churches and other corporate bodies; also see ScotlandsPeople website.. www.nas.gov.uk/
- National Library of Ireland: Online searchable catalogue includes, books and periodicals, Photographs, Prints and Drawings, Manuscripts and Newspapers. www.nli.ie
- National Library of Scotland: Scotland's only legal deposit library, main catalogue of over 3 million records plus Scots abroad database.. www.nls.uk
- The National Library of Wales: Online catalogue containing over 4 million printed volumes books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, and music. Also houses manuscripts, archives, pictures, photographs, posters, ephemera. Radio and TV recordings, films, videotapes and sound recordings. www.llgc.org.uk
- National Maritime Museum: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/researchers/>
- Old Bailey 1674-1834, The Proceedings at: Over 100,000 London criminal trial records. www.oldbaileyonline.org/
- Old Maps: www.old-maps.co.uk
- 192.com: People finder site (pay-per-view) includes comprehensive database of current UK residents. <http://www.192.com/people/>
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland: PRONI is the official place of deposit for public records in Northern Ireland <http://www.proni.gov.uk/>
- Rootsweb.ancestry.com: Largest and oldest free genealogy information website.; host to mailing lists, news groups, message boards, volunteer projects, websites etc. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/
- Royal Navy Biographical Database, since 1660. www.navylist.org/
- ScotlandsPeople: Early BMD indexes, early Parish Registers, censuses 1841-1901 and Scottish wills and testaments 1500-1901. www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/
- S & N Genealogy: Broad range of family history research material, software and related products. Variety of online databases, including nonconformist registers. www.genealogysupplies.com
- The Scottish Archive Network: A single electronic catalogue to more than 20,000 collections of historical records held by 52 Scottish archives. www.scan.org.uk
- The Scottish Association of Family History Societies. www.safhs.org.uk/
- Service Personnel & Veterans Agency: For information on how to obtain more recent service records including personnel who served in WW2. www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/Personnel/SPVA/
- UKBMD Project: FHSs, etc, computerising local Registrars' Indexes to publish on the Internet. www.ukbmd.org.uk/
- University Research Libraries (COPAC): Merged catalogues of 24 of the largest university research libraries in the UK and Ireland, plus the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, and the National Library of Wales. <http://copac.ac.uk/>
- Valuations of British Money, 1264 to 2002. www.eh.net/hmit/ppowerbp/
- Workhouses in Britain (RossBret site). www.institutions.org.uk/workhouses
- Workhouses in Britain (Peter Higginbotham's site). www.workhouses.org
- The 1911 Census for England & Wales was launched online in January 2009, powered by findmypast in association with The National Archives. www.1911census.co.uk

FEDERATION EZINE

The *Federation Ezine* is a topical and colourful email newsletter which carries family and local history news, reviews, competitions and much more to thousands of researchers around the world, as well as the Federation's Member Societies in the UK and overseas.

It can be viewed on the FFHS website at www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/intro.php. But why not sign up to receive your own copy of the *Federation Ezine* which will be emailed out around the middle of January, March, May, July, September and November of each year. You can subscribe on the Federation website, www.ffhs.org.uk.

findmypastTM.co.uk

search with the experts

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) used to provide online access to data submitted by local family history societies at its own pay-per-view website (familyhistoryonline). In 2008 the Federation joined forces with premier UK family history website **findmypast.co.uk** and most of the records on the former Federation website (familyhistoryonline) were then transferred to the **findmypast.co.uk** website.

The **findmypast.co.uk** collection currently exceeds 750 million records including high profile, high-demand datasets such as the 1911 census, with new records being added every month. To date sixty family history societies who are affiliated to the FFHS have submitted data to **findmypast.co.uk**

findmypast.co.uk have earned a strong reputation for the quality of its data and transcriptions, and particularly its customer service. The availability of telephone support and customer transcription error reporting facilities, as well as email support and automatic password reset facilities, sets it apart from other commercial genealogy websites.

COMPETITION

Who is the most interesting person in your family tree?

Perhaps you have discovered a famous explorer, inventor, politician, activist, merchant or labourer? On the darker side, a convict, murderer or one of the Pendle witches? Maybe someone who struggled to bring up a family against all odds?

Why not enter the new FFHS competition sponsored by **findmypast.co.uk**, **ancestry.co.uk** and **thegenealogist.co.uk**?

Write an account of your most interesting person and bring them to life in no more than 1,000 words.

Entries may be submitted electronically to **admin@ffhs.org.uk** or by post to The Administrator, FFHS, PO Box 8857, Lutterworth LE17 9BJ by December 31st 2011. Any entries received after the closing date will not be judged. The winners will be announced in February 2012.

The judge's decision will be final. Prizes will be awarded as advertised with no alternatives.

First Prize – One year's Full Subscription to **findmypast.co.uk**.

Giving you access to all 800 years of historical records available at **findmypast.co.uk**, the Full subscription will provide you with everything you need to begin researching your family tree online. Search for your relatives in the complete birth, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales, the parish record collection, outbound passenger lists, military records and the complete 1841 – 1911 census collection.

Second Prize – One year's Diamond Premium Subscription to **thegenealogist.co.uk**

TheGenealogist.co.uk is an award winning family history website with access to millions of records online. With an ever increasing record collection and competitive prices, now has never been a better time to subscribe.

Third Prize – One year's Premium Membership to ancestry.co.uk The premium membership is 'Ideal for the family historian who wants to travel further back into their family history. Get access to all census and BMD collections, plus pre-1837 Parish & Probate records, all our Irish record collections and any new historical record releases'

Ancestry.co.uk has over 870 million searchable UK family history records online. For other facts and figures about Ancestry.co.uk go to www.ancestry.co.uk

TheGenealogist.co.uk is sponsor of the Young Persons Category, which is aimed at young people aged 21 and under on the closing date of 31st December 2011. The prize is a laptop.



Save £30 on a Diamond Premium subscription with the code FFHSW

<http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/diamond/>

Farewell to the mysterious young lady in the Federation's Family Group.

The ongoing competition featured in previous issues of the Really Useful Leaflet has now closed. Unfortunately no-one has been able to identify the young lady within a family group photograph on the Federation website.



FIRST STEPS IN FAMILY HISTORY

Q Where do I start?

A Start with yourself, add your family, your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc., in fact, any relatives you can remember. Question older relatives, who can be invaluable in providing knowledge of ancestors you may not know of or have forgotten.

Q I've recorded everything my relatives told me. Where do I go next?

A In England and Wales people have been able to register births, marriages and deaths since 1 July 1837. Certificates of events occurring from this date can be obtained from local Register Offices or the Registrar General (www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/index.htm) You can search the General Register Office (GRO) indexes to these registrations at some local libraries and record offices have copies in microform. Several commercial companies provide online digitised images of the index page for free or for a fee (see our Useful Websites pages 2-3).

Q What information can I expect to obtain from a certificate?

A A birth certificate usually names both parents, including the mother's maiden surname. Knowing both parents' full names, you can search the indexes for a reference to their marriage. A marriage certificate usually supplies the names of the fathers of both parties. Simple steps like these can take your line well back into the nineteenth century.

Q But this information only applies to England and Wales: my ancestry is Scottish and Irish. What do I do?

A Civil Registration began in Scotland in 1855 and in Ireland in 1864. Certificates can be obtained from New Register House, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT (for Scotland) and from the General Register Office, Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon (for Ireland). Registrations for Northern Ireland from 1922 are at Oxford House, 49-55 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4ML. Before commencing this part of your research, however, you are strongly advised to read the relevant chapter in one of the many books available.

Q My family history consists mainly of names and dates; how do I find out more about my ancestors' families?

A A census is taken every ten years and the records become available for public scrutiny when they are 100 years old. We can therefore see those returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 which has been released early. Details such as age, occupation and place of birth may be found on the census returns for 1851 and after. The 1841 census omits place of birth and relationships.

Q Where can I search the census returns?

A A complete set for England and Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man is housed at The National Archives at Kew. Additionally, those relating to your area may be found at your local record office or library. There are many name indexes available, particularly for the 1851 census. All the available 1841 to 1911 censuses have been surname indexed for the whole of England and Wales, by one or more commercial organisations, and are available online together with digitised images of the census pages. Many have also been indexed by family history societies.

Q I have traced my line back to the mid-1800s, using the GRO Indexes and Census Returns: how do I get further back?

A Now, you will be largely dependent on the church (or parish) registers. These registers were introduced in 1538 and contain baptisms and burials (as distinct from births and deaths) and, of course, marriages. Although many early registers have been lost over the years, a surprising number still exist.

Q Where do I find parish registers?

A Today, very few registers, other than those, which are still in use, are held at churches. Many of the registers have been filmed, and copies are widely available; ask at the relevant county record office or local studies library, or your nearest Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Family History Centre. In addition to the registers, from 1598 parish priests had to send to their bishop an 'annual return', a copy of the register, known as a Bishops' Transcript. Those, which still exist, can be very useful in supplying entries omitted from the register or replacing a missing register.

Q I've heard of the IGI, what is this?

A The IGI, or International Genealogical Index, is an index to about 800 million births, baptisms and marriages from around the world. The index is produced by the LDS, and is available in many libraries and record offices, and in the Church's own Family History Centres. It can also be found online at www.familysearch.org

Q I have heard that wills can be useful – how do I go about using them?

A Wills and administrations, proved in England and Wales from 1858 are available at the Principal Registry of the Family Division, First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP. Indexes can also be found at several record offices and libraries elsewhere. Before 1858 there was no national probate registry and research is more complicated as a result.

Q What else can I expect to find out about my family?

A There are many other sources which you can search, far too many to list here. There are a number of useful books and magazines that may help, so ask at your local library. Many local family history societies publish a selection of modestly priced books and CDs to help you with both your research and the location of source material. A comprehensive range is available from GENfair: visit the online catalogue at www.genfair.co.uk.

Q How do I find out if there are any family history classes in my area?

A Try the Workers' Educational Association and your Local Education Authority, both of which arrange adult classes. If none is available then why not ask if classes in this subject can be arranged. County Record Offices and Libraries often advertise as well as run classes.

Q What are family history societies?

A They are groups of family historians who have an interest in a particular geographical area, such as a county, or live in that area. There are also special interest societies, for example a specific surname. You should definitely join your local society.

Q What benefits can I expect for my membership?

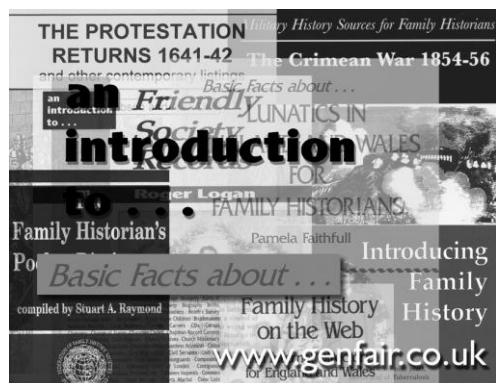
A Most societies hold regular meetings – go along to these and join in their activities. You may also find it useful to become a member of those societies covering the areas in which your ancestors once lived. All societies produce journals and these will describe local records and history. Many societies run very informative websites. Their members might be able to help with particular 'local research' problems, for example by visiting the churchyard to read your grandfather's gravestone for you! Belonging to a family history society will also enable you to contact others who are tracing the same surname that you are, in the area where your ancestor lived.

Q Where can I find information on any family history societies that I might want to join?

A Most societies have websites you can link to. Those that are members of the Federation are listed on www.ffhs.org.uk, or a printed list can be requested from The Administrator, Federation of Family History Societies, PO Box 8857, Lutterworth, LE17 9BJ.

Q Supposing there is someone already researching the same family as me, how do I find them?

A Many family history societies publish directories of Members' Interests. You can also search the Internet, and there are a number of books available advising you how to do this.



GENfair

The 'one-stop shop' for family and local historians. GENfair is the Internet bookstore run by S & N Genealogy Supplies on behalf of the Federation of Family History Societies. It brings together genealogy enthusiasts and UK family history societies who wish to offer their publications to researchers around the world.

Over 20,000 items are available from more than 120 suppliers of family history and local history publications.

www.genfair.co.uk

READ REVIEWS OF BOOKS FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/news/books.php>



MEMBER SOCIETIES

ENGLAND

Bedfordshire FHS	www.bfhs.org.uk	Furness FHS	www.furnessfhs.co.uk
Berkshire FHS	www.berksfhs.org.uk	Lancashire Parish Register Society	www.lprs.org.uk
Birmingham & Midland Soc G & H	www.bmsgsh.org	Lancaster FH Group	www.lfhg.org
Bristol & Avon FHS	www.bafhs.org.uk	Liverpool & SW Lancs FHS	www.liverpool-genealogy.org.uk
Buckinghamshire FHS	www.bucksfhs.org.uk	North Meols (Southport) FHS	www.nmfhssouthport.co.uk
Cambridgeshire FHS	www.cfhs.org.uk	Ormskirk & District FHS	www.odfhs.org.uk
Cambridge University Heraldry & Genealogy Society	www.cam.ac.uk/societies/cuhags	Wigan FHS	www.wiganworld.co.uk/familyhistory/
Fenland FHS	www.fenlandfhs.org.uk	St Helens Townships FHS	www.sthelenstownshipsfhs.org.uk
Cheshire FHS of	www.fhsc.org.uk	Leicestershire & Rutland FHS	www.lrfhs.org.uk
North Cheshire FHS	www.ncfhs.org.uk	Lincolnshire FHS	www.lincolnshirefhs.org.uk
Cleveland, North Yorkshire & South Durham FHS	www.clevelandfhs.org.uk	Isle of Axholme FHS	www.axholme-fhs.org.uk
Cornwall FHS	www.cornwallfhs.com	Middlesex (see Greater London)	
Cumberland see Cumbria		Norfolk FHS	www.norfolkfhs.org.uk
Cumbria FHS	www.cumbriafhs.com	Mid Norfolk FHS	www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs
Furness FHS	www.furnessfhs.co.uk	Northamptonshire FHS	www.northants-fhs.org
Derbyshire FHS	www.dfhs.org.uk	Peterborough & District FHS	www.peterborofhs.org.uk
Chesterfield & District FHS	www.cadfhs.org.uk	Northumberland & Durham FHS	www.ndfhs.org.uk
Devon FHS	www.devonfhs.org.uk	Nottinghamshire FHS	www.nottsfs.org.uk
Dorset (see also Somerset & Dorset FHS)		Mansfield & District FHS	*
Dorset FHS	www.dorsetfhs.org.uk	Oxfordshire FHS	www.ofhs.org.uk
Durham (see Cleveland, North Yorkshire & South Durham FHS, and Northumberland & Durham FHS)		Rutland (see Leicestershire & Rutland FHS)	
Essex (see also Greater London)		Shropshire FHS	www.sfhs.org.uk
Essex SFH	www.esfh.org.uk	Somerset (see also Bristol & Avon FHS)	
Gloucestershire FHS	www.gfhs.org.uk	Somerset & Dorset FHS	www.sdfhs.org
Greater London (including all of Middlesex and parts of Essex and Kent)		Weston-Super-Mare FHS	www.wsmfhs.org.uk
East London FHS	www.eolfhs.org.uk	Staffordshire (see Birmingham & Midland Soc G & H for complete county)	
Hillingdon FHS	www.hfhs.co.uk	Burntwood FH Group	www.bfhg.org.uk
London Westminster & Middlesex FHS		Suffolk FHS	www.suffolkfhs.org.uk
www.lwmfhs.org.uk		Felixstowe FHS	www.itgen.co.uk/ffhs
Waltham Forest FHS	*	(including parts of Greater London)	
West Middlesex FHS		East Surrey FHS	www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk
www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk		West Surrey FHS	www.wsfhs.org
Woolwich & District FHS		Sussex FH Group	www.sfhg.org.uk
http://www.woolwichfhs.org.uk		Eastbourne & District (Family Roots) FHS	www.eastbournefhs.org.uk
Hampshire		Hastings & Rother FHS	www.hrfhs.org.uk
Hampshire Genealogical Society		Warwickshire (see Birmingham & Midland Soc G & H for complete county)	
www.hgs-online.org.uk		Coventry FHS	www.covfhs.org.uk
Isle of Wight FHS		Nuneaton & North Warwickshire FHS	www.nnwfhs.org.uk
www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk		Rugby FH Group	www.rugbyfhg.co.uk
Herefordshire FHS		Westmorland (see Cumbria)	
www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk		Wiltshire FHS	www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk
Hertfordshire FHS	www.hertsfhs.org.uk	Rodbourn Community History Group	www.rodbournehistory.org
Letchworth & District FHG	www.ldfhg.org.uk	Worcestershire (see Birmingham & Midland Soc G & H for complete county)	
Royston & District FHS	www.roystonfhs.org	Malvern FHS	www.mfhs.org.uk
Stevenage FHS*		Yorkshire	
Huntingdonshire FHS	www.huntsfhs.org.uk	London Group of Yorkshire FHSs	www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/Misc/FHS/index.html
Kent (see also Greater London)			
Folkestone & District FHS	www.folkfhs.org.uk		
North West Kent FHS	www.nwkhfs.org.uk		
Tunbridge Wells FHS	www.tunwells-fhs.co.uk		
Lancashire (see also Furness FHS under Cumbria)			
Lancashire FH & HS	www.lfhhs.org.uk		

Yorkshire Archaeological Society - Family History Section
www.yorkshireroots.org.uk

East Riding

City of York & District FHS
www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk

East Yorkshire FHS
www.eyfhs.org.uk

North Riding (see also Cleveland, North Yorkshire & South
Durham FHS, City of York & District FHS, Harrogate &
District FHS and Ripon Historical Society & FH Group)

Ryedale FHG
www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org

West Riding

Barnsley FHS
www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Bradford FHS
www.bradfordfhs.org.uk
Calderdale FHS
www.cfhsweb.co.uk
Doncaster & District Society for Family History
www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Harrogate & District FHS
www.hadfhs.co.uk
Huddersfield & District FHS
www.hdfhs.org.uk

Keighley & District FHS
www.kdfhs.org.uk

Morley & District FH Group
www.morleyfhg.co.uk
Pontefract & District FHS
www.pontefractfhs.org.uk

Ripon Historical Society & FH Group
www.riponhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Rotherham FHS
www.rotherhamfhs.co.uk

Selby & Dist. FH Group

<http://www.selbydistrictfamilyhistory.btck.co.uk>

Sheffield & District FHS
www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk

Wakefield & District FHS
www.wdfhs.co.uk

Wharfedale FH Group
www.wharfedalefhg.org.uk

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel Islands FHS

www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org

La Societe Guernesiaise (FHS)

<http://www.societe.org.gg/sections/familyhistory.php>

ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man FHS

<http://www.isleofman.com/heritage/genealogy/fhs.aspx>

IRELAND

Genealogical Society of Ireland
www.familyhistory.ie

Irish FHS
www.ifhs.ie

North of Ireland FHS
www.nifhs.org

WALES

Anglesey

Gwynedd FHS
www.gwyneddfhs.org

Breconshire

Powys FHS
www.rootsweb.com/~wlsfhs

Caernarvonshire (contact Dyfed FHS under Carmarthenshire)

Cardiganshire

Cardiganshire FHS
www.cgnfhs.org.uk

Carmarthenshire

Dyfed FHS
www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

Denbighshire

Clwyd FHS
www.clwydfhs.org.uk

Flintshire (contact Clwyd FHS)

Glamorgan

Glamorgan FHS
www.glamfhs.org

Merionethshire (contact Gwynedd FHS)

Monmouthshire

Gwent FHS
www.gwentfhs.info

Montgomeryshire (also contact Powys FHS)

Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society

<http://home.freeuk.net/montgensoc>

Pembrokeshire (contact Dyfed FHS)

Radnorshire (contact Powys FHS)

ONE-NAME

Guild of One-Name Studies
www.one-name.org

Alabaster Society
www.alabaster.org.uk

Alderson FHS
www.afhs.org

Badham One Name Society
www.badham.org.uk

Beresford Family Society
www.beresfordfamilyociety.org.uk

The Blo(o)r(e) Society
www.bloor.org

The Braund Society
www.one-name.org/profiles/braund.html

The Brooking FHS
www.brookingsociety.org.uk

Bunting FHS
www.buntingsociety.org.uk

Cave FHS
www.cave-fhs.org.uk

The Society of Cornishes
www.cornishsurname.matthewcornish.info/

The Cory Society
www.corysociety.org.uk

Courtenay Society
www.courtenaysociety.org

Clan Davidson Association
www.clandavidson.org.uk/

Dalton Genealogical Society
www.daltongensoc.com

Entwistle FH Association
www.entwistlefamily.org.uk

The Filby Association
www.filby.org

The International Haskell Family Society
www.ihfs.co.uk

Holdich FHS
www.holdiches.org

Leather Society
www.ffhs.org.uk/members/leather.htm

The UK FHS of Martin
www.fhsofmartin.org.uk

The Metcalfe Society
www.metcalfe.org.uk

Morgan Society (England & Wales)

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~morgansociety>

Moxon Society
www.moxonsociety.org

Palgrave Society
www.ffhs.org.uk/members/palgrave.htm

The International Relf Society
www.relfsociety.org

Rix Family Alliance
www.rix-alliance.com

The Selsey Society
www.selseysociety.co.uk

Silverthorne Family Association*

Sole Society
www.sole.org.uk

Stonehewer to Stanier Society

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~stanier>

Talbot Research Organisation
www.talbotro.co.uk

Watkins FHS
www.watkinsfhs.net

Witheridge FHS
www.witheridgefhs.com

GENERAL

Anglo-German FHS
www.agfhs.org.uk

Anglo-Italian FHS
www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk

The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA)

www.agra.org.uk

British Association for Cemeteries of Southern Asia
www.bacsa.org.uk/
British Association of Local History www.balh.co.uk
Catholic FHS www.catholic-
history.org.uk/cfhs
The Families In British India Society www.fibis.org
Genealogical Society of Utah (UK) www.familysearch.org
The Irish Genealogical Research Society
www.igrsoc.org
Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain www.jsgsb.org.uk
Pedigree User Group www.pugweb.org.uk
Quaker FHS www.qfhs.co.uk
Railway Ancestors FH Group
www.railwayancestors.org.uk
Rimmer FHS www.rimmerhistory.co.uk.
Romany and Traveller FHS www.rtfhs.org.uk
Scotslot*

OVERSEAS SOCIETIES

AUSTRALIA

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.
www.affho.org
Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc
www.aigs.org.au
Society of Australian Genealogists www.sag.org.au
Capital Territory
Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc
www.hagsoc.org.au
New South Wales
Botany Bay FHS Inc www.bbfs.org.au
Cape Banks FHS Inc www.capebanks.org.au
Central Coast FH Group www.centralcoastfhs.org.au
Dubbo & District FHS Inc
http://familyhistory.dubbo-nsw.info/index.php
Illawarra FH Group
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausifhg/
Lithgow & District FHS www.lisp.com.au/~ldfhs
Maryborough District FHS Inc www.satcom.net.au/mdfhs
Moruya & District Historical Society Inc
www.sci.net.au/userpages/
mgrogan/mhs
Nepean FHS Inc www.nepeanfhs.org.au
Richmond-Tweed FHS *
Wagga Wagga & District FHS
www.waggafamilyhistory.org.au
Northern Territory
Genealogical Society of The Northern Territory Inc
http://members.iinet.au/~
genient/index.htm
Queensland
Cairns & District FHS *
Central Queensland FH Association Inc

www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au
Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc
www.gsq.org.au
Queensland FHS Inc www.qfhs.org.au
South Australia
South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society
www.saghs.org.au
Tasmania
Tasmanian FHS Inc www.tasfhs.org
Victoria
Genealogical Society of Victoria www.gsv.org.au
Western Australian
Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc
www.wags.org.au

CANADA

Alberta Family Histories Society www.afhs.ab.ca
Alberta Genealogical Society www.abgensoc.ca
Ontario Genealogical Society – Kingston Branch

http://kingston.cioc.ca/record/KGN1056

British Isles FHS of Greater Ottawa www.bifhsgo.ca
Quebec FHS www.qfhs.ca
Saskatchewan Genealogical Society www.saskgenealogy.com
Victoria Genealogical Society (Canada) www.victoriags.org

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand FHS Inc*
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc
www.genealogy.org.nz

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town FHS wwwfamily-history.co.za

USA

The Federation of Genealogical Societies
www.fgs.org
British Isles FHS - USA www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa
International Society for British Genealogy & FH
www.isbgfh.org
Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England (W.I.S.E.) FHS*
Arizona
Arizona State Genealogical Society
www.azsgs.org/
California
Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society
www.cagenweb.com/
santabarbara/sbcgs
Pennsylvania
The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
www.genpa.org

*If you wish to contact a society where there is no website, then please consult the Federation's own website **www.ffhs.org.uk** where full contact details of all member societies are given. If you do not have access to the Internet then please write to the Administrator at the Postal Address on Page 12 for further information.

WHEN CONTACTING A SOCIETY PLEASE QUOTE FFHS 0211

Should I join a Family History Society?

If you are a newcomer to family history you may not see any need to join a family history society, especially in the light of the ever-increasing amount of information available on the Internet. It is true to say that in the early stages of research, quite a bit of progress can be made by going it alone. However, it will not be long before your research grinds to a halt, and then help will be needed to get you going again.

This is where membership of a local society can be of great benefit. There are two main options – either join a society local to where you live, or local to the area where your ancestors lived. This latter option could involve you in joining several societies if your ancestors lived in different parts of the country, or even in different countries.

The advantage in joining a society near to where you live (or work) is that you can go along to the monthly meetings which are a feature of most societies. There you can get to know fellow family historians who have more experience and who are likely to have overcome the problems you are encountering. They will be most happy to share their knowledge and come up with ideas for you to pursue. There may also be visiting speakers who will add to your understanding of different aspects of family history such as parish records, manorial records, etc.

If you join a society located where your ancestors lived, you may find that the society has published transcriptions of records that are not available from the Internet and which contain information relevant to your family. Or there may be articles published in their own journal that illustrate what life was like at the time your ancestors were living there. This will help to put flesh on the bare bones of dates and places.

You may well find that other members are researching the same names as you and you could suddenly discover that someone else can provide you with a great deal of information about your own ancestors.

There is also the social aspect of belonging to a local society, and you may in due course get great satisfaction from being able to help others when you join the ranks of the more experienced!

Most societies in the UK offer a single membership for around £10 and a joint membership for around £16. (Membership fees for overseas members are usually slightly higher.)

A year's membership of a family history society can make an excellent gift for a friend or family member.

NOTES

Federation of Family History Societies

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