



Family Roots

Family History Society for Eastbourne & District
www.eastbournefhs.org.uk



St. Nicholas Church, Pevensey.

Vol. 38.4 May 2024



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We have three vacancies. Why not join us?

Copy deadlines for articles please.

January 15th, April 16th, July 16th & October 16th.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES TO THE SECRETARY

(With s.a.e. Please)

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Editorial

Welcome to Graham Upton who joined the committee at the AGM. I am sure he will bring fresh ideas to the society. We have released two new data CDs, The Transcribed Memorial Inscriptions For Alciston Churchyard, Alciston, East Sussex. Also The Transcribed Parish Records For St. Nicholas Church, Pevensey, East Sussex. This now brings the total data lines on our 'Index of Names on CD' available to view on our website to over 68000 data lines, check out on the website; you may find people you are researching. Don't forget we have BMD certificates surplus to requirements also to view and order on the website.

I am still trying to fathom out how to interpret my DNA result. I subscribe to Family Tree Magazine e-mail updates and recently saw they were holding webinars on finding unknown parents using DNA so, I sent off my payment of £45.00; this covers two webinars hosted by Donna Rutherford (you may remember Donna came to talk to us at our meeting in August 2019) The speaker is Michelle Leonard who is well known in the world of DNA research. I have so far attended the first and was able to download the presentation to watch again, this is included in the fee. Unfortunately the second talk clashes with our May meeting so I will have to watch the download. Hopefully it will have made enough sense for me to report back in the August magazine.

It is worthwhile subscribing to the Family Tree Magazine e-mail updates as there is lots of information on both the content of the magazine and webinars etc.

Have you updated the names you are researching on our 'Members Interests' page in the member's area of the website? Or send them to me in the format Name - Place - Time scale.

Till next time John Titmuss

MINUTES OF THE 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF FAMILY ROOTS FHS (EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT)

Ocklynge School, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne 4th April 2024

1. The chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed the members.

2. Apologies were received from Jodie Loft, Madeline Henry, Pat and Bill Turner, and Lin Neeve

3. The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as a true record with the following amendment from Dave Chester about the tea and coffee making:

Dave Chester raised the issue of it being very unfair that Jenny Wooten and her tea ladies has to miss a big chunk of a speaker's presentation to provide coffee, tea and biscuits for the membership. The issue was put to the membership and by a majority show of hands it was decided to cease serving coffee, tea and biscuits at future meetings.

The secretary will correct the 2023 AGM minutes accordingly.

Proposed by Alison Selmes and seconded by John Warren.

4. There were no Matters Arising

5. The Chairman's report page 125

6 Treasurer's report page 127

Jenny asked if there were any questions about the accounts.

John Crane asked 'what will happen next year when we don't have the £4000 from the bookstall to support the general funds'. Jenny responded

that she ‘hoped that all members would renew and depending on how long that money would last, we may have to consider increasing the membership fees at a later date’.

Jenny thanked Russell for doing the auditing of the accounts.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted proposed by June Johnson seconded by John Tyhurst.

7 Election of the committee. Helen Warren proposed that Graham Upton should join the committee. He was seconded by John Titmuss and the majority were in favour.

The rest of the committee were willing to stand again and were proposed on block by Ailna Martin and seconded by Don Selmes. The committee were elected on block by a majority vote.

8. Election of honorary auditor. Russell is prepared to continue and was proposed by Helen Lucas and seconded by John Crane. The majority were in favour.

9. Subscription and meeting fees. The committee have had much discussion over raising the subscription and meeting fees. It has been decided not to do anything at the moment as we have the book account money to bolster the general account, but there may need to be an increase in the future especially as speakers fees have increased considerably. The committee will look at the budget later this year. Membership fees will remain at £14 per person, £16 for 2 people living at the same address and £18 for overseas members.

10. AOB. Dave Chester proposed a vote of thanks to Janet for being the bookstall manager for probably 15 - 20 years and especially for bringing books to the meetings for all that time.

11. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.53pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My report starts with a big thank you to all the committee. Thank you Helen Lucas for taking on the arduous task of secretary, filling John Crane's shoes is not easy! Thank you Jenny for managing the finances so well. Thank you Marianne for being our new member's secretary and Shirley for continuing to arrange speakers and our outing while remaining over-stretched at work. Thank you John Titmuss for producing our excellent magazine every quarter, Russell for his very sensible advice and help with the accounts and last but not least Janet who has run the bookstall for many years and although the book sales are finishing is continuing to sell CDs and remaining on the committee. The Family Roots Committee meet monthly on Zoom with lots of chat, ideas and a friendly atmosphere but sadly no cake! All the committee are willing to stand again although Jenny has said this is her last year as she has been treasurer for 32 years. We would love others to join us.

The past year has been a good mixture of speaker meetings. Our real life speakers started with a talk by Paul Jordan on Eastbourne's Department Stores at our last AGM. Other talks have been Kevin Gordon on Photographer Ellis Kelsey 1866-1939, James Gardner on William Booth and the Salvation Army and Danielle Wilson on Find A Grave.

Our summer visit to Compton Place was interesting! I was delighted to have the chance to look around Eastbourne's only stately home, a grade II listed property, which is a now language school but I could have given a more informative commentary than our guide!

A first was two talks in the same month when in October Kevin Gordon spoke about 'Friends of Ocklynge Cemetery' at Ocklynge School and Kathy Chater spoke on 'The Huguenots' at the Lamb, Old Town. Unfortunately the talk about Researching the History of Your House had to be cancelled and is now rescheduled for this autumn. Thank you to Alan Wenham for stepping in at the last minute and giving his talk on 'Life in Wartime Eastbourne' when the talk by Geoff Hutchinson on Smugglers was cancelled on the night.

For me our Christmas meeting was the highlight of the year! It was a bit different with members encouraged to bring in and talk about their family heirlooms and family history research. It was a great social evening with mince pies and just a shame more did not join us.

We had Zoom meetings in January and February with author Jean

Renwick talking about researching her novel *The Mourning Brooch* followed by a talk by Ian Porter on 'The Real Downton Abbey: Domestic Service before the Great War.' The Family Roots calendar finished with the recent talk by Graham Bandy on Military Cap Badges, sorry it was so cold.

Some of us including members June Johnson and Chris Worsfold have joined in at the monthly get together at the Gather in the Beacon when the town's history groups meet together to encourage membership but also to exchange ideas and network. Do join us on the last Friday of the month there is always someone interesting to chat to.

Ideally we would like more members to join our committee, so please consider volunteering for a position as a committee member. Lastly, thank you all for coming to our meetings and supporting Family Roots. It really isn't too hard being chairman if everyone else is doing all the work!

The Chairman's report was accepted with no objections. Proposed by Ailna Martin and seconded by Michelle Gowland.

TREASURER'S REPORT for A.G.M. 2024

The total receipts on the general account for 2023 was £2,953 but our payments amounted to £3,233, a deficit of £280 payments over receipts.

Our main income comes from subscriptions, which totalled £1,268 last year, but with membership numbers continuing to fall year on year this was a drop of £138 on the previous year. Nineteen members did not renew last year, but we recruited nine new members during the year.

Other income for last year came from meeting and visitors fees (£386), about the same as the previous year, and royalties from FindMyPast (£393) which had shown a slight increase.

For the July meeting we arranged to visit Compton Place, former Eastbourne home of the Duke of Devonshire, for which there was a fee of £420. We had to charge for this and raised £370 towards the cost of entry but subsidised our members by £5 per person. The visit was opened to the public and the full entry fee of £12.50 was paid by non-members.

Ocklynge School had increased their hire charge in 2022 after our return to face-to-face meetings. Last year we had eight meetings in the school which has shown an increase in the rental figure of £86 over the previous year. The Society has renewed the Zoom licence for another year at £144, which allows us to hold meetings online in January and February and opens our talks up to members across the country and abroad.

The cost of speakers showed a lower figure of £458 over the previous year's total of £697, as there were one or two hiccups with speakers not turning up when expected, which resulted in not having to pay their fees. We were very grateful to two of our own members who stepped forward to give an impromptu talk at a lower fee.

Printing and postage costs have risen slightly, which was to be expected, but additional supplies of stamps were purchased prior to any increase in the cost of postage to try and offset some of this.

The Society purchased a new Acer laptop at a cost of £429 for John Titmuss, our editor and webmaster to produce the quarterly magazine and keep the website updated and for use at meetings. This cost was met by transferring £430 from the bookstall funds into the general account.

You will recall that it was announced at last year's AGM that Janet was standing down as bookstall manager. She has valiantly continued to

bring books to meetings throughout last year but no one has come forward to take on the bookstall, which will now be closed. She did achieve £536 in sales last year, much of which will have come through sales on the website, and no new purchases were made.

The bookstall bank account will be closed after this meeting and the balance of £4,433 transferred into the general account. Janet will continue to manage sales of CDs through the website and retain a petty cash float to cover packing and postage.

The only new fixed asset purchased last year was the laptop for £429, which will be shown as a depreciation figure over the next five years. All other assets have been written off. Current assets from book stocks, cash in the bank accounts and in hand totalled £7,830, and the net worth of the Society is shown as £8,173 for the year.

I have told the committee that I will be standing down as treasurer at the next AGM, having done it for 32 years, and I hope to leave the accounts in good order for the next treasurer.

FAMILY ROOTS FHS (EASTBOURNE AND DISTRICT)

**General Society Account
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 January 2024**

	£	£	(22/23) £
Receipts			
Subscriptions	1,268		1,406
Meeting Fees	286		268
Visitors	100		161
Donations	20		
Share of Raffle income	81		104
Transfer from Bookstall a/c - Cost of replacement Laptop	430		
Sale of second hand magazines	5		15
Compton Place visit (**Subsidised for FR members)	370		
Findmypast Royalties	<u>393</u>		340
		2,953	
Payments			
Rent	560		474
FFHS subscriptions and insurance	44		49
Postages and telephone	268		252
Refreshments	14		48
Printing and photocopying	688		654
Stationery			25
Speaker's fees	458		697
Computer expenses	429		
Website expenses	72		72
Projects expenses (Bookstall)			
Zoom licence	144		144
Bank Charges	80		88
Compton Place visit	420		
Equipment - Banner	56		
Thank you gifts - John Tyhurst & Pat Turner			50
		<u>3,233</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts**	-	280	

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT
Trading Account for the year ended 31 January 2024

	£	£	(22/23) £
Receipts			
Book sales	536		258
Share of Raffle Income	28		104
Closing book stock	<u>2,462</u>	3,026	3,390
Payments			
Opening stock	3,390		3,584
Purchases for stock			
Bank charges	62		61
Transfer to No 1 account - Laptop	430		
Postages, stationery etc.	<u>32</u>	<u>3,914</u>	16
Excess of Payments over Receipts		888	
Cash in Hand			
Petty Cash	£64		
Float	£20		£20
PayPal	£26		£20
Total	£110		
Bank Account as at 31st January 2024	£4,433		

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st January 2024**

Fixed Assets		£	£	(31.1.23)
				£
	Cost			
	Depreciation			
Microfiche reader	458	458		
2 extendable display panels	132	132		
Laptop purchased July 2023	429	86	343	
Data projector	259	259		
Laptop/projector adapter	10	10		
Radio Microphone (2017)	30	30		
Radio Microphone (2018)	32	32		
SubZero Microphone system	56	56		
Microfiche	2200	2200		
120 white cups and saucers	150	150		
New banner (2023)	56	56	<u>343</u>	
 Current Assets				
Stock of books and publications		2,462		3,390
Cash at bank: General Club Accounts				
Current Account No. 1		825		1,104
Books and Publications Account				
Current Account No. 2		4,433		4,571
Cash in hand: Petty Cash & PayPal		110		40
			<u>7,830</u>	
 Liabilities				
Less unredeemed raffle prizes			-	432
Net worth			<u>8,173</u>	

J. Wootton, Treasurer
J. Savage, Bookstall Organiser

I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my examination of the accounts, and certify that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of Family Roots (Eastbourne & District) F.H.S. as at 31st January 2024.

R. S. Ridout

An exciting discovery.

Contributed by: Ailna Martin

It all began in 2016 when the secretary of the History of Bath Research Group, David Crellin, and his assistant Penny Gay, had traced the descendants of Bath architects, John Wood the Elder and his son, known as John Wood, the Younger. They hoped to finally find portraits of them, as none were known at the time. Their diligence was rewarded when they traced those descendants to a Mr. Bernardo Blasi Foglietti in Florence.

John Wood and his son are known as the builders & designers of a great many of the wonderful 18th Century buildings for which Bath is famed and which are the reason for the city having been designated a Unesco World Heritage Site. These buildings include the great curving Georgian Royal Crescent, The Circus, the Bath Assembly Rooms, and Gay Street, where Number 25 was once the home of Jane Austen.

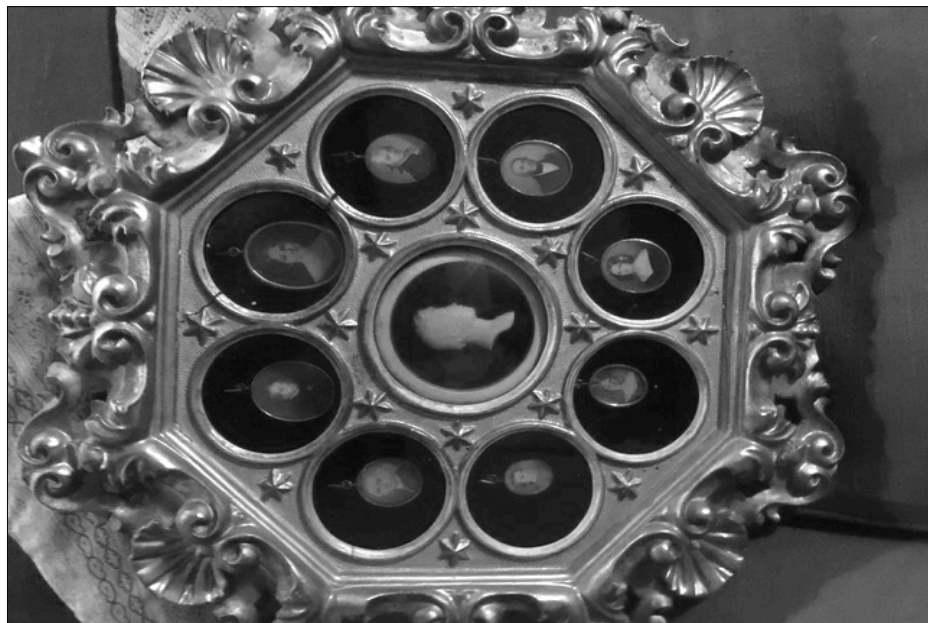
Once Mr. Crellin had discovered that the Blasi Foglietti family were direct descendants of the Woods he managed to trace my grandson's partner, Camilla Blasi Foglietti, via Facebook. He contacted her to enquire whether she was related to the Florentine family and on discovering that she was Bernardo's daughter he suggested that the family could possibly be related to the famous Bath architects, John Wood the Elder and his son, John Wood the Younger. The Italian side of the family had no idea of the connection to the famous Bath architects.

Camilla contacted her mother, Sally Hood, in Florence knowing that she had always had a keen interest in family history, and put her in touch with David Crellin. She and David kept in touch as time went by.

Then, in 2022, Camilla's parents were able to visit Bath and met David Crellin in person. When Sally returned home she determined to look further into her husband's ancestry. When visiting their country home, she wondered whether an octagonal and beautifully carved and gilded frame containing a group of eight miniature portraits could possibly be portraits of the Woods. The portraits represented several generations, and she had always been told that they were believed to represent "the English family".

David had a number of conversations with Sally who sent him an image

of the eight portraits in their octagonal frame asking, “Do you think these might be relevant?” The two portraits that caused all the excitement are amongst those eight portraits.



David Crellin showed the image to Susan Sloman who was Keeper of Collections at the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath for ten years. Ms. Sloman was one of several art historians who helped in identifying and authenticating the two portraits. A tiny monogram on the portrait of John the Elder, on the right of the image below, has been identified as that of one of the leading miniaturists of the day, Peter Paul Lens, who was active in Bath at the same time as the two architects were also active. This eventually led to two of the miniatures being identified as John Wood the Elder and his son. The two images are shown below – John Wood the Elder on the right and his son on the left.



On October 19th 2023, the BBC local TV news programme, Points West, broadcast a report that a pair of 18th century miniatures had been traced to the Bernardo Blasi Foglietti family in Florence. Bernardo's daughter, Camilla, was interviewed about the find on the programme and described how the discovery had been made. This was an exciting breakthrough after ten years of painstaking research.

Reproductions have now been made for posterity, but a dilemma now faces the family as to what happens to these important miniatures in the future. Much depends upon the wishes of the family. My view would be for them to remain with the family who have preserved them for so long, provided that historians can always access them if required.

Researching and Writing a Family History:

The Mourning Brooch

Family Roots Zoom meeting – Thursday, 4th January 2024

Speaker: Jean Renwick

By: Jenny Wootton.

Jean Renwick talked about the research she had done before writing her trilogy "The Mourning Brooch", based on true facts. Jean had inherited a mourning brooch and a canteen of cutlery from her godmother Dorothy Walker (1920-1989), a great friend of her mother. It was a gold and enamel brooch containing plaited hair, and on the back had the inscription 'Mrs Addy, ob. Jan 3rd 1849, aged 39'. Jean wondered how such a fine brooch had come into the possession of Dorothy Walker who had never married, had been conned out of all her savings and had lived a frugal life in lodgings in Crosby.

She decided to research the Addy family and discovered Mrs Addy was Elizabeth Hall, married to Joseph Addy, living on a farm near Doncaster that belonged to the Earl of Derby. They had two daughters, MaryAnn and Frances, but Jean could not immediately make the connection to her godmother Dorothy. Then she looked more closely at the canteen of cutlery and discovered it had been a

wedding gift from the Earl of Derby to Dorothy's parents in 1903. Working backwards Jean found Edward Walker married Lily Mellows (Dorothy's parents), and Lily was the daughter of Joe Mellows and Frances Addy. Frances's older sister MaryAnn (later known as Marian) married John Henry Willey, who came from quite a wealthy wool merchant family in Bradford.

Jean meticulously researched the lives of members of the Addy family, concentrating on the two girls and their families. The two sisters ended up leading very different lives, one staying in England and the other sailing to America, and lives involving intrigue and scandal. She collected the basic facts about each person and kept disciplined files for all her work and research. She then created a timeline of local events, weaving them into the family story. Jean showed respect for each member of the family as they were real people, but a scandal in the family allowed her to write a more interesting back story. Through Ancestry Jean was able to make contact with Sam Edwards in the United States, who was researching the life of Hannah Mary Willey, Marian's daughter.

"The Mourning Brooch" is a trilogy, and Book One starts in 1839 with the marriage of Elizabeth Hall to Joseph Addy in All Saints Church, Arksey near Doncaster. This is also the church where their two daughters were baptised, and where Elizabeth's funeral took place in 1849. Elizabeth's unmarried sister Mary came to help look after the two young girls after her sister's death and grew to love them both. The obvious solution would have been for her to marry Joseph, but the Marriage Act of 1835 prohibited a man marrying his dead wife's sister, although it was a very unpopular act at the time and was eventually repealed.

To get an authentic picture of where the family lived Jean visited All Saints Church, Arksey and traced the family farm in Bentley nearby. She also visited the home of John Henry Willey in Hanover Square, Manningham, Bradford. His father John Willey was a successful wool merchant and John Henry joined the family trade before marrying Marian Addy. They would eventually move to America.

Jean decided to self-publish her books. Book Two covers the years 1876 to 1913 and follows the lives of Marian and Frannie and their children. It is set against a backdrop of royal and national occasions – Queen Victoria's jubilees and death and the coronations of Edward VII and George V, and major strikes and industrial disasters – and weaves these events into the story. Her second book follows

John Henry and Marian Willey across the Atlantic to enter the wool trade in Philadelphia. After their return to England their daughter Henrietta, who married twice, was involved in two scandals reported in newspapers at the time, one where she accused a housemaid of stealing some of her clothes, and another in Southport of the sale of dangerous potions. Jean allowed herself some speculation to elaborate both stories where no true facts were available but kept the stories as authentic as possible.

Jean is now writing Book Three, which will take the family story back to America. It starts from 1913, covering the First World War, through life in the 1920s and 1930s and up to 1943 and the Second World War, when the mourning brooch was passed down to her godmother Dorothy Walker. There are over 200 characters in her books, but only six are fictional.

Mary McCordle - An Irish immigrant

Contributed by: Peggy Westwood

When I first began to research my family history I was thrilled with each person I found. As time went on some ancestors began to stand out from others. One of these was Mary McCordle, my 3x great grandmother on my father's side.

Mary was born in Ireland in about 1790. Her maiden name is a mystery but her surname after marriage has many spellings: McCordle, McCardle, McArdle, Mcoardle, Cordle, Cordel, Cardell, Cadal. There is no doubt this was due to her having a broad Irish accent and living in Walsall, in the Midlands, Scotland and Liverpool, locals would have found it difficult to understand her. The dropping of the Mc making the surname Cordle by some descendants is explained because the Irish immigrants were unpopular at the time and it was a way of making the name more English.

Mary's husband was James McCordle. Family rumours have it that he fled to England as a result of a fight over a gold mine in Ireland. This is a possibility because there was a gold rush in Ireland between 1795 and 1830.

The first record of Mary is in Liverpool where her first two children,

Catherine and James were born. Catherine in 1814 and James in 1816.

By 1820 she is in Ayrshire, Scotland where her son John was born, followed in 1822 by Peter and in 1824 by Edward. In Scotland James worked as a stone miner. Somehow the family knew there was work in Scotland but they were poor and the journey to Scotland with young children must have been hard by cart or even on foot.

By 1827 they are in Walsall where their daughter Ellen was born.

In 1829 her daughter, Margaret was born in Liverpool.

In 1832 we find them in Walsall.

Francis McCordle born 28th January, 1832 was baptised on 5th February 1832.

Rhoda McCordle born 25th August, 1835 was baptised on 6th September 1839.

Marianne McArdle baptised 18th February, 1838.

All three children are described as son and daughters of James and Mary of Burchills. From the baptism records we know that Mary was a Catholic.

Census Records provide more information:

1841

Wolverhampton Lane, Walsall

James Mcoardle	45		Ireland
Mary Mcoardle	45		Ireland
John Mcoardle	20	Iron stone miner	Scotland
Peter Mcoardle	20	Iron stone miner	Scotland
Edward Mcoardle	15	Iron stone miner	Scotland
Francis Mcoardle	9		Walsall
Rhoda Mcoardle	5		Walsall
Mary Mcoardle	3		Walsall

1851

Old Ropery, Liverpool

Ellen Scattergood	Wife	mar	24	Warwick Birmingham
Ann A Scattergood	Dau		8mths	Lancaster Liverpool
Mary McCardle	Mother	wid	61	Ireland
Margaret McCardle	Sister	Unmar	22	House servant

1861

41 West Hampton Road, Walsall

Mary McCordle	Head		Widow	72	
Washerwoman					Ireland
Francis McCordle	Son		Unmar	29	Chainmaker

Walsall
 Rhoda McCordle Dau Unmar 24 Saddle
 stitcher
 George Peace Boarder Unmar 21 Chainmaker
 Mary died of senility 10th December 1864 aged 74 years. Death
 registered by Margaret Jones of Wisemore.

It seems likely that Mary was living in a back to back house. They were common in Birmingham and Walsall at this time and have been preserved in Birmingham by the National Trust. Back to backs are houses built back to back with outer houses facing the street and inner houses facing into a shared courtyard. The houses had communal toilets and a laundry and it seems possible that Mary was described as a washerwoman because she washed for other residents living in the back to back houses. The houses themselves were overcrowded. Children slept top to tail and the only form of privacy for adults would be a curtain across a room.

Mary appears to have been widowed between 1840 and 1851 but despite searching the original record books in St Catherine's House in London there is no death certificate for her husband James. One theory is that after drinking heavily he could have fallen in a ditch and died.

I have no pictures of Mary but my Dad said his mother, Ellen Cordell was a small woman with red hair. I like to think Ellen may have resembled Mary. If we met now we would have nothing in common but Mary represents to me strong women who, even though poor, raised their family

From the Family History Federation.

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If you visit the website you can find lots of useful information in the side menu. <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/wiki>

The Real Downton Abbey:

life in domestic service before the Great War

Family Roots Zoom meeting – Thursday, 1st February

2024

Speaker: Ian Porter

By: Jenny Wootton

Ian Porter's talk covered the status between servants and masters, the different jobs of each servant role, and how the new Education Act in 1901 and the outbreak of World War 1 had such a great effect on the lives of servants. As he pointed out, a servant's life was not as cosy as portrayed in 'Downton Abbey'. Servants in the Victorian era were regarded as a race apart. They lived in cold, spartan, cramped bedrooms where there was no privacy, and male and female servants were kept strictly apart. They were overworked and underpaid and had to abide by petty rules. Female servants had to wear caps as a sign of servitude and were expected to keep below stairs and out of sight of their masters. Upper class Victorian and Edwardian families judged others on the number of servants they kept. Indoor and outdoor servants would never mix, as portrayed in 'Downton Abbey', and with most large estates outdoor servants would have outnumbered indoor ones.

The steward, not the butler, oversaw the running of the house and paying the bills. The butler engaged the under staff and may even have acted as batman to the master. They managed to supplement their income with tips and selling items that the household had finished with such as candle ends. Candles in the main rooms would have been changed every day. The under butler was responsible for setting the dining table and looking after the glass and silver. The first footman's role was to accompany her ladyship when out shopping to carry her parcels, or ride on her carriage when she went out to visit friends. The second footman would accompany the master of the house in a similar way. The third footman stayed at home and would have answered the door, received the mail etc, or, with the coming of the telephone, he would have been trained properly to answer the phone. The height of a footman was important. The taller the better so they would look good in livery. They had to be fit as well, as they would have been on the go all day. Footmen were usually not known by their own name but would all be called William or James or some

other name, so that the family did not have to remember a new name every time there was a change of staff.

The gentleman's valet was usually hired by the master of the house as he was his personal man servant and attended to all his personal care. Large households would have had a male chef and an under cook. Chefs were renowned for having big egos and being bad tempered. Otherwise there would have been a cook in charge of the kitchen. The mistress of the house would meet with the cook or chef to draw up the daily menu. The Season, when those with country estates moved to their homes in London, took place for two months in the summer. Most of their household staff would move with them. Often there were two dinner parties in the week and large house parties at the weekends, and these involved much eating and drinking as there was not much else for the upper classes to do in town. Each meal would consist of up to nine courses with a different wine for each course. This put huge stress on the cook having to prepare such large meals and it is no wonder they were often bad tempered. The kitchen maid would do the rough work of cleaning and preparing the vegetables. The under cook was responsible for boiling the vegetables, making sandwiches etc. The scullery maid did all the washing up. The housekeeper was responsible for the looking after the best china and kept a check on the bed linen. She would have dealt with all the bulk buying and supervised the housemaids and stillroom maids. It was possible to earn perks on the side from the tradesmen she dealt with.

The mistress would always hire her own lady's maid who would have become her personal assistant. The lady's maid would be trained in hairdressing and dressmaking. She was responsible for taking care of her mistress's clothes and would have accompanied her when travelling, having made all the travel arrangements and taken care of the luggage. Chamber maids looked after the bedrooms, and parlour maids attended to the family's living rooms. Their day would have started at 6.00am when they had to clean the grates and light the fires before the family got up. They then had to sweep the floors, tidy the rooms and clean the front steps, and do all this while remaining invisible to the family and finish before the family members came down for breakfast. They had to buy their own uniforms, which were not supplied by the family.

The hall boy was hired to look after the dogs and usually lived outside the house. He had to keep the dogs clean and feed and walk them. Outdoor staff were usually hired by an agent, who was also responsible for keeping the accounts. The head gardener was often a most trusted employee and his special skills meant he could easily transfer to another employer. The head coachman looked after the horses and supervised the grooms. The chauffeur, when cars started to replace the horse and carriage, needed to be a good mechanic as well as a safe driver. Running a large estate

efficiently often required more outdoor staff than indoor ones. There was social hierarchy within the household staff and those in higher positions would not speak to those in the lower orders. Silence was maintained during staff mealtimes and the main meal was dinner which was eaten at noon. Accommodation for staff was also allocated according to their position within the household. Ladies' maids and valets were given better rooms upstairs while maids in lower positions had to share rooms up in the attics. Male servants were always housed in the basement as far away as possible from the young female servants. They were expected to take a bath once a week, and were not allowed any social callers to the house. There was very little spare time to meet friends away from the workplace, but indoor staff would often fraternise with outdoor staff on the estate.

Most female cooks and housekeepers remained unmarried as they would have worked their way up through service which did not allow time for marriage. A frugal senior servant would have been able to save enough while working to give them a reasonable retirement.

It was rare to be promoted within the same household and staff would have to have been able to write a letter to another employer to find a better job. The 1901 Education Act raised the school leaving age to 14, which gave opportunities for better jobs than being in service. The expansion of the railways meant it was possible to find employment further from home, and working in a factory became more respectable than being in service. By 1914 one in 14 people had emigrated to the USA and the Colonies looking for a better life, while there were strikes and unemployment at home.

After the First World War death duties increased, which meant families could not afford to keep their large estates, and the introduction of National Insurance meant the mistress of the house had to pay to look after her employees. So many male servants joined up to fight during the war and female staff went to work in factories to supply the war effort, and most never returned to service. In 1918 the Spanish flu attacked the healthy as well as the weak and killed the fittest strongest people. 259,000 died in ten months, and many of them were servants. Life in service never recovered.

The First Sexton at Ocklynge Cemetery

Contributed by: Kevin Gordon

Ocklynge Cemetery had a full time Sexton / Superintendent who was based in the Cemetery Lodge adjacent to the cemetery gates in Willingdon Road. (This is now a private house).

The duties of the Sexton were to help dig graves, to arrange and attend all funerals and to generally maintain the cemetery. His hours of duty were from 6am to 6pm daily.

Appointed in 1857, the first Sexton was William Cosstick (1819-1893). He initially had a staff of six grave-diggers who also doubled up as gardeners. He was paid £40 a year however he also received gratuities for maintaining graves on behalf of families. (apparently the going rate was five shillings a year although the receiving of such gratuities was frowned upon by the Burial Board.)

William was from Firle and before moving into the Cemetery Lodge lived at Pillory Bank opposite to where the Tally Ho pub is today. The 1861 census shows that he was still living at Pillory Bank suggesting that the Lodge had not yet been completed. The 1871 census showing him living at the Lodge with his wife Caroline and son William who was employed as a gardener at the cemetery.

William was a keen botanist and naturalist and wrote letters to the local papers about birds and moths. In 1878 he gave two lectures to the Eastbourne Natural History Society entitled “*Spiders – Their Habits, Instinct and General History*” and “*The Honey Bee*”

Queen Victoria’s daughter, Princess Alice was a regular visitor to Eastbourne and, during one of these visits, in September 1878, William Cosstick presented her with a bunch of wild flowers, no doubt picked from the cemetery. The Princess was so pleased with this gift that she later sent a messenger to the Cemetery Lodge requesting that William attend her lodgings at Highcliffe House, Grand Parade and to ‘*explain the nature of the flowers*’. William attended, taking with him a posy of erica-tetralix and erica-cinerea (bell-heathers)

William could sometimes be officious – a complaint was made against him in June 1874 when a lady had attended the cemetery to plant flowers on a grave. William had told her that she was trespassing, escorted her from the cemetery and even confiscated her plants!. (The Burial Board, considering the complaint, reported that Bye-Laws did indeed state that their permission was indeed needed to plant flowers however in this case Mr Cosstick had been ‘over-zealous’.)

In 1879 William fell out with the Burial Board. It appears that, despite previous warnings, he had been accepting gratuities to privately keep

graves in order and was clearly doing this in ‘company time’. He was sacked but given a generous four months notice. He had to leave the cemetery Lodge and moved to 171, Ashford Road but he did not go quietly demanding that he be able to remove plants and flowers from the cemetery that he had planted. (The Burial Board refused)

The 1881 census shows his occupation as a gardener. The 1891 census shows the 72 year old living at 2, Reeds Bank, Ocklynge Road (Reeds Bank was to the north of the junction of Ocklynge Road and Crown Street)

In February 1880 there were seven applicants for the William Cosstick’s old job. One of them was William himself who begged for the Burial Board to ‘*forgive his sins*’ but he was not re-appointed.

Identifying badges and how to date

old military photographs.

Speaker Graham Bundy

Family Roots meeting Thursday 7th March 2024

By: Graham Bundy

Graham’s talk was quite detailed so he has allowed me to publish his notes in full Ed.

The regimental devices worn by the British Army predate the existence of a standing professional army. When the followers or serfs tied to a nobleman or landowner were mustered, they wore the badge of their liege as a distinguishing mark so they could tell friend from foe in the fog of battle.

Badges were well known during the Cousins’ Wars (Wars of the Roses), where ‘the Cat, the Rat and Lovell the dog, Rule all England under a Hog.’ This verse was posted on St Paul’s Cathedral in 1484 and refers to King Richard III (the hog, whose badge was a white boar) and his leading counsellors, William Catesby (the cat), Sir Richard Ratcliffe (the rat) and Francis, Viscount Lovell (the dog – his heraldic crest featured a wolf). Emblems were well enough known for people to understand to whom they referred.

Likewise, at the same time, the Bear and Ragged Staff of Warwick the

Kingmaker was also well known. This device continued to be used by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the collar and also by the Warwickshire Yeomanry. The Yorkist White Rose appeared upon the East Yorkshire Regiment and the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry until amalgamation, as did the East Lancashire and Loyal North Lancashire's with the Red Rose of Lancaster.

The rose on the Hampshire Regiment's badge comes from the gift given to Winchester by Henry V on his journey to the coast and, ultimately, Agincourt.

Except for the guards and some of the more venerable line infantry who were awarded royal devices, most regiments, until the mid-18th century, wore the livery and devices of their founders. In 1751, George II ordered the end of the personal devices of colonels, as well as ordering the sequential numbering of the regiments.

The British Army, its arms, services, and various affiliated units have all been proud of their badges, so much so that when a soldier collected badges of other units on his belt, it became known as a 'Hate Belt'. There are stories and even poems of soldiers from different regiments fighting with each other since time immemorial; that is when they are not fighting the enemy!

Over the years, various units have sprung up alongside the regular standing army. Although the Royal Navy can trace its ancestry back to the time of King Alfred, there was no actual standing army until the New Model Army of the Commonwealth was formed by Oliver Cromwell in 1645. This was stood down at the Restoration of King Charles II and then reformed. The Coldstream Guards laid down their weapons and were then ordered to pick them up again as soldiers of the King.

Since then, at times of emergency, various volunteer units have been formed. For many years, the militia was always in the background. In fact there was a county lottery in which men were randomly chosen to serve. These, as time progressed (in 1881 under the far reaching Cardwell Reforms), became the volunteer battalions of the various infantry regiments.

The cavalry had their own equivalent, the yeomanry, which basically consisted of volunteers on horseback. These date back even further to when gentlemen rode their horses to defend their county or their lord. These yeomanry regiments were originally formed in response to French aggression in 1794. The then Prime Minister, Pitt the Younger, suggested a force of volunteer yeoman cavalry should be formed to defend the nation against invasion and to subdue insurrection in the counties if called upon.

In February 1797, a French force of four ships carrying the 'Legion Noir' was sighted off Carregwasted Point in Pembrokeshire. This was part of a three-way attack on Britain by the French. The Pembroke Yeomanry and the Pembroke Militia were mustered under Lord Cawdor and eventually, after the ships had left and the French (American) commander saw no other way out, the force surrendered to him. It is an interesting tale and worth reading up on. In 1853, Her Majesty Queen Victoria granted the battle honour, 'Fishguard', to the Pembroke Yeomanry. Their descendants are now the only unit in the British Army to carry a battle honour won on British soil and were the first volunteer unit to receive one. Incidentally, the French 'invasion' was the last time troops in numbers made an attempted land invasion of Great Britain. The descendant unit is 22 (Pembrokeshire Yeomanry) Transport Squadron, part of 157 (Welsh Regt) RLC (Reserve).

Added to these were the Victorian Rifle Volunteer Units, who were affiliated to the county regiments, but wore grey uniforms and Light Infantry type badges. These were raised in the mid-19th century; again, as a response to French aggression. These were all part-time 'home only' soldiers who paraded once a week and went to a training camp at weekends. They did not serve overseas until 1900 when volunteers were taken to the Second Boer War in South Africa.

In 1908, another reorganisation joined all these disparate 'weekend warrior' units under a blanket organisation, the 'Territorial Force'. After the First World War, this became the 'Territorial Army', then the 'Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve' and, more recently, 'The Reserves'. These units had a wide array of cap and collar badges, a large number of which can be found in this volume. Be aware that when researching a photograph of a pre-First World War soldier, he may not be a regular, and thus his records are scant and more difficult to find. One in three records of the rank and file from the First World War survive. The remainder were burnt in an incendiary attack on London in November 1940.

Closer inspection of a badge will reveal many things and a long history.

Battle honours, much like the wreaths and ribbons awarded to a Roman legion after a successful battle and carried on their eagle, were similar to the battle honours on the colours carried by a British Army unit. These colours carried the names of battles where the distinguished fighting of that unit had been recognised and classed as a 'battle honour'. These honours were frequently transferred to the badges. The main proponent of this was the 17th Lancers. The colonel of their antecedent regiment, the 17th Light Dragoons, brought the news of Wolfe's victory at Quebec (in 1759, during the Seven Years' War) to George II. Wolfe had been mortally wounded just as the battle was won and the King ordered that the regiment wear a skull and crossbones badge with the motto 'Or Glory' to commemorate this. At the time it was believed that these were the only parts of the body required for the resurrection on Judgement Day.

The Scots Greys, the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Essex Regiment had a French eagle on their badges. These had been captured by the regiments during the Napoleonic wars.

Many badges have a horn or bugle horn within the design. These denote regiments that were in the light infantry role. The Somerset Light Infantry (13th Foot) has a mural crown above, surmounting the horn, with a scroll saying 'Jellalabad' upon it. This commemorates the regiment holding the earthquake damaged walls of the town against a long siege. This also gave them the title 'The Illustrious Garrison'.

The Gloucestershire Regiment (28th Foot) had a unique honour in that they wore a badge on the back of their hats as well as the front. At the battle of Alexandria in 1801 they were hard pressed and surrounded. The order came, 'rear rank, right about face, fire!', and they stood back to back with their comrades. Thus standing, they eventually repulsed the attack by the French, successfully forcing them back into the town of Alexandria to surrender. The back badge tradition is continued by the successor regiment, The Rifles, the 1st Battalion of which contains the old Glosters.

Another successful siege is remembered in the badges of the four Gibraltar regiments. The Great Siege of Gibraltar was from 24 June 1779 to 7 February 1783. Spain had entered the war on the side of the French and revolting American colonists, and their proximity and spurious claims made the 'gateway to the Mediterranean' vulnerable. The castle and key to Gibraltar, along with the motto, 'Montis Insignia Calpe', was incorporated into the regimental devices. These regiments are Suffolk, Essex, Northamptonshire and Dorset. At the battle of Almanza in 1707, during the reign of Queen Anne, what

became the Norfolk Regiment successfully covered Lord Galway's retreat. From a total of 467 officers and men, 324 were lost. For this gallant action, the device of Britannia was awarded. Later on when fighting the Spanish, the Britannia device was mistaken for an image of the Virgin Mary, and hence the nickname of 'The Holy Boys' was born. Tigers are seen on a number of badges including the Leicestershire's and the Hampshire's, and latterly as the name of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, known as the Tigers, but referred to as the 'Squidgies' by other members of the army. This is in response to a taped telephone call between Princess Diana of Wales and James Gilby where he referred to her as 'Squidgy'. The tiger emblem itself refers to long service in India.

The Royal Scots Greys and the Queen's Bays names referred to the colour of the horses used by each regiment. The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment (2nd Foot), who were raised in 1661 by the Earl of Peterborough, were known as 'Kirke's Lambs' from 1682 because of the badge and its then colonel. They received the Paschal Lamb device from the House of Braganza when it was formed to garrison Tangier. The regimental march is also called 'Braganza'.

Due to the many amalgamations and disbandments, a number of these stories and even the devices have marched off into the sunset. That being said, many of the regimental battle honours are still remembered today in the successor regiments.

The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, for example, features a castle from the Suffolk, Essex and Northamptonshire Regiments on its cap badge, the sphynx of Egypt and a scroll with Talavera on its collar badges from the Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. This device actually predates the amalgamations, and was once the button badge of the Northamptonshire Regt from 1947 to 1960.

On the soldiers' arms, the eagle captured by the Essex Regiment during the Peninsular War from the French. Talavera, Sobroan and Minden day are all still celebrated today

Finding My Foundling, Edmund Fitz-George

Contributed by: Helen Warren

My interest in family history was sparked off by a family story that we were descended from King George III, albeit, on the wrong side of the blanket. Tracing my father's line back I found Hannah Fitzgeorge, my 2x great grandmother. It was exciting to find the name Fitzgeorge with its royal associations. Fitz was a prefix used for the surnames of illegitimate

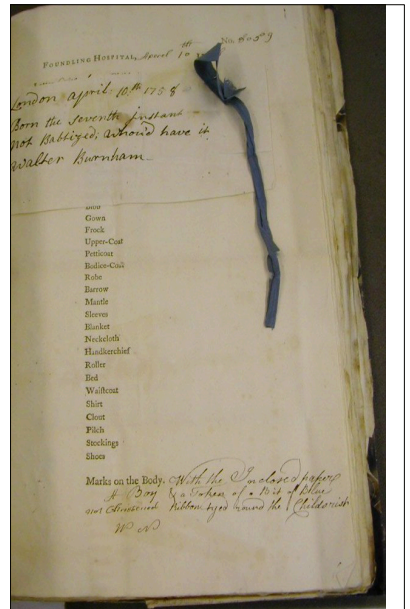
children of kings, and George III was rumoured to have had a liaison with Hannah Lightfoot, a Quaker. So, with a name like Hannah Fitzgeorge, there was hope of a royal lovechild amongst my ancestors.

Hannah Fitzgeorge was baptised in 1792 in Warmsworth, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire. She was the daughter of Edmund and Hannah Fitzgeorge. Edmund was a blacksmith, however, not an appropriate profession for the son of a king. I searched all surrounding parishes and many genealogical indexes, but Edmund remained a ‘brick wall’ for many years. He seemed to have appeared from nowhere. Then, through a fellow researcher, I discovered that a baby boy with the name Edmund Fitz-George was given into the keeping of the Foundling Hospital, at about the right time – eureka!

Edmund’s early life

Once I had found Edmund, I discovered a wealth of information in Coram’s Foundling Hospital Archive. My 3x great grandfather was received into the Hospital on 10 April 1758 at the time of the General Reception, when all infants handed into the Hospital were accepted.

On receiving the child, the Hospital used a printed billet form to list key information about the infant. Although Edmund’s billet does not detail the clothing he arrived in, it does have a handwritten note pinned to it. The note reads: ‘London April 10th 1758 - Born the seventh instant - Not baptized; Whould have it Walter Burnham’. A piece of dark blue ribbon is also pinned to the billet. It was left as a token should his mother ever wish or be able to retrieve her son.



On a visit in 2005 to London Metropolitan Archives, where the Foundling Hospital Archive is housed, it was an emotional experience for me as I touched the token. It was poignant to think that I was probably the first family member to see those mementoes in 250 years and that Edmund himself never knew of their existence.

Once admitted, Edmund was baptised, given the number 8059, and put in

the care of a wet nurse, Elizabeth Cockerill of Chiddingstone, Kent. Elizabeth and her husband Henry already had children of their own; so, for his first five years, Edmund lived as part of this family. Then, in May 1763, he was sent to the Westerham branch of the Foundling Hospital in Kent. Thomas Ellison had agreed to a lease with his property known as Wellstreet barely two miles outside Westerham, this was opened as the Westerham branch in 1760. The house has been known since the 19th Century as Chartwell and became the favourite home of Winston Churchill. It is now a treasured National Trust property.

At the branch hospitals

Going to the Westerham Hospital must have been heart wrenching for both Elizabeth and young Edmund. He was leaving the only home he had ever known to be part of a strict institutional regime. I found in the Westerham Foundling Hospital records that Henry Cockerill was sometimes employed there to mend the spinning wheels. I like to think that he kept his eye open for Edmund when he visited and maybe Elizabeth too managed a peep, although this was not encouraged by the hospital.

Edmund would have been taught to read so that he could read the Bible, as this was thought important, but not to write. Edmund put a cross when he signed the parish register at his marriage as he could not write his name.

In the summer of 1766, Edmund spent nearly two months at the London Foundling Hospital, where he was inoculated against smallpox. Then he returned to Westerham.

He grew into a tall boy. I know this because in 1768, John Saunders, secretary of the Westerham branch, received a letter asking for 16 of the tallest boys to be sent up to London, from where they would be apprenticed. Therefore, in May 1768, Edmund was sent to the Ackworth branch hospital in Yorkshire. On 1 June 1768, aged 10, he was apprenticed to Jonathon Thorp, the blacksmith of Upton, near Badsworth, West Yorkshire. Jonathon was paid £3 guineas to take him on, and Edmund was apprenticed until he was 21 years old.

Marriage and later life

Edmund was incredibly fortunate to be apprenticed to Thorp because,

again, he was part of a family. Jonathan's son, Joseph, was one of the witnesses at Edmund's marriage.

Edmund married Hannah Mason, a stone mason's daughter, on 4 October 1785, four years before his apprenticeship was officially complete. I think Jonathan looked favourably on Edmund, allowing him to marry, probably because Hannah was pregnant. Their first child, Mary, was born four weeks later.

At the time of Mary's baptism, they were still living in Upton but moved to the smithy in Warmsworth where their second child, John, was born less than two years later. Of their 12 children, all but two grew up to marry and have children of their own.

After his apprenticeship, Edmund worked as a blacksmith on Sheffield Road, Warmsworth, the busy mail road between Doncaster and Sheffield. Some of his descendants followed in that profession in nearby Balby until the 1930s. Remarkably, the building that was the smithy in Warmsworth is still there, although converted to a shop now.

I have an article from the *Doncaster Chronicle*, passed down through the family, which records the memories of his grandson George. It gives an account of Edmund working in knee-length breeches as a blacksmith. The article says:

He had to his knowledge, not a relation or friend in the world. He had been at a foundling school in or near London, and while there had been sometimes visited by two ladies, one of whom took great interest in him and always appeared much effected when leaving him.

Edmund believed this could have been his birth mother, but I think that it was his former nurse, Elizabeth Cockerill, perhaps with one of her daughters. I have another newspaper cutting that confirms the family's belief in a royal father.

Unusually, a census for Warmsworth was taken in 1829. It lists Edmund Fitzgeorge, aged 72 years, wife Hannah, and grandchild Richard, 5 years. Edmund and Hannah both died in 1835 and are buried together, along with their eldest child Mary, who died at age 17. The gravestone is still there in Warmsworth.

Edmund and Hannah had at least 62 grandchildren. I have been in contact with several of their descendants scattered all over the world. Some had the same tale of royal descent. I have discovered that descendants of other

Foundlings have the same family legend. Perhaps their nurses told the children these stories to make them feel better about their lowly beginnings.

So, looking at all the evidence there is nothing to prove a kingly dalliance. I must accept that I probably will never find the truth of Edmund's parentage. The name Walter Burnham written on the note is the best clue I have. However, I will continue to search and maybe one day with a DNA match I may find out more about Edmund's beginnings. After all, the true story of Edmund Fitz-George and the Foundling Hospital is just as interesting.

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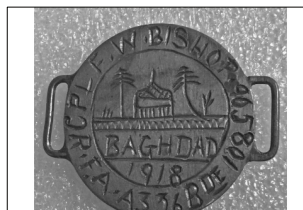
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More from the Graham Bundy Talk

Contributed by: Helen Lucas



I took the above WW1 army badge to the March Family Roots meeting in the hope that Graham Bandy would be able to identify it. I was especially interested as it had obviously been handmade. He told me that it is an identity tag which would have been worn on a leather strap on his wrist. They were worn in hot countries. I subsequently found out that unofficial ID tags were often made from reworked coins which this is. They were made in huge numbers by local craftsmen in bazaars in hot countries especially in the near and Middle East where shirt sleeve order was the norm. They typically had a pre-prepared design and simply added the name when a customer appeared.

Families In British India Society

Join us at our 3 day Conference to celebrate 25 years since our inception and learn how to further your research. 27-29 September 2024 at DoubleTree by Hilton Oxford Belfry London Road, Milton Common, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2JW.

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Dr Sophie Kay – Professional Genealogist & Geneticist

Dr Janet Few – President of Family History Federation

Ian Waller – FSG FGRA – Vice Chairman & Education officer FFHS

Richard Morgan – author and retired FIBIS Trustee

Jef Page – former Lecturer and Guide at National Gallery

Dr Susan Snell – Archivist & Records Manager at Museum of Freemasonry

Karen de Bruyne – Professional Genealogist

Dr Robert Ivermee – Associate Professor at the Catholic University of Paris, Author.

Dr Charles Hayter, MA – Toronto-based physician, medical historian, author, former Associate Professor in the University of Toronto and a past President of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine.

Lt Col Mike Tickner – FIBIS Trustee
Mary-Anne Gourley – Australian Family Historian and FIBIS antipodean representative
Else Churchill – Genealogist at The Society of Genealogists
Hedley Sutton – Team Leader of the Asian & African Studies Reference Services at the British Library
Jody East – Creative Programme Manager for the Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust, Brighton & Hove
Geraldine Charles – archivist (semi-retired), historian, writer, dowser and a founder member of FIBIS.

Artificial Intelligence.

There has been quite a bit in the media about artificial intelligence so, I thought I would give it a try to see what results I would get.

I asked two specific questions regarding family history and DNA.

'How to get children interested in family history in 500 words '

Getting children excited about family history can be a delightful journey that bridges generations. Here are some engaging and creative ways to spark their curiosity:

1. **Storytelling Adventures:** Share captivating tales of ancestors – their triumphs, quirks, and adventures. Paint vivid pictures of their lives, weaving in historical context. Children love stories, especially when they involve their own family.

2. **Time Capsules:** Create a mini time capsule together. Gather items that represent today – photos, drawings, letters, and small mementos. Bury or store them safely, with instructions to open in the future. Explain how this connects them to their family's past.

3. **Ancestral Artifacts:** Unearth old family treasures – letters, heirlooms, or faded photographs. Discuss their significance. Encourage kids to ask questions: “What was life like for Grandma during World War II?” or “Why did Great-Grandpa keep this pocket watch?”

4. **Genealogy Detective:** Turn family history into a thrilling mystery. Provide clues – birth certificates, census records, or ship manifests. Let children play detective, piecing together their family tree. Use online tools or visit local archives.

5. **Cooking Traditions:** Explore family recipes. Cook together, tracing dishes back to great-great-grandparents. Share anecdotes about festive feasts, secret ingredients, and culinary adventures. Food connects generations across time and place.

6. Virtual Tours: Take a virtual trip to ancestral lands. Use Google Earth or historical maps. Explore hometowns, villages, or even ancient ruins. Discuss how their ancestors lived, worked, and celebrated life.
7. Interview Elders: Grandparents and older relatives hold a wealth of memories. Encourage kids to interview them. Ask about childhood games, school days, and family traditions. Record these conversations – they're precious oral history.
8. Family Tree Art: Create a visual family tree. Draw or print one together. Add names, birthdates, and little anecdotes. Discuss each branch – who was the adventurer, the artist, or the storyteller?
9. Visit Cemeteries: Sounds eerie, but it's a fascinating experience. Explore graveyards where ancestors rest. Read inscriptions, decipher symbols, and discuss the lives behind the names. It's a respectful way to connect with the past.
10. Heritage Holidays: Celebrate cultural festivals tied to your family's heritage. Whether it's Diwali, Hanukkah, or Lunar New Year, explain the traditions and their origins. Dress up, cook traditional foods, and embrace the richness of diversity. Remember, the magic lies in making family history come alive – not as dry facts, but as vibrant stories of resilience, love, and shared humanity. ?

I then asked

'Explain the use of DNA in family history to children in 500 words'.
 Certainly! Let's explore the fascinating world of DNA and how it connects us to our family history.

Title: "The Marvelous Code of Life: How DNA Unlocks Family Secrets"

Introduction: The Tiny Blueprint

Imagine that inside every cell of your body, there's a tiny instruction manual – like a magical recipe book. This book is called DNA (short for deoxyribonucleic acid). It's like a secret code that holds the key to who you are and where you come from.

What Is DNA?

1. The Recipe Book: DNA is like a recipe book for making you. It contains all the instructions needed to build and run your body. Just like a cake recipe tells you how much flour, sugar, and eggs to use, DNA tells your cells how to make you – your eyes, hair, and even your love for pizza!

2. The Double Helix: Imagine a twisted ladder – that's what DNA looks like! Scientists call it a double helix. It's made up of four special letters: A, T, C, and G. These letters combine in different ways to create the magic of life.

How Does DNA Connect Us to Our Ancestors?

1. **Inherited Traits:** You got your DNA from your parents, who got it from their parents, and so on. It's like passing down a family treasure. Some traits are easy to spot – like eye color or dimples. But DNA also carries hidden stories – why you love music or why you're good at math.
2. **Family Tree Clues:** Imagine a giant family tree with branches reaching back through time. DNA helps us fill in the missing pieces. When we compare our DNA with others', we discover shared patterns. It's like finding puzzle pieces that fit together perfectly.

Fun DNA Facts for Kids:

1. **Twins and DNA:** Identical twins have almost identical DNA. It's like they're secret clones! Fraternal twins, on the other hand, share only half their DNA – just like regular siblings.
2. **DNA Detectives:** Scientists use DNA to solve mysteries. They can tell if two people are related (like long-lost cousins) by comparing their DNA. It's like playing a genetic detective game!

How Can We Explore Our DNA?

1. **DNA Tests:** Imagine sending a tiny spaceship (not really!) to explore your DNA. Companies offer cool tests where you spit into a tube, and they decode your DNA. They reveal surprises like “You're 10% Viking!” or “Your ancestors came from sunny Italy.”
2. **Ancestry Maps:** DNA can draw maps of your family's journey. It says, “Your great-great-grandma sailed across oceans to find a new home.” It's like having a magical time-traveling compass.

Conclusion: Our Shared Story

So, dear curious explorers, remember that DNA isn't just science – it's our shared story. It's the whispers of our ancestors, the laughter of generations, and the promise of tomorrow. Next time you look in the mirror, know that you're a walking history book, carrying the adventures of your family in every cell.

Keep asking questions, keep discovering, and let your DNA guide you on this incredible journey through time!

Note: This simplified explanation introduces children to the concept of DNA and its role in family history. For deeper scientific understanding, explore more with grown-ups and books!?

Very interesting, what do you think, could a whole magazine be produced using AI?

Berkshire FHS Meetings Update

As Family Roots exchange magazines with Berkshire FHS I receive meeting updates from them.

Here is a selection of Zoom meetings open to non members of their society.

The Industrial Revolution Course

Every family historian with British ancestry has ancestors whose lives were changed either directly or indirectly because of the Industrial Revolution. It changed the world forever, but why did it occur in Britain first?

In this five week online course for family historians we will look at why the Industrial Revolution happened in Britain, the experiences of those involved, and how the Industrial Revolution can be researched by family historians seeking to trace and better understand how their ancestors lived and worked during this period of great change.

Session dates: May: 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and June: 7th

All sessions: 2 – 3.45pm

Tickets are £50 (society members £45) – which covers all five sessions. Pre-booking is required, because joining instructions will be sent by email to all attendees in advance. Bookings therefore close one day before the event.

Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 20 May 14:00 - 16:00

(four 25 minute slots available)

Just getting started in family history and want guidance as to how to proceed? Stuck at a “brick wall” and need help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom - you can book a 1:1 free session wherever you live in the world.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society. Free.

The Technology of D-Day

This year the country commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944. To remember those who served in the Second World War, this quarter our Spring series is focused on the background and build-up to D-Day. It has a slightly different format. It comprises two online talks, of which this is the second. These can be booked individually or as a package – see separate event listing. A third separate but associated talk, on Thursday 27 June, is face-to-face. This needs to be booked and paid for separately (£12). As our special D-Day event it begins with a fish and chips lunch after which we will have a D-Day talk with Q&A afterwards.

About this talk

The large raid on Dieppe in August 1942 was a complete failure. However, it provided important lessons to the allies which, complemented by experiences of landings in North Africa during Operation Torch, made the D-Day Landings in 1944 a success. One of the key lessons learned was that special equipment and new tactics were needed to successfully mount an invasion. The technology of D-Day resulted from those lessons. But what did miniature submarines and divers have to do with the D-Day landings? What was a Bobbin or a Crab, and why did the Royal Engineers have their own special tanks? How did the allies control the beaches once troops were landing and how did they deal with the formidable German defences? What new medical provision was provided? How did this effect those that fought? Find out about all this and more in the Technology of D-Day.

Pre-booking is required, because the event link will be sent in advance.

Program Update

6th June Chris Kempshall - Experience of Women in the First World War.

4th July Visit to St. Mary's Church - Jo Seaman on Church Graffiti.

1st August Mary McKee - Find My Past Expert Essentials.

5th September to be arranged.

3rd October to be arranged

7th November Tim Cookson - History of Your House

5th December Christmas Get together to be arranged.

Visitors welcome £2.50.

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MAP OF "DISTRICT"

Showing parishes for "Family Roots" local research.



Map reproduced by kind permission of East Sussex County Record Office.

Alciston * Alfriston * Arlington * Berwick * Bishopstone
*Chalvington * Chiddingly * Dallington * East Blatchington
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West Firle *Westham * Willington * Wilmington

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