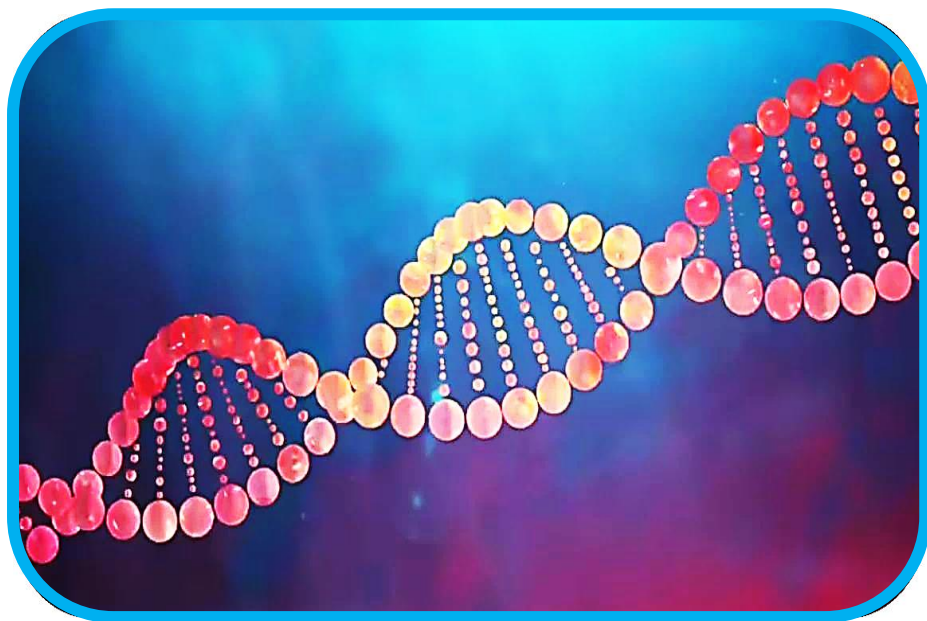




HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Family History Federation



DNA (*see page 29*)

JOURNAL No. 149

MARCH 2025

2025 PROGRAMME of MEETINGS

Unless stated otherwise meetings take place at:
Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon,
Middlesex. UB10 9LS.

Doors open 30 mins before start time.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
Tuesday 14 th January 2.30pm (joint with U3A)	David Annal	'Lying bastards'
Thursday 20 th February 2.30pm ZOOM	Judy Hill	'The role of the workhouse post 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act and the deterrent workhouse'
Thursday 20 th March 2.30pm A.G.M. followed by talk	Kathy Chater	'Coroner's Inquests'
Thursday 17 th April 2.30 ZOOM	Claire Moores	'The art of criminal conversation: divorce where to find records & what they can tell'
Thursday 15 th May 2.30pm ZOOM	Jean Renwick	'Researching and writing the mourning brooch saga'
Thursday 12 th June 7.30pm	Rebecca Clarke	'HMS India and her men'
AUGUST NO MEETING		

NOTE: **ZOOM MEETINGS.** *The link to join each meeting will be included with the preceding NEWSLETTER.*

We always welcome visitors to our meetings at an entrance fee of £1

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Visit our website at: www.hfhs.org.uk
Contact us by e-mail at: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

Contributions to the Journal are encouraged and should be sent to the e-mail address above or by post John Symons, (address on back cover).

**A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.**



JOHN'S JOTTINGS

By John Symons

Why join a family history society?

I think at least part of the answer is the sharing of information with others. Now of course this is not essential. Even if you are a new-comer it is always possible to read books, look at web sites or social media which will help point you in the right direction and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that approach, in fact I would thoroughly recommend it.

Sometimes though talking to someone with a fresh perspective can be hugely beneficial. Our Friday volunteers, of which I am but one, know this only too well. It's not a one-way street either; I know we all take pleasure if we have been able to offer an insight to solving a tricky issue. One of the benefits of being around for more than a few years is that we may well have seen many of the problems before and know where to look for potential solutions.

With my own tree I am also a great believer in collaboration. I have an online tree and I try to keep it updated with reliable sources. These are indispensable for accuracy. Of course, there is a profusion of online family trees out there and sometimes I do look at these, usually after all other avenues have been explored. Quite often my heart will sink when a source is listed as another family tree. How do you know this information is correct? It could be that unsubstantiated information has been copied without checking. If one outlier suggests something different perhaps this is the accurate one.

Let's not be downbeat about this though. It's easier to check a 'fact' for accuracy rather than having nothing to check. Better still someone may write and thank me for adding sources which has helped them with their research.

That always lifts my spirits!

FROM THE EDITOR

2025 JOURNAL DEAD LINE DATES	
JUNE Edition	23 rd MAY
SEPTEMBER Edition	22 nd August
DECEMBER Edition	24 th October

Just before Christmas we received a double whammy of both good and much appreciated, news!

Firstly, our member Janet Hewitt-Finch renewed her membership before the end of November and secondly with her completed form and cheque, she included a small 'post it'.

It reads: 'With renewed thanks for a fantastic Journal and hard work by the Committee. JHF'

As we have commented before it is always a delight to receive a communication from the members, whether complimentary, critical or otherwise.

Thank you, Janet.

Anne Moss

We are sorry to announce that Anne Moss has had to resign from the committee due to poor health. Our thanks are due to Anne for organizing our programme of speakers during her tenure as Programme Secretary.

Finally, I thank all members who have rejoined, all new members for joining and a very appreciative thank you to all those who generously made donations.

We rely on all of you and your support and we endeavour to justify your trust in us, thank you.

WHY THE CENSUS?

By Alan Rowland

With disastrous harvests in the years leading to 1800 and bread imports blocked as a result of the war with France, Parliament was worried that there was not enough bread to feed the population. To add to this problem no one knew how many people there were to be fed. Vague population estimates based on the level of bread production, taxes and the burials and baptisms recorded in the church registers.

There were fears that the population might be growing faster than food could be produced. This might result in a future famine*, but without a true figure it was impossible to know if the population was increasing or not.

This led to the Census Act which received the royal assent on 31st December 1800, the day before the United Kingdom was officially formed by the union of Great Britain and Ireland.

The first four censuses in Great Britain (1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831) were run by John Rickman. His first, 1801, found the population of England and Wales to be 8.9 million, not counting those at sea, in the military, or prisoners.

The 1801 census also asked if the person worked in one of three types of job: agriculture; a 'trade, manufacture or handicraft'; or 'other'. This resulted in confusion as at the time people largely worked as family units, rather than thinking of work as an individual's job. The next census, 1821, changed the question to 'work by family' which would be better understood.

Over the next few decades, the occupations list was expanded and in 1841 the census revealed that the most popular occupation was 'domestic servant' and almost a quarter of a million people worked in cotton manufacture.

Despite its usefulness, asking how old people were proved surprisingly difficult.

(contd)

Indeed, the 1881 Census report found a great deal of ‘wilful misstatement of age’ by girls and women, mostly depending on whether or not they were married.

Even much later, in 1951, women were asked to be more honest about how old they were.

Up to 1831, censuses were carried out by an enumerator filling in counts for local areas. The task of census-taking was given to Overseers of the Poor and clergy, who detailed local births, marriages and deaths.

1841 – was the first ‘modern’ census, led by the General Registrar Mr Lister, with forms filled out by households. Although many people couldn’t read or write and getting all the returns was a challenge, people filling in their own census forms was deemed a success. It was also the first census form available in Welsh.

By the 1850s, the census combined with the new official deaths register, revealed that certain jobs caused people to die at an earlier age than workers in other jobs. For example, ‘Miners die in undue proportions... tailors die in considerable numbers at younger ages... the Poor Law apparently affords inadequate relief to the worn-out workman.’

Disabilities were first recorded in the 1851 Census, by asking if someone was ‘blind’ or ‘deaf and dumb’.

The 1871 and 1881 censuses aimed to count those with mental difficulties, although the language used is offensive today. It asked if someone was a ‘lunatic’, ‘imbecile or idiot’. By 1901, the term ‘idiot’ was removed and replaced with ‘feeble-minded’. Statisticians had already doubted that parents would describe their child as such.

The 1881 Census provided the first count of Gaelic speakers in Scotland and in 1891 those living in Wales and Monmouthshire were asked for the first time if they could speak Welsh. The Registrar General thought the numbers of people only able to speak Welsh were overstated as they included very small infants who were too young to speak.

His statement caused offense and he wrote to Welsh MPs explaining he had ‘no intention’ of accusing the Welsh people of untruthfulness. (contd)

The question was a step forward in representation and remains today, for people aged three years and over.

The 1891 Census also contained a question about the number of rooms in each household because of concerns about overcrowding. In 1891 and 1901, the number of rooms was only required if the household occupied fewer than five rooms.

The question was later asked of all households. 1891 was the first census in which women were employed as census takers. The early 1900s were characterised by renewed interest in social classes, rapid population growth in cities, and debates over the social roles of women.

A suffragette campaign encouraged women to risk fines for non-completion of the 1911 census form to protest for the right to vote. Census parties were held in various towns so that the women attending would not be recorded at home and many objected to questions that asked about the length of their marriage and number of children.

Suffragette Emily Davison hid in a cupboard in the House of Commons overnight during 1911 census. Her address survives on record as 'found hiding in crypt of Westminster Hall, Westminster' and a commemorative plaque has been placed in the tiny space where she hid.

The 1911 Census noted women's occupations for the first time. Domestic care of the family was not to be included as work. 1911 was the first census to use punch cards to process data.

The 1921 Census was the only census ever to record orphanhood. Recorded after the First World War and the Spanish Flu Pandemic, the census reflected stark losses in numbers of young men and the difference between the number of males and females in their 20s and 30s.

The miner's strike of 1921 led to the census being pushed back to June, the first time a census had had to be postponed.

Following the Wall Street crash of 1929 unemployment had become an urgent issue, with particular concern about those in the mining and shipbuilding industries.

(contd)

The 1931 Census gave more detailed instructions for those who had no work or no prospect of work to state their last occupation.

This showed very high proportions of unemployment in industries such as cotton weaving, shipping services, puddling furnaces for metal making, and mining for lead, tin and copper.

1922 saw the birth of the BBC and the 1931 Census was the first census to be advertised on radio. No clips survive of the broadcast.

A devastating fire, which was not caused by enemy action, destroyed the individual returns for the 1931 Census in England and Wales on Saturday 19th December 1942. However, published statistics for the 1931 Census are available for England and Wales, counties, local authorities, and civil parishes as the statistical tables based on the returns were stored elsewhere.

The Scottish 1931 Census returns were fortunately stored in Edinburgh at the time of the fire and can be released in 2031.

The 1941 Census was cancelled because of the Second World War, but in September 1939 a census-like operation saw the creation of a National Register. Names, dates of birth and occupations of all civilians in the UK were recorded in order to issue identity cards. The information was used to help organise rationing from 1940 and understand the nation's manpower resources.

So, we arrive at the only data base that is available to us after 1921 - the 1939 Register. It is not as comprehensive as a full census but it can fill in one or two blanks.

What of future researching generations? What will be available for them to produce their family histories?

For most of us who have researched from the time before computers and after the advent of the internet we have at least had records to trace. In the case of the censuses, we have access to those from 1841 to 1921 as well as the 1939 Register.

(contd)

I believe that we have lived through a 'Golden Age' of family history research initially involving much travelling to record offices and many hours of searching original documents via microfilm and microfiche.

The computer age ushered in an explosion of available records which is still growing and now there is D.N.A with all that it can reveal to push the boundaries. All of which enables relatively easy researching to take place.

There has been talk however that the census as we know it might not continue and population statistics gathered in some other way. Whether this information will be made available to the general public is not known. We should remember that census records were not intended to be for family historians use, they were purely for governmental demographic study.

Future generations might be left with 'black hole' as they try to track back through their family history towards the 1939 Register with its basic information.

Added to this is the prevalence of modern practices where people have 'partners' instead of recorded spouses, children have the mother's maiden name instead of the father's surname all of which might conspire to thwart family research through a lack of documentation.

* NB. *No doubt as well as this apparent altruistic reason for action, the recent revolution in France, where lack of food was a contributory factor, must have concentrated Royal and Parliamentary minds into reducing the risk of any such similar uprising occurring here.*

TWO HALF SOVEREIGNS!

By John Bridger

It is good to know that John has picked up on our series of stories generated by family objects, thank you John.

There is a little story to be told about two gold half sovereigns, one dated 1878 the other 1912. It was on the 29th October 1929 that my mother, Dora Avril Nancarrow, married my father, John Richard Douglas Bridger.

This happy event took place at Rhyddings Congregational Church, Swansea and it is almost certain that these coins would have been given to the couple either as they left the church or later at the wedding breakfast.

In addition, the whole occasion also carried a double celebration namely Mum and Dad were each celebrating their 25th birthday on that day, the 29th, both having been born and raised in Swansea.

Returning to the wedding celebrations, there must have been many gifts given to the newly married couple. Writing this story some 95 years after that day I have to rely on my memory of what I was told in later years.

Although many of the family and guests may well have given their wedding gifts earlier other well wishers may have followed an old tradition whereby coins were handed to or thrown towards the couple to symbolise good fortune and a prosperous future. It also enabled others who were not formally invited to take part in the general celebrations.

Exactly when or by whom these small coins were given or even tossed to the couple I know not and indeed there might well have been others who did the same but my father kept these two coins for 52 years until his death in 1981 when they passed to me for safe keeping. I was once told that in fact one of the coins was at some point found in the turnup of father's wedding trousers!

Since 1981 the coins and their story have been my responsibility and to ensure that they remain in the family together with their story. *(contd)*

To that end I have passed the two coins into the safe hands of the next generation, one to each to my two sons.

Whoever it was who gave the coins it was a very generous gift and they have naturally increased in value ever since. But value pales into insignificance when the story behind the coins is considered, this is what is important – the lives of the people linked by the generous gift in 1929.

Below is the only photograph I have of their wedding day so that too has become rather special.



THE PROPELLOR TURNS AGAIN...

By John Symons

In the December 2024 issue (page 15) I referred to a broken aircraft propellor as a slightly unusual family artefact. Michael Hallett's October talk 'Heroes and Ghosts' (see report elsewhere in this issue) encouraged me to look further into this artefact and to see if a flying log book might shed any further light on my uncle Alfred OVERAL's flying career with the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force.

His training commenced at Denham but he was posted to the training base at Vendome in France in early 1918, returning to Cranfield in June. The cover of his log book, see below, shows curiously that it is issued by the 'Royal Naval Air Service' and I believe that Vendome was at that time listed as an R.N.A.S. Base.

The second image covers his flying activities from 12th to 17th June 1918 whilst he was based at Cranfield. You will see one log entry that states he flew on the morning at 07.00 with his instructor Lieut. Perrins in a Royal Aircraft Factory BE2c for the first time with the rather alarming comment 'Practised taking off and landings. Machine crashed on railway'. It must have been a fairly gentle landing as no serious injuries could have been sustained because, just one hour later, they continued the training in another aircraft of the same type.

By the end of the day, he recorded his first solo flight on the aircraft. This gives an indication of just how desperate the R.A.F. was to produce qualified pilots before the end of the war. He did not in fact qualify until after the end of the war and continued flying into the 1920s before joining the R.A.F. Reserve until 1937.

The aircraft in question was designed by Geoffrey de Havilland and E.T. Busk of the De Havilland company. It had one, four bladed propellor which from photographs seems entirely consistent with my the broken one.

(contd)

According to Wikipedia the 'c' variant of the BE2 was more stable than previous versions, however pilots reported that it was still a difficult machine to fly.

In any event by 1918 it was no match for the latest German fighters and so was not used in front line service, instead it was used as a trainer.

There are no airworthy examples in Britain but one was reconstructed not long ago for filming. Unfortunately, in 2020 this also crashed, this time in Sywell, Northamptonshire when it failed to recover from a spin. The pilot survived despite injury.

In the early days aircraft accidents were not uncommon and I have other photographs which show such incidents, so perhaps I have done Alfred a disservice by criticising his flying skills. Although he was not involved in aerial combat the very fact that he survived showed that he was beating the odds.

As for the propellor I now have a likely, but not certain, understanding of the circumstances that brought it to me.



Royal Aircraft Factory BE2c

(contd)

S. 4516. (Established Feb., 1915.)
(Revised Sept., 1917.)

ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE.

PILOT'S FLYING LOG BOOK.

Name *A. G. L. Choral*

Rank *...*

(128) 2,500 HRS. NIT. 564/1 J. & S., Ltd.

(contd)

Date and Hour.	Wind Direction and Velocity.	Machine Type and No.	Passenger. See instructions to rider training.	Time in Air.	Height.	Course.	Remarks.
12.6.18	N.2	DB.6	Leit.	15 min.	1,000'	S. H. E. circuit.	One circuit, nothing noted.
11.55		2116.	Brusell.				
14.6.18	N.2	DB.4	Leit.	20 min.	4,000'	S. H. E. circuit.	Introducing flight on DB.4. Good control and time.
11.25		1768	Heath.				
17.6.18	N.1.	352c	Leit.	25 min.	2,000'	S. H. E. circuit.	Reached taking off by earliest. Machine crashed on landing.
7-0.		9472	Brus.				
17.6.18	N.1	352c	Leit.	10 min.	2,000'	S. H. E. circuit.	Good control, landing slightly too fast.
7-55.		8404	Brus.				
17.6.18	N.2.	352c	Leit.	15 min.	1,000'	S. H. E. circuit.	Made good landings.
10.35		8404	Brus.				
17.6.18	N.3.	352c	DB.6.	10 min.	2,000'	S. H. E. circuit.	1st solo on 352c.
10.50		8404					
TOTAL TIME IN AIR 122.19=DUAL							
TIME FOR WEEK 24.45=DUAL							
12.40.48=8DLO							
10 min 8DLO							

RESEARCHING WOMEN IN FAMILY HISTORY

By Alan Rowland

Continuing our feature highlighting the Family History Federation Really Useful Bulletin pamphlets for those without access to a computer, there follows an abridged version of Bulletin No. 49 September 2024 entitled 'The Importance of Researching Women in Family History' by Emma Jolly.

One of the joys of family history research is the discovery of our ancestors' stories. Once we have plotted the bare bones of birth, marriage and death details, we have the richer experience of adding layers of life through the use of various historical documents. Sadly, in the past, genealogy research has tended to overlook the detailed lives of women in the family tree.

Women's contributions and experiences were frequently under-recorded or marginalised, making them less visible in historical records. Despite the challenges, uncovering the lives of our female ancestors can give us a more nuanced understanding of our ancestry. This article explores the significance of researching various categories of women in family history, including women at war, unmarried women, women without children, women who died young, and remembering to check the wills of unmarried sisters of direct ancestors.

Women at war

Women have played crucial roles in wartime. Researching women in your family involved in wars, as nurses, factory workers or military service, can reveal stories of resilience and courage.

This image is of the Monument to the Women of World War II, located near the Cenotaph. This monument, unveiled in 2005 by Queen Elizabeth II, commemorates over seven million women, including 650,000 in military service, symbolising their sacrifices during wartime.

(contd)



It pays tribute to women's contributions on both the battlefield and the home front, as represented by the seventeen sets of clothing symbolising diverse wartime roles. Despite their pivotal roles, many women did not receive proper recognition until decades later and as more veterans die, there are fewer people left to record what took place. We owe it to our relatives to share their stories: for many the time for them to share their own experiences never arrived.

Exploring military records, war diaries and personal letters can help uncover these hidden stories. One of my top tips for researching women in war, as well as women in our family trees generally, is to create a detailed timeline of your female ancestors' lives between 1939 and 1945, it is invaluable for thorough research. Compile existing records, including addresses, occupations, hobbies and details from newspaper reports, into a structured timeline using a database, a writing app, or traditional pen and paper.

Unmarried Women

Unmarried women, often referred to as spinsters, have often been marginalised or overlooked in traditional family history approaches. Typically, genealogists focus on their direct line and have had to search harder to find records relating to the unmarried female forebears.

It was often these women who played pivotal roles within their families and communities for many took on responsibilities such as caring for ageing parents, raising siblings or nieces and nephews, or contributing economically by working in various trades or professions including teaching.

It's worth searching for these relations in records as diverse as death certificates (where they may appear as informants), local trade or street directories or on electoral registers and in the log books or magazines of schools or Sunday schools that may be held in a local record office.

Census records, employment documents, and community records can provide valuable information. Some were involved in social reform movements or charitable organizations, which you may discover through local newspaper research or in records relating to WWI. *(contd)*

Women without children: the untold stories

Some women in our family trees may have married and been regularly referred to as 'wife of X' dismissing all other aspects of their identity, but those without children often had unique life experiences that differed from those with children. These women may have been involved in careers, social movements or other pursuits including political activism, education or travel that were less accessible to women tied to traditional family roles.

Exploring newspapers, personal diaries and correspondence can all help to provide insights into their lives. Understanding all women's lives helps us to fully engage with broader societal attitudes towards women and the roles they were expected to play. Also, it is important to be open to messages from relatives or others on subscription sites or via social media.

Women who died young

The stories of women who died young are often lost to history, overshadowed by the more extensive records of those who lived longer. However, these short lives can have a profound impact on family dynamics and history. Young women might have died in childbirth, from diseases, or due to accidents, and their untimely deaths could lead to significant changes within a family, such as remarriages or relocations - locally, nationally or overseas.

Researching these women requires careful examination of death certificates, obituaries and burial records. Church, chapel, synagogue and other religious records can also be valuable. These records can provide details on the cause of death, familial relationships and the social circumstances surrounding their deaths. The stories of these women can highlight the fragility of life in past eras and the resilience of families in the face of loss.

Wills of unmarried sisters

The wills of unmarried sisters of direct ancestors can be a source of hidden treasures for family historians. They often contain details of family relationships, property ownership and personal possessions, offering insights into the daily lives and values of the deceased. *(contd)*

Unmarried sisters might have acted as custodians of family history, passing down heirlooms and stories which could be recorded in their wills.

Wills can also provide clues about the social networks and economic status of these women. For example, bequests to nieces and nephews can reveal connections to other branches of the family that might not be immediately apparent. They can also indicate the financial independence of these women, challenging assumptions about women's economic dependence during certain historical periods.

Practical tips for researching women in family history

1) Explore All Available Records: Women are often under-represented in official records, so it's essential to explore a wide range of sources. Census records, church records, employment records, and newspapers can all provide valuable information.

2) Look Beyond Marriage Records: While marriage records are a common starting point, they often mark the beginning of new challenges in tracing women's lives - and only for those who did marry. Consider using other types of records, such as wills, land records and probate files to uncover more details.

3) Consider Social Contexts: Understanding the historical and social context can provide insights into the lives of the women you are researching. Consider the societal roles and expectations of women during the periods you are studying.

4) Connect with Family Members: Older relatives can be invaluable sources of oral history, providing stories and details that may not be recorded anywhere else.

Engaging with family members can also help in identifying photographs, letters and other personal items that belong to women in the family tree.

5) Join Specialised Forums and Societies: Many genealogy societies and online forums/social media groups focus on women's history. These can be excellent resources for finding specialised information and connecting with other researchers who share your interests. (contd)

6) Use Creative Search Techniques: Women's names can change due to marriage, making them harder to trace. Consider searching using maiden names, married names, and even variations or misspellings.

Also, explore records where they might be mentioned in connection with male relatives, such as fathers or husbands.

The power of women's stories in family history

Researching the women in our family trees is not just about filling in the gaps in the family narrative; it helps us recognise and appreciate the contributions and experiences of our ancestors.

The contributions of women at war, especially those of the working or lower middle classes have been ignored or undervalued. During the centenary commemorations of the First World War, all kinds of projects and events took place that researched and detailed individual stories, usually of men who died in the war.

We as family historians are helping others to remember that each of these people lived and had value. Without our research, too many people will be lost to the past. No one will remember them. By extending this to women in all wars, it is essential to remember and honour them.

As family historians, we have a responsibility to honour their memory by recognising and paying tribute to their courage, resilience and determination, thus ensuring they are appreciated for generations to come.

By exploring the lives of women in various contexts—whether at war, as unmarried individuals, without children, or those who died young—we uncover a more complete picture of their heritage. In the course of this important research, we not only honour the women who came before us but also further our understanding of the broader human experience.

About the author: Emma Jolly is a professional genealogist who deals with a wide range of family history research. She is an expert on genealogical problem solving and writes regularly for family history publications. Her books include *'A Guide to Tracing Your Family History using the Census*, *Family History for Kids*, *Tracing Your British Indian Ancestors*, *My Ancestor Was a Woman at War* and *A Guide to Tracing Your Family History Using the Census*.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Valerie Fitch

As I write, the evenings are getting lighter and Spring is just around the corner. I know a lot of people don't like venturing out to our meetings when the weather is bad or the evenings are dark, but I hope to see you when the weather improves and the evening gets lighter.

My thanks to all the members who have renewed their membership for this year, and all the generous donations we have received. For those of you who have yet to pay, I enclose another Renewal Form with this journal, to give you a 'gentle reminder' that you have overlooked payment for this year. Even if you do not wish to renew your membership, could you please let us know, so we can take you off our database.

Sadly, we have been notified of the death of two of our members this year and our thoughts are with the bereaved:

E 16 Max Evans – from Hillingdon.

F3 Peggy Furmston – from Exmouth, Devon.

RESIGNATIONS	
Membership No.	Name
F31	Maureen Ferguson from Uxbridge
K26	Terry Kopp from N.S.W. Australia

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	
Membership No.	Name
F32	James Fell from Hayes
J14	Robert Jessup from Uxbridge
S32	John Stone from Uxbridge
Z1	Elizabeth Zuccaro from Ickenham

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID?

Here is the next selection of oddly named occupations:

BRIGHT WORKER
CONFINED MAN
FANG MANAGER
SCAGLIOLA
THIN MINER

You will find the answers on page 40

Please send in any strange occupational names that you have come across in your researches, together with their explanations, for other members to enjoy.

NAMING TRADITIONS (PART ONE)

By Alan Rowland

I recently stumbled on a web site which set as its subject 'NAMING TRADITIONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES'. In our researching we have grown accustomed to all the usual Marys, Elizabeths, Johns, Williams etc so it is quite exciting to discover a new name. Where did it come from? What is its history?

English names are something of a melting pot. We find a few remnants of our Anglo Saxon past; echoes of the Normans; reminders of religious turmoil; evidence that our recent ancestors followed fashion trends for naming children. A study of names can be a study of political, religious and social history. Where did your name come from?

ANGLO SAXON NAMES Some examples of Anglo Saxon names still in use: Alfred, Edgar, Edward, Edith, Mildred. Elivina (a feminine version of the old English name Alvin) and Elflida (possibly a variant of Aethelflaed an Old English name) were still in use in 1891, Dorset. *(contd)*

NORMAN NAMES The Norman Conquest brought with it not only a completely new stock of forenames - but also introduced the practice of having a second or surname. Norman names remained constant in spelling and meaning. Many are still popular today, unchanged from their original form. They fall into two main groups - Saints (Edmund, Hilda etc.) and Kings (Alfred, Edgar etc.). The Normans also introduced names of Latin and Breton origin such as Alan as well as William; Brian; Richard; Robert; Bernard; Dennis; Oliver; Geoffrey; Alice; Maud/Matilda; Laura; Emma.

MEDIEVAL NAMES The Medieval period saw a huge increase in naming stock. These new names came in several forms: **Religious Names: Foreign and Feast Names: Reformation and Puritan Names.**

Religious Names John; Matthew; Barnabas; Luke; Philip; James; Simon; Paul; Peter; Thomas; Mary; Elizabeth; Joan/Jane; Margaret; Catherine; Anne; Agnes; Barbara; Martha.

Foreign and Feast Names Idonea; Norma; Lavinia; Paris; Melodia; Cassandra; Camilla.

Before the reformation, it was not unusual to give a child, born on a saint's feast day, the name of that saint; examples include Christmas, Easter, Noel, Whitsun, Loveday and Tiffany.

Reformation and Puritan Names the Reformation saw the split between the Protestant and Catholic Churches. The Catholic Church insisted on Catholic children being baptised with Saints names. Protestants stopped using Catholic names and Saints names and so names such as Barbara, Hilary, Crispin, Valentine, Christopher, Basil, Clement, Cecily and Ursula almost disappeared at this time.

Even old favourites such as Mary, Catherine, Agnes and Margaret fell from favour because they were associated with the Catholic Church.

(contd)

A wider variety of Old Testament names came into use instead. These included:

David	Abigail	Ruth
Benjamin	Beulah	Esther
Jonathan	Deborah	Eve
Abraham	Dinah	Hannah
Samuel	Judith	Kezia
Joshua	Rachel	Naomi
Joseph	Rebecca	Miriam
Nathan	Sarah	

Some more unusual Biblical names were still in use, Judith, Azariah, Naomi, Hezekiah and Hagar.

The 16th and 17th century Puritans had distinctive names such as 'Fight the Good Fight' and 'Safe-Deliverance' as well as:

Patience	Charity	Faith	Repentance
Prudence	Mercy	Verity	Caleb
Temperance	Honour	Obedience	
Elijah	Hope	Jeremiah	

The Puritans chose their Biblical names carefully; they would avoid any name associated with scandal as Cain, Dinah and Tamar.

Most Puritan names are out of favour today, although Felicitys and Veritys are still found. In the late nineteenth century in Weymouth, Mercy, Charity, Prudence, Patience, Temperance and Faith were all represented with Honour surprisingly popular!

You may still come across Old Testament Puritan names such as Israel, Levi, Moses, Elias if you are researching in nineteenth century Wales. Do not make the mistake of assuming that you have Jewish ancestry. The Baptist and Independent church members of South Wales used these names from the 16th century onwards - and many of these names entered the Welsh patronymic system becoming surnames found in Wales today.

The early 19th century English Methodists also had a liking for Old Testament names- Rhoda, Nehemiah and its equivalent, Jeremiah being particularly popular.

(contd)

If you should find a Selina bear in mind you may have a Methodist family. The name Selina became popular after Selina, Countess of Huntingdon who founded her own Methodist sect.

I shall break off at this point and complete this summary in the next edition. As we usually do at this point, we invite anyone who has 'unusual' names to submit them to us for all to share.

A TALK — HEROES AND GHOSTS

Report by John Symons

Our online talk, on Thursday 17th October 2024, was given by Michael Hallett. John's report follows:

I always find it helpful to search out interesting ancestors as they usually make for a good story.

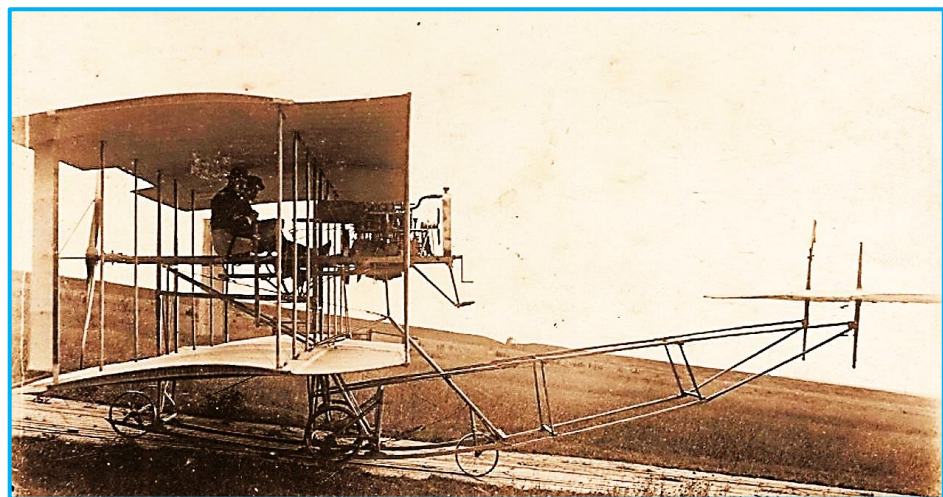
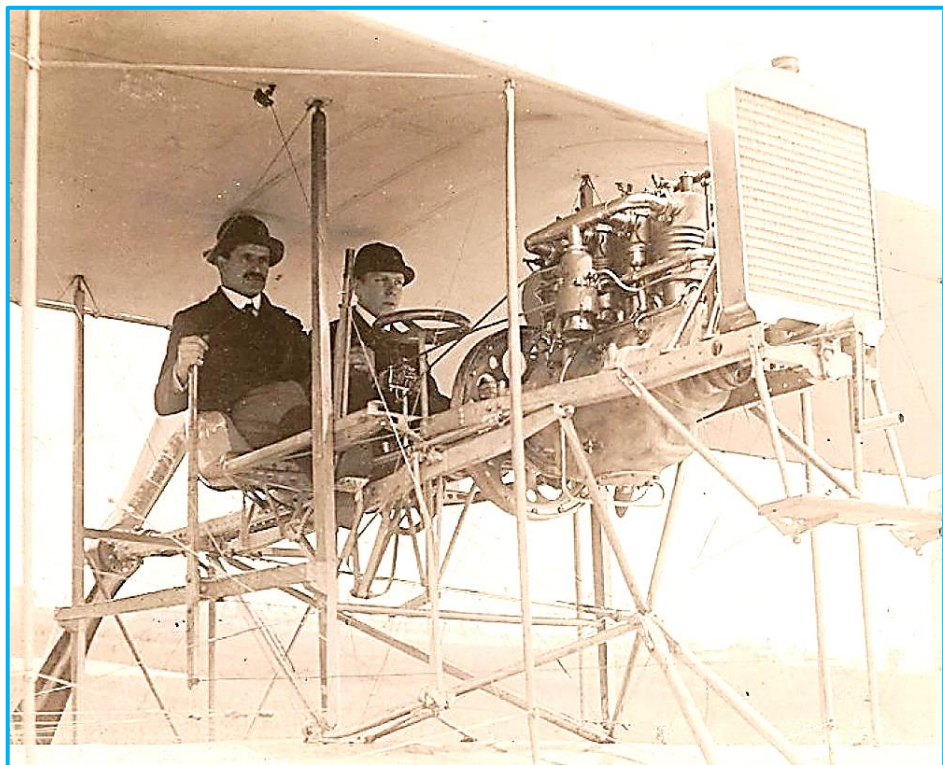
Fortune has smiled on me in this respect (see my article in the December journal page 15 and the follow up in this edition) but even more so on Michael Hallett who told the story of his grandfather, Harold Blackburn MC AFC, a pioneer aviator and war hero. His story became more challenging to unlock however because of some life choices he made.

This is his story.

Harold Blackburn developed an interest in early aviation before it was identified as being a feasible proposition. Along with another pioneer named Albert Walker they developed and built the Blackburn-Walker biplane.

In the first picture Harold Blackburn is seated on the left and the Blackburn-Walker biplane in its original configuration at Dagenham, in 1909. Did it ever fly? Michael suspects that it didn't!

(contd)



(contd)



Bristol Boxkite (replica) G-ASPP/No: 12a Shuttleworth Collection
Rob Vogelaar

Undeterred Harold took up piloting and in 1912 flew the Bristol 'Boxkite' at Hendon. This was one of the first aircraft to be built in multiple numbers and, moreover, it did fly. He had by then acquired a pilot's licence number 79 and became one of the very few people to qualify at the time.

Around this time another Mr Blackburn, Robert Blackburn, formed the Blackburn Aviation Company and opened the Blackburn Aviation School at Hendon which resulted in the two Mr. Blackburns meeting each other and becoming lifelong friends. Harold became a test pilot for the Blackburn Aviation Company and used to showcase aircraft to the War Office officials with a view to orders being taken for the British armed forces.

In July 1914 Harold Blackburn flew for a few days the first regular air service in Britain with fare paying passengers from the Leeds Airline Station at Roundhay to the Yorkshire Show Ground. The Lady Mayoress of Leeds, Dorothy Ratcliffe, was among the number who bravely agreed to undertake the journey.

When war was declared Harold Blackburn was found to be suitably qualified as pilot and he joined the Royal Flying Corps.

(contd)

He had not previously been in the Army but the usual prerequisites for joining were dispensed with in the light of his obvious aviation experience and expertise.

His first posting was to the Sinai Desert in Egypt as a Squadron Leader to carry out reconnaissance flights on the Turkish forces there. Aircraft design had moved towards biplanes as opposed to monoplanes in this era and Harold Blackburn designed and added machine guns to these aircraft along with basic bomb carrying facilities. In 1918 he was mentioned in a dispatch from Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.

After the war Harold Blackburn returned to England and in 1921 married Violet Lister. Having left the Royal Air Force at the conclusion of hostilities he decided to rejoin as a Wing Commander and second in command at the R.A.F. base in Henlow, Bedfordshire. From there in 1924 he was posted as base commander at Martlesham Heath where aircraft testing took place.

Harold and Violet had a daughter but Violet was not happy with the poor living conditions offered to R.A.F. personnel. Violet left her husband taking their young daughter with her. Harold contested this in the courts and, unusually perhaps, was granted custody of the child.

Both parents remarried and Violet went to live in Cornwall whilst Harold and family were living in Jersey up to the outbreak of the Second World War when they were evacuated back to England but only after some dockside panic.

After the war Harold's family returned to Jersey but found that much of the memorabilia such as his medals had been lost or damaged during the German occupation. He continued to live there until his death in 1959.

Michael's mother did not want to talk about those difficult times which made research into Harold's life quite problematic with gaps which were difficult to fill.

(contd)

Michael together with his parents emigrated to New Zealand in the 1970s. He now reflects that, in part, this was due to the desire to escape from the past with a fresh start. This is understandable but as we often find, as family historians, once we are a couple of generations from traumatic events, a desire to uncover what really happened kicks in.

So, by 2011: Michael had returned to England and when he found that the year marked the centenary of the start of Harold's aviation career, he decided to look for evidence of those events. One of the early records that Michael sought were his grandparents' divorce records from The National Archives. Some of these from the early 20th century survive and some are now even online on Ancestry. For Michael this was a very emotional moment as the papers are very graphic and sets the case to be decided by the judge in their entirety, nothing is spared.

Further detective work revealed the house in Rock, Cornwall where, after the divorce from Harold, his grandmother and her new husband lived. During a visit to Cornwall soon after, he was able to visit the property which provided another layer of experience to what had gone before. Finally, he was able to display some of his grandfather's medals which had survived and these were featured in an edition of Antiques Roadshow.

What Michael amply demonstrated is that problematic and painful events in past family life can be difficult to talk about for those directly impacted by those events. These in turn make research that much more difficult. Once however you are a couple of generations removed it is possible to view them a little more dispassionately and a more rounded, complete story will begin to emerge.

This is what we saw here and he now uses those experiences not only to tell a quite remarkable story but also, as a guide/template for others to follow, he has created an online course 'Living With Ghosts' to recognize and release generational trauma. (See: www.michaelhhallett.com)

A TALK — MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR DNA MATCHES

Report by John Symons

On Tuesday 12th November 2024 Debbie Kennett, a respected genetic genealogist, gave this talk to Hillingdon FHS and Hillingdon U3A Family History Group

She gave an updated overview of the latest developments in the use of DNA tools to further your family history research. On this occasion she focused more closely on DNA matches where we find others who are likely to share some of your genetic markers and so could well be related to you in some way.

Debbie identified five companies who offer this service with the size of each of their databases. This is important because the larger the database the more likely it is that you will find matches and through that extend your research.

Company	Database Size	Uploads Permitted
Ancestry	25 million	No
23 & Me	15 million	No
My Heritage DNA	8.6 million	Yes
Family Tree DNA	2 million	Yes
Living Tree DNA	300,000	Yes

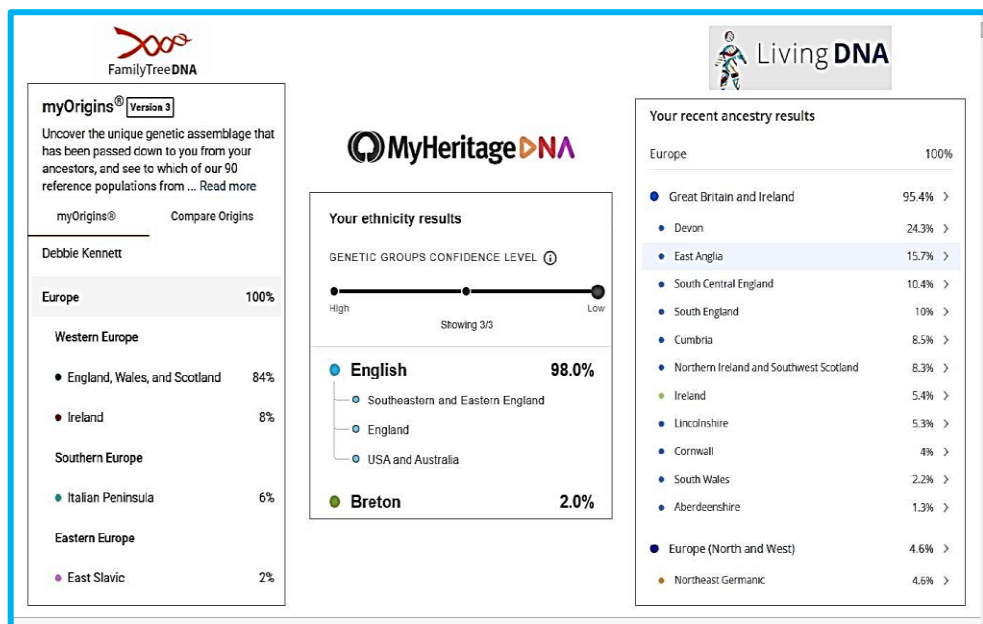
You can see that Ancestry have the largest database and therefore offer the best opportunity of finding other matches. They will not however accept downloads from those who tested with other providers but if you have tested with Ancestry, you are able to download the raw data to the other providers who accept uploads. 23 & Me are in much the same position with a smaller but still considerable database.

All companies offer an insight into your ancestral regions. These may be broad, such as England, Wales, Scotland or Ireland but may be more specific.

(contd)

Generally speaking, they cover the last 500 years or so. Ancestry also offers what they call ancestral journeys (previously referred to as genetic communities) whereby the trees of more recent people from a region are analysed to show DNA markers and if they match with your own DNA, you can be reasonably certain that you will have ancestors from that region.

Other providers will give you the same sort of information presented in a different way. This example was provided by Debbie:



For most though the value of DNA test lies in the matches that show how many others in the database show some of the same DNA markers as you.

To get the most from this you will have needed to work on the genealogy first in the traditional way. If you have tested with Ancestry, you should then upload your tree to Ancestry and link it to your DNA results.

The more generations you have been able to trace down to second, third and fourth cousins the more likely it is that Ancestry will be able to use this information to suggest likely relationships based on this data.

(contd)

A public tree is best for family where you have confidence in the work that you have done but you can also use private trees to test hypotheses and find out if theories you have developed are supported or not.

Under Ancestry some of this information is available without a subscription but to get a full range of tools linked to shared matches you will need one. Matches are shared segments of DNA with length measured in centiMorgans (cM).

You may find many matches listed, but those less than 30 cM may not be genealogically significant. Each DNA testing company has different thresholds and algorithms so you may get different results depending on which tester you use. Very small matches under 15 cM should in most cases be discounted as quite possibly false.

The degree of relationship also affects the ability to find a good match. For example, for second cousins and closer you are 99% sure of identifying a match. This falls away to about 50% for a fourth cousin and continues to decline for more distant cousins so do not be surprised if you identify a remote cousin genealogically but are unable to confirm this even if you have both taken DNA tests.

The table shown on the following page, provided by Ancestry, illustrates this:

(contd)

Confidence Score	Approximate amount of shared centimorgans	Likelihood of a single recent common ancestor	Description
Extremely High	More than 60	Virtually 100%	You and your match share enough DNA to prove that you're both descendants of a common ancestor (or <u>couple</u>)—and the connection is recent enough to be conclusive.
Very High	45–60	About 99%	You and your match share enough DNA that we're almost certain you're both descendants of a recent common ancestor (or couple).
High	30–45	About 95%	You and your match share enough DNA that it is likely you're both descendants of the same common ancestor or couple, but there's a small chance the common ancestor(s) are quite distant and difficult to identify.
Good	16–30	Above 50%	You and your match share some DNA, probably from a recent common ancestor or couple, but the DNA may be from distant ancestors that are difficult to identify.
Moderate	6–16	15–50%	You and your match might share DNA because of a recent common ancestor or couple, share DNA from very distant ancestors, or you may not be related.

<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/matches/confidence>

(contd)

Ancestry have recently introduced a feature called sideview which divides your matches into your maternal or paternal sides. To begin with it will just show 'Parent 1' or 'Parent 2' but you should be able to identify which is which in some cases and that will normally be enough to manually change these and by inference all your matches.

As noted before, the matches to pay attention to are 4th cousins or closer, about 30 cM, as these are the most likely to be genealogically significant. Any matches that already appear in your own tree can be shown as such by clicking on the "Connect to Tree" button on their profile and you will then be prompted to confirm their name as it appears in your tree. A green symbol will then appear against them in the list of matches you have.

There is no exact correlation between a cM score and a specific relationship, instead there is a range of possibilities. For example, I know for my own tree a cousin with a 48 cM score who is indicated on Ancestry as probably a third cousin once removed is in fact a second cousin once removed but he still fits (just) within the possible range of relationships. This is illustrated on this site:

<https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>

Here you can add a cM score and the site will calculate the probability of a relationship based on that score. In my case it showed only a 6% chance of the actual relationship but that just shows that you need to use these figures as a guide rather than a definitive answer. A table is also available here which shows the range of relationships based on real life data.

If you have built your tree back five or six generations, followed the collateral lines down to a similar degree and published your tree on Ancestry then it is very likely that Ancestry will, following a DNA test, identify common ancestors for a number of your matches. When viewing your matches there is a filter you may place on the results so that they are all shown together. This often works even if you have not shown the match in your tree in which case Ancestry will suggest the linkage for recent generations and you can assess the validity for yourselves.

The relationships from both you and the match to the common ancestor are shown side by side for comparison. I find this a very useful feature. (*contd*)

Debbie mentioned a case she had whereby Ancestry found a common ancestor even without the match posting any family tree.

I have found the same albeit I identified the match before Ancestry only through the match using a familiar surname and known location in their user name and profile. When I build my tree down to the match himself, I expect Ancestry will recognise it as such. This feature illustrates how genetics can support genealogical research.

Often it is the case when trying to connect a match to your family tree the most recent generation or two leading to the match might be the most challenging to fill in. Sources like electoral registers, newspapers, social media or just a Google search may provide some enlightenment. I have found that taking a branch of my family which already has multiple matches and then adding more collateral lines down encourages Ancestry to identify further matches to this branch, all of which gives you that extra reassurance in the veracity of the original information.

A feature which many of the companies, including Ancestry, use is the ability to group matches into clusters. In Ancestry a tool is available through these of coloured dots or squares to assign any match that you have identified, possibly helped by suggestions from Ancestry, into a grouping that descends from a common ancestor. Once this is done you are able to filter your list of matches so that you will be able to easily sort your matches into whatever groups you have set up.

There is also a shared match feature whereby for any given match it will show any other matches who also link to the first match. This means that if for example you have identified Person A to your tree and assigned them a colour and then find that Ancestry have identified Persons B, C and D as shared matches, then it will follow that these people will also fit somewhere within the designated branch of the family.

Moreover, if you have invested in the Ancestry Pro Tools for an additional fee it will also show how the shared matches are connected to you and to each other by showing the cM scores of each.

This may help you to further define your matches as belonging to a more distinct line of the family.

(contd)

Once you have completed this, it is more than likely that you are left with mystery clusters that do not seem to have any relevance to your own tree but you may find that they are related to each other, discoverable by the shared match feature. Debbie's recommendation here is to group them together and then use other strategies to determine possible links to your family. This might be, for example, by finding common names and common locations and possibly by drawing up a "quick and dirty" tree online to test various hypotheses. Do not make this public and searchable however lest anyone mistakes it for a fully researched tree. Debbie showed how it was possible to import such a tree into a website at

<https://dnapainter.com/tools/probability/>

which will help you calculate the odds of any given hypothesis. I haven't personally used this tool as yet as it but it is clearly of use.

After doing this you may be able to establish the relationships between the mystery matches and possibly relate them to places and events in your own tree. These can show unplanned events and reveal connections which have long kept hidden or perhaps were ever known, such is the power of DNA.

Although the talk heavily concentrated on Ancestry, Debbie concluded with a brief look at My Heritage which has many similar features.

Debbie provided a handout and source material for her talk which may be found in the Members Area of our website www.hfhs.org.uk under 'Meeting Materials'.

A TALK — LYING BASTARDS....

Report by John Symons

On Tuesday 14th January 2025 Dave Annal gave the talk to Hillingdon FHS and Hillingdon U3A Family History Group. As you might have guessed if you were not present for the talk, this was all about illegitimacy in all its forms.

Children born outside of marriage have been present for centuries and any fully researched family is likely to contain at least a few.

For us family historians this can present something of a challenge because it lies outside the natural order of things and as it was usual for some social stigma to be attached, it was not unknown for attempts to be made to conceal the birth.

There are different ways used to describe the event and also the parents (although inevitably it was the mother who usually received the most opprobrium). 'Bastard' child was common, 'base born', or just plain 'illegitimate'. A mother who was just described as a single woman, in the parish registers say, had probably got off lightly. Society was often more concerned with the stigma associated with event than the well-being of the child and these attitudes often persisted through to the 20th century. That said, the description 'bastard' was in the past more often used as a statement of fact rather than the pejorative associations that we have today. In fact, I have in my family a number of people with the surname Bastard who lived normal and unremarkable lives in the 18th and 19th centuries without feeling the need to change it, although of course the origins of the name are quite clear.

Illegitimate literally means outside the law and illegitimate children had no legal rights including inheritance unless they were specifically mentioned in a will. It was in only in the later 20th century that this changed. For this reason, a will is a good place to look for evidence of an illegitimate child as a parent would need to explicitly name the child if they wished to bestow any inheritance on the child.

(contd)

When the father was not identified there was pressure from the parish or whoever administered poor relief to name them for maintenance payments to avoid them becoming a liability on the parish. In my own family a local charity in Cookham, Berkshire made payments to my great grandmother and her mother both of whom were illegitimate. These must have been considered as 'deserving poor' in some way.

Quite often the father of an illegitimate child can be identified by the use of the father's surname as a middle name of the child. It was also fairly common for the parents to marry soon after. If not, the mother could end up in the workhouse with her child unless another family member like a sister, aunt or her grandparents were in a position to support the mother in any way they could.

The social stigma of illegitimacy often led to the event being covered up or misrepresented in some way. Often the most common way to find an illegitimate birth is in the parish registers and these may be quite clear on the facts without adding any moral judgements.

If you are very lucky you might even find the father's name mentioned although this is quite rare. Occasionally the fact of an illegitimate birth may appear when the child marries. A space left against the father's name on a post 1837 marriage certificate is an obvious clue but equally a fictitious name here is not that unusual.

Occasionally vicars might use the parish registers to display their moral outrage at illegitimate births and Dave regaled us with several examples he had garnered over the years. The mothers were usually the prime target but on rare occasions when the father was known he may also be in line for criticism.

You will probably then turn to the census returns but here again you may need to read between the lines. Dave showed us an example from the 1851 census which showed parents and legitimate children listed in date order as you would expect but an illegitimate child of the mother born before the others added on the last line. This again hints at a perceived lower status than the others and if you are researching the family provides a clue about what took place.

(contd)

Once again enumerators might on occasion use the census returns to share their own views on the status of some individuals who they believed fell short of the expected standards by using 'prostitute' as an occupation for example.

The census returns may also hide illegitimacy even when it is not immediately apparent. The recording of a family showing 'Head', 'Wife' and 'Children' does not necessarily mean that they were legally married, but rather that they were just living together as man and wife. The truth might be a lot more complicated by, for example, hiding a bigamous marriage in the past with potentially serious consequences should it be discovered.

Another angle on the subject which Dave and others have researched is the above average mortality for illegitimate children against their legitimate counterparts.

This is not surprising when you consider that illegitimate children are more likely to be born to poorer women especially if they have not been able to marry the father who could provide financial support. The upshot therefore for family researchers is that they are unlikely to provide as many descendants. Observations from my family seem to support this.

Another trap for the unwary and again I write from bitter experience, albeit many years ago, is whether the illegitimate child uses the mother's surname all the time or if she married later and then used the stepfather's surname. The child would usually be registered and baptised using the mother's maiden name but if they subsequently were brought up as part of a conventional family it is quite likely that at some point in census returns and other documents they would start using the stepfather's name. Dave's researches suggested that the closer the time gap between the illegitimate birth and the marriage the more likely it was that the child would use the stepfather's surname.

The algorithms used by the major genealogical websites do not usually entertain this possibility so we, as family history researchers, need to be alert and look for other clues accordingly. One of these clues is to look at the ages of the children. If they are too close together it may suggest stepchildren as well as legitimate children. *(contd)*

If they are too far apart it could suggest an illegitimate grandchild following on from a line of natural born children even if the relationship is shown as son or daughter.

There were different rules for recording these events depending on the period concerned. In the period from 1837 to 1875 a father could be named on a birth certificate of an illegitimate birth and would not have to be present at the registration. After 1875 he would have to countersign the certificate. The census afforded more freedom to show the family as the head of the family wished it to be shown rather than it legally was. For this reason, it is wise not be too trusting of census details.

Even with civil registration much of the information supplied to the registrar was taken on trust with no checks made on its veracity. Some mistakes were genuinely made but equally some information supplied was to cover up a very uncomfortable truth.

In order to understand what illegitimacy meant many years ago, we should try to put ourselves into their shoes; the social stigma, the poverty and how our forebears tried their best to cover these things up. That way we stand a chance of making sense of it all.

THE LONDON FOUNDLING HOSPITAL

An extensive collection of records from London's Foundling Hospital is now free to search online. Almost 100,000 pages of documents containing details of more than 20,000 children, are available at: <https://coramstory.org.uk/the-foundling-hospital-archive/>

The web site celebrates the work of the hospital which, founded in 1739, still exists today as the charity Coram.

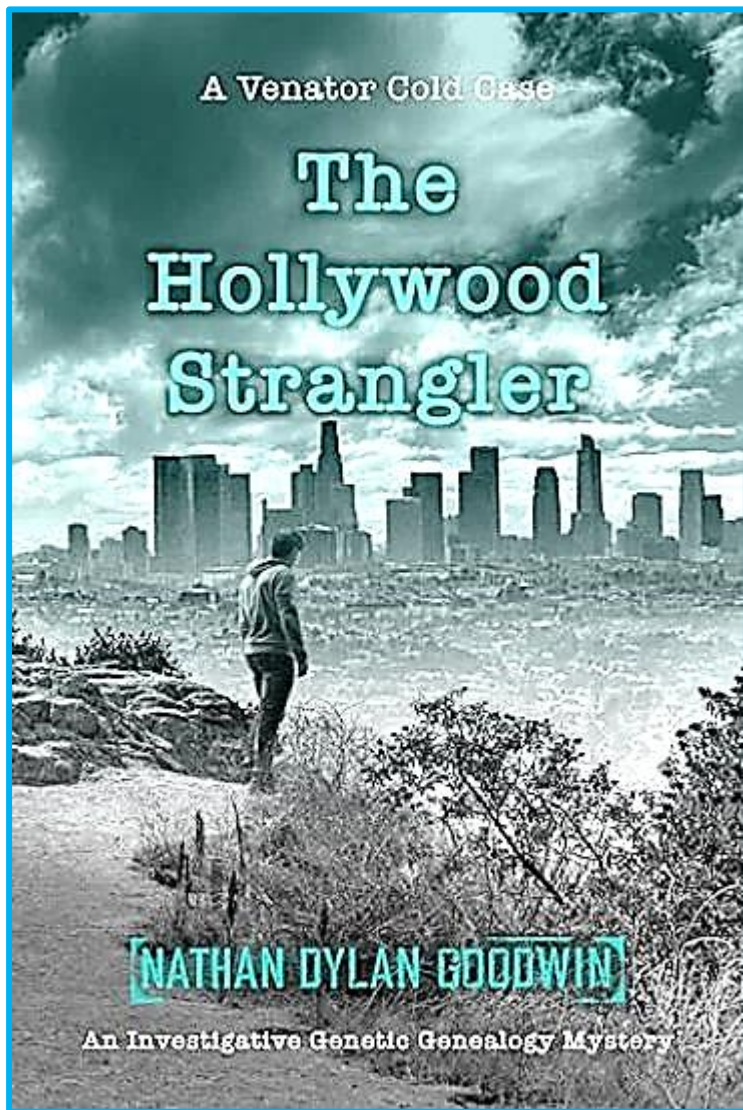
The digitalised records, which can be searched by name, cover the period 1739-1898. They include petition letters from people applying to have a child admitted as well as registers which trace the lives of the children after their arrival and entry.



BOOK REVIEW

By Gill May

The Hollywood Strangler - Nathan Dylan Goodwin



(contd)

This is the third book in the Venator Cold Case series. Set in Los Angeles it tells of the investigation of a chilling series of murders.

Six small-time actors and actresses have met brutal ends; their bodies grotesquely posed in scenes from the films that had given them their fleeting fame. The Los Angeles Police Department Cold Case Homicide Unit are desperate for a breakthrough and turn to Venator an elite investigative genetic genealogy company headed up by Madison Scott-Barnhart. As in earlier novels the personal stories of Maddie and her team continue throughout the book and we get to know them more as individuals.

The book opens with the medical examiner carrying out an autopsy on the latest victim. It is thought that a serial killer is responsible for the killing. The medical examiner is very thorough and by means of DNA samples helps to identify suspects of murder cases. He is of the old school who takes not one but two DNA samples, freezing the second sample.

Maddie’s husband disappeared some years previously and a colleague is trying to find what happened to him, the story also continues with this mystery.

Through DNA results and by building family trees of the various matches, the likely murderer(s) are pursued.

I thought this an excellent story line and I look forward to the next volume in the series. For anyone who has taken a DNA test there are some useful pointers.

QUIZ ANSWERS

BRIGHT WORKER	Sorter of sewing needles
CONFINED MAN	Farm worker employed on a yearly or half-yearly agreement
FANG MANAGER	Pit foreman responsible for examining the shafts daily
SCAGLIOLA	Maker of imitation marble
THIN MINER	One who works in a narrow seam of coal

DON'T FORGET THIS FACILITY

A gentle reminder, our website carries a number of other societies' journals which can be viewed in the Members' Area. Others will be added when received.

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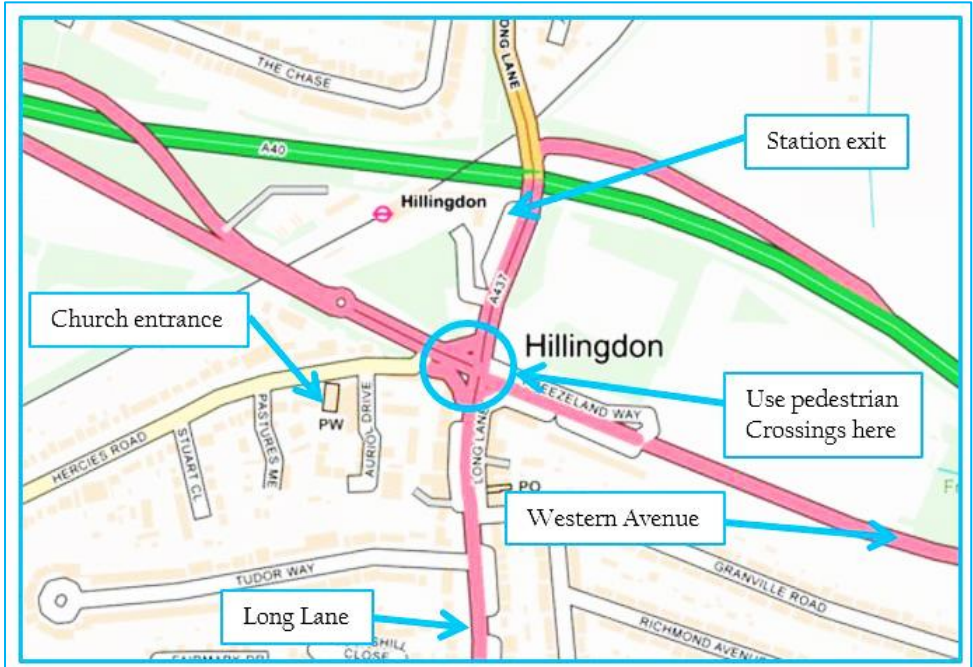
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WHERE TO FIND US



Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS

By Car: The Church has a very small car park that can be reached via Aurioi Drive and there is a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane: entry alongside the Co-op store or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London.

By Public Transport: The nearest T.F.L. station is Hillingdon which is within easy walking distance of the Church.

There is also a frequent bus service, the U2, which stops outside the Church. Please note the main entrance to the Church is on the side of the Church and our Research Room is on the 1st floor.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Michael Gandy, B.A., F.S.G.	
<i>Chairman</i>	Vacant	
<i>Acting Chairman</i>	John Symons 11 Wye Close, Ruislip, Middlesex. HA4 7RQ	01895 677722
<i>Secretary</i>	Gill May 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8BB	01753 885602
<i>Treasurer</i>	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL	01895 821351

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>Acting Membership</i>	Valerie Fitch	0208 864 4980
<i>Secretary / Librarian</i>	43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex. UB5 4AT	
<i>Programme Secretary</i>	Paula Hill	
<i>Projects</i>	Vacant	
<i>Publicity</i>	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL	01895 821351
<i>Journal Editors</i>	John Symons and Alan Rowland	

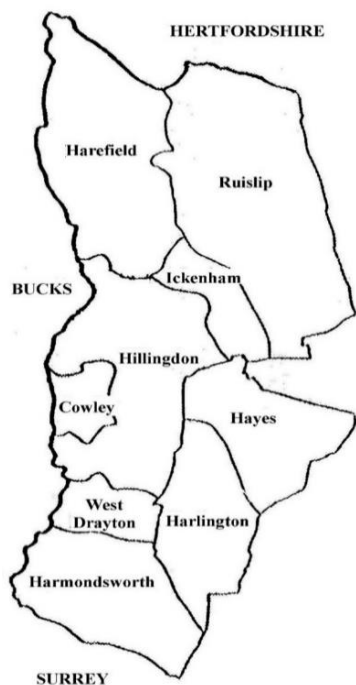
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THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON



The London Borough of Hillingdon is the most Westerly of the Greater London Boroughs. It is bounded by the counties of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey and was formed from nine ancient these Middlesex parishes: Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton.

Hillingdon embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs: ancient, modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. In the South of the borough lies Heathrow Airport.

Other localities within the borough are: Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.

Most of the parish registers for the original Anglican parishes and some more recently created are deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives and are available for viewing online on Ancestry. Many of the monumental inscriptions in the churchyards have been transcribed and may be searched on Findmypast under the 'Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions' dataset.

*If undelivered please return to: Mrs. V Fitch,
43 Doncaster Drive, Northolt, Middlesex
UB5 4AT*