



FAMILY HISTORY Federation

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REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 61

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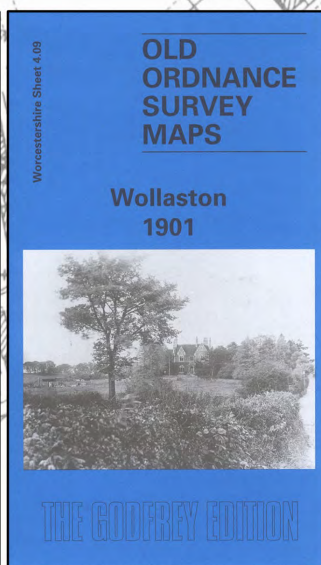
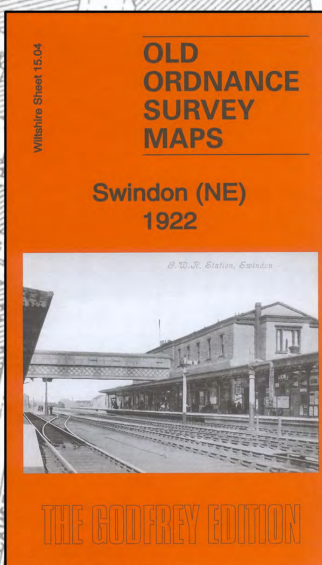
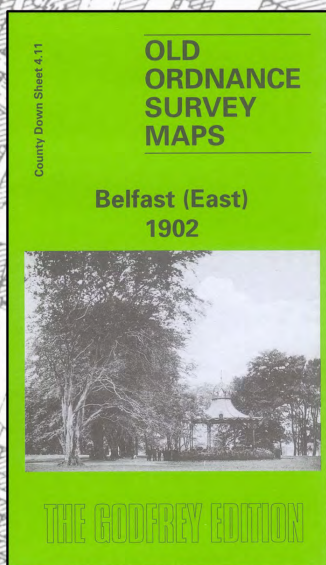
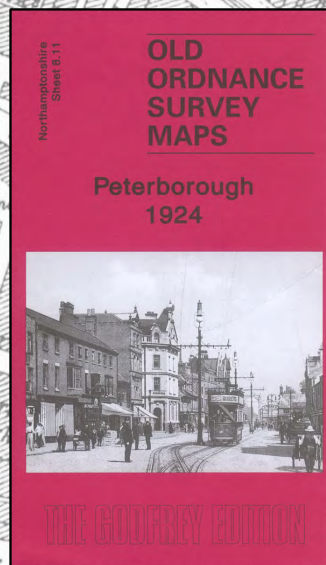
Welcome to the latest edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*
inside find...

Lead article is *The Story of Emigration - 1850-1914 (part 1)*
plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

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Really Useful Bulletin

The Promised Land

The Story of Emigration - 1850-1914

by Martin Greenwood

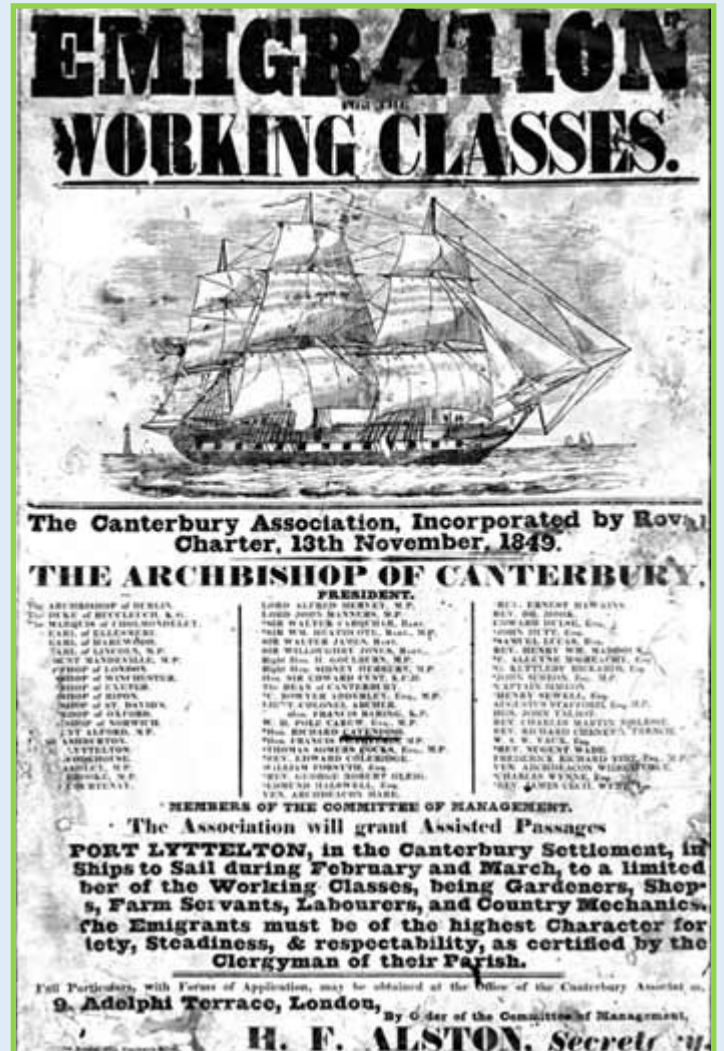
This extensive article has been split into two parts. Part 1 below deals with major emigrant settlements, agricultural depressions and the great exodus 1850 – 1914. Part 2 next month includes migrant ports, shipping, passages, disasters and diseases, plus the Butler family from Fringford.

Introduction

For many years I researched, wrote and talked about changes in village life in the late nineteenth century, particularly in relation to the villages of Juniper Hill, Cottisford and Fringford, mentioned in Flora Thompson's book *Lark Rise to Candleford*. The decline in village populations in this period was very marked, mainly due to the agricultural depressions of the 1870s and 1880s, and to foreign competition. This led to migration to the northern industrial cities, and significantly to emigration, particularly to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Many of the emigrants saw it as a search for the *Promised Land*, and land was often on offer in the colonies. However, for me, it was a chance meeting in Fringford churchyard with members of the Butler family which inspired me to look at emigration in more detail - four Butler brothers emigrated to Northern Queensland in the early 1870s. It led to an extended correspondence with various members of the family and a wealth of information and documentation from them about the family's experience in Australia from the 1870s



Three Butler brothers, and dog, in Queensland



Poster 1850 issued by the Canterbury Association
Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

Major emigrant settlements

Since 1607, it is estimated that over 10 million emigrants have left Great Britain and Ireland for the USA, with 4 million going to Canada. From 1815 to 1850 Canada was the primary destination of English emigrants, although many who went there initially later moved on to the USA. Prior to 1840, 983,227 people left the UK; most of these crossed the Atlantic while 58,449 went to Australia and New Zealand. Between 1845 and 1851, over 1.25 million



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Irish people emigrated to the USA as a result of the potato famine. However, many Irish people died too with some 20,000 dying in Canada in 1847. Some 5,424 died from disease, mainly cholera, and are commemorated at the Quarantine (Q) Station on Grosse Ile in the Gulf of St Lawrence. In 1852, 277,134 people crossed the Atlantic, and between 1846 and 1855, 2,740,000 left Great Britain and Ireland. Most settled in North America but approximately 430,000 went to Australia, New Zealand or South Africa.

Canada

The Canada Act 1791 created representative assemblies for the two new provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Upper Canada was largely British and Lower Canada was French. In the Canada Act 1840, Upper and Lower Canada were united. In 1867, the British North America Act gave Canada federal and almost wholly self-governing Dominion status.

The settlement of British Columbia really began with the Gold Rush of the 1860s, although Fort Victoria was established on Vancouver Island in 1843. The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were established in 1905. The Northwest Territories were the residue of the extensive domain of the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies, which were governed directly from Ottawa until 1951.

Australia

In 1788 New South Wales (NSW) was founded as a penal colony; it originally comprised over half of the Australian mainland, New Zealand and Van Diemen's Land (VDL). Van Diemen's Land was renamed Tasmania in 1856. There were other separate colonies of settlement in VDL (1803) such as the Swan River Colony 1828, later renamed Western Australia, South Australia (1836), Victoria (1850) and Queensland, which was only separated from New South Wales (NSW) to become a colony in 1859.

Until 1841 New Zealand was also treated as part of Australia but was never used as a penal colony. Northern Territory was excised from South Australia in 1911. In 1842 free settlement was allowed, and in 1848 the first free immigrant ship, the *Artemisia*, arrived in Moreton Bay, later renamed Brisbane. In 1850, the new state of Victoria was finally separated from NSW and granted responsible government. The name of the new state was said to have been chosen by Queen Victoria herself.

The following year became a turning point for the new state, indeed for the whole of Australia, with the news of the discovery of gold in Bathurst, NSW and in Ballarat and Bendigo, Victoria. Ballarat was some seventy miles west of Melbourne and within a few days Melbourne became almost deserted as everyone flocked to Ballarat. This created a Gold Rush with most diggers coming from England and Scotland. As the news reached the outside

world, every vessel was crowded with would-be gold seekers and sailing time was reduced to eighty days.



Australian gold diggings, by Edwin Stocqueler, c.1855
Public domain

In 1851, the total population of Victoria was about 77,000. Six years later it was over 400,000, and by 1874 Melbourne was *a great and prosperous city*. Its population had been swelled by the influx of disillusioned gold-diggers. After its separation in 1859, Queensland was especially active in encouraging emigrants, partly because it was tainted with convict transportation and had to try hard to attract people to a distant colony. In 1860, Henry Jordan was appointed the new colony's agent and his work included offering land grants to full-paying migrants and free passages to poorer emigrants.

In 1858 and 1872, new laws were passed to free up land in all the six Australian colonies. People could select a plot, buy it by auction and they had to live on it for a year and make improvements to it. In the 1870s and 1880s there was a booming economy and much successful emigration. On 1 January 1901, the six Australian colonies were federated and became a Dominion. In 1926, the Balfour Declaration recognized all the Dominions as *autonomous communities within the British Empire*, and in 1931 the Statute of Westminster confirmed the full legislative independence of the Dominions.

New Zealand

In 1838 Jean Langlois, a French whaling captain, landed his ship, the *Cachelet*, at Akaroa; this was the long harbour off Christchurch on the South Island. He returned in 1840 with sixty settlers on the *Comte de Paris* and founded a French colony. In 1840, under the Treaty of Waitangi, the British Government acquired sovereignty over the whole country by agreement with a number of Maori chiefs.



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In 1841, as noted above, New Zealand was detached from Australia and became a colony within the British Empire. In 1843, the colony of Canterbury was conceived - one of several settlements planned by Edward Wakefield and was one of two that were deliberately denominational. The Canterbury settlement was Anglican (or High Anglican); the Oxford Movement was reaching its peak in England. This was a theological movement whose aim was Catholic revival in the Church of England. The Otago colony was Church of Scotland, and its capital Dunedin remained Scottish to its core forever. In 1851, within six months of the first four ships landing in Christchurch, cricket was being played in Hagley Park. The old wooden pavilion, which served in 1864 when English cricketers first played in Christchurch, is next to the new one.

In 1856, New Zealand became self-governing. In 1861, emigration to New Zealand escalated with the discovery of gold and the population rocketed from 99,000 in 1861 to 256,000 in 1871.

From the 1870s onwards, the New Zealand Government, dominated by Sir Julius Vogel, the Colonial Treasurer and soon to be Prime Minister, authorised the colony's first major public work projects to build roads and railways. These required a large number of labourers who came mainly from England and northern Europe; they were given assisted passage, with as many as 46,000 arriving in 1874. Vogel travelled to London to negotiate loans and concluded an agreement with Brogdens to construct railways and provide plant to the value of £500,000. They would dispatch up to 2,000 able-bodied men plus wives and children to a maximum of 6,000 adults, known as the Brogdenites or the Brogden Navvies.

South Africa

The British took South Africa from the Dutch in 1795. The English arrived mostly after 1820 when a group of 3,695 British subjects settled in Eastern Cape Province. Approximately 90,000 applied to go but not all were approved, and those that were approved arrived in about sixty parties. There was serious unemployment in Britain at that time and many applicants were poor. But they were encouraged by the Cape government to boost the English speaking population to counter the Xhosa peoples. They were people granted farms but many lacked agricultural experience, so some withdrew to Bathurst, Grahamstown, East London and Port Elizabeth, where typically they reverted to their own trades. Between 1845 and 1851, 4,000 plus arrived, and in 1854 the Cape was granted its first government.



Sir Thomas Fuller
pictured in 1902
when attending the
Colonial Conference
in London

Between 1857 and 1867, some 12,000 arrived in South Africa, and in 1873-75, the Revd Thomas Fuller (1831-1910), the Cape Emigrant Agent recruited 3,300. That wave ended in 1878, to be followed by the Cape's final instalment in 1880-85 when 4,652 came in one year alone. In 1874-1900, more than 30,000 settlers came to Cape Town from Britain and Continental Europe. In the 30 years 1870-1901, South Africa's white population more than quadrupled to over a million. The Union of South Africa was formed in 1910 and included the two formerly self-governing British Colonies of Cape Town, self-governed since 1872, and Natal, self-governed since 1893, together with the former Boer Republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State which had secured self-government in 1907.

The Great Exodus 1850-1914

Prior to 1850, poverty and ignorance meant that country labourers were set in their ways. Their ignorance was profound and this limited emigration. However, as a result of the Industrial Revolution, many country folk moved into towns and larger urban areas in the north...places like Bradford, Liverpool and Manchester. By 1851, only about a quarter of their adult inhabitants had been born there - the rest were immigrants.

By the 1870s, however, the farming boom of the 1860s was over and the first agricultural depression, 1874-1884, was causing severe rural poverty. *It couldn't get any worse* must have been the thought of many agricultural labourers and similar low-paid workers in Oxfordshire and elsewhere. They were faced with the terrifying prospect of the workhouse or *bastille* as it was often called, if they lost their jobs.

There were high emigration figures from 1852 to 1867, averaging 198,000 a year. The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, founded in 1847, assisted some of them and the bulk of them made for Australasia. From 1853 to 1880, some 2.8 million left the UK, while the decade from 1871 to 1881 saw a 140 per cent increase in the number of farm labourers, shepherds, gardeners and carters who moved abroad.

Between 1853 and 1913 some 13 million emigrated, most of them farm labourers. *Whole families and groups of families travelled together, spurred on by the posters and advertisements which had long decorated their cottage walls.* By 1910, nearly half a million people a year (including those Europeans who left via British ports) were leaving the British Isles, although it should be noted that over one million came home in 1911-14. By the end of the century, the numbers leaving the land had decreased, largely because most of those capable of migrating had already gone; this left behind unskilled people, men with large families and the old and infirm. By this time too, the



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decline of labour surplus had contributed to better wages and living standards in the countryside.

Agricultural depressions

In 1851 agriculture employed over one-fifth of the working population and produced about the same proportion of the national income. The years 1840-70 were the golden age of English agriculture. Output rose almost as fast as the population, and it is estimated that, as late as 1868, eighty per cent of the United Kingdom's food was home-grown. The populations of most of the villages in Oxfordshire peaked between 1851 and 1871, with a few others before 1851.

The agricultural depression of 1874-84 brought an end to the farming boom and caused severe rural poverty. This was aggravated by a second agricultural depression from 1891-99, partly caused by foreign competition, with frozen meat coming in from Australia, New Zealand and South America. In *Lark Rise to Candleford*, Flora Thomson wrote... *the innkeeper's wife got in cases of salmon from Australia and Australian rabbit*. There was also growing competition from mass-produced goods and declining local markets, which affected bootmakers, blacksmiths, tailors and wheelwrights. It also affected women's employment.



Typical label from Australian canned rabbit, c. WWI

These agricultural depressions contributed to large numbers moving to towns and emigrating. In August 1872, the Queensland Government took the bold step of offering entirely free passages to approved agricultural labourers and their wives and children, with the virtual certainty of jobs being available for them on arrival. By doing so, Queensland was able to secure large numbers of labourers who could never have afforded to pay even part of their fares themselves.

Between 1871 and 1911 six million Britons emigrated, with the peak in the 1870s and 1890s. Most of them were men from rural areas, so that by 1900 there were over one million more women than men in Britain. Advertisements in the *Bicester Advertiser* at the time included many offers of free land in Canada, New Zealand and Australia. By 1901, however, Canada was the only country offering free land to home seekers of limited means. No less than 50,000 per

annum were entering her ports. In many cases the parishes also gave some support, as they had done earlier in the nineteenth century. In addition, by the late 1890s men in the villages with any ambition were looking for wider opportunities in factories, on the railways and docks and in the new urban police forces.

By the 1870s, conditions were more favourable for large-scale organizations like the industrial unions. By 1901, agriculture employed less than a tenth of the labour force and its share of national income was less than a fifteenth. In its reduced role, farming became a harshly commercial business. The least profitable arable farming was abandoned and the labour force cut back. The most able farmers deserted the land, even fled the country altogether. By 1907, the Oxfordshire weekly agricultural wage was the lowest in England and Wales at 14s 11d. The isolation and ignorance of the country worker was gradually breaking down. As time went by, railways, visits to towns, newspapers, the penny post, and the activities of emigration agents all tended to bring the rural worker into the current of contemporary life.

Agricultural trade unionism

Although there was sporadic union activity in a number of counties in the 1860s, agricultural labourers were relatively latecomers to the idea of trade unionism. It was not until the end of a period of prosperity for English agriculture in the 1860s that they saw the possible benefits which trade unionism could bring. The organizer and campaigner, Joseph Arch, changed all that! Born in Warwickshire of farming stock, he became a well-known national figure as leader of England's ag labs!

On 14 February 1872, Joseph Arch addressed the men of Wellesbourne *under the chestnut tree* and he was chosen to head the Warwickshire union; after that a large number of other separate organizations sprung up. In Oxfordshire the focus of discontent was Milton-under-Wychwood which formed the Milton Union. The main aim of the new unions was to secure an extension of the franchise to rural householders (not achieved until 1884), and improved wages and conditions of employment; but some of the



The Square, Wellesbourne in 1905 and the chestnut tree



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leaders quickly began to see emigration as a means of indirectly bringing this about.

In 1873, the National Agricultural Labourers' Union (NALU) was formed with Joseph Arch as President. It was Milton-under-Wychwood which was the nucleus of the Oxford District of NALU. At the same time, sixteen women from Ascott-under-Wychwood were sent to prison for the part they played in the founding of NALU. There was a violent riot with some 1,000 people swarming round the police court. Initially, Arch was *inimical to emigration movements amongst the agricultural class*. But he and other leaders came to see that by emigration, local surpluses of labour could be eliminated and the bargaining position of those who remained behind would be strengthened. So this led to the development of union-sponsored emigration.



By the summer of 1873, Arch [pictured] had accepted an invitation from the Canadian Government, with a view to considering its suitability for union emigration. His tour which lasted until November also included a brief visit to the United States. In Canada he received a very warm welcome; the *Ottawa Times* noted...

the visit of Mr Arch is of no small importance. We want, and grievously want, the very class that Mr Arch represents. In 1872-3, real interest in emigration among farm workers became apparent and, as noted above, it was Queensland which proved most able to take advantage of it.

In 1872, Wootton was a centre of agricultural unrest, with an early branch of NALU formed in May 1872. It was led by Chris Holloway, the Chairman of the Oxford District of the National Union; he demanded an increase in wages from 11s to 16s per week. About 120 labourers withdrew their labour and some moved to Sheffield. In 1873, he and Henry Taylor were hired by the New Zealand authorities to act as agents to select suitable migrants and then accompany them all the way to New Zealand. They assembled a group of 700 men, women and children who sailed from Plymouth in December 1873.

By 1874 farmers were responding to union demands with lockouts, blackleg labour and eviction of union supporters from their cottages. From this point onwards its membership began to decline and by 1879, little remained of the enthusiasm seven years before. The *revolt of the field* had failed and its leaders turned to political action.

NALU's membership had fallen from over 86,000 in 1874 to 15,000 by the end of 1881, and by 1889 it was a mere 4,254. The union faded into obscurity in the 1890s and was finally dissolved in 1896. However, it is clear that, particularly at its height in the period 1872-5, it did

encourage emigration of farm workers from Britain. There are no reliable NALU emigration statistics available but it is estimated that perhaps 40,000 to 45,000 unionists and their families might have been sponsored by NALU to emigrate during the period 1872-81.

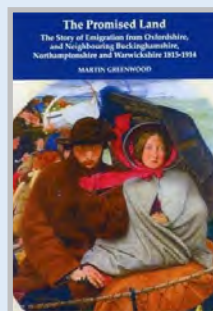
It seems that most of the emigrants were satisfied with their move and that some of the union officials who escorted parties out to the colonies also decided to settle there, notably Joseph Leggett, the Oxford district secretary who settled in New Zealand and Henry Taylor, the first general secretary of NALU, who settled in South Australia. After 1881, NALU had no further involvement in emigration; among the agricultural classes emigration was encouraged only by non-union emigration agents who seemed influenced by seemingly better economic prospects overseas, particularly in the United States.

About the author

Martin Greenwood, a well known local historian, has written about village life in Flora Thompson's Lark Rise Country and more widely in Banburyshire. His most recent book was



Banburyshire, a Walker's History.

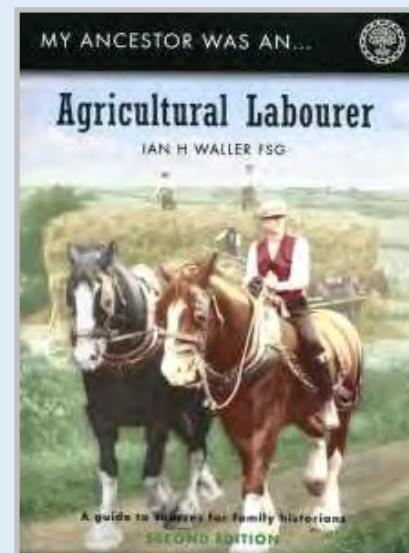


The Promised Land, The Story of Emigration from Oxfordshire, 1815-1914 was published in 2020. It is available from the Banbury Museum Shop, Coles in Bicester and from Martin at martinwgreenwood@btinternet.com.

Ian Waller's *My Ancestor was an Agricultural Labourer* is available from Family History Books.

£10.99 plus p&p

Simply click on the link below for full details.



www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/my-ancestor-was-an-agricultural-labourer-by-ian-waller-2nd-edition-272



Family History Societies



Shropshire Family History Society

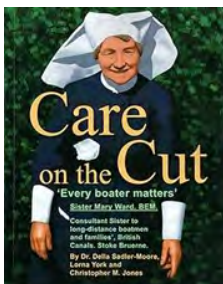
Talking Family History *LIVE*

Saturday 11 October

10.30am-3.30pm

**Chapel Community Centre, The Chestnuts,
Cross Houses, Shrewsbury SY5 6JG**

- 10.30 Arrival and refreshments
- 11.00 **Welcome**—Karen Hunter, Chair
- 11.05 **A Few Forgotten Women: Searching under the covers of coverture** - Ann Simcock
- 11.50 **Care on the Cut – Every Boater Matters:** the healthcare provided by Sister Mary Ward BEM to canal boaters and their families - Dr Della Sadler-Moore
- 12.50 Lunch - bring your picnic with you
- 13.45 **Quiz**—Lorna Emms
- 14.15 **Don't throw it away** - the story of a portrait found in the attic - Dawn Blundell
- 15.00 **SFHS Website - what next?** - Simon Davies and Karen Hunter
- 15.25 **Close**—Karen Hunter, Chair



Members and non-members welcome

Free entry

Please bring your own lunch
and a mug to help reduce the washing up pile!

Website: www.sfhs.org.uk/



Oxfordshire Family History Society

Family History Fair

Saturday 25th October 2025

10am – 4pm

Free entry, free parking

**Cherwell School (North),
Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE**
Wheelchair and child friendly

Get help with your research – particularly in Oxfordshire
but also in other counties and countries.

A variety of subject experts will be present

Browse and buy books, CDs, maps, postcards
and materials from specialist companies.

Refreshments available (until 3.15pm)

==oOo==

Comments from the 2024 Fair:

Very informative - friendly people.

Great show! Well laid out and good signing.

Great refreshments.

Good venue for public transport.

Really good fair, the best one we've attended so far.

==oOo==

For more information

including advice on how to get to the fair visit:

www.ofhs.uk/fair2025

email: fair@ofhs.uk

Tel: OFHS Helpline: 01865 358151

Registered Charity Number 275891



**Family History Books' stall will be at the
Oxfordshire Family History Fair—so come
for a chat—and buy! *See you there!***



Family History Societies



Waltham Forest Family History Society

WFFHS was founded in 1978 in a very small area of north-east London and south-west Essex between two much larger societies. Its 'patch' comprises the London Borough of Waltham Forest – historically an amalgamation of Walthamstow, Leyton, Leytonstone and Chingford – plus to the north the town of Waltham Abbey, best known as the burial place of King Harold in 1066. With only about 50 members, it is perhaps the UK's smallest society, but it nevertheless punches above its weight.

In the distant past WFFHS's area offered a country retreat for wealthy London merchants. In Victorian times it became part of the extensive West Ham Poor Law Union and



Sixteenth-century Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, Chingford

Registration District. Its population increased dramatically in the nineteenth century as folk migrated there from the surrounding counties to seek work in the capital. The development of the railways opened up opportunities in the London docks and house building, as well as in local industries such as furniture making and aircraft manufacture.

As a result the area's population has long been cosmopolitan in terms of class and ethnic make-up, augmented in the twentieth century by immigrants from the British Commonwealth. WFFHS aims to provide genealogical help to those with ancestors from our area who moved away, or with ancestors from afar who moved into the area.

What does WFFHS do and how do its members benefit?

Like most societies we undertake projects to digitise parish registers, memorial inscriptions and other locally-relevant documents. In collaboration with the Federation these databases generate income for us through the link with FindMyPast.

We have also produced some unique name-rich resources, such as the 1821 and 1831 censuses for Walthamstow and Leyton. We collaborate with like-minded history societies locally, represent ourselves at community open days, and have strong links with Waltham Forest Archives.

WFFHS members benefit from monthly meetings, held alternately in-person as workshops and online as talks, many by nationally recognised speakers. Members receive a biannual journal (in full colour), as well as monthly newsletters providing updates to the contents of genealogical sources.



Water House, Walthamstow – once home of William Morris (1834-1896)

In August we hold a *Summer Lunch* at a local restaurant or pub, followed by a guided historical tour of the surrounding area. We try to inject some fun into the proceedings by holding an annual family history quiz and an annual genealogical puzzle.

The population of Waltham Forest has over the years been one in constant flux. It is possible that you too have some ancestral connections with our area. If so, Waltham Forest FHS is ready to help you, and you are welcome to join us!

For further details please view our website –

www.wffhs.org.uk

Or contact the Secretary by email at

dr.mcarroll@gmail.com

or by telephone at 07902208028.



Monoux Almshouses

[Image from society website]



Family History Societies



Bristol and Avon Family History Society

This year, like many other societies, we are celebrating our fiftieth anniversary and our 2025 quarterly journals have had several features reflecting on the society's founding and growth and the achievements during this period. Membership probably peaked around fifteen or so years ago, but we still provide a full range of active and thriving services and events for both members and the public.

A particular achievement of the last year has been the publication, for members only at this stage, of transcribed records of Eastville Workhouse and Ham Green Hospital for the late 1800s and early 1900s. This has been done by volunteers working either at Bristol Archives or at home and includes one instance of a member surprisingly transcribing a record relating to a parent - one of those precious moments we all get now and then. These rare and unique record sets are not produced by commercial people but by volunteers with useful local knowledge, studying original records about local people.

This year some of our members have also been assisting a team clearing paths and undergrowth at Ridgeway Park Cemetery in east Bristol. This is municipally-owned but has suffered from many years' neglect. An Open Day event here this summer attracted many local people including a renowned local historian who was at last able to find graves and memorials of his great-grandparents and also a famous member of the Tuckett family of Frenchay, though he didn't find what he originally went to look for that day!

Our fiftieth anniversary was celebrated with a day-long event at Aerospace Bristol at Filton where the last Concorde landed. The highlight of the day was the extensive collection of historic aeroplanes and air industry exhibits. Members were able to spend the morning touring the museum, including boarding Concorde, followed by a light lunch and then an entertaining talk by Paul McNeil from the *DNA Journey* television programme. The day concluded with afternoon tea which, along with the lunch, was held under the wings of Concorde. A memorable day for all.

For more information about Bristol & Avon FHS view website at

www.bafhs.org.uk

or contact

secretary@bafhs.org.uk or chairman@bafhs.org.uk



Romany and Traveller Family History Society

On the Road

Free live event

Saturday 11 October 2025

12pm to 4pm

Everyone welcome at

Chesham Town Hall, Parsonage Lane, Chesham HP5 1EP



Displays, photographs and information about Romany, Traveller, Fairground and Circus folk both local and nationwide

Expert help on hand to answer your questions and help break down your brick walls

Bookstall selling the wide range of books published by the RTFHS

Join the society on the day at the special price of £10 and be in for a chance to win a book

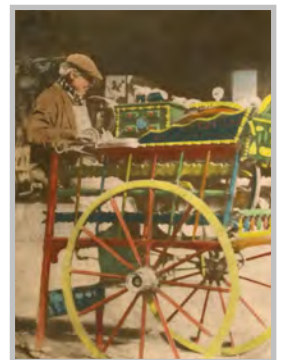
Chesham Museum, housed in the same building, will be open too, with museum staff happy to share their knowledge of the local area with you

A team from the Buckinghamshire Family History Society

Opportunities to share stories about your *Travelling* ancestors and perhaps meet new cousins

The venue is fully accessible with free parking for Blue Badge holders, more parking is available nearby and Chesham Underground station is a short walk away.

It's a live event so things could change at short notice. Please check the events page on the RTFHS website for possible updates: <https://rtfhs.org.uk/>



Pictures © R&TFHS:

[top] Van on the road

[middle] Knife grinder

[bottom] Fairground gallopers





Family History Societies



The Metcalfe Society

...for the name, history, heritage and genealogy

The AGM and Muster will be held at
Tennants' Auction Centre, Harmby Road,
Leyburn DL8 5SG, North Yorkshire
on Saturday 4th October 2025

The annual general meeting will be free of charge for members of the society.

The charge on the rest of the day will be £12.00 per head, to cover refreshments and speakers' expenses.

However, if you wish to get ahead of the crowd, the **Early Bird** discount booked by 27th September, reduces the fee to £10.00 per head for all. The same charge will apply whether for live or online sessions.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, there are a number of ways to pay:

- ♦ by cheque to the address below
- ♦ through Paypal
- ♦ online via the Family History Federations's Parish Chest at [www.parishchest.com/the-metcalfe muster-one-off-muster-meeting-charge-13260.php](http://www.parishchest.com/the-metcalfe-muster-one-off-muster-meeting-charge-13260.php) before 1st October 2025.

Further details from enquiries@metcalfe.org.uk

Postal enquiries to J. Heron, 17 Bailey Walk,
Wakefield, WF4 3QW.



Tennants' Auction Centre and Garden Rooms



Dorset Family History Society

Volunteer for Dorset FHS

Could you be our next journal editor?

We are looking for someone to take over this key role from our current editor by the end of 2025. You would be responsible for:

- the production of our quarterly journal sent to all members
- preparing the layout in the format required by the printer
- commissioning and/or seeking out articles
- liaising with DFHS officers and the printer as required.

We are looking for someone with good IT knowledge, written communication and time management skills to manage and meet deadlines to ensure the production of a quality journal is on time each quarter. Some experience of having created a similar publication would be helpful.

We are open to suggestions for 'job shares' for interested volunteers to work together, perhaps one focussing on the IT/technical layout and formatting with another focussing on gathering articles and administrative duties involved.

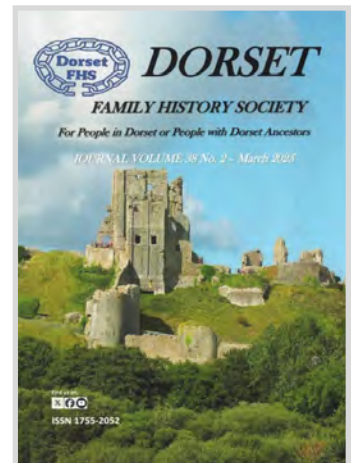
The editor(s) would be required to be (or become) a member of DFHS and have an interest in family history.

The role could partly be managed remotely, though there may be occasions where you would need to attend events, liaise directly with the printer, etc, so at least one person in the 'editorial team' being local would be an advantage. Though we are open to suggestions and discussions!

For an informal discussion contact :

secretary@dorsetfhs.org.uk.

For details of other vacancies with us see our webpage dorsetfhs.org.uk/volunteer





Family History Societies



**Liverpool and South West
Lancashire Family History
Society**

Family History Conference

Hosted by the



Leigh Branch

of Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS

Saturday 11th October 2025

10am – 4pm

**St Mary's Community Hall, Newton Road,
Lowton, near Warrington WA3 1DQ**

Booking required

Speakers include:

Alex Miller, from Lancashire Archives Service

Have you tried....? Using Lancashire Archives Collections to help you discover your family history.

Prof. Tony Webster, from Northumbria University

Do you know your Divi number? The history of the co-operative movement, the Rochdale Pioneers and how cooperation affected ordinary people's lives in the Victorian era.

Heritage with a Twist: a Leigh based drama group
Not that Derby – this Derby! 100 ways to big up your district. A light-hearted, dramatic exploration of the history, mystery and magnificence of the West Derby Hundred.

Louise Wade, from Leigh FHS

Great Victorian Inventions (and disasters!)

Our society's family history bookstall

Free goodie bag

Prize draw raffle for some great family history related prizes

£16 per person including buffet lunch and refreshments

For a booking form please visit our website

www.lswlfhs.org.uk/conference

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to claim this unbeatable offer today.

T&Cs apply



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

**Family History Federation is
looking for a volunteer**

Education Officer

This is a voluntary role



Could you fill this role?

Would YOU like to be part of the team?

Ian Waller retires at the next FHS AGM/GM and we are seeking a replacement who can make this role their own.

The role involves assisting member societies and facilitating educational events to be attended either in person or on Zoom.

The role will require attending FFHS executive committee meetings as well as attending the FFHS AGM/GM to report on your work. These are currently held on Zoom.

This role will suit those interested in life-long learning for individual family historians and also development of skills for those running groups, etc.

Please contact the chairman, Steve Manning to discuss this further at

chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com

**Family History Federation is
looking for a volunteer**

Websites Co-ordinator

This is a voluntary role



Could YOU fill this role?

Would YOU like to be part of the team?

We are seeking a volunteer who can use their skills and experience to make this role their own.

The role involves communicating with the company providing online services and liaising with them about all the Family History Federation's websites. Currently websites are Family History Federation, Explore your Genealogy, Parish Chest and Family History Books Online.

This role will suit anyone with an interest in supporting the Federation, developing its online presence and in the technology used, etc.

Please contact the chairman, Steve Manning to discuss this further at

chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com

Editorial comment

Volunteering is good for you!

In this edition Dorset Family History Society is seeking an editor for its quarterly journal. They are not alone! Not only are many local groups short of volunteers, but so is the Federation's own Executive Committee—as above.

Individuals are happy to benefit from the work done by others, but not to get stuck in to help.

Why does nobody want to get involved and help 'do things'? It seems to be a malaise across the voluntary sector.

Whatever your skills, the range of jobs is limitless! You will be welcomed "to do stuff". From building a website to indexing records to manning the refreshments and everything in between, all are jobs to be done. Some jobs are easily done remotely, too (as is this Bulletin). Your help could be the key to keeping a group running!

If you are interested in helping the Federation, please contact chairman, Steve Manning, on chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com for a "chat".

Otherwise, contact any officer of your local group and OFFER to help—today!

Volunteering really is good for you—official!



BOOK THE DATE!! Saturday 18 April 2026—the Really Useful Show
Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU





Really Useful Bulletin

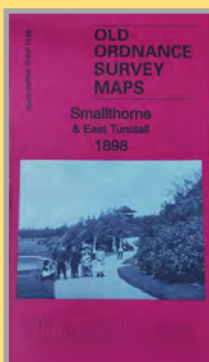
News from Family History Books



MAPS and MORE!

Have you ever wished you could enhance the basic facts of the UK census? Me too!

The Ordnance Survey (OS) has been mapping the UK for over 170 years. Many will be familiar with the *One Inch Series* of OS maps so beloved of energetic countryside walkers and Boy Scouts. But there were also larger-scale maps covering urban areas too.



Back in 1977, Alan Godfrey Maps started publishing highly detailed reprints of old OS maps. Printed at fourteen or fifteen inches to the mile, these inexpensive paper maps are now a great resource for family historians. They reveal our towns and villages in great detail. They provide outlines of almost every house and identify almost every street name as well. Plus, as a bonus, expert historical notes and/or local details are often printed on

the rear of the map. So very useful!

When you next 'visit' the UK census, why not take an Alan Godfrey map from Family History Books along with you for company? If you do, chances are you will catch a virtual glimpse of your ancestral families and friends going about their daily business. Walk the streets with them, find the nearest church...and pub! Next, add a few contemporary photographs from your own collection – or locate them via social media - to further reveal their life and times to public



Extract from Chesterfield 1898 to demonstrate the detail

view. Which, I am sure you will agree, will make a potentially amazing and accessible resource for other family members.

Earlier this year, we reported the sad and unexpected passing of Chris Makepeace. Many will know Chris and his wife Hilary since they attended family and local history shows and events for many years as 'Makepeace Maps'. What you may not realise is that Chris was both a map enthusiast and a close associate of Alan Godfrey. Indeed, he wrote many of the historical notes found on those maps.

With the agreement of the Makepeace family, we are proud to announce that **Family History Books** (FHB) has now completed the purchase of Chris's huge stock of reprinted OS maps. Six weeks into the project, we are still updating the FHB website with (almost) 4,000 additional lines! [See link below.] Even now, there are a few major counties still to add, including Lancashire, Cheshire and London. We suspect it will be another two weeks before we have everything online, but please visit our website in the meantime to review the vast range already there.

And there's more!

A selection of maps for surrounding areas will accompany the Federation's bookstall to local fairs and shows. Such as the upcoming **Family History Show London at Kempton Park on 4 October** and the **Oxfordshire Family History Fair at Oxford on 25 October**. We look forward to your visit!

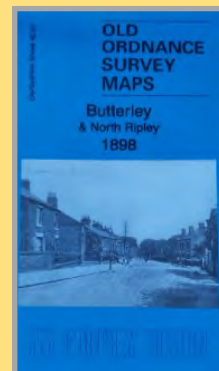
Family History Books is truly honoured to continue the legacy of Makepeace Maps!



Steve Manning,
Chairman,
Family History Federation

This is the link to the main maps page at Family History Books online:

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/england-458





Really Useful Back Page



Family History Research Aids from the Experts

Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over eighty family history societies and associated suppliers at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some eighteen categories including:

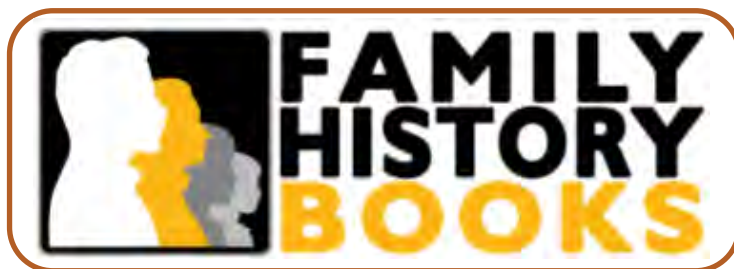
- *Parish register transcriptions and more from local FHS*
- *Memorial inscriptions information from gravestones across the country, compiled by local FHS*
- *Nonconformists: Baptists, Wesleyans, Independents, Quakers and many more nonconformist lists*
- *Wills and probate indexes of wills and administrations*
- *Folders, printing facilities, giftware*
- *..and more!*

Societies and suppliers regularly add new lines, so visit to see what is there to help you add to your family tree.

www.parishchest.com

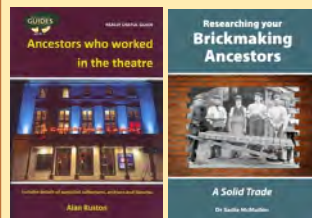
Societies and others interested in joining Parish Chest should initially contact:

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



Family History Books (FHB) is an online bookshop and publisher; it is owned by the Family History Federation and the aim is to provide a service to the genealogical community. Family History Books offers a range of relevant titles relating to family history research, plus a range of specialist maps for historians.

FHB welcomes contact from authors! Works of specific interest to family historians with wider social history topics are of interest. FHB does not publish individual family histories or fiction. If you have a book in the making, then do contact FHB via admin@familyhistoryfederation.com. We would love to hear from you about your ideas.



The two latest books from FHB are [*Ancestors who worked in the Theatre*](#) along with [*Researching your Brickmaking Ancestors*](#). Sound, practical advice and information!

In addition to its [online shop](#) FHB can also be found at major live family history events around the country. Come and visit us and see all the latest titles available. The stall is always very popular!

Happy browsing!

Please explore the range, and place your orders, at
www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

The **REALLY USEFUL Bulletin** is published monthly and circulated free of charge. Members of the Family History Federation are encouraged to provide information about their projects and activities for inclusion. The Federation policy is to not include paid-for commercial advertising. However, when space allows, the editorial team includes mentions of activities relevant to readers which are offered by other organisations—plus any relevant special offers, too. The team is considering the option of including relevant commercial advertising for 2026.



The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

LIVE on Saturday 18 April 2026—Burgess Hall, St Ives, PE27 6WU

Can FHF members get together and put on a regional show— assistance available.

Contact: chairman@familyhistoryfederation.com



FFHS does not exercise any control over the content of external website links in this Really Useful Bulletin. It is not responsible for the content or quality. Nor does FFHS endorse any companies or products advertised.
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