

*Trace your  
ancestors with*

Bi-monthly  
November December 1984  
Introductory Issue 85p

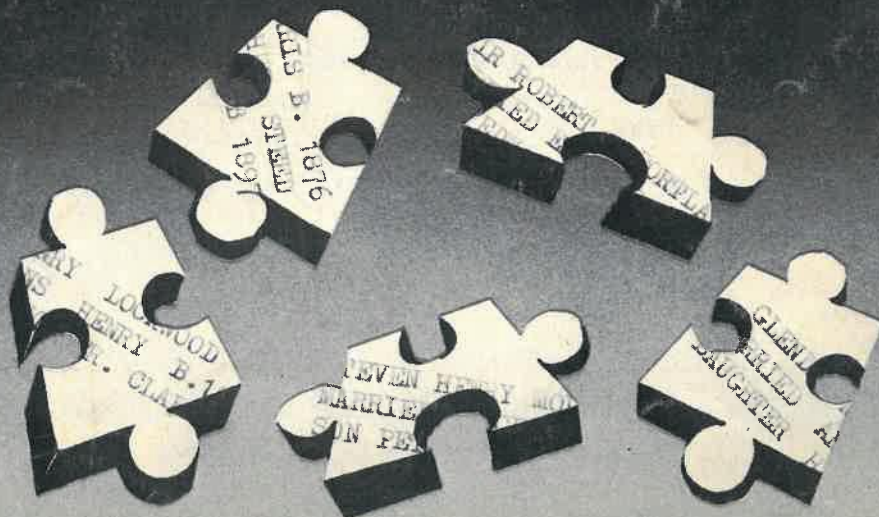
# FAMILY TREE

MAGAZINE

THE  
INDEPENDENT  
PUBLICATION

FOR  
FAMILY HISTORY

ENTHUSIASTS



THE BRITISH MAGAZINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR.

# CURRENT RESEARCH

in library & information science

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## **From January 1984**

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## **Publication: Quarterly March-December**

CURRENT RESEARCH is available on magnetic tape, as well as conventional hard-copy format. (Tape service details on request)

Subscription: UK £74.00 Overseas (excluding N. America) £89.00  
North America US\$165.00

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**London WC1E 7AE**

# FAMILY TREE

## Introductory issue

November-December 1984

### Introduction

A message from the President of the Federation of Family History Societies, Lt Col I S Swinerton TD, DL, JP, FSG.

‘I have said for a long time that, with the tremendous growth of interest in Family History over the last few years, there was a need for a specialist magazine for Family Historians. Photographer,s, fishermen, campers, railway modellers, golfers and computer buffs, to name but a few, all have one — why not us? Well now we have — thanks to the courage and foresight of Michael Armstrong and I am delighted to have the opportunity to write this

little note in the first issue to congratulate him and to wish him and “Family Tree” every success and long life. You, the readers, can help. Tell your friends and your Societies about it. Ask your Society to order a bulk quantity to sell at meetings — there is money in it for the Society and a boost in sales for the magazine. It is our magazine devoted to our hobby. I hope you will do all you can to ensure its continuation. I know I shall. ♪

### Meet the people involved

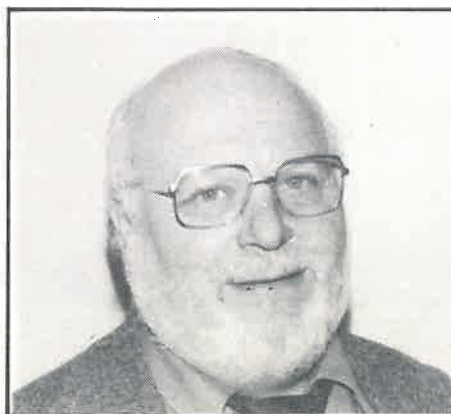
JOHN MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, the man who thought up the idea of “Family Tree”, was born at Sutton-in-Ashfield in Nottinghamshire where his family line can be traced back to a Hanroy Armstrong who married a Margit Trantern in 1696.

He has been interested in genealogy for many years and teaches at evening classes for Cambridgeshire County Council.



RALPH BRAYBROOK, who is editorial consultant for “Family Tree”, has had a long experience in both newspapers and magazines.

For some 10 years he was with IPC Consumer Industries Press, most latterly as editor of a catering business magazine. Before that he was in government and industrial public relations in London, after having worked in senior posts on daily newspapers. He is national Charge de Presse of the world's oldest gastronomic society, La Chaine des Rostisseurs, which is based in Paris. He is a native of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and was educated at Stamford School.



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CROMWELL GRAPHICS

31 The Broadway, St. Ives, Cambs.

Tel: 0480 68655

#### Printed Webb Offset by:

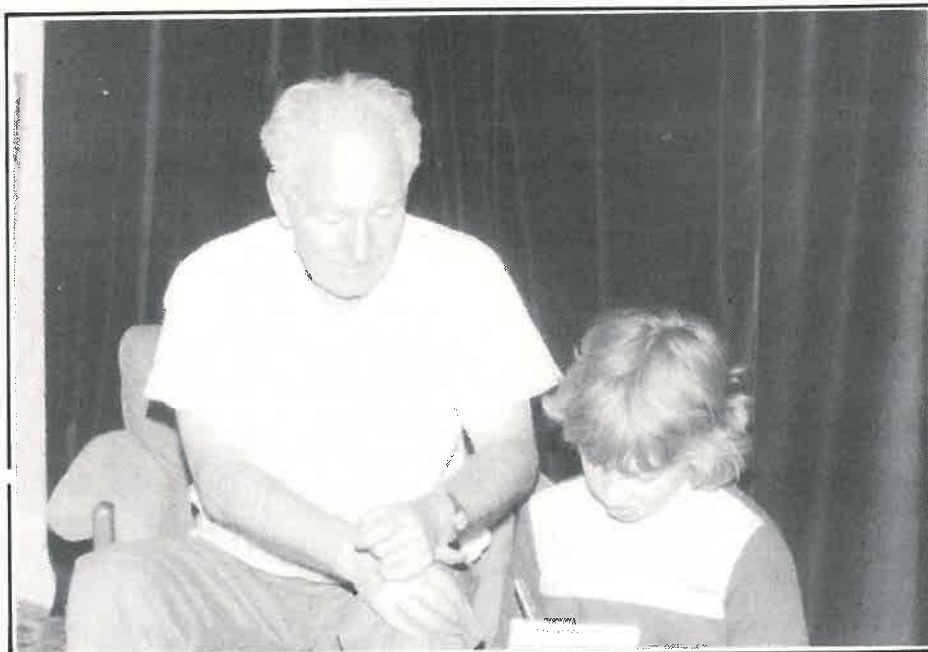
Riverside Press, Whitstable, Kent.

ISSN 0267-1131

Family Tree Magazine is published bi-monthly on January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15 and November 15.

All correspondence should be sent to 129 Great Whyte, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 1HP.

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*Talk to the older relatives and make notes*

# How to trace your family tree — by Michael Armstrong

**Michael Armstrong takes the complete beginner step-by-step along the road to compiling a successful family tree, along with its associated history.**

Genealogy and family history are two different subjects, but they are so closely allied that, for the sake of this series, we shall treat them as one.

A question asked repeatedly is "How do I start my family tree?" The best place to start is at home, where there are usually birth, marriage and death certificates to hand.

A birth certificate enables you immediately to step back one generation. On it will be the place and date of birth, the Christian names and the surname of the person, plus the name and occupation of the father and the maiden name of the mother.

Such certificates are part of the civil registration system which started in England and Wales on July 1, 1837. In Scotland, it began in 1855, and in Ireland 1864. Before then, recording had been the duty of the churches.

Beginners should start their investigative trail by exhausting all possible sources of information from the family. It is often claimed by namesakes in a town that they are not related, but it is more than possible they are. If our paternal great-grandparents had six children, who each had three, and those three had two, that would mean that on our own branch of the family tree there could be a staggering 36 people, all sharing the same common two ancestors.

It is important to contact as many relatives as possible. Some are great hoarders. In some cases it takes an investigation of this nature to prompt a family reunion.

In addition to the standard certificates, other things can be of use — like church christening certificates, old bills, receipts, letters, wills, diaries and newspaper cuttings. Maybe someone else has already made a start on a family tree.

Other useful items are family Bibles or an old photograph album. No family chart is complete without the old, ferocious-looking Victorian master of the house scowling down on his descendants, or perhaps great-grandfather on the doorstep of his butcher's shop, with his roundsboy at his side.

Older members of the family usually prove more informative, and notes are essential if a valuable source of information is not to be lost forever. At some time, facts might appear useless but nobody can judge their future significance.

If you happen to have a gran or an aunt who is, for instance, 80 years old, it is possible she may remember her grandmother. She is then the link in the chain that could take you back as far as the mid 1800s. Once this person has died, that link is lost forever. I cannot stress how important it is to gather as much information from such relatives while they are still with you.

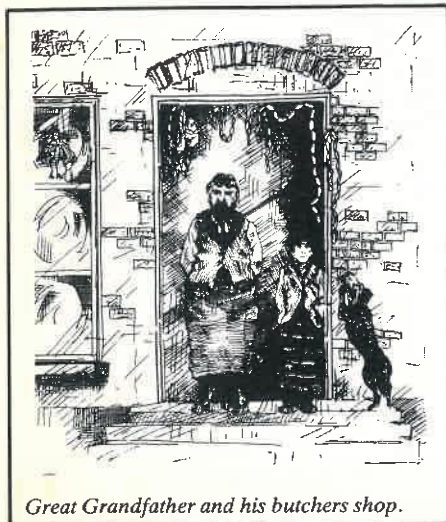
To this the job correctly, it is best to make up your mind right from the beginning to be methodical. Some people are this way by nature, others are not, but without some sort of system the job will seem twice as hard. I have always favoured a loose-leaf folder. This way you can keep one page for one subject or person; it is then easy to shuffle them around as you find more ancestors, and it enables you to keep them in the right order.

We will now assume that you have assembled all the information you can from the family sources, and that you have carefully recorded it in your storage system. The next stage is to study what you have, and what you need. Most people will know the history of their own parents. Many will know something of their grandparents, but less will know of their great-grandparents.

It is more than likely you will need birth, marriage or death certificates at the outset.

If you are sure the ancestor for whom you are searching was born, married or died locally, it will be possible to obtain a copy of the certificate you need from the local registrar. However, ancestors had a habit of moving around, so, usually, the best place to start is in the General Registry Office at Kingsway in London. The indexes for all the births and marriages in England and Wales are kept at St Catherine's House on the corner of Kingsway and the Aldwych.

The indexes for the deaths are at Alexandra House, just a little further up Kingsway, on the other side of the road. You are not able to see the actual certificates at the London offices. In Scotland a different system operates, but we shall go into this later.



*Great Grandfather and his butchers shop.*



*The Victorian ancestor*

What you do is to search the indexes, fill in a form, and pay the going rate. At the moment this is £5. You will then get a copy of the certificate you have ordered. You can have it sent to your address post free, or, if you are able to collect it two days later, you may do so.

It will pay a complete beginner to study the system well before going into any of the offices. It is very straightforward in theory, but, in practice, anyone jumping in at the deep end can waste a lot of time.

In St Catherine's House the first section you come to when you walk through the doors is Births. The indexes are contained in large, red hard-back volumes. Each year is divided into quarters. All births which took place during January, February and March are listed in the quarter-ending-March book. April, May and June are in the quarter-ending-June book, and so on.

In the very early years, all that was entered was the surname, Christian name, area of registration and reference number. After July 1911, the indexes include the maiden name of the mother, which is a very big help. Further into the building, you climb a couple of steps into an area containing shelves of Green Books; this is the marriage index department. The system of quarter endings is the same as it is with the Births. Once again, in the early days, the information gained from the lists is not as helpful as the later dates.

What you do is look up the name of the bridegroom and note the reference number, and then find the maiden name of the bride. If the two reference numbers are the same, you have the right couple. If they are different, don't waste your money ordering a certificate, because you will have the wrong people. From March 1912, the indexes contain the name of the spouse, so, as with the births, the search becomes that much easier.

Over the road at Alexander House, the books are Black. Once again the very early indexes are very short on information; just the name, registration area and reference number. From March 1866, the lists include the age of death, and then the system changed once again in June 1969 and the date of birth is to be seen in place of the age.

Those who have to go to Scotland find a very different, and much more helpful, system. Searchers have to pay a fee to go into the new Register house in Edinburgh, but they are allowed to see the certificates. This cuts out much of the waiting and enables one to move on with the search without waiting at home for certificates to arrive in the post.

If your ancestors were dotted about all over the country, transport costs might persuade you to employ a professional to assist you with certain parts of your search. An organisation known as AGRA - The Association of Genealogists and Record Agents - will provide a list of member genealogists. There are also many other good genealogists who are not members of AGRA.

Always find out the genealogists' rates and what the research is likely to cost. Many clients send a lump sum, and work is conducted until the money is exhausted. But behind all this is the fact that it's much more fun to do your own work; in many cases it takes years to compile a family tree, but don't get disheartened.

One golden rule is not to attempt to search too many branches of the tree at the same time.

In the January "Family Tree", we shall go further into civil and parish records. In the meantime, the person taking first steps into the intriguing world of genealogy will have plenty to do.

#### AGRA — The Association of Genealogists and Record Agents:

Membership of AGRA is open to professionals who have a substantial experience in genealogical research and can provide satisfactory references and examples of work. By accepting membership, members agree to abide by a detailed code of practice.

Almost all Irish probate records were destroyed by a fire in the four courts in Dublin in 1922, although many indexes to the records survived.

The largest part of the old parish church records are now in County Records offices, although some are still retained by the clergy. It is best to ring the CRO to establish where the records you need are, before you travel.



*Some people are great hoarders.*

# The Society of Genealogists on the move

MAY I, on behalf of the executive committee and members of the Society of Genealogists, congratulate you on the appearance of your first issue and wish you well.

Your birth coincides with a remarkable development in the history of this Society. For, on July 7, after 30 years in a splendid Victorian but quite impractical — and latter very restricting — house in South Kensington, the society closed its doors and packed for its move to a splendid modern and completely refurbished building at 14, Charterhouse Buildings, London, EC1M 7BA.

In the 73 years of its existence, the society has collected some 45,000 volumes, including transcripts of almost half the parish registers of the country, documents relating to at least 12,000 families, indexes totalling some sixty-five million entries, and a varied collection of material on all aspects of genealogy, heraldry and topography.

The new rooms were opened on Wednesday, August 1. The new library is open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm, and on Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm. The library is always closed on Mondays.

The society, which is both a registered charity and a limited company, has been under Royal patronage for many years. The present



Anthony Camp (Director)



Old address, 37 Harrington Gardens.

Patron, Prince Michael of Kent, succeeded the late Lord Mountbatten, who had taken an active interest in its growth for some 23 years, after succeeding the late Queen Mary. We have about six-and-a-half thousand members, of whom about a thousand live overseas, but non-members are allowed to use the library on payment of hourly, half-daily and daily fees.

A simple guide, "Using the library of the Society of Genealogists," is given to all members and should ultimately be read by anyone intending to carry out research there. Catalogues of the society's collections of parish registers, directories, poll books, census indexes, etc. are published regularly, and a new catalogue of the extensive collection of monumental inscriptions is with the printer.

For 60 years, the society has published the quarterly "Genealogists' Magazine", containing articles of general interest to genealogists, particularly with regard to sources, and detailed lists of all the material coming into the library. Cost of this is generally included in the annual subscription, but it can be subscribed to separately. A new venture has been a second quarterly, "Computers in Genealogy," now in its second year, which has proved extremely popular. There is a separate subscription for this.

The society also publishes other works of interest to genealogists, such as the definitive series of volume on parish registers, "The National Index of Parish Registers". It is an index to the wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1750-1800, and smaller booklets on Quakers, Jews, Methodists, monumental inscriptions, London cemeteries, handwriting, etc.

In recent years, the society has promoted lecture tours in the United States, but it is well known in England for its classes for beginners, its winter lectures, its day and week-end conferences, and its sponsorship of the week-long English Genealogical Conference, another of which took place this August in York.

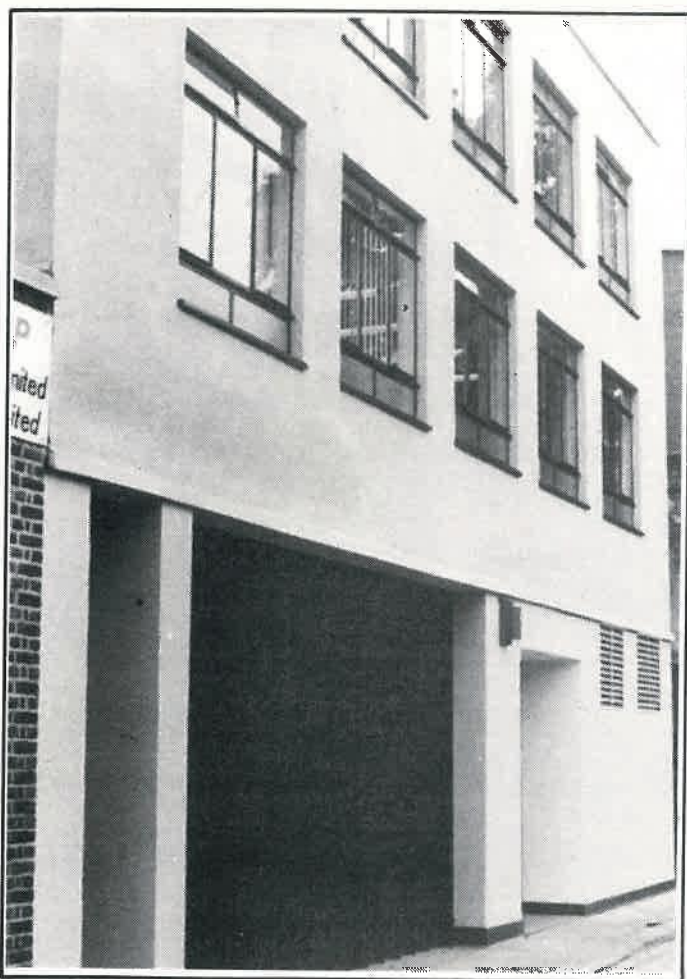
In 1986, to celebrate its 75th anniversary, it will be organising an international congress at Oxford. The society's new home will have a large lecture room in the basement so that events of this kind are likely to become more frequent.

The society undertakes a certain amount of research in its own collections and elsewhere for members and others who cannot come to London, but we receive more than eighteen thousand letters a year — sometimes as many as 230 a day — from all over the world. And there is clearly a limit to the amount of advice we can give.

Those who ask, for instance, if we have "anything on their name" are generally told to come and look for themselves and to read the guide before they come. They will then know that there are several indexes and collections which will need to be consulted and that, after an hour's work, they will have begun to scratch only the surface of the available material.

Full details of the society's facilities and fees, with a list of the publications stocked and sold, may be had by writing to me at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, London EC1M 7BA. Please enclose a stamped and addressed envelope or international reply coupons.

Anthony J Camp  
Director



*Society of Genealogists new H. Q. 14 Charterhouse Buildings, London EC1M 7BA*



*The Microfilm Reading Room (Lower Library)*



*Relaxing over coffee in the Members' Room.*



*The Upper Library with Boyd's Marriage Index.*



*The Upper Library with the Document Collection in the background.*



*Part of the Document Collection with the Family History shelves in the background.*



*Part of the Middle Library on the First Floor.*

# Meeting people

## How Genealogy is used in a good cause

### Col Bramwell Pratt, of the Salvation Army's Social Services Investigation Department

ON the face of it, the Salvation Army would seem to have little to do with genealogy. But the army is more than just religious services and musical sections. Many an old soldier has reason to be grateful for the various kinds of aid provided by the Salvation Army during wars.

The investigation department has its headquarters at 110, Middlesex Street, London, only a few minutes' walk from Liverpool Street Station. In charge of the organisation of the department is Colonel Bramwell Pratt, who, as his Christian name suggests, was born into a Salvation Army family, at Guernsey in the Channel Islands. The family was always on the move to different postings and Col Pratt has seen many different parts of the world as a result.

After rising through the ranks on his own behalf, eventually he settled in this post some 21 years ago. Col Pratt and his 25 researchers and case workers can take credit for reuniting thousands of families over the years. The department handles some 5,000 cases a year and many more inquiries, seven out of 10 of which do not come within their scope. Much of the research is done in St Catherine's House, Alexandra House, and Somerset House. The background of all their clients has to be thoroughly researched in order not to miss vital clues.

The biggest percentage of requests for help come from parents worried because their children have left home and their whereabouts are unknown. The department is very proud that it is able to handle these cases with confidentiality. Many of the missing children do not want to go home and, if they are over the age of minors, Col Pratt's department does not try to make them do so. But at least the parents are reassured that the children are alive and well, and, if any of the children need help, Col Pratt and his workers are only too happy to oblige. The department also never reveals addresses without prior consent.

One of Col Pratt's happiest cases was when a lady living in Australia asked the Army if it could find out if she had any siblings in Britain — it turned out she had 10 of them and they had quite a reunion! The oldest couple to be reunited were Walter and Lena who had not seen each other for 79 years. Their parents had split up at the turn of the century and contact between brother and sister lost.

The work of the social services department was started by Mrs Booth, wife of the founder of the Army. She was concerned by the number of young women who coming to work in London at the time, were being forced into prostitution and worse. She used to meet the girls at the railway stations and help them over the initial period in the capital.

The investigation offshoot will be 100 years old in 1985. In its early days it was often referred to as "Mrs Booth's Enquiry Bureau". The bureau will take on only enquiries from close relatives. It does not, however, do family tree tracing and it must know the reason why the people wish to contact their relatives.

This is to avoid complications that may arise owing to the lack of knowledge in the initial period. The social services department traces relatives of people who are dying, and children who have been fostered in care and need to contact their parents for some reason. Prison-

ers having served their sentences are also helped by the tracing service.

There are more than 1,000 centres in Britain, many of which have Social Service skills, and the work is also carried out in 86 countries throughout the world, with much multi-directional exchange of information.

Col Pratt's assistant, Major Bob Fairclough, has been a case worker in England for over a year. He has spent some years in South Africa and often become involved in inquiries over there concerning people in Britain.

Both men clearly enjoy their work and have the style which inspires confidence and trust for those who seek their aid.

**Colonel Pratt (centre) with twin brothers Robin and Noel. Each knew nothing of the other's existence until reunited by the Salvation Army social services investigation department 42 years later.**



## Letter to the Editor

AS a hybrid environmental pressure-group/local history society with our own Heritage Centre we get quite a large number of genealogical enquiries. Though of course we do not compete with professional genealogists (indeed we often advise enquirers to seek their help) we can often supply information not available to genealogists.

The purpose of this letter is to suggest that readers *always* try local societies for informa-

tion, even where they have commissioned a professional genealogist. The reason for this is that some societies (at least this one) file and cross-reference by name all the enquiries they get.

The basic reason for doing this is to add to our own knowledge of the area (because those tracing their family history invariably have valuable information to give us as well as to seek).

However, there is the useful by-product that we amass a growing body of personal information that can be useful to other enquirers. We have been at the game for some 10 or 12 years now and it is by no means unusual for us to be

able to put two, or even three (the record so far is four) related enquirers in touch with one another to their considerable mutual advantage.

This, in case you wonder, doesn't mean any loss for professional genealogists because we find most of our enquirers are making their own enquiries — to begin with at least.

A very important point, I think.

**ARTHUR PERCIVAL, MBE, BA, FSA  
Hon Director,  
Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre,  
Preston Street, Faversham,  
Kent ME13 8NS.**



# The public records office... Chancery Lane and Kew... some references to emigration

THERE are many references in papers in the PRO to individuals and whole families who emigrated to the various colonies and other countries of the world. But sadly there is no single index, as this would be a massive undertaking. The information people are looking for can be gleaned from one of the numerous classes of records held at Chancery Lane and Kew.

Most of the material is described in officially-published series of calendars and other various indexes and books which are available to the public in the search department. Many books are available in public libraries in which there are lists of various records in the PRO, although these are very soon out of date because new material is becoming available all the time.

Other short lists of, and numerous letters to and from emigrants and settlers, can be found in separate bundles and volumes in the various classes of public records. Persons wishing to make their own searches must first obtain a reader's ticket, obtainable by personal application to the PRO. They are free of charge, but the applicant must be able to produce some form of identification.

It cannot be stressed enough that searchers must have a good idea of what they are looking for, and must do some homework first, or they will be wasting a lot of time for no results. This month we are printing the contents of the emigration reference papers held at Chancery Lane. In January, we shall publish the ones held at Kew.

## EXCHEQUER, KINGS REMEMBRANCER'S DEPARTMENT

**Licences to pass beyond the seas (E157):** These are records which were kept of soldiers who took the oath of allegiance before going to serve in the Low Countries between 1613 and 1624. Also for licences for people going mostly to Holland between 1624 and 1632 and for passengers going to New England, Barbados, Maryland, Virginia and the other colonies between 1634 and 1639 and in 1677.

## PRIVY COUNCIL

**Registers (PC2)** extending with only a few small gaps from 1540 to the most present day. They contain notes of proceedings of the Privy Council, its orders and instructions on many matters, and the reports of committees, with the papers accompanying them, sometimes entered at length, and sometimes in abstract only. There are numerous entries concerning the Colonies, and about the petitions and letters of people going there or already resident there, and all such entries as occur in the registers of the period between 1613 and 1783 have been printed in Vols I to V of acts of the Privy Council of England, Colonial Series (London 1908-1912).

**Plantation books PC5** cover the period 1678 to 1806 and contain amongst other things copies of commissions, instructions, orders and letters issued to governors and other

administering Colonial Governments. Warrants for the appointment of Colonial Councilors, for letters of marque and for grants and surrenders of offices. All but one of the 16 volumes are indexed, and the material in them was included by the editors in the **Acts of the Privy Council Colonial Series**.

**Papers, mainly unbound (PCI)** These contain few documents before 1700. They are many and varied but some relate to the Colonies. Reference to the 4570 bundles in this class is by descriptive list available in typescript in the PRO search rooms. Most of the Colonial Papers between 1676 to 1783 are registered on the acts of the Privy Council of England, Colonial Series Vol. six (1912).

## ASSIZE RECORDS

**Indictments, Depositions, brown minute books and miscellanea:** Classes of records of the six assize circuits into which England was divided in the 17th and 18th centuries, can provide details about felons who were sentenced to death on conviction for manslaughter, horse stealing, housebreaking etc, but afterwards reprieved for transportation to the colonies. There are some links traceable between these records and those of the Home Office, criminal records and Convict Transportation registers held at Kew.

## CHANCERY

**Patent Rolls (C66):** These contain various entries relating to grants of offices and lands in America and elsewhere. Some can be traced in the MS indexes available in the PRO Search Room, and those for the period 1606-1702 are included in J. C. Hotten, **Original Lists of Persons Emigrating to America**.

**Proceedings in Chancery Lane suits:** Arranged in a variety of classes for different date ranges, and sub-divided by names of clerks who shared the business and custody of the records thereof, extend over a long period from the late 14th century to the mid 19th century. Among them may be found references to people who had become settlers in the colonies, but the difficulties in searching the lists, arranged under plaintiff names only, are considerable.

**Chancery Masters Exhibits (various Classes):** These are linked with suits proceeding in the Chancery Court, and contain some useful items, such as grants of land in American colonies.

**Treasury Solicitor West New Jersey Records (T.S.12):** 1675 to 1921 relate to tracts of land in West and East New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New England and elsewhere, divided up as shares of the West New Jersey Society, a company formed in 1691. The records contain many references, original letters, minute books, transfer of shares, deeds, papers of claim etc.

**General Series Papers TS 18:** These include a series of contacts, 1884-1867, for the transportation of named convicts etc to Australia TS18/460-515.

# Tontines

TONTINES - were a way in which governments between 1693 and 1789 raised money. The idea proved popular with the very wealthy. The system worked thus — a person invested a sum of money, and was guaranteed a yearly income during the lifetime of a person he chose as partner in the scheme. For obvious reasons they usually nominated a younger relative. As the nominees died off, there was more money in the fund to go round fewer people, and as time elapsed the annuity was worth more. Around 15,000 people joined in eleven tontines. Records of these are held at the Public Records office.

When poor people had a struggle to make ends meet the overseers of their parish had the power to help them out. It was a very early form of National Assistance. Even today people in some parts of the country refer to the NI as the parish.

# Societies in brief

## The Caraher Family History Society

THE Society is a member of the FFHS and specialises in assisting family historians who are of Scots or Irish descent, and not just those bearing that name. They are able to provide information to help research by people whose ancestors emigrated from those two countries. A well-documented handbook will be available at Christmas at only £1.50. Membership costs £4 per year, and enquiries about this or the handbook can be made to Mrs D. Caraher-Manning, 71 King Street, Creiff, Perthshire, Scotland, PH7 8RD.

## The North of Ireland Family History Society

THE Society was formed in 1979 and is an associate member of the FFHS and a member of the Northern Ireland record users group. Its first journal was published this year, and costs £1.25 if you live in Ireland or £1.50 to the British Isles.

The Society has branches in Bangor, North-down, Lisburn, Killyleigh, Craigavon and Belfast. Membership costs between £4 and £5, depending on what part of the world you live, and this includes two copies of the magazine each year. Membership is open to people of all nationalities.

Contact the Rev H. Kelso, Queens University Teachers Centre, Upper Crescent, Belfast, Northern Ireland. BT7 1NT.

## The Mansfield & District Family History Society

THIS recently-formed society meets on the third Thursday in each month except August and December, at 7.30 p m, in the Community Arts Centre, Leeming Street, Mansfield. At its November meeting, Bill Clay-Dove, the author of the Sutton-in-Ashfield article in this issue, will be giving a talk.

All the societies calendaring and members' interests, along with its own library, will be available at no charge to the general public at the local studies section in the Mansfield Public Library.

Chairman is Mr Dennis Hill, a professional genealogist, who teaches the subject in local education centres. Membership £4 per year. Membership Secretary, Ann Armes, 19 Spencer Street, Mansfield, Notts.

# The Federation of Family History Societies

## Formation and aims of the Federation

THE Federation of Family History Societies was formed in 1974, as a result of the growing interest in the study of family history. In a decade, its membership has grown to almost 150 societies, spread across the world and including national, regional and one-name groups in the British Isles, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

It represents the interests of around 75,000 family historians. Its principal aims are to co-ordinate and assist the work of societies or other bodies interested in British family history, genealogy and heraldry, and to foster co-operation and regional projects in these subjects. It was granted charitable status in 1982.

## Membership and organisation

MEMBERSHIP of the Federation is open to any society or body specialising in family history or an associated discipline. Full membership is open to properly-constituted organisations in the British Isles, while Associate membership is an option available to overseas family history, genealogical and heraldic groups, and to other bodies within the British Isles, for many of whom family history is a secondary interest.

Each county in England and Wales is served by at least one family history society. The Federation Council, consisting of representatives of all the member societies, meets in Britain twice a year. At these meetings, representatives can exchange views and debate matters of importance to family historians. Council defines policy, which is implemented by an elected executive committee, with a chairman, vice-chairman, general secretary and treasurer as chief officers. In common with many hobbies, all work for the Federation and its member societies in the UK is undertaken by volunteers, whose aim is to help those who wish to become involved in their fascinating hobby. Most committee members have full-time jobs and family history work has to be fitted into evenings and weekends, so they have neither the time nor the means to carry out detailed research for enquirers.

## Publications

'FAMILY History News and Digest' is the Federation's journal, which is published twice a year. It contains news of the activities of all

member societies, as well as current information on many aspects of family history. The Digest section of each issue carries more than 400 abstracts of articles appearing in genealogical or heraldic journals, or other publications of interest to the family historian. The Digest section is classified and is an effective cumulative index to current literature for family history.

As each issue carries an up-to-date list of member societies, with the addresses of their secretaries, its value as a publicity medium is considerable. Copies of 'Family History News and Digest' are sent to individual subscribers and institutions all over the world. With a view to assisting member societies and individuals with their research, the Federation commissions publications covering many aspects of family-history research and the whereabouts of relevant records. This feature of the Federation's work will be dealt with in more detail in a future issue.

## Projects

NATIONAL projects are co-ordinated by the Federation so that the work of several societies can be integrated to the benefit of all concerned. A plan is under way to transcribe all British monumental inscriptions. Other projects include developing more indexes, particularly marriage indexes for the period 1812-1837, and publicising the whereabouts of specialist indexes, covering a wide variety of topics ranging from an Index of Centenarians to a Dictionary of Scots Emigrants into England and Wales.

## Liaison with other organisations

THE Federation provides an authentic, audible and respected voice for the many thousands of individual family historians belonging to local and national societies. Representations are made to official bodies on matters affecting the study of family history and related topics and the Federation is frequently consulted before any action concerning records is taken. The Federation has a seat on the Record Users' Group, is represented on the British Conference for Local History, and has established regular liaison with the Society of Antiquaries, the Society of Archivists, the Historical Association, the British Records Association, and the British Records Society.

## Conferences and courses

Conferences are organised on a national basis, both by the Federation and by member societies in conjunction with the Federation. These draw the attention of the general public to the study of family history. Participants in conferences meet others with similar interests and, quite apart from the formal proceedings, many ideas are exchanged during informal discussions and social events.

Co-operation between family historians, heraldists, archivists, archaeologists and many others is essential as more and more people become involved in the study of their roots and heritage. The Federation is the ideal body to promote such co-operation.

## Contact

For further details, contact the general secretary, Mrs Ann Chiswell, at 96, Beaumont Street, Milehouse, Plymouth, Devon PL2 3AQ, England. To ensure a reply, all correspondence to the Federation or its member societies should include a self-addressed envelope, with the appropriate UK postage stamps or three international reply coupons.

Pauline M Litton

*General Editor & Vice Chairman*

CIVIL Registration was introduced in England and Wales in 1837, in Scotland in 1855, in Ireland in 1864. In the Isle of Man in 1849 for births, 1864 for marriages and 1876 for deaths, and in the Channel Isles 1842.

In Scotland most of the Parish Records and the Civil ones are centralised in Edinburgh. Detailed lists of the Old Parish Records (the O P Rs) held in the Edinburgh Records offices may be found in detailed lists of old parochial registers of Scotland in the Society of Genealogists library.

Wales was conquered by England in 1284, and united administratively in 1542, since then the pattern of genealogical records have been almost identical. All Welsh Civil Records (ie births, marriages, deaths, census, wills, etc) will be found along with the English ones in London.

When people with Welsh ancestors go for a tour of churchyards looking for graves, it is a good idea to take an English-Welsh dictionary along if they do not speak Welsh, as many headstone inscriptions are in Welsh.

There are five census returns available for general public inspection 1841-1881. The 1841 census is not so valuable in information as the rest as the ages of the people over 15 need only to have been given to the nearest five years, and also the exact place of birth is not given.

The words last will and testament mentioned in the heading of wills means as follows: Will is connected with property and Testament, goods, furniture, stock etc.

Jewish merchants traded in England as early as the 11th century, but in 1290 it is estimated that around 16000 were expelled. Jews were then not permitted in England again until 1649 when the Sephardic Jews were allowed to begin to settle.

# FFHS

## Autumn Conference

By Michael Armstrong

OVER THE weekend of August 31 to September 2 the Norfolk and Norwich Genealogical society was host to the 1984 Autumn Conference, held in the splendour of the University of East Anglia at Norwich.

The weather was just right for the occasion, and more than 200 FFHS members attended as residents for the weekend, and a further 50 as day attenders on Saturday.

The Norfolk and Norwich Society must be congratulated on the organisation. Mrs L Donald was the organising secretary.

There was the usual collection of bookstalls and static exhibitions in the University house common room.

On the Friday evening, a talk was given by Victor Morgan, BA, on Mayor-making in sixteenth-century Norwich. It was preceded by an introduction to the conference by the conference chairman, Mr Patrick Palgrave-Moore, chairman of the host society.

On Saturday, the opening ceremony was performed by Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe, president of the Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society. He told an amusing tale of one of his ancestors, who worked in the Heralds' office, and had cause to want to alter an entry in a Yorkshire church marriage records book. His forgery was very poor and was soon spotted and, as a result, that was the only time in history that notepaper with the Heralds' office crest was posted from Wakefield Jail.

Sir Charles also spoke of Norwich as one of the great cities of the past, and the fact that a conference on family history was being held there was like bringing the past up to the present.

After the opening, a talk was given by Mr K Schurer BA, on Geographical mobility from 1750 to 1850. Communications and mobility were the theme of the conference.

This was followed by a lecture on social mobility in Tudor and Stuart Norwich by J F Pound MA, PhD.

After the dinner break, a number of activities were laid on. Those interested in ancestral homes were taken for a tour of Oxburgh Hall, the home of the Bedingfords.

For the less energetic, dinner was digested with a lecture by Mr A. Hassell-Smith, BA, PhD, FR Hist, about everyday life in Stiffkey in Elizabethan times. The third activity was the half-yearly council meeting of the FFHS of which more will be seen later.

Saturday ended with a private viewing of the Sainsbury Collection, followed by the banquet, at which the guest speaker was Mr J. K. Wiltshire.

Two further lectures were given on Sunday morning, one by Rachel Young MA on Family Life in Tudor and Stuart England, and the other by E. A. Wrigley PhD, on Family, Household and Marriage in Earlier times. Sunday afternoon saw an excursion of the City of Norwich.

### The Federation Council meeting

For the first time this was held on Saturday afternoon, rather than Sunday morning. The meeting opened with a special general meeting to discuss subscriptions.

The Federation's president, Lt Col I. S. Swinnerton, took the chair and said the Federation had achieved much during its first ten years. Now was the time to look forward with confidence to the next ten, and to try to improve on what had been established. He said that, apart from the visual things, such as publications, the Federation had worked very hard behind the scenes. They talked regularly with the Public Records offices, and had built up a good working relationship with them.

The Federation had grown, so had the workload. More than 6,000 letters a year were now being handled by the secretary.

The money coming in from member societies was now no longer enough to cover costs, and it was being subsidised by the profits being made from publications.

As the future meant that they would be busier than ever, they must get into the computer age. Also, more money would be saved by the Federation doing its own printing, and perhaps an HQ would need to be established with paid staff.

All these things needed extra revenue, and it was suggested that this be raised partly by increasing the fees paid by member groups.

The proposed increases were: Groups with up to 99 members, £20 per year; 200-499 members, £50 per year; 500-999 members, £75 per year; 1000 plus members, £100 per year.

After much discussion, the general feeling of the meeting was that it agreed with the proposals. Some even considered that it would not be enough to cover the costs of future plans. A vote was taken and it was decided that the delegates should take the proposals back to their own groups and a postal vote be taken, with all votes to be in by October 31.

The chairman of the Federation, Mr George Pelling, took the chair for the rest of the meeting. He reported that the highlight of the year had been the 10th anniversary garden party, which had been a great success.

It was reported that the General Registry Office was considering putting copies of records on microfilm, to relieve pressure on the searchrooms, but at a cost of £10 to £12 per roll. This seemed a little expensive, and microfiche would be more practical and cheaper.

Mr J. F. Packe, of the Mormon Church, said that they had offered help to GRO with the project, and with the costs if microfiche were used.

The Alberta FHS of Canada was welcomed as a new member group, with about 200 members.

The next meeting will be held on April 20, 1985, during the conference at which Wiltshire Family History Society will be host.

## Guides for Genealogists Family and Local Historians

from J. S. W. Gibson  
Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough,  
Oxford OX7 2AB

Unless shown otherwise publications are priced at £1.00 (plus postage of 20p in the U.K. or 75p for airmail o'seas)

### Land Tax Assessments, 1690-1950

Ed. Jeremy Gibson and Dennis Mills.  
Updated, 1984.

### Quarter Sessions Records for Family Historians:

A select list. Second edition. 1983.

### Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licences:

A Guide to their Location and Indexes. 2nd edition (updated), 1983.

### Record Offices: How to Find Them.

2nd edn. (updated), 1983. Street maps, showing record offices, car parks, railway and bus stations. English and Welsh historic counties. 1984 supplement with new location of Society of Genealogists. Compiled by Jeremy Gibson and Pamela Peskett.

### Where to Find the International Genealogical Index

Ed. Jeremy Gibson and Michael Walcot. 1984.

### Marriage, Census and Other Indexes for Family Historians.

Amalgamates and updates Marriage Indexes and Census Indexes and incorporates the 'Specialist Indexes' section from the Directory of Family History Project Coordinators. 1984.

### Census Returns 1841-1881 on Microfilm:

A Directory to Local Holdings. 4th edn. (updated), 1984.  
£1.20 (+ 20p for postage in U.K.; + 75p airmail overseas)

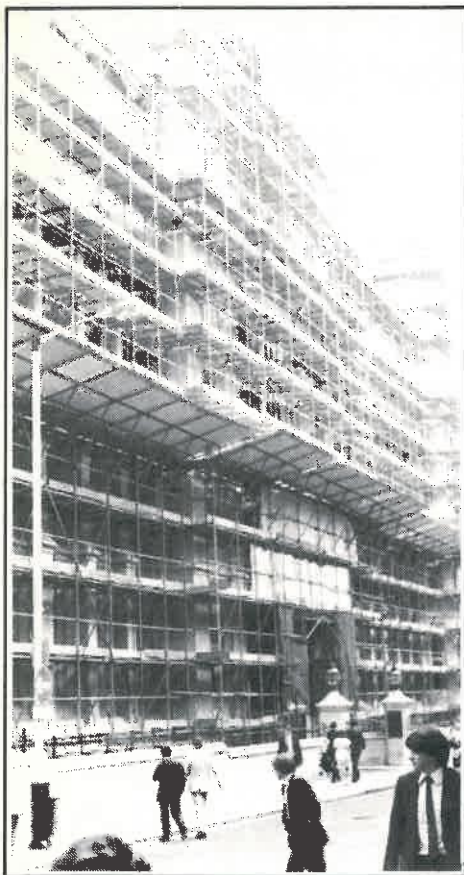
### A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdictions:

Where to Look for Wills. Second edition (updated), 1983.  
£2.00 (+ 25p for postage in U.K.; + £1.10 airmail overseas)

Also available from the  
Federation of Family History Societies,  
4 Churchill Drive, Amblecote, Stourbridge  
DY8 4JS

Before 1754 when the Hardwick Marriage Act was passed, it was possible for people to be married in churches other than the Parish Church and this was not recorded, or if it was it may prove hard to find the record. On the passing of the Act, all people were obliged to marry at the Parish Church, although they may also have had another ceremony at their own particular house of religion. This means that it is possible at times to find a marriage recorded in two different churches.

Many old wills have attached to them an inventory of the deceased's goods. These are usually very interesting and give one an insight to the values of things at the time. A copy of one in our possession dated 1769 gives the value of "Hay firewood and 1 pigg" at £6 and "1 cow in the close" at £5. The full total for all the effects came to £46 5s. 0d. (£46.25p) and that included all the furniture bedding and cooking utensils many of which were copper. This particular gentleman was fairly well off.



Last year Somerset House had its face washed. This year it's the turn of St. Catherines House and the Public Records office. Our picture shows the Chancery Lane building encased in scaffolding. The work will be completed next year.

## Woollen

THE WOOLLEN Acts 1666 or 1679 stated — "No corpse of any person (except those who shall die of the plague) shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud, or anything whatever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver, or any stuff or thing, other than what is made of sheep's wool only . . . or be put into any coffin lined or faced with another material but sheep's wool only."

The Act provided for severe penalties to be handed out, at sessions and assizes, to people who did not comply with it.

In the early years, the Act was taken so seriously that affidavits were made that the deceased was buried in wool. Very often special registers were kept containing affidavits. A footnote on the affidavits read:-

*"NB — Affidavits of burial in woollen must. Be delivered into the minister of the parish where the deceased was buried, in eight days from the time of burial, on the pain of the penalty of five pounds for neglect thereof."*

At the end of the burial service in many churches it became the custom for the clerk to ask of the mourners. "Who makes the affidavit?" This was actually done by one of the relatives, at which time a note was made in the register or the special affidavit book.

A typical affidavit would read:

*"April 15. Was buried Maria Hallsworth, wife of Samuel Hallsworth of this parish. The 21st day of the same month was made this affidavit, that she was not wrapt in anything other nor her coffin lined with anything but what was made of sheep's wool only by John Hallsworth." Witness to this affidavit Mary Mokes, Ann Tideswell, before Mr Bilton.*

Gradually the Act became increasingly disregarded, and payment of the fine was regarded more as having to pay a tax. The Act was finally repealed in 1814.

# Free package holidays — for life

## Australia -

### Transportation

TRANSPORTATION as an expedient means of ridding the country of undesirables was practised long before the eighteenth century.

During the Medieval Ages people were sometimes offered banishment as an alternative to the death penalty and this was continued through into the Elizabethan era. The great seafaring nations, Spain, Portugal and France, capitalised on criminals to colonise new lands in the early fifteenth century.

In theory, it was a cheap and easy form of punishment which just might lead to the hardened criminals turning over a new leaf. In practice, it led to crime rates increasing in the new, developing towns. One thing it did do was to provide the colonies with a constant source of cheap labour.

Around 5,000 criminals were deported up to the eighteenth century and these included religious dissidents and political offenders. By 1775 it had become a major form of punishment. Crimes that were punishable by transportation included grand larceny, which started at the theft of one shilling, receiving or buying stolen goods, stealing iron or copper or ripping or stealing lead, stealing from furnished lodgings and stealing letters, assault with intent to rob, and stealing fish from rivers or ponds. Bigamy, manslaughter, counterfeiting coins and stealing timber by no means end the list.

Usually offenders were given one chance before being transported, but this was not always the case.

Not all colonials were criminals. Poor people and those down on their luck made the trip hoping for better things. Many went out as indentured servants, and labour market merchants soon discovered that white servants were in keen demand. As many as half of the people crossing the Atlantic were thought to have been indentured servants bound for between two and seven years.

Around 30,000 convicts received court sentences for transportation between 1720 and 1775, most going to Maryland and Virginia. Whilst in service the servants were treated in many cases as though they were convicts,

many suffering whippings and beatings. They were also bought and sold like slaves.

Sea passages were very dangerous and unhealthy and took around 12 weeks. Convicts suffered from dysentery, scurvy, canker and mouthrot. The great variation of temperatures caused frostbite and heatstroke during the journey. The conditions below decks, with the stench caused by prisoners being kept in overcrowded conditions, must have been terrible. The ones who did survive the ordeal and arrived in a fit condition were sold for around £10; those with a trade could fetch £25. Some of the more wealthy convicts were allowed to buy their freedom, but were never allowed to return to Britain.

When revolution ripped through the colonies in 1775, the British Government was forced to think of alternative countries where convicts could be sent. Transportation to the East Indies was considered, but the East India Company had no demand for labour. Eventually, the hulks of old ships were moored on the River Thames, and these were used to house the prisoners while they served terms of hard labour in England.

After the American War of Independence, it was hoped that the States would take up accepting convicts, but a firm no was the reply. Gambia was also considered and discounted, due to the unhealthy environment.

In 1738, it was suggested that a colony should be founded in New South Wales in Australia, and the Government, faced with overcrowding in the hulks and prisons, agreed. The first penal settlement was founded at Botany Bay and 750 convicts were sent there to start the colony in 1785.

The choice of the country to which to send the men convicted of various crimes in England was not very popular with the government of the day.

# By courtesy of the British Government

# here we come to the Colonies

They would have preferred the old dumping ground of America, but this had become impossible after the War of Independence. To send convicts to Australia was to be more expensive even than keeping them in English prisons, but in the absence of an alternative they had little choice. A very short-sighted policy was pursued in the early days, as no skilled craftsmen, farmers or mechanics were sent out.

In 1798 the Government had a shock when presented with a bill for almost £80,000. An investigation revealed that it cost £27 14s per head to transport, feed and clothe each convict. This compared with £10 per head per year to keep convicts in the hulks, moored on the River Thames, after the value of their labour had been taken into account.

Despite all this it was after some discussion that the policy of sending the convicts to Australia should be continued, since, if it were stopped, there would be serious overcrowding in prisons in Britain and new ones would have to be built, which would also prove very costly.

Gradually, as more food was grown in the colony, the cost per head of keeping each prisoner came down.

A policy of trying to get respectable settlers and their families to take convicts to work on their farms was adopted, and it was hoped that, as many of them would live in with the hosts, the convicts would become better behaved than they would have by working in gangs with other convicts. As it turned out, very few families thought much of the idea of convicted people living on their premises.

To encourage honest settlers, the government, rather begrudgingly, started to give parcels of land small grants to help with the purchase of tools. They also started offering former soldiers, who had been serving in the colony, similar incentives. It never seemed to matter

whether the man knew anything about farming or not.

After a while, it even became the policy to offer the freed convicts grants of land to encourage settlement. They would be given 30 acres, and, if they had a wife, a further 20, with another 10 for each child. If they were model workers, they were granted a further number of acres. Very few of the convicts knew anything of farming, so not all that many took up the offer.

After expiration of their sentences, most of the former convicts were left to fend for themselves. If they wanted to return to Britain, which most did, they had to find a ship whose captain would allow them to work their passage. The Government would have preferred all of them to have stayed in Australia, but did not prevent them from coming ashore once they reached their homeland.

Between 1791 and 1800, 1,284 convicts were freed. Of these, only 379 took grants to farm their own land. Many of them found that they were not suited to the task, and either came home or worked for others.

By 1803, more of the former convicts were gradually doing better, and in that year 464 were cultivating farms. Those who did not take the land offered were officially branded as being "idle and worthless".

The government also ran some public farms, using all convict labour. This way, though they had to keep the men in food and clothing, at least they had the benefit of their labours.

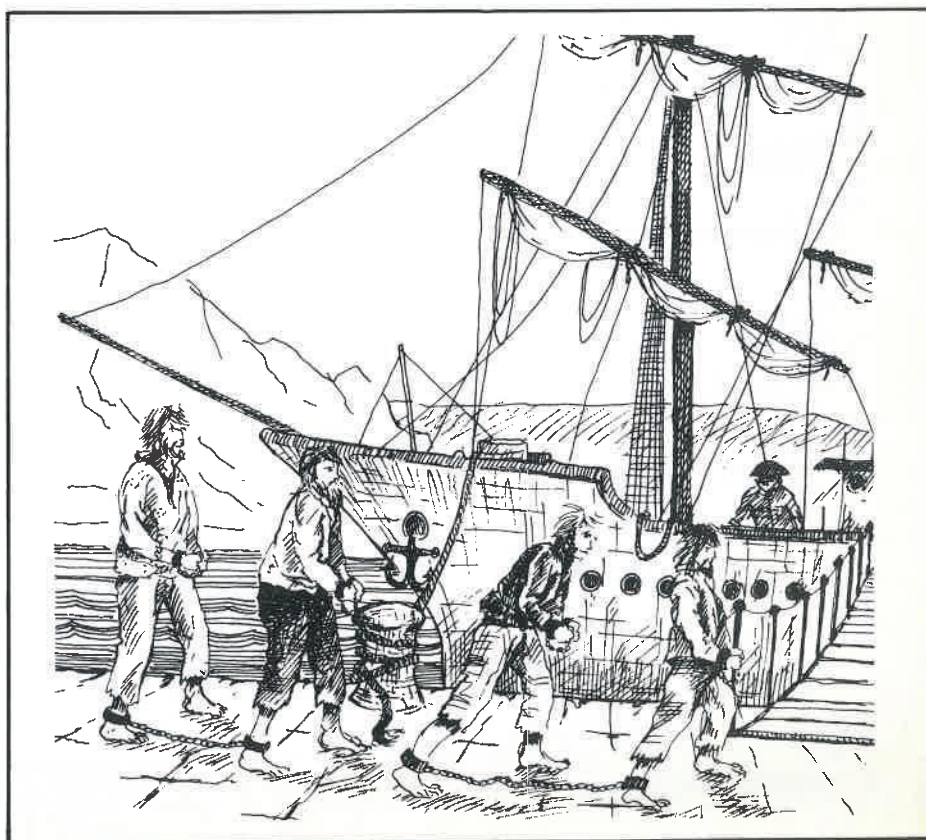
After the day's work was finished, the convicts had little to do, other than drink. In New South Wales, drunkenness and crime were rife. It was said the convicts drank an average of three gallons of spirit a year, six times more than the average in Britain. The NSW convicts were financially better off than most of those in other parts of the colony.

In time, the wool industry was given some official encouragement. There was a great local demand for clothes made from it, and also for the meat from sheep which was needed to feed the growing population.

By the time a new governor-in-chief, Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, took over in 1809, there was no shortage of labour. Colonel Macquarie's brief was to improve the colony. His personal aims were to improve discipline, encourage religion, and generally make the country a better place in which to live.

Towards these ends, he tried to improve the police force, but, as many of the recruits were former convicts, there was obviously difficulty. He also closed down the government-owned farms, and spread the labour round the private ones.

Continued next issue



## Your questions answered

Since this is our first issue, we have no reader's questions to answer. We have, however, selected a number of interesting questions posed by people we know who have recently started tracing their own family histories.

Readers are invited to send in questions they would like answered. We regret that we are unable to answer questions by post. But we will include in this section as many answers as we can each month in this section.

**Q** On my grandfather's birth certificate his father's occupation was given as butcher (journeyman). What was a journeyman?

**A** The Guild of Crafts recognised three grades of skill. 1. a master craftsman, 2. a journeyman, 3. an apprentice.

A journeyman was a man who hired out his services to a master by the day, and his usual ambition was to own his own business eventually.

**Q** I have traced my family back in one parish to my great-grandfather, who died there in 1886 but before that, there was no one at all in the parish with our surname. How do I find out where he was married or born?

**A** The easiest way would be to look in the 1881 census returns for that parish. If you can find the family, it should say where both he and your great-grandmother were born.

**Q** Is every person born and married since 1837 in the indexes of St. Catherine's House?

**A** They should be but not all managed to be there in the early days of the system.

**Q** When did the first church register start?

**A** The first time an order was issued regarding church registers was in 1538, but it was not enforced for a long time. Only about 25% of the parish churches kept records before 1560. It was only between 1600 and 1700 that the practice became widespread.

**Q** Why can we not see actual census returns and the birth, marriage and death certificate though at Somerset House we can look at wills, and in the county records office the parish records?

**A** The large research in the GRO and census rooms would soon damage the fragile papers, and these could not be replaced. Some CROs are now starting to put the parish records on film for the same reason. The wills at Somerset House are produced and viewed only under strict supervision.

**Q** I have gone back through my line to 1680 in one parish. I have come to an end with one of my ancestors, who married there, but he was not born there. I have looked in all the surrounding parishes, in all the taxes returns, the Manor Rolls in the CRO and the Mormon IGI index for all England, but to no avail. What can I do now?

**A** Anyone who could answer that every time he or she was asked would be worth a fortune. Let's put that question to our readers. Maybe we shall get some good ideas.

**Q** Is it worthwhile becoming a member of the Society of Genealogists?

**A** The Society has without doubt one of the best collections of books and documents on genealogy in the world. Even if you are not able to find their services of use in your own family history, it is worth being a member just to spend a few days a year in the library. You'd be amazed at what you find there.

## Beginner's advice from the Public Records Office

IN the course of pursuing your family history you will sooner or later have occasion to visit the PRO. All records of a legal nature or of government departments which are considered worthy of preservation are stored at the PRO. They are a record of what has gone before and how legislation and policy have developed. The records are arranged in "groups" according to their origins and listed in order to aid the searcher in finding his or her way through them. Amongst this goldmine are are numerous items of interest to family historians. They were not selected with this purpose in mind but can be made to yield information of use in your research.

The PRO will probably not be your first port of call in your search. After having interrogated your oldest living relatives and come away with a lot of mismatched facts and half remembered memories to prove and sort out, you wend your way to the home of Civil Registration at St Catherine's House or to the Probate Registry at Somerset House. Armed with the information found in these two hives of activity you then need to flesh out your facts, add family groups together and find out whence all these people came.

To do this you turn to the census returns of the last century which are made available on microfilm at an outstation of the PRO in Portugal Street, London or in local record offices. Pre-census family history involves many places of deposit, local ecclesiastical and others. In the course of your research, however, you will need to return to the PRO. At its first home in Chancery Lane, London the PRO keeps some probate records, Non-Conformist registers of births, marriages and deaths, estate duty registers, hearth tax returns and other vital records, whilst its newer building at Kew Gardens houses army and navy records, records of merchant seamen, apprentices, tithe maps, and so on.

Please remember that all these records were not created or selected for your purposes but can be made to work for you if you are prepared to master their arrangement and finding aids.

Carol J. Dimmer  
Public Records Office  
Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1LR

## Some useful addresses

**Association of Genealogists and Record Agents (AGRA):** Secretary, 64 Oakleigh Park North, London N20 9AS

**Association of Scottish Genealogists and Record Agents:-** Secretary, Mrs. S. Pitcairn, 106 Brucefield Avenue, Dunfermline KY11 4SY

**Baptist Historical Society:-** Baptist Union Library, 4 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AB

**British Library, reference division:-** Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

**English Catholic Ancestor:-** Secretary, Mr. Leslie Brooks, Hill House West, Crookham Village, Aldershot, Hants.

**Church of Jesus Christ and the Latterday Saints:-** Hyde Park Chapel, 64 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PA

**Corporation of London Record Office:-** Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ

**General Register Office (GRO):-** St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP. (marriages and births) and Alexandra House, Kingsway. (Deaths)

**Greater London Records Office:-** 40 Northampton Road, London EC1

**Huguenot Society:-** Secretary, Miss I Scouloudi, 64 Victoria Road, London W8 5RH

**Jewish Records:-** The Mocatta Library, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

**Wills from 1858:-** Somerset House, The Strand, London WC2R 1LA

**General Register of Scotland:-** New Register House, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT, Scotland.

**The Society of Friends (Quakers):-** The Librarian, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

**Salvation Army (investigations dept):-** 110-112 Middlesex Street, London E1 7HY

**The Scottish Genealogy Society:-** 21 Howard Place, Edinburgh EH3 5JY

**The Scottish Record Office:-** PO Box 36, HM General Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YY, Scotland

We shall publish addresses useful to genealogists each month. If you are secretary of an establishment or organisation, and would like to be included in the lists, please let us know. There is no charge.

# The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies

## The Julian Bickersteth Memorial Medal

At a memorable reception and luncheon held at The Savoy Hotel, London on Thursday July 26 1984, the president of The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Major-General the Viscount Monckton of Brenchley presented the Julian Bickersteth Memorial Medal for 1984 to The Duke of Norfolk. This was a tangible mark of recognition of the Duke's own very considerable contributions to family history studies as well as of his support for the movement. At the same time the Trustees of the Institute were given an opportunity to recognise the contribution of the Heralds in the quinquennial year of the first charter of The College of Arms of which the Duke is juridical head and visitor. He joins the long list of previous recipients of this highly-prized award in the field of family history

Among those who have previously been awarded the Bickersteth Medal will be found the names of Sir Anthony Wagner, sometime Garter and now Clarenceux King of Arms, his successor in office Sir Colin Cole, Mr J. P. Brooke-Little, now Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, the founder and chairman of The Heraldry Society, Dr Peter Laslett and Dr E. A. Wrigley of The Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, Dr F. G. Emmison, the eminent historian and archivist, Sir Andrew Noble and Lt-Colonel Iain Swinnerton who did such good work in the early days of the Federation of Family History Societies, Dr Mark Fitch whose work has made so many exceptionally useful indexes to historical documentation available, Mr G. D. Squibb, Norfolk Herald Extraordinary, whose study of the laws of heraldry have provided us with insight into the workings of the heralds, M. Leon Jequier of l'Academie Internationale d'Heraldique, Major Francis Jones, Wales Herald, and Mr Peter Bartrum whose Welsh studies have demonstrated the great importance of the historical documentation of their people, Mr D. J. Steel whose enthusiastic efforts initiated the National Index of Parish Registers volumes produced by The Society of Genealogists, and several eminent persons since deceased, including the late Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

The Medal is approximately two inches in diameter of hall-marked gold-inlaid silver. On one side, within a wreath of laurels, the name of the recipient is engraved. On the other the coat of arms of Bickersteth (a flory of patonce cross charged with mullets and three roses in the chief, with the crest of an embowed arm, the hand grasping a scroll) is flanked by the heraldic badge of the Institute (a crane's leg - the pied de gru - pedigree - crowned) with the Bickersteth mottoes, *Frappe Fort and Esto Fidelis*.

Kenneth Julian Faithfull Bickersteth was born at Ripon on July 5 1885, the third son of the late Dr Samuel Bickersteth, one of a long line of Anglican clerics and educators. Educated at Rugby, Christ Church, Oxford, and Wells Theological College, he was ordained in 1909. As a curate at Rugby his life-long interest in education began. This took him to Australia where he led public schools and universities to new horizons and was held in high regard. During the First World War he served in France as an army chaplain and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in the front line. When he returned to England in 1933 to become a most successful headmaster of Felsted, he was appointed a chaplain to King George V and greatly enjoyed visiting Windsor to preach privately to the Royal family through four reigns. He struck up a close and lasting friendship with Archbishop Temple and was a mentor to his successors. In 1943, Temple invited him to Canterbury where his father and grandfather had been before him and he was appointed Archdeacon of Maidstone.

As a canon and Treasurer, he was largely responsible for raising funds for the restoration of the fabric of Canterbury Cathedral after the Second World War but it was soon in his mind to develop ideas for improvement in education. An educated nation, he believed, would be a nation at peace, living in security and with all men having respect for each other. His idealism left him with no regard for distinctions of class, race or creed though he would uphold and defend a catholic christianity as the surest route for salvation of souls. He took his message for education into the war-stricken and impoverished areas of London and the North and in Canterbury he was the pioneer for the promotion of a new university in Kent to be open to all who could achieve the necessary grades without regard for social or economic background.

Canon Bickersteth died on October 16 1962 having spent his life "doing good just by being what he was . . ." as was said by one well qualified to judge. His interest in education and the young never waned and it was from these very real promptings that his idea for the Institute arose. In the Spring of 1957 he had discussed with his god-son, Cecil Humphery-Smith, and others, his desire to see the structure and history of family life studied at an academic level with a view to discovering the causes and understanding of disruption, and in the hope that such study might encourage greater unity among families and family groups.

He rightly regarded the family as the essential basic unity of civilisation. Within a few months a small school of individuals interested in promoting the idea had come into being and before he died Julian Bickersteth saw the establishment of the Institute in its own premises in Canterbury. He left the full realisation of his aims to Cecil Humphery-Smith who founded the Institute and designed the medal, providing funds to enable the Trustees to make an appropriate annual award to persons who have contributed in significant and notable ways to the study of family history. In this way, the memory of the man who was the inspiration and sponsor of the work of the Institute is kept alive.



*Julian Bickersteth*

# Many researchers find famous people in their family history

# WELL



Sheila Williams.

IN this series we hope to prove that many people have famous connections. A known fact to some, to others a complete surprise.

Sisters Phyllis Nunn and Sheila Williams have known for most of their lives that the famous writer D H Lawrence had a place in their family tree. The connection with the Nottinghamshire-born author is made through their father, Alfred Harry Beardsall Payne. His mother, Hannah Beardsall, was sister to Lydia Beardsall, Lawrence's mother.

A gift for words runs, not surprisingly, through the family. Harry Payne composed limericks and made a name for himself in 1915, when he won £25 in a nationwide competition organised by the national magazine "John Bull". Mrs Williams still has the original handwritten efforts which clinched the prize for her father — worth in those days about six months' wages.



D. H. Lawrence (permission by Notts County Library Services)

He died in 1980, just three days short of his 100th birthday.

Great grandfather John Newton, 1802 to 1866, was a preacher and personal friend of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. Many of the hymns composed by Newton are still to be found today in popular hymn books.

Lydia, the daughter of John Newton, married George Beardsall, of Nottingham. They had eight children, one of whom, Hannah, married Henry James Payne. Their offspring included the limerick writer, Harry.

Lydia was described as high minded and pious. It is hard to understand why she married John Arthur Lawrence, to undergo the

harsh realities of being a miner's wife. The family settled in the then small mining village of Eastwood, near Nottingham.

The first of the Lawrence children was George, born 1876, then William, 1878, Emily, 1882, the author David in 1885, and finally Lettice Ada in 1887. It is said that Lydia wrote poems to keep her mind off the humdrum life of a miner's wife. D. H. Lawrence spent much of his adult life overseas but never forgot Eastwood and based many of his characters on its people.

Mrs Nunn, the elder of the two sisters, recalls a little of the Lawrence era, although, during the author's prime she was nothing more than a child.

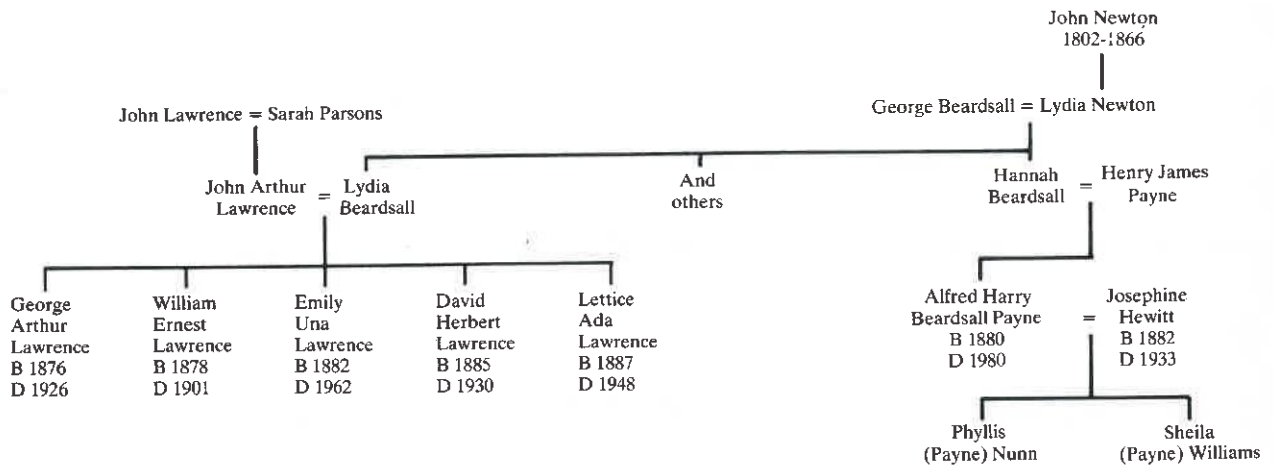


The Lawrence Family (permission by Notts County Library Services)



# CONNECTED?

The Family Tree



**Harry Payne's winning effort.**  
*A giddy young chauffeur named Bright  
 Demolished a wall in his fright  
 He tooted his horn as he flew round the lawn  
 And the hen laid an egg in her fright.*

**Are you well connected.  
 If so — would you like to tell us about it**

## JOHN BULL LIMITED.

Telephone 9837-B GERRARD  
 Telegraphic Address  
 HEROICALLY, LONDON

*93, Long Acre,  
 London, W.C.*

26th Nov., 1913

Dear Madam, Sir,

Herewith we have much pleasure in sending you cheque for £25. 0. 0. being the amount of the cash prize won by you in "Bullets" Competition No. 58. This recognition of the merit of your effort will, we hope, meet with your approval.

We beg to point out to you that the fact of having proved successful on this occasion in no way adversely affects your chance of receiving another prize, and we trust that on some future occasion your reward may be more substantial than at present.

With our most cordial good wishes.

*The Competition Editors*

The letter from the John Bull magazine informing Mr Payne of his competition win.

**The English Family 1450-1700.** Ralph A Houlbrook. Longman Publishing Group. Paperback. A fascinating account of family history. The book opens with a broad based introductory chapter, and thereafter each following one is devoted to a specific aspect of family life, ending with copious references to the sources used to research the work, and to further reading. There is a bibliography and a detailed index.

In his postscript Ralph Houlbrook remarks that works are still being published which are changing people's thoughts, including his own, on the roll of the English family.

This detailed and intriguing account has been drawn up from many and various sources, leaving the reader with the vivid impression of all levels of society. The conclusions of the collected evidence are still open to argument as further research is carried out. **PAMELA PEACOCK.**

**The New Bartholomew Paperback World Atlas**

Published by John Bartholomew & Son, July 5th, 1984. Price £2.75. Not genealogical in the strict sense of the word, but, as genealogists often need a world atlas to refer to, this is ideal for the job. It is inexpensive, yet clear and precise. Also suitable for the student, and as a general publication for the home bookshelf. From the same stable comes one of the most delightful books imaginable —

**Simple Heraldry** by Ian Moncreiffe and Don Pottinger. This book was first published by Thomas Nelson & Sons in 1953 and remained continuously in print until 1976. This fact alone should give some idea of its popularity. It was republished by Bartholomew in 1978 and is still going strong.

Those people who find heraldry a stodgy and indigestible subject, and yet yearn for the chance to understand it, take heart — for here is the answer. While the text of the book explains the basics of heraldry in a simple yet straightforward manner, it is the brilliant illustrating that really gets the arrow to its target. hard back. 63 pages. Price £3.95. **MICHAEL ARMSTRONG**

To avoid paying window tax, many people bricked up the windows and painted the brickwork in order to make them look like windows. Many of these can still be seen today, about 250 years later.

**My Family Tree Book.** By Eileen Totten, illustrated by Ann Doolan. Published by Bell & Hyman. Price £2.95. An ideal Christmas present for the junior family historian. Its first pages are set out for the child to fill in a little of their own personal details and later leaves are reserved for the parents and other earlier ancestors.

There is room for photographs, certificates and much other information. There are details too of where to find records, and a few pages on which to paint. Suitable in my opinion for the 8 to 10 age group. **MICHAEL ARMSTRONG.**

# Book reviews

**Genealogy for Librarians,** by Richard Harvey. Clive Bingley 1983:- The easily readable style, obvious enthusiasm and practical knowledge of the author gives this book a much wider appeal than might be assumed by a first glance at the title. It gives a great many genealogical sources arranged in groups by the information they provide, concentrating on English sources, and has very interesting chapters on career records and migration within England. It has a detailed and accurate index.

All those following any type of genealogical research will be able to glean information from this book, which may open up new trails and lead to fresh or overlooked sources. It is especially helpful to those who do not have easy access to libraries with a genealogy collection, when books likely to give the desired results can be requested locally or their whereabouts confirmed, before long journeys are undertaken.

This is a comprehensive guide to sources and can assist experts and novices on any type of genealogical research. It has certainly kindled an interest in genealogy in one whose forte is librarianship. **PAMELA PEACOCK.**

**The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers.** Published by Phillimore & Co., August 23, 1984. Edited by Cecil Humphery-Smith. Price £25. This must be just about the most comprehensive guide to the Parish records yet published, and of course the most up to date.

Its pages provide information on the old pre-1832 parish boundaries in 39 English counties, plus Monmouthshire, North, Central and South Wales. There is also an index to each county giving the dates of the parish records, and those which are now with the various Record Offices. Dates which are covered by the Mormon International Genealogical Index (IGI) even information on register transcriptions in the Society of Genealogists' library, and those found in Boydes and Pallots' marriage indexes, are also included. So too are the Non-conformist records held by the Public Records Office.

The first 92 pages are taken up by maps, 47 of which feature the old counties, divided into the various parishes, and the dates of the earliest records. The rest are topographical maps from James Bells "A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of England and Wales 1834" which are there to help researchers to pinpoint paths someone may have used to travel from one place to another.

At the end of each county index there is the address of the particular records office holding the parish records, and a feast of information regarding the size shape and population of each county. Also thrown in for good measure are such interesting titbits as the type of industry and even the rivers running through each area.

No professional, or keen amateur, family historian should be without this book.

The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and Phillimores are to be congratulated on the sheer amount of information contained in the 281 pages of this hard-back book, which should be of great help to genealogists for many years to come.

**The Journal of the Dalton Genealogical Society** was sent to us for review by the chairman Mr Michael Dalton of 2 Harewood Close, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0HE. It is very well put together, and, although naturally more absorbing if your name happens to be Dalton, it still contains plenty to interest many family historians. One of the few FHS magazines to contain photographs. If you happen to be a Dalton don't miss the January issue of "Family Tree" for the Dalton G.S. will be one of our guest societies. **MICHAEL ARMSTRONG**

## Publication of new List

WITH the agreement of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Pinhorn Publishers are proposing to publish a new (revised) edition of the list of historical, archaeological and kindred societies. The last one was compiled by Sarah E Harcup in 1968.

It is proposed that the list, which will be ready towards the end of 1985, will contain basic information to be found in the Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies, published by the American Association for State and Local History.

Should any British Societies wish to be included in the new edition of the list, would

they please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

**Malcolm Pinhorn, BA, FSG,  
Hulverstone Manor Farmhouse,  
Newport, Isle of Wight,  
PO30 4EH**

who will forward a short form for completion.

Other Pinhorn publications include Howard Calvin's English Architectural History: A Guide to Sources (1976), A Country House Index (1979) by John Harris, and Parks in England by Hugh Prince.

**YOUR next Family Tree will appear on January 15th 1985, and the publication dates from then on will be the 15th of the due month.**

In 1752 the British Government recognised the Gregorian Calendar, and in doing so the dates that year went from September 2 to the 14 and many people protested that they had lost 11 days of their lives.

Men serving the in the Royal Navy before 1660 were not recorded very well. What records there are can be gleaned from the state paper (SP) in the Public Records office. These are best sought through the published calendars, details of which are obtained from the duty archivist at the PRO.

# The Scottish needlework puzzle

An American's search for his artistic ancestor . . .



The Andersons' house in Lexington.



Mr and Mrs John G. Anderson, in search of their family tree.

AMERICAN John Anderson's retirement from a lifelong career in engineering prompted him to launch an investigation into the Scottish side of his family tree.

He was aware that his grandfather was a Scot, as was his maternal grandfather, George "Dode" Bennett, but the thing that really caught his imagination was a needlework sampler hanging on the wall of his home in the lumber port of Lexington.

All he knew was that it had been woven by a Scottish ancestor. On the sampler was a quotation from the Old Testament — "Arise ye and depart." Underneath was embroidered, "Jean Shiells, Meadshaw, age 12. Mrs Maxwell Lauder. A.S. J.R."

It was dated December 2, with no year.

Mr Anderson commissioned a British genealogist to find out when Jean Shields was born. Many would have given little hope of tracing this individual, but there was a slim chance of clinching a clue on the Mormon IGI computer microfiche. It was while he was looking through the Shiells families in and around Edinburgh that he spotted the place name Lauder, in Berwickshire.

A small piece of the puzzle had been placed.

The genealogist concluded that the word Meadshaw on the needlework was again a

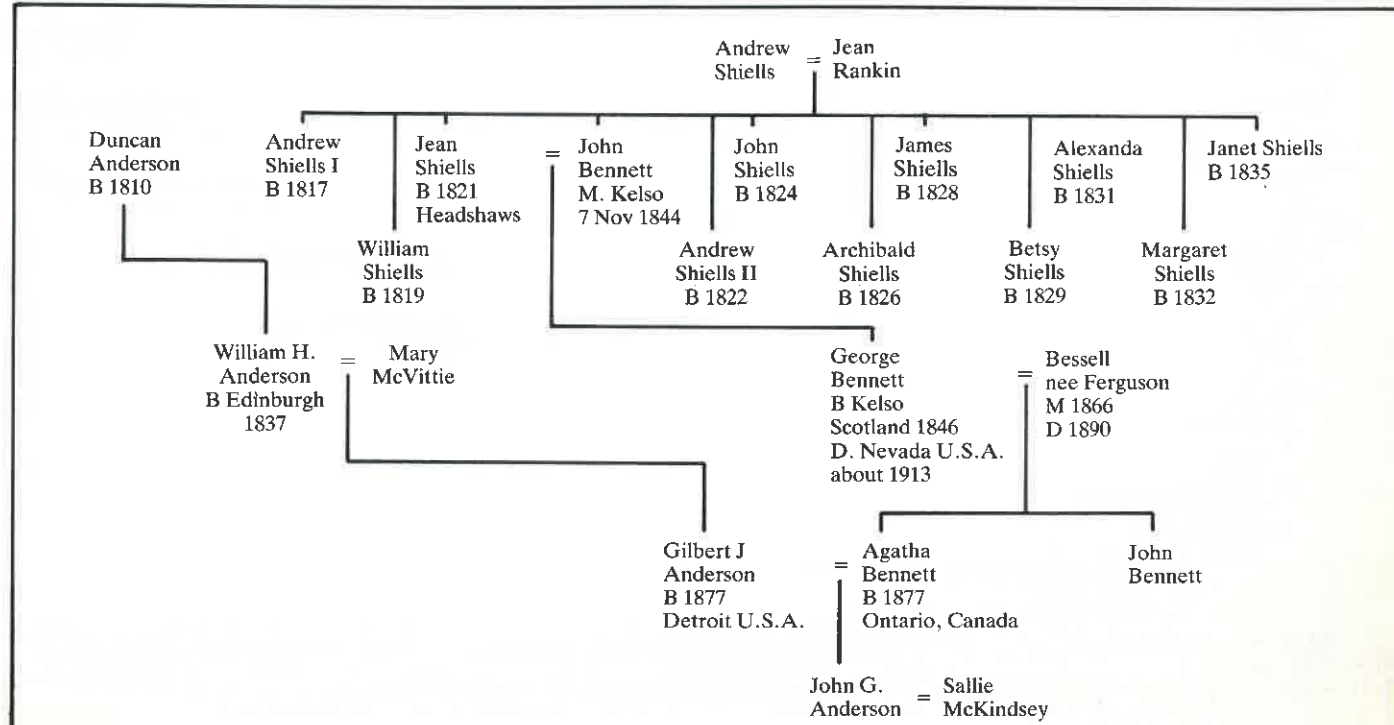
placename which had gone unmapped. He contacted the Etterick and Lauderdale District Council, who could not pinpoint a place called Meadshaw, but explained that there was a farm called Headshaws, near the village of Oxtou.

The records of Oxtou, in the parish of Channekkirk, were searched and soon revealed that Jean Shiells was the child of farmer Andrew Sheills and his wife Jean Rankin. She was born on March 13, 1821, at Gleneth where her father was a tenant farmer. Her parents had 11 children in all, four of which were born at Headshaw.

In the records of the banns for November and December 1844, Jean Sheills and John Bennet of the parish of Kelso were mentioned. In the same records, on June 18, 1846, George Bennett was born to John Bennett and his wife Jean Sheills.

The mystery was finally cracked. The initials A.S. and J.R. are assumed to be those of Jean's parents although Mrs Maxwell, of Lauder, remains an unsolved mystery.

The case shows the value of the Mormon index and the help gained by the fact that, in Scotland, more mention is made of a wife's maiden name in early records compared with the same era in England.



# Guest page

In each issue we shall feature a society or association. This month it's the turn of the Armstrong Clan Association.

If you are secretary of any organisation connected with genealogy, heraldry or local history, and would like to make use of our columns, please let us know.

## The Armstrong Clan by Edward H. Armstrong FSA (Scot), SGS



Motto: "Invictus Maneo"  
(I Remain Unvanquished)

Flower: Thyme

Tartan: Green and Blue with a Red Stripe  
and two black "tramlines"

PROBABLY NORSE in origin, the Armstrongs were ambassadors, chevaliers, earls, farmers and, above all, fighters... "aye bonnie fechtors"!

The first of our 10 known chiefs, Lairds of Mangerton in Liddesdale, Roxburghshire, Scotland, was ensconced around 1275 during the "Golden Age" of Alexander III.

Supporters of Robert the Bruce, and probably William Wallace (for their early crest was almost identical to the Wallace), one Scottish king said that while there were Armstrongs and Elliots on the Border, Scotland was safe!

In the early 1500s, the chief was able to mobilize 3,000 fighting men, mounted on their sure-footed ponies. As Border Reivers, they raided south to fill their larder - there was no social security in those days. They risked their lives, wives, bairns and everything they possessed.

They would raid by night and attend Carlisle Market by day (as nowadays!), acknowledged by all those who knew them. This state of affairs continued until James VI of Scotland became also James I of England on the death of the English Queen Elizabeth in the early hours of Thursday, March 24 1603.

Seven years after the Union of the Crowns the tenth chief was hanged for taking part in the last big raid south of the border; his lands taken and his heir moved away - where?

Most of the clanfolk dispersed to Ireland, England, Europe, North America and other parts of Scotland. Later emigrants went to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, etc. Scotland's loss was their gain...

On July 21 1969, Neil Alden Armstrong was "First Foot" on the Moon. My wife and I held a meeting rallying the Clan whilst waiting for Neil to put on his EVA (moonwalk) suit.

Since then, we have formed the Armstrong Clan Association, a non-profit-making organisation with a world-wide committee representing all the 1,100 members registered to date.

We are researching the genealogy and history of the clan and its members, acquainting them of their origin and heritage. We publish "The Armstrong News" at least twice annually and hold an annual gathering in Scotland.

We maintain a library and museum and hope to establish a Clan centre in the not-too-distant future. We like to think of ourselves as promoting the spirit of clanship wherever we go, correct a misrepresentation of our history and activities, and trying to trace our hereditary chief and chieftains, as well as assisting members with their own research by our committee members and soon with computer aid.

By the way, are YOU our chief?

If you are interested in participating in the revival of our Clan, please write to us at Brieryshaw, Langholm DG13 0HJ, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

## English Catholic ancestor

AN interesting development in the "Family Tree Forest" has been the emergence of English Catholic Ancestor. This society for promotion of English Catholic Family History has attracted more than 400 members within the 18 months since it first became known to the public.

The rapid growth has taken place without one penny being spent on advertising. Such publicity as the society has received has been freely given and it has been made clear that the service it provides fulfils a real need.

Membership is not confined to Catholics; though it is presumed that the interest expressed by others will concern solely English Ancestry.

The annual subscription (£2.50 in UK) is minimal in the interests of pensioners and the elderly from whose memories so much valuable information is drawn. For this members receive a high-quality journal twice yearly; a list of members with their special interest given; the services of honorary consultants; access to a central card-index with cross references which helps to avoid duplicated research and other advantages of an organised specialist society.

The Patron is Lord Mowbray and Stourton; President, the Hon Georgina Stonor; vice-presidents Cecil R. Humphery and Patrick Palgrave Moore. Chairman of the executive committee is the Very Rev. David Higham OSB. The hon general secretary is Leslie Brooks, of Hill House West, Crookham Village, Hampshire GUY13 0SS, to whom all communications should be addressed.

## Berkshire

THROUGHOUT its history Britain has been a refuge and a goal for many peoples; the modern British are a nation of immigrants. From the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings of the dark ages, through the Jews of the middle ages to the French, Germans and Italians, our nation has become the racial melting pot of the world. We must not overlook those migrants who came from closer to home; the Irish who came across the Irish Sea during the famine and the Welsh and Scots who crossed the border in search of jobs.

To explore some of the problems which can arise when searching for the origin of a migrant ancestor will be the theme of the tenth anniversary one-day conference organised by the Berkshire Family History Society on July 6, 1985.

Speakers at the conference will cover French, Welsh, Irish and Scottish ancestry. More details in January Family Tree.

● PRO readers' tickets are no longer valid in the census room at the Land Registry Building in Portugal Street, London. Children will be allowed in the reading room only whilst they are being quiet and not causing a nuisance to researchers.

# Grave information

## Cemeteries, burial grounds and churchyards

AN 1853 act of Parliament permitted councils and private companies to buy land for burial of the dead. As graveyards became full, these new burial grounds came into operation.

Most modern cemeteries keep records of burials and purchasers of the grave plots. These can help locate the burial places of ancestors. Many of the Non-Conformist religions have their own burial grounds, some of which are distanced from the place of worship.

Gravestones supply vital information for the genealogist. If a man died in service, it may well mention the name of his regiment, and this could lead to other record sources. The names of the deceased's spouse, parents or children may also be shown on the gravestones. The approximate dates of birth may also be determined by deducting the age at death from the year the person died.

Enquiries about council-owned cemeteries may be made at the local council offices.

From the information supplied on the gravestone in photograph one, we learn the following facts:

Emma Armstrong was the wife of Samuel Armstrong; she died in 1909 aged 55; her husband died in 1925 aged 70; their daughter Emma died as an infant in 1878 and their son John died in 1930 aged 49.

From the gravestone featured in the second photograph, which was discovered in Ramsey cemetery in Cambridgeshire we can deduce that:-

Mary Whittome was married to John Whittome and she died in 1879, aged 38; her father was William Vawser of March in Cambridgeshire; she had a son, Alfred, who died in 1873 aged 18 months, and a daughter, Emily, who died an infant in 1874.



The gravestone of Samuel Armstrong and his family at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.



This stone at Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, gives even more information.

"Family Tree" would be glad to hear of any unusual or informative gravestone or parish register entries. Please watch out for them and write to us.

## Monumental treasures

ONE source of information open to genealogists is gravestones. Usually, one can glean from them such things as names, ages and dates etc.

Below, you will find a sample of monumental inscriptions passed to us (and we are assured that they are all genuine) from which more than usual information can be gathered.

- One at Yarmouth says:  
"Owen Moore has gone away,  
Owing more than he can pay"

- And one in Edwalton, Notts, on the grave of Rebecca Freeland, who was buried in 1741:  
"She drank good ale, good punch, good wine,  
But only lived to twenty nine."
- At Marham, Norfolk  
"Though shot and shell around flew fast,  
On Balacalava's plain,  
Unscathed he passed, to fall at last,  
Run over by a train."
- On a grave at Ashover in Derbyshire; there is a gravestone that is in the shape of a cross. Carved on the cross is an anchor, a chain and a piece of chalk. The person who lies there is said to have requested it before he died. This was so that he could pull himself up by the chain, take the chalk with him to the Crispin Inn down the road, and chalk himself up a few pints on the slate.
- And one in Ireland erected to the memory of John Phillips:  
"Accidentally shot as a mark of respect by his brother."

An American couple recently in Britain, Mr and Mrs. William E. Kilbourne, from Huntsville, Alabama, called in at the Family Tree office to subscribe to the magazine. They had been in England for three weeks, tracing Bills ancestors, a few of whom came from Fen Ditton in Cambridgeshire.

Whilst looking around the churchyard there, they came across the gravestone of one William Simmonds. These days we are warned that eating animal fat is not good for us, but it seems that the saturated fats did Mr. Simmonds no harm as, when he died in 1753, he was 80 years old, which was exceptional for those times.

On his gravestone is carved a dripping pan, and his epitaph reads:

Here lies my corpse who was the man,  
That loved to sop the dripping pan,  
But now believe me I am dead,  
Now here the pan stands at my head.

Still for sop to the last I cry'd,  
But could not eat, and so I died,  
My neighbours they perhaps may laugh,  
Now they do read my epitaph.

# The Huguenots

Family History is all about research into one's own earlier generations . . . we all have ancestors. Many will trace their ancestors back a few hundred years and find nothing very exciting in their tree. Others can come in for a surprise when, all at once, they discover they come from one of the minority groups who, over the centuries, have helped build up the British race to what it is today.

A great many of our ancestors were subject to persecution, usually in the name of religion, and none more than the Jews and Catholics.

But both have kept faith and survived. After the Reformation in Britain, just about all non-Church-of-England groups were repressed in a terrible manner.

In this series of articles we shall give the background to the history of many of the various groups. In this first one we look into the plight of the French Protestants — the Huguenots.

Later we shall be delving into the history of many of the others.

THERE must be thousands of people today who are descendants of the Huguenots, the French Protestants who fled their own country and settled in Britain at a time when the staunchly-Catholic countries of Europe were fighting the rising tide of Non-Conformity sweeping the area.

It is the view of some people that the spread of the Protestant religion was tied up with the development of a new kind of printing type by a printer from Mentz in Germany named Gutenberg, and his assistant Schoeffer. Through this development books became much cheaper. One of the most popular publications was the Bible. Over the years it was translated into many different languages.

Samual Smiles' book "The Huguenots" tells the story of the spread of Non-Conformity between the event of the improvement of type in the mid-fifteenth century, and the flood of the refugees into Britain during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The book, written in 1862, tells the story of the build-up of the friction between the Catholic body in Rome and the people who wished to worship God in their own way. There is no doubt that many people today will not agree with Mr Smiles' views on the Huguenots problems, but the fact remains that many thousands of them were slaughtered and exiled because they opposed the Catholic way of religious teaching.

Over the years the spread of the various translations of the Bibles inflamed the Catholic authorities, and many people printing or selling the Bibles were put to death.

The birthplace of the Protestant faith in France is said to be Maux, a town about 50 miles from Paris. The economy of the town depended on wool and cloth, and it was thought that the close trading links between it and nearby Flanders helped the rapid spread of the new faith.

Many learned people of the time were unhappy about the way in which the hearts and minds of the general population were being dominated by Rome.

Jacques Lefever, one of the most respected-professors in the University of Paris, at the age of 70, in 1523 translated four Gospels into French and had them printed in Antwerp. This prompted many famous French people of the day to change their views on religion.

One of these was the Bishop of Meaux, who, after taking charge of his diocese, was rather dismayed at the general state of disregard for religious life and duty. He is said to have invited Lefever and others to preach from the pulpit and people flocked to hear the new kind of teachings.

The result was that blasphemy, drunkenness and general disorder all but disappeared. For this folly, the Bishop was heavily fined and thereafter toed the Catholic line.

By the time the Church authorities clamped down on the Bishop, the damage was done.

## United States census of 1910

PERHAPS the most helpful tool for British genealogists is the census return. The government has decreed that 100 years should elapse before the intimate details can come under public scrutiny. So we have to wait until 1991 to see the results of the 1891 census.

To many people, this seems an outdated attitude since, through modern technology, it is not hard to discover personal details in the census returns. It becomes all the more comical when financial details contained in wills, which perhaps should be more private, can be seen by anyone going to Somerset House.

In the United States, there is a more genealogically-helpful system. The census returns are revealed after 72 years.

The US census has been taken every 10 years since 1790, although some of the questions in the 1910 census would not go down at all well in Britain, even today. The 1910 census will be particularly helpful to people whose ancestors emigrated to the US between 1900 and 1909, as it would have been the first time they had been included.

It was not until the 1850 census that many personal details were included in the returns; questions about wages and values of estates. At that time it caused a bit of an uproar because the results were published as soon as they were compiled.

Thereafter, bowing to public pressure, the returns were kept from public scrutiny for 72 years. The 1910 census differed in some ways from the one taken in 1900. Below are some comparisons.

Date:	1900 June 1, 1900	1910 April 15, 1910	
Age:	age, month year of birth	just age as Apr 15 1910. Children under one in frac- tions, ie 3 months would be 3½	
Personal description	W-white B-Black MU-mulatto (mixed) CH-Chinese, IN-Indian OT-Other	As 1900	
Naturalisation	This had to be answered by males over 21 (not by As 1900 women).		
Occupation:	Two questions	Five questions more specific answers required	
Location	The ability to speak English	As 1900, only extended to Nativity and Mother Tounge (see list)	
Three additional questions	War services not mentioned	1. Whether survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy. This was asked of all males over 50 years who were in the U.S. before 1865. The groups were: U.A. — Union Army U.N. — Union Army C.A. — Confederate Army C.N. — Confederate Navy 2. If blind (both eyes) 3. If deaf and dumb (DD)	
Special Indian Schedule	10 Questions	14 Questions	
Nativity & Mother Tounge	Number of Years in the U.S.	Number of years in the U.S. not asked, but the year of immigration was. If the person was unable to speak English then the language spoken was to be ticked from the list below	
Albanian	German	Moravian	Slovak
Armenian	Greek	Norwegian	Slovenian
Basque	Cypriot	Poish	Spanish
Bohemian	Irish	Portuguese	Swedish
Breton	Italian	Rhaeto-Romanish (includ. Latin & Friulan)	Syrian
Bulgarian	Japanese	Roumanian	Turkish
Chinese	Lappish	Russian	Welsh
Danish	Letish	Ruthenian	Wendish
Finnish	Little Russian	Scotch	Yiddish
Flemish	Lithuanian	Servian or Croatian	
French	Magyar		

Some of his disciples continued to spread the word, and three of them — Jean Leclerc, Jacques Pavent and Louis de Berguin — were burned alive. A further one named Farel escaped to Switzerland and printed copies of Lefever's New Testament which was distributed throughout France. As fast as the books were seized and burned, more appeared. During the first six months of 1534, 20 men and one woman were burned alive.

This sort of thing continued throughout the sixteenth century, and in 1599 Pope Paul IV issued an order containing a list of books which were to be prohibited. The list contained 48 modern translations of the Bible.

The famous Potter Pallissy became a staunch Protestant. He was one of the earliest preachers of the Reformed Church in the town of Aintes. He may even have been its founder. Members of the church were said to be people of blameless lives, peaceable, well disposed and industrious.

Because of his beliefs, Pallissy was eventually arrested, and it was only the fact that he did much work for the Royal Court circles that save him from death. He lived to the ripe old age of 78 and spent the last year of his life in the Bastille, but he never renounced his faith.

As the Huguenots increased in numbers, they gradually became a political power. Many of the leading politicians were used by the Huguenots as instruments for party warfare. Many ambitious men opposed to the rul-

ing members of the government joined the Huguenots, not so much because they believed in the faith, but more because they found it suited their political ends.

This state of affairs caused the disintegration of normal working relations within the council of state. The head of the church in France used this as a way of alarming King Henry II. He said that first they would destroy the ecclesiastical power, and then they would destroy the Royal power.

In 1559 a Royal edict was published declaring that the crime of heresy should be punishable by death. It also forbade judges to remit or mitigate the penalty.

Francis I, the successor to Louis XII, had a sister named Marguerite de Valois who was born in 1492, and who married Henry I, King of Navarre, in 1527. She was mother of Jeanne D'Albret, who became Queen of Navarre in 1555, and was grandmother of Henry II of Navarre (later Henry IV of France). He was born in 1553 to Queen Jeanne and her husband, Antoine de Bourbon. It was this family who became the recognised heads of the Huguenots.

In 1560, 10-year-old Charles IX became King of France, but he was really only a figurehead. His mother Catherine de Medicis, widow of Henry II was the real power behind the throne. Later that year the Chancellor de Hopital appealed to all Frenchmen to rally together behind the young King. An attempt

was made in an edict of January of 1562 to give the Protestants more freedom of worship. This, however, inflamed the Catholics even more, especially when many of the leading figures of France started pronouncing in public their change of faith. The edict gave the Protestants new confidence and, by the summer of 1562, they started arming themselves.

Things really began to take a nasty turn when, in March 1563, a group of about 1,200 Protestants was holding a service in Vassy, when it was set upon by about 200 armed Catholics led by the Duke of Guise. After the fray around 60 men and women lay dead, and more than 200 were injured.

This was all that was needed to set the flame alight, and very soon France was on the brink of a civil war.

Protestant homes and churches were destroyed, and many were tortured and put to death. When it came to damaging churches, the Protestants behaved no differently from the Catholics. Many of France's greatest Cathedrals were damaged in the fighting. Tombs of saints and kings were destroyed, which in turn made the Catholics even more determined to stamp out the Protestants.

The troubles caused France to become virtually bankrupt. The once-thriving wool and lace trade had almost ground to a halt. Workers from both sides were often fighting rather than working.

It was realised eventually that there must be peace for the sake of the country, and a treaty signed in that year at St Germain's gave the Protestants freedom of worship, and for the next two years France became relatively peaceful.

The war flared up again in 1572, and on St Bartholomew's Day of that year around 7,000 Protestants were slain. This became known as the St Bartholomew's Day massacre.

In 1598, the Edict of Nantes was issued. This gave the Protestants several towns, and also allowed them to defend them with arms. But this did little to help nor did it encourage either side to tolerate the other.

Eventually, in 1685, the Edict of Nantes was revoked by Louis XIV. During all the troubles, many Protestants left France and came to live in Britain. With them they brought many of their skills. In the January issue we shall follow the progress of the Huguenots in Britain.



Catherine De Medicis

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# Roundabout Britain

## Sutton-in-Ashfield

Its history . . . genealogy . . . and people

By Bill Clay-Dove

THE first article in this series pays a visit to Sutton-in-Ashfield. It is written by local historical expert Bill Clay-Dove, a native of the town whose roots in the area go back over 400 years.

A part-time lecturer in local history, who completed a tutor training course at Balliol College, Oxford, he is a life member of the Thornton Society of Nottinghamshire and the Nottinghamshire Local History Society. He has written on local areas of Nottinghamshire, but his main interest lies in the field of genealogy.

Sutton-in-Ashfield appears as "Sutone" in the Domesday Book, but has its present-day spelling in the records of the 13th century. Sutton is a common English place name - there are about 70 examples through the country. It derives the additional name of Ashfield from the prolific spread of ash trees in the area, which comprised part of Sherwood Forest. From the suffix "ton", meaning an enclosed or fenced in area, it is clearly an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

In Dr Robert Thornton's "Antiquities of Nottinghamshire", published in 1678, it is

recorded that Gerard, son of Walter de Sutton, gave the church to Thurgarton Priory in 1189. Cardinal Wolsey passed through the town in 1530 when, after his disgrace, he was recalled to London by King Henry the Eighth. He stayed at the Manor House at Kirkby Hardwick for one night and died at Leicester Abbey shortly afterwards.

Records of the involvement of Sutton folk during the Civil War are scanty, but one Suttonian, Hercules Clay, became a famous Royalist Mayor of Newark, involved in the siege of 1643. Antony Langford, a member of a local family, became a surgeon in Cromwell's army, dying at Sutton at the age of 79. He is buried near the east end of the church.

In 1651, Charles the Second was defeated at the battle of Worcester and a party of his soldiers making their way to Scotland passed through Sutton. In Church Street they were ambushed by the Roundheads. Twelve Royalists were killed and their skeletons were found later in a vault at the rear of the church.

The textile industry was introduced into the town during the latter years of the 17th century, when stocking frames are mentioned in local wills. Richard Unwin settled in 1705 and married the daughter of William Clay, who first set up a warehouse at Haslams Hill (Mount Street). In 1740, he erected Sutton Old Mill and built a mill at Tansley, near Matlock in Derbyshire.

The business prospered so well that the locals used to say that each time the mill wheel went round it put a guinea in Unwin's pocket. A tremendous impetus to the development of the town was given by the diligence of the Unwins, whose rise to wealth marked a turning point in the character of Sutton - commencing the change from agricultural to industrial.

The registers of the parish church of St Mary Magdalen start in 1577, and it is estimated that, at the beginning of the 18th century, the population was about 500. In 1770 a door-to-door census was taken by Thomas Dove, the parish clerk, and it was found that there were 270 families in Sutton. The first Parliamentary census in 1801 showed the total as 3,314; this increased to 4,805 in 1831 and by 1891, it was 10,562. It now stands at near 50,000.

In November 1811, some 300 rioters marched from Nottingham to Sutton to destroy machinery introduced to speed up the process of stocking manufacture. Seventy frames were smashed, but the riot was quickly dispersed by soldiers from Mansfield, assisted by a party of yeomanry.

Modern local government in Sutton may be said to have started in 1866, when the old Highway Board passed out of existence to be replaced by the Local Boards. This, in turn, gave way to an Urban District Council in 1894, the first chairman being the late G. G. Bonsers.



Mr William Clay-Dove, author of "Sutton-in-Ashfield in times past" and many periodical and newspaper articles. (Photograph supplied by "Notts. Free Press").





The Old Police Station, 1861. The first officer was Sergeant George Radford who had previously been Parish Constable. It is said that, before provision of the police station, on apprehending anyone he would chain them to his oven door until he could take the prisoner to Mansfield.



St. Marys Parish Church

There follows a brief run-down of the materials available in the Sutton-in-Ashfield public library to genealogists and local historians on Sutton. Reference librarian Kevin O'Hara is in himself a fount of local knowledge.

The collection also covers Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, as well as the East Midlands region as a whole. Most of the stock is not available for home reading.

There is also a microfiche catalogue containing much of the local studies collection at Nottingham Central Library. Among the standard histories of Sutton in stock are L. Lindley, "A History of Sutton-in-Ashfield (1907)", G. G. Bonsor, "A History of Sutton-in-Ashfield (1940)", W. Clay-Dove and "Sutton-in-Ashfield in Times Past (1978)". Census returns between 1841 to 1881 are on microfilm, as are the Mormon IGI (the East Midlands selections) on microfiche.

The most valuable recent acquisition is the complete parish church records on microfiche right through to 1900 not only of Sutton St Mary's but also of many of the surrounding local churches. Nottinghamshire volumes of the Phillimore Marriage Registers are available and an almost complete file of the Nottinghamshire Free Press, the local newspaper.

There are also files of the Sutton and Kirby News, 1980 to date, and a card index to the Notts Free Press from 1885 to 1954.

"A Survey of Gravestones in the parish churchyard, Sutton-in-Ashfield", compiled by W. Clay-Dove 1937, is available. A complete file of the Nottinghamshire Family History Society Records Series was being added to stock at the time of writing.

For those with military forebears, there are several volumes of the Sherwood Foresters Regimental Annual.



Kevin O'Hara, Reference Librarian, Sutton Public Library.

# Genealogical Research Directory

ON THE facing page is a cut-out. It is intended for you to use so that you can be a part of the next volume in the already internationally-read Genealogical Research Directory.

It works like this: In the left-hand column — column 1 — you list the surnames of the families which are a part of you, ie your father's (of course!) but also your mother's (she and her family are a part of you aren't they?) and thus moving backwards, all the maiden names of all the women who married the men. You fill in the lines as far as you can go, and it doesn't matter into what order you put them.

Now, to help to differentiate which Smith, Jones, White, etc. you put a "place" in the third column, a town, village, or even suburb of town. This narrows the search a bit. Next go back to column 2. When were your Smiths, Jones, Whites etc living in this place — or

about when? Here give some estimate. "1920" if you know for sure, or "early 20th century." Perhaps they were there "1780-1830." If you cannot be so definite, then put "18th-19th century."

Column 4 is for the County and column 5 for the Country.

On the reverse of the page is the place to fill in your own name and address. Below is a grid of charges. To enter 15 names in the forthcoming Directory costs £7.75. The book will be published in March 1985 and you, as a subscriber, will receive a "free copy". Inside it, when it arrives, you will then find all your family names (with dates and places) listed alphabetically and linked to you — the names and addresses of subscribers are listed numerically in a separate section.

The Directory is international — see opposite the names and address of the agents worldwide. Every subscriber has a free copy. Extra copies are sold or distributed to libraries and genealogical societies throughout the world — thus there are literally millions of people who hunt through the pages of each volume as it appears.

The purpose of this? If your family were the Whites of Oxford and lived there in 1780, your particular branch is most unlikely to be the only branch of descendants left. There could well be some now living in California, Berlin, Brisbane, Dundee Liverpool, Paris — you name it! Family History researchers all over the world are working at putting back together the "whole" pedigree and they hunt through these directories in the hope of finding like

minds in other branches of their own families.

Once you have declared your interests, you can expect some of them to write to you, whilst in turn you too can hunt through and pick out those who just might be a part of your own past family — and write to them!

Some previous editions of the Directory are still available for sale — see the grid of prices, these are rapidly running out, interest in them is so great. However, every Family History Society in the Federation of Family History Societies has received a complimentary copy of the 1984 edition, worldwide.

The first 15 lines you write are free with the next Directory, meaning the cost is £7.75 and the Directory is free. Additional entries cost 25 pence a line — no limit — go on to another sheet of paper if you wish. Wherever you live, choose the agent living nearest to you — the one working in your currency, and return your form — together with your cheque or postal order — to them. Any one will do — you will see a fair selection there to choose from.

There are positively no worldly bounds or limits to Family History. People have always had legs — and we have all always used these to move us about. You should never be surprised at the distances which have been covered by branches of your family, but rejoice rather in the delight you will experience by finding some long, long lost twig which supports an umpteenth numbered and removed cousin of yours who will be filled with excitement, anxious to share with you the blissful pleasure of talking Family History — that is *your own* family history.

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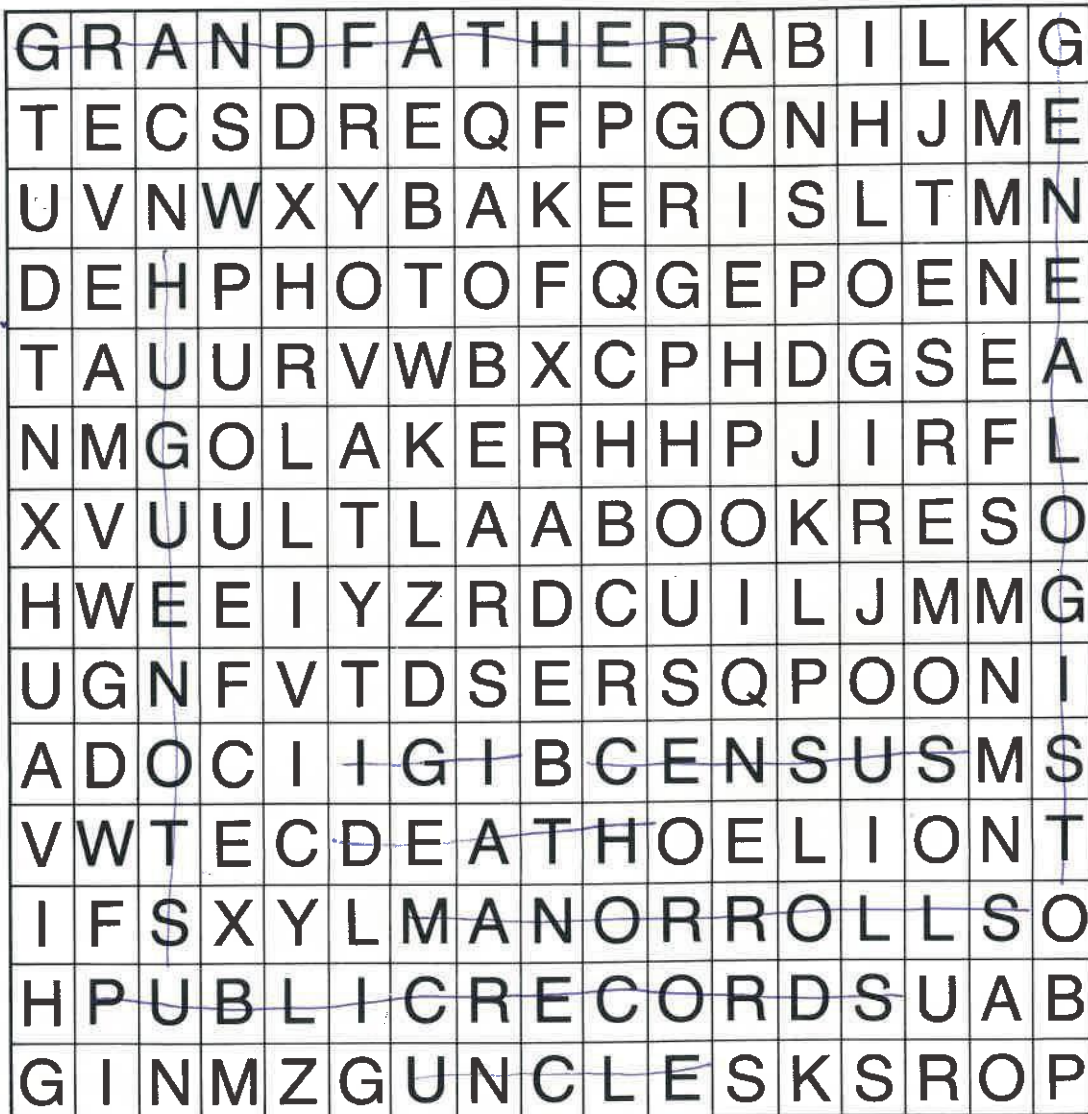
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2. Portuguese Jews
3. Not sausages or Penelope Keith
4. Only 5 published since 1841
5. French Protestants
6. A relation of grandmother.
7. An office in Chancery Lane
8. Wills House
9. Mormon masterpiece.
10. The records began in 1837
11. He or she will trace your family tree
12. Alexandra —

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MISSING ANCESTORS

**SLOTE, SLOVET, SLOAT, SLOATE** and **STRICKSON**. I would be pleased to hear from anyone researching these names. Mrs. M. Long, 13 Vicarage Way, Yaxley, Peterborough Cambs PE7 3YY.

**STRATTON, Thomas**. Late 19th century. Farrington & Streatley, Berks. Mrs Ambler. Telephone 01-863 1925.

**BOYNTON family**. Starting in Eastrington, Yorks. Came to London early 19th century. Francis and his son Francis Herman Boynton had business connections in Malta 1870. Mrs Cook. Telephone St Ives (Cambs) 65996.

**MANN, William**. Transported to Australia as a convict in 1832. Sentenced at Nottingham Christmas Sessions. May have originated from S. Yorks area.

**HUNTER, James**. Was parish Clerk at Swinford, Leics from 1823. Had daughters Ann and Sarah. A son Job went to Australia in 1853. James was a schoolmaster. Telephone (0487) 814050.

**JEFFERIES, Joseph**. Lived at 36 Walbrook Place, Hoxton, Newtown, Middlesex. Married Ann Poole. They had a son William, who was born on January 27 1843.

**LALOR, Walter**. Born around 1843(no record in St Catherines). Married to Elizabeth Perrin at Marylebone, London 1863. Father's name on marriage certificate John Laylor. Family may have come from Wiloughby, Yorkshire. Mrs A. Reif (0480) 5342.

**SWAN, Ann**. From Staffs, probably Shifnal area. Had two brothers, William and Benjamin. Born 1808-1811. Appeared at Cocklington, Somerset, in 1841. Married Thomas Cross of Buckhorn Weston, Dorset. Only record of this marriage found in family bible. They had two children, Thomas Hatchwell and Mary Agnes. Info welcome. Mrs B. Kiddle, 2 Carmel Villas, Hawkers Bridge, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 9EF.

MISSING LIVE PERSONS

**McCROSSAN, Frances Carol**, born Glasgow 13.10.1947. Last known address in Cheshire. Mother enquires.

**MAIR, George (Norman)**, born Larkhall 13.9.1920. Last known address in London 1951. Son enquires.

**MASON, Margaret Frances Alice, (nee Philpott)**. Born Margate 3.1.1931. Last known address Rugeley 1945-46. Brother enquires.

**MAY, Michael Andrew**, born Lincoln 23.10.1934. Last known to be in the forces in Germany in 1966. Brother enquires.

**MOORE, Samuel Louis William**, born London 7.6.1928. Last known address West London 1956. Mother enquires.

**MORBY, Gordon Ernest**, born London 25.11.1926. Last known address Edgeware 1954. Sister enquires.

**MULLIN, Cyril**, born Sheffield 8.4.1922. Last known address North London c1954. Sister enquires.

**PALLATT, Eileen Bertha (nee Turner)**, born Barnet 18.11.1915. Last known address Portsmouth 1967. Brother enquires.

**ROBINSON, Edith Cecilia (Dorothy) (nee Northam)** born Bath 17.7.1925. Last known address in Wolverhampton. Brothers & Sisters enquire.

**ROOM, Walter**, born Fleetwood 23.11.1908. Last known address in the West Midlands 1967. Sister enquires.

Any help to contact above appreciated. Major C. Fairclough, Salvation Army Missing Persons Bureau, 112 Middlesex Street, London E1 7HZ. Telephone 01-247 6831.

Would any East Anglian readers be prepared to do some research on a reciprocal basis. I am interested in a David Anderson born Holywell, Northumberland in 1822. He bought a 90 acre farm near Diss in Norfolk about 1920. I would be prepared to do some research at the Northumberland PRO or in the N. E. of England. David Anderson, 25 Ivanhoe, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. Telephone (0632) 2521154.

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Went abroad in search of gold.*

*His brother George a brainy man,  
For Blackpool Tower drew the plan,  
Their brother Tom, a soldier brave,  
For his King his life he gave.*

*Their father also made his name,  
Ferocious lions he used to tame,  
Through the records we did scan,  
Found Uncle Tom the soldier man.*

*But much to our surprise we saw,  
He never even went to war,  
His brother George, the brainy lad,  
Was a butcher, like his dad.*

*And Great Grandpa worked all his time,  
In a quarry burning lime,  
After this we felt so sad,  
Until we found our mother's dad.*

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