



FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
Supporting the Family History Community for Fifty Years

REALLY USEFUL Bulletin No 46

June 2024

Welcome to the June edition of the *Really Useful Bulletin*

inside find...

Lead article this month is *Genealogy from a Graveyard*

plus news from local FHS and from the Federation

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Really Useful Bulletin

Genealogy from a Graveyard

by Ian Waller

It is not until you wander round a graveyard looking at the memorials that you realise grave markers come in many shapes, sizes, colours and with wildly varying personal details. Grave memorials therefore can be an excellent genealogical resource because they can reveal information about a person or a family that is not recorded elsewhere.

When the weather is more clement you may be considering a visit to the burial places of your forebears. As with any research visit, planning is essential and while summer might provide better weather, in some burial grounds you may find wilding or conservation areas virtually inaccessible in summertime due to vigorous plant undergrowth.

Genealogy from a grave memorial

Having noted that the detail on markers can vary enormously in detail, what information might be found on a memorial? You might find a name or just initials; it could show only a burial date, or there may be birth and death dates or there could be an age which may not be entirely accurate. At the other extreme you may find a memorial with many facts about an extended family.

You may find the full names of husband and wife, and particularly in Scotland you may find a wife memorialised using her maiden name. As with all research, carefully note what you find exactly as it appears on the memorial. In some burial grounds you may find stones that provide information about military service, even giving rank or more detail. You may find the name of someone who fell in WWI or WWII remembered on a family memorial; checking the CWGC website will confirm if they are buried or memorialised elsewhere. Occasionally, infants—otherwise unknown to you—may be recorded on the grave marker of their parents. What if you find a person with a previously unknown surname on a family memorial? Who is it, and why are they buried with your forebears?

The size, material and style of a memorial can suggest status. You may come across memorials erected by friends or working companions, particularly if the death was an accident at work. You may find one which goes on to mention “and in memory of...” for a family member who may not be buried at that place – check the burial register.



Cast-iron grave markers, each cast with the details of the individual, became popular in the 1880s. Left is one from a family row at Nether Whitacre church, in Warwickshire. If you come across these in your research, there is an interesting article online by the

Association for Industrial Archaeology <https://industrial-archaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/AIA-Bulletin-15-3-1988.pdf>.

Some monumental masons’ names appear on gravestones; if so, note them as you may find the same mason on other stones for the extended family – another line to follow up in your research! Right, at Austrey Baptist Church, this stone has been laid flat leaving the monumental mason’s details clearly visible.



Always look for other memorials with your family names in the burial ground – make the most of your visit! Interpretation of what you find, record and later examine could open up new lines of research.

Symbols found on memorials



The symbols on a gravestone can provide information which will enlighten your understanding of the person commemorated or of the family erecting the memorial stone. There is an extensive section explaining symbols, from angels to serpents, along with their meanings plus illustrations on

Explore Your Genealogy. This will help you interpret what you may find; that anchor may have nothing at all to do with the sea!

Graveyard and cemetery etiquette

There is an etiquette to be observed when visiting cemeteries and graveyards, but actually, much of it is common sense, politeness and respectfulness. Do not tread on graves; be especially respectful around others in the burial ground who might be mourning the loss of a loved one and be careful you do not trip over buried stones.

Preserve the grave you are investigating and make every effort not to damage the area. Scrubbing a gravestone can damage the materials, so you should only clear and clean it in a recognised way. You must preserve the integrity of the gravestone for the future.



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Before your visit, make contact with the burial ground manager. Be thoughtful and polite as family historians doing research may not be high on the list of priorities for those running burial grounds. In active cemeteries consult the cemetery superintendent; for churchyards, contact the incumbent or the churchwarden. Their details are normally on the burial ground noticeboard and some can be found online. They will often be able to help you find the desired grave quickly—or indicate the location, should no stone exist or have been removed. Be aware that older village churchyards may have no location plan, in which case you will have to search!

Cleaning and gardening of a memorial

Cleaning a memorial has to be undertaken carefully so as not to damage either the base material or lettering. For the purpose of reading monumental inscriptions, the only areas which need attention are where the lettering is, and then only to make the lettering sufficiently visible to record. Cleaning a whole monument is not necessary.

Depending upon the site of a grave, considerable work removing weeds, overgrown bushes and accumulated soil may be required. Heavy stone memorials tend to sink over time and you may have to partially dig around the base to reveal the lettering. If the grave is part of the burial ground set aside for 'wilding' or nature conservation, check that you are allowed to remove plant material in order to read and record the stone.

Never leave any debris or litter in the graveyard.

Tools for grave spotting and gardening

You should plan the visit carefully as you will need all sorts of bits and pieces to ensure your visit is as productive as possible. You need materials to protect yourself, such as stout gardening gloves and a kneeling pad, as well as some simple equipment to cover most situations you may encounter. There is a detailed list included on Explore Your Genealogy – link below.



In dry weather, brown oblongs in grass can indicate where stones have been laid flat. If you do not know which belongs to your family, start by checking for any recorded

memorial inscriptions before you make a visit. If you need to lift turf to reveal a flat-laid stone, cut centrally and carefully fold the turf back ensuring it remains attached to the surrounding earth/turf. After recording and photographing the stone, carefully replace the turf and ensure it is firmly back in place before leaving the ground. If you can, water the replaced turf particularly in summer.

Revealing and reading inscriptions

When dealing with the memorial itself, and reading and deciphering epitaphs, a Holy Bible and occasionally a Latin dictionary are handy, though these are perhaps best used indoors when reviewing the results of a visit. On any outdoor research trip, you need paper and pencil as ballpoint pens do not always work, especially in damp conditions—and a tablet may go flat! Always go armed with water and a spray as not all burial places have an outdoor water tap. Well-used brushes are to be recommended as new ones are often too stiff and can cause damage to surfaces and lettering. A reflector and/or powerful torch can be useful to illuminate stones for photography, particularly if shaded or under bushes or trees.

A specialist spray called *Resurrect Headstone and Gravestone Cleaner*

is available from a number of sellers. Make sure you use it in accordance with the instructions and not as a general cleaner. The simple technique is... spray, agitate, leave a few seconds and rinse off with water. Use Vaseline on any letters before applying a proprietary cleaner as this protects them.



What NOT to do when cleaning and gardening

When cleaning, do **not** use scrapers (metal or plastic), wire brushes, bleach, non-specialist cleaners, pressure washers or anything that might cause damage or deterioration! Water is good for cleaning, applied gently.

Granite and marble can be more easily damaged by inappropriate cleaning than some other stonework.

Do not attempt to clean rusted iron memorials as this will cause irreparable damage. Surface rust acts as a protective cover for the good iron beneath, so disturbing it causes the next layer to rust. The same applies to verdigris on copper.

When cleaning or photographing a vertical memorial, never stand on the central part of a plot even if it is paved. It may not be as solid as it looks and could result in a sharp drop into the burial void beneath!



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What to do when the grave is located

There is a step-by-step guide on Explore Your Genealogy (see end) which explains what to do. Initially, clear any vegetation that obscures a view of the monument and check for hidden kerbs or footstones. Check all surfaces of the memorial for lettering and record as much as you can before attempting any cleaning. A light source or reflector produces shadows; this makes lettering on the memorial easier to see. The presence of a headstone does not mean there is no inscription on a kerb. Kerb inscriptions are frequently, but not always, on the inside edge of a kerb.

There are details on sympathetic cleaning procedures on the Explore Your Genealogy website.

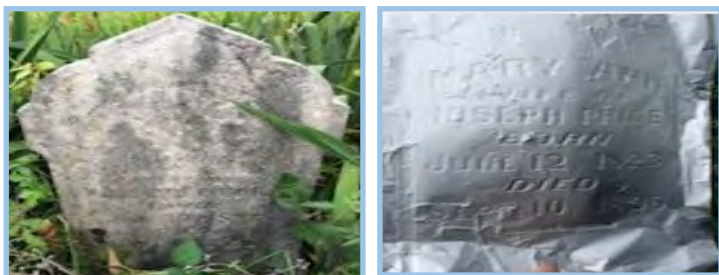
Write down everything you can, even if it does not make much sense. Take lots of photographs from all angles and record the location of the grave in your notes, too. Two heads are better than one so it helps to have someone with you...one can hold the reflector or torch while the other takes the photo.

Interpreting the family plot

Making sense of what is written on the memorial needs some thought. Some burial plots may include the graves of several family members with inscriptions on all sides. Inscriptions are usually invented by the relatives commissioning the memorial. They may have had little grasp of grammar or spelling, and it is not the stonemason's job to correct it. A small square inserted on a stone and re-inscribed can indicate a spelling error corrected after installation of a stone. The memorials you visit and record are part of your family's history – do them justice and treat them with care!

Hard-to-read gravestones

I can't read the lettering! This is a common problem so here's a helpful tip. Cover the gravestone's lettered area in foil and gently rub. Photograph the result for your records. Ingenious, really, but very effective! Similarly, paper and flat wax crayons rubbed gently over can reveal the letters in a similar manner as used in brass rubbing; you can also use it later at home.



Above: severely eroded stone with foil used to show lettering

Photographing the memorial



Take a photo of the whole memorial and close-ups of the lettering.

Once you have prepared the memorial and recorded the inscriptions, you can then photograph it. A set of good quality photographs is essential so make sure your camera is suitable for the job in hand. While many mobile phones now have reasonable cameras, a good digital camera can aid your recording – have spare batteries with you. There is detailed information on how to improve your photographic techniques for recording memorials on the Explore Your Genealogy website.

Monumental inscriptions

Memorials are made of all sorts of stone; some are very hard and the inscription will be easy to read while others which are softer might have weathered more making it difficult to see any inscription at all. Many family history societies have surveyed their local churchyards and recorded gravestone and memorial inscriptions (MIs). Many MIs were recorded in the second half of the twentieth century – some even earlier. Headstones and grave-markers may have weathered, been destroyed or removed altogether since recording took place. This makes these local lists very important; they could provide valuable information which has not been recorded anywhere else. These MIs are usually available as CDs, booklets or online datasets though some may still be in manuscript form. Many societies have online shops listing their items so check the society's website, Parish Chest and GenFair. If you cannot find the burial ground listed, then contact the local society where your ancestors lived to check if any recorded MIs exist for the churchyard or burial ground in which your ancestor was buried.

Some community groups and religious organisations have also recorded information about their local cemetery occupants - for example Ryde Social Heritage Group (Isle of Wight) or the Friends of Key Hill Cemetery and Warstone Lane Cemetery (Birmingham). Contacting these groups before you visit can help as they can often identify the grave you are looking for. Some run guided tours of the burial grounds.

Many of these groups are voluntary so don't forget to show your appreciation and support their work if you can.

Where to look for graves

Use Ordnance Survey mapping to locate old burial grounds and also to plot where nonconformist chapels existed as some had small burial grounds adjacent. You can access the



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Ordnance Survey series for all of Britain free of charge on the National Library of Scotland's website: <https://maps.nls.uk/>. Many municipal burial grounds came into being after the mid-1800s as a result of various sanitary Acts, though some were much earlier.

In addition, workhouses, asylums, prisons and military establishments often had their own burial grounds.

Many cemeteries, for various reasons, have been disbanded. For example, Ardwick cemetery in Manchester operated between 1830 and 1950 with upwards of 80,000 graves but it is now a community football ground and park, with no memorials remaining. During WWII the bombing of Coventry obliterated the West Orchard nonconformist burial ground. The Churches' Conservation Trust website lists those buildings within its care: <https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing.html> Some disused churches or chapels have been sold and burial grounds may now be in private hands – you should contact the present owners for permission to visit. The records of many disbanded cemeteries, such as grave registers or burial books, survive in local archives or record offices. The National Archives has notices for over ninety disbanded burial grounds in RG37: General Register Office, Social Survey Department, and Office of Population Censuses and Surveys - Removal of Graves and Tombstones.

Graves online

There are many websites which include information on burials and some have grave indexes. Some inventive Googling using the placename may be productive. It is always worth a look to see what you can find online.

In addition to local websites, Find-a-Grave index www.findagrave.com also available on FamilySearch and Ancestry. Billion Graves index www.billiongraves.com is available on FamilySearch, MyHeritage and FindMyPast, you can upload gravestone details to their website. It is ideal for Smartphone users; simply download the app and follow the sequence.

By using common sense, a few ordinary tools, and making detailed records in pencil plus taking plenty of photographs, you can make your visit to burial grounds successful and productive for your family history research.

Visit www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/genealogy-graveyard for further details.

Ian Waller

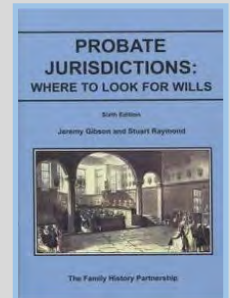
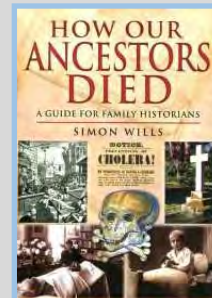
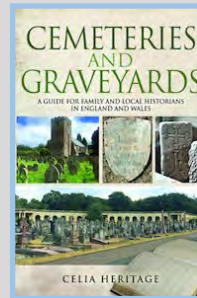
Photographs from collections held by the author and editor.



Ian Waller is vice-chairman and education officer of the Family History Federation and a retired professional genealogist. He is a Fellow of AGRA and also a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists.

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On your visits to burial grounds, if there is access to the church or chapel, do check for monuments moved indoors.



These two interesting memorials were inside St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall.

Copy Certificates from GRO

Just in case you have not been online lately, the charges for all versions of copy certificates for England and Wales from GRO have been increased. Full details are available at www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/faq.asp#GROIndexReferences Scroll down to *Standard Service* where there is a table of prices.



Really Useful Bulletin



Haplogroups in Y-DNA – part 3



by Martin McDowell

So far in this series of articles we have looked at what a haplogroup is and how to find matches that will help you with your family history.

This time we are going to look at what haplogroups can tell you about your family in distant generations. There are a few ways to find out this information – migration maps, *GlobeTrekker*, *TimeTree* and ancient connections. We'll look at each one of these features one at a time.

All human males can be traced back to a single common ancestor who lived in Africa about 230,000 years ago. Tracking the small differences that have occurred every few generations gives us the ability to find out how we got to where we are from where we started.

Different lineages of Y-DNA can be explored and tracked across the world like this:



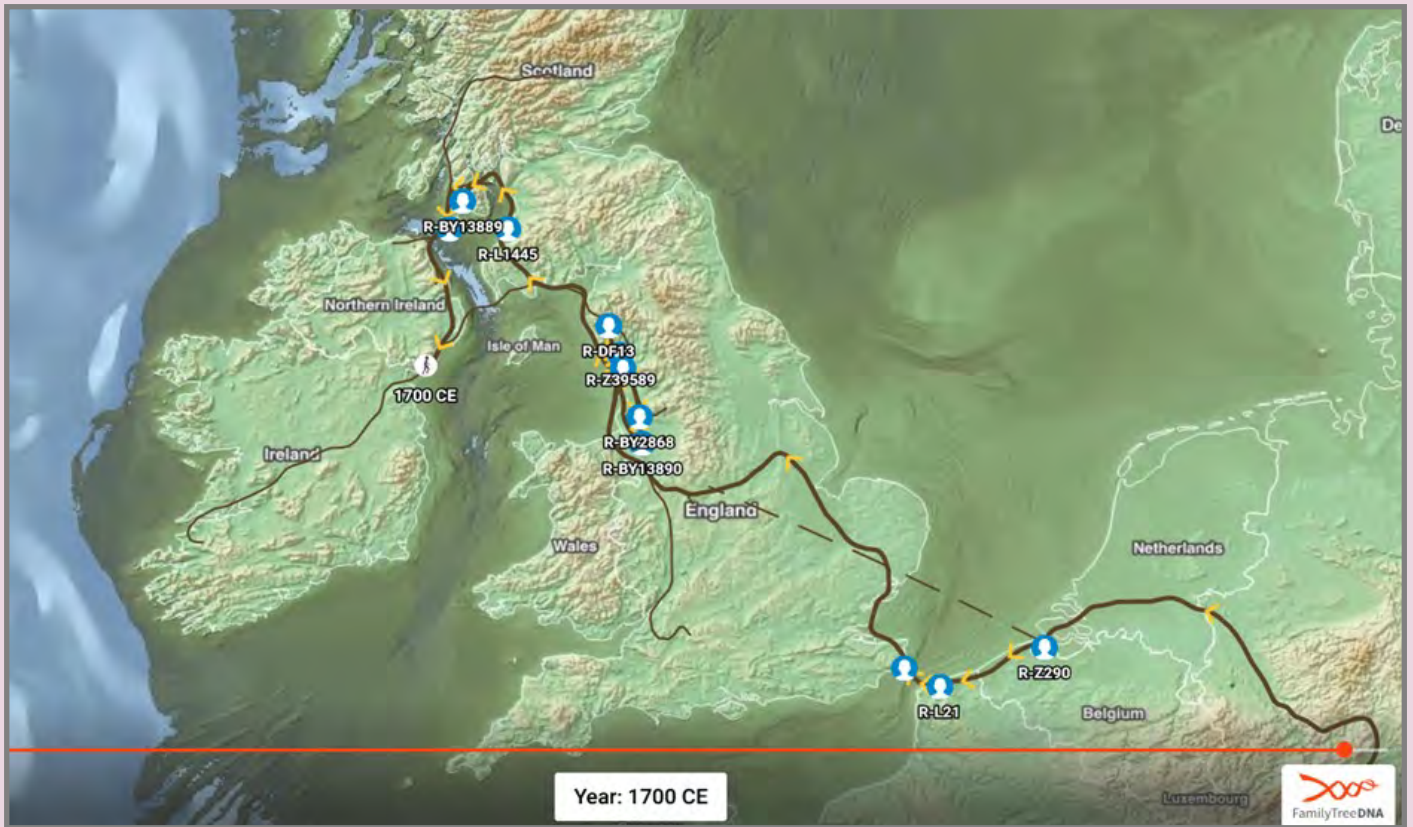
GlobeTrekker (see below) takes this simplistic information and automates it, adding animation and shows the world as it changed over time. It shows the retreating (and advancing) ice caps and tracks each haplogroup individually, playing at the speed that you have selected. You also have many display options in this extremely interactive feature which allows you to zoom in and watch your ancestry reveal its path right in front of your eyes.



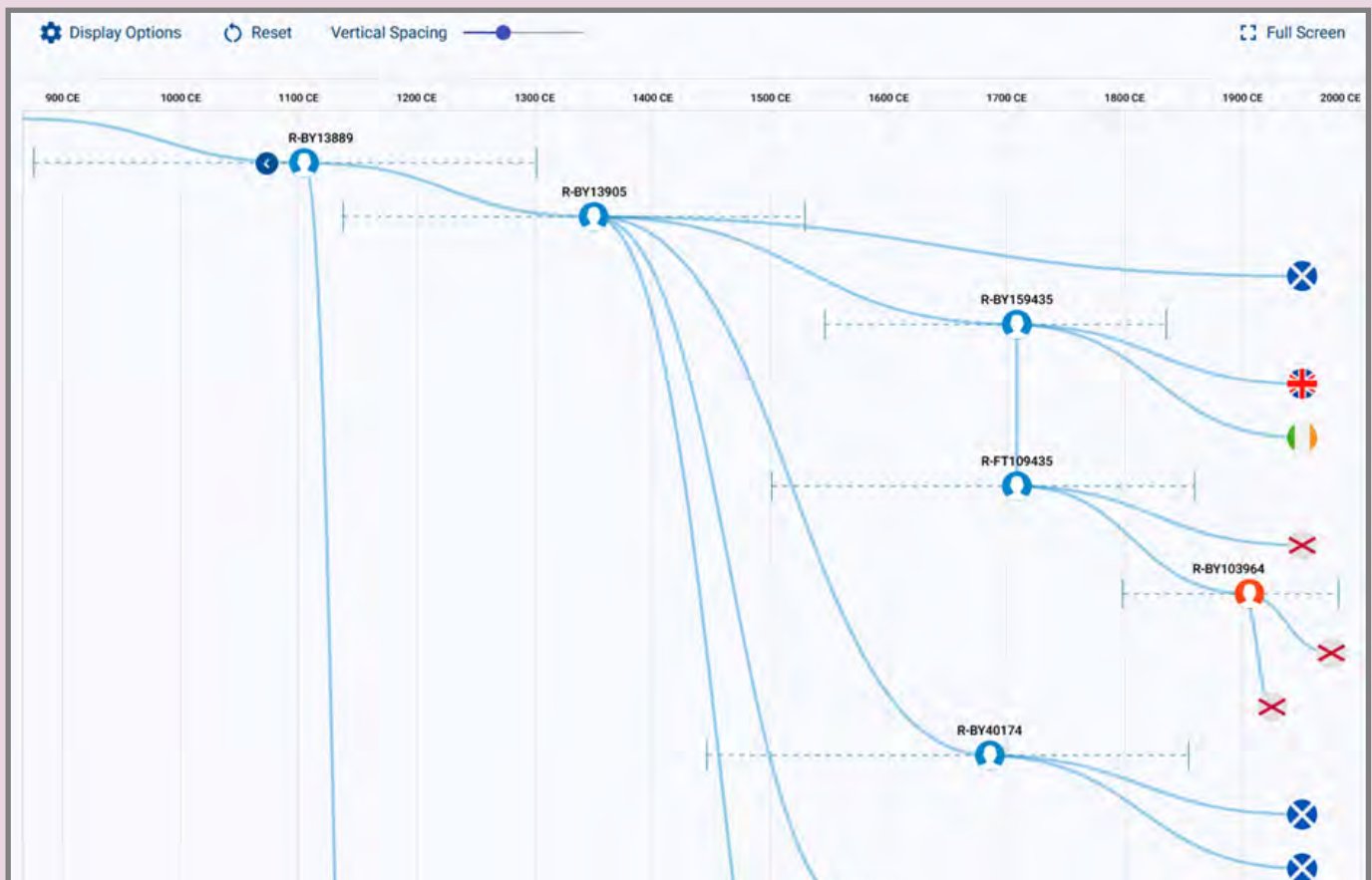


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The powerful zoom feature allows you to focus on any area of the world to get more detail (below).



The *TimeTree* provides a different format to help you understand your haplogroup's progress over time. Each branching point shows a mutation (or change) that happened in a specific ancestor of yours and each of these has been dated—see below:





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The *TimeTree* plots where your Big-Y matches are from and the haplogroups they belong to. It also shows how they connect to yours and are a simple visual image showing the connection between testers. You can see that this shows connections between recent testers and also the progression of haplogroups over time.

And if all of that wasn't enough, you can also get real and accurate information on your connection to ancient remains which have been found in archaeological digs where their DNA has been processed.

Here is an example of what I received. So far there are thirty-one ancient connections to which I am connected. Each one has a name and a story and has been dated to the time period in which they lived. On top of that I am given a date for when I most likely shared a common ancestor with them.

Ancient Connections Share

Here are some ancient relatives from your direct father's line based on DNA testing of archaeological remains from around the world.

Yarnton 2445
Yarnton 2447
Rodean Crescent 14553
Inchagreenoge 134
Bottle Knap 27382
Stockbridge 17260
Harlyn Bay 16380
Broom Quarry 16597

Yarnton 21182
Thame 14807
Kent 19909
Dibbles Farm 17016
Wattle Syke 14347
Radosevice 17143
Pocklington 13753
Battlesbury Bowl 21309

Worlebury 13762
Vescovile 3190
Casterley Camp 21312
Thornholme 22060
North Berwick 16499
North Bersted 27379
Perrott Manor 11145
Howe 2799

Perrott Manor 11144
Wetwang Slack 10427
Thornholme 22062
Ballyglass Middle 44
Driffield 18
Birsay 78
Denisova 8

Yarnton 2445
2325 - 2040 BCE

Shared Ancestor
2200 BCE

You and Yarnton 2445 share a common paternal line ancestor who lived around this time.

Rare Connection

1 in 3,000
Only 179 customers are this closely related to Yarnton 2445.

Yarnton 2445 was a newborn boy who lived between 2325 - 2040 BCE during the **European Bronze Age** and was found in the region now known as **Yarnton, Oxfordshire, England**.

He was associated with the **Bell Beaker Britain** cultural group.

His direct maternal line belonged to mtDNA haplogroup **X2b6***.

Reference: *I2445 from Allen Ancient Genome Diversity Project; Olalde et al. 2018*

Phylogenetic Y-DNA analysis by FamilyTreeDNA. Ancient DNA samples are typically degraded and missing coverage, sometimes resulting in less specific haplogroup placements.

R-BY2868
Shared Ancestor
2200 BCE

Yarnton 2445
(2325 - 2040 BCE)

Martin McDowell

This can give you an insight into where your ancestors may have been living at a certain point in time and provides information you couldn't possibly get any other way but through DNA.

Over 6,500 ancient connections have so far been added to this feature and more are added regularly when information is made available.

The above features provide great information for all testers, there is something for everyone. Even people with few genealogical matches can also greatly benefit from this – they can find their place in the world tree of humanity and use all of these features. Next time we'll look at how adoptees can use Y-DNA to uncover their past.

If you want to find out your own specific haplogroup you can do so by purchasing a family finder and/or Y test from Family History Books here: <https://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376>. Regular price shown, but there is currently an offer on FamilyFinder—see front page.

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- with FHB whilst stocks last -

FamilyTreeDNA

Family Finder (Autosomal) DNA Kit
Current FTDNA 'Special Offer' List Price \$59 = £49*

FHB Price £47

Y-37 (Paternal) DNA Kit
Current FTDNA 'Special Offer' List Price \$99 = £82*

FHB Price £77

* Web Prices & GBP-USD Exchange Rate (Barclays) | .20319 verified 22nd April 2024

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com/dna-kits-376



Family History Societies



Family History Society of Cheshire

From Parchment to Pixels— celebrating fifty-five years of FHSC

The Family History Society of Cheshire [FHSC] was conceived by professional genealogist Bertram Merrell. In June 1969 Bertram featured on BBC's *Look North* and *Late Night Extra* where he explained how the first family history society came into being:



"I started doing the marriage index in 1968. In 1969, I felt a need to organise a society where people could get together and do it on a county basis. So, I put this note in the newspaper and got thirty people to show up. We organised a family history society of Cheshire, which

would be the first county-based family history society. Thereafter, because it was the first one, I got different counties and people asking, 'How do we go about doing the same thing for our county?' Consequently, over the years, we've now got a family history society for each county in England."

FHSC attracted thirty-four attendees to its inaugural meeting in Chester on 28th June, with the primary aims being to preserve historical documents and compile family histories. To achieve these objectives, regional groups were established in Altrincham, Stockport, Northwich, and Chester. Each region was under the charge of a local representative responsible for coordinating a committee, lecture programmes, discussion groups and projects, an organizational model that still underpins our operational model. The first AGM was held on 27th September 1969, when annual membership cost £1.

Over the next few years as membership and activity developed, two further regional centres were established in Nantwich and Macclesfield. The first activity the Society undertook was to copy the inscriptions and names from the gravestones in Tarvin churchyard (St Andrew's, Tarvin above right). The initial edition of our journal published in December 1969, featured articles on topics such as Massey in London, guidelines for writing a village history [an early One-Place Study in the making?], Cheshire



occupations, and a retrospective list of the Society's activities.

So, what of the intervening fifty-five years? FHSC, in addition to being a founding member of the Federation, has achieved many significant milestones, including gaining charitable status, establishing two research centres, a website, computer club, and a social media presence. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers have transcribed thousands of documents, meticulously compiled lists of gravestones and monumental inscriptions, and created detailed plans, as well as authoring books and guides covering numerous aspects of Cheshire ancestry. In 1971 FHSC took part in *Operation Tombstone*, a national project to record the details on headstones throughout the county to be compiled into a list and placed in the archives of local record offices.

As technology advanced, so did FHSC's methods of dissemination. Initially from simple duplicated sheets to pamphlets and small in-house publications, later transitioning to CDs and latterly instant downloadable PDFs. Similarly, the journal, which was once painstakingly typed on a manual typewriter and copied using a hand-cranked duplicator, is now professionally produced in colour and available both in print and digitally.

At our research centres, library helpdesks and group meetings, our army of knowledgeable volunteers consistently extends a warm welcome to those seeking to explore the origins of their Cheshire heritage. Beyond assisting with the 'Who, When, Why



Family History Societies



St. Philip's, Hassall Green—the Pink Church

and Where' of their roots, we also serve as a friendly hub for people across the world who are interested in connecting with shared surnames, family histories, and places, by providing a wide range of facilities to support their research. We offer advice to all, no matter what stage of their family history journey they are on or their level of expertise. Moving forward, FHSC is currently working with Cheshire Archives to relocate its research libraries to the new Heritage Lottery supported County History Centres. This exciting development means that we can guarantee our continued support for family history researchers in Cheshire.

The biggest challenge faced so far by FHSC came with the Covid-19 pandemic. When the first UK lockdown was announced on 23rd March 2020 we had little idea how the adoption of Zoom would revolutionize our operations, making our knowledge-sharing and collaboration more accessible. Our Computer Club was way ahead of the curveball, having weeks earlier



*Little Moreton Hall
Yes, it is as wavy as shown!*

held trials of Zoom. At the beginning of May FHSC held its first virtual Executive Committee meeting, followed a week later by an online Computer Club gathering. June saw most of our groups offering Zoom talks and our 2020 AGM was also held online. Zoom has undoubtedly become an essential tool since the pandemic. Geographical barriers that had previously limited attendance were effectively abolished, and the resulting inclusivity has cultivated a remarkable sense of camaraderie, an abundance of hitherto untapped knowledge and added richness and diversity to our events.

Our virtual offerings have expanded to include our seminar series that draws in renowned national and international speakers, who previously had been beyond our reach for in-person engagements. This ensures that our members gain access to a wide range of expertise and diverse perspectives. Additionally, FHSC has launched virtual special interest groups covering the whole spectrum of family history research, from Mac enthusiasts to historical newspaper archives, along with workshops on publishing, DNA, mastering online databases, genealogical software and local research 'Buddies' sessions. Following lockdown, we quickly reinstated our face-to-face gatherings which continue to provide a dynamic and vibrant social aspect for members, some of which are presented in a hybrid format.

FHSC continues to be the pioneering society that initially brought the idea of collaborative family history research to the fore. We have moved far beyond what our founder would have envisaged back in 1969. I'm sure Bertram would not only approve but would be very proud of his legacy.

Interested in joining us? FHSC subscription rates start from as little as £13pa.

Full details on the website www.fhsc.org.uk/

Or email chair@fhsc.org.uk

See also CheshireBMD which has been operational since October 2000: www.cheshirebmd.org.uk/





Family History Societies



Anglo-German Family History Society

The A-GFHS was formed in August 1987 – the result of a letter sent to the newly-published *Family Tree Magazine* by Roy Bernard (a Londoner by birth). All four of Roy's grandparents were German nationals, who had come to the UK for a better life. Roy was enquiring if there were other people who also had German ancestry who would like to form a group (he was thinking along the lines of a local group meeting in each others' houses).

Several people responded (including me) and 100+ turned up at his house at the initial meeting in his home! Over 5,500 people have become members since that time – not bad for a niche society. And we have a Facebook group.

We publish many books (in English) such as 'how to' guides, diaries, books on occupations – even a recipe book (both in German and English) from recipes handed down by German pork butchers who emigrated all over the world. Our publications are available via both Parish Chest and GENfair.

The society meets every two months in a church hall near Kings Cross Station in London – although we are replacing some of the face-to-face meetings with Zoom only due to the spiralling costs of hall hire. Meetings are simultaneously broadcast on Zoom and recorded.

If you are a Brit with some German ancestry, and you "put that to one side" as you don't know how/where to tackle it and don't know any German, then do visit our website www.agfhs.com and see what we get up to and what we offer and/or email me for a chat.

Jenny Towey

jenny@towey.me.uk



Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Family History Society

Isn't it easy to be led down the wrong path in our research? NNWFHS has members with ancestors from just about everywhere so research is widespread.

A recent research near-mishap was due to newspapers! An article seemed a touch far-fetched, but in 1915/6 the report appeared in many UK and overseas newspapers. So widely repeated that surely it must be right. But did an eighty-four-year-old Victoria Cross recipient really get involved in WWI minesweeping? However, what initially set the doubt-antennae quivering was reference to four sons; not so according to the tree!

The papers reported that the VC holder was living in the north-east of England, had served in the Royal Navy and included his deed that led to the award of the VC. Further searching in the papers led to a report of an impostor being imprisoned after claiming to be the VC holder. This impostor, with a history of larceny and fraud, was the source of the incredible stories. But those articles, once in the press, remain there and even in the twenty-first century are repeated as fact.



Israel Harding, VC

The true VC recipient was Israel Harding 1833-1917. He did not serve in the Zulu Wars, he did not have four sons, he had only lived in the north-east when serving on HMS *Castor*, but he did have a string of medals for meritorious service in the Royal Navy including that VC now in the Ashcroft Collection. An accommodation block is named in his honour at HMS *Excellent* in Portsmouth – his home area.

Newspapers can provide wonderful material to widen the stories of our forebears, but do verify what you find!

NNWFHS provides monthly helpdesks in local libraries. The winter talks are on Zoom open to all (fee payable for non-members). In the summer months local visits take place. See website for upcoming meeting information. Why not join the friendly, helpful FHS regardless of where your forebears originated? Everyone is welcome.

Website: <https://nanwfhs.org.uk/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nnwfhs/

Online shop where you can join for as little at £10 per year (subscriptions run from 1 September—join now and you do not pay again until Sept 2025): www.parishchest.com/nuneaton-north-warwickshire-fhs-3842.php



Family History Societies



Jewish Genealogical Society of GB

According to *Time* magazine in 2014, genealogy is the second most popular hobby after gardening. There is another statistic that has genealogy as the second most popular use of the Internet, but that is another story...

Genealogy is, of course, the study of family history and of our ancestors.

Jewish genealogy is even more exciting than general genealogy, because it forces you to understand history, geography, new languages, new alphabets as well as social history. There were no Jews in this country between 1290 and 1657 so a Jewish ancestor of yours must have come to the UK from some other "old country" be it in Eastern Europe, Germany, Holland or elsewhere.

JGSGB is not a Jewish society for genealogists, but a secular society for anyone with Jewish heritage, whatever their current religion. The JGSGB has been helping people find their Jewish roots for the past twenty-five years.

To do this, we provide a wealth of experience and resources to introduce you to the fascinating subject of Jewish genealogy.

We have an extensive library in Knightsbridge, London where our headquarters are now located since January 2024. This has one of the most extensive sets (>1000) of Jewish genealogical reference books, magazines, journals, family trees, certificates and a team of volunteers to point you in the right direction.

We run annual conferences in London and Manchester with speakers on diverse topics covering family history and Jewish genealogy. Sometimes these are also delivered via Zoom to be globally accessible.

We hold regional meetings with speakers and workshops. Currently these are in Brighton, the Chilterns, Hertfordshire, Leeds, Manchester, South East Essex (Southend) and south and west London.

This is the perfect place to tell people about your latest brick wall and get help from others to break through it, or give help to others so they can break through theirs. Alternatively, you can listen to a variety of speakers and be inspired to further your research based on their findings, or new techniques, such as the use of DNA in genealogy.

We host special interest groups focusing on particular topics, such as DNA (genetic genealogy), Eastern European genealogy, German genealogy, Dutch and Sephardic

genealogy and Anglo-Jewish genealogy (typically those who have been in England since well before the Eastern European Ashkenazi onslaught from the 1880s).

Every month we run an educational webinar for members. We also have a mentoring programme to provide one-on-one assistance for less experienced members by some of our expert members.

We produce an award winning journal called *Shemot* with articles on Jewish genealogy. This is published three times per year. There is also a quarterly newsletter with the latest news, book reviews and event details.

We publish books in the *Jewish Ancestors?* series, for sale online and at resellers such as the Jewish Museum and The National Archives. These include Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (our first e-book) and of course the UK. There is also one on deciphering Jewish tombstones.

We also organise workshops regularly at the Jewish Museum in Camden and at synagogues and communities all around the country. We also accept genealogical enquiries by email from the general public at genealogy@jgsgeb.org.uk.

We maintain an active Facebook page, a members' email discussion group and of course a website at www.jgsgeb.org.uk. (Don't forget the .uk at the end unless you are interested in Jewish genealogy in Greater Boston.)

Finally, we publish Jewish genealogical data and information on every Jewish community in the UK at our Jewish Communities and Records UK (JCR-UK) website. See www.jewishgen.org/JCR-UK/. This is a collaboration between the JGSGB and JewishGen Inc.

Most of the above are provided for free (with the exception of conferences at which members pay a reduced price) as benefits of JGSGB membership, which is £35 per year currently or £40 for families. Or a small charge can be paid by non-members at each meeting or library visit, refundable from the cost of membership if taken out on the day.

If you are interested in talking about Jewish genealogy, feel free to drop me a line at chair@jgsgeb.org.uk. Or visit our library and HQ in Knightsbridge by emailing library@jgsgeb.org.uk, but remember to check opening times on our website at www.jgsgeb.org.uk.

Leigh Dworkin,
Chair, JGSGB



Really Useful Bulletin

News from the Federation

LIVE Really Useful Show—Nottingham



The Federation stand and bookstall with Martin busy on DNA

Saturday 15 June saw the second of the locally-organised regional **Really Useful Shows**. This time it was hosted by Nottinghamshire FHS who hired Studio 7, part of the Nottingham University campus.

Martin McDowell, DNA lead for the Federation, gave a most informative talk and then manned sales of DNA kits, carefully explaining the ins and outs of each test and helping visitors make an informed decision on which kit would be of most benefit for their particular need.

Nottingham University's Manuscripts and Collections department is also at the Lenton Lane complex. They offered guided tours during the show which were enthusiastically received. Do support your local archives!

We thank the East Midlands group and especially Nottinghamshire FHS for hosting this show.

The next **Really Useful Show Live** will be in [Belfast](#) on the 10 August, hosted by the North of Ireland FHS, not far from the Titanic Quarter. So why not organise a trip?

Out and About—York



All set up and waiting for the doors to open

The Federation exhibited at the **Family History Show York** on Saturday 22 June—just seven days after the Nottinghamshire event. This was held in the impressive Knavesmire exhibition hall at York racecourse.

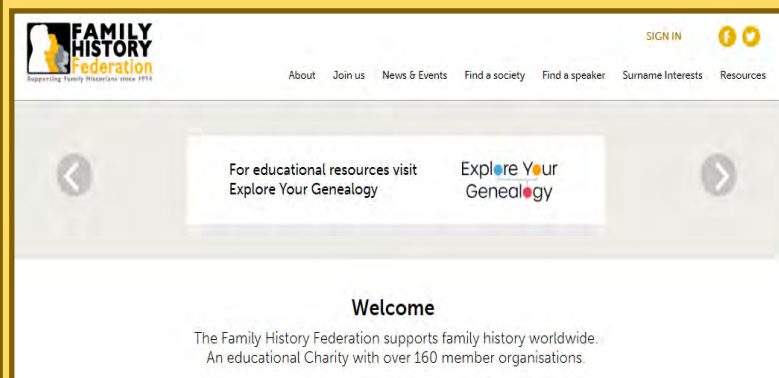
We met people from throughout the north of England plus some who had driven from Scotland for the day! It is always good to talk to visitors and occasionally we can help them with a specific issue in their own research.

It was a great day talking to visitors, promoting local FHS with a good up-take of the latest *Really Useful Leaflet*, which lists all member organisations.

The bookstall was well patronised, too, with plenty of interest in new and not-so-new publications!

Family History Federation Websites

The main [Federation website](#) is undergoing a major revamp! It still does all the things that you need, just that they are in different places. There are lists of speakers with links, and links to societies and organisations that are Federation members. It is interesting to note that new signees for these *Bulletins* via the website have considerably increased since the changes have been made to the front page. Visit the website, have a look around, press the buttons and explore.



For articles on a wide range of research topics click on [Explore Your Genealogy](#). Whether a beginner or experienced researcher, you will find articles to keep you occupied! There is also access to back-dated editions of the *Bulletin*. This website is “crowd sourced” so do add articles about topics close to your heart. On the website opening page, click on the *contribute* button for details. And do not forget [Family History Books](#) which has its own, independent, online shop where you will find relevant titles on just about every aspect of family history and considerably more!



Really Useful Back Page

**One-Stop Shop
for everything you need!**



Parish Chest, a service from the Family History Federation, has over sixty family history societies and some twenty-plus traders, at a one-stop online shop, offering a wide range of family history materials in some sixteen categories including:

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

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

www.parishchest.com

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

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



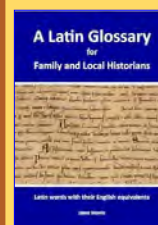
FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

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

FHB welcomes contact from authors! Works of general and specific interest to family historians with wider social history topics are of interest. FHB does not publish individual family histories or fiction. If you have a book in the making, then do contact FHB via

admin@familyhistoryfederation.com



The latest book is a revised edition of [Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians](#).

This gem, in print since 1989 with a few updates along the way, also has larger, more legible, print! It is a researchers must-have at just £5.95 + p&p.

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

Happy browsing!

Please explore the range, and place your orders, at

www.familyhistorybooksonline.com

The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

Live show—Belfast 10 August

Online 15 and 16 November

Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for full details



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