Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet

Produced by the Federation of Family History Societies, in association with the Society of Australian Genealogists and Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc

www.ffhs.org.uk
For over 40 years, the Federation of Family History Societies has represented family historians and supported, informed and advised our membership, which consists of family history societies and similar bodies, in the UK, Australasia and further afield.

With an ever-increasing amount of information available on the Internet, provided by commercial, as well as volunteer organisations, there has never been a better time to research your family history. Take a look at our list of useful websites on pages 4 and 5 to get an idea of just how much information is available to you.

**Getting started**
If you are a newcomer to family history you may not be aware of the existence of family history societies or indeed how much you might benefit from joining one! It is true to say that in the early stages of research, quite a bit of progress can be made by going it alone. However, there will be times when your research grinds to a halt, and that is where membership of a society can be of great benefit.

Family history societies are full of friendly, knowledgeable experts who will be delighted to talk to you about your tree and help you when you face challenges. They have a great deal of experience in researching and will have lots of tips for when you get stuck. They often know about resources of particular interest to those researching in the society’s area. For example, if you talk to a society from a specific part of the British Isles, they will know about many local resources that exist in local archives that you might never come across, certainly online. Often they have transcribed records of use to genealogists, or they might offer a look up or research service to members. They also keep lists of surnames that are of interest to their members, so may be able to put you in touch with someone who is also researching your family.

**Family history societies**
There are two main options; either join a society based in Australasia in a state where your ancestors settled or join a UK society local to where your ancestors originated. Of course, you can always join more than one society at home, as well as overseas. That way you get the best of both options!

The Federation of Family History Societies has over 170 member societies throughout the world including societies based in South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, as well as New Zealand. In addition to our UK-based member societies we have other international, regional, specialist and one-name groups. The names and web addresses of all our members are included in this leaflet, on pages 10 to 15. They will be happy to share their knowledge and come up with ideas for you to pursue. They may also have produced transcriptions of the more unusual records that as yet are unavailable online.

Why not consider joining a society today? It could be just what you need to kick-start your research!

*A UK Edition of Our Really Useful Information Leaflet, an essential guide to researching family history in the British Isles, is available FREE online at www.ffhs.org.uk*
Sign up to the FREE FFHS Newsletter

Our family-history newsletters are free and written by the Federation of Family History Societies. Published every one to two months, they are read by thousands of people. They are essential to anyone with an interest in growing the family tree, whether they are new to ancestry research or experts.

“The newsletter has re-energized my desire to continue tracking down Welsh and English ancestors.”

Recent editions have included special issues on Irish family history, emigration and one-place studies. Read them at http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/intro.php

Subscribe now at http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/subscribe15.php

“Thank you for what looks to be a very interesting issue.”
USEFUL WEBSITES

Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet contains links to websites that are not managed by FFHS. FFHS does not exercise any control over these websites, nor is it responsible for their content or their quality. Entries with the symbol $ are sites that may charge for some services.

- Ancestry: Key Australian records, UK census and vital records, and AncestryDNA [www.ancestry.com.au $]
- Auckland Museum Cenotaph Database: Allows a search for deceased individuals from the 19th century through to today [www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph]
- Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc: Established in 1978 to coordinate and assist the work of Australian and New Zealand groups with interests in family history, genealogy, heraldry and related subjects [www.affho.org]
- Australian Capital Territory: Archive which holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians [www.archives.act.gov.au]
- Australian Capital Territory Heritage Library: Records and information relevant to family historians [www.library.act.gov.au/find/history]
- Australian Capital Territory Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Birth, death and marriage certificates can be purchased [https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18/~/apply-for-a-birth%2C-death-or-marriage-certificate $]
- Australian Cemeteries: Offers a searchable database for many cemeteries throughout Australia. The site indicates whether a cemetery has information available online or a contact address. Information available may include monumental inscriptions, photographs, and transcriptions [www.australiacemeteries.com.au]
- Australian Cemeteries Index: Provides a searchable database of cemetery inscriptions recorded by the transcribers and contributors over several years [www.austcemindex.com]
- Convict Maps Australia: Guide to researching convict ancestors [members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/index.html $]
- CoraWeb: Websites for genealogists. Excellent and highly recommended site which includes a comprehensive listing of many smaller, regional family history societies [www.coraweb.com.au]
- FamilySearch: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints baptism, marriage and burials index; England and Wales census records, Family History Centres, Wikis [www.familysearch.com]
- Federation of Family History Societies: Long-established genealogy charity that supports ancestry research and family history societies around the world; bimonthly newsletter [www.ffhs.org.uk]
- Founders & Survivors: Partnership between historians, genealogists, demographers, and population health researchers. It seeks to record and study the founding population of 73,000 men, women, and children who were transported to Tasmania [www.foundersandsurvivors.org]
- Irish Convicts to New South Wales 1788–1849: Contains details of Irish convicts who were transported to New South Wales in the period 1788–1849 [members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/convicts.htm]
- MyHeritage.com: Build your family tree for free and find relatives with Smart Matching technology and automatic matching to 4+ billion names in historical records; MyHeritageDNA [www.myheritage.com]
- National Army Museum (New Zealand): A place to seek out and research information about New Zealand veterans and family members who served in the armed forces [www.armymuseum.co.nz/research]
- New South Wales: State archive which holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians [www.records.nsw.gov.au $]
- New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages: Index to births, deaths and marriages; certificates can be purchased [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au $]
- New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs: Free online access to index of births, deaths and marriages; certificates available to purchase [www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/ $]
- Northern Territory Archives: Holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians [dct.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service]
- Northern Territory Department of Attorney General and Justice: Births, deaths and marriages; certificates can be purchased [nt.gov.au/law/bdm/apply-for-birth-death-or-marriage-certificate $]
- Northern Territory Library and Information Service: Holds records and information relevant to family historians [www.nl.tn.gov.au]
- Paperspast (New Zealand): Provides digital access to over 2 million pages from 80 newspapers and publications throughout New Zealand from 1839 to 1945 [https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/]
• Queensland: State archive which holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians
   www.archives.qld.gov.au

• Queensland Government: Justice Gateway: Index to births, deaths and marriages; certificates can be purchased

• Rookwood Anglican and General Cemeteries: Offers a deceased search facility www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au

• Rootsweb.ancestry.com: Largest and oldest free genealogy information website; host to mailing lists, news groups, message boards, volunteer projects, websites, etc.  www.rootsweb.ancestry.com

• Society of Australian Genealogists: Helping people trace family history for over 80 years; world-class library and manuscript collection  www.sag.org.au

• South Australia: State archive which holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians  www.archives.sa.gov.au

• South Australia Government: Index to births, deaths and marriages; certificates can be purchased

• State Library of New South Wales: Holds records and information relevant to family historians  www.sl.nsw.gov.au

• State Library of Queensland: Holds records and information relevant to family historians  www.slq.qld.gov.au

• State Library of South Australia: Holds records and information relevant to family historians  www.slsa.sa.gov.au

• State Library of Tasmania: Holds records and information relevant to family historians  www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au

• State Library of Victoria: Holds records and information relevant to family historians  www.slv.vic.gov.au

• State Library of Western Australia: Holds records and information relevant to family historians  www.slwa.wa.gov.au

• Tasmania Department of Justice: Birth, death and marriage certificates can be purchased
   www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/family_history  $

• The Archives of New Zealand: Holds a range of records, including many national treasures  www.archives.govt.nz

• The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS): Provides a Family History Kit that gives tips for starting your family history search and contact details for other organisations that can help  www.aiatsis.gov.au

• The Australian War Memorial: Key resource for Australian war history and for military records of servicemen and women  www.awm.gov.au

• The Convict Records: Provides a search of the British convict transportation register between 1787 and 1867; information available includes name of convict, known aliases, place convicted, port of departure, date of departure, port of arrival, and the source of the data  www.convictrecords.com.au

• The Convict Transportation Registers Database 1787-1867: Compiled from the British Home Office (HO) records; includes details for over 123,000 of the estimated 160,000 convicts transported to Australia: names, term of years, transport ships, and more  www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/info-guides/convicts

• The National Archives of Australia: Contains a fascinating collection of more than 100 years of Australian Government records, documenting the history of individuals, communities, and the nation  www.naa.gov.au

• The National Library of Australia: Provides access to and use of the collective knowledge of New Zealand  www.natlib.govt.nz

• The National Library of New Zealand and the Alexander Turnbull Library: Provide access to and use of the collective knowledge of New Zealand  www.natlib.govt.nz

• The New Zealand Archives Archway: Provides direct access to records, some of which have been digitised  www.archway.archives.govt.nz

• The Ryerson Index: Index to death notices appearing in current Australian newspapers; the Index also includes some funeral notices, probate notices and obituaries  www.ryersonindex.org

• Trove: Provides digital access to more than 500 million Australian and online resources including books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more  www.trove.nla.gov.au

• Victoria: State archive which holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians  www.prov.vic.gov.au

• Victoria Births, Deaths and Marriages: Index to births, deaths and marriages; certificates can be purchased  www.bdm.vic.gov.au  $

• Western Australia: State archive which holds and provides access to a broad range of records of interest to family historians  www.sro.wa.gov.au

• Western Australia Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages: Birth, death and marriage certificates can be purchased  www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au  $

• Whakapapa—genealogy (New Zealand): Provides information about exploring Maori heritage  www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/introduction-whakapapa-research.aspx

• Society of Australian Genealogists: Helping people trace family history for over 80 years; world-class library and manuscript collection  www.sag.org.au
If you are just embarking on researching your family history you will probably be aware that an ever increasing amount of information is available on the Internet, provided by commercial as well as volunteer organisations. It is true to say that in the early stages of research, quite a bit of progress can be made using online resources, however, there might be times when you need some guidance or you are not sure what to do next.

The following questions and answers may help you to decide on your next step.

Q. Where do I start?
A. Draw a basic family tree. Start with yourself, add your family, your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. in fact, any relatives you can remember. You might find it easiest to do this first on paper, or you can use a family history software package. There are a number of software programs available and major family history societies stock a range of these. The advantage of using computer software from the start is that it gives you greater flexibility when you want to print out charts and share information with other family members. There are also a number of commercial websites such as [https://findmypast.com.au](https://findmypast.com.au), [https://ancestry.com.au](https://ancestry.com.au) and [https://myheritage.com](https://myheritage.com) which offer the facility to build your family tree online. However, do remember that you need to be sure your information is correct before you start sharing it with others. Question older relatives, they might be able to fill in some of the gaps with their knowledge of ancestors you may not know of or have forgotten. And don’t forget to ask if they have any photographs, certificates or a family Bible. Sometimes until you ask they won’t think to tell you!

Q. I've recorded everything I can. Where do I go next?
A. From the information you’ve already gathered hopefully you’ll have an idea of where your family lived in Australia. From the time of white settlement in 1788 through to Federation in 1901, every colony kept its own records. So to have any real chance of finding your family you need to know whether to look in New South Wales, or Western Australia, or Queensland, or whichever area you believe to be the one where your people settled. Record keeping was different for each colony and there is no guarantee that a record source you find in one will exist in another. Even after Federation took place in 1901, the states continued to maintain their own independent record keeping for births, deaths and marriages, probates, land transfers and many other sets of records.

Q. Where will I find birth, death and marriage information?
A. There is no national index of births, deaths and marriages in Australia, although commercial ‘pay to view’ sites are creating their own versions by consolidating the various state indexes available to them. A good website to look at initially is Cora Num’s gateway site for Australian research – www.coraweb.com.au. This will lead you to the website of each state’s Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages – most have online indexes you can search and some allow you to order copies of certificates online (and in several cases to download them electronically as soon as you have completed your purchase).

Q. What information can I expect to obtain from a certificate?
A. Again this will vary for each state. Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have some of the best civil registration systems for births, deaths and marriages anywhere in the world. A New South Wales death certificate, for example, can tell you when the deceased had arrived in the colony; when and where they were born; who their parents were; where, when and who they married; and the names and ages of their children. It can also give the burial place, the former occupation, cause of death and the date of death. There was no uniform date for the commencement of civil registration in the various colonies (most had introduced this by 1856 although the territories did so much later) and prior to this you will have to rely on surviving church registrations of baptisms, marriages and burials which are not as informative.

Q. Where do I find parish registers?
A. Prior to the commencement of civil registration, churches kept records of baptisms, marriages and burials, as they continue to do to this day. Some parish records are available on microfilm in libraries and family history societies, others may still be held with the diocesan archives. For some colonies the early church registers have been copied across to the State Registry and are available as part of their historical record series.

Q. How can I find when my ancestor arrived here?
A. Like birth, death and marriage records, passenger records were kept by authorities in the colony in which they arrived, so there is no one national index you can check. However, many of the State archives are putting shipping records online as have some of the commercial ‘pay to view’ websites. Your ancestor may have come to Australia as a convict, a free person, an assisted passenger, as crew or as part of the military; and the records associated with each will be different. Unfortunately record keeping sometimes left a lot to be desired. For instance, when thousands were flooding into New South Wales during the goldrush of the 1850s, the authorities resorted to recording the number of arrivals, but not recording individual names.
Q. Why can’t I find census records – I’ve used them for the UK and they are great
A. Unfortunately historical census records have not survived in Australia as they have for many overseas countries and hence they are not a key source for Australian family history as they are in the UK and America. Where census (or muster) information does exist, it may include name, age, ship of arrival, status (as in free or convict), religion, occupation and place of residence. Some census records will only show details for the head of the household but not for everyone living with them. A good substitute can be electoral rolls and directories. Before 1903, only males over 21 who were British subjects were listed on electoral rolls, but after that time women begin to appear too. Post Office directories for both city and country areas were common and many of these can be searched online.

Q. What if my ancestor was a convict?
A. This can be good! Convicts were prisoners of the crown, so many records were created about them – when they were transported, their sentence and crime, what they looked like (in case they escaped and had to be identified), whether they were assigned to work for someone or sent out on a road gang, and much more. Depending on how well-behaved they were, they may have received a Ticket of Leave (giving them permission to work for themselves in a specific district), a Conditional Pardon (having the rest of their sentence overturned on condition they did not return to the country from which they were convicted) or an Absolute Pardon (reinstating them as free citizens). Different records were created at different times and each colony which took convicts had their own system of record keeping. New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia were the main colonies which accepted convicts, although many ended up in other colonies because they reoffended or were assigned to work there. The State Archives in each state is the place to start if you wish to trace convict records.

Q. What if I think my ancestor served in one of the wars?
A. Excellent records survive of Australian service personnel for both World Wars. World War I service records are available for free online through the National Archives (www.naa.gov.au) and provide detailed information about war service, as well as useful genealogical information such as age and place of birth, next of kin, occupation and place of residence. If a soldier was wounded or died there may also be Red Cross files which you can consult. National Archives is beginning to place these service records online.

Q. What if my person came from Europe or Asia?
A. Australia has always been a nation of immigrants. As it was established as a British colony, people who wanted to buy land or vote had to be British subjects. Many non-British settlers therefore became naturalized, and these records can assist in determining their place of origin, as well as where and when they arrived. Prior to 1903, naturalization records were state-based, but after this time naturalization was a Commonwealth responsibility. From 1923 the Commonwealth took over responsibility for recording shipping arrivals, so the National Archives will be the place to check for arrivals after that date.

Q. Is everything I need online?
A. No. While an increasing array of records are online, there are as many that are not. In order to fully research your family history you’ll need to visit your state archive and library, family history societies and other repositories. Sometimes only indexes are available online, and you need to follow up with further research in a record repository.

Q. Why would a family history society be able to help me?
A. Family history societies all have volunteers available to assist you with your research. They tend to be people who’ve already done a lot of research into their own family history, so they know what records you need to use and the pitfalls you might face. They can often show you more economical ways to find the information you need and can help you determine if someone has already done work on a line you are tracing. We all find brick walls in our family history, and as the saying goes, ‘a problem shared is a problem solved’. Sometimes you can’t find something because you don’t know where to look or which record to consult next – a visit to a family history society will often help you break down that barrier.

Q. Where can I find information on any family history societies that I might want to join?
A. The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc lists all of its member organisations on its website at www.aaffho.org and this is a good place to start. Cora Num’s gateway site at www.coraweb.com.au is another good reference point.

Q. Where can I learn more about researching family history?
A. Check with the society in your local area to see if they run courses, or ask at your local library. Some offer webinars too, so you can participate in sessions from the comfort of your own home.

Q. How can I be sure this family hasn’t already been traced?
A. It’s important to check to see if others have already done research – they may have purchased certificates or obtained documentation that could be useful to your research. Before you reinvent the wheel, check online through the major websites and also with your local society. Remember that people have been tracing family history long before the Internet came along, so a local or family history society or the major genealogical organization in your state might hold a book published 50 years ago that contains the information you are looking for.
### AFFHO Member Societies

#### General
- Families in British India Society [www.fiblis.org](http://www.fiblis.org)
- FamilySearch [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- Federation of Family History Societies [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)
- Guild of One-Name Studies [one-name.org/](http://one-name.org/)

**New South Wales**
- Campbelltown and District Family History Society Inc [www.cdfshs.org.au](http://www.cdfshs.org.au)
- Cape Banks Family History Society Inc [www.capebanks.org.au](http://www.capebanks.org.au)
- Casino & District Family History Group Inc [www.facebook.com/casinofamilyhistorygroup](http://www.facebook.com/casinofamilyhistorygroup)
- Central Coast Family History Society [www.centralcoastfhs.org.au](http://www.centralcoastfhs.org.au)
- Colo Shire Family History Group Inc [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1730439460520358/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1730439460520358/)
- Cowra Family Historical Group Inc [cfhg.webs.com](http://cfhg.webs.com)
- Dubbo & District Family History Society Inc [dubbofamilyhistory.org.au](http://dubbofamilyhistory.org.au)
- Gwydir Family History Society Inc [https://www.facebook.com/gfhs.moree/](https://www.facebook.com/gfhs.moree/)
- Hawkesbury Family History Group [www.hawkesbury.net.au/community/hfhg](http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/community/hfhg)
- Illawarra Family History Group Inc [illawarrafhg.blogspot.co.uk](http://illawarrafhg.blogspot.co.uk)
- Macedon River Historical Society Inc Family History [www.kempseymuseum.org](http://www.kempseymuseum.org)
- NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc [www.nswactfhs.org](http://www.nswactfhs.org)
- Ryde District Historical Society Inc [www.rydehistory.org](http://www.rydehistory.org)
- Tamworth Family History Group Inc [www.tumutfamilyhistorygroupincupdate.yolasite.com](http://www.tumutfamilyhistorygroupincupdate.yolasite.com)
- Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage Association Inc [www.tweedgoldcoastfamilyhistory.org.au](http://www.tweedgoldcoastfamilyhistory.org.au)

#### Young & District Family History Group Inc [www.facebook.com/youngfamilyhistorygroup](http://www.facebook.com/youngfamilyhistorygroup)

#### Queensland
- Caboolture Family History Research Group Inc [cfhrg.com](http://cfhrg.com)
- Caloundra Family History Research Inc [www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au](http://www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au)
- Central Queensland Family History Association Inc [www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au](http://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au)
- Family History Association of North Queensland [https://www.fhanq.org/](https://www.fhanq.org/)
- Genealogy Sunshine Coast [sites.google.com/site/genealogyssunshinecoast/Home](http://sites.google.com/site/genealogyssunshinecoast/Home)
- Gold Coast Family History Society Inc [www.goldcoastfhs.org.au](http://www.goldcoastfhs.org.au)

#### South Australia
- Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc [www.facebook.com/FPFHG](http://www.facebook.com/FPFHG)
- South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc [www.genealogysa.org.au](http://www.genealogysa.org.au)

#### Tasmania
- Tasmanian Family History Society Inc [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org)

#### Victoria
- East Gippsland Family History Group Inc [www.egfhg.org.au](http://www.egfhg.org.au)
- Family History Connections [www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au)
- Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc [nwfhs.org.au](http://nwfhs.org.au)
- Victorian Association of Family History Organisations Inc [www.vafho.org.au](http://www.vafho.org.au)
- West Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org)

#### Western Australia
- Geraldton Family History Society Inc [www.facebook.com/geraldtonfamilyhistorysociety](http://www.facebook.com/geraldtonfamilyhistorysociety)
- Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc [www.wags.org.au](http://www.wags.org.au)

#### New Zealand
- Auckland City Libraries, Serials Department [www.aucklandcitylibraries.com](http://www.aucklandcitylibraries.com)
- National Library of New Zealand [natlib.govt.nz](http://natlib.govt.nz)
Australasian Federation of Family History Organisation

The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) is the umbrella organisation for family history societies in Australia and New Zealand.

Our key roles are to assist family history societies and like organisations in their work; and to encourage and support education and research relevant to family history and related disciplines.

In August each year we support and encourage family history activities and events in Australia and New Zealand through National Family History Month.

Does your Society publish a newsletter or journal? Why not enter it in the Nick Vine Hall Award for the best family history journal? Entries accepted between January and March in each year for the newsletter or journal published in the previous year.

The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand. AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.

Full details are found on our website at:

www.affho.org
FFHS MEMBER SOCIETIES

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES BY REGION

FFHS thanks our member societies for advertising in Our Really Useful Australasian Information Leaflet. ‘A society’s strength lies in their local and specialist knowledge.’

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS INC
www.aaffho.org

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
www.botanybayfhs.org.au

CAPE BANKS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
www.capebanks.org.au

CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.centralcoastfhs.org.au

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC
www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC
www.gsq.org.au

HERALDRY & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA
www.familyhistoryact.org.au
E: secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au
T: 61 2 6251 1704

Friendly, experienced volunteer family historians provide guidance to help with your research. HAGSOC publishes a quarterly journal, monthly e-newsletter and holds regular seminars. See the website for details about their publication Family History for Beginners and Beyond, a how-to guide with extensive Australian and UK references.

MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
www.maryboroughfamilyhistory.org

QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
www.qfhs.org.au

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS
www.sag.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGY & HERALDRY SOCIETY
www.saghs.org.au

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
www.tasfhs.org

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC
www.gsv.org.au

WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.waggafamilyhistory.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC
www.wags.org.au

CANADA

ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY
www.afhs.ab.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
www.bcgas.ca

BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF GREATER OTTAWA
www.bifhsgo.ca

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
ogs.on.ca

CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHANNEL ISLANDS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, THE
www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org

LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE
www.societe.org.gg/sections/familyhistory.php

ENGLAND

A

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net

BARNBURY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.barnburies.org.uk

B

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net

BARNESLEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.barnsleyfhs.org.uk

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.bfhs.org.uk
E: bfhs@bfhs.org.uk
https://facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety
BFHS publish a quarterly journal; hold monthly meetings; provide research; publish CDs of Bedfordshire Parish Registers; publish monumental inscriptions from churchyards and cemeteries within Bedfordshire; run a library; and provide a range of lookup services. New members welcome.

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.bradfordlhs.org.uk

BRISTOL & AVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.bafhs.org.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.bucksfhs.org.uk

BURNTHOOD FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.bfhg.org.uk

CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.cfhsweb.com
E: treasurer@cfhsweb.com
Calderdale FHS covers the ancient parish of Halifax with the addition of the townships of Todmorden and Walsden. Free search facilities and a quarterly magazine are available to members. Internet membership £6 or overseas membership £17. See website for details.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.cfhs.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
www.societies.cam.ac.uk/cuhags

CHESHIRE, THE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF
www.fhsc.org.uk

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.cadfhs.org.uk
The Society provides advice and research services for family historians. HDFHS has baptism, marriage, burial and MI transcriptions for churches in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and District. They have a research room open six days a week, please see the website.

The Society is for all those who want to trace their ancestors including people who live on the Isle of Wight whose families come from elsewhere, as well as those with island ancestry who live on the mainland or abroad.

Members receive their quarterly newsletter electronically for only £10 a year (printed version £13) and membership enables you to join their online forum where you can get research help and download transcripts and data sets – many unavailable elsewhere online.

Whether your ancestors came from the Severn Vale, the Cotswolds, the Forest of Dean or other parts of the UK, Gloucestershire Family History Centre can help you with an extensive local library, books, CDs and downloads are also available on their website.

The Society was formed in 1986 to encourage the research of family history in the historical area of Hastings and Rother in East Sussex, which includes Ashburnham, Battle, Beckley, Bexhill, Bodiam, Guestling, Northiam, Pett, Rye and other nearby villages.

The LFHHS is an active society with a worldwide membership. Although you may be far away, they are committed to helping members through their local knowledge; email forum; mentoring service; surname interests; pedigree database; helping hands and two Research Centres.
LANCASHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY
www.lprs.org.uk
E: j.r.corrie@ntlworld.com
T: (+44) 161 794 5096
LPRS has published 189 volumes of parish registers, a unique source of information about our ancestors’ lives from the 16th century. Many registers include priceless information about place of residence or occupation. The highest degree of accuracy is guaranteed.

LANCASTER & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.lfhg.org

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
irrhs.org.uk

LETCHEWORTH & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.ldfhg.org.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.lincolnshirefhs.org.uk

LIVERPOOL & SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.lswlfhs.org.uk
E: secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk
F: www.facebook.com/groups/lswlfhs/about/
T: (+44) 1562 743912
https://twitter.com/LSWLancsFHS
A welcoming Society with a wealth of experience. Membership includes monthly meetings; weekly help desks; quarterly journal; online bookshop. See website for full details. You can be sure ‘you’ll never walk alone’ in your quest for that elusive ancestor.

LONDON GROUP OF YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES
http://yorkslondongroup.tumblr.com/

LONDON WESTMINSTER AND WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.lwmfhs.org.uk
E: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
T: (+44) 1865 358151
E: help@ofhs.org.uk
F: www.facebook.com/oxfordshirefhs
https://twitter.com/oxffamhistory
OFHS offers: an award winning journal; help and search services; DNA & surname projects; online wills library; surname interests. It sells parish registers, monumental inscriptions and census transcripts. Members can access discussion forums and additional online material (including journal archive).

LONDON WESTMINSTER AND SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.lswlfhs.org.uk
E: secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk
F: www.facebook.com/groups/lswlfhs/about/
T: (+44) 1562 743912
https://twitter.com/LSWLancsFHS
A welcoming Society with a wealth of experience. Membership includes monthly meetings; weekly help desks; quarterly journal; online bookshop. See website for full details. You can be sure ‘you’ll never walk alone’ in your quest for that elusive ancestor.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS
www.midland-ancestors.uk
E: gensec@midanc.uk
T: (+44) 1562 743912
F: www.facebook.com/Midlands-Ancestors-10150164553645160
T: (+44) 1562 743912
https://twitter.com/BMSGfH
Leading family history society covering the pre-1974 counties of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands with six groups including one in London. Online bookshop. Many publications available as downloads. Quarterly journal. Visitors always welcome at the monthly meetings.

MID-NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhss

MORLEY & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.morleyfhg.co.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
northants-fhs.org

NORTH MEOLS (SOUTHPORT) FHS
www.nmfhssouthport.co.uk
E: membership@nmfhssouthport.co.uk
T: (+44) 1772 422808
www.facebook.com/NMFHS.Southport/
The ancient parish of North Meols comprised much of what is now Southport. Overseas membership costs £12 and includes a quarterly journal which contains information about the society and members, a ‘Help Wanted’ page and articles. Other member benefits include Members’ Interests and a free, limited research service.

MIDLAND ANCESTORS
www.midland-ancestors.uk
E: gensec@midanc.uk
T: (+44) 1562 743912
F: www.facebook.com/Midlands-Ancestors-10150164553645160
T: (+44) 1562 743912
https://twitter.com/BMSGfH
Leading family history society covering the pre-1974 counties of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands with six groups including one in London. Online bookshop. Many publications available as downloads. Quarterly journal. Visitors always welcome at the monthly meetings.

NORTH NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.norfolkfhs.org.uk
E: membership@nfhs.co.uk
T: (+44) (0)1603 736718
www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk/
Members have access to Norfolk Online Record Service (NORS) with over 4 million transcribed records and a library including parish records, family trees, monumental inscriptions, etc manned by friendly, helpful volunteers. NIFHS produces a quarterly publication packed with interesting articles.

NORTHANTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
northishants.org

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.ndfhs.org.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.ndfhs.org.uk

NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.nwkfhs.org.uk
E: publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk
F: www.facebook.com/North-West-Kent-Family-HistorySociety-185363068176998
Covering south-east London and north-west Kent, plus Sussex parishes previously in Tunbridge Wells Family History Society’s area. Membership £10/£12; research service; twice monthly information email; CDs available; quarterly journal; access to members with similar interests. Links with Australasian societies welcomed.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.nottsfs.org.uk

NUNEATON & NORTH WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.nnwfhs.org.uk

ORMSKIRK & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.odfhs.org.uk

OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.ofhs.org.uk
T: (+44) 1865 358151
E: help@ofhs.org.uk
F: www.facebook.com/oxfordshirefhs
https://twitter.com/oxffamhistory
OFHS offers: an award winning journal; help and search services; DNA & surname projects; online wills library; surname interests. It sells parish registers, monumental inscriptions and census transcripts. Members can access discussion forums and additional online material (including journal archive).

OXFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY
www.oxfordshire-record-society.org.uk

PETERBOROUGH AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.peterborofhs.org.uk

PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.pontefractfhs.org.uk

RODBOURNE GROUP
www.rodbournehistory.org

ROTHBERY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.rotherhamfhs.co.uk

ROTHBERY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.rotherhamfhs.co.uk
RUGBY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.rugbyfhg.co.uk

RYEDEALE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
ryedalefamilyhistory.org

S

SELBY & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.selbydistrictfamilyhistory.btck.co.uk

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk

SHROPSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.sdfs.org

SOMERSET & DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.sdfhs.org

SOMERSET & DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.sdfs.org

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.suffolkfhs.org.uk
E: publicity@suffolkfhs.org.uk or membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk
T: (+44) 1473 274300
A friendly Society that holds monthly meetings at groups across Suffolk, as well as in West London. SFH Soc offers local expertise, transcribes registers, and regularly issues birth, marriage and burial index CDs, etc plus the quarterly Suffolk Roots. For more information go to the website.

SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.sfhg.org.uk
E: secretary@sfhg.org.uk
www.facebook.com/groups/sussexfhg
Over 44 years helping people research their Sussex Ancestors. Membership includes free access to their online 'Data Archive' which has many of their Parish Register and other transcriptions plus four journals a year. Join via the website.

T

TOLLESBURY ANCESTRY GROUP
www.facebook.com/groups/1104938112910002

W

WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wdfhs.co.uk

WALTHAM FOREST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wffhs.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

WESTON-SUPER-MARE & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wsfhs.org

WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wsfhs.org
E: secretary@wsfhs.org
www.facebook.com/groups/322446563003
https://twitter.com/WestSurreyFHS
Surrey ancestors? The Society can help. CDs and publications: whole of Surrey plus London and Middlesex; quarterly magazine, Roots and Branch; members services, help and advice; overseas membership for those outside UK just sterling £16. Join online via the website.

WHARFEDALE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
www.wharfedalefhg.org

WIGAN FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wiganworld.co.uk/familyhistory

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk
E: society@wiltshire.co.uk
www.facebook.com/wiltshirefhs
For everyone with Wiltshire ancestors. Check the website for databases, members’ interests, CDs, publications, etc. Join online for only £12 per annum for an informative journal, plus members’ area of website, with journals past and present, etc. Research and advice service by post/email. Follow WFHS on Facebook.

WOOLWICH & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.woolwichfhs.org.uk

WY

YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - FAMILY HISTORY SECTION
www.yorkshireroots.org.uk

GERMANY

DEUTSCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT GENEALOGISCHER VERBÄNDE E.V. (DAGV)
www.dagv.org

IRELAND

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND
www.familyhistory.ie

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.ifhs.ie

IRISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY, THE
www.irishancestors.ie

ISLE OF MAN

ISLE OF MAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.iomfhs.im

NEW ZEALAND

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC
www.fhs.org.uk/members2/overseas/newzealand.php

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS INC
www.genealogy.org.nz

NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.nifhs.org

SCOTLAND

For details of all Scottish societies, see the Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS) www.safhs.org.uk

USA

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
www.fgs.org

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BRITISH GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY
www.isbgfh.org

WALES, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, ENGLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.wise-fhs.org

WALES

CARDIGANSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.cgnfhs.org.uk

CLWYD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.clwydfhs.org.uk

DYFED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

GLAMORGAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
www.glamfhs.org
To help you too. All is explained on the website. Many people remain Catholic beyond the Reformation. Membership subscription £20 annually, paid online through genfair.co.uk, provides three journals, publications and help to find those elusive ancestors. New disc: Margaret Higgins Database of Catholics 1607-1840. Blog catholicfhs.wordpress.com

Overseas membership £20, includes 20-page A4 magazine every quarter sent to you by email. Members receive a bi-annual journal, private interactive members’ forum, online family trees, DNA project and gatherings. Dalton Databank (free resource): www.daltondatabank.org

Many people have remained Catholic beyond the Reformation. Membership subscription £20 annually, paid online through genfair.co.uk, provides three journals, publications and help to find those elusive ancestors. New disc: Margaret Higgins Database of Catholics 1607–1840. Blog catholicfhs.wordpress.com
### Families in British India Society

**Website:** www.fibis.org  
**E-mail:** aus@fibis.org or nz@fibis.org  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/fibis.org/  
**Twitter:** https://twitter.com/fibiswebmaster

Many Australasians have ancestors in British India. FIBIS can help research them. Their award-winning website offers over a million free biographical records plus extensive social and historical background. Research advice is available to members. Overseas subscription £18 sterling pa.

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

**Website:** jgsgb.org.uk  
**Email:** secretary@jgsgb.org.uk  
**Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/JGSGB/

The Society promotes and encourages study and research into Jewish Genealogy in the UK. It helps with the provision of facilities and activities, including a nationally important library, conferences, seminars and workshops, together with email and social media discussion forums.

### Pedigree Users Group

**Website:** www.pugweb.org.uk

### Quaker Family History Society

**Website:** www.qfhs.co.uk

### Romany and Traveller Family History Society

**Website:** www.rtfhs.org.uk  
**E-mail:** enquiries@rtfhs.org.uk  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/pages/Romany-and-Traveller-Family-History-Society-RTFHS/183224701701220

Romany Gypsy, Traveller or Fairground ancestors in Britain? They’re the specialists: the family history society to help you trace your roots, learn about your heritage and make contact with fellow enthusiasts. Information-packed quarterly journals, email list, plus specialist publications. Founded 1994.

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**National Burial Index: Third Edition**

This edition of the NBI includes over 18.4 million burial records taken from Anglican parish, non-conformist, Quaker, Roman Catholic and cemetery burial registers throughout England & Wales, covering 1538–2008. The database on CD is fully searchable and results can be printed out or exported.

For further information including coverage charts please visit: www.ffhs.org.uk
Uncover your family’s history with the Society of Australian Genealogists
www.sag.org.au

Just starting out? Hit a brick wall? Trying to extend your family tree further? Our Research Centre at 2/379 Kent Street, Sydney can help you!

Our Manuscript, Image & Digital Archive collection is at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent St, Sydney.

Why not join in our regular program of lectures, events and webinars? Access the collections for a daily fee or join for added member benefits. Phone (02) 9247 3953, email info@sag.org.au or visit our website for further details and opening hours.

The Society has been helping people trace family history for over 80 years.
Search our Library and MIDAS catalogues on line FREE!
Scottish Association of Family History Societies
www.safhs.org.uk

The SAFHS promotes and encourages the study of Scottish family history, and provides a forum for the exchange of information among members. Our membership includes all established family history societies in Scotland, as well as several national and regional bodies throughout the world.

They have a wealth of local knowledge and will be pleased to assist you in researching your ancestors in the years before they left Scotland to emigrate to Australia and New Zealand.

To find a society which matches the area your ancestors came from, please visit our website.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

NZSG is a registered charity founded in 1967 and has 68 Branches and 11 Interest groups covering all of New Zealand and the main areas of European immigration. Our website gives all contact details. We have an extensive library covering most countries in the world where members can research their family.

Phone: +649 570 4248
Web address: www.genealogy.org.nz
Email address: NZSGmanager@genealogy.org.nz
Follow us on Facebook
ABOUT FFHS

Our Really Useful Information Leaflet contains links to websites that are not managed by FFHS. FFHS does not exercise any control over those websites, nor is it responsible for their content or their quality.

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) is an educational charity.

We represent, advise and support our membership, which consists of family history societies and similar bodies across the world.

To achieve our mission, we:

• promote interest, among the public, in researching family history and encourage membership of the Federation’s member societies
• promote, facilitate and assist the work of member societies
• support and encourage mutual cooperation and collaborative projects to help relevant research
• represent the interests of our members and family historians in general.

Membership is open to any society or body specialising in family history or an associated discipline.

The Federation makes representations to official bodies on matters affecting the study of family history and related topics, as well as regularly liaising with a number of government bodies and archives.

This is achieved through the regular meetings and discussions conducted by member societies and through courses on family history organised around the world, as well as through publication of Our Really Useful Information Leaflet.

Federation of Family History Societies

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Registered Office: 2 Primrose Avenue, Urmston, Manchester M41 OTY, England

For those with a smartphone, this symbol provides easy access to extras on our website. Download a free QR reader from your app store and scan the code to go to the Home Page at www.ffhs.org.uk

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