

# HERITAGE FAMILY HISTORY

*Bringing your Past into the Present!*

**Newsletter: December 2011**

*Another year is almost over and there is time for one quick family history news bulletin before we start to concentrate on Christmas. It has been another busy year for me. Much time in recent months has been spent researching and writing my book about death records for Pen and Sword Books. This is progressing well although it is taking much longer than expected while publication will not be until 2013!*

*Meanwhile if you are interested in parish churches why not take a look at my latest blog which can be found [here](#)*

*The Who Do You Think you Are Show at Olympia draws nigh once again and has been scheduled to take place between 24 and 26 February 2012. The Society of Genealogists has announced its programme of workshops for the show. I will be talking on the subject "I've Lost My Ancestor Before 1837. Where Did He Come From?" at 3 pm on Sunday 26 February in the WDYTIA theatre. To book show tickets and to pre-book your workshop tickets (which tend to sell out very fast) click [here](#) .*

*I wish you all a very happy festive season and fruitful year of researching ahead.*

## HFH COURSES

### **Christmas Discount on HFH e-Course.**

*Don't forget that there is currently a £10 discount on my e-course *Researching Your Family History*. Why not add it to your Christmas wish list or treat another family member? Although the offer lasts only up until 31st December you do not have to start the course immediately. Once you have signed up you can download the course when you are ready and work at your own speed. If you are a Facebook member you will also be able chat about the course and family history in general on my Facebook page. If*

you are buying or receiving this on behalf of someone else do let me know so that I can set up the student account in the correct name.

The course is aimed at those people who are really serious about their family history and want to learn all there is to know about the records and how to build up a good research technique. It is suitable for both beginners and those who have been researching their tree for several years but would like to learn more. It will also prove extremely helpful if you have come up against brick walls in your research. The course is an adaptation of my 5-week evening class *Building Your Family Tree*, although in fact the nature of the course means there is much greater detail in the e-course than can ever be covered in the classroom course. At present the course consists of four modules covering How To Start (Module 1) and Civil Registration and Census Records in depth (Modules 2, 3 and 4). I plan to add further modules in due course. The next one will cover parish registers.

One of the features that make the course stand out is its dedicated student links website, which is available only to e-course students. This provides easy access to, and information about, an extensive range of websites that will prove invaluable for both your initial research and then for more advanced research topics. Topics covered by the website range from BMD and Census listings through to Parish Records, Map Resources, DNA, tracing living relatives and archive listings. It also has dedicated pages for Scottish and Irish Resources.

E-Course students work at their own pace and have no deadlines to meet while there are optional top-up packages where students can book tutorial sessions or ask questions relating to the course by telephone or Skype. Students can also chat about the course with myself and other students via the Heritage Family History Student Facebook page.

For further details of all courses: telephone 01797 344376 or visit <http://www.heritagefamilyhistory.co.uk/courses.htm>

### **ONE-PLACE STUDIES (Online course)**

**Start Date:** 12 January 2012

**Course Length:** 3 weeks

**Cost:** £33.99

In January I am running an online course for Pharos Tutors entitled **One-Place Studies: Research from a New Perspective**. In this course we will be putting genealogical methods of research to one side to concentrate on how to study just one place. Apart from being an interesting study in itself

one place studies will give you a better understanding of the place in which your ancestors lived and therefore a deeper insight into your ancestors' lives. We will be looking at the period of 1800-1875 in particular and also at ways of how to organise your one place study.

If you want to get a better idea about what one place studies consist of take a look at Alex Cole's excellent study of Wing in Buckinghamshire [here](#) For those of you unfamiliar with the Pharos method of teaching, the course consists of weekly modules for the students to work through. Supplementing this is a forum where the students and tutor chat about topics covered and also a weekly chat room session.

To book the course or find out more about how the courses work go to the Pharos website [here](#)

## HFH TALKS

Below are the talks I am giving up until the end of February. All are open to the general public for a small payment on the door of usually a £1 or so.

**Date: Wednesday 18 January 2012**

Subject: Pre-1837 Sources

Venue: Kent Family History Society, Thanet Branch

The Birchington Village Centre, Alpha Road, Birchington, Kent.

Time: 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

**Date: Tuesday 31 January 2012**

Subject: The GRO Index: Just How Accurate Is It?

Venue: Kent Family History Society, Ashford Branch

The Willesborough Windmill, Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford,

6.30 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

## OTHER NEWS

### British Library Newspaper Archive Release

The British Library in partnership with Brightsolid has released its much publicised and very welcome new database of British newspapers ranging in date from 1800 to 1900. Although its search engine is still under development and some of the OCR needs tweaking this is an excellent site and I recommend you have a browse around it when you have a few hours free. Unlike the British Library 19th-Century Newspapers database, which is accessible for many people using their library card, this new site is currently only available on a subscription basis, but these include both annual and short two-day passes. One of the problems in the past with researching newspapers has been that few are indexed. Digitised newspapers overcome this problem and you may also be surprised how information about your family sometimes turns up in newspapers at the other end the country to that in which they lived! Click [here](#) to start searching. Other Internet releases are at the end of the newsletter.

## INTERNET RELEASES

[Findmypast](#) have recently added the following records:

- Transcripts of the 1861 Scottish Census
- Military Nurses 1856 - 1940 contains the service records of hundreds of nurses who served with the following : the Army Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Royal Hospital Chelsea Nurses, Scottish Women's Hospital, World War II Military Nurses.
- The Manchester Police Index contains records of Manchester police officers from 1812 to 1941 while Prestwich Asylum Admissions includes details of male and female admissions to the Prestwich asylum from January 1851 to March 1901 and will tell you a person's age, occupation, religion, number of children and how they came to be admitted. Some later records have a photograph too.
- Meanwhile it's new Cheshire Collection will provide anyone with ancestors in this area with a very substantial database to work from,

including parish registers and bishops transcripts of the 16th to 20th centuries, marriage license bonds and allegations, workhouse registers from 1781 to 1910, as well as 20th century electoral rolls.,

The Genealogist has completed their transcriptions of the 1911 census for Oxfordshire, Surrey, Lancashire, Middlesex and has added to its collection of military records with World War I casualty lists, which provide a weekly list of casualties during the First World War from 7 August 1917 to 2 April 1918. These records will provide you with name, rank and number and details of when the soldier enlisted for the hometown.

Ancestry has released The Silver War Badge Records 1914–1920 database. This provides information about servicemen who were discharged from the Army due to illness or wounds received. The badges were given so that they would not be accused of shirking army duty and the database will provide you with details their rank, service dates, unit and why they were discharged.

Scotlandspeople have added Census Street Lists for the main towns and cities in Scotland for every census year. These free-to-view books are an excellent research tool and can be used to locate streets and find which enumeration books cover a particular area. In most instances the registration district is also provided. This is an excellent resource for finding who lived at a particular address without searching on a name. To view the census street lists [click here](#).

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