

Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN



President: Dr Hugh Kearsey

Vice-Presidents: Mrs Joan Howard-Drake, Colin Harris,
Dr Malcolm Graham, Carl Boardman

Hon Legal Advisor: Jeremy Geere
OFHS Registered Charity Number 275891

Chairman: Malcolm Austen
11 Corn Avill Close, ABINGDON, OX14 2ND
Tel: 01235 533626
Email: chairman@ofhs.org.uk

Secretary: Gay Sturt
c/o OHC, St Luke's Church, Temple Road,
Cowley, OXFORD OX4 2HT
Email: secretary@ofhs.org.uk

Treasurer: John Beckerleg
c/o OHC, St Luke's Church, Temple Road,
Cowley, OXFORD OX4 2HT
Email: treasurer@ofhs.org.uk

Editor: Mrs Sue Honoré
Meadow Barn, Old Minster Lovell, WITNEY, OX29 0RN
Tel: 01993 778044
Email: editor@ofhs.org.uk

Executive Committee:
Malcolm Austen, John Beckerleg, Dave Broughton, John Cramer,
Tim Emptage, Christopher Fance, Sue Honoré,
Susan Mattheus, Kevin Poile, Gay Sturt, Mike Walker

The Society's website can be found at: **www.ofhs.org.uk**

Front cover:

*An illustration from 'The Tudor Pattern Book'
Bodleian Library, MS. Ashmole 1504, dated 1520-30.
See article on Accidental Tudor Deaths in this issue*



Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN

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SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

1. to advance public education in family history and genealogy primarily within the county of Oxford
2. to collect, index, co-ordinate, publish and make accessible in the interests of family history and genealogy any documents or records relating to the county
3. to promote the preservation of such documents or records
4. to encourage the study of family history and genealogy
5. to assist educationally by lectures or otherwise in record research
6. to co-operate with family history and other societies with similar interests.



The Constitution of the Society is lodged with the Charity Commissioners and a copy is available from the Society's web site or, upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, from the Secretary.

Subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January except that those joining during Oct, Nov, Dec have their membership carried forward through the following year.

Membership renewal forms are distributed with the December journal.

UK members: Individual £9.00, Family £10.00

Overseas members (incl. postage) £12.00

Cheques drawn in sterling and made out to Oxfordshire Family History Society should be sent to the Membership Secretary (see the Who's Who at the back of this Journal).

Australian members may pay via the Society's agent (member 2202) Barbara Geeves, 5 Esperance Court, Mount Martha, Victoria 3934, Australia
Email: agent-au@ofhs.org.uk

Membership details are kept on computer and are used for Society activities only.

Contributions to Future Issues

The *Oxfordshire Family Historian* is published three times each year with cover dates of April, August and December. Items for consideration should be submitted to the Editor. The earlier an item is received, the greater the chance of inclusion in the next issue. The deadline for the August 2020 issue is 15 May 2020. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 June 2020.

The Editor reserves the right to edit, abridge, reject, or defer to a future date, all material submitted for publication. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that material submitted does not breach copyright laws. Contributions remain the copyright of OFHS and the authors jointly. The observations and opinions expressed in the articles and notices in the journal are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

From the Editor

It is interesting how some of our articles for a given issue tend to overlap. I was beaver away working on one article from Woodstock and another appears. Suddenly there are three concerning the textile industry (not all published in this issue). So if you have any unusual topics in your family history or it involves somewhere in the county we have missed, then do write an article; I (and you the readers) like lots of variety.

Do read the updates in this journal about the numerous activities happening in the Society at the moment. There are some big efforts in the projects arena – especially with our revamped website which we hope to launch this year, with the surname project as well as the many transcribing and scanning efforts. If you want to volunteer to help, please do so. We always need more hands.

Another new activity is that we have completed a short video on the work of our Monumental Inscription team. It is in the Members-Only area for you to see and may be shown in one of the OFHS meetings this year. After months of working on surnames it was good to have a break and get back to film-making again, so I had a great time. And what professionals all the MI people are, both in recording gravestones and in being in front of a camera or microphone. I think it is good to highlight all those who work ‘behind the scenes’ in the Society. If you want to

know about some other aspects of OFHS volunteering, or even think it would be good to make a 10 minute film on a part of the Society, then do get in touch with one of the Executive members.

We have some more articles in this issue about subjects that are on social history as well as family history – one on trade tokens and another on accidental deaths in Tudor times. These types of articles seem to get a positive response, so do tell me if there are any other subjects that may be of interest.

Sue Honoré
OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR
editor@ofhs.org.uk



A block of four trade tokens unearthed by metal detectorists in Oxfordshire. See article by Colin Reeves

Projects Update

Absent Voters & Electoral Registers

Our scanning partners based in Oxford have recently installed a new high resolution scanner and have already scanned samples of the electoral registers, both microfilm and hard backed volumes. These scans are now back with the Oxfordshire History Centre who will be checking quality very thoroughly and in particular the adherence to their very strict specification of file formatting. We are expecting that soon the project will move to the next phase which will be to identify all registers and volumes to be included.

Minn & Buckler

The enormous scale of this project means that the final cataloguing procedure is taking longer than

expected, but careful and time-consuming checking of each individual glass slide and scanned image is essential for consistent and accurate cataloguing. It's full credit to the staff at OHC for their diligent work ethics.

If you have a project that you feel would be of interest to your fellow family historians, or you feel that a particular set of documents or books for example should be scanned or recorded to safeguard them, then do please get in touch.

Surname/DNA and Website Project News are written as separate items.

Dave Broughton

PROJECTS COORDINATOR
projects@ofhs.org.uk

The OFHS Wills Library

The Wills Library is still growing.

At the time of writing we have 7116 wills and associated documents online free for your use, plus many hundreds of inventories, affidavits etc. which may be included with a will. Over 88,000 persons are indexed as appearing in those documents -- though the true number must be fewer, as people may appear several times in different wills.

If you haven't found the Library yet, it's at <http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/>

Have a look - you might find just

that one missing person. Be aware that because the Testator index is in alphabetical order of names *as they appear in the wills* different spellings of the 'same' surname may be a long way apart. ACRES/AKERS; SOUCH/SUCHE; SIMES/SYMES etc.

Recently 68 new testators have been added to the index with the surnames: ABRAHAM, ANDERSON, BOLTON, BUSBY, BUTLER, CLINCKARD (and variant spellings), CRASSE, CROSSE, CROXSTON, ENOCK, GILKES, GRAINGE, GRAYE,

HAMPSON, HART/HARTE, HEARNE, HOPKINS/HOPKYNs, HOWLETT, JONES, LAWRENCE, MAULE, MERRY, MILLINS, MOUNTAIN, NEELE, PAINE, PEARSON, PHILLIPS, ROBERTS, ROGERS, SAUNDERS, SELLER, SHEPARD, SMALEBROKE, SMITH/SMITHE, SNELL, SYMS, SYRETT, TOOGOOD, TUCKEY and TURPINE.

We have about 288 contributors, many sending in just one or two wills, a few offering hundreds. We are grateful to all of them. If you haven't joined in yet, why not? Wills can be a tremendous help in your research, especially where PRs are patchy or non-existent.

If you need help with transcription - or to have it done for you - we can offer that free of charge - all we ask is permission to add the will to the website. Just e-mail wills@ofhs.org.uk

Copies of pre-1858 wills are obtainable from OHC, (online) from

TNA, and (online) from Findmypast, all of whom have kindly agreed that we may publish transcripts of 'their' wills. TNA wills are now also available from Ancestry.

Online indices are freely available at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858/ (for PCC wills held at TNA) and <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/oxfordshire-wills-index-1516-1857> (for Oxon-proved wills available from FMP).

All post-1858 wills are held centrally, and may be searched for at

www.gov.uk/search-will-probate

Dave Beames

WILLS LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR

dave.beames@ntlworld.com

wills@ofhs.org.uk

The Oxfordshire Surname Project

At last, the team is moving forward at a faster pace in 2020. Sue has cleaned up the top 340 priority surname baptism and burial records. Richard is writing up individual surname sheets and beginning to use all the transcribing work completed by our many volunteers. Jessica is now working on pulling together the outline for a book and how we will publish it. Draft articles are gradually emerging. She is also spearheading our survey and photo gathering. We are in initial discussions about a database for all our data which long-term will be available to all OFHS members.

There is still plenty more to do. We still have indices from some key books/ lists we would like transcribed, so if



anyone would like to volunteer please do contact us. At this point we would like to thank all those who have helped us so far, with particular mention to Peter Evans, Jane Abraham and Jacques Honoré who have done a heavy amount of work in the last year. **For those of you with ‘work in progress’ please try and finish it – we need that data.** Until we have what we consider the majority of critical data we will not issue the individual name sheets or build the database.

Many of you will have seen Jessica’s survey on your individual Oxfordshire surnames, either through our surname project contact list or the Oxfordshire DNA group. Again, a massive thank you to all who have completed it – over 420 people so far. The data will form part of the analysis and write ups for the project. If you haven’t done it yet then there is still time before Easter. The link can be found at: <https://forms.gle/hDBb3hbbineQA7nz9>

The other new exercise is that we are collecting photos for our book and name sheet write-ups. See the special notice in this journal on page 7. Please read the rules carefully, but if you have any suitable photos Jessica will be pleased to have them.

Richard is beginning to analyse some of the autosomal data that we have in our DNA project, as well as managing and organising the surname-based Y-DNA results. We now have over 400 members in our DNA project. Do we have something in our DNA that could be described as an ‘Oxfordshire

fingerprint’ that pinpoints deep Oxfordshire ancestry? We certainly don’t know yet, but anybody with strong Oxfordshire ancestry on ALL their ancestral lines may be able to help by being tested and joining the project.

Details on the project and list of surnames can be found on our website at:

<https://news.ofhs.org.uk/oxfordshire-surname-project/> - we have over 1500 surnames from ABBOTT to YOUNG.

What can you do to help this project along?

- Volunteer to transcribe
- Finish off any transcriptions you are doing
- Encourage more males with their surname based in Oxfordshire before 1900 to be Y-DNA tested. Also (male or female) tell us if you are long-standing Oxfordshire on all your family lines and want to be DNA tested. Contact dna@ofhs.org.uk for more details.
- Send in your photos
- Help out if we plea for any specialist surname help in the next year – you will be welcome.

Richard has been testing the waters ‘down under’ to see if what we are doing is a) on the right lines and b) valuable – so far there is positive feedback. We hope in 2020 and 2021 we will now deliver some outputs.

*Sue, Richard, Jessica, Sally
surname-project@ofhs.org.uk
dna@ofhs.org.uk*

News from the Churchyards

The new Monumental Inscriptions CD for North Leigh is now available from the OFHS website at <https://www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html#mis> and at meetings and fairs. Other new MI CDs issued in late 2019 were those for Bampton and Great Milton.

Members can also view our new video on the work of our Monumental Inscription team in the Members-Only Area. Hopefully is of interest to all members.

Alan Simpson (3960)

MI CO-ORDINATOR

Forest Farmhouse

Old Road, Shotover Hill

Headington

OXFORD OX3 8TA

mis@ofhs.org.uk

OXF-MI-NLE



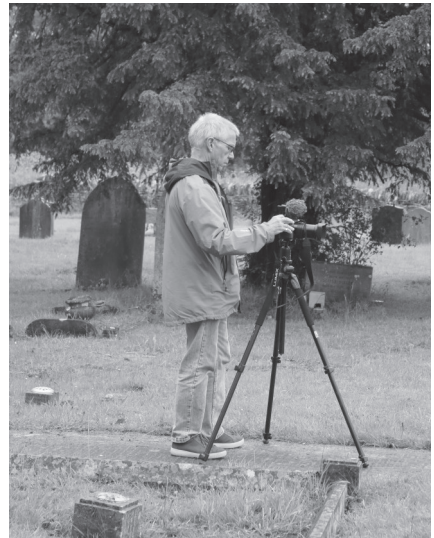
Oxfordshire
Family History Society

Monumental Inscription Transcript

North Leigh

The Parish
Church
of
St Mary





Send us your Photos!

We are looking for photos for two separate projects. Please contact Jessica Feinstein

(jessicafeinstein188@gmail.com) if you can help with either or both.

1. Display at the OFHS Fair

For this project, we need original unpublished Oxfordshire family photos, for example family groups, work groups, sports events, or any unusual and

interesting activities. The photos will be displayed in the room during the fair. Please make sure that:

- The photo does not include people who are still living (unless you have their permission).
- You have permission to display the photo. (Generally the creator of the image will be the copyright owner, but this is not always the case. See:

<https://www.dacs.org.uk/knowledge-base/factsheets/copyright-in-photographs> for advice.

- You would be happy to be contacted by people who spot a relative in your photo.

2. The Oxfordshire Surname Project

For this project, we are looking for original unpublished photos showing an Oxfordshire surname. This could be on a building or shop window, on a vehicle or road sign. The photo can be from any period, and can be in colour or black-and-white. Please make sure that you follow the rules described under item 1. Before sending your photos please:

- Ensure that you are able to scan each photo at a high resolution and save it as a .tif file. Digital art renders images as a finite number of dots (pixels) per inch. The size at which a piece of digital art can be

reproduced is limited to the resolution of that file, measured in pixels per inch, or “ppi”. Your photo should be scanned with at least 300 ppi.

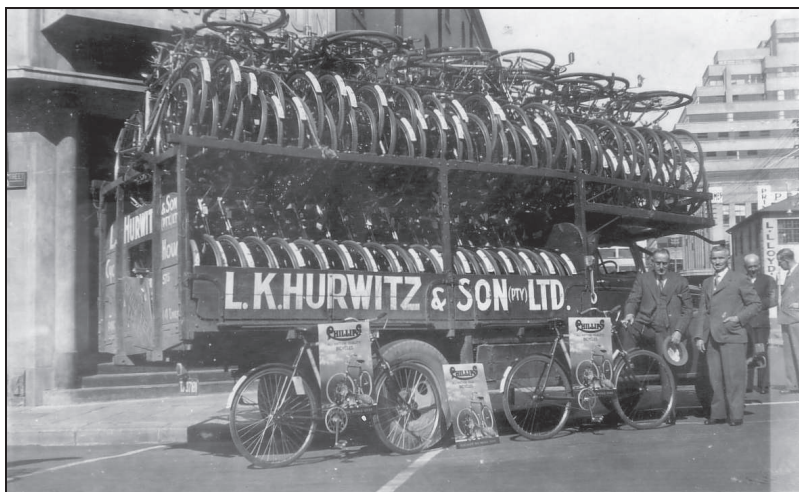
- Label each photo with a relevant description, e.g. Smith.tif or Christmas_market.tif
- Provide a caption for each photo – who is it, where, when?
- Say which project you are contributing to.
- Provide your name and email address or postal address.

If you are not able to scan and email your surname photos, please bring them along to the fair on 3 October, and we can scan them for you.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to receiving your images.

Jessica Feinstein (6465)

jessicafeinstein188@gmail.com



Here's a good surname photo example from Jessica's family archive. It's in South Africa, though. We look forward to seeing your Oxfordshire photos

New Website

The executive committee has taken the decision to create a new website for the Oxfordshire Family History Society. This is not to decry what the present website offers. Most of the information on it will remain but in a different format. The committee is aware that it is necessary to attract new members and to retain them. It was felt that a visually more friendly appearance along with more intuitive navigation and improved search facilities might create the right atmosphere to do this. It was also felt that the members-only area ought to contain important items only accessible to OFHS members.

Some readers will be aware that this process has been agreed and we are working with a company called

Community Sites to achieve it. At last it is coming to fruition. A new home page has been created and the other pages are being developed at present. It is hoped that the new website will be online by the AGM in June or soon afterwards. There will also be changes in its management with a new webmaster and deputies. In this area OFHS would welcome offers from members who have experience in this field to volunteer for one of these posts or at least to help in its maintenance. Any such person can live anywhere in the world, not just in Oxfordshire.

Christopher Fance

WEBSITE PROJECT MANAGER

meetings@ofhs.org.uk

From the Exec Table

The Meeting on 5 February was an especially busy one with some extra items on the regular agenda. Two members are trying out the work on the committee: John Beckerleg getting to grip with the finances with Kevin, and Tim Emptage watching and learning, though he is familiar with the Society.

Two long term members are planning to step back in the coming months. Alan Simpson is known for his technical skills. Who else will be able to get the Wi-Fi or the projector in the hall to work when they have failed? The kit he brings to the meetings is immense; spare projector, a set of slides if the speaker fails to arrive,

camera for photographing the speaker, sale stock of MI CDs, and finally a computer with the search services. Almost larger is his contributions to the other side of OFHS life: co-ordination of the MI activities, creating the CD contents, backed up by managing the Search Services. When you see him sitting in the hall, with his computer, waiting for anyone who is hoping for some help with a 'Brick Wall', all is serene.

One of the most familiar faces is that of Wendy Archer, ever ready to meet new visitors to the meetings. Her knack with publicity has ensured a great many visitors have joined the Society. At every

meeting Wendy has opened the bookstall, looked after old friends, and kept us in the loop of what is going on with other societies. Outside of the meetings she has kept an eye on online sales, as Librarian cared for the books, run the phone and email help desks, looked after archives, been deputy webmaster as well as persuading many others to be volunteers on several projects. The list of other tasks that she

has also undertaken over the years is immense. We are very grateful that both of them are not downing all tools just yet. Few societies can have such loyal and hard-working members who have made major headways in helping visitors to find their own ancestors — the real aim of all that happens in OFHS.

Gay Sturt

OFHS SECRETARY

secretary@ofhs.org.uk

Membership

As I write this in January, I am in the middle of membership renewals, a long job but one which I do enjoy. Thank you for renewing, you would not have this journal otherwise. There are always little surprises in the renewals such as a donation, a thank you for the work the Society does, and this time a thank you for the very useful parish map included with the December journal. I had several people surprised that we have not increased our subs, 'such good value', but our finances are healthy and there is no intention to do so in the near future. I do enjoy imagining all the wonderful places our members must live from their evocative addresses.

I would like to encourage members to consider setting up standing orders or paying online in order to do our little bit towards helping the environment and reducing waste. I would also like to

ask members who have changed their emails or recently acquired one to make sure that they let me know. I had a large number of email addresses bounce when I sent a subscription renewal acknowledgement.

A very warm welcome to all our new members. Between December 2019 and the end of January 2020 we had 25 new members join.

Ann Spokes Symonds, a long term OFHS member and supporter, died on 27 December 2019, aged 94. She was author of some of *The Changing Faces...* series of books, as well several other publications including co-authoring with Nigel Morgan *The Origins of Oxford Street Names*. She was an active local politician and historian.

We are also saddened to report the deaths of the following members:

2374 Ronald Trafford, Poole, Dorset

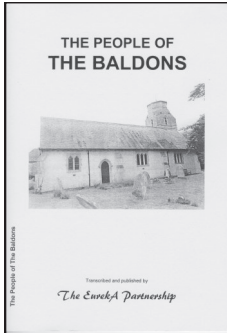
3181 Mr Reay, Wheatley, Oxfordshire

Susan Mattheus

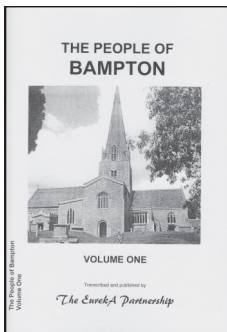
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

membership@ofhs.org.uk

New Books from The Eureka Partnership

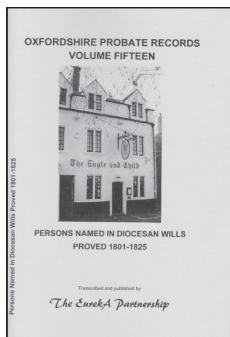


The People of the Baldons; The People of Bampton; Oxfordshire Probate Records Volume Fifteen: Persons Names in Diocesan Wills 1801-1825; Swindon Methodist Circuit Vol One Baptisms 1817-1874. Published by The Eureka Partnership. Prices: Bampton and Probate books £5.00 plus £1.70 p&p in UK; Baldons £3.50 plus £1.30; Methodists £4.50 plus £1.70. All postage quoted is for the UK. Please contact publisher for overseas costs. Available from The Eureka Partnership, 2 Little Close, Flackwell Heath, HIGH WYCOMBE HP10 9LQ or online at www.eurekpartnership.com.



The two 'People of' volumes provide a good selection of unusual record sources for one-place studies. They are always value for money as otherwise it is not easy to find all this information, or to see quickly how families and communities changed their fortunes over time in one location. The Bampton book includes Settlement Certificates 1699-1784, Victuallers' Recognizances 1762 and 1796, Removal Orders 1693-1839, Land Tax Assessment 1792, List of Paupers 1821, Poll Book 1837, Trade Directory 1863, Freemasons 1880-1911 and Absent Voters 1918. The Baldons volume covers both Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon and contains List of Horse Commons for 1695, Settlement Certificates 1721-1763, Victuallers' Recognizances 1762, 1783, 1802 and 1822, Land Tax Assessments 1717, 1786, 1808 and 1832, Horses charged to [Military] Duties 1796, Militia Enrolments 1808-1825, Poll Books 1754, 1826 and 1837, Poor Rate Assessment 1831, Gamekeepers Deputation 1848, Trade Directories 1863 and 1883, Register of Electors 1874, Communicants on Easter Day 1883, Charity Disbursements 1883, 1887 and 1891, Confirmations 1885 and 1894 and Absent Voters 1918.

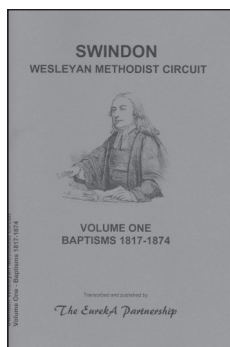
Taking the Hurcombe (various spellings) family as an



example, in the Bampton booklet you can see that William and his family were removed from Lechlade to Bampton in 1788, John had a house valued at 10s 8d in 1792, John was the proprietor of the Flour (sic) de Lis pub and acted as sureties for other publicans in 1796, Mary was a pensioner pauper widow in 1821 as was James and his wife and six children and that John of Bampton and John of London had freehold houses in 1837 – all from one book!

The Probate volume follows the format of previous booklets and contains a list of names extracted from 502 wills proved in the Oxford Diocesan Court in the years 1801-1825 inclusive. The main list, comprising over 4,800 names, is arranged in alphabetic sequence and has a reference number against each name allowing the reader to cross-refer to the list of testators. A 2-character relationship code may also be shown where the person named is stated to have a relationship to the testator. The list of testators is presented in reference number sequence and shows, for each testator, the Oxfordshire Record Office reference, the date of the will, the date the will was proved and the name and location of the testator.

The testator list runs from John ALCOCK of Epwell (will written 1795) to Edward YOUNG of Finstock (1814). Along the way with several entries are the AUSTENS of Sibford Gower, the BUGGS of Chadlington, the COOMBES' of Witney, the HYATTS from Ascott under Wychwood and the KINGS from the Chinnor area.

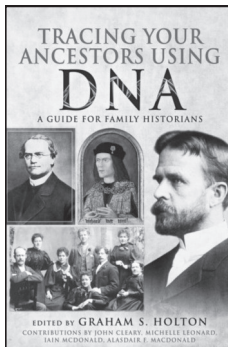


The Swindon Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was formed in 1817 from the Hungerford Circuit and covered a large area centred on Swindon but includes Clanfield, Shrivenham and Faringdon (now Oxfordshire) and Highworth and Wootton Bassett (Wiltshire) as well as the odd stray from Wales. This booklet contains a transcription of the baptismal entries recorded in the various registers maintained by the circuit and covers the period 1817 to 1874. Birth dates are usually included with each entry.

Oxfordshire surnames include FACE, CHURCH, SMITH, BLACKWELL, RUTHLEDGE, WEBB and JOHNSON amongst others.

The Eureka books are always worthwhile references for people who had ancestors in a specific location or to use as a central index to find information located in archives.

REVIEWER: *Sue Honoré*



Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA (2019), edited by Graham S Holton with contributions by John Cleary, Michelle Leonard, Iain McDonald and Alasdair MacDonald. Published by Pen & Sword. RRP: £14.99. ISBN: 1526733099. Available from good bookstores and online book retailers.

If, like me, you are an experienced family history researcher who has not yet got to grips with the application of DNA testing to genealogical research, and who feels a need to get a better understanding of the subject, then you are very much the target audience for this 2019 book from the familiar Pen & Sword series.

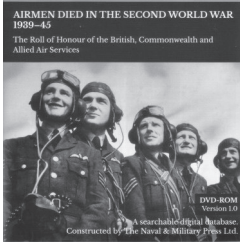
At the core of the book are three chapters covering autosomal, Y and mitochondrial DNA testing, which aim to provide a working knowledge of the types of DNA tests available, the results and how to interpret them, together with a preceding chapter on the scientific basis for the tests. These chapters are not an easy read for those of us unfamiliar with the subject-matter, not least because the terminology can be hard to follow, and the reader may well have to keep referring back to the glossary in order to understand the sentence with which they have been confronted. Nevertheless, because the book is all about the application of DNA testing for family historians, it manages to repay the effort involved in trying to understand the complex science and jargon involved by relating it to topics more within the comfort zone of the family historian. There is, perhaps inevitably, something of the text book about these chapters. Having

said that, the book as a whole sets out to be much more than just a guide to the science and application of DNA testing. There are good introductory chapters on the reasons for using DNA testing for genealogy and on the ethical and legal aspects; there is a short chapter with practical advice on choosing between testing companies; one on DNA projects; one called 'An integrated approach to DNA testing for genealogy' which looks at four case studies; a chapter on ancient DNA, including the identification of Richard III's skeleton; and a chapter looking at future developments. The explicit intention of the authors is that different chapters will be of interest to different readers and that it is not necessary to read the book from cover to cover.

The book is also full of useful practical advice, for example on the reasons why one should seek DNA samples for testing from close relatives, and why it pays to have your DNA data in more than one database, as well as on the more prosaic matter of how to follow up potential matches. It recognises that the field of genetic genealogy is a fast-developing one and points to the likely implications of DNA databases increasing in size as more people submit tests. The authors are sceptical about the value of 'admixture', or 'ethnicity estimates' (which has been one of the main selling points for the testing companies), but argue that DNA testing will increasingly be able to break down brick walls (for example for adoptees) which would defeat conventional genealogy. Nevertheless, a key theme of the book is that the two approaches need to be used in a complementary manner; the identification of the skeleton under a Leicester car park as being that of Richard III would not have been possible without the identification by genealogists of living female-line descendants of his mother.

In summary, this book succeeds in its aim of helping the family historian to understand the field of genetic genealogy and is well worth a read.

REVIEWER: *Simon Purtell*



Airmen Died in the Second World War 1939-45: The Roll of Honour of the British, Commonwealth and Allied Air Services (Data DVD). Compiled by Chris Hobson. Published by and available from: Naval & Military Press Limited, Unit 5, Riverside, Brambleside, Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1QQ. Telephone: +44 (0) 1825 749494; Website: www.naval-military-press.com; Email: order.dept@naval-military-press.com. Price: £185.00 plus VAT; ISBN: 978-1-78331-382-2.

Recommended system requirements: Windows 10 with 8GB RAM and a 4X speed DVD drive. This DVD-ROM is NOT Mac OS or Linux compatible.

This DVD provides detailed information on all British, Commonwealth, Dominion and European Allied airmen who died while under Royal Air Force control or with their own national air services during the Second World War. A total of nearly 129,000 airmen and airwomen are scheduled, with searchable fields including names, service number, rank, base, command, unit, aircraft type and serial number, age at and date and cause of death, native of, place of burial or memorial, honours and awards. The casualties range from the newly recruited airmen who died while still in training to Air Marshals and Battle of Britain fighter pilots.

Searching for surnames NIPRESS and PULKER drew a blank. SMITH was more fruitful, with 1,454 occurrences being noted. A quick review of these results suggested that several had Oxfordshire connections. I then searched for those who were a native of Oxford and got 212 hits. A similar search for those who were a native of Banbury yielded 31 occurrences. As an example:

- The Honourable Ingelram Ivo TWISLETON-WYKEHAM-FIENNES
- Sergeant, service number 1169866, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Bomber Command
- Based at Mount Farm, Oxon

- Wellington II aircraft, serial number W5559
- Killed in action on 30 August 1941, aged 19
- Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, and a native of Banbury.
- Shot down by Italian AF Fiat CR42s eight miles south of Lampedusa during a delivery flight from the UK to Malta on behalf of the Overseas Aircraft Despatch Unit.

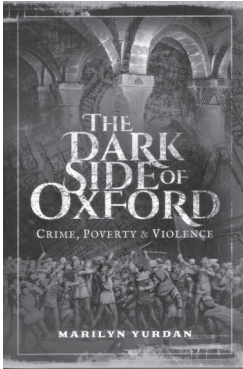
The results of any search can be sorted on any field, and can be saved or printed. Of the 212 natives of Oxford the youngest, Walter Hughes RICHARDS, died at the age of 18, whilst the oldest, Patrick Francis CONNAUGHTON, died aged 49. The 31 natives of Banbury ranged between Bernard William David TAYLOR, who died at the age of 18 to Norman Colin MOLD who was 39. The six earliest deaths recorded on this dataset occurred on 3 September 1939, whilst John LOVE of the South African Air Force is one of three men who died on 31 December 1947.

Also included are 242 pages of 'Introductory notes'. These provide context to the individual records and include a detailed order of battle, casualty statistics, and descriptions of the aircraft and of many of the places of burial or commemoration.

This is a fascinating dataset containing voluminous information, and with a search interface that is very intuitive to use. Unfortunately, it has a price tag that will probably mean that it will only be purchased by those with a serious interest in military history. Why not enquire if your local library or local studies' centre holds a copy?

REVIEWER: *Paul Gaskell (3062)*

The Dark Side of Oxford - Crime, Poverty and Violence, by Marilyn Yurdan. Pen and Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS. www.pen-and-sword.co.uk. E-mail: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk; Tel : 01226 734222. Price £12.99 plus postage and packing. ISBN: 978-1-52673-965-0.



A prolific author of some twenty-five local and family history books, Marilyn Yurdan has based this, her most recent title, on her native city. In an entertaining style, she vividly describes incidents from the thirteenth century to late Victorian times, some of which are already well-known but others not so.

The accounts are grouped into chapters dealing with topics such as riotous behaviour, fatal accidents, drownings, suicides and murder. The former almost inevitably includes the author's description of the St Scholastica's Day massacre and penance. Of greater interest to me was the incident in which Thomas CAVE, a fruiterer from Walton Street, killed himself in October 1893; he mistook vermin killer for Epsom Salts in an accident that proved fatal.

Ms Yurdan meticulously records her sources throughout this volume, which include the archives of the Oxford colleges and the pages of *Jackson's Oxford Journal*. Some of the more salacious anecdotes can be attributed to the latter. These include an act of gross indecency in June 1895, which involved 56 year-old William James TOQUE of Marston Street and William George WILSON, aged 16 from Green Street.

This commendable volume comprises of some 164 pages and is presented in a laminated soft cover. The author's words are illustrated by the use of monochrome photographs. Ms Yurdan has chosen not to include a bibliography, but suggested further reading is mentioned in the text.

Finally, prospective purchasers are advised to carefully check the publisher's website, as 'deals' on postage charges are available to those spending in excess of a certain amount. In addition, the volume can be downloaded in digital - Kindle and ePub - formats at a substantially reduced price.

REVIEWER: *Paul Gaskell (3062)*

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Guild of One-Name Studies:

c/o Hon Sec, Box G, 14 Charterhouse
Buildings, Goswell Road, LONDON, EC1M
7BA, Tel: 0800 011 2182

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Book Reviews:

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CD/DVD Sales:

June Whipp,
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– cd-sales@ofhs.org.uk

Computer Group organising panel:

Contact the panel via Kevin Poile:
– computers@ofhs.org.uk

Fairs: OFHS Family History Fair Organiser:

John Cramer
– see below for address
– fair@ofhs.org.uk

Fairs: Events Co-ordinator:

John Cramer
33 Cope Close, Botley, OXFORD, OX2 9AJ
– events@ofhs.org.uk

Fiche Sales:

Wendy Archer
– fiche-sales@ofhs.org.uk

Helpline:

Wendy Archer
– 01865 358151
– help@ofhs.org.uk

Journal Editor:

Sue Honoré – see inside front cover
– editor@ofhs.org.uk

Membership Secretary

Susan Mattheus
Post to St Luke's church (see box at right)
– membership@ofhs.org.uk

Monumental Inscriptions:

Alan Simpson
– see Search Services
– mis@ofhs.org.uk

Programme Co-ordinator:

Christopher Fance
Rectory Farm, Barton-on-the-Heath,
MORETON-IN-MARSH, GL56 0PH
– meetings@ofhs.org.uk

Projects Co-ordinator:

Dave Broughton
– projects@ofhs.org.uk

DNA/surnames project: dna@ofhs.org.uk

PR Transcription Project:

Dr Hugh Kearsey, Windmill Place, Windmill Road,
Minchinhampton, STROUD, GL6 9EE
– 01453 887446

Publicity:

POSITION VACANT
Post to St Luke's church (see box below)
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Search Services:

Dr Alan Simpson, Forest Farmhouse, Old Road,
Shotover Hill, Headington, OXFORD,
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– searches@ofhs.org.uk

Secretary:

Gay Sturt
Post to St Luke's church (see box below)
– secretary@ofhs.org.uk

Treasurer:

John Beckerleg
Post to St Luke's (see box below)
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War Memorials Co-ordinator:

John Blakeman,
24 Newland Close, Eynsham, WITNEY, OX29 4LE
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Website Manager:

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If a postal address is not listed, please send correspondence, **addressed to the appropriate role**, to:

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Diary Dates

For more dates, especially the many events hosted by the Society of Genealogists in London, see the joint GENUKI/FFHS event calendar at www.geneva.weald.org.uk.

Events in bold will have an OFHS presence.

April 2020

Until Apr 25 Wantage, OXF
Stanford in the Vale
Hidden Past Revealed
Exhibition
Vale & Downland
Museum, Wantage

Apr 16 Milton Under Wychwood,
OXF
'Pharmacist and Family
History in Burford'
Cedric Reavly; village hall,
7:30pm.

**Apr 17-18 Alexandra Palace, LND
Family Tree Live Show
2020**

Apr 19 Combe, OXF
Combe Mill at War, WW2
event

Apr 24-26 Oxford, OXF
GoONS Annual conference
and AGM

May 2020

May 18 Adderbury, OXF
'Over the Hills to Glory:
the story of the Ascott
Martyrs'
Carol Anderson,
Methodist Church School
Room 7:30pm

May 29 South Stoke, OXF
'How to be a House
Detective'
David Clark, Village Hall
8:00pm

June 2020

**Jun 26-27 Birmingham, WAR
The Genealogy Show, NEC**

July 2020

**Jul 25 Aylesbury, BKM
Bucks FHS Open Day**

Save the Date

Our own OFHS Fair is on 3
October 2020 at the
Marlborough School in
Woodstock. We plan all the
normal activities plus some
new and exciting additions.
Come and join us!

Meetings at Exeter Hall

Oxford Road, Kidlington
OX5 1AB

General meetings take place in the large hall.

Items for sale and computer advice from 7:15pm. Talks start at 8:00pm.

Member-led meetings, replacing the Computer Group, (*)
usually take place in the small hall.

Doors open at 7:15pm. Talks start at 7:30pm.

27 April 2020

Opening the Dore – John Frearson

18 May 2020

A Brief History of Myddleton Street: a London street through the ages – Dave Annal

1 June 2020*

Research Methodologies – Phil Isherwood

22 June 2020

AGM followed by From One House to Another – Alan Simpson

27 July 2020

Steam and Steel in the Vale of the White Horse – Tony Hadland

3 August 2020*

TBA- Most likely a 'Bring and Tell' session

Back cover:

*St John's in Newfoundland, looking up to Signal Hill. Image by Jeff Haig.
See article inside on the Holloway family who ventured from Woodstock in
Oxfordshire to the east coast of Canada*

