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Issue No. 60 | April 2018

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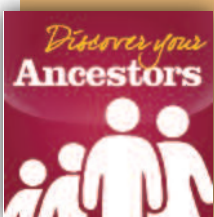
A warm welcome to the April issue of **Discover Your Ancestors Periodical**, the only monthly digital family and social history magazine for the UK. No April Fool jokes here: just lots of useful and interesting information!

This year sees the centenaries of women (well, some of them) getting the vote, and of what became the Royal Air Force. In this issue we mark both of those, although in fact going

back 50 years earlier in the case of the former, to look at the pioneering Manchester suffragettes. We cover plenty more of this year's anniversaries in our latest annual print 'bookazine' (Issue 7) - this only came out recently and you can find it on the shelves of most branches of WHSmith and via our website at **www.discoveryourancestors.co.uk**. It has nearly 40 features on all aspects of genealogy and social history, plus some amazing free data offers, in this case worth more than £170. Do get hold of your copy! **Andrew Chapman**, Editor

INSIDE THIS MONTH

- 4 Northern lights:** 150 years after the first fully public meeting on women's suffrage, Sue Wilkes explores the pioneering work of suffragists in Manchester
- 10 Through adversity to the stars:** Nick Thorne celebrates the April centenary of the birth of the Royal Air Force
- 14 Penitent women:** Female penitentiaries were designed to make new women of the 'fallen', as Nell Darby explains
- 18 Raiders on the sea:** Did your ancestor earn a living by plundering enemy ships? Simon Wills explores the world of privateers, and how to research them
- 23 Food of the gods:** Margaret Powling offers a delicious history of chocolate
- 27 History in the details:** Jayne Shrimpton on bags and purses
- 26 News 28 Place: Canterbury 30 Books 31 Classified ads**



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Northern lights

TheGenealogist



▲ Mrs Pankhurst arrested in Victoria Street on 13 Feb 1908

150 years after the first fully public meeting on women's suffrage, **Sue Wilkes** explores the pioneering work of suffragists in Manchester

Manchester people have always pioneered radical new ideas. This cradle of the industrial revolution witnessed the bloodshed of the Peterloo Massacre (1819), when a mass

meeting calling for voting reform was brutally broken up by the authorities. Manchester workers were also strong supporters of Chartism – a popular movement to win working-class men the vote – in mid-Victorian times.

However, the question of women's rights was the Cinderella of voting reform.

For centuries, women suffered from civil disabilities. A woman's place was 'in the home'. Females lagged behind



▲ The parlour at 62 Nelson St where the first meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union was held on 10 October 1903



▲ Blue plaque at the Pankhurst Centre commemorating Emmeline and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia

Sue Wilkes

► **The Free Trade Hall, Manchester (now the Radisson Hotel). The first public meeting on women's suffrage was held here on 14 April 1868**

men in education, earnings, voting and legal rights. In the eyes of the law, husband and wife were 'one person', and a woman's property became her husband's when they married. Even a wife's wages belonged to her husband.

In the early 19th century, women joined their menfolk at gatherings held to discuss gaining working men the vote. According to the weaver poet Samuel Bamford from Middleton, women first started voting at Lancashire reform meetings following a suggestion by him, which 'the women were mightily pleased with.' Women soon formed their own



TheGenealogist

'political unions' in Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Manchester and Preston (*Passages in the Life of a Radical*, 2 Vols., London, 1844).

But decades passed before writers like John Stuart Mill called for women to have equal voting rights with men and, in the mid-to-late 1860s, pressure began building for reform.

Manchester committees to campaign for women's property and voting rights were founded by Elizabeth Wolstenholme (later Elmy), Lydia Ernestine Becker, Emily Davies, Alice Scatcherd and others. They organized local signatories to a petition of female householders presented to parliament by John Stuart Mill.

That year, a test case was held in court because a novel situation had arisen. Manchester residents were astonished when householder Lily Maxwell was accidentally placed on the electoral roll. She seized the initiative and voted for Jacob Bright in the 1867 by-election, seemingly with no resistance from local officials.

Now, the 1867 Reform Act said that every (property-owning) *man* was

◀ **During WW1, women campaigned to help the war effort**

SOCIAL HISTORY



entitled to vote, and a previous Act of Parliament had said that 'man', when used in legislation, implied 'males and females'. So did women already have the vote?

Unfortunately, the court ruled that it was illegal for women to vote. This setback sparked a flurry of fresh interest in women's rights. The

Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was founded circa 1867. It maintained close links with London suffragists. They began a coordinated campaign of talks, writing letters to the newspapers, lobbying members of parliament, etc. 'Suffragists' like Lydia Becker and Margaret Ashton argued that only

LYDIA ERNESTINE BECKER (1827-1890): SUFFRAGE PIONEER

Lydia was born on 24 February 1827 at Cooper St, Manchester. Her father Hannibal Leigh Becker was a calico-printer and chemical works owner; her mother Mary (née Duncuft) was a mill-owner's daughter. The family later moved to Altham in Lancashire. Lydia, who was home-educated, took a keen interest in sciences like astronomy and botany, and published a book, *Botany for Novices* (1864).

In about 1865, following her mother's death, she returned to Manchester. A passionate supporter of better education for girls, she founded a Ladies' Literary Society, and gave free lectures, but failed to garner support. Lydia was inspired by the works of Mary Wollstonecraft, and feminist campaigner Barbara Bodichon, author of the pamphlet *Reasons for the Enfranchisement of Women* (1866). She made friends with radicals like Jacob Bright and Dr Richard Pankhurst.

At that date, female public speakers like Lydia were rare; it was thought 'unwomanly' to address a crowd. Diffident at first, Lydia became a confident debater, dealing with (mostly male) hecklers with ease.

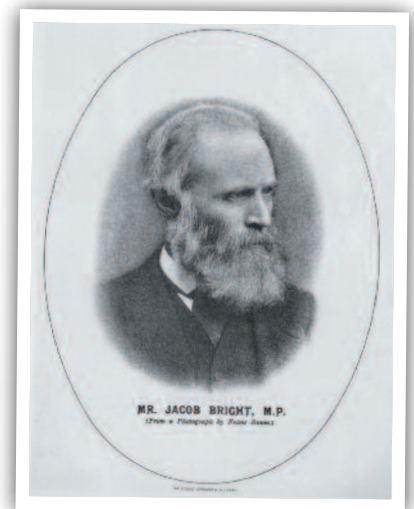
In 1867, Becker became secretary of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage. Three years later, she was elected to the Manchester School Board, which she served on until her death. That same year, she began writing and editing the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Unfortunately, Lydia parted company with many suffragists when she supported a proposed parliamentary bill to give (only) married women the vote, in the hope this would help progress the movement. But she inspired the next generation of women campaigners. Emmeline Pankhurst, who heard Becker's speeches in her youth, later called her 'a splendid character and a truly eloquent speaker'.

Becker died of diphtheria at Geneva while travelling for her health.



▲ Lydia Ernestine Becker (1827-1890), an early campaigner for women's political rights and founder member of the National Society for Women's Suffrage in 1867



▲ Jacob Bright (1821-1899), MP for South-West Manchester. An indefatigable campaigner for women's suffrage

peaceful, constitutional means should be used to achieve voting reform.

On 14 April 1868, the Assembly Rooms at Manchester's Free Trade Hall were the venue for the first public meeting on female suffrage at which women themselves were given a platform. Lydia Becker was one of the speakers. (It's worth noting that the meeting sparked letters to the local papers from some women who did not want the vote).

The suffragists' campaign achieved some success: the Municipal Corporations Amendment Act of 1869 enabled women (with a property qualification) to vote in local government elections and act as Poor Law Guardians. Then Forster's 1870 Education Act empowered women to serve on school boards; they could now make a real difference locally.

But the real prize was voting rights in national elections (also denied to working-class men). After Becker's death, Millicent Garrett Fawcett picked up the leadership baton and continued the campaign, and in 1897 the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was formed.

Meanwhile, women such as Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928) and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia grew increasingly frustrated

SOCIAL HISTORY

TheGenealogist

This is a 1901 census schedule for 62 Nelson St, Manchester. The household includes Emmeline Pankhurst, her daughters, and other family members. The table lists names, relationships, birth dates, and occupations. Emmeline is listed as a Registrar of Births and Deaths. The census also records the presence of a 'Widow' and 'Widower' in the household.

◀ 1901 census Emmeline Pankhurst (widow, registrar of births and deaths) and daughters at 62 Nelson St, Manchester

with the movement's lack of progress. Emmeline (née Goulden) and her husband Richard were involved with the Independent Labour Party, and gave regular talks at Boggart Hole Clough. She also served as a member of the Chorlton Board of Guardians in 1895.

After Richard's death, Emmeline and her daughters moved to 62 Nelson St, Chorlton-upon-Medlock. To pay the bills, she became registrar for births and deaths. Pankhurst became increasingly disenchanted with the main political parties – constitutional campaigning looked like a dead end. In 1903, Emmeline and others formed the Women's Social and Political Union (1903): its motto was 'Deeds, not words'. Would direct action prove more effective?

Two years later, Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney were

✦ VISIT

Pankhurst Centre

Emmeline Pankhurst's home at 62 Nelson St, Manchester is now a museum and heritage centre (limited opening times), www.thepankhurstcentre.org.uk.

National Trust

The Trust is commemorating the long struggle for women's suffrage with its 'Women and Power' exhibitions, <http://bit.ly/2ENbgMx>.

Westminster Hall

The UK Parliament's 'Voice and Vote' centenary exhibition opens this summer 2018 (book in advance), <https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/vote-100/voice-and-vote/>.

TheGenealogist

This is a 1891 census schedule for 8 Russell Square, London. The household includes Richard Pankhurst, Emmeline Pankhurst, and their children. Richard is listed as an Art Furnisher. The census also records the presence of a 'Widow' and 'Widower' in the household.

▲ 1891 census schedule listing Richard and Emmeline Pankhurst (art furnisher) and children at 8 Russell Square, London



▲ 62 Nelson St, Manchester, now the Pankhurst Centre. Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters lived here from 1897-1907

Sue Willkes



jailed for refusing to pay a fine. They had been arrested at the Free Trade Hall. The women had unfurled a 'Votes for Women' banner at a Liberal Party meeting and asked, 'Will the Liberal government give votes to women?' Pankhurst and Kenney's imprisonment attracted much public sympathy. The refusal by many suffragettes to cooperate with the 1911 census also sparked much newspaper comment (so you may not find your suffragette ancestor listed in the census schedules).

The government's increasing hostility to women's suffrage, and strong-arm tactics at women's marches and meetings, stiffened the suffragettes' resolve. Many women went to prison for their beliefs, went on hunger strike. They endured the horrors of artificial force-feeding and often their health was permanently damaged.

In August 1914, the Home Office compiled an index of the names of over 1,300 suffragettes who had been arrested, the location, and the number of times arrested (The National Archives, HO45/24665).

The suffragettes switched to more violent tactics. Windows were broken; there were arson attacks on property; and in 1913 Annie Briggs, Evelyn Manesta and Lilian Forrester were arrested for breaking the glass of 13 paintings at Manchester City Art Gallery. The pictures, which were not damaged, included works by Millais and Burne-Jones.

The outbreak of the Great War led Emmeline to suspend campaigning. A split opened up between pacifist

suffragists and those suffragettes who backed the war effort. Women were needed for wartime work: in munitions factories, on public transport, and on the land. It was WW1's social upheaval which finally shattered the glass ceiling for women's voting rights – women had proved their worth.

At last, the Representation of the

People Act (1918) enfranchised women in national elections – half a century after that first public meeting in Manchester's Free Trade Hall. But women had only limited voting rights: they had to be at least 30 years old, and property-holders. Another decade passed before all women over age 21 were given the vote, and put on an equal footing with men. ✂

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Manchester Central Library

Suffrage collections include the papers of the Manchester Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies 1867-1919 and the papers of Millicent Garrett Fawcett:

www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history/7387/political_and_trade_union_records

John Rylands Library, University of Manchester

Women's Suffrage Movement Archives 1892-1920.

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/special-collections/guide-to-special-collections/atoz/womens-suffrage-movement-archives/>

The National Archives (TNA) Kew

Records of suffragettes who committed crimes may be listed in CRIM1 (indexes to criminal registers are on theGenealogist.co.uk).

TNA guide to researching suffragette records: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-suffrage/

Women's Library, London School for Economics

Collections date from the late 19th century to modern times:

www.lse.ac.uk/Library/Collections/Collection-highlights/The-Womens-Library

Glasgow Women's Library

Museum, Library and archive dedicated to women's lives and achievements:

<https://womenslibrary.org.uk/>

Further Reading

Helen Blackburn, *Women's Suffrage*, Williams & Norgate, 1902

Elizabeth Crawford, *The Women's Suffrage Movement: A Reference Guide 1866-1928*, Routledge, 2001

Elizabeth Crawford, *The Women's Suffrage Movement in Britain and Ireland: a regional survey*, Routledge, 2001

Michael Herbert, *Up Then Brave Women: Manchester's Radical Women 1819-1918*, North West Labour History Society (no date)

Emmeline Pankhurst, *My Own Story*, London, 1914

Sophia A. van Wingerden, *The Women's Suffrage Movement 1866-1928*, Palgrave Macmillan, 1999

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



SUE WILKES is the author of several books including *Tracing Your Manchester and Salford Ancestors*, *Regency Spies*, and *A Visitor's Guide to Jane Austen's England*. She blogs at

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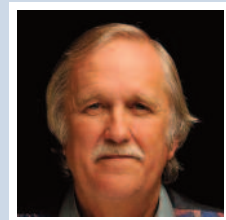
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Through adversity to the stars

▼ *The Sphere* August 10 1918 on
TheGenealogist

Nick Thorne celebrates the April centenary of the birth of the Royal Air Force

On 1 April 1918 the very first air force in the world to be independent of army or navy control came into being: the RAF. Towards the end of the First World War saw the pilots of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service being amalgamated into a new airborne branch of the military, taking as its motto 'Per ardua ad astra' which translates in English as 'Through adversity to the stars'. At its head was Major-General Sir Hugh Trenchard who was appointed as its first Chief of the Air Staff.

Researching within TheGenealogist's occupational records for Trenchard reveals him easily in *The Flying Book*, *The Who's Who in Aviation 1918*. We can also discover from this resource the details of the makeup of the Air Council that was in charge of the fledgling air force. Its political master was Lord Rothermere, as the Secretary of State and President of the Council, while Sir Hugh Trenchard was the most senior military officer. The next page goes on to reproduce the King's proclamation in the *London Gazette* of 15 March, which named the new service as the Royal Air Force, it having been simply called the Air Force in the 1917 Act that had brought it into being.



Partially paralysed bobsleigh rider
Its new military head had not been a promising student in his youth. It had been by no means certain, in Trenchard's younger years, that either

of the services would accept him as an officer. He had failed the exams to enter the Royal Navy, to the despair of his mother, whose father was a Royal Navy officer. He then took several



◀ **The Flying Book 1918 page 232-233 on TheGenealogist**

April in order that Trenchard would be the Chief of the Air Staff when the RAF was actually formed. With the departure of the first holder of the post the job then went to his rival, Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes. The next year, however, with Winston Churchill's post-War appointment as the Secretary of State for War and Air, Major-General Sykes was moved sideways to head up the newly formed Civil Aviation ministry. With this reshuffle Trenchard was returned to his position as the Chief of the Air Staff and he was to remain in this post at the top of the RAF from then until January 1930.

TheGenealogist has an extensive collection of military records including Air Force, Army and Navy Lists. For the years prior to 1918, officers who were aviators will appear in the latter two books and from 1918 in the Air Force Lists. Within this set of records is *The List of Officers of the Royal Air Force 1918*. This will allow family history researchers with an ancestor commissioned into the new service to find their rank at the time of the RAF's launch.

Khaki breeches and putties

To get an idea of what the pioneering air force was like, there are a number

As a result of correspondence between the Prime Minister and Lord Northcliffe on the subject of the Air Ministry, Lord Cowdray resigned office as President of the Air Board, and finally Lord Rothermere was appointed to be President of the new Air Council.

THE AIR COUNCIL.

The task laid upon the shoulders of the Air Council was to co-ordinate the whole work of supply, instruction and operations of aircraft in their relation to Naval and Military operations—a sufficiently extensive field.

The Air Council as established on January 3rd had the following personnel:—

Lord Rothermere, Secretary of State and President of the Council.
Major-General Sir R. Dunsford, K.C.B., D.S.O., Chief of the Air Staff.
Rear-Admiral Marc Kerr, C.B., R.N., Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.
Commodore Geoffrey Dine, C.B., M.V.O., R.N., Master-General of Personnel.
Major-General W. E. Brassey, Comptroller-General of Equipment.
Sir William War, Director-General of Aircraft Production in the Ministry of Munitions.

Sir John Huxley, K.B.E., Administrator of Works and Buildings.
Major J. L. Bales, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

Lieutenant-General Sir David Hoodson, K.C.B., D.S.O., Additional member of Council and Vice-President.
Mr. W. A. Robinson, C.B., Secretary to the Council.
Mr. R. W. McAnally, Assistant Secretary.

The Right Hon. Sir Henry Norman, B., M.P., was subsequently appointed a member of the Air Council. On February 20th, Brigadier-General E. L. Ellington was appointed to be Director General of Military Aeronautics, vacating the post of Deputy Director General for the purpose.

About the same date Major-General E. M. Salmond was appointed General Officer Commanding the R.F.C. in the Field, in place of General Trenchard.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The following appeared in the "London Gazette" of March 15th:—

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, To all whom these Presents shall come,

Whereas by the Air Force (Constitution) Act, 1917, it is enacted that it shall be lawful for us to raise and maintain a Force, to be called the Air Force, consisting of such members of officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, as may from time to time be provided by Parliament;

Now know ye that it is Our Will and Pleasure that the Air Force to be established pursuant to the said Act shall be styled the "Royal Air Force." Given at the Court of Saint James', the 7th day of March, 1918, in the Eighth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

Rothemann.

The relations of the Royal Air Force to the Army, and of the Air Council to the Army Council are clearly set forth in an Army Order of March 29th, as follows:—

(I.) The Air Council has, as already notified, taken over the administration of all technical Air material, and all movements and postings of individuals of the Air Service.

(II.) It has now been decided that the Royal Air Force is to be brought into being as a unified force as from April 1st, 1918, from which date its administration will be vested in the Air Council.

(III.) From that date the procedure as between the Army and the Air Council, and between military commanders and Royal Air Force commanders as regards the allocation and command of troops of the Royal Air Force, and as regards correspondence, will be as follows:—

(1.) The Army Council will indicate to the Air Council the number of squadrons of the various classes required for all military commands at home and abroad; where necessary they will inform the Air Council of any increases or decreases which they consider should be made.

(2.) The Air Council will organize and equip these forces and hand them over as complete organizations to the military commanders. They will maintain them in personnel and equipment. Should the Air Council not be in a position to supply the complete requirements, to effect increases demanded, or to maintain air forces already provided, it will be for the Army Council to decide whether the deficiency can be met at the expense of contingents of the Royal Air Force operating under military commanders in other theatres.

(3.) Sectors deficient in personnel or equipment of Royal Air Force contingents, which are such as to affect materially the efficiency of the military force concerned, will be brought to the notice of the military commander by the Royal Air Force commander and communicated by the former to the Army Council.

(4.) The military commander, who has under his orders a contingent of the Royal Air Force, will have the power to remove the commander of that contingent should he consider such action necessary and may appoint temporarily a Royal Air Force officer to command from those available locally. The permanent replacement of the officer removed will be marked out by the Air Council after consultation with the Army Council.

(5.) Removal or transfer of subordinate Royal Air Force officers belonging to contingents under military commands will normally be carried out, without the sanction of the Air Council, by the Air Council, who will issue their instructions direct to the local Royal Air Force commander.

(6.) Should the military commander be dissatisfied with a subordinate Royal Air Force officer acting under his orders, he will have power to direct the local Royal Air Force commander to suspend the subordinate officer of the Royal Air Force pending reference to the Air Council. In such cases the Air Council will consult the Army Council as to the action to be taken.

(7.) Important alterations in the establishment or equipment of Air Force contingents or military commands, such as will affect the mobility or efficiency of the military force as a whole, will not be carried out without the concurrence of the Army Council.

R

attempts to pass the exams needed to get a commission in the army. Eventually achieving his goal, he then served in the infantry in India and South Africa during the Boer War. In the second conflict he was shot and seriously wounded and lost a lung, becoming partially paralysed. Recuperating in Switzerland, and being bored, he took up bobsleigh riding. Miraculously, after a jolting crash with his sledge, he found that his paralysis had disappeared. Happy to find that he could walk unaided once again and after a period of further recuperation Trenchard returned to active service in South Africa. At the end of the Boer War he went on to a further period of service in Nigeria.

Then, in the summer of 1912, the 39-year-old army officer decided to learn to fly. Though not a particularly talented pilot he was able to gain his Royal Aero Club aviator's certificate (No. 270) on 13th August 1912 flying a Farman biplane of the Sopwith School of Flying at Brooklands. This we can discover this by searching the pilots records on TheGenealogist.

Trenchard went on to hold several senior positions in the Royal Flying Corps during World War I, serving as

the commander of the RFC in France from 1915 to 1917. Then, just prior to the official formation of the new air force, Trenchard's post at its head was settled in January 1918. This process was not so smooth an appointment as it may at first seem. Despite being included in the 1918 edition of *The Flying Book*, as the Chief of the Air Staff, the Major-General had actually resigned in March 1918 after disagreements with the first air minister, Lord Rothermere. The resignation, however, did not take effect until late

255	CAPT. ROBERT C. W. ALSTON, H.L.I.	24th July, 1912	Farman Biplane	..	Brooklands
*256	LIEUT. CLAUDE ALBEMARLE BETTINGTON	24th July, 1912	Bristol Monoplane	..	Salisbury Plain
257	CAPT. CHARLES DARBYSHIRE	24th July, 1912	Vickers Monoplane	..	Brooklands
258	ROBERT WILLIAM RICKERBY GILL	24th July, 1912	Deperdussin Monoplane	..	Hendon
*259	EDWARD PETRE	24th July, 1912	Handley Page Monoplane	..	Fairlop
260	LIEUT. FRANCIS FITZGERALD WALDRON	24th July, 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Brooklands
261	HERBERT RUTTER SIMMS	24th July, 1912	Avro Biplane	..	Brooklands
262	JOHN EDMONDS (Private, R.M.L.I.)	30th July, 1912	Short Biplane	..	Eastchurch
263	SYDNEY PICKLES	30th July, 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Brooklands
264	MAJOR JOHN FREDERICK ANDREWS HIGGINS, R.F.A.	30th July, 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Brooklands
265	ENG.-LIEUT. EDWARD FEATHERSTONE BRIGGS, R.N.	30th July, 1912	Short Biplane	..	Eastchurch
266	CAPT. CHARLES PERCY NICOLAS	30th July, 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Brooklands
267	LIEUT. KENLIS PERCIVAL ATKINSON, R.F.A.	30th July, 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Brooklands
268	RALPH GERALD HOLYOAKE	13th Aug., 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Brooklands
269	WILLIAM THOMAS JAMES McCUDDEN (Air Mechanic)	13th Aug., 1912	Bristol Biplane	..	Salisbury Plain
270	MAJOR HUGH MONTAGUE TRENCHARD, C.B.	13th Aug., 1912	Farman Biplane	..	Brooklands

▲ **Aviator's certificate number 270 in the pilots records on TheGenealogist**

ANNIVERSARIES

of images of the flimsy aeroplanes from the time to be found in the newspapers digitised by TheGenealogist. Searching the newspapers and magazine collections on TheGenealogist also returns a copy of *The Illustrated London News* for 20 April 1918 which explains the formation of the RAF and gives its readers a picture of the new service's uniform and sleeve insignia. Owing much of its styling to the army garb of the time, with breeches and putties, the chosen uniform was to be khaki-coloured in wartime and light blue in peacetime.

A copy of *The Sphere* newspaper

dated 28 September 1918, also in TheGenealogist's newspapers and magazine records, shows the change that took place later in the same year. From then the RAF moved to adopting naval type rings around the cuffs to denote rank and no longer had the rank bars on their caps. Despite this, the ranks of the RAF remained based on those from the army and so some former RNAs officers would have had to lose their naval designation as the RAF came into being exchanging them for army type ranks.

Around this time a number of

advertisements appear in the newspapers from various tailors and gentlemen's outfitters who were willing to supply the new service uniforms in both of the regulation colours.

Trenchard: a Major-General no more

After 1919 the RAF dispensed with the former hierarchy inherited from the army, when it introduced newly created air force ranks for its personnel. At the top Trenchard was no longer a major-general, when he exchanged his former military grade to become one of the first air vice-marshals. Within days, however, he was promoted another rank to be an air marshal and on 1st January 1927 Trenchard became the first officer ever to be raised from air chief-marshal to the highest rank of the RAF: marshal of the Royal Air Force.

HQ at the Hotel Cecil

The new air force required its own headquarters and in April 1918 the Hotel Cecil, a grand hotel built in the 1890s between the Thames Embankment and the Strand and requisitioned for the war effort in 1917, now became its very first HQ. The neo-baroque building had been built by Jabez Spencer Balfour JP, MP and fraudster.

Balfour had held at least 14 directorships, in his time. Apart from being a magistrate, mayor of Croydon, Liberal MP for Tamworth and later Burnley, he was also a member of the Congregationalist Church. On the face of it Balfour seemed to be a worthy individual. However, his actions would cause thousands of families to be reduced to ruin by the collapse of The Liberator Building Society that he ran. Balfour was eventually tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced to 14 years' penal servitude but gained his release in 1906. We are able to trace Balfour in many of the records on TheGenealogist even down to



▲ The Illustrated London News 20 April 1918



▲ *The Sphere* 28 September 1918



▲ One of many tailors' advertisements that can be found in the *Newspapers of TheGenealogist* from 1918



▲ **Marshal of the Royal Air Force Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, GCB, OM, GCVO, DSO (3 February 1873–10 February 1956)**

more than 800 rooms. Situated on the Strand it overlooked Embankment gardens between Savoy Place and the Victoria Embankment with views of the Thames. While the Strand facade remains today, the majority of the building was demolished in the 1930s to make way for the large art deco Shell Mex House.

A green plaque was placed on the Strand building, in 2008 on the 90th anniversary of the birth of the RAF, to mark its importance as the first headquarters of the service. Though this was an HQ that they only occupied for only a few months, before moving to Kingsway and

eventually to its current Whitehall home in the 1950s, it is celebrated as the first base of the world's first independent air force. The green Westminster City Council memorial includes the words of the English version of the Royal Air Force motto: 'Through adversity to the stars.'

While Balfour and his hotel are no more, the RAF became the blueprint for air forces across the globe and this April celebrates its centenary as one of the three pillars of the armed forces of this country. The military records on TheGenealogist have already allowed us to trace the inception of this trail blazing service. Over the next few months TheGenealogist has plans to add even more RAF records to its collection in this centenary year, making it easier for researchers to find ancestors who reached for the skies. ✈

finding him in the 1891 census of Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. For the full story of the Balfour scandal, look out for our article on this subject in the July issue of the *Periodical*.

With the incarceration of its unsavoury builder, the Hotel Cecil building project was abandoned. Then a new company bought the site and completed the grand hotel. On its opening it was one of the largest hotels in Europe, with

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Penitent women



Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, there was concern expressed for the ‘fallen woman’, and the penitentiary was designed to make new women of them, as **Nell Darby** explains through a specific example

◀ Victorian society was fascinated by the concept of the fallen woman, and female sexuality

She may have been a servant seduced by a co-worker or her employer; or she may have been brought up in a poor area, surrounded by thieves and prostitutes, and so was at risk of becoming a sex worker herself. She was possibly in her mid-to-late teens, and from a humble background. When she was ‘seduced’ (a term applied whether or not she was coerced) and had sex, she was a fallen woman. However, the fallen woman might also include other kinds of societal outcasts, including thieves, those suffering

from alcohol addiction and the homeless. In the latter part of the 19th century, many individuals were involved with the ‘rescuing’ of these women, and homes established by different charities and religious groups, including the Salvation Army and Ladies’ Associations. However, in some places, including the city of Oxford, similar efforts were being made even prior to Victoria becoming Queen – the first London penitentiary

▲ **The Reverend Thomas Thellusson Carter, whose relationship with the Oxford Penitentiary lasted 50 years**





◀ 'Magdalens' working in a laundry

plied their trade. Therefore, in 1857, it moved location, this time to the Holywell Manor House, in a quieter, old part of the city.

Although some penitentiaries, such as the original Oxford one, had been established in the early part of the 19th century, most Houses of Mercy were Anglican establishments that grew up in the mid 19th century, when concern about fallen women started to increase. This coincided with the establishment of the Church Penitentiary Association, which aimed to rehabilitate former servants. The Oxford penitentiary was run by sisters from the Community of St John the Baptist, a religious order founded in 1852, which had a convent at Clewer, near Windsor in Berkshire. The main aim of the community's Sisters of Mercy was to help rescue women who were marginalised in Victorian society – explicitly described as being unmarried mothers, prostitutes, and also homeless or destitute women. They would be given a roof over their heads, food and company and also be taught skills that would help them gain respectable jobs.

Houses of Mercy established in the 1850s included the Horbury House of

had been established just after the dawning of the 19th century.

In the 1830s, a campaign started in Oxford to finance a female penitentiary, where some of these women would be able to find refuge, and eventually leave to start a new, more innocent, life. As with other British penitentiaries, the aim was to achieve a spiritual and moral transformation – enabling women to become respectable members of society, who could undertake acceptable forms of work and maintain themselves without resorting to crime. In Oxford, cholera had hit the city in the summer of 1832, bringing destitution to some women, whose plight was brought to the attention of the Oxford Board of Health. It was recognised that these 'unfortunate and pitiable females' wanted to abandon their lifestyles, and to reform, and that it would be

'beneficial and charitable work' by Oxford society if something could be done to improve these women's lives and to find them 'a virtuous and industrious mode of life'. The impact of poverty on women's lives was recognised; the city knew that if a woman was poverty-stricken, she would have to do anything to survive, including prostitution.

Until this new penitentiary opened in 1833, many 'problem' women were incarcerated in the city gaol. This was recognised as being an inadequate solution, as young girls were housed with older women who might be hardened criminals, and the latter's influence was not a good one. The original location of the Oxford penitentiary, on Brewer Street in the city centre, had issues, however – it was too near temptation. There were pubs and taverns, alleys where prostitutes



▲ Female penitentiaries and Houses of Refuge were commonly run by sisters from various religious orders

✦ FINDING THE PENITENTS

Berkshire Record Office holds a file on the Oxford Female Penitentiary, and its successor, the St Mary's Home in Littlemore, covering the period 1914 to 1949. This includes a factory register of laundry workers under the age of 16, between 1939 and 1949. The file reference is D/EX 1675/1/12/36/1-55, and it forms part of the record office's collection of records of the Community of St John Baptist, Clewer.

The Bodleian Library in Oxford also has records relating to the Oxford Female Penitentiary and House of Mercy, covering the period 1862 to 1956; the reference for this material is GB 161 Dep. D. 489-91.

Numerous books are available online to help you learn about the Penitentiary's early history - for example, William Baxter's *First Report of the Female Penitentiary at Oxford* (1834), and the Regulations of the Female Penitentiary. Susan Mumm has also written a fascinating article about the penitentiary and its religious backing - "'Not Worse Than Other Girls': The Convent-Based Rehabilitation of Fallen Women in Victorian Britain" (*Journal of Social History* (1996), 29:3, pp527-547) - which can be read at http://oro.open.ac.uk/82/1/NOT_WORSE_THAN_OTHER_GIRLS.pdf.

For more on the history of the female penitentiary and Magdalen Homes, see Peter Higginbotham's Children's Homes website at <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/MH/>.

Mercy, near Wakefield In West Yorkshire, which was established in 1859 and expanded in the following decade as a result of its initial 'success' in the 'reclamation of fallen women'. In Gloucestershire, the village of Bussage, near Stroud, also had a House of Mercy, which opened in 1851. The latter's attraction lay partly in its location - one newspaper described it as being 'situated in a lovely spot on the hill immediately above Brimscombe'. Bussage House of Mercy was one of the first to try and apply a 'church character' to its inmates' training. Here, there was a small, private chapel, two dormitories and land where the inmates grew their own vegetables. The girls here, supervised by a Sister Superior and other sisters, spent their time doing needlework, washing and other 'household duties' as well as exercising in a dedicated piece of

ground, and praying.

Sisters might not seem an obvious choice to work in these female penitentiaries because of their perceived unworldliness, but they believed in redemption, and that women could be taught morality and learn how to live a respectable life, without the need to

control them through punishment, unlike in penal institutions. Those sisters who entered orders like the Community of St John the Baptist were women who wanted to help others less fortunate; in helping others, they themselves gained more interesting employment than might otherwise have been open to them in the 19th century. They also had the companionship of the other sisters, and security, as well as a sense of a spiritual community.

However, although the day-to-day running of places such as Clewer, Oxford and Bussage was left to women, it was a different matter when it came to governing bodies. The governors of the Oxford Penitentiary were all men: the institution's regulations stated that they should be clergymen or gentlemen. The main qualification for acting as a governor, though, was money: to be eligible, you had to have set up an annual subscription to the penitentiary, or donated a certain sum.

As with the inmates of Magdalen Homes later in the century, girls at Houses of Mercy such as Oxford were made to do both the institution's washing, and washing from other households, too, whilst the 'absolutely necessary' buildings of the Horbury House of Mercy were seen to be the



Neil Darby

► **Holywell Manor House today**

laundry and the kitchens. Such domestic work trained them to do a job, but it also had a religious significance – in cleaning clothes, the inmates were also cleaning themselves of sin. Not everything was to do with ‘cleansing’ the women, though, and they tended to rely on making women feel part of a close-knit community, learning skills together, rather than trying to shame them for their perceived immorality. The ultimate goal was to send these women back out into the world, armed with practical skills that would help them earn money through legitimate means, but also, hopefully – to the sisters – with a sense of God being with them on their journey.

As the 19th century progressed, the Oxford Female Penitentiary was

joined by the House of Refuge, minutes away on St Aldates. This opened in 1875, providing temporary accommodation for fallen women (the Female Penitentiary was able to house more women, for longer, than the House of Refuge). In 1899, Hope Cottage, run by the Oxford Ladies’ Association, opened, providing a home for women with their babies; and a second home run by the same organisation opened nearby in 1902. The growth in Oxford establishments was reflected across the UK – within a few years of the 20th century’s start, there were over 200 penitentiaries run by Anglican organisations or communities, whereas only 60 years earlier, there had only been around ten. They may have seemed, in some ways, to be old-fashioned, moralistic

institutions, but they continued to offer an alternative to prison or street life for many women until relatively recently. In Oxford, for example, the Female Penitentiary continued to run until 1929, when it relocated to St Mary’s Home in Littlemore, outside the city; it continued to run until after World War 2. However, times were moving on. Some Houses of Mercy began to struggle for funds; in the 1920s, the Bussage girls regularly held fetes to raise money, and by the mid 1930s, it was being reported that there was a desperate need for ‘more funds’. However, more significantly, by the time war started, penitentiaries were becoming mother and child homes, and, finally, women became a more integrated part of society, regardless of their backgrounds or lifestyles. ✠

PENITENTS IN THE CENSUS

Looking at the censuses gives a snapshot both of the sisters in charge of the Houses of Mercy, and those who they looked after. In the 1880s, a sister from the Clewer convent, Dubliner Fidelia Maturin, was brought in as Sister Superior of the Oxford institution – she stayed there for the next 20 years, before returning to Clewer. In 1891, penitents tended to be older than earlier residents, but there were still several younger girls there, including Ada Mary Iles, from Wiltshire, who was 17, and Oxford-native Ada Haymaker, who was just 15 years old. Although some girls, like Ada Haymaker, were from the city, many were not, and in fact, these penitents were drawn from a wide geographical area. In 1891, for example, women in the Penitentiary included several from the south-west of England, and others from London, Surrey, Birmingham Ireland, and even Florida, in the case of 22-year-old Annie Stringer! Meanwhile, in West Yorkshire in 1881, inmates of the Horbury House of Mercy included 15-year-old Sarah Ann Bradshaw from Liverpool, and even a 12-year-old – Florence Prall from Mirfield in West Yorkshire.

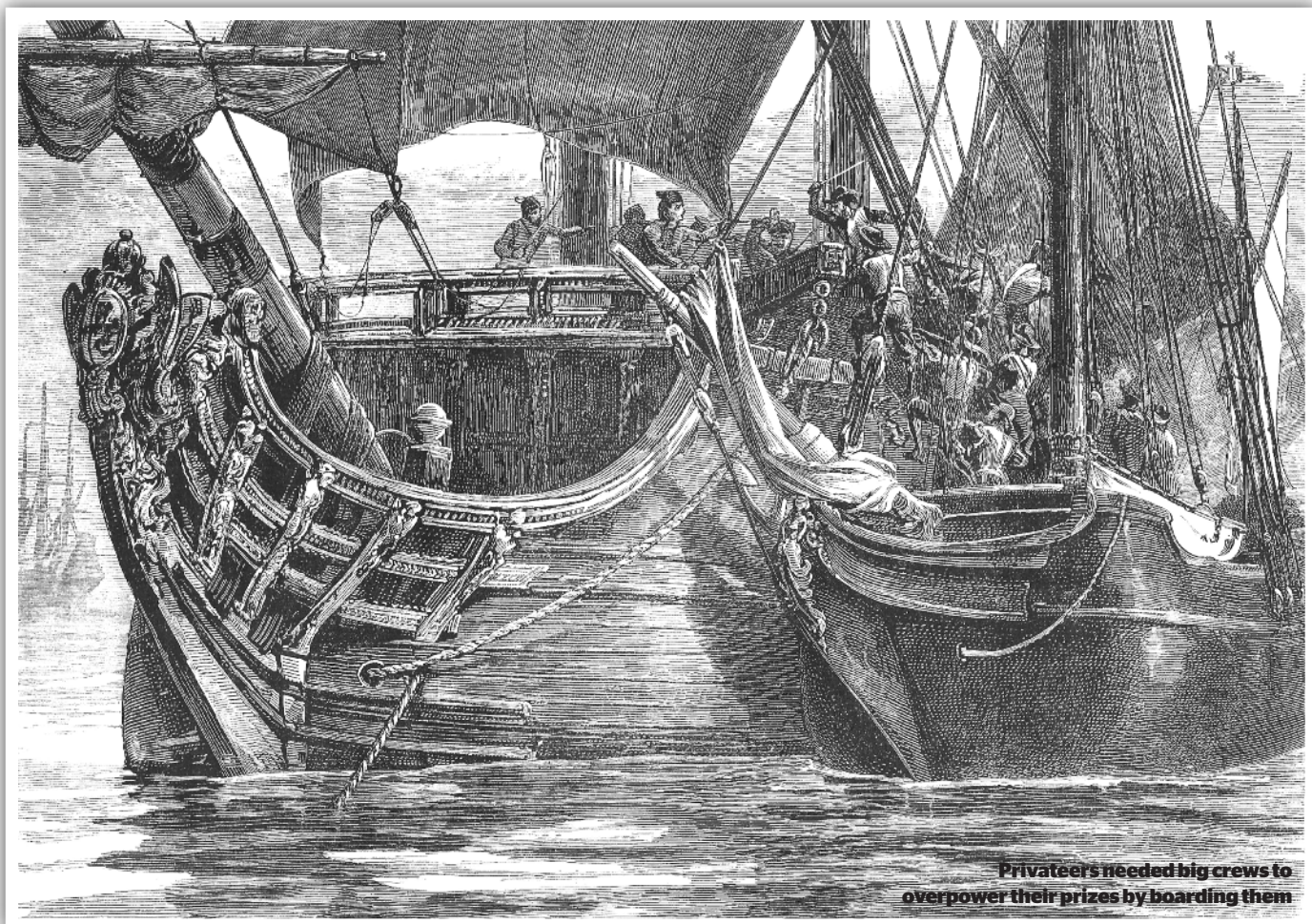
Women at Holywell Manor House, Oxford, in the 1891 census at TheGenealogist

No. of Household	No. of Males of 15 and over	No. of Females of 15 and over	No. of Males under 15	No. of Females under 15	Total	Profession or Occupation	WOMEN BORN	
							Place	Date
1	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Wiltshire	1872
2	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
3	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
4	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
5	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
6	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
7	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
8	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
9	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
10	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
11	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
12	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
13	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
14	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
15	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
16	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
17	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
18	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
19	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
20	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
21	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
22	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
23	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
24	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
25	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
26	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
27	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
28	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
29	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
30	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
31	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
32	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
33	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
34	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
35	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
36	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
37	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
38	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
39	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
40	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
41	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
42	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
43	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
44	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
45	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
46	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
47	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
48	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
49	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872
50	0	1	0	0	1	Housewife	Oxford	1872

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



NELL DARBY (www.nelldarby.com) is a freelance writer, specialising in social history and the history of crime. Her book *Life on the Victorian Stage* was published by Pen & Sword (2017). She has two articles in the new *Discover Your Ancestors* print edition.



Privateers needed big crews to overpower their prizes by boarding them

Raiders on the sea

Did your ancestor earn a living by plundering enemy ships? **Simon Wills** explores the world of privateers, and how to research them

Pivateers were privately owned, well-armed, ships that were commissioned by the Admiralty to attack enemy merchant vessels during wartime. As such, they operated within the law and the commissioning process required them to be awarded an authorisation called a 'letter of marque' to prove their legitimacy. This document granted each 'private ship of war' the legal right to operate against named enemy nations of Great Britain during times of war only. It was a dangerous role, but the financial rewards for owners

and crewmen alike could be great.

Privateers had the useful function of harassing the enemy, restricting their movements, and depriving them of both provisions and vessels. This pleased the Admiralty, particularly since someone else was taking all the risks and paying for it. In his diaries, Samuel Pepys, who was Chief Secretary to the Admiralty, wrote in 1667 that 'we have done the Spaniard abundance of mischief in the West Indies by our privateers at Jamaica, which they lament mightily'.

Serving in the Royal Navy was seen as

an honourable undertaking – a chance to risk your life in the King's Service – and the sons of the privileged were often recruited as officers. However, privateering was not always viewed in the same light, probably because it was driven by profit and this was not regarded as the domain of a gentleman. In 1754, the author Henry Fielding wrote of one privateer's officer: 'He had been the captain of a privateer, which he chose to call being in the King's Service, and... had taken it into his head that he was a gentleman, from those very reasons that proved he was not one.'

► **Henry Morgan was considered a privateer**

Privateer or pirate?

Privateers and pirates are sometimes lumped together as similar roles. However, in legal terms they were entirely different. Pirates were outlaws on the high seas who attacked ships of any nation indiscriminately for profit. In peace or war, pirates might board a ship and steal or sink it, robbing the vessel of its cargo, killing or enslaving its crew, and ransoming and molesting the passengers. Privateers, on the other hand, could only operate against a named enemy nation in wartime, were not entitled to harm any captives, and ships they captured had to be signed off as legitimate by the Admiralty.

Having said this, the distinction sometimes became blurred. Some men employed as privateer commanders became pirates. Peter Easton, for example, started out as an Elizabethan privateer but ended up with a large fleet of armed pirate ships operating off the coast of Newfoundland that was too powerful for any nation to overthrow. Easton was able to retire in luxury, but some privateers-turned-pirates were caught and punished. The notorious Captain Kidd claimed to be a privateer, but was hanged for piracy in London in 1701.

Nonetheless, the difference between privateer and pirate can be difficult to judge. Welsh privateer Henry Morgan, for example, pursued a career that was as notorious as any pirate but his actions suited the government of the day so he was actually rewarded with a knighthood and the governorship of Jamaica.

Most privateer captains followed more reputable seagoing careers. Distinguished examples include George Somers, who established the British colony of Bermuda, but the most eminent of all was surely Sir Francis Drake, the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world. Yet Drake famously sailed into Cadiz and



attacked Spanish shipping under the King of Spain's nose, so was regarded as a pirate by that nation which offered a huge reward for his capture.

There's probably no better example of the difference between privateer and pirate than a man named Woodes Rogers. He was a very successful privateer in the early 1700s, but after appointment as the governor of the Bahamas, he swiftly eliminated all the piracy there.

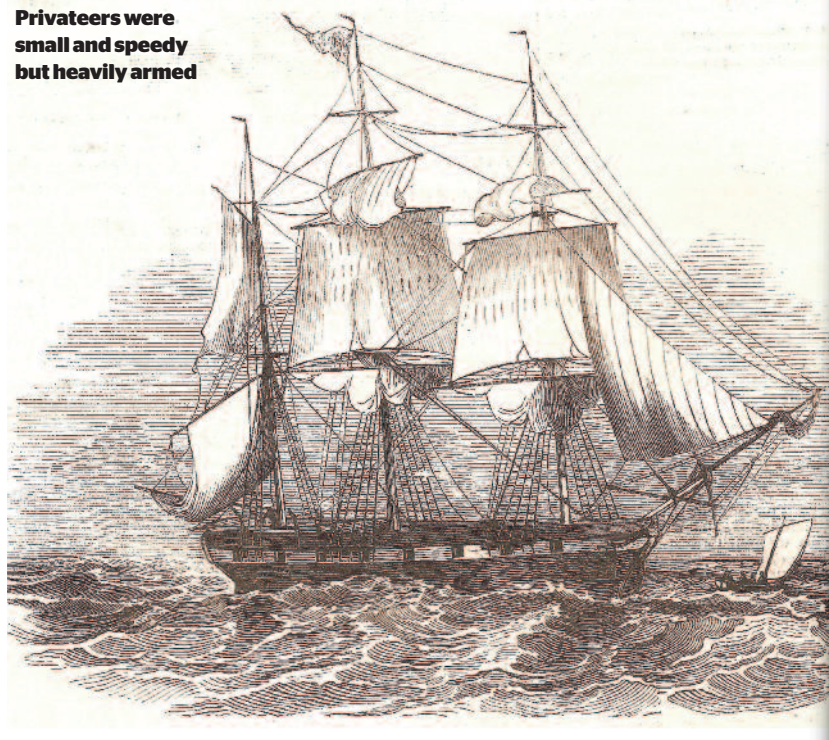
The ship and its crew

Many privateer ships were cargo vessels converted to carry a heavy

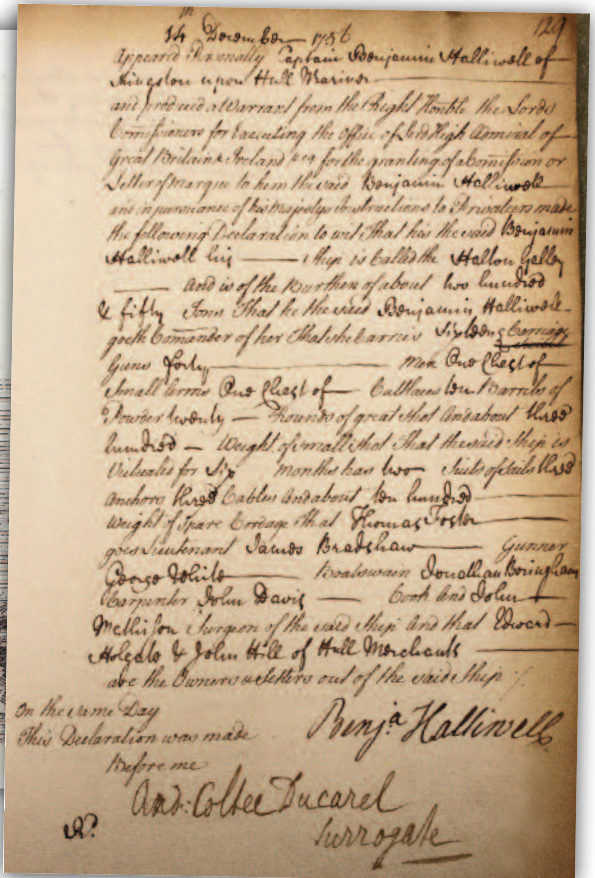
armament, but others were specifically designed and built to order as privateers. They were generally small, speedy and manoeuvrable enabling them to chase slow merchant ships and to outrun the enemy's warships. Privateers were sometimes given names designed to indicate their ferocity such as Tiger or Fearnought, others clearly had more of an eye on commercial gain with names such as Success and Perseverance. Many owners wanted to demonstrate their patriotism and chose names such as Royal Sovereign, Britannia, or even The Roast Beef!



Privateers were small and speedy but heavily armed



► **Privateer declaration of Benjamin Halliwell from Hull in 1756 (TNA ref HCA 266)**



A privateer had to have a big crew so that there were enough men to fire the cannons, as well as to board and take control of an enemy ship then sail it back to port. Capturing ships gave each crewman an incentive for success, yet the risks were also high: every sea battle risked death, a life-changing injury or imprisonment by a foreign power. There was also no guarantee that a privateer would even encounter enemy ships, let alone seize any.

The crew were generally bound by a set of written Articles, designed to make it clear how discipline was to be maintained, and specifying in advance how profits from the voyage were to be shared out. There were financial penalties for bad behaviour, and often incentives for bravery or sighting an enemy ship.

Although privateers could operate from any UK port, in practice a particularly large number were based in London, Liverpool and the Channel Islands.

Your privateer ancestor

Most records naming individuals who served on a privateer are kept at The National Archives (TNA) at Kew. Despite this, there is no research guide for privateers on the TNA website and few of the records have been digitised, so you usually need to make a personal visit to TNA to undertake research.

Your ancestor might have been involved with privateers in two different ways. If wealthy, he or she might have been an owner or co-owner of a privateer. Samuel Pepys, for example, jointly owned a privateer called The Flying Greyhound. In the past, small groups of business people might fit out a privateer as an investment and they are usually named in various legal papers associated with the ship. Secondly, an ancestor might have actually served aboard a privateer. Most records at TNA only identify seven or eight of the most senior members of the crew by name, but it is not uncommon to find a reference to an ancestor serving on a privateer via a will. For example, in the TNA national collection from

the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858/) there are wills from 325 men who identify themselves as serving aboard a privateer.

The legal papers that enabled a privateer to operate were of three kinds. The first was a financial security statement in case the captain of the privateer exceeded his legal authority, and the owner had to indemnify the Admiralty against this happening. These documents are generally called bails or bonds and are found in series HCA 25 at TNA. They date from 1549 to 1820 and are grouped by year. They name the captain and the ship, but bonds are not indexed by name so you must have an idea of the years to search before looking. However, all the bonds for privateers acting against America in the War of 1812 can be found online at www.1812privateers.org/Great%20Britain/index.html.

Much more useful are the declarations concerning the privateer's

✦ A FAMOUS PRIVATEER

The *Terrible* was a name quite commonly given to privateers at a time when the word meant 'fearsome'. One ship of this name attracted particular fame. Its captain was called, appropriately enough, William Death, and he was from Middlesex. In 1756, with a crew of two hundred he captured a large French ship called *Alexandre le Grande*, but the captain lost his brother in the intense battle along with 16 others.

The two ships made for Plymouth, but in the English Channel they ran into a French privateer, the *Vengeance*, which was much more heavily armed. It was claimed that the *Vengeance* initially deceived Captain Death by flying an English flag so he did not realise initially that he was going to be attacked. Both ships were severely mauled in a desperately furious battle but eventually the loss of so many of his men forced Captain Death to admit defeat and he lowered his flag to show that he was yielding to the French. Only 26 men survived on the *Terrible*, most of them severely wounded. Captain Death, himself injured, was reportedly shot in the back after his surrender which added fuel to the fire of his status as a national hero. His bravery was widely acclaimed through books, newspapers and ballads.

readiness for war. These can be found at TNA as series HCA 26 (from 1689) and they name many more individuals. The captain is usually referred to in navy-style as the 'commander'; if a 'master' is identified on board the vessel, this is the sailing master who was responsible for navigation. The owners are named as well. The declarations also reveal the ship's other senior personnel such as the lieutenant or mate (who was second in command), gunner (in charge of armaments), boatswain (ship's discipline), carpenter, cook, and surgeon. These documents state total crew numbers without naming all the individual seamen, as well as the ship's tonnage and armament. The home port may be given, but if not it can be inferred from the owners' resident town, which is usually stated. Each volume of declarations until 1783 has its own index.

The text from declarations for 1689-

► **Will of 16-year-old Jacob Lienhardt who joined privateer *The Terrible* in 1779**

97, 1744, and 1756-61 is available on TNA's website. For these years, you can search for an ancestor by typing his name or ship into <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search> and confining your search to reference HCA 26.

After providing a financial bond and a declaration of preparedness, privateers were issued with a letter of marque. There are registers of these for 1777-1815 in ADM 7/317-332 and 649. They contain less information – typically ship name, commander, tonnage, armament, crew numbers, and the nation that the privateer operated against. Entries for privateers acting against France 1793-1815 have been indexed by ship and captain's name at www.1812privateers.org/Great%20Britain/marque1793-1815.htm and ships active against America for 1777 to 1783 at www.1812privateers.org/Great%20Britain/marque1777-1783.htm. This site also holds the full text of the declarations for this period as well.

Privateers in action

Once you know which ship your ancestor served on, you can explore various sources to find out more about any sea battles he was involved in. British privateers operated in two distinct arenas – the English Channel and the Atlantic (especially the American coast) – and they were often allocated specific sea routes (or





▲ The boarding of Triton by the privateer Hasard (formerly the British pilot ship Cartier)

‘stations’) to cruise by the Admiralty. Newspapers are often useful for identifying whether your ancestor captured any enemy ships or was himself captured. A typical entry from the *Evening Post* in 1780: ‘The *Enterprize* privateer, Captain Eden, has taken and sent into Falmouth the Dutch galliot *Vrow Anne*, from Cadiz to Ostend, laden with Spanish wool, cochineal, wine etc.’

Apart from conventional newspapers, the publication *Lloyd’s List* may be helpful. This is a daily summary of shipping news that has been published since 1741. You can

see complete editions free up until 1826 at www.maritimearchives.co.uk/lloyds-list.html. They often contain brief details of privateer actions against the enemy and of ships lost and damaged. Helpfully, there is also an index to *Lloyd’s List* by ship name, captain’s name and date at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lloydslist.

When enemy ships were captured by a British privateer they were called prizes, and the legitimacy of the action had to be evaluated by a Admiralty Prize Court to ensure that crews had operated within the law. In successful cases, prize ships were handed over to privateer crews and owners and were said to have been ‘condemned’. Prize Court papers are in series HCA 32 at TNA, arranged by date from 1664 to 1815, and often contain a wealth of detail such as eyewitness accounts of what happened. The List and Index Society has indexed 1776 to 1817 by captured

vessel’s name (indexes 183, 184 and 194).

Once certified as legitimate by the Prize Court, the captured ship and its cargo was sold and the profits divided up. The owners took a large share of the profits – commonly around half – while the crew shared the rest according to a pre-established formula. Typically the captain took about 12 shares of the profit, his senior lieutenant six, the boatswain three, able seamen one, and ship’s boys half a share. It could be a very lucrative business and crews were sometimes not even paid a wage because the expectation of income from capturing enemy ships was so high.

Although a profitable business for three centuries, the age of the privateers came to an abrupt halt in 1815 when Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo. Yet it was only in 1857 that it was actually made illegal. ❏

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



DR SIMON WILLS is a maritime genealogist and novelist with 25 years’ experience researching British seafaring ancestors. His recent books include *Voyages from the Past* (Pen & Sword, 2014) and *Tracing Your Seafaring Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2016).



A lady pours a cup of chocolate, mid-18th century



Food of the gods

Margaret Powling offers a delicious history of chocolate

It's funny how attitudes change. When chocolate arrived in Great Britain it was promoted as a health drink. Today we are warned against consuming too much in an attempt to prevent obesity, so in love are we with the brown stuff.

Chocolate is produced from the seeds – or beans – of the cacao tree, *Theobroma cacao*, which literally means 'the food of the gods.' The first people to produce chocolate, originally as a drink, were the farmers of the rainforests of the Amazon River

Basin and in the foothills of the Venezuelan and Colombian Andes. They discovered that as the beans rotted they smelt rather delicious and they learned to 'capture' this aroma by drying and then roasting the beans before grinding them into a paste. It

SOCIAL HISTORY



Late 19th and early 20th century advertisements for popular chocolate brands – most of the leading chocolate firms in Britain have Quaker origins

Joseph Fry & Sons of Bristol who led the way when, in 1761, Fry bought a watermill and warehouse and established a sales agency network in 53 English towns,' says Chrystal. 'In 1795, Fry effectively industrialised chocolate production in England when he started using a James Watt steam engine to grind his beans.'

And then in 1828 Dutch chemist and confectioner, Coenraad van Houten, developed and patented an hydraulic press which squeezed out most of the cocoa butter from the liquor, thus reducing the cocoa butter content from over 50 per cent to 27 per cent and leaving chocolate powder or, as we know it, cocoa.

Unfortunately, the manufacture of drinking chocolate created up to 30 per cent discarded cocoa butter. 'The solution to the problem of this wastage was to make it into eating chocolate and Joseph Fry & Sons was again a pioneer. It had been making drinking chocolate since 1728 and in 1847 it developed an eating chocolate in bar form by adding some of the cocoa butter back into the mix, producing a thinner paste that was easier to mould,' says Chrystal.

Where Fry and Sons led, others followed. In 1875 Swiss chocolatier Henri Nestle invented milk chocolate, and four years later, Rodolphe Lindt created a machine that would transform the texture of chocolate, making it velvety smooth.

It comes as little surprise that the pioneers of Britain's chocolate industry were Quakers, the hot chocolate beverage being promoted as an alternative to the demon drink. Other Quaker chocolate families were Cadbury's of Bournville, and both Rowntree's and Terry's of York. With

was this paste, mixed with water, that became the first chocolate drink which they called *chocol haa*.

According to historian Paul Chrystal (author of *Chocolate, the British Chocolate Industry*, Shire Books, 2011), 'It was Montezuma II (reigned 1502-20) who really exploited the fiscal power of chocolate: he adopted cacao into currency in place of gold, established a bean bank and allowed tribute to be paid in cocoa beans ... Indeed, Montezuma reputedly drank 50 cups of chocolate every day because he believed it to be an aphrodisiac, thus helping to establish chocolate's pseudo-medical and sexual reputation.'

So, when did this exciting commodity reach our shores? Following the defeat of Montezuma by the Spanish conquistadores – seeking El Dorado but, instead, finding chocolate – it swiftly became a delicacy at the Spanish Royal Court. Within a hundred years it was being

drunk by the elite throughout Europe and in 1657 the first London chocolate house, in Queen's Head Alley, opened its doors.

Dr Matthew Green, writing in the *Daily Telegraph* in March 2017 observed, 'For a city with little tradition of hot drinks (coffee had only arrived five years earlier), chocolate was an alien, suspect substance associated with popery and idleness (ie France and Spain); a market had to be generated. Within the next decade, a slew of pamphlets appeared proclaiming the miraculous, panacean qualities of the new drink, which would boost fertility, cure consumption, alleviate indigestion and reverse aging: a mere lick, it was said, would "make old women young". And with such inducements, chocolate houses were swiftly established. For Samuel Pepys, chocolate was the perfect cure for a hangover.'

Chocolate today is more usually enjoyed in its solid form. 'It was



their Quaker associations their confections were viewed as trustworthy.

Of these chocolate families, perhaps Cadbury is the most famous. 'The Cadbury story starts in 1824,' says Chrystal, 'with John Cadbury, son of a rich Quaker, selling non-alcoholic beverages - tea, coffee and sixteen varieties of drinking chocolate - at 93 Bull Street, Birmingham.' John's sons joined the company and by 1878, with business booming, a 14.5-acre site close to the Worcester and Birmingham Canal was purchased, and Bournville was the name adopted for the site.

Not only was a factory erected, but also a model village was built to accommodate the workforce, this project known as the Factory in a Garden. Within seven years the new village comprised 313 clean and sanitary houses (complete with front and back gardens) on 330 acres of land. As well as these homes for the workforce, outside the factory gates were parks, a cricket pitch and a library. Residents were provided with a booklet laying down the rules for keeping houses and gardens in good order, abstaining from alcohol on the Sabbath, and the advantages of single beds for married couples. Indeed, Cadbury was one of the first companies in Britain to introduce half-day holidays. 'Philanthropy and paternalism continued in the workplace with ground-breaking pensions schemes, a sick club, medical services, outings, in-service education, staff committees (the Works Council) and reasonable wages,' says Chrystal.

Advances in technology meant that powdered milk was eventually replaced in 1905 by fresh milk and Cadbury's Dairy Milk was launched, a product still being sold today. I certainly remember the advert claiming that 'a glass and a half of fresh milk' went into every bar. One staggering statistic is that Cadbury's Creme Eggs, introduced in 1923

(1963 in their current form), are being 'laid' at the rate of 66,000 every hour.

The Rowntree story begins with a woman called Mary Tuke, a member of a famous Quaker family whose grandfather, so Chrystal tells us, 'was jailed for his nonconformism in the 1660s'. When aged only 30 (in 1725) Mary established a grocery business in York. The family were good friends of fellow Quaker, Joseph Rowntree I, and in 1862, Joseph's son, Henry Isaac Rowntree bought the Tukes' business, to be joined in 1869 by his brother, Joseph Rowntree II.

One area in which Fry and Cadbury were ahead of the game, though, was in advertising, while Joseph Rowntree considered this 'puffery', preferring to allow the quality of the goods to speak for themselves. The result was that none of Rowntree's lines was particularly successful, and although between 1870 and 1879 sales rose, few of them turned a profit. However, they had a new product, fruit pastilles, and their success enabled Joseph to invest in new machinery - namely the aforementioned Van Houten press - and this was followed by the purchase of a 20-acre site for the building of a new factory.

The British had certainly developed a taste for chocolate, and by the turn of the 19th century, employees at the Rowntree factory exceeded 1600. Similarly, to Cadbury at Bourneville, Joseph Rowntree built the community of New Earswick, York, housing both workers and managers, in a village setting. The planner was Raymond Unwin and the architect Barry Parker, who designed the garden cities of Letchworth and Welwyn Garden City. Rents were kept low but they still provided a modest commercial return on Rowntree's capital investment.

The first real success for Rowntree was Aero, an aerated rather than a solid chocolate bar. And at a time when motor cars were becoming more affordable, Rowntree's Milk Motoring chocolate, containing almonds and raisins, was advertised with the slogan

'You can't go without it!'

A competitor to Rowntree in the city of York, Joseph Terry had by the 1920s become the market leader not in bars of chocolates, but in chocolate assortments. In 1823 Joseph Terry (born in 1793) married Harriet Atkinson, whose family ran a small confectionary business which Joseph subsequently joined, forming a partnership with his brother-in-law, George. When George left the business in 1826 Joseph began to develop new products which were eventually delivered to 75 towns throughout England. These Quakers were nothing if not entrepreneurial! Chocolate production 'began in earnest in around 1867', says Chrystal, 'with 13 chocolate products... adding to the other 380 or so confectionary and parfait lines.'

In 1926 the company moved to purpose-built Chocolate Works in Bishopthorpe Road, which today has a new lease of life as a care village. The famous Chocolate Orange started life as a *Chocolate Apple* and reputation has it that by the 1950s one Christmas stocking in ten contained a Terry's Chocolate Orange.

Each of these chocolate families had entrepreneurial spirit, continually seeking new markets and welcoming the latest technology in order to aid and speed production, and they understood the zeitgeist of the day: that people's passion for chocolate, already centuries old by the time Fry, Cadbury, Rowntree and Terry set up their manufactories, showed no sign of abating. ☒

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



MARGARET POWLING

is the antiques columnist for a monthly style magazine but also enjoys researching social history, historic houses and gardens, style and décor, costume and accessories. She is a regular writer for *Discover Your Ancestors*.

TheGenealogist celebrates RAF centenary with new data



To mark the centenary of the establishment of the RAF on 1 April 1918, TheGenealogist has released thousands of records of individuals who were recorded in a number of Air Force Lists from 1921 to 1944. Also released at this time are copies of *Flight* magazine for 1909, 1910 and 1911, plus an important collection of historic reference books.

TheGenealogist has added these new records to its ever-growing military collection for researchers with RAF ancestors to make use of in order to commemorate the formation of the world's first air force independent of an army or a navy.

Users of the new collections can:

- Read the details of RAF officers in Air Force Lists including name, rank and service number
- Find names of early aviators in *Flight* magazine
- Get background information on aviation from a collection of reference books

- Use TheGenealogist's unique 'SmartSearch' to link to other military records.

Air Force Lists recorded the details of officers who served in the Royal Air Force and include information on the order of seniority, retired officer lists, and alphabetical indexes.

Flight magazine was founded in 1909 as a journal concerned with air transport and all things to do with flying.

Of particular note are the following historic reference books that have been added in this release: *The Air Annual of the British Empire 1930*, *Book of the Air 1931*, *Aviation – An Introduction to the Elements of Flying*, and *The Wonder Book of Aircraft 1930*.

Read more about the birth of the RAF in a related article here: www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2018/celebrating-the-centenary-of-the-raf-with-the-genealogists-records-778/

More WW1 service medal records

TheGenealogist has released the records of 29,000 individuals who were decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) in the First World War. Researchers can now look for holders of this medal up to 1920 from within the site's ever-growing military records collection.

The digitised records include copies of the images of the medal cards, showing the theatre of war where the medal was won. Other information includes name, rank, regiment and service number. The unique 'SmartSearch' feature links to other military records in the site's extensive collections.

The medal was first awarded in 1845 to non-commissioned officers in the British Army who had a record of long service in the forces. Given originally for long service of at least 20 years to servicemen who were of irreproachable character and already held the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal of their service, the First World War saw it awarded to those who performed acts of non-combatant gallantry in the performance of their military duty. In the second case the bravery was not necessarily while the serviceman was on active service and may have been in the saving or attempted saving of the life of an officer or an enlisted soldier.

DIARY DATES

Save the dates! The Discover Your Ancestors Family History shows will take place this year on these dates:

- York, 23 June
- London/Surrey, 22 September

www.thefamilyhistoryshow.com
It's your perfect opportunity to meet lots of family history societies, see products and services, and pick up Discover Your Ancestors!

1940s passenger lists online

TheGenealogist has just released 1.4 million passenger records covering the 1940s. This expands the site's Outbound Passenger Lists to over 25 million records. The new records feature passengers who sailed out of United Kingdom in the years between 1940 and 1949 – these newly transcribed images are from The National Archives series BT 27. The passenger lists will allow researchers

to find ancestors sailing to Africa, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and other destinations, and include details of ages, last address and intended permanent residence.

Read an article on the new records here: www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2018/1940s-passenger-lists-reveal-evacuated-children-war-brides-and-service-personel-crossing-the-atlantic-758/

HISTORY IN THE DETAILS: HANDBAGS & PURSES

A brief history by costume and picture expert **Jayne Shrimpton**



Humans have used receptacles for coins ever since they have had money to carry, and in different periods have kept coins in a larger purse or bag, along with whatever other personal items were needed for daily life. Until the late Tudor period, men and women kept valuables and personal belongings in bags or pouches suspended from a girdle around their waist.

However, under Elizabeth I dress became rigid and formal: breeches and skirts grew wide and coin purses and other small articles were easily hidden among voluminous folds, rendering traditional girdle pouches outdated. Only ornate ceremonial versions or specialised huntsman's bags survived during the 1600s and 1700s, along with the Highlander's 'sporrans'.

Otherwise, fashionable men carried soft leather pouches inside their breeches, for money, keys, seals, mirror, comb, tobacco and, later, snuff box, while ladies hung a tasselled or

embroidered drawstring pouch beneath their skirts, these sometimes evolving into capacious pockets. Some also carried small leather or fabric 'sweet bags' for scented herbal sachets and essences, or purses for loose coins, special gaming purses containing counters for gambling.

Bags made ideal gifts, containing money or as sentimental presents, and as home needlecrafts advanced ladies gave hand-made purses and bags to favoured gentlemen. In the late 1700s the long tubular wallet, stocking or 'miser' purse became fashionable, while narrow neoclassical gowns of the early 1800s inspired the fabric reticule (or 'ridicule') bag, for carrying diverse items, from sandwiches to letters and writing tablets. Dainty knitted, knotted, beaded or embroidered reticules remained popular in the early-Victorian era, either drawstring or metal-framed, but were superseded during the mid-late 1800s by flat chatelaine bags hung from the waist and new ranges of leather bags for

different occasions, including travel, holidays and visiting. Coloured leather, velvet and even fur-covered handbags ideally matched different outfits, kid and green morocco the height of 1890s fashion and a 'matinée bag' carrying purse, opera glasses, biscuit case, scent bottle and perhaps a powder puff.

Cosmetics advanced significantly in the early-20th century and during the 1920s chic *pochette* or clutch bags held in their lining pocket a mirror or vanity case, face powder, lip salve/lipstick and even eye shadow, while exotic evening purses sometimes carried cigarettes and cigarette holder. Smart handbags remained essential between the 1930s and 1950s, a matching bag still considered an important element of the formal co-ordinated outfit. ❏

JAYNE SHRIMPTON is a professional dress historian and picture specialist, and author of several family photo and dress history books. Read her article about female family photos in the latest *Discover Your Ancestors* print edition. www.jayneshrimpton.co.uk



▲ This woodcut from the late-16th century shows the type of soft drawstring purse used by men and women between the late-1500s and 1700s



▲ A picturesque circular reticule bag accompanies this fashionable Dinner Dress for February 1815 from *La Belle Assemblée*



▲ This delicate silver beaded *minaudière* purse (small evening bag) from the 1910s/1920s contains pink silk pocket compartments for a vanity mirror and comb

Canterbury



In the first century AD, Canterbury became established as an important staging post for the Romans, situated between their port of Richborough and the growing city of London. The city's current name dates from Saxon times, simply meaning 'the town of the men of Kent'.

One of the city's most famous visitors was of course St Augustine of Canterbury, chosen by Pope Gregory to convert the heathen Anglo-Saxons; he landed in Thanet in 597 and successfully converted King Ethelbert of Kent, based in Canterbury. Augustine founded the original cathedral and a nearby abbey later named after him. Alas the cathedral burned down in 1067, so what we see today is the evolution of its successor started by Lanfranc in 1070. Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury, and the See has had authority over the Anglican Church since the year 672. The city was badly hit by violent raids from the Vikings in the ninth and tenth centuries.

Canterbury hit its heyday in later medieval times. Much of this was precipitated by the murder of archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170. His murder turned Canterbury into a major centre of Christendom and brought with it a multitude of coins in pilgrims' pockets, fuelling the redevelopment of the city walls and of course inspiring Chaucer's 14th century *Canterbury Tales*. All of this came abruptly to an end in the reign of Henry VIII, when he destroyed Becket's shrine.

Canterbury managed to prosper as a mercantile centre in the centuries that followed, again thanks to its position between London and the coast. Much of this was thanks to successive waves of Huguenot and Walloon refugees from

France and Flanders – Canterbury had the largest such congregation outside London, and today there is still a French Protestant chapel in the cathedral. The refugees brought with them skills in the textile industries in particular, such as wool and silk weaving, as well as expertise in metalwork, brewing and even dentistry.

The city at the heart of Anglicanism was inevitably caught up in the Civil War – Cromwell's supporters took over the city and pulled down a statue of Christ in the 16th century cathedral gate (it was only replaced in 1992), although a mob of Royalist locals fought back briefly in 1647, enraged by attempts to ban Christmas. Cromwell visited to adulation in 1651 – then Charles II stopped off on his return from exile in 1660.

In the late 18th century, the city's character changed somewhat, with the Commission for Paving, Lighting and Watching the Streets advocating the knocking down of most of the city gates to help the traffic. The proximity to France also gave the city a military role in this era, with a huge barracks larger than the city centre itself being built outside the walls.

In 1830 the city was at one end of what's claimed to be the world's first passenger railway, the six-mile

Canterbury and Whitstable, served by Robert Stephenson's Invicta engine. Connection to London came in 1846, with a rival route opening in 1860. The railways fuelled suburbia, with commuting to London a common activity from the late 19th century onwards.

Again, the proximity to Europe affected the city in the 20th century; in World War 2 a quarter of the medieval city was lost to bomb damage, although the cathedral itself remained unscathed.

Exclusive census analysis from the data at TheGenealogist.co.uk reveals that common Canterbury surnames include Marsh, Baker, Andrews, Martin and Harris. Hayward, Howard, Hart, Adams, Austen and Fox were also common in 1841, as were Austin, Powell, Kennett, Kemp, Scott, Webb, Cook and Collard in 1911. Many local records are held at Canterbury Cathedral Archives & Library, www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/archives-library/ and the city library (www.canterbury.co.uk/beaney). The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, www.ihgs.ac.uk, is also based here. ✂

This month all subscribers can access Pigot's 1823 directory of Kent, thanks to www.thegenealogist.co.uk.

CANTERBURY RECORDS

Leading data website TheGenealogist.co.uk has a wealth of records for Canterbury and Kent. Here is a quick run-down of what you can find (in addition to national collections):

- **Trade directories:** five directories covering Canterbury from 1839 to 1938.
- **Census records:** Canterbury records for every census from 1841 to 1911.
- **Parish records** for these Canterbury parishes: Canterbury Cathedral, St Dunstan's, St Mary Magdalene, St Peter's
- **Nonconformist registers:** Nonconformist chapels and meeting houses across Kent, including Canterbury, are covered in the site's collections.
- **Land owners:** the site's huge collection of tithe commutation records includes Canterbury, along with tithe maps; plus an 1873 survey of Welsh and English landowners includes the region.
- Many people from Canterbury can be found in Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Wills 1384-1858.
- The site also has **school registers** for Kling's School, Canterbury, 1859-1931.

MEET KENT RESEARCHERS

- Kent Family History Society, www.kfhs.org.uk



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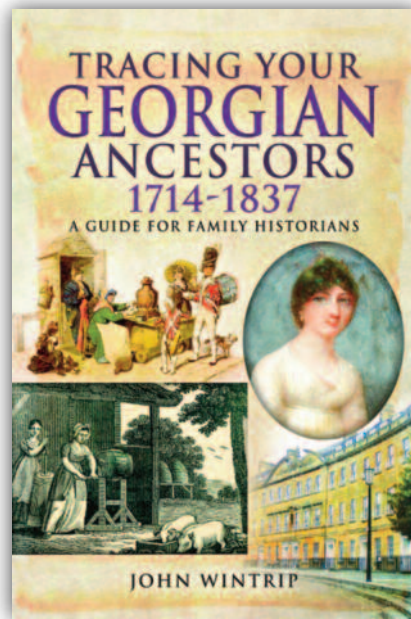
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www.FamilyTreeDNA.com

**Tracing Your Georgian Ancestors
1714-1837 • John Wintrip • £14.99**
www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

The Georgian period was a key stage in our modern history so some understanding of it is essential for family historians who want to push their research back into the 18th century and beyond. John Wintrip's handbook is an invaluable introduction to it. In a sequence of concise, insightful chapters he focuses on those aspects of the period that are particularly relevant to genealogical research and he presents a detailed guide to the variety of sources that readers can consult as they pursue their research.



The Wicked Trade
Nathan Dylan Goodwin • £8.99
www.amazon.co.uk

When Morton Farrier is presented with a case revolving around a mysterious letter written by disreputable criminal, Ann Fothergill in 1827, he quickly finds himself delving into a shadowy Georgian underworld of smuggling and murder on the Kent and Sussex border. Morton must use his skills as a forensic genealogist to untangle Ann's association with the notorious Aldington Gang and also with the brutal killing of Quartermaster Richard Morgan. This is the seventh book in the Morton Farrier genealogical crime mystery series, although it can be enjoyed as a stand-alone story.

The Welsh at War • Steven John
£25 • www.pen-and-sword.co.uk
Subtitled 'From Mons to Loos and the Gallipoli Tragedy', this third volume in a series records the gallant work of Welsh units and servicemen during the period between the declaration of war in 1914, to the aftermath of the battles of Loos and Gallipoli at the end of 1915, covering the outbreak of war and the response in Wales, the Battle of Mons; the Home Front and the expansion of the Army and more.

England's Forgotten Past
Richard Tames • £8.99
www.thameshudson.co.uk

A well-known populariser of English history offers an entertaining exploration of the bits of English history that have been sidelined, lost or somehow overlooked. Written in an engaging, easy-to-read and often humorous style, Tames brings to life the various colourful characters, famous in their day, who have now sunk into obscurity – from St Cuthbert and Nicolas Breakspear to Octavia Hill and the Marquis of Granby.

Life & Death in the Battle of Britain
Guy Mayfield • £9.99
www.iwmshop.org.uk

This is the powerful and moving, unpublished diary of Guy Mayfield, chaplain at RAF Duxford during the Battle of Britain, a defining moment of the Second World War and one of the greatest aerial battles ever fought. Through Mayfield's engaging and evocative writing, readers are transported to life in early 1940s Britain, as the Battle of Britain raged in the skies above. Mayfield spoke, at length and in intimate detail, to pilots who knew they might not survive the next 24 hours. His documenting of

these conversations in his diary provides a unique insight into the lives of the young men who risked their lives. Mayfield's powerful words are accompanied by poignant photographs of the airmen he describes.

Keeping their Beacons Alight: The Potter Family of Barnsley and their Service to Our Country • Jane Ainsworth • £25 • www.helion.co.uk

This is a comprehensive family history inspired by the surviving letters and other memorabilia of two young brothers who were killed in action in the First World War. It concentrates on the military service of many of their relations during the first half of the 20th century. The author has uncovered an impressive number of relations who joined the Territorial Army before 1914 and who served during the First and Second World Wars in a wide variety of roles.

Who We Are and How We Got Here
David Reich • £20 • www.oup.com

The past few years have witnessed a revolution in our ability to obtain DNA from ancient humans. This important new data has added to our knowledge from archaeology and anthropology, helped resolve long-existing controversies, challenged long-held views, and thrown up remarkable surprises. The emerging picture is one of many waves of ancient human migrations, so that all populations living today are mixes of ancient ones, and often carry a genetic component from archaic humans. Geneticist David Reich, whose team has been at the forefront of these discoveries, explains what genetics is telling us about ourselves and our complex and often surprising ancestry. Reich describes the cutting-edge findings from the past few years, and also considers the sensitivities involved in tracing ancestry, with science sometimes jostling with politics and tradition.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

W: www.gfhs.org.uk

Visit our Family History Centre Manned by our knowledgeable volunteers and use our research facilities which include Ancestry, Find My Past, and much more, Attend our regular Branch Meetings in Gloucester, Cirencester or the Forest of Dean Visit our Shop or Join Us free searches available for members. See our web site www.gfhs.org.uk for full details of all our facilities.



HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

W: www.hgs-familyhistory.com

Run entirely by volunteers, HGS has been promoting and encouraging the study of family history research since its formation in 1974. In pursuit of these objectives, the Society has collected, transcribed, published and made accessible in various formats, a large catalogue of Family History Records, data and historical documents relating to the County of Hampshire.



MALVERN (WORCESTERSHIRE) FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

W: www.mfhs.org.uk

E: info@mfhs.org.uk

An enthusiastic group providing support in research, irrespective of county or country : well-attended monthly meetings : quarterly journal : use of our indexed Worcestershire Parish Records 1500s/1839 and local monumental inscriptions. See our prize-winning website to get the full picture.

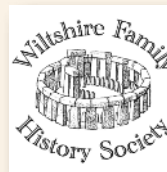
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NUNEATON & NORTH WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

W: www.nnwfhs.org.uk

NNWFHS is the friendly, helpful group serving everyone researching ancestors in northern Warwickshire or for those who wish to meet with other family historians. Monthly meetings; quarterly journal; wide range of publications and data available via FHS-Online. Research assistance for far-flung members plus help desks in local libraries. A choice of membership options to suit everyone. Join - and enjoy!



WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

W: www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk

E: membership@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

The focus for people worldwide with Wiltshire ancestors and for local family historians, all linked by a popular Journal, six branches and a Society website. Thirty-seven years of advising, collecting, and transcribing by our members has created a wealth of knowledge and information shared: plentiful data on our website, and much, much more in our publications and CDs.



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