



GOOD NEWS FROM THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE – Reduced price images

Many of you already use the GRO's online ordering system to obtain pdf copies of birth and death certificates at the reduced rate of £7 each. Now they are offering a new service of online images as jpg files.

Full certificates	PDF files	Online JPG Images
£11	£7	£2.50

This service is restricted in its scope. Whereas pdfs are available for birth entries from 1837 to 100 years ago and death entries from 1837 to 1957 the new online jpg images for deaths are only available for those entries between 1837 and 1887. For births it is the same - 1837 to 100 years ago.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to those of you who have emailed with comments about the new format.

August is a quiet month for the Society so I have taken the opportunity to change and expand this issue a little and add in more general news than I usually have room for.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
167	Twenty-sixth October 1874 Aynstrey Hants	John Walton	Male	42 years	Agriculture Laborer	Coroner and Sufficed him in the waters of the River Ouse when temporarily insane.	Information received from C. C. Colclough Coroner for Hunting donkirk, Newport Hill	Ninth November 1874	Deborah Registrar

You can only order via the GRO online webpages and will need to look your entry up in the online indexes first but it is pretty easy to do and the FAQs can answer many of our questions.

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/faq.asp>

It seems to be a fairly speedy process so far. The only slight problem is that the usual details of registration district and sub-district are not given on the image although you can view the details of your order with the GRO index reference. You will need to copy the image into a Word document or label the image in some way but it seems a fair exchange for a much cheaper service. I have started to work through my list of birth and death certs I need to order – and now I can afford to order those which I am not totally sure about, for instance with common forenames.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
92	Thirteenth November 1851 Woodhouse	Mary Worley	Female	15 years	Wife of Edmund Worley Cotton	Apoplexy 3 months Certificate	The house of Edmund Worley in attached Woodhouse	Ninth December 1851	Robert Smith Registrar

EVENTS

BIRMINGHAM HERALDRY CONFERENCE

7-8 August 2023 10am – 4.30pm

At the Council House, Birmingham

FANTASTIC BEASTS

(In Memory and Tribute to the late Ralph Brocklebank)

Fabulous Beast – A Differenced Kelly Enfield

Speaker: Tony Kelly (of Firmin & Sons Ltd)

A Miscellany of Monstrous Meanderings

Speaker: Dr Bernard Juby Hon FHS

Pegasus: A Personal Perspective

Speaker: W Howard Connell, BA (Dunelm), LLM (Leicester), LLM (Cardiff), FSA Scot

The Brocklebank Approach: How Ralph Helped me

Speaker: Robert Noel, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms (Conference President)

Heraldic Developments in the Commonwealth of Nations – Malta & Australia

Speaker: Richard d'Aspice AM, AIH

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/birmingham-heraldry-conference/2023-08-07/>

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

As always the Society of Genealogists has a full programme of online talks

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events>

Among which this month I note that they are hosting three talks on Jewish Genealogy (as well as Sandra Robinson's Huguenot Ancestry one if you missed it when she gave it for Midland Ancestors).

FINDING YOUR HUGUENOT ANCESTOR

Saturday 12 August 10.30 am

Speaker Sandra Robinson

FINDING NEW JEWISH RECORDS IN THE MY HERITAGE SEARCH ENGINE

Tuesday 22 August 7pm

Speaker Daniel Horowitz

COLLECTIONS OF THE WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY

Wednesday 23 August 2pm

Speaker Elise Bath

UNRAVELLING JEWISH GENEALOGY: NAVIGATING UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Wednesday 30 August 7pm

Speaker Caitlin Hollander



FHF - Local, Regional and Specialist Topics
Friday 17th November 2023

SPEAKERS REQUIRED

It's a bit early to be thinking about November but the Family History Federation are requesting speakers on local, regional or specialist topics for **inspiring** recorded 10-20 minute talks for their next **Really Useful Family History Show**.

If you wish to apply - email:

suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com

putting your idea for a talk topic in the subject line, plus any other information you'd like to share and they will get back to you.

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS REQUIRED

They also need people to run workshops on Zoom on Saturday 18 November between 10am and 6pm. (A fee will be paid.)

TOPIC: Any topic of interest to family & local historians.

Workshops will be **live** presentations using Zoom and lasting no more than 40/45 minutes. There will be no general Q & A as participants only will be the discussion group.

Facilitators need to make the workshops interactive and not just provide a shorter talk. Facilitators are encouraged to provide workshop handouts or exercise material which will be available for download on the facilitator's workshop booth page prior to the workshop starting and for the whole duration of the show.

Workshops will be scheduled throughout the day and will start promptly at the published times. Workshop content will **not** be recorded for further viewing.

For further information - e-mail:

education@familyhistoryfederation.com

MIDLAND ANCESTORS VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

WE NEED YOU!

Interested in becoming a Volunteer
with Midland Ancestors?

We have lots of different ways to
volunteer

See our webpage for details

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/support-us/volunteers/>



“One-Place Studies are the next best thing to a time machine. As much as I can investigate my ancestors, I’m always looking at their lives in isolation, and of course, there are gaps. One-Place Studies help us to understand and learn about the things people would have gossiped about, laughed about, or cried over. When they walked out of their front door what did they see? Who did they go to see when they became ill? How did they socialise? What did they think of their neighbours? One-Place Studies look at all these questions and more”. – Liz Craig, Society for One-Place Studies.

“ALL ABOUT THAT PLACE”

The One-Place Study Challenge Event

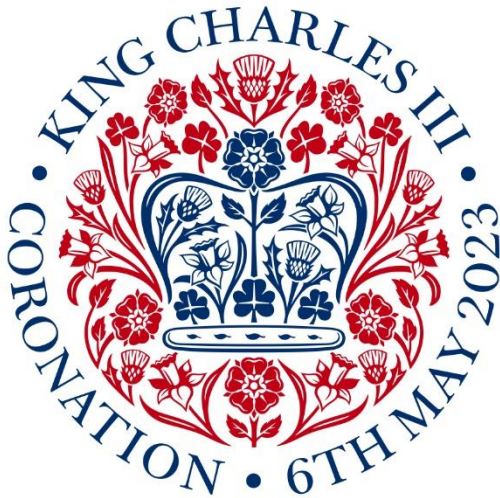
22 September to 1 October 2023

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Society for One-Place Studies, this unique event is spearheaded by the Society of Genealogists, the Society for One-Place Studies, Genealogy Stories, and the British Association for Local History.

Join like-minded history lovers to explore the places your ancestors lived in, all from the comfort of your own home. Inside our pop-up Facebook Group and on our YouTube channel, you’ll be able to enjoy a plethora of free online bite-sized recorded talks from a wide range of speakers (all of whom have kindly donated their time to celebrate One Place Studies).

More information in the September issue!

MILITARY BLING – Firmin & Sons Ltd. Birmingham



It seems a while since the Coronation and I was late to catch up with the BBC programme “**Coronation Tailors – fit for a King**” but what a treat for those interested in military “bling” and artefacts! (It is still available on BBC iPlayer if you are interested.) The tailoring firm it features has an archive of dress uniform patterns for the various regiments and ranks dating back many years and Patrick Grant of Sewing Bee fame was able not only to see their pattern sheet for his great-grandfather’s rank and regiment but also to imagine his father and Great-grandfather in colour not just a black and white photograph. He was shown the tartan of their trews and when eventually he got to hold the die-stamp for their regimental cap badge at the Birmingham factory of Firmin & Sons he was visibly moved.

What I was struck most by, though, was of regimental uniforms as a form of military heraldry - changing with amalgamations, creations and disbandments. How I would love to browse among those pattern books!

Following this up I found the website for Firmin & Sons in Birmingham – **Firmin House**

<https://www.firminhouse.com/home/>

which is worth a wander through if you are interested in military uniforms. (I first came across the company when I was researching the commemorative medals issued in the aftermath

of WW1.) Their Shop is also worth a visit just for the buttons section and for “Sweetheart” brooches.

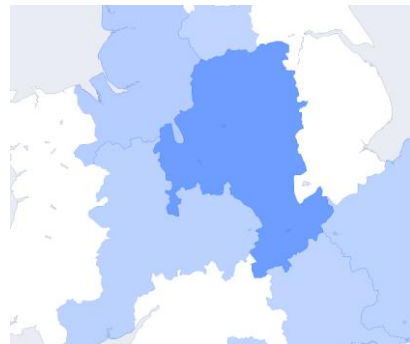
Their News section offers future treats of a tour of their armoury with master armourers, Martin and John and a look at one of the UK’s last working rope hammers where they stamp their buttons.

DNA AND THE VIKINGS

Living DNA is not one of the more well-known DNA companies although it claims

“Our world-leading ancestry test provides unrivalled worldwide regional breakdowns with five times the detail of any other DNA test on the market for African ancestry and eight times more detail for the British Isles”

<https://livingdna.com/uk>



It breaks down your ancestry into different regions within the UK and here you can see my roots are firmly within the Midlands.

What it does not yet have is a family tree function although they are working on that. It does have Family Matching which you have to opt into and I paid the extra recently to find out my **Viking Index** ie how much my DNA matches with the Viking DNA samples extracted by archaeologists. My Viking Index is a whopping **94%** but much to my surprise the Viking population it is associated with, is the Rus or Varangians - the Vikings who settled in Eastern Europe more or less in what is now Ukraine.

For the Family Matching service it now has a Chromosome Browser which you can use to compare with close matches (one at a time). I

used it to compare my gene sample with my (male) maternal cousin and we match in some way on 21 out of 22 chromosomes. Other services do this of course and I will in due course cross-reference with them.

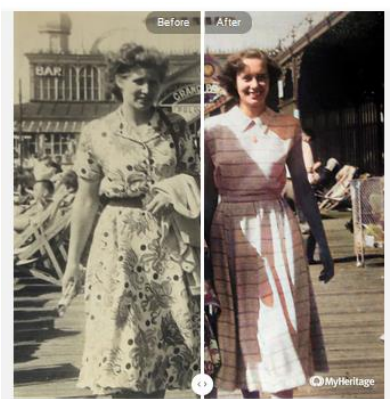
However I signed up with Living DNA to see just where my ancestors came from and yes they confirm what the documentary evidence says – with just a few anomalies – where does this Cornish DNA come from?

MY HERITAGE PHOTO SERVICES

My Heritage started as a family tree website but then expanded into making records available on subscription.

They also have a DNA testing service which slotted nicely into their tree function and their AI can trace linked DNA with its **Theory of Family Relativity** - of which its accuracy depends on just how accurate the various family trees are.

More recently it has ventured into photo editing.



Offering Photo Tagging, Photo Colourisation and Enhancement you can also **animate** photos.

DeepStory uses this animation feature to create videos using a photo of your ancestor, animated to tell his or her story. I used this with a photo of my grandad and personally found it extremely creepy – the accent was wrong, the speech patterns were wrong, the facial expressions were wrong but apparently this feature has been a great hit. For an ancestor you didn't know personally it would be a way to engage younger members of the family.

MEMBERS DOWNLOADS - BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATE COPY FORMS

In the Members section of the Midland Ancestors website is a sub-section entitled **Useful Forms and Charts**

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/members-area/members-downloads/>

Useful downloadable guides and forms are posted here in pdf form such as:

Family History – Getting Started, Family Questionnaires, Pedigree Charts, Census Forms, Census Background Information and many others among them one of the latest – **“Important Dates in the Evolution of Civil Registration in the U.K.”**

Now a couple of downloadable word documents have been added – birth and death certificate copies - that you can use in conjunction with the new GRO Online images. All you need to do is download the copy forms, insert the images and fill in the source information before saving or printing. Let us know how you get on!

Family History - Birth Certificate Copy	DOWNLOAD
Family History - Birth Certificate Copy (Use with GRO digital image) New	DOWNLOAD
Family History - Marriage Certificate Copy	DOWNLOAD
Family History - Death Certificate Copy (landscape)	DOWNLOAD
Family History - Death Certificate Copy (Use with GRO digital image)	DOWNLOAD

STOP PRESS

All About that Place Recorded Talks

Speakers required to donate 10 minute recorded talks. For more information see: <https://www.subscribepage.com/speakers>

IRISH GENEALOGY DIPLOMA COURSE FROM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

The NUI Diploma is an online, level 7, two year course, where genealogy is taught in an interdisciplinary manner and topics include history, geography, folklore, architecture, politics, religion and regional studies.

Visiting lecturers (with specialities in particular aspects of genealogy) and field trips are included, to areas such as Cork, Dublin and Limerick.

Further information can be obtained from their website www.irisharc.org.

THREADS – A NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

A new social media platform has appeared on the scene in recent weeks to which many Twitter users are flocking to try out.

It is very like Twitter but many of us dyed-in-the-wool Twitter users are finding the initial stages of mastering new technology a little difficult, mainly because it lacks many of the features of Twitter that we are used to and as yet it is a little random.

What has been entertaining though in the first few weeks of its life are the attitudes of seemingly respectable social media brand managers. Here I am thinking of the content of Channel 4 and ITV. However it is our own National Archives which wins the prize for its Jekyll and Hyde posts – serious content one minute, wackiness the next. So much fun!

CONTACT THE EDITOR

A newsletter is only as good as the news it contains.

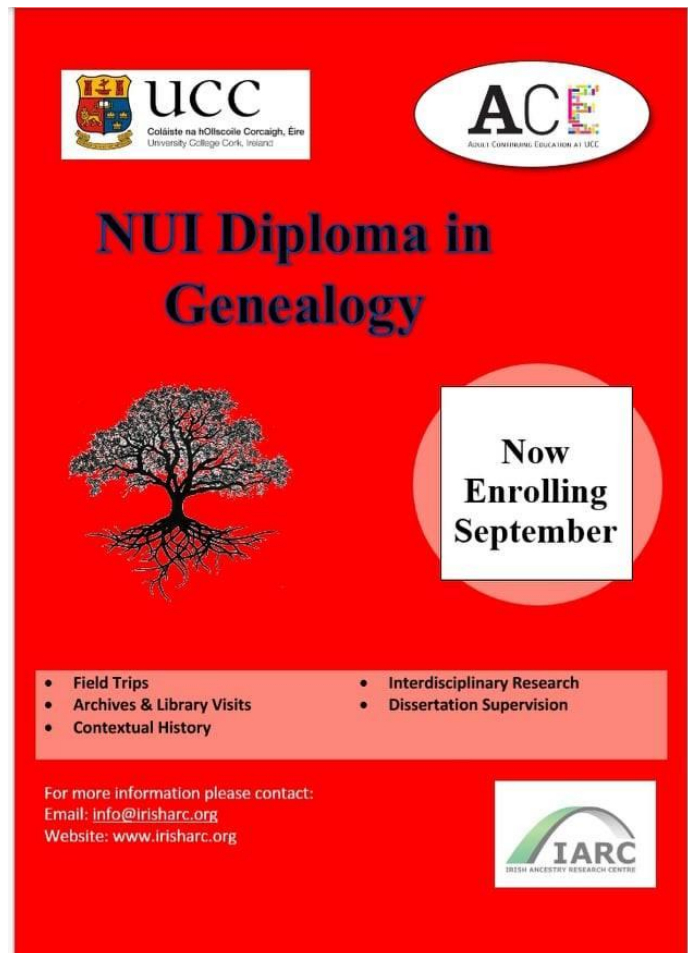
Email me: newsletter@mid-anc.uk

if you have any news or articles or photographs (particularly photographs) to brighten up the pages!

My deadline for news etc each month is the 19th.

CONSTITUTION CHANGE

At the 10 June AGM the Constitution was amended - Clause 10 (g) "A quorum shall now be 30 members" This has since been ratified by the Executive Committee.



The poster features a red background. At the top left is the UCC logo (University College Cork) with the text 'Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire' and 'University College Cork, Ireland'. At the top right is the ACE logo (Adult Continuing Education at UCC). The main title 'NUI Diploma in Genealogy' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title is a black silhouette of a tree with roots. To the right of the tree is a white box with the text 'Now Enrolling September'. At the bottom, there is a list of features: 'Field Trips', 'Archives & Library Visits', 'Contextual History', 'Interdisciplinary Research', and 'Dissertation Supervision'. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: 'For more information please contact: Email: info@irisharc.org Website: www.irisharc.org'. At the bottom right is the IARC logo (Irish Ancestry Research Centre).