

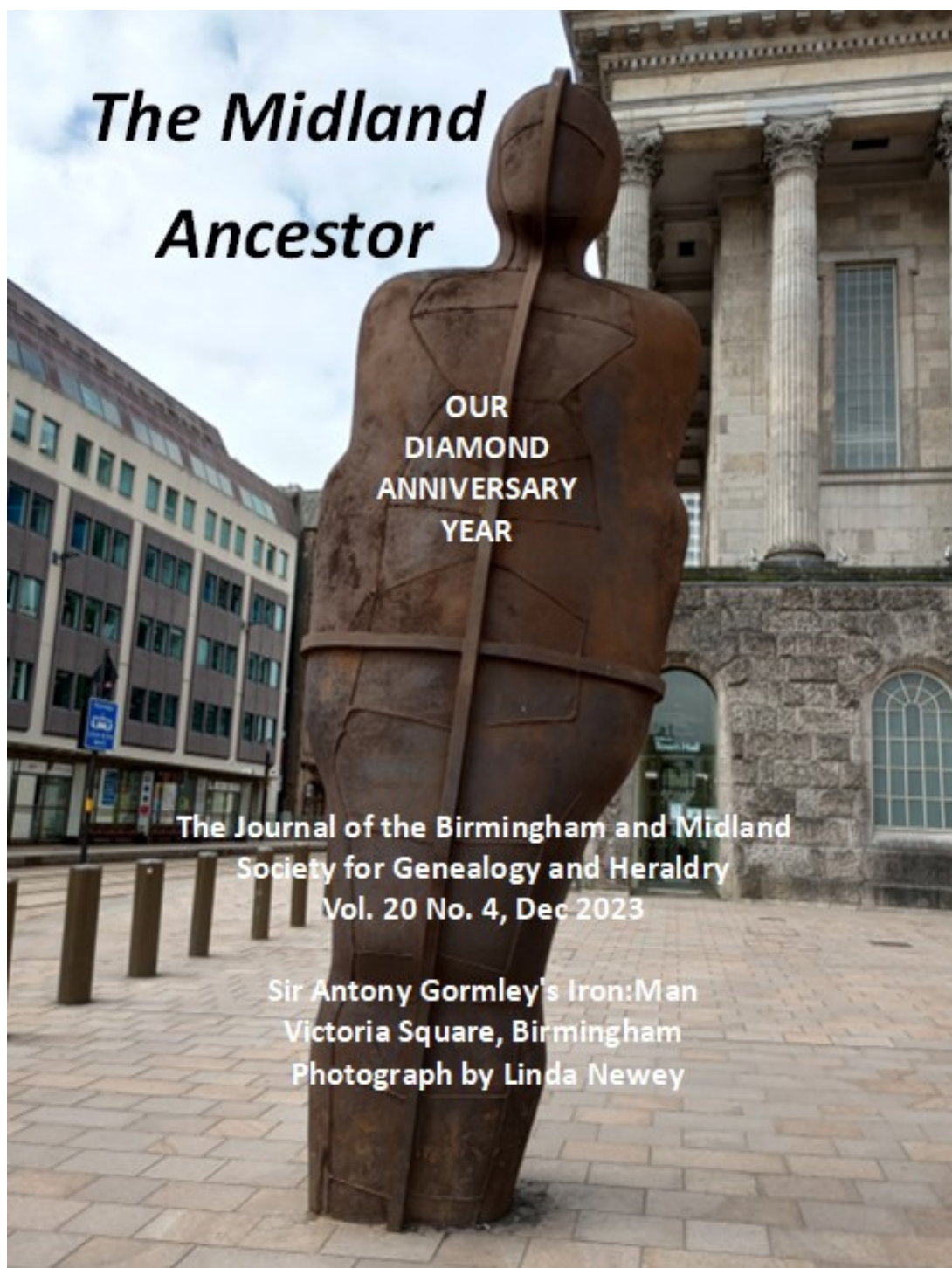


**Midland
Ancestors**



Midland Ancestors is the public face of
The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry

December 2023 E-Newsletter



The December edition of “The Midland Ancestor” introduces two new series: The Broughton Family with links to Birmingham, and the famous, but now sadly lost Midlands landmark, the Crooked House pub.

History was brought to life when Mr and Mrs Isambard K Brunel, aka Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Lound, recently visited the Midland Ancestors Family History Centre at the Birmingham and Midland Institute in Margaret Street.

Newsletter Editor Jacqui Kirk – email newsletter@mid-anc.uk

The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry. Charity Registration No. 505916
An affiliated society of the Birmingham & Midland Institute and a member of the Family History Federation

Also featured are the more unusual family history resources, including 14th century English Poll Taxes, Tyne Theatre and Opera House online database and Hitchmough's Black Country Pubs website. This edition includes the Society membership application form, now benefiting from new, flexible subscriptions, and the Midland Ancestors Shop where I'm sure you'll find inspiration for Christmas gifts.

Linda Newey Journal Editor

editor@mid-anc.uk

MIDLAND ANCESTORS AT THE BMI

THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

1914-18 - IN BOOKS AND CARTOONS

Saturday 2 December at 2pm

Presenters: Paul Jacques and David Vaux



Venue: Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BS

Men from the RWR played a major role on the Western Front in WWI. The regiment lost 11,610 men; six were awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery.

Paul and David's presentation and display will raise our awareness of the wealth of printed material available to family history researchers. This takes us beyond the bare facts in official records to gain an insight into the contemporary experiences, feelings, and memories of not only

those who served but also the impact upon their families, neighbourhood and society.

Paul and Dave have a keen interest in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and Birmingham in both wars. Dave has been exhibiting since 1994 and Paul joined him in 2014 at the start of the First World War Centenary. Paul & Dave have exhibited at the City Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham University, the Oratory, schools and church and community halls locally and further afield.

In 2014 with their help, Dave's old school, now Tudor Grange Academy, Kingshurst, built a trench in their Outdoor Learning centre. A website followed and numerous school groups have toured the trench.

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/10549/>

MIDLAND ANCESTORS KENILWORTH GROUP

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND MEMBERS MEETING



Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Venue: The Kenilworth Centre, Car Park, 65 Abbey End Kenilworth CV8 1QJ

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/kenilworth-christmas-social-and-members-meeting/>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Remember to renew your membership to Midland Ancestors! Or join us - see:

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

Society of Genealogists

A SELECTION OF ONLINE EVENTS

See www.sog.org.uk/events for the full list but here is this month's random pick of its **online** events –

FORGOTTEN CHRISTMAS FARE

Saturday, 16 December 2023 at 10.30am

Speaker: Paul Couchman



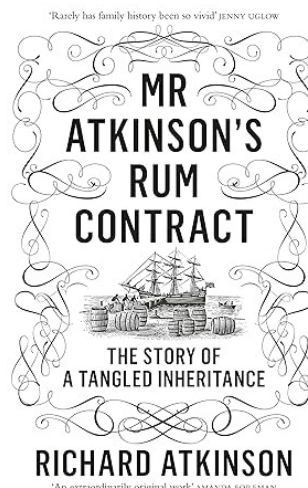
Join Paul Couchman, The Regency Cook, as he plunders cookery books from the past and presents to you forgotten Christmas recipes. He'll present dishes that your ancestors may have eaten at Christmas time. Many are twists on dishes we recognize now but others have been completely forgotten. For one night only he'll bring some of these back to life for your viewing pleasure. Expect tales of Christmas pottage, Christmas puddings both savoury and sweet and Yorkshire Christmas Pyes. There will also be a chance to cook-a-long as he'll make, live on Zoom, a simple lemon mincemeat for mincemeat pies from an old manuscript cookery book recipe. It's a delicious Regency variation on the mince pies we all know and love. The method and recipe will be sent out before the class for all those taking part.

£10 for 1 hour talk – to be recorded
<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/651b05a6db7c9c0008b0f380/description>

MR ATKINSON'S RUM CONTRACT: Confronting a family's slave-owning past

Saturday 9 December 2023 at 2pm

Speaker: Richard Atkinson



An eighteenth-century genealogical odyssey, starting with a tumbledown house and a cardboard box full of old letters, culminating in the present day with the ruins of a Jamaican sugar estate and the results of a DNA test.

£10 for 1 hour talk – to be recorded
<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/651ed475db7c9c0008b6b609/description>

MIDLAND ANCESTORS NORTH STAFFS GROUP

RESEARCH AND SOCIAL EVENING



Monday 4 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Venue St John's Centre, Newcastle Road, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent ST4 6QD

<http://www.northstaffsfamilyhistory.co.uk>

MIDLAND ANCESTORS
COFFEE MORNING AT THE BMI

Wednesday 6 December 2024 at 11am



Venue: The Cafeteria, Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BS

RSVP required see

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/coffee-morning/>

Come along and join us.



Stay afterwards and take advantage of the Society's resources in the Family History Centre which include access to **FamilySearch's** vast collections as we are one of their affiliate libraries.



MIDLAND ANCESTORS FAMILY HISTORY
WORKSHOP

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

[ONLINE VIA ZOOM](#)

Wednesday 20 December at 7pm

Presenter: Penny Smith

Details for pre-registration <https://midland-ancestors.uk/event/on-line-event-members-meeting/>



Family History with a seasonal theme - Penny will give everyone plenty of family history related ideas to think about over the festive season.

NEWSLETTER GUINEA PIGS WANTED

Some of our readers are having trouble reading this newsletter on their phones and mobile devices.

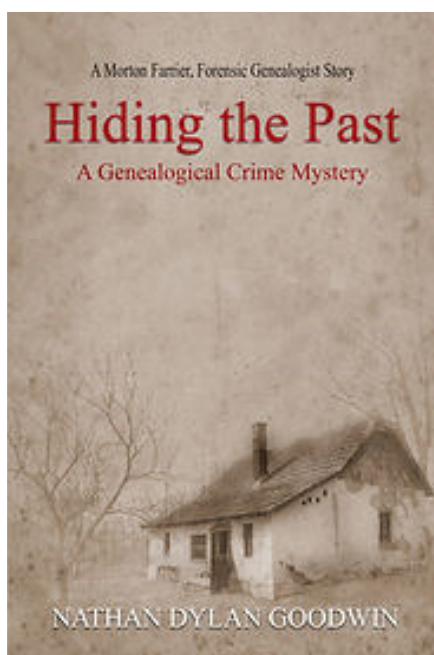


I am looking for willing guinea pigs who read this newsletter on a mobile device to help me with this – if you wish to become one let me know as soon as possible and we can make a start.

Contact me

Jacqui Kirk E- Newsletter Editor at
newsletter@mid-anc.uk

BOOK REVIEWERS WANTED



Midland Ancestors was recently offered Nathan Dylan Goodwin's first book in the Forensic Genealogist series "Hiding the Past" to review.

As a result we have decided to set up a book review panel of willing readers with their reviews being published in our Journal *The Midland Ancestor*. For more information or to apply contact our General Secretary:

k.walker@mid-anc.uk

RADIO STAR LESLEY



Lesley Plant of the Kenilworth Group of Midland Ancestors appeared on local radio station BBC Coventry and Warwickshire to talk about family history and the Midland Ancestors groups. It was early on Saturday morning of the 18 November so I think Lesley did very well to have her wits about her as she chatted to Lorna about family history and found out about Lorna's own family link to celebrity.

You can access it on BBC Sounds

Lorna Bailey on BBC CWR 18 November

roughly 1 hour 47 minutes into the programme

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES 85TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS AND DATABASE

This year is the 85th anniversary of the return to the UK of those who went to fight against Fascism in the Spanish Civil War. The events commemorating this are detailed on the website of the International Brigade Memorial Trust but what this website also contains is a database of those volunteers.

<http://international-brigades.org.uk/uncategorized/the-volunteers/>

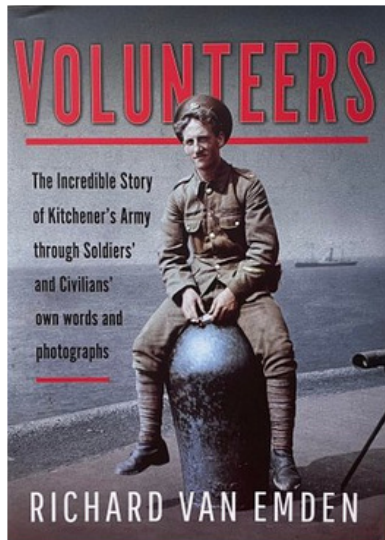
This is a searchable list of all the British and Irish volunteers for the Spanish Republic in the Spanish Civil War 1936-9 drawing on a wide range of sources held in Britain, Spain and Russia and well worth exploring.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Gift suggestions

**VOLUNTEERS: the incredible story of
Kitchener's Army through Soldiers' and
Civilians' Own Words and Photographs**

By Richard van Emden



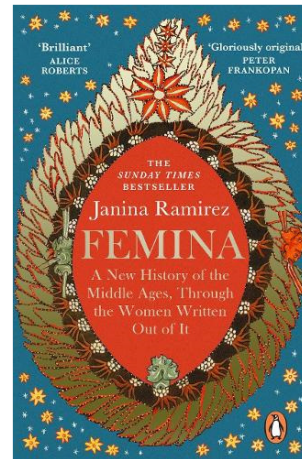
<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Volunteers-Hardback/p/24117>

“Who were these volunteers who poured into recruiting offices, overwhelming the staff? What motivated these men – too often just boys - to join up? How did they feel about one another and the new military regime into which so many ran with enthusiasm, without much thought as to the future?”

After the success of his previous books, The Somme, The Road to Passchendaele, and 1918, best-selling Great War historian Richard van Emden returns to the beginning of the War with this, his latest volume, including an unparalleled collection of soldiers' own photographs taken on their privately-held cameras. Drawing on long-forgotten memoirs, diaries and letters written by the men who enlisted, Richard tells the riveting story of Kitchener's volunteers, before they went to fight.”

**FEMINA: A New History of the Middle
Ages, Through the Women Written Out
of It**

By Janina Ramirez



“Extraordinary women have held positions of power throughout history. But, aside from the select few, why do we not hear about them?”

The middle ages are seen as a bloodthirsty time of Vikings, Saints and Kings: a patriarchal society that oppressed and excluded women. But by digging a little deeper into the truth, drawing on evidence from all disciplines, we can see that the 'dark' ages were anything but. BBC historian Janina Ramirez has uncovered countless influential women's names struck out of historical records, with the word 'Femina' annotated beside them. Male gatekeepers of the past ordered books to be burnt, artworks to be destroyed, and new versions of myths, legends and historical documents to be produced, which has manipulated our view of history.

By weaving a vivid and evocative picture of the lives of the women who influenced their society, we discover not just why these remarkable individuals were removed from our collective memories, but also how many other misconceptions underpin our historical narratives, altering the course of history, upholding the oppressive masculine structures of their present, and affecting our contemporary view of the past.”

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/femina/janina-ramirez/978075355826>



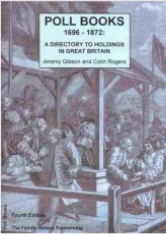
Following the success of her number 1 best-selling book, *Femina*, Janina Ramirez is back to share new insights and further research, uncovering the medieval world through fresh eyes. Discover the lost Queen of Cookham, the spies of Southern France and the cosmopolitan society of London during the Black Death. Far from 'unrecoverable', Janina will show how new technology is putting women back into the history books and revealing the past in all its diversity and complexity. Be prepared to have your view of how we've been taught history transformed.

This four-week course is available globally and can be followed live or at your own pace.

Cost £40 plus booking fee book Via Eventbrite <http://histfest.org/medieval-women/>

THE MIDLAND ANCESTORS SHOP

The Midland Ancestors Shop is full of genealogy goodies. I have my eye on topping up my Gibson Guide collection. Or Steve tells us that he has just taken delivery of more maps.

 <p>Poor Law Union Records - Volume 3 - South West England, The Marches & Wales By Jeremy Gibson & Colin Rogers</p> <p>Poor Law Union Records - Volume 3 - South West England, The Marches & Wales By Jeremy Gibson & Colin Rogers</p> <p>£4.50</p> <p>ADD TO CART</p>	 <p>Local Newspapers 1750-1920 New 3rd Edition With New Introduction Compiled By Jeremy Gibson, Brett Langston and Brenda W Smith</p> <p>Local Newspapers 1750-1920 New 3rd Edition With New Introduction, England and Wales, Channel Isla..</p> <p>£5.95</p> <p>ADD TO CART</p>	 <p>Poll Books 1696-1872 - A Directory to Holdings In Great Britain By Jeremy Gibson & Colin Rogers</p> <p>Poll Books (1696 - 1872) - A Directory to Holdings In Great Britain By Jeremy Gibson & Col..</p> <p>£4.50</p> <p>ADD TO CART</p>	 <p>Poor Law Union Records - Volume 2 The Midlands & Northern England (3rd Edition) By Jeremy Gibson & Colin Rogers</p> <p>Poor Law Union Records - Volume 2 The Midland & Northern England (3rd Edition) By Jeremy Gibson ..</p> <p>£4.50</p> <p>ADD TO CART</p>
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Designed for beginners and those who have researched a little but don't know what to do next but also excellent as a refresher for anyone who has returned to family history research after a break or who has not researched using online records.

Participants will look at records from England & Wales and find out how to tell the story of their family through various documents.



To book a place at **Perton** call **01902 506050**

Penny has been researching her own family history for over 40 years since learning from her father that his uncle went to prison and nobody knew why because 'no one will talk about it'. She uses certificates and documents from her own research to demonstrate the process and show participants how to trace family lines back to the early 1800's and tell the story of their families.

The Family Histories Podcast is an independent podcast hosted by family historian Andrew Martin.

THE FAMILY HISTORIES PODCAST



Each episode features an interview with a genealogy-addicted guest, finding out about how they got hooked on family history, how they research, and their challenges and thoughts on the genealogy industry. The guest then shares a life story of one of the most fascinating relatives they've uncovered in their research, before facing the dreaded brick wall – where

they make a plea to listeners for help with solving one of their pesky brick walls. Each episode sees Andrew offer to help the guest with their research in his (shh: secret time machine) in his garage. The Family Histories Podcast is available for free from wherever you get your podcasts, or at <https://familyhistoriespodcast.com>

Upcoming episodes (6th series) .

EP5 - 'The Churchwarden' with Jackie Depelle - out 5th Dec

Where family history teacher and course tutor Jackie Depelle shares how she traced her ancestors who built her house, and held positions of responsibility in the community.

EP6 - 'The Runaway' with Teresa Vega - out 12th Dec

Where family historian and anthropologist Teresa Vega shares the story of her runaway ancestor as one of the last enslaved people in her area.

EP7 - 'The Loyalist' with James Danter - out 19th Dec

Where professional archaeologist and family historian James Danter finds a solicitor in his wife's family tree, and decides to join a fight he cannot win in the American War of Independence.

EP8 - The Reminder (Bonus Episode) - out Christmas Eve

Andrew is visited by three ghosts, but what is their message?

Contact me: Jacqui Kirk
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MERRY CHRISTMAS