Fran Woodrow

The John Gray Centre sits in the centre of the historic town of Haddington, East Lothian. It’s home to a library, museum, and local history and archive service. As one of the county archivists I’m just going to come out and say it. The local history and archive service is one of the best in Scotland. Modest, huh?

We have customers from all over the world using our services to trace their East Lothian ancestry and we have some great resources here. Early OPR (Old Parish Registers) records for the county, and over 150 years of local newspapers are accessible through microfiche. We offer access to Scotland’sPeople and free access to Ancestry and the British Newspaper Archive. The centre is home to a comprehensive reference library covering every conceivable part of East Lothian’s history. Our extensive archive collection covers the county’s history from 1318 to the present day. But what makes us different? What hidden gems do we hold that will help those looking to learn more about their ancestors?

Hidden Gems in the East Lothian Archives

John Gray Centre

British Connections
Volume 17, Issue 4
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PO Box 3345
Centennial, CO 80161-3345

We welcome unsolicited contributions. If an item is to be used, notice will be provided within one month of receipt. Unaccepted manuscripts will be returned.
Poor Law

We currently have a number of volunteers working on indexing our Poor Law records. These records cover the period from approximately 1840–1930 and go back to the days before the welfare state. Those who found themselves too ill or elderly to work would approach the local parish for help. Help (if granted) could take various forms — money, clothes, coal, admittance to the poorhouse, and in some cases even whisky (they don't call it the water of life for nothing, I suppose!). If your ancestors were unfortunate enough to find themselves down on their luck you may well find details of them in these records. The results of the project will be made available on our website, so no matter where you are in the world you’ll shortly be able to access these records.

Criminal register

People are always fascinated by dark tales of days gone by. We hold a number of police volumes in the archive. One of the most interesting (and a fascinating source for genealogists) is the Haddington Criminal register. The volume covers the period from 1894–1901 and records minor offences such as breach of the peace or riding a bicycle on the pavement. As well as name, age, address, and details of their crime and punishment the volume also goes on to give a full physical description of the “criminals” including distinguishing marks, their place of birth, and whether they can read or write—a mine of information. If you are able to find an ancestor misbehaving then you can often use the information to track down a newspaper report of their crime or court appearance.

We also had an artist give an interpretation of the criminals featured and she created a lovely set of cartoons which we have displayed around the centre. One of our researchers from Canada even found his ancestor in one of these portraits!
**Borthwick**

And talking of criminals, one of East Lothian's most notorious was William Borthwick. Borthwick was chief cashier of the East Lothian Banking Company. The bank went bust in 1822 when Borthwick absconded with all of the money. Criminal bankers are not just a modern phenomenon! In our collections we have hundreds of letters from customers of the bank during its short life. The bank was well supported by inhabitants of the county, particularly farmers, and correspondence can offer an insight into the finances of hundreds of East Lothian people.

**Directories and guides**

We hold a large number of directories and guides for East Lothian and its towns stretching back to the early 19th century. If your ancestor was in a position of authority—a justice of the peace, councillor, minister, or teacher—you will find them in the directory. Also the directories carry a number of adverts for local business. So if great uncle George was a cobbler in North Berwick you may well find an advert for his business in the directory.

**Council papers**

Council papers can be a really rich resource for tracing family. If they served as a councillor they will obviously be mentioned, but also if they ever contacted the council to complain about their neighbour or apply for planning permission they’ll be included. They may have been employed by the council and if so, you can often find references for them amongst the papers or mention in the minutes of their suitability for a post.

You’ll also find things in the council minutes you just don’t expect. In the Musselburgh town minutes, for example, there’s a list of inhabitants of the town who are asking for dentures. In these pre-NHS days responsibility for dental health fell to the local council and we have names of people seeking new teeth—we even know which teeth they were missing!

**Images**

Perhaps you’re interested to see what East Lothian looked like in your ancestor’s time? We hold over 80,000 images of East Lothian. In every format from glass plate negative to digital, and every event from school photos to galas. The collection grows every day. You may even be able to find an ancestor’s house in the collection or if you’re very lucky we may even have images of the ancestor themselves. We’re in the process of digitising the main image collection and this will shortly be available on our website to browse.

Of course you might have already been lucky enough to trace your roots back to Scottish royalty and in that case we have a hand-signed letter from Mary Queen of Scots and a 1318 charter from Robert the Bruce for you to see too!

These are just some of the hidden gems we have available for family history research. Our entire catalogue is available to search on our website: www.johngraycentre.org.uk. Our contact details are there, too, so if there is anything we can help with please do get in touch. We’d love to hear from you.

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After initially training to become an estate agent Fran Woodrow saw the light and qualified as an archivist in 2007. She has worked as East Lothian Council archivist for the past eight years and is fortunate enough to love her job and she works with a great team. Fran loves all things history, reading, walking, meeting new people, and the odd glass of wine. Despite working in East Lothian, Fran is not an East Lothian native. She grew up in Fife and now lives in beautiful Edinburgh with her husband and daughter.
Thoughts from the Editor

It is incredible to believe we are nearing the end of 2016. As we look back, we have shared expert knowledge in planning for a genealogy trip to the different countries in the British Isles, we have learned about the value of Poor Law records in researching British Isles ancestors, we have introduced the instructors for British Institute 2016 (now successfully completed), and we introduced a webinar series with a variety of speakers to further your knowledge of the resources available to people researching their British Isles ancestors.

In this issue, we have information on Hidden Gems that can be found in the various archives not only in the British Isles, but also closer to home. Our webinar series is underway and is a terrific opportunity for learning. There have been a couple of challenges about the two-step registration process, so we have a short reference to help this be an easier process for you.

We have so many things to share with you in the new year and we look forward to continuing to be a premier resource for anyone researching their British Isles ancestors.

I wish you all a warm, cozy holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends as the schedule allows. Take the time to create lasting memories.

Best wishes, as always,

Christine

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Meet Sue McNelly, ISBGFH Membership Coordinator

Based in Phoenix, Arizona Sue McNelly has been researching her family history for over 15 years. Born in South Africa to her British father and South African mother, Sue’s roots are predominantly English with a little Scottish, Irish, and of course South African, to add to the mix. Sue is a member of the National Genealogical Society, eGGSA (Genealogy Society of South Africa), as well as of ISBGFH, and is working towards professional certification. Sue can be found on twitter at @KindredPast and blogging at kindredpast.wordpress.com.
A new year! A renewed focus…to provide the absolutely best British Isles family history educational programs and benefits. That is my goal and has been my focus for the ISBGFH as we move into 2017.

Our most recent British Institute was another success and we are excited about our plans for the British Institute in 2017. Registration for the 2017 British Institute will open January 2 for members. Look to our website for current information. The 2017 British Institute will be our first effort to keep up with changes in science and technology and present a course on DNA specifically oriented to the British Isles. It will vary slightly in format in that classroom instruction will be for six hours per day and will offer optional LDS Family History Library research time after class. Both the Ireland (pre-famine) and the England (pre-civil registration) tracks will focus this year on earlier research periods and appropriate strategies during the individual consults. Beginners will be accommodated, but these two tracks are designed for researchers with an understanding of British Isles research. Scotland will be covered in depth.

Our winter webinar series continues to receive high praise for its quality and variety of topics. Several webinar presentations are introductions to our British Institute coordinators. Visit our website for further webinar information.

Looking to the future we will evaluate an expansion of the webinar series and topics presented based on your feedback and acceptance. The development of an intensive, 18-hour, three-day mini-course on basic country specific research is being considered with the collaboration of an established historical institution. The program will be held on the east coast of the U.S. to permit researchers an opportunity to experience a British Institute-type learning experience and prepare them for Salt Lake City, the Family History Library, and consultations. The idea is to reduce the travel and accommodation costs necessary to participate in our basic country educational programs.

We are negotiating with FindMyPast to provide the membership with significant savings on a Premium FindMyPast subscription. This process is on going. We will keep you updated.

As a close to 2016, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the members whose contributions make this organization what it is—a place to learn, network, and enjoy British Isles research. Thank you for all your efforts to move our society forward!

Please feel free to comment at president@isbgfh.org concerning this message and your ideas. Here’s to great success in the pursuit of those elusive British Isles ancestors!

Frank
Daniel N. Rolph, PhD

British author Rudyard Kipling wrote in 1898 his famous poem, “The Explorer,” which contains the appropriate following lines:

“Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the Ranges—Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!”

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, is a private organization founded in 1824, whose collection is composed of some 21 million manuscripts, 700,000 books, and over 500,000 graphic items. This massive amount of data also includes hundreds of unique and diverse volumes relative to the history of the British Isles. These collections are currently sitting on the HSP’s “ranges” of shelving, “lost and waiting” for the public or researchers to come and discover. The records, pertaining to their ancestors, are available for consultation either by a personal visit or via the Research-by-Mail service offered by the society.

The above volumes are a treasure trove of resource materials which the family historian may use in order to obtain family and vital record information. The records are in publications from throughout the entire British Isles, be it England, Wales, Scotland, or Ireland. In some cases these records are online although many are not. Whereas many researchers are forced to visit multiple institutions or pay exorbitant fees via the Internet in order to acquire British records, these volumes are all gathered together at a single repository.

Thus, one may wonder “how, when, and why did The Historical Society of Pennsylvania obtain such a vast amount of British-related publications?” The answer lies to a marked degree with Albert Joseph Edmunds, an English immigrant born at Tottenham, County Middlesex, who came to the United States in 1885. Edmunds eventually served as a cataloguer for The Historical Society of Pennsylvania from 1891 to 1936. Prior to this, Edmunds had been employed as a cataloguer at the Leeds Library in England and had worked as a librarian at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. He eventually became a world-renowned scholar of comparative religion and of spiritualism. During his tenure at HSP, Edmunds succeeded in acquiring numerous volumes relative to the history of his native country, also leaving behind over 36 linear feet of his own papers, diaries, etc. which are housed at HSP.

In this small article, it is impossible to relate in full, the totality, scope, and sheer volume of fascinating data awaiting the would-be researcher. These publications contain a vast amount of local and family history as well as folklore. In addition, there are numerous articles pertaining to nature, art, military, and the early architectural history for almost the entire British Isles. By making use of this material, the family historian may contextualize much of his or her ancestor’s residence since the volumes are filled with lithographs of landscapes or buildings, illustrations of family tombstones, coats-of-arms, vital records from church registers, obituaries of various individuals found in...
family sketches, queries, and so on.

One should also visit the general website of the society to view the online catalogue Discover in order to do a basic search. Searches can be done by name, author, title, or place. Note that the British-related volumes have not been digitized. It will require an actual visit by the researcher. If one can't make a personal visit, the society's Research-by-Mail service can also be used to acquire the necessary information.

The following is a very brief and randomly selected listing of a small number of volumes found within the British collection. Also, if one would like the full bibliographic citations for anything listed below, I would refer the reader to Discover once again. Remember as well that these are all hard-bound, original volumes, not xeroxes or print-outs.

**Newspapers**

*The London Gazette*, Nov. 1665–to 25 July 1797


*Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, Jan. 1787 to Nov. 1787

**Miscellaneous Volumes**

*The Reliquary*, 1860–1894, 34 volumes of folktales, armorial crests, genealogies, etc.


**Primarily Medieval-related**

Calendar of State Papers, 186 volumes

Patent Rolls, 1216–1485, 47 volumes

Treasury Books, 1660–1725, 10 volumes

Papal Registers, Feudal Aids, all of which are valuable in doing early surname research and distribution

**Publications of the Harleian Society**

Various “Visitations” of the Herald’s for the counties of England, with coats-of-arms and family pedigrees, primarily for the 16th–18th centuries, over 120 volumes

Thomas Dugdale, *Curiosities of Great Britain: England & Wales…Historical, Entertaining & Commercial*, 8 volumes, including 19th century renderings of buildings, maps, landscapes, etc.

Francis Grose, Esq., famous *Antiquities of England and Wales*, 7 volumes, includes such early lithographs of the famed Stonehenge, descriptions of ruins, dated from the 18th century

Parliamentary Writs: Medieval to the Modern Era (House of Lords/House of Commons volumes); State Trials, volumes covering periods from 1495–1741.

**Gazetteer of the British Isles:** Statistical and Topographical, ed. John Bartholomew (Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black, 1887)

*An Entire and Complete History, Political and Personal, of the Boroughs of Great Britain…* (London: B. Crosby, 1794), 2 volumes

*British Army List*, 1763–1850, these volumes include names, rank, death information, with later volumes giving details relative to battles, various “Regiments-of-Foot” or the Infantry as we would say were involved in throughout the world, during the days of the British Empire

**England**

Francis Blomefield, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk…*, 5 volumes, first printed in 1739, accounts of various manors, rector, vicars, family histories, back to Medieval times

William Berry, *County Genealogies: Pedigrees of the Families of the County of Kent*, 1830, Berry was the Registering Clerk for the College of Arms in London
Edward Wedlake Brayley, *A Topographical History of Surrey* (London: G. Willis, publisher, 1850), 10 volumes with lithographs of churches, landscape views, ancestral estates, data concerning Medieval to Modern eras

Augustine Page, *History of Suffolk: A Supplemental to the Suffolk Traveler or Topographical & Genealogical Collections Concerning That County* (Ipswich and London, 1844)

John Collinson, *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset* (Bath, 1791), 3 volumes

*Parish Register of Almondbury* (Yorkshire), Vol. 3, 1683–1703, (Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Parish Archaeological Section, 1988)

Leeds Parish Registers: Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials: 1695-1722 (Leeds, 1909)

*The East Anglian: Notes & Queries…Counties Suffolk, Cambridge, Essex and Norfolk* (London: 1864-1910), 17 volumes, contains genealogical queries, pedigrees, origin of place-names, family coats-of-arms, etc.

Shropshire Parish Registers (on various diocease), Shropshire Parish Register Society, over 48 volumes, covering primarily the 17th–18th centuries

**Wales**


*Cambrian Quarterly Magazine and Celtic Repertory: 1829–1833*, 5 volumes

*Archaeologia Cambrensis, 1864–1962*, 115 volumes

Bei-Gones, 1880–1896

**Ireland**

Parish Register Society of Dublin, with miscellaneous registers such as: Church of St. Michan: 1685–1686; Church of St. Peter & St. Kevin: 1669–1761, etc.

*Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland* (Dublin: 1881–1931), containing articles relative to church records, gravestone inscriptions, etc.


*Ordnance Survey Letters: Letters Containing Information Relative to the Antiquities of the Counties of Armagh-Wexford, of the Ordnance Survey in 1835* (Reproduced under the direction of Rev. Michael O’Flanagan; Bray, 1927-1933), 34 volumes, gives data concerning myths, local history of various towns, parishes, etc.

**Scotland**

*Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow: 1573-1833* (published from 1870–1916), 14 volumes

Walter MacFarlane and James Toshach Clark, *Genealogical Collections Concerning Families in Scotland: 1750–1751*, (Edinburgh: Univ. Press, 1900), ed. from the original manuscripts, 2 volumes

W. Innes Addison, *Roll of Graduates of the University of Glasgow, 1717–1897* (Glasgow: James MacLehose & Sons, 1898)


Though Ancestry, FamilySearch, and other online sites for British Isles research are indeed helpful, hands-on research is still highly productive in the digital age. Working here at the society for over 31 years, I actually researched my own Rolfe/Rolfe family coat-of-arms, which enabled me to discover that I had more material obtained from within our British collection upon the subject than was available through the College of Arms in London!

Doing British research at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania can be a rewarding experience. It definitely should be consulted prior to spending time or money at expensive online sites, or before hiring private researchers within the British Isles.

Born and raised in Kentucky (10th generation), Dan Rolph has been researching his own family lines for some 50 years, primarily out of the British Isles and specifically his Rolph/Rolfe line back to 16th century England.

Dan is the Historian and Head of Reference Services at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a position he has held for 31 years. Dan authors two blogs for the Society: Hidden Histories and History Hits.
Helen Smith

Australia and New Zealand have had a long connection with military involvement. This includes actions prior to Federation in 1901 ranging from having British regiments there in convict days, to the New Zealand Maori wars, Indian mutiny, Sudan, Boer War (1880–1881), Boxer rebellion, Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902) and then World War One. Many Australians have fought in these battles and in World War One, there were over 60,000 men born in the United Kingdom who enlisted in the Australian Infantry Force, the majority of the Australian born were descended from United Kingdom ancestors. This also applied to the New Zealanders. Both countries also had First Nations people who enlisted.

There are a number of resources to enable us to find out more about them and their experiences. For those who lost their lives the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is the best place to start: http://www.cwgc.org/.

- New Zealand Roll of Honour: http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph

- Australian War Memorial: http://www.awm.gov.au. This is a fantastic resource for all things military. They have a large collection of photos, diaries, ephemera, etc., only a small percentage of which has been digitised. However, well worth looking at their digitised collection, as where the name is known they have included it in the catalogue.
- Nominal rolls
- Embarkation Rolls: http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/nominal_rolls/first_world_war_embarkation/introduction/ (known not to be complete)
- National Archives of Australia (NAA): www.naa.gov.au
- Discovering Anzacs: http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/. The AIF and NZEF dossiers are also available at the Discovering Anzacs website. The website is special as on one part of the website you have the

Ernest Weeks, WWI, buried Sep. 1919
service dossiers and on another you are able to add your own tribute to your Anzac, a photo, story, headstone image, etc. On the archival side as well as the WWI dossiers now there are digitised Australian Repatriation files (ongoing project), also munitions workers files.

- New Zealand: [http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph). The Auckland War Memorial Museum hosts a database of deceased soldiers, some of which include photographs.

- The War Graves Photographic Project: [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org). The aim of this project is to photograph every war grave, individual memorial, Ministry of Defence grave, and family memorial of serving military personnel from WWI to the present day and make these available within a searchable database.

- State Archives. The individual Australian state archives will also hold documentation on Soldier Settlement schemes. Individual files may not survive but register books often do survive.

- In New Zealand the Archives have produced this research guide to records for soldiers: [http://archives.govt.nz/sites/default/files/War_-_A49571.pdf](http://archives.govt.nz/sites/default/files/War_-_A49571.pdf)

### National and State Library Heritage Collections

- These contain Manuscript collections—letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and other ephemera. Check the online catalogues of manuscripts but be aware these are not always indexed at a detailed level. It may simply say 0.7 metres of Dr. Donald Smith personal papers. Hopefully there will also be enough information to know that he was a doctor of the military unit you are researching. Increased digitisation and indexing projects occurring mean that many more documents are becoming available.


- Papers Past is the free New Zealand digitised papers site: [http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz](http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz)

- Google: [https://www.google.com.au/](https://www.google.com.au/). Do a Google search for the unit, battle, ship, etc. as there are many individual blogs and websites that may be of interest in your search for your ancestor. Increasing number of locality projects are being done to commemorate the War. Personal blogs are another fantastic resource for finding people. You can do a Google search restricted to blogs using the Google specialised search for blogs.

- Facebook: Has a number of military pages where you can ask questions. I managed to get some photographs analysed as to uniform and approximate date by the weapons in use.


- London Gazette: [http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/). Honours and awards were published in London Gazette and then generally republished in Australian Commonwealth Gazette later (a number of months later usually) it is worth looking in both. New Zealanders were listed in the New Zealand Government gazette. Spelling can be a bit variant so
you may need to do a bit of creative thinking!

- Desert Column: Australian Military History: http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm
- Australian Battlefields of World War One: http://www.anzacsinfrance.com/
- Spirits of Gallipoli: http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/
- Mail-lists and Forums: Rootsweb: www.rootsweb.com and browse the lists as a number of military lists

**Pay Sites**

- Ancestry: has a lot of New Zealand military records as well as the burnt records from WWI: http://www.ancestry.com.au/
- Findmypast: also a lot of New Zealand and Australian records with more going on over the next few years.
- Forces War Records UK is a new pay site that could be of interest. One of the things they are doing is indexing hospital admission registers (250,000 records now online so many more to come.
- Abebooks is the site to search for second-hand books.

- Don’t forget Google Books and Internet Archive may have an out of copyright book about your unit or battle.
- Inside History is an Australian historical magazine (available as a digital copy). On iTunes you are able to download a free copy of a Military Research booklet they published in conjunction with findmypast. Of course with the commemoration of World War One occurring you can expect many more resources to become available and remember to use a variety of search engines, not just Google, as all index the web slightly differently.

Telling their stories and remembering them and their deeds is an important way of recognising and giving thanks for the service given by all military personnel, past, present, and future.

**Helen V. Smith** has been researching her family history for 30 years and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild. Her mother was 5th generation Australian, of English, Irish, and Welsh descent. Her father was English, from Kent, and a number of his ancestors came from this area in Kent which gives a personal meaning to these events. Helen is a public health microbiologist with a strong interest in social history and the inter-relatedness to the contexts of the past. She has presented at RootsTech, Who Do You Think You Are? Live in London, Harvest your Family Tree in Canada, on nine Unlock the Past Genealogy and History conference cruises, in New Zealand and in every state and territory of Australia. She is the author of Death Certificates and Archaic Medical Terms and Google: the Genealogist’s Friend. Helen is also a blogger. Helen gave three presentations at FGS: “In the Workhouse,” “My Job is Killing Me!,” and “Lost in Australia.”
The Next Big Thing in Genealogy

Dr. Maurice Gleeson, MB
Genetic Genealogist

We have previously looked at Y-DNA and its application for researching specific surnames. But now I would like to turn to the most popular DNA test of all—the autosomal DNA test.

The term autosomal DNA (atDNA for short) is confusing and unnecessarily so. We all have 46 chromosomes and autosomal DNA is essentially all of these except for the sex chromosomes, X and Y (chromosome pair 23). The X chromosome is usually included in any laboratory analysis of autosomal DNA, and thus with an autosomal DNA test you get results from all the chromosomes apart from the Y-chromosome. In short, this test covers all of your chromosomes if you are a woman (XX) and 45 out of 46 of them if you are a man (XY).

You can learn a lot from this test, not all of it relevant to genealogy. It can tell you what percent of your DNA is Neanderthal in origin (most people come out about 2.7%, which can be a useful ice-breaker at cocktail parties). It can also reveal a variety of medical risk factors, making it a popular test with a lot of non-genealogists. But two aspects of the test are genealogically relevant—ethnic make-up and connecting with genetic cousins.

Let’s look at ethnic make-up first. This terminology is a rather crude generalisation but is easier to understand than some of the alternatives that are frequently used (e.g. biogeographical analysis, genetic ethnic admixture estimates). In short, the atDNA test can tell you what percentage of your DNA came from different populations. The technology is advancing fast and now the test can drill down beyond the specific so-called ethnic groups into a variety of different subgroups—the sub-ethnic level, if you will. Therefore it should more accurately be considered to be a “population make-up” test. Soon it will not only tell you that you are 85% British, but it will be able to break this down into what percentage of your DNA came from specific geographic areas in Britain—45% North Wales, 10% Orkney, 30% Devon. These “population admixture”
results can be very helpful from a genealogical perspective. If you have only one Scottish line for example (and the rest of them are, say, Japanese) and you match someone who is 100% Scottish, then you know the connection can only be on your single Scottish line. This helps narrow down the number of your ancestors who might be candidates for the common ancestor shared between you and your match.

The final and most genealogical relevant application of atDNA testing is that it can put you in touch with genetic cousins with whom you share a common ancestor some time in the past 250–300 years (approximately). Connecting with these cousins (and most people have over one thousand matches) and collaborating with them in your family tree research can reveal things about your relatives that you never knew before. Your newly-found cousins may have precious photographs of family members. They may have information and documentary evidence that solve a family mystery for you. They can reveal treasures you never knew existed. You may even be able to break through some of the brick walls in your own family tree.

For example if one of your genetic matches has the family Bible, your genealogy on a particular ancestral line might be handed to you on a platter.

Once you get a strong genetic match, next up is to figure out where your common connection lies. All you need to do is share your pedigree (ancestor chart) with your match and vice versa looking for common locations, common surnames, and ultimately common individuals. You don’t need to get bogged down in the technicalities of autosomal DNA in order to get the maximum benefit from it. You can throw all the genetic niceties to the wind and simply exchange family trees. This might be all you need to do in order to identify your common ancestor. The DNA results are merely a pointer—a “close cousin match” simply says: you and you are related…now go away and find out how. And that’s why swapping pedigrees is so important. And the more well-developed your pedigree, the better the chances of finding where you connect.

DNA testing may also lead to new friendships, new social outlets, and wonderful family reunions. The great thing about meeting new cousins is that often times they will share the same passion for genealogy that you
do…and if you are passionate about genealogy, you’ll know how good that feeling is.

There are several companies that supply these atDNA tests, all with their pros and cons. There is a useful comparison chart on the ISOGG wiki that tells you which features are reported by the different companies.¹ For example, Neanderthal DNA estimates are only supplied by 23andMe and Geno 2.0. Medical Risk Factor analysis is only done by 23andMe. For the genealogist, the two leading companies are FamilyTreeDNA and Ancestry, who offer the test for about C$100/$140usd. The cheapest is currently FamilyTreeDNA’s atDNA test (they call it the “Family Finder” test) but the most cost-effective, comprehensive approach would be to test with Ancestry, transfer your data for free to GEDMatch (a website that facilitates a limited comparison with data from other companies), and also transfer it to FamilyTreeDNA for about C$50/$37usd (when they fix the transfer process, which is currently broken). Thus you can swim in 2.1 genepools for the price of 1.5…approximately.

You can also adjust the level of privacy to suit your needs. You don’t have to “share” your results if you don’t want to and you don’t have to make them “public.” You don’t even have to use your own name—use a false name if you want to remain anonymous (you can always change the privacy settings later).

So far over five million people have undertaken DNA testing (mainly atDNA) and this number is rising all the time. Both FamilyTreeDNA and 23andMe have a database of about one million each, whilst Ancestry is heading toward three million this year and perhaps five million next year. Two new companies have recently emerged on the market (LivingDNA and MyHeritage) and atDNA testing is likely to grow exponentially over the coming years, making it easier and easier to connect with people and figure out how you connect.

DNA is leading genealogy into new areas of discovery and attracting not one but several new and very different audiences. This is going to be big…very big. ¹http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart

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**Secrets of Success**

**Online tree**
- Surnames, locations, & individuals

**Collaborate**
- 121
- In small groups

**DNA is a pointer**
- it tells you where to look ... back to the records!
A naming pattern alone is not good evidence for determining the names of an ancestor's parents. That is because not every couple followed the pattern often used in the time period and ethnic group to which they belonged, and some followed it only to a point. However, it may be good evidence when it can be shown that a married couple followed the custom of their era and culture when naming children. For some, the pattern is more closely followed for the first two sons and daughters. In the case of John Hatton, a convicted thief who was transported to America from England in 1726, the relevant time period was the first half of the eighteenth century, and the relevant culture comprised immigrants to America from England.

John Hatton (died 1770 in Baltimore County, Maryland) married Sarah Cheney on 17 May 1733 in Maryland. Their son, Thomas, was born on 11 October 1735. When John wrote his will on 14 November 1770, Thomas was the first-named son in the will, was bequeathed one-half of John's land, was the first-named child to receive the proceeds from the sale of John's watch, was the first-named child to receive John's estate residue, and was named the sole executor of John's estate. These combine as strong indicators that Thomas was John's oldest son at the time John wrote his will. It may also be significant that Thomas was the only child of John and Sarah Hatton to have his or her birth recorded in church records.

It can be shown not only that Thomas was the oldest surviving son as of 1770, but that he was also the first-born son at least as of the time of his birth. Though there was adequate time between John's marriage in May 1733 and Thomas' birth in October 1735 (29 months) for the birth of a child, if there was such a child (and there is indirect suggestive evidence for this), it was a girl (there is no evidence of multiple near-simultaneous births [for example, twins] in this family).

What follows is the reasoning to support concluding that Thomas was the first-born son. The custom among the English colonists at the time was to name the first-born son after his paternal grandfather, and the second-born son after his maternal grandfather. Sarah Cheney's parents were Thomas Cheney and Sarah Westall. The only one of John's children with a documented birth date is Thomas. Using marriage dates as indicators of birth order enables one to suggest that Cheney was the second-born son. Cheney's first marriage occurred in December 1761 while the next son's (Aquilla's) marriage did not occur until December 1767.

That John's second son was named Cheney is good evidence that he was named after his maternal grandfather, following the onomastic naming pattern. It is evidence that John and Sarah Hatton practiced the naming customs of that era and culture. But more important, it is good evidence that John's father's name was...
Thomas. If John’s father’s name was something other than Thomas (for example, Henry), John’s first-born son would have been given a different name (in this example, Henry rather than Thomas), and his second-born son would have been named Thomas instead of Cheney. Obviously, Cheney was named Cheney and not Thomas because John and Sarah had already named a son Thomas. But given that Sarah Cheney’s father’s given name was Thomas and that the second son was named after him argues compellingly that the first-born son, Thomas, was not named after Thomas Cheney. Therefore, son Thomas was named for his paternal grandfather, leading to the conclusion that John’s father’s given name was Thomas.

Examining John and Sarah’s daughters is also useful but more challenging. If one uses the marriage order of John’s daughters to order their births, then their birth sequence would be Ann (married 1756), Elizabeth (married 1761), and Mary (married 1765). [His daughters by his second wife, Unity (Coffee) Willshire, were Sarah and Betsey.] The estimated birth years of his daughters with Sarah, had they married at age 20, would be Ann (born 1736), Elizabeth (born 1741), and Mary (born 1745). Of course, they could have married at age 18 or 19 or another age, but the objective here is to establish a reasonable birth order.

The eighteenth-century English colonial naming pattern for the first two girls was maternal grandmother then paternal grandmother. As mentioned, John’s wife’s mother (Sarah Westall) had the given name of Sarah, the same as John’s wife (Sarah Cheney), so one would expect that John and Sarah’s first-born daughter would have been Sarah, but it was not—at least according to those surviving when John wrote his will in 1770. John’s first-born daughter with his second wife, Unity, was named Sarah, and it is reasonable to suggest she may have been named in memory of John’s first wife who died presumably before 16 November 1765, when John and Unity married. That the surviving (named in John’s will) second daughter, Elizabeth, had the same given name as Sarah Cheney’s oldest sister, indicates that she actually was the third-born daughter (following the onomastic naming pattern in which the third daughter is named after the oldest maternal aunt), and that therefore, John Hatton and his wife, Sarah, followed the eighteenth-century English colonial customary naming practices for daughters. This leads to the plausible hypothesis that Ann (born say 1736) was the second-born daughter, and this suggests that a first-born daughter had been named after her maternal grandmother, Sarah Westall. Thus, it is reasonably hypothesized that John had a first child, a daughter, born between their marriage in May 1733 and the birth of their first-born son, Thomas, in October 1735. Presumably, that daughter would have been named Sarah, preserving the onomastic pattern. If so, then the oldest surviving daughter at the time John wrote his will was actually his second-born daughter. That daughter’s name was Ann, so if this hypothesis...
is followed, John’s second-born daughter was given the name of Ann, who, following the naming custom, would have been named for her paternal grandmother. With this reasoning, John’s parents were named Thomas and Ann. This leads one to suggest that the John Hatton who died in Baltimore County, Maryland in November 1770 was not only identical with the John Hatton sentenced for theft, but also identical to the John Hatton baptized in Ruardean on 26 February 1709/10, son of Thomas Hatton and Ann Cooke. There is other naming evidence to support this. John’s reconstructed fourth-born daughter, Mary, was given the same name as John of Thomas’ oldest sister not named Sarah (the presumed first-born daughter of John and Sarah) or Ann (John by that time already had named a daughter Ann) or Elizabeth (John had already named a daughter Elizabeth after Sarah Cheney’s oldest sister). Mary Hatton was baptized 1 January 1720/21 in Ruardean, with parents named as Thomas and Ann.

To summarize the girls, the names John and Sarah Hatton gave their daughters perfectly follow the onomastic pattern if their first-born daughter was named Sarah. Presumably (assuming the hypothesis), she died young or at least before John wrote his will and probably before he and Unity named their daughter Sarah. However, thus far no other evidence has been found that John had a first-born daughter named Sarah.

Nevertheless, the naming pattern observed in John Hatton’s children strengthens the evidence already presented that the John Hatton who died in Maryland in 1770 was the son of Thomas and Ann of Ruardean, though it seems contrary to the statement that John was an apprentice “upon Charity.” Though there is evidence that Thomas was financially well off enough to support John, it could be that John ran away from home, and that may be how he became an apprentice in London.

John Hatton was dishonest in some of his actions, having stolen three times. Nevertheless, his speech appears to have been honest. He pleaded guilty to criminal charges without denial or excuse. Subsequent events in America indicate others relied on his word. These included a promise to purchase land, lending money to others, buying on credit, and serving as surety in legal cases. With this evidence in mind, one may reconsider the deposition of the keeper of the tap in the 1726 Old Bailey proceedings that Hatton pretended “that he was come away from his Father, without his Consent.” While it is possible that Hatton was trying to escape his punishment, it would be inconsistent with this subsequent documented behavior. Regardless of the accuracy of the tap keeper’s opinion of Hatton’s motive, the indirect speech of Hatton referred to may have been based on the truth. He may have been a runaway boy. That would explain why no documentation about his apprenticeship has been found. His apprenticeship “upon Charity” may have been informally arranged, and perhaps by a “relation of his in the Country” that Hatton allegedly said he intended to travel to by coach.

Endnotes

1 Baltimore County, Maryland, Wills 3:159–60, digital images at familysearch.org.
2 St. John’s Parish Register, Baltimore County, 78, Family History Library (hereinafter FHL) microfilm 14,132 [hereinafter St. John’s Parish Register] (“John Hatten” and “Sarah Chienie”).
3 Ibid., 223.
4 Baltimore County, Wills 3:159–60.
5 All Hallow’s Parish Register, Anne Arundel County, Maryland [hereinafter All Hallow’s Parish Register], 5, image 42 (marriage of “Thomas Cheney” and “Sary Westall”), and unpaged, image 47 (baptism of Sarah Cheney), digital images at msa.maryland.gov.
6 St. John’s Parish Register, 223 (“Chainey Hatten” and “Kez. Bayley”).
7 Ibid., 231 (“Aqa. Hatten” and “Eliz. Crook”).
8 Ibid., 213 (“Robert Abertcromby” and “Ann Hatten”).
9 Ibid., 223 (“Daniel Scott Watkins” and “Elizabeth Hatton”).
10 Ibid., 228 (“Rd. Coleman” and “Mary Hatten”).
11 Baltimore County, Wills 3:296. See also Maryland Prerogative Court Balance Books 7:23–24, FHL microfilm 12,861.
12 Ibid.
13 St. John’s Parish Register, 228 (“John Hatten” and “Unity Welcher”).

16 Register of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials for the Parish of Ruardean, Gloucester Archives, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, P275 IN 1/1 [hereinafter Ruardean Parish Register], 207. Transcript database at www.forest-of-dean.net.

17 Ruardean Parish Register, 228.

18 Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 4.

19 Thomas Hatton-Ann Cooke Marriage Settlement, 22 October 1703, Gloucestershire Archives, D892/T69.

20 1726, London (see earlier citation); 1728, Maryland (Baltimore County, Court Proceedings 1728–1730, HWS#6:371–72, Maryland State Archives [hereinafter MSA] C400-13); and 1738, Maryland (Baltimore County, Court Proceedings 1736–1739, HWS#IA:233, MSA C400-16).


22 To Henry Wetherall (Maryland Prerogative Court, Accounts 1740–1742, 18:385–86, MSA S531-18); to Nicholas Horner (Maryland Prerogative Court, Accounts 1740–1742, 18:403); to John Crockett (Maryland Prerogative Court, Accounts 1742–1743, 19:65, MSA S531-19); to John Lloyd (Maryland Prerogative Court, Accounts 1744–1745, 21:392, MSA S531-21); and to Joseph Smith (Maryland Prerogative Court, Accounts 1749–1750, 27:335, MSA S531-27).

23 From Charles Christie (Maryland Prerogative Court, Inventories 78:111, MSA S534-79).

24 He served as surety for two relatives by marriage, and for Thomas Sheredine, a non-relative (Baltimore County, Register of Wills, Administration Bonds 3:87, MSA C264-3).


26 Westminster Archives, London Metropolitan Archives, Gwent Archives, and Gloucestershire Archives were searched, as well as online databases.


28 Ruardean Parish Register, 196.

29 Ibid., 202.

30 Ibid., 207.

31 Ibid., 214.

32 Ibid., 220.

33 Ibid., 225.

34 Ibid., 228.

35 Ibid., 235.

36 All Hallow's Parish Register, 25, image 13. In his will written on 1 April 1701, her grandfather, George Westall, bequeathed items to Sarah's siblings Elizabeth and Thomas, but not to Sarah, suggesting she died before that date (Maryland Prerogative Court, Wills TB:191–93, MSA S538-16).

37 All Hallow's Parish Register, 18, image 35.

38 Ibid., 18, image 35.

39 Ibid., 25, image 31.

40 Ibid., 34, image 26.

41 Ibid., unpaged, image 47.

42 The dotted line signifies a proposed relation, argued in the text. The birth year is estimated based on the marriage date of John Hatton and Sarah Cheney (17 May 1733, cited earlier) and the birth of Thomas (11 October 1735, cited earlier).

43 St. John's Parish Register, 223.

44 Calculated based on marriage in 1756 (cited earlier) at the estimated age of 20.

45 Calculated based on marriage in 1761 (cited earlier) at the estimated age of 24.

46 Calculated based on marriage in 1761 (cited earlier) at the estimated age of 20.

47 Calculated based on marriage in 1767 (cited earlier) at the estimated age of 24. Aquilla breaks the onomastic naming pattern. It is plausible to believe he was named after Aquilla Hall from whom John Hatton (bp. 1709/10) stole in 1728 (Baltimore County, Maryland, Court Proceedings HWS #6:371–72 [MSA C400-13]), and who was murdered one month after the theft (The Maryland Gazette, 31 December 1728–7 January 1729, 4 [digital image at aomol.msa.maryland.gov/html/mdgazette.html]).

48 Calculated based on marriage in 1765 (St. John's Parish Register, 228) at the estimated age of 20.


50 Sarah was named before Betsey in John Hatton's will (cited earlier). Her birth year is calculated based on the marriage date of John Hatton and Unity (Coffee) Willshire (16 November 1765, St. John's Parish Register, 228).

51 Betsey was the second-named of John Hatton's two youngest children in his will.
Genealogical journals, quarterlies, newsletters, and other periodicals are a largely under-appreciated resource for genealogists and historians. Within these pages, you can find nearly every type of genealogical record imaginable. You can find expert “how-to” guides for particular geographical areas and methodology. You can find one-of-a-kind resources and transcriptions of records long lost to disaster and history. Sounds pretty good, right?

You may be asking, “How do I do this?” And the answer is PERSI.

PERSI is a subject-based index, meaning, the articles are cataloged by topic—not by name. It’s important to remember, as the search system on Findmypast is structured around this key difference. When you are searching PERSI, you are searching for things not people. There is a caveat here—some names are indexed! If the individual is the key focus of the article, such as in a short biography, it was likely indexed with a name included. It is important to search for names (especially those more unusual surnames!) but the vast majority of the content on PERSI is found via subject or location.

Let’s look at an example—Lancashire County, England, in the late 1700s. If your ancestors were there, you may find this content online for the first time in many cases. We hope to digitize publications at a consistent pace, building a central access point for periodicals to reach a global family history community.

Consider this: if you are not looking in periodicals, you may be missing up to 30% of the possible available material on your family.

Curt Witcher (MLS, FUGA, IGSF), Genealogy Center Manager and Senior Manager of Special Collections at Allen County Public Library, expressed his excitement in the early stages of the project:

“Already available on the site is 49 years’ worth of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, totaling over 7,000 images from this one publication. Imagine what this collection will be when it includes ten, twenty, or one hundred publications. The amount of content will be staggering.” [Emphasis mine.]

How does it work?

PERSI is a subject-based index, meaning, the articles are cataloged by topic—not by name. It’s important to remember, as the search system on Findmypast is structured around this key difference. When you are searching PERSI, you are searching for things not people. There is a caveat here—some names are indexed! If the individual is the key focus of the article, such as in a short biography, it was likely indexed with a name included. It is important to search for names (especially those more unusual surnames!) but the vast majority of the content on PERSI is found via subject or location.
want to know about economic, social, or religious changes in the area that impacted the residents or way of life. By using PERSI, you can find material by searching in a variety of ways. Search for the location and time frame only, or search for Lancashire as a keyword. The best strategy when you are first starting to use PERSI is to experiment with several different types of searches using a variety of information, so you can see how the index itself is built and how it all comes together. Conduct broad searches, and narrow the results down slowly using the search filters. (Don’t miss the tips and tricks provided on our blog, either.)

Continuing our Lancashire example, we can easily see how vast and varied the information provided in periodicals can be.

Both articles on this page may prove to be incredibly useful to us as researchers. You can utilize the information on Window Tax Assessments, seen on the right, as a potential record collection for the communities listed here, namely: Aston-under-Lyne, Bispham, Clitheroe, Great Harwood, Lancaster, and Lowtown. In the lower portion, the timeline of the Methodist faith in the area is outlined, providing essential information for anyone with interest in Methodism in the area.

Below, showing only a portion of the article, “Extracts for ‘Annals of Colne’ 1876” by Tom Bowdin, the value of historical context and identifying surnames is clear. The complete page includes details covering 80 years of the Parish transactions, and the families Blakey, Walley, Smith, Holt, Torner, and Heap are all mentioned.

Reading a publication all the way through, versus focusing on one primary article, is always suggested. In this case, several other resources were identified for the researcher to pursue—articles that may have otherwise escaped a standard search process in today’s terms. Always look at the search results surrounding your article of interest, as well as a Table of Contents when available in the publication itself. Using both resources may lead you to some unanticipated but delightful results.


Note that all three of these examples came from the same publication, and as a result, should indicate the breadth of possibilities for today’s family historian through the pages of periodicals, journals, and quarterlies. The index itself is updated on a quarterly basis, and more images of articles are added monthly. Recent additions to the available images include the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society (1975-2015), the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (1970-2016), and the Genealogical Society of Ireland (2000-2016).

Findmypast is excited to be the new home of PERSI, and look forward to working with the numerous societies’ and organizations around the world to make this incredible resource fully available online. For more information, please contact us directly at persi@findmypast.com.

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Jen Baldwin has been working in the realm of professional genealogy since 2010. Her research focus is on the Western United States, gold rush history, and fraternal societies. She is currently the Data Licensing Manager, North America for Findmypast; and is host of #genchat on Twitter. Jen lectures, writes, and consults on a variety of genealogy and social media related topics, and was part of the research team for Genealogy Roadshow, season two, on PBS. She is a proud volunteer for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), serving on the Board of Directors, and the Larimer County Genealogical Society (CO).
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Publisher Pen and Sword has some new publications that will be of interest to people researching their British Isles ancestors.


The first half of this book provides an in-depth and comprehensive overview of the history of Edinburgh, from the formation of the volcanic rock upon which much of Edinburgh, and in particular, the Castle is built to the building of the New Town in 1767. Stewart also discusses the outlying areas of Edinburgh which include the villages and towns in Midlothian. The first half of the book provides a wonderful reference guide for historians, and perhaps geographers.

It is the second half of the book that is of interest to family historians. The last eleven chapters provide terrific insight into the various records that are available for genealogical research.

Each record set is afforded it's own chapter. These include:

1. Births, Marriages and Deaths
2. Lists of Edinburgh People
   a) (Census records) and details what specific information is contained in an census return
   b) Directories
   c) Valuation Rolls
3. Church Records
4. Burial Records
5. Wills and Inventories
6. Inheritance Records
7. Court Records
8. Tax Records

In each chapter, Stewart discusses the records, the information that can be gleaned from the record and where the records can be found by the family history researcher.

Overall the book provides terrific detail and quality of information for either the Historian or Family Historian and for anyone with ancestors who lived in Edinburgh or surrounds, this is definitely one to add to the reference shelves of their workspace.

*Pen & Sword* specialises in all areas of military history, naval and maritime history, aviation, local history, family history, transport, discovery and exploration, collectables and antiques, nostalgia, and true crime.
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• DNA as a Genealogical Tool
  Maurice Gleeson, MB

• English Genealogical Research Before 1837
  Amy Harris, PhD, AG

• Finding Irish Ancestors Before the Great Famine
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• Scottish Family History Research: Where and How to Find the Real Records
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