



Notice Board

➤ Happy 60th Birthday Mick

We would like to wish Mick a very happy 60th Birthday and good luck with retirement.

➤ Certificate Prices Rise

The price of a certificate for a birth, death or marriage is going up from £7.00 to £9.25 so for everyone who is looking to order any get them now.

➤ Norfolk Family History Society

For anyone researching ancestors or relatives in Norfolk this is the family history society website which maybe of interest to you.

www.norfolkfhs.org.uk

➤ Old Bailey

I have probably mentioned this website before in a previous newsletter. However if you are looking at for any criminal trials this website has plenty of information. A fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court.

www.oldbaileyonline.org

➤ Recommended Software

If you're a beginner and new to family history then I will begin with some software programmes that will help you set out your family tree on the computer. This helps you see your tree and puts into an order and saves paperwork, which you will only get more and more of in time. Family Tree Maker 2010 is a good programme to use its easy to get on with and has many helpful features. Otherwise there are many well known websites that offer family tree builder such as genes reunited and ancestry. However you do have to join up to genes reunited and ancestry to do this.

Tracing Your Ancestors House.



My hobby is the pictorial history of Waltham Abbey, and I do not research into family history, but in some respects the two are related. For instance, I get requests from people asking if I have a picture of the road/ street or house where their ancestors lived. Sometimes it is for a picture of their relatives.

The census forms are a good source of information but one has to remember that they only refer to the date they were printed. Street numbers and sometimes street names change. People often come to the Abbey and try to find the house their ancestors once lived in and take a picture of it, but so often it is the wrong house. When the numbers run consecutively and the census says that John Smith lived at number 13 Sun Street in 1871, that is 1871.

During the later 1870's all the numbers in Sun Street were changed, (odds on the south side and evens on the north side), I have had quite a few instances of this happening.

People write to me and say they have found the house where their ancestors lived and have taken a modern photograph but have I one that was taken nearer to the time when their ancestors lived there. I then disappoint them by telling them that they took a picture of the wrong house and why.

Some street names have disappeared altogether and others have changed. Those no longer with us are, Little Sewardstone Street, North Place, Harold Road, Melbourne Road and Sydney Road. There was a small residential estate built in the 1920's called Harold Estate, just off Crooked Mile. They were consecutively numbered with No.1 to 15 fronting on to Crooked Mile. After the second world war more houses were built in Crooked Mile and No's 1- 15 were then changed to Crooked Mile, No.1 becoming 91 Crooked Mile.

The remainder of Harold Estate then changed to Harold Crescent. When looking in the census and finding Harold Road (which no longer exists) it is easy to assume that Harold Crescent is the same place but it is not. If in doubt, ask at the local Museum, Historical Society or Town Hall. If they cannot help you they may be able to put you in touch with someone that can.

Another confusion is when, like in the Abbey, whole streets were demolished and new houses and flats were built. The new numbers often bear no resemblance as to where the old numbered houses were.

Article Wrote By Ray Sears 2010

Family History – A Beginner

Many people ask what do you get out of tracing your family history? For everyone it is a different and personal journey of research. For some its discovering more about their loved ones they have lost, for others its finding out information about certain family members, other people want to trace their blood line and for some people its wanting to know yourself and if you know where you come from, it completes something within yourself to move forward and give to your children.

Tracing your family tree will take time and it really depends on how much information you already know to where you will start. Some of us are lucky enough to have been left certificates and documents that can aid us in our research whilst others have it much harder and have to start with themselves.

It is always best to start with the living people in your family and especially your older relatives because they will give you first hand knowledge and information to your older ancestors. Ask them questions about your family members that they may of knew and record any information that they give you because you may later forget it. Also any old photos that you have or they have ask them to write on the backs who is in the photo because in years to come they may never be known.

A family historian is like an author in many respects, you're telling the story of your family and you want to bring to life the characters (your ancestors) to the rest of your family and friends.

There are many records out there that will help you get an idea of the sort of people your ancestors were. This includes wills, census, military records, school records, poor law records, land records and more...

Examples Of Records

Electoral Registers

Electoral Registers Timeline

1832 A voter needed a property qualification in order to be eligible to vote.

1867 Property owners owning a property worth £5 per annum and tenants paying £12 per annum were the next to receive the right to vote.

1884 All male householders and tenants paying £10 per annum could vote.

1918 All men over 21 and married women over 30 could vote

1928 All women over 21 could vote.

1969 Men and women over 18 could vote

Some of the school records you may find are:

- **Admission registers** – from 1870
The Admission Registers give the name of the child, date of birth, date of admission, father's name, address and often the fathers occupation, the names of any previous school and the date of leaving.
- **Log books**
Started about first kept in the 1840s they dealt with the general information on the school such as the appointment of teaching staff, punishment records, the careers of former pupils, school accounts and may include governors' minute books.
- **Withdrawal or discharge registers**
These give information on the date a child may have withdrawn from the school and the cause of leaving. If a child was evacuated during WWII this may be recorded in the withdrawal register.
- **Anniversary publications**
May take the form of books, booklets, newspaper reports and photographs.
- **Local Education Authority Records**
May contain governors' meetings minutes, committee minutes, lists of school managers and accounts details.

Contribute to the Newsletter

Tell us how your getting on with your research so far and have you discovered any hidden skeletons you want share with us. Have you come across some unexpected Ancestors, lost relatives, a famous Ancestor? Or do you have any old photos and stories you would like to share in the newsletter, it's all history and we'd be happy to hear it.

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