



SussexLink



June 2006

A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group

Vol 4 No 3

Tapping into other people's research

One of the delightful things about family history is all the interesting people that you meet, some of whom turn out to be relatives! But apart from making new friends, making contact with other people engaged in the study of the same family or locality provides an opportunity to share research. Probably the most important resource for most members after the journal is the members interests database, but this is not the only way to tap into other people's research. The group library has an important collection of the work of members, and of other Sussex based research that has been deposited with us. Unfortunately the catalogue of these items is not yet available on the website (it needs quite a bit of work in the cross referencing of the surnames if anyone would like to help), but nevertheless it is well worth coming to the library to check for yourself, or asking Rosemary Appleton to check for you ([library at sfhg.org.uk](http://library.at.sfhg.org.uk)). There are now over 700 deposits, although of course the form, breadth and quality of the studies varies considerably. Rosemary has added a note about one of the more recent additions below.

There is of course another side to this story - what will you do with all your research when the time comes to stop trawling the Internet or visiting the record office? Hopefully you will have other family members who will share your passion and look after and develop your material as carefully as you have done. But you may not, and you may therefore feel that a possible repository for your project might be our library, or that of another family history society. At present we have a problem with space, but hopefully we will resolve this sooner rather than later.

An Illustrated History of the Link-Jassek, Sheppard-Mallen and Related Families

By David G.Link

This beautifully presented hardback book contains nearly 300 pages of family history. More than half covers the Sheppard family of Plumpton, Cuckfield and Ardingly, and moves forward to the early 20th century when members of this family emigrate to the US and Canada.

There are also many pages devoted to the Hemsley family of Streat and nearby villages.

The book contains many photographs of the family, local churches, and village streets, as well as extracts from letters and other documents.

David Link has asked that anyone with connections to these families should contact him. I shall be happy to pass on his address to anyone

with a genuine interest.

Some of the other Sussex families in this book are as follows: -

Stephens (Westmeston), Chapman (Chiddingly), Chessman (Ditchling), White (East Chiltington), Jenner (Chailey), Morley (Clayton), Rowland (Ditchling).

This book is available on our Library shelf for visiting members to see, and I am willing to look up any specific enquiry anyone may have about the families included.

Rosemary Appleton, Library Secretary.
Library at sfhg.org.uk

West Sussex and Brighton Censuses on CD

As many members will be aware a dedicated team has been working for several years to produce high quality transcripts of all the available West Sussex Censuses and the 1851 Census for Brighton. These have been published as they have been signed off in microfiche or booklet format, or both, but for some time we have been trying to find a satisfactory means of publishing them on CD. We have now reached an agreement in principle with the publisher PBN that will enable all our existing and future West Sussex and Brighton Census transcripts to be published in the same format as those PBN have already published for East Sussex. There are still some details to be worked out, but we are looking to the first releases probably in the Autumn.

New Meeting Centres?

When SFHG started just over 30 years ago there was just one meeting centre in the county, in Brighton. Now we have six centres plus two computer groups. Despite this the Executive is aware that there are several parts of the county from which it is difficult to travel to any of the existing centres.

The answer of course is to start a new centre! If there are enough current and prospective members interested and there is an enthusiastic core of members willing to form a committee and make it work the Executive will always be interested to hear and be supportive.

Free Access to British Overseas Records

Family Relatives (www.familyrelatives.org) recently announced that it has put online all British Overseas Births, Deaths and Marriages, from 1761 to the present day free of charge.

The searches are free and apparently easy to do. Family Relatives claim that all the original records were scanned at very high quality and provide good images on screen.

The Keep moves forward

East Sussex Record Office recently secured the funding for the next stage in the development of its long awaited new record office, the Keep. The new funding will enable the county council to carry out essential research amongst potential future users of the Keep, including ourselves, that will facilitate the preparation of the full funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

© Sussex Family History Group 2006

Edited by Brian Cutler (chairman at sfhg.org.uk)

(The @ in email addresses has been replaced with " at ".)

West Sussex Record Office now Open Thursday Evenings

In response to public demand, the West Sussex Record Office (WSRO) is extending its opening hours. As from June 1st the office will remain open on Thursdays until 7.30pm. The normal closure time of 4.45pm will remain for other weekdays and 4.30pm for Saturdays.

New resources particularly for family historians have also been made available, including:

1. Ancestry.com providing free access to a range of genealogical sources including, for the whole of England and Wales, the census returns for 1841 to 1901 and the indexes of births, deaths and marriages from 1837;
2. WSRO's own new Search Online database which lists most of the 1200 years of material held in the county archives - documents, books, maps and photographs - and which is updated on a weekly basis;
3. Sources on CD include Family Search, the British Isles Vital Records Index, the National Burial Index, Soldiers Died in the Great War, Soldiers Died in the Second World War and the 1881 Canadian Census;
4. For those interested in archaeological sites in the county, the West Sussex County Archaeological Reports Database is also available, a huge new resource containing more than 800 investigation reports deposited with the WSCC Historic Environment Team.

For further details contact the Record Office on (01243) 753602 or E-mail records.office@westsussex.gov.uk.

Marion Woolgar

[Our own Library at Lewes is also open on alternate Thursday evenings during the summer months, although at present we cannot boast the range of resources that are available at WSRO. Ed.]