



Welcome to our New Year 2021 Newsletter

Well, I don't think many people will regret seeing the end of 2020!
We're not out of the woods yet, but there is light on the horizon.
Wishing you and yours a very happy and prosperous 2021
and Good Hunting!

Andy Robson, Genealogist



Henry Freeman RNLI



Photograph from the Frank Sutcliffe Gallery
Colourisation by Your Family Historian

In my younger days I often frequented The Steamboat public house on South Shield's Quayside. An establishment whose decor was devoted to celebrating the town maritime past. There was a picture mounted on the wall that always fascinated me, for reasons that I was never quite sure of. Perhaps it was - as one of my mates pointed out - because the subject "looks a right tough old bugger".

In later years I took the trouble to find out who the subject was, and it turns out he was indeed a right tough bugger. Though far from old when the photograph was taken.

Born in Bridlington in the East Riding of Yorks, Henry Freeman (1835-1904) moved to Whitby and became a fisherman after his previous trade of brickmaker collapsed. During a great storm on 9 February 1861 Freeman was one of 8 Fishermen who volunteered to take out a fishing coble as an improvised lifeboat. They made 5 successful rescues, but on the 6th launch the coble was hit by a freak wave and capsized. Freeman had lacked a lifebelt so before going out he had been handed a new design left at Whitby for evaluation by the RNLI; none of the other men had fancied it. In the event the new lifebelt (he is wearing it in the photograph) saved his life for he was the only survivor.

He was awarded an RNLI Silver Medal for the courage and determination he displayed that day, and later became Coxswain of the Whitby Lifeboat. He served for over 40 years - 23 as Coswain - and was awarded a second Silver Medal in 1880.



Ask AGRA
Family History Question Time



January 2021 - DNA Testing and use in connection
with genealogical research
February 2021 - Using Land Records such as maps
& tithe maps to further research

www.agra.org.uk/podcasts



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**




WEBINAR SERIES

TICKETS £35



DNA Bootcamp
With Michelle Leonard
6.30pm starting 4 February

DNA Bootcamp

If you're interested in learning more about how to use DNA in your Family History research then Family Tree Magazine are running a series of DNA bootcamps in February and March 2021.

They consist of 3 webinars, each with a Q&A session and follow-up session, course reading and handouts. In addition recordings of the sessions will be available to participants for 3 months after the final session. To learn more or book a session click below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FHF Really Useful

Family History Show

Building on the huge success of last month's Event, the Federation of Family History Societies (FHF) have scheduled their second on-line Really Useful Family History Show for Saturday, 10 April.

Having been involved in the last Event as one of AGRA's 'Experts' I have seen the large number of positive responses the FHF have received to making these Events available on-line in the future. I think that's a great idea, and hopefully one of the few positive outcomes to result from COVID.

Tickets cost just £7.50 if you book early



FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

FAMILY HISTORY Federation

PARISH CHEST

Next Online Event Saturday 10th April 2021

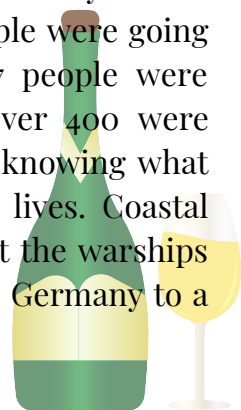
[LEARN MORE](#)

1914: Shelling of Hartlepool

On 16th December 1914 at 8.10 am on a cold and misty morning the small coastal town of Hartlepool suffered a devastating surprise attack. Three German warships bombarded the town firing more than 1,000 shells in a 40 minute period. The primary targets were shipbuilding and engineering works



but many homes were hit and destroyed and shells landed in the streets as people were going to school and work. In total, 127 people were killed, almost all civilians, and over 400 were injured. People were terrified not knowing what was happening and ran for their lives. Coastal Defence batteries returned fire but the warships escaped in the fog and returned to Germany to a heroes welcome.





Top FREE Genealogy Websites - Part 1



Family Search is a site maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints. It is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to gathering, preserving and sharing genealogical information throughout the world. It now includes 3.2 billion digital images and 490,000 digital books.

www.familysearch.org

In addition, there is a wiki section with background information, articles and tutorial resources. You can also build your own family tree on the site and link into the world's largest online family tree.

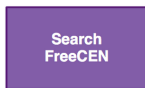


Free UK Genealogy provides free, online access to family history records. Volunteers have worked to create high-quality transcriptions of public records from various sources.

There are three project websites to search - Free BMD, FreeCEN and FreeREG.



274,500,000 births, marriages and deaths



39,000,000 individuals from census data, from 1841 to 1891



49,000,000 records from parish registers

www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk



This website is dedicated to Irish genealogy and is home to the on-line historic Indexes of the Civil Registers (GRO) of Births, Marriages, Civil Partnerships and Deaths and to Church Records of Baptism, Marriage and Burial from a number of counties.

www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/

3. General Register Office

This site was created by the General Register Office (GRO) to make it easier for people to order copies of certificates. It is a work in progress so only birth and deaths are included at present and only for certain date ranges. However so good is the search engine that people use it without having any intention of ordering certificates. The certificates can also be ordered as online PDFs rather than paper copies which makes them cheaper and quicker to obtain. The big advantage of this site is that the search of births provides the mothers' maiden names and full middle names and age for deaths which sites like Ancestry do not.

www.gro.gov.uk



Gravestone Photographic Resource (GPR) now has over 1,188,902 names from English grave monuments and 1,699,158 worldwide.

www.gravestonephotos.com



RootsTech Connect 2021 Keynote Speakers Announced



Lorena Ochoa
Former Mexican professional golfer;
mother; entrepreneur



Francesco Lotoro
Italian musicologist



Sharon Morgan
Founder of OurBlackAncestry.com; writer
and genealogist



Nick Vujicic
International motivational speaker and New
York Times best-selling author

Keynotes are a huge part of RootsTech events and some of the celebrity speakers for the 2021 virtual event have been announced. One of the speakers is genealogist and author Sharon Morgan who founded Our Black Ancestry, an online community that provides resources for African-American genealogical research. Other keynote speakers include motivational speaker and author Nick Vujicic, Mexican Golf Champion Lorena Ochoa and Italian pianist and composer Francesco Lotoro. As well as Keynote speeches there will be dozens of classes and marketplace 'stalls' run by family history businesses and societies. For more information visit rootstech.org.

Gold Prospecting in Australia

My 4th Great-Uncle, Roger Hartis, was from a family of Miners - initially lead miners from Cumbria, but latterly coal miners from Durham. In 1856, 29-year-old Roger and his mate, Robert Hepburn, decided they'd had enough of this dangerous, dirty and unrewarding life, and decided to try their hand at gold prospecting in Australia. So they jumped on the good ship SALDANHA and arrived in Melbourne that September with ideas of getting rich. There was one problem with little scheme, however. Roger was married with a young family and his wife, Ann, was left behind in Great Lumley. It seems Roger made some attempt to stay in touch, but eventually the letters dried up and Ann decided she'd had enough. In 1865, without bothering with the formality of waiting for Roger's death, she married the lodger. A pragmatic response to a real-life problem. Another family followed and Ann, as far as I can make out, lived out the rest of her life quite happily, thank you very much. Things don't seem to have gone so well for poor Roger, however. Hepburn was killed in an accident just weeks after their arrival and Roger never did make his fortune. He died in the Ballarat goldfields in 1885, no doubt still looking for that big strike.

