

# YOUR FAMILY HISTORIAN



## Welcome to our Spring 2021 Newsletter

Spring has finally sprung - the trees are about to blossom, the 'daffs' are on show and the Record Offices are planning to reopen. - Woo-Hoo!

Hope you all had a great Easter break and have at least started your Covid Jobs. Good luck for the coming year and good hunting!

**Andy Robson, Genealogist**

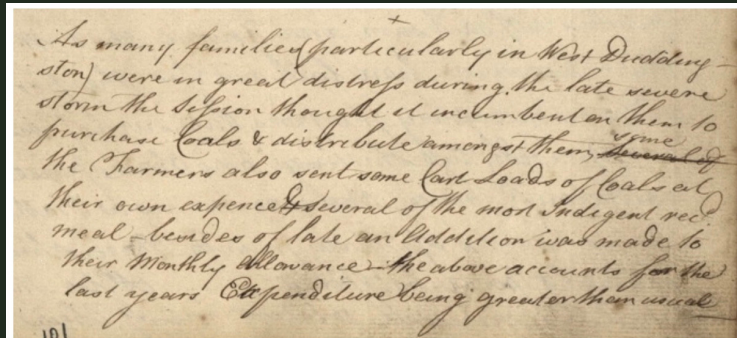


**Next Online Event Saturday 10th April 2021**

The next FHF Really Useful Family History Show takes place on Saturday 10th April. Tickets cost just £10 and there's a wide range of talks, interactive workshops, AGRA Ask the Expert, exhibitors and a show Goodie bag. The talks are available for 7 days afterwards. Sadly, due to Census 2021 commitments I won't be one of the experts this time.

[Learn More](#)

## Great News for those researching Scottish Ancestors



Detail from Duddingston kirk session minutes, June 1795

Thousands of volumes of historical records from the collections of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) are now available online for the first time.

Images of more than a million pages from the kirk session and other court records of the Church of Scotland can now be viewed and downloaded on ScotlandsPeople.

[Learn More](#)



**A staggering 1 million+ people from 237 countries attended the conference and you can enjoy RootsTech Connect for a whole year!**

The organisers have announced that all the sessions and the Expo Hall will be available right through until early 2022. Catch up on content you didn't have time to view during the show. Enjoy keynote sessions, watch education classes and save content to your own playlist.

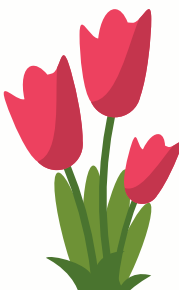
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**The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies**  
60 years of family history education

The IHGS offers a varied and extensive Zoom tutorial programme. Take a look at the wide range of titles and I'm sure you'll find a topic of interest. Each tutorial is £10 but well worth the fee in my opinion. The programme is open to everybody, not just IHGS students.

[Learn More](#)





# 1921/2021 CENSUS



Findmypast has been selected as The National Archives' commercial partner to make the 1921 Census of England & Wales available online. The data will be published online in January 2022. Searching the 1921 Census will be free on Findmypast but viewing any images or transcriptions will not. I saw one site quoting £10 per image although Findmypast haven't announced anything as yet.

Findmypast also won the contract to publish the 1911 census. I believe it took 2-3 years for the records to be rolled out to the other Family History sites, so it looks like you'll need to get your debit card out if you want to look something up anytime soon.

## Census Day 2021 was 21st March



I'm proud to be working as part of the Census 2021 Field Force. We are visiting those households who have not yet responded and offering help and encouragement to get their data online for posterity.

The UK's national statistician has suggested that the 2021 headcount could be the UK's last, with future population counts being carried out in other cheaper - and easier - ways.



The initial findings from the 2021 Census will be available in March 2022 and the final release of outputs in March 2023

The 1921 Census for England & Wales will provide much more detailed information on our Ancestor's working lives. However, there are trade offs.

The so-called 'fertility' question - introduced in 1911 to show how many years women had been married, how many children they had, and how many of those children were still alive - was quietly dropped. Which is a real shame for those researching their family histories. The official reason was that there had not been enough time to process this data from the 1911 census and so it was pointless. However one suspects other factors at work to do more with privacy.

In addition, the question about a person being blind, deaf or dumb was also dropped after complaints from parents of affected children.

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.** Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in Ink

| NAME and SURNAME       | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household | AGE  | SEX | MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD | BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY |                | OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|-----|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--|
|                        |                                   |      |     |                        | Personal Occupation        | Employment     |                           |  |
| 1 Frank Bertie Johnson | Head                              | 43 2 | M   | Married                | Stafford<br>Staffordshire  | Doctor         | Employer                  |  |
| 2 Bertha Johnson       | Wife                              | 38 6 | F   | Married                | Kings Nidm<br>Wales        | School teacher | Perigfields School        |  |
| 3 Edgys Bertie Johnson | Son                               | 11 4 | M   |                        | Kings Nidm<br>Wales        | Walt<br>time   |                           |  |
| 4 Nelly Rose Johnson   | Daughter                          | 3 8  | F   |                        | Kings Nidm<br>Wales        | Part<br>time   |                           |  |
| 5                      |                                   |      |     |                        |                            |                |                           |  |
| 6                      |                                   |      |     |                        |                            |                |                           |  |
| 7                      |                                   |      |     |                        |                            |                |                           |  |
| 8                      |                                   |      |     |                        |                            |                |                           |  |



This is a partial image of a completed Schedule released as a taster by FindMyPast.

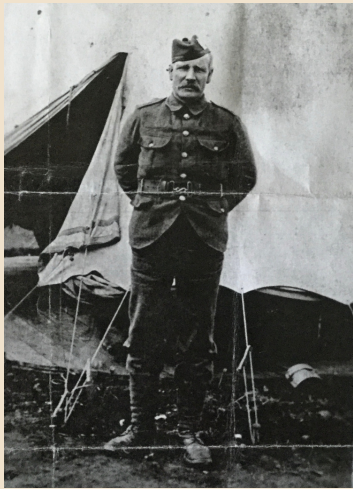
## “With best love to Bro from Sis Betsy” – the story behind a photograph.

At Your Family Historian we believe that researching family history should be about more than gathering names and dates. We aim to give you your ancestor's stories. The following is an extract from a family history we prepared for a client. Reproduced here with their kind permission.

Elizabeth Ann ‘Betsy’ Watson was born on 16th September 1897 in Swallowwell, Co Durham. She was the daughter of a Wherryman and the third of nine children.

At the outbreak of WW1 Betsy was 17 years old. Her father, who was 46 at the time, joined the Tyneside Scottish, a ‘Pals’ unit attracting North-East men with Scottish ancestry. He became Private 20/1172 in the 20th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Tyneside Scottish). Her older brother, Tommy, joined the Royal Naval Division and Betsy herself ‘did her bit’ working in a munitions factory.

### Private Joseph Watson



The Tyneside Scottish Brigade fought on the first day of the battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 and as a whole suffered casualties of around 60% - killed, missing, captured and wounded. These were the highest losses of any Brigade on what would prove to be the bloodiest day's fighting in the history of the British Army.

Sadly, Joseph was among those lost. Records show he was listed as Missing-in-Action and so has no known grave. These were men who had been blown up by an artillery shell or buried beneath tons of mud by the blast, left lying forgotten in No-Man's Land, or shovelled unnamed into make-shift pits as a sanitary measure. The family must have been devastated by this loss.

We cannot know the effect his father's death had on him, but Tommy was to go on and have a most distinguished war record, being promoted to senior rank and twice decorated for bravery, and twice wounded.

During his last leave he confided to Betsy that he did not think he would be coming home again. Sadly this was the case. Tommy suffered gunshot wounds to his chest and abdomen during the early stages of the Ludendorff Offensive in March 1918. He was evacuated to the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Doullens but died there on 28 March, aged just 22. He was buried in the Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1 (FR 62).

Tommy was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty'.

Betsy went on to marry and had a large family of her own. She never forgot her older brother though. For the rest of her life she wore a military badge he had given her as a brooch. Betsy died in 1989 aged 92.



Tommy and his sister Betsy were very close. When Tommy had proven shy about not having a photograph of a girlfriend to show-off to his comrades, Betsy agreed to sit for a portrait. If you look closely at the photograph you will see that she is wearing his Naval tunic. On the photograph she has written ‘with best love to Bro from Sis Betsy’.



**CPO Tommy Watson**





# Searching for Criminal Ancestors?

If you have criminals in your family tree then online records can provide a wealth of information. Many people are involved in the judicial process - jurors, witnesses etc so its worth searching even if you're not aware of any criminal behaviour.

### UK, Registers of Habitual Criminals and Police Gazettes, 1834-1934

**Search**  Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

Day  Month  Year  Location

Birth  City, County, State, Count

Any Event   City, County, State, Count

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Occupation

Event Type

Sentence

**Browse this collection**

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Description

Year Range

**Related data collections**

[London, England, Newgate Calendar of Prisoners, 1785-1853](#)  
This collection comprises records of prisoners held at Newgate Prison, London, between the years 1785 and 1853.

[UK, After-Trial Calendar of Prisoners, 1855-1931](#)  
This collection includes after-trial

## NEW RECORDS ON ANCESTRY

Have you checked out the latest additions to Ancestry? During February they published 2.2 million new British prison and criminal records in four new collections. These records span two centuries and provide details of alleged crimes, verdicts and sentences.

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## The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913

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

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**The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913**

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. If you are new to this site, you may find the [Getting Started](#) and [Guide to Searching](#) videos and tutorials helpful.

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