

Family History Group

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At our last on-line meeting we took it in turn to tell one another what we had been doing to further our Family History during Lock-down. It's surprising how much paperwork you accumulate when researching your family tree and over the years this can get out of hand and become very disorganised. One member has taken advantage of the time she has been forced to remain indoors by getting all her files and boxes down from the loft, sifting through the contents and organising the paperwork into something more manageable so she can refer back to it at any time. It is surprising what you find in the buried piles of accumulated family history! What you, missed, duplicated, lost, overlooked, mistakenly identified, claimed an ancestor that was not yours, looked in the wrong place for an ancestor, 'always meant to finish' when you got time. The list goes on and on.

Another member has decided to rewrite/update her family stories by setting them in a more interesting social and local history context. Yet another member has gone one step further and decided to get her family history published into a magazine sized book – just for her own enjoyment. She found it much harder than she thought but said it was very compelling. I am sure she will get great satisfaction in seeing all her hard work in print!

My contribution to the debate was that I had discovered the second marriage of my maternal great grandmother Elizabeth Evans (nee Cantwell) who at the age of 43 had last been spotted on the 1911 Census in Clerkenwell where she appeared as a widow living alone. It seemed quite likely that she re-married but Evans is an extremely common surname and her whereabouts had eluded my sister and I for many years! One day during lock-down I had a brainwave and decided to search the 1939 Register by first name and exact date of birth only (no surname). This produced an Elizabeth Maile who was living with her husband Charles. I was quickly able to locate a marriage for this couple and upon purchasing the certificate was able to confirm I had the right person due to her father's name and occupation. With a new rather unusual married surname to search by I was quickly able to locate her death in 1943 at the age of 75. Another life story completed!

Another success story of mine was how I had helped prove that one of our member's was indeed related to the Lodge family of Good Easter (Lodge Coaches), something she had been wanting to find out for some time. Using information about the family given in the local newspaper this year (the company was celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday) I was able to construct a family tree using Ancestry and to work back a couple of generations until I found the common ancestor.

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2.00 p.m.** via zoom and all are welcome. The zoom joining details will be sent out nearer the time by Mail-Chimp

### **Drawing charts and trees by hand as a research tool.**

**by David Cufley**

This workshop will explain how to draw by hand a Family Group Sheet (FGS) chart to understand the time line and relationships of a family. It will discuss the symbols and abbreviations used on charts and diagrams. Gaps on charts and re-occurring data may indicate trends that suggest future research needed. The workshop will also look at other types of chart including 'Drop Charts', 'Total descent charts', 'Birth brief's', Time lines and 'Mind maps'.