

Life Lines: what your handwriting says about you

by Tracey Trussell

Written by one of the country's leading graphologists, this intriguing book explains how a sample of handwriting reveals a person's (perhaps an ancestor's) character, skills and more. A tool

for the lateral-thinking family historian to add flesh to bones.

• Published by Unicorn (hardback). ISBN: 9781914414466. HT



When There Were Birds: the forgotten history of our connections

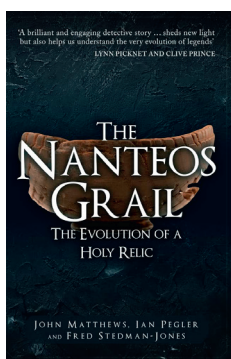
by Roy and Lesley Adkins

For thousands of years, birds large and small have interacted with humans in a variety of ways. Whether as a source of food, persecuted as pests, valued as companions or a source of solace on the battlefield, birds and humans have long co-existed.

In this wide ranging history, authors Roy and Lesley Adkins explore the many ways in which birds and humans have shared their lives. Of particular interest to family historians are the many myths and legends that our ancestors would have known, including fascinating and quirky beliefs that birds could predict the weather, foretell a marriage and even predict the outcome of battles. Our forebears lived more rural lives than most of us do now and, as such, would have been much more aware of the habits, characteristics and year-round patterns of birds.

There are 15 different chapters, including food, vermin, shooting, myths & magic, and at work, which between them cover a myriad of topics and preserve precious stories that have persisted down the generations.

• Published by Little Brown (hardback & ebook) £25. ISBN: 9781408713570. RB



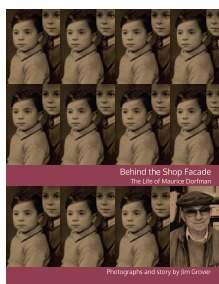
The Nanteos Grail: The evolution of a holy relic

by John Matthews, Ian Pegler & Fred Stedman-Jones

Did seven monks carry The Grail from Glastonbury Abbey at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Florida in mid Wales? The mystery of the Nanteos Cup and its healing powers has fascinated the

public for more than three centuries and this book brings together for the first time records of the history of the vessel from its first appearance in the Middle Ages, through to the present day. There is also a fascinating list of 'receipts' that record the names and dates of those who borrowed the vessel in the hope of a cure, together with a note of whether or not they felt a cure had been obtained.

• Published by Amberley Publishing (paperback) £16.99. ISBN: 9781398106222. RB

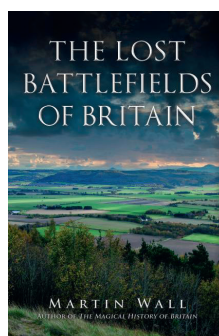


Behind the Shop Facade: The Life of Maurice Dorfman

photographs & story by Jim Grover

An 'unsung but well-lived life'. This is the story of high street shopkeeper Maurice Dorfmann, whose family ran Jeanette Fashions on Clapham High Street for six decades, told by photographer Jim Grover who passionately believes that all lives are extraordinary, and goes to extraordinary lengths to research, remember and tell them. Fleeing from the Jewish pogroms in the early 20th century, which were occurring across Russia and Poland, Maurice's forebears left the city of Kam'yanyet's'-Podil's'kyi in Western Ukraine to settle in the East End of London. Packed with evocative historic and contemporary photos, plus documents and family trees, memories and transcribed interviews of friends and acquaintances, the book is a rich account of a family's history. A touching read and of great interest to those researching family in the Jewish textile employment scene and London community too.

• behindtheshopfacade.com (soft cover) £40. ISBN: 978-1-03-497188-7. HT



The Lost Battlefields of Britain

by Martin Wall

Taking in about 30 battles from Roman times to the late 17th century, it's a detailed and reflective look at the conflicts, and an inspiration to tour the battlefield sites too.

• Published by Amberley. ISBN: 9781445697086 (hardback) £20. 320 pages. HT

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