

**LIST of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES in NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**1724 -1913**  
**Compiled by Dr Julie O'Neill 1991**

## **1. Introduction**

Fraternal organisations in which people pooled their financial and personal resources in the spirit of mutual aid in times of uncertainty and distress have probably always existed. The type of organisations which were known as friendly societies and became widespread in the second half of the eighteenth century probably had their origins in the previous century.

This list of friendly societies consists only of those known as sick or burial clubs which were established with the aim of providing benefits for members at times of illness and death. The feature that distinguished friendly societies from other types of organisation such as charities or benevolent clubs - is that they provided benefits as a right in return for regular contributions rather than in a spirit of benevolence or charity. Thus an organisation such as the Ancient Order of Buffaloes, which is often thought to be a friendly society like the Oddfellows and the Foresters is excluded because, although giving help to fellow members and charity to others, this is given in a spirit of brotherhood, but not as a right in return for contributions.

This list also excludes juvenile societies and districts of the Affiliated Orders which sometimes existed at separately registered societies in addition to the local lodges. It also excludes a variety of other organisations which, from time to time, came within the scope of the Friendly Society Acts such as Annuity Societies, Building Societies, Co-operatives, Land Societies, Literary or other Educational Associations, Loan Clubs, Reading Rooms, Savings Banks, Trade Unions, Working Men's Clubs and other societies approved by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Information concerning these organisations can be found in many of the same sources listed below - notably in the Registrar of Friendly Society's deposits at the Public Record Office and the Annual Reports of the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Although it has been possible for friendly societies to register since 1793, registration has never been compulsory and it is well known that many unregistered societies have existed. In the later eighteenth century, clubs were often fearful of government interference in their affairs at a time when the state was deeply suspicious of any combination of working men and may well have rejected the idea of registration at this time for such reasons; but even a hundred years later when friendly societies were admired and respected even by the government, the Registrar of Friendly Societies reported that there were still as many unregistered societies as registered ones in some areas. As a result there is no central source of information which can provide a full and accurate picture of friendly societies. Quarter Session records from 1793 and those of the Registrar of Friendly Societies from 1856 can provide some indication of the extent of activity but only insofar as registered societies are concerned. In order to compile as full a picture as possible of the pattern of friendly society development in Nottinghamshire as many sources as possible were searched for evidence of the existence of societies throughout the county for the period up to 1913.

The organisation of this list is by place. Two other lists are available - one organised by date of establishment, the other by type of society - are also available and may be consulted by arrangement, with the compiler.

## 2. Sources

This list of friendly societies was compiled from many different sources listed here. The compiler is, however, very conscious that there are other sources which have not yet been searched. Notes indicating known omissions are included in this list.

### a. Public Record Office at Kew - Deposits made by the Registrar of Friendly Societies (Series FS).

**FS 1** consists of rules and amendments registered or certified under the 1793-1855 Acts and removed from the register before 1875. FS1/567-573 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 2** consists of an index of all societies registered or certified under the 1793-1855 Acts. FS2/8,13 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 3** consists of rules and amendments relating to societies registered under the Acts 1876 - 1913 (including some previously registered or certified under earlier Acts) and removed from the register 1876-1912. FS3/308-318 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 4** consists of indexes to FS3. FS4/41, 42 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 5** consists of orders and branches removed from the Register before 1913. Files of each central body together with a specimen file of a district where applicable and a branch of each society are preserved. FS5/2 and 187 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 10** is similar to FS 5 and consists of orders removed from the register between 1912 and 1929. FS10/2, 48, 49 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 15** consists of rules, amendments, annual returns and various statutory documents of :

(1) Societies other than Orders and branches registered under the Acts before 1876 and removed from the register before 1 January 1951

(2) A sample of societies registered during 1855, 1895, 1905, 1913, 1926 which were removed from the Register before 1.1.1930. FS 15/547, 550, 552-554, 557, 558, 560, 849, 1035-1040, 1147, 1189, 1266, 1284, 1299, 1300, 1343 relate to Nottinghamshire.

**FS 16** consists of selected annual returns of societies removed from the register after 30 December 1950.

### b. Nottinghamshire County Archives Office

**QDC and CA** consists of various Quarter Sessions Records for the County of Nottinghamshire and the Borough of Nottingham respectively.

**QDC 1** is a collection of 28 rule books of societies enrolled at various times at the County Quarter Sessions

**QDC 2** is a collection of lists of friendly societies whose rules have been enrolled at the County Quarter Sessions at various times between 1793 and 1855.

**QDC 3** is a collection of six items relating to individuals admitted into societies in Newark 1794-5

**QDC 4** is a miscellaneous collection of five items.

**CA 3991 - 4035** is a collection of rule books enrolled at the Quarter Sessions in the town of Nottingham

**CA 7590/26 and 43** refer to societies enrolled at the Quarter Sessions in the town of Nottingham between 1829 and 1836.

**Indexes to Societies** refer to a number of items in the **DD, M, MR, BP** and **PR** collections.

### c. Local Studies Collections in County Libraries at Nottingham, Newark, Retford and Mansfield and East Midlands Collection at Nottingham University. All indexes were searched. Of particular value were newspaper indexes and newspaper cutting collections.

**d. Museum and archive collections in:**

- (1) The county museums in Nottingham, Newark, Mansfield and Retford.
- (2) Gedling House Education Resource Centre.
- (3) The Hermitage, Ruddington.

**e. Archive collections for the three main affiliated orders in Nottinghamshire**

- (1) Nottingham Oddfellows at their headquarters in Nottingham.
- (2) Independent Order of Oddfellows - Manchester Unity at their headquarters in Manchester.
- (3) Ancient Order of Foresters at their headquarters in Southampton.

Records from the origins of these Orders until 1913 have been researched and included in the list. Information was also sought from the secretaries of courts of the AOF and lodges of the MU still in existence. Although a large number of other Orders had branches in Nottinghamshire no attempt has been made to trace their archives and include information from such sources.

Lists of branches of these orders have also been obtained from published sources:

Ancient Order of Foresters - Official Handbook of the Centenary High Court Nottingham 1934  
and from an unpublished manuscript detailing the development of the Nottingham District of the Manchester Unity compiled and written by Mr Kaye - District Secretary of the IOO-MU.

**f. Parliamentary Papers**

Abstract of Answers and Returns pursuant to the Act in the 43rd year of HM King George intituled "An Act for procuring returns relevant to the expense and maintenance of the Poor" P.P. 1803-4 XIII

The same P.P.1818 XIX

Friendly Societies registered in England and Wales P.P. 1824 XVIII

No. of Friendly Societies registered since 1793 by year P.P. 1831-2 XXVI

No. of Friendly Societies filed by the Clerks of the Peace P.P. 1831-3 P.P.1834 XLI

Returns relating to Friendly Societies enrolled in England and Wales P.P. 1837 LI

Returns relating to Friendly Societies enrolled in England and Wales P.P. 1842 XXVI

Returns of Friendly Societies certified by Mr Pratt P.P. 1846 XXV

List of Friendly Societies investing in National Debt P.P. 1850 XXXIII

Friendly Societies certified or registered under 1851 Act P.P. 1852 XXVIII

Reports of the Registrar and Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies 1856-1912.

**g. Local History Societies' Collections throughout the county.**

**h. Published works**

Records of the Borough of Nottingham Volumes 7,8,9 1947-56 (Forman) Nottingham

Nottinghamshire: Extracts from the County Records of the 18th Century 1947 (Forman)

Nottingham Returns of Owners of Land 1873 1875 (HMSO) London

Various local history works notably those concerned with the histories of individual parishes and with the history of religious groups within the county.

### 3. Explanatory notes

Example:

ARNOLD<sup>1</sup>

‘Arnold Friendly Societies<sup>2</sup>

Ind<sup>3</sup> Reg 999<sup>4</sup> 1779<sup>5</sup> 1794<sup>6</sup> 0<sup>7</sup> 1910+<sup>8</sup> FS3/987<sup>9</sup>

Began as ind. society; joined NAI 1865<sup>10</sup>

1. **First meeting place** This refers to the town or village in which the society first met. Where the society moved to another place this is noted in the comment section but the society is not listed under the second or subsequent place in order to avoid duplication.
2. **Name of society** Where a society has no specific name but is just known as the Friendly Society meeting at a particular public house it is listed simply as Friendly Society. But in the case of Nottingham where there are very many societies the name of the public house at which it met has been added to distinguish between different Friendly Societies  
\* indicates female society.

### 3. Type of society

Key to abbreviations is listed separately below.

4. **Registration number** Where the actual number is known it is given;

1 - denotes that the society is registered but the number is not known.

0 - denotes that the society is not registered.

5. **Date of commencement** Where this is known it is stated;

? denotes that the commencement date is not known but that it has been inferred from other evidence, normally the date of registration.

### 6. Date of registration

This is noted where known.

0 denotes that the society was not registered or that the date is not known.

### 7. Date of de-registration

This is noted if applicable. It should be noted that a date of de-registration does not necessarily imply that a society ceased to exist at this date as some societies de-registered or had their registration cancelled but continued to exist.

### 8. Date of closure

If known this is noted.

? indicates a date assumed from evidence.

1875?/18917/1894?/19057/1910? indicates that it is assumed that the society no longer existed at these dates as it did not appear on the 1875/1891/1894/1905/1910 lists of societies issued by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

+ following any date indicates that the society existed at the date shown but closure date is not known.

### 9. Reference to source material

An entry here indicates where any source material is held.

FS references are at the Public Record Office.

CA DD BP PR QDC are at Notts County Archives Office in Nottingham.

Not. and Univ. are at Nottingham University.

L 36.9 LSL Doubleday Mellors are at the Local Studies Library in Nottingham.

PH indicates material in private hands 0 indicates no known material.

10. **Comments** giving additional information.

It should be noted that a friendly society was not static. It could change its meeting place, its affiliation or otherwise to an order, it could re-register and so change its registration number; it could change its name. Where information of this kind is known it has been noted in the comments section. As far as possible all such information has been checked to ensure that no society is recorded more than once regardless of such name changes.

e.g. Hueknall Huthwaite - Farmers Glory lodge of NAI began in 1841 - became the Loyal Good Intent Lodge of the Mansfield Order in 1872 and later became an independent society - the Huthwaite Good Intent Society. This is listed only as the Farmers Glory Lodge of the NAI.

**Key to abbreviations for type of society**

Affiliated Orders

AFG	British Order of Ancient Free Gardeners
ALB	Albion Order of Oddfellows
AOF	Ancient Order of Foresters
AOS	Ancient Order of Shepherds
AUI	Arnold Unity - Independent Order of Oddfellows
BRI	British United Order of Oddfellows
BUO	United Order of Oddfellows - Basford Unity
COUB	Catholic Order of United Brothers
DMU	Derby Midland United Order of Oddfellows
GT	Good Templars
GUO	Grand United Order of Oddfellows
IEV	Ilkeston and Erewash Valley United Order of Oddfellows
IOD	Independent Order of Druids
IOF	Independent Order of Oddfellows
IOOFLU	Improved Independent Order of Oddfellows - London Unity
IOR	Independent Order of Rechabites - Salford Unity
IOUB	Independent Order of United Brothers
IOUBGU	Independent Order of United Brothers - Loughborough Unity
IOUBLU	Independent Order of United Brothers - Leicester Unity
IOUBMU	Independent Order of United Brothers - Midland Unity
IOUBWU	Independent Order of United Brothers - Whitwick Unity
IUB	Independent United Brothers

LCC	Grand Independent Order of Loyal Caledonian Corks
LIOS	Loyal Independent Order of Shepherds
LIS	Loyal Independent Society of Oddfellows
LOI	Loyal Order of Independent Oddfellows
LSO	Leicestershire Seraphic Order of Oddfellows
MIO	Middleton Independent Order of Oddfellows
MOO	Metropolitan Order of Oddfellows, Nottingham District
MU	Independent Order of Oddfellows - Manchester Unity
NAI	Nottingham Ancient Imperial Union of Oddfellows
NAIUS	Nottingham Ancient Imperial Order of United Sisters
NALB	Nottingham Albion Independent Order of Oddfellows
NIOD	Nottingham Independent Order of Druids
NIOS	Nottingham Independent Order of Druidesses
NLI	Nottingham Loyal and Independent Order of Oddfellows
NOO	Nottingham Order of Oddfellows
OAM	Order of Ancient Maccabeans
OD	Order of Druids
ORD	An Order - but not known which
POUB	Pure Order of United Britons
SED	Sheffield Equalised Independent Order of Druids
SOT	Sons of Temperance
TWC	Twentieth Century
UAOD	United Ancient Order of Druids
UB	United Britons
UOF	United Order of Free Gardeners
UOLIS	United Order of Loyal Independent Shepherds
UPN	United Patriots National Benefit Society
USF	Order of United Sisters - Suffolk Unity

### **Others**

CHU	Societies based on a church
CS	Collecting Societies
Dep	Deposit Societies
Ind	Independent Societies
LPY	London and Provincial Yearly Dividing Society
OCC	Societies based on an occupation
RHO	Royal Hearts of Oak Yearly Dividing Friendly Society