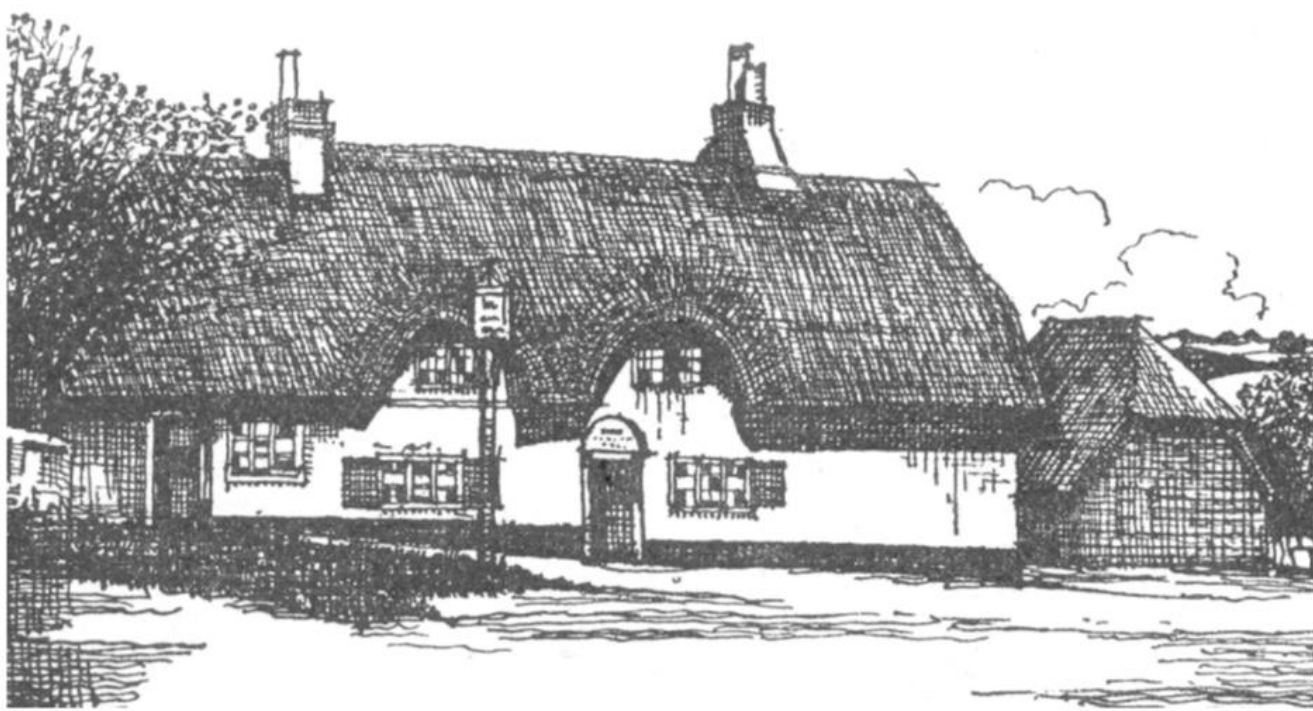


**Bedfordshire  
Family History Society  
Journal**

**Vol 24 No 4 Dec 2023**



The Green Man, Lidlington

**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

A member of the Family History Federation  
Founded 1977  
Registered Charity No. 281677

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**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**



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## FUNERAL DIRECTORS' RECORDS

Our small team continue to work on digitally copying ledgers from T&E NEVILLE Ltd (now Neville Funeral Services Ltd) and transcribing them for the main index on the Members Portal. To date we have completed from January 1905 to 1916. By the time you read this we should have added a further 1200 names to the index. This covers 1917 to March 1919.

We have already added the AL&G ABBOTT Ltd ledgers from January 1904 to 1944. Please note the records from April 1924 to January 1937 were sadly lost in an office fire. From 1945 to 1980 they have been digitally copied but not transcribed so far.

Progress is also being made on the ledgers of John SAUNDERS & Son. We have so far digitally copied 1890 to 1925 but these are still to be transcribed.

It would be appreciated if you could give us any feed back on the work we have done so far. Have you found any family members on the index? Emails to Paul Woodcraft at [distribution@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:distribution@bfhs.org.uk).

## JOURNAL SURNAME INDEX

Below is the Surname Index for this *Journal*, providing you with a rapid way of finding a Surname within this *Journal*. Note that Members' Surname Interests are not indexed.

The Surname Index for *Journals* on the BFHS website will be updated in due course.

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Dodd	14	Neville	2	Usher	12

## **NEW BANKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR BFHS**

We have recently opened a new account with Barclays to enable us to operate an account with dual authorisation online banking. This will simplify paying many of our society expenses. In the meantime, we will continue to maintain our NatWest bank account.

**Full details are given in the Renewal Notice that accompanies this issue of the Journal.**

Please use the new Barclays bank details for bank transfers. When convenient, please change any standing order from NatWest to Barclays and please remember to cancel your standing order to our NatWest account.

If you pay your **2024** membership by standing order or bank transfer, please drop an email to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk** to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type.

Your help would be appreciated.

## **BEDFORDSHIRE**

### **Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire**

Family and Local History Research (including Probate Transcriptions)  
undertaken by

#### **COLIN DAVISON**

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*Member of the  
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Professional Service Offered. All Enquiries Welcome

## **BFHS VOLUNTEER VACANCIES**

Our Society cannot exist without its committee members who volunteer their time to support the functions of the society. At our AGM next year our officers will require re-election to their posts and Lynn Manning has indicated her intention to stand down as Secretary at the AGM. This role needs to be replaced under our constitution otherwise the society cannot continue to function. Paul Woodcraft is also stepping down as Journal Distribution Manager and Funeral Directors Project Leader, and we are also seeking a Vice Chairman to support the Chairmans role.

The committee usually meets on the third Friday of each month via Zoom at 7pm. Meetings usually last less than 2 hours and involve the dealing of business to run the society. Please feel free to come along and observe a meeting, under no obligation, and see how the committee works. Copies of Microsoft 365 will be provided to committee members if required.

Below is a list of areas where we need help.

### **Secretary**

The secretary is the main contact for the society, and a large proportion of the role is involved in correspondence, mostly responding to emails and letters, and passing information to the committee and members.



### **Publicity Officer**

This role is currently carried out by the Secretary in addition to the normal activities. The role requires someone to ensure local press and other organisations are kept up to date with the latest programme and information on what the society is doing.



### **Vice Chairman**

This role is currently vacant and is required to support the Chairman's activities in running the society.



If you have any queries regarding any of these roles, or wish to offer help, please contact the Chairman, Mark Tresidder or Secretary, Lynn Manning, via email at [chairman@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bfhs.org.uk) or [secretary@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bfhs.org.uk), alternatively you can talk to us at meetings.

## **Journal Distribution Manager**

Due to the pending retirement of the incumbent, the above position will be coming vacant shortly and we are therefore looking for a person or persons to take on this duty. A full Role Description is available but the basic duties are as follows:

Collect or receive the journals from the printers.

Print labels to send journals to members.

Send emails with PDF copy of journal to those who have elected to receive them by PDF.

Send emails with PDF copy to Swap Societies.

Receive and record Swap journals and send on to Webmaster.

Receive, check, and record requests for Access to our Members Portal then send on to Webmaster to issue a password.

At present, assembly of labels, journals, stamps, and envelopes for postal distribution is done by a second person.

You will require a computer/laptop with a printer and an internet connection. Time involved is a few hours each month.



## **Funeral Directors' Records Project Leader**

We are also looking for someone to lead our small team working on Funeral Directors' Records. The project involves research into the Funeral Directors of Bedfordshire both past and present, and arranging digitisation, transcription, and indexing of their records to put on our Members Only part of our website.

You will require a computer/laptop and an internet connection. Scanning equipment will be provided by the Society. Time required can be as little or as much as you can give with no set targets.



If you feel you would like to get involved and take on any of these roles, or just help with the transcribing and checking, please email Paul Woodcraft at **[distribution@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:distribution@bfhs.org.uk)**.



## PROGRAMME

**All talks are hybrid meetings taking place physically at Mark Rutherford School (see page 21 for details) and virtually via Zoom. Doors at the school open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.**

### **How to read a church**

**Chana James**

**Friday 1 December 2023**



The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) is the national charity that cares for historic churches at risk across England. The 357 churches in its care span over 1000 years of history and, although these buildings are no longer used for regular worship, they are all open for visitors to enjoy. Churches are alive with images and symbols and were originally built to be 'read'. In this talk, Chana James, Communications Manager at CCT, will talk about CCT's role as the third largest heritage estate in charitable ownership in the UK, some of the projects that the charity has worked on over the years, and how visitors can get more from their visit by understanding how to read a church.

### **Victorian Workhouses**

**Katrina Friess**

**Friday 5 January 2024**



Katrina's talk is principally about the Victorian workhouse - some facts and myths, but also briefly putting the role of the workhouse into a wider setting in history of how the poor were cared for before and after the workhouse. Definitely not a political talk, it purely looks at how the 'problem' of caring for the poor has been addressed over time to see what, if anything has actually changed.

Katrina has over 40 years experience as a family history researcher, consultant, speaker and teacher.





## PROGRAMME (cont'd)

### **The Admiral, the Rector and Long John Silver Tales From Bedfordshire Churches**

**David Longman**

**Friday 2 February 2024**



The parish churches of Bedfordshire are treasure houses of social and sometimes political history stretching back over many centuries. They contain memorials and mementoes of the great, the good and the infamous and have stood at the hearts of their communities since Christianity first arrived in England. David Longman has visited every parish church in the county researching and collecting the stories associated with each one. He will be presenting a selection of his favourite stories and photographs in an informal and entertaining way in the hope of inspiring others to take a similar interest.

### **Victorian baby farmer**

**Eve Bacon**

**Friday 1 March 2024**



Eve is a retired teacher and has been an historical interpreter for over 25 years. She has extensive experience of delivering presentations in museums, heritage sites and TV, including the National Army Museum, English Heritage, The National Trust, The Wellcome Collection and The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and has appeared in documentaries for The National Geographic TV and Film. She has developed a series of characters and presentations for a variety of interest groups. All her presentations are well researched and resourced so you can be sure that the things she says and does are as historically accurate as she can make them. Initially her interest has been the history

of food and the reflection of society at that time, but since becoming a Queen Victoria impersonator (she is the same height at the same age), she has developed an interest in the Victorian era and has been researching Baby Farming for the last 10 years, writing a book on the subject. Recently, she has been interviewed for BBC Radio Bristol for a documentary about Amelia Dyer.

Learn the sad fate of some illegitimate babies in Victorian and early 20th century Britain, how the law made this darkest of businesses viable and how it was eventually brought to an end.

## THOMAS CARTER/CURTIS OF SILSOE/NEW YORK - PART 1

*Paul Cox*

A small flat-sided chemists flagon came to light, impressed with the shop name 'T Carter & Co, Druggists & Chemists, Woburn'. In setting out to discover exactly when Carter had had his business in Woburn, I discovered an amazing story that managed to stay hidden for 160 years; one family's life across two continents, a bankruptcy, an adoption, a mystery inheritance; and that a Bedfordshire man was responsible for standardising a world-renowned sport.

Thomas CARTER was born in Silsoe, Bedfordshire on 3 January 1828, according to his baptism entry on 4 April 1828. His father was Benjamin Carter, but Benjamin was not in the household on the night of the 1841 census, which showed Eliza Carter, 45, with her nine children: Balse Carter, 25; Benjamin Carter [Jnr], 20; Ann Carter, 20, Susan Carter, 15; Charles Carter, 15; Matilde Carter, 15; Thomas Carter, 13; Harriott Carter, 12 and Emma Carter, 10. Ten years on, Thomas Carter had left home and appears in the March 1851 census in Woburn as one of two grocer's assistants for William FARROW, a chemist, druggist and grocer. Carter lived in the High Street with the Farrow family, their two daughters and other employees. He was then 23 and still unmarried.

1851 Census, Woburn, High Street (see next page):

*William Farrow, Head, 40, Chemist druggist & grocer, born Louth, Lincs.*

*Martha J Farrow, Wife, 42, Liverpool, Lincs.*

*Jane Farrow, Daughter, 11, Scholar, Woburn, Beds.*

*Ann Farrow, Daughter, 6, Scholar, Market Rasen, Lincs.*

*Thomas Carter, Assistant, Unmarried, 23, Grocer's assistant, Silsoe, Beds.*

*George SNOXALL, Apprentice, Unmarried, 17, Grocer's apprentice, Dunstable, Beds.*

*Thomas JUFFS, Servant, Unmarried, 35, Warehouseman, Wavendon, Bucks.*

*Charles ATHEWS, Servant, Unmarried, 22, Porter, Little Brickhill, Bucks.*

*Mary A GAZELEY, Servant, Unmarried, 18, House servant, Cranfield, Beds.*

Back at his family home in Silsoe, his father Benjamin had reappeared and there was a visitor to his household, a Fanny HEIGHINGTON, 23, who came from Woburn.

1851 Census, Silsoe, Church Street (see next page):

*Benjamin Carter, 58, Innkeeper, postmaster & farmer 130 acres empl. 8 men & 3 boys, born Silsoe, Beds.*

*Elizabeth Carter, Wife, 56, Innkeeper's wife, Biggleswade, Beds.*

*Harriott Carter, Daughter, 21, Innkeeper's daughter, Silsoe, Beds.*

*Fanny Heighington, Visitor, Unmarried, 23, Milliner, Woburn, Beds.*

*Harriett LEWIS, Servant, Unmarried, 20, Servant, Diddington, Oxfs.*

*Edward CHISWELL, Servant, Unmarried, 18, Tap boy, Woburn, Beds.*

In some kind of a reciprocal agreement, one of the Carter girls had gone to live with the Heighingtons in Woburn.

1851 Census, Woburn, High Street (see next page):

*Thomas Heighington, 60, Boot maker, born Cheadle, Staffs.*

*Fanny Heighington, Wife, 62, Woburn, Beds.*

*Sarah Heighington, Daughter, Unmarried, 35, Woburn, Beds.*

*William Heighington, Son, Unmarried, 29, Boot maker, Woburn, Beds.*

*Mary Heighington, Daughter, Unmarried, 26, 1825, Dress maker, Woburn, Beds.*

*Louisa Heighington, Daughter, Unmarried, 19, Dress maker, Woburn, Beds.*

*Jane Carter, Visitor, Unmarried, 32, Biggleswade, Beds.*

*Mary HILLHOUSE, Granddaughter, 5, Bedford, Beds.*

4	High St	Mary Brown	Wife	Mar 40	40	Chemist, Druggist & Grocer	Leicester & South
		William Brown	Husband	Mar 40	40		Leicester & South
		Martha J Do	Wife	Mar 42	42		Woburn
		Jane Do	Daughter	Mar 42	42		Woburn
		Ann Do	Daughter	Mar 42	42		Woburn
		Thomas Carter	Assistant	Mar 23	23	Grocer's Assistant	Woburn
		George Cornwall	Wife	Mar 17	17	Grocer's Apprentice	Woburn
		Thomas Jubb	Wife	Mar 35	35	Washhouseman	Woburn
		Charles Atkinson	Wife	Mar 22	22	Porter	Woburn
		Mary A Hazleby	Wife	Mar 18	18	House Servant	Woburn
		Elizabeth Handcock	Wife	Mar 50	50	Washed Linen	Woburn
5	High St						

1851 Census, Woburn, High Street

Benjamin Carter	Head	Mar 58	58	Labourer	Woburn
Elizabeth do	Wife	Mar 56	56	Labourer's wife	Woburn
Raynolds do	Wife	Mar 24	24	Labourer	Woburn
Fanny Heighington	Wife	Mar 23	23	Wife	Woburn
Agnes Lewis	Servant	Mar 20	20	Servant	Woburn
Ann Chimell	do	Mar 18	18	Labourer's wife	Woburn

1851 Census, Silsoe, Church Street

Thomas Heighington	Head	Mar 60	60	Foot Walker	Woburn
Mary Do	Wife	Mar 62	62	Wife	Woburn
Sarah Do	Daughter	Mar 38	38	Wife	Woburn
William Do	Son	Mar 29	29	Foot Walker	Woburn
Mary Do	Daughter	Mar 26	26	Wife	Woburn
Feara Do	Daughter	Mar 19	19	Wife	Woburn
Jane Carter	Servant	Mar 32	32	Servant	Woburn
Mary Willhaute	Wife	Mar 5	5	Wife	Woburn

1851 Census, Woburn, High Street

It looks like Carter had switched employer to a Mr Heighington to be a 'Shopman' by 1852, as on 9 October that year he was mentioned in a *Northants Mercury* report of a trial at Newport Pagnell concerning the Woburn town crier. He had been paid by Carter to hand out leaflets on behalf of the Peace Society in neighbouring villages, exposing

unnecessarily brutal corporal punishments in the Militia.

**THE MILITIA.**—At Newport Pagnell petty sessions, William Brewer was charged with committing a misdemeanour, by circulating and publishing, at Little Brickhill, a seditious libel, headed “Flogging in the New Militia.” The prisoner admitted the circulation of the bills in question, and stated that he was the crier and bill-sticker of Woburn, Beds, and was employed to do so by Thomas Carter, shopman to Mr. Heighington, grocer, of Woburn, who paid him. He was bound over in recognizances, himself in £20. and two sureties in £20. each, to appear and take his trial for the offence at the next assizes for Bucks.

Despite the wishes of the authorities in Newport Pagnell, the Woburn magistrates refused to follow up the affair with Carter. The *Beds Mercury* of the same date added:

*Mr. C has just commenced business at Luton, and was much esteemed in the town he had recently left.*

although I can find no trace of any such move to Luton. Carter was certainly still in Woburn when he married Fanny Heighington, the same woman who had been staying with his family in Silsoe on 3 January 1853, which happened to be Carter’s 25th birthday. In later life he said, ‘My wife and I were young people together when I was 15’, so they may have known each other since about 1843.

Shortly after this, he formed a business partnership with a Thomas Heighington to run a grocer’s shop, probably his father-in-law, although the Heighington family had many businesses in Woburn including drapers, grocers, farmers and even the village constable, so it may have been another. They advertised in the *Beds Mercury* of September 1855:

**WOBURN.**

**MESSRS. CARTER AND HEIGHINGTON**

**B**EG to inform the Gentry and Inhabitants of Woburn and its Neighbourhood, that they have TAKEN THE BUSINESS LATELY CARRIED ON BY MR. EDWARD HEIGHINGTON, of that place, and having laid in

**A Stock of Fresh Goods in the Grocery and Drug Line,**

are in a position to supply the BEST ARTICLES on the MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

*The Shop will be closed on Saturday Night, the 6th, and opened again on the 11th of October.*

Yet this new partnership came to an abrupt end a little over six months later, with a notice in the *London Gazette* of 29 April 1856, under ‘PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED’:



Woburn, Beds.

**WE** the undersigned have this day mutually agreed to dissolve partnership from: this date.—Witness our hands this 29th day of February, 1856.

*Thos. Carter.*  
*Thos. Heighington.*

Had he fallen out with his in-laws and decided to go it alone? Both the names Heighington and Carter appear as players for the Woburn Cricket team around this time.



It must be in this period that Carter paid to have his name added to stoneware flagons in which to sell his medicines. The name (and a deposit) helped the container come back to the right shop to be reused. The previous owner of the business, Edward Heighington, had also had flagons made with his name on for his business in Woburn.

The name 'Carter, druggist &c' appears listed as the Woburn agent for selling 'W H Cockell's Infallible Pills and Lotion for Gout and Rheumatism' in some *Beds Times* adverts from January 1859. Sadly, going it alone did not work out for Carter. The next time his name appears, it is in the *London Gazette* again, but this time under 'BANKRUPTCIES', on 1 July 1859, see next page.

Once it was common knowledge, all his creditors would have wanted their money. Mr NICHOLSON, the Official Assignee would have arranged a sale, advertised in the 25 July *Beds Mercury*, of all his possessions, goods and stock, see next page.

But where was Thomas Carter himself while all this was happening? He had disappeared! The *Beds Times* of 23 August 1859 explained in a case showing Carter had left Heighington with some of his debts, see next page.

The financial fallout spread further than Carter's own shop. His name was also mentioned in a Court case in October against James PRESSEY, the secretary of the Luton Improved Building Society, who was charged with having defrauded his Society by issuing bad cheques. It was said that the losses he had incurred through 'Carter, late of Woburn' had contributed to the downfall of the

**W**HEREAS a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy was, on the 28th day of June, 1859, filed against Thomas Carter, of Woburn, in the county of Bedfordshire, Grocer, and he having been declared bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to Edward Goulburn, Serjeant-at-Law, one of Her Majesty's Commissioners of the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 13th day of July instant, and on the 15th day of August next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, on each day, at the Court of Bankruptcy, in Basinghall-street, in the city of London, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Nicholson, No. 24, Basinghall-street, London, the Official Assignee in the matter of this bankruptcy, and give notice to Mr. W. S. Bousfield, Solicitor, No. 14a, Philpot-lane, City.

*London Gazette on 1 July 1859*

**WOBURN, BEDFORDSHIRE.**  
**TO GROCERS, PROVISION MERCHANTS, PRIVATE FAMILIES, AND OTHERS.**  
**LARGE STOCK OF GROCERY AND DRUGS,**  
 WEIGHING MACHINES, EXCELLENT MILLS, PRESSER, ALSO ALL THE  
**MODERN HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,**  
 CONSISTING of excellent 4-post Mahogany and other bedsteads, feather beds and bedding, mahogany chest of drawers, chairs, tables, glasses, all the kitchen utensils, contents of yard, store rooms, &c., &c.; a very useful BAY CART, trade cart, harness and numerous effects, will be Sold by Auction, by  
**JOHN USHER,**  
*On Monday and Tuesday, August 1st & 2nd,*  
 And following day if required,  
 On the premises late in the occupation of Mr Thomas Carter, a bankrupt. The Sale to commence each day at Eleven o'clock to a minute.  
 Catalogues may be had on the premises, and at Mr Usher's Offices, Mill-street, Bedford.

*Beds Mercury 25 July 1859*

**FORGERY AND OUTLAWRY.**—At the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, in the case of Thomas Carter, who was a grocer, at Woburn (that day having been fixed for his last examination), Mr. W. S. Bousfield appeared for the assignees, and said that the bankrupt came to this court on his own petition, and had surrendered to the bankruptcy. It had since transpired that he had committed forgery, and absconded. Mr. Charles Brown, the accountant, had prepared the balance-sheet, and the assignees had no objection to a reasonable sum being allowed to him out of the estate. The Commissioner said that if the bankrupt did not surrender that day, the usual course must be taken. With respect to the accountant, he could make no order unless he had been appointed by the court. Mr. Bousfield said that the bankrupt having absconded, the assignees would require the accounts, in order that they might protect the interests of the creditors. The Commissioner observed that if the assignees required the assistance of the accountant, there was no doubt, under the peculiar circumstances, that he would be paid out of the estate. The bankrupt was proclaimed an outlaw at the rising of the Court.

*Beds Times of 23 August 1859*

Society's finances, *Luton Times & Advertiser* 22 October 1859 and *Dunstable Chronicle & Advertiser for Beds, Bucks & Herts* 29 October 1859. When the case came to court in March 1860, Pressey, a stationer, said he had used Carter for a security of £200 to start a newspaper business which failed. To 'accommodate his supposed friend', Pressey had put his name to some bills which Carter then defaulted on and so became liable for them, *Dunstable Chronicle & Advertiser for Beds, Bucks & Herts* 17 March 1860.

In November another trial started at Leighton Buzzard County Court. In the proceedings, we find out some more about the Heighingtons. Mr KNIBB of Bedford took Mr Heighington to court to recover £15. Carter was described as 'late a grocer & c, living at Woburn, who a few months ago was made bankrupt, and absconded'. The *Luton Times & Advertiser* 26 November 1859:

*ADJOURNED CASE ON A BILL OF EXCHANGE - SAID TO HAVE BEEN FORGED. Mr Knibb, of Bedford, Money Scrivener, &c, v Heighington, Shoemaker, of Woburn.*

*Mr GISSING, of Bedford, appeared for the plaintiff; the case for the defence was conducted by Mr STIMSON from the office of Mr F. HERBERT, of Bedford. Mr Gissing, in opening the case for the plaintiff, said, in the month of December, 1858, his client advanced a sum of money, amounting to £15, to a man named Carter, living at Woburn, who was at the time carrying on extensive business as a grocer. The money was advanced on the joint security of Carter and the defendant in the present action. Some few months after the plaintiff saw by the newspapers that Carter was bankrupt; plaintiff then went to Woburn and saw Heighington, and in the presence of witness, who would be examined, asked him if the signature to the bill was genuine? Defendant said it was, it was all right, and the case resting so, he requested judgment for his client. He must observe that his client, being a gentleman of independent property, was in the habit of accommodating parties with sums of money when they require it, and although the rate of interest might appear high, yet the Usury Laws having been repealed left him at liberty to fix his own terms. One witness who was subpoenaed would not be called by him, viz, the attesting witness to the bill, as within the last few days he had discovered that he was a poor illiterate boy. It had also come to his knowledge that it was intended to set up a plea of forgery, though how it was to be sustained he did not know.*

*He then called Mr Knibb, who said he lived at Bedford: In December last, he advanced to Carter the sum of £15 on a promissory note, the money was remitted by cheque. It was to be repaid in a short time, and as it was not, I applied to him for better security. He then sent me down the note produced, bearing his and Heighington's signatures. Some correspondence was then put in, Mr. Stimson objected, but His Honor said they might be read, but he did not promise to receive them as evidence. Examination continued: I saw by the newspapers that Carter was declared a bankrupt; believe he has left the country. Went to defendant's house in July last, accompanied by Miss ROBINSON. Saw defendant and showed him the note and putting my finger on the signature asked him if it was his; he hesitated, and I then pointed to the signature of the attesting witness, when he said yes, it's all right, but it is hard upon me. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of*



July, Heighington came to my house at Bedford, he said he had come to settle the affairs of Carter. I told him I should take no waste paper, but would have a genuine note of hand. He then paid me £50, the amount of two notes I held and asked me for time for payment of the note in dispute; he also objected to the rate of interest I charged; I told him if he would acknowledge the signature to be genuine I would not charge interest; asked him if it was so, he said it's all right. He never disowned the signature, nor said anything about its being forged till I took proceedings for the recovery of the money.

Cross-examined by Mr Stimson. When Heighington came he brought the money and took up two bills I held, the parties whose names were attached had disowned them, and stated they were forgeries, one was professedly backed by Messrs DODD and PEELING, Booksellers, of Woburn, the other by Mr PEARSON, hairdresser, of Woburn. At the second interview with him at my house, he said 'It's all right, I'll pay you.' Mr COOMBS, surgeon, of Bedford, was present, he was not subpoenaed by me, as I understood you were about to call him as a witness.

Eleanor ROBINSON said: I live at Bedford. In July last I went with Mr Knibb to Woburn, went with him to defendant's shop, saw him (Mr Knibb) produce those bills, and pointing to the signature on one of them, asked defendant if it was his writing: he replied, 'yes, it's all right.' Defendant afterwards came to Mr Knibb's house at Bedford: I was present: he was again asked if it was his signature; he said it was all right, and asked for time. Plaintiff said he should not call on him at present. This being the case for the plaintiff, Mr Stimson contended that there was no case for him to reply to, as in all cases where a document was attested it was necessary for the attesting witness to be produced, and such had not been done in this instance. Several authorities were then quoted in support of this view, but being overruled, Mr. Stimson proceeded to say that he admitted his client's promise to pay, but it being only verbal promise he was not liable, as it being another person's debt the promise ought to be in writing to make it binding. He further contended that he was not the principal although his name was there as surety, and he did not make the bill nor did he ever sign it, but his name was forged, he never having seen it till shown to him by plaintiff at his shop in Woburn. He had never positively acknowledged the signature to be his.

His Honour thought there was a case.

Mr Stimson then called Mr Wm Heighington, who said: I live at Woburn, am a shoe manufacturer, and defendant in this action: recollect plaintiff coming to shop in July last: he showed me a bill bearing my name: had never heard of it before the previous morning, when I received a letter from plaintiff on the subject. I was not aware that Carter was in the habit of drawing bills with my name attached without my consent. There were present at this interview plaintiff, Miss Robinson, my sister, and myself. Plaintiff asked me if it was my signature to the bill produced. I replied, 'all right.' He again asked the question, and I gave him the same answer. I went to Bedford next morning and saw plaintiff, and asked him to wait a short time for the money as Carter was from home. Went again on the Saturday following and met two bills he held of £25 each. Mr Coombs went with me. Plaintiff again asked me about the signature to the bill



now in dispute. I said, 'oh, it's all right,' but did not acknowledge the signature. Money was raised by Carter and me to meet the two bills paid. I took it, and Carter said he should be able to take up the others. Saw Carter when I got back, but said nothing to him about this bill. Carter has since admitted to me that he had committed forgery.

*Cross-examined:* Carter and I have had money transactions together, but I have not had bill transactions. I don't know where he is; have not seen him since July. Some letters from defendant were then put in, and he identified them as his, and said his signature was attached to them.

*To the Judge:* I did not sign this bill, it is not my writing.

*His Honour:* I can see no difference.

*Defendant:* There is a great difference.

Henry STAMFORD, 14 years of age, was then examined, and said he was in the employ of Mr. Carter until he left Woburn. (Note produced and identified by witness). Recollect Carter calling me one day and asking me to put my name to a paper. I did so. That is my name. I don't know what was in the paper, nor do I know if there were any names there when I signed it. I did not see anybody sign it.

*Sarah Heighington:* I am sister to the defendant, and keep his house. Recollect plaintiff coming to my brother in July. He produced some papers, and pointing to the signature on one of them, asked my brother if it was his. He said it's all right. I believe the signature to be a forgery. I don't know where Carter is now.

*Cross-examined:* I don't know the difference between a bill of exchange and a promissory note; know the papers to be bills from hearing my brother say so.

*Mr. Gissing* made a few remarks, after which the Judge said he should adjourn the case for the delivery of judgment.

When the Court reconvened, the *Luton Times & Advertiser* of 31 December 1859 reported:

*ADJOURNED CASE ON BILL OF EXCHANGE, SAID TO HAVE BEEN FORGED.* Joseph Knibb, moneylender and bill-discounter, of St. John-street, Bedford, v William Heighington, shoe manufacturer, of Woburn. At the last court this case was gone through, when the defendant swore that the signature of his name was not in his handwriting on promissory note, purporting to be of the value of £15, signed by one Thomas Carter, late of Woburn, a bankrupt, and the above-named defendant. Carter having got the said promissory note discounted with the plaintiff, and he (Carter) having absconded and not surrendering to his trial, Knibb sought to recover the amount from Heighington at the last November court, when the defendant swore that he did not endorse the bill, but the defendant admitted to plaintiff and a witness "That it was all right". His Honor this day in giving judgment, laid great stress upon the words "all right" adding, that if the defendant said that and knowing it to be forged, he was very wrong in using those words, he (the judge) believing he had used such expression, felt bound to give judgment for plaintiff with all costs.

According to other press reports, the Judge made Heighington sign some paper four times and compared it, deciding it was his signature on the bill after all, and promptly charged him with perjury. The Judge told Heighington that the last such case he had tried led to the defendant being transported for seven years, making Heighington cry out that ‘God is my witness I am not taking a false oath’!

So the last time Carter was seen in Woburn was July 1859. Outside of the court cases, Carter’s ordinary debt rumbled on until January 1861, when the Bankruptcy Court decided that those who were owed money by his business would receive just 1s 10d for every £1 owed as a first dividend, *London Morning Herald*, 2 January 1861.

But just where had he gone? Unsurprisingly, he cannot easily be found on the 1861 census, but there is a Fanny Carter living in the household of a builder and architect, Edward TWELVETREES, in Stratton Street, Biggleswade, whose wife Susan just happens to have been a Carter by maiden name. She was Carter’s older sister. Edward and Susan were married in Richmond, Surrey in 1858.

Fanny is described as a ‘Wife of a Grocer’, and is with a five-year-old child, also called Fanny, who has the surname Heighington. Her birthplace was given as ‘In the Bay of Biscay.’ This was not their daughter, but the daughter of Thomas and Emily Elizabeth Pitt Heighington (nee BAILEY) who lived in Jamaica. They had been married there in 1853 and had four children, but for some reason did not want their children to stay with them. Fanny (whom I will refer to as Fanny jnr from herein) had been baptised in Woburn in 1855 as Fanny Carter Heighington and her baptismal records states she was born the same year and that her parents were Thomas and Emily Heighington. Perhaps the ‘Carter’ was a nod towards the family who had agreed to take her on? I have yet to discover what connection her father Thomas Heighington was to the Woburn Heighingtons.

Fanny snr probably did not want to disclose any connection to coming from Woburn at this time, even though the census records would be closed for 100 years, so she had said she came from Silsoe, but there is no sign of her husband.

Edward Twelvetree	Head	35	Builder and architect	20 men	Beds Biggleswade
Susan	Wife	38			do Silsoe
Matilda J. Freemantle	Niece	1			Surrey Richmond
James S. Cooper	Pupil	18	Builder and architect (apprentice)		Hants Biggleswade
Hannah M. Endersby	Servant	19	House servant		Beds Wrestlingworth
Fanny Carter	Visitor	34	Wife of a Grocer		do Silsoe
Fanny Heighington	Visitor	5			do In the Bay of Biscay

1861 Census, Biggleswade, Stratton Street:

Edward Twelvetree, Head, 35, Builder and architect employing 20 men, born Biggleswade, Beds.

Susan Twelvetree, Wife, 38, Silsoe, Beds.

Matilda J. FREEMANTLE, Niece, 1, Richmond, Surrey

James S. COOPER, Pupil, Unmarried, 18, Builder and architect apprentice, Hants.

Hannah M ENDERSBY, Servant, Unmarried, 19, House servant, Wrestlingworth, Beds.

Fanny Carter, Visitor, Married, 34, Wife of a grocer, Silsoe, Beds.

Fanny Heighington, Visitor, 5, In the Bay of Biscay

So it appears Thomas Carter had lodged his wife and adopted daughter with his sister

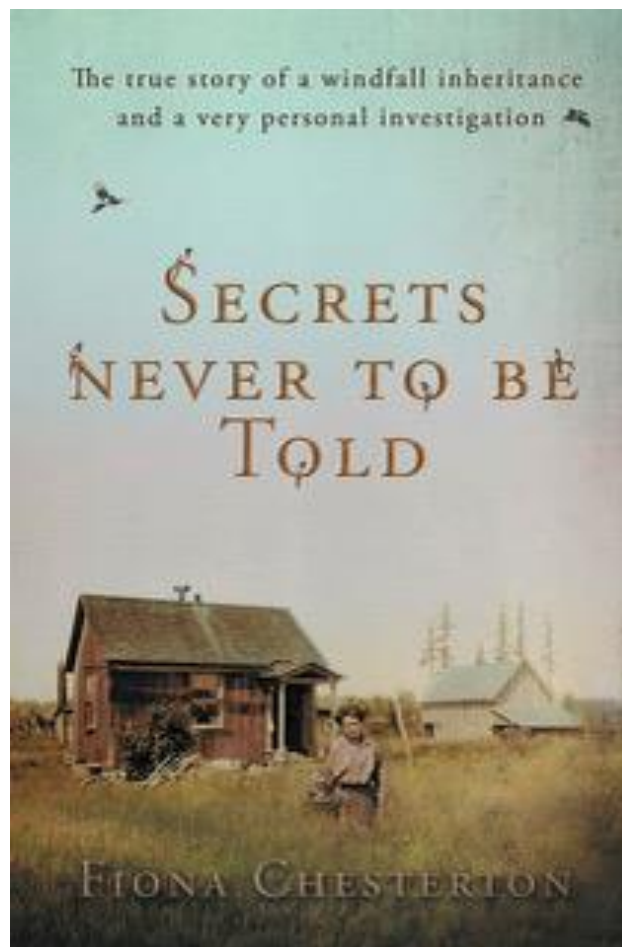
and gone into hiding. I am indebted to a researcher with the Bedfordshire Family History Society Facebook group for locating their new life abroad, as they discovered that Thomas had gone to America. □

## SECRETS NEVER TO BE TOLD

*Fiona Chesterton*

*Were you unable to attend the talk given by Fiona Chesterton to the Society on 8 September at Mark Rutherford school, or use Zoom to join the live audience, or catch up by viewing the talk through the Members' Portal of our website? If you missed out, Fiona has kindly provided the summary below of her talk.*

I have long known about my Bedfordshire roots even though I was born and brought up in Leicester. I also suspected from childhood that there were some long-kept family secrets. As a consequence of one of these skeletons, dating from Victorian times, finally falling out of the cupboard, I received a windfall inheritance from Canada and ended up writing a book about it, cover pictured below. The remarkable story of my



distant cousin (first cousin twice removed to be precise) called Jessie Heading UNDERWOOD, also known as MCDONALD, starts in Bedfordshire but ended up in a rural community in British Columbia.

Until recently, I thought that the main mystery in my maternal family history related to my great-great-grandfather John MACDONALD who arrived in Bedfordshire in the

1830s from Ireland. My late Uncle Ken had spent many hours scouring archives, visiting churchyards, following his genealogical interest wherever his feet would take him in the pre-digital age and had found out quite a bit but about him.



John, he discovered, had worked on a big estate in County Fermanagh for an Anglo-Irish aristocratic family and when times became tricky for those who took the English shilling it seems he decided - or was 'encouraged' - to emigrate to England. Probably it was this Irish employer who helped him find work with Lord John THYNNE, Baron Carteret of Hawnes, now Haynes. (pictured left) on his large estate south of Bedford.

My Uncle Ken ran into a dead end when he tried to find out more about John MacDonald's background. As anyone who has Irish family in their tree will know, most records were destroyed by fire a century ago. So John's date and place of birth is unknown as well as the names of his parents.

There was a second unsolved puzzle about John's life after he got to Bedfordshire. Shortly after his arrival, at the age of about 28, he married a local woman called Elizabeth SMITH, and had a son they called George Smith MacDonald in 1840. Elizabeth died a year after having the baby and her son would only live until he was twelve. Much later, when he was 44, John would marry a woman from Cranford, called Ellen ODELL. They would also have a son called George Odell MacDonald. Where the mystery lies is this - who was the mother of the three children fathered by John at Haynes between the two Georges?

One of those children was my great-grandfather John Moore McDonald (he dropped the 'a' in Mac) who was born in 1842, a year after the death of his father's first wife. As John Senior was wont to give his sons a middle name after their mother, it would be a good hypothesis that John Junior's mother was called MOORE. No marriage record has yet emerged.

What prompted me to explore my family history was not this mystery though; it was that windfall inheritance. In 2011 I received a letter out of the blue from Vancouver, from the Office of the Public Guardian and Public Trustee of British Columbia (OPG) telling me that I was entitled to a tenth share of the estate of a Canadian man called William Underwood. I had never heard of him. Much to my astonishment, it seemed that the OPG had taken seventeen years to establish who was entitled to this Canadian's estate. He had no birth record, had left no will, and had no family. The OPG, using several sets of genealogical researchers, found the key to this mystery lay with the British-born woman who had brought William up. She was called Jessie Ashpole Heading Underwood, and also used the name McDonald. Her birth mother they discovered was a Bedfordshire farmer's daughter. The OPG also found out that Jessie had emigrated from England in 1912 and concluded she had William illegitimately in Canada a few years later.



When I heard the name HEADING, that did ring a bell with me. I knew from my Uncle Ken's research that my great grandmother Elizabeth, who married John Moore McDonald in 1866, pictured left, was a Heading. Her younger sister, Mary Ann, fell pregnant with Jessie ten years later.

Mary Ann was twenty-five years old, unmarried and living with her family at Hill Farm in Old Warden. No doubt in some secrecy, she went to Cambridge, with the father, another local farmer, to have the baby. Shortly afterwards, their infant girl was given away to a widowed housekeeper, to bring up for a life of domestic service, pictured below.

As I live in Cambridge, I was in a good position to find out what happened to Jessie as a child and young woman and how she came to emigrate on her own to British Columbia at the age of 35 in 1912. The OPG believed that Jessie's birth family, the Headings, kept contact - at least for a while - with the housekeeper who became Jessie's adoptive mother but there is no evidence that Mary Ann ever saw what turned out to be her only child ever again. It seems that shortly after the birth, she returned to the family farm, bringing up one of her sister's children and caring for her elderly father, until his death in 1903.



After that, the now middle-aged Mary Ann lived a life of some apparent respectability in Sandy. She never married but was close to one of her nephews who was a butcher in the town. His name was John William McDonald - son of John Moore and her sister Elizabeth. The younger John had stayed behind when most of his family moved away to Leicester in the 1880s, trading the uncertainties of farming for better work prospects



in a Midlands city.

I spent several years after first learning of Jessie and William Underwood researching as much as I could about them on both sides of the Atlantic. What really drew me to understand their lives was my own experience - I found out when I was in my forties that Mum and Dad were not married when I was born and knew the impact that had on my family. I was also intrigued to know why a woman on her own, a domestic servant with little money would come to leave everything she knew behind her and take a one-way journey half way across the world. I also wanted to know why and how she came to bring up a boy on her own in a small rural community there, pictured below.



Jessie with William Underwood, Langley, BC, c1922

What I discovered opened my eyes to the hard reality of emigration for working women like Jessie. I was sad to learn that Jessie ended up in an unmarked grave.

Her mother, Mary Ann did not forget her secret child though. I know that for sure, as the OPG showed me a copy of Mary Ann's will. As well as leaving money to her sister, Elizabeth, my great grandmother, she left an equal amount to Jessie. Sadly, this small but significant bequest almost certainly never reached British Columbia.

I tell the full story of my investigation - and my own childhood - in my book *SECRETS NEVER TO BE TOLD*, Conrad Press, 2021. You can also listen to it on Audible, [audible.co.uk](https://www.audible.co.uk). □

## OUR MEETINGS AT MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL

Our monthly Friday night meetings offer members instructive, interesting, and often amusing talks on subjects that fascinate all interested in history and genealogy in general, and are usually particularly relevant to those with a Bedfordshire heritage. We look forward to seeing you in person.

Where possible, talks held at the school will be live streamed (Zoom log-in details are shown in the members' portal) or made available later on the website in the members' portal, subject to approval by the speaker.

The address of the venue is Mark Rutherford School, Wentworth Drive, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK41 8PX.





## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Lovers of the picturesque relics in our village doubtless hope that the rule hand of the modernizer will not touch the ‘Green Man’ at Lidlington. There are diverse theories concerning the origin of the sign. ‘The Green Man’ may either be the man covered with green boughs to represent a wild man of the woods, who formerly figured conspicuously in rural games, May-Day Dances, and masques; or it may represent a forester in Lincoln Green, of the Robin Hood type. Lidlington has an interesting history, one chapter of which is that one of its estates once belonged to Sarah [CHURCHILL], Duchess of Marlborough, an ancestress of our present Prime Minister [Churchill].

This illustration and text are taken from *Our Heritage: A Bedfordshire Sketch Book* drawings by G Alan Fortescue FRIBA, notes by *Touchstone*, published 1943. □

## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION AS IT IS TODAY

*Paul Woodcraft*



As you can see in the photo, the pub is very similar to the sketch. The left hand chimney has gone and the barn to the right like wise.

It is a Grade II listed building circa 1700, located on the High Street some 8 doors away from All Saints Church.

Lidlington is a small village set in Marston Vale and is connected by ‘rail’. A full description can be found on Wikipedia.



## WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?

We are always on the lookout for contributions to the *Journal*, any size, short or long. To give you some idea, a *Journal* page takes around 450 words to fill. We would also welcome items shorter than a page. You might feel more comfortable writing a letter or email on a topic and this would be included in a 'Letters' page in the *Journal*.

No need to worry if you are not used to writing, we are here to help. Seeing your own work in print can feel like a real achievement and others will appreciate your effort. Simply writing down your 'brick wall' can help you see the problem more clearly and, you never know, someone reading it may be able to help you move forward.

A great way to start is to take a small part of your family tree and describe the main characters, where and when they lived and died, and any stumbling blocks you encountered in researching their history, such as name changes or document transcription errors. Photographs of those in your family history add colour to the story as do copies of documents that acted as your source material.

If you need ideas to get you going or would like to discuss your ideas, please send an email to [journal@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:journal@bfhs.org.uk).

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

We notify our members via email about any zoom/hybrid meetings; however, some get bounced back and for some members we do not have an email address. If you have not been receiving these emails from us it means that we do not have your email address, or the email address we have is incorrect or your mailbox is full.

If you have an email address but are not getting our emails but would like to do so, please send your current email address to [treasurer@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bfhs.org.uk)

Peter Sharp, Treasurer

### REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the March 2024 *Journal* is **31 January 2024**.

(Articles submitted near the closing date may not be published until the following *Journal*)



## Bedfordshire Genealogy, Family and House History

Specialists in genealogy, family and house history research in  
Bedfordshire.

Our lead researcher is Vicki Manners a qualified genealogist who is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists and an associate member of **AGRA**.

Her qualifications include:

- M.A. in Local History
- P.G. Cert. in Family and Local History
- P.G. Dip. in Archive Management

Vicki has worked for Bedfordshire Archives, The Panacea Museum, and several other heritage organisations in Bedfordshire thus giving her a unique and specialist knowledge of genealogy, family and house history records relating to Bedfordshire.

Vicki also specialises in genetic genealogy. She can therefore advise you on which tests are most suitable for your research aims, as well as help you interpret to your DNA results and matches.

We offer a free, no obligation initial consultation. To find out more telephone: 07976 718624.

**[bedfordshireresearch.co.uk](http://bedfordshireresearch.co.uk)**

## BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

The Society has had a supply of Bedfordshire Heritage tea towels printed and these are now being sold to raise funds.

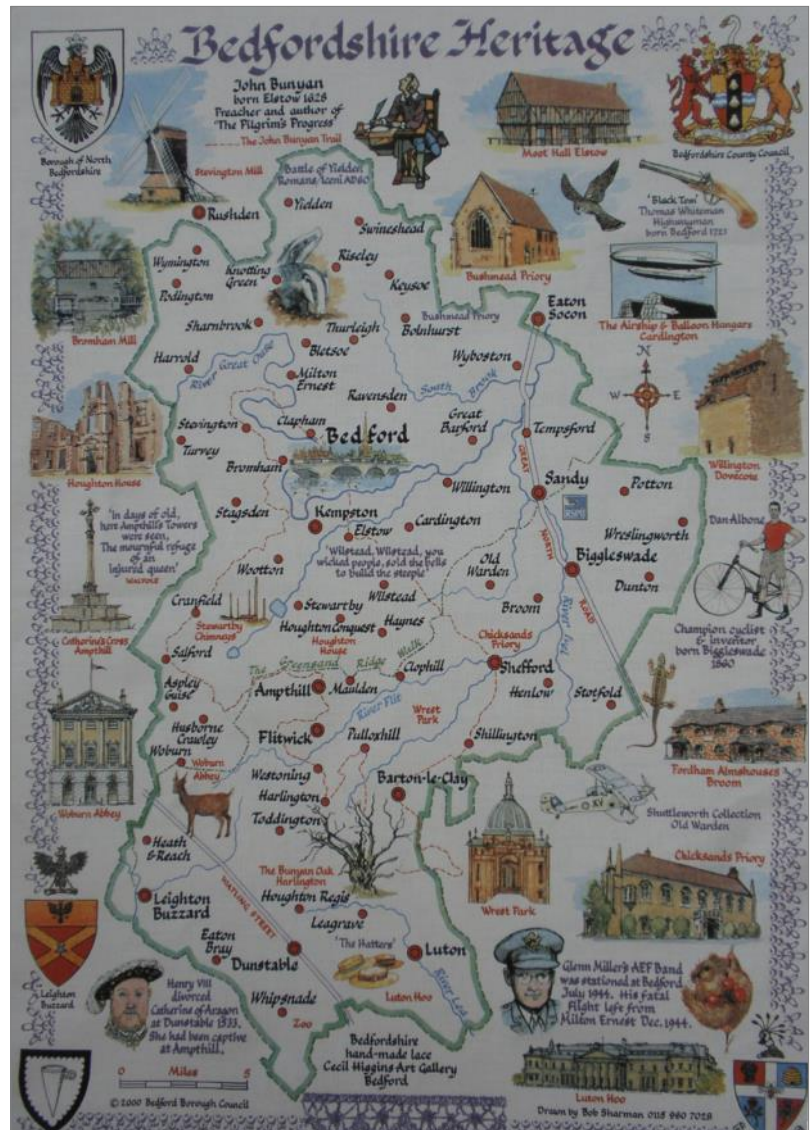
These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at members' meetings, by email to Lynn Manning at:

[secretary@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bfhs.org.uk),

or by post to Lynn at:

38 Risborough Road, Bedford, MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482.



For UK orders please add **postage and packing** as follows:

Up to 2 tea towels add	£2.00
3 to 6 tea towels add	£3.00

For orders from outside the UK please enquire before ordering. Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society.



We've joined Twitter!  
Come and say hello.

We take part in #ancestryhour each  
Tuesday evening, 7-8pm

[www.twitter.com/BedsFHS](http://www.twitter.com/BedsFHS)

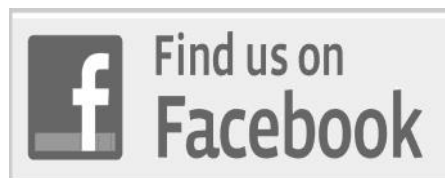


## MEMBERS' LETTERS/EMAILS

**MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT LETTERS/EMAILS TO THE JOURNAL ON TOPICS RELATED TO FAMILY HISTORY, PARTICULARLY THOSE LINKED TO BEDFORDSHIRE. THE JOURNAL COORDINATOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT CONTRIBUTIONS.**

**From: Colin R Chapman, [crc@lochinpublishing.org.uk](mailto:crc@lochinpublishing.org.uk).**

I read with interest the item on the Bedfordshire connections of the CHAWORTH-MUSTERS family in the 19th and 20th centuries, '*From Maid to Mistress*', *Journal Vol 24, No 3, Sep 2023*. However, the author is incorrect in stating that the 1888 wedding of Patrick and Mary Anne SHARPE legitimised those of their children who were born before this marriage. Such a subsequent marriage of parents of illegitimate children did not provide legitimacy; this was possible only after the passing of the 1926 Legitimacy Act and even then certain conditions were necessary, some of which were modified by 1959 legislation. The family may well have enjoyed a cohesive unity, but had there been a dispute over inheritance between the children born before the marriage of their parents and those born after that marriage, the courts would certainly have found in favour of those born after the marriage, ie the legitimate children. In 1888 whilst there was no automatic right of inheritance, mostly certainly of title, for children whose parents who married after their birth, provision could be made for them by gift or a specific deed - but legally those children remained illegitimate for the remainder of their lives. In my lectures to family history societies on marriage, and in my book on this topic, I emphasise this as an advantage of our ancestors being married before children appear on the scene (at least until 1926, or perhaps 1959)!



Bedfordshire Family History Society has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions.

**[facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety](https://facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety)**

## LUTON'S BURR STREET – A FAMILY HOME

*Barry Neale*

Burr Street, in Luton's historic High Town district, is nowadays a rather unlovely collection of nondescript light engineering and vehicle workshops, for which the local authority doubtless has grand plans (as it has for the last half-century) for redevelopment. But from the mid-19th century it was at the heart of a rapidly burgeoning part of the town which helped to transform Luton into what Stephen BUNKER, the author, historian and university lecturer, has called 'Strawopolis'<sup>1</sup>. It was also where my direct ancestors came to settle in Luton, and which I remember well during the first decade of my own life, often visiting my grandparents.

Burr Street was named after a prosperous Luton landowning and brewing family. By 1811, the BURRs had established a brewery in Park Street, near their substantial family home on Park Square, commonly known as the White House, situated where the main entrance to the University of Bedfordshire now stands, and close to St Mary's Parish Church. (It is said that the clock on the church tower was moved so that it could be easily seen by the brewery workers, presumably to ensure strict time-keeping!) Around 1841, master brewer Frederick Burr, a grandson of the founder of the family firm, made available land in High Town, and the new street appears on an 1842 map of Luton. It remained at the heart of the High Town community for over a hundred years. (Frederick and his brother Charles also gave their names to other nearby streets – Frederick Street and Charles Street - which were developed soon after.)

Burr Street and its terraced housing, like so many of the cramped and crowded streets which began to spring up across Luton from the mid-19th century, was created primarily to house the many workers and families drawn to the town from nearby villages in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire by the thriving bonnet and related industries, and later by the construction of the new railway. An analysis of the 1851 census has shown that fewer than a third of the heads of ninety households in Burr Street were born in Luton; and that there were far more females than males between the ages of 10 and 30 in High Town – women and girls employed on seasonal work (described as sewers in the census returns) in the bonnet industry, and lodging with local families.

As Stephen Bunker has observed, Luton's development at this time was 'brash, brisk and unplanned', a place where people lived to work rather than worked to live. They needed homes, and if these were built quickly, speed was not matched by quality of construction. Conditions were far from satisfactory. A report in 1849 by an inspector from the General Board of Health highlighted appalling conditions of overcrowded housing in High Town, poor sanitation and inadequate drainage. Burr Street, the inspector reported, was 'seldom without fever, particularly at the southern end where the slaughter-house is situated.' Another report around the time from the local Board of Health referred to a large family in Burr Street sleeping in the same room where a corpse lay, a victim of fever. Bunker has described Burr Street as one of the poorest streets in Luton in the mid-19th century.

It was to Burr Street that Henry NEALE brought his family in 1891, and where his son,

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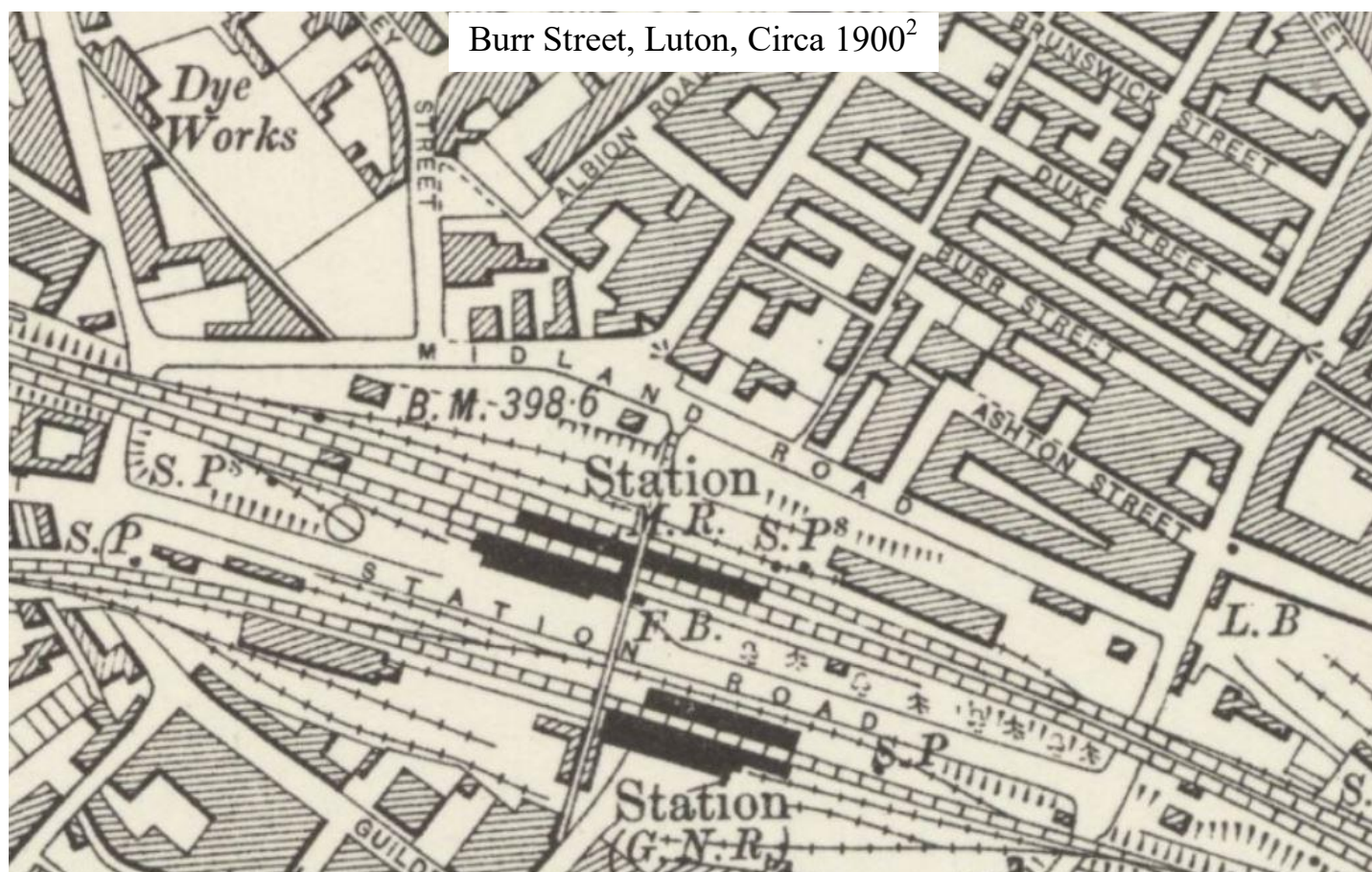
<sup>1</sup> Stephen Bunker, *Strawopolis: Luton transformed 1840-1876*, (Bedford, BHRS vol 78, 1999). Luton's development was built on the straw hat industry.



my grandfather, Charles (Charlie) was born in the same year. Henry had been born in Hockliffe, had married Helen SMITH in Chalgrave in 1887, and the family had lived in Hockliffe until moving to Luton. Henry established a milk and dairy business at 13 Burr Street, delivering milk first by means of a three-wheeled barrow ‘all polished brass with the churn in the middle and scoops hanging on the side’, according to a contemporary resident who remembered him, carrying a yoke across his shoulders; and later with a horse and cart enabling him to deliver further afield, after collecting milk from the nearby railway depot. Eventually my grandfather joined him in the business, and at one time the Neales occupied numbers 13 and 15 Burr Street as the family and business grew.

Henry was an enthusiastic Methodist lay preacher, and he was known to locals as the ‘midnight milkman’, since his deliveries often had to wait until late in the day when he travelled around Luton and neighbouring villages preaching the Word. Helen, his wife, served in the shop at the front of the house - there was a sitting and dining area behind the shop, with steps leading down to a kitchen/scullery at the rear of the house, and at the back a yard with a stable, sheds, a privy and a large dairy building where bottles were filled from churns, and the churns and bottles later washed and dried.

Henry died in 1931, by which time Charlie had taken over the business, which continued until the 1950s, the beginning of the end for Burr Street, which was earmarked for redevelopment for industrial purposes. Gradually, the houses were demolished, and by the end of the 1950s Burr Street and its community were gone. □



<sup>2</sup> Courtesy National Library of Scotland, [maps.nls.uk](https://maps.nls.uk). OS six inch England and Wales 1842 - 1852, Bedfordshire Sheet XXXIII.NW, Revised: 1899 to 1900, Published 1902



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Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
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So, to encourage more feedback from members at meetings we now have a suggestion box. For members who are not able to use the suggestion box we invite you to email us at [bfhs@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk).

Your committee appreciates any help, ideas or suggestions that you may have regarding any aspect of the BFHS organisation.

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The following email addresses are also available:

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