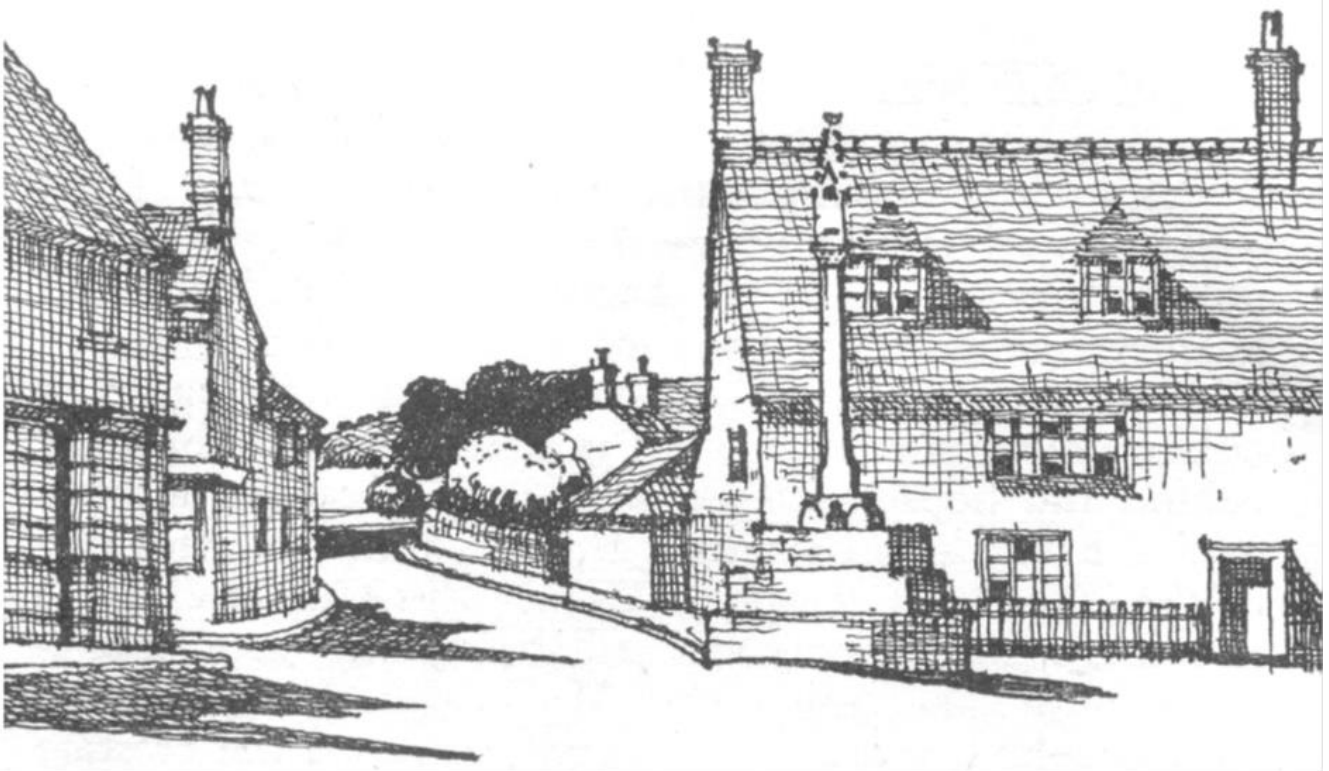


**Bedfordshire  
Family History Society  
Journal**

**Vol 24 No 1 Mar 2023**



Stevington Village Cross

**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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*Founded 1977*

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**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**



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**REMINDER**

The **CLOSING DATE** for articles to be published in the  
June 2023 *Journal* is **30 April 2023**.

(Articles submitted near the closing date may not  
be published until the following *Journal*)

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## PROGRAMME

**All talks are scheduled to take place at Mark Rutherford School (see page 15 for details). Doors open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.**

**RAF Henlow  
Edward Martin  
Friday 3 March 2023**



Edward (Ted) Martin is a retired Editorial and Production Manager for a major legal and academic publisher with over 60 years in the industry.

From its start at almost the end of the First World War until its possible closure in 2023, RAF Henlow was never in the front line and never had the glamorous status of Biggin Hill, Duxford or Hornchurch as a fighter station. However, it was essential to the survival of the RAF in the Second World War providing engineering and technical back-up. It also provided communications support in the Falklands conflict, trained many officers, had other essential roles and appeared in post-war films.

**In the name of God amen: wills for family historians  
David Annals**

**Friday 21 April 2023 (note date)**



Dave Annal is a professional researcher with over 40 years' experience. He is a former Principal Family History Specialist with the National Archives and he worked at the Family Records Centre for many years. In 2019 he was awarded a Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists. Dave has written a number of family history books including the bestselling beginner's guide *Easy Family History* and Pen & Sword's *Birth, Marriage & Death Records* (with Audrey Collins) and, with Peter Christian, he is the co-author of *Census: the Family Historian's Guide*. He is also a regular contributor to Family Tree Magazine where he runs the Family Tree Academy. Dave is a popular speaker on the family history circuit and has spoken at a number of major events including Who Do You Think You Are? Live and Rootstech, as well as giving regular talks to family history groups.

Whether your ancestors owned large swathes of land in the north of England or came from a more humble background in the West Country, the chances are that somewhere along the line some of them will have left wills. Wills are among the most important sources for family historians usually containing invaluable information about family relationships. This talk will look at how to access wills and how you can use them to get a better understanding of what life was really like for your ancestors.



## PROGRAMME (cont'd)

**Old Warden Parish**

**Margaret Roberts**

**Friday 5 May 2023**



From a Cistercian abbot in medieval stained glass to a 14th century bell, the parish church of St Leonard is packed with evidence testifying to its monastic heritage. This illustrated talk will take you on a journey from Norman times until the dissolution, examining the abbey's involvement in church management, its influence over the architecture, and seeking out those quirky features which remain hidden in plain sight.

The image is St Leonard watching over the nave from an early 14th century corbel.

**Annual General Meeting**

**followed by**

**19th Century Crime in Bedfordshire**

**Pamela Birch**

**Friday 9 June 2023 (note date)**



Pamela will chair the AGM and follow on with a short talk on 19th Century crime in Bedfordshire.

Pamela comes from a line of Bedfordshire agricultural labourers and was born and raised in the Bedfordshire parish of Stotfold. In 2005 she gained a Masters degree in Archive Administration via University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and since 2014 she has been the county archivist in charge of managing Bedfordshire Archives.

## A TOUCH OF ERMINE

*Barry Neale*

My great-great-grandparents, Frederick SHOOSMITH and his wife Elizabeth formerly HOWARD, were both born in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, and had married in 1850 in the City of London, but by 1861 they had moved to live in Luton, where Frederick set up a boot-making business on Market Hill. During the course of their marriage they produced eight children, including a successful hat manufacturer, a schoolteacher and educational author, two adventurers who travelled to live and work in Tsarist Russia - and my great-grandmother, Amelia, who married George HARMAN, a Luton Councillor and businessman who established a pawnshop-cum-jewellers-cum-gents' outfitters-cum-furnishers in Park Street, Luton. Born in Luton, I am proud to possess a few genes from the Shoosmith and Howard gene-pools.

But my family history research has thrown up some fascinating information from a slightly more distant branch of my tree, starting with Selina Howard, the sister of Elizabeth Shoosmith. In 1851 Selina married Francis KENT, a baker, and they lived in Harrow, producing fifteen children, one of whom, Howard, married Annie JOHNSON in 1895. By 1911, the Kents were living in the newly established Hertfordshire town of Letchworth, the first garden city (and coincidentally where I now live). By 1919, their daughter Margaret, a clerk in a corset factory (and my second cousin, twice removed), had met a young man from London who had come to work in a Letchworth market garden, perhaps in pursuit of his idealist principles. The couple married on 15 March 1919 at Hitchin Register Office. The groom's name was Herbert Stanley MORRISON.

Born in 1888, Herbert was to become a successful Labour politician in the first half of the 20th century: a Minister of Transport in the years after the First War; leader of London County Council; Home Secretary in CHURCHILL's wartime coalition; senior posts in Clement ATTLEE's post-war Labour government, including leader of the House of Commons, Lord President of the Council and Foreign Secretary; and he was deputy leader of the Labour party from 1945 to 1956. He was created a Peer in 1959, becoming Lord Morrison of Lambeth.

But Margaret's marriage to Herbert Morrison was not a happy one - he had a long-term affair with 'Red' Ellen WILKINSON, a fellow-MP (with whom he was living in Beaconsfield in 1939) - and extraordinarily he made no mention in his subsequent autobiography of either Margaret or their daughter, Mary, who was born in 1921. After Margaret's death in 1953, Herbert remarried, and he died in 1965.

Mary Morrison married George MANDELSON, a manager on the staff of the *Jewish Chronicle*, and their second son, Peter, was born in 1953. Like his grandfather, Peter became a very successful Labour politician, and held senior positions in the BLAIR government; and like his grandfather, Peter Mandelson was made a Peer, and sits in the House of Lords. He is my fourth cousin and I am his, although I doubt if he is aware of the fact! □



## A VICTORIAN VICAR OF STONDON

Tom Hughes

Reproduced from [victorianclericalerrors.blogspot.com/2022/08/she-never-more-will-return.html](http://victorianclericalerrors.blogspot.com/2022/08/she-never-more-will-return.html) by kind permission of Tom Hughes.

An early Victorian observer decried the ‘superfluity of naughtiness’ among the men of the Church of England. It was indisputable that whenever a clergyman was involved in a scandal of morals, the public attention it received was magnified exponentially. *Clerical Errors: A Victorian Series, Volume 2*, newly published in paperback and for Kindle, recalls the scandals that enmeshed five such Victorian clergymen.

‘If there be any man to whose happiness marriage is more necessary than to that of another, it is a country clergyman.’ Trollope wrote that in *The Bertrams*, one of his many novels that chronicled the Victorian clerical world. Certainly, it was always for the best when marital harmony reigned in the village rectory, if only as an example. In the course of human events, however, it is not always possible.



One Sunday morning in August 1871, the Rev Richard HULL, longtime rector of All Saints, in the Bedfordshire village of Stondon (pictured), stood in the pulpit to announce that his wife of 25 years had gone to London. ‘She never more will return.’ In such a small place as Stondon (Upper and Lower), the news would not have been totally unexpected. The rector invited anyone who wished for an explanation to meet him in the vestry on an appointed night that coming week.

James LONG came out that evening. A man of considerable wealth and position. Long farmed more than a thousand acres in Henlow, a village some distance away. Though not a parishioner, his late brother had been a churchwarden in Stondon. The Longs, as a family, were clearly partisans for the absent Mrs Hull. Before the vestry audience, Long asked the rector, ‘Are you aware’ of the various bits of gossip in the village? Was it true that Mrs Hull could no longer tolerate her husband’s drinking and physical abuse? What of the rumours linking Mr Hull with two village women, including a former servant. So rife was that talk, Long predicted the rector would likely be the victim of ‘rough music’, the typical rustic way of taunting suspected adulterers.

According to his Bishop, the rector’s domestic unhappiness was no one’s business and the vestry meeting had been a terrible mistake. However, with such serious accusations made public, Rev Hull would have to answer them or resign. A slander action was filed against James Long.

At the 1872 spring assizes at the County Hall in Aylesbury, the Rev Mr Hull stood in the witness box. He could not deny the latter years of his married life had been

miserable. His wife neglected the proper running of their household, whilst her extravagance and love of fancy company far usurped his income. They quarrelled frequently; she was 'one of the worst tempered of her sex.' They had agreed a separation was for the best; he would continue to support her and the children. Hull believed Long's real intention was to have the rector removed and replaced by his own son 'who plans to go into the church.' Under cross-examination, Hull admitted he had struck his wife, once or twice. As he put it, 'I boxed her ears.' He denied being drunk several nights a week. In fact, he had not been drunk since 1839. He and Lucy COOPER, the former housemaid, now a married woman, were just old friends, she helped cleaning the church, etc. He did not know that some believed he was the father of Lucy's first child. He most assuredly was not. As for being seen kissing a local woman named ASHBY, Hull scoffed, 'We're like brother and sister.'

The defendant, James Long, told the jury his entire role in Stondon was driven solely 'out of pure friendship' for Rev Hull. Personally, he did not believe any of the gossip, but the rector needed to know the rumours generated by his indiscreet conduct. It had gotten to the point that some of the locals were planning for 'rough music', which in Stondon's version, would have involved pelting the rector with 'dinosaur dung', from a local coprolite mine!

After several hours of testimony, the jury foreman rose to say they had already formed their verdict. Apparently, Chief Baron KELLY had too, 'If you think, as I do not hesitate to say that I think, that the object of the defendant was to induce the plaintiff to pursue a course which should not lead to the increase and exacerbation of these unpleasant rumours, then nothing that was said is actionable.' The verdict for Long quickly followed. The courtroom was filled by locals who made the journey and cheered the result.

Despite Rev Hull's courtroom defeat, the general takeaway was that all the rumours and gossip about his private life had been debunked. He returned to Stondon rectory. His first wife died rather suddenly. Waiting the proper interval, the rector remarried a solicitor's daughter. They soon had two young children capering about Stondon rectory where the Rev Mr Hull remained until his death in 1890.

No dung was flung at Mr Hull but other clergymen were treated to some 'rough music.' The Rev Mr HOWES of Bracknell, for instance. For more, see my earlier published collection *Clerical Errors, Volume 1*, but only Kindle editions are available.

## **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



## NOTES AND QUERIES

From Georgina Clark, [georginabc@icloud.com](mailto:georginabc@icloud.com)

My father was Hubert Clement RAINBOW b 1914 Shefford, Beds. His mother was Gertrude Fanny Rainbow b 1896 Shefford. She was not married and she did not claim under the poor law. Her parents had a public house, I think the Wheatsheaf. My father would never speak of his father but did know who he was. My father would not use his proper names except for official use. He was otherwise known as Jim and he put his grandfather as his father for his marriage register. Grandparents brought him up. His grandmother said his father was 'A local boy.'

I have found a Hubert CLEMENT b 1899 in Baldock, Hertfordshire. I think it is more than a coincidence to have the same name. I know he was young, at least 2 years younger than my grandmother. However, Baldock is not far from Shefford and he could have frequented the pub where Gertie lived. She would have thought he was older if he did go to that pub.

I have a DNA with *Ancestry* and downloaded to *My Heritage*. However, so far I have no definite connection. If anyone knew Hubert Clement I would like a photograph of him which I think would give me some idea if he looks like my father. In one BFHS *Journal* a Hannah Clement is mentioned. There could be nieces or nephews who have Hubert in a family photo. I cannot find a marriage for him and it appears he may have died in a Sanatorium in Harborn, Worcestershire in 1927. He had a sister Florence Kate SHARP and other names connected to Hubert were BROWN, MANN, LETTEN, LEE, POPE and COOPER. □

### BEDFORDSHIRE

#### Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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

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## WHO WAS MARGARET HOWE?

*Noel Evans*

Members may remember that several years ago I gave a talk entitled, 'Have I Found The Mad Preacher In The Family' and subsequently wrote a summary of the talk for this *Journal*. I had found the grave of Rev John PRICE in a group of graves in Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd churchyard in Monmouthshire. There were a total of eighteen names on the group of gravestones. Most of these I could link into the family tree of Rev John Price, some inscriptions stating their relationship to him.

For the benefit of newer members I will point out now that none of this story is connected with Bedfordshire. You are most unlikely to find any mention of a Bedfordshire ancestor here. I offer it to this *Journal* as you may find the ways in which I found the evidence to link together more names on the tree interesting.

I have prepared a version of the tree as I knew it when I gave the talk in a way which I hope is readable on an A5 *Journal* page. It shows that most of the names are linked together and that there are not many 'unknowns' but there are some missing links. James, Catherine and Frederick Price are detached from the rest and Margaret HOWE is all by herself.

In 2021 I decided it was time for me to visit the area again and see what else I could find out. I could combine that with some other places and people I wanted to visit but, of course, doing all the research you can from home to prepare for the visit saves time while you are there.

First, where was the Breconshire Record Office and when was it open? First snags: it is now the Powys Record Office, not in Brecon as I had expected but in Llandrindod Wells and because of Covid it was not open to visitors. Nevertheless I chose a village near Abergavenny as my base as this would be within reach of the various places I wanted to visit.

How many of my outstanding questions could I find answers to online before leaving home? I started with James (23 on the tree) and family. From the registers I already knew where they had lived, Quorn Farm, sometime recorded as 'Corn Farm.' My search found them on the census, James, Catherine, Frederick and two daughters. James Price was born in a village in Monmouthshire several miles north of Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd, nowhere near any village where others in my family had lived. I have found no suggestion of a link between James Price and his family to my family tree - yet.

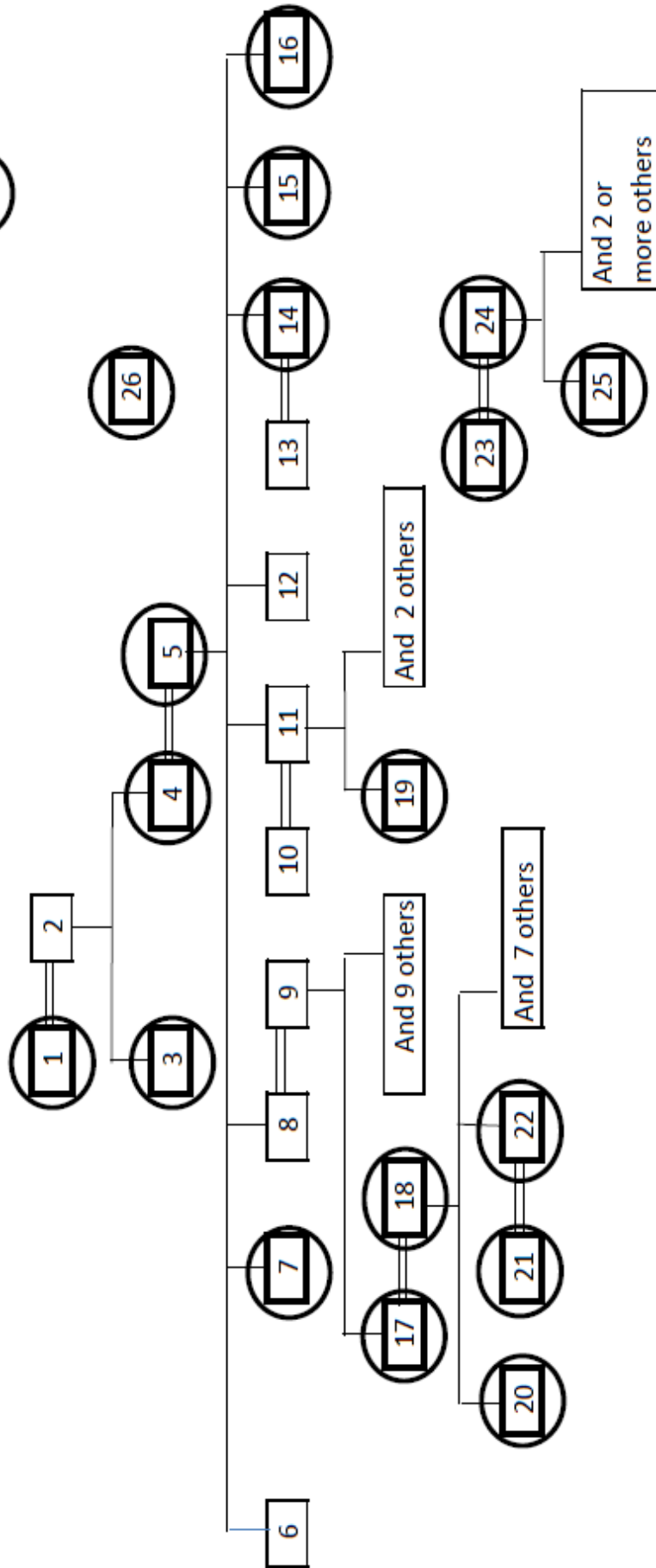
So who was Margaret Howe? The inscription on her gravestone is:

MARG<sup>T</sup>. JANE HOWE DIED FEB 13<sup>TH</sup> 1878 AGED 71 YEARS

The burial register says her 'abode' was Llanelwedd Nr Builth Wells. The obvious guess, from her birth year, 1807, is that she was the sister of Rev John Price and William. In the 1881 census Caroline Howe is a visitor at the home of Rev John Price, recorded as his niece. She was born in Crickhowell, Breconshire, her occupation was 'schoolmistress' and her age indicates she was born in 1838. In the 1891 census she is at the home of Matilda Price, recorded as her cousin. (Matilda's late husband was Noel Gwynne Price, John's son, which fits the niece and cousin relationships.) Again, she

"THE MAD PREACHER IN THE FAMILY"

Names on gravestones at Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd are marked



	(b.)	1775
1	John Price	1775
2	mother not yet known	
3	William Price	1795
4	John Price (Rev)	1804
5	Rachel Price	1807
6	John Price	1833
7	Bertha Price	1835
8	Noel Price	1836
9	Matilda Davis	1830

	(b.)	1837
10	William Morgan	1837
11	Emma Morgan	1840
12	James Price	1842, d. before 1851
13	(unknown) Hodges	
14	Mary Hodges	1844
15	Thomas Price	1845
16	Eliza Price	1849
17	Tom Price	1864
18	Emily Price	1864

	(b.)	1879, d. 1878
19	John Endel Morgan	1879, d. 1878
20	Noel Price	1893
21	Arthur Morgan	1899
22	Christine Morgan	1903
23	James Price	1869
24	Catherine Price	1869
25	Frederick Price	1903
26	Margaret Howe	1807

was born in Crickhowell, her occupation was 'schoolmistress' and her age indicates she was born in 1838.

I searched the census records for Margaret and Caroline Howe and found:

1851 The School House, Llangenny, Breconshire

Charles Howe	Head	46	Schoolmaster	Brecon, Llangenny (born)
Margaret J Howe	Wife	44	Schoolmistress	Brecon, Crickhowell
Henry Howe	Son	15	Banker's clerk	Brecon, Crickhowell
Caroline Howe	Dau	13	Scholar	Brecon, Crickhowell
Edwin W	Son	8	Scholar	Brecon, Crickhowell
Edgar	Son	9 mo		Brecon, Llangenny

I searched further censuses but found no more records of the family except for the entries for Caroline in 1881 and 1891, described above.

I searched for baptism entries, the only one I found was:

Brecon, Llangenny

Charles Howe      23 Sep 1804      Parents, John and Elizabeth

Surmising that Margaret had been born 'Margaret Price' I searched for her baptism in the area of Crickhowell around 1807. The nearest I could find was the baptism of 'Margaret, Dau of John and Elizabeth Price in Cwmiou, 27 Aug 1807.' At first this looks promising but Cwmiou is in Monmouthshire not Breconshire and it is closer to Abergavenny than to Crickhowell.

To add to my frustration I could not find the baptism of John Price (1804) in Crickhowell although I had seen it and made a note of it in Gwent Record Office years earlier. (Although Crickhowell is in Breconshire it is close to the border with Monmouthshire so Gwent Records kept a copy of the microfilm.)

It was time to start visiting. From my base at Pandy, just outside Abergavenny, I set out for Llandenny. It is up a narrow road which turns off the main road just after you cross into Powys. There in the middle of the village was the school and behind it the School House still keeps its name, both pictured overleaf. Carved above the central window is:

THIS SCHOOL WAS ERECTED BY VOLUNTARY  
CONTRIBUTIONS AIDED BY A GRANT FROM  
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY AD 1847.  
REBUILT 1886.

What could I find in Crickhowell? This time I didn't have a named building to look for. I could still explore the town, look for buildings which existed around 1800 and just get a general impression of what sort of town it had been.

Then I made my find; just a leaflet on a church notice board advertising THE CRICKHOWELL AND DISTRICT ARCHIVE CENTRE. The leaflet said that they had copies of the parish records and gave opening hours, phone number and email. I had missed the opening hours for that day so I phoned them the next morning. The lady listened to my questions and said that although I could visit the centre Covid rules meant that I would have to stand at the door, put the question to their volunteer who



would find the answer and come back to the door to tell me. It would be better to email all my questions; they would then email me the answers. They did like a donation for their work and I agreed with this. I did not have an internet connection in my caravan so I emailed my questions after returning home from Pandy a few days later. They replied that they had found the answers, I made a donation and they sent images of six documents.

From these I now have:

The marriage of John Price senior and the name of his wife (Margaret LEWIS).

Evidence that William and John Price had a sister Margaret Jane. (Three baptism records.)



The marriage of Margaret Jane Price to Charles Howe. (There may have been more than one Margaret Jane Price but on the marriage entry is the signature of John Price as witness. This is the same signature that occurs for years as 'Rector' in the Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd registers.)

I know when Rev John Price's mother died and where she is buried.

I now have good evidence to join Margaret Jane Howe and her daughter, Caroline, to the rest of my family tree.



St Edmund's Church  
Crickhowell

But as soon as you find some answers you find some more questions. The lady at Crickhowell Archives also sent this:

'In the church yard there is a stone which has almost worn away. The best I can make of it with help from the registers is... ..Margaret d'o ....have died Aug 14th 1828 aged 38 ...Howe have died March 13th ... aged 14 weeks Margaret Price w'o John Price of this town and grandmother of the above? died April 4th 1830 aged 68.'

Clearly something else to be investigated here. I will need to return to Crickhowell and go to the Archive myself.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The word contractions used on the stone are open to interpretation.

I have written this to emphasise that there is more to Family History research than you are likely to find in the internet. If you can, get out there and look for yourself. Soak up the atmosphere of the places where your ancestors lived. □

## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Stevington possesses several historic relics, including its windmill, its almshouses, its 'Holy Well', its stone houses and walls, and last, but not least, the subject of this picture - its Cross. The people of Stevington are to be congratulated on the preservation of at least a considerable part of the Cross, for only a few of our village crosses have survived the iconoclastic rage, first of the Reformers, and then the Puritans. What is unquestionably original in the Stevington Cross is the fine, tall, square shape with chamfered angles, together with the plinth and its trefoiled panels. The capital and tabernacle were part of the restorations effected to the Cross many years ago by the late Mr W Bartholomew HIGGINS, the lay rector.

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*



The sketch could well have been drawn yesterday the changes are so small. Stevington, a quiet and picturesque village in North Bedfordshire is made-up of a mixture of new and old houses. Some very quaint stone-built properties can be seen throughout the village. On the crossroads is the Red Lion public house and you are very close to the Stevington windmill and also not far from Bromham Mill. Make the time to have a walk round the area, you should not be disappointed. □





## 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)**

## OUR RETURN TO MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that the Friday night meetings of the BFHS have returned to Mark Rutherford School. The 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 again.

Returning to the school is subject to whatever COVID restrictions may be in place at the time and, of course, the weather!

**Please do not attend the meeting if you have a cough, fever, or other COVID symptoms.**

When attending, please be mindful and respectful of others and occupy seats with plenty of spaces. On entering and leaving, please maintain some social distancing out of courtesy to others. Although it is not a legal requirement to wear a face covering, the government advice and encouragement is that we wear them in indoor spaces where we gather with others who are not in our own household. Hand sanitisers will be available. Additional ventilation of the venue may be required so wrap up warm!

Where possible, talks held at the school will be live streamed 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.



## 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. 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).



## 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.

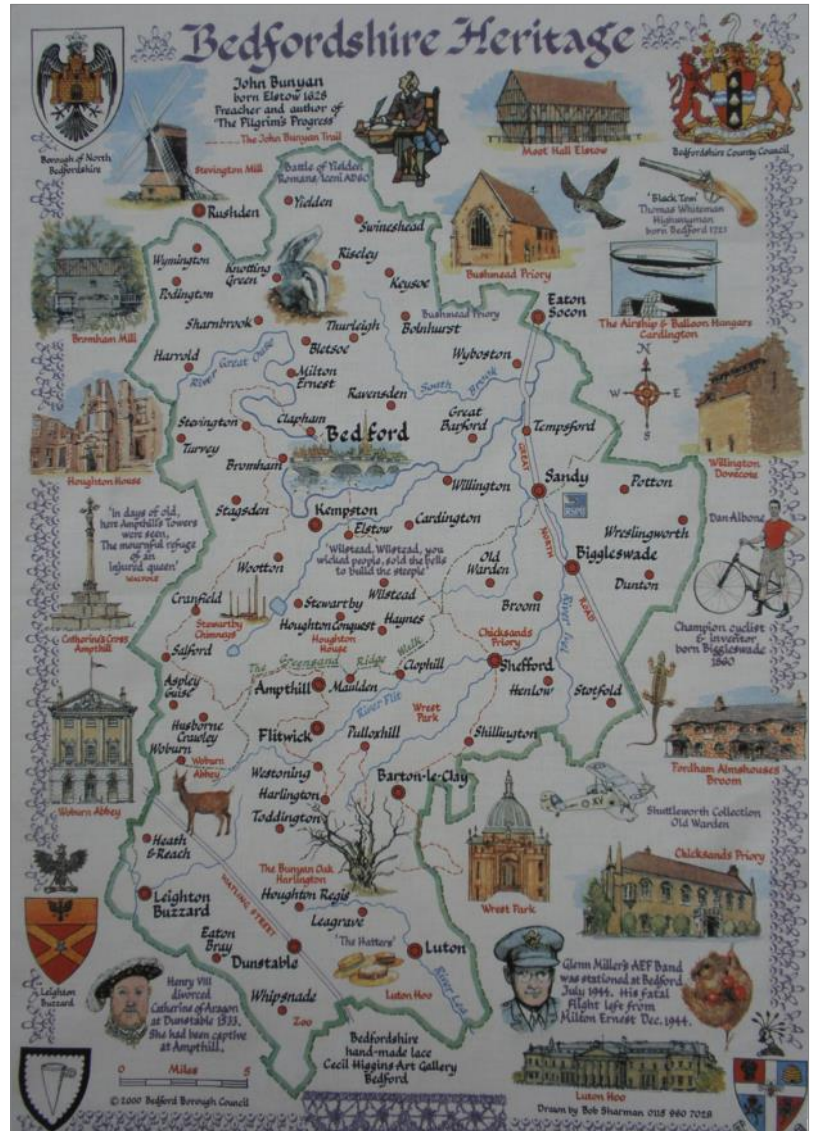
These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

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)

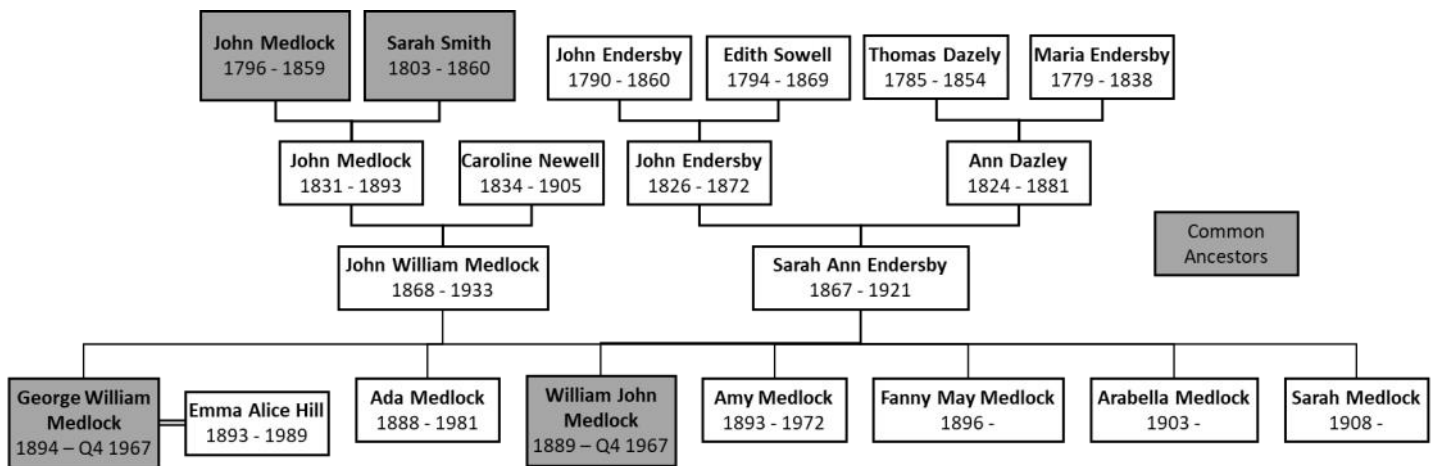


# RESEARCHING SOME BRAVE ANCESTORS PART 1

Graham Webster

Have you ever wondered when researching the xth cousin y times removed whether one is going too far to the fringes of the family tree? This happened to me when following up a particular branch of the Bedfordshire MEDLOCK tree when I realised I had reached my 7th cousins 2x removed; do I stop or carry on? In a way the choice was made for me when I discovered that they were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), and in one case subsequently captured in March 1918 and made a prisoner of war. I then found an 8th cousin 1x removed with a harrowing story from the Second World War. The cousins are William John Medlock and his brother George William Medlock, and their cousins Alfred James Medlock and Albert Edward Medlock; then there was William Medlock and in the next generation their cousin Alonzo Medlock whose story will be published in the June *Journal*.

William John was born 4 May 1889 in Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, to John William Medlock and Sarah Ann ENDERSBY.



John William was also born in Wrestlingworth in ca 1868 where he lived until the early 1910s; he married in Wrestlingworth on 17 October 1886 to an also local girl. William John first joined the forces in 1908 with the territorials Bedfordshire Regiment; he was a farm labourer for this occupation. As a reservist he was called up in August 1914 and as part of the British Expeditionary Forces was sent immediately to France as a private, service number 5769 of the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment;<sup>1</sup> some sources say 3rd Battalion.<sup>2</sup> His brother, George William, enlisted on 7 September 1914 in the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, Service number 2682.<sup>3</sup>

Meanwhile in October 1914, William John had written to his parents at Wood Farm, Cockayne Hatley, that he was well.<sup>4</sup> Later at the end of December he writes:

*We are having a lot of rain out here. We have plenty of fun in the trenches when it*

<sup>1</sup> William John MEDLOCK's service record on [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>2</sup> [Findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>3</sup> Sergt. Medlock returns *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 31 Jan 1919 via [Findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>4</sup> News of Cockayne Hatley man *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 16 Oct 1914 via [Findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk).

*is fine, but not so much when it is wet. We get a lot of rest at times, so we must not grumble, as we are fighting for a good cause. I think we have got the upper hand. We get plenty of food and also plenty of 'bacca and fags and presents. I don't suppose we shall be together at Christmas, but I shall not forget you all. May God bless you all until we meet again.*<sup>5</sup>

Two days later he writes:

*I am getting on as well as can be expected. I wish it was all over, I suppose we shall have to hang on. I get plenty to eat and that is the main thing. We do have a lot of rain, I don't think it can last much longer, if so I suppose we shall have to put up with it as long as we are fighting for a good purpose. We get plenty of presents from England, some good ones, such as shirts and pants. I received your parcel safely, it was very nice.*<sup>6</sup>

A week later it is reported that he writes that:

*...he is getting on fairly well considering the weather. I saw Cousin Fred [Fred Medlock, 8th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, Service number 25062, b ca Jan 1889, d 31 Oct 1916 and commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France]. He told me to remember him to you when we break up... Tell George [William Medlock, his brother] I will write to him when we see how things are going. We have a lot of wet and it is up to our knees in mud in the trenches in some places, but we shall pull through...*<sup>7</sup>

And later on, in January, his tone became even more morose:

*I shall be glad when it over. We are fed up with it. The trenches are so wet and muddy. The mud is up to our knees, it makes you think you were somewhere sometimes. We have two killed not three yards away from me. It made me think my time was next. We had about an hour's shelling. It was a bit hot. We were not above 20 yards away from the enemy. They are hot stuff. I am in tidy good health. One of the men had been wounded once and came back and the second day he was in the trench a shell burst and hit him on the arm and caught his mate beside him the leg.*<sup>8</sup>

We next see a record of William John when his parents receive a communication dated 16 June 1915:

*I regret to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that No. 5796 Pte W J Medlock, of the 1st Bedfords, was found by an ambulance party, 5th Division, on 26/5/1915 and placed under medical observation. I am at the same time to express the sympathy and regret of the Army*

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<sup>5</sup> Private W J Medlock *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 25 Dec 1914 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>6</sup> Private William J Medlock, C Company 1st Beds *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 8 Jan 1915 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>7</sup> Cousins meet at the Front *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 15 Jan 1915, p3 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>8</sup> Private W J Medlock *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 29 Jan, 1915, p3 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

*Council. Any further information received in this office as to his condition or progress will be once notified to you. W Hopkins, Major.*<sup>9</sup>

George William Medlock was born in Wrestlingworth on 5 June 1894. George William was sent to France in early October 1915 and was soon involved in the Battle of Loos, 25 September to 8 October 1915,<sup>10</sup> and subsequently fighting around Ypres where, on 17 June 1916, he says nearly the whole of his Battalion was lost.<sup>11</sup> It was during these encounters that he was promoted to Sergeant.<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, William John is discharged in May 1916 with, it is reported, shell shock after the battle for Hill 60, Ypres,<sup>13,14</sup> although in the record for his Silver War Badge (awarded to men who were honourably discharged under certain regulations)<sup>15</sup> the award is recorded for gas poisoning on 15 May 1916.<sup>16,17</sup> Other sources state he is discharged as a result of shell shock.<sup>18</sup>

George says he was fighting in the Somme in September 1916, where again his battalion was badly depleted. He recalls that ‘...[On] one occasion twelve men held the trench for six hours until dark when they were relieved.’ Later in the autumn of 1917 he says he was fighting in the St Quentin area, France, involved in a raiding party of 40 men to get information on the enemy. It was here that George received his DCM awarded on 2 December 1917:<sup>19</sup>

*Citation of Distinguished Conduct Medal: For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a raid after the officer was wounded. When most of the party were wounded, and he was superintending the withdrawal, three of the enemy attacked across the open. He jumped out of the trench and killed two with his revolver, and then successfully withdrew his party with all the wounded.*<sup>20</sup>

George wrote to his parents ‘I have just received the DCM for some good work, and am now wearing it.’<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Bad news for Hatley parents *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 25 Jun 1915 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>10</sup> Battle of Loos, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Loos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Loos).

<sup>11</sup> Sergt Medlock returns *ibid*.

<sup>12</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 31 Jan 1919 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>13</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>14</sup> Home on leave *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 1 Mar 1918 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>15</sup> Records of the Silver War badge, [longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/campaign-medal-records/records-of-the-silver-war-badge/](http://longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/campaign-medal-records/records-of-the-silver-war-badge/).

<sup>16</sup> [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>17</sup> UK, British Army World War I Pension 1914-1920, [Ancestry.Co.uk](http://Ancestry.Co.uk).

<sup>18</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>19</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>20</sup> *London Gazette*, Supplement 30601, 26 March 1918, Page 3866.

<sup>21</sup> Cockayne Hatley soldier wins DCM *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 14 Dec 1917, p3 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

Come March 1918 he was still fighting in the St Quentin area. He says that on 21 Mar 1918, when an enemy advance happened, there was a ten hour bombardment and in dense fog, two battalions were captured.<sup>22</sup> George escaped without wounds and after his officer was killed he took charge, and on 26 Mar 1918 he and the remaining soldiers in the battalion were taken prisoner;<sup>23</sup> his parents were informed in July 1918.<sup>24</sup> This was during the German Spring Offensive at the Battle of St Quentin from 21 to 23 March 1918, Operation Michael. This was a period of frenzied and desperate fighting. On the first day 3.2 million German shells were launched in five hours; fog covered the German advance; on the night of 21 and 22 March some British divisions were reeling, and dense fighting ensued. The next day dawned to a heavy mist and fierce combat did not prevent the Germans breaking through to the British reserve line by the evening. On the 23 March they were facing disaster with a near 40 mile breach in the their line with reserves ordered in.<sup>25</sup>

George recounts:

*When captured, the German officer gave orders for all our men to be shot. The officer that gave the order was shot by one of the prisoners. They were made to march for three days without food or drink, and had to sleep in a shed packed together nearly like sardines, and many died on the march. [I] worked behind the lines for two months, building roads and making trenches. All valuables were taken. About 50 lads out of the 1,000 died from cruelty and starvation.<sup>26</sup>*

He was then held at Damery. Black bread made of ‘sawdust’, potatoes, soup etc formed the diet. Some of the bread they ate had the year 1910 stamped on it. The sergeant in charge often used to strike each prisoner across the back with his sword.<sup>27</sup> On 28 May 1918 he is reported missing by the War Office.<sup>28</sup> George reports that on 6 June 1918 they were moved to the Stendal Prisoner of War Camp, 70 miles from Berlin.<sup>29,30</sup> They were moved in cattle trucks, 50 in each, for three days with only one meal. He worked there in the English parcels office.

George reports he is very well and asks his friends not to worry. He says he is being very well treated and is fairly well off for food up to the present.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>23</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross, [grandeguerre.icrc.org/](http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/)

<sup>24</sup> Sergt Medlock a war prisoner *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 28 Jul 1918 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>25</sup> Operation Michael, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Michael](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Michael).

<sup>26</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>27</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>28</sup> War Office Daily List 5577 - NLS 1918\_WList44, [deriv.nls.uk/dcn30/1941/5710/194157106.30.jpg](http://deriv.nls.uk/dcn30/1941/5710/194157106.30.jpg).

<sup>29</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>30</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross, [grandeguerre.icrc.org/](http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/).

<sup>31</sup> Sergt G Medlock DCM *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 24 Aug 1918 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).



In July 1818 George received his first *Biggleswade Chronicle Fund* parcel consisting of: beef, 1 lb bacon, Army rations, milk, 2 packets of Quaker Oats, 1 lb biscuits, soap, 50 cigarettes, tea, sugar, 1 lb milk and 10 lbs 4½ oz margarine.<sup>32</sup> Later in the year he reports he had received parcels 113, 114 and 115.<sup>33</sup> In all he received 20 parcels<sup>34</sup> and said the parcels saved his life.<sup>35</sup>

George left Germany on 28 Dec 1918, and reached Denmark on 30 Dec 1918. He reached Leith, in Scotland on 13 Jan 1919. During his time in France he saw his Battalion practically wiped out on four occasions.<sup>36</sup> It is worth mentioning that George only had two leaves from France in the four years he served in France.

After the War he married Emma Alice HILL in the autumn of 1920; she was born in 1893 and in the 1911 Census she was a housemaid in St George's Hannover Square, London. They lived in Sandy and Everton, Bedfordshire. In 1921 they were living at Hasells [Hazells] Grant Lodge, Everton, (pictured below in 2010)<sup>37</sup> and George was a private estate labourer.



By 1939, George was still working on the land as a woodman and still living with Emma at Hazell Hall Lodge (recorded as Hasell Hall Lodge), with it is presumed son William born in 1925. George and Emma continued to live on Everton Road, Sandy until at least 1964 but interestingly it is recorded that William stayed on to live at Hazell Hall Lodge until 1948. George died in late 1967 and Emma in November 1989; they are both buried in St Mary's churchyard, Everton, Bedfordshire.

Meantime, William John continued to live in Cockayne Hatley after his discharge with his parents, while they were still alive. In 1923 he was working for a Wrestlingworth baker, living in Cockayne Hatley, getting caught out for short weights of loaves:

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<sup>32</sup> Parcels for new members of our family *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 12 Jul 1918 via **Findmypast.co.uk**.

<sup>33</sup> Our Letter bag *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 25 Oct 1918 via Findmypast.co.uk.

<sup>34</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>35</sup> Sergt Medlock's return *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 24 Jan 1919 via **Findmypast.co.uk**.

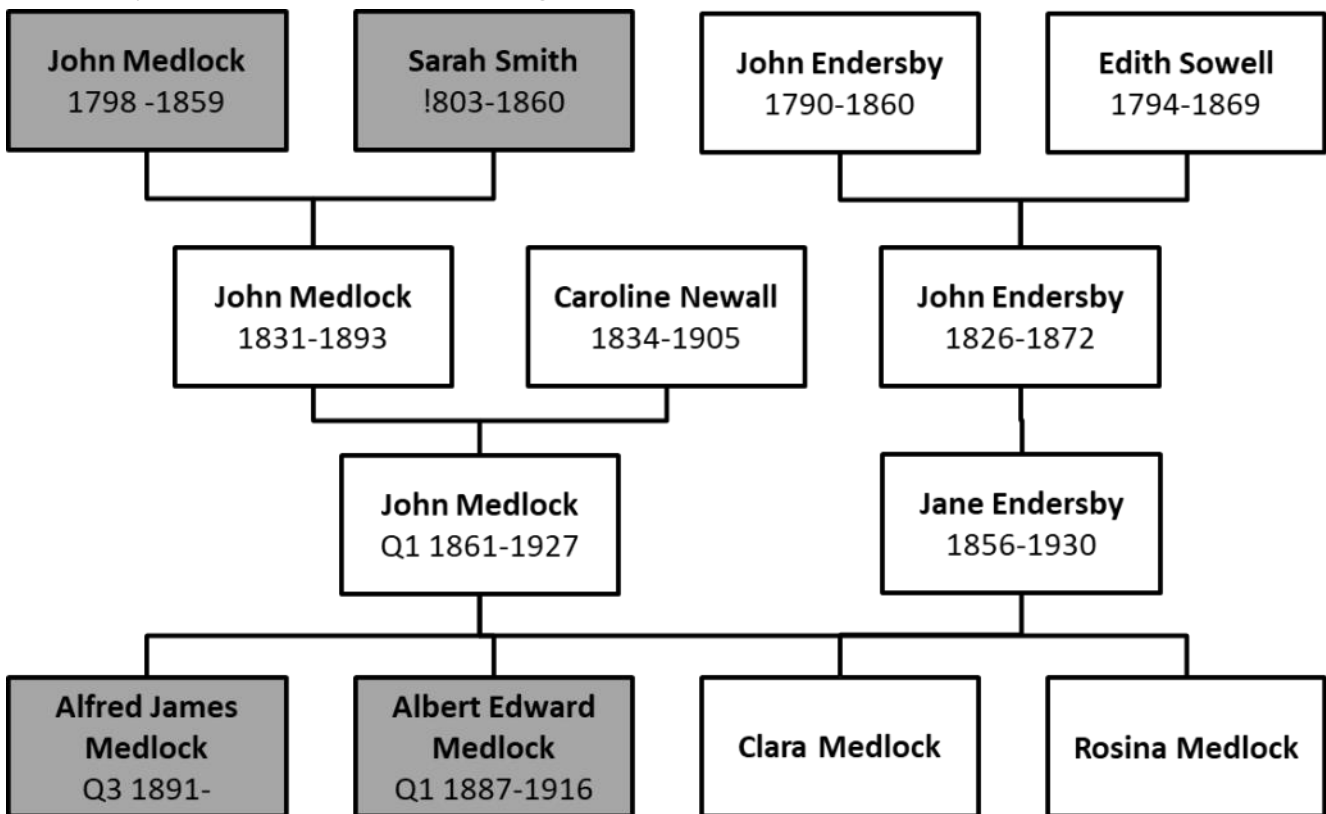
<sup>36</sup> Experiences of a prisoner of war *ibid*.

<sup>37</sup> [bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/CommunityHistories/Sandy/HazellsLodgeSandy.aspx](https://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/CommunityHistories/Sandy/HazellsLodgeSandy.aspx)

...[stopped] a bread cart...in charge of a man named W J Medlock, at Wrestlingworth. Witness asked to buy a 2 lb loaf and the employee said 'What sort do you want?' Witness said, 'I don't mind the shape so long as it is a 2 lb loaf'. Medlock then handed him the 'tin' loaf (produced), without weighing it, and charged him 4d for it. He then told Medlock who he was [County Inspector of Weights and Measures] and weighed the loaf in his presence. It weighed 1 lb 14 oz, or 2 oz short of 2 lb. [William R KEALEY, baker, Wrestlingworth] said Medlock was his employee. The Chairman: 'You should have exercised extra and special supervision over your new man to see that this thing did not occur.'<sup>38</sup>

In 1939 he was a farm labourer in Cockayne Hatley; he died late 1967.

While we are able follow George and William John after the War, unfortunately not so for their cousins, Alfred James Medlock and Albert Edward Medlock. Albert Edward and Alfred James were brothers; Albert was born early 1887 in Wrestlingworth and Alfred in the autumn of 1892 in the same village. Their father, Jonah, brother to John William above, was born late 1861 in Wrestlingworth and married a local girl, Jane Endersby, their mother, in Wrestlingworth on 24 December 1884.



Before the outbreak of war both Albert and Alfred lived in Cockayne Hatley where they followed the family tradition and worked as farm labourers. In 1915 the brothers enlisted at Ampthill and trained at the Bedfordshire Training Depot.<sup>39</sup> Albert was

<sup>38</sup> Wrestlingworth baker in trouble *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 27 Jul 1923 via Findmypast.co.uk.

<sup>39</sup> WWI – Bedfordshire Training Depot in Ampthill Park – the Medlock brothers of Wrestlingworth, [tommysfootprints.com/tag/ampthill-camp/page/2/](http://tommysfootprints.com/tag/ampthill-camp/page/2/).



drafted to the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment as Private 22099 whilst Alfred James joined the 4th Battalion as Private 23539. The family lived at 64 Village Street, close by the Queen Victoria pub.<sup>40</sup> Albert was wounded by a gunshot to the spine, possibly during the Battle of Morval (25 to 28 September 1916),<sup>41</sup> and cleared back to England in October 1916 to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire. Father, Jonah, visited him there on 9 and 10 October 1916, but he died on 14 October 1916 at the hospital. His body was repatriated to Wrestlingworth on 17 October 1916 and was buried the following day in St Peters Churchyard in Wrestlingworth.<sup>42, 43</sup>

On Albert's death his father was paid a war gratuity of £11 3s 5d, which has a current purchasing power of about £900.<sup>44</sup>

Six months later, younger brother Alfred was killed in action on 20 April at Arras,<sup>45</sup> probably during the The Battle of Arras (also known as the Second Battle of Arras) from 9 April to 16 May 1917,<sup>46</sup> and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. His parents were living at Yewtree Cottage, Wrestlingworth, at the time.<sup>47</sup>

But what about the other William Medlock, also in the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment? Newspaper reports at the time stated he '...was the first Luton man to be awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for gallant conduct, earned with the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment at Neuve Chapelle on October 29, 1914.'<sup>48</sup> It was during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, part of the First Battle of Ypres, that William displayed gallantry that earned him the DCM:

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<sup>40</sup> Wrestlingworth's Commonwealth War Graves Village Link Oct-Nov 2018, no 160, p10, [wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/01/village\\_link\\_Oct\\_Nov\\_2018-2.pdf](http://wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/01/village_link_Oct_Nov_2018-2.pdf).

<sup>41</sup> Battle of Morval, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Morval](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Morval).

<sup>42</sup> The late Pte Albert Edward Medlock *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 27 Oct 1916, p3 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>43</sup> Private A Medlock [cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2746013/a-medlock/](http://cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2746013/a-medlock/).

<sup>44</sup> Wrestlingworth's Commonwealth War Graves Village Link Oct-Nov 2018 *ibid*.

<sup>45</sup> WWI – Bedfordshire Training Depot in Ampthill Park – the Medlock brothers of Wrestlingworth *ibid*.

<sup>46</sup> Battle of Arras (1917), [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Arras\\_\(1917\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Arras_(1917)).

<sup>47</sup> Private Alfred James Medlock, [cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/780916/alfred-james-medlock/](http://cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/780916/alfred-james-medlock/).

<sup>48</sup> Medal awarded to twice wounded Lutonian *Luton Reporter* 3 May 1915 via [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk).

*For gallant conduct at Neuve Chapelle on 29 Oct 1914 when he accompanied another man [Joseph GOODMAN] and set fire to a farm-house occupied by about 50 of the enemy whilst exposed to heavy fire. The enemy were thereby forced to leave the farm, which was an important tactical position.*<sup>49</sup>

He was born, it is believed as William George Eastway, in the middle of 1883 in Edworth, Bedfordshire to Emily Louisa Medlock. He lived in Edworth as a farm labourer with his grandfather, George, until after 1911 but moved to Leagrave, Bedfordshire, when he married Gladys May GODDARD in the autumn of 1912 in Luton.<sup>50</sup>



In 1912 he is employed as a grinder with the Skefko Ball Bearing Company Ltd in Leagrave Road, Luton, and was there at the outbreak of war. Sadly, it is reported his wife, child and mother all died in a short period - his wife, early 1914 - and he moved to lodgings at 22 Ash Road, Luton.<sup>51</sup> Also known as Will, he was called up, as a reservist, in August 1914 to the 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, Service number 8187 and pictured left.<sup>52, 53</sup>

When he knew he was to receive the medal for his gallant deed, he sent a postcard to one of his mates telling him there was a surprise in store, and put on the card the letters DCM. When William wrote in April 1915 about it, he was in a hospital in Rouen with influenza and bronchitis about to go to a convalescent

home.<sup>54</sup> In November 1915 he is also reported to have been wounded in his left shoulder and entitled to wear a 'wound stripe.' In April 1916 he is also admitted to 14 Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds.<sup>55</sup>

He lived at 7 Princess Street, Luton, immediately after the War. This was the address of Walter DARBY, William's wife's stepfather who married Gladys' mother, Mary Ann Goddard nee WOODWARD in 1895 in Luton. William moved to Edworth, Bedfordshire in the early 1920s living there for the rest of his life with his grandfather

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<sup>49</sup> *London Gazette*, Supplement, 3 Jun 1915, p5353.

<sup>50</sup> **Ancestry.co.uk**.

<sup>51</sup> DCM for Luton and Dunstable men *Luton Reporter*, 14 Jun 1915 via **Findmypast.co.uk**.

<sup>52</sup> Ex-SKEFKO man awarded DCM, **worldwar1luton.com/blogs/deejaya?page=81**.

<sup>53</sup> Pte W Medlock DCM *Luton Times and Advertiser*, 25 Jun 1915, p9.

<sup>54</sup> Medal awarded to twice wounded Lutonian *ibid*.

<sup>55</sup> Forces War Records.

(until his death in 1927) and mother. He is recorded as a farm worker. He died in 1961 and is buried St George, Edworth, graveyard in the village; mother and sister are also buried there.<sup>56</sup> His second wife, Marjorie HOLLANDS, continued to live in Edworth after William died and moved away as she aged, but was also buried in the same graveyard after she died in July 1989.

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<sup>56</sup> St George Churchyard, Edworth, Bedfordshire, [findagrave.com/memorial](https://findagrave.com/memorial).

## **BEDFORDSHIRE'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS RECORDS**

*Paul Woodcraft*

By the time you read this we would have added a further 2000 names to our main index. This brings the total to over 5000. So, if you could not find a family member before, then go to the Members Portal on our website [bfhs.org.uk](https://bfhs.org.uk) and have a further look. If you have not registered and received a password before, go to the members portal on the website and complete the form. We will then send you your password.

We would remind you that we have currently access to T & E Neville Limited ledgers (Now Neville Funeral Services) from 1905 to 1955 and A L & G Abbotts Limited 1904 to 1980. It is also pleasing to advise that we now have access to John Saunders and Son ledgers from 1890 to the current date. It is understood that Neville Funeral Service will be lodging further ledgers with Bedfordshire Archives sometime this year.

We are currently working on Neville Funeral Service 1917 and 1918 ledgers.

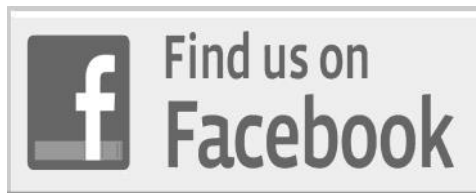
### **Request For Help**

With the increased numbers of ledgers to transcribe we are looking for volunteers to help with this work. You do not need to live in Bedford as this work will be undertaken via Internet using Microsoft excel for the main index. If you are able and would like to sign up for this activity, then please contact me on [distribution@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:distribution@bfhs.org.uk).

### **Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer**

If you pay your **2023** membership by SO or BT please drop an email to [treasurer@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bfhs.org.uk) to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type.

Your help would be appreciated.



Bedfordshire Family History Society now has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions visit:

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

## **BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS**

Many new computers do not have CD drives so we are pleased to announce that all our CDs are now available for sale as downloads from Parish Chest and Genfair.

The available downloads include all 128 Bedfordshire Parish Registers, Bedfordshire Nonconformist Registers, Marriage Licences, Poor Law papers, BFHS back Journals Vol 1-19 with an index to surnames and subjects, and the four Bedfordshire Will books. BFHS Journals volumes 20-23 are available free in the Members' Portal of the BFHS website.

To access the stores directly please visit **[parishchest.com](http://parishchest.com)** or **[genfair.co.uk](http://genfair.co.uk)**, although the simplest way of accessing a BFHS download is to visit our website [bfhs.org.uk](http://bfhs.org.uk) then select 'Online Stores'. If you then select Parish Chest the majority of the downloads are to be found in the 'Downloads' folder, but Poor Law, Journals and Wills book are listed under the appropriate folder located down the left hand side of the screen. If you select Genfair, the downloads are listed alongside the CDs in the relevant section. Both stores have a search feature and the content of each product is given. Downloads are the same price as the CDs.

BFHS has produced a resource to help in finding your missing relations. If they were baptised or buried before 1852 or married before 1837 (and in some cases later) in Bedfordshire and appear in the Parish Registers, then they will appear on our Surnames CD, available as a free download on the home page of **[bfhs.org.uk](http://bfhs.org.uk)**. Alternatively, the CD is available for only £10 including UK P&P, from Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB, enquiries to **[bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)**.

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes listed below are available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB,  
or **[bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)**

Each CD or download contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

Baptisms at least 1813-1851 (some parishes all up to 1851)

Marriages up to 1885; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire

CDs marked † also contain Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) from a graveyard in the

parish (church, chapel or cemetery). Those marked \* contain records from the registers or graveyards of Nonconformist chapels in the parish, photographs, and other records are included as available.

‡ Holwell: MIs and Burials only, not Registers (now in Herts).

Prices include UK or overseas post and packing. The cost of a full set of Parish CDs is £1,250.

Any recently revised CDs are indicated by the issue number in bold. **Please note that CDs will no longer be updated** whereas downloads will be updated when more indexes and any new MI listings become available.

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Clifton	£20	3	Kempston	£15	3
Clophill †	£15	3	Kensworth †	£15	2
Cockayne Hatley	£10	2	Keysoe † *	£15	2
Colmworth †	£10	2	Knotting	£10	2
Cople †	£10	2	Langford	£15	2
Cranfield † *	£15	2	Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	6
Dean † *	£15	1	Lidlington †	£10	2
Dunstable † *	£15	2	Little Barford †	£10	1



Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
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Knotting	£10	2	Shillington †	£15	2
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## SUGGESTION BOX



Your committee is continually looking for ways to improve what is offered to members and following the useful responses from the recent Members' Questionnaire, we thought how could we keep the ideas coming.

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. □

## WHERE TO FIND US

Correspondence for the Executive Committee should be addressed to the appropriate person and sent to:

### Bedfordshire Family History Society

<b>PO Box 214</b> <b>BEDFORD</b> <b>MK41 8WB</b>	<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://bfhs.org.uk">bfhs.org.uk</a> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk">bfhs@bfhs.org.uk</a>  <b>Web Sales:</b> <a href="http://parishchest.com">parishchest.com</a> <a href="http://genfair.co.uk">genfair.co.uk</a>
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The following email addresses are also available:

<b>chairman@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>secretary@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>treasurer@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>journal@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>librarian@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>membership@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>progsec@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>bookstall@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>publicity@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>research@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>searches@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>gdpr@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>social@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>webmaster@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>distribution@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>surname.interests@bfhs.org.uk</b>	Society Chairman & Information Manager Society Secretary Society Treasurer Journal Co-ordinator Society Librarian Membership Secretary Programme Secretary All BFHS Publications Sales Enquiries (CDs, Books) Publicity Officer Research Co-ordinator Search Co-ordinator Information Manager Social Events Organiser Society Webmaster Journal Distribution Surname Interests
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