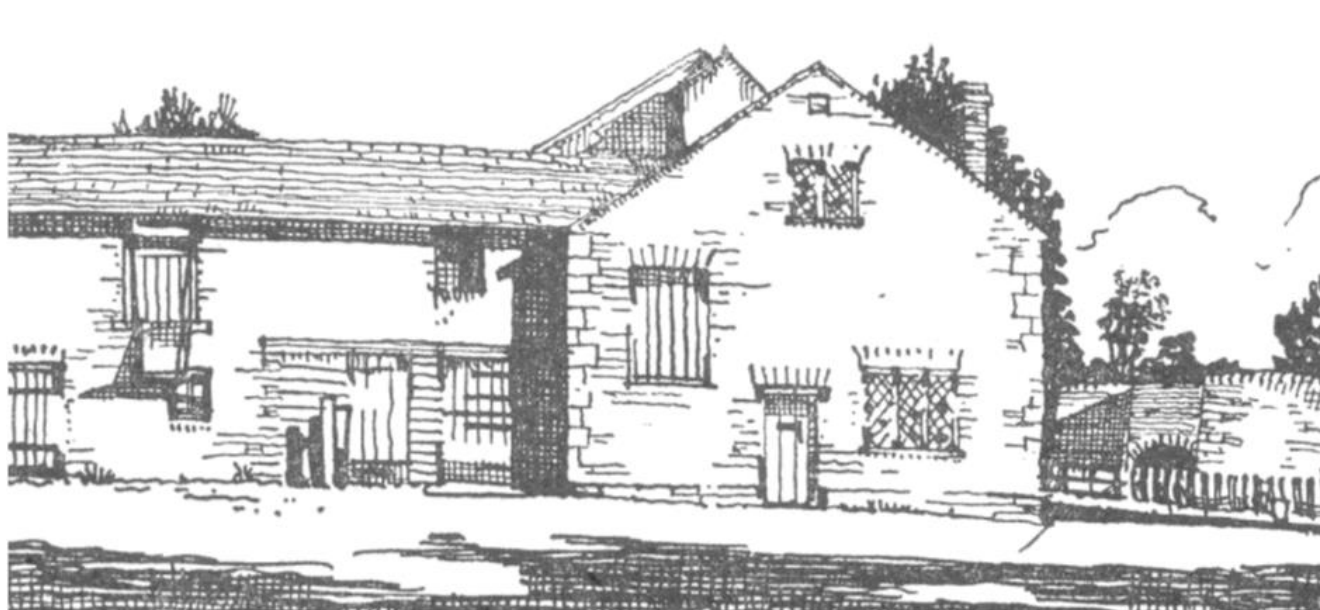




**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 24 No 6 Jun 2024



Bromham Mill

**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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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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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 the December 2023 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.

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 this 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. We are fortunate that an existing member has offered to undertake this role because under our constitution the society could not continue to function. However, there are other opportunities for you to volunteer for the Society and involves only giving a few hours of your time each week. Paul Woodcraft is stepping down as Journal Distribution Manager and Funeral Directors Project Leader, and we are also seeking a Vice Chairman to support the Chairman's 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.

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 this role, or wish to offer help, please contact the Chairman, Mark Tresidder via email at chairman@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

BFHS VOLUNTEER VACANCIES (cont'd)

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.

JOHN PARTRIDGE

Sadly, we have been informed of the death of John Partridge, until recently the Society Librarian and custodian of our Facebook page. An obituary will be in the September Journal .



TALK PROGRAMME

All talks are hybrid meetings taking place physically at Mark Rutherford School and virtually via Zoom.

Doors at the school open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.

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 as a video recording on the website in the members' portal, subject to approval by the speaker.

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





TALK PROGRAMME (cont'd)

AGM

and accompanying short presentation (tba)

Friday 7 June 2024

British Newspapers

Denise Bates

Friday 5 July 2024



I was born in Sheffield. I studied Modern History at St Anne's College, Oxford, where I specialised in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A few years as a Chartered Accountant followed, until I swapped paid employment for bringing up a family, and a range of community roles. During this time I wrote features on subjects including child welfare, school governance and IT for children, and reviewed books and software. When I returned to work it was to the charitable sector.

Discovering our family trees rekindled my passion for history. When an opportunity arose to research and write about the hidden world of the women

who used to work underground in coal mines I decided to take it. *Pit Lasses* challenged a century of misconceptions about these hardy women and their lives.

Breach of Promise to Marry explores what sort of women were the real Miss Havishams and what suing for damages after a broken engagement reveals about the social values of the time. It was inspired by reading about two very different breach of promise cases in a Victorian newspaper.

Historical Research Using British Newspapers stemmed from my practical experience of researching *Pit Lasses* and *Breach of Promise to Marry* and the very positive reaction to some blogs about newspapers as historical sources which I wrote for *The British Newspaper Archive*.

I now research and write books and articles and give talks. My key areas of interest are British social history, newspapers, and fiction and the media as historical sources.

tba

Friday 6 September 2024



TALK PROGRAMME (cont'd)

History of your ancestral home

Dr Nick Barratt

Friday 4 October 2024



Dr Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster and historian best known for his work on BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are*. He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, the Director of Senate House Library (University of London), a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. His latest publication, *The Restless Kings*, explores the reigns of Henry II, Richard I and John.

This guide to researching the history of a house, old or new, is for anyone who is interested in historical properties, from their own house to stately homes. It explains how to explore the many sources of information available to the amateur house detective, including the three great land surveys of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the records of the Land Registry, and conveyancing documents. For the more advanced researcher tax and manorial documents provide records of properties dating back to the medieval period. More modern dwellings can be studied through building plans, local directories, electoral lists and rate books. Use this guide to put together the fascinating story of your home, including who built it and when, details of previous occupants and even clues to their choice of interior decoration!

Discovering Robert Keable, Utterly Immoral WW1 Chaplain and writer Simon Keable-Elliott

Friday 8 November 2024 (note date)



Educated at Sherborne School and Durham University, Simon first worked in Fleet Street - as a barman - before managing restaurants in Mayfair, Hampstead and Putney. He owned and ran a café-bar-restaurant in West Norwood for 8 years before re-training as a teacher, spending 25 years as Head of Politics at a secondary school in Croydon. He has written articles for *Genealogy Today*, *The Church Times*, *The History News Network*, *The Beresford Family Society Magazine*, and *The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*. He is an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society and also a regular speaker at events run by Western Front Associations, U3As and Family History Societies.

In his talk Simon discusses the life and work of the 1920s novelist Robert KEABLE, a well respected writer and priest before and during the First World War who wrote the bestselling scandalous novel *Simon Called Peter*. The novel is featured in *The Great Gatsby* and was turned into a Broadway play and the sequel into a Hollywood movie. The success of the novel allowed Keable to run away to live in Tahiti writing six more novels and eventually marrying a Tahitian princess.

A TALE OF LOOSE ENDS

David Williams

Some years ago when I was nearing the end of my research into my paternal family tree, I noticed two apparent loose ends. This article describes what happened when I tried to tie them up, and instead unravelled a complex and still not entirely clear story from the early years of the last century.



My great grandfather, George WILLIAMS (in uniform), his wife Maria and his older children, taken about 1887. His eldest son, George Alfred, is standing on his father's right. I have no photograph of him as an adult.

Like many of my Williams ancestors, my great uncle, George Alfred Williams, was a soldier. His father, George Williams, served in the Army for nearly 40 years, retiring as a Sergeant Major in the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1908. George Alfred, born in 1880, was his eldest son and joined up straight from school, eventually becoming a Sergeant in the Pay Corps. His parents had been living for some years at 52 Spring Road, Kempston, adjoining the Barracks where George (senior) was based, and further along the same road at Number 89 lived the CHAMBERS family, consisting in 1901 of Alfred Chambers, a railway labourer, his wife Louisa and three daughters. That presumably explains how George Alfred got to know the eldest of these, Rose Hannah Chambers, born in Bromham in 1876. They were married at St Mary's, Bedford, in 1905, and soon had two daughters, Gwendoline Lottie (Gwen) and Doris May, born in 1906 and 1908 respectively.

Gwen and Doris as children, taken about 1914



Now, however, the story takes on a sadder note. On 22 July 1908, George Alfred died in the Barracks Hospital at Kempston, from Bright's Disease, a condition affecting the kidneys that was, according to his obituary in the *Bedfordshire Times*¹, contracted

¹ 29 July 1908

while serving abroad. That left Rose a young widow with two small daughters, the younger, Doris, being only three months old.

Gwen and Doris were, in fact, the two loose ends mentioned earlier. By the early 2000s I had traced the main lines of my paternal tree as far as was practicable but realised that I was unaware of what had happened to Gwen and Doris, beyond a family report, from relatives since passed away, that neither had married and that both lived latterly in Derby. So I sent away for their death certificates and found that they had indeed both died in Derby, unmarried, Doris in 1953 and her sister in 1989. But I was not prepared for the details of the informants on the certificates. On Doris's, it was 'Harold Williams, brother' and on Gwen's, 'David Williams, nephew'. These ladies, as far as I was aware, were their parents' only children and I knew nothing of a remarriage by Rose after George Alfred's death. In the 1911 census she was shown as a widow, living in Honey Hill Road, Bedford, and described as a boarding house keeper. So who were these informants, one of them my namesake?

I soon found the birth registration of Harold Williams, mother's maiden name Chambers, who was born on 13 August 1915 in Chelmsford, Essex. His birth certificate (see next page) confirmed that his mother was Rose Williams, but she named the child's father as 'Herbert Williams (deceased), Sergeant in Army Pay Corps'. I have found no trace of Rose having married anyone of this name, and there is no deceased Herbert in my family at this period; had she coincidentally married a man with the same surname, as well as precisely the same rank and regiment, as her late husband? If so I have found no trace of it. The likelihood seems to be that Harold was illegitimate and that his mother had moved to Chelmsford, a town where she may not have been known, to have the baby; in 1915 few registrars are likely to have queried the story of an apparently new war widow with a new baby.

Moving forward, I traced Harold's marriage in Derby in 1939, to Evelyn May PALFREE, with whom he was to have at least two children including a son, David, no doubt the nephew who was the informant many years later on his aunt Gwen's death certificate. But on his marriage certificate (see next page), Harold's father was shown as 'George Williams, deceased, Sergeant Major, Army Pay Corps'. Adding an extra promotion to your alleged father's CV is one thing, but claiming a father who died seven years before you were born is quite another. Clearly this entry was wrong, and Rose at least must have known it was wrong; Doris, who was a witness, may have known too.

My next stop was the 1939 Register for the Derby area, in which I found Gwen and Doris Williams living at 90 Stenson Road, working respectively as a teacher and a shop assistant; the dates of birth tallied with those I already knew. But at the same address I found Rose Hannah ELDER (sic) and Alexander Elder. Rose's birth date also tallied, but who was Alexander Elder? His date of birth was given as 28 June 1884 and he was a fitter's labourer. Both he and Rose were shown as married (although in this register one cannot be sure that this was intended to mean to each other). Harold and his new wife Evelyn were also shown, living at 2 Midland Road, Derby, and again Harold's date of birth matched up².

² National Archives ref RG101/5879d

Thirteenth August 1915	Herbert Williams	Rose Williams	Sergeant in Army	R. Williams Mother
22 Nelson Road Chelmsford n.d.	Harold Boy (deceased)	Fortmerly Chambers	Pay Corps	22 Nelson Road Chelmsford 1915

Harold's birth certificate, 1915, showing an otherwise unknown father, the allegedly deceased Sgt Herbert Williams.

Marriage solemnized at the Register Office, Beckat Street
District of Derby in the County Borough of Derby

When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname
Seventeenth April 1939	Harold Williams Pickin May Pachey (D)	23 Years	Bachelor	Electrician Welder	7 Western Park Avenue, Alvinton	George Williams (deceased)
		26 Years	Spinster	book (Proclaimant)	58 Wolfe Street Derby	Frederick Pachey (D)

Harold's bizarre marriage certificate, claiming that his father was a man who died seven years before his birth.

Further research led me to the records of the Normanton Cemetery in Derby, where I found a record of four burials in the same plot: Rose Hannah Elder, buried in July 1944, aged 67; Alexander Elder, August 1949, 65; and the sisters Doris (1953) and Gwen (1989)³. A death notice for Rose described her as a ‘beloved wife and mother’⁴, and Alexander’s death certificate in 1949 showed Harold as the informant, described as his ‘stepson’. But there was no trace of Rose Hannah Williams marrying Alexander Elder in the UK.

I went back to see if I could find any mention of Alexander in Bedford, and discovered that in the 1918 and 1919 Electoral Registers⁵ an Alexander Elder was listed at 54 Ford End Road, very close to where Rose had been living in 1911. Rose herself appeared at that address in the registers for 1920 to 1924 (before 1918 she would not have been eligible to vote), but not Alexander. Was she still taking in lodgers? Was that how they had met? What had brought him to Bedford? Then I found an even earlier apparent local reference to Alexander Elder; on 15 May 1914, a man of that name was summonsed for non-payment of rates at Bedfordshire Petty Sessions Court⁶. This suggested that he had been in the Bedford area before the start of the Great War; and it increased my inevitable suspicion that he was Harold’s father.

Several possible candidates for Alexander’s birth presented themselves, mainly in Scotland, but to attempt to narrow things down I decided to try the military papers at the National Archives, many also visible on **Ancestry.com**. Here I struck lucky with the first set of papers I reviewed⁷. Alexander Elder was enlisted as a Private in the Scots Guards in Edinburgh in October 1901, giving his age as 19 years and 3 months and his birthplace as South Leith. His occupation was apprentice brass moulder. His initial enlistment was for three years and in a short time he found himself serving at Caterham Barracks in Surrey, followed by spells at Windsor, Ascot and Pirbright. Towards the end of his three years’ service, he married Edith Mary WELLAND at Hersham, Surrey, in June 1904 and in 1905 they had a daughter, Edith Constance. His service record then shows him serving in the Reserve (the equivalent of the TA today) until he was re-mobilised at the outbreak of war in August 1914. But it was the details of his whereabouts while a reservist that caught my eye. By October 1913, the address the Army held for him was 19 Priory Street, Bedford, where his wife and daughter also lived. Was he then the same man who had been summonsed in Bedford the following year?

Called up again in 1914, he found himself serving in France from October 1914 until May 1915, when he became ill. ‘Whilst in trenches he developed symptoms [of] nephritis, headaches, general malaise, and oedema’, says his record, and eventually he was invalided back home and in August 1915 was passed fit only for home service. He was ‘temporarily released from military duty for munition work with Messrs W H Allen Sons & Co, Queens Engineering Works, Bedford’ on 24 December 1915, and

³ Cemetery records from Derbyshire Record Office and reproduced on **Ancestry.com**.

⁴ Derby Evening Telegraph, 18 July 1944.

⁵ BLARS collections, reproduced on **Ancestry.com**.

⁶ BLARS reference PSBB3/19/11, reproduced on **Ancestry.com**.

⁷ National Archives reference WO364; Piece: 1119, also on **Ancestry.com**.

eventually discharged altogether in October 1917. It must be quite likely that he had been employed at Allen's before the war as well. The address on his final discharge papers was 18 Iddesleigh Road, Bedford, quite close not only to Allen's works but also to Ford End Road where he appeared in the 1918 Electoral Register - assuming it was the same man.

The army papers also tell us about his family origins. His next of kin were shown as his mother, Jemima Elder of Great Johnstone Street, Leith, and three siblings - a brother William and a sister Jane, of the same address, and another brother, James, of Commercial Road, Bedford. No exact date of birth was given. His military character was 'very good' and he was described as 'an honest sober and hardworking man'.

I subsequently tracked Alexander's family down in the Scottish censuses and birth records. He was born in Leith on 28 June 1884⁸, the son of Alexander Elder senior, a 'van man', and Jemima nee FERGUSON. The names of his siblings agree with those in the army records. It is true that he seems to have overstated his age by two years on enlistment (the Army did not apparently ask for any corroboration) but on his marriage certificate on 18 June 1904 he gives his age correctly as 19 (ten days short of his 20th birthday). The family remained in Leith on subsequent censuses, although it is intriguing to see that in 1911 Alexander, together with his wife and daughter, had returned to Scotland and were living with an Agnes Elder, possibly an aunt, in the same town⁹. Perhaps shortage of work took him (and his brother James, apparently) to Bedford's engineering works by 1913.

In the military papers there was, however, no mention of his wife and daughter beyond the record of their address in 1913 in Priory Street. By now in my researches the 1921 census had become available. Despite exhaustive searches I have not found Edith Mary or Edith Constance anywhere in the UK at this point.

The 1921 census, however, does tell us that at 428 New Cross Road in south east London, staying as 'visitors' with a 75 year old widow, Elizabeth OXFORD, were three people described as Alexander Elder, age 37, married, born in Leith and a foreman iron moulder with the Lennox Foundry Company, chemical engineers of New Cross; Rose Hannah Elder (sic), 39, born Bromham, Beds; and Harold Elder, 5, born Chelmsford. Alexander and Rose are shown as married. Meanwhile, Gwen and Doris were living in Marlborough Road, Bedford, with their uncle by marriage, Edward LANT, another Allen employee, who had married Rose's sister Sarah, along with another unmarried sister, Hilda Chambers. Both girls are shown as 'visitors'¹⁰.

So by 1921 and quite possibly earlier, it seems clear that Alexander and Edith Mary had separated and Alexander and Rose were living as a couple, with young Harold; by about 1925 it seems that they had resumed caring for Gwen and Doris and made the move to Derby where they remained for the rest of their lives. It is interesting that when George Williams senior died in 1922, the list of floral tributes in the local paper

⁸ Scotland's People records, births, reference 692/2 814, and 1891 Census, reference 692/2 32/4.

⁹ Scotland's People records, 1911 Census, reference 692/1 16/3.

¹⁰ See the 1921 Census on [FindMyPast.com](https://www.findmypast.com) for Alexander, Rose and Harold under St Paul's, Deptford (the FindMyPast search summary incorrectly gives Harold's birthplace as Bromham, like his mother, but the enumerator has correctly given it as Chelmsford) and for Gwen and Doris under St Paul's, Bedford.

included one 'in loving memory of Dear Grandpa, from Rose, Gwen and Doris' - but not Harold¹¹. Had his existence been concealed from the rest of the family?

In what remains of this tale I am steering clear of any details about living persons. Briefly, as already mentioned, I can find no trace that Alexander and Rose ever married, or that he and Edith Mary were divorced. I was able to pick up the trail of Alexander's daughter Edith Constance by the mid 1920s; she was married twice and has numerous living descendants. Her mother, Edith Mary, seems eventually to have returned to the area of Surrey where she lived before she met Alexander; she married again, but not until 1955, giving her status as a widow and her surname as Elder, and died in 1970. Family members have kindly allowed me to use the photograph of mother and daughter below, the former Edith Mary Elder (left) and Edith Constance at a family wedding in the 1960s.



As for Harold, he died in 1996 in Leicestershire. I have tried without success to contact any living descendants of his. Was Alexander his father? Although initially he was the main contender¹², his army papers place him in France from 13 October 1914¹³ to 7 May 1915, giving him an 'alibi' for the time around mid-November 1914 when Harold would have been conceived. Perhaps Rose remained intent on obscuring his illegitimacy, even in Derby where the family was not well known. A more prosaic fear may have been that she might lose her Army widow's pension if her relationship with Alexander became widely known, under the rules applicable at the time. Either factor could explain the plainly nonsensical details on Harold's marriage certificate.

Having asked many questions but not answered many of them, I will leave it to readers to draw any conclusions they wish, or supply any information they may have. So much for what I thought would be a short exercise in neatly tying off a couple of loose ends... □

¹¹ *Bedfordshire Times*, 22 September 1922.

¹² Ruth Barber, of the Derbyshire FHS, to whom I am grateful for suggestions and leads, posed an intriguing question here - when she registered Harold's birth, and was asked his father's name, did Rose simply reply 'Herbert - but he's dead', and the registrar simply assumed his surname to be Williams? If so, I have no clue as to this Herbert's actual surname.

¹³ The exact date of transfer to France is not totally clear on the microfilm but is between 11 and 19 October and 13 October is my best guess.

TREATMENT OF MENTALLY ILL IN BEDFORDSHIRE INCLUDING SOME FAMILY MEMBERS

Barry Neale

Nowadays, the various forms of mental illness are well recognised, and their study and treatment important features of medical science and of our increasingly strained health services. Those who are sick in the mind are just as visible, and just as valuable, in society as those who are sick in the body, and deserve the same levels of care and treatment. This was not always so. The philosophy of treatment for insanity, lunacy, imbecility and other forms of forms of mental illness was infamous, and involved hiding away those affected in private madhouses or subscription hospitals where the predominant model of 'care' involved physical and mechanical restraint, often with chains, bloodletting and purging.

From the mid-18th century, ideas about insanity started to change, and there was an increasing wish among enlightened medical professionals to treat patients more humanely. The 1774 Lunacy Act saw the beginning of regulation, with certificates from two doctors required before a person could be committed, madhouses had to be registered and inspected, and a register of patients kept by a central authority. This regime of regulation and management by local and central government was further strengthened by the Lunatics Act of 1845, which also required counties to build their own asylums or to combine with neighbouring counties to do so. These asylums were designed to resemble large country houses, with landscaped gardens, parkland and farms; fresh air and exercise were supposed to be part of the treatment for patients.

Perhaps of greater local significance was the passing of the County Asylums Act in 1808, which had encouraged Justices of the Peace in their counties to levy a rate to fund the building of county asylums to house pauper lunatics. Built in 1812 on the Ampthill Road in Bedford - Bedfordshire was only the second county in England and Wales to build such a facility under the new legislation - Bedford Asylum had been designed for forty patients, but soon began running out of space for both the living and the dead, since the burial ground of the nearby St Mary's Church was also overflowing. The situation became increasingly worse when, in 1837, the counties of Hertfordshire and Huntingdonshire began to send their own pauper lunatics to Bedford; and in 1839 there were 118 patients, and by 1843 the figure had grown to 136. Something had to be done.

By 1853, Cambridgeshire, no doubt encouraged by the requirements of the 1845 legislation, had submitted a proposal to join Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Huntingdonshire in a project to create a new four-counties facility, with costs to be shared between them; and detailed discussions began to build a new asylum 'as near as may be to the Great Northern Railway'. However, these discussions broke down when Cambridgeshire complained about delay in the process, and that county withdrew, leaving the other three with plans for a new building for about 500 patients called the 'Three Counties Asylum'. George Fowler JONES was appointed architect for the project, and a couple of possible sites were considered - Cadwell Farm in Ickleford, near Hitchin, and land near Arlesey, owned by Major R Hindley WILKINSON of Stotfold. The latter, a site of over 200 acres, plus associated road and rail links, was eventually chosen, the land was bought, and building started in May 1857 after William WEBSTER of Boston, Lincolnshire, was awarded a contract. On 8 March

1860 the new Three Counties Asylum admitted its first patients, six men and six women transferred from the old Bedford facility, which was then closed and demolished. Over the next 139 years of its existence, the new asylum was variously known to the community it served as Three Counties, or Arlesey, or Fairfield.

Most family historians have, I suspect, discovered members of their own family to have suffered some form of mental illness, and perhaps to have been institutionalised; and my family is no exception. In the 1881 census of Hockliffe, where my paternal forebears were then living, a great-great-aunt, Mary Ann NEALE, a single woman aged 27, and of 'no calling', was described as an 'imbecile'. The 19th century census returns are of immense use to historians as they show, with varying terms in the final column, an individual's disabilities: deaf and dumb; blind; imbecile or idiot; and lunatic. No other census returns suggest any form of mental health issues affecting Mary Ann; and she eventually died, aged 52 and a spinster, in 1905.

Rather more shocking was the discovery that, in Luton in 1860, a severe mental episode drove someone to suicide. My great-great-grandmother, Sarah nee ODELL, was said, by her own son in later life, to have been 'a very wicked woman', and she gave birth to her three children out of wedlock over a nine-year period, probably by three different fathers. She lived for most of her early life with her sister, Hannah, who lived in Old Bedford Road in Luton and was married to Thomas WRIGHT, a thatcher. A detailed Inquest account in *The Luton Times* of 16 June 1860 describes how Thomas left home one morning, apparently depressed following some recurrence of ill-health and difficulties experienced with his sick club over his sick pay or allowances. (His GP, Doctor WOAKES, told the Inquest that he did not know whether Thomas was in difficult pecuniary circumstances, but '...I should think not, as he was in receipt of ten shillings per week from his club as a sick member!'). Later that day, Thomas's body was found by his two brothers near Dallow Downs outside Luton, hanging from a tree. The Inquest jury returned a verdict 'that the deceased was not sane when he committed the act, but in a state of temporary insanity.' It cannot, of course, be other than mere speculation, but the possibility has been raised that Thomas's suicide might have been linked to the fact that, just five days after his death, his young sister-in-law, Sarah, gave birth to her third illegitimate child, Mary. Was Thomas involved in the pregnancy, living cheek-by-jowl in the same cottage with Sarah (Thomas and Hannah had no children of their own), and was his death triggered by guilt over what he had done?

And Mary herself later suffered from mental illness, which caused her long-term stay in the Three Counties Asylum. She married William CUMBERLAND, a farm labourer, at Christ Church Parish Church in Luton in 1878, but in October 1900 she was admitted to the Luton Union Workhouse, presumably because of increasing ill-health. (Most workhouses had some mentally ill and mentally disabled paupers among the inmates, many spending years in the institutions, often because there was nobody to look after them outside). From the Workhouse Mary was sent, on 5 December 1900, to the Three Counties Asylum at Arlesey, where she stayed for the next ten years. Records of in-patients in that period are held by Bedfordshire Archives: they show that Mary was, on admission, a pauper, with clean habits, and had suffered from melancholia for several weeks. She had delusions that men were constantly with her, and talking to her in the most filthy words, and according to staff, she was particularly troublesome at night, using bad language when talking to imaginary people. Her condition and symptoms remained largely unchanged for a decade, until her death, from a cerebral

haemorrhage in her sleep, in December 1910.

Finally, yet another great-great-aunt became a patient in Arlesey Asylum. Elizabeth Ann SHOOSMITH had been born in Chelsea in 1851, but by 1861 she and her family had moved to Luton and were living on Market Hill, where her father was a boot and shoemaker. At some time during the 1870s, she and her brother Henry emigrated to Tsarist Russia, she to work as a governess and he as a manager of the Imperial soap factory in St Petersburg. They returned to England before the 1919 Russian Revolution – by 1910 Henry was living once more in Luton, and in 1918 Elizabeth is shown living with her sister Caroline at West Hill Road in Luton.

Her sister reported that in June 1919 Elizabeth climbed out of a bedroom window and had jumped, or fallen, into the garden. She was subsequently admitted, according to records held by Bedfordshire Archives, to the Three Counties Asylum on 29 July 1919, the admission order signed by Doctor BONE of Castle Street, Luton, and Councillor Arthur ATTWOOD (later to become Mayor of Luton), a friend and business colleague of the family. Her condition upon admission was described as ‘melancholia and dementia’; she appeared depressed and anxious, and told staff that she had no money and was in debt. A depressing series of notes then detail her gradual physical and medical decline, and she died in the asylum in 1923, aged 72.

From the 1970s, there was a gradual move towards community-based care, and patients were helped and encouraged to be resettled with their families or into sheltered accommodation. Gradually, fewer patients were housed at Arlesey, and new forensic services were created to care for those most in need at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, named the Pinto Wing after Robin PINTO, a leading consultant (and with whose wife I served as a fellow-Magistrate in Luton). The Three Counties Asylum was finally closed in 1999, and the Grade Two-listed buildings have now been converted into attractive modern apartments. As a family historian, researching for new members for the expanding family tree, I am always on the lookout for those references in BMD entries and elsewhere to Stotfold or to Biggleswade registration districts - clear hints that someone might have an Arlesey connection. □

THE ADMIRAL, THE RECTOR AND LONG JOHN SILVER TALES FROM BEDFORDSHIRE CHURCHES

David Longman

Were you unable to attend the talk given by David Longman to the Society on 2 February 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, David has kindly provided an extract of his talk below.

Just over seven years ago, I decided that it would be an interesting project to photograph all the parish churches of Bedfordshire. At the outset I really had no idea how many churches that would involve visiting - to date I have recorded 148 within the county boundaries. This includes all the active churches, a couple that have been repurposed and two which have fallen into disrepair. Although I am no student of architecture it was quickly apparent that the churches to the north of Bedford were mainly constructed of limestone originating from Northamptonshire and that most of them had steeples. Those of central Bedfordshire were constructed of local ironstone

with towers and in the south of the county the churches have a distinct chequerboard appearance as the softer local limestone - known as clunch - is strengthened with much darker lumps of flint.

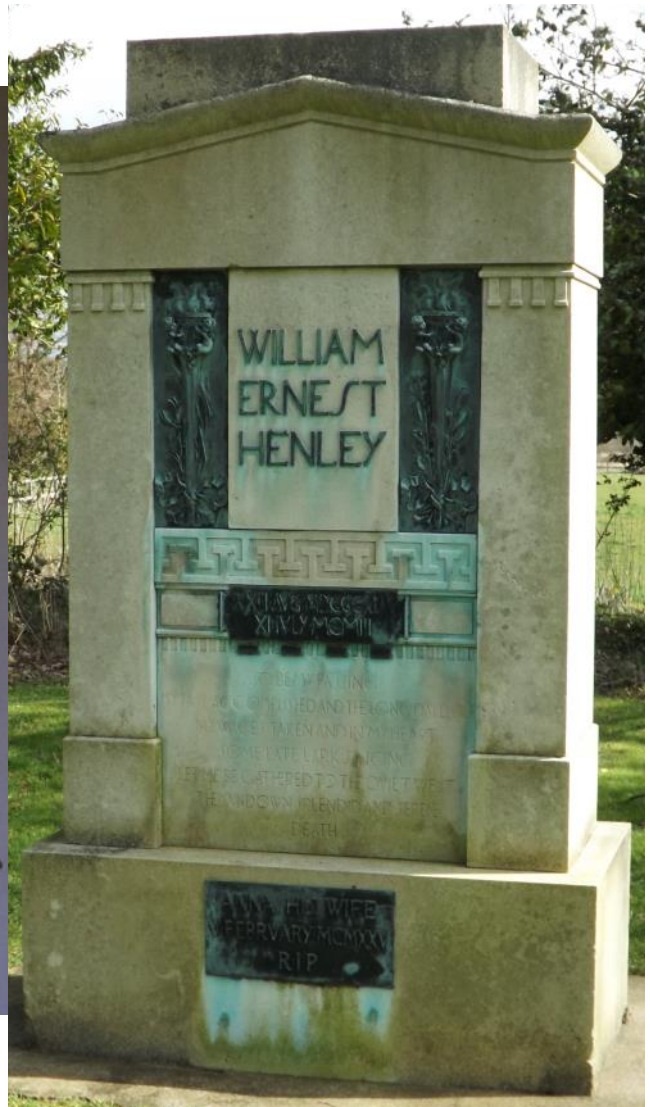
As I visited the various churches I became interested in the stories and legends associated with these buildings and rapidly became a collector of 'tales from Bedfordshire churches' - an interest which I now share with various local community groups.

One of the more interesting stories involves Admiral John BYNG (1704-1757) who is buried in the family mausoleum at Southill church. During the course of the Seven Year War he was ordered to lead a fleet of ships to break the siege of St Philips Castle on the island of Minorca which at that time was a British possession. Byng's mission was unsuccessful and on his return to Gibraltar he was relieved of his command and ordered to return to England where he was court-martialled and eventually put to death by firing squad aboard HMS Monarch on 14 March 1757. His body was brought back to Southill and his death is commemorated each year on that date, with the church bell being tolled fifty-two times, once for each year of John Byng's life.



Despite being far removed from the sea there are other naval stories associated with the county. In St Andrew's Church in Ampthill (pictured above) is the memorial to Richard NICOLLS (1624 - 1672) a staunch Royalist who fought for King Charles during the Civil War and lived in exile in France during the Interregnum. He returned to England on the Restoration and was Groom Of The Chamber to James, brother of King Charles II. In 1664 Nicolls was appointed to a commission to conquer New Netherlands, in what is now the USA, from the Dutch and to regulate the affairs of the New England colonies. Nicolls received the surrender of the Dutch in New Amsterdam and he became the new governor for the next four years. During which time he renamed the city, not as New Ampthill but in honour of his patron James who was of course - the Duke Of York! Nicolls returned to England and was struck and killed by a cannonball during the Battle Of Solebay in 1672. His body was returned to Ampthill for burial -

together with the cannonball which now forms part of the memorial in the church, below left.



An expedition to Cockayne Hatley, a small village on the borders of Cambridgeshire, led me to the last resting place of another famous nautical character - in this case one from the pages of fiction. William Ernest HENLEY was a poet and writer most famous for his poem 'Invictus' - the inspiration for Prince Harry's Invictus Games for disabled ex-servicemen. He was a frequent visitor to Cockayne Hatley Hall and was visited there by many famous Victorian writers. Henley suffered from tuberculosis of the bone in childhood resulting in his left leg being amputated when he was nineteen. Henley was described as 'a great, glowing, massive-shouldered fellow with a big red beard and a crutch; jovial, astoundingly clever, and with a laugh that rolled like music; he had an unimaginable fire and vitality; he swept one off one's feet'. It is perhaps unsurprising that his friend Robert Louis STEVENSON was inspired by Henley when he created his famous pirate Long John Silver - a fact he admitted in a later letter to Henley. Henley died in 1903 and his ashes were scattered on the grave of his daughter, who is also commemorated in the churchyard. Little Margaret Henley has her own place in literary history - she was the unwitting inspiration for another of her father's friends, J M BARRIE, who she described as her 'fwiendy-wendy'. When Barrie wrote Peter Pan and Wendy in 1904, he was credited as having 'invented' a new girl's name, one that enjoyed great popularity in the 1950s and 60s but which has since fallen out of fashion.

Of course all parish churches are dedicated to saints, with St Peter, St Paul and St Mary

being particularly popular along with the ubiquitous All Saints. However St Lawrence is perhaps lesser known and his story particularly interesting. Lawrence was a Christian living in Rome and served as a deacon to the new church. In August 258, the Emperor Valerian issued an edict that all Christian bishops, priests, and deacons should immediately be put to death, and shortly after Lawrence was arrested. According to legend the prefect of Rome decided to have Lawrence burned alive over hot coals. Lawrence accepted his martyrdom in stoic silence until the exasperated prefect asked him if he had anything to say to which Lawrence is said to have replied 'I am well done on this side. Turn me over' before eventually expiring. Due to the alleged nature of his death he is now recognised by the Catholic church as the patron saint of chefs, cooks and barbeques!

This is just a small sample of the many stories collected over the past few years. Space determines there is no room to talk of the rector who sold the lead from the roof of his own church or the wicked inhabitant of Odell Castle who sought refuge in the village church as he was pursued by the Devil - a chase which led to diabolical fingerprints being imbedded in the stonework of the building. All I can hope therefore is that you will be inspired to visit your own local churches to admire the beauty of the buildings and see what interesting tales you can discover for yourself. □

THE EARLY DAYS OF JAMES HUTCHINGS

Robert Gunn

My great - grandfather, James HUTCHINGS, was born in St Pauls, Bedford in 1839, his parents being John and Charlotte (nee CROWSLEY).

In 1850, he, along with his mother and siblings, moved to St Johns Wood in North West London, where he became a successful printer, forming the printworks Hutchings and Crowsley, which survived well into the 20th Century. Later he moved to Cowley, near Uxbrige, where his eldest son, Walter James Hutchings, was part owner of King and Hutchings, which printed local papers until the latter part of the 20th century.

He became an active member of the Temperance Society, and died in 1918.

I found the autobiographical notes on his early life that follows deposited in the Bedfordshire Archives¹, which were part of an account hand written by Leonard Crowsley in or around 1941. Part of the document is about his bicycle travels from

¹ Bedfordshire Archive Ref: X414/161. 'Perspiring Peregrinations - a wheel through Beds, Bucks, Herts, Berks, and Middlesex' written by Leonard Crowsley of Kempston, containing a detailed account of places visited (including the Convalescent Home at Woburn Sands) and various photographs and postcards. At back 'Early Days of James Hutchings, of Biddenham' with his 'Temperance Experiences' and also Hutchings and Crowsley family trees.

Bedfordshire to Buckinghamshire and Uxbridge in the early war years visiting his relatives, being my grandparents and great uncles and aunts and part of which is an exact hand written transcription of James Hutchings own account of his early life. I was made aware of these by my mother's cousin back in the early 1970s but he could not find the original and I suspect it has long since disappeared. The papers found their way to Bedfordshire Archives as part of the papers of Miss Rachel LACK



(another, more distant relative) who died around 1970.

The notes do not refer to his father John Hutchings, but suffice to say I found a reference to a John Hutchings being incarcerated in Bedfordshire Gaol in 1845, described as a 'Rogue and Vagabond' who is the right age!

[Editor's note: The following transcription retains the idiosyncrasies of the original.]

The following pages contain extracts from some interesting autobiographical notes by Mr James Hutchings in the possession of his son Howard at Clisby Lodge, Cowley

Early Days of James Hutchings

Encircled in the windings of the River Ouse as it approaches the town of Bedford is the pretty typically English village of Biddenham, sufficiently high above the river not to suffer from its frequent floods, situated a short two miles from the town. In a broad open space in the centre is the village green, bordered by farmhouses, the vicarage, the smithy, and the inn, with a number of cottages which with their flower gardens make a very beautiful scene in the summer.

In the northern part of this village, at the end of a road leading from Gold Lane and continued by a footpath to Bromham Bridge are two or three cottages; in one of these there lived in the latter decades of the 18th Century a cottager of small farmer of the name of Thomas BROWN, whose cows pastured in a meadow behind the cottages. Brown's daughter Elizabeth was courted by a young carpenter of the name of James Hutchings, who came to live in the village it is supposed from Irchester in Northamptonshire. They were married at Biddenham church on 29th Feb 1796 & settled in old Brown's cottage. Of this marriage a son was born in 1799 and was named James. He became a sort of farm foreman skilled in many things above the ordinary farm labourer, he was fairly well learned for the parish, reading and writing and conversing on social and political matters intelligently. In the course of time he married Ann ?.

At this time there was living in a small square off the same road of the village a family named Crowsley. Their son James removed to the neighbouring village of Kempston and settled at Green End where he had a small farm until his death in 1875. He married at an early age.

His first two daughters were Elizabeth and Charlotte. Elizabeth became the wife of William COOPER....

To return to the Hutchings family; of the marriage of James Hutchings to Ann ? there was born a son John. He engaged in farming etc at Biddenham, and on 1st Sept 1835 he married Charlotte Crowsley and they settled in Bedford.

On 7th March 1839, a cold, snowy morning the old lady Elizabeth Hutchings, my great grandmother, donned her long red cloak & black silk coal-skuttle bonnet, & with her feet in ring patterns walked from her old cottage at Biddenham to Bedford to assist at the birth of her great-grandson, who was named James after his great-grandfather and his two grandfathers.

Young James went to the Harpur school at Bedford under the headmastership of RILLEY ?.

Off to London

On Whit Tuesday 1850 my mother with her four children left Bedford for London travelling via Bletchley & Euston. From there a cab drive of half an hour brought us to St John's Wood, where our uncle John Crowsley & family resided at North Bank. Later in the afternoon we went to have a look round walking down Oaktree Road into St John's Wood Road, where was Lords Cricket Ground & St John's Wood chapel, in the grounds of which were great numbers who had been victims of the recent cholera epidemic were buried, & the graveyard was in great disorder. Passing out by the north gate we found ourselves in Portland Town, where it was destined to spend the next twenty years of my life.

Before I was twelve years of age I worked as a boot-boy at small wages. About this time I joined the local Band of Hope and became acquainted with several temperance friends.

In Charles Street, Portland Town, there was a printer who worked his handpress in his front shop with the door open. At this door I stood many times watching him at work and later took him some orders from my temperance friends. Having thus made his acquaintance I was often in his shop and sometimes rolled the ink on the formes for him, etc. I had told my temperance friends I should like to be a printer, and they spoke to John CASSELL for me. He took me into his employ at the printing works in Ludgate Hill. I walked there each morning and home every evening for two years (1852-4). Among the work turned out whilst I was there was the Popular Educator, and Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper (the first of the sort, I think, to sell at one penny); there was also on sale 'The Working Man's Friend' and much Freehold Land and Building Society literature.

A Brave Venture

After about two years at Cassell's I was enabled by the help of one of my temperance friends, Mr William HEFRY, to make a start on my own account. I rented a front ground floor room at 34, Charles Street, Portland Town, the printer before referred to having left, and there set up my tiny handpress (foolscap folio Albion) with a few cases of type. I announced myself as Printer, Stationer, Bookseller, and Newsagent, and set out my window with stationery and fancy goods of the sort that make a great show at little cost.

As my little business progressed it gave employment to my two brothers as well as myself. After about two years my uncle James Crowsley, joined me in partnership, and we took a shop in Henry Street, Portland Town, and commenced business as a firm under the title of Hutchings and Crowsley in March 1857 (I was then 18 years of age). All branches of our business increased especially the printing, and we were soon able to buy more types and presses, and after a while we bought our first printing machine, one brought out by Cassell and called the 'Balsavage'. With this we were able to turn out much more work.

A Local Directory

In 1860, it occurred to me that a Directory of the locality would be very useful to tradesmen and others and would sell. We therefore announced that in January 1861 we should publish one under the title of The St John's Wood Directory, price 1/-, continuing annually. I canvassed the district and obtained a good number of orders for advertisements and books. The venture turned out very successful.

The next year we published a Directory of Marylebone (which includes St John's Wood) at 2/6, but we lost money on this. We still issued the smaller book at 1/-. After two years we decided to discontinue the St John's Wood Directory and to issue the larger one at the price of 1/-. This proved a great success, and we recovered our losses.

From time to time we added to our publications other local Directories.

A Sound Business

In 1864, being anxious to know what was our real financial position, and not having any proper accounts, we engaged an old friend who understood bookkeeping to help us to start our accounts in proper form.

Our first balance sheet showed that on July 1st 1864 our assets were £625-18-3 ½ and our liabilities \$164-13-0.

Temperance Experiences of James Hutchings

At the age of about eight years I remember to have seen men drunk in the harvest fields and in the streets, quarrelling and sometimes fighting, and had heard women complain of their husbands spending their money in the public houses.

I had tasted beer myself, but did not like it. At the Primitive Methodist chapel one Sunday morning there had been a local preacher who, in his sermon, had avowed himself a teetotaler. In the afternoon in the Sunday School I heard my teacher and others ridiculing this preacher because he was a teetotaler. This led me to ask my teacher what a teetotaler was. He said teetotalers were a set of foolish people who did not drink beer or anything sold at a public house. I said 'I think it is a very easy thing to be a teetotaler, because I don't like beer' I then decided I would be a teetotaler, my thought was that if there is any good in being a teetotaler it was very easy to be one.

That Sunday evening I went to an uncle of mine who offered me a glass of beer. I took the glass and then the thought came into my mind that I intended to be a teetotaler. I told him so and set the glass down. He laughed at me and said I as only a boy and did not know my own mind: I should never keep a teetotaler and if I did I should never grow up a man. I thought to myself 'we shall see'. It was his ridiculing of me which made me determined to keep to it.

For two or three years I never knew anyone who was a teetotaler. My grandfather and others tried to tease me a good deal about it. This only strengthened my determination to show them they were wrong.

Introductions

Soon after I came to London I was sent by the people I was working for to order the sweep. A stout old lady with a very cheerful face took the order and then said: 'If you will wait here a minute I will go upstairs and fetch a Band of Hope'. She brought me

down the first number of the 'Band of Hope Review'. She said 'We are going to have a Band of Hope meeting tonight at the Ragged School and Mr Hefry (her husband) will be there and so will Mr Stephen SHIRLEY, and they will be very glad if you will come.'

I went to that Band of Hope meeting and soon became the Secretary, and made the acquaintance of many of the then forward temperance men. Mr Hefry was a well-known temperance man, and he introduced me to James Silk BUCKINGHAM and to John Cassell. Mr Hefry became the owner of the Temperance Hall in St John's Wood and our regular meetings were held there. There was also a Temperance Society held there at which I heard the speeches of many leading temperance men. □

BEDFORDSHIRE

Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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

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*Member of the
Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives*

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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Long before the Conquest there was a mill at Bromham, and, besides this long tradition, some of the magic which belongs by natural rights and ancient associations to water-wheels still lingers around Bromham Mill. Few spots are more familiar to Bedfordshire people and few are more beloved by them; for hosts of happy memories flit like benign ghosts around the mellow walls of the Mill and by the silver willows and gleaming pools and green meadows which cincture it with such beauty. The artist, anxious to catch the autumn sunshine on the building, sketched it from the west, instead of from the usual angle on the bridge, and the result is quite successful.

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



Those who have visited the Mill in recent times will know the view is from the point of entry to the Mill.

The building has been maintained and developed over the years to what we have today, a fine restored Mill open to the public most days. That's not all. Plans for the future are well in hand with Planning Application for regeneration approved on 22 Jan 2024. If you would like to read more please go to the website of the Friends of Bromham Mill, friendsofbromhammill.org.uk. □

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.

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

Peter Sharp, Treasurer

REMINDER

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

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



Bedfordshire Genealogy, Family and House History

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- 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

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.

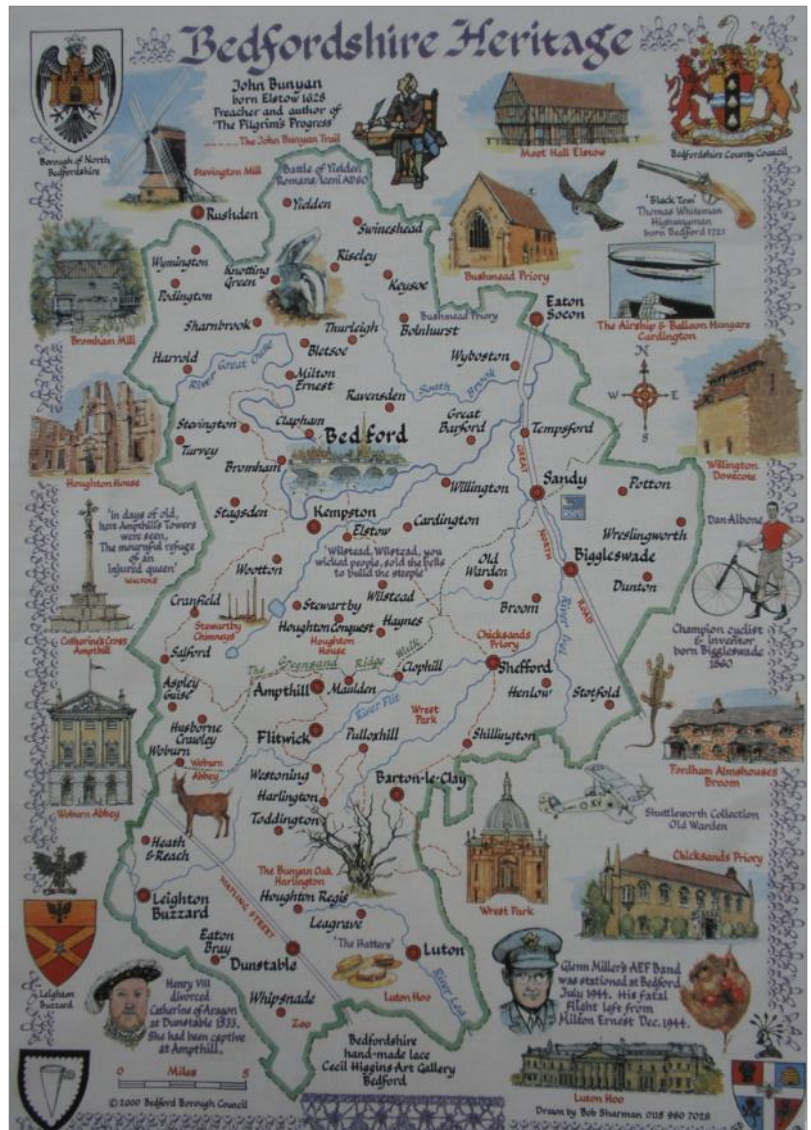
These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

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,

or by post to Lynn at:

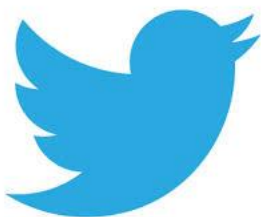
38 Risborough Road, Bedford,
MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482.



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.

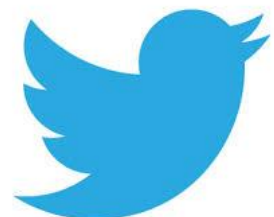


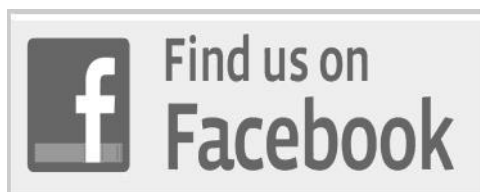
We've joined Twitter!

Come and say hello.

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

www.twitter.com/BedsFHS





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

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 20-24 are available free in the Members' Portal of the BFHS website.

To access the stores directly please visit **parishchest.com** or **genfair.co.uk**, although the simplest way of accessing a BFHS download is to visit our website 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**. 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**.

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**

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.

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Amphill † *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Aspley Guise †	£15	4	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
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Barton	£15	3	Elstow †	£15	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	2
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Everton	£10	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Flitton *	£15	4
Biddenham †	£10	2	Flitwick	£10	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Goldington	£10	2
Billington †	£10	2	Great Barford †	£15	3
Bletsoe	£10	2	Harlington †	£10	2
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Bolnhurst	£10	2	Haynes †	£20	2
Bromham †	£10	3	Henlow †	£10	2
Caddington †	£15	2	Higham Gobion	£10	2
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	2	Hockliffe † *	£10	3
Cardington † *	£15	2	Holwell † ‡	£5	1
Carlton † *	£10	2	Houghton Conquest † *	£15	2
Chalgrave	£15	2	Houghton Regis *	£15	2
Chellington	£15	2	Hulcote †	£10	2
Clapham †	£10	3	Husborne Crawley †	£20	2
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
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Dean † *	£15	1	Lidlington †	£10	2
Dunstable † *	£15	2	Little Barford †	£10	1

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
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Marston Moretaine †	£15	3	Steppingley †	£10	2
Maulden † *	£15	2	Stevington † *	£10	2
Melchbourne †	£10	2	Stotfold † *	£10	2
Meppershall †	£10	1	Streatley †	£10	2
Millbrook	£15	2	Studham	£15	2
Milton Bryan †	£10	2	Sundon †	£10	1
Milton Ernest †	£10	2	Sutton	£15	2
Northill †	£15	2	Swineshead †	£10	2
Oakley †	£10	2	Tempsford †	£10	2
Odell †	£10	2	Thurleigh	£10	2
Old Warden †	£15	2	Tilbrook	£10	2
Pavenham	£10	3	Tilsworth † *	£10	2
Pertenhall	£15	1	Tingrith †	£10	2
Podington	£15	1	Toddington † *	£15	2
Potsgrove †	£10	2	Totternhoe *	£15	2
Potton † *	£20	3	Turvey † *	£20	2
Pulloxhill	£10	2	Upper Gravenhurst	£10	2
Ravensden †	£10	2	Upper Stondon	£10	2
Renhold	£10	2	Westoning †	£10	3
Ridgmont † *	£15	2	Whipsnade †	£10	2
Riseley	£10	2	Wilden †	£15	2
Roxton † *	£10	2	Willington †	£10	2
Salford †	£10	2	Wilstead †	£20	2
Sandy † *	£15	1	Woburn † *	£20	2
Sharnbrook	£10	2	Wootton	£15	2
Shelton †	£10	2	Wrestlingworth †	£15	3
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Souldrop †	£10	2	Yelden †	£10	2

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.

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

PO Box 214 BEDFORD MK41 8WB	Internet: bfhs.org.uk Email: bfhs@bfhs.org.uk Web Sales: parishchest.com genfair.co.uk
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The following email addresses are also available:

chairman@bfhs.org.uk	Society Chairman
secretary@bfhs.org.uk	Society Secretary
treasurer@bfhs.org.uk	Society Treasurer
journal@bfhs.org.uk	Journal Co-ordinator
librarian@bfhs.org.uk	Society Librarian
membership@bfhs.org.uk	Membership Secretary
progsec@bfhs.org.uk	Programme Secretary
bookstall@bfhs.org.uk	All BFHS Publications Sales Enquiries (CDs, Books)
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