

Encouraging the study of family history since 1976



in Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire & the Isle of Ely

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THE JOURNAL



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VOLUME 29 : 4

WINTER 2023

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: ELIZABETH STAZICKER MA (OXON), DIPL ARCHIVE ADMIN, FRSA

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS: NED WAYNE & CAROL NOBLE

**A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
REGISTERED CHARITY No. : 278815**

The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society exists to encourage the study of genealogy, heraldry and family history within the old counties of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, and Huntingdonshire. We reformed on 1 January 2020 when the separate family history societies representing Cambridgeshire (est.1976) and Huntingdonshire (est.1984) amalgamated into a single organization.

We actively support established guidelines for good practice and aim to promote considered, informed and quality research. Our projects teams continue to work to scan, transcribe and index name-rich resources of genealogical interest, to enable researchers to pursue their county ancestors wherever they happen to now live. Volunteer researchers will offer their collective opinion on almost any query.

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For latest news, and updates

WATCH THE WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER & FACEBOOK

CONTACT US (for additional contacts/services see p52-3)

All general correspondence via the Secretary, please :

secretary@chfhs.org.uk or by post to

CHFHS Secretary, 15 Castle Hythe, Ely, Cambs., CB7 4BU

(we also have an answer phone 01223-853273—& leave a message)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS BY EMAIL TO THE EDITOR, OR THE SECRETARY BY POST. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE OBTAINED CORRECT PERMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION OF IMAGES SO AS NOT TO INFRINGE COPYRIGHT (private photos; book/web sourced)

We to publish The Journal quarterly : mid-late Jan / April / July / Oct

You can submit material for publication at any time. We will aim to include it in the next available issue (please be patient, space is finite and we will keep you posted)



CAMBS & HUNTS FHS JOURNAL

VOL 29 : 4

WINTER 2023



Welcome to the Winter edition of the CHFHS Journal—we open with a reminder about members free access to the records database on the new CHFHS website.

A variety of features follow—starting off with a fascinating extended article from Graham W recounting his investigations into four bearers of his family name and asking whether any of them are actually his relatives. A newspaper clip describing a real-life “message in a bottle” reveals a sad ending to a local man’s adventurous life in Africa and America in the 1850s/1860s. Mike S details the history of pottery and brick making in Buckden, Hunts, and relates his family’s links to the industry in that village. Lisa C tells of being interviewed on local radio about family history research, and Sandra T describes her visit to the University Library with CHFHS.

A couple of dates for your diaries—the upcoming online ReallyUsefulShow on 17-18 November, and the regional fair at the Burgess Hall on 20 April in St Ives—the ReallyUsefulShow Live 2024—the first local live fair since before covid struck. We look forward to see you at these exciting events. Please see our website or facebook pages for further details and arrangements nearer the dates.

A selection of regulars’ features are dotted throughout—projects updates, research surgeries and meetings’ diary (zooming of talks is continuing, to enable a wider participation at meetings); reports of talks; book reviews—& much more

Print too small ?? Try the e-journal—it can be enlarged to suit all vision !!

CONTENTS—Vol 29 : 4 (Winter 2023)

Chairman “ <i>First Words</i> ”	2	Over To You	
ReallyUsefulShow 2023	5	By <i>Lisa Constanti</i>	32
New Venue for Cambridge Branch	6	From The Research Surgeries	33
Too Many James’s		Meetings Reports	35
By <i>Graham Webster</i>	7	Cambridge University Library Visit	
ReallyUsefulShowLive 2024	25	By <i>Sandra Trenor</i>	42
Message In A Bottle		Diary : Talks & Research Surgeries	47
By <i>Dave Edwards & Caz</i>	26	“ <i>Last Words</i> ” on pre-1837 research	50
Buckden : a village of clay		CHFHS Services & Contacts	51-2
By <i>Michael Stephenson</i>	29		

cover photo : William Thomas Mann of Buckden, Hunts 1830-1884 (see p.29)



A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



Our new website

The website was launched in June, <https://www.chfhs.org.uk/>. The old website is no longer accessible, but if you key in the old address, you will be forwarded to the new website. The site is designed to be easy to navigate, and to keep up to date, and includes the content from the previous website. Amongst the headings on the public part of the site are all the following – our current projects and the opportunity to volunteer to help the Society; the shop for seeing a list of our publications, books from parish chest, and the process for buying or downloading; current and past newsletters; lists of resources including record offices, research, contiguous parishes, surname interests with the opportunity to contact others; membership benefits and the link to join.

The members section of the website has a huge amount of additional content and resources including – the current journal and past journals; indexes to the journal articles; non-conformist documents; previous talks and presentations; forum posts; journals from other family history societies; policy documents.

I should like to thank our Webmaster, Pam Dowell, other committee members, and the staff at our new website hosts, Beachshore, for the huge amount of work in developing and launching our new website. Please become familiar with using the new website and its full functionality, I am constantly surprised by the extensive range of information and sources on the new site.

New database searching

The new website database has significant differences to the previous website. A simple search for Copsey shows 238 matches, and members can see the full record for all these matches, there are direct links to both name details and search details. It is no longer necessary to use tokens. A place search for Ely gives over 22,000 matches, but you can refine the search including by year, name, source e.g. strays. I hope that the new approach will encourage you to delve deeper into your family history and other interests, as your membership payment follows the Ancestry / Find My Past

model giving you access to full details, not just the summary record.

Events

The new website gives a list of forthcoming talks, surgeries and other events, and you can click the link to register online to attend as many as you want. The monthly newsletters also give these details. Numbers attending some of our talks have declined over the summer, but I hope that this will increase now we are in the autumn. Future talks include Cambridgeshire inventions; Bringing the family to life; Christmas in St Neots and Hereward the Wake. For face to face talks and surgeries, you don't need to book, just turn up on the day.

Membership renewals, please check your details

I wrote in the last journal about the importance of keeping your own contact details up to date, you can edit these yourself on the new website. It is also important that everyone pays the correct amount when their membership renews, details for the various categories of membership are on the website and in the journal.

We are now coming to the time when the majority of our members renew their subscription at the start of January. Although we changed to four renewal dates in each year some years ago, longer standing members will still have a January renewal date. Direct debits are updated to fit current rates, but for those of you who pay by Standing Order, please make sure you tell your bank about the correct membership rate. If you pay an out of date rate, this causes a huge amount of work for our Treasurer and other volunteers, chasing and contacting everyone individually. Please make sure we don't have to contact you by keeping your personal and bank details correct.

University Library free membership

A group of members recently visited the University Library and had a guided tour as well as the opportunity to examine several categories of archive records. Everyone was bowled over by the breadth, depth and richness of the materials we saw. A second group will visit later this year, and this journal includes a report on the first visit. All Society members are entitled to free membership of the UL, but you need to bring evidence that you are a paid up member. Joan Bennett, our Membership Secretary, membership@chfhs.org.uk, will provide the necessary letter, to accompany your online application to join.

Really Useful Shows

We are taking part in the Federation Really Useful Show on 17 and 18 November. There will be a range of talks, but also the opportunity to speak to and ask questions from those staffing our booth. Please take advantage of

this, <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/> ; our volunteers are giving their time and expertise to take part in the Show, and it is both satisfying and useful to have a range of research enquiries.

On 20 April next year, there will be the largest physical show in the country for at least four years when the RUS comes to the Burgess Hall in St Ives. You will be able to move across the range of exhibitors and speak with everyone on the CHFHS stand as well as other exhibitors. Please put the date in your diary, more details nearer the time.

Publicity

Two recent noteworthy events have been led by our two newest committee members. Karen Orrell, our Publicity Officer arranged a wikitree live event, where the panel from across the world were given several people from Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire to research and presented their findings. Some were more challenging than others, but each result gave a fascinating profile. Lisa Constanti, our Research Officer, was interviewed on Huntingdon Community Radio about genealogy and the Society. The interviewer had a long list of questions across the hour long programme. These events, and our increased Facebook posts, have led to a notable recent growth in members joining the Society.

Parish register digitisation

I am told that the project to digitise all the parish registers in the two County Archives offices at Ely and Huntingdon, and to link them to our transcripts is on course to the original timetable for launching on Ancestry next year. This will be very significant, again something to watch.

David Copsley



ONLINE EVENT: Participate from Home - WORLDWIDE!

2023

FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

Explore Your
Genealogy



Friday 17th November 10 am - 10 pm GMT and
Saturday 18th November 10 am - 6 pm GMT

***** ReallyUsefulShow2023 ... over 2 full days this year *****

visit their website for tickets & the programme
participating groups listings & talks/workshops

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

we'll be there and look forward to seeing you
—visit our booth for a CHFHS shop voucher—

REMEMBER : FRIDAY IS SOCIETIES' DAY

The new Cambs & Hunts FHS website has now been live for several weeks. Over the coming weeks, much more content will be added and the full range of facilities will become available to researchers. Although we aim to publish a “user guide” to help you make the most of what’s on offer: a couple of points are worth a mention :

NEW WEBSITE

- **Registering for zoom talks** : you will receive an acknowledgement by return whenever you register, but no zoom link. The link will **only** be issued 48hrs ahead of the event—so, please recheck your emails.
- **Cambs and Hunts Research** : a new records database search / retrieval system has replaced AncestorFinder and SuperSearch, and is accessed **only** via the members area login. The big difference now, is that :

searches and results are FREE TO ALL MEMBERS

Cambridge Branch Venues New and Old — all change again!!

After much deliberation, we've reluctantly decided that F-2-F meetings for talks in Cambridge are no longer a viable proposition.

Unfortunately, attendances at the Saturday meetings have never returned to even near B-C (before covid) levels, which, when considered alongside the difficulty of finding a suitable city centre venue with reliable wifi, for an affordable fee, has led to this tough decision ...

When covid hit as you will recall, and in common with many other societies at the time, we were quick to set up a programme of talks via zoom. This proved to be an overwhelming success both with the local “regulars” and also with a “new” audience of members remote from the area, who would otherwise have never been able to participate in meetings.

Today, in this P-C (post-covid) age, the desire to continue providing access for the “remote” audience led to attempts to adopt the so-called ‘hybrid’ format whereby a live talk is beamed to a zoom audience at the same time— but with varying degrees of success. We've decided to abandon the delivery of live, face-to-face, talks in favour of zoom only (also allowing a wider range of speakers to be offered).

A separate F-2-F research session has been set up elsewhere.

From September, the Cambridge Branch meetings are to be split into :

- Cambridge Branch zoom talk on **2nd Thursday evenings at 7.30**
- Cambridge Branch F-2-F research session on **2nd Saturdays 11-2**

at the Central Library (top floor) & coinciding with the once-a-month Saturday opening of the Cambridgeshire Collection

find us on the top floor—far right corner from the top of the escalator

We hope to welcome you to one of the sessions—bring along a query or drop in for a chat if you happen to be in Cambridge

The Society offers condolences to the family of :

**Lois Milliken
John Barrell**

3969

Too Many James's

*received from
Graham Webster*

I have been researching my family history for many years. I am sure many other researchers in the same situation will have from time to time come across similar surnames in familiar locations that spark the question: "We must be related, but how?".

This has happened to me recently, and tracing their history and antecedence has revealed some fascinating stories the problem being, however, that they all had the same name – James WEBSTER.

This account shares those stories on four of them.

James WEBSTER was a builder in Cambridge. He was born in Catton, Norfolk to James WEBSTER (more on him later) and Elizabeth nee PRIOR, and baptised at Horsham St Faith, Norfolk on 5 January 1789¹. The records show that his children, born in Cambridge, were Mary (b. ca1821), James (b. ca 1822) (and more on him later), Harriet (b. ca 1829), Caroline (b. ca 1830) and Sarah Matilda (b. ca 1831, bap. St Mary the Less, Cambridge) were born to Mary (snu); it is probable she was buried at St Mary the Less, Cambridge on 30 September 1832.

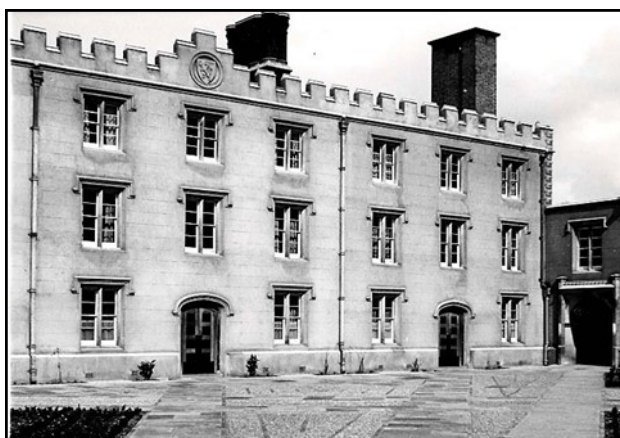
James WEBSTER (referred to as senior – see later) is listed as the designer and builder of The Rectory, Teversham for £2,000 for Rev John BROCKLEBANK². On the 1 June 1822, living in Trumpington Street, Cambridge, he was contracted to design and undertake the construction of an extension to the then existing Jesus College, Cambridge, accommodation (staircase 'K')^{3,4}. Funds allocated for the build was £2490, and bills submitted by Webster indicate the original interior decorative state of the rooms and included:

*... Payments were made for items such as 6 brass knobs, 6 escutcheons, new deal cupboards for the gyp rooms, old plain tiles, ridge tiles, plaster to the niche over the staircase instead of plain ceiling, 36 mortice locks instead of iron rim locks, 6 patent French latches instead of common latches, battening out the old wall in the attic and deals for making wine bins.*⁵

WEBSTER's bill also included the supply of clunch (a form of chalk clay), probably from the pits at Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, to "fill up the deep cavities at the bottom of the foundation"⁶. Other Jesus College records show that:

*Webster carried out various repairs on the Chapel, the Master's Lodge, the Hall, SCR, kitchens and New Square. Details of these general types of work Webster carried out around the College are listed in a receipt dated 14th December 1822 and include payments for rehanging the door in the laundry, wood for mending the clothes horse, boards for chair backs, making a new table for the storeroom, easing sash in store room, rehanging the shutters in the storeroom, mahogany for making a two foot stool, skirting for the Hall, for raising the ironing stool, sash line, stuff to make cup stands, making a meat safe, sashline for rehanging green door, preparing framework for robe closet and for a soap box.*⁷

James WEBSTER was also responsible for construction work of the North Range, New Court at Emmanuel College in 1824⁸.



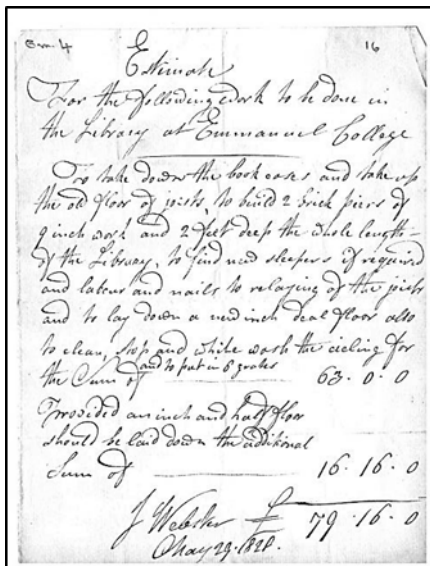
*New Court, Emmanuel College; the building still stands, largely unaltered since the 1820s*⁹

The suppliers of the marble chimneypieces destined for New Court (which was to contain residential room sets for students) were George WEBSTER and Francis WEBSTER Jr of the Marble Works, Kendal¹⁰. In a letter written by Francis WEBSTER on 17 June 1825, he includes the phrase "...When my Brother saw you [James WEBSTER] at Cambridge..."¹¹, and although it would be providential there is no evidence the brothers WEBSTER were related to James.

There was more work in 1824 at Jesus College – presumably after his work on the 'K' staircase was well-received - redesigning the gardens adjacent to 'K' staircase probably the kitchen garden.

In 1825 is recorded as being a carpenter living in the parish of St Mary the Less, Cambridge ¹², and in 1826 as "...responsible for funds entrusted to vestry clerk, 19 January 1826..." for the church of St Mary the Less ¹³. In 1827 a James WEBSTER living in the parish of St Mary the Less, Cambridge, marries on 2 January at Fen Ditton, Cambridge, Susan (also Sara) NUNN also residing in the parish of St Mary the Less, Cambridge; Susan marries with her parent's consent making her birth ca 1806. There is no direct evidence but a James WEBSTER in born in the late 1760s in Catton, Norfolk (so the above James WEBSTER, senior's, father perhaps and a widower). Certainly, James WEBSTER, elder, dies at Crown Inn, Jesus Lane, Cambridge on 19 January 1835 at the house of his daughter Susannah (b, 1795, Catton, Norfolk). No records have been found of the death of either of James WEBSTER, elder's, wives.

James WEBSTER is increasingly employed by Jesus College for work on the College and their properties in and around Cambridge ¹⁴. In 1828 he submits a "[l]ist of cost of repairs for buildings and fences of the Vicarage [at Graveley], Sanders's Farm, and Lodge Buildings, coming to a total of £540.10.7" ¹⁵. He also submits a bill "...for work done to the Pound at Graveley. Paid £1 17s 4d for repairing brickwork and for 300 bricks, 4 bushels of lime, sand, etc for this" ¹⁶. Also in 1828, James was contracted to build the gabled section of a larger extension to the Kitchen ¹⁷. While James Webster was on site in 1828, the college also got him to repair the floor in the Library (now the Old Library). The following is the bill he submitted for the work ¹⁸:



In 1830 he was involved in a claim by an employee in his building concern that he had been employed as a servant on a yearly basis from 1824-1826, and not weekly for eleven shillings as evidenced by James WEBSTER. Initially, the appellant contended, to look after the horses and drive the cart; when he cleaned shoes and groomed the horses on a Sunday it was deemed that had been employed on a yearly basis ¹⁹. The contemporary 1830-1831 directory lists him living in Trumpington Street, Cambridge ²⁰.

In 1830 James WEBSTER is busy on work for Jesus College. In September, he submits a bill "...to the Masters and the Fellows of Jesus College for the measuring and marking out of ground plans of three houses in Gravel Close [now Eden Street²¹]. Total of £7"²². For the rest of the year is working on buildings landscaping for Jesus College as evidenced by his bills:

*... for filling up the ditch and cutting down and removing of the timber for the new pale fence at the bottom of Garlic Fair Lane. Total of £7 9s.*²³

*... for the putting up of a new pale fence at the bottom of Garlic Fair Lane. Total of £25 14s 10d.*²⁴

*...for work done to College Kitchen. Includes creation of new shelves, cupboards, doors & door frames. Total of £9 15s 5 1/2d.*²⁵

*... for Work done in the Master's Lodge. Including various maintenance work on doors, sashes, staircases, shutters and putting down of new carpets. Total of £16 4d 3s.*²⁶

*... for work done in the courts and rooms. Includes repairing doors, repairing fences, gates and rails, installation of new fence, labour for filling up the ditch, clearing and plans of three houses in Gravel Close. Total of £64 18s 1d.*²⁷

In 1835 he is credited with constructing cottages adjacent to the Jesus College cottages²⁸. Also, in 1835 he erected, for £295 9s, 32 Green Street, Cambridge²⁹. Also recorded in 1835, he is a still living in Trumpington Street in the parish of St Mary the Less³⁰. In a contemporary directory of 1839 he is shown as a builder living in Pembroke Street, Cambridge³¹; and obviously doing further work at Jesus College³². The archives record the details of the work carried out which included removal of a tree and using it as fencing³³, work on the chapel tower³⁴, work in rooms³⁵, and :

Work on Master's Lodge:

Making and hanging shutter for an apple room, turning door in kitchen, repaving basin for the pump. Putting down posts, hooks for coach house and stable yards' gates. Materials: deal, ladder rounds, two screw pulleys. One day making greasing jack for Master's Carriages. Two and three quarter days putting up brackets and shelves, altering the windows et cetera. Easing windows and repairing their beads, putting in new sash fasteners. Screws, nails, sash fasteners, lime. Putting on 'button to closet".

Putting on door handles, removing and refitting locks. Changing door to

coal house. Repairing and changing sashes and new beading. Materials: deal, brass eyes, sash line (2 yards), nails.

Half day making and fitting two knife boards. Three holdfasts [clamp, vice or hook]. New standers [check] for pump. Easing the pump. Mending floor to staircase. Repairing of Master's coach house door. Materials: deal, nails, 1 lb holdfasts.

Total: £6 4s 5 1/2d

Receipt from James Webster for £6 4s 5 1/2d ³⁶

In 1840 he is carrying out further detailed work on “Gentlemen’s “room” (Messr Gibson, Howlett, Bingham, Homer), for £15 13s 4d, for example:

September 5th = fixing & pitching dado in Mr Homer's room, fixing boarding around Mr Disten's windows, repairing floor, fixing dado in Mr Daubaney's room & preparing dado in Mr Homer's room

September 12th = fixing dado in Mr Homer's room, deal for Mr Landslow's fireplace, Boarding to fireplace in Mr Ashby's room, , dadoing Mr Daubaney's room, making sash for Mr Wortham's room

September 19th = fitting in and hanging sash in Mr Wortham's room, Screws ³⁷

In the 1841 Census James is living at 14 Pembroke Street, Cambridge with wife Susan (?BLOSS, b. 1800 Stradishall, Suffolk) with his children as above and with Lucy Bloss (b. ca 1835, Cambridge) and Frances Adelaide (b. 1839, Cambridge) – another daughter, Ellen Eliza was born ca 1842 in Cambridge.

In 1841 James was responsible for design and building work of a new bridge in Cambridge ^{38, 39, 40}. According to the 1959 Royal Commission Survey of Cambridge, the five terraces of Malcolm Street, 1-6, 7-11, 19-25 and 26-29, were probably built by James Webster soon after 1842 ⁴¹. Also, in 1842 he is listed as the surveyor and builder of the Pampisford, Cambridgeshire, vicarage ⁴².

James WEBSTER, senior, starts working with son James as the records in the Jesus College archives begin to refer to “James Webster and Son”. James WEBSTER, junior, is baptised at St Mary the Less, Cambridge, on 17 February 1822. By the 1841 Census he is still living with his father at 14 Pembroke Street, Cambridge. Between 1845 and 1847 the bills to Jesus College for building and carpentry work both at the college and on college-owned property are many and detailed providing an inventory of materials

used ⁴³. For example ⁴⁴, in 1846 a building of a wall for £6 15s 1/2d (in the first paper); walls, fencing (in fourth paper), and painting eg a painter for a day for £0 5s 0d (in the second paper); and:

For sawing own material & fence where house was occupied by Mr.

Barry; £0 6s 0d

6 ½ days carpenter preparing and butt down fence; £1 6s 0d

39 x 9 x 1, 18 x 11 x 1, 18 x 11 x ¾, [deal?]; £0 13s 5d

1 pan of Garnet screws and nails; £0 3s 6d

23rd May –

6 ft. carpenter finishing on 7 x 6 x 1, £0 4s 2d

8th of June –

1 ¼ days painting fence; £0 6s 3d

14lbs lead color, 4 pints of oil; £0 8s 9d

66 feet super [?]; £0 11s 0d

Acknowledgement of receipt of £18 19s 0 ½ d from the Reverend, the Master and Fellows of Jesus College. Signed by J. Webster & Son.

[Fifth paper]

In 1847 James WEBSTER, junior, listed as a builder of Pembroke Street, Cambridge, is a juror paying the “poor rate” ⁴⁵; presumably after his marriage at St Edwards, Cambridge, on 8 September 1846 he moved into his own house from his father’s.

By 1851, still living at 14 Pembroke Street, James WEBSTER, senior, lists his occupation as “builder employing 12 men”. He is still in partnership with his son with the address as Pembroke Street, Cambridge ⁴⁶. James Webster, junior, is living down the road from his father at 22 Pembroke Street, Cambridge with family: Eliza LAWRANCE (b. ca 1824), Alice Mary (b. 1847, Cambridge), Bessie Sarah (b. 1849, Cambridge) and Harris (b. 1851, Cambridge).

In 1853, James WEBSTER [presumably senior] is listed as a member, as a builder, of, for a subscription of 10s a year, the Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Association:

For the speedy apprehension and effectual prosecution of felons and thieves of every denomination, and of other persons committing offences in the town and county of Cambridge, on the persons or property of any subscribers ⁴⁷

But there were problems with the partnership with son, James:

NOTICE is hereby given, that the **PARTNERSHIP** lat-ly subsisting between us the undersigned **JAMES WEBSTER** the Elder and **JAMES WEBSTER** the younger, of the town of Cambridge, in the county of Cambridge, builders, heretofore carrying on business under the firm of "**WEBSTER and SON,**" was on the first day of January last, **DISSOLVED** by mutual consent.

And that all debts owing to the said partnership are to be received by the said **JAMES WEBSTER** the elder, and all persons to whom the said partnership stands indebted are requested immediately to send in their respective accounts to the said **JAMES WEBSTER** the elder, in order that the same may be examined and paid.

As witness our hands this 11th day of June, 1852.
JAMES WEBSTER, sen.
JAMES WEBSTER, jun.

Witness, **WILLIAM R. SUMPTER**, solicitor, Cambridge.

"**WEBSTER and SON,**" in returning thanks for the kind support they have so long received, beg to state that the business will henceforth be carried on by **JAMES WEBSTER, jun.**, alone, in whose behalf a continuance of past favour is respectfully requested.

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, 12 June 1852, p1

It is likely James, junior, was ill as he gives up his business:

Notice.

ALL Persons having any Claim or Demand upon Mr. **JAMES WEBSTER, Jun.**, Builder, are requested to send the particulars thereof forthwith, to his Residence, 22, Pembroke-street, or to Mr. **J. G. BELL, Jun.**, Solicitor, Sidney-street, Cambridge.

[Cambridge, 21st April, 1854.]

Cambridge Independent Press, 22 Apr 1854 p4

To be followed by the sale of his tools of trade:

Builder's Stock-in-Trade,
PEMBROKE-STREET, CAMBRIDGE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
CHARLES WISBEY,

On **FRIDAY** next, the 20th day of October, 1854, punctually at 11 o'clock, on the premises of Mr. James Webster, jun., who is declining business on account of ill-health.

COMPRISES excellent Dry DEALS, a quantity of Ironmongery, consisting of Nails, Screws, Joints, Locks and Bolts; tub of White Lead, and Miscellaneous Effects; also an excellent Brown COB.

May be viewed the morning of Sale, and Catalogues had of **CHARLES WISBEY**, auctioneer, valuer, and estate-agent, Cambridge.

Cambridge Independent Press, 14 Oct 1854 p4⁴⁸

He had previously been admitted to the Peckham Lunatic Asylum ⁴⁹ on 27 September 1854. He dies on 21 April 1856 at Peckham "...after and long and severe affliction..." ⁵⁰; the death is also recorded as 23 April 1856 of "exhaustion". He dies intestate ⁵¹ and the family move to 5 King's Road, Cambridge into the household of James, Eliza's brother, and becomes a college cook's assistant (perhaps to her brother at King's College) ⁵².

Sometime before 1857, James WEBSTER, senior, and a greater number of the family move to Milton, Cambridgeshire ⁵³. By the 1861 Census, James is living in the High Street, Milton, and is a farmer of 136 acres with five men and three boys. Susan and his daughters (less Mary, Charlotte and Sarah Matilda) are also living there. The farm is probably Bachelor Farm which later in the century was occupied at one time or another, singly or with each other, Harriet, Ellen and Caroline, his daughters. James dies at Milton in the last quarter of 1863 at the age of 72, and Susan takes on the running of the farm ⁵⁴ and stating she is a farmer of 118 acres employing four men and three boys (1871 Census), and farming now 70 acres employing only two men and a boy in the 1881 Census. Harriet is still at the farm in the 1901 Census although she may have been living in Gunnell's Cottage, Milton, Cambridgeshire in the early 1900s ⁵⁵

Yet another James WEBSTER of Cambridge was the son of Jeremiah WEBSTER, son of the above James WEBSTER, elder, and nephew to James WEBSTER, senior. James was born on 21 June 1821 in the City of Westminster, London, to Jeremiah (b. 1791, Catton, Norfolk) and Sarah LIDEL/LYDELL (m. 12 Oct 1818, Westminster, London), and baptised on 15 July 1821 at St George's, Hanover Square, London.

In the 1841 Census, James is working as a servant to Sir Hudson LOWE ⁵⁶ in Dover Street, London. After LOWE died broke in 1844 in Paddington Green ⁵⁷, James moved to Downing College as a porter. On 10 November 1849, James marries Emma GILLET (b. 1821) at St George's, Hanover Square, London; she is born in the parish and gives her address as Berkley Street, London, while James' Upper Grosvenor Street, London - he is a porter.

In 1851 James and Emma are living at the Porter's Lodge, Downing College, Cambridge (still a porter).



*Downing College Porter's Lodge (left) ca 1910*⁵⁸

Their family grows quickly over the next decade: Walter (b. 1851, Camberwell⁵⁹), Edward (b. 1853, Cambridge), Elizabeth (b. 1856, Cambridge), Adelaide (b. 1857, Cambridge), Susan (b. 1860). By 1861, still at Downing College with the family, James is recorded as a butler. Son, William, is born in Cambridge, in Q1 1864. Unfortunately, wife and mother Emma, dies at Downing College on 17 March 1864 (in childbirth, perhaps). She is buried on 22 Mar 1864 in Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge⁶⁰.

James then marries Ann LIDINGTON (b. 1828 in the City of London) on 22 September 1866 at St George's, Hanover Square, London. They both give their address as Dover Street, London; he is a college butler.

In July 1870 the ownership of four cottages, on the corner of Mill Street, Cambridge and Covent Garden, Cambridge adjacent to the Six Bells running to Caius Street (now Glosson Road), Cambridge, were transferred to James for £480⁶¹

Interestingly, in the 1871 Census, Ann and her step-children (less Walter and Elizabeth) are living at the Buttery, Downing College, Cambridge, whilst James is listed at 43 Dover Street, London – a butler. This is the household of John Waitt MIRFIELD (b. 1826, Hackney, Middx), a clerk/solicitor; interestingly the housekeeper is Harriett LIDINGTON, together with Edith LIDINGTON (b. ca 1852, Chart, Kent – the same place as Harriett) and Kate LIDINGTON (b. ca 1866, Buckingham) – are they related to Ann?

James evidently owned some land outside of Cambridge:

*... an action brought by James Day, of Meldreth, against Mr James Webster, butler of Downing College, Cambridge, to recover £2 10s damages for an alleged trespass in damaging a hedge and cutting down a tree, the property of the plaintiff: but the real question in dispute was the title to a small piece of land at Meldreth, of about eight poles, forming a plantation in which the tress in question stood...in 1875 the defendant became the purchaser...The learned Judge without calling upon Mr Cockerell to open the defendant's case said it was clear that the plaintiff had failed in making out any title to the plantation, as his own evidence put him out of court. He accordingly gave judgement for defendant, with costs.*⁶²

He has become a college butler by 1881, living at Downing College with wife Ann and son Edward. James retires in December 1889 and his service to Downing College is recognised by the College Society:

PRESENTATION. — On Saturday last, a double-handled silver cup was presented to Mr. James Webster, "by past and present members of the Society of Downing College, in recognition of forty-six years of faithful service." Mr. Webster, who retired last Christmas from the office of butler, has had a notable career. For five years he was in the service of the Duchess of Kent, and travelled with her Grace, Sir John Conroy, the Queen's guardian until she ascended the throne, and Princess Victoria. When our Queen, with the Prince Consort and Duke of Wellington, lunched at Downing Lodge, after the installation of the Prince Consort as Chancellor of the University, her Majesty, with that royal grace which so singularly distinguishes our reigning family, recognized Mr. Webster, and greeted him by name.

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal 21 March 1890 p4

From the chronology above it is difficult to put a timeline when James was in the service of the Duchess of Kent. Certainly, it was before 1847 when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited Downing College:

...from 5th to 7th July 1847, to attend the ceremony of the installation of Prince Albert as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. The public events included an address by the Prince, a concert, firework display, horticultural fête, banquet and public breakfast.

On Tuesday, 6th July, in the grounds of Downing College, a horticultural fête was organised as part of the celebrations. It was reported in the

*newspapers that the crowds were huge and many broke in without tickets. Queen Victoria was present and took refreshment at the Master's Lodge of Downing College, greeted by [Thomas and Catherine Worsley]*⁶³

In 1891 he is living at 58 Regent Street, Cambridge (along the road from Downing College). with Ann, Edward and daughter Adelaide - grandson James Josceline WEBSTER (b. 1888, Balham) is also living with the family⁶⁴. The latter's father was William, who married Kathleen Florence HOLY (b. 1886, Lambeth, Surrey) at Christ Church, Gypsy Hill, Surrey on 14 Aug 1886. They later divorced in 1895:

*...That in and during the months of Mar, April, May and Jun 1891 at 19 Solon[?] New Road Clapham...Kate Florence Webster committed adultery with a person unknown...by living with him as his wife. That on 11 November 18934 at 3 Langham Street Portland Place London...Kate Florence Webster committed adultery with Gordon Starkey of 12 Portland Mansions Portland Place London. That in and during the months of September October and November 1893...Gordon Starkey frequently visited...Kate Florence Webster at 3 Langham Street...committed adultery Gordon Starkey..."*⁶⁵

William goes on the marry Mary LIDINGTON (b. ca 1879, Buckingham) in Oct 1896, Thames, Oxfordshire – to date no link to his sister-in-law has been established.

In 1901 he is living 'on his own means' with his wife, daughter Susan (she married Henry TAMS, b. ca 1860, Cambridge in 1885), and two grandchildren, Henry and Brenda, at 58 Regent Street, Cambridge. On 15 May 1906 his wife, Ann, dies at 81 Regent Street, Cambridge; she is also buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge⁶⁶.

In passing, James' son William is book dealer in 1914. He sends from 189 Boulevard Murat, Paris, France, a postcard sent on 3 September which says:

*The Germans seem to have bottled us up here, and we have nothing to do but listen to the guns and watch aeroplanes attack each other. All well.*⁶⁷

James WEBSTER dies on 7 February 1917 at 81 Regent Street, Cambridge and buried at Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge⁶⁸.

Mr. James Webster.

The funeral of Mr. James Webster, of 81, Regent-street, who died on February 7th at the age of 95 years, took place at Mill-road Cemetery on Saturday. Mr. Webster was for many years butler at Downing College.

The funeral service at the Cemetery was conducted by the Rev. W. Greenwood (Vicar of St. Benet's Church), and the lesson was read by Prof. Kenny.

The immediate mourners were: Mr. G. H. Page, Mr. A. M. Clark, the Rev. G. W. Page, and Mr. D. Chapman (porter of Downing College).

The coffin, of polished oak, with brass fittings, bore the inscription: "James Webster, died February 7th, 1917, aged 95 years."

Messrs. Eaden Lilley carried out the funeral arrangements.

Cambridge Daily News, 13 Feb 1917 p4

His death is noted as removal "...from our midst many familiar figures [from Town, County and University]"⁶⁹. After his death came process of selling property and its content:

FRIDAY NEXT.

By Order of Executors.]

81, REGENT STREET, CAMBRIDGE.

Sale of Excellent

Household Furniture,

Comprising:

DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, and

OCCASIONAL CHAIRS,

ANTIQUE ROSEWOOD WRITING TABLE,

FINE OLD ENGLISH BRACKET CLOCK by Bell,

Mahogany Bookcases, Two Mahogany Cabinets,

SHERATON SOFA TABLE and SHERATON

PEMBROKE TABLE,

Antique Berger Chair and Pair of Ancient

Mahogany Whatnots,

CHOICE SHERATON WORK-TABLE,

Overmantel, Carpets,

SUNDRY VOLUMES OF BOOKS,

Portrait in Oils of Dr. Worsley,

THE APPOINTMENTS OF 5 BEDROOMS,

consisting of Single and Double Bedsteads, Bedding,

Chests of Drawers, Washstands, Dressing Tables,

sundry China and Glass,

Kitchen Utensils and other Effects.

Messrs. Scruby and Gray

ARE instructed by the Exors. of the late Mr. James Webster to Sell the above by Auction, on the Premises, on **FRIDAY, MAY 25th, 1917,** commencing at 11 o'clock.

Catalogues may be obtained seven days prior to Sale of the AUCTIONEERS, 29, St. Andrew's-street, Cambridge.

Cambridge Daily News, 21 May 1917, p2

HOUSE PROPERTIES.
 The freehold residence and garden, No. 81, Regent-street, with two reception room on the ground floor, five bedrooms on the upper floors, and a basement, with a frontage of about 23ft. to Regent-street, owned and occupied for many years by the late Mr. James Webster, realised £600.

Cambridge Daily News, 21 July 1917, p4

Finally, there is James WEBSTER born 25 Jun 1794 to James and Lucy (nee PAPWORTH), either in Cambridge or Swavesey. The latter is in his service record which records that he served in the 59th Regiment of Foot ⁷⁰ from 25 December 1809 to 27 April 1826 (including Waterloo), and in the East Indies 27 September 1816 to 27 April 1826 ⁷¹. He is discharged as a colour sergeant in May 1826 as “worn out” ⁷² - a criteria for receiving an Army pension *ie* a Chelsea Pensioner ⁷³. The Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC) confirms that James was an Out-Pensioner ⁷⁴, *ie* receiving a pension but living away from the RHC itself.

In the 1841 Census James is living at Albert Terrace, St Mary, Southampton, Hampshire with presumed wife, Martha; he is working at the Royal Military Asylum ⁷⁵ and according to his pension record retired that year after 10 years of service ⁷⁶. In 1851 he is living at Clifford Cottage, Newton Abbot, Devon (listing his occupation as Sergeant, Royal Military Asylum and Chelsea Pensioner), with Mary Ann – according to the General Register Office, WILLS - (b. ca 1810, Millbrook, Hampshire although there is a Mary WILLIS in the 1841 in Southampton that might also be the same person) and daughters Olive Lucy (b. 1843, Halifax, Yorkshire) and Emma (ca 1846, Halifax, Yorkshire). James is receiving his Army pension of 1s 10½d in Halifax in 1850 (and previously that year in Plymouth), and in 1852 having had it transferred back again from Plymouth ⁷⁷. There is nothing to indicate how or why James ended up in Halifax and raising his family there, although it is intriguing that his old regiment had association with Halifax, Nova Scotia ⁷⁸; there is also a history of WEBSTERS in the area (as in the rest of Yorkshire) ⁷⁹. In 1856 the pension is again transferred from Halifax, this time to Jersey, until 1859 ⁸⁰. In the electoral register for Halifax in 1863 there is a James WEBSTER living at 24 Mount Pellon ⁸¹. This address might match the family as in the announcement of Olive Lucy’s death at the age of 25 on 3 Dec 1868 her role of “...principal treble in the choir at Pellon Lane chapel...” ⁸² is highlighted, as is James’ previous occupation (“...Sergeant Major...59th Regiment...”). Olive’s memorial at Lister Road Cemetery, Calderdale,

Yorkshire emphasises her involvement in the choir:

*Gifted with a sweet voice and considerable musical taste, she was a leading member of the choir at the Baptist chapel, Pellon Lane, in this town, for nine years during which she grew in the affection and esteem of all her companions in song; as well as many others who rejoiced in her friendship, and who unite with her fellow choristers in erecting this stone as a tribute of respect to one who knew not how to be unkind...*⁸³

James, Mary Ann and Emma are living at 14 Clare Street, Halifax, England in 1871; James is a clerk, as well as his mention of him being a Chelsea Pensioner. On 2 November 1871 Emma, 26, leaves for Quebec from Liverpool via Londonderry on SS Scandinavian⁸⁴ arriving 12 November 1871⁸⁵. Later, on 11 July 1872, leaving Liverpool for Quebec (for onward travel to Montreal), James – as Jas, 79, and Mary Ann, 62, are also passengers on SS Scandinavian⁸⁶, arriving on 17 July 1872⁸⁷. According to his pension record⁸⁸ James dies 19 June 1877; the newspaper announcement records that he “...served at Vittoria, St Sebastian, Nive, Waterloo, and 10 years in India.”⁸⁹ He dies at York, Toronto, Ontario of “old age accelerated by diarrhoea”⁹⁰; also “...until a few years ago well known in this [Halifax] town, to a large circle of friends...”⁹¹. Interestingly given Mary Ann dies, also at York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 25 May 1878 (“Baptist”)⁹², James’ death record says “Marital status: unknown”⁹³. No further details on Emma have been found to date.

But this is where family history takes a tangential twist as, in the 1851 Census, a James WEBSTER (yes, another one) was living in Mount Pellon, Halifax. James’ son, James (aaah!, another one!) was born 21 May 1822, Halifax, and died 27 Dec 1872 at “The Wheat Sheaf Inn”, Mount Pellon, Halifax. His brother, Samuel (3 Sept 1813-5 May 1872), is the founder of Halifax’s Webster’s Brewery⁹⁴. The son of another brother, Isaac, also Mount Pellon, Halifax, was also associated with Mount Pellon and the Pellon Lane Baptist Chapel (see above)⁹⁵. Is this why James WEBSTER, the soldier, was living in Halifax even though to date no connection has been made with a WEBSTER family associated with the same area?

So, any are of these James connected to me?

As is the way with family history research, the person with the least information to date in and about Cambridge is (ironically), James the soldier - he is my 1st cousin, 5x removed. The other James’ all have fascinating stories and I have no regret researching them. Perhaps at some date in the future I can establish a link to them and between them.

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- 2 *History of The Rectory Teversham* <https://capturingcambridge.org/places-in-south-cambridgeshire/teversham/the-rectory-teversham/>; *Relhan Collection, University of Cambridge, no 318 Teversham Parsonage. SW view* <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-VIEWS-RELHAN-00318/1>; *Teversham In: British History Online* <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/cambs/vol2/pp134-138>
- 3 Archive of the month: James Webster and the construction of K staircase <https://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/articles/archive-month-james-webster-and-construction-k-staircase>
- 4 According to WILLIS, Robert, *The architectural history of the University of Cambridge*, Cambridge University Press, 1886, p178, fn 2 https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c9/The_architectural_history_of_the_University_of_Cambridge_%28IA_architecturalhis02will%29.pdf "a range of twelve sets of chambers, in three floors... built in what was then called 'Pump Court' ..."
- 5 Archive and the month *ibid*
- 6 *ibid*
- 7 *ibid*
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- 17 Private correspondence, Amanda GOODE, *ibid*
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 19 *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*, 23 July 1830, p4
 20 *Pigot's Directory of Cambridgeshire, 1830-31*, p6 <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/141429>
 21 <https://capturingcambridge.org/centre/eden-street/eden-street/> records that the first houses were built 1833-1834
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 26 *Master's Lodge Bill & Receipt*, Jesus College Archives, JCCA/JCAD/2/2/9/1830/17, 28 August 1830 - 25 September 1830, 13 December 1830 <https://collegecollections.jesus.cam.ac.uk/index.php/>
 27 *Maintenance Bill & Receipt*, Jesus College Archives, JCCA/JCAD/2/2/9/1830/13, 13 December 1830 <https://collegecollections.jesus.cam.ac.uk/index.php/>
- 28 Archive and the month *ibid*
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41 Archive and the month *ibid* ; <https://capturingcambridge.org/centre/malcolm-street/malcolm-street/>

42 *Pampisford new vicarage*, Cambridgeshire Archive K439/Q/22, May-July 1846

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46 *History, Gazetteer & Directory of Cambridgeshire*, 1851, p207 <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/281522/rec/8>

47 *Cambridge Independent Press*, 8 January 1853, p2; In the 18th and early 19th centuries, before the creation of a national police force, rural communities formed mutual subscription societies to prosecute criminals. These evolved out of resolutions passed at parish vestry meetings to prosecute felons out of the public purse. Printed handbills declaring the intentions of such bodies and offering rewards for information leading to an arrest are sometimes found in local record offices, and notices of the activities of such associations are reported in local newspapers. See Jim SUTTON (2004), *Protecting privilege and property: Associations for the Prosecutions of Felons*, *Local Historian*, vol 34, no 2 <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095813859;jsessionid=D80B6D23B68F05C0273F83E4536A63CF> [with thanks to Mike PETTY mikepetty13a@gmail.com for this reference]

48 As an aside, the auctioneer, Charles WISBEY (1808-1884) is my 3rd cousin, 3x removed.

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58 Courtesy, Jenny ULPH, College Archivist, College Archive, Downing College, Cambridge, 13 December 2022

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60 <https://millroadcemetery.org.uk/webster-anne/>

61 <https://capturingcambridge.org/petersfield/covent-garden/2-8-mill-street/>

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63 *Catherine Worsley née Rawson (1803-1885) : a short biography* <https://insearchofanwalker.com/catherine-worsley-nee-rawson/>

64 Incidentally, James' son, with Mabel Alice SPEARMAN, is James Arthur William WEBSTER (b. ca 1925, Barnet – subsequently a bank manager)

65 Divorce petition filed 6 Apr 1894, Ancestry.co.uk

66 <https://millroadcemetery.org.uk/webster-anne/>

67 *Cambridge Independent Press*, 18 Sep 1914 p2

68 <https://millroadcemetery.org.uk/webster-anne/>

69 *Cambridge Independent Press*, 4 January 1918 p5

70 *59th (2nd Nottinghamshire) Regiment of Foot* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/59th_\(2nd_Nottinghamshire\)_Regiment_of_Foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/59th_(2nd_Nottinghamshire)_Regiment_of_Foot)

71 "...It returned to the Peninsula in 1812, fighting at Vitoria, San Sebastian, Bidassoa, Nivelle and the Nive in 1813. After Napoleon's abdication in 1814, 2nd Battalion was initially sent to Ireland. When he escaped from Elba the following year, however, the battalion was 7

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73 *Chelsea Pensioners' service records: how to find them online*, <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/tutorials/military/chelsea-pensioners-service-records/>

74 Private correspondence, David LYALL, Royal Hospital Chelsea Archives, February 2023

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86 *S/S Scandinavian (1), Allan Line* *ibid*

87 *Passenger Lists for the Port of Quebec City and Other Ports, 1865-1922* *ibid*; *Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865-1935*

88 TNA, WO 23 *ibid*

89 *Halifax Courier*, 7 Jul 1877, p 8 via Findmypast.co.uk

90 *Canada, Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947*, via Familysearch.org

91 *Halifax Evening Courier*, 7 Jul 1877, p 4 via Findmypast.co.uk

92 *Canada, Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937...* *ibid*

93 *ibid*

The Really Useful Show : Live

(FHF EA Regional Fair) Sat 20 April 2024

@ The Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs

*a packed programme is being organised
which promises to make this a fantastic day
for all aspects of research across the area and beyond*

**watch for more details as arrangements come together
follow updates via our website facebook & newsletter**

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Received from

Dave Edwards

Researched by Caz

Dave kindly sent in this rather poignant notice which had appeared in the Cambridge Times on 31 May 1912, recounting a tragic event of some 45-years previously

(could it be that the republishing had perhaps been prompted by recollections of similarities to the Titanic Disaster, just 6 weeks previously??).

So, who were HJD Denis and T Denis of Great Shelford??

The above clip clearly refers to a monumental shipping disaster sometime previous to March 1866, but can this “Mr HJD” be identified, and what more can be found about him and his connection to Great Shelford—

A bit of searching revealed some fascinating insights into the extraordinary and varied life of “HJD”—a mid-Victorian gentleman adventurer/explorer, who came through all sorts of adversities around the world. A man whose life could easily have modelled for the, albeit a little later, fictional tales of derring-do in the likes of Conan Doyle’s “Lost World” or the exploits of H Rider Haggard’s character Alan Quartermain in “King Solomon’s Mines” et al.

It can probably be presumed that the ship’s loss would, itself, have been reported at the time—and indeed it was, with essentially the same write up

Among those who went down with the ship London there is one gentleman whose name deserves to be rescued from oblivion. Narrowly escaping a few years ago a similar fate on board the Marco Polo, Mr. Henry John Denis had since been very active as a colonial explorer, and had for many months been engaged in a hazardous hunting expedition in the wild regions, and among the savage tribes which lie at the back of Port Natal. He is also understood to be the first, if not the only, Englishman who has actually grown cotton in the Southern States of the American Union by free negro labour. Starting for America whilst the civil war was at its height, he took a plantation on the Mississippi, near Vicksburg, under the promise of adequate protection from the United States Government. He succeeded in raising a crop, and only retired when he found that in the then existing state of things it was utterly impossible to grow that crop without great pecuniary loss, as well as personal risk. As some atonement, however, the United States Government gave him a special honorary certificate.

* * *

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA.

In March, 1866, several bottles containing messages from some of the passengers of the ill-fated ship London, to their relatives, were washed ashore on the French coast. The perusal of these sad missives would cause a pang to many besides the relatives of the passengers. Among the papers was the following pathetic statement: “H. J. D. Denis to T. Denis, Knight, of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire.—Adieu, father, brothers, and sisters, and my . . . Edi . . . Steamer, London, Bay of Biscay, Thursday, 10 o'clock. Ship too heavily laden for its size and too crank. Windows stove in; water coming in everywhere. God bless my poor orphans. Request to send this if found to Great Shelford. Storm not too violent for a ship in good condition.”

being widely reproduced—eg: this from *The Birmingham Daily Post* of 30 Jan 1866. [The British Newspaper Archive via FindMyPast]

So, here we have the loss of the ship “London” whose passenger list included a Mr Henry John Denis. Clearly a man of some standing and note: he appears to have been

an explorer and hunter in Africa, as well as a cotton planter in civil war-era America. With an eerie “double déjà vu”, so to speak, he had also previously survived the potential shipwreck of the “Marco Polo”. Out of curiosity, a topic search shows, that it had collided with an iceberg off Cape Horn in 1861 (and that, incidentally, the same ship had achieved some fame back in 1852, when it was the first vessel recorded as making the round trip to Australia and back in under six months).

FOUNDERING AT SEA OF THE STEAM-SHIP LONDON

PLYMOUTH, Jan. 16, Evening.— Messrs. Money Wigram and Son's steamship **LONDON**, Captain Martin, from **LONDON** for Melbourne, has foundered at sea with about 270 souls on board. The survivors, 16 of the crew and three passengers, were landed at Falmouth by the Italian barque *Marianople*. The chief officer among them, Mr. John Greenhill, the engineer, reports as follows:—

“We left Plymouth on the 6th of January. On the 7th we experienced heavy weather with rain. On the 8th the same. On the 9th lost jibboom and foretopmast, topgallant mast and royal mast. About 9 a.m. we lost the port lif-boat, a heavy gale prevailing at the time. On the 10th, at 3 a.m. the **ship** put about, intending to run back to Plymouth. About the same time

The loss of the “London” was reported in great detail as supplied by the handful of survivors (just 19 out of the 270 on board, mostly crew)—such as in this article extract from *The Weekly Advertiser* of 30 Jan 1866, starts to describe. The article concludes with a listing of known passengers, probably those of some standing, and includes on the list one H J Denis.

But just who was H J Denis, hunter, explorer, plantation owner—and what's his connection to Cambridgeshire??

Initial census searches were inconclusive, and as he appears to have spent extended periods abroad in Africa and America, a lack of census hits perhaps isn't that surprising. But, a man of his apparent standing might well have left an administration or will, and that turned out to provide the entrée into compiling the family. The probate record from 20 Feb 1866 of a Henry John Denis [sic]:

“Henry John Denis, of 11 The Grove, Clapham Road, Surrey, gentleman deceased, who died 11 Jan 1866 at sea ... proved by ... George William Dennis [sic] of 21 Crouch End, Colchester, Essex, brother ...” [Estate under £1,000]

With a sibling's name to work with, the outline family tree took shape. The basic story, as deduced from censuses and probates, perhaps best starts with this brother, George. George was born in Cambridge around 1834, and went on to become a solicitors clerk, then a solicitor and later a stockbroker and ‘gentleman’ living in and around central London as an older adult. He married the widowed daughter of a clergyman in the mid-1870s, but they seem to part company soon after as they're both recorded separately in later censuses—both as “heads of household” in the company of various relatives

and servants. Not a particularly “exciting” life at first glances, although he did appear to have travelled abroad in much later life—as a passenger to South America in 1914, aged 80!!

An equally “ordinary” childhood preceded this fairly “ordinary” adulthood. George and his (at least) four siblings were the children of Soham-born John Dennis and his wife Elizabeth. John was a linen draper, and 1841 finds them in Sidney Street, Cambridge, presumably living above-the-shop as was the custom with family businesses. By 1851, John is retired and widowed, and now living in Trumpington Street with son George present (for anyone who knows the area—in that row of town-houses opposite the Botanic Gardens); he’s there in 1871, and died 5-years later of the same address. Now comes the Great Shelford connection—1861 has the widowed John together with George, residing at, presumably, a sizable villa (there are five servants) in Gt Shelford as the newspaper article details.

So, where does Henry John fit into the picture of a middle-class life of Victorian traders. On paper, only quite fleetingly it would appear—a probate from 1866, the “Register of Deaths of Passengers at Sea” [FindMyPast] detailing one:

“HJ Dennis, d.11 Jan 1866; ship ‘London’
cause of death ‘*drowned by foundering of ship*’ ”

—and the 1841 census. We now have to use our imagination a little. In 1841, Henry Dennis [note: the family name consistently appears with two “Ns”] was a 20-year-old draper’s assistant in the family business in Sidney Street, Cambridge. Picture him behind the counter, learning the business from his father, serving customers with his future stretching before him perhaps as “Dennis & Son, Drapers”. His much younger brother, the then 7-year-old George, may well already have been destined for better things than a provincial draper—still a scholar at 16-years-old, went up to Cambridge University in 1857, MA in 1861, became a solicitor, and left an estate valued at £52,000 in 1917 (equivalent to £5.6m, today). We can speculate that Henry did not see himself with a future in drapery (although, who knows, the Dennis’s might have gone on to make a fortune in drapery as did their contemporary, Robert Sayle: 1883 probate equivalent £11.8m). Perhaps he just threw down his apron one day and set off to seek out his own way in life, initially in Africa—or perhaps it was more calculated, and through the world of drapery, he had become aware of potential opportunities in the Americas to get into cotton farming. Either way, he was in Mississippi by early 1860s, and may well have been returning there after a visit home. Who knows what HJD might have achieved had disaster not struck on 11 Jan 1866—

Buckden : a village of clay

*contributed by
Michael Stephenson*

I am a retired art teacher, who specialised in ceramics and I am also a family historian. Therefore it was intriguing to discover that my GGF, William Thomas Mann (1830-1884) was for some time a potter in the Huntingdonshire village of Buckden.

Buckden lies on the Great North Road, a few miles north of the county boundary between Hunts and Bedfordshire. Although the major road now bypasses the village, one can still see the massive brick tower of Buckden Palace towering over the village. It was the principal resting place for the bishops of Lincoln as they journeyed between London and Lincoln. Built between 1472 and 1494 the tower, gatehouse and massive surrounding wall would have required millions of locally fired red bricks for their construction. A few yards north and west of the palace gatehouse is a short lane, York Yard, but it was once known as "Brickle" (brick-kiln) or Brickyard Lane. Today it is obstructed by the modern bypass, but once it would have extended into a large meadow, shown on the parish enclosure map of 1813 as belonging to "The Lord Bishops of Lincoln"; the map is held in the Huntingdonshire Archives. This is likely to have been the site of the brickyard in the fifteenth century and also during the revival of the industry in the nineteenth century.

I recently renewed my acquaintance with the Buckden parish registers as I extend their transcription from 1851 to 1950 for the archives, the period when my great-grandparents, grandparents, mother and aunt lived there. My Mann family had come into the village from Suffolk via Daniel Mann (1802-1872) who married Mercy Barton at nearby Brampton church in 1825. Daniel has a headstone in Buckden churchyard. The couple had seven children. Their son William Thomas and his wife Matilda Jane Maile (1838-1912) went even further, with eleven Buckden-born children, including their last, my grandmother, who was born in 1878.

Using my new transcription and via the censuses I was able to chronicle the revival of brickmaking in the village and the principal families associated with both bricks and pottery making.

The first mention in the registers of a maker of pottery was that for John Peck, who brought his wife, Sarah, from Ely, Cambridgeshire around 1826. In Ely there is Potters Lane below the cathedral and bricks were used locally and to build many houses in Cambridge. John employed between two or

three Buckden men, before he moved southwards to Sandy, where he died in March 1868.

Walter Charles Knipe (1828-1910) was born in Greenwich, the son of Francis Knipe, also a potter. His ceramic enterprise in Buckden was also short-lived, with his first born child being baptised in 1859, before moving back to Greenwich in the mid-1860s. The family had lived in Hardwick, the small area of Buckden to the north-west of the palace, where he was listed as a flower-pot maker in the 1861 census.

It is possible that the local Cook family took over the business from Walter as both Samuel and William Cook were given as pot makers in Buckden between the years of 1876 and 1896.

The principal family who appear to have started making bricks again was the Gale family and in particular Edward Gale (1801-1870), whose account books have been deposited in the Huntingdonshire Archives. These only give the numbers of bricks produced and they also list his principal customers. Sadly the financial side of the business is only mentioned fragmentally. As to the ceramic wares produced by the Gales, they appear to have been bricks for house building, “flats” or “nine inch pavings” (kitchen floor tiles?), coping bricks (for the tops of walls?) and drain tiles (for field drainage?).

Named customers in the accounts include Captain Duberly of Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton, who ordered 4,500 bricks in 1844. Also, a Mr Bowyer of Godmanchester proved a good customer for coping bricks and in August that year 2,000 similar bricks were fired for “the navigation”. Which project this was is uncertain; it may have been for the locks on the nearby river Great Ouse. Some also went for work on nearby Brampton Mill. Away from the Buckden area, orders came from customers in Sawtry, Brampton, Huntingdon, Alconbury and St Ives. In 1849 I calculated that the Gale kiln produced 12,800 bricks for the Great Northern Railway, whose lines were progressing northwards through Offord, only a mile or so away.

Pottery was also being produced by other families at this time and presumably used the same kilns as the Gale family, as opposed to owning their own kilns in the village. But there is no mention of pot making in Edward’s accounts, nor any financial arrangements with other families in the village.

On the death of Edward in 1870 production appears to have moved from bricks to pottery and a son, John Henry Gale, is given as a potter in the

censuses of 1871, 1881 and 1891. As to ware produced, there are only mentions of flower-pots. Brick clay would also suit the manufacture of flower-pots as they do not require the complication and expense of a second glaze firing. Presumably the firing for all the later families would be in the same brick kilns, and the wheels for the throwing of the pots might be housed in the vicinity of the firing operation. It is most improbable that they would be made elsewhere in the village and then trundled down Church Street and High Street to their place of firing – otherwise there would be too many “pot casualties” on route. Their customers are likely to have been the many market gardeners, whose greenhouses still line the Great North Road southwards, or for sale at the weekly markets at Huntingdon and St Neots.

My great-grandfather, William Thomas Mann, was principally a coal merchant, but is mentioned as a pot manufacturer in both the 1871 and 1881 censuses. In 1885, the year after William’s death, three of his children, including my grandmother, were baptised together and at their ceremony he is given as having been a pot maker. With such an extensive family they had occupied Oliver House, a large dwelling in Church Street, which had stabling for four horses and a cart, essential for a coal merchant’s business. I had often wondered about the identification of the Mann family home, but following Matilda’s death in 1912 it was sold the following year with an adjacent cottage. The sale particulars are held in the Huntingdonshire Archives. After William’s passing, and with all of her children dispersed, Matilda moved into the smaller cottage and let out the larger house. The identification of the building was initially quite difficult, for with the exception of the Manor House and the Vicarage, no houses have retained their names or numbering in Church Street since the 19th century censuses. But by plotting the position of the two Mann houses in relation to the old Reading Room (now “The Beauty Room”) on all available censuses I was able to pinpoint it as a large house conjoined to a smaller cottage on the south side of the street under the same long tiled roof. But the Mann family had also owned and leased out three cottages on the corner in Hardwick, and it was here that my mother and her twin sister were born in 1915.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS : 14 August 2023 ... *“Portsmouth-born former sailor believed to be the last Royal Navy survivor of the Dunkirk evacuation has died just short of his 103rd birthday. Lawrence Churcher was just 19 at the time, and served in ammunition supply at a nearby railhead. When the BEF et al were ordered to fall back, he happened to meet up with his two soldier-brothers, and they all sailed back together. Lawrence went on to serve a total of 22years in the RN.”* (www.portsmouth.co.uk/news)

OVER TO YOU.....

Genealogy on Huntingdonshire County Radio

Lisa Constanti (CHFHS Research Officer)

Some people are natural orators. I've struggled with Stage Fright for most of my life—whether it be singing into a mic in a bathroom at my cousin's house while recording songs or standing on stage with a choir singing songs to a crowd at St Ives at the Corn Exchange. It affects me rather badly, but I have a goal to change this and push through the fear in order to talk about what I love. On the 15th September at 7pm, I did a radio interview with Huntingdonshire County Radio on the subject of "Genealogy" with Norman Knapper's 'Over To You' show.

Norman Knapper is a regular from the HCR family and his show 'Over To You' gives people the opportunity to answer questions about their specialist subjects. On this occasion, I was on the show to talk about Genealogy and the role the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society can play in supporting people's family history research.

The interview started with a brief introduction about what Genealogy is and thereafter I explained that historically, the practice of Genealogy has always been a very hands-on affair, visiting libraries and archives and reviewing sources for information. The internet provides us with technology to support research by organisations making records available in the public domain.

Almost all sources of demography and biography come from some sort of collision with the authorities, benign or otherwise.

I discussed how and why I got into genealogy – mainly because I love the detective work! - and considered the merits of why people should get into Genealogy for themselves, as well as why they should look into what the CHFHS can do for them as a member or otherwise, including the benefits available to support their Family History journey.

I provided examples of the kinds of problems and benefits that people could identify whilst researching their own family history, including the difficulty with certain record sets being destroyed and lack of availability of others and some useful information about websites and resources, free or otherwise that people could use in their own research. Some detail was given into issues encountered whilst using sites like Ancestry for their genealogical research, like data accuracy, misattributed information, duplicated profiles and subscription costs, and when the best time was to consider hiring a Professional Genealogist.

Ultimately, I was very proud to do the show and happy with the result!

Sadly, the website only stores recordings for the last 14 days but a recording of the show is available on request.

<http://www.hcrfm.co.uk/on-air/listen-again/>

Research Surgery Enquiries : *Huntingdon, Cambridge, Bar Hill, St Ives, Ely, March*

Word is continuing to get around about the research drop-ins we run at a number of venues around the county. We've welcomed visitors old and new with a variety of queries about the county and further afield ...

... here are summaries of a few of the problems we recently received

- **Bar Hill**—we were please to welcome a very new member, who had taken a chance opportunity to drop-in whilst passing through the area!! As a researcher with Cambridgeshire interests, “T” had decided to stop over for a day or so whilst travelling from the southwest up to a Yorkshire holiday destination, and visit some churchyards etc. By chance she looked at our website the previous day, joined the society, and noticed we were to be at Bar Hill the very next day. So, armed with a folder of trees and notes, our enquirer was keen to have some advice on tracking down a marriage in the Chatteris/Wimblington area in the early/mid-1860s in a family who ended up in London—the problem was that the surnames were both open to several different spellings. The website’s automated membership process had already given “T” access to the Members Area and the society’s transcription database (no more waiting around for membership packs to be issued manually by post). A couple of searches alongside information from Ancestry and FreeBMD soon found the event in 1864 at Chatteris. “T” went off to visit churchyards at Chatteris before travelling on, further north.
- **Ely**—we took up the case of trying to identify the burial site of an individual, “WJW”, at Ely Cemetery from the early-1940s. The date of death is known, and there’s a notice in the local paper. But, after scouring the Cemetery, the enquirer hadn’t found anything, and the conclusion was that there was no headstone. After looking through CHFHS’s Ely Cemetery Burial Register transcription, the relevant burial entry was soon found—along with the plot reference in ‘Section G’. “WJW” was located in 1921 Census and therefore his wife’s name was now known. By the 1939 Reg he was a widower, and with a possible wife’s death in 1931, the tallying burial entry had the same plot reference. But where is ‘Section G’, and this one (possibly) unmarked plot, in the 13 acre site? Unfortunately, no map accompanied the transcription, nor could one be found online. The solution lay in a bit of lateral thinking—a number of plot references either side of “WJW” were eventually identified. On the presumption that at least a few of these “neighbours” might have headstones, the anticipation was that plot counting might home in on that of “WJW”. The opportunity to visit the Cemetery led to the map on the gate and ‘Section G’, and the duty custodian couldn’t have been more helpful. We now know the exact spot occupied by “WJW” and his wife. There is a headstone, but only the wife’s name could be discerned under the thick grey lichen.

The Huntingdon Surgery – NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

My experience so far by John Bownass

I hope by now our members know that we have been hosting a surgery in the Huntingdonshire Archives, on the first floor of Huntingdon Library, since January 2023, having moved from our previous venue in Cambourne Library.

The “we” by the way is Joan Bennett (our membership secretary) and myself, John Bownass (the Huntingdon representative on the CHFHS committee).

On the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:30, Joan and I sit there hoping someone will turn up and they always do! We don’t get many visitors; but even if it’s only two in the session we manage to fill the two and half hours as all people researching their ancestors love to talk about their families.

Some general observations:

- most visitors do not belong to the CHFHS;
- most are not interested in the local area and all records we have;
- most are fairly or very experienced in tracing their ancestors although there have been some with a blank piece of paper;
- every visitor learned something new about their ancestors from their visit

Here are some of the interesting visitors and their stories:

- A missing 4 x gt gt grandmother: using FindMyPast, we found a clue to follow up which was not found in Ancestry.
- A local man looking for his Great Grand Parents where, his copy of the marriage certificate showed the father’s name as “Caroline”, which somehow didn’t fit with his understanding that it was William. Other evidence confirmed his name of William, but a stay in the workhouse in Oundle also confused the picture.
- A young lady just starting out on her search for Yorkshire ancestors on her grandmother’s side, centred around Leeds. We managed to progress through three generations in the time available.
- A man looking for his mother who he never knew, through having been taken into care at an early age. The breakthrough was finding his father in the 1939 Register, and his job description tied up with the visitor’s memory. We were even able to surmise where his parents met by their addresses (and google maps) – in Westminster.
- A return visitor and member of the CHFHS who has constructed her family tree over several years, and all her records kept on paper rather than any online resource. The story moves from Devon and Ireland, on to Australia with prison stops on the way, and with some aboriginal family involvement. This was a good example of information we found online that confirmed family rumours and so verified the family history.

Do drop in at any of the surgeries—we’ll try & help you fill in the gaps

MEETINGS REPORTS

*Don't forget that many of the talks
are recorded and available in the
members area of the web-*

TAWDRY TALE — TRANSLATING ETHELDREDA

WITH DR CHARLES MOSELEY
(CAMBRIDGE BRANCH : SEPT 23)

Etheldreda – St Audrey – is a familiar figure in Ely, and even more so in this year, the 1350th since she founded her monastery after running away from her second husband, Ecgrith, King of Northumbria. Princess of a royal house, related to the king who was buried at Sutton Hoo, revered as a saint for centuries after her remains were translated from her original grave by her sister (another queen) to a new shrine.

Born in 636 AD Etheldreda was one of four daughters of King Anna of East Anglia who was married to Tondbrecht an ealdorman of Southern Gyrwas in 652 at the age of 16. It was a marriage for political advantage and Etheldreda was given the Isle of Ely a 'morning gift' – a type of endowment. However, Tondbrecht died in 655 and under great pressure from her family, Etheldreda married Eegfrith (aged 15) who was the son of Oswein heir to Northumbria – another political marriage. In 670 Oswein died so Eegfrith became king and Etheldreda his queen. However, Etheldreda was obviously not happy in the marriage – it is believed she was celibate through both marriages – and in 672 she was made a nun by St Wilfrid. In 673, having retained the Isle from her first marriage, she fled to Ely and founded a double monastery – one for men and one for women, the site of which is uncertain, but probably slightly west of the present Cathedral in the West Fen Road area of the city. Etheldreda must have been revered, as setting up a monastery would have required power, wealth, vision and authority, and the people followed her.

Not only was the monastery a place of worship for Nuns, it also provided help to the local community. Although the Isle of Ely was mainly waterlogged for much of the year there are many small higher pieces of land where villages had been established and the upkeep of the monastery was provided



Shrine at Ely Cathedral

through 'rents' which were paid in eels and other fish, fowl and crops.

Etheldreda died in 679 and she was succeeded by her sister Seaxburh and then her niece. Her relicts were translated in 695 and then scattered in 1538 at the time of the Reformation.

Pilgrims visited Ely for hundreds of years to venerate St Etheldreda and stalls would have been set up to provide for their needs. During the reign of Henry II, a Fair was licensed to be held in Ely, one of the greatest in the country, but along with genuine articles for sale there was much 'tat' (as is the case today!) and St Audrey's Fair gave rise to the word tawdry – meaning showy, cheap and of poor quality.

A recording of Dr Moseley's excellent talk can be found in the member only section of the website.

Reported by Muriel Halliday

MY TRAVELS AROUND INDIA
WITH JENNY MALLIN
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : JUNE 2023)

This was our 7th zoom only meeting, and was attended by 14 participants.

Jenny has visited India 28 times in the last thirty years, researching both her family ties and the culture and customs of this amazing country, and it was these experiences that she presented to us.

Jenny told many stories about individual events, such as making a trip to Udaipur from Goa and finding all the direct flights were cancelled, but by pulling strings they eventually got to within 200 miles of their destination. Then a local man found a car and driver willing to take them the rest of the way at night. The nightmare journey saw them pass more than thirty overturned lorries, and their driver fell asleep at the wheel several times.

Once there things improved and they had a child guide who included a visit to her own home where the whole family earned a living by making souvenirs. Jenny and her husband were so pleased that they bought many gifts, knowing the money would help the family look after one boy who was ill. Later they received letters from the family thanking them for their help.

She described Indian superstitions and omens which are taken very seriously and govern many of their actions. Once they left their house for a trip but were immediately called back inside as their Goan friend had spotted someone passing the house with an empty basket – this was seen as a bad

omen. A full basket would mean they would have a good day.

The Indians' love of train travel and also of filling in forms cropped up more than once in Jenny's talk including a trip to Bangalore when the simple act of buying tickets turned into a task taking several hours because of the complicated paperwork. Like most of Jenny's trips it turned out to be a wonderful experience in the end.

This was a heart warming talk which described a nation of people who are ready to embrace other cultures and religions (for example only 2% of people living in India are Christians and yet 100% of its people celebrate Christmas together).

Jenny was an engaging speaker and her love and enthusiasm for the country and the people of India shone throughout her talk. Her mission was clearly to encourage her audience to visit the country – and I am sure she succeeded.

Reported by John Bownass.

Q & A SESSION

*HOSTED BY DAVID COPSEY & MURIEL HALLIDAY
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : AUGUST 2023)*

We usually do not organise a presentation at the August meeting and this year held a Question and Answer session instead. Unfortunately, technical problems connecting zoom via our new website booking system meant that the session was limited to just 40 minutes this may also have contributed to just 7 participants attending.

Several interesting subjects were raised, including:

- Our American member gave advice about tracing ancestors who were involved in the USA civil war which she had experienced in her own investigations. The contact information will be publicised in the Society.
- Discussion about parish burial records and the location of the graves of those same people in the churchyard. It is often the case that the graves are unmarked and not shown on any churchyard plan.
- An interesting point about baptism records. A baptism certificate includes the names of the godparents of the infant, but these names are not included in the parish register. So, we may miss out on some useful information but certificates copies do not often survive beyond the family.

Reported by John Bownass

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO??

WITH MICK RAWLE

(MARCH BRANCH : SEPT 2023)

At the June meeting Mick Rawle gave an interesting talk entitled 'Where did the money go?' This related to Wills that may, or may not have been left by our ancestors, the legality of them and who may have benefitted.

Writing a Will means that the person is still in control of their family and assets even after death. There are 5 conditions that must be met to ensure a Will is legal: the person must be over the age of 18 years, they must name their executors; the Will must be signed by 2 witnesses who are not beneficiaries; it must be signed by the person themselves. The will must have been made voluntarily, without pressure, and the person must be of sound mind and understand the consequences. A nuncupative will is one made orally, when the person is on their deathbed, this is not signed by the person themselves. Two witnesses must be present; they cannot be beneficiaries and must sign. If there is no Will the person dies intestate and administrators will be appointed, often the spouse and children.

Originally wills were made to pass on land and money, often divisive in the past as now. Goods and chattels were added later. Codicils are alterations or additions to the will are often made when there is a small change in circumstances that does not need a new will. An inventory or list of assets; was attached to all wills up until the early 18th century. Wills before 1858 were proved in the Ecclesiastical Courts. Ecclesiastical Courts were held by the authority of the Crown. They had jurisdiction over personal estates of a deceased person to grant probate or administration. This was transferred to the Court of Probate in 1857.

Archdeanory Courts which are now obsolete, were the absolute Ecclesiastical Courts of the Church of England, presided over by the local archdeacon dealing with the administrative business. They ceased in the 18th century when responsibility passed to the justice of the peace. Manorial Courts also obsolete, were courts through which a lord exercised jurisdiction over his tenants. Offenders who were brought to court and punished were often forced to pay fines. This provided the lord with a source of income.

Peculiar Courts were abolished during the 19th century although a few still exist within the Diocese of London. They dealt with legal matters from 'peculiar parishes'. These were exempt from diocesan jurisdiction and could be under the monarch, another archbishop or dean of a cathedral.

The Prerogative Courts and Exchequer of the Archbishops/Deaneries of Canterbury and York were responsible for wills proved between 1688 and 1858. York was responsible for the north and Canterbury for the south. The court's jurisdiction applied to persons with property worth £5 or more (after 1800 this became £20, in more than one diocese. Mick explained that the diocese of Lincoln covered a vast area.

Mick showed us a copy of his father's administration from 1987, he died intestate. His mother died in 1999. She left Mick's son out of her will as she disliked him.

Tracing back Mick found his 7th, 8th and 9th great grandfathers were Lords of the Manor in Cornwall owning 250 acres of land. Documents show that tenants had to give the Lord of the Manor a chicken at Christmas. His 6 times gt grandfather lived in St Juliot (the church here was restored by Thomas Hardy), in Cornwall back in the 1600's. Mick explained the family line and how he descends from the 2nd marriage of his 5 times gt grandfather. There were 5 children from the first marriage. Mick had downloaded the will of William Richard Rawle Esq. of Treville, St Juliot from the National Archives. He left 1 guinea in gold to his second wife, £50 to his son, 2 guineas in gold to his daughter and to his son Henry he left an annuity of £11 a year to come from income received from tenants. It was stated that Henry had disobeyed his father and would squander away a lump sum. The annuity was left only to his 'proper hands', no one else, he also had the use of a house, orchards and garden. This possibly meant that the money should not be given to his debtors. Mick is descended from Richard Rawle. In the will his daughter Ann (a widow), was left a bed and furniture, her son William Bray £1. Richard, the eldest son of William (deceased) was left the remaining land.

The Records of the Administration of William Rawle 1747, show a huge inventory of goods and chattels, these included the contents of a small shop in Boscastle harbour. Joan Rawle (widow) was left: brimstone, treacle, paper, gunpowder and cut tobacco amongst other things as well as the land belonging to the house and a ship.

In 1793 Richard Rawle who later became a lawyer, was left all of his grandfather's money. When he died he left £600 to each of his 4 daughters. His widow Ann Rawle received an annuity of £50, but if she remarried this would become a sum of £600. Francis Rawle was left the land upon attaining the age of 21, from the income he was to pay his mother £20 a year. The remainder of the money was left in trust for his 2 younger sons

until they reached 21. A codicil dated 1790 shows that his daughter Harriet had 'disobliged' him and her share of the money was to be given to her sisters. However, she later atoned and a further codicil reinstated the £600.

Mick had further traced the will of William Rawle who died in 1820. His will attracted Inland Revenue death duties which Mick found in registers at The National Archives. Mick handed round a copy of the original hand written will pointing out the watermark of 1814 on the paper. Mick had bought the will from E-bay. It states the rents William was getting in was £7,695 in 1820, with £4,300 outgoings leaving £3,300 to be split between the wife and 6 children. Ann Carthew Rawle received £583 in trust until she reached 21.

Later Mick traced a will of William Rawle who died aged 79 years in Hawthorne, Melbourne, Australia. He was the son of William Henry Rawle a chemist/pharmacist in Croydon who died in 1849. William Rawle never married and had no children.

So, where did the money go? It went to his sister and stayed in Australia.

Mick also traced his side of the family in Manchester where his grand father died in the workhouse. Mick ended by giving some examples of items left in early wills including a hat and coat in 1592, and a 1820 will when a lady left her false teeth to her sister.

Reported by Linda Peckett

A NEEDINGWORTH FARMER : JOHN THANG HARRADINE *WITH PETER COOPER* *(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : SEPT 2023)*

Peter Cooper, who lives in the village of Needingworth in Hunts, related the fascinating riches-to-rags story of a nineteenth century inhabitant, John Thang Harradine.

John was born in 1814, the son of another John Harradine, a prosperous farmer. The younger John doesn't feature in the local press until at the age of 18, when in 1832, he was involved in a traffic incident in which his great-aunt was thrown from a carriage and died. Although another rider on the road was accused of causing the accident by John, no action was taken against him. Did the inquest simply not believe John and was there a question of some recklessness on his part?

In 1834 he married a Miss Tubbs, said to be a sole heiress but to how much is not certain. In the years following, his name crops up in list of local

worthies involved in clamping down on rural crime and promoting a railway line for example. Apparently also an amateur inventor he took out three patents on improved agricultural tools and equipment—but whether anything came of them is unknown. In addition he featured in the local press with advertisements plugging a better breed of sheep and an improved strain of wheat, claiming higher possible yields.

So far he might seem the typical Victorian entrepreneur. In 1855 he was involved in a wager over horse racing relating to his horse and a neighbour's. The wager was £100 and his horse, which he rode himself, was beaten. Now, £100 in 1855 has the modern purchasing power of £13,000. This man apparently had money to burn! Or did he?

In 1856, he simply disappeared. Investigations revealed he had been forging his acquaintances' signatures on promissory notes for very large sums, and then selling the notes on to discounters for cash. In total, he was estimated to have used false pretences to obtain anything between £20,000 and £50,000 – the modern equivalent of between £2.6 million and £6.6 million!

He was declared bankrupt in his absence, and his assets seized and sold in order to repay his victims. He disappeared to Europe for a while and attempted to cover his tracks by sending letters to Australia requesting an enclosed letter be sent back to England to give the impression he was residing in Australia.

However he was later apprehended in London, sent for trial, convicted of forgery and sentenced to transportation for a term of 14 years. This time he really did go to Australia, via a convict ship in 1858 to Western Australia. Incidentally the ship he was transported on was called the *Edwin Fox* and this ship has been preserved as a museum ship, an example of one of the last convict ships to go to Western Australia. In 1869 he received a conditional pardon (11 years into his 14 years sentence). Now 55 years old he became a farmer again near a place called Greenough north of Perth, and lived near there until his death in 1881.

Back in Needingworth he had left his wife, Sarah, and three daughters. In the 1871 census his wife was listed as a school proprietor in her home town of Sutton in Cambridgeshire, with two of the daughters. Two of his daughters married but were later widowed; one never married. Eventually, by the 1911 census, all three daughters (Sabina Hinson, Elizabeth Harradine and Harriett Gleaves) were living together at Cromwell Terrace in St Ives.

Reported by CJ

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY VISIT

Received from Sandra Trenor, Member 880
Sandra_stonechat@yahoo.co.uk

On the 5th of September I was fortunate to be one of the group of Society members who attended a tour of the Cambridge University Library, a place I had always wondered about, hoped to visit without really knowing why or expecting to extend my genealogical research by doing so and never expecting to get the opportunity.

As a consequence of these doubts I did not know where it was in Cambridge, what it looked like or how to get there until a few days before the visit. I checked their website and noted that I would not be able to take a bag in, so took little with me beyond my car keys and purse, found a parking space on their grounds and went into the stunning and surprisingly large building not knowing what to expect.

What a wonderful experience! The books were almost all readily available to just take off of the shelf and look at and there were so many of them. There were, we were told, more ways of accessing and finding what we were looking for than just the computer catalogue, the earliest catalogues with carefully maintained alphabetical slips in books that took up a whole room of their own, with spaces left in the books allowing for newer items to be added when necessary, there was also a card index. There were multiple ways of searching, by place, topic, name etc. We were shown the various storage places and how the shelves could all be accessed. The map room was amazing, holding maps for not just Cambridgeshire but the whole of the country.

Finally we were taken through a Reading Room and into an area partitioned off by glass panels and on the tables were various documents, books and manuscripts for us to look at. These had been retrieved by staff members who went on to explain their particular area of expertise and the items they had selected as most likely to be of interest to us as family historians and following a brief description of what they were and how they had been acquired by the Library, we were invited to take a closer look at them. Even at this point however I was doubtful that there would be any connection to my Bedfordshire families amongst these volumes or in the library as a whole.

I was always interested in the past and my family in the past, even as a young child and this interest grew into a passion as I grew older. I asked my parents, grandparents, anyone who would listen in fact, questions that were

invariably answered vaguely, 'there were lots of them' was my maternal grandmother's standard reply, whilst from my father's family I sensed even more reluctance, obstruction even, which held me back until I was able to drive and visit the Bedford and Hertford Record Offices myself.

Both of my parents seemed to have their family roots firmly in Bedfordshire, or just over the county border in Hertfordshire and once I got going I had little difficulty getting back to a marriage in 1744 on my mother's side and the early 1600s on my father's although it has taken many years. Before I could do all this however I left school at 16, was job hunting and looking forward to learning to drive. For about two years I was almost totally dependent upon my bicycle to get me to work, evening classes and to see friends and the natural extension of this was several years of Youth Hostelling in various parts of the country.

My first Youth Hostelling adventure was around Norfolk. I cycled from my home in Fordham, Cambridgeshire, through the countryside of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, taking in Southery and Walsingham amongst other places, up to and along the Norfolk coast, back into Norwich and home to Cambridge by train. I brought very little back with me except a serious case of sunburn and lots of memories and the knowledge that there was a place along my route that my surname was very familiar. I have unfortunately forgotten the name of the place, it was a long time ago, where almost all the shops and businesses were owned by members of the local TINGEY family and I was asked if I was related to them. I said I wasn't then and continued to believe this until quite recently when I discovered TINGEYS in Ely around the time of Covid and I have wanted to investigate ever since. If anyone can tell me I would be most grateful, all I can say is that there was a Youth Hostel there in the 1970s which according to the YHA website no longer exists.

I have followed both sides of my family back methodically over the last 45+ years and in the case of my father's, the TINGEYS, have managed to get back to the marriage of Edward TINGAY and Agnes PARKER in 1613 at Southill, Bedfordshire and the baptism of their son Jasper in Clifton, Bedfordshire in 1614. I have found two wonderfully detailed wills of men from Tempsford, Bedfordshire. In 1542 Henry TYNGAY leaves a detailed list of his brothers and their children and where they lived as well as his own children and grandchildren, whilst in 1584 Robert TYNGAYE also leaves a will detailing his large family of in the main younger children. I have, so far, not been able to link Edward of Clifton to the Tempsford family or that of Henry's brothers in Eaton Socon, but the search goes on and every now and then something comes up.

What I have found in recent years is a connection to Tempsford, Beds, in a document relating to a family in Ely, Cambridgeshire, more pointedly a document concerning land in Tempsford and the Ely family's ownership of it. I have been conducting what amounts to a personal 'One name study' extracting every TINGEY (or variant spelling) from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire I can find and continue to do so and am confident that they are all in some way related and descended from the earliest family in Eaton Socon and Tempsford. Therefore when I said I was not related to the family in the unknown possibly Norfolk village, I was almost certainly wrong.

On the day of the Library visit one of the volumes out on the table was a Marriage Licence book for the Isle of Ely, including the late 1730s and early 1740s. When I looked at it in detail it was both easy to read and informative if anyone I was looking for was included in it and it had an index of names at the back. The earliest marriage on my mother's side in 1744 is and always has been a stumbling block, I cannot get beyond it, I know the bride was of the village in question but have no idea where the groom came from, but their names did not appear. Being presented with an index of names is however too good to miss and despite not missing any other marriages that would fit into these years I checked for my names and found a TINGEY.

It was at this point that I realised two things, firstly that I had not brought paper and pencil with me and secondly that the visit was drawing to a close. The entry was on either page 54 or 154 and as I carefully turned the pages of the book I found page (1)52 followed by (1)58 before realising that (1)54 followed on. I read and reread the entry several times committing the most important parts to memory before leaving the books behind.

October 1741 – Francis TINGEY, bach, of ? and Mary Harrison, sp, Ely St Mary was also included.

I drove home repeating the information in my head every time I had to stop for traffic lights and wrote it down as soon as I got home. With a cup of tea in my hand I opened FindMyPast and entered the details. The marriage was as follows:

8th October, 1741 Francis TINGAY and Mary HARRISON, both single and of Downham, were married by licence, at Ely St Mary.

There were two entries for this marriage, the Society transcript gives more details, including them being of Downham. The family Search version being less complete. There were no copies of the original document that could be referred to in order to check and that goes for all the FMP entries I looked at for Cambridgeshire.

I wondered how long the TINGAY family had been in Downham, so put a search in FMP for TINGAY + variants, Downham, Cambridgeshire only, 385 entries came up for Baptism/Marriage/Burial entries, which seems a lot until you realise that most are duplicated and some have five or more different entries depending where they come from. I have found the easiest way to record these is to put them into date order as much as the system will allow and then go through them methodically, extracting information from each entry to complete the record. This left me with approximately 200 entries from 1665-1925.

The TINGEY entries in the Parish Register for St Leonard's church, Downham, Cambridgeshire, otherwise Little Downham, were as follows:

- Robert TINGAY married Jane MEAKES (wid) 3.7.1665, they had three children Robert 1666- , Jane 1668-1670 and Henry 1671-1672. Jane TINGAY (MEAKES/BALLES) was buried 13.3.1672.
- Note Jane MEAKES (BALLES) was the widow of John MEAKES who she married 6.4.1659.
- They had two children, An 1660-1664 and John 1663.
- John MEAKES senior was buried 16.11.1663.
- Robert TINGAY, wid, married Frances CHEESWRIGHT of Chippenham, Cambs 24.6.1674 and he buried Frances less than a year later on 5.7.1675, no children were baptised from this marriage.
- Robert TINGAY appears to have married again on 14.5.1678 to Anne MURROCK, wid.
- Robert TINGAY was buried 6.1.1693. A search of the whole of England 1625-1665 does not reveal an obvious or likely baptism of this man.
- Ann TINGAY (MURROCK/?) does not appear in Downham burials or as a remarriage.

- Robert TINGAY (son and only surviving child of Robert and Jane) married Alice FROST 2.4.1693.
- Robert and Alice were more successful, it seems from the Parish Registers.
- Robert may have been buried 18.5.1750, and Alice was buried 8.12.1729.
- Their children were: John 1693/4- , Robert 1694/5- , William 1697- , Henry 1699- , Froast 1701-1733, Henry (again) 1701/2- , Thomas 1702- , Samewell/Samuel 1704- (A note in the register states that Samuel is the fourth son and there were no daughters at this date), Jane 1705- , Francis 1706- (the society transcription names his mother as Alice, Family Search as Ann), Ann 1708/9- , Stephen 1710-1710.

These children appear in the Downham registers as follows:

- John married Rebeckah (? where) and had a daughter Rebeckah baptised 1713
- Robert (jun) married Hanah CROSS 4.4.1721, they baptised John 1721/2 - , Robert 1724-
- William married Ann MAYER/MAYR 16.9.1723, their children were William 1724-1724, Ann 1725- , Thomas 1727- , Alice 1731-1731, William 1731-1731, William 1732-1739, Jane 1735- , John 1735- , Frances 1739- .
- Ann was buried 1.6.1739, probably the date of Frances' baptism, William was buried on 10.9.1742.
- Henery/Henry – are they both the same child?
- Thomas married Ann COWPER/COOPER 6.5.1725 and had a son Henry 1727- , and perhaps a daughter Jane 1725/6 but the mother of Jane is named as Frances.
- Samuel
- Jane married William CAWTHORNE 9.7.1722
- Francis married Mary HARRISON (1741 Ely St Mary), their children were Francis 1742- , William 1743- , Mary 1745- , Thomas 1747-1747.
- Mary wife of Francis was buried 14.7.1747 and Francis married a second time, either
- Margaret LEAFORD or SEAFORD 18.5.1751. They had two daughters Margaret 1752- , Alice-1756- .
- Margaret wife of Francis was buried 12.3.1773.
- Ann married Robert ASPLAND 20.11.1740.

By the late 1770s it looks, using the entries on FMP, as if the family has left Downham but in the early to mid 1800s there are several farmers which would suggest the opposite. There are also four wills proved between 1817 and 1823 of family members who are 'of Downham, Cambridgeshire'. There are two marriages, both likely to have been the children of Francis, firstly a William TINGAY married Sarah YARROW on 2.12.1777 and on 6.1.1778 Alice TINGEY married George ANDREWS of Ely Trinity and then with the exception of the burial of a Mrs. Frances TINGEY, there are no entries for 25 years. More to the point there is just one baptism from 1756 until 1823, a daughter of a Francis and Susan in 1769, and no burials between 1823 and 1840.

With gaps on this scale it would suggest that there are registers missing or perhaps a period when the family went elsewhere and whilst the familiar christian names such as Robert, Francis and William are present in the mid

1800s it is impossible to connect the older family to the new without census returns and real documents as opposed to digital transcripts alone.

This family, or others in the area are not my ancestors, rather I suspect cousins of my ancestors. From experience I have learnt that you sometimes have to go sideways in a family to pick up the information needed in order to carry on back in time.

This small initial project, taking just a couple of afternoons and using FindMyPast, which is useful as a reference tool and starting point, is almost certainly just the beginning of a new line of research. It all needs checking and confirming and certainly adding to, but it began from a book of Marriage Licences which I would never have known existed without the visit to the Cambridge University Library.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH PROGRAMME		2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm enquiries : programme@chfhs.org.uk
<p>from September, Cambridge Branch talks will via Zoom only on the 2nd Thursday evening of the month **** register via the website www.chfhs.org.uk ****</p>		
Thurs 12 Oct	Commonwealth War Graves Commission <i>Insights into the history of the CWGC, and their on-going work to commemorate the fallen of WW1 and WW2 both in this country and in the many immaculate cemeteries scattered worldwide</i>	
Thurs 9 Nov	Cambridge Inventions With Mary Burgess <i>Join Mary, from the Cambridgeshire Collection, to hear about inventions from Cambridgeshire—from biology to computing, Cambridgeshire has been “home” to a lot of new ideas</i>	
Fri-Sat 17-18 Nov	Also in November, online, is the Really Useful Show 2023 <i>Cambs & Hunts FHS will be there ... sign up, choose some talks, come and see us in the intervals. Or, drop in on Friday evening</i>	
Thurs 14 Dec	Hereward The Wake With David Maile & Rory G <i>On 2 June 1070, Hereward sacked Peterborough Monastery, stole all their gold and silver, and fled to Ely to resume his resistance against William the Conqueror. An entertaining talk to bring Hereward’s exploits to life.</i>	
2024 11 Jan	Samuel Pepys—from Huntingdon to literary immortality with Derek Turner	

***** CAMBRIDGE BRANCH *****
DROP-IN RESEARCH SURGERIES—only

2nd Saturdays ... 11.00-2.00

(same day as Cambridgeshire Collection Saturday opening)

**Cambridge Central Library—Top Floor
Grand Arcade**

(stairs : far end of top floor) (lift : turn left on exiting) (escalator : ahead right at top)

LOOK OUT FOR THE CHFHS BANNER

RESEARCH SURGERIES—scheduled locations/dates/times

CHFHS volunteers hold regular help & advice sessions at society meetings and at public libraries around the county
there are no charges for these services

enquiries : secretary@chfhs.org.uk

Ely Library	3 rd Wed alternate mths	Nov / Jan / March / May	drop in between 10.00-4.00
Norris Museum St Ives	2 nd Wed alternate mths	Oct / Dec / Feb / Apr / June	drop-in between 10.30 & 3.30
Bar Hill Library	3 rd Mon <u>every</u> mth	Oct / Nov / Dec / Jan / Feb	drop-in between 1.30-4.00
Huntingdon Archives	4 th Wed <u>every</u> mth	Oct / Dec / Jan / Feb / Mar / Apr	drop-in between 1.30-4.00
March Library	1 st & 3 rd Tues <u>every</u> mth	*** NOW TWICE MONTHLY ***	drop-in between 10.00-4.00
Cambridge Central Library	2 nd Sat <u>every</u> month	** NEW FOR LATER 2023 ** Oct / Nov / Dec / Jan / Feb / Mar	drop-in between 11.00 & 2.00
Cambridge St Andrews	Now moved to new venue in Cambridge ... Central Library		

MARCH BRANCH PROGRAMME		<u>1st Wednesdays</u> at 2.00pm
Wednesday Face-2-Face Meetings		March Library, March enquiries : march@chfhs.org.uk
Wed 1 Nov	'Oh yes it is' The History of English Pantomime Jim Stebbings <i>Where did pantomime, the stories and elements we expect to find, originate? Jim will trace the history and development of this unique form of entertainment, illustrated with slides and pictures.</i>	
Wed 6 Dec	Seasonal Social & A Most Notorious, Naughty, False, Lying Fellow: A Global Black Sheep or Maligned Character? with Sue Paul <i>Henry, son of Ralph Smith, and brother of Samuel, flourished 1668 -1710. He worked for the East India Company towards the end of the seventeenth century and was sacked by the Company on a number of occasions being described as <u>a most notorious, naughty, false, lying fellow</u>. Subsequently, he was incarcerated in Newgate gaol and tried on two counts of piracy; before biting that hand that rescued him and acting undercover in Scotland.</i> <i>The talk is a light-hearted case study of Henry Smith demonstrating how you can reconstruct the life of someone who cannot be found in any traditional genealogical records in order to enhance your ancestral history.</i>	

HUNTINGDON BRANCH PROGRAMME		<u>3rd Wednesday</u> of the month at 7.30pm
Zoom only (register via website)		enquiries : huntingdon@chfhs.org.uk
Wed 18 Oct	An Introduction to The Hundred Parishes with Ken McDonald <i>An area of <u>Eastern England</u> with no formal recognition or status encompassing c450 sq mls (1,100 sq km) of NW <u>Essex</u>, NE <u>Herts</u> and S <u>Cambs</u> — around 100 administrative parishes, hence its name. It contains 6,000+ <u>listed buildings</u>, <u>conservation areas</u>, village greens, ancient hedgerows, protected features and small historical <u>rural</u> settlements in close proximity to one another. (Wikipedia)</i>	
Wed 15 Nov	Bringing Family History to Life with Fiona Chesterton <i>Tips and ideas on how to turn researched information into a compelling read for family, friends, publication. Based around Fiona's recent book "Secrets Never To Be Told"</i>	
Wed 20 Dec	Christmas In St Neots with Liz Davies <i>A look at how local Christmas customs have been observed in St Neots and local villages. Derived from newspapers, memories</i>	



LAST WORD

Received from CHFHS Member “F”

David Copsey’s mention of ancestors before 1837 etc struck a strong chord with me, because I have managed to do just that,—to track ancestors back way beyond my wildest imagination.

It all started in the days of the hard copy ‘Genealogical Research Directory’ (GRD) of some 20-30 years ago, where you could list your research interests. I contacted a woman who turned out to be my father’s first cousin. We corresponded over several years, and she dropped a little gem: we were descended from the Earls of Perth. That piqued my interest, got my research started, and I invested many hours into tracking this family tree. It all started with what I call an amorous Scottish peer who fathered an illegitimate child with a local village maiden. My research took me to the Scottish archives, resulting in a fascinating discussion with the archivist as to why the poor woman was NOT put on the stool and investigated by the church authorities, as was the custom back in 1735 in Fife.

There are all sorts of family inter-relationships, such as one Annabella Drummond who had 4 husbands (and resulting off-spring), as each time a husband was killed in battle, she was taken as a trophy wife- puts a new view of the concept of trophy wives?? The Scottish peerage is well represented, and I’d have difficulty sorting out one clan for myself. Favourite Scots in my tree include Robert the Bruce and his rival for the throne - John Comyn.

The tree also spreads south into England as well as overseas. My favourite ancestors include John of Gaunt, Alfred the Great (my excuse for burning dinner at times!) plus all those lovely Anglo-Saxon kings, Llewellyn Prince of Wales, Enrico - Doge of Venice about 1200, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. There are also Kings of Hungary, France , Italy and Castille, Grand-dukes of Kiev, a king of Aragon and so it goes on. Many of these people pop up as forebears of several people in my tree.

I plan to write this all up, for future publication. But meantime, just enjoy the wealth of so many different nationalities and how it keeps your love of history alive! And my advice to every-one is to keep researching. It has been such fun finding out these names for my family tree.

Our thanks continue go to everyone who has sent in contributions—whether as articles about your families and researches, or just shorts pieces, please keep it coming—getting something down on paper to share “the story” with others is the key. Family history is so much more than just genealogical facts, it’s the stories which we either know or have deduced from the raw facts, and these need to be written down. Apologies if your piece hasn’t appeared as yet, it’s very much a matter of doing a jigsaw to fit the material into the set number of available pages.

Remember, the CHFHS Journal is predominantly made up of your work—we just put it together ...

The Editorial Team

MEMBERSHIP

The Society offers a regular programme of meetings designed to appeal to the specialist and beginner alike; the quarterly members' journal is also available, if preferred, as a digital download. The UK subscription, due on joining and annually thereafter, is £12, and includes the member's partner. The overseas subscription is £17, which gives airmail postage of the Journal. If you chose to receive the e-Journal, the annual subscription for all locations is £9 (we also offer a life membership for x10 annual rate). Subscriptions/renewals may be made online through the CHFHS website via debit/credit card or PayPal, or by DirectDebit; alternatively, sterling cheque/etc payable to *Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society*, should be sent to the Secretary. Changes of address/email, members' interests contributions, to the Membership Secretary, please. See p52 for contacts.

SEARCHABLE RECORDS & SHOP

“Cambs & Hunts Database” When fully operational in the near future, the new CHFHS website will feature a brand new records search and retrieval system (replacing both “AncestorFinder” and “SuperSearch”). On offer will be a basic search facility freely available to all comers, and the records database with searchable access to over 5m of CHFHS's online transcribed records from across Cambs & The Isle of Ely and Hunts. The database is available to members only and accessible via the website members area. Additional records not suitable for the database format can be found as pdf files to browse.

CHFHS SHOP Search the publications listings on the website to see what's available for particular parishes and locations (CDs and/or downloads). Additional material not suitable for the database is also available as CDs and/or downloads. Also shop via: www.ParishChurch.com (incl books).

RESEARCH SERVICES

The Society will undertake a limited amount of help for members who have reached a sticking point in the work. This can be done in two ways :

- # general enquiries can be addressed to the Secretary by email secretary@chfhs.org.uk (or by post, with an SAE please)
- # more detailed requests should be sent to our Research Team, preferably by email, via the request form on the website research@chfhs.org.uk

We will attend to requests as our time allows. We ask that you remember we are all volunteers, so please be patient and reasonable in your requests.

Please supply as much information about the topic/person as possible (such as the sources of “facts” you already have, and which records/resources have already been consulted (eg. BMDs, census, wills, parish registers, a family tree, Ancestry, FindMyPast, FamilySearch, etc)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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