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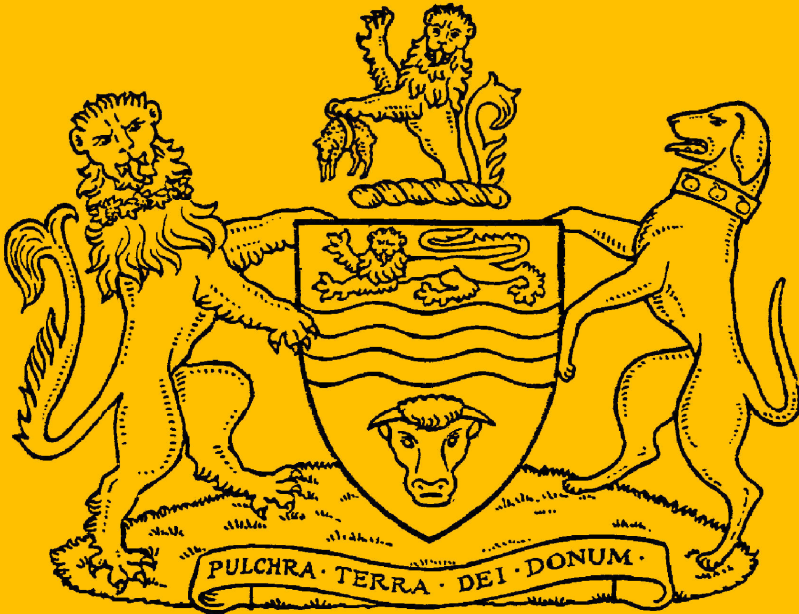
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The official journal of

HEREFORDSHIRE

Family History Society

Registered Charity No 517785



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HEREFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk

CHAIRMAN
Position Vacant

VICE CHAIRMAN

Alan Charles.

79 College Road, Hereford. HR1 1ED
Tel: 01432 359006

TREASURER

Colin Meredith.

63 Sandown Drive, Hereford, HR4 9TB
Tel: 01432 357587

SECRETARY

Norman Price

E-Mail: normanp.price@live.co.uk

Membership Sec: Jane Cox. 113, Bargates, Leominster, Herefordshire. HR6 8QS 01568 615222
Postal Sales: Heather Bufton. 3, Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton, Hereford. HR2 7AS 01432 355723
Programme Sec See Secretary Details
Librarian: Carol Bendle.
Exchange Journals: Digital Only via Members Area. Contact us if your society wishes to exchange.
Minute Secretary: Eleanor Atkin.
Committee: Sheila Greig.
Committee: Bob Powell
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Editor: Phil Bufton. 3, Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton, Hereford. HR2 7AS

01432 355723

philbufton@hotmail.com

Member of the
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Family History Societies

Herefordshire Family History Society Herefordiensis

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**2024 Zoom Meetings - To register send an email to
philbufton@hotmail.com who will send you a link.**

See page 301 for 2024 Zoom meeting programme

www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk

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Copy deadline for next edition: 1st Sept 2024

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Editor's Report

Here we are again in late summer in the UK, well I say Summer, but we have not seen much sun you say. I would agree!

Nobody has come forward with any suggestions on the identity of the ladies walking out of the Butter Market I highlighted in the April edition, maybe one day! I am still a little short on articles for the next edition, so any submissions to Herefordiensis welcomed. If you have any photographs to go with the article, please include them.

You will notice on page 286 I have included information on the Hereford History Day to be held in Hereford Town Hall on Saturday 21st September. I know this might seem quite a way off but this is the only Herefordiensis between now and the actual date of the event. There are to be three speakers: David Seeney on the SAS, Clare Wichbold on Women's Suffrage and former President of the Federation of Family History Societies, Nick Barratt on Family History in the digital age.

The Nick Barratt topic leads me perfectly on to the subject of Exchange Journals, historically we exchanged journals with over 80 other societies and these were displayed at every monthly meeting which were held at the Kindle Centre.

Unfortunately Covid 19 killed all that (Is it really 4 years ago ?), as we no longer hold meetings at the Kindle Centre we do not have a venue where they can be displayed. The only solution left open to us is to go digital. Most societies are going down this route of exchanging journals in PDF format. We in turn host these in our Members Area of the website and they are available to view by all members registered on the site. Just visit the Members Area to see currently in excess of 30 society journals. We are contacting all of the original exchange societies to submit only digital editions.

Phil Bufton

Editor

Herefordshire FHS

philbufton@hotmail.com

From the Membership Secretary

We were very sorry to hear from Tracey Ballinger that her father, Gordon Meredith, had died in May 2024. His membership number was 3608 and he lived in the Ross-on-Wye area.

Jane Cox

Membership Secretary

Chairman's AGM Report

The existing committee of nine members are prepared to stand again. However, we are still in need of new committee members, and we have a proposal for one new, younger member to join us. However more people are welcome to join the committee, wherever they may be. This is the advantage of the Internet; you do not need to live locally to be a part of this team.

This is our 49th ZOOM session in four years and the programme of ZOOM talks, organised by our Secretary, Norman Price, has been very well attended, with on average, 45 + members tuning in. The talks have been varied, covering a wide range of Family History topics, and always created 'after talk' conversations. Despite the drop in our membership, our finances are at present steady due to the online ZOOM talks costing less because of no room hire, travel expenses or cost of tea, coffee, and biscuits. But the cost of speakers is rising. Our Treasurer, Colin Meredith, has once again balanced the books. We thank him.

The transcribing of the pre 1813 Herefordshire Parish Burial Registers, part of the National Burial Index (NBI), project is well managed by Linda Lloyd. On the first Friday in the month, this evening session at the HARC welcomes any who would like to help to transcribe parish registers or to check previous transcriptions. In the last 12 months 92 registers have been transcribed and checked and over 31,774 entries have been submitted to Find My Past and are producing a valuable income as well as a valued resource for researchers.

The main project at the Hereford crematorium of transcribing and indexing the Herefordshire Cemeteries Burial Registers has been completed and is now for sale on the society website.

A vicar's census of Much Marcle 1828 / 1838 has been completed by Carol Bendle, our librarian and is now in the members section on our website.

The Hereford Archive and Record Centre, HARC, is now open for general research and several society projects are well in hand. On the society website all sales are now digital and are either self-downloaded, sent by email or linked by OneDrive internet. Maps, and hard-backed books, due to the high relative cost of postage, will no longer be available by post but are available at the HARC at bargain prices.

The society has had a presence at a couple of Family History Fairs this last year. The West Midland Fair at the Malvern Three Counties Show ground was well attended by both local societies and the usual Family history sales companies. We also made a donation to a local, Hereford Family History Fair and had a noted presence. We intend to support this project again this coming year.

Just a sad note to the memory of John Ridgway, a long time member, of the committee and MI transcription team. (Ridgway without an E)

As always, we need to thank the committee members who keep this society ticking over. Our Minutes Secretary, Eleanor Atkin, Sheila Greig, who looks after our Facebook presence and long-distance Bob Powell, who provides articles and talks and highland weather reports.

Alan Charles. Acting Chairman Herefordshire F.H.S. Membership No. 268

Officers Elected at Annual General Meeting

Chairman	-	Post Vacant
Vice Chairman	-	Alan Charles
Treasurer	-	Colin Meredith
Secretary	-	Norman Price
Editor	-	Phil Bufton
Membership	-	Jane Cox
Librarian	-	Carol Bendle
Committee	-	Bob Powell
Committee	-	Sheila Greig
Committee	-	Kate Smedley
Min Secretary	-	Eleanor Atkin

All officers were elected en-bloc with the exception of our new committee member Kate Smedley, who was elected separately.

Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024

HEREFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - Registered Charity No. 517785
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2024

2022/23	Income	2023/24	2022/23	Expenditure	2023/24
£4155.33	Subscriptions	£4148.11	£2190.00	Journal printing	£1816.00
£1024.72	Sales	£925.37	£166.94	Journal postage	£639.45
£8.00	Donations	£16.00	-	Journal envelopes-printing	-
£1431.64	Roy-per-view	£1648.76	£77.00	Other printing	£164.00
£3.05	Interest	£28.17	£55.34	Secretarial	£93.24
£434.86	Grt Aid	£414.13	-	Advertising	-
			-	Room Hire & storage	-
			-	Books/CDs	-----
			£326.32	FFHS Suby/Insurance	£306.58
			£470.00	Speakers	£405.00
			£230.40	Website	£440.40
			-	History day/show	£415.00
			£164.99	Other	£164.99
				Surplus for the year	£2735.88
			£3376.61		
£7057.60		£7180.54	£7057.60		£7180.54

BALANCE SHEET

2023		2024	2023		2024
£5514.65	Accumulated Fund B/Fwd	£8891.24	£8525.27	Lloyds Bank	£11045.18
£3085.58	Subs received in advance	£5200.85	£5356.61	Scottish Widows	£5364.78
			£94.94	Paypal	£420.01
£5376.61	Surplus for the year	£2735.88			
£11956.82		£14827.97	£11956.82		£14827.97

The Whitecross Chronicles No: 9



Frank Dredge (41) and his family lived at 11 Eign Street in 1901 where Frank had a woodworking workshop and described himself as a ‘cabinet maker’ and ‘employer’. Frank and his wife Eliza Mary had married in 1886 and had three children. The eldest was Ethel Irene (13), then Nora May (11) and then a son Cyril Frank (8). Ten years later Ethel Irene (23) was still living at home and working as a milliner at a ‘Draper’s Establishment’ – perhaps ‘Greenland’s’.

In the 1901 census 250,000 women were working in the retail trade where Ethel would have trained as a milliner through a two year apprenticeship, making hats which every woman wore when outside the home. The basic hat shapes came direct from a wholesaler and were trimmed to order. It was a job which was seen as desirable and skilled. The training would have given her status within the community and women from all walks of life were employed including ‘daughters of clergymen, military and naval officers, surgeons, farmers and tradesmen of all descriptions’ (Thompson and Yeo).

On the website of the Vintage Fashion Guild I learnt that, ‘*In the early Edwardian period (1901-1907) it was fashionable for a lady’s silhouette to resemble an S-shape. The hat was an essential element. It was worn on top of piled up hair and positioned to cantilever over the face.....After 1908 the silhouette became more slender. Conversely the hat became increasingly larger. By 1911 hats were at their largest, often with a brim extending beyond the breadth of the wearer’s shoulders. To secure these huge creations to the head, hat pins -sometimes as long as 18 inches – were skewered through the hair and hat. The hatpin had other*

advantages too. Any man who attempted an unwanted advance soon discovered that a hatpin was all a frail woman needed to defend herself.' Ethel's training gave her a job for life because she was still a milliner in the 1939 census and would have continuously adapted her skills for the different fashions of the time. She died in 1964 at 'Bank View' 103, Holme Lacy Road where her father Frank had died in June 1935.



Image of the workshop extracted from the Age to Age Living Local History Magazine, Vol II Issue 3 June 2003.

Frank and Eliza's second daughter Nora May was not at home for the 1911 census. Aged 21 she was living in Hampshire where she worked for the County Council as 'a certified Assistant Mistress'. In 1939 she is still a teacher but working in Kidderminster. Neither Ethel nor her sister Nora married whereas their brother Cyril married Ethel M Spearing in March 1914 at St Nicholas Church Hereford.

In 1915 Cyril enrolled with the Royal Engineers and was sent to Bletchley to learn telegraph signalling. As a sapper he was sent to France and in 1920 he was awarded the British War Medal and Victoria medal. Cyril didn't follow in his father's footsteps. In the 1911 census he was working as an 'architect's assistant' and was described as 'draughtsman' on his army enrolment form. After the war in 1920, he was registered as receiving an appointment with South Wales Postal Services as a 'Draughtsman II'. He and Ethel had a daughter Joan in August 1916 and it is possible that he married again in 1934 to Rose A Trapp in Hereford.

Their father Frank, originally from Chippenham, Wiltshire, was highly regarded for his work here in Hereford as a cabinet maker and he advertises his work in the Directories. In Jakeman and Carver's Directory (1902) he had a half page advertisement: *'Be it known unto ye, that in ye Eign Street no 11, nigh unto ye Church of All Saints, Hereford, is ye Shoppe, where earlie in the morn until ye even, are handie Craftsmen skilled in ye labour; carvers and makers offe all manner of Anciente Goodes, in ye Oak and all ye other sorts of Woodes, and in ye Anciente Styles.'* Perhaps therefore it was not suprising that Holy Trinity church had turned to Frank Dredge for the carved oak work on the choir stalls.

David Whitehead has said of Frank and his men, 'clearly they were at the forefront of the Arts and Crafts movement in Hereford' (*Age to Age* Vol II Issue 3 June 2003). In this edition there is a photo taken of Frank working in his carpenter's shop, with three assistants and what looks like church carving around them. See this image on page 278

In 1901 in the records of the April 16th Holy Trinity's AGM, Frank is listed as having done most of the work for Price's Hospital Chapel Improvement (Holy Trinity Parish Magazine in HARC). I am not sure whether the existing woodwork panelling in the chapel is his work. If it is, it has stood the test of time and been well cared for. Perhaps you know of other work by Frank which still exists which we could look out for?

Jean Thomson

NBI Volunteers

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE FOR 2024 ?

Are you interested in family and local history?

Do you want to participate in a national project that facilitates easier research both nationally and globally for people trying to find their ancestors?

Can you spare 2 hours per month to visit HARC in Hereford to work on original parish registers and bishops transcripts, transcribing and checking the documents?

IF THE ANSWER TO THE ABOVE IS YES THEN WHY NOT JOIN OUR SMALL BAND OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON PARISH REGISTERS FROM 1536 TO 1812. TO SUCCEED IN THIS ROLE YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES:

Patience and enjoyment in studying and resolving what the Parish Clerk wrote all those years ago. The desire to work in and with a small group of like-minded people. A knowledge of written Latin would be great but is not essential.

You will learn as you go, I promise! I can assure you we also have plenty of registers in modern English and lots of experts willing to help the beginner.

Keyboard skills are not essential as the recording can be done with a pencil and a piece of A4 lined paper, but it is fine if you want to bring along your laptop and key in the data into our excel pro-forma.



Our group re-formed after Covid and we have been very successful in forwarding to the National Federation of Family History Society 34,608 records since July 2021. We meet every month at HARC, in Rotherwas, Hereford, on the first Friday at 5.00 pm until 7.00 pm.

If you think this could be of interest to you then contact me, Linda Lloyd, Project Co-ordinator by email at:

linda_lloyd@btinternet.com

THE CALL OF THE HILLS A life of Charles James GRIFFITHS (1876 – 1959)

Charles James GRIFFITHS was a Herefordshire boy, born in Eardisley on 20 November 1876, who grew up to be a significant figure in local politics, trades unionism and the cooperative movement in Merthyr Tydfil. Charles was my maternal grandmother's first cousin, but everything that I know about him is the result of research, mainly using the censuses and newspaper accounts as my sources.

Eardisley, Herefordshire was the home village of Charles's father, farm labourer Thomas GRIFFITHS, whilst his mother Alice, née MORGAN, came from nearby Bredwardine. In 1871 Alice was a servant in Grosmont, Monmouthshire and Thomas was a farm labourer at Clifford, Herefordshire but by 1873 they had both made a move to the Merthyr Tydfil area. Perhaps they met there for the first time or perhaps they were already acquainted. Whichever was the case, their marriage was registered at Merthyr Tydfil in the second quarter of 1873 and their first son, John Thomas, was born at Dowlais on 13 June 1874. However, they did not stay in that industrial town for long, returning by the time their second son Charles James was born in November 1876.

One reason for the move back to Herefordshire might have been the sudden death of Thomas's father (also Thomas) in November 1875, which I have written about in a previous article for Herefordiensis. Thomas junior may have felt he should support his widowed mother who herself still had small children. He was his mother's second oldest child and the eldest, James, had, as far as I can establish, emigrated to Canada by the time of their father's death. But, sadly, Thomas himself died of rheumatic fever on 5 June 1879, aged only 32, leaving his own wife Alice and his two little sons in dire straits.

Alice could not afford to remain a widow for long. Within nine months, she married an older man, Clyro-born widower John BEAVAN, whose wife had died in the last quarter of 1879. He already had three sons and he and Alice went on to have five more sons and one daughter. Their eventual family thus comprised ten boys and a girl. In the 1881 census, the family was living in Lion Street, Hay, a small town of about 1600 people right on the Breconshire-Herefordshire border, which is formed by the River Wye. John BEAVAN was aged 44, a sawyer and shopkeeper. He and Alice had their seven sons plus John's widower father aged 73 in the household so that, aged 29, Alice had ten people to cater for.

At the time of the 1881 census, Charles, the protagonist of this article, was four years old and had already started at the National School in Hay. National schools were founded in the 19th century to provide the children of the poor with an

elementary education in accordance with the teachings of the Church of England. Charles was taught there by an unusual pupil teacher, George Hay MORGAN (not known to be a relative of Charles's mother). He was an inspirational character whose own parents were an agricultural labourer and a dressmaker. George Hay MORGAN would go on to the South Wales Baptist College where he qualified as a Baptist minister, at the same time taking a BSc degree from Cardiff University College. For ten years he had charge of a London Baptist Church, then became a barrister, a QC and Liberal Member of Parliament for Truro and Helston. George's role as a teacher of the young Charles GRIFFITHS was mentioned in later press biographies of the latter.

Sadly, however, Charles's education ended abruptly at age 10 because of the death of his stepfather. Again, Alice was left to manage as best she could with her large family, which included a young baby. There was no social security. As the *Merthyr Express* later put it in 1922, Charles 'has lived long enough to curse the bigoted reasons that denied him the education he ought to have had, but he attended the Dowlais evening classes, and this no doubt accounts for his general knowledge of affairs.' I have not been able to discover exactly what evening classes he attended but, in later life, he could certainly address meetings and write very literate letters to the local newspaper.

But let us return to the ten-year-old Charles, who was taken to Bredwardine to live with his maternal grandfather, James MORGAN, a shoemaker. There he was put to work on a farm in the village. The work was no doubt hard for a young boy, as it was for his widowed GRIFFITHS grandmother living very nearby at the same time; according to family documentation, her poor hands were permanently calloused from working in the fields. Charles heard the villagers talking in glowing terms of life in 'The Hills', as industrial south Wales was referred to in Herefordshire at that time. He had GRIFFITHS uncles who had already moved there for work and in 1888, at the age of 12, he set off on his own for Ebbw Vale, where he got work in the old No 5 Colliery. This was, of course, potentially very dangerous work. Even though the company was known for its relatively safe mining practices, there were over 250 deaths in the Ebbw Vale and Victoria pits between 1850 and 1900. These included a 12-year-old whose head was crushed between two trams.

Charles quickly became politicised, starting work in the pits at the same time as another 12-year-old, Lewis Jones (whose Deputy Mayor Charles would be in 1935). Both boys became involved in the affairs of the new Miners' Federation which was founded in 1889. From there, the path to socialist politics was an obvious one. How else would people's lives and working conditions improve?

In 1890, Charles moved to Dowlais which, like the other towns of the Merthyr Tydfil area, was highly industrialised. Many, particularly unmarried men from adjoining counties and further afield, had been drawn to the area for work over

the previous decades. 1400 Herefordshire-born people were amongst the 160,000 population of Merthyr in 1891. Large numbers of the inhabitants lived in cramped and inadequate accommodation. Sickness was rife and infant mortality extremely high. Working conditions in the mines and the iron works took their toll, with numerous accidents.

Dowlais was already the home of Charles's uncle John GRIFFITHS (my great-grandfather) who came from Winforton in Herefordshire. By then Charles's own elder brother John Thomas was also already there, working, like John GRIFFITHS, at the iron works. I know from family letters that my great-grandfather kept an eye on his young nephews and found them lodgings in Victoria Street where he and his own family lived. This is where the two brothers were listed in the 1891 census, both said to be labouring in the iron works where my great-grandfather was a blast furnace overman. However, Charles's own later accounts never mentioned that he worked there. He was very much a miner, so it appears to have been an error or assumption on the part of the census enumerator who has dittoed his occupation under his brother's. Charles in fact worked underground as a hewer in the Dowlais collieries, with only very brief gaps, until they closed in 1924.

In 1897, at the age of 20, Charles married 18-year-old Ann WILLIAMS, who had been born in Dowlais. The 1901 census taken on 31 March shows Charles and Ann were living in Berry Square, Dowlais (now demolished) with two baby daughters – Catherine, about 16 months and Alice, two months. Charles was listed as a coal hewer. Sadly, and not at all unusually in the town, little Alice died 10 days afterwards, on 9 April, of bronchopneumonia, infant convulsions and exhaustion. Her 24-year-old father was present at the death and registered it the following day.

Charles's personal experience of the hardships that working class people suffered must have been his strongest motivation in engaging in trades unionism and politics. He was to hold some of the leading positions in the Miners' Federation, serving a number of years as lodge delegate to district meetings and one year as President of the district. He also attended numerous conferences in both South Wales and England on behalf of the miners.

February 1902 saw Charles, aged only 26, appointed Secretary of the Dowlais Branch of the Independent Labour Party (ILP), a position he held for a number of years. The ILP was the political party that had been formed in 1893 by Scottish trades unionist and politician James Keir HARDIE. An important political figure at the national level, HARDIE's politics appealed to the voters of Dowlais and he was elected as the Member of Parliament for Merthyr Tydfil in 1900. He went on to help form the union-based Labour Representation Committee which was later renamed the Labour Party. After the 1906 General Election, HARDIE was appointed as the first Labour Party parliamentary leader, though he resigned that

position in 1908 and spent the years until his death in 1915 campaigning on issues including women's suffrage, self-rule for India and opposition to World War One. Charles James GRIFFITHS became an intimate friend of Keir HARDIE and in 1911 named his third and last-born child James Keir Hardie GRIFFITHS (1911 to 1990).

Though there are also mentions of Charles going to Chapel, gardening and singing, it was unionism, political work and other public service that must have occupied most of his free time, The organisations to which he belonged needed to work together, in his view, to better the lives of ordinary people. In addition to his ILP work, the Merthyr Express reported him in 1908, for example, chairing the monthly meeting of the Dowlais Federated District of Miners with a full attendance of delegates representing 4645 miners. He was also prominent in the Dowlais Cooperative Society, having been a member from 1899, a member of its Management Committee from 1901, and President for many years from 1915. He particularly identified himself with Health Insurance and was one of four Welsh delegates on the Health Insurance section of the Cooperative Insurance Society. He engaged in meetings and activities at a much wider level than just in Dowlais. For instance, he was reported singing *The Red Flag* at a meeting in the Forest of Dean in his fine voice, which was regarded as a 'very significant show of working-class solidarity'. In the 1921 census, he was staying in a boarding house in Euston Road, listed as a coal hewer, and no doubt up in London to attend a conference. In 1948, he represented Merthyr at the King and Queen's Silver Wedding service at St Paul's Cathedral.

But it was to local politics, cooperativism and public service that he devoted most of his efforts. As a young man he was regarded as a 'very advanced socialist' but he did moderate his views somewhat with age, especially in his Mayoral year, when it was necessary to represent the town as a whole. His very long service as a local politician showed his devotion to working to improve conditions in the Borough. Following his first appointment as a Councillor in 1908, he was made Alderman in 1914, Mayor of Merthyr in 1922-3, Justice of the Peace in 1928 and Chair of the local Water Supplies Board. He was also several times Deputy Mayor to other Councillors over the years and was awarded the rare honour of Freedom of the Borough in 1951.

As a councillor, Charles proposed and supported reforms in many spheres including housing and education. Just one example was getting his fellow councillors on the Upper Relief Committee of the Public Assistance Committee to vote in 1933 for an increased clothing allowance for children over the age of 16 and still in education who were in families affected by the growing rate of unemployment. Such children would not receive relief, but an extra 2s 6d, taking the amount to 5s would, he said, 'allow the parents to keep their children at school instead of allowing them to run about the streets, and they would have the benefit of further education.'

Alongside his paid work as a miner, he also acted as a part-time CIS insurance agent for many years. After the closure of the Dowlais Colliery, that became his full-time work until 1941, when he was obliged to resign on reaching the age of 65. On his retirement, he was congratulated on his 40 years' long and faithful service and presented with a Westminster chiming clock.

Charles's wife Ann, who had been a patient support to her husband's work and his Mayoress in 1923, died at the age of 66 on 11 January 1945 at the Griffiths home, 7 Haydn Terrace, Penyardren. She was buried at Pant Cemetery with 'no flowers' requested in the newspaper announcement.

Charles carried on with all his usual responsibilities. In 1956, after 11 years of widowhood and at the age of 80, he remarried. His bride was a widow, 68-year-old Mabel DAVIES, whose miner husband had died three years previously. His son James Keir Hardie GRIFFITHS was his best man. In 1958 his impressive fifty years' continuous service as a Borough Councillor was celebrated in the town. In fact, he continued in office until his death aged 82 on 4 October 1959. When he died, he was at Pen-y-Val Hospital, Abergavenny. After all his lifetime's hard work, the probate record shows that he left effects of only £200 to be administered by his son, James, Corporation Water Inspector.

An interesting aside to Charles's own story is that of his Herefordshire-born half-brother Silas Morgan BEAVAN 1881-1964. Silas, who worked in the grocery trade, married the formidable Emily Esther HUSSEY who was a very active local politician in Manchester. She was an Alderman and campaigner at local and national level for women's rights, education for the working classes, the cooperative movement and other left-wing causes. Silas and Emily were the parents of John Cowburn BEAVAN, an esteemed journalist. He was London editor of The Guardian, political adviser to the Mirror and later a Labour Member of the European Parliament. In 1970 he was made a life peer as Baron ARDWICK. By the BBC World Service journalist Anne SYMONDS, John Cowburn BEAVAN was the father of Matthew SYMONDS, one of the founders of The Independent; and hence the grandfather of Carrie SYMONDS, the current wife of Boris JOHNSON, who did not follow her forebears' consistent left-wing politics.

Liz Summerson

HFHS Membership Number 2435
summerson40@hotmail.co.uk

Hereford History Day
Hereford Town Hall
Saturday 21st September 2024

Speakers

Nick Barratt, from BBC's Who Do You Think You Are.
'Family History in the digital age'

Clare Wichbold MBE - The Hallmark of Citizenship: the campaign for women's suffrage from a Hereford Perspective.

Major (Rtd) David Seeney
The origins of the Regiment: SAS - Born in the desert.



All talks are free.
One of the photos taken at the 2023 event - Christopher Preece 2023

The Kilvert Society June AGM Weekend in Hereford

For those who have not heard of The Kilvert Society, it was founded in 1948 to foster an interest in the Rev Francis KILVERT, his work, his Diary and the countryside he loved.



Robert Francis KILVERT was born in Hardenhuish, Wiltshire in 1840 and grew up in the neighbouring parish of Langley Burrell, just north of Chippenham. After his university studies ended he was ordained and for a time became curate to his father, Rev Robert Kilvert. In 1865 he became curate of Clyro and developed a strong connection with his parishioners and deep appreciation of the countryside of the Welsh border. Sadly some of his diaries were destroyed, but what is left gives vivid impressions of people he met and the countryside in all weathers both in the Clyro area and when visiting his family in Wiltshire.

In April, The Society celebrated its 76th anniversary with a social long weekend based at Much Birch. On the Friday evening we were fortunate to meet in the Bishop of Hereford's Palace for the AGM. Formalities were briskly dealt with and we had a good buffet supper, followed by an illustrated talk. The speaker was Dr Michael Alun WILLIAMS, Chapter Clerk and Treasurer of Brecon Cathedral, who has done much research on Rev Edward Latham BEVAN (1861-1934). The Diarist Francis Kilvert records on 7 July 1871 "Teddy Bevan", then aged about 9, and living at Hay Castle (his father William Latham Bevan was then Vicar of Hay), *riding his donkey over to Clyro to deliver a note from his mother* and enjoying playing with Kilvert's cats (a tabby called Toby and her tortoiseshell kitten). Young Teddy Bevan described to him graphically *the arrival of the news of the invasion of Hay by the 7th Fusiliers and the subsequent excitement and delight among the young ladies of the Castle* (his sisters and friends).

In May the following year, Kilvert went over to Hay to see Wombwell's Menagerie arrive. It came late in the day, but he and Teddy Bevan went out to meet the caravans which were looming in the distance along the Brecon Road between the trees. The elephant, a very small one and 3 camels or dromedaries came shuffling and splashing along the muddy road looking cold and miserable and shivering. He says the wild beasts were stabled at the Blue Boar.



Teddy BEVAN was the 4th son of Archdeacon William Latham Bevan, and followed his father into the Church. Mike showed us many references to Teddy Bevan's life, his first curacy at Weymouth (the place of his birth), service as an Army Chaplain during the First World War, and support for The Church of England Mens' Association. After various clerical appointments, he rose to become Bishop Suffragan of Swansea and in 1823 when the see of Swansea and Brecon was formed he became its first Bishop until his death in 1934. He had been enjoying a short holiday in Weymouth, and died in his chair at the Royal Dorset Yacht Club of which he was a member. Reminisces mention he was "cheery, and unaffected and direct in style". Three years before his death, in a letter to The Times he said he had grown accustomed to being addressed as "Bishop of Swansea Esq" but an office of the Chief Inspector of Taxes had introduced a delightful version by addressing him as "Messrs Swansea and Brecon".

On Saturday morning, John PRICE, one of the Society members, gave a talk on Canon William Edward Thomas Morgan (1847-1940), a fellow curate in the Welsh border country during Kilvert's life there. Morgan is only briefly mentioned in the Diary as being curate of Glasbury and preaching at the iron church.

Morgan and Kilvert both fell in love with two of the five daughters of Rev. William Jones THOMAS of Llanthomas, Llanigon, Morgan with the eldest (Charlotte Alice) and Kilvert with the youngest, Frances Eleanor Jane Thomas, known as Daisy. Both men were refused permission to marry the girls by their father and although Morgan was best man at Kilvert's wedding to Elizabeth ROWLAND of Wootton, Oxfordshire in 1879, Morgan remained alone although must have still kept in contact with Charlotte and her sisters. He and Charlotte were fellow members of The Woolhope Club and obviously had a shared interest in nature, history and archaeology.

Surprisingly, the 1911 Census for Llanigon Vicarage records Rev W E T Morgan, Head aged 63, Charlotte Alice Thomas, 63, and her sisters Edith Burnam Thomas, 61, and Frances Eleanor Jane Thomas, 58, all described as Single, Visitor, Employer of Private Means. Apparently this was because their family home Llanthomas House was uninhabited at the time being renovated and modernised. More recent research has revealed that the girls' father probably refused all offers of marriage as he had spent the money intended for their dowries.

John Price's talk ended with excerpts from films about Francis Kilvert made in the 1970s.

In the afternoon, a convoy of members' cars made its way to the small village of Newchurch on the Offa's Dyke Path, about 5 miles north of Hay, frequently visited by Francis Kilvert who came on foot from Clyro. On a dank wet day, St Mary's church was candlelit and had an array of heaters on the floor in an effort to keep damp at bay.

We set off again to nearby Llanshiver (Lys Ifor or Ifors' Court), a farm visited by Francis Kilvert on Wednesday, 16 March 1870. He writes of *faint sunshine on Bryngwyn Hill* and a *cold gleam of water from the great peat bog below on the edge of which stands the grey cluster of buildings and the tall dark yew of Llanshifr*. He waded through the water to the house and the farmer's wife gave him tea and cake.



Llanshifr farmhouse c 1900

The farmer showed him the remains of the moat, *where the Scotch pedlar was hidden after being murdered for his pack while lodging in the house and where his skeleton was found when the moat was cleared out.* Local folklore, repeated later to Kilvert, was the tradition that a petty chief landlord lived at Llanshifr. Walking in the area two years later he looked down on *the black and gloomy peatbog, the Rhos Goch*, with the *stagnant water among its mawn* pits.* He says *this place has always had a strange singular irresistible fascination for me. I dread it yet I am drawn to it.* *mawn-bwll or peat pit

Our visit was on a similar wet and chilly day, but we didn't have to wade through water to reach the house. The current owners gave us very warm welcome with refreshments and homemade cake in their kitchen which had at one time been two rooms, a kitchen and dairy, built on to the older part in the later part of the 17th century. There is still a bread oven and two small medieval windows as well as more modern windows. They have 43 acres where they grow trees and have a flock of sheep who shed their own fleeces and do not need shearing. The farm had once been larger but the remaining land was sold and now forms part of two other farms.

Our hosts have done much research on the house and farmstead in conjunction with the local history group and showed us details of the work done with photographs, old plans and reports.

They then invited us to roam all over their home. It is an L-shaped stone building, where the oldest part dates from about 1600, with later additions on both sides. Now a comfortable central sitting-room with diamond mullioned windows and a low ceiling with very old beams, it had a cheerful fire in the huge fireplace. To the right of the fire, behind a solid wooden door, is a curved stone staircase where we saw an Elizabethan window with small square glass panes. The rest of the ground floor includes the dining room and was built in the 1860s. This room was once very wet with a possible spring underneath so today's owners raised the floor on a concrete base. Upstairs the rooms above the sitting room are low ceilinged.

The house is located in a hollow and quite sheltered from the wind, protected and easily hidden from attack. Although research has shown the moat once probably encircled the farmstead, and had been quite deep, it was probably a useful protection on the Marches, but no evidence has been found that it was ever a fortified manor. Apparently there was a bridge across it well into the 1900s to reach an outside toilet. Most of it was filled in during the 1960s but we were able to see what remained. We were told that an archaeological dig of the moat was planned for later this year.

An excellent AGM dinner on Saturday evening rounded off another enjoyable weekend for Society members, and we can look forward to a visit to Moccas Court and church later in the year, which also have connections to Francis KILVERT.

Sources:

The Diary of Robert Francis Kilvert
(copies can be obtained from The Kilvert Society www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk)
Kilvert Society Newsletters: Sept 1997 & June 2019
Painscastle & Rosgoch Local Interest Group

Images:

Rev Francis Kilvert: Wikipedia
Llanshiver Farm c.1900 with Lloyd Family: Painscastle & Rosgoch Local Interest Group Notes of visit 28 July 2022
Wombwell's Menagerie, Gargrave, Yorkshire 1910: Wikimedia Commons

Diana Clutterbuck
Membership No 3628

Herefordshire FHS - Renewal of Membership options

January is when we include within the journal a renewal reminder for the Herefordshire Family History Society.

You only need to use this form if you send the remittance back via the post with a cheque attached, (Please do not staple it to the form) or you intend to use it to setup your renewal as a Bankers Order.

Although we are still very happy to receive your renewal by this method, we would prefer that you use our own webshop to renew as below.

<https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/> will take you to our site.





This link will take you direct to the Membership page.

<https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/product-category/membership/>

Home → Shop → Membership

Membership

Application and Renewal of Membership.

 <p>Membership Application / Renewal Family Membership (UK) £15.00</p> <p>View →</p> <p>Add to basket</p>	 <p>Membership Application / Renewal (Overseas) £20.00</p> <p>View →</p> <p>Add to basket</p>	 <p>Membership Application / Renewal (Overseas) with Journal download £12.00</p> <p>View →</p> <p>Add to basket</p>	 <p>Membership Application / Renewal (UK) £12.00</p> <p>View →</p> <p>Add to basket</p>
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Births, Marriages & Deaths - 1922

Items from the Hereford Journal with corrections from other sources.

Alan Charles.

17 April 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At the Priory Church, Leominster of William John CLARKE of "Knighton", Hereford to Dorothy ABERCROMBIE of "Westbury" Leominster.

At the Primitive Methodist Church, Leominster of George BECK of Worcester to Norah SMITH of Luston.

DEATH.

ABLEY, Chas. At High Street, Knighton. Aged 49 years.

WINTER, Frederick Henry at 11 Richmond Street, Hereford. Aged 31 years.

18 April 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At St Margaret's Church, Wellington of Harry Raven SUCKER (Lieut) of Kings Lynn to Amy Maud (Sissie) DAVIS of Wellington.

19 April 1922. - **DEATH.**

BEAVAN, Ellen Emma at 11 Grenfell Road, Hereford. Aged 72 years.

ROBERTS, Eliza at 19 Westfaling Street, Hereford. Aged 64 years.

HODGES, Esther at 3 Bryngwyn Terrace, Hereford. Aged 92 years.

STAITE, John at The Vault, Marden. Aged 41 years.

20 April 1922. - **DEATH.**

JONES, William at Longfield Buildings. Hereford. Aged 70 years.

MADDOX, Mary Ann at Longfield Buildings, Hereford. Aged 86 years.

21 April 1922. - **DEATH.**

SMITH, Frances Louisa at Longfield Buildings, Hereford. Aged 91 years.

22 April 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At St Nicholas Church, Hereford of Percy C HULL (Dr) of Hereford to Mary Elizabeth HAKE of Hereford.

DEATH. - BEAVAN, George at 5 St Owen Street, Hereford. Aged 5 years.

23 April 1922. - **DEATH.**

BARNETT, Thomas Brown at 8 Bedford Street, Hereford. Aged 55 years.

BROWN, Jessie Smith at Longfield Buildings, Hereford. Aged 66 years.

JESSON, Annie Rosina of Colwall. Died after eating stewed Rhubarb and leaves. Aged 49 years. Coroner Verdict – Natural causes due to acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

24 April 1922. - **DEATH.**

BYTHELL, Annie at 12 Bath Street, Hereford. Aged 74 years.

HALL, Elizabeth (Miss) of The Gables, Weobley. Aged 90 years.

25 April 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At Tupsley Parish Church, Hereford of Reginald JACKSON of Lympton, Devon to Dorothy FORSYTH of Hampton Park.

27 April 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At Barton Hall, Hereford of John KEYES of Clehonger to Vida NELMES of Hereford.

DEATH.

BAGGOTT, George at 114 Widemarsh Street, Hereford. Aged 67 years.

30 April 1922. - **DEATH.**

GRIFFITHS, Edwin at 19 Oxford Street, Hereford. Aged 78 years

MORRIS, Catherine at 24 Foley Street, Hereford. Aged 13 years.

1 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

OLIVER, William at Longfield Buildings, Hereford. Aged 77 years.

5 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

WILLIAMS, Augustus Edward Pritchard at Lynwood, Cantilupe Street, Hereford. Haulage contractor. Aged 42 years.

HOWELLS, Doris May Rose at Glen Lea, Bath Street, Hereford. Aged 18m.

6 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

PEARSON, Arthur Henry of Gloucester Road, Ross. Aged 63 years.

8 May 1922. - **BIRTH.** - OSBORNE, Gladys at 9 Kyrle Street, Hereford a son.

DEATH.

CAVE, Elizabeth Ann of Rowden House, Bromyard. Aged 80 years.

ARROWSMITH, Joseph at Longfield Buildings. Aged 74 years.

9 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

MEREDITH, Jane at 110 Whitecross Street, Hereford. Aged 69 years.

BROAD, Elizabeth at Canon Bridge, Madley. Aged 77 years.

10 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

WILLIAMS, Mary Annie at 68 Bath Street, Hereford. Aged 68 years.

12 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

BATTEN, Eva at Barry, Cardiff. Aged 68 years.

BURGOYNE, William James at Berrington Street, Hereford. Aged 66 years.

13 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

DALE, Hilda of West Hill, Bromyard. Bicycle steering broke. Aged 28 years.

Coroner Verdict – Accidental death.

POWELL, Elizabeth at 9 Moor Street, Hereford. Aged 23 years.

GODWIN, Elizabeth at Porch House, Lugwardine. Aged 81 years.

14 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

HARDMAN, Caroline of 64 Green Street, Hereford. Aged 71 years.

BOOTON, J of Newnham Bridge, Tenbury. Aged 32 years.

15 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

UNDERWOOD, Millicent Enid at Block 4, Portfields, Hereford. Aged 4 years.

HUGHES, William (jnr) at Seabourne House, Madley. Died of Pneumonia. Aged 48 years.

BOWEN, Elizabeth at 1, Henrietta Place, Park Street, Hereford. Aged 81 years.

17 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

DABBS, Alfred at General Hospital. Aged 38 years.

18 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

STROUD, Edward of 44a Commercial Road, Hereford. Died of heart disease.
Aged 29 years.

19 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

STEDMAN, Edward of Knighton. Aged. 74 years.

BRIGHT, Jane at The Firs, Knighton. Aged 93 years.

DOBELL, Florence Magdalene at 24 Breinton Avenue, Hereford. Aged 7 years.

21 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

RILEY, Mary of Bush Bank, Canon Pyon. Aged 100 years.

HOOVER, James at 79 Widemarsh Street, Hereford. Aged 76 years.

23 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

GEORGE, Stanley of Fenhampton, Weobley. Died after a fall. Aged 3 years.

24 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

ROLLINGS, Emma of Knighton. Aged 50 years.

25 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

TOWNSEND, James of The Feathers Hotel, Ledbury. Aged 45 years.

WOODYATT, James at 134 Widemarsh Street, Hereford. Aged 83 years.

NORTON, Walter of Bunshill Farm, Bridge Sollars. Killed while rolling kale.
Skull fracture. Aged 58 years. Coroner Verdict – Accidental death.

26 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

SPENCER, Walter (Rev) at Fownhope Court, Fownhope. Lived as a hermit. Aged
72 years. Coroner Verdict – Death due to Syncope.

28 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

JONES, Alma Elsie at 5 Brewers Court, Commercial Street, Hereford. Aged 19m

29 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

ADAMS, Thomas William at General Hospital, Hereford. Aged 54 years.

MORGAN, James Pearce of Kyrle House, Peterstow. Aged 73 years.

31 May 1922. - **DEATH.**

ROSSER, Christopher at 15 Catherine Street, Hereford. Aged 59 years.

1 June 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At All Saints Church, Hereford of James Arthur
GODDARD of Chinley to Amey Elsie Adeline WILMSHURST of Hereford.

DEATH.

READ, Ivy at 18 Portland Street, Hereford. Aged 18 years.

3 June 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At the Primitive Methodist Church, Knighton of Reginald GRIFFITHS of Chester to Elsie Mary WHITTALL of Station Road, Knighton.

At Tarrington Parish Church of Thomas Harry HILL of the Homend, Ledbury to Kathleen RUSSELL of The Myrtles, Tarrington.

5 June 1922. - **MARRIAGE.** - At St Peters Church, Hereford of Herbert Edwin WHITNEY of Wembley to Nellie GRISMAN of 9 Kyrle Street, Hereford.

At St Martin's Church, Hereford of William Charles EVANS of Erdington, Birmingham to Catherine Marion TEAGUE of 174 Belmont Road, Hereford.

At Holy Trinity Church, Hereford of Percival LAMPUTT of Hereford to Edith Irene May BISHOP of Cotterell Street, Hereford.

DEATH.

SMITH, Thomas Pritchard at Glenthorne, Holmer. Aged 62 years.

7 June 1922. - **MARRIAGE.**

At St Paul's Church, Tupsley of Frank S MACHIN (Dr.) of Moseley, Birmingham to Lucy Kathleen VAUGHAN of Aylestone Hill House, Hereford.

8 June 1922. - **DEATH.**

PHILPOTTS, Allen at Bromyard Workhouse. Cut his throat. Aged 74 years. Coroner Verdict – Death from Asthemia from self-inflicted wound when temporarily of unsound mind.

9 June 1922. - **DEATH.**

MORRIS, William Thomas at Mental Hospital, Burghill. Aged 28 years.

10 June 1922. - **DEATH.**

GOULD, Ernest Henry at the General Hospital, Hereford. Aged 29 years.

12 June 1922. - **DEATH.**

LINK, Arthur at 3 Westmoor Place, Grandstand Road, Hereford. Aged 14 years.

13 June 1922. - **DEATH.**

PEARCE, Arthur at 5 Newtown Road, Hereford. Aged 62 years.

14 June 1922. - **MARRIAGE.**

At Brilley Parish Church of William Powell JONES of Old Radnor to Selina Mary PRICE of Peakesty Farm, Brilley.

DEATH.

COOMBES, John Ball at The Grapes Hotel, West Street Hereford. Aged 40 years.

15 June 1922. - **DEATH.**

LATHAM, William at 2 St Giles Hospital, Hereford. Aged 73 years.

RICHARDS, Fred of Grosmont. Methodist and carpenter. Aged 85 years.

To be continued...

Finding Grandad

I started researching my paternal line over 20 years ago, using Ancestry since April 2002. I used (International Genealogical Index (IGI) at first and visited Records Offices in Worcester, Hereford and Shrewsbury plus numerous weekend trips to the villages of my ancestors to peruse the church records. After a couple of years I proudly presented my findings to my father, rolling out an extensive family tree going back to 1704. My father was impressed, as well as surprised that his grandparents were local folk and not coming from Somerset as he had believed.

Then my mother dropped a bombshell. "I'd love to know more about my family, but I never knew who my father was" she said. What? Surely it was Grandad Fred, who we visited often in our childhood, who taught us all about racing pigeons (his hobby) and who, as a young soldier, I carried into church at his funeral. No, it wasn't, he was the man who had married Gran later. Mum's birth certificate and marriage certificate bore no father's name.

So I researched what I could about Mum. How she had been raised by her own Gran, who herself was illegitimate and born in the Workhouse in Bridgenorth. I found as much as I could on my Gran's side, but nothing about Grandad.

So I turned to DNA. I took a test with Ancestry but couldn't really tell where the matches came from. Then in 2016 I asked Mum to take a test as well. In hindsight I should have got Dad to take the test as well, although nowadays Ancestry can split matches into Parent 1 and Parent 2 listings. We got 3 close matches: one with 464cM or 7% shared DNA with Mum, another with 383cM or 5% and a third with 288cM or 4% shared DNA (who turned out to be the niece of the first, they had both taken tests without knowing the other had done so).

I contacted them via Ancestry and found that they were known to each other and were descendents of two sisters. I found from them that the names of their, and my, Great-Grandparents were John and Jemima DAVIES. Mum's father had to be one of their sons. One of their 5 sons to be exact. By a process of elimination I discounted the youngest son as he was five years younger than my Gran, and the oldest two, as they were ten and eight years older. It had to be one of the other two, Jack a year older than Gran and Albert a few months younger.

Looking at the 1901 census I saw that my new Great-Grandfather John had been a roadman working for Ludlow Council, as had Benjamin MASSEY, the husband of Mum's Gran (my Great-Grandfather on her mother's side). There was the link between the families.

I found one of the two suspect brothers, Albert, in the 1939 Register, along with his wife and 2 children. Through FreeBMD I found they had three children, all a little younger than myself. I searched Facebook, a lot, looking for people with the

right name in the right place. Finally found one, but was unsure how to contact her. I decided on the bold approach and sent a message via Facebook Messenger. Luckily she responded and confirmed she was indeed the granddaughter of Albert. I asked her to take a DNA test for me, offering to pay for it myself, as you would expect. Luckily she agreed and a test was taken. Several anxious weeks passed by until the results came back. She was about the same as my other links. Not close enough to be my half cousin. Back to the drawing board as they say. I went back to the various messages I had had with the three DNA links in Ancestry. I found one that said that Jack had married someone called Gertrude and moved to Tenbury Wells where they had had several children.

Then in late autumn 2023 my wife and I went on a Warners weekend near Hereford and spent the afternoon in the Records Office. At the offices I was able to access a spreadsheet of Births, Marriages and Deaths recorded in Herefordshire. I found Jack had married a Gertrude BEBB in Tenbury but their children, all 5 of them, had been born in Leominster. I also found the names of their children. Back to Facebook.

I found two brothers and messaged them. One responded confirming his grandfather was Jack. However, he did not respond when I asked about a DNA test. I did not push further. As a last try, I sent him a photo I had of my gran as a young woman with an unknown man. He responded by saying his mother did not recognise the young man in the photo but sent me a photo of her on her wedding day with her father Jack. My first and only photo of my potential grandfather. Communication ceased after that.

I plodded on. I found another descendant, a woman about 10 years my junior. She responded and was quite intrigued to hear she may have relations she never knew of. Even better, her mum was interested. I asked about a DNA test, again offering to pay for it. She suggested her mother was willing to take the test. Even better.

The test was ordered; they created an Ancestry account to link the test to; the test arrived; was taken and sent back. Several anxious weeks went by, again. Finally I got a message from my contact saying the results were back. I logged in and found that this lady and my mum shared 1,765 cM | 25% shared DNA.

Wow, that was so close that it meant she was my mother's half-sister. So, now I know that my Grandfather was called Jack DAVIES. Jack and Gertrude had actually had 7 children, 3 of whom are still alive today. The lady who took the test for me is the youngest of mum's half-siblings, 20 years younger than mum. And our family has now almost doubled in size.

It's only a shame that my mum died 3 years ago, without ever knowing who her father was.

Colin Portman. Membership No 3289

BOOK REVIEW: THE DESERTER'S TALE by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

This is the tenth book in the Morton Farrier series. As well as being a good read, it is also a useful guide to finding an elusive ancestor.

‘The Deserter’s Tale’ is based on the true story of a distant relative of the author’s who abandoned his family at the end of WW1 and disappeared. He married twice, bigamously, in the USA, and, on the only occasion he returned to see his family in Sussex, he was chased away.

In this novella, Morton Farrier, a forensic genealogist, is travelling to Salt Lake City, Utah, to address an international genealogy conference. His mother-in-law, Margot, suggests that during his stopover in Las Vegas, he could find time to discover what happened to Charles HUGHES, her grandfather and the great-grandfather of Morton’s wife, Juliette. Charles had abandoned the family home, Brookside, in Etchingham, East Sussex in 1919. In Margot’s possession was a letter he had sent from Las Vegas to his wife, Alice, twenty years later, telling her that he was married with six children. He said he was a reformed man and asked if he could return home.

Ancestry provided no leads to Morton’s relative, Charles Hughes, but he was directed to The UK, British Army World War 1 Medals Rolls Index Cards which provides information for more than ninety per cent of British soldiers. Morton found a photograph of Charles in military uniform with his wife and children, and that he had been a sapper with the Royal Engineers. After the war ended he was awarded the Victory Medal, the British Medal and the 1915 Star for his service. Even if Charles had changed his name, any of his offspring would appear in Juliette’s DNA matches. Using the MyHeritage website’s DNA tab, Morton found a list of people who were linked to both his wife and a second cousin. Scrolling through the names of relatives, he found four who were reasonably DNA-matched but were unknown to his family. He made contact with them before he left for America.

After landing in Las Vegas, he received a reply from Bernadette Honeychurch, born in 1950, saying that Roy Stewart had been her grandfather. Morton assumed that Honeychurch was her married name. Opening up Newspapers.com and using the marriage filter for 1965 to 1990 he found that she had married in 1973. Her father’s name was Roy STEWART Jr which suggested that his father’s name was also Roy Stewart. Perhaps, thought Morton, Charles Hughes had adopted the name Roy Stewart when he arrived in America.

Bernadette also said that she knew her grandfather had been miserable in England, that his wife had died in childbirth, and his children had been whisked away from him. She had tried but failed to trace his earlier life. Morton thought she could be in for a small shock when he told her the reason.

FamilySearch Research Wiki directed Morton to Arizona Birth Certificates 1887 – 1935 on MyHeritage where he found that Roy Stewart had married Beulah HENNES in 1929. A further search brought up their marriage certificate on which was his original signature. Although the name had changed, Charles' handwriting hadn't, and the slant and style of the letters were the same as well as a uniquely formed 'a'. This was further confirmation that Charles and Roy were the same man.

The second response came from Edie Loveless who lived in Las Vegas saying that her grandfather was married to Louise Billington. Morton searched in vain for a marriage between either Charles Hughes or Roy Stewart to Louise BILLINGTON. When he entered the name of Louise Billington without the name of a bridegroom, however, the name of George P BROWN appeared.

On the 1920 US census for Las Vegas, the date of birth, 1890, and birthplace, England, suggested that this was Charles Hughes' third name. Due to fly home from Las Vegas the following day meant that Morton had little time left to find out any more about him. Hoping that George P Brown may have done something newsworthy, Morton clicked on the Genealogy Bank website to look at two digitalised Las Vegas newspapers for that period.

Not only were there a series of articles about George P Brown, but an accompanying photograph left Morton in no doubt that he was looking at the same man he had seen in WWI military uniform. A timely message from Edie Loveless arrived suggesting they met the following morning at the Mob Museum.

In the Museum, Morton learnt about the notorious life Edie's grandfather, and his wife's great-grandfather, had been leading in Las Vegas. During Prohibition George and his wife Louise had produced and sold liquor and had owned a major speakeasy which he had named Brookside after his old home in Sussex. His businesses had been raided by the police, and when he discovered that his wife, Louise, had been a double agent, the consequences were dire.

Morton returned home from Las Vegas satisfied with both the success of the conference and with the dossier of information on Charles Hughes's colourful life which he had prepared for Juliette and her mother.

For family historians 'The Deserter's Tale' shows how a person missing from a family tree can be tracked and traced using DNA from close relatives. It also names the websites from which further information can be extracted. The use of local digitalised newspapers is yet another avenue to be explored if the ancestor was newsworthy – but be prepared for illustrious reports of their achievements or for graphic descriptions of their criminal activities.

Herefordshire FHS Zoom Meetings Programme for 2024

Morag Peers 21st June 2024 Reformatory Schools

Why were Reformatory Schools established, what was the ethos, and who was sent there?

Beverly Walker 19th July 2024

Was Your Ancestor a Gypsy

I will give a brief history, provide examples of the first and surnames they used, their occupations and examples of different sources available where they may appear.

Bill Laws 16th August 2024

How Herefordshire Survived D Day

Black GIs in town, Indians on the Racecourse, Mules in the Black Mountains, and tinned peaches. Hereford Lore's Bill Laws mines the June 44 archives for an illustrated talk.

Sarah Pettyfer 20th September 2024 Oliver House:

The story of a 16th century cottage This talk about Oliver House, Cranleigh, Surrey guides the listener through a series of deeds proving ownership back to within 70 years of being built

**All of the 2024 Zoom speakers are now publicised on the website and you will then receive the Newsletter.
To register, email philbufton@hotmail.com**

Bromyard & District Local History Society

Meetings are held at the Conquest Theatre, Tenbury Road, Bromyard.

Membership Secretary: Mr Alex Hoyle

B&DLHS, 5 Sherford Street, Bromyard, Herefordshire. HR7 4DL

E-mail: bromyardhistory@btconnect.com www.bromyardhistorysociety.org.uk

Cradley Heritage Group

Formed in 2004, the group is an active, hands-on group of people who undertake projects in co-operation with Malvern FHS.

<http://www.cradleyvillagehall.org.uk/heritage.htm>

Fownhope Local History Group

Contact: Janet Jones. Telephone no: 01432 860319.

<https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/local-history-group>

Kington History Society

c/o Kington Museum, Mill Street, Kington HR5 3AL The Kington library room is manned every Tuesday & Friday from 10am-4pm

<https://kingtonhistorysociety.com/>

Leintwardine History Society

Contact: Geraldine Kennedy, Email geraldinekennedy450@gmail.com 01547540841

<https://leintwardinehs.wordpress.com/>

Linton & District Local History Society

Contact: Mrs Lee Hines. Ford House, Ford Lane, Kilcot, Gloucs. GL18 1NW

All meetings at Linton Village Hall

<https://lintonvillage.com/linton-clubs-and-societies/linton-district-history-society/>

Longtown Historical Society.

Contact: Dr Jeremy Davis. jerrydpdavis@outlook.com

<http://www.lhsarchive.org.uk/>

Weobley & District Local History Society

Weobley Museum, Back Lane, Weobley, Herefordshire. HR4 8SG.

Contact: WDLHS.secretary@hotmail.com

Open April, May Jun: Mon & Tues 10 - 1;

July, Aug, Sept: Mon, Tues, Weds 10-1; Bank Holidays 10 - 4

Woolhope Club

Contact: Mr D. Whitehead. 60, Hafod Road, Hereford. HR1 1SQ

davidwhitehead055@gmail.com

Founded in 1851, The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, covers the archaeology, history and the natural history of Herefordshire. Also Archaeological Research Section & Natural History Section Membership £13-00 per year, Joint £15-00, Student £2-00

**Contact Addresses of Family History Societies
surrounding Herefordshire**

Midland Ancestor (formerly BMSGH) (West Midland Group Member)

Sec: Mrs Jackie Cotterill, 5 Sanderling Court, Kidderminster, DY10 4TS
<https://midland-ancestors.uk/>

Gloucestershire FHS

www.gfhs.org.uk

Gwent FHS

Sec: Mrs N. Thomas, 11, Rosser Street, Waunfelin, Pontypool. NP4 6EA
www.gwentfhs.info

Montgomeryshire GS

Sec: Mrs Monica Woosnam, 24 Dysart Terrace, Canal Road, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2JL
<http://www.montgomeryshiregs.org.uk/>

Powys FHS

www.powysfhs.org.uk

Meetings held at Brecon BRE, Llanddewi Ystradenny RAD and Abermule MGY
Contact: philbufton@hotmail.com

Shropshire FHS (West Midland Group member)

Sec: Mr Dave Morris, 48 Oakley Street, Bellevue, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 7JY

Email: secretary@sfhs.org.uk

www.sfhs.org.uk

Malvern Family History Society (West Midland Group member)

Sec: Mrs Jean Evans

secretary@mfhs.org.uk

All meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Open at 7pm for a 7-30 start at Eden Church, Grovewood Road, Malvern. The meetings are also available by Zoom. We cover the whole of Worcestershire.

www.mfhs.org.uk/

FHF (Formerly called FFHS) is an international organisation, established in the UK as a non-profit making charitable company. It represents, advises and supports over 200 family history societies and other genealogical organizations worldwide, with a combined membership of over 300,000.

www.familyhistoryfederation.com

See www.fhswales.org.uk/ for information on societies in Wales

Herefordshire Registrar Indexes

The Herefordshire FHS has now had permission to publish all three of the Registrars indexes compiled by members of the society from the registers held by the Herefordshire Registrars of Births, Marriages & Deaths.

Births : 1837 - 1923 £15

Births: Name, Date of Birth, Mother's Maiden Name & Registrar Reference.

Marriages: 1837 - 1963 £25

Marriages: Name of both parties, Place and Date of Marriage, Register, Entry No

Deaths: 1837 - 1973 £10

Deaths: Surname, Forename, Date of Death, Age & Registrar Reference.

The agreement also includes permission for an extra year to be added to the indexes each January.

Available via our website shop and through our Postal Publication Service.

Heather Bufton, 3 Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton, Hereford HR2 7AS

<https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/>

<https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/shop/>

Correspondence

Any correspondence concerning the Journal should be addressed to the Editor.
All other correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary.
If you require a reply, please include a S.A.E.

Herefordshire FHS Burial Index

Society members have been indexing the burials from the registers and Bishop's Transcripts for some years.

The period 1813-1839 is now complete and available on CD.

Requests for look-up of specific surnames, including Pre-1813 burials, with first names and / or parish if the name is very popular to:

NBI Co-ordinator - Linda Lloyd linda_lloyd@btinternet.com

Help Wanted

Researchers may publish enquiries in the "Help Wanted" section within the Journal. This service is free to members of the Society, but non-members are asked to make a donation to the Society with their enquiry.

Herefordshire Strays Index

The Society holds a Strays Index, which is available for look-ups and which we invite additions to.

So what is a Stray ?

A stray is someone found in archives or documents out of their county of birth, in our case Herefordshire. This index is available via e-mail and by post from the Editor, searched by Surname.

The Strays Index is available on the Members Area of the website along with other resources.

www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk