

ISSN 1750-225X

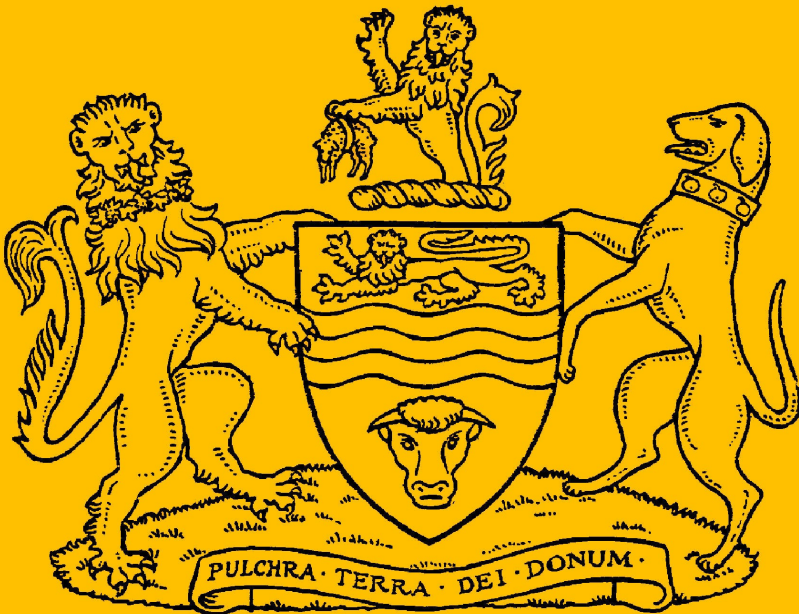
# HEREFORDIENSIS

The official journal of

## HEREFORDSHIRE

### Family History Society

Registered Charity No 517785



Volume XIV No 11

Founded 1980

October 2021

# HEREFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk)

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<b>Subscriptions:</b>	Single Membership	£12-00	<b>Due on or before 1st April</b>
	Family Membership	£15-00	<b>Renewal Form in</b>
	Overseas Membership	£20-00	<b>January Journal</b>
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## Herefordshire Family History Society Herefordiensis

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**2021 Meetings - why not join our growing attendance at  
Zoom meetings? Find the link on our Meetings page.**

**See page 371 for 2022 Zoom meeting programme**

**[www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk)**

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**Copy deadline for next edition:** 1st December 2021

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## **Editor's Report**

We have tried 2 months of hybrid meetings, Zoom and our old stomping ground of the Kindle Centre in Hereford to see if the local membership were ready to come out to a physical meeting, the resounding result of that was a NO.

So we have now resorted back to Zoom only monthly meetings until at least the January 2022 meeting. Perhaps physical meetings are the minority now or they could even be old-hat and a thing of the past!

Currently we have over 150 people registered to attend the Zoom meetings, but still the maximum number attending is 49 people.

On other matters, we have not had any members submitting their own Members Interests to this edition of Herefordiensis, something that has not happened for a very long time now. If not here, hopefully you are submitting them on-line via our website at [https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/surname\\_index/a/](https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/surname_index/a/)

We do have to report that one of our long-standing members and a contributor of several articles, military and others, Gordon Amand from Ross-on-Wye has died earlier this year. His Membership No was 2132, so joined the society in October 2002.

I am receiving a steady trickle of articles for inclusion in the journal, but I can always accept a few more, if you have any images that can go with the article, as a picture can paint a thousand words. Either 1 A5 page sized or larger articles which I may serialise.

**Phil Bufton**

**Editor**  
**Herefordshire FHS**  
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## **Chairman Report October 2021**

It is that time of year when leaves are falling, nights are drawing in and Christmas is in the shops. (Hopefully it will not get cancelled this year!)

It had been hoped that our monthly meetings would have started to be better attended by local members. Unfortunately, after two trial open meetings the lack of attendance has meant that the monthly meetings will continue only by 'ZOOM' network, at least until the New Year.

This is perhaps a sign that although the media say that things are getting back to normal, to those that matter, that is you, society members, we are not yet convinced that our health's safety is confirmed.

Speaking to the few who did attend the thinking was that it was good to meet-up, chat, put the world to 'rights' and generally talk amongst ourselves.

On the plus side, no more driving on dark, cold, wet nights to the Kindle Centre. Phil Bufton is still producing the monthly newsletter for over 400 people, with interests in the society. This gives details of how to join the 'virtual' meeting, with details and a brief synopsis of the booked talk.

If you want to receive the On-line Newsletter, all you have to do is to register on the website at **[www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk)** and click on the Register button.

You will then be added to the Newsletter listing, do not forget to look in your Junk folder as the confirmation link might end up there. Click the link to confirm it is definitely you and you will receive the newsletter, once a month, usually a few days before the Monthly Meeting date.

The HARC is now open and, once a month, transcribers meet to continue with the National Burial Index (NBI) project using the parish Burial Registers. If you would like to help, contact by e-mail the NBI Co-ordinator, Linda Lloyd on **[linda\\_loyd@btinternet.com](mailto:linda_loyd@btinternet.com)**

**Alan Charles**  
**Acting Chairman Herefordshire FHS**

**Membership No. 268**

## **The sad demise of Thomas Griffiths of Winforton, 1821 to 1875**

I was thrilled when a distant cousin sent me a photograph of a grave at Eardisley plus a memorial card, the subject of these being my great-great-grandfather Thomas GRIFFITHS. Since Thomas had been an agricultural labourer of modest means, leaving a widow and three or four children of school age when he died aged 54, it was surprising that he had been provided with not only an engraved tombstone but a memorial card. Presumably his older children clubbed together to meet the costs.

The wording of the memorial card was intriguing: “In the midst of life we are in death. Be ye ready also, for the son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” Wanting to know more, I sent for the death certificate. This clarified that he had died on 29 November 1875 at Willersley, Eardisley of natural causes, but indicated that there had been a coroner’s inquest. Previous experience had taught me that the best place to go in the event of an inquest was the local newspaper archives. As I live in Wiltshire, Hereford Library did the research for me and I did not have to wait long for a photocopied page of the Hereford Times to arrive, with an article entitled ‘Melancholy death at Eardisley’. The report led to me learning more than I could ever have expected about the last hours of my great-great-grandfather, as a very sad tale was revealed.

On the cold, dark evening of Sunday 28 November 1875, Thomas set out from his cottage called The Holm. This – and it still stands – is oddly in the parish of Bredwardine, but it is on the northern side of the Wye in quite a remote location and nearer to Willersley and Winforton. The house was reached from these villages by well-beaten tracks across the fields that border the Wye. The river helps to make this part of Herefordshire very beautiful, but the Wye often flooded. In November 1875, a great deal of water had escaped on to the riverside meadows. The autumn had seen well-above average rainfall.

Thomas’s intention that evening was to have a couple of drinks, a bit of company, and to get some provisions for the family. His first port of call was The

Stowe Inn, on the western side of Winforton, where the landlady was Mrs Elizabeth EAST. She said Thomas came in as she opened up at 6 pm. He drank a couple of pints of cider in the company of others and left sometime between 7 and 8 pm. He asked the landlady if she had any bread and cheese, and she gave him half a loaf – all she had – and 3 lbs 9 oz of cheese, which he put in a guano bag.



Any curious readers can find a picture of a guano bag on the Imperial War Museum website.

Mrs EAST said Thomas was drunk when he left alone, but owed her nothing. From The Stowe he went on to The Sun at Winforton, arriving at about 8 pm. The landlord, George FREEMAN, said Thomas was in his usual health but slightly the worse for drink and he noted that he was bleeding from a scratch that he said he had accidentally received on coming from The Stowe. It must be remembered that there were no street lights in those days, and very little light would be emitted by any houses on the route. A moon calendar shows the moon was almost new that night, so no light from the sky either, even if it had been cloudless. On arriving at The Sun, George Freeman noted that Thomas had a guano bag with him, which he said contained groceries and which he placed in the passage on entering the pub. He bought a pint of cider but gave part of it away and left alone by 9 pm. Mr Freeman said he was staggering slightly but in his opinion he was quite capable of getting home.



Sadly, however, he never arrived. Mary, his wife of thirty years, would have waited all night in vain for him to come home, before receiving the terrible news that he had been found dead. It was a youth, Charles PENNY, nearly 15 years of age, who found him at around 8 am the next day. He was lying by the side of the 'road' – the word the inquest used, but which was only a track – on which there had been a great deal of water for some time, to a depth of 18 inches. He knew immediately

that it was Thomas and that he was dead. He had last seen him alive at The Holm on Saturday. Now Charles called to him but there was no reply, and his dog barked, sensing something was wrong. Not knowing what else to do, the youth went on to Mr MARSTON's to tell him what had happened. I think this would be Mr Marston who farmed at nearby Willersley Court.

Next on the scene, at 8.15 am, was Alfred DAVIS, a 31-year-old London-born machinist who lived in Eardisley; he, too, had last seen Thomas on the Saturday. He said that he found Thomas quite dead, though his body was not yet cold. He said his hands were clenched and his legs straight out, as if he had gone to sleep in a state of exhaustion. His clothes were drenched and his hat was close by his side but there was no bag to be seen. There were marks for maybe 20 yards around, indicating that he had been crawling about. Alfred went to get Police Sergeant

EDWARDS, and the body was removed to The Traveller's Rest, where the inquest was held the following Wednesday. The only Traveller's Rest I have been able to find nearby was in Brilley whereas, given the title of the newspaper article, I had expected him to have been taken to Eardisley; but perhaps a reader knows better.

Mr Octavius William HOFFMAN, surgeon and funeral practitioner of Eardisley according to the 1881 census, examined the body on the Tuesday, having been informed on the Monday night. He found various abrasions and scratches on Thomas's face, hands and legs but no suggestion that violence had been involved in his death. He attributed Thomas's death to the cold and exposure to the flood water – in other words, what we would call hypothermia. There was no question that he had drowned.

The Coroner summed up, saying with the conditions of floodwater, it would have been very difficult for a sober man to get home safely in the dark across the fields. For one at least somewhat inebriated with cider, this was clearly impossible. There was no suggestion of any third party involvement in Thomas's death, with no marks on his body other than those acquired by scrabbling about trying to orientate himself. The verdict of 'natural causes' was therefore returned.

It remained a mystery that the guano bag of bread and cheese had not been found. A juryman suggested that if he had dropped it in the water, the weight would have made it sink. It clearly did not seem to have been stolen, as surely anyone intent on robbery would have searched the victim's pockets and found the ten shillings in silver that was in his pockets. The track where Thomas died – the route to The Holm – was a private one and clearly not adequately maintained. The Coroner opined that no-one should live in the cottage until it was improved. A juryman put forward the view that the local proprietors should join together and make the necessary reparations but I don't know whether anything was done.

Thomas was buried in Eardisley churchyard. The family who had no chance to say goodbye to him must have appreciated the mourning card, especially as several of his older children had left home to find work, for example, in Wales. Thomas's gravestone is still in the churchyard, but has been moved to one side. It is now only just legible, so I sat there one day to make a little watercolour of it as a more personal memory.

Having started with Thomas's death, I shall now go back to his life, though detail there is sadly lacking. He was born in the little village of Winforton on 19 April 1821 to a single mother, Jane Griffiths, a servant. At his baptism at the church of St Michael's and All Angels on 22 April, he was given the name Thomas Williams GRIFFITHS. The ceremony taking place so soon after birth may suggest he was a frail baby. The middle name 'Williams' – the 's' is perfectly clear in the record – more than likely indicates the surname of his father; this was a common enough practice with illegitimate children. Indeed, his father may have

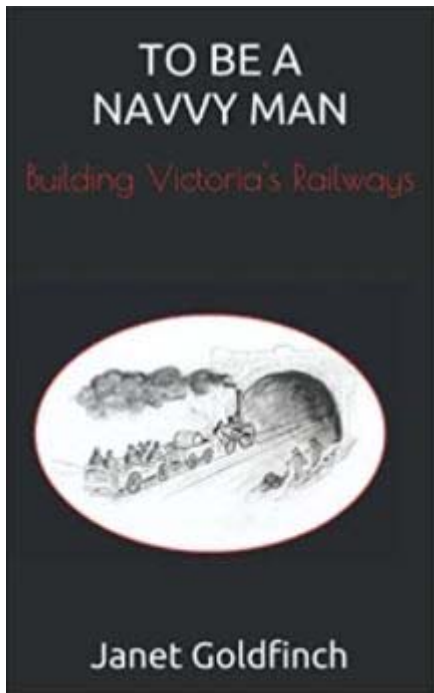


been named Thomas WILLIAMS. There was a possible candidate with that name in Winforton – a married man baptising legitimate children – but there is as yet no proof that he contributed to my genes. Equally, Thomas's mother may have been the Jane Griffiths who was baptised in 1803 at nearby Eardisley as the daughter of William and Ann Griffiths. However, the names are common and the records are scant, so unless a DNA match eventually provides new evidence, these are brick walls for me.

I know nothing of Thomas's childhood – whether his mother Jane brought him up, whether grandparents helped – but in 1841, aged 20, he was an agricultural labourer at Cross Farm, Winforton, working for farmer George Richards. His future brother-in-law John SEABORN, age 13, was also there, listed as a live-in servant. On Sunday 6 April 1845, Thomas married Mary Seaborn at Winforton. He was 24 and she was 21, both of the parish, both previously unmarried. Mary signed the register, but Thomas made his mark. Their son James arrived a little precipitously on 20 July 1845, the first of their thirteen children, all of whom they raised to adulthood except one baby who died aged two weeks. My great-grandfather John was the third child, born 16 July 1848. The family were still living in Winforton in 1851 and 1861, with Thomas listed as a labourer, but had moved to The Holm (written up as Hom House) by 1871. At that point, there were two teenaged sons working as agricultural labourers, three children at school and one aged four still at home. The youngest member of the family, Arthur Edward, was just one month old in that census.

After Thomas's death, his widow Mary had a very hard time as sole parent to those of her children who were still young. I have been lucky enough to meet and correspond with a grandson of Arthur Edward, born in 1928 and also named Arthur, who lives in the USA. He told me how his grandfather talked about his poor mother's hands, calloused from toiling in the fields. No doubt she took whatever work she could get, all of it hard on the hands. In 1881 she is listed in the census as a laundress at Channel's Gate, Eardisley with her two youngest sons Frank and Arthur Edward. By then, she had also lost two of her adult sons, one in an accident and the other far away at Isandhlwana, South Africa in the Zulu War. By 1891, the younger boys had gone out into the world and she was housekeeper to a man named Edward JOHNSON. I have not been able to find a death certificate for Mary – the name is so common and it is possible that she had moved to Dowlais or Tredegar to live with a son. However, she must have died in 1893 or early 1894, as another family contact gave me a copy of a letter dated June 1894 which was sent by another of her sons to Arthur Edward. This referred to her recent death and considerable age. Her age was not really very considerable – around 69 – though the sons may have believed her to be older and no doubt a hard life had taken its toll. The twelve children of Thomas and Mary have their own life-stories that are worth telling; many of them had hard lives, some of them having emigrated to Canada and the USA. But they must wait for another article.

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**To be a Navy Man  
Janet Goldfinch**

**Building Victoria's Railways  
Janet Goldfinch  
333 pages**

**Published by Amazon**

This novel is an inspiration to family historians. The author discovered that her great great grandfather had worked as a navvy, building both the new railways in Shropshire and Herefordshire, as well as those for the troops in the Crimean War.

Based on the true life of John Kirby ( b 1834) she has produced an engrossing novel about his family, employers, social and working conditions and his love life. This is grist to the mill for those of us who sometimes wonder what sort of a life our 19th century forebears really had.

Although HFHS members are more likely to find an 'ag lab' than a 'navvy' on census forms, this book offers plenty to interest us. John Kirby was born into a poverty stricken family in Shrewsbury, and at the age of 11 walked 25 miles north to join his brother, father and grandfather who were navvies, building the Chester to Shrewsbury railway line. Working conditions were grim, pay was low, and food was in short supply. In making use of newspaper reports, comparisons between the workers and their employers are vividly portrayed. Descriptions of the celebratory banquets in Hereford Shire Hall, for instance, reinforce the gulf which lay between the top layers of society, and those who did the manual work to produce any reasons to celebrate.

Not only do these reports illustrate the success of the design of trains, railways and the stations being built to service them, but they also remind us of the many accidents which befell the workers. While working on Dinmore Tunnel near Leominster, through which the Shrewsbury to Hereford single track would pass, many fatalities were recorded. The tunnel is 1056 yards long and the men worked 500 feet below ground in 12 hour shifts. More than three million bricks were needed to line the tunnel. Brick kilns were built on the slopes of Dinmore Hill and the bricks were made from clay dredged up in buckets from below ground.

Our agricultural labourer ancestors weren't too impressed by the rough and wild navvies who disrupted their previously peaceful lives, paid them for lodgings and took over their pubs and their women. Perhaps their Herefordshire dialect would not have been too different from that spoken by the family from Shrewsbury. All the speech was dialect with the use of 'thee and 'thou' which continued into the C20.

Anyone with an ancestor who served in the Crimean War ( 1853 - 1856 ) will also be interested in the detailed information found in this book. As experienced navvies ,John Kirby and his brother were selected to travel to Balaklava with the Railway Corps to build a railway for much needed troop supplies. They were privileged to live in shelters, and had adequate food, but they saw the horrors of warfare at first hand. About 25,000 British soldiers died and six times that figure died of disease. Newspaper reports laid much of the blame on poor decisions made by military leaders.

John and Edward returned home in 1855 to settle down in Birmingham where work was plentiful. John was still only 21. He had, by then, led such a full and active life that his great-great-granddaughter was inspired to write this novel which she has dedicated 'To those who slip beneath the notice of history.'

[www.amazon.co.uk/BE-NAVY-MAN-Building-Victorias/dp/B093RV4YZ9](http://www.amazon.co.uk/BE-NAVY-MAN-Building-Victorias/dp/B093RV4YZ9)

**Beatrice Wellings**  
**Membership No 2154**

## **The Wormbridge box tombs.**

In the graveyard of St. Peter and St. Thomas's Church, Wormbridge, Herefordshire, there are several box tombs in a state of dilapidation. The parish has raised the money to restore these but has been told by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Hereford that before work starts it is necessary to contact the families of the deceased, despite the fact that the most recent death was in the year 1808.

The pedigrees which have been compiled in response to this daunting request certainly contain omissions and very likely errors too: additions and corrections will be gratefully received. Any family members who would like to be involved in the project should get in touch with the Wormbridge churchwarden, Fiona GARFIELD ([fiona.garfield@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.garfield@gmail.com)). The people buried in the tombs belong to two family groups, the Parrys and the Deans.

This is the first of two articles and deals with the PARRYS.

Two of the box tombs commemorate John Parry (bap. Abbey Dore 1734-18 July 1794), aged 60, his wife Susannah Howells (Bitterley, Shropshire 1743-20 April 1796), aged 59, whom he married at Burghill in 1767, and their daughters Susannah Parry (d. 23 December 1796 Wormbridge), aged 15, and Elizabeth Parry (d. 25 October 1803), aged 33, who married (1796) William TOMKINS (bur. Wormbridge 10 Jan 1817 aged 68), an attorney. John and Susannah built together the handsome Georgian residence now known as Wormbridge House.



**Wormbridge House**

In his will, proved in the Hereford Consistory court in 1794, John Parry left his estate to his widow for her lifetime, and afterwards in trust for his surviving daughter Elizabeth, and after her death to a daughter of hers. The Parry property in Wormbridge was inherited by Elizabeth Tomkins's daughter Mary Anne Tomkins, who sold the house and lands to Edward Bolton CLIVE in 1828.

Another provision in his will was a charge on a field to create an annual income of a guinea:

I hereby give and Devise unto the Curate and Churchwardens of the Parish of Wormbridge for the time being and their Successors for ever the Sum of One pound one Shilling per annum . . . out of a certain Meadow called the Wear. IN TRUST that they the said Curate and Churchwardens . . . do and shall yearly dispose and lay out the sums in repairing and keeping in repair the Tomb Stone or Stones . . . of me, my said Wife and two Daughters and the Surplus of such money . . . I desire may be paid to the Poor of the said Parish . . . on the Feast Day of the Nativity of Our Lord yearly and every year for ever.

This sensible arrangement for the maintenance of the tombs continued until 1895, when the vicar, the Reverend Thomas EYTON, was informed by the Charities Commission that, in the light of PAGE-WOOD V-C's decision in FISK v. Attorney-General (1876) L.R.4 Eq.421, the wording of the will could not be taken to have created a valid trust of the money for the tomb maintenance, and it (about £52 in the Hereford Savings Bank) must all go to the poor (see correspondence in HARC L35/20). The only living relations of John and Susannah PARRY descend from Elizabeth TOMKINS, only one of whose three children had issue:

John Tomkins (1797-1862), married (Pipe and Lyde 1823) Mary Anne CLARK, a widower by 1841, farming at the Weir. In the Hereford Times and the Hereford Journal he appears in controversies about the sale of wheat and the Roman Catholic Church, and was involved in a public row in the 1840s, in which insults were said to have been offered to a clergyman during a dinner at the Green Dragon.

Mary Anne TOMKINS (Kenchester 1826-1908 Breinton) married Edmund James LEWIS (Eaton Bishop 1821/2-1900 Breinton), farmer Wyecliffe House, Breinton, in 1881 census. His probate about £15,000.

Edmund Tomkins LEWIS (Breinton 1 Sept 1857-1917) married (Builth 1909) Clara Louise PROSSER, retired farmer in 1911 census.

Ada Elizabeth Lewis (Breinton 1859-), with widowed mother and elder brother farming at Wyecliffe House in 1901 census

Agnes Mary Lewis (Breinton 16 April 1861) married (1892) Thomas Rufford BENNETT (1860/1-1911), farmer Earls Court Farm, Bedwardine—St. John, Worcs., in 1901 census

Thomas Lewis Rufford Bennett (1893-1972) married (Tooting 1914) Evelyn May CALLCOTT, emigrated to New Zealand where they celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1964 [this info from ancestry.co.uk], Margaret Bennett (Droitwich 1917- Rotorua 1985) married Kite.

Nancy BENNETT (1920-2007 Perth WA) married D. Herbert NAPIER

Helen Theresa ('Billie') Bennett (1923-1985) married Ivan Logan WRATHALL (1921-2004)

Ngairé Alicia Bennett (1926/7-2014 Morrinsville NZ) married Cedric TOPHAM Obit. Waikato Times gives her children's address Topham Family, PO Box 5523, Frankton, Hamilton, New Zealand 3242.

James Lesley Bennett of Mata Mota, New Zealand

Gertrude (or Queenie) Bennett (1895/6-) Dorothy Bennett (1897/8-)  
Theresa Bennett (1898/9-) perhaps Theresa Ada Bennett d. 1990

John LEWIS (Breinton 13 August 1863- after 1939) married (Cheltenham 1890)  
Florence Adelaide RISTE (Cheltenham 1857/8-1937), farmer at Wyecliffe Farm in 1901 census

Agnes Violet LEWIS (Kinnersley 1892/3-) married (St Martin in the Fields 1915)  
George Villiers PARKER (1890-1968), son of saddler and saddler in 1939.  
George Parker & Sons was a saddlery established in 1851.

Dennis G. Parker (1917-

John Edward Tomkins LEWIS (Cheltenham 1893-1979 Pontypool) married (1927) Doris Edna HARTLAND

Reginald Thomas LEWIS (Breinton 1895/6-1966)

Hilda Mary LEWIS (1896/7-) married (1925) Stanley Villiers PARKER (1901-1978) (brother of her brother-in-law)

Anthony Charles Villiers PARKER (1931-2003), mentioned in the 1993 will of his uncle Walter, married, first (1955) Margaret Roberta HARPER (1929-2015), and, secondly (1988),

Susan M. PARKER (1956-) another son and daughter

Derek HARPER (1926-1951)

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Walter LEWIS (1898/9-1993 Wyecliffe Court) farmer, with retired father at Wyecliffe Court Farm in 1939 register, married (1942) Kathleen Lilian TAYLOR (1914-1991).

Robert Edmund LEWIS (1900/1-) farmer 1937 when he proved mother's will, farm bailiff living at Meadow Bank, Upper Breinton, in 1939 register, married (Hereford 1931) Nora A PRITCHARD (b. 1902)

Elizabeth TOMKINS (1826/7-1912 Cheltenham) married (Breinton 1850) Henry PITT (Letton 1818/9-1880), in 1871 census at Nunnington, retired to Cheltenham, probate to her niece Agnes BENNETT.

Theresa Mary Pitt (bap. Withington 1863-1897 Hereford) married (St Luke's Cheltenham 1891) Alfred Cecil HARMER (1864-?1941). Wedding reported Cheltenham Chronicle (18 April 1891).

Thomas TOMKINS (1827/8-1835), only son, died 1835 aged 7, Hereford Times (28 November 1835).

Mary Ann TOMKINS (1799-1882 Malvern), her will, dated 1876, shows that her only remaining relations were the two nieces.

The Reverend William TOMKINS (1801-1874), Vicar of Little Hereford, married (St Nicholas, Hereford 1844) Sancta Helena Marcou PRICE (1800/1-1890).

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Church Warden of Wormbridge, St. Peter and St. Thomas's Church

## **The Enigma of the Jesuit Graves in Hereford Cathedral Close.**

### **Part 3**

**John Rogers**

John ROGERS' gravestone is next to William ANDERTON's in the North West corner of the Close. It is impossible to read the inscription but Francis HAVERGAL once more comes to the rescue, He records, on Page 60 of the Monumental Inscriptions of the Cathedral Church of Hereford that the gravestone read –'John Rogers of this city died April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1835'. It is very unusual for Havergal to provide a footnote but there is one in the case of John Rogers. He adds '\*used to live, I am told in a house where the Roman Catholic chapel is now built. (?) There is a Latin cross at the head of this stone'. It would seem that he intended to draw a Jesuit link between the two gravestones which, like him, I do believe exists. The name for this sort of connection of laymen and women was 'Jesuited' in early post - reformation times.

The Cathedral burial register records John Rogers as living in Norfolk Terrace which still exists although as his will attests it is in St Martins St and in the parish of St Martins rather than Bridge St. as the burial record states. This would have put John Rogers out of the Cathedral precincts. It raises the question of why, and it may have been that the wealthy John Rogers was a generous benefactor to all Christian institutions and the anomaly was passed over because of this.

Norfolk Terrace is mentioned in Pevsner as a pleasant row of small Georgian Houses. Historians draw attention to the architecture's similarity to the Duke of NORFOLK's town house and think that they were built to house his servants. The History of St Francis Xavier church says that there was a Roman Catholic chapel in the garret of a house in Norfolk Terrace where Mass was said while the new chapel was being built. John Rogers's widow, Isabella, continued to live in Norfolk Terrace with her niece, Miss POSTLETHWAITE, until sometime after the building of the new chapel of St Francis Xavier. The census in 1851 gives their birthplace as Lancashire and their residence as Norfolk Terrace. One researcher has drawn a link between Norfolk Terrace and the catholic Duke of Norfolk who is said to have owned a lot of property locally particularly in the Holme Lacey area. His town house, built on the corner of Broad St and East Street in Hereford in 1791, which is now Barclays Bank, is the most impressive testament to his presence in the town. If you look up you will see the City arms because for a time it was a pub called the City Arms.

John Rogers' beloved wife Isabella was the main beneficiary of his will which shows him to be a man of considerable wealth and property. There is an entry in Pigot & Co.'s directory for Hereford held at HARC. This includes him amongst



the nobility as 'Rogers, John, gent. Norfolk terrace'. He did leave money to his two brothers, Richard and William and their occupations suggest that they were not so well off as John nor do their names appear in PIGOT & Co. Richard was a labourer, who was given a house, and William was given all the rights of ownership of a Bakery in Owen St. There was no specific bequest to the Jesuits but neither was there in other wills of those times, including William ANDERTON's, at a time when it paid to be circumspect.

John ROGERS was not a Jesuit lay brother but it is difficult to believe that John Rogers gravestone lies next to William Anderton's by accident. Isabella Rogers continued to support the Jesuit Mission. He may well, according to HAVERGAL, have lent his property for their work earlier and as a wealthy gentleman may have been generous in his donations to the work of the Jesuits and other worthy causes.

I used his dates to research John Rogers (1770 – 1835) with 'Find my past' but I have to admit it is speculative. I found a John Rogers, with dates that match our John Rogers who was a soldier with the 85th Regiment of Foot who have their museum in Shrewsbury Castle. Service records have him aboard the sloop Discovery in 1791 at age 20 as part of the ship's muster. A John Rogers married Isabella HORWOOD who was from Gloucestershire, in 1788, in Bristol.

In the peninsular wars John Rogers won a decoration/clasp for his gallantry in the battle of Fuentes d'Onoro, which preceded the Siege of Almeida, serving under Lord WELLINGTON. The siege was a victory for the English over the French and fortunes were made after the ransacking of the town. The books and television series Sharpe base an episode on this and I am assured by battle re-enactment aficionados that it is accurate regarding uniform and events. I have visualised a character for our John ROGERS like Richard SHARPE in 'Sharpe's Gold'. Sadly I have no way of making any definitive links with the John Roger's who lived in Hereford and has a gravestone in the Close.

The obituary for John Rogers in the Hereford Journal on the 8th April 1835 reads; 'Thursday last, at his residence in Norfolk Terrace, aged 65, Mr John Rogers, a worthy and honest man'.

I asked the Stonemason, Simon Hudson, to look at the gravestones with me. He said that they were carved from stone probably from the Forest of Dean. Simon looked at Havergal's 'Memorials' especially the inscriptions for William ANDERTON and John Rogers and said that he thought that the gravestones were restorable including the damage to the one for John Rogers.

**Lynne Surtees.**

## **My JAMES of Herefordshire family**

**The story of an agricultural family but also one of 1800s poverty and crime in rural Herefordshire**

*By*

***Bob Powell***

*Continued from July 2021*

### **Walter James conviction was what I thought was the end of James' story...**

Following up on the clue in the newspaper report about Walter's crime where it said "Walter JAMES is Mrs. DOBBINS's brother", I decided to look further.

Only Walter's elder sister Ellen could be Mrs. Dobbins. In the 1841 Census, Ellen was recorded as being aged 10 i.e. born circa 1831. Therefore, at the time of Walter's trial in Hereford in 1851, Ellen would have been aged circa 20. As a result of going through the available records the following stories unravelled; revealing Ellen as being a convicted criminal and more prolific than Walter.

Firstly, Ellen's marriage certificate shows that on May 20th, 1850 she Ellen PRIDDY Servant of Hentland married by Banns William Dobbins Servant of Hentland at the Parish Church of Hentland. Notably Ellen's Father's name and Surname is given as her mother's name i.e. Susan Priddy and not Susan JAMES. It implies that Ellen was the result of her mother having an earlier relationship. William's father's given name was also "Walter Dobbins".

The couple's marriage was witnessed by Thomas DOBBINS and Charlotte PREW. Secondly, in the 1851 Census taken soon after Walter junior was arrested and convicted, Agricultural Labourer William Dobbins, 30 and Ellen Dobbins, 23, both born at Little Dewchurch were living at Poplar House, Hentland. Was the latter place their "public house"?

In the 1861 Census, they were living at Oaks Cottage, Little Dewchurch. William Dobbins, 42 born at Hentland was working as a Miller at Jones' Prothither Mill. Ellen Dobbins, 31, born Little Dewchurch, was at home with their then children: Elizabeth (6); Henry (4) and Jemima (1). Similarly the 1871 Census shows that they were now living at Hoarwithy and that William, 50, was a Labourer. Ellen 38 was with children: Henry (13); Jemima (11); Arthur (5) and Thomas (2).

Then, four years later, the first surprise is revealed when it is shown that Ellen is arrested and convicted of Larceny.

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## **POLICE INTELLIGENCE.**

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**WEDNESDAY, AT THE CHASE, ROSS.**

*Before George Strong, Esq., M.D.*

**CHARGE OF LARCENY.**

**Ellen Dobbins was charged with stealing a pair of boots, a handkerchief, woollen shirt, and scarf, value 5s., the property of William Wilkinson.**

**The prisoner was remanded till Friday.**

*ABOVE: Ross Gazette, January 21st, 1875, page 4. 15*

The following is a transcription of Ellen Dobbin's trial as reported in the 'Ross Gazette', January 28th, 1875, page 3:

**"CHARGE OF LARCENY"**

"Ellen DOBBINS, married woman, of Hoarwithy, was charged with stealing a pair of boots, a woollen shirt, scarf, and handkerchief, the property of William WILKINSON, at Ross, on the 11th instant. Mr. Williams was for the prisoner.

William Wilkinson deposed: I am a blacksmith, and live at Ledbury; on Monday, the 11th of this month, I went to the Butchers' Arms Inn, Ross, to get some refreshment; it was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon; the prisoner came in between half-past 3 and 4 o'clock; she said I had had too much of what she was short of; she meant too much drink; I told her I would pay for a pint of beer for her; I did so, and she drank part of it; before she finished the beer I went out to the back of the premises; I had a bundle containing the things produced, namely, a pair of boots, woollen shirt, scarf, and handkerchief, in which the things were tied up; when I went into the Butchers' Arms, I gave the bundle into the care of the landlord; just before I went to the back premises, I asked for the bundle, and took it to the room where the prisoner was, and left it on a table there while I went out;

I was not away from the room more than three minutes; when I came back into the room I found the prisoner, and the bundle had disappeared; I immediately gave information of the loss I has sustained to P.C. STRANGWARD, and afterwards to Supt. SMITH; I proceeded with Supt. Smith to Hoarwithy, and he went into a house there; he called me in, and showed me the bundle of things I

had lost; the whole of the things are worth about 7s. – Cross-examined: I saw the prisoner in the house at Hoarwithy; I saw a man there as well; I will swear I did not see the man at the Butchers’ Arms; before I went there I had been to one public-house only; I don’t know what time it was; I will swear it; I know it was 1 o’clock when I went to the Butchers; Arms, because I asked the landlady when I went in, and she told me; I don’t know how long I was in the first public-house – about half-an-hour perhaps; I was not drunk when I went into the Butchers’ Arms, and was not drunk when I went out; I only had two pints of beer; I only had one pint at the other house; it was the landlady to whom I delivered the bundle at the Butchers’ Arms, not the landlord; it was the landlord who brought it back to me, and put it on the table; I will swear I never took up the bundle, put it on the woman’s basket and ask her to take care of it; I told her to look to that a minute, and I would be back soon; I meant that she was to mind and see that no one took it; there was only an old gentleman in the room; it was not the same man that I saw in the house at Hoarwithy; when I was in the house at Hoarwithy, I heard her tell a boy to say that I had given her the bundle; I said nothing them. - Re-examined: I am quite sure I never gave the prisoner any authority to take the bundle away; when I went to the police-officer, it was to authorise him to take steps to discover my property; I did that immediately I discovered my loss. – Cross examined: The woman was a stranger to me, and I gave her beer because she asked me for it.

Mr. Henry ISAAC, landlord of the Butchers’ Arms Inn deposed: I handed the prisoner (should be prosecutor) his bundle between half-past three and four o’clock on the day in question; the prosecutor said he wanted to catch the four o’clock train; the bundle was in the shop, and when I took it to the prosecutor he said it was his; I put it on a table in the kitchen, in front of the prosecutor; there was an old pensioner sitting by the fire at the time; there was no one else besides the prisoner and the prosecutor; the prisoner had a basket; after putting the bundle on the table, I left the kitchen and went into the shop; while I was there the prisoner passed by the counter and went out into the street; I knew the prosecutor was at the back of the premises at that time; I did not take any notice of what she had as she went by, because I was attending to something in the shop; directly after the prisoner had gone, the prosecutor complained of the loss of his bundle; I gave him the best information as I could as to the way the prisoner had gone; the old man was still in the kitchen, and ne remained there till six or seven o’clock; the prosecutor was not tipsy; he had a pint or two of beer, but knew perfectly well what he was about. - Cross-examined: When the prisoner came into the shop, she had a black pudding; prosecutor was then standing outside the door; she asked him to stand a glass of beer; they both went into the kitchen together; he asked for a pint of beer, I took it in; they were both sitting side by side then; they drank together for about five minutes; after I handed him the beer, he asked me for his bundle; he had been in and out of the house previously; I cannot say how often he came in, because I was not at home all the time; I first saw him there at one o’clock, bit it was not till between half-past three or four that the woman came in and asked him for the beer; I don’t know whether the prosecutor was in the house from one till half-past three; the woman’s basket was on the table when I put

down the bundle, and the whole affair only occupied about five minutes; there was no boy in the kitchen; the only way into the kitchen from the street is through the shop.

Supt. SMITH deposed: After receiving information of the loss of the prosecutor's bundle, and from other information I received, I took the prosecutor to Hoarwithy, and went into the prisoner's house; I found her there, and also her husband; I asked her what parcels she had brought from Ross; she said she had not brought any; prosecutor was then outside the house; I said to her, "You had a basket;" she said she had, and pointed to it, saying that is all I brought from Ross; I looked into the basket, but none of the things produced were in it; I then told her and her husband that I was going to search for a bundle which had been stolen from a man at the Butchers' Arms, at Ross; she said she knew nothing about it; I then searched, and under a sort of couch in the lower room I found the boots now produced placed among some other boots; I also found the scarf produced at the end of the couch; I went upstairs, and the prisoner went up with me; she said "Don't search here – the shirt is downstairs;"

I had previously asked her where the shirt was; I returned with her downstairs, and from amongst some old clothes in a heap, she took the shirt produced and handed it to me; in the same heap I found the handkerchief; I then asked the husband how he accounted for the things I had found in his house; the woman answered and said, "He knows nothing at all about it;" I then called the prosecutor in, and he, in the prisoner's presence, identified the things I had found; the prisoner said, "I did not steal the bundle; he gave it to me;" she turned round to a little boy named Goodwin, who was in the house, and said to him, "You saw him (meaning the prosecutor) give it me, didn't you?" she then whispered something to the boy which I could not hear; she added that the prosecutor had made an improper request to her when in the Butchers' Arms, and he could have had his things if he had come for them, as she did not want them; the prosecutor directly afterwards, in reply to a question I put to him, told me, in the prisoner's hearing, that the woman's statement was untrue, and denied having given her the things. –

Cross-examined: The prosecutor did not make any answer to the woman when she stated he had given her the things; I picked out the prosecutor's boots from the others, because of the description I had received of them; one was badly worn at the bottom; the boy, in the prisoner's house, told me he had been in the Butchers' Arms, but was not there the whole of the time; he also told me he had seen the prosecutor and the prisoner there; when the prisoner asked the boy if the man had given her the things, he said "Yes;" I have not brought the boy, because when I spoke to him about it, he would not make any answer. – Re-examined: It was when the prisoner whispered to the boy, that he replied "Yes," and not before.

Mr. Isaac was re-called, and said he was quite sure there was no boy in his house between the time of the prosecutor and prisoner's going into the kitchen, and the departure of the prisoner. The prisoner, who reserved her defence, was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions, but liberated on bail.

At the “Easter General Quarter Sessions” held at Hereford on March 15th, 1875, Ellen DOBBINS was convicted of “Larceny” and sentenced to “2 Months” imprisonment.

The former conviction was then quickly followed at the “Trinity General Quarter Sessions” held at Hereford on June 30th, 1879. Having been “Before convicted of felony”, Ellen DOBBINS was once again convicted of “Larceny” and sentenced to “6 months” imprisonment.

### **STEALING A HEN AND DUCKS AT GRATTON**

Thomas MORRIS, 14, Arthur DOBBINS, 14, and Ellen DOBBINS, 51, mother of the second prisoner, were indicted for stealing a hen and three ducks, the property of William RAYNER, at Gratton, on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1879; the woman being indicted also for receiving the said hen and ducks, well knowing the same to have been stolen. Ellen DOBBINS pleaded guilty to a previous indictment of felony in 1875. Prisoners were all found guilty, the woman being sentenced to six months with hard labour; MORRIS to three months’ hard labour and Arthur DOBBINS to 7 days hard labour.

**FROM: ‘Man of Ross and General Advertiser’, July 3rd, 1879, page 5.**

Ellen’s trials continued. On January 5th, 1880, at the “Epiphany General Quarter Sessions” Ellen was tried but acquitted of “Larceny”. Innocence did not last long; either for Ellen or her husband William. At the “General Quarter Sessions” held at The Guildhall, Hereford, on July 6th, 1880, Ellen Dobbins was sentenced to “12 Calendar Months” for

“Receiving” and William Dobbins sentenced to “1 Calendar Month” for “Receiving”. William was acquitted on a second charge of “Receiving”. It implies that Ellen was more of a criminal than William. The following is a transcript of the trial from the ‘Hereford Journal’ of July 10th, 1880:

#### **“Theft of Sacks”**

“James Williams, a boy of 13, was charged with stealing five sack bags, value 7s., the property of Henry ROGERS, at Hereford, on the 29th March, 1880; and William DOBBINS, 63, labourer, and his wife Ellen Dobbins, 52, were placed beside him in the dock for feloniously receiving the same knowing them to have been stolen. James WILLIAMS was further charged with stealing a box and five pieces of cordwood, value 8d., also the property of Henry Rogers, on the 16th April; and Wm. DOBBINS with receiving the same.

The boy pleaded guilty to both indictments, the man pleaded guilty to the second indictment, and the man and woman not guilty to the first indictment. Williams was told to stand down.

Mr. Baylis appeared for the prosecution, and called P.C. William CUPPER, who deposed that he went on the 16th April last to the prisoner's house. He asked DOBBINS if he could go upstairs, and he said he could not. He, however, went upstairs, and found five sacks (produced) lying on a bed, which Mr. ROGERS, the prosecutor, identified as his property. Four of the sacks had been cut open. They were made for coverings on the bed. Witness asked male prisoner how he accounted for them, and he said he knew nothing about them. He afterwards saw WILLIAMS at Mr. Rogers's corn dealer, who told him that Mrs DOBBINS asked him to get her same, as her husband was coming out of the Union. Witness afterwards asked the female prisoner how she accounted for them, and she denied knowing anything at all about them. DOBBINS had been in the workhouse, and came out on the 29th March last.

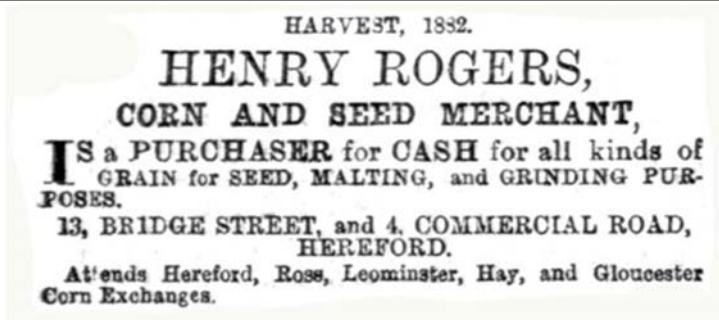
P.C. George MORDEN said he was the last witness at DOBBIN's house. On the 19th March he went to the county gaol to bring the prisoners to this court. They were talking, and witness cautioned them. He heard Mrs. DOBBINS say, "I don't want to get the boys in trouble through me." She also said, "Had the old man kept in the workhouse I should not be here. I received the sacks off WILLIAMS because I had nothing to cover the bed." Williams then said, "I did give the sacks to Mrs. Dobbins." Mrs. Dobbins said, "Dobbins do not know anything at all about them as he was not at home at the time." Mr. COOK, assistant to Mr. ROGERS, Bridge Street, identified the sacks as belonging to the prosecutor.

The Recorder having summed up, the jury consulted together, and, after some time, a juryman said they could not agree on one point, which was whether the sacks produced were those the prisoner WILLIAMS stole.

The Recorder pointed out that it was not necessary for them to know that, as it had not been denied that the sacks were not the ones.

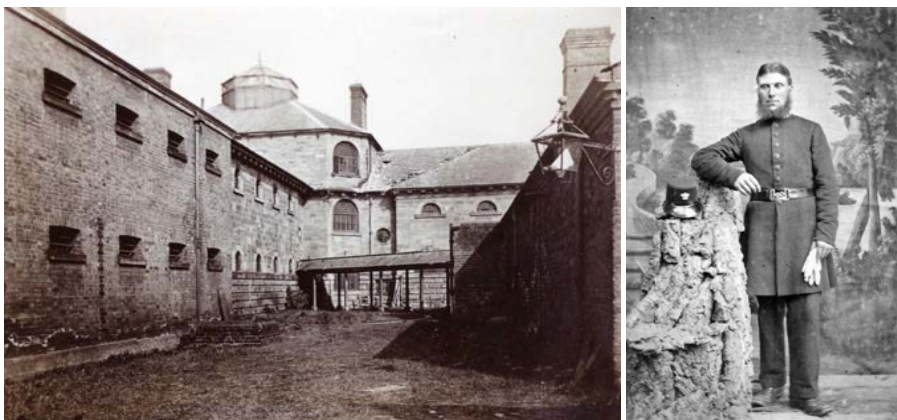
The jury again consulted, and after a deliberation of 10 minutes, found Ellen DOBBINS guilty, but recommended her to mercy, and William DOBBINS not guilty.

The Recorder, in passing sentence on Ellen Dobbins, said she had been previously convicted for larceny. On the 30th June, 1879, she was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for receiving ducks and fowls. The sentence of the Court was that she be kept to hard labour for 12 calendar months. The Recorder sentenced Williams to one day's imprisonment for each offence, the sentence to be contemporaneous. William Dobbins was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for receiving the cordwood."



**1882 Advertisement for Henry Rogers, Corn and Seed Merchant.**

As a result of her imprisonment, the 1881 Census records that Ellen Dobbins “52” is a prisoner at H. M. Prison, Commercial Road, Hereford.



**Images of Herefordshire Law. Left: the yard of Hereford Gaol. (Derek Foxtan Archive) Right: In c.1880 photographed by “Preece late Preen” in Hereford, Herefordshire Police Constable, Number 32, William Dykes who in 1881 was stationed in Peterchurch. (Bob Powell Archive)**

By the time of the 1891 Wales Census, Ellen 57 was a widow and visiting her fellow ex-convict and Coal Miner son Arthur Dobbins and his family at 52 Market Road, Aberystwith, Monmouthshire.

What happened to Ellen after that has yet to be uncovered. Undoubtedly she became a habitual opportunist where theft or the temptation of it was concerned, but perhaps originally out of necessity owing to poverty.



**CONCLUSION:**

I wonder what Great-grandmother Rosanna either knew or thought about her Uncle Walter, Aunt Ellen and first cousin Arthur? When Ellen first went to prison in 1875, Roseanna would have been aged 12. There is no doubt that Rosanna would have been aware of the effects of poverty within her own immediate family. Of Rosanna's own eight siblings her sisters Elizabeth (1868 - 1883) and Annie Ellen (1872 - 1888) both died aged 15 of Phthisis (consumptive tuberculosis) and her agricultural labourer brother, Daniel (1870 - 1895) died aged 24 of Bronchitis and Acute Pneumonia. One thing is certain, Rosanna thought enough of her siblings that she kept as a memento the Sampler sewn by Ellen, aged 12, at Much Birch National School in about 1884.



**Rosanna Powell neé James, aged 65,  
in Hereford, 1928. (Bob Powell Archive)**

Rosanna James's family story is not untypical of many from rural Hereford, where a dependence on earning a living from the land was a hard one for agricultural labourers and their dependants. A good picture of this is given in the book 'Rural Conflict, Crime and Protest, Herefordshire, 1800-1860' by Timothy Shakesheff (2003).

The above said, for Rosanna and her older surviving siblings they continued to have an improved life, it was probably hard at times. Rosanna outlived her husband "Dick" and died in 1942 aged 79. Of Rosanna's brothers they remained connected to the land. George (1865 - 1949) and Albert (1877 - 1962) were agricultural labourers; Arthur (1879 - 1959) was a gardener; and Frederick (1874 - 1918) rose to become in 1905 "Farm Bailiff" for the Newport Borough Asylum's farm.



To conclude this essentially JAMES family piece the above is a family photograph taken in Hereford in 1928. Dick (senior) is my Great-grandfather Richard POWELL.

Rosanna is my Great-grandmother Ros(e)anna Powell née James. Annie is Dick's sister Annie Powell. Molly is my Grandmother Mary Alice Powell née TIDRIDGE from Cork. Bill is my Uncle William Ernest Powell and Dick (junior) is my father Richard Dick Arthur Powell;

Both born in Cork. Miss COTTRELL and Percy COTTRELL are related to the WANKLYN family i.e. to Sarah Ann Wanklyn from Hoarwithy, Hentland and George James' wife.

Records show that Rosa Jane Cottrell née Wanklyn of Much Birch married Thomas Cottrell born at Trewen, Herefordshire. Therefore, is Mr James actually George James who in 1928 would have been aged 63?

**Bob Powell**  
**Membership No 3325**

## **Make Your Mark**

Have you got old family photos, documents and objects that were handed down to you?

The task of sorting them out can seem daunting and often we never get round to it before they are passed on again. But taking time to create a good family archive does a huge favour for future generations as well as social historians - and it's important not to forget ourselves, too. The times we are living in will also fascinate people years from now and in the digital age, important information could just be deleted unless we make sure it's preserved.

Alison Smith has been researching family histories for years and she hears the same thing over and over again. People have boxes of stuff they know won't make much sense to the next generation, particularly all those photos with no names on the back! They also long for more details of their ancestors' daily lives. Things that seemed so ordinary at the time but are fascinating today - how they shopped or socialised, what they had in their larder or shed.

"Imagine how you would treasure something written by your great grandparents about how they celebrated their anniversary, or took a trip to the seaside. Well, why not write your own version and hand it on?" says Alison. A carefully chosen archive of a manageable size will mean that those who come next won't have to worry about what's important or feel guilty if they don't have room to keep everything. They will know what matters most. Alison learnt so much by creating her own family archive that she's published her advice and ideas in a full-colour, step-by-step guide called *Make Your Mark*. With sections on documents, photos and objects, as well as tips on choosing wisely and storing safely, it gives you everything you need to get started on your own archive. Find out more at:

**[www.mym.company](http://www.mym.company)**

### **Alison's top tips?**

Be very selective - choose the best, the most interesting and the unusual things  
Caption all your chosen photographs - do it NOW!

Pass on small personal objects with their story - these will be kept longest

Record your own life with a mini biography, a letter to the future or a detailed diary of a single day

Store your archive well - follow some simple rules to keep paper and objects safe

So, if you're looking for a project this winter, why not create the kind of well-organised family archive you wish someone had left **you!**

**Acts of Office**  
**Steve Merrick & Sue Hubbard**  
**(Continued from July 2021)**

HD4/1/161 Labelled on front "Corrections" - 1603-1605  
Cases carried forward as before are not all noted here  
Court held March 1602/3

**Staunton**

Richard Bowcott – incontinence with Alice PRICE, wife of John Price. He denied it and produced compurgators – John MATHOWES, Edward HODGES, Walter C... GHTER and Edward GARSTON and was dismissed.

**Byford**

Elizabeth BEALE for pulling up seats in the church and throwing them about the church and disturbing divine service.

Thomas BITHELL for disturbing divine service on Palm Sunday last and would have thrown John PERS over the seat and for pulling him out of his seat.

Walter GAMMON for hauling up the seats in the church and throwing them about and breaking them in service time and for striving [fighting] in the church.

William GOMOND Gent for striking Evan, a man of Mr John BARROLDE, in the churchyard on his face with his fist and a staff.

**Mansell Gamage**

John CHURCH, tailor, for violating the Sabbath Day by working at his trade.

**Staunton**

Thomas GITTOS – incontinence with Ann BETHELL. He denied t and said that he didn't know her.

**Byford**

John SHEPERD - incontinence with Joan WEBB

**Letton**

Joan LILWALL for cursing Edward HODGES saying "Christ's curse on thee above the fire and below the fire and a heavy death on thee and thine", kneeling on her bare knees.

**Byford**

Thomas BITHELL stands excommunicated for not providing compurgators when accused of attending the clandestine marriage of John BITHELL of Pixley and also for the affray in the churchyard as previously reported.

**Court held 14 Sep 1603**

**Mansell Gamage**

Joan GARNING incontinence with William MILLWARD of Yazor

**Brobury**

Churchwardens have refused to appoint a clerk to serve the parish. Ordered to discuss it with the parishioners, levy a lewn (tax) to pay for the clerk's salary and certify that they have done so at the next court.

**Staunton**

Churchwardens Roger DANIEL and Richard HILL for not repairing the clock

**Letton**

Roger DANIEL – incontinence with his servant Margaret.

**Mansell Gamage**

Roger KINGSLAND clerk suspected of celebrating a clandestine marriage

**Letton**

Richard JONES has got Margery HEWS pregnant

**Brobury**

Griffith WILLIAMS for not receiving communion

**Court held 10 Sep 1604**

List of those standing excommunicate “ad graviora” includes:

**Mansell Gamage** – Thomas JONES, vicar, and John CHURCHE

**Letton** – John PANTALL

**Byford** – Thomas BITHELL and John SHEPHERDE

**Letton** – Richard JONES, Margery HUGHES, Richard TAILOR

**Byford**

Administrators of estate of John BARROLD dec, ordered to present an account

**Mansell Gamage**

Probate of will of Thomas NOKES granted to widow Joan

**Staunton**

Walter CLARKE for abusing the parson

**Letton**

Richard Bundie for brawling in the churchyard against the churchwardens saying “thou lieth like a scurvie knave.”

**Staunton**

Hugh BEYNE for tipling and drinking in Richard COOKES house on Sunday after dinner during last Lent. Also charged with same offence were William SHARPE, John and David, Henry INCKPEN's servants, Ann BLITHER, Hugh DAVIS, William MORGAN, William SAVAKER, Richard RUSSELL, Richard PILKINTON, John POWELL, Thomas GOUGH.

**Court held 10 Sep 1604**

**Staunton**

Walter CLARKE and Humfrey BAKER Mansell Gamage for being present at the unlawful marriage of Hugh PRICE and his wife Margaret.

Richard MILLWARD for dancing on the Sabbath day during the time of divine service

Court nd – this looks like a list of items presented at Visitation as there is no record of action taken

**Byford**

Churchwardens have no communion book, book of homilies, chest with a lock, or book to note down the preachers names. The church and chancel are not paved.

**Brobury**

There are no keys for the chest, the church wants tiling and lacks some seats, the chancel needs repairs and paving and they have no book for preachers' names.

**Letton**

The alms chest has no key, they have no book for preachers' names, the church has no pavement, the churchyard needs repair and they don't know if their minister has a cap.

**Monnington**

The carpet and linen cloth for the communion table are not sufficient, the church and chancel are not paved, they have no book for preachers' names and the rector does not wear clerical dress.

**Staunton**

They have no book for preachers' names, the church needs repair, the vicar does not wear clerical dress. John CLARK called Mr BASKERVILE "lying priest" and insulted some of his neighbours. Humfrey BAKER is a brabblor  
John BRAYNE frequenteth not the church but lieth in the house.

HD4/1/162

1605-1606

**Eaton Bishop**

Richard MERRICK with a number of others for playing football and fighting in the churchyard and the bell house.

**St Owens, Hereford**

Evan MEYRICKE for being a common swearer, scolder and filthy speaker and being misadvised with drink.

**Byford**

William GOMOND churchwarden – they have no standing pewter pot for wine and the table of degrees and consanguinity is not displayed in the church. Also he answered the visitation enquiries incorrectly so it isn't clear what faults there are.

**Letton**

Joan wife of John ap THOMAS is a recusant

William ANDROES and John HILL churchwardens – churchyard needs inclosing

**Mansell Gamage**

Anthony BOWCOTT churchwarden - the church is not yet paved, they have no table of consanguinity and degrees. Joan JONES for is living incontinently

Richard HOWLES the previous churchwarden has not handed over the communion cup to the new warden.

**Monnington**

Elinor BITHELL is pregnant.

**Staunton**

Richard PRICE was married in the church during the night-time (presented by the churchwarden of Letton)

John WELLINGTON and James SCANDRETT churchwardens – they lack a standing pewter pot and a decent linen cloth, the commandments are not written on the walls and they have no parish clerk.

The churchwardens complain that people from Lower Letton, which is in Staunton parish, don't come to Staunton church to be catechized but go to Letton instead

The churchyard "is somewhat faulty," they are lacking a suitable seat for the minister to read the service, a silk cloth for the pulpit, a cushion and a silver communion cup, and two locks and keys are missing from the parish chest.

**Mansell Gamage**

They lack a suitable seat for the minister and a comely pulpit cloth, the church needs glazing and the seats are broken and out of repair. The previous wardens haven't submitted their accounts and they haven't bought a book of common prayer, a second book of homilies or a book for the preachers' names although they collected money from the parishioners for that purpose.

HD4/1/163

1606-1607

**Byford**

Churchwardens – they lack the Commandments and Degrees, the church needs paving, glazing and whiteing; the churchyard lacks a gate

John PATESHALL – the chancel wants glazing and paving

**Brobury**

Churchwardens – the steeple needs repair

John JONES and John PHILLPOTT have not received communion

**Letton**

Churchwardens – the churchyard still needs enclosing

**Mansell Gamage**

Richard HOWELLS and his wife, Sybil CHURCH, Thomas PENNOR and his wife Joan have not received communion

Mr GARNONS – chancel needs repair

John ap OWEN had two wives, one in Breconshire and one here in Mansell Gamage. The Mansell Gamage wife died so he has brought the other one back here and is living with her but the parishioners don't know if they really are married.

**Monnington**

Churchwardens – Part of the churchyard is not in good repair, one of the windows has no glass and they don't have a standing pot for wine

**Byford**

Thomas BYTHELL owes 4 lewns for land in Moccas

**Staunton**

They lack a suitable seat for the minister, the pulpit is not conveniently placed; John KIRWOOD, Hugh HODGES and Richard PARRY have not fenced their parts of the churchyard and Thomas CONINGSBY has a hedge instead of a fence.

**Mansell Gamage**

John GARNONS hasn't paid his lewn of 20s for repair of the church

Thomas JONES the vicar married Thomas FERRAR and Julian ADAMS in the church or some house at Wormsley last Wednesday; no-one knows whether he had proper authority to do it but there is a common fear that he has done the same thing secretly and unlawfully at other times.

**Sue Hubbard**



**Parish Schools.**

The Luxmoore Prize for the scholar who during the year has shewed most improvement in knowledge of the Bible Prayer Book, has this year been awarded in the Boys' School to Francis Jones, in the Girls' School to Minnie Hill, and consisted in each case of a copy of the Holy Bible with maps and references.

**Carving Class.**

The following communication has been received from the Director of the Technical Instruction Work of the Hereford County Council:—

Hereford, Nov. 18th, 1895.

I was much gratified with the work sent to our Exhibition by the Classes at Cradley. The Relief Carving was especially well done considering the short time the pupils had been learning, indeed the work of one or two indicated the possession of considerable ability on the part of the workers, which might, I think, be turned to good account. I shall be glad if you will convey to the Classes my appreciation of their work. Great credit is due to them, as also to their teachers—Miss Ayscough and Mr. Bevan.

Yours faithfully,

THOS. WILTSHIRE.

It has not been possible to arrange for a Class here, at present, though every effort has been made to do so.

**Football.**

**CRADLEY v. BOSBURY.** Played at the latter place on Nov. 9th. The Cradley team was handicapped by four of their men not putting in an appearance, and substitutes had to be found at the last moment. Chiefly owing to this the Bosbury team won by 1 goal to 0.

**CRADLEY v. STOKE LACEY.** Played Nov. 16th at Cradley on the Mill Meadow. The visitors won the toss and elected to play with the wind and slope in their favour. At half-time neither side had scored. The play during the second part of the game was entirely confined to the visitors' half, and Cradley managed to score once. Some excellent play was witnessed, but nothing further resulted, and the Cradley team thus won by 1 goal to 0.

The following fixtures have been arranged for December:—

- Dec. 7—North Malvern .....home.
- 14—Bromyard Rovers .....home.
- 21—Stoke Lacey .....away.
- 28—North Malvern .....away.

**Foreign Missions.**

On Sunday, Dec. 1st, there will be public intercession on behalf of the Foreign Missionary Work of the Church. On Thursday, Dec. 5th, there will be a Public Meeting at the Girls School Room, at 7 p.m., at which the Rev. A. W. Hands will give an address with illustrations by the aid of lantern pictures. We hope every one will make an effort to be present.

**S. James' Church.**

With much pleasure we record three several gifts which have recently been made to our Church. They are a crimson silk hanging for the pulpit desk, embroidered by Mrs. Martindale Vale; a pair of crimson velvet alms bags by Miss

## Gwillim Wedding at Llanthony Court 1919

The Wedding of Catherine Edith GWILLIM my Great Aunt at Llanthony Court Farm in January 1919.



In the first Row (1) Jessie GWILLIM (Brides Sister.) Second Row seated, James GWILLIM (Brides Father) Arthur GWILLIM, (Brides Brother) Aled Owen Humphreys (Groom) Catherine GWILLIM (Bride) Florence Blakison MATHEWS who witnessed the marriage, Lisa GWILLIM nee Morgan (Brides Mother) Sydney and Reverend Henry James HUMPHREYS (Grooms Parents.)

The marriage Ceremony was conducted by the Groom's Father.

Standing in the doorway the Reverend Thomas WILLIAMS Vicar of Llanthony and his wife.

Third Row, Annie Mary GWILLIM (nee LEWIS) Robert James GWILLIM. To the right above Lisa GWILLIM, Edward GWILLIM (Brides Uncle) Aled HUMPHREYS, known as Owen was the Son of the Rev. Henry James and Sydney HUMPHREYS.

In 1901 he was boarding at Saint Chads College, Denstone, Staffordshire, the census shows his parents and 4 siblings living in Hyde, Cheshire, the family moved to Thornley, Vicarage, Tow Law, Co. Durham in 1903. At some point he emigrated to Canada possibly with his brother Herbert, He appears to have served with either the Canadian Royal Flying Corps or the Canadian Forestry Corps.

The bride sadly passed away in 1921

Robert James GWILLIM my Maternal Grandfather and his wife Annie Mary had 13 children, he moved from Llanthony Court Farm in 1926 to Upper Henllan Farm, Cwmyoy where he died in 1942.

Florence Blakison MATHEWS lived with her husband Benjamin St John ATTWOD-MATHEWS at Pontrilas Court for 28 years, they employed several domestic staff a Pageboy, Butler, Footman and Cook.

Bernard served as a J.P. Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff for Herefordshire in 1891, he was also a keen mountaineer. In 1903 he bought Llanvihangel Court but died soon afterwards. Florence Mathews continued to live at Llanvihangel Court until her death in 1923. In her will she requested to be buried at Great Malvern Cemetery in her husbands grave. She wished to have a Deal Coffin and there were to be no flowers.

The couple did not have children. Florence an Egyptologist made several trips to Egypt where she painted many pictures of Egyptian Scenes some of them can be seen at Newport Museum and Art Gallery

My Mother Florence Ada GWILLIM was in Service at Llanvihangel Court in the 1930s

If anyone recognises an ancestor in the photograph I would be pleased to know. (dhodgson363@btinternet.com)

**David Hodgson**  
**Member No 2368**

*Note from the Editor*

Just in case you are wondering, there are no Members Interests submitted this time for the journal.

We do however report that one of our local members Gordon Amand from Ross, Membership No 2132 has died back in February 2021, he had always been very supportive of the Herefordiensis, submitting several articles over the years.

## **Herefordshire FHS Zoom Meetings Programme for 2021**

**For the time being we are organising the Zoom events in the place of monthly meetings, on the same date and time.**

**As soon as we are able to re-establish the face-to-face meetings, they will be publicised in the Journal, on the website and social media.**

**28 Cypress Road, Walton Cardiff, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7RB  
Tel: 07836 560511 or 01684 295746 E-Mail: [normanp.price@live.co.uk](mailto:normanp.price@live.co.uk)**

### **Future Zoom Meeting Dates.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker Details</b>
<b>Friday 15th October</b>	<b>Searching for Dora. - Les Mitchingson</b> A light-hearted account of the many hurdles in front of us when searching for our ancestors
<b>Friday 19th November</b>	<b>Why the Welsh left Wales - Penny Walters</b> A look at why Welsh ancestors emigrated from Wales, from a variety of sources.
<b>Friday 17th December</b>	<b>Shopkeeper Ancestors - Sue Gibbons</b> Sources for finding out about the people who worked in shops and the shop itself.

**All of the 2021 Zoom speakers are now publicised on the website and also the link will be sent out as part of the Monthly Newsletter sent out by the website.**

**To get this notification register on the site here:  
<https://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk/>**

**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](mailto:bromyardhistory@btconnect.com)      [www.bromyardhistorysociety.org.uk](http://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.

**Fownhope Local History Group**

**Contact: Christopher Lansberry. Telephone no: 01432 860733.**

**Kington History Society**

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

**Leintwardine History Society**

**Contact: Mrs. Pam Hatherly, Roman Rise, High Street, Leintwardine, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 OLB Telephone 01547 540306**

**Linton & District Local History Society**

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

All meetings at Linton Village Hall

**Longtown Historical Society.**

**Contact: Rev. Nicholas Lowton. by e-mail at [lowton.nicholas@virgin.net](mailto:lowton.nicholas@virgin.net) - NEW**

**Weobley & District Local History Society**

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

**Contact: Mr B. Holly. Little Orchard, Hereford Road, Weobley HR4 8SW**

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**

**[david.whitehead.hafod@care4free.net](mailto:david.whitehead.hafod@care4free.net).**

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**

Sec: Trish Gage, Family History Center, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester. GL1 3AH. [Secretary@gfhs.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@gfhs.org.uk)  
[www.gfhs.org.uk](http://www.gfhs.org.uk)

**Gwent FHS**

Sec: Mrs N. Thomas, 11, Rosser Street, Waunfelin, Pontypool. NP4 6EA  
[www.gwentfhs.info](http://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](http://www.powysfhs.org.uk)

Meetings held at Brecon BRE, Llanddewi Ystradenny RAD and Abermule MGY  
Contact: [philbufton@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@sfhs.org.uk)  
[www.sfhs.org.uk](http://www.sfhs.org.uk)

**Malvern Family History Society** (West Midland Group member)

Sec: Mrs Jean Evans  
[secretary@mfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfhs.org.uk)

All meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of each month, except August. Open at 7pm for a 7-30 start at Eden Church, Grovewood Road, Malvern which is next to the Malvern Spa Hotel. Post code WR14 1GD  
[www.mfhs.org.uk/](http://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 world-wide, with a combined membership of over 300,000.  
[www.familyhistoryfederation.com](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com)

See [www.fhswales.org.uk/](http://www.fhswales.org.uk/) for information on societies in Wales

## **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.

### **Leominster Home Guard**

The Leominster Folk Museum has the original record of the World War II Home Guard membership for Leominster and surrounding villages.

The index can be consulted in the Herefordshire FHS library, available at the general meetings at the Kindle Centre, Hereford.

### **Herefordshire FHS Burials 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](mailto: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](http://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk)**

## **Herefordshire Registrars Indexes**

The Herefordshire FHS has now had permission to publish all 3 of the Registrars indexes compiled by members of the society from the registers held by the Herefordshire Registrars of Births, Marriages & Deaths.

Births : 1837 - 1920 £15

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

Marriages: 1837 - 1957 £25

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

Deaths: 1837 - 1970 £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/>**