

ISSN 0309-913X (print)  
ISSN 2055-5512 (online)

**The Journal of the  
Hertfordshire Family History Society**

# Hertfordshire People



**No 166  
September  
2023**

**NOW OPEN.**  
WEDDING GROUPS, &c. AT HOME PORTRAITURE.  
**THE RICARDO STUDIO,**  
**"GRENFELL," LONDON RD., ST. ALBANS**  
(NEAR THE CORNER OF ALMA ROAD).  
**High-Class & Pleasing Portraiture.**  
*ENLARGEMENTS, MINIATURES, PENDANTS, FRAMES & PICTURES.*  
**PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION OR FREE BY POST.**  
PRIVATE DRESSING ROOM, BEAUTIFULLY FITTED & UP-TO-DATE

# Hertfordshire People

No 166, September 2023

**Editor: Jane Tunesi of Liongam,  
53 Hitchin Street, Baldock,  
Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ  
e-mail: editor@hertsfhs.org.uk**

Your letters, comments and contributions for publication are welcome and should be sent to the Editor. Please quote your membership number, and enclose a SAE if postal acknowledgement is required. Articles should not have been published elsewhere, and where necessary copyright clearance must have been obtained for pictures, quotations from books etc. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

The views expressed in these pages are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the Society.

*Copyright © 2023 Hertfordshire Family History Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced in any form, including electronic without the written permission of the Officers and Committee of the Society.*

**Journal deadlines: 31 December for March edition; 31 March for June edition; 30 June for September edition; 30 September for December edition.**

*Front Cover: Sarah **Brothers** nee **Warby**, wife of Abraham, see article on Page 16.*

*Back Cover: Church of St. John the Baptist, Great Amwell, Herts, see article on Page 30.*

## Contents

From the Editor	2
Essay Competition	3
Sarah Wells: An 'Enigmatic Lady' (or how to confuse a family historian) by Janet Sutton	7
Dissenting at Bayford by Alan Ruston	13
Dates for your Diary	15
Here for the Beer: Brewers, Maltsters and Publicans - my family connections by Beverley Reynolds	16
What's New at HALS by Sheila White	25
George Reed of the 55th by Marcia Bell	30
Research Queries	38
Society Talks reports	39
A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany No 63 - The Arms of the Drage Family of Hatfield - by John J. Tunesi of Liongam	41
Members Interests & New Members	44
HFHS Officers and Committee	46
Society Services	47

## ***From the Editor.....***



I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

Since the last issue, the Committee has been busy thinking of new ways to involve the membership. We have continued with our hybrid talks programme with members joining either on Zoom or in person at Woolmer Green. We are getting better with the technology, but have found that Wi-Fi issues and trying out various bits of kit at the Woolmer Green have been a bit of a challenge! The September talk will be the last hybrid talk of 2023, with the talks from October until March by Zoom only.

In a new initiative, the Committee trialled a 'Query Session' via Zoom. This was well attended and we will be offering some further sessions for members, see article on Page 4.

Our Biennial Competition is popular amongst the members and we wondered if we should try offering a similar essay competition for younger people, see the outline and rules on Page 3. Please circulate amongst your relations—we look forward to receiving entries for each age group.

I must apologise for some typo's which crept in the last issue, especially to John Cooper, whose piece was the most affected. There's no excuse - could do better.

I am always happy to receive your articles, snippets, research queries or photographs for inclusion, especially photographs of 'Hertfordshire People' for the front cover. It is your contributions that make *Hertfordshire People* the great journal that it is.

*Jane*

# ESSAY COMPETITION

Hertfordshire Family History Society is pleased to announce a new essay competition aimed at younger members of your family who have become interested in their family history.

The winners Prizes will be Amazon vouchers, publication of the winning essays in our journal, *Hertfordshire People*, and also one year's membership of Hertfordshire Family History Society.

Membership includes exclusive access to our website Members Area, 4 issues of *Hertfordshire People* and an open invitation to our hybrid talks programme.

**Theme: The ancestor or relative that I most admire.**

There will be three age groups for which essays can be entered: Ages 6—10, Ages 10—14 and Ages 15—18. *Clearly put this on the entry.* All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

## Rules

1. The young person should be a relative of a member of the Hertfordshire Family History Society.
2. The essay can be either the result of an oral conversation with a relative about their life, with evidence of some research undertaken, or original research into the life of a relative using documentary sources, online and original records. It can be handwritten, typed or sent in as a file to [editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)
3. The final essay should be written by the entrant.
4. Any sources used should be listed and / or cited.
5. Illustrations to be included if possible with captions.

Deadline for entries is the end of February 2024.

Please send your entries to The Editor, c/o 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ

## **HFHS Online Query sessions**

Following a trial Online Query session via Zoom for members in August, which went well, the Committee have decided to offer some further dates.

The hour long sessions are designed to help with brick walls, give you an opportunity to share your research stories and interesting sources you have found with other members and for members to get to know each other and the committee.

The first session covered a diverse range of topics. Families from Hertfordshire who strayed to Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and London, Insolvent Debtors, railway subscriptions and the pitfalls of online family trees.

Our helpful members will be on hand to help you with any family history queries. The sessions are inclusive and welcoming and are offered to all members. If they prove successful we may offer the sessions to non-members and have an alternative time so that our overseas members can join in at a more convenient hour of the day.

Information about joining will be sent out by the Registrar and we will also publicise on social media. Meetings will start at 2.15pm and last for about an hour.

### Dates

**16th September**

**14th October**

**11th November**

We look forward to 'seeing' you soon.

*The Committee*

## Talks Programme



As you know, from the AGM I have taken over from Janet Pearson as Programme Secretary and will be working closely with her over the next few months to liaise with our speakers in the run up to them presenting their talk, be it either by Zoom or in person. Dates are, as usual, inside the back cover.

In September Paul Nixon's talk, ***The Impact of the Great War Reflected in the 1921 Census*** will be discussing the long lasting social impact of the Great War. The Census of 1921 reveals many more widows, orphans, disabled and blinded former soldiers, evidences of changed names and of course unemployment.

In October Helen Gibson's talk ***The Maltings Industry in Hertfordshire***. **Helen Gibson** will be discussing that right up until the 1980's the making of malt was the most important economic activity in Herts and was the reason for the navigation of the rivers Lee and Stort and adjacent railways from the 1840s. A talk that will compliment our recent talk on the 1830 Beerhouse Act.

November sees the welcome return of **Dr David Turner** to talk about the ***Forgotten Staff — Victorian and Edwardian Railway-women***. This will be both an educational and entertaining talk.

The December talk will be an interesting one. **Sue Paul** will be presenting ***The Long Paper Trail*** about how finding some ancient documents in the attic led to her research into her ancestors and their lives.

There will be more to look forward to in 2024.

I am always looking out for new speakers so if you have been to a good talk, either face to face or online via Zoom, or could even present one, do get in touch on with me via the Editor on [editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)

*John*

## SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Apart From our Monumental Inscriptions and Militia Lists books did you know that Hertfordshire FHS has also produced several special publications? The have been produced over the years in a variety of formats, print, CD and flash drive.

- **Transported beyond the Seas** - criminals convicted in Hertfordshire who received transportation sentences to Australia 1784-1866.
- **Fleet Marriages of Hertfordshire People to 1754** - an alphabetical list of grooms and brides.
- **Hertfordshire Settlement Certificates**
- **Hertfordshire Removal Orders**
- **Hertfordshire Examinations**
- **Nonconformity in Hertfordshire**
- **Hertfordshire Places**
- **Hertfordshire Obituaries** - from *The Gentleman's Magazine*
- **Hertfordshire Burial Index** (CD)
- **1851 Hertfordshire Census** (CD)
- **Hertfordshire Militia Ballot Lists** (CD)
- **Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions 1585-1615** (CD)
- **Herts Marriage Links 1538-1837** (CD)
- **Hertfordshire Strays Index** (CD)
- **Herts Poor Law** - Settlements, Removals & Examinations books above (Flash Drive)

All our publications can be purchased online via our Genfair page

[www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

To order these publications by post, refer to the Pink Publications List in the middle of this issue of *Hertfordshire People* or check the Society's website.

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



## Sarah Wells: An 'Enigmatic Lady' (or how to confuse a family historian)

By Janet Sutton

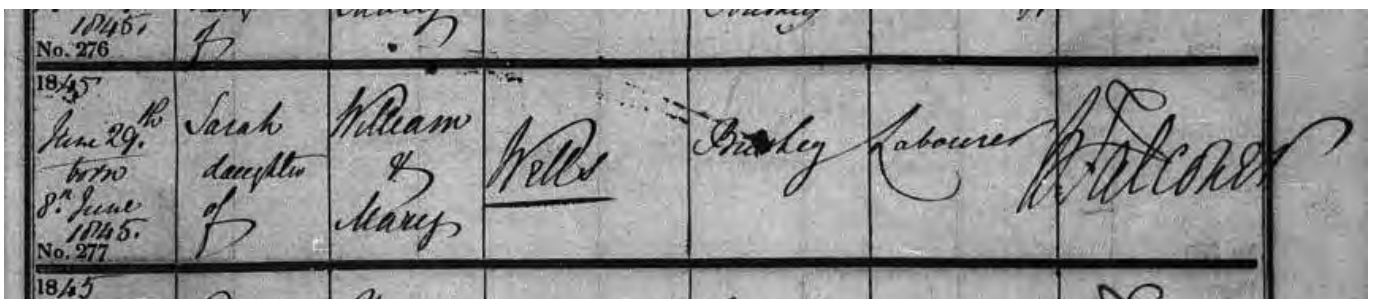
Every family historian has one ancestor (at least), who are an enigma, and have frustrated them over the years. Let me introduce my great great grandmother, Sarah **Wells**. She died long before I was born, but I have 101 questions I would have liked to ask her, to solve mysteries in my family tree.

### Family Background

Sarah was born on 8th June 1845 at The Slads, Bushey, Hertfordshire. Its location according to the Bushey Village Trail booklet –

*“Further to the right on a site now developed as an extension of the Bushey Colour Laboratories was The Fishmongers Arms, an interesting little weather-boarded pub with the floor level below the present roadway. The area from here on to the beginning of Clay Hill was called **The Slads**, an old word meaning boggy ground. In many winters, the area became a quagmire so that laden carts and wagons had great difficulty getting to Clay Hill”.*

Sarah was the daughter of William **Wells** (1808-1858) and Mary (nee **Claxton** from Northaw, Herts). Her father was the person who registered her birth. William Wells had previously been married to Susannah **French** and they had 3 children. Susannah died in 1840, and William appears on the 1841 census in Bushey, with his two surviving children (Emma born 1831 and Thomas born 1834), his mother-in-law and sister-in-law (Elizabeth and Jane French).



Sarah was baptised at St James, Bushey on 29th June 1845, the address is merely given as Bushey, and William is described as “labourer”. However, I can find no record of a marriage between William and Mary. Their first child was Robert (born 6 August 1843 in Bushey) followed by Sarah (1845), John

(1847-1848), Charles (1847-1848), William (1849), Mary (1851) and Thomas (1854, who was not baptised until 1890, which is to be confirmed). Mary senior then appears on the 1851 census at Clifford Yard, Clay Hill, Bushey aged 33 as head of the household and “wife of agricultural labourer”, along with her children Robert, Sarah and William, and her husband’s former mother-in-law (Elizabeth French).

No trace has been found of William **Wells** senior, on the 1851 census, and next appears on official records as dying on 3rd March 1858 at Sparrows Herne, and was buried at St James, Bushey. By 1861, Mary, now recorded as widow and charwoman, is living at Sparrows Herne with 5 children and a nephew, Henry Wells aged 16.

### **Sarah - 1863 to 1884**

On 7th April 1863, at the age of 17, Sarah gives birth to a daughter **Clara Wells** at Sparrows Herne, Bushey, no father is named. Clara was baptised at St James, Bushey on 24th May the same year (Sarah is noted as “single woman”). In 1865, Sarah appears as a witness to an assault. (The only Sarah Wells I can trace in the area at this time to match the report.). According to various newspaper reports, she was walking from Elstree to Bushey, with a William **Mead**, when they came across a group of men – three of whom were charged with the assault on William and on P.C. **Luckings** – namely Hugh **Morris** of Builth, Wales, aged 21, Benjamin **Cleaver** of Oxfordshire age 26 and George **Constable** aged 22 of Elstree.

*“: On Sunday, July 30th, I was going from Elstree to Bushey with William Mead: when near Luckings house we met prisoners in the road: Morris caught hold of my dress and struck me in the eye with his fist: I did not give any provocation - Mead said "steady on," that is all: they used bad language and said to Mead "I suppose you want it:" Cleaver directly struck him in the eye with his fist there was much blood from the eye which was cut: Mead fell on his back in the ditch .- prisoners all began of him : I saw them kneel across him, I ran to Luckings for help: Luckings went to them: Mead was then standing bleeding: when Luckings got there, Cleaver struck Luckings in the eye:*

Sarah had a second child, **Robert Charles Wells** (my maternal great grandfather), born on 4 January 1871 (no father named). I can find no trace

of a baptism. Sarah and her 2 children next appear on the 1871 census at Sparrows Herne, Bushey, living with her mother and brother William (a butcher). Forward to 1876, and Sarah gives birth to a third illegitimate child, **Annie**, born 31 March at Merry Hill Lane. This followed by another child, a son **Thomas** (born 14th April 1879, baptised at Bushey 31st July the same year). Sadly, Thomas died aged 11 months, the cause recorded as debility and dentition.

On the census in 1881, Sarah and her three surviving children are still living with her mother at Merry Hill Lane, along with 2 lodgers, John, and George **Dobson**. Not far away, on Clay Hill, lived my maternal 3x great grandfather James **Stone** (born 1829), a hay binder, along with his wife Annie (nee **Smith**) and two of their children. They had 10 known children in all. (More about James later!) On several censuses, it was noted that James was blind. Annie Stone died in July 1881, and was buried at St James, Bushey.

Meanwhile, Sarah has given birth to a 5th illegitimate child, **Ernest James** born 31 May 1881 at Villiers Road, Bushey! As far as I know, there are no further “surprise” offspring.

### **An Honest Woman at Last**

On 2 March 1884, Sarah finally got married - to the previously mentioned James **Stone**, at St James, Bushey. She was aged 39, James was 55. She went on to have 3 legitimate sons – **Herbert Henry** (1885-1964), **John Edward** (born 7 June 1886) and **David George** (born 10 October 1890 at Clay Hill, Bushey, died 25 October 1892). On the 1891 census, the family is living at London Road, Bushey. Meanwhile Sarah's mother Mary is still living at Merry Hill Lane, Bushey with 5 of her grandchildren. My late grandmother recalled a lot of information about our family ancestors, but very little was mentioned about Sarah.



*Photo of Sarah & James Stone sent from another Wells relation*

It was said that she had a “sweet shop” in her front room, and her son would take sweets from it on the way to school. (He was made to pay for them later!).

### Later Life

Sadly, Sarah’s mother Mary died later in 1891. My grandmother said she thought that Mary was used as the model for the artist Hubert von Herkomer’s watercolour called, “*Granny Wells Troubles*” exhibited at the Fine Art Society in 1892. There is no proof of this, although a description in a newspaper of the time, reported the following :

“MR HUBERT HERKOMER R.A. AND HIS PUPILS.....

The fifty pictures by Professor Herkomer and more than 150 paintings, designs, studies, and sketches by those he has trained in the way they should go in art, on view at the Fine Art Society in New Bond Street constitute a more than ordinarily collection. Of Mr Herkomers school at Bushey, the art



68 Russell Place, School Lane, Bushey (Google Maps)

world now has some knowledge..... His “Granny Wells’ Troubles” a good old country dame relating her griefs to a sympathising rustic as they trudge along the highway, is really most amusing in the expression of the faces” (*Daily Telegraph & Courier* (London) 03 May 1892)

(Mary was in her 70's at the time.) There is also a painting by another Bushey artist, Ernest Borough **Johnson** entitled - “Granny Wells”. Sarah herself is said to have been the model for another Herkomer watercolour called “Gypsy Girl”. No proof of this either, although it is listed as an art work by Herkomer.

By the time of the 1911 census, James and Sarah are living at 68 Russell Place, School Lane, Bushey (James is stated to be totally blind). James died shortly after on 16 May 1911 at that address, aged 82. Sarah next appears listed in the funeral report of her grandson in 1914.

On the 1921 census, she is living with her son Ernest and his wife, at 6 Salem Cottages, Sparrows Herne, Bushey, and is described as an old age pensioner. She passed away on 13 March 1925 at 6 Salem Cottages, Clay Hill, Bushey at the age of 79, the informant was her son Ernest James Wells.

### **And What Happened to the Family?**

Sarah's sister Mary married Edward **Cobb** in 1881, and they had at least 10 children. Three of her children are with their grandmother Mary **Wells** on the 1891 census. .

Sarah's brothers Robert and William "disappear" from records after the 1861 and 1871 censuses respectively. Robert had been recorded as an agricultural labourer, William as a butcher.

Her brother Thomas went on to marry Lizzie **Toms** on 17 June 1876. and lived in Bushey.

One of their children Albert Thomas Wells died of wounds in World War One on 11th April 1916 and is commemorated on the Bushey War Memorial, and in St Peters Church. He was buried at the Boulogne Eastern cemetery in France.

And what happened to Sarah's children, both illegitimate and legitimate?

**Clara** (born 1863) married George **Dobson**, (who had been lodging with Mary Wells on the 1881 census), on 28 May 1882. Clara does not give a father's name on the marriage entry. They had 7 known children, one of which was Daisy Amelia, who later married Sarah's son Herbert Henry **Stone**. The first "complication" on the family tree.

**Robert Charles Wells** (born 1871), my great grandfather, married Jemima Jane **Quarry** in 1892. He gives his father's name as Charles. Jemima was the granddaughter of James **Stone** (Sarah's husband), by his first marriage. So Sarah is both my 2x great grandmother and my 3x step great grandmother! It also explains why my own grandmother always spoke of her "Grandma Stone" and her "Grandma Quarry" but never of a "Grandma Wells". The second complication in the tree.

**Annie** (1876). Initially it was a case of “like mother, like daughter”, as she gave birth to an illegitimate son, Robert James Wells on 31 May 1895 at Merry Hill Lane, Bushey. However, she married on 3rd March 1899 at St James, Bushey to David **Shepherd** (1875 - 1949), giving her father’s name as Thomas. Annie and David went on to have a large family of at least 7 children. Her son Robert James, after serving in the First World War, married Edith Jemima **Wells**, daughter of Robert Charles Wells, (she was also his first cousin) in 1920.... the third “complication” on the tree!

As for **Ernest James Wells**, he is also an enigmatic character. He married Eleanor **Heyes** in 1901, (giving his father as James Wells, a drover). They had a son, Herbert Henry born 1903. The couple divorced in 1908, (due to his infidelity with a lady who appeared as his landlady on the 1911 census). Both partners married new spouses, but both were later widowed. In 1950, they met again, and remarried at the same place (Watford Registry Office,) 49 years after their first marriage. This time he gave his father’s name as Thomas Wells (a drover). He died in 1957.

**John Edward Stone** married Ada **Heath** on 1 August 1908 at St James, Bushey, though I haven't been able to trace then with any certainty after the 1911 census. They had 2 known children. Ada Lillian Florence, born 1909 (who went on to marry a Frederick Wells - no relation, although his mother’s maiden name was Heath!) and Eva/Ena May born 1911.

Sarah has not made genealogical research straightforward, and, as I said at the start of this article, there are so many unanswered questions, the main one is - who fathered your children!

**Sources :**

Bushey parish registers

Find My Past & Ancestry websites

GRO certificates.

Census Entries – 1841-1911

British Newspaper Archives:- including *Hertford Mercury and Reformer* 05 August 1865 & *Uxbridge & W. Drayton Gazette* 08 August 1865

## Dissenting in Bayford

By Alan Ruston

When you look at classic histories of Hertfordshire it would be easy to conclude that everyone in the 17th century mentioned in say, JE Cussans's massive three volume 19th century account, were loyal members of the Church of England. Other works suggest that anyone who didn't want to join parish church services was often given a rough ride by those in authority, especially by the Lord of the Manor and of course the vicar or rector. Before freedom of worship became possible after 1689, those who wanted to follow a different religious path were taken before the courts for not attending the parish church regularly. Perhaps your ancestors were in this category.

In the small village of Bayford it was all rather different. John **Mayo** (1592-1675) was a rich London merchant, and a dissenter from the Church of England. In London being a dissenter was possible by being discrete and rich. In 1661 he became Lord of the Manor of Bayford by purchasing it, and was followed by his assertively religious son Israel Mayo (1630-1715). Israel was described as 'a very worthy and religious gentleman, a great countenancer of religion, who often kept meetings in his own house at Bayford in Charles II's reign. He was arrested as a disaffected person, but after action by the Lord Chancellor was released.' (W. Urwick, *Nonconformity in Hertfordshire*, 1884.)

The squire being sent to prison for rejecting worship in the parish church must have been quite a happening in Bayford and area. Secret religious services were held in Israel's home, Bayford Place, which was raided on occasion by constables. The clandestine preachers included Rev Robert **Billio** from Essex, who was nearly taken in one of these raids, 'being just in time conveyed into a garret and covered in a dark hole with pieces of wood.' Understandably, the services at Bayford parish church will not have been well attended, and the Mayo family will hardly have encouraged the work of the parish priest amongst its residents. As soon as religious dissent became legal in 1689, Mayo registered his house for dissenting worship; he also maintained dissenting meetings in Little Berkhamsted from 1690. The vicar must have been relieved when he sold the manor to an Anglican in 1713.

If you had ancestors living in the Bayford area after about 1661, it may well be that they attended the secret religious services mounted by the Lord of the Manor. There is unlikely to be any way of checking on this, but if an expected baptism for example cannot be traced, the reason could be that it was never recorded in the appropriate parish register, as the parents wanted to keep on good terms with the Mayo family.

### Can you help?

I am a PhD student researching the interwar peace movement and conscientious objection in World War Two.

I am keen to find written interviews, oral recordings, memoirs and letters relating to pacifists and COs.

*PhilLines*  
*phillines53@gmail.com*



### WANTED: FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER

*Hertfordshire FHS is looking for someone who is familiar with the workings of Facebook to help our coordinator with posting interesting items to the feed, answering queries from followers and news from Herts FHS regarding forthcoming talks. Could this be you?*

*Contact the Editor if interested—[editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)*



## Dates for your Diary.....

### HALH 44th Annual Symposium : Rebels, Traitors and Eccentrics in Hertfordshire

Saturday 14 October 2023

Katherine Warington School, Harpenden. 10.00am to 4.00pm

Tickets are £15 for HALH members, £18 for non-members and include tea and coffee during the day. A buffet lunch will also be available at £9 per head, to be ordered in advance when purchasing tickets. Alternatively, people may wish to bring their own packed lunch.

Tickets can be ordered via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rebels-traitors-and-eccentrics-in-hertfordshire-tickets-691940802567?aff=oddttdcreator>

The link can also be found on our website <https://www.halh.org.uk/>

**FAMILY HISTORY Federation**  
Supporting Family Historians since 1974

**We ❤️ Family History**

**SPECIAL PRICE**  
for all FHF member societies  
**ONLY £12**  
Using Checkout Code  
**SOCIETY23**

**FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show**

Interactive **WORKSHOPS**  
Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS**  
Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**

**ONLINE EVENT 2023**  
Full Price **TICKETS £15**

**SAVE THE DATES** **Friday 17th November 10am-10pm and Saturday 18th November 10am-6pm GMT**

**LEARN MORE and BUY NOW at**  
**www.fhf-reallyuseful.com**

For details of in person and online events and lectures from The Society of Genealogists and Family History Societies and groups do check out the GENEVA website which is updated regularly - [Geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php](http://Geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php)

## Here for the Beer: Brewers, Maltsters and Publicans – my family connections

By Beverley Reynolds (HFHS 3995)

My connection with beer and publicans comes through my paternal grandmother's family. Her maiden name was **Brothers** and from at least the 1600s the Brothers family had lived in Hertfordshire, in Pirton, Offley, Digswell and Codicote. It was in Codicote where my great, great grandfather Henry Brothers was born in 1830, and it was whilst researching his sister, Mary Ann Brothers that I discovered beer sellers and publicans.

In 1830 the Beerhouse Act created a second group of licensed establishments made up of beerhouses. Before this licensed establishments were inns or alehouses. The act abolished duty payable on beer and enabled beerhouses to trade, paying an annual payment of two guineas to the Excise. It was to encourage the working classes to consume less gin as only fully licensed inns or alehouses could sell wines and spirits. As the number of drinking places increased after 1830 a parliamentary report found 'considerable evils' had arisen so a series of Acts were passed to strengthen the control of alcohol. By the 1872 Act there were stricter conditions for the granting of licences and the term Public House began to be used to cover beerhouses, alehouses and inns.

Mary Ann Brothers married John **Dimmock** in Codicote in 1862. Their daughter, Rosa, was born in 1868. She became a servant on a farm in Ayot St Lawrence before marrying John Brothers in 1892 in London. As Brothers is a fairly uncommon surname I wondered if they were related and discovered they had a common ancestor, Thomas Brothers, from Pirton, who had married Elizabeth **Clarke** in 1757 in Holwell. John Brothers, like his father and brother, who were both called Abraham), were all licensees of pubs in Wheathampstead.

Abraham Brothers, the father of John, was born 1794 in Holwell.

was baptized Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1793  
Abraham son of John & Elizabeth  
Brothers was baptized November  
13 1793  
1794

Abraham then married Elizabeth **Peacock** in 1824 in Wheathampstead.

Abraham Brothers of this Parish  
Bachelor  
and Elizabeth Peacock of this Parish  
Spinster  
were married in this Church by Rev. J. B. with Consent of  
this Fourteenth Day of  
August in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty four  
By me Joseph Dutton Curate.  
This Marriage was solemnized between us Abraham Brothers his mark  
Elizabeth Peacock her mark  
In the Presence of John Bridges his mark  
Mary Brothers her mark  
No. 116.

In the 1841 census their address is Gustard Wood Common and Abraham is a cordwainer (a shoe maker or cobbler).

Abraham was licensee of the *Royal Exchange* in Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead by 1851. He still worked as a boot and shoe maker for extra income and this was common as most licensees of beerhouses had an additional occupation. Three of his children were straw plaiters, the youngest, John, was still at school. Abraham is also listed as a beer seller in the *Post Office Directory 1851* for Hertfordshire.

The *Royal Exchange* is mentioned in 1837 in *White's Directory* when the licensee was Thomas **Turner**. In the 1834 Poor Rate Assessment Thomas Turner was licensee of a beer house in Gustard Wood so the *Royal Exchange* was probably opened after the 1830 Act to sell beer.

The *Royal Exchange* seems to have been a quiet establishment with no records of selling beer out of hours or allowing drunkenness. Like other pubs it was used for inquests and in the *Herts Advertiser* on 9th April 1859 there is

a report of an inquest held there into the death of John **Bygrave**, a blacksmith, who had died suddenly after being taken ill and suffering great pain. Doctor **West** gave evidence that John Bygrave had an enormous rupture (probably caused by his heavy work as a blacksmith). The jury returned a verdict of natural death.

In 1861 Abraham Brothers was still licensee. He is a retailer of beer and shoe maker. His wife and daughter, Sarah, are both plaiters, his son, Abraham, is a lath render and his son, John, is an agricultural labourer.

In 1865 Abraham died and Elizabeth became licensee.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Saint Albans</i>								
Registrar's District <i>Karpenden</i> 144								
1865. DEATHS in the District of <i>Karpenden</i> in the County of <i>Hertford</i>								
No.	When Died	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Cause of Death	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered
	<i>11th April 1865</i>	<i>Abraham Brothers</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>71 years</i>	<i>Shoe-maker (Master)</i>	<i>bronchitis rupture of blood vessel</i>	<i>Sarah Bygrave present at the death</i>	<i>Twelfth April 1865</i>
	<i>Wheatthamstead</i>					<i>Certified</i>	<i>Wheatthamstead</i>	

She supplemented her income by taking in laundry, being helped by her daughter Sarah. Elizabeth remained as licensee until her death in 1876 when the licence was transferred to her son, Abraham Brothers. He moved into the *Royal Exchange* with his wife and family.

Abraham had married Sarah **Warby** on 6th October 1861 at St James, Clerkenwell. Abraham was a sawyer.

1861. Marriage solemnized at <i>St James Church</i> in the Parish of <i>St James Clerkenwell</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>									
No.	Wife's Name	Name and Surname	Age	Rank or Profession	Address of the bride of Marriage	Parish of the bride of Marriage	Signature of Minister of the Gospel	Signature of Witnesses	Signature of Registrar
<i>413</i>	<i>Sarah Warby</i>	<i>Abraham Brothers</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Sawyer</i>	<i>St James Church</i>	<i>St James Clerkenwell</i>	<i>James Warby</i>	<i>Abraham Brothers</i>	<i>James Warby</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>James Warby</i>									
This Marriage is solemnized in presence of <i>Sarah Warby</i>					in presence of <i>Abraham Brothers</i>				
					<i>James Warby</i>				

On 10th April 1881 Abraham appeared in court at the County Petty Sessions. He was the plaintiff in a case of wilful damage against two men from Welwyn.

The trial was reported in the *Herts Advertiser* 23rd April 1881 and also the *Hertford Mercury and Reformer*.

The two men, **McBrayne** and Reuben **Smith** were charged with causing damage to the value of 10s on the previous Sunday night.

Abraham said he was a lath render by trade and at about 8.30 in the evening the men had entered the *Royal Exchange* and asked for beer but he had refused to serve them as they had assaulted him. Sir Edmund **Beckett**, who was in the Chair, remarked "Oh, you are a lath render by trade and keep a public house for amusement?"

Abraham said the men then threw objects at the shutters and door, breaking five windows, some roof tiles and slates. They then tried to set fire to an adjoining barn by placing lighted lucifers against the feather edge boards. He had a witness, James **Miles** a joiner, to support him and Sarah his wife saw the assault. The men had said they meant to be locked up that night.

The men were found guilty and sentenced to two months' hard labour.

It is interesting to see the use of the word lucifers for matches and also to read Sir Edmund Beckett's remark, which sounds a little condescending!

The census of 1881 shows the Brothers household consisted of eight people, Abraham, his wife, Sarah, a needlewoman, his daughters, Elizabeth aged 15, a school teacher, and Ellen aged 11, a scholar, his son Henry, aged 9, also a scholar and his sister Sarah, a laundress. There were also two lodgers, James **Miles**, a joiner from Bristol (who had been the witness in court) and Arthur **Bellward** from Norfolk, also a joiner.

Abraham died suddenly in 1883, aged 43. As was the custom the inquest was held in the nearest pub, in this case the *Royal Exchange*. Witnesses said that Abraham had been sitting in the bar in the early evening chatting to his customers about the horse racing, hurdle-making and the work he would do



Sarah Brothers nee Warby, wife of Abraham



next day. He seemed to be in good health but suddenly his head dropped and he died within a few minutes. His brother, John, said that several times Abraham had complained about pain in his chest and described his heart as “going like a pair of bird clackers.” The doctor said that Abraham probably had heart disease and the jury brought in a verdict of “natural causes”.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Saint Albans</i>							
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Harpenden</i>							
18 <i>83</i> DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Harpenden</i> in the County of <i>Hertford</i>							
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Qualification of the Registrar.	When Registered.
<i>Twenty-ninth May 1883 Guslard Wood Wharfedale R.S.D.</i>	<i>Abraham Brothers</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>43 years</i>	<i>Beer House Keeper</i>	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>Certificate received from Henry Abraham Coroner for Hertf Inquest held 31st May 1883</i>	<i>Second June 1883</i>

Abraham’s personal estate was valued at £19 and went to Sarah . The licence for the *Royal Exchange* was transferred to Sarah at the next Petty Sessions. By the time of the next census Sarah is living with one of her sons and the *Royal Exchange* has a new licensee.

The *Royal Exchange* was auctioned in 1920 and it seems to have been a spacious building. It is described as being of red brick with a tiled roof, four bedrooms, a parlour, tap room and kitchen with a cellar. It also has a garden with a wood barn. The annual rent was £10.

John Brothers was the third member of the family to be a landlord. He is listed as licensee of *The Cherry Trees* in 1874. This pub was outside the village in an area named on the map as Cherry Trees.



It was at a crossroads and Cherry Tree Lane led down to Leasey Bridge, the only crossing for vehicles between Wheathampstead and Batford. It did change its name to *Traveller's Friend* for two brief periods of time in its history.

John Brothers was Abraham and Elizabeth's younger son and the brother of Abraham (of the *Royal Exchange*). John was born in Wheathampstead in 1843 and baptised there on 5th March. In 1851 and 1861 censuses he is living with his family in Gustard Wood at the *Royal Exchange*. By 1861 he is working as an agricultural labourer and in 1867 he married Rhoda **Rowe** on 25th December in Wheathampstead Congregational Church. It then appears that the couple moved to London as their first son John was born there in 1869 and also their second son George in 1870. Although George was baptised in Wheathampstead Congregational Church on 4th August 1870.

The 1871 census reveals that John was a patient in the Metropolitan Asylum Boards Hospital in Hampstead. Rhoda is in Wheathamstead with her two sons, she is staying with her parents. John Brothers' occupation in the census is platelayer, this would have been for the railways. The station in Wheathampstead was opened in 1860 as part of the Great Northern Railway. This change of occupation explains why the family were in London. A platelayer worked in a gang inspecting and maintaining their allocated section of track. Their working conditions and pay were poor.



*A gang of platelayers*

The Metropolitan Asylums Board was created in 1867 to open hospitals for infectious diseases looking after patients unable to pay for treatment. The Board quickly acquired three sites, one was near Pond Street in Hampstead, and on 25th January 1870 Hampstead Hospital opened for patients with relapsing fever. The hospital closed when this epidemic subsided but reopened on 1st December 1870 for a particularly virulent form of smallpox which was raging through London. John must have contracted this so his family moved back to Wheathampstead for safety. There is an article in the *Illustrated London News* in October 1871 about the hospital.



*A Ward in Hampstead Hospital*

John returned to Wheathampstead and became licensee of the *Cherry Trees* in 1874.

In the 1881 census John was a beerhouse keeper at *Cherry Trees / The Travellers Friend* Beerhouse (at this time it must have been commonly referred to by both names). John and Rhoda had eight sons; John, George, Francis, James, Albert, Walter,

Abraham and Isaac. They had four more children after this; Jacob, Mark, Elizabeth and Matthew. So between 1870 and 1886 they had 11 sons and one daughter!

John moved to *The Ship* around 1881 as the *Herts Advertiser* of 25th June reported that at Petty Sessions John was the out going tenant of *The Travellers Friend* and a protection order had been granted to Elias **Harding**. *The Ship* was in Wheathampstead High Street opposite another beerhouse, *The Swan*. *The Ship* had been a beerhouse since 1837.

We learn of John's political leaning as on December 19th 1885 the *Hertford Mercury and Reformer* in describing the return of Lord **Kilcousie** to Wheathampstead after his election as Liberal M. P. described John Brothers as one of the leaders of the welcoming crowd.

In 1888 John appears in court to give evidence. It is described in the *Herts Advertiser* on 7th January 1888.

The case was about a fight which had started outside the *Ship* on Boxing Day 1887 and the newspaper has the headline;

### **Boxing Day at Wheathampstead**

#### **An Affray by Moonlight**

The court considered three charges, one against Levi **Gore** and Charles **Spacey** of Luton for being drunk and disorderly, the second a charge they assaulted P C **Holmwood** and thirdly P C Holmwood was charged in a cross summons with assaulting Levi Gore. The court was crowded.



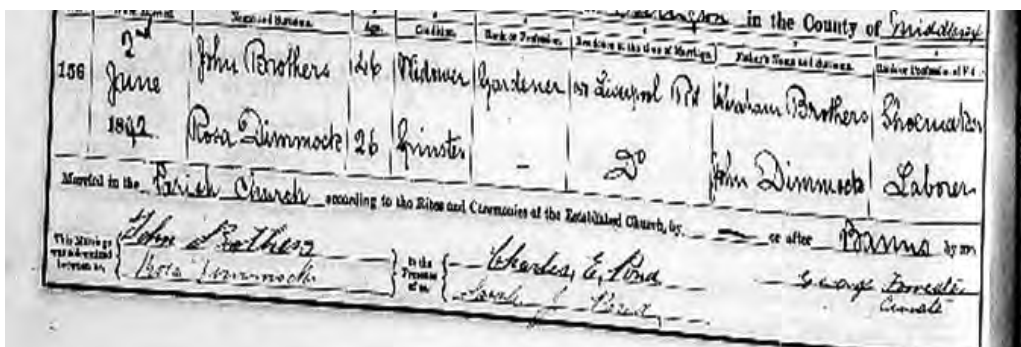
P C Holmwood said that at 10.30p.m on Boxing Day he saw a fight between the defendants and 12 other people. As he tried to stop the fight Spacey knocked him to the ground, he was rolled over and over but managed to draw his truncheon and hit Spacey on the legs. He threw Gore off when he kicked him and drew his staff and struck Spacey. He had first seen the defendants when on plain clothes duty he saw them holding down a publican, Mr Brothers. He had pulled them off and at Mr Brothers request had followed them to get their names. There were no Wheathampstead men about so he had no witnesses. John Brothers said he had been at the door of *The Ship* and said "Goodnight" as three men went past. The tallest knocked him down and he was bitten on both fore fingers.

Witnesses gave conflicting evidence to the court. One said the defendants were drunk just knocking John without cause, another said the defendants had replied "Goodnight, you ---- (using a bad expression)" so Mr Brothers was annoyed and started the fight. Mrs Brothers had tried to help her husband and had received a black eye. Other witnesses had conflicting evidence as to whether the men were drunk or if P C Holmwood had used his truncheon and staff excessively. There were frequent outbursts of laughter as witnesses admitted to being "a bit merry" or "pretty well gone" or seeing "people go down like ninepins".

The Bench decided there was no need to conclude either side had exaggerated the evidence but it was Boxing night and people were in a state of hilarity. They observed the police constable seemed to have been rather more energetic than the occasion demanded but gave him the benefit of the doubt.

The 1891 census records John as a gardener as well as beerhouse keeper. Nine of his children still lived with him and they were looked after by John's sister, Sarah Brothers, as Rhoda had died in 1889.

John married Rosa **Dimmock** in Islington on 2nd June 1892.



John and Rosa had two children before John died on 3rd February 1897.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Saint Albans</i>							
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Harpenden</i>							
97. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Harpenden</i> in the County of <i>Herts</i>							
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
<i>Third February 1897 The Ship Wheathampstead R. 2</i>	<i>John Brookes</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>54 years</i>	<i>Gardener and Domestic Beer-presser</i>	<i>Sarcoma of supra-glandular in situ and 5 months certified by W. J. Webb M. B. C. S.</i>	<i>James Brookes Son Present at the Death 100, Albert Road West Hilburn London</i>	<i>Third February 1897</i>

*The Herts Advertiser* of 27th February 1897 reports the transfer of the licence from John to Rosa. She did not stay there long as she married John **Rolph** in February 1898 but she continued to live in Wheathampstead.

*The Ship* was one of three pubs in the centre of Wheathampstead that were closed between 1906 and 1910 as they were surplus to the requirements of the community.

### Notes and Sources used

- findmypast.co.uk and ancestry.co.uk
- for Select Births, Marriages, Deaths, Parish Baptisms, Marriages, Burials and Census records
- White's Directory, Kelly's Directory some available online via Ancestry or University of Leicester le.ac.uk
- General Registry Office www.gro.gov.uk for indexes and ordering certificates
- Newspapers via Findmypast or Britishnewspaperarchive
- Transfers of licences and changes of licencees can be found in local newspapers
- Maps of the area can be found on the National Library of Scotland website

## What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

By Sheila White

### Events at HALS

**Getting started at HALS:** a free tour/workshop where you will be shown how to access HALS' collections using indexes and catalogues. Find out to handle material in a variety of formats. **Booking essential:** online or see contact details below.

Tuesday 12 September 2023, SOLD OUT

Thursday 12 October 2pm

Wednesday 15 November 11am

### Family history one-to-one advice

Are you stuck with your family history? Book a session with an expert for some one-to-one advice. You can have the session over the phone, online (via MS Teams) or in person at HALS (cost £14). See contact details below.

### 1921 census free to view

The 1921 Census is now free to view at HALS and Hertfordshire Libraries through Findmypast.

### Herts Memories

Did you know that 'Herts Memories' has over 500 articles on Hertfordshire people, famous and not so famous? From the home page, select the tab 'herts history' and then 'People'. See links below for website address.

### Contact details for HALS

#### **Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)**

Register Office Block, CHR 002, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford  
SG13 8EJ

**Tel:** 0300 123 4049 (as for Local Studies)

**Email:** hals.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Website:** [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals)

You can also follow HALS on **Twitter** @HertsArchives

## HALS opening hours

**Monday** Closed

**Tuesday** 9am – 5.00pm

First Tuesday evening of the month only, 5pm -7:30pm, and only by appointment

**Wednesday** 9am – 5.00pm

**Thursday** 9am – 5.00pm

**Friday** 9am – 12.30pm

**Saturday** 10am – 2pm

First and third Saturdays of the month only and only by appointment

**Sunday** Closed

## Useful links

**[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)** Hertfordshire parish registers, school logbooks, historic newspapers & the 1939 National Register searchable online (subscription site, normally free to use at HALS and Hertfordshire libraries)

**[www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)** Hertfordshire tithe maps and apportionments searchable online (subscription site)

**[www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)** the story of the workhouse with information about workhouses in Hertfordshire and across the country

**[www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk)** Genealogy in Hertfordshire

**[www.hertsmemories.org.uk](http://www.hertsmemories.org.uk)** history, memories and photos of Hertfordshire

**[www.halh.org.uk](http://www.halh.org.uk)** Hertfordshire Association for Local History, with links to local history societies' websites. Details of free online local history talks can be found on the home page.

**[www.hertspastpolicing.org.uk](http://www.hertspastpolicing.org.uk)** Herts Past Policing: crime and policing in Hertfordshire through the ages

**[www.hertsatwar.co.uk](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk)** Community led project to commemorate the diverse experiences of Hertfordshire during WW1

**www.prisonhistory.org** Database of prisons, prison records and lock-ups in England, searchable by county

**maps.nls.uk/os** Historic Ordnance Survey maps, including of Hertfordshire, at the National Library of Scotland

**www.nationalarchives.gov.uk** The National Archives (TNA)  
The National Archives at Kew re-opened on 27 April by appointment only; more on their website. Downloadable files are still being available at no charge (usually £3.50). These include PCC wills, navy and marine records, New Poor Law correspondence (Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union only for Herts) and title deeds.



## Postbag

Contact: The Editor

53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ

Email: [editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)

## Wyman

There was a Facebook Query printed in the March 23 journal about the Wyman family. It mentions Richard **Wyman** & his wife Hannah **Pennyfather**. Looking at my records they married in August 1791 at Digswell. Hannah died 1798 in Braughing.

Can the author add anything more from his/her family studies?

*Dennis Pennyfather (HFHS 3610)*

*pennyfather54@gmail.com*

## Exchange Journals

The journals we exchange with other Family History Societies are available for members to read. Digital journals are available in the Members' Area of the web site whilst those in print form are brought to Woolmer Green.

### Journals available in the Members' Area

Aberdeen & North East Scotland Family History Society  
Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society  
Bedfordshire Family History Society  
Berkshire Family History Society  
Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry  
British Columbia Genealogical Society  
Buckinghamshire Family History Society  
Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society  
Doncaster & District Family History Society  
Dorset Family History Society  
Essex Society for Family History  
Family History Society of New Zealand  
Genealogical Society of Victoria  
The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.  
Herefordshire Family History Society  
Huddersfield & District Family History Society  
Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies  
The Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society  
The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society  
FHS of Newfoundland & Labrador  
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.  
Queensland Family History Society  
Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society  
Shropshire Family History Society  
Waltham Forest Family History Society  
Western Australia Genealogical Society  
Yorkshire Family Historian

## Journals generally available at Meetings held at Woolmer Green

Cleveland, North Yorkshire and South Durham Family History Society  
The Clwyd Family History Society  
Nepean Family History Society Inc. (New South Wales)  
North West Kent Family History Society  
Sheffield and District Family History Society  
Society of Genealogists  
South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
West Surrey Family History Society  
Woolwich and District Family History Society

*Sue Jackson*

*Membership Secretary*

## Social Media

Hertfordshire Family History Society is active on **Facebook** and **'X'** formerly **Twitter**.



[www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/](https://www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/)



@Herts\_FHS - Hertfordshire People

Do follow the accounts to keep in touch with the HFHS Talks programme, open to all, and posts relevant to local and family history with an emphasis on Hertfordshire.

You can post queries on Facebook too.

## George Reed of the 55th

By Marcia Bell

I knew next to nothing of the life of my great great grandfather George **Reed** when I started my research many years ago. I had been told that he had lived in the Hertford area and was 'an army man'. I had no idea if this was in the British Army or the East India Company. Apparently he was widowed at a young age but stayed in the army, his young daughter Mary Ann travelling with him. In India their unit moved from one camp to another, lighting fires at night to keep the jackals away. It was also thought that there was an Irish connection. My great grandmother Mary Ann must have been unsure as to where she was born as she cites Portsmouth, India and Hertford on different censuses.

The first record we could find of George was on the 1841 census at Goose Green in the parish of Great Amwell, part of the hamlet of Hoddesdon. Living in the household is Samuel Reed aged 50, Jane Reed aged 55, Joseph, James and Thomas all aged 15, Jane aged 12 and George aged 10 years (all ages rounded). Samuel's occupation is 'agricultural labourer.' All of them are shown as being born in Hertfordshire.

The Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) database online shows a marriage at Great Amwell of a Samuel Reed to a Susanna **Gubby** on 24 October 1812. This could be Samuel's first wife. (There is another Samuel Reed nearby at Much Hadham but he is married to Susannah **Ufford** and they baptise several children there.)

The Jane senior on the 1841 census may be Samuel's second wife and George's stepmother as there is a marriage in Broxbourne on 11 May 1835 of a Jane **Clark** to a Samuel Reed (HALS).

By the time of the 1851 census something significant has happened because the family has split up. Searching the census reveals Samuel, a married man, born Bishops Stortford, living as a lodger at Sumners Farm, Great Parndon. He is still shown as an agricultural labourer but his age is given as only 55. Presumably he took a few years off his age to help gain employment. Jane, a married woman of 71, born Hoddesdon is an inmate at Ware Union Workhouse, Bourne Hill. Presumably she was too old and/or sick to look after



the family and they were forced to disperse. There is a Jane Reed in Clerkenwell, age 21, born Hoddesdon, who is a servant in the household of the editor of the *'Railway Times'*. Joseph, James and Thomas are lodging in various houses in Goose Green, but there is no sign of George.

We engaged a researcher to look for soldiers in India and this produced several George Reeds/Reads/Reids/Redes but not the right one. After several years, more records appeared online and the now defunct 'Victorian Wars Forum' came up trumps. The whereabouts of the 55th Regiment of Foot was one of the topics of discussion. Some men from Hertfordshire enlisted in this regiment and both Portsmouth and Ireland were mentioned.

A search for George Reed of the 55th Regiment of Foot on the 'Find My Past' website revealed the British army record of the George we wanted.

He may have been influenced by the previous departure of an older brother who left home before the 1841 census. The UK, Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service Records, 1760-1920 National Archives WO97 show a private Samuel Reed born c.1819 who is already in the British Army. When Samuel enlists in the 38th Regiment of Foot in Hertford on 11 January 1837 he gives his father's name as Samuel and states that he was born in Great Amwell. He is probably George's brother. At some stage he becomes part of the Royal Newfoundland Companies. He is finally discharged from the army on 12 January 1858, suffering from what nowadays would be described as 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.' He goes back to Canada to spend the rest of his life with a wife in Newfoundland.

George however seems to have survived relatively unscathed. He has a very steady army career firstly as a private and then as a corporal.

The following information was obtained from 'Find My Past' :

### **Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Records of Admissions and Discharges 1715-1925**

The fifty fifth regiment of foot

Chakrata 23 October 1871

No. 2791 Corporal George Reed by trade a labourer.

Enlisted in Westminster 15 November 1850, age eighteen and a half.  
Born in the parish of Hodson near the town of Hodson (Hoddesdon) in the county of Hertford.

Final description at his original discharge date on 2 January 1872 in Chichester:

Age: 39 years

Height: 5 feet 7 ½ inches

Complexion: fresh

Eyes: grey

Hair: brown

Intended place of residence: Portsmouth.

It states that he spent a total of 20 years and 345 days in the army, of which 9 years 5 months were spent at Home, 2 years 6 months were spent in Turkey and 7 years 11 months were spent in the East Indies.

This was later amended to 21 years and 79 days. It seems that his service was extended to the end of January 1872.

His conduct is described as very good. Indeed he was awarded 5 good conduct badges during his army career. He was awarded the Crimean campaign medal and as his regiment won battle honours at the battles of Alma, Sebastopol and Inkerman, he was awarded clasps for these three battles. He also held the Turkish war medal and was granted the silver medal and a gratuity of £5 for long service and good conduct when he left the army.

He actually signed up for two periods in the army, the first on 13 November 1850 until 12 November 1860 and the second in Aldershot on 13 November 1860 until 18 January 1872 which was then extended by a few days. He was promoted to corporal on 1 February 1869.

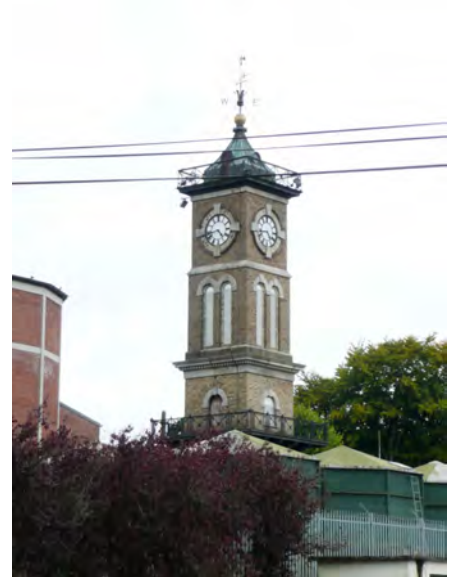
A list of stations of the regiment from the Victorian War Forum website <http://victorianwars.com/> was very useful in determining where George was on certain dates.

In 1851 the 55th regiment was in Gibraltar and in 1854 proceeded to Turkey where it was engaged in the Crimean War. In 1856 they were back in Gibraltar

and a year later in Dublin. 1859 saw the regiment installed at the Curragh Camp for training, just a few miles from Dublin. A search of 'Ireland Marriages,1619-1898 index family search.org' reveals the marriage of George Reed to Rosy **Burke**. They were married on 27 August 1859, in a Catholic ceremony at Ballysax Church, just on the edge of the Curragh Camp. His father is given as Samuel Reed and her father as William Burke.

The old clock tower at the Curragh Camp is still there and looks the same as it would have done in George's day. By the time George arrived, the structures at the camp were wooden, later to be replaced by brick. Prior to that tents would have been the order of the day.

George and Rosy were married a short distance away in a truly fairy tale church, now closed, but being maintained by 'The Friends of Ballysax Church'. There is a memorial to John **Tottenham**, the officiating minister at George and Rosy's wedding.



*The clock tower at the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare*



*St. Paul's church, Ballysax, Co. Kildare*

The church has in place a Perspex copy of its original stained glass window. Unfortunately the original had to be sold to raise funds to restore the church. It ended up in Japan, installed in a wedding chapel at the Nishiyama Bekkan hotel near Hiroshima. At least it is being appreciated by Japanese couples getting married, but is a great loss for Ballysax Church. (There was no stained glass in George and Rosy's time).

In 1860 George and Rosy's daughter Mary was born. The baptism can be found in the Church Baptism Record [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie).

## Mary **Reid**

Baptised on 8 July 1860 in the Roman Catholic Church at Curragh Co. Kildare

Father: George Reid 55th Regt.

Mother: Rose Burke

Sponsors Patrick **Russel** and Marianne **Duffey**.

When the Catholic Parish Registers went on line a few years ago, (Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI (National Library of Ireland) Curragh Camp Microfilm 04207/01 via registers.nli.ie) I checked the original image and discovered a note in the register that said that Mary was the twin sister of George. Her brother, who was baptised at the same time must have died a short time later.

That summer, George and Rosy moved with the regiment to the Aldershot barracks. The family can be found together the following year on the 1861 census.

### Aldershot

Infantry regiment 55:

R Reed wife age 27 born Ireland

M Reed daughter (age is very indistinct as it is crossed out but incorrectly transcribed on the 'Ancestry' database as 1/12) born Ireland

In a separate part of the barracks is Private G Reed age 28 born 'Hodson Herts'.

Around May 1861 the regiment moved to Jersey. A few of the soldiers were sent to Alderney from Jersey but we don't know if George was one of them. After a year the regiment relocated to Portsmouth in preparation for the conflict in India, leaving in 1863 for the Bhutan Campaign of 1864-65.

Assuming that George's wife had died at a young age, we then consulted 'FamilySearch' online for the death of a Rosy Reed between 1860-1870. We found the death of Rose Reed age 29, at Hazareebaugh (Hazaribagh) in Bengal, India on 19 April 1864. This was at a British army station between Bhutan and Madras. George Reed is given as her spouse (India Deaths and Burials, 1719-1948' via familysearch.org).

Further research revealed that in 1881 the 55th regiment of foot had merged with the 34th regiment of foot to form the Border regiment, whose regimental headquarters were at Carlisle Castle. On 14 February 1914, a meeting with Tony **Goddard**, the assistant curator of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, based inside the castle, confirmed a lot of the information we already had.

There seemed to be a discrepancy between George's service record and the clasps awarded. On the list of medals and clasps it doesn't show Inkerman, but it does on his service record. There was another George **Reid** in the 55th regiment, next on the list, so perhaps there was some confusion.

Tony Goddard showed us a book that he believed to be the only original in existence. It was printed in 1871 on an army mobile printing press just after the India campaigns: '55th Regiment in India; or a record of events during six years service in India; 1863 to 1869' by Sergeant Major TH **Vickers**, published Chakrata: 55th regimental printing press 1871, 2nd edition. It has a few pages missing.

It lists Rose Reed as one of the women who died after landing in India. She was one of a small proportion of women who were 'on the strength'. She would have been required to look after the officers and do other chores, but in return she would have received food and given medical attention. There were other women who followed their men to India but who were unofficial and had to fend for themselves. Her date of death agrees with the date supplied by 'FamilySearch' but it also gives the cause of death which was tuberculosis. George stayed in the army despite having a young daughter to care for. Mary Ann was presumably looked after by other army wives. George's promotion to corporal on 1 February 1869 is also noted in the book. George finally leaves the army on 30 January 1872, aged 39.

The 1881 census shows that Mary Ann age 20 had returned from India and was staying with George's married sister Jane **Kimbley** and her family in Kentish Town. Her relationship is described as 'niece' and occupation as 'general servant'. There was no sign of George and to this day I cannot find him on the 1881 census. There are many George Reeds on the 1881 census with different spellings of 'Reed'.

George reappears on 13 July 1885 at the wedding of his daughter Mary Ann to Edmund **Ilott**. We know he was there to give his daughter away because he is one of the witnesses at the wedding at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell. They had returned to George's roots.

After his daughter's wedding we next find George age 59 on the 1891 census in West Street, Hertford, lodging at the *Black Horse* pub, still a very popular pub in the town today. He is employed as a gardener. His status is described as 'married' but there is no sign of a second wife. Mary Ann and her family are living nearby.

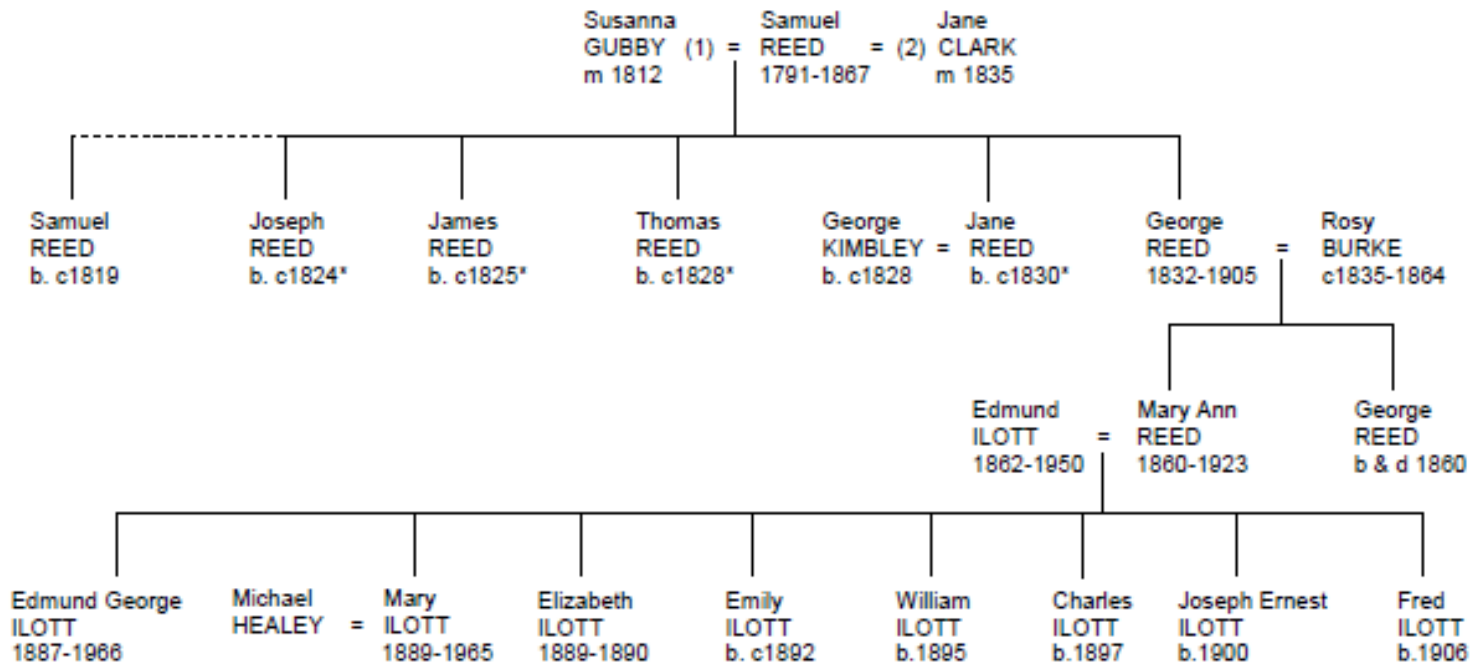
On the next census of 1901, at age 69, he has unfortunately had to go to the Union Workhouse in Ware as he can no longer afford to support himself, despite having an army pension. He is a 'pauper', 'married', but his occupation is still described as a 'gardener, domestic'. George passes away there on 27 April 1905. His age is given as 74. The cause of death is 'Bright's Disease', which is a disease of the kidneys. This is rather a sad end for someone who served his country for so long.

On a positive note George was engaged in some of the major army campaigns of the 19th century. One of his lasting legacies must be the example he set for his grandson, Edmund George Ilott, my grandmother Mary's brother, always known as George. When he died at age 79 there was an obituary in a local newspaper saying that he had run away from home when he was just sixteen and enlisted in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire regiment, where he remained for 19 years.

As he was in the army before the outbreak of WW1, he was sent to France early on, as part of the 1st Battalion and was awarded the 1914 star, sometimes known as the Mons star after the battle of Mons. He became a command sergeant major and then an acting regimental sergeant major, meaning that he was the highest ranked warrant officer in his battalion or regiment. In 1918 he was mentioned in dispatches, having been awarded both the Military Medal and the Distinguished Conduct Medal. During the Second World War he was an air raid warden in Hertford. He was surely influenced by tales his grandfather told him of life in the army and wanted to follow in his footsteps.

**FAMILY TREE OF SAMUEL REED**

Dates marked \* are from the 1851 census





## Research Queries

Are you stuck? Don't forget you can still call on the help of fellow members.

Send your research questions to: The Editor, 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ. [editor@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@hertsfhs.org.uk)

### Ashfield School Football Team 1919/1920 - Can You Help?

Back in 2016, I noticed a photograph of this boys school football team in the journal of the Friends of Bushey Museum. It wasn't until last year that I decided to research it further (the reason being that at least 2 of the boys were related to my

Hertfordshire families). Though I have been able to follow up many of the boys shown, there are a couple that are proving trickier.

"Teddy" **Jacks** and Ken **Hall** are two of the names, but would welcome any further information about the others, particularly "Harry" **Cobb** as there are three possible choices, all of the right age etc. – Harry, Harold and Henry. I am aware that Bushey Museum has photocopies of most Ashfield school registers, but due to distance (North Wales), researching at the Local Studies there is not easy! I hope to do a fuller article for the journal in the future.

Thanks in advance

*Janet Sutton (201)*  
[janlsutton@hotmail.com](mailto:janlsutton@hotmail.com)





## Society Talks

### Reports on main meetings

#### May 2023

#### **Nonconformity** presented by Alan Ruston.

Following our AGM at the end of May, our President Alan Ruston, gave a talk on Nonconformity. Our knowledgeable speaker gave an overview of rise of nonconformity and the records that are extant for the different sects.

These include Presbyterians, Independents, Congregationalists, Methodists, Anabaptists / Baptists, Quakers, and smaller congregations such as the Moravians, Plymouth Brethren and Pentecostals.

Not all congregations kept records, but if they did these were maintained within the church or chapel and not always deposited. Congregations had 'Membership Books' which can give details of where the member came from and relationships, Committee Meeting Minute Books, and printed periodicals that can include Obituaries. More women were recognised in nonconformist records. Dr Williams's Library holds birth records of 43,000 nonconformists - [dwl.ac.uk](http://dwl.ac.uk)

Researching a nonconformist ancestor can be challenging but worth the effort.

#### **Recommended Books**

Raymond, Stuart *Tracing your Nonconformist Ancestors*. Pen & Sword.

*My Ancestors were.....* Society of Genealogists. These useful books cover Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists, Quakers, Inghamites, English Presbyterians / Unitarians, and Salvation Army

Ruston, Alan *Nonconformity in Hertfordshire*. 3rd edition, Hertfordshire FHS.

## HERTFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The **Hoddesdon** Branch of this Society  
will meet at the Methodist Church Hall in  
**Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon, EN11 9DZ**  
on the **first Tuesday** of each month **2.00 – 4.00 pm**

### Autumn Programme

Sep. 5 – Has DNA Proved my Theory?  
*Using modern technology*  
John Slaughter

Oct. 3– Gallows Hill, Great Amwell  
Hangings from 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Ken Griffin

Nov.7 – What Did You Do in the War  
Grandad? *The London Blitz*  
Derrick Harwood

Dec.5 – A Soldier who Travelled Far  
and Wide.  
*Finding a lost ancestor*  
Janet Pearson



*for further details contact*  
Mrs. Janet Pearson - 01727 824454



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



@HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety



@Herts\_FHS.com

## A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany

By John J. Tunesi of Liongam, MSc, FSA Scot, Hon FHS, QG

### 63) The Arms of the Drage Family of Hatfield

The Drage's are commemorated within the Parish Church of St Etheldreda, Hatfield with a couple of mural monuments both of which bear their family arms are found in 'Drage corner' of the church. The family's historian, Charles **Drage** in his book, *Family Story – The Drages of Hatfield* that was privately published in 1969 states that the family came from Norway some four centuries prior to the publication of this tome. Charles could forward no hypothesis of why the Drages uprooted themselves from their Nordic climes to settle and establish themselves in England. The reasons for such an emigration may be many and various – and at the present distance in time there is no way that we can second guess their thoughts or intentions in doing so. As incomers over the generations they multiplied and prospered and were found settled in the Counties of Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and, importantly, for this paper, Hertfordshire. The earliest member of the family to make a mark was Dr William Drage (born 1637 died 1668) who was born

at Raunds in the County of Northamptonshire. By the year 1658, he appears to have been resident at Hitchin where he was said to be a 'Practitioner of Physick'. Whether or not he was formally trained in the medical sciences is not known for certain, but it is possible that he was as a young man apprenticed to a Doctor of Physick to learn the skills needed to advance in his chosen profession. During the time that he was practising his profession at Hitchin, William issued his own tokens that were accepted locally as currency. They were inscribed upon their obverse with 'W. Drage of Hitchin – His Halfpenny – 1667' and upon its reverse, the arms of Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of the City of London, together with the Society's motto. This fact alone may lead us to believe that William was a member of the Society of Apothecaries (a City livery company) and that he may well have received a certain level of training under the auspices of that society as well as conjectured above an apprenticeship too with one of its members.

Later members of the family in the main became professional men

ranging from Anglican clergymen (with at least one ‘jumping ship’ so to speak to take the Roman faith), Doctors of Medicine, military men and politicians.

As mentioned above, the two mural monuments to be found in ‘Drage corner’ both have carved polychrome examples of the Drage armorial bearings that in more recent times have been questioned. Both these monuments commemorate gentlemen who followed one of the traditional professions of the family – medicine.

The first monument is for Charles Drage, MD, of North Place, Hatfield (baptised 28th August 1824 died 16th February 1922). He was the second son of The Reverend Charles Drage, of Downham in the County of Cambridgeshire (and later of Westerfield in the County of Suffolk) and his wife, Elizabeth **Brooke**. He married Elinor Margaret Lloyd **Thomas** (born 24th April 1834 died 22nd January 1893) at Hatfield on the 7th February 1854, whilst the second monument is for Dr Charles’s son, Dr Lovell Drage, MA, MD (born 1858 died 14th August 1919).



*Charles Drage, MD*



*Lovell Drage, MA, MD*

Lovell was Charles and Elinor’s eldest son. He married Kate Lewis **Bird** (born 1st December 1855 died 13th March 1948) at Cuckfield in the County of Sussex on the 11th May 1886. She was the second daughter of James Bird, of Crouch Hall, Hornsey in the County of Middlesex and his wife, Elizabeth Jane **Clay**.

Now to the question of the Drage arms. Charles Drage in his book *Family Story* states that although the family had made use of these arms, he was none too sure of their legitimacy. From what is known the arms as used by the family were granted to a 'John Drage, of the City of Ely in the County of Cambridgeshire, Gentleman, Son of William Drage, of Wicken in the County of Cambridgeshire' on the 5th October 1757 [College of Arms – Grant Book – Volume X, folio 116 (1757)]. This appears to be the only grant of arms made to the Drage family. An examination of the Heralds' Visitation of the City of London that took in the years 1633 – 35 as well as the those of Cambridgeshire 1575, Hertfordshire 1572 & 1634, Huntingdonshire 1613, and Northamptonshire 1564 & 1618 – 19, the counties where the Drage family had settled over the generations, show no entries either heraldic or genealogical for the family.



The arms granted to the above-named John Drage may be blazoned as follows:

**Arms:** *Or on a pale gules between two eagles displayed azure three fleurs-de-lis argent*

**Crest:** *A demi-eagle displayed per pale or and gules with the dexter wing charged with a fleur-de-lis gules and the sinister with a fleur-de-lis or*

**Motto:** *Invidia major* [Superior to envy]

Now the lack of any records at The College of Arms prior to the grant to John Drage in 1757 begs the question do the Drages of Hatfield have a legitimate claim to these arms? This was postulated in the pages of *Family Story*, when its author noted his approach to the College through the good offices of the then Windsor Herald of Arms, the consequence of which there was no evidence found of a direct descent from John Drage, the grantee to Charles, the author and also to the two gentlemen of the Drage family whose memorials are found in St Etheldreda's. It could be that the proofs are yet to be found. So, saying, I believe that it is more than likely that a cousinship existed between the Drages, of Ely and Wicken and the Drages, of Hatfield. Yet another heraldic and genealogical mystery to be explored.....



## Members Interests

Please note the changed manner in which the Society lists members' interests. This is to comply with the general data protection rules (GDPR) in force after the 25th May 2018 whereby personal details of all members remain secure.

If interested in any of the names listed here, advise the Registrar who will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. Quote the full line of the submitted interest. The contact addresses are listed below. Apart from the new listings in *Hertfordshire People*, a free search facility is available to members only on family names that they may be researching using our members' interests database. This database is kept up to date at all times. Email correspondence is preferred but, if communicating by post, enclose a sae.

For all enquiries, the Registrar will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. The contact points are:

By post: The Registrar, 134 Beechwood Avenue, St. Albans, AL1 4XY  
By email: registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk

Name	Period	Parish	County	M/No
Bray	Any	Baldock, Hitchin	Hrt	4637
Bew	Any	Baldock, Hitchin	Hrt	4637
Collins	1800-1914	Essendon	Hrt	4639
Collins	18c	Northaw	Hrt	4639
Collins	18c	North Mymms	Hrt	4639
Dedman	1538-1900	Albury	Hrt	4781
	Variants: Deadman, Debenham			
Fardel	18c	Northaw	Hrt	4639
Felstead	1538-1900	Albury	Hrt	4781
	Variants: Felsted			
Felstead	1538-1900	Little Hadham	Hrt	4781
	Variants: Felsted			
Hill	18-20c	Kimpton, Kings Walden	Hrt	4632
Hill	18-20c	Luton	Bdf	4632
Hutchin	1538-1900	Albury	Hrt	4781
	Variants: Hutchings, Hutchins			
Manning	Any	Baldock, Hitchin	Hrt	4637
Mott	1538-1900	Little Hadham	Hrt	4781
Munn	18c	North Mymms	Hrt	4639

Pallett	1800-1914	Essendon	Hrt	4639
Shaw	17-20c	Weston, Tewin, Kimpton, Bayford, Caldecote, St Albans	Hrt	4632
Turner	1538-1900	Hoddesdon, Cheshunt, Great Amwell	Hrt	4781
Turner	1796-1871	Stansted	Ess	4781
Warboy	17-19c	Weston	Hrt	4632
	Variants: Wa/orboys, Waboys, Warby, Worboy			
Wells	18-20c	Any	Hrt	4632
Wells	18-20c	Any	Bdf	4632

## New Members

Number	Name	County / Country
4628	Ms Samantha Gregson	Dorset
4629	Mr. James Mann	Ontario, Canada
4630	Mrs. Vivien Thomas	Tasmania, Australia
4631	Mrs. Irene Bentley	Somerset
4632	Dr. Vivienne Shaw	Te Anau, New Zealand
4633	Ms Anna Schlenker	Hertfordshire
4634	Mr. Barry Mason	Hertfordshire
4635	Miss Rachael Meredith	Leicestershire
4636	Mrs. S. Konrad	West Midlands
4637	Mrs. Claire Sowah	Bedfordshire
4638	Mr. William John Tomlin	N.S.W., Australia



### Family History Research

Hertfordshire, London & Middlesex

All enquiries welcome

#### Mrs Carolynn Boucher

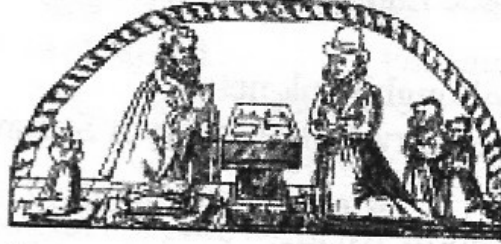
1 Ivinghoe Close, Chiltern Park  
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9JR

Tel: 01727 833664

[carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com](mailto:carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com)

# Hertfordshire Family History Society

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies



Registered Charity No. 285008

## **President:**

Mr Alan Ruston

## **Vice Presidents**

Mrs Christine Hill, Mr John Pearson, Mrs Janet Pearson, Mrs June Thomas

## **OFFICERS**

**Chairman:** Mrs Felicity Brimblecombe, [chairman@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hertsfhs.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Mr Brian H. Worboys, [treasurer@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@hertsfhs.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Mrs Tracy Turner, [secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk)

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Miss Sue Jackson**

**Mrs Jane Tunesi of Liongam**

**John Tunesi of Liongam**

**Ms Anna Schlenker**

**Miss Janet Sutton**

All Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary

e-mail: [secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk)

Information is also available on the Society's website: [www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk)



## Hertfordshire Family History Society

(Established 1977)

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *note two rates i.e. Printed / digital PDF***

UK individual - £13/£9; UK Family - £14/£10; Overseas (airmail) - £16/£10;

UK Families receive one journal per household. Subscriptions only accepted in **Sterling**.

Overseas members may pay by credit card online using the website [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk).

Subscriptions run from 1 March to 28 February each year. **Subscriptions by post are payable to 'Hertfordshire Family History Society' and sent to The Membership Secretary, 50 Chelwood Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10.** All correspondence by post regarding membership of the Society should be addressed to the **Membership Secretary**. Otherwise, email all queries and changes of personal details to the Registrar at [registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk).

**SOCIETY PROJECTS** : Projects are ongoing and volunteers for transcribing, checking etc are always welcome. If you would like to know more, contact the **Projects Co-ordinator: Mr John Pearson - [johnwelburn@talktalk.net](mailto:johnwelburn@talktalk.net)**

**PUBLICATIONS:** A full list of Society publications is issued with the September journal each year, and is always available on our website: [www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk). For a booklist, you can also contact the Secretary at any time. You can buy Society publications online using a secure credit card facility at [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

- **MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS:** over 100 volumes now published with transcriptions of memorials in over 120 churches and churchyards.
- **MILITIA LISTS:** A full set of individual parish booklets are available on one fully searchable CD-ROM.
- **SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS:** On CD or Flash Drive. Check out website for availability [www.hertsfhs.org.uk](http://www.hertsfhs.org.uk)

**MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** Apart from the new listings in each issue of *Hertfordshire People*, a free search facility is available, to members only, on family names that they may be researching, from our database of Members Interests. The names searched for will be completely up to date with the membership details held. Email correspondence preferred, but if by post enclose a s.a.e. For all enquiries, the Registrar will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. The points of contact are as follows:

By email: [registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk)

By post: The Registrar, 134 Beechwood Avenue, St. Albans, AL1 4XY.

**EXCHANGE JOURNALS:** The Society exchanges journals with other family history societies in the UK and overseas. Digital journals are uploaded to our Members Area, hard copies can be loaned to members at a main meeting by arrangement.

**JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION:** if there is any problem with the delivery of your copy of *Hertfordshire People*, please contact - [registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk)

**UNWANTED GRO CERTIFICATES:** Can be donated to the Society, making them available to other members. **MEMBERS' FAMILY TREES** or family histories are also welcome additions to the library. Please make clear what surname they relate to, what location in Hertfordshire the family comes from, and keep them compact! Contact the Secretary.

**OTHER MEMBERS WITH SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

*Reference Box:* Would you like to take responsibility for bringing our reference books to meetings? If so, please contact the Secretary.

**HOUSE GROUPS:** At present, one House Group is active.

*Hoddesdon Area Group* – Organiser: Mrs Janet Pearson - [johnandjanet@ntlworld.com](mailto:johnandjanet@ntlworld.com)  
Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon. 2 - 4pm. New members welcome.

The Society would be pleased to help set up further House Groups – contact the Secretary if you would like to help to start one near where you live.

**HFHS SEARCH SERVICES**

Our Society is always looking for ways to help members with their research. We use income from our search services to provide further research material and in this way we hope to expand our services in the future.

*The Hertfordshire Burial Index 1800-1851*

Please request searches through 'Genfair' at [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk).

**POSTAL BOOK SALES**

**Malcolm Wallace** is our new officer for dealing with orders by post

Hertfordshire FHS Book Sales

30, Anthony Close, Watford, Herts. WD19 4NA United Kingdom

Email: [pub-orders@hertsfhs.org.uk](mailto:pub-orders@hertsfhs.org.uk)

# Hertfordshire Family History Society

## Meetings Programme 2023

**By Zoom (and at Woolmer Green (in September only), for those who wish to view the Zoom lecture, 1.00 to 4.00 pm).**

**Speaker 2.30pm (UK time)**

Please check our website News & Events page and our social media platforms for the latest changes to the programme.

- Sep 30**      **The impact of the Great War reflected in the 1921 census** — Widows, orphans, disabled and blinded former soldiers, changed names, unemployment ... the social impacts of the Great War were huge and long-lasting. Paul Nixon
- Oct 28**      **The Maltings Industry in Hertfordshire** — Until the 1980's the making of malt was the most important economic activity in Herts and was the reason for the navigation of the rivers Lee and Stort and adjacent railway from the 1840s. Helen Gibson
- Nov 25**      **Forgotten Staff** — Victorian and Edwardian Railway-women  
David Turner
- Dec 16**      **The Long Paper Trail** — Finding some ancient documents in the attic and researching them to discover ancestors and their lives.  
Sue Paul

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

*Facebook: @HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety*

*Twitter: Hertfordshire People @Herts\_FHS*

