

Hertfordshire People

The Journal of the
Hertfordshire Family History Society

No 167
December
2023



R. W. HARRADENCE,

65, 67, 69, 71, 73,

HIGH STREET, WARE.

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Hertfordshire People

No 167, December 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.

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

Front Cover: Fred Carpenter junior with the Carpenter's Nursery van in 1970s, see article on Page 12.

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From the Editor.....



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

2023 seems to have flown by. There have been some gradual changes to Hertfordshire FHS over the year with a new Committee, hybrid talks, the introduction of online query sessions and a new and bigger and more modern font for *Hertfordshire People* which we hope makes the journal easier to read.

You will also see from the article on Page 7 that there has been consultation by the committee with a member who is a graphic artist on devising a much needed replacement to our old logo. The brass rubbing that we have used for years is difficult to reproduce digitally and to be honest does not really represent the county. The new logo will be officially launched in the new year.

Our talks programme for 2024 will be exciting with both Zoom talks in the winter months, and hybrid in the more clement ones so members, wherever they may be, can access our talks.

If you have any young relations who are interested in their family history do encourage them to enter our essay competition, details on page 4. Christmas is the traditional time for a family get-together where the conversation may end up with reminiscences of days gone by and those that have gone before. 'Tell me about your grandmother / grandfather, what was her / his name, where did she/he live, what did he / she do?' said the grandchild to their grandparent.....

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget that Subscriptions are due at the beginning of March 2024.

The renewal form can be found as a yellow insert in the middle of this issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

If you haven't done so yet, please send your remittance to me, the Membership Secretary at:

59 Chelwood Avenue
Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL10 0RE

Or, if you prefer, you can pay online. The instructions on how to do this are below.

Thank you

Sue Jackson
Membership Secretary

Renewing Membership by Internet Banking

If you have signed up with your bank for internet banking, please consider using it to renew your membership. To set up the Society as a payee three items are essential:

The Sort Code is 40-40-01

The Account Number is 72239752 (Business Account)

Name of Payee: Hertfordshire Family History Society

And you will need to quote a reference so that we know who has paid us. The reference should be of the form NNNN SURNAME, where NNNN is your membership number (to be found in the address label of your copy of *Hertfordshire People*) and SURNAME is as much of your surname as your bank's system will accept.

There is one trap for the unwary. Some banks allow you a one off payment without quoting a reference. Please do not let this happen to you.

And one reminder. If you have changed your postal address or your e-mail address, then let us know by e-mail to registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk.

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 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
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

These 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.

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 members, and sometimes non-members.

Information about joining will be sent out by the Registrar and we will also publicise on social media. UK Meetings will start at 14.30pm and last for about an hour.

Dates for 2024

13 January - 09:00 – 10:00 [UK time]
Zoom for *Australia & New Zealand* members

9 March - 14:30 - 15:30
Zoom for members

15 June - 14:30 - 15:30
Zoom for members and non-members

17 August - 14:00 - 17:00
In person at HALS for members

12 October - 14:30 - 15:30
Zoom for members and non-members

We look forward to 'seeing' you soon.

The Committee

OBITUARY



John Lucas

23rd December 1949 – 7th September 2023

John was born in Edgware General Hospital and his early life was with his elder brother, their parents and grandparents in Mill Hill, then from the early 1950s, Hemel Hempstead. He spent most of his working life in the Post Room of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems (and various other company names, but essentially the same firm) in Boundary Way or Maylands Avenue in Hemel, eventually becoming Post Room Supervisor. His favourite free-time occupations were travelling on holidays with friends all over Britain and Europe, fishing (with Leverstock Green Angling Assoc.) and music including festival visits such as Reading.

John met and courted Cicely at McDonald Douglas where she worked in Accounts. They married in 1993 in St Leonard's church at Sandridge where they both much enjoyed village life, particularly those which were centred on functions arranged by The Green Man PH. And they found more time to travel, specialising in European coach holidays.

On retirement at 65, John developed his interest in family history and he joined our Society. It was not long before he volunteered to help in running the Society, taking on a position for which he felt his career training made him ideally suited. Early in 2017, John took on the task of Postal Publications Sales Officer, whilst Elaine Tyler continued to deal with the publications orders we received via Genfair. Despite one or two mobility issues, he used sticks for walking, but he never missed a post office deadline. Unfortunately, late in 2020, John suffered a serious fall at home; the Covid lockdown added to his troubles and he had to relinquish this post early in 2021. He experienced several medical issues subsequently and was forced to spend many long periods in hospital. But he rarely complained and took everything in his stride. A true gentleman, he was well loved by family, friends and neighbours in Sandridge and he is sadly missed.

JRVP

Chair's Notes



Our society liaises regularly with Hertfordshire Archives (HALS).

Almost immediately after being elected as Chair I was asked by the County Archivist for a letter in support of an application for a grant to catalogue The Addis Collection of 150 boxes of records. The family firm of Addis Ltd relocated to Hertford from Hackney in 1920. During the 73 years they were based in Hertford, they became a market leading manufacturer and seller of toothbrushes and other brushes in the UK and worldwide.

A letter was provided for a very special annual award of only one grant for cataloguing Business Archives from the British Archives Council! The full details of the successful award to HALS can be found at: <https://businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/catgrant/>

HALS also provide Family History Courses. HFHS has agreed to offer a short free membership to attendees. A dozen people were expected on the first course about 'Dating Family Photographs and How to Look After Them' which took place in October at the Record Office. Only six people attended who have all become temporary members.

Photographs were on display and an excellent, detailed talk was provided by Susan Hall covering various useful ways of dating including types of photographs, format of photocards, photographer details, fashion for all periods by gender/age, and much more. Did you know that the format on the back of photo postcards can help with dating and the stamp boxes printed on lithographed cards also offer dating clues? The talk was so wide ranging that I now know why my grandmother had a box of buttons which I still possess – buttons were rationed in WWII.

Six more courses are planned at HALS from March to November 2024.

HFHS Zoom Query Sessions

On Saturday afternoons in the middle of August, September and

October HFHS members have been able to attend Zoom sessions to gain help with family history queries.

A small number have used this service so far but, some have attended several times providing progress updates and asking further questions. Some future sessions, starting from 11th November, will be open to non-members and other sessions will take place early in the morning (in the UK) to be useful to people in different time zones. See Page 5. Demand will then guide subsequent planning.

Monthly talks - hybrid meetings

October 2023 was the last meeting until Spring 2024 to be provided simultaneously by Zoom and to an audience in Hertfordshire. We apologise that the transmission of some talks have been marred by technical difficulties beyond our control. Arriving at Woolmer Green to find no electricity and no Wi-Fi has been just one of the problems we that have arisen! Please note that, as long as the speaker agrees, members can access details of the talk for a limited period of time from the members' area of our website.

Other updates:

- Our society's new logo is almost finalised - see below.
- My personal family history has made a rare leap back in time - DNA match replied to a message and suggested a book about a village in Wiltshire which has numerous useful family trees!
-

*Felicity
Chair
chairhertsfhs@gmail.com*

The Flower of Hertfordshire - Pasque



The Pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris* has the common names of Easter flower, wind flower, and meadow anemone. It is native to Hertfordshire.

Some counties have always had a flower associated with them such as the white rose for Yorkshire.

Other areas gained floral symbols in 2002, to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, when Plantlife, <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/>, campaigned to assign flowers to counties and metropolitan areas.

Sadly in 2011 the BBC reported that 'Hertfordshire's county flower has vanished from 85% of the sites around the UK where it was once found'.

But it is not going to vanish completely because Hertfordshire Family History Society is in the process of updating our logo and it will be based on the beautiful county flower.

Considerable thought has been given to a new logo. Perhaps using the county flag - but many other county organisations use that motif. Another idea was to use a hart (deer) as the derivation of Hertfordshire is from a hart crossing water.

The final details will be revealed when it is unveiled at the start of 2024.

With members around the world, we are fortunate to have a society member based in America who is a professional designer. She has been masterminding the development of the new logo.



Meanwhile, another member, Jackie Robinson, has taken pictures of the Pasque flower used here and on our Facebook page.

Felicity

Secretary's Jottings

Welcome to two new members of the Committee, Janet Sutton and Anna Schlenker.

Janet Sutton



I am a North Londoner by birth, but moved to North Wales in 1979 when I was 21, and have been here for over 40 years. My mother was born in Wood Green, North London and my father was born in Clerkenwell, London.

In my working life, I was a bank clerk cashier/supervisor for nearly 20 years, followed by a similar number of years as a Post Office clerk. I had a short spell as a charity shop assistant manager, before a second spell of unemployment. I am now approaching State Pension age – a frightening thought!

At a recent Volunteers Awards evening for the Tenovus Cancer Care charity that Janet volunteers with – she won her category and was also awarded Volunteer of the Year.

My journey through my family tree began with a black and white photo of an oil painting which stood on top of my grandmothers television. On the back was a stamped copyright – Manchester City Art

Gallery.

My gran said that the family in the painting were our ancestors. The painting was “Hard Times” by Hubert Von Herkomer R.A., known for society portraits and social realism paintings. He set up an Art School in Bushey , Hertfordshire. Many of the villagers were used as models by Herkomer and his pupils.

It took several years to prove/disprove the family tale. It was thanks to a gentleman who later became involved in the setting up of Bushey Museum Trust, who found partial confirmation. One of Herkomers pupils was a lady called Mary **Godsal**, who kept a diary . He found several entries relating to the painting and that Herkomer was drawing Mrs **Quarry** for his “tramp” painting. Mary Godsal also used Mrs Quarry and her baby as models. Family tale was partially true.

Over the years I have followed the Quarry line back to the mid-1700s when they seem to hop over the borders with Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. My **Wells** and **Stone** ancestry is firmly Hertfordshire. On my father's side, it is a mix of London and East Anglia. Other lines are from Clerkenwell and Chelsea. I have my share of brick walls still to break down, lots of ag labs and gardeners, illegitimate children, a few soldiers –and many ancestors who have given me ideas for articles for *Hertfordshire People* journal over the years. I was lucky that my grandmother was a source of oral history on her side of the family, information which my mother noted down over the years. This was such a help when I started tracing my tree - most "tales" have been proven, or at least had some element of truth. I wish my father's side had been so easy – he was the eighth of nine children and his memories of family relations were a bit confusing!

And now, I am very involved on committees etc, ranging from the local heritage tramway society, our local branch of Gwynedd Family History Society (despite having no Welsh ancestry, though one unproven family tale was that somewhere in the family Welsh married Irish!), and I am a volunteer fundraiser for Tenovus Cancer Care, a Wales based charity, and I am currently sing with the charity's choir, and had previously sung with an amateur Gilbert and Sullivan society (chorus only) for 25 years.

I still hope to break down those long-standing brick walls – and would like to know why an ag. Lab. from Aldenham was christened Pythagoras. Also, the whereabouts of two Herkomer watercolour paintings said to be of my Wells ancestors – so if anyone comes across "Gypsy Girl" or "Granny Wells's troubles....?"

Anna Schlenker

Anna has kindly volunteered to help us run our Zoom talks. Anna's confident presence has been welcomed and she is in turn showing others from the Committee the 'ropes' too.



Carpenter's Nursery

100 Years of a family business
in Hertfordshire

In 1923 Frederick James **Carpenter** and his family moved into one of 6 smallholdings on the northern, rural outskirts of St Albans to the south of Sandridge where he was allocated a cottage and 10 acres of land with the prospect of beginning a market garden. Schemes, such as Land Fit for Heroes created by Lloyd George's post war government, were being organised to help soldiers who had served in the Great War.¹



Frederick James Carpenter 'Fred' was born in Kent in 1882. The only boy with eight sisters of whom two died at an early age including his twin. His father, James William Carpenter 1852-1926, was working in market gardens in Hernhill Kent at the start of the 20th century. His son followed the same trade and was also a gardener in Hernhill in 1901 before moving to Hertfordshire and marrying in Barnet at the start of 1910.

By 1915 the family, including a daughter born in 1914, were in South Mimms when Fred signed up for WWI (2563 Northants Regiment, 31836 York & Lancs Regiment). He went to France in September 1916. He returned eventually in March 1919 having served 3 years and 83 days.²

Fred gave his occupation as a gardener employed by Miss **Wyburn** of Hadley, Barnet on the 1921 census recording that they were living at in a cottage in Hawkshead Wood, North Mimms.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Sex	Birth year	Age in years	Birth place	Occupation	Employer
Frederick Kate	Carpenter	Head	Male	1882	39	Rainham, Kent, England	Gardener	Private Mira Wyburn
Clara	Carpenter	Wife	Female	1882	38	Hertfordshire, England	Home Duties	-
Grace Annie	Carpenter	Daughter	Female	1914	7	Hertfordshire, England	-	-
Clara Jean	Carpenter	Daughter	Female	1920	-	Hertfordshire, England	-	-



A hundred years ago, in 1923, they moved to their smallholding.

The business began by growing fruit and vegetables. Although a horse helped, the only water came from the well. Profits from sales at the local market or from the side of the road were used to build a greenhouse.

The 1939 register of civilians lists the six smallholdings and their tenants.

CARPENTER FREDERICK J	-	M	23 JAN 82	M	MARKET GARDENER
CARPENTER CLARA	-	F	15 SEPT 82	M	UNPAID DOMESTIC DUTIES
CARPENTER CLARA J	-	F	27 SEPT 20	S	AT COLLEGE
CARPENTER FREDERICK R J	-	M	26 FEB 24	S	HORTICULTURAL STUDENT

The sixth, and most northerly, was occupied by some of the Carpenter family: Frederick J Carpenter born 1882 with wife Clara born 1882 and two children: Clara J born 1920 and Frederick R J born 1924. Their daughter, Grace Annie born 1914, had just married and left home.

Frederick Richard John, 'Fred Junior', continued to develop the business growing and selling produce in the farm shop and nursery as shown in the picture from the 1970s.



Two brothers, Stephen and Colin, in the next generation expanded the business in the same location. A further generation is now in charge, James Carpenter, the great grandson of 'Fred Senior'. Traditional farming and horticultural techniques are still used to grow over 23,000 plants each year as well as a wide range of vegetable crops for the farm shop. Today the flourishing modern premises also has a café and gift shop.

www.carpentersnursery.co.uk

Investigating the other occupants of the smallholdings listed in the 1939 register of civilians has uncovered more details about the scheme:

1. **ANDREWS** George (market gardener) 4 Sep 1876, wife Mabel 1889, son Edward G 1911 (horseman on farm)
2. **HOPKINS** Jesse 1870 (market gardener retired) wife Gertrude 1873, daughter Grace H 1903 (chemist's bookkeeper)
3. **MUNT** Joseph C 1891 (market gardener own account) wife Victoria D 1899
4. **HISKETT** John A 1881 house painter & decorator wife Florence 1875, son Walter F 1915 (market gardener)
5. **ANDREWS** Walter J 1871 (market gardener) wife Rachel A 1879
6. **CARPENTER** family



Unlike Fred Carpenter, all the other occupants were born in Hertfordshire and living in either St Albans or Sandridge in 1921.³ George Andrews, recently widowed, was living with his brother, Walter, in St Albans. Jesse Hopkins and Joseph Munt were both living in Sandridge. Jesse already had a market gardening business and Joseph was assisting his mother who owned a threshing machine. When Joseph Munt died in 1972, he was still occupying his small holding which then has the address of 112 St Albans Road.

John Hiskett was a housepainter and decorator living in St Albans in 1921. His application for a small holding has been found by a researcher on Ancestry and explains more about the process of gaining the small holding.⁴

Mr. J. A. HISKETT, of 4, Thornton Street, St. Albans, a married man, aged 39, with three children, now engaged as a painter, but with four years' experience in nursery gardening, applied for 10 acres of land in the neighbourhood of Colney Heath or Sleaps Hyde. Applicant, who has served in H.M. Forces overseas, requires a cottage and outbuildings, and is possessed of a capital of £120. He will cultivate the land as a market garden and keep poultry, but the provision of a cottage is indispensable. The Sub-Committee recommend that Mr. Hiskett be approved for a small holding, but that he be put on the deferred list owing to his requiring a cottage with 10 acres of land.

The records in the Hertfordshire Archives would probably provide a similar record for Frederick James Carpenter.

John Hiskett's will in 1944 still shows his address as 4 Smallholdings, St Albans Road.

HISKETT John Alfred of 4 Smallholdings St. Albans-road Sandridge Hertfordshire died 5 May 1944 Administration Llan-dudno 28 September to John Robert Hiskett market gardener. Effects £594 5s. 4d.

His eldest son, John Robert Hiskett 1907-1945 took over for less than a year as shown by his address of 4 Smallholdings on his will.

The six residences and their associated 60 acres of land are shown on an OS map published in 1948.⁵ They are still visible on Google Maps to the left of Carpenter's Nursery.



Other schemes after WWI offered employment on a temporary or permanent basis for men from depressed areas.

A recent enquiry asked if anybody knew more about a Ministry of Labour scheme, to address the lack of jobs in recession-hit areas, that provided miners and others with temporary work at Whipsnade.⁶ His father was briefly at Whipsnade in the 1930s.

The Land Settlement Association provided permanent resettlement.⁷ One example is at Chawston at Wyboston in

Bedfordshire where 5-acre plots were provided with cottage, greenhouse, orchard and pig house in the late 1930s.⁸

Felicity Brimblecombe

With many thanks to Carpenter's Nursery AL4 9LJ for permission to write this article. All illustrations © Carpenter's Nursery.

Notes

1. Small Holding Act, amended 25 June 1918 (Hansard)
2. British Army World War I Service Records on Ancestry
3. Fred Carpenter junior with the Carpenter's Nursery van in 1970s [St Albans: Carpenter's Nursery celebrates 100 years | Herts Advertiser](#)
4. HALS HCC23/10-14 Smallholdings Committee Minute Book; HALS HCC2/92/cp184 Applications for smallholdings p2, Mr J A Hiskett – St Albans – 23 Nov 1920
5. Hertfordshire Sheet XXXIV.NE Revised: 1938 to 1939, Published:1948
6. Zoological Society of London daily occurrence log
7. [Land Settlement Association - The MERL \(reading.ac.uk\)](#)
8. Bedfordshire Archives CS/SPL1232

New Publications

Do keep an eye on our website for the announcement of any new publications and refer to the pink publications list (in September issue of *HP*) for full list of publications available.

M.I. Vol 27 - Aston - St Mary - a new rewrite and reprint - price £6

M.I. Vol 114 - Woolmer Green - St Michael & All Angels - price £6

M.I. Vol No 115 - Hockerill - All Saints - price £6

Ruston, Alan *Nonconformity in Hertfordshire* - revised edition - price £7

For online orders please visit our GenFair page

[Hertfordshire Family History Society | Supplier | GenFair](#)

To order these publications by post contact our Book Sales Officer

pub-orders@hertsfhs.org.uk

Anna Maria, The Crane and the Royal Oak - A Tale of Two Pubs

By Janet Sutton

Whilst researching **Wells** in Bushey, to try and track down my elusive 2x great grandfather, William Wells, I came across Hannah/ Anna Wells. As I began tracing her life through the records, I ended up down a genealogical "rabbit hole", leading me to not one, but 2 pubs!

The Crane, Edgware and the Perfect / Parfect and Waiger / Wager Families

The Crane was situated on the High Street in Edgware (also referred to as Little Stanmore), and it is believed to have been in existence since the 1600s. According to the website "British History Online" there were –

"Tenements within the manor of Little Stanmore, called the Lion, the Falcon, and the Crown, whose holders had pasture rights in Stanmore Marsh in 1582, were presumably inns in the High Street. Part of the inn later called the Crane, or the Chandos Arms stood there by 1600."



It also mentions inns which were licenced in 1751 including *The Crane*.

At the end of the 18th century, the Crane was owned by a Henry **Perfect / Parfect**. In 1802 he married a widow, Elizabeth **Hailey**, and had three sons – John (1803), Henry (1805) and Thomas (1807), Henry senior died in 1808 and in his will, he stated that he was an innkeeper, leaving his estate to his wife, *“to enable her to support herself and to bring up my children until they are of age to go to service or to be put out apprentices”*.

Elizabeth continued to run the inn after Josephs death. Two of her sons died in their early twenties - Henry in 1827, Thomas in 1826 . *The Crane* in appears in two Old Bailey cases, in 1828 and 1829. The first case involved the theft of sacks of corn by Joseph **Garraway** (age 22), which belonged to William **Clark** who kept his horses in the yard of the Crane. Joseph was also accused of two other counts of theft from John & Elizabeth **Perfect**. **Garraway** was found guilty and confined for 6 months. One witness was Joseph **Wager**.

The second case involved the theft on February 25th, 1829, by John **Cooper** of *“3 pork pies value 6s, 6lb cheese value 4s, 8lbs ham value 4s, 2 tablecloths value 2s and 10lbs tea value £2”*

These were the property of Elizabeth **Perfect**. Once again Joseph **Wager** was a witness who stated that he lived at The Crane Inn. John **Perfect** is also a witness stating that he lived with his mother. The accused was found not guilty.

Joseph **Wager** (1802 – 1875) was the son of Joseph **Wager** and Hannah (nee **Fray**), baptised at Great Gaddesden in Hertfordshire. He had three known siblings, all baptised at Great Gaddesden, including Elizabeth born 1806. John **Perfect** must have had a relationship with Elizabeth **Wager**, as he appears as the father on the baptism record of Anna Maria **Perfect Wager** at Great Gaddesden (born 2 July 1824, baptised 18 July) born to Elizabeth **Wager** of Water End, Great Gaddesden.

July 10.	Hannah Maria Perfect Wager	John Elizabeth	Perfect Wager Wager	Water End	Labourer	J. B. Bingham
No. 516.						

The Vicar notes both parents names and the style of the entry indicates they were not married. Elizabeth later married William **Hughes / Hews** (1804-1860) on 28th September 1828 at Bushey, Hertfordshire, having seven recorded children. She lived in Clay Hill, Bushey, On the 1871 she is living in High Street, Edgware, with two of her unmarried children and a granddaughter.

John **Perfect** married Caroline **Leech** on 9th October 1837 at St Georges Hanover Square, London. His occupation was given as a butcher of Little Stanmore, Middlesex, his father was recorded as a carpenter. Caroline was the daughter of George **Leech**, a wine merchant. John **Perfect** died 6 July 1838 at noon, of diseased liver and dropsy and was buried at Little Stanmore on 10 July. His death certificate gives his occupation as farmer. John left his estate jointly to his wife and his mother, no mention of Anna Maria, and there is no trace of any other children on the GRO website. Caroline died in 1871 in London.

Elizabeth **Perfect** appears on the 1841 census in Edgware, aged 70, of independent means, and in 1851 at Days Alms houses Edgware (alms person and innkeeper). She died in 1859 in London but she was buried at Edgware.

The Crane is also mentioned in auctioneers adverts in local papers, details of sales etc, as local pubs would have sales catalogues on their premises. The sale of John **Perfect's** goods, following his death, is a prime example.

Edgware, Middlesex.

MR. J. TOOTELL is directed to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises, being the Crane Inn, Edgware, on MONDAY, July 23, at Two in the afternoon, by order of the Executors of the late Mr. John Perfect, deceased, and unreservedly, the excellent GROWING CROPS of GRASS on sixteen acres, three useful nag horses, a handsome bright bay cob, five years old, a good pony, five very superior and handsomely framed cows in full milk, selected with great care by an acknowledged judge (one has a calf at her side); also a fat calf, two chaises, a water-butts on carriage, sets of chaise and cart harness, and other effects. The whole may be seen before the sale by applying to Thomas Huckley, at the Crane Inn, where Catalogues may be had; also at the Crown Inn, Stanmore; the Red Lion, Elstree, Kilburn, and the Hyde; the Rose and Crown, Watford; White Bear and Greyhound Inns, Hendon; the King's Head, Harrow; and at the Auctioneer's Office, Maldstone.

The Royal Oak, Bushey - The Wells family.

The story now moves to *The Royal Oak*, Bushey. There is an entry in the book published by Bushey Museum Trust – *From the W heatsheaf to the Windmill – a history of Bushey & Oxhey pubs*.

*“The pub was probably built in 1831, together with the Lancaster cottage, now the Clay Hill Post Office alongside. Th plaque recording the 1831 date also bears the initials TCC, which are probably those of the first owner and landlord – Thomas **Coates**, who was also in business as a broker.”*

In 1841, Anna Maria Perfect **Wager** reappears in official records when she married George **Wells** a hay binder, on 7th February at Little Stanmore. Georges father was William **Wells**, also a hay binder. Anna was said to be a minor, about 17 or 18 years of age. It was just in time, as their first child Charlotte Coates **Wells** was born a couple of months later, on 24th April, being baptised on 6th June at St James, Bushey. (Depending on the records, Anna is also noted as Hannah, and in one record as Sarah)

George **Wells** and family appear in 1841 census at Clay Hill, Bushey with Thomas **Coates** and his wife Charlotte. Thomas, according to later census was born in Lancaster. On the 1851 census, the family are living with the now widowed Thomas **Coates** (broker & beer house keeper) at the *Royal Oak*. George, Hannah/Anna and family are described as “visitors”.

Over the years, George & Hannah/Anna had 13 children, 5 of whom were given the middle name of **Coates** – Charlotte Coates (1841), Thomas William (1843), George Coates (1844), James Coates (1846), Mary Coates (1848), Elizabeth Coates (1851), George Thomas (1854), Maria (1856), David Benjamin (1857), William Henry (1860), Eliza Emma (1861), Amos Joseph (1863) and Adelaide (1866). Five of the children died in infancy.

George **Wells** origins are unclear. In censuses, his year of birth varies from 1814 to 1822 and he was either born in Bushey, Edgware, or Harrow. There is a baptism entry of a George **Wells**, on 9 February 1817 at Harrow on the Hill, son of William & Mary, living at the “Weald”.

George **Wells** took over the *Royal Oak* in 1857. Thomas **Coates** died 1859, appointing George as his executor . (The Will was written in

1850). After all sales/settlements had been made, Thomas requested:

*"and to pay the surplus unto Anna Maria **Perfect**, the wife of the said George **Wells**, for her absolute use. I give, devise and bequeath all my personal estate and residue of any real estate unto the said Anna Maria **Perfect Wells** for her heirs, executors administrators and assigns absolutely".*

On the 1861 census, George and his wife (noted as Sarah rather than Hannah), along with 6 children are at the Royal Oak. His occupation is given as hay binder and beer house keeper. He appears in the local newspapers on several occasions. According to the *Herts Guardian* on 24 April 1858, at Bushey Petty Sessions.

*"George **Wells** of Bushey, beer seller, was convicted on complaint of the police, for having his house open before half past twelve on Sunday, the 11th inst. Fined 20 shillings and 11 shillings costs".*

And on 12th August 1862, in the same newspaper, -

*"Upon complaint of the overseers of Bushey parish, a warrant of distress was granted against George **Wells** of Bushey for non-payment of a Poor rate."*

Inquests were often held at public houses. One of the saddest newspaper entries related to an inquest held at the *Royal Oak*, was for George's own daughter – Charlotte Coates **Wells**.

*"Death by Fire.— inquest was held at the Royal Oak beer house, on Wednesday week, before Mr. **Brabant**, deputy coroner, on view of the body of Charlotte **Wells**, about 16 years of age. Deceased (who was very fine-grown girl) was walking in the garden with her father and mother on the Sunday afternoon previous, when the bottom of her dress was seen to be on fire by a young man who was about ten yards from her. The dress was muslin, and though every exertion was used by her father and mother, who were also much burnt, to prevent the flames spreading, their efforts were unavailing, until they took her to pond near the garden, where the fire was put out. Deceased was immediately attended by Mr. **Drury**, who stated the case to be hopeless, the lower part of her body being dreadfully burnt. She lingered in great agony until Wednesday morning, when she died. There was no evidence to show how the fire originated, but it is supposed she must have trodden on lucifer match accidentally dropped on the ground. The jury*

returned verdict of Accidental death.” Herts Guardian - Tuesday 16 June 1857.

According to the previously mentioned book about Bushey Pubs, George **Wells** was succeeded by another 10 landlords. In 1883, a newspaper reported about the transfer of licence.

*Herts Advertiser 28 July 1883 “The Magistrates granted several transfers of licences. With regard to the Royal Oak, Clay Hill, Bushey, Mr **Penny** applied that the licence might be transferred from James **Storey** to George **Groom** and produced letters testifying to the applicants good character. Mr **Groom** was previously landlord of the Cricketers Arms, Watford. In the two weeks he’d been in possession of the Royal Oak, it had been in a disorderly manner – The Magistrate adjourned application for one month and a watch will be kept on the pub”*

In 1891, there appeared a report by the Rural Sanitation Authority.

*“Sitting as a Rural Sanitary Authority, the Board received a report from the Medical Officer of Health (Dr **Gruggen**) in which it was stated that a case of typhoid fever had broken out at Bushey; that the cowsheds at the Devonshire Arms, Bushey, where there had recently been a case of diphtheria required certain alterations in the sanitary arrangements. The cowshed at the ROYAL OAK, Bushey, was also in a very unsatisfactory state. It drained into an open ditch within a short distance of houses. The shed was in a filthy condition, and the cows were as dirty as they well could be. – The Board directed the necessary steps to be taken to abolish the nuisances complained of”.*

Edward **Pritchard** became landlord later in 1891 and remained there for 35 years. During this time, Harry **Pritchard** ran the dairy and tea rooms in the cottage next door. The Pritchards were succeeded by Ivor **Slade** who became landlord in 1926, remaining there for about 25 years.

What happened to George & his family? The **Wells** appear on the 1871 census at Clay Hill Bushey – George, Hannah and three of their children. George died in March 1871 aged 61 and was buried at St James, Bushey. Hannah appeared on the 1881 census at Clay Hill, with her son David and daughter Adelaide. She passed away in December 1887.

As a postscript, I looked further into the family of James Coates

Wells's wife Mary Ann **Lumm** as the surname seemed familiar. It turns out that there **is** a link to my family, but not a **Wells**. Mary Ann **Lumm's** grandfather was my 6x great grandfather. It also appears that Edward **Cobb**, who was a lodger with George & Anna **Wells**, at the *Royal Oak* in 1861, married my 2x great grandmothers sister, Mary **Wells**!

My late grandmother always said that we were related to half the families in Bushey somehow!

Sources: Websites

- General Records Office – certificates
- Ancestry.co.uk
- Find My Past.co.uk
- British Newspaper Archives
- Old Bailey Online
- Book - *From the Wheatsheaf to the Windmill* by T R Groves, E G Longman and B N D Wood, (Published by Bushey Museum Trust 1984)



Royal Oak, Bushey – photograph c1980s

The Parish Church of All Saints, Hockerill – Introduction

Bishop's Stortford was a single parish for many hundreds of years. By the 19th c. congregation numbers had increased to the point when it was split into three by the vicar of St Michael's, Francis. W. **Rhodes** (father of Cecil Rhodes).

The first church of All Saints', Hockerill was designed by local architect George **Pritchett** and built in 1851. The church was consecrated on 7th January 1852 and the new parish created and assigned by Queen Victoria 2nd February 1852. John **Menet** was both the first Vicar of the parish and the first Chaplain of the neighbouring Diocesan Training College for Schoolmistresses (1852), (later replaced by the Anglo-European College).



On Friday 21st June 1935 the church was gutted by a fire, making national news. The vicar, Reginald J. **Mockridge**, helped by many parishioners, managed to save items from the burning building including the Communion plate, records and lectern.

Funds for the new church were already being collected the same day of the fire. The new church cost over of £27000, about a third of which was raised publicly (approx. half a million today) and involved an auction of donated treasures, including several from members of the royal family and autographed photographs from various film stars. The foundation stone was laid on 20th July 1936 and the new church was consecrated on 24th July 1937.

The 1936 church was Dykes **Bower's** first church, thought to be his best, combining a traditional plan and artistic yet free of conventional style that distinguished it from most churches of the time.

The west front has a tall, broad central tower and distinctive steep roof and three tall lancet windows.



© Wikipedia.com

At the south west entrance to the churchyard there is a 19th c. timber lych gate, which is the only part of the original 1851 church that was not damaged by fire.

The church's simple interior layout is of a nave with two flanking aisles, leading to a long aisle-less chancel made bright open spaces, many lancet windows, and plastered walls. The impressive height of the nave (45ft or 14m) is enhanced by drum piers and gothic pointed arches, which hold a coffered wagon roof. The chancel is dominated by an east rose window and four classical pillars that surround the high altar.

Particularly striking is the large rose window in the east wall given by Charles **Randall** in 1937 and is the work of Hugh **Easton**. The window depicts Our Lord surrounded by the emblems of several Saints, in reference to the dedication of the Church. There are three circles of twelve leaf-shaped lights, the inner circle entirely taken up with rays of glory. The next circle contains designs symbolic of the twelve apostles and the outer circle adds the emblems of St Mark, St Luke, St Michael and St George. There are other lights which depict the arms of the Dioceses and Counties with which the parish has been associated: The dioceses of Canterbury, Rochester; the counties of Essex and Hertfordshire; the dioceses of Lincoln, St Albans, Chelmsford.

Memorials to notable persons in the churchyard include Frances Garrett **Archer**, widow of Frederick Scott Archer who was famed for the invention of the Collodion process in photography; Hugh Corrie **Frere** a former Archdeacon of Syria; and John **Menet** the first vicar of the parish.

The most frequent surnames found in our survey (*ie. those with five or more separate memorials*) that are still to be found in the church and the churchyard are as follows: **Bush** (5), **Clark** (5), **Coote** (6), **Fuller** (5), **Hayward** (5), **Johnson** (6), **Marsh** (6), **Price** (5), **Prior** (6) **Roberts** (5), **Robinson** (5), **Smith** (16), **Taylor** (7).

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Acknowledgements

The Hertfordshire Family History Society gratefully acknowledges the following for their help in producing this book: the Vicar – Father Simon **Mansfield** and the assistance of his predecessors, Father J. **Alsop** and Father Mark John **Williams**. Churchwardens, Pauline **Swerdloff** and Paul **Bennett** have also been very helpful as were their predecessors Hilary **Evans** and Kate **Birkbeck**.

We have also referred to works by earlier historians such as W. E. **Gerish** 1909 whose records have been kindly made available to us by HALS (Herts. Archives and Local Studies) at County Hall, Hertford.

AND we could not have produced this book without volunteers from the Hoddesdon Group of the Society who carried out most of the transcription work in the autumn of 2003; these were John **Cunningham**, Betty **Hammett**, Janet and John **Pearson**, John **Slaughter**, Alan **Toms**. But, due to ill health and other priorities, completion of the task was delayed until later visits in 2009 and 2023. Illustrations have been copied as attributed on their respective pages or from photographs taken by Janet Pearson; sketches and plans were prepared and the book was edited by John Pearson.

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.

Phil Lines
phillines53@gmail.com

What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

By Sheila White

Herts Memories – some new pages

Almshouses: Hertfordshire's almshouses pages have recently been updated with information about Tring Charities.

DNA mystery relating to the Kingham and Whitehouse families from near Hemel.

Recently deposited at HALS - Title Deeds

Ashwell – Cambridge Villas, High Street 1805 – 1979; 17 High Street. 1896 – 1996 (**Acc 6438**)

Ashwell – house in Ashwell. Names **John Baldwin, Plomer, Mary Clements** 1695 – 1713 (**Acc 6493**)

Bengeo (Hertford) – 43 Bengeo Street. 1878 – 1987 (**Acc 6437**)

Hemel Hempstead – George Street, Niell Meadow. Names: **William Osborn, John Pratt, Caroline Pratt, Sarah Jennings, Thomas Taylor.** 1862 – 1977 (**Acc 6474**)

Hemel Hempstead - Bury Mill and Popes Lane. Names: **George Thorp, Joseph Cranstone, William Stocken.** 1858 – 1969 (**Acc 6488**)

Sawbridgeworth - Cock Street. Names: **John Gash, William Sharp.** 1641 – 1963. (**Acc 6491**)

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.

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

You can also follow HALS on **X (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 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 Hertfordshire tithe maps and apportionments searchable online (subscription site)

www.workhouses.org.uk the story of the workhouse with information about workhouses in Hertfordshire and across the country

www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk Genealogy in Hertfordshire

www.hertsmemories.org.uk history, memories and photos of Hertfordshire

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 Herts Past Policing: crime and policing in Hertfordshire through the ages

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.

A Tale of Two Brewers

By Linda Sexton

I had always thought my father's family had been East End cockneys, until I started researching their history. I found that my great-grandfather, Edward **Hornett** (1850-1917) came from a long line of Hertfordshire agricultural labourers. His father, Joseph Hornett (1823-1912) had married his mother Eliza **Rumney** (1824-1894) on Christmas Eve 1842. Joseph had been born in the village of Preston and as was common in those communities, his family had moved around the area over a number of years. In his book on Preston, Philip Wray describes the annual Hiring Fairs, where farmers and workers came together on the village green and families would put their possessions in a cart and move to a cottage on their new employer's land. Hence, Joseph's siblings had several different birthplaces. However, by the time Edward was born, the second of nine children, Joseph and Eliza, who was a Hatfield girl, had settled at a cottage at Mill Farm, Hatfield.

Edward's elder brother, Thomas (1843-1907) moved to London to work in Trumans Brewery in Brick Lane. He married a local girl, Sarah **Boultwood**, who had been born in Spitalfields, also in 1843. They spent at least part of their married life in one of the Peabody Estate flats. Thomas was soon followed to London by Edward, who also joined Trumans. At the age of 23 Edward married Annie **Gray** (1846-1904) his Hertfordshire sweetheart, at St. Pancras, London in June 1873. He worked at Trumans for the rest of his working life, rising to the post of Foreman.

Benjamin Truman followed on the footsteps of his father and grandfather Joseph Truman who had inherited the Lolsworth Brewery in 1694. Joseph took his son into partnership in 1716 before dying in 1719. Benjamin joined the firm in 1722 and was described as a shrewd businessman.

Wikipedia quotes:

"On the birth of the Duchess of Brunswick, granddaughter of George II, in 1737, the Prince of Wales ordered four loads of faggots and a number of tar barrels to be burnt before Carlton House to celebrate the event, and directed the brewer of his household to place four barrels of beer near the bonfire for the use of those who wished to partake of the beverage. The beer proved to be of inferior quality and the people threw it into each other's faces and the barrels into the fire. The prince remedied the matter on the following night by ordering a fresh quantity of beer from another brewer. This was supplied by Truman, who took care that it should be of the best, thus earning himself considerable popularity."

Under Truman's management the brewery increased in prosperity and size, and Benjamin divided his time between the Director's house on Brick Lane, and a home, Popes, near the Hatfield House estate. So here was another connection between my family and the brewery. Perhaps Trumans brewery

workers had often been recruited in the Hatfield area as a result of Benjamin's residence in the area. Benjamin Truman and his wife are buried at St. Mary's Hertingfordbury.

Edward and Annie lived in a small rented house in Buxton Street, off Brick Lane, and were later offered a flat in the new Municipal Buildings estate in what had come to be called Mile End New Town, slightly to the east. They had three sons, Edward James (1873-1916), George Frederick (1876-1899) and my grandfather Charles William (1878-1928). Edward junior and George both joined their father at Trumans. George died young, but Edward junior married Harriet **Barker** and they produced three daughters, one dying in infancy. In 1914 Edward was 41, so not called up to fight, but by 1915 the age limit was raised. Edward was called to the Hertfordshire Regiment as a private in August 1915, but was sent home injured to their house on Buxton Street, where he died of his wounds on the 6th September 1916. He left a widow and two young daughters. Harriet never remarried, as so many of her generation, she had to bring up her girls as best she could. Both daughters married, but there were no children. My great grandfather Edward died in 1917, and my grandfather, the youngest of the three brothers, was fortunate to miss the war. He joined the London police force and married my grandmother Annette (1878-1956) in 1899. He left the police at a later date and joined an east London distillery. My father was born in May 1902 while Charles was in the police force. His sister, Annette Linda had been born in 1900. My father did not follow in the family footsteps into the alcohol industry although he did consider himself a connoisseur when it came to IPA!

My parents met at a dance in East London in the late 1920's and married in West Ham in 1931. My grandfather, George **Leach** (1874-1933) was one of ten children born to Thomas William Leach (1835-1898) and Susannah **Gascoyne** (1839-1919). George was a house painter by trade, and his father a cabinet maker from Old Ford, another east end parish. George had five children with his wife Isabel (nee **Green**) whose grandfather ran the *The Hampton Court* public house, Lambeth. My mother was the middle child. George's mother Susannah was the youngest of six daughters, born to John Gascoyne (1792-1871) and Mary **Flemming** – or **Flemmen** (1795-1871). They had married in 1818. John was a weaver and silk mercer – a dealer in fine silks- living in Bethnal Green, just north of Brick Lane in the Spitalfields silk-weaving area of London, and of course, near the Truman brewery. The silk industry in Spitalfields has a chequered history. When the government supported it by banning the import of foreign silk, as it did in 1773, the industry was stimulated and this was the best period for the silk weavers, which was a cottage industry. There were several hundred weavers in Spitalfields, owning their own loom and working from home. The finished cloth was sold by the mercer who inspected, and weighed the finished cloth and paid the weaver. They produced fine damasks, velvets, satins and brocades, which were in great demand throughout the country. The number of weavers and population of Spitalfields soared, and outstripped the demand, so wages and standards of living fell. By 1820 the area was known for cheap housing and poor living standards. Weavers worked 14-16 hours at

the loom and all the family were involved in the business. So by the 1861 census we find all John's daughters are listed as silk winders – winding the thread onto the bobbins ready for the loom. Most of the silk industry moved away from London with the introduction of large powered looms and the remaining weavers turned to producing silk ribbons for the fashion industry, which could be woven on the small looms in their weaving lofts. By 1870 only 2000 looms were in operation in Spitalfields, from a high of 24,000 in 1830 All John Gascoyne's daughters married men with other trades.

John Gascoyne's great-grandfather was Crisp Gascoyne, who owned a brewery in Houndsditch, which was between Spitalfields and the City wall. His family had come to England with William I and had been given land near Leeds, where the family prospered for many generations. In 1601 a John Gascoyne, moved to Chiswick, where his wife Elizabeth gave birth to their son John (1601-1692). Two generations of Johns later, Benjamin Gascoyne (1660-1731) was born. By now family had anglicised their surname, and as they had been Catholics in Yorkshire, turning Protestant and playing down the French connection would be a better way to get on in London society. Benjamin married Anne **Crisp** (b.1664) and the marriage produced six children. Crisp (1700-1761), had been named for his mother's family, and married Margaret, the daughter of Dr. John **Bamber**, who, owned the Bifrons estate in Barking, Essex, which Crisp duly inherited. He and Margaret (1702-1740) had four children, Ann (1723-1762), Bamber (1725-1791), named after her father, which may have been a condition of the marriage settlement, followed by Margaret and Joseph. Crisp did well in the brewing industry and became an Alderman and member of the London Worshipful Company of Brewers, where he rose to become Master of the guild. In 1752 it was their turn to provide the Lord Mayor, which Crisp duly accepted. Apparently if you refused, you had to pay a large sum of money instead! As Margaret had died some twelve years earlier and Crisp had not remarried, he needed a consort. His daughter Ann had married Thomas **Fanshawe**, the heir to the estate next to Bifrons, and she took her mother's place. At this time the Lord Mayor's pageant still arrived on the Thames by barge, and the grand reception was at the Guildhall, but Crisp became the first Lord Mayor to occupy the newly built Mansion House. For the reception Crisp had a special dress made for Ann. It was of Spitalfields silk, embroidered all over with the emblems of his trade! The fashion of the day was for long side panniers, and the dress was constructed in sections into which Ann had to be sewn. She would not have been able to sit down, or enter a room without turning sideways. However, by candlelight the effect would have been amazing. A commentator of the day described the outfit as being "in execrable taste", but I expect the weavers were very proud of it. The Fanshawe family kept the dress and it can now be seen in the Museum of London, and on the Spitalfields website. Crisp was knighted for his charity work in London.

Crisp's eldest son, Bamber I married Mary **Greene** (1729-1799). He did not continue the brewing trade but became a lawyer and M.P. for Maldon. He inherited Bifrons, but his eldest son Bamber II sold off part of the estate and

demolished the house. He had married another heiress from the Liverpool area and moved north. Bamber I's youngest child was Benjamin (1762-1830). As the youngest son he would have been expected to make his own way in the world and little has been recorded about him. He married Cecilia **Watts** (b.1762) in 1791 but she doesn't appear to have come with much inheritance, and he seems to have led a quiet life as a London lawyer. Their son was born in the following year. (Was it a shotgun wedding?) John went into the silk trade, which was flourishing at the time, but proved to have been a bad choice in the light of subsequent events.

Bamber II only had one child, a daughter, Frances (1802-1839), known as Fanny, "The Gascoyne Heiress". She had been born in Liverpool and married at Westminster in 1821. Her husband was James Brownlow William Gascoyne **Cecil**, Viscount Camborne (1791-1868). No doubt her father had insisted on the addition of his family name on the marriage. There had been a serious fire at Hatfield House and Fanny's wealth restored the damage. She gave her husband six children before dying in 1839 at the age of 37. The Viscount became Marquis of Salisbury upon the death of his father, and one of Fanny's sons would go on to become Prime Minister. Fanny did all she could during her lifetime to support the Spitalfields weavers, but her money had become her husband's so she used her position and the Salisbury name to call for government support to try to stabilise the industry. I have found no evidence that she was in direct contact with her cousin. By 1871 the silk industry was in terminal decline, John's children were married with families of their own, and after his wife Mary died that year John was admitted to the local workhouse where he died later in the same year.

So my story has come full circle, back to Hertfordshire. Fanny is buried in St. Etheldreda's church, Hatfield, the parish church of Joseph Hornett, and where my great grandfather Edward would have been baptised. My family connections to brewing have ceased, but the famous brewers live on in the histories of those who worked for them.

Sources

On Ancestry. Census and BMD records, Wills, trade directories etc. family trees.

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Local studies Information sheet No. 21.

Victoria County Histories.

Maps. www.deadpubs.co.uk Cassini Historical maps of London and Hertfordshire.

Books. Wray, Philip J. *A History of Preston in Hertfordshire*.

Oman, Carol. *The Life and Diaries of Frances Mary Gascoyne Cecil*. 1802-39.

Websites: Wikipedia for Old Truman Brewery, Benjamin Truman.

Spitalfields life.com (incl. photo of Ann Fanshawe's dress.)

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

My name is Peter William **Wilson** and I live in Tasmania, which is the small island state located 240 kilometers (150 miles) off the south eastern coast of Victoria, Australia.

Not long after the Covid Pandemic commenced in Australia in January 2020, Ancestry did a deal with the Tasmanian Library to provide free and unlimited access to all Tasmanian library card holders to research their Family history during the Pandemic lockdowns.

I successfully traced my family back to my Grandfather x 4, Isaac Wilson, baptised 13 Sep 1789 at St Albans Abbey, Hertfordshire. Isaac's mother was Ann Wilson but his father was "unknown", my first road block.

I searched the internet for everything St Albans, Hertfordshire and up popped

your Family History Society and I sent an email explaining my predicament. I received an email from Janet Pearson who, on a wet and miserable day at home, went the extra mile and discovered the Parish record of the baptism of Ann Wilson and her sister Elizabeth on 28 Feb 1766, with a reference that Elizabeth was born two years earlier. Their parents were William Wilson and his wife Elizabeth. Janet then found Isaac's Parish baptism record with Ann Wilson as the mother to a son, Isaac Wilson, AB.

In appreciation of Janet's efforts on my behalf, I joined your Society, member No: 4564, and have renewed my membership for the fourth year. Janet also suggested I subscribe to Find My Past which has helped me understand and appreciate some of the many complications in tracking down ones family history through feudal English history.

What I know, starting with my sixth generation Grandfather x 4.

Isaac Wilson was baptised 13 Sep 1789 at St Albans Abbey, Hertfordshire. Isaac's mother was **Ann Wilson** but his father was "unknown". *I have "Find My Past" transcripts and the original Parish record confirming Isaac as A.B.*

Anne Wilson was baptised 28 Feb 1766 with her sister Elisah about 2 years old, to Wm Wilson by Elish at St Albans Abbey, Hertfordshire. Text in red is my personal interpretation of the Parish records, not the official translation. *I have Find My Past transcripts and the original Parish record confirming the dual baptism and their parents' names, William and Elizabeth Wilson.*

William Wilson was baptised 14 Jul 1728 at St Michael, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

William married **Elizabeth Clark** 6 Jun 1758 at Clothall, Hertfordshire. William and Elizabeth had 5 children:

I have Find My Past transcripts and the original Parish records confirming William's baptism as well as their marriage.

I also have Find My Past transcripts and the original Parish records confirming William's 5 siblings, (not 6). See my conundrum is.

- 1: Mary baptised 29 Nov 1761
- 2: Elisah born 1764, baptised with sister Anne 28 Feb 1766
- 3: Susanah baptised 3 Jul 1765
- 4: Anne baptised 28 Feb 1766 with her sister Elisah
- 5: Thomas born 29 Feb 1767 but not baptised until 31 Aug 1788

I have Find My Past transcripts

and the original Parish records confirming all 5 children's births and baptisms, all taking place at St Albans Abbey, Hertfordshire.

My conundrum is.

I found a complete family tree using Family Search. I understand the risks associated with such a move, but this data is exceptionally close to what I already knew from Find My Past transcripts.

Print • James Wilson (1725-Deceased) • Family Tree • FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/print-view/KH87-LHB>




James Wilson
1725-Deceased • KH87-LHB

Vitals

Name James Wilson	Sex Male
Christening chr 17OCT1725 St. Michael, St. Albans, Hrtfrd, Engl	Death

Spouses and Children




James Wilson
1725-Deceased • KH87-LHB

Parents and Siblings



James Wilson
1699-Deceased • KZBH-5V9




Mary
1703-Deceased • KCJ2-YWK

Children




James Wilson
1725-Deceased • KH87-LHB




William Wilson
1728-Deceased • K4BL-7LR



Ann Wilson
1731-Deceased • KCLV-753




John Wilson
1733-1736 • K8T8-JM9



Mary Wilson
1735-Deceased • K84T-455



Joseph Wilson
1737-Deceased • KCWK-CMP



John Wilson
1739-Deceased • KC28-L7Z

1 of 1

2/09/2023, 6:34 pm

William Wilson's father WAS James Wilson and his mother WAS Mary, so I went looking for a James Wilson who married a Mary in Hertfordshire around 1726 +or- 3yrs, this would satisfy the time line of the first child James baptised 1725 and

William baptised 1728, and found only ONE record, this being:

William Wilson married Mary **Robison** in 1724 at Redbourn, Hertfordshire. *I have "Find My Past" transcript and the original Parish record confirming this marriage.*

As I mentioned earlier, I found all but ONE of William Wilson's siblings' baptisms, missing: James Wilson 17 Oct 1725.

I did find:

William 14 Jul 1728

Ann 16 May 1731

John 29 Jul 1733

Mary 20 Jul 1735

Joseph 20 Apr 1737

James 19 Jul 1739

All six children were baptised at St Michael, St Albans, Hertford to James Wilson and his wife Mary.

A search for William Wilson's fathers' birth or baptism as:

James Wilson 1700 +or- 3yrs, Hertfordshire, ONE hit:

James Wilson, born 8 Feb 1700 at Bishop's Stortford, St Michael. Father: James Wilson and Mother: Frances **Banson**.

I then found heaps of records on MyHeritage that stated **THIS** James Wilson married Elizabeth **Bamforth**, not a May.

So here I am, in Tasmania with nowhere else to go. Can you help me find William Wilson's real parents?

If there is any other information not included in this summary that may help you in your search, please email me, I will more than happy to help you in any way I can.

*Peter William Wilson
289 Wadleys Road, Tasmania,
7304, Australia
morrowpete@hotmail.com*

Social Media



www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/



@Herts_FHS - Hertfordshire People



@Herts_FHS@genealysis.social

Do follow these 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.

Postbag

Contact: The Editor

53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ

Email: editor@hertsfhs.org.uk

Hi Jane

Just thought I would update you after you and the team dug deep to try and find my 3 x great grandmother Mary **Cawdell's** (nee **Corall**) baptism in Norton, near Baldock, with no luck. I wanted to prove she was the daughter of Shadrach **Currell (Corall)**. There had been a court case in 1834 as he had two beehives stolen by a William **Trigg** of Baldock. I'd found a report in the *Hertfordshire County Press* and wrote an article for the *Hertfordshire People* magazine about 20 years ago about it.

Inspired by the Q & A session* I asked my brother, who lives in Putney, to see if he could find the actual court case papers at Hertfordshire Record Office. He did and managed to take photographs of the depositions taken under oath. So I feel happy that I can now claim Shadrach as my 4 x Grt Grandfather as he says under oath he called on HIS DAUGHTER Mary Cawdell to help him find his stolen beehives. Mary Cawdell says under oath that she was called by MY FATHER about half past one in the morning and informed of the robbery.

So, many thanks for all your help and for motivating me to dig a bit deeper. It's amazing what might turn up, isn't it.

All the best

Carol Wilson
Member 1406

*Carol has attended several of our online Query Sessions and we are pleased that we have been able to help her in her search.

Perhaps we can help you too? See Page 5 for the dates for the online Query Sessions for 2024.

Society Talks

Reports on main meetings

July 2023

Land Girls, Brocket Babies and Beyond presented by Janice Booker

A fascinating talk on how the people living in Hertfordshire lent a hand on the Home Front during the second world war. Our knowledgeable speaker, using examples and illustrations from HALS records, took us through the establishment of the Air Raid Wardens Service, the Women's Voluntary Service, the Local Defence Volunteers, later to become the Home Guard, Evacuees, Aircraft Construction at De Havilland, SOE and Intelligence, how women helped to feed the nation and the work of the Women's Institute in the war.

Hertfordshire played its part, local people, men and increasingly women, filled various roles to support the War Effort. Expectant mothers from London were accommodated in large houses in the county, such a Brocket Hall and on the Ashridge Estate. All in all 8338 babies were born at the Brocket Estate, the last in 1949. People born there refer to themselves as 'Brocket Babies'.

Gorhambury House was used to house personnel from the Special Operations Executive (SOE) whilst Aston House, The Frythe and Brickendonbury were used to train and equip the SOE agents.

Hertfordshire also had a hand in cracking the Engima Code. The British Tabulating Machine Company in Letchworth, the 'Tab', was at the forefront of the development of the Bombe, the huge computer designed by Alan Turing. The Spirella workers also did their bit making the components. Personnel from The Women's Land Army and The Timber Corps also worked in Hertfordshire.

'As we look back on World War II, we hope you feel inspired by the resilience, the hope, the humour, the ingenuity and the doggedness, generosity and courage of the people of Hertfordshire'.

September 2023

The Legacy of the First World War in the 1921 Census

presented by Paul Nixon

Our speaker has been involved with Family History and Military History for over 40 years. He runs the British Army Ancestors website [British Army Ancestors - British Army soldier photographs; a searchable database of British Army ancestors 1850-1920](#). and also a blog on Army Service Numbers [Army Service Numbers 1881-1918](#). He has also worked on the 1921 Census Project with FindMyPast where 28,000 volumes of records and 38.5 million names were indexed. These records gave medical status and whether both parents were alive or dead which was a great indicator of the legacy and impact on people of the first world war and its aftermath. Interestingly insects and the odd pencil were found within the original files.

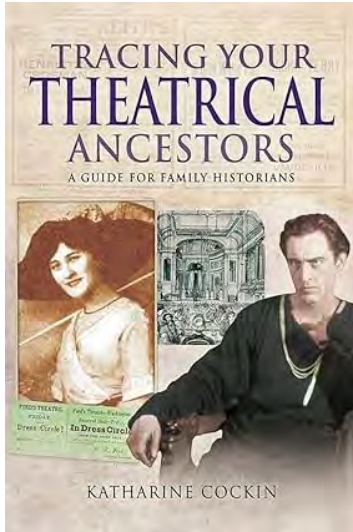
Analysis of these census records revealed that there were 192,000 war widows, 360,000 children who had lost a father and 1000s of service personnel still suffering sickness or wounds from the war in 1921.

There was special emphasis on the Sussex 54 VAD unit at Chailey, a very active detachment with case studies of the ladies involved. There was also comparison between data in the 1921 Census and the same individuals in the 1939 Register. Many 1WW soldiers were defined by their disability in the 1921 census e.g. disabled soldier and by 1939 'incapacitated'. Many were 'out of work'. Case studies of men and women, blinded ex servicemen who were all affected by the IWW whether in the services, nursing or at home. There was also mention of changes of name for people with Germanic sounding names in newspapers and serials.

After the IWW there was also unrest in Ireland which is reflected in the British Army entries in the 1921 census. Our speaker recommended the 'NM' code for Naval and Military records on FindMyPast as well as IWW records on Ancestry.com and other online sources as well as the 1921 Census.

There were many questions for our speaker from members in the hall at Woolmer Green and also via Zoom. A most interesting and thought provoking talk.

Book Review



Cockin, Professor Katharine *Tracing your Theatrical Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians*. Pen & Sword, 2023. ISBN 978 1 52673 205 7. £14.99. Also available via Amazon.co.uk.

The first paragraph shows a full understanding of the nightmare journey down the road of tracing theatrical ancestors and promises to introduce relevant sources and effective strategies. If your 'theatrical ancestors have travelled extensively, used different stage names and evaded public records' and 'you have encountered more than the usual brick walls', this is the book for you*.

Katharine Cockin is a well-known writer in this field and over eight chapters has produced a detailed but practical guide for family historians new to theatre history or seeking more detail.

Sources, tips, case studies and interviews are all provided. For example, Ellen Terry's archive is 'particularly varied and rich' **.

Half a century of my research needs new inspiration and I will be heading to the British Theatrical Patents mentioned on page 42 as they might have details of my scenic artist's renowned ability with rapid scenic transformations. Even chasing pets is suggested so I will have to pursue Vic a dog reported in newspapers performing arithmetic on stage with my scenic artist!

An excellent 192 page book published by www.pen-and-sword.co.uk who print an extensive list of books for family historians.

Finding out about Walter Plinge was intriguing!

Felicity Brimblecombe

* *My Ancestor Worked in the Theatre* (2005) by Alan Ruston (President of our Society) published by the Society of Genealogists is mentioned as a very useful introduction to theatrical ancestors.

** Ellen Terry lived in Harpenden, Hertfordshire before she resumed her stage career. Her daughter Edith Craig was born in Wheathampstead and the Gordon Craig theatre in Stevenage is named after her son.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Apart From our Monumental Inscriptions and Militia Lists books, did you know that Hertfordshire FHS has also produced several special publications? They 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

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

www.hertsfhs.org.uk

A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany

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

64) The Marital Arms of Sir Richard Fanshawe, Baronet and his wife, Anne Harrison at the Parish Church of St Mary, Ware, Co. Hertfordshire.

Found within Ware's Parish Church of St Mary is the well-preserved mural monument commemorating the life of Sir Richard **Fanshawe** and that of his wife, Anne Fanshawe.



© Bob Speer

Sir Richard (born June 1608 died 16th June 1666) was the fourth and youngest son of Sir Henry Fanshawe, of Ware Park in the

County of Hertfordshire and his wife Elizabeth **Smythe**, daughter of Thomas Smythe, of Ostenhanger in the County of Kent. His father had served as the King's Remembrancer to the Exchequer (1601 – 16). Sir Richard married his second cousin, Anne **Harrison** (born 25th March 1625 died 30th January 1679/80), the eldest daughter of Sir John Harrison, of Ball's Park, Ware in the aforesaid county and his wife, Margaret Fanshawe, the daughter of Robert Fanshawe of Fanshawe Gate in Holmesfield in the County of Derbyshire at the Parish Church of St Peter, Wolvercote in the County of Oxfordshire on the 18th May 1644.

Sir Richard was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge and later admitted to the Inner Temple in 1626. He travelled extensively on the Continent and was a gifted linguist, especially with Spanish and Italian. In 1635, he was appointed as the Secretary to the English Embassy at the Court of Spain. Some three years later in 1637, Sir Richard became the Chargé d'Affaires there.

When the War of the Three

Kingdoms (erroneously known to history as the 'English Civil War') broke out, Sir Richard was on the King's side.

He was appointed as Secretary of War to the Prince of Wales in 1644 and four years later received credentials (considering his past experiences) for Spain in 1648 where he was commissioned to raise funds for the Royalist cause. He must have been considered a safe pair of hands as he served as the Secretary of the Navy under Prince Rupert of the Rhine between 1648 – 50.



Sir Richard was created a baronet within the Baronetage of England on the 2nd September 1650. Shortly thereafter he was appointed to be the Secretary of State for Scotland to King Charles II. At the Battle of Worcester on the 3rd September 1651 he was captured by the Parliamentary

forces. The king whilst in exile knighted Sir Richard at Breda in April 1660 and was appointed as the King's Latin Secretary and Master of Requests.

After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, Sir Richard continued to hold many appointments amongst which he represented James, Duke of York at the King's Coronation on the 23rd April 1661.

He was elected as the Member of Parliament for Cambridge University for the Cavalier Parliament the same year. He held the seat until his death in 1666. Again, with his experience of the Iberian Peninsula, he was appointed both as the Ambassador to the Kingdom of Portugal (1662 – 66) and as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain (1664 – 66). Sadly, during his preparations to return to England, he died suddenly at his residence in Madrid aged only 58 years old.

His body was returned to England and initially interred within the Parish Church of All Saints (otherwise Allhallows) at Hertford, but a few years later removed from there and reinterred in the family vault at St Mary's closer to the Fanshawe family seat of Ware Park.

Upon his death, his sixth and

youngest (and only surviving son), Richard (born 6th August 1665 died circa July 1694) succeeded to his father's baronetcy as the 2nd Baronet.

With his death in 1694, the baronetcy fell into extinction for the want of a male heir.



© Bob Speer

Arms:

(Dexter) *Quarterly 1st and 4th Or a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis sable a mullet for difference (for **Fanshawe**) 2nd and 3rd Chequy argent and azure a cross gules (for?) over all the baronet's augmentation.*

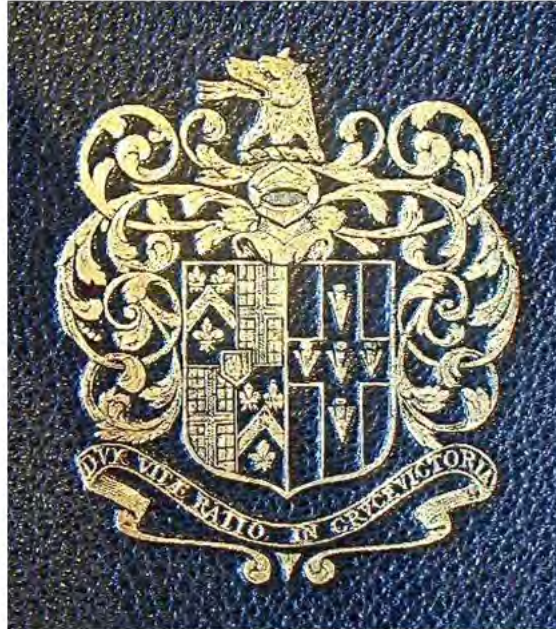
(Sinister) *Or on a cross azure five pheons of the first (for **Harrison**)*

Crest:

*A dragon's head erased or flames issuing from the mouth proper (for **Fanshawe**)*

Motto:

Dux vitæ ratio in cruce Victoria [Reason is the guide of life, in the cross victory] (for **Fanshawe**)



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

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
Canham	Any	North Mymms	Hrt	4640

New Members

Number	Name	County / Country
4639	Ms Jane Lawford	Hertfordshire
4640	Mr Ian Murray	Lanarkshire
4641	Mr. Stephen Tack	Hertfordshire
4642	Ms Margaret Branson	Hertfordshire
4643	Ms Liberty Kavakeb	Hertfordshire
4644	Mrs. Joanne Kavakeb	Hertfordshire
4645	Ms Sandra James	Hertfordshire
4646	Mr. David James	Hertfordshire
4647	Mr. Graham Bethel	Hertfordshire
4648	Miss Ruth Walker	Dorset

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.

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.

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**

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. 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

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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

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

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION: if there is any problem with the delivery of your copy of *Hertfordshire People*, please contact - 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 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.

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



Hertfordshire Family History Society

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

Registered Charity No. 285008

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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 Meetings Programme 2023-2024

**By Zoom & Hybrid at Woolmer Green / Zoom
(March onwards)**

Speaker 2.30pm (UK time)

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

- Dec 16** **The Long Paper Trail** — Finding some ancient documents in the attic and researching them to discover ancestors and their lives. Sue Paul. **Zoom**
- Jan 27** **Putting your Ancestors in their Place** — Looking at the town/village where your ancestors lived. They did not live in Isolation. They need to be considered through investigating the community in which they lived. Janet Few. **Zoom**
- Feb 24** **Britain's first Railway Murder** — The murder of Thomas Briggs in 1864: the reputation of Britain's railway was rocked by the violent and unexplained murder of a city gentleman. A daring chase across the Atlantic led to a man being arrested. Paul Stickler. **Zoom**
- Mar 23** **The Mourning Brooch** - Author Jean Renwick's illustrated talk reveals years of research behind the first two books in her family saga, *The Mourning Brooch*, based upon the lives of real Yorkshire people who lived in the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th. *If you have a piece of mourning jewellery, bring it to the 'waiting room' and share its story before the talk begins.* Jean Renwick. **Hybrid at Woolmer Green / Zoom**

Website: www.hertsfhs.org.uk

Facebook: @HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

Twitter: Hertfordshire People @Herts_FHS