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Hertfordshire People

The Journal of Hertfordshire Family History Society



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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: Michael and Mary Healey with Lily and Martin c.1918 . See article on p. 19

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From the Editor.....



I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Hertfordshire People*. Within the pages are the usual mix of articles sent in by members with Hertfordshire ancestry, whether born and bred, or moved into the county from elsewhere. Hertfordshire families tend to fall into two camps, those that have lived in the county for centuries, and others whereby ancestors have moved to the county for work, at marriage to a Hertfordshire spouse, or settled here as it is fairly easy to get to and from London. Transport networks to the metropolis, via the Great North Road (A1), Ermine Street (A10) and Watling Street (A5) passed through the county. With the advent of the railways from the mid nineteenth century travelling was quicker and easier and opened up the county to new residents, rich and poor. With my own maternal family, they haven't moved from a 25-30 mile radius of Hitchin since the 1600s. A few too are be found in South Bedfordshire parishes like Biggleswade, Stotfold and Arlesey. Some moved south to Wheathampstead and others to London and Yorkshire in the nineteenth century needing to find alternative work due to changes in agriculture in their home county. My ancestors were mainly Ag. Labs and moved around seasonally for work. In my family, with the early deaths of parents there is also several cases of a widowed grandmother bringing up her young grandchildren.

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

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

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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 mbrsec@hertsfhs.org.uk

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](#)

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

15 June - 14:30 - 15:30

Zoom for members and non-members

17 August - 14:00 - 17:00

In person at HALS for members

31 August—09:00– 10:00

Zoom for members in the Antipodes

12 October - 14:30 - 15:30

Zoom for members and non-members

We look forward to 'seeing' you soon.

From the Chair

My first year has flown by! I have only managed a tiny bit of my own research, monitoring 6 sets of DNA results and discussing Devon ancestors with a visitor from Australia.



But HFHS has been helping members with guidance:

- Really Useful Show at St Ives was a great opportunity to meet people of all ages interested in their ancestors.
- A Zoom Query session in March had 7 visitors 2 of whom came out of curiosity but went away with new ideas.
- Occasional brief questions via Facebook are answered easily but an exciting development is going to HALS to meet 2 separate families flying in to do research.
- Greeting people on the HALS Family History courses has resulted in some new members.

Upcoming opportunities to help members make progress with their research include:

- Woolmer Green Village Hall is booked from 1 to 4.30pm for monthly meetings so that people researching in Herts can meet, discuss research, chat, drink tea and hear a talk. Please join us at the end of June, July, September and October.
- On 17th August HALS are opening just for us from 2 to 5pm and we will also have our experts there to help you.



- A talk about Herts sources will be zoomed at the end of August at 9am (UK) for members in the antipodes who miss out on talks at 2.30pm (UK). Those who are usually awake at 2.30pm (UK) will have the same talk in November!

Helping members research their ancestors in Hertfordshire is important but sometimes other requests arrive.

We were asked to help with a project in The Netherlands to place photographs by 217 CWGC graves to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of The Netherlands by the Allied Forces. Details about finding our first photograph of a casualty from St Albans will be published in the Autumn edition of *Hertfordshire People*.

Another picture of Private Reginald Percy **Minney** has just been sent. Many thanks to a member of Bedfordshire Gardens Trust and her contacts in his home village of Great Barton. His family also provided a picture of the original cross on his grave.



Contact me if you want to help and I will put you in touch with the organisers at Milsbeek Cemetery.

Felicity Brimblecombe
chairhertfhs@gmail.com

Secretary's Jottings

Hello again to members and I hope that Spring (or Autumn for those in the southern hemisphere) has been kind to you and that you have managed to do some research or made other progress.



It was lovely to see those of you who managed to get to St Ives in Cambridgeshire for the Really Useful Show Live. It was especially great to meet people I'd only seen on Zoom for several years, in the flesh again. There was a real energy and vibrancy about the show as people swapped research stories and reminisced about pre-Covid events. I hope it becomes a regular event again. Did you attend, and did you gain any help from the talks, or through buying a publication from one of the stalls? Do write and tell us, either to me directly or via the Editor.

It is always great to get feedback on *Hertfordshire People*, or stories about your research successes or brick walls. Don't forget that your brick wall might turn out to be the well-researched part of someone else's tree.

As a Society, our next major project is a redesign and relaunch of our website to make it more accessible and viewable on a wider range of technology. We plan in the longer term to make more information available to members, as part of your membership, through the website too. We also expect to be able to send you more regular updates via a newsletter.

However, the best news of all is that you will finally be able to join or renew your membership securely via the website without having to download forms and send them with cheques through the post. You will also get automatic reminders when your membership is

due. We are also looking at ways to provide you with either a direct link to Zoom meetings or the ability to watch the meetings via the website.

Our project should have kicked off by the time this *HP* drops through your letter box. It will be a few months before we are ready to launch, but if you would like to test the site and give us feedback on how easy it is to use and find information, ahead of the official launch, please drop me a line and we will be in touch with you in due course.

Another way you could help us is if you have any high quality photographs of Hertfordshire churches, countryside or towns and villages that you would be happy for us to use on the website. We will of course give you credit for the photo. If you do have any, drop me a line on secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk.

If you are heading into London over the summer for research I have just seen an email stating that the London Metropolitan Archives will be closed due to major building works affecting the public research spaces from 4:30pm on Thursday 18 July and will re-open at 10am on Monday 5 August 2024.

Finally, a tip which you may find helpful if you are constantly bombarded with emails which you suspect to be fraudulent, especially if they appear to keep coming from the same person or domain.

You can report emails which you suspect to be 'phishing' i.e. not from the person or organisation they claim, and urging you to click on a link which might ask for account details or take you to a fraudulent website. All you need to do is forward the email to report@phishing.gov.uk This is an official government service and they will analyse the content and any websites it links to.

If they find anything that they believe to be malicious they may:

- seek to block the address the email came from, so it can no longer send emails
- work with website hosting companies to remove links to malicious websites
- raise awareness of commonly reported suspicious emails and methods used with the help of our partners.

I hope this tip helps you avoid falling foul of any dangerous email links.

Happy researching

Tracy

Dr Tracy Turner

Hon Secretary

From *Old Hertfordshire Calendar*

'Midsummer was the second of the year's Quarter Days. Hertfordshire had a number of ancient 'St. John Baptist Rose Rents': In the reign of Henry IV the manor of West Reed in Therfield was held by the **Scrope** family by one rose and the annual service of half a knight's fee¹; the manor of Gatesbury, in Braughing Hundred, was held by John **Sturgeon** in the time of Edward IV by the yearly payment to the King of one red rose.'

Notes

1. A knight's fee was a unit measure of land deemed sufficient to support a knight. It would not only provide sustenance for himself, his family, and servants, but also the means to furnish himself and his retinue with horses and armour to fight for his overlord in battle. © Wikipedia.

Jones-Baker, Doris *Old Hertfordshire Calendar*. Phillimore, 1974, p.129

The children of John Brothers, publican in Wheathampstead.

By Beverley Reynolds

After researching my family connections with pubs in Wheathampstead. I decided to find out more about the children of John Brothers who had been landlord of both *The Cherry Trees* and *The Ship*.

John **Brothers** and his wife, Rhoda, had twelve children, eleven sons and one daughter. However, none of the children chose to become publicans like their father.

The eldest son was called **John Abraham**. He was born in 1870 and by 1901 was working as gardener in Wheathampstead. However, by 1911 he had become a chauffeur and in 1921 his employer was the Earl of Cavan. The



The 10th Earl of Cavan about 1920.

Earl of Cavan was born in 1865 in Ayot St Lawrence. He became an Army Officer and after retiring in 1913 he lived in Wheathampstead House. A daughter by his second marriage was one of the bridesmaids at the wedding of Princess Elizabeth in 1947.

George Brothers, born in 1871, moved to London and in 1893 enlisted in the Royal Artillery. He was described as being 5ft 9in with red hair, a fresh complexion and grey eyes. However, he was certified unfit for service as he had bunions and deformed toes on both feet so was unlikely to become an efficient soldier.

George's daughter Rhoda Florence was more successful in joining the forces. At the age of 19 in January 1918 she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to serve at No 4 Aircraft Repair Depot, Chelsea. In April 1918 she was transferred to the W.R.A.F.

The W.R.A.F was formed on 1st April 1918 when the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service merged to form the Royal Air Force and the Women's Royal Air Force was created to form a separate women's air service.

The minimum age for entry was 18 and applicants had to provide exemplary testimonials and pass stringent health checks. Successful recruits were in one of the four categories;

- *Clerks & Store women (Book-keepers, shorthand typists etc)*
- *Household (Cooks, laundresses etc)*
- *Technical (Wireless operators, mechanics, engine-fitters, aircraft repairs)*
- *Non-Technical (Telephonists, packers, motorcyclists)*

The next two sons, **Francis**, born in 1873 and **James**, born in 1874 both moved to the London area.

Albert, born in 1875, remained in Wheathampstead but died at the early age of 16 in 1891.

Walter, born in 1876, joined the Royal Marines in 1907 and after being discharged to pension re-enlisted as a shoemaker and was stationed at Chatham.

Abraham, born 1878 and **Isaac**, born 1880 both moved to London.

Jacob, born 1881 was another of the Brothers' to enlist. He is described as 5ft 6in with a fresh complexion, red hair and blue eyes. He served in the Bedfordshire Regiment and later the Northamptonshire Regiment. He was in the South African Campaign 1899 to 1902 and received the Queen's South Africa Medal with 5 clasps (Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902).

Mark, born in 1884 served in the Royal Marine engineers during World War 1 before moving to Yorkshire.

The only daughter, **Elizabeth**, born 1885 moved to London after her marriage and lived next door to her brother Isaac.

The youngest son was **Matthew**. Matthew was born 13th August 1886 and baptised 29th May 1887 in Wheathampstead. His mother Rhoda died shortly after in 1889. His father, John was landlord of *The Ship* in Wheathampstead and his aunt, Sarah Brothers moved in to look after the family. John married his second wife, Rose **Dimmock**, in 1892 when Matthew was 6 years old. Rose and John had a son and daughter before John died in February 1897 when Matthew was 10 years old and the following year Rose married John **Rolph** in Wheathampstead.

It must have had an effect on Matthew having both a step mother and a step father by the age of 10 and maybe this was one reason that on 20th December 1897 at the age of 11 years 4 months he was admitted to the Kingsnorth Industrial School, Ashford, Kent. He was sentenced on 18th December 1897 at St Albans by Lord Verulam. He was charged for non-attendance at school and was to remain at the Industrial school until he was 16. So, his time expired on 12th August 1902.

The court was told;

Matthew was living with his stepmother Rose, who was a charwoman, earning 2/6 a week & receiving 8s from a stepson (This was Matthew's brother, Mark Brothers).

Matthew's ability was described as:

Reading fairly

Writing indifferently

Calculating indifferently

Mental capacity slow

He was placed in Standard 2

It would appear that he was not particularly academic and so maybe disliked school. There is no indication whether he struggled at school and this led to truancing or if truancing led to poor attainment. It's not clear, either, whether his non-attendance had only happened after his father died, or whether it had been happening before 1897.

He left Kingsnorth Industrial School on 22nd January 1902 to join Captain **Worsley** on his fishing vessel at Ramsgate.

The school had the following notes about Matthew:

Licensed January 22nd 1902. Fisher boy with Captain Worsley, Ramsgate.

19th February 1902: Has twice been to sea and likes it.

18th March 1903: Reported by the police to have visited Wheathampstead about a month ago and called on his stepmother Mrs Rose Rolph and his brother, John Brothers. Remained one night. At that time had no work and expressed his intention of enlisting. Has not been heard of since.

The Industrial School for Boys in Kingsnorth near Ashford was opened in 1875. The school had 80 acres of farmland. There was also a carpenter's shop, a bake house and a good garden. The boys made and washed their own clothing. By 1898 there were 200 places available.

The boys had various occupations such as farming, gardening, laundry, cleaning dormitories & boots, kitchen work, tailoring and carpentry. In 1901 Matthew was a house-boy.

There was an outdoor swimming pool and a field for cricket and football. In summer excursions were arranged to the sea.

There was a good library and a good band that provided entertainment in the winter.

A mark system was in place giving monetary rewards of 1d to 8d a month. Some money was available when the boy's had a day's outing and the rest banked until they left school.

*The superintendent and matron (1898 to at least 1911) were Mr & Mrs **Babington**.*

The school was renamed Stanhope School in 1920s and in 1933 became an Approved School.

Matthew did decide to enlist after visiting his stepmother and in 1911 was stationed in Malta with the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment. Maybe he was following in the footsteps of his brother, Jacob. It does appear that his time at Kingsnorth had been beneficial.

He was in the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers in World War 1. He enlisted on 17th August 1914 and was discharged on 30th December 1917. He was discharged as he had been wounded on 10th August 1917 and he received the Silver War Badge on 10th January 1918. He had received a gun shot wound in the abdomen.

On 30th October 1916 his son Frank was born in Northampton. Matthew was a private at the Northamptonshire Regiment depot and his mother was Florence Kate **Hillyer** who was sack mender. Another son, Arthur, was born 21st February 1924.

Matthew remained in Northampton and in 1928 he married Florence Kate **Hillyer** and they had a daughter, Elizabeth, and three more sons. (Birth certificates show the mother was Florence Kate Brothers, late Hillyer, formerly **Brown**. For some reason it appears that Matthew and Florence were unable to marry before 1928).

In 1939 Matthew was a general labourer in a brick works and two of his sons were working in the boot trade.

Florence died in 1944 and Matthew died in 1952. They were still living in Northampton.

Did Matthew continue to have contact with his step mother's family? Rose died in 1931 in Wheathampstead but she had been born and grew up in Codicote with her siblings. Her mother, Mary Ann, grew up in Rose Cottage, Codicote Bottom. One of Mary Ann's brothers, Henry **Brothers** had eventually settled in Smethwick, Staffordshire (it is between Birmingham and Wolverhampton) and two of Rose's brothers moved there as well. Henry **Dimmock** remained in Smethwick and raised his family there.

The two men seated in the photograph overleaf are two of the sons of Henry Brothers but on the left hand side of the back row is Henry Dimmock, Rose's brother,

Matthew Brothers and his family are still living in Northampton in 1939 but his daughter, Elizabeth, married Albert **Wood** in St Stephen's Church, Smethwick on 27th September 1947. Albert lived in Smethwick. So how did they meet? Was it a coincidence or was it through family links?



*This photo, taken in 1922, shows the Brothers family.
It was taken in the garden of their house in Smethwick.*

Sources used

Findmypast

Ancestry

GRO indexes and certificates

British Women's Royal Air Force records

British Royal Marines marriage registers/medal roll

Army pension records, The Western Front Association

Silver War Badge Records

Stanhope School admission register, Kent Archives

My career with HERTIS

By Frances Francis

I graduated from Sheffield University in 1964 and having intended to train as a teacher for personal reasons I changed my mind and decided to train as a Librarian. I was eligible for a grant to continue my studies but it was not enough for me to live on without parental support. I saw an advert for a new graduate trainee post that was to be created by HERTIS (Hertfordshire Technical Information Service) for a graduate to train as a Scientific and Technical Information Officer starting on 1st September, the same day as the first chief information officer John **Fullwell** was appointed. Another scheme also launched in 1964 was for the training of Tutor Librarians to be based in all Hertfordshire Colleges.

HERTIS was created by the first County Technical Librarian Gordon Henry **Wright** always referred to as GH. A charismatic character who always wore bow ties made by his mother.

With nothing to lose I applied and was selected for interview at Hatfield. On arrival I met the other candidates, all with science degrees including maths, physics, chemistry etc. My degree was a joint B.Sc. general honours in Geography and Geology. Feeling very much the underdog especially as one candidate reckoned we were all wasting our time as she had been told she was likely to get the post. At the end of the interview I was asked if I had any questions. I said "Yes what use is a geographer and geologist to you?" Their reply was "We should have asked you that. What do you think?" Put on the spot I had to think quickly and replied that as a geographer I had studied all aspects of the world including industrial and agricultural history. As a geologist I had studied mineralogy which involves chemistry, physics and biology. As a third subject I had taken a one year course in the history and philosophy of science. I therefore had a wide background in several sciences as well as history.

To my amazement I was offered the post. GH took me back to the station rather than leave me to travel with the unsuccessful candidates. He took me on a tour of Hatfield New Town one of the first post WWII new towns to rehouse people from war damaged London. It had only recently been visited

by the Queen. GH was not impressed by the architecture, the regimented roses planted outside each house or the ambience of the new area. He pointed out the terraced houses with their roofs strapped with metal as a storm had blown them off. All the buildings had to be low because of the flight path to the de Havilland airfield home of the Comet – the first commercial jet airliner which went into service with BOAC in 1954.

Hatfield Technical College was founded by Hertfordshire Council in 1952 on land donated by A S **Butler** the chairman of the de Havilland corporation for technical education services. It was a simple E shape attached to the new Technical Secondary School via a corridor. In 1956 GH was appointed as the first County Technical Librarian.

I had to sign a contract, which I still have. Such contracts are no longer legal. In the contract I had to spend my first year at Hatfield Technical College doing a variety of courses including document reproduction in the days before photocopiers, basic German which I never did master as it was taught in a language studio, visits to various industries with John Fullwell, a stint at Hertfordshire Archives cut short by flu, visits to the other colleges to meet the tutor librarians and routine work in all the library departments. I was paid £710pa (£200 more than the grant I was offered). This was to be followed by a return to Sheffield to join the second intake to the new graduate library school founded by Prof. **Saunders** a friend of GH's. I was enrolled in the unique course for Scientific and Technical Librarians. A very intensive course which included field visits to places such as the New National Lending Library at Boston Spa and a week in London touring a variety of libraries and transcribing from the Russian alphabet. The final few weeks were spent at Hatfield doing a project. Mine was studying the workload of the counter staff such as how the loans system worked, filing catalogue cards, recording loans and requests, finding requested material as well as shelving returned items. At that time the college used the old Public Library system of member tickets and identity cards in books. Very cumbersome and full of errors especially if a file tray was dropped! I also had to study the UDC (universal decimal classification) system used to shelve books rather than the Dewey system used in most public libraries as it was more detailed for technical subjects.

On the first of September 1966 I woke up as a fully-fledged Graduate

Scientific and Technical Information Officer earning £1400+! Double my trainee salary. My contract was to work for HERTIS for at least 2 years after completion of my training. Should I not complete the two years the contract stated that I had to repay half the salary I had earned during the two years of training – over £700 (£18,000 in today's money)!

Life as a young professional female in a male dominated environment was not always easy especially as many of the all-male teaching staff were sceptical that a mere female could possibly answer technical queries! At coffee breaks I was expected to join the secretarial staff. How times have changed! I left in 1969 when I was pregnant and had to withdraw my 5 year contribution to the superannuation scheme. I resented this as when I finally retired from teaching my pension did not include my time with HERTIS.



Female HERTIS employees based at Hatfield College in 1965. Frances Francis is in the front row second from the left. Can anyone put any names to the other faces?

The University of Hertfordshire Press grew out of the Hertfordshire Technical Information Service (HERTIS) which was a county-wide knowledge-sharing service for local industry, based at Hatfield Polytechnic. So much information was produced by this initiative that a HERTIS imprint was started to collate and publish the material. This early publishing activity was overseen by Bill Forster who became the head of UH Press when it was born in 1992. It is considered one of the leading UK university publishing houses

Michael Heal(e)y - An Irishman in Hertford

By Marcia Bell

Michael **Healy**, my grandfather, was born on 8 October 1884 in Lissanumera, County Mayo and baptised on 11 October 1884 at the nearby RC chapel in Swinford. His parents were Martin and Mary Healy who may have been related as they both had the same surname when they married in 1869.

Michael came over to England from Ireland some time between 1901 and 1911. He is shown on the 1901 census in Lissanumera and is the only one of his siblings left at home. He is then aged 18 and able to read and write. He can speak English and Irish unlike his parents who are both shown as age 60 and illiterate. The family are living on a smallholding.

When he was a child, he was chosen to act as a lookout for the approach of the Garda when family and friends illegally distilled potcheen. The family had little money and so Michael and two of his brothers before him, came over to England where they could earn a living.

Tracing Irish ancestry proved to be difficult, due to Healy being a relatively common Irish surname and with little variety of first names. The majority of nineteenth century Irish censuses were also destroyed in a fire at the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922.

Civil Registration started late in Ireland with Catholic births, deaths and marriages only registered from 1864. As we started our research in the days before the Catholic parish registers appeared online, we decided to have the Healy's professionally researched.

We visited the North Mayo Heritage Centre and gave one of their researchers all the information we had.

The team produced a detailed report of Michael's paternal ancestry, going back to his grandfather Andrew, born c.1812 who lived at Barnacahoge not far from where Michael was born. This townland is near Knock airport.

They managed to find a Michael '**Helly**' on the 1911 census in England at the bothy attached to Chapel House Farm on the Speke Estate near Liverpool. He is living with fellow Irishman Austin **Waldran** and they are both working for the tenant farmer as farm labourers. The farmer completes the census on

their behalf hence misspelling the surname. It is interesting that Chapel House Farm later became the terminal and control tower for Speke airport - now Liverpool John Lennon Airport. Some state of the art dormer windows were installed for extra visibility and the airport opened to commercial traffic in 1933. Not many people realise that the airport was originally run from a farmhouse!

In order to improve his lot, in keeping with lots of Irishmen, Michael signed up as one of McAlpine's navvies. He worked for McAlpine helping to dig out cuttings and tunnels for the burgeoning railway network. He left Liverpool, working his way down the country and was part of a gang who worked on the Ponsbourne tunnel near Cuffley, Herts. This was the last railway tunnel to be dug out by hand and the longest in the eastern counties.

He was once buried in earth, in a landslide, but fortunately his colleagues were able to dig him out!

At some stage after arriving in England Michael started to spell Healey with an 'e' between the l and the y. He did this to divert attention from being Catholic and Irish as it was harder to obtain accommodation and work if you fell into these categories.



In Hertford he met Mary Ilott and they married on 20 November 1915. Their first child, Martin, was born in 1916. In 1914 at the start of WW1 Michael had enlisted in the Royal West Surrey regiment.

At the end of the war he was transferred to the Labour Corps to help with the clear up operation.

We know which regiments he was in as he is noted on the Spring 1919 'absent voters' list for Hertford which very conveniently provides an address for the absent person, in Michael's case, at 46c Railway Street. (This could actually be in Haydens Court, just off Railway Street).

Michael and Mary Healey with Lily and Martin c 1918

The absent voters list can be found under the 'miscellaneous names' section of Hertfordshire Names Online which is part of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies website.

Michael was renowned for being a hard worker and was in demand because of this. His daughter Mary recalled how he was once offered a labouring job at a much higher rate of pay than that of his current job. He told his prospective employer that he had promised his current employer that he would see that job through to completion so he wouldn't be available until after that.

On the 1921 census the family is living at 46g Haydens Court off Railway Street, Hertford. This is mistranscribed on the census as 'Haydens Street off Railway Street.' Michael states that he is employed as a labourer for Wallace Inns and is working in nearby Waterford. As well as his wife Mary there are four children in the household: Lily Ilott aged 14 years (Mary's daughter who was born in 1908, prior to Michael's arrival in England) with Martin, William and Mary who were aged 4 years, 1 year and 1 month respectively.

Further children arrived: Michael in 1923, James in 1925, Catharine (or Kathleen) in 1926, (died as an infant), Margaret (always known as Peggy) in 1928 and Peter in 1933.

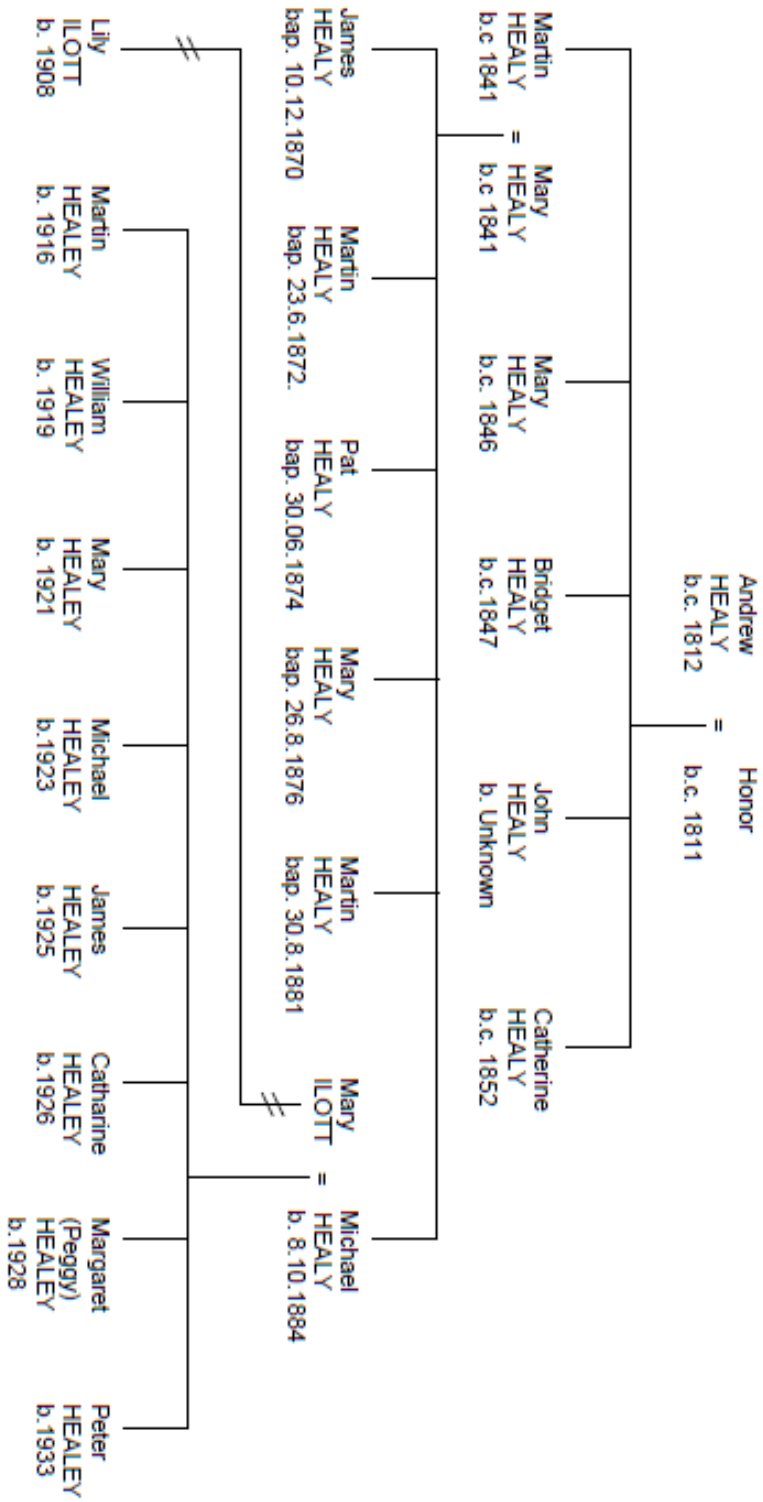
The area around Railway Street was part of a slum clearance in the 1930s when families were relocated to the newly built Horns Mill estate. The Healey family moved to 28 Pearson Avenue, Horns Mill. Some years later they moved to number 40.

It is interesting that several members of the family worked for Wren's Bakery, including brothers Martin, Mike and Jim. My father Jim was there for two years from 1941-1943 but his father Michael advised him to leave as he was 'burning the candle at both ends' being out late every night with his friends and having to get up before dawn. His health was suffering. According to his army record he found bakery work 'very hard because of the night hours!'



Jim Healey as a toddler c 1927

THE ANCESTRY OF MICHAEL HEALEY



With his call up for war imminent, he took a lower paid job as a cask washer at McMullen's brewery for twelve weeks to tide him over until the army beckoned. His older brother Martin went on to have his own bread round after the war, having gained experience of the industry at Wren's. In 1951 Mike, one of his other brothers, married Marjorie **Penny** who worked as the book keeper for Wren's in the Railway Street shop. Her account of her life in Hertford was recorded by the Hertford Oral History Group. The transcripts of many recordings of Hertford residents can be accessed online via the Hertford Museum's website. Original recordings are available on request at the museum.

Peggy Healey, Michael's youngest daughter worked for Webb and Co., Leather Dressers at Horns Mill. Her photograph can be seen as part of the online archive at hertfordmuseumimages.org showing her making a sheepskin jerkin c.1950. The company closed in 1971, with the site later used for housing.

Life was certainly hard for Michael and his family in the 1910s, '20s and '30s. His best suit was often taken to the pawnbrokers, to be redeemed the following week. Despite these difficulties he established a large family who increased in prosperity. He never went back to Ireland, Hertford becoming his home. My father Jim remembered his childhood with great affection, even though there was little money. When I was young, a plain biscuit never graced our biscuit tins. When he married my mother in 1947 he asked her to only buy those with jam, cream or chocolate. Better days had arrived!

Social Media



www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/



@Herts_FHS - Hertfordshire People



@Herts_FHS@genealysis.social

What's in a *middle* Name?

By Brenda Waters

My mother, Martha (**Mardell**) **Appleton**, died in 1983 and for convenience I'll refer to her as Martha.

She knew only that she had been fostered out from Hertford Workhouse under the direction of the Guardians of the Poor. She had no birth certificate and only a few vague recollections prior to being fostered out to Agnes and Fred **Martin** aged about 4 years. The Martin's, who lived in Hertford, took her 'as their own', bringing her up as one of their own children, until she went out to work and beyond. Agnes tried to investigate Martha's heritage, and raised the subject of adoption. She was told Martha would be removed if she persisted.

In 2003 my husband retired and we decided to do some research. By then 'family history' was booming; and the very welcoming Hertfordshire Archives staff gave us access to the records of Hertford Workhouse. In them we found reference, during 1917, to Martha **Mardell** being transferred to Hertford from Hatfield Workhouse, aged about 18 months. The records of Hatfield Workhouse confirmed this transfer. Unfortunately, the only information that survived was that she was admitted "By order of The Relieving Officer from the parish of Essendon"; and that she was admitted straight into the 'sick ward'. My mother left Hatfield under the name of Kathleen Amelia **Mardle** and her name was changed to Martha Mardell on entry into Hertford Workhouse. She remembered being told she was given the name Martha as it was suitable for a servant. And by then we knew that the names Mardell and Mardle were synonymous, even on the same document!

About then someone at Hertfordshire Archives pointed out an internet entry about a newspaper article concerning a lady, called Christine **Normington**, who was researching Hertfordshire **Mardles/Mardells**. We contacted her and she made available records of the family of William and Annie **Mardle**, of Letty Green, who used the middle name Amelia for some of their daughters. This was probably after their maternal grandmother, Amelia **Templeton**.

As the middle name Amelia was our only lead, we used the facilities at the Hertfordshire Archives to build the family's tree; and look at their whereabouts between approx. 1910 and 1920. This, along with Martha's vague recollections, suggested that perhaps from infancy she may have been looked after by William Mardle's step mother Maria Mardle. This lady lived near Hertingfordbury. Then, when Maria became ill and died, Martha was taken-in, as a stop-gap, by one of William's two daughters who lived in Essendon. However, probably, they were unable to support her long-term. Perhaps significantly, Martha went into the local workhouse (Hatfield) on the day of Maria's funeral; and she might have been transferred to Hertford because she'd lived mainly near Hertingfordbury with Maria Mardle.

Christine Normington also kindly gave us a list of birth registrations of Mardle/Mardell children. We found one possible girl child, born in 1915, and sent for her birth certificate. The mother's first Christian name and surname were those of another of William and Annie Mardle's daughters, of whom we could find no trace after 1912.

Unfortunately, the second Christian names were different. No father's name was given. The child was named Catherine Olive Mardle. The names Catherine and Kathleen could easily have been confused. We had no idea where the name Olive came from, unless Maria Mardle changed it to follow the family 'Amelia' tradition. Presumably no birth certificate was available to the authorities. Finally, neither Catherine Olive Mardle nor anyone with her mother's name appear on the 1921 census; or any other records, whereas Martha Mardell does appear living with the Martin's.

So there we were, with lots of possibilities but no firm evidence that Martha was related to the family of William and Annie Mardle....until 2023. At which time I took the Ancestry DNA test.

This yielded a possible second cousin as the closest relative on my mother's side. We were able to contact her and she confirmed that her grandmother was another of the daughters of William and Annie Mardle, whom we had listed on our Mardle family tree.

We now conclude that William and Annie Mardle were my mother's grandparents, however we can't prove conclusively which of their children was one of her parents.....has anyone got any idea's?

This has been a fascinating 20 year journey, that we would never have made without the help of Christine Normington, the helpful people at Hertfordshire Archives, my newly found second cousin; and, of course, Agnes and Fred Martin who ensured my mother got a decent start in life.

Editor's note

Brenda Waters used to be a member of Hertfordshire FHS but moved to Wales in 2005. If you do have any ideas as to the parentage of Martha, Brenda would be delighted to hear from you. Contact her on randbwaters@gmail.com

From Old Hertfordshire Calendar.....

The feast day of St Swithin falls on 15 July. St Swithin, Bishop of Winchester (852-862) introduced the system of church tithes to England and is remembered for his legendary powers to order the weather.

St Swithin's Day was a fair day in a number of Hertfordshire parishes, including Anstey, Little Hadham, Hatfield and Stevenage.

The St Swithin's fair in Stevenage was known as the 'Cat and Dog Fair'. It was mainly for the sale of peddlery, with free toll, or standing room, for vendors, This fair was discontinued about 1850 when the coming of the railway ruined the road traffic. Last to bring their wares to the 'Cat and Dog Fair' were a trinket-and-ribbon pedlar who came with a donkey and panniers and took his stand under the Chestnut trees opposite the *White Lion*, and the 'cheesecake woman' from Graveley, whose mouthwatering delicacies were long remembered. from Methold, E.V. *Notes on Stevenage* (1902)

Jones-Baker, Doris *Old Hertfordshire Calendar*. Phillimore, 1974, p. 145



Queries from our Facebook Friends

From Australia:

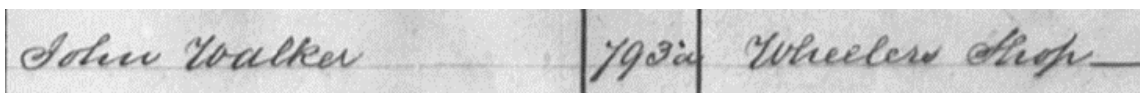
*"Charlotte **Walker** born 1788, died 1831 in Flamstead. As far as I can see she is buried in St Leonard's parish, but I am hoping to gather more details about her death if possible."*

Prior to death certificates in 1837 information about causes of death were rarely recorded. A quick search showed that a son, William, was baptised at Flamstead to William and Charlotte in 1827. Perhaps Charlotte's death in 1831 could have been associated with a subsequent pregnancy - the perinatal death rate in that era was high.

Another suggestion could be from Cholera - a Google search indicated a Cholera epidemic in 1831/32.

Looking for more details of the family: Charlotte's husband was a wheelwright in St Albans in 1841.

Perhaps HALS Names Online had his Apprentice details? No, but the Tithe entries indicated a John Walker in Flamstead in 1838. Searching in The Genealogist, an excellent source for tithe maps, John Walker was in a Wheeler's Shop in Markyate:



Markyate, also known as Market Street, did not become a separate parish from Flamstead until later in the 19th century. The important, old main road from London to Holyhead in North Wales (Watling Street/A5), went through St Albans and Markyate - a wheelwright would have plenty of passing traffic!

But was William related to John?

Searching All Public Member Trees for John Walker showed many users who suggested that William had a son John in 1805 by his first marriage and a subsequent son, William in 1827, by a later marriage to Charlotte.

Our society's publication of Monumental Inscriptions for Markyate has a long inscription for John Walker from inside the Baptist Chapel: *"To the glory of God and in the memory of / John **Walker** / 1805-1884 / A descendant of a family which has been associated / for centuries with the neighbouring village of Kensworth / He was a respected tradesman, a well-known sportsman / and for many years a member of this chapel / and of Annie Walker his wife / 1813-1894 / In this pleasant place they have their being, and there / in the fullness of time, they met their God / They are buried in the grounds of this chapel"*.

A query from the UK:

*"My 3x great grandmother Sarah **Goodyear** of Caddington was baptised into the Mormon Church in the 1830s. I'd love to know how that came about! Sarah Goodyear married William **Godfrey** in 1828, aged 19. Her name appears in the document 'Membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1830-1848'. One of the missionaries, Joseph **Fielding**, originated in Bedfordshire."*

Missionaries of the LDS Church, which began in 1830 in America, arrived in England in Liverpool July 1837 and baptisms began late July and early August in Preston Lancashire.

As the query is about Caddington, a parish which changed between Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, the Bedfordshire Archives were consulted. This gained considerable information about the Mormons in Bedfordshire in the late 1830s and 1840s that might be of interest to others with Mormon ancestry:

As reference CRT170/10/14 we have a copy of a typescript of the history of the Bedford Branch compiled by Andrew **Jenson** from various sources. This explains that the group that arrived and set up in Preston held a council on the 31 July 1837 and elders Willard **Richards** and John **Goodson** were

appointed to go on a mission to Bedford and they arrived in Bedford on 2 August with (according to Elder Richards) "*instructions to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and, the Lord willing, build up a church of Latter-day Saints in Bedford.*" They hired a house in the town for one week in which to hold meetings. The first baptisms in Bedford took place on the 10 August 1837. More baptisms took place on the 12th August, but none of the people mentioned was a Mrs **Godfrey**. The elders were welcomed to Bedford by Timothy T **Matthews**, a brother-in-law of Joseph **Fielding** and a minister of the Church of England [although something of an eccentric and fanatic who set up his own church (see Patricia Bell's *Belief in Bedfordshire* p152-155)].

The elders preached several times in Rev Matthews' church and many of his congregation were baptized. Rev **Matthews** was himself due to be baptized but Brother John **Goodson** 'read to Mr Matthews the vision seen by President Joseph **Smith** and Elder Sidney **Rigdon** (relating to the three glories) which caused him to stumble, and darkness pervaded his mind; so much so that at the time specified he did not make his appearance, but went and baptized himself in the river Ouse and from that time began to preach baptism for the remission of sins, but without having authority to administer in the ordinance' (*Life of Heber C Kimball*, p161).

Goodson returned to Preston on 12 Sept 1837 leaving Elder Richards to carry on. On 12 October Elder **Kimball** wrote to Richards as follows "The harvest is ripe and many are thirsting for the word of life. May God give you energy to go forth in His name, and cry aloud and spare not; and I say unto you, Bro. Richards, if you stay in the place (Bedford) much longer, there will contentions arise, until the little branch will be broken up and scattered to the four winds. And I say this in the name of the Lord; go forth into the country without purse or script, as God has commanded, and if you should leave the branch two or three weeks, the Saints will take no harm, and the Lord will bless you in so doing. Go fifteen or twenty miles, cry repentance, and let the big things alone; for this is the way that the hearts of the people are closed up in Bedford, by Elder Goodson preaching those things he was commanded to let alone." Richards received the letter on the 14th October and immediately set about visiting the regions round about; he returned to Bedford on 10th November. Writing on 4 January 1838 Richards said, "I have three little Churches under my eye in a triangle twenty miles apart". By the time he left Bedford for Preston on 7 March 1838 he was said to have raised

two small branches (Bedford and Bassingbourn). [He seems to have wandered mainly to the East of Bedford rather than the south if the list of places given is accurate].

By April 8 1838 there were 26 branches of the Church in England. Bedford had 40 members including 1 elder and 1 priest in July 1840. Joseph Fielding was appointed to labour in Bedford on 7th July 1840 and was there by 4 August 1840 but in October the Bedford branch was reported to have 36 members including an elder and a priest. Although Fielding is said to be lodging with his brother-in-law Matthews, Fielding claimed it very hard to preach in Bedford because his brother-in-law 'preaches the same doctrines as we do, with the exception of the Book of Mormon and the authority of the priesthood'. The branch and the region about continued to grow having 237 members in 1845, but by 1848 had only 49 members.

Although Mrs Godfrey is not mentioned in the typescript as one of those baptised into the Bedford branch, elder Richards was out and about at just the right time and perhaps she encountered him or one of the other elders who had been sent out from Preston.

Patricia Bell says that by 1851 there were Mormon congregations at Wyboston, Northill, Studham and Kensworth – so the Studham and Kensworth ones are likely to be the ones that Mrs Godfrey was familiar with assuming they started a bit earlier than 1851. Further research was suggested to look into the records of Kensworth and Studham around the time to see if any mention is made about Mormons.

Another expert explained later details about the Mormon Church: "By the late 1850s the LDS had about 60,000 members in Britain. Then because of changes taking place in the USA, persecution and the like, emigration to the USA was enjoined to make the new locale for the church at Salt Lake City work – LDS in many ways formed the city and in which remains the dominant interest there. In effect it disappeared in the UK until the 20th century."

HFHS Facebook volunteer

Research Queries

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

Send your research questions to: The Editor, 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ. Or send an email to editor@hertsfhs.org.uk



Royal Army Clothing Depot

On the 1921, one of my ancestors - Robert Gregory Hutchinson **Miles** (adopted son of my 2x great aunt Florence Miles nee **Quarry**) is listed as a patient at the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, St Lawrence, Isle of Wight.

He gives his occupation as 'labourer at Royal Army Clothing Depot, Watford, Hertfordshire'.

As yet I can trace nothing about this place? Can anyone shed some light on it?

Robert fought in First World War and died in 1921.

Janet Sutton

janlsutton@hotmail.com

Cheshunt UDC Councillor

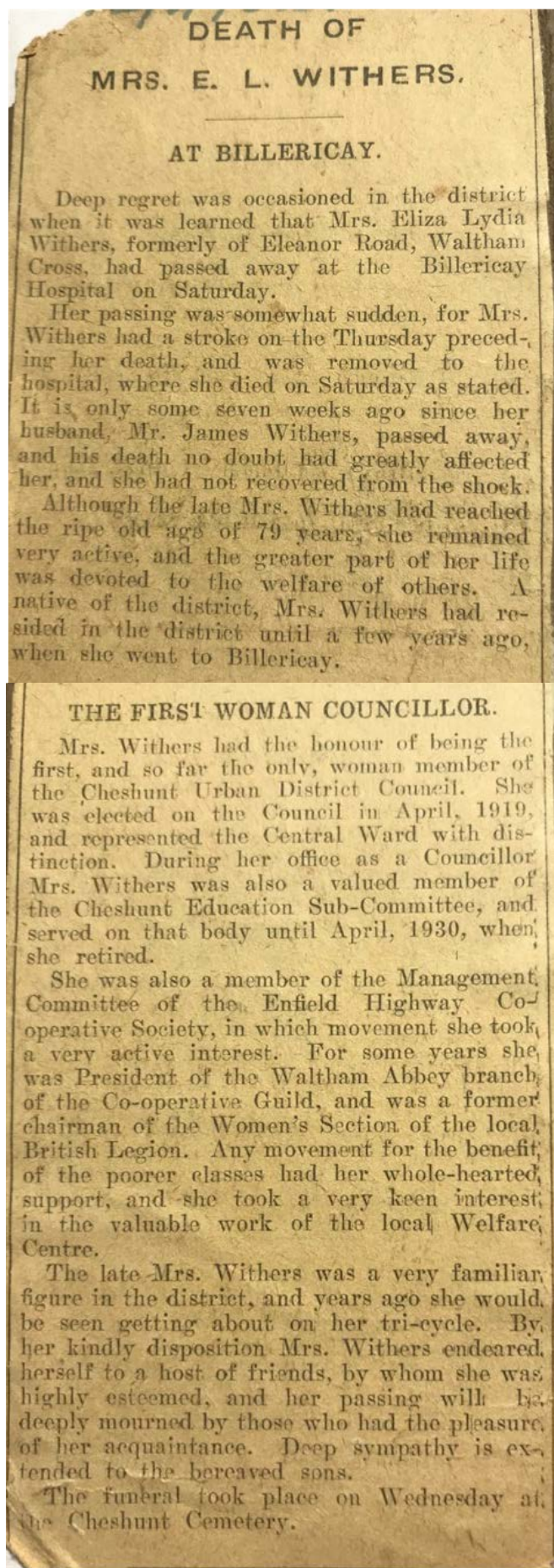
I have come across the obituary for my great great Grandmother Mrs Eliza Lydia **Withers** nee **Harvey**. See overleaf

In her obituary from 1932, it states she was the first ever female Councillor for Cheshunt Urban District Council.

I live in Leeds, so I am unsure of how I can search/locate/access archives in your area.

As a politician, there must be a photograph of her somewhere and she seems to have been involved in so many societies. She will be on various documents due to her time in office.

She was born in Hatfield, on 24.10.1854 and died at Billericay Hospital on 12th November 1932. She grew up in the *Bee Hive* Pub in Little Berkhamstead and entered politics when she was 65!



I also know that when she married her husband could not read and so she taught him. This is backed up by the marriage record showing she signed her name and he made his mark (X). She seems quite formidable!

I would love to get a photo and find out which political party she represented.

How much would this cost and how do I gain access to the information?

In Leeds we have a thing at the moment where the council is celebrating women like my great great Grandmother.

Laura Bailey
lauraelbailey@aol.co.uk

We could do with some more
Research Queries for
Hertfordshire People.

Don't forget to send them
in!

What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

By Sheila White

Herts Memories – some new pages

The series on listed buildings along the former main road through Cheshunt and Hoddesdon continues with the latest page covering Hoddesdon High Street, west side. The author looks at the history of these buildings and their uses in more recent times. Perhaps your ancestor ran a shop or other business there.

Herts Memories Needs You!

If you are interested in local history (aren't all family historians?) and might enjoy working on the Herts Memories website, do think about volunteering as an editor or writer for the community history websites, which cover Dacorum, Hertford and Ware, Oxhey, St Albans, Stevenage and WGC as well as Herts Past Policing. You don't need to be an expert and training is given on how to use the sites. Find out more on the HALS homepage under 'Support the Archives' or email to the address shown below.

Events at HALS

Getting started at HALS - a guide to researching resources at HALS

Thursday, 6 June, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Tuesday, 9 July, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Tuesday, 6 August, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Free; booking essential (see contact details below).

And, if you have children or grandchildren to entertain over the summer holidays, keep an eye on the HALS website for holiday activities at HALS.

Family Tree Detectives

Finding Dead People – hints and tips for locating deceased ancestors.

Thursday 20 June, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Researching Women in Your Family Tree

Tuesday 17 September, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

£7; booking essential (see contact details below).

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.

Historic Nonconformity over the county, not forgetting the RCs

By Alan Ruston

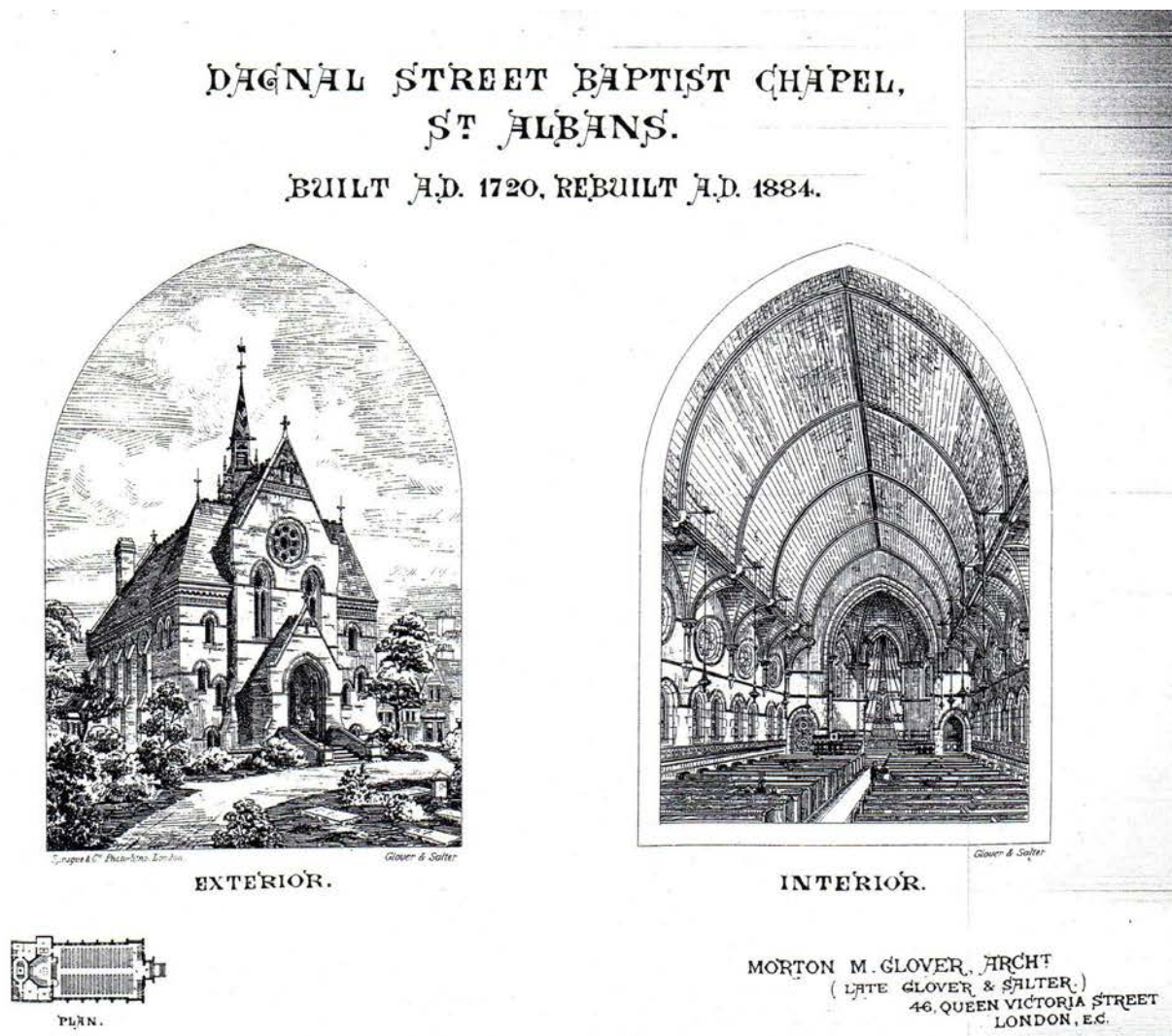
The Society has published various editions over the years of my book *Nonconformity in Hertfordshire, a guide for family and local historians*. This goes into some detail of the churches and chapels that have existed in towns and villages and covers the records they often kept and how researchers can locate them. I was asked directly a few years ago by enquirers if I had a short broad account of how Nonconformity developed in Hertfordshire as it was a subject they knew nothing about. They asked in addition for something simple on Roman Catholic churches in the county.

Perhaps readers of *Hertfordshire People* might like to see the few hundred words I put together on what is a complex subject. If you know nothing about it and you locate an ancestor likely to have been a chapel member, what follows is a description of nonconformity (also called dissent) in the broadest terms, and not forgetting the Roman Catholics:

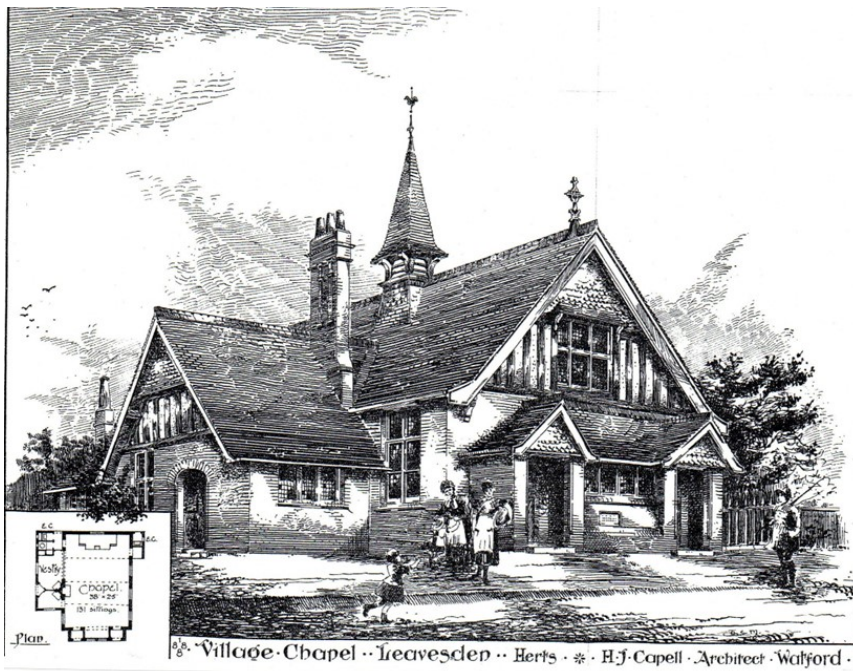
Hertfordshire cannot be said to be a major centre for Nonconformity although it was relatively strong, though an illegal activity in the towns in the 17th century. About 1650 the focal point was the village of Kensworth, now not in the county. From that area, Presbyterianism, Independency (later Congregationalism, now part of the United Reformed Church) and the Baptists spread over Hertfordshire. Clandestine congregations often met in houses and barns in different places from the 1660s onwards. When freedom of worship came in 1689, some of these early gatherings emerged. For example, Beechen Grove Baptist Chapel Watford can trace its origins back to 1652, and is one of the oldest continuing congregations in Britain. Something similar applies to the Quakers, with the Society of Friends Meeting House in Hertford, built in 1670, being among oldest Meetings in the country. Nonconformity, as elsewhere, declined in Hertfordshire, as it did in other places, in the 18th century but was encouraged and enhanced by the advent of Methodism late in the century, sometimes in the villages, but was at its strongest in the towns.

Growth accelerated generally in the first part of the 19th century, and in 1810 a Union of Independent and Baptist Churches was formed in the county. This

was an almost unique example of ecumenical understanding at the time, and was successful for about forty years. It disappeared in 1878, but its presence spread Nonconformity to rural areas, with missionaries forming congregations in places like Kings Langley, Flaunden and Bedmond. The impact of the railways and urbanisation meant that churches and chapels started to appear from the 1840s onwards in new places like Waltham Cross and Letchworth, while many rural causes barely maintained their existence.



World War 1 was a watershed and in the 1920s and 1930s most of the rural congregations were disappearing. Churches and chapels have thrived in the county in commuter suburban areas, or the historic market towns. Elsewhere it has tended to decline and disappear. Methodism arrived in the main Hertfordshire towns in the late 18th century, but did not spread much further afield until the mid-19th century. Hertfordshire has not been considered a Methodist stronghold, nor have the newer denominations like the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Christadelphians spread much beyond the towns.



Beechen Grove Baptist Church in Watford which was rebuilt in the 1870s in an Italianate mode, and remains today one of the few buildings of its type (located in what is now Clarendon Road).

There were few Roman Catholic churches in Hertfordshire before the 20th century. In the 18th century, Standon was a focus for Catholicism in its dark times. After 1793 when the Catholic college at Douay in France closed, training priests for British missionary work was centred at St Edmunds College, Ware. This became a key centre for Catholicism in Britain and remains so today. However, it was not until the late 19th century did it have a presence across the county. It was in the 20th century that Catholic churches were built in any number.

Society Talks

January 2024

Putting your Ancestors in their Place presented by Dr Janet Few

Our speaker, Dr Janet Few, President of the Family History Federation, spoke to us about One-Place Studies. Family historians usually focus on their own direct ancestors but these ancestors did not live in isolation. They had neighbours and workplaces, they lived in villages with churches, schools, shops and institutions. In order to understand our families in the past, they need to be 'put in their place' by investigating the localities of which they were a part. One-Place Studies differ from traditional local histories in that they focus on people, their relationship to their communities and to each other, bringing family and local history together to the benefit of both fields. The talk described ten steps that you might take in pursuit of this exciting branch of historical research.

February 2024

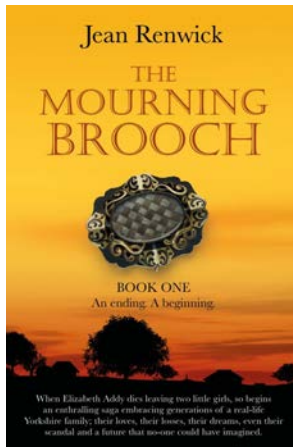
The Wilson and Lacon Monuments at Willian presented by Jane Tunesi

In a change to the advertised talk our journal editor stepped into the breach to present a talk on the **Wilson** and **Lacon** armorial memorials at Willian in Hertfordshire. The talk introduced us to the church at Willian, the history of the parish and the interesting features like brasses, stained glass and monuments in the church before concentrating on the genealogical and heraldic links of the Wilson and Lacon families commemorated on two of the monuments. We learnt that an heraldic shield with many 'quarters' on a tomb can provide a visual family tree, if you know how to 'read' it. The speaker provided useful handouts on heraldry to accompany the talk and a family tree.

March 2024

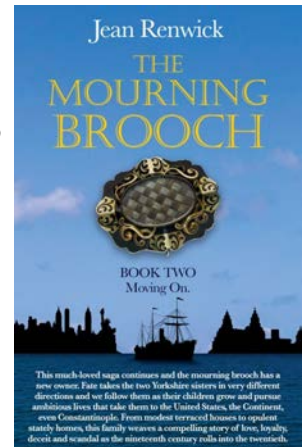
The Mourning Brooch presented by Jean Renwick

After inheriting a mourning brooch our speaker, author Jean Renwick, was inspired to learn the identity of the Mrs **Addy** commemorated by the brooch and what happened to the two little girls she left behind.



In the talk we heard about the years of research behind the first two books in Jean's fiction based on fact saga, *The Mourning Brooch*, which are based on the lives of two real Yorkshire sisters from 1849 to 1913. The third book will cover the lives of their descendants through two world wars to 1943.

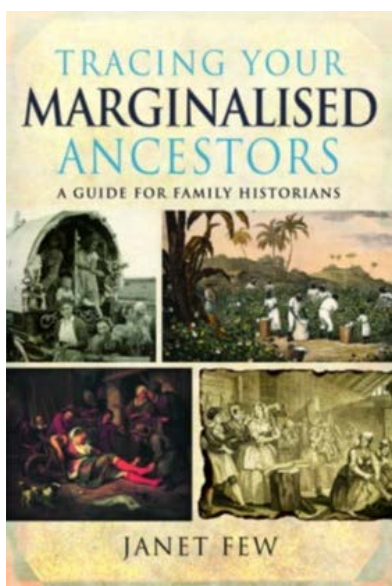
<https://jeanrenwickauthor.co.uk/>



Jean described how a fictional story can be woven using genealogical research. Maybe it will inspire you to write up your own family story?

Book Reviews.....

Few, Janet *Tracing Your Marginalised Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians.* Pen & Sword Family History, 2024. ISBN: 9781399061858. £14.99 / \$26.95



Readers of HP will recognise Janet Few as a previous speaker at our monthly talks.

Here Janet has provided a practical guide to researching those ancestors who may have faced discrimination due to their own misfortune or society's judgement on their circumstances.

There are 11 chapters in the book. The first 10 cover poverty, criminality, immigration and ethnicity, prostitution, illegitimacy, the inebriate, sickness and

disability, mental ill-health, the Romany and Traveller community, and finally witchcraft. The final chapter addresses other marginalised groups and includes religious belief, sexuality, and conscientious objection and desertion.

Each of the 11 chapters also includes a well-researched case study to illustrate the theme and the range of sources used. Although each chapter is short and concise, each one includes a variety of useful sources which the reader may be unfamiliar or less familiar with. The reader is provided with a thorough grounding in each chapter topic, allowing them to then continue reading or complete their own research through utilising the 19 pages of references and further reading for all chapters.

I think this will provide a useful and thought-provoking guide to some topics that may be under-researched in your own tree and may prompt you to reevaluate some ancestors and the marginalised lives they may have led. The book is also illustrated throughout with 30 mono illustrations that add context to each topic and case study. The book is completed with a useful index of names, places and topics. This is a book that will make a good present, either to yourself or another researcher.

It may make challenging reading at times or may result in uncomfortable conversations about your own marginalised ancestors, but will help you fill out and explore their lived experiences in much more depth.

The book represents a particular interest of Janet's as a co-founder of the A Few Forgotten Women project, which seeks to tell the stories of marginalised women. If you want to read more about this you can find the website at <https://www.fewforgottenwomen.com>. *TT*

Have you found any useful Hertfordshire or Family History related books, new publications, or bargains from second hand bookshops or online auctions?

Do let the Editor know so we can feature them in a future issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany

By John J. Tunesi of Liongam

66) The Arms of Barrington-White of Temple Dinsley, Co. Hertfordshire and Orange Hill, Co. Armagh

Shown here are the arms of **Barrington-White** as borne by James Barrington-White (born 21st September 1856 died February 1935¹), of Roxley Court, Willian, Temple Dinsley, in the County of Hertfordshire and of Orange Hill, Tandragee in the County of Armagh².



He was the eldest son of Thomas Henry **White**, of Orange Hill aforesaid and his wife, Mary Jane **Barrington**³. James married firstly Mary **Boyd** (born circa 1865 died 30th May 1914) at the Parish Church of St Philip and St James, Holywood in the County of Down on the 3rd June 1884. Mary was the third daughter of John Kane Boyd, of

Cultra House, Holywood aforesaid and his wife, Anna **Carter**. After the death of Mary in 1914, James married secondly Katherine May **Orr** (born 10th August 1866 died 22nd May 1939) at the Parish Church of All Saints, Knightsbridge in the County of London on the 10th June 1915. Katherine was the daughter of James Basden Orr, of 1 Holyrood Place, Glasgow in the County of Lanarkshire and his wife, Katherine Fanny **Sharpe**.

It is interesting to note that from an examination of the printed narrative pedigree found in the 1912 volume of *Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland*, that James is stated to be descended from an Edward White (died 1631), of Sowlgrave (Sulgrave) in the County of Northamptonshire and his wife, Marianne. This Edward would have been James's six times great grandfather, and it was Edward's eldest son, Samuel White who settled in Ireland at a place called New Garden in the County of Carlow. Here it should be that there are conflicting references to Samuel later settling in the Colony of Connecticut in New England eventually dying at Philadelphia in the Colony of Pennsylvania in 1693 although his wife, Raines **Gough** remained in Ireland dying in 1681.

Undoubtedly, further research would need to be carried to prove the veracity of this claim as there is a suspicion that the Whites may well have been Quakers⁴.

Now to the question of the armorial bearings as seen here and are blazoned as follows:

Arms: *Or three chevronels sable between in chief two roses vert and in base a castle flamant proper.*

Crest: *A crown vallary or charged upon its rim with three pommes issuing therefrom a demi-hermit with the dexter arm elevated vested paly gules and argent the hand proper grasping three roses gules on one stem slipped barbed and seeded proper on the head a cowl also paly gules and argent.*

Motto: *Ung durant ma vie* [The same while I live]

The elements found both the arms and crest are in essence an amalgam of the charges of taken from previous White and Barrington armorial bearings, viz: the roses (White), the chevronels and the crown vallary, together with demi-hermit (Barrington), whilst the castle with its flaming tower is taken from the arms of the City of Dublin most probably to act as a remembrance of

the mayoralty of Sir John Barrington.

These armorial bearings were granted to James on 30 September 1897 by Sir Arthur Edward Vicars, Ulster King of Arms, at the time when he was resident at Roxley Court.

James served as a Justice of the Peace for the Counties of Hertfordshire and Armagh, as well as serving as the High Sheriff of the County of Armagh for the 1898. He also served for a brief period as Lieutenant with the Hertfordshire Imperial Yeomanry.

End Notes

1. James was laid to rest in the family mausoleum in the church of the Parish Church of St Martin, Preston, Co. Hertfordshire which he built in 1906 where twenty-one years earlier, his first wife, Mary, was entombed.
2. Later of 15 Princes Gate, Knightsbridge, Co. London.
3. Mary Jane was the second daughter of Edward Barrington, of Fassaroe, Co. Wicklow and his wife, Sarah **Leadbeater**.
4. This may have very well been the case as James's mother, Mary Jane Barrington's elder brother, Sir John Barrington (born 6th September 1824 died 2nd May 1887) was the first Quaker Lord Mayor of Dublin having served twice in that office for the years 1865 and 1879.

Members Interests

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
Aylmer	17c	Much Hadham	Hrt	4656
	Variants: Elmer			
Aylott	Any	Walkern	Hrt	4665
Bennett	+1790	Great Munden, Ardeley	Hrt	4656
	Variants: Bennet			
Booth	19c	Bradford	Yks	4664
Booth	19c	Any [...]	Irl	4664
Cakebread	1838-1908	Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4667
Camfield	1660-1800	Stapleford	Hrt	4658
Camfield	-1700	St Paul's Walden, Hitchin	Hrt	4658
	Variants: Canfield			
Cato	-1750	Ivinghoe	Bkm	4658
Cato	1750-1930	Tring	Hrt	4658
	Variants: Catoe			
Clark	1837-1925	Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4667
Corkett	+1850	Hitchin	Hrt	4656
	Variants: Cawcut, Cawcutt, Corket			
Crew	+1700	Kings Walden, Kimpton	Hrt	4656
	Variants: Crewe			
Cross	+1700	Flamstead, Pepperstock	Hrt	4656
Cross	18c-19c	Kimpton	Hrt	4656

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Day	+1790	Ware, Kimpton	Hrt	4656
Deadman	-1847	Much Hadham, Little Hadham	Hrt	4669
Draper	Any	Walkern	Hrt	4665
Foster	1885-1895	Watford	Hrt	4667
Foster	c1911	Hertford	Hrt	4667
Gall	+1850	Hitchin	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Galle, Goll, Golle, Guelle, Gwelle		
Goodchild	Any	Baldock, Ashwell	Hrt	4665
Goodship	+1700	Offley, Lilley, St Paul's Walden	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Goodcheap, Goodchip, Goodsheep, Goodship		
Gower	1700-1960	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor	Hrt	4522
Hill	+1770	St Paul's Walden	Hrt	4656
Hoare	18-19c	Berkhamsted, Northchurch	Hrt	4388
		Variants: Hoar		
Hornsby	+1750	Aston, Knebworth, Stevenage	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Hornsbee, Ormsby, Ornesby, Ornsby		
Ivory	18-19c	Gt Gaddesden, Northchurch	Hrt	4388
Jeeves	18c-19c	St Pauls Walden	Hrt	4656
Kent	-1815	Great Hadham, Little Hadham	Hrt	4669
Latchford	1700-1960	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor	Hrt	4522
Law	1841-1871	Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4667
Lawrence	+1770	Hitchin	Hrt	4656
Manton	18-19c	Berkhamsted, Northchurch	Hrt	4388
Marvell	+1730	Ashwell, Watton-at-Stone	Hrt	4656
		Shephall, Stevenage		
		Variants: Marvel, Marvelle, Marvill, Marville		
Moser	c1919	Any	Cam	4664
Moser	c1919	Any	Mdx	4664
Moss	+1700	St Paul's Walden, Kimpton	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Morse, Mosse		
Muncey	18-19c	Berkhamsted, Northchurch	Hrt	4388
Newce	16c-17c	Much Hadham	Hrt	4656
Page	+1760	Baldock, Hitchin	Hrt	4656
Pateman	+1760	Hitchin	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Patenam		
Percy	19c-21c	Brent Pelham	Hrt	4454

Rolph	+1740	Kimpton, St Paul's Walden Watford	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Relf, Roafe, Rolf, Rolt, Roof, Roofe		
Sapsford	1773-1966	Great Hallingbury	Ess	4667
Sapsford	1802-1849	Hatfield Broad Oak	Ess	4667
Sapsford	1815-1913	Little Hallingbury	Ess	4667
Sapsford	1848-1929	Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4667
Shaw	1700-1960	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor	Hrt	4522
Sheldrake	1803-1898	Hatfield Broad Oak	Ess	4667
Sheldrake	1812-1861	Great Hallingbury, Little Hallingbury	Ess	4667
Sheldrake	1848-1951	Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4667
Sheldrake	1890-1911	Sawbridgeworth	Hrt	4667
		Variants: Sheldrice		
Swain	Any	Weston	Hrt	4665
Tabor	19c-21c	Brent Pelham	Hrt	4454
Tebb	19c	Ely area	Cam	4664
Warner	Any	Walkern	Hrt	4665
Weedon	18-19c	Northchurch	Hrt	4388
Welch	+1750	Lilley, Hitchin	Hrt	4656
		Variants: Welsh		
Westwood	1896-1939	Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4667
Wilson	19-20c	Any	Lin	4664
Wilson	19-20c	Doncaster	Yks	4664

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4655	Mr. P. R. Minchinton	Hertfordshire
4656	Mrs. Rebecca Siddons	West Yorkshire
4657	Miss Alison Day	Devon

Hertfordshire Family History Society

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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

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 - johndanjanet@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

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Information is also available on the Society's website:

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Hertfordshire Family History Society

Meetings Programme 2024

at Woolmer Green Hybrid / Zoom
Speaker 2.30pm (UK time)

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

- Jun 29** **Free Antiquarian Resources on the Internet** - Through the internet it is possible to access thousands of antiquarian, i.e. copyright expired, books that can enrich your family history research and provide access to resources and information not available elsewhere. *Phil Isherwood* Hybrid / Zoom
- Jul 27** **Leaving No Stone Unturned** - Join our Vice-President and Projects Coordinator John Pearson who will be giving an overview of our MI Recording project and also some helpful tips on transcribing gravestones. **We are always looking for volunteers to help with our ongoing project to transcribe Hertfordshire churchyard MI's before they become unreadable.** *John Pearson* Hybrid / Zoom
- Aug 17** **In person Help Session at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)** - Members of the HALS staff and HFHS members will be on hand to help you with your family history queries.
- Aug 31** **Hertfordshire Sources—The Obvious and the Unexpected.**
Special Zoom talk at 09:00 (UK time) for members in the Antipodes. This will be repeated in November 2024.
Felicity Brimblecombe. Zoom

Website: www.hertsfhs.org.uk