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Hertfordshire People

The Journal of Hertfordshire Family History Society

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2024





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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.

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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: Thomas **Plastow**, the father of our Vice President Janet Pearson, see article on Page 14*

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From the Editor.....

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



This issue sees the launch of our Biennial Competition for 2025. The theme this time is *Tales from the Playground - Educating our Ancestors*, which we hope will get your creative juices flowing. There is more information about the Competition on Page 19.

In the run up to Armistice Day in November there are articles in this issue relating to the Second World War in Belgium and Holland and also how to search for South African soldiers, especially useful if your relatives served in the Boer War.

Have you ever seen a ghost? In preparation for the December Zoom talk, the Programme Secretary has some questions and invites you to contact him, see Page 29.

We could do with some more Research Queries, do send in your 'brick wall' queries. A member might be able to help.

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

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 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

12 October - 14:30 - 15:30

Zoom for members and non-members

We look forward to 'seeing' you soon.

The Committee

There will be more online Query Sessions in 2025

From the Chair

Visits to Hertfordshire Archives

Different hobbies engage some people and not others. One of my cousins dismisses genealogy with the comment 'I don't do dead people!' Personally, I like corresponding with the living people who are researching their ancestors. Meeting them is even better.



Venetia, a member from Melbourne Australia, has been liaising with HFHS and HALS prior to her visit to England to investigate her **Livens (Levins, Levings)** family. We met at Hertfordshire Archives where she had arranged a research session with Bonnie **West**.

Searching Hertfordshire Names Online using a truncated surname e.g. LIV or LEV can avoid missing some interesting results: William **Levintz** of Bengoe had a 'bond administration allegation' in 1752. That was located and photocopied by Bonnie.

William **Levintz** was probably the father of Venetia's ancestor, William **Levins**, who died in 1793.

His burial is recorded in the HFHS monumental inscriptions book for Hertford All Saints. Since the publication in 1995 some of the



inscriptions have become very difficult to read as we discovered when visiting the churchyard.

Earlier Levins ancestors may have lived in Little Hadham as suggested by a possible Will in the Archdeaconry of Middlesex (Essex and Hertfordshire). You can search for people in those wills via the Essex Wills Beneficiaries Index 1505-1916 using [Find Your Ancestors & Family History - Genealogy & Ancestry | Findmypast.co.uk](#)

I visited HALS again for one of the 'Addis in the Archives' events. This provided the opportunity to view a few items from the Addis collection which have never been displayed before. The large collection has just been catalogued. The display covered a very wide range of material. Particularly fascinating were letters from WWII soldiers thanking Addis for the years of use provided by their toothbrush while interred as Prisoners of War.

By the time you read this HFHS members will have had the opportunity to spend three hours ferreting in the records at HALS when the Local Studies Library opened just for us on 17th August.

Opportunities for you to discuss your research are also available on 12th October by Zoom and at our two meetings at the end of September and October. Join us in person at Woolmer Green Village Hall which is booked from 1.00pm to 4.30pm so that people researching in Hertfordshire can meet, discuss research, chat, drink tea and listen to a talk.

From November onwards we 'hibernate' and our talks and help sessions are all by Zoom.

Felicity Brimblecombe

Secretary's Jottings

We hope you have made some progress on your research in the past few months, and may have taken advantage of the extended hours at the August research day at Hertfordshire Archives organised by the Society. If so, do write and tell us what you looked at and whether you've managed to break down any brick walls.



I have been spending some time recently looking at my husband's **Mansfield** ancestors in Hertford. They were a big, spreading family, extending throughout the 19th century, and I suspect most Hertford-born residents probably connect with a Mansfield somewhere. I'm hoping to write all this up for a future HP or two.

My own ancestry is Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Rutland and Northamptonshire focused on one side and Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk on the other (with a sprinkling of the Caribbean thrown in courtesy of a 2x great grandfather from the then Danish West Indies). Occasionally when tracing down Norfolk lines, expanding my research to investigate DNA matches, I've been surprised to find Hertfordshire connections. For example some of my Norfolk lineage were tenants of, or workers for various Viscount **Townshend's** at Raynham in Norfolk. I shouldn't have been surprised therefore to find an occasional appearance in Hertford given that the Townshend's seat close to London was Balls Park. However, finding one family had lived for a time literally round the corner from where I live was a shock. I also didn't know that the male **Taylor** siblings to my 2x great grandmother were gamekeepers for the Sandringham and Raynham estates.

A big shock arrived in July when Ancestry uploaded some famous athletes DNA so that you could compare your own athletic traits against theirs.

Normally I regularly check all the new DNA matches and follow up anything over 30cM. So I initially missed spotting that my mother had a new DNA match with **Kriss Akabusi**.

Now Kriss is 100% Nigerian and besides my mother's big chunk of England and North Western Europe ethnicity, she has 5% Benin & Togo, 3% Nigerian and 1% Cameroon, Congo and Western Bantu people. Sadly, Mum and Kriss are only a distant match, but it was fascinating to be able to put a little more context to the Nigerian ethnicity as Kriss is part of the Igbo ethnic group, which is often found in Nigeria and the Cameroon. Sadly I've not been able to explore further as the Ancestry person managing Kriss' DNA has not responded to my message, but it's managed to put a smile on my mother's face.

Have you found any interesting DNA connections you can tell us about? I should say that the above stories makes it sound like I have a very prestigious or exotic family background, which is most definitely not the case, but like most researchers I've got especially sucked into any research that is a little more unusual than my typical agricultural labourers or the urban/rural poor.

Work is continuing on the Society's new website and I'd like to repeat the invitation made last time for any volunteers to step forward to help test the site and give us feedback on ease of use. If this sounds appealing to you then please drop me a line and we will be in touch with you in due course. Again, you can also help us 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.

Happy researching

Tracy

Dr Tracy Turner
Hon Secretary

Postbag

Write to: The Editor

53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire,
SG7 6AQ

E-mail: editor@hertsfhs.org.uk

Do you have any ancestors buried in St Mary's Church, Baldock?

The sad news reached the Society in July that vandals had severely damaged several gravestones and the church hall at St Mary's Church in Baldock. You can read the BBC news report here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c51ydgnvkj3o>.

Thankfully the churchyard memorials were surveyed in 1992 by the Society's house group in Stevenage, led by Jean Laidlaw, and recorded as the Monumental Inscriptions Vol No. 51 (published 1993 and reprinted in 2020) and this is available to purchase from the Society website and GenFair.

An arrest has now been made in connection with this vandalism.

The graves damaged are the following, references as per our MI book.

F60 - Frank Hayes youngest son of Robert Hayes and Edith **Day**, died 1894, also Frank []erson, also Agnes **Batterson**, mother of the above who died 31 December 1920 aged 76.

F72 - Sarah J. J. **Grace** died 25 Nov 1898 in her 70th year.

F87 - Emma, wife of Thomas Kay **Harvey** died Sunday 7 Dec 1884 in the 74th year of her age, also Thomas Kay Harvey died 6 Sep 1896 in the 91st year of his age, also Jane Harvey daughter of the above born 12 Mar 1837 died 24 May 1917.

E2 - Ann, wife of Charles **Ansell**, died 26 Jul 1827 aged 43, also son William de 8 Aug 1827 aged 23, also Charles, husband of the above, 24 Feb 1838 aged 7[]. Footstone; AA 1827, CA 1838, WA 1827. (below)



Sometimes a stamp and a letter gets results!

Eighty years ago, the Allied Forces liberated The Netherlands. In February 1945 a big battle occurred in Limburg a southern province of The Netherlands. In this region numerous CWGC cemeteries have the graves of the many men who died. Hertfordshire Family History Society were asked to help with plans to celebrate and commemorate an event which aims to place a photograph next to the grave of each soldier.

A retired officer of the Dutch Army¹ has been in contact about tracing and honouring the 217 buried in Milsbeek and Ottersum.

We were tasked with finding the descendants of.....

Fusilier George **Willsher** 11259221

4/5th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers

killed in action on 1st March 1945 aged 32.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission records: he was the son of William and Elsie Willsher, and the husband of Nancy Selah Willsher, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

He was buried in Ottersum.

Researching his origins using standard techniques showed that George Willsher was born in Leiston, Suffolk on 7 March 1912 and that his father probably died the same year.

By 1921 George and his older brother Alfred were with his mother in Leiston in the household of their mother's brother Harry **Easey** - their entries state 'Father Dead'.

The two brothers married two sisters.

A photograph of George's wedding to Nancy Selah **Kemp** was taken in 1937.

Alfred married Lorraine **Kemp** in 1942.



The wedding of George Wilsher and Nancy Selah Kemp in 1937.

Nancy, the eldest, and Lorraine had another sister, Eileen, and three younger brothers – so it was a large family of six siblings.

George and Nancy moved to St Albans almost immediately after their wedding as he had found work as a carpenter for a well-established building company.

George did not go war immediately as he is recorded on the 1939 register of civilians, with the occupation of woodworking machinist, living with his wife at 148 Sandridge Road. This is where his oldest son, Graham was born in 1939, followed by his daughter Sheila in 1943.

By February 1945 he was involved in Operation Veritable and a deadly battle in the northern part of Limburg on 1st March 1945:

The 52nd Lowland division was held up at Bleijenbeek for about two weeks. The pressure from the 51st Highland division moving in from Goch and the US army at last able to cross the Roer, the German defences decided to make a move. Bleijenbeek was taken and the 52nd Lowland division was on the move again. The 156



Brigade (with the 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 6th Highland Light Infantry) moved from Hülm towards Wemb.

The casualties that day were²:

Gunner Wilfred John **Ackerman**, 186 Field Regt Royal Artillery

Corporal Thomas **Carmichael**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Marine Alan Craba **Conaty**, No 45 RM Commando Royal Marines

Fusilier Leo **Curley**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Private Thomas Davidson **Duncan**, 6th Bn Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)

Corporal Edward **Fielder**, 2nd Bn King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Private George Herbert **Gee**, 6th Bn Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)

Fusilier Arthur **Gill**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Fusilier Gordon **Hybart**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Fusilier Geoffrey **Isherwood**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Private Archibald **McNeill**, 6th Bn Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)



Lance Corporal William Neil **McNulty**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Corporal Duncan Brown **Simpson**, 52nd Regt Reconnaissance Corps RAC

Fusilier George **Willsher**, 4/5th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers

Tracing living descendants is much easier if they remain in the same location. However, searching for George's children was complicated by having two Willsher families with the mother's maiden of Kemp, but Albert remained in Suffolk, living another 50 years after George. Alfred was in a

reserved occupation at the Garratt Engineering Works in Leiston and did not go to war.

George and Nancy's two children remained in St Albans and have had families of their own.

Nancy remarried in 1956 and lived to be aged 83 and passed away leaving her oldest son and four granddaughters. Sadly, her own daughter had passed away a few years before. George and Nancy's son has remained living in St Albans – he inherited his father's skill with woodwork and has continued to craft furniture from wood and metal.

At eighty four Graham is not really connected to social media so initial messages went unanswered. Eventually the investigation produced a relatively recent address and used the old-fashioned method of writing and posting a letter - success and more details from Graham's granddaughter!

Felicity Brimblecombe and Juliet Willsher

"Succes is niet het einde, mislukking is niet fataal; het doorzettingsvermogen telt." Winston Churchill

End Notes

1. Roel Dekkers, Retired Dutch Army Officer, who requested the photograph
2. Milsbeek War Cemetery on Facebook

WANTED: ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON!

Were your ancestors shopkeepers? Are you enthusiastic about maintaining good record keeping? All of these might be useful if you are interested in managing the society's virtual publication shop when our new website goes live. However the key thing is to find someone enthusiastic that would like to help the Society. It shouldn't require more than an hour a week, and you don't need to attend our quarterly Executive Zoom meetings if you would prefer not to. For more information please contact the Chair, Felicity Brimblecombe at chairhertsfhs@gmail.com

2025 - 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Belgium and Holland

Elsewhere in this issue of *Hertfordshire People* you can read of the work being done, in Holland, to maintain the cemeteries of soldiers who died in 1944 and 1945 liberating Europe.

This is the story of one man who fought in this conflict, but fortunately survived – my father, Thomas **Plastow**. Born in 1910 he was not one of the first to be called up. His papers came in the spring of 1943. The next year was spent in training for the assault that we later came to know as D-Day.

His unit embarked soon after the initial landings on 6th June 1944, He had been given leave before this. He came home with all his kit, including a rifle, which he placed behind our grandmother clock in the 'front room', which was then locked.



On the morning he had to go, equipped with all his gear, he kissed us goodbye. A neighbour came to shake his hand and wish him well, he was a man of an age to have fought in the same places 30 years earlier.

He was engaged in the heavy fighting around Caen, sleeping under lorries or in makeshift tents. As he moved North he sent letters and postcards to let us know that all was well.



In the autumn of 1944 his unit passed through Amiens on the way to Brussels.

At Christmas 1944 this Christmas card was sent to my mother.

'from Arlette and his parents'

I think Dad must have been billeted with a family who were too scared to give their surname in case of German reprisals.

If, as I suspect, Arlette was a young child, then Dad would have saved some of his chocolate ration for him.

It was also around Christmas 1944 that my mother received an invitation from the local cinema manager as Dad was included in a news item. He was leading soldiers, with lanterns, parading down a hill, for an evening service with the local people in the village church. A gesture of friendship from the village community. We were met by the cinema manager who ushered us into our seats. He then stayed with us to see the newsreel where Mum and I recognised Dad. As my 2 year old brother had not picked out our Dad we were invited to watch the feature film and see the newsreel again later.

These 2 postcards are dated January and March 1945.



They seem to be Belgian but no place names are noted. They were trimmed off by the censor.

More arrived, as well as longer letters, each showing places further north and east. Finally, in May 1945, from Hamburg, Germany.

Then Germany surrendered, the fighting was over.

This was not the end of call up, there was so much administration work to do that Dad was not 'demobbed' until the autumn of 1946. We had a good Christmas that year. The following summer (1947) was the first time we had been on holiday as a family.

Janet Pearson

South African Gravestones

Our Membership Secretary Sue visited South Africa earlier this year to see her sister and joined her and a group that she is a member of at one of their gravestone photographing sessions. While the group were off photographing the headstones, Sue had a wander around the cemetery and noted several headstones of individuals who were born in England and who had died in South Africa. There are also, in some Cemeteries memorials to soldiers, such as in the example below, which relate to the Boer War.



If you suspect a missing relative may have died in South Africa, then maybe this website (<https://eggssa.org>) might be helpful.

There is a section, which has photographs of graves in South Africa. These can be accessed on the website by following the images below.




Welcome Membership ▾ Contents ▾ Search and Help ▾ About us || Contact vir Afrikaans 

Written by eGGSA on 28 March 2023. Posted in News Item.

eGGSA serves its members by:

✿ providing information,




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- Articles Transcript Library >
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Lynn Couperthwaite has update the listing of articles in *ger* journal cum newsletter so that it now runs from the first issue of 2022: Genesis - [contents of the issues to date](#)

Hits: 7804

- South African Postcards
- Gravestones
- Family Bibles
- Archive Documents
- In Memoriam
- The Harcourt Diaries

✿ establishing important links with other groups world-wide.

✿ increasing public awareness of opportunities for discovering family history.

✿ promoting interest in the



eGSSA library > Gravestones in South Africa

To search for any items in the eGSSA Library please use the Search Page

[View Latest Comments](#)

eGSSA library

- 1. Books
- 2. Gravestones...

Gravestones in South Africa

Click on a picture below to open the section.

Unless otherwise stated in each album, assume that the pictures represent only a personal selection by the photographer. The pictures are generously donated by the various photographers.

eGSSA itself does not organise the photography of cemeteries and graveyards - we accept donated photographs for display in this section of our web site. If you would like to contribute photographs of South African graves, please contact either [Riana le Roux](#) who manages this section; or [Richard Ball](#), web services.

We have captioned the pictures with names and dates as they appear on the gravestones. If a typo error has been made with the names or dates please contact [George Crewe](#)

Remember, though, if you stop to photograph some graves yourself, you could be providing a service to posterity if you take the extra time to photograph all the graves and make an accurate note of the location of the graveyard. Tomorrow those gravestones may no longer be there.

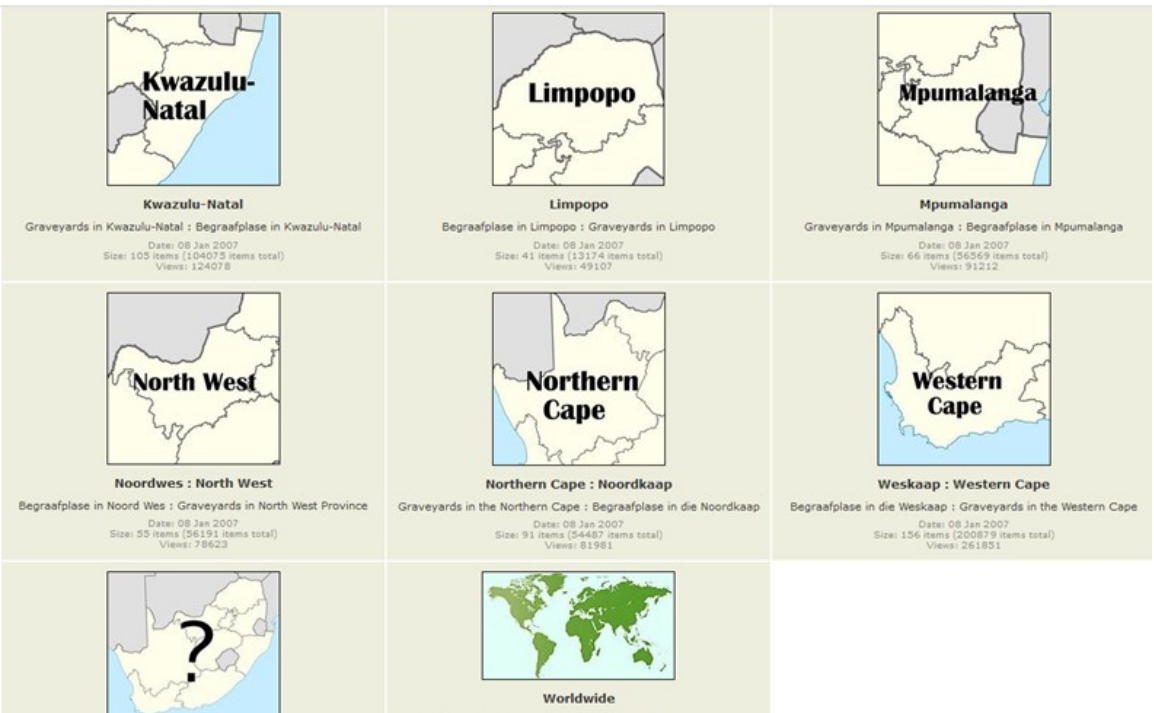
Date: 10 Jan 2022
Contributed by: eGSSA
Size: 11 items (986364 items total)

Here is some downloadable advice on [Photographing Gravestones](#).

The Genealogical Society of South Africa (parent body of eGSSA) runs the [Cemetery Recording Project](#) whose aim is the systematic recording of gravestone inscriptions in South Africa and there are also a number of local initiatives by other branches of the GSSA.

We photograph these gravestones and make them available on our web site firstly because they are a valuable record of the details of many people, now gone, often preserved nowhere else and secondly in order to preserve them, at least as a photograph, since they are subject to weathering over the years. And so many graveyards are now being cleared for re-use, or vandalised, robbed and the gravestones destroyed - we wish to record these for posterity.

We see our photo project as an extension and preservation of the monuments in the grave yards all over South Africa. No disrespect is intended and we see our project as honouring those who have gone before us by preserving their memory.



Family History Research
 Hertfordshire, London & Middlesex
 All enquiries welcome
MrsCarolynn Boucher
 1 Ivinghoe Close, Chiltern Park
 St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9JR
 Tel: 01727 833664

carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Hertfordshire Family History Society Competition

A kind donation by the late Sherry Martin made it possible to fund a biennial competition open to members of the Hertfordshire Family History Society which is to write an article between 1,500 and 2,000 words long on a particular theme. There will be a £50 prize and a certificate for the winner which will be announced at the AGM in 2025. The winning article will also be published in the next available issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

Theme: Tales from the Playground - Educating our Ancestors

- Cite the family history sources that you have used
- Include illustrations, if you have them.
- It is preferable that your relative concerned has a Hertfordshire connection.
- The aim of the article is that it should be both interesting and educational to the readers of *Hertfordshire People*.

The Rules of the Competition are:

1. Each entrant is to be a member of Hertfordshire Family History Society
2. Members of the Committee are not eligible to enter
3. Only one entry per member
4. The article should not have been published before
5. The deadline for submission to the Editor is the end of February 2025
6. Entries can be handwritten or typed, hard copy or submitted electronically in MS Word format and illustrations in jpg format preferred.
7. The Judges decision is final
8. Please ensure your entry is clearly marked COMPETITION

Send your entries to the Editor, 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ or by email to editor@hertsfhs.org.uk no later than 28 February 2025.

Carry on Teacher - or Keeping it in the Family

By Janet Sutton

This article started life with research into the 1919/20 school football team at Ashfield school in Bushey. As always, I got sidetracked when looking at the Headmasters of the school.....

Background to Ashfield School

Firstly a brief look at the history of the early years of Ashfield school. It was originally opened on January 5th, 1846, named as British and Foreign Society School, Bushey. It began with a small cottage for the Master and only one schoolroom. According to an article on the Ashfield School website, the room was 24 feet by 48 feet, and 132 boys turned up on day one. It was an interdenominational school rather than a Church school, with funds being raised by public subscription. It was run on the monitorial system, the Master teaching the senior boys, who in turn taught the younger ones. One local benefactor was Stewart **Marjoribanks**. Another was Arthur **Ashfield**, a local market gardener, after whom the school was renamed in 1907.

According to the Hertfordshire FHS monumental Inscriptions booklet for St James, Bushey volume 1 (Page 21) Arthur was buried there, and his tomb included the inscription –

“His wish was that the committee of the British School of Bushey parish do keep these tombs, ironwork etc in good repair out of the money left by the said Arthur Ashfield to the British School”.

The first Master was Robert Scrutton **Soar**. He was originally from Ipswich, Suffolk. In 1841, he was described as a shopman. His wife was Elizabeth Powell **Stephenson** whom he married in 1837. They had 9 children between 1839 and 1857. His salary was said to be £30 a year, but unsurprisingly he could not provide for his family on this, so he sought permission for his wife to open a drapers shop on the High Street. This was declined - he later became a draper and postmaster. At the time of his death in 1882, Robert was in St Helier, Jersey.

Edwin Bamford

Edwin **Bamford** was born in Droylsden, Lancashire, the son of Joseph (a grocer) and Ann (nee **Baguley**). He was baptised at Moravian Non-conformist church at Droylsden on February 2nd, 1831. In 1841 he was living at Town Lane, Dukinfield, Stockport, Cheshire with his mother and 4 siblings. By 1851, he was a bookkeeper, lodging at Brick Lane, Dukinfield, with the **Higson** family. He was still a bookkeeper when he married on 8th January 1854, to Sarah Maria **Andrews**, at Stockport parish church. However, in 1856, he had moved to Bushey and became Master at the Bushey British and Foreign Society School. There is no record found yet regarding his teacher training, although, as a bookkeeper he would be literate and numerate. (Teacher training colleges had been established since the early 1800s.) On the census in 1861 he is listed as schoolmaster (British), along with his wife and 3-month-old daughter Annie at Merry Hill Lane, Bushey.

The school and Mr Bamford are mentioned in the newspapers several times, with the boys from the school taking part in local entertainments and "penny readings" (1866) etc. On the 1871 census the couple are living at the schoolhouse at Merry Hill Lane, Bushey with daughters Annie, Julia Rebecca, and son Frederick George. (all 3 children were born in Bushey). In 1880, the *Watford Observer* newspaper includes an advert, which appears that Mr Bamford was seeking a situation for one of his pupils -

"Wanted, a situation as junior clerk by a respectable youth in his 16th year - apply to Mr Bamford, Bushey School, for whom a reference can be obtained".
(4th September 1880)

In 1881, the Bamfords were still living at the schoolhouse, along with a nephew George and a lodger - Catherine **Boto**, who was a schoolmistress at the girls school. (More detailed information about her and her teaching career and education in the Bushey Heath area, can be found in the book *From Hartsbourne Manor to Frying Pan Alley* published by Bushey Museum Trust.)

According to the *Watford Observer*, 2nd Feb 1881

"Boys British School - On Wednesday 2nd inst, scholars of the above school presented their master Mr E Bamford with a beautiful dressing case, as a token of their love and respect for him. Mt Bamford has been master of this

school for 25 years and the scholars felt that they could not let another birthday pass without taking the opportunity to express in a practical manner their love and esteem for their master. The case was accompanied by an illuminated card inscribed as follows:- "Mr E Bamford February 2nd, 1881. With the affectionate love and respect of" - (Here followed the names of the donors). Mr Bamford's surprise and gratification at the unexpected gift added greatly to the pleasure of those who gave it."

On the 1891 census, Edwin was recorded as a certificated schoolmaster, with him were his wife and son, who was a bankers clerk. 1892 was the year when scarlet fever hit the schools at Bushey, with reports in the local paper (18 June) that the school would be closed for another fortnight. After 6 weeks the schools were reopened.

BUSHEY.

SCARLET FEVER.—The Board schools of Bushey and the boys' British school, which have been closed for the past six weeks on account of the epidemic, were re-opened on Monday. The various Sunday schools were also held as usual last Sunday. During the epidemic Mr. G. Lake has kindly allowed two of his cottages, situate in Back-lane, to be used as a fever hospital, where the patients are treated. Unfortunately a few fresh cases have appeared during the past week.

MARKYATE.

Herts Advertiser, 23 July 1892
via Find My Past

By 1896, Edwin Bamford resigned as Master – due to “age and deafness”.

He was succeeded by Ralph Beardmore **James** – his son in law. The 1901 census shows Edwin and his wife as visitors at the schoolhouse. (By this time, the Merry Hill Lane had been renamed School Lane). Edwin died on 19 July 1908 at 59 Park Road, Bushey, with probate granted to his son Frederick. His will bequeathed everything to his wife, and on her decease, to go to his daughter Annie . Edwin would appear to have a number of properties and of those bequeathed to both his daughters he states – “*The bequests to my*

daughters must be their own personal property free from the control of any husband'.



Postcard of St James, Bushey

A newspaper report said Edwin had been a member of the old parish council. And “*his knowledge and his experience was a loss to the whole neighbourhood'.* Edwin was buried in the old churchyard at St James Bushey.

"In loving memory of Edwin Bamford February 2nd 1831 - July 19 1908, Headmaster of the Boys School Bushey 1856-1896".

Buried with him was his wife Sarah Maria and their daughter Annie.

Annie Bamford

Annie was the eldest daughter of Edwin and Sarah, born 18 December 1860 and baptised 11 January 1861 at Bushey. On the 1861 and 1871 censuses, Annie was with family at the schoolhouse in Bushey. However, by the time of the 1881 census, she was in her first year of training as a schoolmistress, at Felstead, St Giles Road, in Oxford. In 1891 she was a National schoolmistress at St Michaels School, Wantage in Berkshire. A little research found that the school was run on religious principles and was for the training of girls for domestic service. Later it added a school for the training of pupil teachers. Annie was still a schoolmistress there at the time of the 1901 census. At the age of 51, she had returned to Bushey, living at 59 Park Road, her father and mother having died in 1908 and 1910 respectively. By 1921 Annie was living with her brother Frederick.

Sadly she died on 2 May 1936 at 78 Queens Rad, Watford, (on 1939 Register, this address would appear to be a nursing home), with a home address of Braemar, Oxhey Road, Bushey, with probate being granted to her brother. She was buried with her parents at Bushey.

Julia Bamford & Ralph Beardmore James

Julia Rebecca **Bamford** was born on 6th June 1862 and baptised on 26th October at Bushey, the second daughter of Edwin and Sarah. She is with the family on the 1871 census, but by 1881, she was a pupil teacher at St Michaels House Industrial training school at Wantage, Berkshire. This was the same place where her sister Annie was a schoolmistress.

On 6th January 1887 Julia married Ralph Beardmore **James** at St James, Bushey.

Ralph was baptised 2 March 1862 at Kingsley St Werburgh, Staffordshire. He was the son of Thomas **James** and Annie **Beardmore**. Thomas (according to the 1871 census) was a publican and farmer of 30 acres. Ralph had 5 siblings living at the address. By the time of the 1881 census, he was a student at St

1887. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Bushey</i> in the County of <i>Hertford</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
12	<i>6th Jan^y</i> <i>1887</i>	<i>Ralph Beardmore James</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Schoolmaster</i>	<i>St. Georges, Salop</i>	<i>Thomas Lemis</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Julia Rebecca Bamford</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Bushey</i>	<i>Edwin Bamford</i>	<i>Schoolmaster</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>James</i> or after <i>James</i> by me, <i>J. W. Hynaston</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Ralph Beardmore James</i> <i>Julia Rebecca Bamford</i>	in the Presence of us,		<i>Edwin Bamford</i> <i>Annie Bamford</i>			

Marks College, Chelsea. According to *The Directory of Victorian London*, St Marks was a college for training schoolmasters for the National Society, and it was a three-year training course. The couple had 6 children between 1889 and 1898 – George Arthur, Eleanor Annie Geraldine, Ralph Frederick, Cyril William Edwin, Harold Cecil Bamford, and Annette Irene Julia. Apart from Annette (born in Bushey), the other children were born in St Georges, Shropshire.

The 1891 census shows the family at St Georges Shropshire, living at the schoolhouse at School Street, with Ralph as an Elementary Schoolmaster. When his father-in-law retired as Headmaster of Ashfield School, Ralph took over and the family moved into the schoolhouse on Merry Hill Lane in Bushey. In 1911, (after the school was renamed Ashfield School) both Ralph and Julia were noted as schoolmaster and schoolmistress, employed by Hertfordshire County Council.

On 12th September 1903, there was a newspaper notice in the *Watford Observer* that a vote was to be held about adopting lighting for the Bushey parish, Ralph James was the returning officer. He also served on the Urban District Council and the War Relief Committee. On the outbreak of the First World War, three of Ralphs sons enlisted. George enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers before transferring to the Royal Engineers. Ralph joined the Royal Fusiliers, rising to 2nd Lieutenant, and Cyril was in the A S C.

On March 15, 1916, it was noted in the school log that Ralph had been away, visiting one of his sons who had been wounded and was in Tooting Military Hospital. He made two further visits, but on returning home from the third visit, he took ill near Marble Arch in London and died suddenly at 554 Oxford

Street, London (now a hotel). He had been suffering with heart trouble. His widow Julia appears on the 1921 census at 13 Essex Road, Watford, along with two of her sons, both noted as bank clerks, one for Barings in London. The entry for Julia has the words "schoolmistress retired" crossed out by the enumerator. Julia passed away in 1936.

On the death of Ralph, there were 70 applicants for the post of Headmaster of Ashfield school, the successful candidate being Oswald **Atkin** (from Yorkshire) in June 1916.

And Finally

Teaching was obviously in the blood of the family, but I doubted that I find any further family following the profession - or so I thought.

I looked further into Ralph and Julia's daughter Annette Irene Julia, born 26 October 1898. In 1921, she is recorded at 4 Elm Bank, Everton, Lancashire as a secondary school teacher at Queen Mary High School, Anfield Road, Liverpool. On 20th September 1927, she is sailing to New York (via Cherbourg) on the United States Lines ship *Leviathan*, listed as a teacher, her home address being 128 Anfield Road, Liverpool. . She returned in Liverpool on 7 July 1928 on the Canadian Pacific shipping Line - *Melita*, she then gave her home address as 13 Essex Road, Watford. By the time of the 1939 Register, she is noted at 18 Turketel Road, Folkestone , Kent, as a teacher, along with a Dorothy Lake (also a teacher). Annette passed away on 18 January 1946, of The Knoll, Eliot Hill, London.



Ashfield School today © Google

Sources

From Hartsbourne Manor to Frying Pan Alley by Dianne Payne (Bushey Museum Trust 2012)

Find My Past and Ancestry websites

Newspaper reports (on Find My Past)

Our History – Ashfield Junior School website www.ashfield.herts.sch.uk/about-us/our-history/

Hertfordshire Family History Society M I volume 1 for St James Church, Bushey

If any members have photographs of Hertfordshire ancestors they would like featured in *Hertfordshire People*, but perhaps haven't got enough information for an article, I would be delighted to include them. They can either feature on the cover, or within the pages.

I look forward to receiving emailed scans of your photos, with a short biography of the person, or people, in the photo. Please email me on editor@hertsfhs.org.uk

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

Don't forget to send them in!

Social Media



www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/



@Herts_FHS - Hertfordshire People



@Herts_FHS@genealysis.social

The Family History Federation AGM / GM and 50th Anniversary Conference

On Saturday 11 May John and Jane Tunesi represented Hertfordshire FHS at this event which was held at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, City Road, London ECY QAU.

The day started with registration and coffee and a welcome from Steve Manning, FHF Chairman.

This formality over, those present enjoyed a marvellous talk from Nick Barratt entitled, When Harry met Dotty.

This talk highlighted the delights and dangers of DNA testing and a worldwide search for the real parentage of Nick's grandmother.

Thoroughly entertaining but at the same time showing the real detective work of DNA results and traditional genealogical research.

Whilst the FHS reps were attending the AGM, the other conference delegates were entertained by a talk on Getting the most for the FamilySearch website.

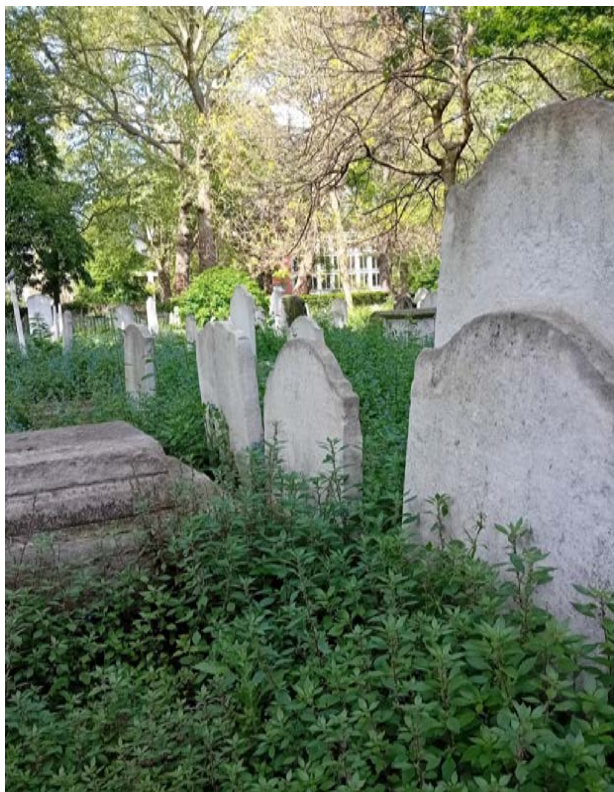


The AGM, in an upstairs room, was attended by the FHS reps at the Conference and others via Zoom. A review of the past year and plans for the future were discussed. Reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Education Officer, Society Liaison Officer, Publicity Officer, International Officer, DNA Officer and Networking Officer were sent out electronically prior to the meeting with hard copies available to take away. All papers are available on the FHF website in the members area.

After a convivial buffet lunch delegates returned to the main hall to hear Dr Janet Few's talk, The Family History Revolution.

This was a look back at the origins of family history as a hobby in the 1970s , classes, conferences and technological advances in the use of computers and the IGI. Then there were the TV programmes and the use of Zoom for talks during the pandemic. In 2024 the family history community is much wider than it used to be and family history societies must reinvent themselves. How to attract younger members? We need to appeal across the generations and attract volunteers in different types of role within our Societies. But, how welcoming are we as a community? There are younger people interested in their family history but do FHSs appeal to them? Young people access family history in a different way, not necessarily a social meeting in a hall with a live speaker. They are more interested in podcasts, online lectures and digital journals and not necessarily seeking support in a group.

What does the future hold for Family History and Family History Societies? There is a need to think wider and 'out of the box'. Migration to the UK has brought another dimension to the study of family history, there are families of Asian, African, Caribbean and Indian origin wanting to learn about their history. There are also blended families, LGBTQ+ relations and sperm donors adding to the challenge, as does DNA.



Ancestry is personal and we need to tell the stories of all our ancestors, warts and all.

The day was rounded off with a tour of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground for those who had booked in advance.

The knowledgeable guides took us inside the four usually closed off restricted areas and whilst inside told us of the history of the site and pointed out the notable burials.

Have you ever seen a ghost?

As a precursor to our talk in December by Damien O'Dell, I wanted to ask members the following questions.

1. Have you ever seen a ghost?
2. Have any of your relatives seen a ghost?
3. Do you know of any spooky locations in Hertfordshire?
4. Are there any areas of Hertfordshire that you are particularly interested in?



Our speaker tailors his talks to his audience's particular interests hence the questions above. He will try to include true-life stories from any areas of particular interest to us.

He is also interested in what particular aspects of the paranormal you would like to know more about. Are you interested out of pure curiosity or have you experienced something and want to learn more?

Damien will also include some material about Chicksands Priory, near Shefford, just over the border in Bedfordshire. Is it the most haunted house in England? This venue will be of interest to our members in the USA as many American servicemen were based there from 1950-1995.

Damien's website is damienodell.com, where you can find out more about his publications and paranormal research.

If you have any requests for locations to include or have a spooky story to share please contact the Editor in the first instance so that I can collate and let Damien know in advance so that he can weave his bespoke talk for us in December.

John
Programme Secretary

A Ghost Story from North Hertfordshire

My Dad saw a ghost one night when he was returning home from a night out with his mates. Some might say that he was worse for wear and imagined what he saw that night, but I am inclined to believe him. My Dad was not one for making up stories and this one did not change each time he related it. No embroidery, just the facts as he remembered them.

Dad lived in Letchworth where there were no pubs so he and his mates had to go to Willian, Norton, Hitchin or Baldock for their entertainment. The Wilbury in Letchworth, up by the Roman Camp on Wilbury Hill and The Hermitage in Hitchin were the places to go for a dance in the years up to the second world war. Dad was born in 1916, so his formative years were in the 1930s.

The night he saw a ghost he was walking back home from Willian and he, and his mates, saw a man on a horse riding at speed on the brow of a hill between Willian and Letchworth, the Weston Hills.

The horseman was riding hell for leather in a northerly direction, towards Baldock and was a very pale colour in the moonlight. Dad described him as wearing a cloak and a tricorne hat.

All the young men in the group saw him and all noted that not a sound was heard. No hoofbeats. Just silence.....



Jane Tunesi

AI Image created using Microsoft CoPilot

What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

By Sheila White

Herts Memories – do you have Hertfordshire memories?

If you have your own memories of Hertfordshire or stories passed down by your Hertfordshire family, please think about contributing your comments by using the 'get in touch' button on the website (see links below). Articles and comments are continually added to the site and provide a rich source for family historians.

Events at HALS

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

Thursday, 5 September, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Tuesday, 8 October, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday, 6 November, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday, 5 December, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Free; booking essential (see contact details below).

And, if you have children or grandchildren to entertain over the October half term holiday, keep an eye on the HALS website for holiday activities.

Family Tree Detectives

Researching Women in Your Family Tree

Tuesday 17 September, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Women in the 19th and 20th centuries and the sources you can use to discover more about their lives.

World War II - The People's War

Thursday, 14 November, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Wartime records covering the Blitz, Home Guard, Civil Defence and more.

£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.

Did you know?

Did you know that you can access wills, poor law records, parish registers, and over a hundred years of local newspapers on microfilm in the Local Studies Library at HALS? There is no need to book; check opening hours below.

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.



Hertfordshire Family History Society attended the in person FHF Really Useful Family History Show in St Ives, Cambridgeshire on 20 April this year.

It was great to be part of an in person event again where there were Family History and Local History Society stalls, lectures and the opportunity to catch up with family historians and talk to the representatives from the various societies who we have not seen in person since before the Covid 19 Pandemic.

The Hertfordshire Family History Society proudly launched their new branding at the event and were pleased with the interest shown in the society and our publications.



L - R : John Tunesi (Programme Secretary), Sue Jackson (Membership Secretary) and Felicity Brimblecombe (Chair)

Many thanks to the Committee members and Vice Presidents who 'manned' the stall throughout the day in what proved to be a successful event.

The FHF are pleased with how the in person Regional Shows around the UK have been attended this year and based on feedback received there are plans for more of the same in 2025.

Society Talks

April 2024

Wills for Family History presented by Jackie Depelle

Our knowledgeable speaker gave us an overview of this key resource for genealogical research which augments the BMD certificate and census information and in some cases can give valuable clues to the wider family.

From 1858 Wills can be located using the National Probate Calendar—www.gov.uk/search-will-probate1858-present. Indexes are also available via Ancestry and FindMyPast. This source can also provide a date of death with probate usually being granted up to two years after the death. Before 1858, Wills were under the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts, such as Ely, and can be held in County Record Offices.

The format of a Will uses legal jargon and formulaic language, usually starting with the phrase 'In the Name of God, Amen'.



Wills are different in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England and Wales. Wills can also contain Codicils and Inventories, whereby a Testator's goods and chattels can be listed. These are useful for the genealogist and the historian as they can show occupational and household items and name specific items which can be traced down the generations, if you are lucky.

The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers and the Gibson Guide *Probate Jurisdictions: Where to look for Wills* were recommended reading, as was the Map feature on FamilySearch.

Our speaker also provided a valuable handout which was put onto our Members Area which covers many other sources such as the Death Duty Registers, Manorial Records and Chancery Records which can add to the genealogical information contained in a Will.

May 2024

The de Havilland Aircraft Company: Hertfordshire's Contribution to the Aircraft Industry presented by Alistair Hodgson



Our speaker not only gave a *tour de force* about the beginnings of the de Havilland Aircraft Company but also the input that Geoffrey de Havilland made to the aircraft industry, from a fascination with the principles of flight, the building his own aircraft in the early 20th century and the development and use of aircraft in the First World War. After 1918 no one was really interested in aircraft as they were perceived as military, but in the 1920s flying as a leisure activity took off, pardon the pun, De Havilland built aircraft were developed further and named after butterflies and moths, for

example the Tiger Moth. Renewed interest in flying led to expansion so a larger premises than the Stag Lane, Edgware factory was needed. Hatfield was chosen and in the 1930s The London Flying Club developed the site to include a Clubhouse, Swimming Pool, Tennis and Squash Courts as well as the Workshops and Works Canteen. The company was doing very well too with the development of further aircraft which were used as the basic training aircraft of the RAF. As the Second World War loomed the RAF was found to be ill equipped and needed a small bomber. The DH98 Mosquito, the wooden wonder, was developed, built and assembled at the de Havilland site in Hatfield, during the War by female labour. After the War the company was at the forefront of the development of jet engine aircraft such as the DH Comet. The company merged with Hawker Siddeley Group who developed civil aircraft in the 1960s and became part of British Aerospace in the 1970s. The Hatfield site was closed in the early 1990s with 4 buildings surviving, including the listed Art Deco building. Much of the site is now the De Havilland Campus of the University of Hertfordshire. The Admin and Canteen Block are now Hatfield Police Station and the Bunker Museum. There is also the de Havilland Aircraft Museum & Archive at London Colney and the Mosquito Museum at Salisbury Hall.

We also learnt about the de Havilland family and their connections with

Flying. Geoffrey de Havilland (d. 1965) was a cousin of the actresses Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine who were also pilots. Two of his sons died as test pilots in de Havilland aircraft. His youngest son, John, died in an air collision involving two Mosquitoes in 1943. Geoffrey Jr carried out the first flights of the Mosquito and Vampire and was killed in 1946 flying the jet-powered DH 108 Swallow while diving at or near the speed of sound.

June 2024

Free Antiquarian Resources on the Internet presented by Phil Isherwood

An extensive handout was made available for members after a really useful and interesting Zoom presentation by our speaker. Concentrating on four main sites where digital copies of antiquarian books can be found and how to navigate them, this talk was of great use to members.

The four main sites are:

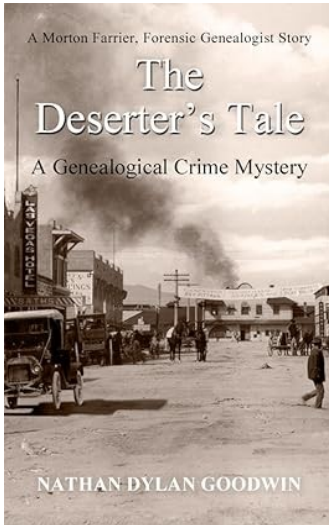
FamilySearch Digital Library	- https://www.familysearch.org/library/books
Google Books	- https://books.google.com/
Hathi Trust	- https://www.hathitrust.org/
Internet Archive	- https://archive.org/

Google Books is the most comprehensive but Phil advised to look at all four, just in case.

You should be able to find printed Peerages, published Genealogies, Post Office Directories, Heralds Visitations, Indexes to Wills, Alumni Lists, Army, Navy & Air Force Lists, maps and county histories, amongst other gems. These sources can augment your research. If you cannot get to a specialised Library, or haven't got a copy on your bookshelves, the internet resources can be a godsend.

Do investigate these digitise long out of print printed resources, you might be pleasantly surprised!

Book Review.....



GOODWIN, Nathan Dylan *The Deserter's Tale*. A Moreton Farrier Novella (the Forensic Genealogist #10). Nathan Dylan Goodwin, 2023. ISBN 979 886 6987764. Available in various formats via Amazon. [Www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)

An eagerly awaited instalment of the popular Morton Farrier genealogical mysteries books, this one, although a shorter novella, did not disappoint. At the beginning, we find Moreton preparing for speaking at the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. After accepting the invitation to speak and be part of a panel of experts, he discovers that one of the co-panellists is his ex girlfriend Madison Scott-Barnhart, whom he hasn't seen or spoken to for twenty six years since she abruptly and mysteriously ended their relationship. There are great descriptions of the RootsTech experience, with a few well known names in the genealogy world getting an honourable mention along the way.

Alongside the anxiety of his conference preparations, and the prospect of meeting Maddie again, Moreton takes on the quest to try and solve his wife Juliette's family history conundrum. Why did her great grandfather desert his Sussex family after the First World War and end up in what became Las Vegas, Nevada? As always, these characters are based on real life people with real research at the heart of the story. This book has a cross over with Nathan's other enjoyable Venator Cold Case series where Madison is a key character. There is also a great twist at the end and I can't wait for #11 to see how that pans out!

If you haven't read this series of books, do give them a try. Well written and easy to read, believable characters, plot twists and turns and with real genealogical research at the heart of each story. The books can be read individually but to get a real sense of the characters story I recommend reading them in sequence—*The Asylum*, *Hiding the Past*, *The Lost Ancestor*, *The Orange Lilies*, *The America Ground*, *The Spyglass File*, *The Missing Man*, *The Suffragette's Secret*, *The Wicked Trade*, *The Sterling Affair*, *The Foundlings*, *The Deserter's Tale*.



SUNDAY BEST

a pictorial reference book
of Victorian and Edwardian
family photography

Available as PDF or ePub format for easy referencing
visit www.photo-consult.co.uk
or photo-consultbook.square.site
or search Amazon.co.uk

Author: Stephen Gill FRPS, ASICI is a
photo-restorer, lecturer and photographer

just £10.99

over 350 high definition photographs and illustrations

Gill, Stephen *Sunday Best: A Pictorial Chronology of Photography and Fashion*. 2024.

With the cover title being a more descriptive, A Pictorial Reference Book of Victorian and Edwardian Family Photography, this book is wonderfully illustrated and detailed with examples of restored photographs for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that assists the reader to discover more about the production and technologies of photography as well as helping to identify fashions in family photographs.

With over 350 illustrations, mostly from the author's own collection, this is an invaluable book for the researcher and nicely compliments his earlier books on the same subject, *Dating by Design Vol 1* and *Dating By Design Vol 2*, published by the Family History Federation. The book also includes a comprehensive index.

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*.

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)

We welcome letters on any aspect of the history and genealogy of Hertfordshire places and families, or in response to articles and extracts which have appeared in *Hertfordshire People*. Contact the Editor at the address or e-mail at the top of page 1.

A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany

By John J. Tunesi of Liongam

67) The Marital Arms of Clutterbuck and Capper

During the Spring of this year there came up for sale at Los Angeles auction house of Andrew Jones Auctions, a George III English Sterling Silver Coffee Pot with a maker's mark mis-struck, but hallmarked London 1768.



As can be seen the coffee pot is engraved with a handsome engraving of the marital arms of the couple who had possession of same at one time. After some research these arms were discovered to be those of **Clutterbuck** impaling **Capper**.



The couple concerned were Robert **Clutterbuck** (born 28th June 1772 died 25th May 1831), of Watford House, Watford in the County of Hertfordshire, and Marianne **Capper** (born circa 1773 died 4th January 1856).



*Robert Clutterbuck,
drawing by William Henry Hunt.*

Robert was the eldest surviving son of Thomas Clutterbuck, of Watford House aforesaid and his wife, Sarah **Thurgood**,¹ whilst Marianne was the eldest daughter of Colonel James Capper, of Cathays, near Cardiff in the County of Glamorganshire² and his wife, Mary **Johnson**. Robert and Marianne were married at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Cardiff in the aforesaid county on the 11th January 1798 (see p.44)

Robert was educated at Harrow School and Exeter College, Oxford.³ Although, he lived the life of a country gentleman, he was a noted historian, having written the three-volume county history of Hertfordshire - *The History and Antiquities of the County of Hertford* that was published in the years 1815, 1821 and 1827. He served as a Justice of the Peace for his home county and was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

The Clutterbuck family originally stemmed from the County of Gloucestershire in the Cotswolds. It was Robert's Grandfather, Thomas (born 1707 died 1792) who left Gloucestershire to settle at Watford to work at nearby Cassiobury House, the ancestral seat for the then Earl of Essex, as a land agent.

These armorial bearings denote the marshalling of a marital coat showing on the dexter (the heraldic right, on the left as you view the piece) the arms of the husband and on the sinister (the heraldic left, on the right as you view it), the arms of the wife.



They may be blazoned as follows:

Arms: (on the dexter) *Azure a lion rampant and in chief three escallops argent* (for **Clutterbuck**)

(on the sinister) *Or on a chevron gules three roses argent a canton of the second* (for **Capper**)



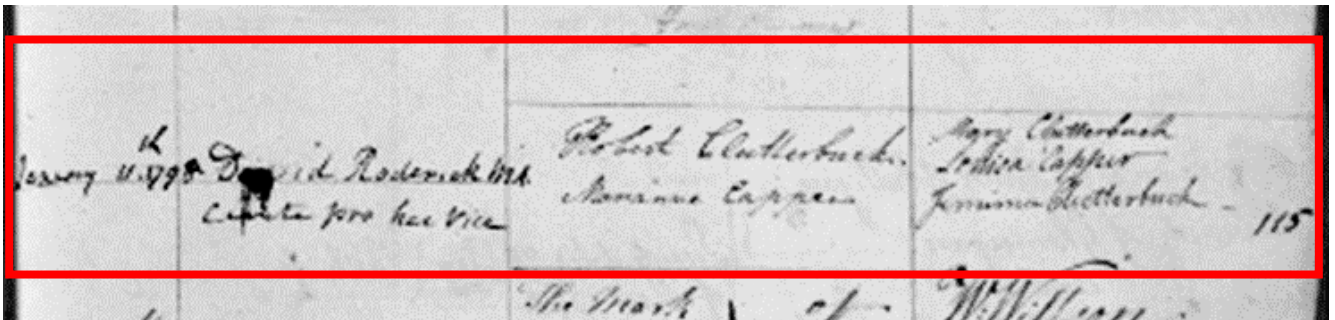
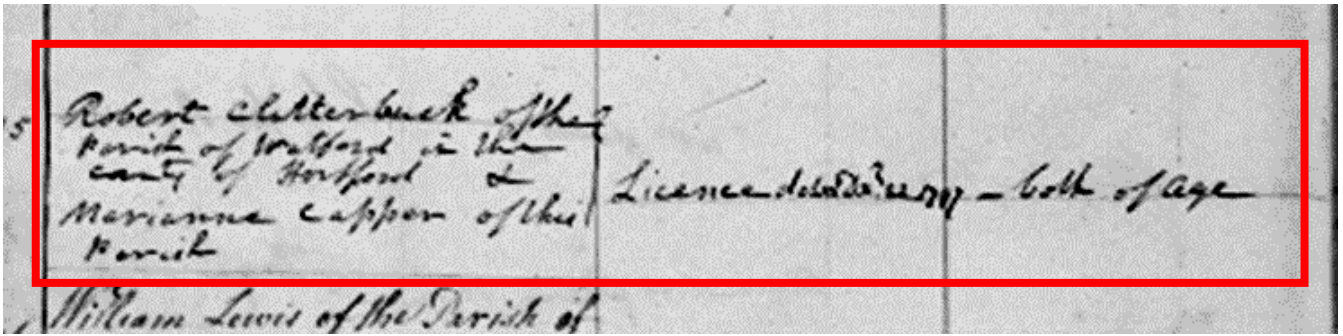
Crest: *A buck sejant gules between two laurel branches proper* (for Clutterbuck).

Grateful thanks to Aileen Ward, of Andrew Jones Auctions, Los Angeles, California, USA.

www.andrewjonesauctions.com

End Notes

1. Sarah was the daughter of Robert **Thurgood**, of Baldock, Co, Hertfordshire.
2. Later of Ditchingham Lodge, Ditchingham, Co. Norfolk.
3. After graduating from Oxford with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1794, Robert entered Lincoln's Inn that year with intention of making the law his profession, but this did not come to pass.



Entry of the Marriage, by Licence, of Robert Clutterbuck and Marianne Capper in the Parish Register of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Cardiff, Co. Glamorganshire – 11th January 1798.



The Clutterbuck Family Vault in the Churchyard of the Parish Church of St Mary, Watford, Co. Hertfordshire wherein were interred both Robert and Marianne upon their deaths.

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:

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Rudge	Any	Cheshunt, Broxbourne	Hrt	4676
Warwick	1400-1900	Furneaux Pelham, Bishops Stortford	Hrt	4673

New Members

Number	Name	County / Country
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Nil this time

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Have you seen any new books with a Hertfordshire theme or content? Would you like to write a review for inclusion in a future edition of *Hertfordshire People*?

I am always happy to receive notices of forthcoming publications and information on new books or online sources on all aspects of Hertfordshire history and topography.

Editor.

Hertfordshire Family History Society

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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**

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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.

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Hertfordshire

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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.

- Sep 28** **Researching Ancestors in British India** Some three million Britons lived and served in India during Britain's presence there from 1600 to 1947. Britons from all social classes were recruited to run every aspect of social, commercial, political, economic and military life. Many records of these people survive, and this talk will explain these records and where to find them. *Valmay Young*. **Hybrid / Zoom**
- Oct 26** **William Wilshire: a Hitchin lawyer, and his garden 1790-1824.** This talk is based on William Wilshire's Farm and Gardening Memoranda, spanning the years 1809 to 1824, supplemented by information from his cash books, bills and a journal and planting book started by his gardener, James Bowie, in 1812. *Bridget Howlett*. **In person / Hybrid**
- Nov 23** **Hertfordshire Sources – The Obvious and the Unexpected.** Over 50 years of personal research has uncovered ancestors, both affluent and impoverished, who have inhabited most corners of Hertfordshire and other projects have involved using additional sources concerning Country Estates, War Memorials etc. *Felicity Brimblecombe*. **Zoom**
- Dec 14** **Adventures of a Ghost Hunter.** Much of the material in this talk will come from the speaker's books, *Paranormal Hertfordshire* and *Chicksands Priory*. Have you a paranormal Hertfordshire story to share? *Damien O'Dell*. **Zoom**

Website: www.hertsfhs.org.uk