



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk

August 2023

Number 150

PRESIDENT

Jon MATTHEWS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Chris BRAUND
Janet FEW
Janet GRIFFIN

COMMITTEE

Chairman	Geoff ALLAN	Apartment 3, Sandbanks, Esplanade, Sandown Isle of Wight PO36 8DW <i>Email:</i> chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>	
Secretary	Gill GLASBEY	<i>Email:</i> secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com
Treasurer	Claire WILLIS	<i>Email:</i> treasurer.iowfhs@gmail.com
Friends of Northwood Cemetery Liaison Officer	John PULLEN	<i>Email:</i> via Vice Chairman & Librarian
Heritage Resource Centre Education Officer	Sharon BEDDARD	<i>Email:</i> research.iowfhs@gmail.com
Journal Editor, Publicity Manager & Facebook Administrator	Peter SPENCER	1 Westfield Close, Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8BY <i>Email:</i> journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com
Librarian	Hazel PULLEN	<i>Email:</i> librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com
Membership Secretary & Journal Distributor	Gerry NEWBERRY	Mulberry House, Coastguard Lane, Brook, Isle of Wight PO30 4HQ <i>Email:</i> membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com
Programme Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>	
Systems Development	Mike HOAR	<i>Email:</i> via Webmaster
Webmaster & War Memorial Project Coordinator	Geoff ALLAN	<i>Email:</i> chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

CONTENTS

Committee.....	Inside Front Cover
Programme of Events.....	2
Editorial	3
Non-Committee Officers.....	3
Heritage Resource Centre.....	4
Chairman's and Webmaster's Report.....	5
Membership Secretary's Report.....	8
Minutes of the AGM held on 13 th May 2023	9
From the Desk at Coles Manning.....	13
Obituary.....	14
Wootton Bridge Talk to the One Day Conference	15
Carisbrooke Talk to the One Day Conference.....	17
One Day Conference 13 th May 2023.....	23
Isle of Wight FHS Website	24
Saving St Thomas' Church, Ryde	27
Thomas Raine FELGATE.....	28
My Life by Coral BEALES (née LANE)	30
Cicely and Percy ERITH.....	34
Isle of Wight Forest of Trees Project	36
Alfred Peter 'Ranji' HOLSINGER and Ryde Cricket Club.....	39
Isaac DYER – (1800-1861)	45
One Forgotten Woman.....	47
Help Wanted	53
New and Returning Members.....	55
Some Useful Addresses.....	Inside Back Cover

Programme of Events

Monthly Meetings are held (unless stated otherwise) at Arreton Community Hall, Main Road, Arreton, Newport PO30 3AD

Doors open at 2pm talks start at 2:15pm or 2:30pm

Admission members = £1; non-members = £2

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 4 th September	Searching for my Grandfather's Great War grave in Belgium	Geoff BANKS
Monday 2 nd October	Please check website	
Monday 6 th November	Please check website	
Monday 4 th December	A presentation by Geoff ALLAN based on the Memoir written by Jack PORTER of Sandown two years before he died in 1981. The Memoir covers his service in both World Wars as well as the PORTER family's businesses in Sandown. There will also be an opportunity to socialise with other members with mince pies!	

For an up-to-date list of future events go to:

www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events

2023 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

Standard Membership (eJournal)	£ 8.00
Classic UK Membership	£16.00
Classic Rest of the World Membership	£30.00

This Journal is the official publication of the Isle of Wight Family History Society. The contents may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Editor.

The Isle of Wight Family History Society takes no responsibility for articles submitted to the Journal, nor does it necessarily agree with opinions expressed.

Authors are expected to have checked for factual accuracy and to have obtained the necessary permissions for lengthy quotations and the use of illustrations.

Editorial

The report on the talk to the One Day Conference about East Cowes was not ready to be published in this edition. It will be published in the November issue.

You may note that this edition has only 56 pages. Reducing the number of pages attracts the lower postal cost in the UK for large letters. It will also reduce the printing costs as well.

Thank you to those members who have submitted articles which appear in the following pages. New articles and illustrations are always wanted. Snippets to fill blank spaces are always welcome.

Peter SPENCER (IOWFHS Member 2187)

Journal Editor

1 Westfield Close, Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8BY

Email: journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Cover Photograph

Golden Hill Fort, Freshwater

Non-Committee Officers

BMD Index Coordinator: Jon MATTHEWS

Email: bmd.iowfhs@gmail.com

Inquest Project Coordinator: Tony BEVIS

Email: newspapers.iowfhs@gmail.com

Pedigree Index: Mike HOAR

Email: pindex.iowfhs@gmail.com

The deadline for the November Journal is 1st October

Heritage Resource Centre

West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery, Newport Road, Cowes PO31 7ER
(Address is NOT to be used for correspondence)

Opening Times

Tuesdays	1 pm to 4 pm
Wednesdays	10 am to 1 pm

Enquiries to: research.iowfhs@gmail.com

We can also be available at other times by arrangement with the Librarian, Hazel PULLEN (*see inside front cover*).

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery will have representatives on hand at other times during the week.

We are pleased to be part of the Heritage Resource Centre at the West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery.

Please note: Northwood Cemetery is a working cemetery, managed by the Isle of Wight Council Bereavement Services section. Priority is given to any funeral services and visitors should be respectful of the needs of people attending such services and other visitors to the grounds.

There is very limited parking at the Cemetery. Visitors **must not** use the nearby Medical Centre Car Park. The Park & Ride car park at Somerton is a few 100 metres away (one bus stop). Southern Vectis bus services (Route 1) from Cowes Red Jet Terminal or Newport Bus Station which stop at Cowes Medical Centre (use the service showing '**Park & Ride**'; operates approximately every 15 minutes). Buses showing '**Round House**' use a different route.

A DDA compliant toilet facility is available to visitors.

We have facilities to copy, scan and print materials for personal use (*subject to copyright where applicable*).

The Heritage Resource Centre will be 'free to use' but donations towards our running costs and any materials will be welcomed.

Non-members will be asked to become temporary members (just a quick signature and a suggested minimum donation of £1 is all that is required) to enable us to offer access to privileged material available to our full members.

Chairman's and Webmaster's Report

In this report I shall concentrate mainly on addressing the comments made at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Firstly, I would like to say how pleased we were that we had such a good attendance at the Conference and AGM and the positive comments we received on the standards of the displays and speakers. Well done to everyone concerned. We almost broke even on the day.

Points raised :

PA System. We did have the PA system turned on, with two microphones at the lecterns but occasionally the speakers could not be heard. Many speakers are reluctant to use the PA system but we shall look at using either handheld or lapel microphones in the future. A roving microphone to be used for audience members making comments or asking questions will also help.

Heating (or lack of) in the church. It took us a little while to contact the church representative to find out how the heating worked – and once on, the fan heaters did add to the overall ambient noise, exacerbating the point made above. Now we know how the heating works this should be better in the future.

Opening times for the HRC at Northwood Chapel. We have reduced our presence to two sessions per week, as we were just not getting enough visitors on Saturdays to justify opening. Even now, as I write this at the end of June, there has only been a handful of visitors to the centre on the Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings that we are open. Unless we see an increase in demand for what we are doing at the HRC, we have to consider all alternatives including cessation of use. We have said it many times – ***Use it or lose it.***

Meetings. We hold Monday afternoon meetings on the first Monday of most months at Arreton. We were asked whether we could hold evening meetings also to attract audience members who may be at work, school or college during the day. We are now examining what options we have in terms of venues, dates and costs and will advise of any decisions made. Once again, we are looking for any suggestions on the matter and also assistance with running the meetings – once again we are dependent on a small number of dedicated volunteers but more hands would be welcomed.

Recording meetings / using Zoom for meetings. We are looking at what equipment we might need for this. The main issue will be to get agreement from presenters to allow recordings to be made, so we do need to ensure we get clearance beforehand. Additionally, at least another pair of hands would be needed to set up and monitor the audio and / or video recording.

It may be of interest to know that the Family History Federation run hybrid Zoom meetings and to achieve this they use two each of: screens, projectors, laptops, lighting, microphones, speakers and equipment operators. For the forecast viewership of our meetings, I can hardly justify any additional expense or complexity. Unless some kind media-savvy person with the right kit can be found. I shall experiment initially with recording my own talk to the members in December using my own amateur facilities and see what the results look like.

Members will also recall that we abandoned Zoom meetings (both public and for members-only) some time ago as for some meetings there were fewer than 10 attendees (in one case only two) and the effort required to compile and host the meetings was more than we could justify given the take up.

Journal Print and distribution. We moved from using an Island printer, with envelope stuffing and posting done by member volunteers, to an all-in-one print and distribution service, several years ago. Not only does that free up members having to spend hours stuffing envelopes and taking them to (rarely found these days) Post Office counters. It means that we can concentrate on family history rather than time consuming clerical effort to run the Society.

We are acutely aware that the main costs of the Journal are not the printing but the postage costs, which seem to be rising at an exponential rate. We are looking at reducing costs in terms of using other providers and thinning down the Journal to bring it into a lower postage price band. However, the option of not having a printed Journal is always there and the subscription rate for this is significantly lower.

Storage costs. As well as the HRC, we have a storage unit in Ryde where we hold redundant or less well used material. As we are now in a process of weeding out this material (either by book sales, donations to charity shops, “scan and shred” or “taking to the tip”) we can consolidate our storage requirements to perhaps a smaller and cheaper unit.

We benefit from a long-term discount at the current unit. When a new facility opened nearby in Cowes, we investigated their pricing and found that it was nearly double for the square footage that we currently use.

There was a further comment from an anonymous member who complained that the new website coverage of Monumental Inscriptions gave less information than the old website but since we have not lost any information, it may be that the presentation appears to offer less. If this member would like to contact me to clarify what they meant I can continue the discussion.

For my other news this month, it is again to highlight the provision of extra information on the website. Many years ago, the late Barry HALL compiled what he called the "Victorian Marriage Index" which was a subset of marriage indexes for Church of England or Roman Catholic marriages on the Island. It does not cover Register Office or Non-Conformist marriages.

The index is available as searchable PDFs on the County Record Office website but I have now made it available as a searchable database in line with the others on our website. The extra information it holds includes names of the fathers of the parties, plus their ages and condition i.e., whether single or widowed.

Legacy website closure. I have signalled this several times but I will be closing the legacy website when the current hosting subscription expires later this year. A recent check on whether any searches were still being made on the legacy data did give a few results. Be prepared to find that in future you may get browser errors if you attempt to use the legacy website pages or searches (which you may have as bookmarks in your browser). It is outside our control to identify where links to our legacy website are still present on third-party websites.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member: 392)
Chairman and Webmaster
Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Membership Secretary's Report

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the One Day Conference in May and also those of you who are able to come along to our monthly speaker meetings.

I wish a warm welcome to those of you who have joined or returned to our Society in the past three months. If you have not already done so, please take the time to have a look around our website and familiarise yourself with the self-managed aspects of **My Account**. Advice and guidance can be found from our **Home** page under the **Help** and **Membership > Membership Information** tabs and, as always, you are welcome to either email or write to me for assistance.

Have you changed your email address recently? Please remember to update your membership record with the new address - we will need it to make contact with you. You will then be able to use your new email address to log into your account. If you are having problems logging in, try the **Reset** option to create another password. All you need to login are your email address and password.

I look forward to corresponding with you in the future and, as always, contact me with any queries.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Membership Secretary

Email: membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

Communication Preferences

<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/account/communication>

Consent to contact details being disclosed in Journals:

Withholding your consent will mean that any articles you submit for publication will not be published because other members will not be able to contact you direct.

Consent to contact details being disclosed to Members:

This only applies to the Surnames Interest database.

Minutes of the AGM held on 13th May 2023

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

From the Desk at Coles Manning



I am hoping that there may not be many more 'From the Desk at Coles Manning' columns. Not because I do not want to communicate with you all anymore but because Coles Manning is for sale.

After nearly 17 years, it is time for me to move on. It has been an enormous privilege to be the custodian of a 400-hundred-year-old cottage and there are many aspects that I will miss but for various reasons, I have decided to embark on a new adventure. I have also been running an online course about migrating ancestors and that too has focussed my mind on our families on the move in the past.

In some ways, I suspect moving was a more straightforward process in an era when renting was the norm. No trying to establish chains, no filling in countless forms about whether or not we are leaving the toothbrush holder, no fears of gazumping; all in all, a much less protracted process.

If you are reading this from outside England and Wales, house buying and selling here is the most ridiculous and stressful experience, with people able to change their minds without penalty. Historically of course, as tenants, our ancestors lacked any of the protections that tenants have now and there would have been little security. Our families would have been likely to make fairly frequent and often short distance moves.

Why might they have done so? In the modern 'escape to the country' era, personal choice plays a much greater part in our decision to move than it would have for our ancestors, whose moves were largely governed by practicalities. Often, moves were made for economic reasons, to get a job or a better job.

Family played a part; homes might need to be larger or smaller as family size or circumstances changed. Sometimes, there was something about the place that they were in that made them want to or need to move. This might be because an industry had collapsed and occupational opportunities were lacking.

Perhaps they were unable to find congenial ways of worship in that area. Alternatively, it could be something attractive that was drawing them to the new place. Frequently, a combination of push and pull factors were at work.

How would people have changed their location? The arrival of macadamised roads, the canals and then the railways may have made movement easier. Particularly before this, river and sea journeys would have been easier than those over land. Our ancestors would have had far fewer possessions to transport. They may have moved on foot, with just what they could carry. Perhaps there would have been a handcart or if they were fortunate, a horse-drawn cart on which to load their few treasured possession and items of furniture.

Perhaps now is a good time to look at how far our family members moved and with the aid of maps, think about how that journey might have been accomplished.

My course, 'Elusive Ancestors: migration within the British Isles' will be available from Pharos Tutoring and Teaching <https://www.pharostutors.com> again next year.

Hopefully, before too long, this column will be entitled 'From the Desk at...'

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Terry John HAYTER (IWFHS Member: 2529) who passed away on 8th June 2023 at the Mountbatten Hospice, Isle of Wight. Condolences have been sent to his family. His funeral took place on 27th June at the Isle of Wight Crematorium. His widow Diane, who had joint membership, will be continuing as a member. Diane was co-opted on to the committee in February 2012 as the Secretary. A post she held until the AGM 2019.

Wootton Bridge Talk to the One Day Conference

By Hilary LLOYD



For family and local history research the village of Wootton Bridge was part of Arreton parish. Wootton Parish was very small, little more than St Edmund's Church. By 1909 Mrs Archibald SCOTT had raised funds for St Mark's Church in Station Road. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel opened in 1842. In 1858 John TEWKESBURY threatened Martha MEW with an open razor as she left the Chapel. It closed in 2004. The Bible Christian Chapel at Littletown, built 1846, was destroyed by a storm in 1897 and was re-built near the Railway Station.

Originally a causeway crossed the Creek and sluices held back the tide in the Mill Pond, when opened the water ran the Mill machinery for five hours. A new bridge and road were constructed in 1865. A job meant to last seven weeks took about 30 weeks. A letter to the press called it 'a monstrous bungle'. By the 1930s the pond was used for recreation. A café, Lakeside, which was built in 1937, with a swimming pool alongside opened in 1938.

The price of grain for the miller fluctuated wildly, so bankruptcy was never far away, including for James VICK and James COOPER. In 1755 an inventory was taken: there were two pairs of French stones, for fine flour and one pair of peak stones. The last millers, the SOUTERS, installed steam and gas machinery. Backfiring of the gas engine was solved by making a silencer from a disused foghorn. The Mill was demolished in 1963.

The Sloop Inn, between the Mill and the grocer's shop, was run by Frederick PURKIS and his wife Jemely (née VANNER), part of the family running the Ryde to Newport coach in the 1870s. George BENNETT, around 1910, would provide pork dripping and bread for his customers. When Whitbread Brewery took over Mew Langton Brewery they revamped the Sloop, providing a dining room to seat 35. Martha COOPER, then her son, Arthur, were the licensees of the Woodman's Arms. The Cedars was built as a private house in the 1890s and became a pub in 1955.

Early in the 20th Century development began up the High Street. George MEW, the sub-postmaster, moved into new premises in 1908. Edmund and Mary GOSDEN took over in 1930 and converted a shed in the garden to sort the mail, the first delivery of the day was out by 7am. Next to the Post Office was Haydens (later Lloyds Bank) one of the oldest farms in the village. Then the butcher's shop of John JONES. Warders was the draper's shop, employing a young girl to serve from 9 am to 7 pm daily, 8 pm on Saturdays, with half-day closing on Thursdays. William Benson's (later William Abell) grocers came next. Two more shops were built, including the chemist.

The steep High Street was bemoaned by two sisters on a cycling tour in 1904. The coming of motorised traffic meant properties losing frontages for road widening and pavements. Aedy's and Harwoods were the petrol stations. The Conservative Club was also used for entertainments, some starting at 'Wootton Bridge Time' - quarter to eight. The main 'big house' was Fernhill, built in the 1790s for Thomas ORDE-POWLETT, Governor of the Island. The last owners were the BRODIEs. Mrs BRODIE would instruct the villagers who to vote for. The house was destroyed by fire in 1938.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1897. The village was decorated and there were parades behind the village Brass Band. The Rifle Club was formed in 1902, with lady associate members. Mrs BRODIE scored a bullseye with her first shot. The *Victorious* brought day trippers from the mainland. The Carnival began in 1898 and the hunt met regularly outside the Sloop.

Holiday Camps included Wootton Holiday Camp (recommending early booking in 1940 as three-quarters of the camp was likely to be taken over by the military) and Little Canada in New Road. The *Edith*, a coal barge, trapped by ice in the Creek in 1898, had a group of villagers standing on the ice. What would they have thought of the village today, some 130 years later?

Hilary LLOYD (IWFHS Member: 14)

Rose Cottage, Burnt House Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2PW

Carisbrooke Talk to the One Day Conference

By Richard SMOUT

It is lovely to be back with you again. Can I just start by thanking the Society for your support over the year, particularly those of you who have been doing fantastic work transcribing our House of Industry and Royal National Hospital records - we really appreciate what you've done and so many people are benefitting from this work.

Today, rather than giving you a potted history of Carisbrooke I would like to give you an idea of the archive sources that exist for this community and show you some examples and illustrations. Carisbrooke is my adopted village but technically I live in the parish of Newport, St John, part of the historic parish.

One of the places owned by Ursula WORSLEY was the Priory at Carisbrooke. This is a list of her poultry: It starts with a goose and gander then a cock with six hens, two mallards and 10 ducks. Other stock includes horses, oxen and *8 milch kine*, giving an idea of the wealth of that area. Ursula WORSLEY married Sir Francis WALSINGHAM, Elizabeth's spy catcher. A clever man, he took over the old Priory and had the responsibility for looking after the chancel at Carisbrooke Church, so he agreed to pay the parishioners a fixed sum to allow him to pull it down and offset this cost by selling off the building stone.

Classic "tourist" Carisbrooke is centred on the Castle but the map of Medieval Parishes shows that this historic parish went all the way from Northwood to Chale, including Newport, Gatcombe, Shorwell and Kingston. Right up until the 1850s Newport is a chapelry of Carisbrooke. Even now if you want to appoint a new vicar of Cowes, the Vicar of Carisbrooke has to be consulted. In terms of area, most of the parish is rural, giving it a particular flavour.

The name appears as Caresbroc just before Domesday in 1071. Early spellings can be found in "*The Place Names of the Isle of Wight*" by Helge KÖKERITZ, a classic book written by an academic from Sweden in 1940. He was undecided about the origins of the name. It may refer to a brook going through a hollow or a gulf.

I thoroughly recommend the Trade Directories as a source, giving descriptions of each place. Situated on the Lukely Brook, Carisbrooke is described in 1879 as having an ancient fortress where Isabella DE FORTIBUS held her revels and continues with ever more fanciful descriptions of the village in the past, including Roman galleys and the coracles of the Jutes. Then, of course, there are the useful lists of

residents and those in commerce with details of their varied trades and services - including Edwin BENNETT, Model Boat and Yacht builder and Reuben REED, castrator.

Accommodation and ale houses were shown and by 1883 there are also advertisements for several Tea Rooms, which were becoming more popular even before the railway arrived in 1889.



Visual records are also important, particularly the BRANNON Print showing a view of the village dominated by the Church and a beautiful image of three haymakers in the fields in about 1890 with Millers Lane behind - the familiar view for people who paid good money for their houses in Clatterford Road. You can also see how much ivy was covering the Castle walls. Another classic view used for postcards is that of Castle Street (see *next page*), showing the path you would have taken from your charabanc to walk up to the Castle. This is why there were so many tea rooms where you could get sandwiches with watercress from the stream. This view is substantially the same today.



Postcards. If you want to know what is of interest in any community you go to the postcard stack. There was a complete obsession with donkeys and donkey wheels.



The picture on the left shows Mr Thomas MCGROTTY who was the well keeper and had a special relationship with the donkeys. Between 1944 (when Princess Beatrice died) and 1949 the Governor's House became a Youth Hostel.

It was to be taken over as a museum in 1949. Mr YEO (artist) is warden and he and his wife are the cream of the Wardens. Some of you may remember the Curator Jack JONES and the wonderful stories he used to talk about living there.

On the map of 1862 you see the mill pond showing quite prominently and the brewery, which was an interesting feature, at that time but if you look to the northwest there is no road shown where Priory Road is now.

However, on the next map in 1907 you see the station and houses built up into Gunville Road and Alvington. It also shows new buildings on Clatterford Road near the Infant School and to the west more terraced housing opposite the Board School.

Tithe maps are important sources. The map from 1839 and linked to the apportionment you can discover who lived where at that time. Each area is measured and gives owner and occupier. The whole parish is shown, including New Village near Trafalgar Road and its cricket ground, the St John's area and as far as Church Litten.

Manorial Records can be daunting, some being in Latin but are really useful. From the records of the Priory manor in 1736/1737 it is interesting to see the signatories, so badly written but a neater hand above helps us to identify those concerned. They detail the manorial customs with remarkable spelling (sufficiently is spelled "sofeshently"). You have lots of names of individuals in the community. The Court Leet records tell you the infringements that have been taking place. A particularly interesting one is for the Manor of Bowcombe; they present *Robert SWAYNE gent for doing trespass on the land of the Lords of this Manor by coming thereon with a setting dog and nets and there taking partridges*. The dog, a setter, would 'freeze' beside the bird and they would throw the net over both of them.

From the 1660s we have the Hearth Tax. The originals of these are in the National Archive. It gives you the names of not only the wealthy but the poor so you can find individuals from your family listed under the community where their house was. The return hints at the relative size of the properties so you can see that the Priory was one of the bigger houses with six hearths. You can also check if someone of your surname was in a particular parish at a time when parish records may not have survived.

Another source for property can be the records of auctioneers such as Way Riddett. Books list the contents of houses for auctions and show the sums raised. One example from 1926, East Lynn Cottages in Gunville, shows the value of domestic goods with details of such as bedding, linen and garden tools together with the names of the successful bidders.

Census returns also help for house and family history. In 1851 we see John DENNETT and his family. John was Keeper of Carisbrooke Castle and also, with his son Horatio, a life-saving rocket maker and map maker. Horatio's portrait shows him with an engine he invented. Also held by Carisbrooke Castle Museum are incredibly beautiful paintings by Emma

DENNETT of flowers in the lanes around Carisbrooke in 1847. Next door was James JONES, also a rocket maker and his son who was a porter at the Gate.

School records tell us a lot about the community. There was the Board School up on the hill and the Infant School in Clatterford Road. In 1893 one entry notes *quite a drop in attendance owing to the rain and also to Gurnett's Circus at Newport*. On 5th July there was a half-holiday due to the wedding of the Duke of York (George V) and Princess May. *The scholars, however, met in the school yard in the afternoon to attend a school treat at Carisbrooke Castle*. Next day, however, *saw a decreased attendance owing, I suppose to yesterday's exertions*. Often when they heated the schools all the boilers smoked and the children suffered. If you lived away from the area, at the top of the Bowcombe Valley you had to walk to school for miles and you arrived in quite an appalling state. Lists of the names of all the teachers and assistants together with their salaries survive, showing dates of when they arrived and when they left, starting in 1903 and continuing to 1944.

One of the joys of that time were the Parish Magazines. They are really interesting, especially during the Edwardian period. At Carisbrooke they had the most fantastic vicar called W James STOBART who wrote many controversial and amusing things. When he came to retire in April 1914, he said the reason for his retirement was simple: *I am in my 75th year and that is reason enough*. *Carisbrooke is a straggling parish containing a tenth part of the population of the Island and the Vicar's time is spent in cycling, walking or driving from point to point over 30 square miles of country*.

We also have the Sunday School accounts giving detailed receipts such as collections and expenditure on crockery, furniture etc. The Summer Treat outing to Sandown was shown separately - the railway tickets in 1909 cost £8 1s 3d. The Sunday School Cricket Club accounts show expenditure on cricket equipment, bats, balls, gloves and mallets.

The same volume lists the number of books taken out of the village library set up in the village hall in 1878 by Charles SEELY and William SPICKERNELL, a local landowner with a passion for education. They also hoped to keep villagers out of the pub. Some of the books listed were by well-known authors such as SCOTT and DICKENS with works of fiction, "*Tales suitable for Boys and Girls*", biography, science etc. Interesting comparisons were made looking at the number of people borrowing certain authors in Carisbrooke and Chillerton.

From local authority records an example is the reports of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr Joseph GROVES, one of my heroes. He lived just on the edge of the Parish at Glenfield Cottage and knew John SNOW who discovered the cause of cholera. He was fearless in his battle for public health and great at describing it. In the late 1880s he describes *streams of house slops and sometimes faecal matter running into the Lukely*. He records a case of enteric fever and Gunville with *its foul ditches and poverty of water*. Many of the people went more than a mile to take their water from the Carisbrooke stream, which was not safe to drink. This is the reason for the outbreak of typhoid in Newport in the 1890s.

It is worth looking at court cases but they are not always straight forward. There is the trial of a William LINNINGTON charged with catching hares but it is not easy to work out exactly which William it could actually have been, even looking at Census Records, there being four local options.

On a lighter note, we see a picture of a bazaar held at the Castle in 1856. This was a very important venue used for fund raising by the well-connected. Sometimes it could be hired out, so that if you were, say, a member of the Carisbrooke Archers in the 1830s, you could use it for archery competitions and offer expensive prizes. The most famous event is probably the Isle of Wight Pageant, held in 1907, with scenes acted out in full costume. Visitors paid for seats on the bowling green to watch a play with music featuring Isabella DE FORTIBUS and enjoyed hearing an actor dressed as Charles I proclaiming the very words that the king had used 260 years ago.

This gives an idea of the breadth of sources that can be used if studying the history of this or any village on the Island. Enjoy finding out what you can about your ancestors and the communities that they came from.

Richard SMOUT (IWFHS Member: 3251)
Isle of Wight Service Heritage Manager
Email: richard.smout@iow.gov.uk

One Day Conference 13th May 2023

A huge thank you to all those who came along to our One Day Conference held in the Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport.

It was lovely to see old and new faces at this event and to catch up with many of you.

I feel that the subject Pubs, Ponds and Pulpits gave a great scope for our speakers to work with and they did not hold back. I hope that you all learned a lot from the three speakers who attended.

A great display of materials from the various organisations was available within the back hall.

We have taken note of some of the suggestions that were put on the board in the back hall. We will be discussing these at various stages over the next year.

Thank you again to all who attended and a special thanks to our Chairman Geoff, for all of the hard work that he has put into the Society over very many years.

Hazell PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Isle of Wight Family History Society Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/iw.fhs>

This group is open to both members of the Society and non-members. It is always hoped that the latter may decide to become members. You will, hopefully, get an answer to your question via the Facebook Group sooner than through the pages of the Journal or the Help Wanted page of the website. The Society cannot guarantee the accuracy of replies that you may receive in the Facebook Group.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member: 2187)

Journal Editor and Facebook Group Founder

Email: journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Isle of Wight FHS Website

The current version of the Society website was developed during 2020 by Brightbulb Design (a local Isle of Wight company) with the aim of making the functionality of the website more in tune with the latest abilities of various devices such as smart phones, tablets and laptops, rather than just the traditional desk top PCs of the personal computer explosion.

A further aim was to enable the maintenance of the website information to be undertaken by people with limited technical expertise but we have found that some aspects, particularly the implementation of additional research databases, needed more technical ability.

The changeover period between the previous incarnation of the website and the full implementation of all our legacy data has now taken over two years, which to me, as a former IT development manager, is about par for the course and we wanted to ensure we got it right. Unfortunately, there have been some glitches, such as leaving a lot of links to legacy website pages in the new website (which I have now cleared) and there are still some issues with the membership system especially at the renewal period between November and January.

If you have any bookmarks to the legacy website pages, then be warned that I shall be closing the legacy website when the subscription renewal falls due later this year. I shall try to put in place redirections to bring you back to the current website as appropriate. As I write this in June 2023, I can see that some people are continuing to search the legacy databases but will be denied this in due course, so please be advised.

I thought it might be of interest to outline the three main phases of the website development ... the images come from the Internet Archive Wayback Machine which provides snapshots of web pages going back to the beginning of the Internet – see <https://archive.org/web/> - but be cautious – this could lead you to waste precious time browsing old websites.

Today, the internet is an all-pervasive aspect of our lives, unthinkable even 25 years ago.

As we know it, the internet and the World Wide Web and their development grew up in the late 1990s. As a Society we jumped on the bandwagon in 2002, when the late David and Dina BROUGHTON embraced the new world of browsers and database coding with the result that the first incarnation of our website looked like this (see *next page*):

You will see that the basic framework is almost the same as our modern website – the essential features are already in place but our flagship volunteer project, the development of the Island Birth Marriage and Death Indexes, had yet to appear.

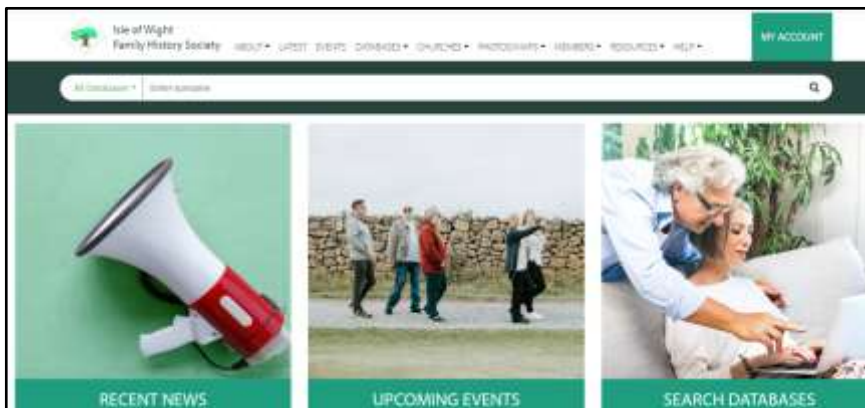
Dina BROUGHTON continued to maintain the website for the next decade or so but failing health and eyesight meant she was obliged to hand over to me in 2009 – a role I volunteered for as I had already created the Isle of Wight Memorials and Monuments website (see <http://www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk/>) and I felt I had the appropriate skills to keep things on track.

Initially I tweaked some of the links and presentation but once I had established how to develop databases using MySQL, I restructured the website with the menu buttons at the top of the screen and altered the colour palette to look something like this:

The next 10 years saw the implementation of a wide range of new datasets and functionality. But by 2020 the need for change became apparent. The final look and feel were like this:



The world of internet development never stands still. The present version allows members more latitude in managing their memberships, provides a wide range of sources of data for Island researchers and we intend adding more data from the transcription projects already in hand. I am also working to replace the Memorials website and integrate its functionality into the new framework but this is a lengthy process which will take at least until the end of this year to complete.



Please contact me if you want any more information about the website or its usage. And if you would like to get involved in any way, please do let us know.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member: 392)
Chairman and Webmaster

Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Saving St Thomas' Church, Ryde

Talk on 3rd April by Tim WANDER

Tim gave a great talk to the audience at Arreton on the life and times of the church in the Centre of Ryde. The original church dates from 1719 and the plan is in 2023 to create a hub for the young people of the Island.

It has been neglected now for many years, with water ingress through the roof and walls. The church closed at the end of 1959, the plan is to create a community hub and warm space for disadvantaged children.

Tim mentioned that there are in fact 60 disused and redundant churches on the Island, the plan with St Thomas is to develop this grade II listed building, restore the stained-glass windows and the monuments and plaques within the church but create a new working environment for its future use in the 21st Century.

St Thomas was created as a private church for the good and gracious of Ryde, with the second church on the site built in 1827, there was a private entrance for the family through a side door with the general public standing only in the upstairs gallery.

Together with Vectis Hall bought by the council two years ago, Tim now has a lot of work to do on the restoration of this lovely church in the middle of Ryde.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Wanted Programme Secretary

Do you live on the Island?

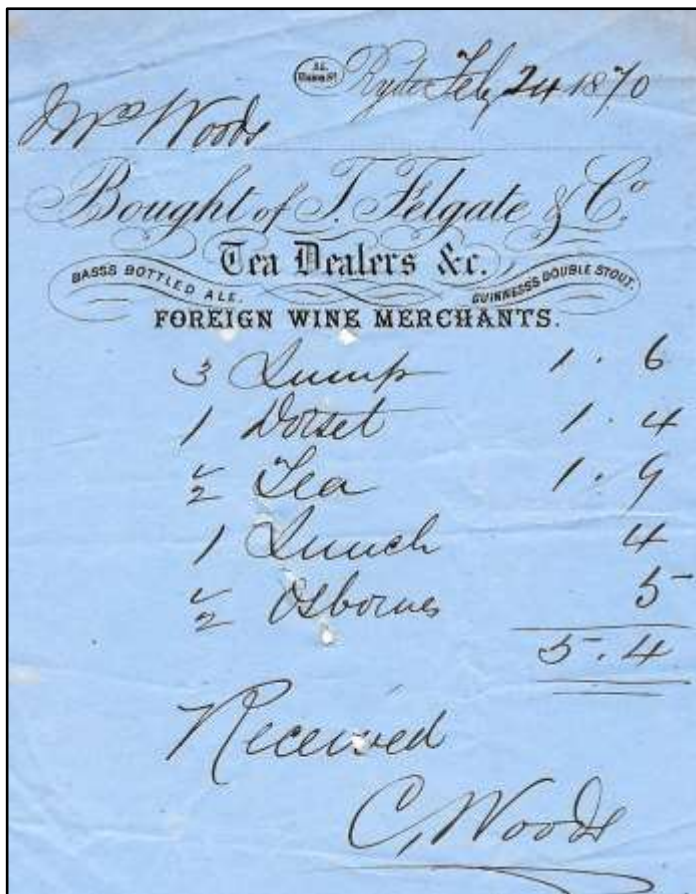
Would you be willing to fill the vacant post of Programme Secretary?

For further information please contact the Chairman at:

Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Thomas Raine FELGATE

Grocer of 35 Union Street, Ryde



Thomas Raine FELGATE was born 31st January 1820 but not baptised until 5th July 1829 at Shoreditch, the son of Charles and Eleanor. In the 1841 Census for Shoreditch both Charles and Thomas were grocers. In 1843 Thomas married Sarah MITCHELL in Chelsea. In 1851 Charles, grocer and Eleanor with their children were recorded at Church Street, Tower Hamlets. Meanwhile Thomas, age 31, was already a grocer at 35 Union Street, Ryde. By then he was widowed, living with his married sister, Eleanor WHITE, two apprentices and two servants. His wife Sarah, had died in 1846, aged 31 and their son had died about 3 months later. Perhaps this double tragedy had promoted a move to the Island.

The *Hampshire Advertiser*, 18th February 1854, reported on William RICHARDS and Richard REEVES stealing several packets of cocoa from the stores of T R Felgate, Union Street. They were sentenced to three days and to be privately whipped.

For some unknown reason both Thomas FELGATE and John KEET refused to act as Ryde Commissioners, as reported by the *Portsmouth Times*, 28th April 1855.

In the 1861 Census Thomas R FELGATE, 41, grocer, was with his second wife, Esther, 45, at 35 Union Street. He had two assistants, an apprentice and two servants. He had married Esther Chinnery MITCHELL the previous year, also at Chelsea. She may have been related to his first wife.

In their article, 19th March 1864, the *Hampshire Telegraph* reported that T R FELGATE was one of the committee who had purchased a tradesman's cup for the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. On 1st April 1865 the same newspaper reported that T R FELGATE had been elected to Ryde Commissioners. He was an east ward member and stood down in October 1870.

By the 1871 Census Thomas and Esther were living at Kite Hill, in the parish of Binstead but just the Ryde side of Wootton Bridge. He was a retired grocer. In 1881 the couple were lodgers at Newport Road, Ventnor. Possibly they were just visiting as in 1891 they were back at Kite Hill. Esther Chinnery FELGATE died on 24th March 1899, well into her 80s.

In the 1901 Census Thomas was living alone at Kite Hill. He was not alone for long. In the same year, aged 81, he married Sarah Ann HAYES at Winchester. She was probably the widowed, 78-year-old, Sarah HAYES living in Winchester at the time of the 1901 Census.

The couple lived in Winchester, until Thomas died there, 23rd January 1904, aged 83. He was, however, buried in Ryde Cemetery with Esther. Sarah FELGATE, widow and Frederick SHOTTER, an accountant, were his executors. At first his estate was valued at over £4,000 but then re-sworn to over £6,300.

Hilary LLOYD (IWFHS Member: 14)

Rose Cottage, Burnt House Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2PW

My Life by Coral BEALES (née LANE) (1904-1987)

Written in 1986

I was born in August 1904, the last child my mother had. I was the 11th. She was about 45 and up to 1902 had worked at Osborne House as a "daily". Walking up to Osborne each morning about 6:30 to clean and lay ready the fires.

The week Queen Victoria died, she also lost a little boy Rufus through vaccination, as was told to me in later years. Before she died all the servants were given a gift. My mother's gift was a very nice vase. Now owned by my sister, who will be 100 in January 1986, had. All the staff were given about 30 shillings to buy black for mourning for the Queen.

Strangely, I also worked at Osborne House for two years (1918) after it became a convalescent home for the services Naval, Military and Air Force officers and was very young (about 14). I and Alice GREEN were basement maids who looked after the housemaids and parlourmaids. Miss Beatrice HEFFORD was head on the housemaids table and Miss Ada FELLOWS on the parlourmaids table. We kept the dining rooms clean including the men's.

The food was very scarce at that time and I do remember all those dishes of artichokes that we brought down on the trolley which nobody used to like and were thrown in the pig bins that stood outside our basement.

We had big wooden tubs to wash up in, one to wash with soft soap out of tins, one to rinse but it was awful stuff and often we had piles of plates sent back to wash again as the girls couldn't get a polish on them. They used to be put in big racks to drain. Oh, if only we had detergent in those days how easy it would have been.

Colonel WARDROP was the house governor with Mrs WARDROP and one daughter. Miss ORMSBY SMITH and Sister ROGERS were over the nursing staff. Old Mr GRAHAM was in charge of the drinks and used to bring a big jug of beer for each of our tables but not many girls used to drink it. So often we would trade it for a little titbit from the upstairs dining room when he brought the trolley of dishes and hundreds of plates for us to wash mostly it was a little bit of jam tart which was a luxury to two hungry girls.

We had to work very hard as The Cook seemed very mean at times where the staff food was concerned and she was always in a blue dress with a white apron with a big red cross on it. Her name was Miss JARVIS who we called Polly (not in her hearing though).

Every morning the night watchman banged on our doors at quarter to six with a knobbly stick. We had to cross over to report at 6:30 to the night sister every morning and if we were late more than once, would lose our half day.

We slept in big dormitories, ground floor middle floor and top floor. I was in the middle and near our dormitory was the married quarters where lived a Mr and Mrs RULEY. He was the electrician and maintenance man. She used to clean in the state apartment, which was kept securely locked but in later years was open to the public.

We had staff dances on certain occasions and officers were allowed to come. Otherwise, we were never to speak to them if we met them in the grounds. I remember lots of times when we used to go down to the bay, which was very lovely and sit in the alcove and watch the sea and birds and on the way back sit on John BROWN's seat and tell ghost stories till we got scared and flew back to the dormitories.

One of the treats was when we had fire practice at night. The top floor girls would let the shute down, the bottom floor used to hold it and we on the middle floor came down headfirst. One great thrill it seemed as there was not a lot of excitement in our lives at that time.

There was an outbreak of smallpox at Cowes while I worked at Osborne and those who had not been vaccinated had to have it done. As my mother lost a little boy, she never had the last three children (Roger, Ruby and me) done, so I had to be done. Major HARTSMITH was the Doctor who did it for the few of us.

During the time I was at Osborne, one of the officers who was convalescing was a Major GHELAS whose face had been badly burnt in his plane. He wore a mask over the lower part of his face and for years went to London to have skin grafting done, I read some years ago about it being a wonderful thing that was done for him. I danced with him on one occasion. I was dressed as Red Riding Hood at our fancy dress dance. He was a marvellous brave man. I cannot remember if he was from New Zealand or South Africa but I was proud to have had a few minutes with him.

The basement maids never had Sunday evenings off as we used to help serve the suppers up in the dining room of the officers. Under the supervision of the Chief Steward who also we thought a very mean man and could not get any titbits from him for the girls who came in at ten o'clock from their evening off.

We got caught trying to get some plates with a piece of veal and ham pie which was mostly served on Sunday evenings and which was a real luxury, never ever served to the staff though. We had our own rations of butter (2oz) margarine (3oz) and sugar (8oz) for a week and had to guard them strictly as there was no more.

Every so often we had a turn of going through hundreds of plates to pick out any that were chipped and I think it was the Steward who used to do it, each one chipped was smashed on the bin and thrown away, which we poor girls thought was wicked.

We had a small room where there was a piano and a young chap from Ryde named Cecil OSBORNE used to play for us "The Robins Return" which I thought was beautiful.

Several times whilst working at Osborne there was money stolen from several of the officer's rooms but it was never discovered who did this. We had the police from West Cowes come to interview everybody even though we were never allowed up on the floors. But we thought it lovely taking time off work to go to be questioned and had quite a giggle about it and fancied ourselves as somebody.

We had a tragedy, poor Doorman, as we called him, the night watchman was found shot under the shrubbery near our dormitories as he felt he was under suspicion but these things still happened after he died, so who it was we will never know.

We had a person who came as head parlourmaid, a mystery as she wore a wig with a black band of ribbon round. We thought she was a man as every morning whilst putting the jams and marmalade out on the plates to go up to the men's dining room she used to come and stick a spoonful in my mouth as I was cleaning the fireplace then kiss me, oh how I hated that. We thought she was a man in disguise, even thought she was a detective from London investigating the thefts of money from bedrooms upstairs.

I believe my money was 16 shillings a month and with the very first I earned I went to Cowes to a jeweller at the top of the town called Parkes and spent the whole amount on a pair of ruby earrings for my mother.

One of the boys who worked on the floors, as it was called in those days, was called Sylvester BANKS from Portsmouth whose father had died in the war and was in the Canadian Navy but he did not stay long as I seem to remember he was going in the Navy. He wore a black ring on one of his fingers.

During the time I was at Osborne, one of the girls named Nancy JEFFERIES, who lived in Ryde asked me to walk down to her home with her, which we did. We came out of a gate near a corner of the estate called either Lo Cottages or Fire Cottages near Barton Manor I believe. I think that was where the milk came from. I remember seeing it all go through machines, I think to be sterilized.

There used be a lot of eating chestnut trees around the ground and I used to love them, also walnuts as we used to have big jars of black pickled walnuts on the table at times but not many girls liked them. I did not.

There were two sisters Lily and Lucy MEW. Winnie DRAPER, May FOSS, a girl named RIGBY and May WRIGHT. Just a few of the names I remember. There was a valet, Harry REED who was in love with May WRIGHT. Alice GREEN married Bill SANSFORD. His family all belonged to the Salvation Army. She always wore a bonnet and was a lovely girl. I have just read in the *Isle of Wight County Press* she has died in Canada where she lived with her daughters. She was aged 87 and I am 82 whilst writing this.

Lesley COOK-MCKAY (IWFHS Member: 480)

Granddaughter of Coral BEALES

Email: lescook1@hotmail.com

Cicely and Percy ERITH

Having read with interest the article 'Emma DENNETT: Floral Artist of Carisbrooke' in IWFHS Journal 148, the update in Journal 149 which added details of the READ family of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Newport extended the theme beyond just Emma DENNETT and the album. Perhaps I can add a bit more information concerning the READs.

Ian PLUMRIDGE's (IWFHS Member: 3334) update provided a brief family tree showing Cecily Temple READ married to Percy William Frank ERITH. Although the birth BMD shows the name 'Cecily', the entries for her marriage and death show her name as 'Cicely' (as did Alan DINNIS (IWFHS Member: 1350) in his contribution to the update.) A classic example of where a small variation in spellings across documents can cause problems when trying to trace people.

Cicely Temple READ died in April 1936 aged just 27 years. The *Isle of Wight County Press* (16th April 1936) published an impressive obituary report of her funeral – not all that common for married women in those days. The report records that Cicely died at the County Hospital, Ryde from peritonitis following an operation for appendicitis.

It also records that at that time her husband, Percy ERITH, was on the staff of the Council's Secondary School. After the funeral service in the Parish Church, Cicely was interred at Carisbrooke Cemetery. A look at the plan of burials in the cemetery shows that her mother, Fanny Louise READ, was buried next to Cicely when she died in 1958; the remains of her father, Harry Temple READ, had been cremated following his death in 1942 and his ashes interred in his father's grave in Newport Cemetery.

Turning to Cicely's husband, Percy William Frank ERITH died in March 1973 and the *Isle of Wight County Press* (31st March and 7th April 1973) again gave a detailed obituary and report of his funeral.

His obituary records that he had been on the staff of the Newport County Secondary Grammar School and headmaster of Newport C.E. Boys' School for a time before being appointed headmaster of the then Newport Grammar School in 1947.

Percy retired as headmaster in 1963 and was ordained in the same year; he then served as priest-in-charge of the joint parishes of Calbourne and Newtown until January 1973.

The report of the mourners shows that Percy had remarried and had had another daughter. The mortal remains of Percy were cremated and the ashes interred in his father's grave (Frank Douglas ERITH) in Newport Cemetery.

Antony BARTON (IWFHS Member 1400)

Email: antony.barton@talk21.com

Also, of the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries –

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>

Ed: Major ERITH, as he was known, was Headmaster of Newport Grammar School in Lower St James' Street, Newport when I was a pupil there in the 1950s.

**Family History Federation
Family History Show**

Online Event

Participate From Home - Worldwide

Explore Your Genealogy

Friday 17th November 10:00am to 10:00pm GMT

and

Saturday 18th November 10:00am to 6:00pm GMT

For further information and to buy tickets @ £15

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

Isle of Wight Forest of Trees Project

The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of a pilot project I started in January 2022 which I called the "IOW Forest of Trees". This project is not funded in any way by the IWFHS and is not an 'official project' of the Society but it proceeded with the acknowledgment and tacit approval of the IWFHS executive. The following comments and opinions are mine alone.

Why I embarked on this Project

As a member of the Society for more than a couple of decades, I value the IWFHS and its long history of making historical information about past Islanders' lives available not only online through volunteer transcription efforts but also via articles and stories in the Journal. Much of this information is available nowhere else and is invaluable to researchers. But as good as this information is, I came to recognize that the Society does not currently take an active role in offering a way for researchers to benefit from the previous work of others and avoiding 're-inventing the wheel'. Nor are we taking advantage of our individual efforts to collectively aggregate and build on our research to "enhance" Island history.

Yes, the Journal does allow for expressions of members' interests and yes, the website also includes a list of people who have generously offered to act as One Name Study leaders. The current Pedigree Index (PI) was also a first step in establishing a collection of donated family trees but these, like the 'family boxes' at the Record Office are typically poorly sourced and of varying research quality. No attempt has been made to 'distil' and curate the information and add value into something we could proudly call our 'gift to future generations of IOW researchers'. The goal of this project is to start that journey by example and hopefully show it can be done. Should I be even partially successful, my intent is to turn all my efforts over to the Society in the future in the hope that the Society would embrace its goals and support its future growth assuming members support it and volunteers become involved.

Purpose of Pilot

The purpose is to attempt to create a digital online consolidated collection of IOW family tree information that could include anyone who was born, baptised/christened, married, died or was buried on the Island. My personal belief is that this information should be the property of the Society and access to it would be managed by the Society but my hope would be that it would be made available in a searchable/browsable format to any paying Society members perhaps similar to the way some databases are free and some are members-only.

After researching the population of the Island, I know that it rose from 8,767 in 1559 to 18,000 in 1771 to 23,687 in 1801 to 94,000 in 1921 so I am well aware of the magnitude of the task. So, although this may expand in the future, for the purposes of making the scope of the pilot more manageable, the timeframe was arbitrarily restricted initially to about 1650 to 1800. Even if the pilot isn't later expanded, this time period is harder to research and any efforts of the pilot would likely be of benefit to current and future IWFHS members.

The Challenges

I realized from the start that there would be many challenges to overcome and after talking to the Executive, it seemed it was not for lack of interest but rather because previous efforts had failed due to the magnitude and number of considerations. Some of the challenges are genealogical in nature (e.g., how to resolve inevitable fact discrepancies) and others are technical complexities (e.g., size, how/where to store, etc). I have spent decades in IT and I have managed my own family research using online software for over 20 years so I believe I understand most of the latter but do not intend to minimize the complexities of the former.

The good news is that the pilot already has made progress on both challenges and currently has a multi-family, 'tree space' in a single system of approximately 3,500 individuals loaded into my software but also available as a private tree under Ancestry (Geoff ALLAN currently has the only access). I hesitate to call it a "small forest of trees" but it was initially based on my own IOW research efforts. My ROACH ancestors lived on the Island from about 1650 and were prominent farmers whose descendants married into other well-known IOW families so my research has been more 'horizontal' than most and at least touches on many other families (even though I am barely related to them) and therefore provides some necessary breadth for the pilot.

The intent is to slowly open this up to anyone wanting to participate in the future and add their IOW ancestors and over time, it is expected that there will likely be conflicting information from different contributors and 'who contributed what' could be a problem. As a result, work is underway to be able to 'tag' all facts of incoming contributions to the contributor in order to involve the contributor in helping resolve any discrepancies if they come up in the future.

Obviously, some 'fact' discrepancies are more important than others. We often deal with facts about an individual (date of birth versus date of christening as an example) where they get treated the same or many the parish boundary has since changed but these do not have the same impact as a relationship error such as one involving a wrong parent or

wrong child. As a result, some brief work has also been done in developing a metric for indicating the overall 'facts' confidence level for a given individual and a mechanism to highlight when discrepancies exist and a link to the documenting efforts to resolve them. My goal during the pilot will be to create conflict arbitration guidelines and see how they might work and not to be the arbitrator.

Fortunately, the software I am using allows for a preferred parent combination but also allows the saving of other parents. Likewise, many facts about an event can be saved with one as the preferred one so hopefully this will allow some flexibility with discrepancies until things are resolved.

Next Steps

Unfortunately, I need to take a step back before proceeding again. The act of 'carving off' part of my main tree for the purposes of the pilot has created a problem keeping changes to both synchronized so I need to permanently split my personal tree into the IOW 'forest' and everything else. Then I need to do an audit to clean up any errors followed by a run to 'tag' all information with me as the source. Due to current time commitments elsewhere, this will not be completed quickly.

Then I plan to contact some other IOW researchers who have generously allowed me to access their online trees and see if they'd like to participate. Other One Name Study leaders would likely also be good candidates. However, anyone willing to participate also needs to agree that their information can be shared in this manner. To avoid giving away any family secrets, consent may be required although by not including any information past the first Census in 1841, that may not be an issue.

Even if you are not interested in eventually becoming involved with the project, I hope that you will support the "forest of trees" should it come up in future Society discussions and perhaps volunteer in future related activities. Perhaps the current online PI project managed by Mike HOAR can be folded into this one in some way.

About Me

Member since 2000; Journal article contributor; IOW DNA Facebook Group member; One Name Study Leader; 8th generation descendant of 6 generations of IOW ROACH family dating to 1651; blood descendant of IOW families of TRATTLE, OGLANDER, DENNETT, POPE, WHITE, HILLS, JACOBS, PHILLIPS, SMITH, BLAKE and others.

Questions/comments about the project can be sent to me.

Ian ROACH (IWFHS Member:1415)

Email: iroach@myaccess.ca

Alfred Peter ‘Ranji’ HOLSINGER and Ryde Cricket Club

I have always had an affinity with small islands. Beginning with my birth in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), I have lived on a few, finishing up in Tasmania, Australia.

Therefore, I was astonished and delighted to find that my paternal grandmother Ethel Mary SOUTHCOTT was born on the Isle of Wight in 1881. She was the eldest daughter of Samuel Ashford SOUTHCOTT (1860-1912) and Frances Martha Jane (née PAYNE) (1859-1935).

However, my links to the Isle of Wight are twofold because it turns out that someone from my maternal line also found a home there.

Let me introduce my third cousin, Ceylon’s first professional cricketer:



Alfred Peter ‘Ranji’ HOLSINGER

The man with a dream that took him 5,415 miles from home.

In 1799 having successfully won Ceylon from the Dutch East India Company (VOC) The Honourable East India (UK) became the governing body of Ceylon.

Along with British government, there came British education systems.

In 1845, St Thomas College, based on Etonian principles, was established.

Introduced by the British in 1832, cricket remained a game that was mainly played by Europeans. First class cricket was restricted to combined Ceylon teams playing against English or Australian teams stopping en route to their destinations. The first match dates from 1882, against Ivo BLIGH’s England team. En route to Australia, BLIGH’s mission was to ‘recover those Ashes.’ They won, two-one.

Alfred was educated at St Thomas College, Colombo. He played cricket both for the school and the Colombo Colts Cricket Club where he played cricket with commendable prowess.

Further British tours followed including one in 1896 when Alfred played against the British. By then he had a reputation as a fast bowler. Alfred must have been encouraged by what he achieved to consider turning professional.

In 1899, aged 25, determined to fulfil his dream of becoming a professional cricketer, Alfred sailed for England.

His career began at Ryde Cricket Club, Isle of Wight in 1899.



Ryde Cricket Club 1892

Among the Sporting Clubs of Ryde, the Cricket Club held a prominent position. Its team was classified as "Medium Strong". The ground is conveniently situated, contains a commodious pavilion, a grandstand and every needful accessory. A professional bowler is employed and members can practise at the nets at certain appointed hours.

Whilst playing for Ryde Cricket Club, Alfred met Elizabeth Adeline POINEY. The third daughter of Reuben POINEY (from Sussex originally) and Fanny Louisa TUTTON, (1848-1901) Elizabeth Adeline was born in 1876. She was baptised on 28th May 1876 in St Helens, Isle of Wight.

In the 1891 Census: Elizabeth was living with her widowed mother and brother Charles at 46 Green Street, Ryde, working as a domestic servant.



Elizabeth Adeline (photo on the left) is the unsung heroine of Alfred Peter's story.

Whilst Alfred chased his dream of employment as a Professional Cricketer, Elizabeth remained devoted, moving homes when required, returning to the Isle of Wight when necessary and always caring for the children they had.

Alfred Peter and Elizabeth Adeline married at St Mary, Ryde on 4th March 1901.

1. Eulene/Eileen Fanny Adeline, born in 1901 at Ryde, Isle of Wight. Married Joseph Francis PALFRAMAN (1900-1990) in 1928 in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, had four children; she died in 1964.
2. Lilian (Lily May) (1903-1912), born and died in Burnley. Lancashire.
3. Alfred Oswald, Died on 25th September 1905 buried the same day in Ryde Old Cemetery Section, N Plot, 1976.
4. Archibald Michael Richard, born in 1906 on the Isle of Wight, Archibald had medical issues that resulted in death by misadventure on Sunday 1st October 1933 in Shipley, Yorkshire.
5. Marjorie Florence, born on the Isle of Wight in 1908, dying in Milton Keynes in 1997. Marjorie married Samuel WOODS, (1913-1983) on 21st July 1934. They had three children and there are great grandchildren in the UK.
6. Molly, (1910-1915).
7. Ronald, (1915-1916).
8. Winifred Maud, (1916-2001) in Dewsbury Yorkshire, marrying in 1941, Arthur SMITH, a woollen weaver, in Dewsbury, Yorkshire. No children found to date.

Meanwhile, Alfred was doing well at Ryde Cricket Club.

After three successful seasons with The Ryde Cricket Club, Alfred was engaged by The Ribblesdale League, Lancashire.

From The *Lancashire Evening Post*, 1st March 1902:

The committee of the Burnley St Andrew's have engaged A HOLSINGER, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, as 'pro' for the coming season. HOLSINGER, who is a Singhalese was born in Ceylon 25 years ago and played for the Colombo Colts, the premier club of Ceylon, previous to coming to England to start a professional career.

For the last three seasons he has been a 'pro' for the Ryde C C, for whom he has done excellent service judging from the high credentials he obtained from them on leaving their service. HOLSINGER, in addition to being a good fast bowler, is a batsman of no mean merit. His average for the last season in 22 innings being 26, whilst with the ball he took 103 wickets for an average of 9 runs each and a batting average of 28.

In 1907 Alfred broke into Minor County League playing for Lincoln Lindum. Described in his youth as the fastest bowler in Ceylon, Alfred still wanted to break into County Cricket. His chance came in 1909 when he was offered the opportunity to play for The Llanelli CC for the 1910 season.

He made an excellent start for the club and newspapers described him as keeping up a good length after throughout. His deliveries were of an almost endless variety and puzzled the batsmen to such an extent that their innings ended in disarray.

According to Bob HARRIGAN who wrote '*History of Llanelli Cricket Club*' Alfred HOLSINGER was the talk of the town even though the Port had seen plenty of Lascar seaman. Although other foreigners did not mix with the townsfolk, Alfred not only mixed with them he taught them how to play.

Alfred chose Swansea for his Benefit Match. So popular and successful was he that over 2,000 tickets were sold. These earned him £19 16 shillings (approximately £3,000 in 2023) as well as a large portion of the gate receipts.

1911 Census:- Elizabeth and children were living in Mirfield but Alfred was playing for Llanelli in Wales and living away from home.

Unfortunately, an economic downturn and lack of financial support for the Llanelli Club meant that Alfred had to move on.

He returned to Yorkshire, joining Mirfield CC for the 1911 Season. In 1912, having remained in contact with Llanelli CC, Alfred participated in the

Players of Glamorgan against the Gentlemen of Glamorgan in a two-day friendly at Neath. His final appearance in Llanelli CC was in 1913 when he took part in another two-day friendly at Neath. In 1914, he joined North Durham Senior League. In winter months he worked as a commercial salesman.

After World War 1 ended, he began playing Professional cricket in clubs that included Liverpool, West Yorkshire and Tyneside.

1921 Census:- Elizabeth and four of their children, Eileen aged 20, Archibald aged 14, both working for Woollen Mills plus Marjorie in school and Winifred aged 4 were living at Crossley Lane, Mirfield, Yorkshire.

Alfred was boarding with the MARSTON family at 59 Cross Green, Otley, Yorkshire.

Although only 35 miles by road it would have been difficult to commute between Mirfield and Otley and undertake the work at the Cricket Club.

He gained a good reputation at Otley.

Mr F W ELAM, writing in *The Yorkshire Evening Post*, made an observation about the Otley ground.

Despite its parched appearance – common, alas, to every ground this marvellous summer, the ground at Otley is in excellent condition, with a fine wicket and well-kept outfield that reflects the greatest credit upon the Club's professional and grounds man, A HOLDSINGER. Only one who really loves his work and is unsparing in his efforts can keep a ground in such excellent trim in this trying weather.

The Ripon Cricket Club chose him as their professional cricketer and grounds man for the 1922 Season. He was paid £5 per week with a Benefit Match (*Ripon Observer*, 15th September 1921).

According to the *Accrington Observer and Times*, 31st March 1928, Alfred was employed as a grounds man at Rishton Cricket Club near Blackburn.

As his name seems to disappear from cricket scores and articles, it could be surmised that aged 54, Alfred's career had reached its end.

1939 Register: living with Elizabeth at 45 Lockwood Avenue, Mirfield, Yorkshire, occupation: commercial traveller, professional cricketer, unemployed.

Alfred died on Monday, 12th January 1942 in Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Obituary from the *Huddersfield Examiner and West Riding Reporter*, Saturday, 17th January 1942.

His wife Elizabeth survived him by 15 years, dying in 1957. I have not been able to find her burial site or a gravestone.

A dream that never quite materialized:

OBITUARY.—The interment took place at Dewsbury Cemetery on Monday of Alfred Peter Holsinger, Lockwood Avenue, Mirfield, a well-known sporting personality of the early years of the present century. A native of Ceylon, he came to England in the 'nineties, and became professional for the Ryde, Isle of Wight, Cricket Club. He took a wicket with his first ball, and in a twelve-a-side match took all eleven wickets for seven runs. Six of the batsmen he clean bowled with successive balls. On one occasion he raced a horse over 100 yards' course, winning by several yards. He had been connected with many cricket clubs throughout the country, and his services were at one time secured for Hopton Mills by the late Mr. "Dickie" Wheatley.

The Ceylonese fast bowler lived a nomadic life for over thirty years moving from one region to another in pursuit of his dream.

He and Elizabeth suffered numerous personal tragedies losing four of their eight children in infancy and their only adult son dying before their deaths.

Their three daughters, Euline Fanny Adeline, Marjorie Florence and Winifred Maud did survive, marry and have families of their own. Whether any of his grandchildren played cricket is unknown to this author.

What we do know is that in the decades since Alfred first made his mark as a professional cricketer, numerous Sri Lankans have followed his footsteps and made their own mark on the cricket world.

Acknowledgements and References:

Victor Melder Library, Melbourne, Australia.

<https://cricketique.live/2019/12/28/13244/#more-13244>, Sri Lanka

Bob HARRAGAN: *The History of Llanelli Cricket Club*

Published: Llanelli: Llanelli Borough Council, 1990.

Isle of Wight Observer 1901

Isle of Wight Family History Society

Glamorgan Cricket Archives

Lancashire Evening Post 1902

Ryde Social Heritage Group

Coreene KENNEDY (IWFHS Member: 2902)

Email: coreenekennedy@gmail.com

Isaac DYER – (1800-1861)

My great grandparents, Louisa Georgina (died.1947) and William John BAZLEY (died.1954), their son William Jack (died 1987) and daughter Wilhelmina Victoria (died.1991) are laid to rest in one grave in the graveyard of All Saints Church, Freshwater. A beautiful church, which is mentioned in the 1085 Domesday Survey, the restful grounds reach down to the river Yar with its abundance of wildfowl and wildlife.

Over the years, when visiting the graves of this one and my grandparents Oswald (died 1951) and Anne Doreen (died 1984) which is placed beside it, I have always been intrigued by a gravestone which is facing east and seems to be in the same plot as my great grandparent's grave. All the other gravestones in their row are all facing west, as are the rows in front and behind, only this gravestone is facing east.



The inscription reads:

Sacred to the memory of
ISAAC DYER
who departed this life
October 25th 1861
aged 61 years
A Faithful Friend
A Father Dear
A Loving Husband
Sleepeth here

The DYERs are local to the Isle of Wight, so I thought that I would find out what I could about Isaac then try and work out why his gravestone was facing Louisa's and William's gravestone and plot.

Isaac was born in 1800 to Thomas and Elizabeth in Kingston, near Newport.

Isaac married Ann JAMES in 1821 in Freshwater and the following children were baptised William in December 1824, Edward in September 1827, Ann in December 1829, George in February 1832, Fanny in October 1835, Robert in March 1838, Thomas in October 1840, Frank in November 1842 and Mark in August 1846.

In the 1841 Census Isaac and Ann were resident at Afton Cottage with six children. Ann died in December 1848 and in 1849 Isaac married again to Ann KENT in Newchurch.

In the 1851 Census, Isaac and Ann (number 2) were resident by the Bridge, Freshwater with five children. Isaac was a pauper formerly agricultural labourer.

In the 1861 Census Isaac and Ann (number 2) were resident in Bridge Cottage, Comp Lane (Causeway?) with four children, Isaac was an agricultural labourer again.

Isaac died 25th October 1861 and was laid to rest at his local parish church.

In the 1871 Census, Ann and her stepson George were both resident in Afton House, Freshwater, Ann as a charwoman and George an agricultural labourer. Ann died in 1875 but is not buried with Isaac.

I did some research and found that most rights of burial in a plot are for 75 or 99 years. Louisa was buried in 1947, some 86 years after Isaac, so was his plot sold on to the BAZLEY family as none of his family had taken it on? But still the question remains as to why his headstone is facing east and not west?



His headstone facing William's and Louisa's headstone on the left.

Sources: *Isle of Wight FHS, Ancestry and Findmypast*

Lesley ABRAHAM (IWFHS Member: 540)

Email: lesley@kitehillfarm.co.uk

One Forgotten Woman

Rebecca COTTON is a forgotten 18th Century woman. In life she left nothing by way of a lasting mark beyond her name on a handful of documents. She is very unlikely to appear on anyone's family tree. Her birth was not recorded, so who her parents were, is a mystery today. She never married. There is no gravestone. She left no descendants. All that is known for sure is that in August 1785, she presented her illegitimate son for baptism at the small parish church in Mottistone and three years later she had him buried there. She named the baby David and the parish register states the father to be David PROUTEN, my 4x great grandfather. Now, more than two centuries later, I want to acknowledge her and try to piece together the story of what looks to have been a short and sad life.

During the 1700s, nine Rebecca COTTONs lived on the Isle of Wight; seven were named Rebecca (or Rebeckah or Rebekah or Rebeccah) from birth and two became Rebecca COTTON by marriage. In almost every year throughout the 18th Century, there were one or two girls or women bearing the name Rebecca COTTON and for a few years in the 1760s, there were as many as four. But into the next century and certainly by the 1841 Census, of the 55 female COTTONs on the Island, none was a Rebecca.

I have looked at the parish and the poor-relief records for all of these Rebeccas and their associated families. For this period of history, the parish registers for the West Medina are remarkably complete. The respective baptism and burial records (and where appropriate, the marriage records) can be brought together for eight of the nine Rebecca COTTONs. However, for one adult burial, there is no corresponding baptism. The handful of other records which cannot be linked to the eight, fit together to form a consistent timeline for a Rebecca COTTON who was born in 1765, almost certainly in the west or south-west of the Island and who later moved to Newport where she died, aged just 32, having given birth to three short-lived children. If these other records are not linked, it means that there was a second "mystery" Rebecca COTTON. There was incidentally no record of someone of that name born on the mainland, who might have moved to the Island.

The foundational record is that of the baptism of Rebecca's baby son David. The Church of England's *Book of Common Prayer* of 1662 affirmed the importance of infant baptism and on Sunday, 21st August 1785, Rebecca presented her baby at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Mottistone. That record clearly states that he was the illegitimate son of David PROUTON (sic).



Baptism of David COTTON

There was only one David PROUTEN the baby's father could have been David, the son of Thomas and Mary PROUTEN of Steephill, a yeoman and fisherman, who was aged 21 in 1785. Yeomen were seen as of a class between the gentry and the farm labourers.

Further down the same page, the parish register shows the burial of the child some three years later, on Friday, 19th September 1788. As was usually the case, there was no record as to why he died; maybe he caught one of the many childhood diseases or perhaps he simply did not thrive, because of his mother's circumstances.



Burial of David COTTON



On the left Mottistone baptismal font, parts of which go back to the 12th Century.

The *Book of Common Prayer* service for the Burial of the Dead stated that it should not be used for a person who had died unbaptized or excommunicated or who had committed suicide. Rebecca had ensured that by having him baptised, that at whatever age her child died, he could be properly buried. The words that would have been used for young David's baptism and burial can be read today.

The Officiant at these services was likely to have been either Robert GIBBS, the Rector of Brook (the adjacent parish) or Andrew GOTHER, a curate who from 1769 to 1802 served the church in Mottistone.

Accepting at face value that David PROUTEN was indeed the father of

baby David, then the obvious but unanswerable questions are:

Why did David not marry Rebecca? In those times, the awareness of pregnancy was usually the trigger for a marriage.

Did David even know about his illegitimate son? Did he know before or after the child was born or had died?

While it might seem unlikely to us, it is very possible that David really did not know about Rebecca's pregnancy. At the time, there were only local farm tracks connecting the isolated villages and hamlets of West Wight and life in that part of the Island was very much focussed on one's immediate community. David lived in Steephill, in the parish of Godshell, almost 12 miles to the east of Mottistone, as the crow flies. If he had first met Rebecca in the area of Brook or Mottistone, he had most likely travelled there by boat, he being a fisherman.

But even if David did know about Rebecca's pregnancy, there could have been several factors which influenced his decision about whether or not he would spend his future with her.

Aged 20, David might have considered himself too young for marriage. He did marry but not for another three years. His bride was Ann HUNT from nearby St Lawrence, the daughter of Mary and Thomas HUNT who, like David was a yeoman. At that time, it was usual for family and friends to take a great interest in someone's marriage choice and social status was considered of great importance. Rebecca's family may have been agricultural labourers, as were so many at that time.

The IWFHS Journal number 146 carries an article describing how, at some time between 1777 and 1780 (and probably in 1780), David's father Thomas and his older brother, also named Thomas, had drowned off Ventnor in a tragic boating accident. Because of his father's death, it was David's name in 1783 that had been put on a new *Lease for Lives* covering the cottage in Shanklin which we know today as the Chine Inn. David in later life was to become the landlord of the inn.

Whatever the reasons, the fact is, they did not marry.

There are four more records relating to a Rebecca COTTON but these relate to Newport. I believe it more likely than not, that they refer to the "Mottistone" Rebecca COTTON.

On Friday, 1st January 1790, there was the baptism at the Church of St Thomas, of Elizabeth Smith COTTON, whose mother was a Rebecca COTTON. The parish record shows the baby to be *base born*, which means illegitimate.

A few days earlier, a Rebecca COTTON had successfully applied for poor relief at the House of Industry in Newport.

Then, aged less than two years, on 27th April 1791 Elizabeth Smith COTTON's burial service took place at St Thomas.

Towards the end of 1792 a Rebecca COTTON conceived another child, who was born on Thursday, 8th August 1793 and baptised Mary Ann COTTON a month later. There is no record of the burial of this child but it is likely she had a short life.

Finally, four years later, on Tuesday, 17th October 1797 a Rebecca COTTON was buried in Newport, aged just 32.

These records will be explored in depth in the November Journal. But for now, I want to look at the question of who might have been Rebecca COTTON's parents?

Let us start with Rebecca's relationship with David PROUTEN. If baby David was baptised soon after his birth, then he was conceived in the latter part of 1784. If we assume that the relationship began typically as a young

man meeting a young woman, it's likely they were of a roughly similar age in the extremes, let's say she was aged between 16 and 30. That would put her birth year between 1754 and 1768. The last record mentioned above was of the Rebecca COTTON who was buried in Newport in 1797, aged 32, so born in 1765, the year after David. That does not prove anything but it is a very good fit.

I looked at the 48 record cards for the COTTON children baptised between 1750 and 1780. There were seven couples who had finished having children by the early 1760s but there were five others, any one of which could possibly have been Rebecca's parents.

There were two couples who had children baptised around 1765. First, the William COTTON who had married Ann VESEY in 1748. They lived in Norton, near Freshwater and the last of their eight children, Sarah, was baptised in 1765.

Secondly, there was Abraham COTTON who had married Sarah DORE in 1752. They had six children, the last two of whom were baptised in Freshwater in 1766. But even though both these couples were baptising children around 1765, it seems unlikely - but not impossible that they would also have had a Rebecca in 1765 and not had her baptised.

Thirdly, there was John COTTON who married Mary SHEATH in Whitwell on 13th October 1766. Their first-born, William, was baptised in Whitwell on 14th December 1766 and they had nine more children. It is possible that Rebecca was born to them a year before the marriage itself. Whitwell is but a short distance from Steephill, where David PROUTEN lived. This would have made David's meeting Rebecca very much more likely. However, there are a dozen parishes closer than Mottistone, in which Rebecca could have had her baby baptised, away from community gaze. Yet she chose Mottistone. Also, if Rebecca had come from Whitwell, it would have made it much more likely that David did know about her child.

Fourthly, there was the Benjamin COTTON who married Rebecca TEMPLE in Carisbrooke in 1745. Living in Shalcombe, they had seven recorded children. Their first, a daughter named Rebekah, was born in 1747 and she married John WHEELER in 1768, in Mottistone. It is possible that this Rebekah had a baby girl, the Rebecca of this article, in 1765, prior to that marriage.

Finally, there are James and Charity COTTON, who not only offer a good fit geographically but they also provide a possible answer to the question as to how Rebecca might have supported herself when she moved to Newport. If James and Charity were Rebecca's parents, then she would

have had a brother who was living in Newport in the 1780s, who could have provided a home for her.

James COTTON married Charity FRY in December 1750 in Shalfleet (a parish adjacent to Brook and Mottistone). They had five boys baptised in Brook between 1752 and 1760 and then William in 1768. While it is not unheard of for a couple to have six children, all boys, it is nevertheless very unusual. There was that long gap in baptisms between 1760 and 1768 and they might have had Rebecca in 1765 and for their own reasons, not had her baptised. Curiously too, the baptismal records for the first five children just mention James COTTON and it was only William's baptism in 1768 that recognised both James and Charity as the parents.

Their first-born, another James, married Ann WAY. The Banns were read in Brook, the third reading being on 11th October 1778 but they married in Newport on Tuesday, 13th. Over the following years, they had a short-lived Abraham, followed by a John, an Andrew and another Abraham. For these boys, only the father James was recorded as the parent. There was also Ann baptised in 1781 and a Rebecca, for whom there is no baptismal record but she was buried in Newport on 18th September 1789. James and Ann COTTON were her recorded parents.

The records for James and Charity's other five boys show that those who married did so on the west of the Island. But if James and Charity were indeed Rebecca's parents, their first-born James and his wife Ann would surely have provided support for when Rebecca moved to Newport.

We will never know for sure who Rebecca's parents and siblings were; but I suggest that James and Charity are the most likely or maybe Benjamin and Rebecca.

In any event, it was probably in 1789, nine years after her father had died and her mother re-married, that Rebecca COTTON relocated to Newport. She went there unmarried and she had lost her baby boy. The few records that we have of Rebecca's life in Newport will be explored in the November Journal.

Information Sources - Richard SMOUT and his team at the Isle of Wight County Record Office have been particularly helpful; also, the searchable databases of the IWFHS.

Tony MILES-PROUTEN (IWFHS Member: 3137)

Email: tonymilesprouten@hotmail.co.uk

Help Wanted

ATKINS family in Isle of Wight and Hampshire

I am seeking any knowledge, information or advice as to how to proceed further, about part of my family who lived in Freshwater between 1643 (or possibly earlier) and circa 1750.

The timeline is as follows:

James ATKINS: (1643-1723), born and died in Freshwater.

Two brothers:

Edward birth unknown - died in Freshwater 1690

Thomas 1640-1694 - born and died in Dorset.

James married Elizabeth WOODMAN who was born in 1657 in Alverstoke, Hampshire and died 1735 in Sheerness, Kent.

Their children - all born and died in Freshwater and in the Parish Records, some deaths unknown.

James (1680-1692)

Eleanor (1681-1682)

John (1) (1681-?)

Mary (1682-?)

Edward (1685-1743)

Ann (1686-?)

John (2) (1688-1770)

David (1690-1764)

Elizabeth (1694-?)

And lastly, my direct ancestor

James ATKINS born 1696 in Freshwater and died 23rd October 1761 in Sheerness.

He married Betty STARES who was born in 1698 in Rowner, Gosport, Hampshire and died in 1781 in Sheerness.

One of their sons, David ATKINS was born in 1740 in Alverstoke and died in 1822 in Sheerness.

Hints from *Ancestry*. have indicated that the father of the first James ATKINS was William ATKINS, born, lived and died in Corsham, Wiltshire the connections seem to stack up.

However, given the transport difficulties in the 17th Century, I find it difficult to believe that he would have travelled to and lived in such a remote place from his home in Wiltshire, to Freshwater and for his son to have been born there. Did he own land there or was there some other reason for a move - if, indeed, he even made it?

James, James and David were all shipwrights, working initially in Portsmouth, the latter two moving to Sheerness upon promotion.

It would seem, therefore, that the first James, born in Freshwater, must have had family connections locally. However, I cannot find anything in the Parish Records, despite those records showing much of the ATKINS family in and about the area from 1643 onwards. That would imply that the Wiltshire connection is true.

Does that confirm the *Ancestry* suggestion that there were no ATKINS Family in Freshwater prior to 1643 or am I missing something? If so, how do I proceed further?

Any help, local knowledge or guidance would be greatly appreciated.

Sir Robert ATKINS (IWFHS Member: 3528)

Email: ratsmep@sir-robertatkins.org

Are Our Emails Going Astray?

When you email one of the Committee members (see inside front cover) or one of the Non-Committee Officers (see page 3) in some cases you should receive their automated out of office response. You will then receive a reply as soon as possible. If you are not receiving an out of office response and/or a reply to your email within a reasonable time, please check your spam/junk email folder. Also check that your email program is not blacklisting emails sent by us.

New and Returning Members

It is courteous to respond to any messages from other members but please do check your Junk / Spam folders regularly as we have had reports that some messages passing between members have been flagged as Spam.

Only IOW surname interests will be listed in Journals.

- 3804 Mrs Jackie NEWBOLD
40 Mountfield Road, Wroxall, Ventnor Isle of Wight PO38 3BX
NEWBOLD IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 3838 Ms Ginny ROSS; **Email:** vross.1@bigpond.com
CROCKER IOW All Areas All Centuries
JEANES IOW All Areas All Centuries
MACKETT IOW All Areas All Centuries
WARREN IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 3872 Mr Andrew LONGLEY & Mrs Kathy LONGLEY
Email: kathylongley@hotmail.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)
- 6083 Ms Helen Lilian PRESSLAND; **Email:** hellbell@talk21.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7060 Mr Jim LEWIS; **Email:** jlewis3815@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7062 Mrs Vicky SWAN; **Email:** vickyswan251@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7069 Mr Ian DUNBAR; **Email:** ian.w.dunbar@gmail.com
DUNBAR IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 7071 Mrs Kay BOWYER; **Email:** kayandpaul5@btinternet.com
ARNOLD IOW All Areas All Centuries
MURSELL IOW All Areas All Centuries
NORMINGTON IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 7072 Ms Kerry Ann MARTINI; **Email:** kerryamartini@gmail.com
AMOS IOW All Areas 18th-19th Centuries
- 7084 Mrs Jacqueline GAINOR; **Email:** j.gainor@btopenworld.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7086 Ms Fee BERRY; **Email:** caliandris@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)

- 7087 Mrs Lin WATTERSON; **Email:** wattersonlin@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7089 Dr Christine FARMER; **Email:** ttbluebottle@hotmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7090 Mr Roland LOCK; **Email:** rolandlock50@gmail.com
LOCK IOW All Areas 16th-19th Centuries
- 1310 Mrs Yvonne ALLEN; **Email:** yvonneallenmail51@gmail.com
DENHAM IOW All Areas All Centuries
VAUGHAN IOW All Areas All Centuries
WEARNE IOW All Areas All Centuries
WHITEWOOD IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 7095 Adrian DEE; **Email:** jad3631@gmail.com
(no IOW research interests yet received)
- 7096 Mr Julian BAKER; Email: julian.baker3@ntlworld.com
ARNOLD IOW Newchurch 17th-19th Centuries
Ryde 17th-19th Centuries
BAKER IOW Newchurch 17th-19th Centuries
Arreton, Godshill 17th-19th Centuries
Ryde, Bonchurch 17th-19th Centuries
Binstead 17th-19th Centuries
DAISH IOW St Helens, Ryde 17th-19th Centuries
Newchurch 17th-19th Centuries
Arreton 17th-19th Centuries
SALTER IOW Binstead 17th-19th Centuries
East Cowes 17th-19th Centuries

Some Useful Addresses

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on TUESDAYS)

26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

Email: record.office@iow.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Record-Office/>

Isle of Wight Register Office

Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2QS

Email: registrars@iow.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Democratic-and-Registration-Services/Registration-of-Births-Deaths-Marriages-and-Civil/>

Bembridge Heritage Society

Website: <http://www.bembridgeheritage.org.uk/>

Brading Community Archive

Website: <https://www.bradingcommunityarchive.com/>

Freshwater and Totland Archive Group

Website: <http://www.fatag.co.uk/>

Friends of East Cowes Cemetery

Website: <https://www.friendsofeastcowes.co.uk/>

Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

Website: <https://foncc.org.uk/>

Friends of Northwood Cemetery

Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

The Isle of Wight History Centre

Website: <https://www.iwhistory.org.uk/>

Ryde Social Heritage Group

Website: <https://www.rshg.org.uk/>

Shalfleet Local and Family History Sources

Website: <http://www.sources.shalfleet.net/>

Ventnor Heritage Centre

Website: <https://ventnorheritage.org.uk/>

Family History Federation

Website: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>

The National Archives

Website: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>



ISSN 1356-8256