



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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

August 2024

Number 154

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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 = £2; non-members = £3

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 2 nd September	Renewing the Minster – Newport	Hannah GRIFFITHS
Thursday 5 th September	Visit to Farringford House and Gardens See page 49	
Monday 7 th October	The Auxiliary Unit of the Home Guard on the Isle of Wight	Sam BILES
Monday 4 th November	<i>subject to be announced</i>	Hazel PULLEN
Monday 2 nd December	<i>subject to be announced</i> <i>Plus social gathering</i>	Geoff ALLAN

*We are also planning more workshops at the Heritage Resource Centre
Check the website for dates and themes*

For an up-to-date list of future events go to:
www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events

2024 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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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 May edition of this Journal had very few articles. I had to republish several articles in the series Island Parishes. You will see from the contents page that this quarter there are no Island Parish articles. I may have to use them in future Journals.

Thank you, if your article appears in the following pages. I already have at least one article for the November Journal. New articles are always wanted.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)

Journal Editor

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Due to technical issues and illness, there may be some unresolved errors in the text which have not been corrected by our proof-reading team.

Apologies - Geoff Allan, Chairman

Cover Photograph

A colour postcard of Shanklin beach.

Non-Committee Officers

BMD Index Coordinator: Jon MATTHEWS

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Inquest Project Coordinator: Tony BEVIS

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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

Elsewhere in this Journal I have given detailed responses to comments and issues raised at the Conference and AGM in May, so I won't repeat any of those messages here but at our recent Committee meeting we continued the discussion on the options open to us regarding the dates and timings for the AGM and Conference.

Essentially, since our Constitution states it, we hold our AGM in May (we would have to change the Constitution to hold it at another date), but we now consider that we could hold the AGM as a short meeting outside of the Conference and move the Conference itself to later in the year – say September. This would make the programme for the Conference more flexible allowing more time for visitors to view displays and give the speakers a bit more time as well. As 2025 marks our 40th anniversary as a Society, it would also be an opportune time for some sort of celebratory event – we are looking at holding a lunch for “members of a certain age” ie those who can recall the early meetings in Ryde (Athena House and the Adelaide Centre). Let us have your views on these proposals.

We have received some comments that information on the website can be difficult to locate, so we will be looking at re-arranging, or making more prominent, certain aspects of the presentation. There is a website Site Map (see <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/website-site-map>) and we do encourage people to explore the many options on the drop-down menus at the top of the screens. In addition, you can use the Search functionality (<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/site-search>) to find specific phrases or words, and the surname search at the top of the screen to explore our database holdings. Finally, we have started to give detailed information on updates to webpages and database content – see <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/detail-news> (recent additions are tabulated on the next page). If you do get lost, just email us for help.

I plan to cover more aspects of this in workshop sessions at the Heritage Resource Centre in Cowes in the upcoming months – see the website Events page for more details as we firm up dates.

Other plans include improving the records we hold about Cemetery burials and implementing the database of biographical details of the many thousands of Royal Naval personnel from the Island who served in the 19th Century (Indexes sourced from The National Archives). We are also contributing to the family trees held on the Pedigree Index, based on material donated to us over the years.

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

Website Updates to databases and pages since May

4 June 2024	Added another batch of transcripts from the Guardians of the Poor Minute Books from 20 Sep 1844 to 25 Oct 1844 (thanks to Rosemary STEWART)
4 June 2024	Added another batch of transcripts from the Guardians of the Poor Minute Books from 22 Dec 1848 to 29 Mar 1849 (thanks to Derek OSBOURN)
4 June 2024	Completed the updated entries for Sandown Christ Church burials (Section 12-14) (carried on from Sections 1 to 11) (thanks to Sue SAMWAYS)
1 May 2024	Added BMD Announcements from the County Press July - August 1896 (continuing the series 1896-1900 to fill in gaps) (thanks to Debbie PLEDGE)
15 June 2024	Added scan of Central Hampshire Lay Subsidy Assessments 1558 - 1603, by Douglas F VICK (1987) An extract of the entries from this work, concentrating on those for the Isle of Wight (searchable PDF)
15 June 2024	Added scan of article from the Hampshire Field Club: Haydn's visit to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (1894) from contemporary sources, by Betty MATTHEWS
13 June 2024	Added scan of article from the Hampshire Field Club: Osborne, Isle of Wight, and the families who have held it, by Dr J GROVES, (1893)
8 June 2024	Added scan of article from the Hampshire Field Club: Genealogical and other notes relating to the DE ESTUR family of the Isle of Wight
28 May 2024	Added scan of article from the Hampshire Field Club: Hampshire Writers, by C.H. WILKINSON (1953)
26 May 2024	Added schematic plan of Bembridge Holy Trinity Churchyard burials (and some transcriptions of the Inscriptions based on work done for Bembridge Heritage Society)
18 May 2024	Added scan of article from the Hampshire Field Club: Early Hampshire Printers, by F.A. EDWARDS

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 were able to come along to our monthly speaker meetings. We are delighted to see Members at our workshops and visits of interest too. As ever, your suggestions are helpful in deciding the future programme.

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? You can up-date your membership record with the new address - we will need it to contact you. You will then be able to use your new email address to log into your account. You can also change your postal address or other contact details if required.

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. Nothing else is required to access the Members' area.

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

How to change your email address and/or your password

- Open the IOWFHS Web site in your browser.
- Log in using your current(old email and password)
- Open the MyAccount menu and select Personal Details
- Make changes as necessary:
 - Enter your NEW email Address.
 - And/or Enter a new password and confirm it.
- Scroll to the bottom and click submit.



Next time you log in, use the new email address and/or password.

<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/self-service-user-guide-part-3-personal-details>

Obituaries

Michael CANT (IWFHS Member: 3214) who died on 23rd February 2024 was my 6th cousin on my maternal grandmother's side of my family. The following obituary was written by his twin brother Barry.

Michael CANT, 13th June 1944 to 23rd February 2024.

Michael and his twin brother Barry were born on 13th June 1944, 4 years before the NHS was formed. Their parents had to pay for the maternity service at St Mary's Hospital Newport. The twins were the youngest of eight children and the only ones born in hospital, most likely because of complications of being twins and their mother then aged 37 was considered old to have children in 1944. Michael was the elder twin to Barry by 2 minutes and was born at 4:40pm.

They lived in Prospect Road, Newport, which had the nickname "incubator alley" because of the vast amount of children born there after the war.

In 1949 they started school in a temporary boy's class at the girls' school in Upper St James Street, Newport. The class was held in the dentist's room because there were not enough places at the boys' schools due to the high birth rate at the end of the war.

They then moved to Nine Acres School, Newport, after watching it being built. The next move was to Barton Infants School in 1953, then to National School, West Street, Newport in 1955. Finally Priory Boys School Carisbrooke, in September 1955 until leaving school in 1959.

Michael's first job in 1959 was at Readers lampshade factory Cowes, spot welding. In December 1959 he started at Leigh Thomas and Co Ltd, Pan Mill, Newport, (lorry driver's mate). In June 1962 he started at Mew Langton Brewery, Newport, as a brewing cellar worker. In 1962 he joined the Royal Artillery (Territorial Army), Newport. He enjoyed many years taking part in this.

In January 1963 he started at Isle of Wight, Cast Concrete Ltd, Newport (plant and vehicle fitter). In 1975 he moved to J Valvona, Scrap Metal Merchants, Ryde (HGV mechanic). In 1977 he worked at Frank Cheverton, the main Ford dealer in Newport as a mechanic. His last place of work was at St Mary's Hospital, Newport where he did several different jobs: gardening team, transport, then stores until he retired at 65.

Michael's first marriage took place on 1st August 1964 at All Saints, Ryde to Patrica Joyce LONG. They had two sons, Geoffrey and Lee. They were divorced after 26 years together.

He then married June Hazel HUDSTON at Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport on 24th July 1993 and they divorced on 20th May 2002.

Michael's third marriage was to Jennifer CORTEZ on 8th April 2008 in the Philippines, they were divorced in 2011.

Barry first started the family tree around 2000 when his interest was sparked by finding that Henry Thomas CANT came from Mount Bures, Essex. Michael took over the family tree in 2001; he put in a tremendous amount of work developing it; he managed to trace it back to William CANT, born in 1718 at Sudbury, Suffolk. It now has 19,007 names and 5,781 families in it. He joined the Isle of Wight Family History Society to help with the task.

Michael passed away on 23rd February 2024 at 00:30 at Earl Mountbatten Hospice with Barry and Michael's sons Geoffrey and Lee present.

Barry CANT (non-member)

Robert TILEY (IWFHS Member (7197) passed away on 17th June 2024. A message of condolence has been sent to his family.

From the Desk in Westward Ho!

I recently paid a fleeting visit to the Island and was able to go to the IWFHS research centre in Northwood. This is a wonderful resource and we are very lucky to have it. Do visit if you get the chance, better still, volunteer to help with one of the Society's projects. Thanks go to the wonderful volunteers who keep this facility running.

As this journal goes to print, I will be about to start another run of my online Writing your Family History course <https://www.pharostutors.com/are-you-sitting-comfortably-writing-and-telling-your-family-history>. It is always satisfying to help others tell their family's story but each time it reminds me how much of my own family history needs to be recorded. I think the main message is don't wait until your research is 'finished' as that day never comes. In the meantime, I am sure that our Editor would love to consider Isle of Wight related stories for publication.

There are two exciting international events on the horizon that you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home. The first is All About that Place, which runs from 27th September to 6th October. This takes the form of a wide range of ten-minute online talks, on the broad theme of places in family history. This was a huge success last year with something for everyone and is free to attend. You can find out more here

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/663b93af5837490008271c44/description>

The next event isn't until October but do put this in your diaries or register now. It is the second Youth Conference, to be held online on 5th October, which showcases an exciting range of young family history speakers from across the globe.

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/66141a9f1fce380008a49ebe/description?ticket=66141a9f1fce380008a49ebf>

There is no age restriction for the audience and it is important to encourage the next generation of family historians, while we listen to high quality presentations. This is a pay what you can event, so it could be free if that's what suits your budget. The important thing is to show your support even if you can only drop in for one or two of the sessions.

Finally, a plea to return to neglected research at intervals. We have so many ancestors that it is inevitable that some research will be dormant for a while, in my case a very long while. I recently went to Kresen Kernow, the Cornish archives. 'Have you been here before?' I was asked. 'Yes', I replied confidently. Then had to admit it was in 1978.

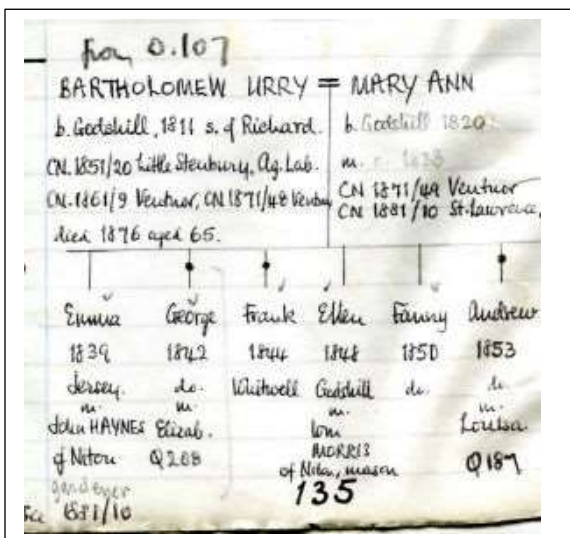
They have moved premises I think three times since then. I was able to look at some interesting documents and get images of parish register entries that I had only been able to copy out on my last visit. Revisiting family history with new eyes always gives a different perspective and sometimes new generations to add. New documents can provide context and additional information.

Occasionally, some tree surgery is required, as we realised that we had jumped to the wrong conclusion on a previous occasion. Fortunately, I did not have to take an axe to my Cornish ancestors. As a bonus, the helpful Local Studies Librarian/Archivist had Isle of Wight ancestry, so we were able to chat about that.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com



Part of a large quantity of URRY family tree material we have had for some time, which we are hoping to transcribe. Let us know if you would like to help.

John HUMBER of Niton and His Extended Family

Based on a Talk by Kevin TOWNER on 5th February 2024

My 2x great grandfather John HUMBER was baptised on 7th March 1802 at St Peter's, Shorwell. His parents were George HUMBER and Hannah EDMONDS who were married on 28th October 1793 at St Olave's, Gatcombe. The HUMBER ancestral line can be traced back for another three generations, possibly to the first recorded mention of the HUMBER family on the Isle of Wight, when Richard HUMBER and Elizabeth EAMES, "servants to Farmer KERVILL of Chillerton in Caresbrook prsh (*sic*)" were married at St John the Baptist's, Northwood on 5th April 1702. The KERVILL farmhouse at Chillerton is still standing and is marked on the current OS map.

The church at Gatcombe where John's parents were married was originally built to serve as the chapel for the adjoining manor house, owned by the WORSLEY family. John's father George seems to have been employed as an ag lab working on the Worsley family estates. In an 1833 application for Poor Relief, George HUMBER states that he was born at Billingham in the parish of Shorwell and that his last yearly hiring was at Chillerton Farm. He further states that he had six surviving children (*one of whom was John; two further children died in infancy*).

Nothing is known of John HUMBER's early years but like his father, he probably started work in his teens as an ag lab on various farms in the 'Back of the Wight'. He next appears in the records when John HUMBER, bachelor, married Harriet ARTHUR, widow, on 10th July 1828 at St John the Baptist's, Niton. At the time, John was aged 26 and his new wife Harriet was aged 24. As well as a wife, John also acquired three children.

Harriet ARTHUR was the widow of Isaac ARTHUR. Harriet's maiden name was also ARTHUR and Isaac was her second cousin. They were married at Niton on 26th September 1822 when Harriet was aged 18. The extended ARTHUR family were well-known farmers in and around the Niton area. Harriet had two children with Isaac ARTHUR: John, baptised on 20th October 1822 (*3 weeks after their marriage*.); and Henry, baptised on 22nd January 1826. In addition, Harriet had an 'adopted' son, William ARTHUR, who was baptised on 1st February 1824 and was the illegitimate son of Ann ARTHUR, Harriet's sister, who had died shortly afterwards, age 22. Harriet's first husband Isaac ARTHUR was buried at Niton on 7th May 1826, age 23, leaving Harriet as a widow with three young children.

Following their marriage, John and Harriet HUMBER had six children of their own: Jane, baptised on 12th October 1828 (*2 months after their marriage*); George, baptised on 23rd January 1831; Edward, baptised on 30th April 1834; Emily, baptised on 12th January 1840; Charles, baptised on 1st May 1842; and Louisa, baptised on 22nd June 1845, all at St John the Baptist's, Niton.



The 1839 Tithe Map and Apportionment for Niton shows John HUMBER to be the tenant of a cottage and garden, situated just north of the village centre in what is now called Lacey's Lane, as well as a portion of agricultural land called Jobson's Mead on the Newport Road. The cottage (pictured on the left) in Lacey's Lane is still there today.

John HUMBER must have been a literate man as his occupation is given as "Parish Clerk" when his daughter Emily was baptised on 12th January 1840. John continued in the role of Parish Clerk for the rest of his life. In the 1841 Census, John and his expanding family were resident at "Beards", Niton, which appears to have been a cluster of cottages occupied by ag labs that formed part of a farm on the Newport Road, so was probably the same cottage in Lacey's Lane that he was tenancing in the 1839 Tithe Apportionment.

In the 1851 Census, John and his family had moved to Church Place, Niton (*opposite the entrance to the churchyard*) and John's occupation is listed as "gardener".



A major event in Niton in the mid-1840s was the auction of the Knowles Farm Estate on 29th October 1845. Ownership was subsequently transferred to the KIRKPATRICK family on 2nd December 1851. The KIRKPATRICK family were bankers in Newport and had landholdings in various parts of the Island. Their land at Knowles Farm,

situated on the cliff next to St Catherine's Lighthouse, was quite inaccessible and suitable only for farming, but it may have been their ownership which provided a new employment opportunity for John as a gardener and improved accommodation for his family. Shortly after ownership of the Estate was transferred, John HUMBER and his family

moved to live in a cottage at Knowles Farm (pictured above). John's cottage is now owned by The National Trust and is available to rent on a weekly basis.

John HUMBER, parish clerk, died on 8th January 1858, age 55, in his cottage at Knowles Farm and was buried 2 days later at St John the Baptist's, Niton. No surviving gravestone has been found, but most of the stones in the churchyard from this period have been moved to the edge of the churchyard (some have been used to form the surface of footpaths) and many of the inscriptions are badly worn and illegible.

In the 1861 Census, Harriet HUMBER (age 59, widow) was still living in the cottage at Knowles Farm with her two youngest children, Charles and Louisa. In the adjoining cottage was her son Edward, age 27, gardener (*presumably he had taken over his late father's employment*), together with Edward's new wife Fanny and their first child, Fanny Louisa.

Harriet HUMBER, widow of John HUMBER, gardener, died on 1st June 1867, age 65, at Knowles Farm and was buried 4 days later at St John the Baptist's, Niton, probably with or near her late husband. The death was registered by Harriet's son Edward HUMBER, who remained working as a gardener at Knowles Farm until his own death on 1st July 1900.

Apart from Edward, the rest of John and Harriet's children (*the other five of their own, plus the three ARTHUR children that 'came' with Harriet*) moved away from Niton, either following marriage or to seek new employment opportunities. Brief details of the children's subsequent lives are as follows:



John ARTHUR married Francis MORRIS on 10th December 1846 at St Mary's, Carisbrooke. The couple were resident at St Helen's Farm, St Helen's, in the 1851 Census. Sometime between 1851 and 1861, John separated from his wife (who eloped with a railway porter called Henry GLADDIS). John lived for the rest of his life at Ventnor, where he had interests in several properties in North Street and South Street. From 1881 he was living with his widowed sister-in-law Sarah ARTHUR as housekeeper (*the widow of*

his 'adopted' brother William; see below). John ARTHUR, gardener, died on 31st December 1903 at Hyacinth Cottage, North Street, Ventnor and was buried on 5th January 1904 in Ventnor Cemetery.

William ARTHUR seems to have found employment as a servant. In the 1861 census he was a general servant in the household of Andrew GATHER, the Rector of Chale. On 25th May 1869, William ARTHUR, then a “labourer servant” resident at Shalfleet, married Sarah WIGLEY at St Mary’s, Hornsey, Middlesex. He gives his father’s name as Isaac ARTHUR, which wasn’t strictly accurate as he was an illegitimate child who was ‘adopted’ by Isaac and Harriet ARTHUR as an infant.

In the 1871 Census, William ARTHUR was a lodging housekeeper living with his new wife Sarah and his mother-in-law Elizabeth WIGLEY at Landscape House, Carisbrooke Street, Carisbrooke. William was buried on 23rd November 1878, age 54, at Carisbrooke Cemetery. His widow Sarah became John ARTHUR’s housekeeper (*see above*); she died on 18th November 1913 at Ventnor, age 83, and was buried on 21st November 1913 in Carisbrooke Cemetery adjacent to her late husband William.

Henry ARTHUR was resident in 1841 at Niton with his stepfather John HUMBER and mother Harriet. He is listed in the Census as Henry HUMBER, age 15. No further definite records have been found for a Henry ARTHUR or a Henry HUMBER on the Isle of Wight. It seems that he may have moved to the mainland, joined the army or navy, or emigrated. There’s always a brick wall remaining to break down.

Jane HUMBER became a domestic servant, initially to Susan HUTCHINSON, a widow living at 10 John Street, Ryde. Sometime before 1865 she moved to London, where she married Walter Jacob COLENUTT on 14th February 1865 at St Mary’s, Lambeth. Although Walter was born and baptised in Brixton, the COLENUTT family originated from the Isle of Wight and members of the extended family were living at Niton next door to the HUMBER family in the 1841 Census. Walter Jacob COLENUTT, master carpenter, died on 4th June 1906, age 67, at 13 Harpwyne Street, Stockwell. Jane COLENUTT, née HUMBER, died on 8th December 1908, age 80, at 6 Vinning Street, Brixton.

George HUMBER (my great grandfather) found employment as a horse-drawn cabman and moved to Portsmouth where he married Harriett LUTHER on 16th November 1859 at All Saints, Portsea. Following their marriage, George and Harriett returned to Ryde where George worked as a coachman for the York Hotel, George Street, presumably bringing hotel customers and their luggage up the hill from Ryde Pier to the hotel.

Sadly, George had a brush with the authorities and appeared at the Ryde Borough Police Court on 27th August 1874 charged with stealing a quantity

of horse corn from his employer. Details of the case can be found in local newspaper reports. George pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 3 weeks in prison with hard labour. Harriett, with six children to support, was forced to seek financial help and the Poor Relief Records include an entry dated 2nd September 1874 stating that relief of 19s 6d was granted to “Harriett HUMBER, age 42, of 25 Prince Street, Husband in Gaol, 6 children”.

Following his brief period of incarceration, George resumed employment as a cabman in Ryde until he died on 15th June 1894, age 63, at 1 Albert Street, Ryde; he was buried on 19th June 1894 at Ryde Old Cemetery. Harriett continued to reside at 1 Albert Street where she let out rooms and



worked as a laundress. Harriett HUMBER died on 31st January 1917, age 83, and was buried in the same grave as her late husband and (subsequently) several of their children at Ryde Old Cemetery.

Edward HUMBER married Fanny SPRAKE on 3rd January 1860 at St George's, Arreton. The couple remained living at Knowles Farm Cottage, Niton, for the rest of their lives, where they had nine children. They may have been members of the congregation at St Catherine's Baptist Chapel, Niton, and several of their children were married there. Edward HUMBER, a domestic gardener of Knowles Cottage, Niton, died on 1st July 1900, age 66, at the Royal Infirmary, Ryde. Fanny HUMBER died on 22nd December 1911, age 72, at Knowles Cottage, Niton. No formal record of the burial of either Edward or Fanny has been found to date, but one possibility is that they were interred in the burial ground at St Catherine's Baptist Chapel.

Emily HUMBER married John BARCHARD on 21st October 1858 at All Saints, Freshwater. John came from a family of lighthouse keepers and was himself employed as a lighthouse keeper on The Needles Lighthouse in the early 1860s while Emily was living ashore with their first child at Ryde. In the mid-1860s John was promoted to be Principal Keeper at

Portland Bill Lighthouse on the mainland where the couple lived with their (by then) two children in the cottages attached to the lighthouse.

Tragically, Emily BARCHARD died at the age of 27 and was buried on 28th April 1867 in the burial ground at St George's, Portland. Shortly afterwards, Emily's younger sister Louisa HUMBER (*see below*) came to Portland to act as John's housekeeper and look after the two young children. John BARCHARD, retired lighthouse keeper, died at Portland on 27th May 1922, age 98, and was buried on 30th May 1922 at St George's burial ground, probably with his late wife Emily, but no gravestone has been located.

Charles HUMBER, age 45, gardener, married Fanny INGRAM, age 40, domestic servant, on 1st February 1888 at Holy Trinity, Ventnor. In the 1881 Census, Fanny was a domestic servant in the household of Cornelius NICHOLSON, JP, at Ashleigh House, Ventnor, where perhaps Charles HUMBER was employed as the gardener. In 1891 the couple were resident at St Catherine Street, Ventnor, but subsequently moved to Wood Street, Ryde. Fanny died age 55 and was buried on 19th September 1899 at Ryde New Cemetery. Charles HUMBER died age 81 and was buried on 30th January 1924 at Ashy Cemetery, Ryde.

Louisa HUMBER never married and in 1861 was still living with her widowed mother Harriet at Knowles Cottage, Niton. In 1871 she was working as a housekeeper for her recently widowed brother-in-law John BARCHARD at Portland Bill Lighthouse (*see above*). When the two young BARCHARD children were old enough to look after themselves, Louisa moved to London where she worked as a cook and a housemaid for a wealthy widow, Margaret YOUNG, at 69 St James' Road, Lambeth. Following the death of her employer in 1892, Louisa found new employment as a domestic servant and moved to Grantchester, near Cambridge. Louisa HUMBER died on 22nd January 1897, age 53, at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Thus, perhaps rather typically for the times, of the nine children born at Niton that comprised the extended family of John and Harriet HUMBER, only one (*Edward*) remained in adult life at Niton, with the remaining eight all leaving for pastures new. Times were changing and things would never be quite the same in this small village at the 'Back of the Wight' again.

Kevin TOWNER (IWFHS Member 3173)

Email: kevin.towner@btinternet.com

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**Held at Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport
On 4th May 2024 at 11.45 a.m.**

Confidential

One Day Conference Feedback

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Thomas' Church, Ryde

Talk to the One Day Conference – by Tim WANDER

St Thomas' Church and its south 'memorial garden of rest' sits in the very middle of Ryde and the High Street with a commanding position over the town. But it is often missed by many and possibly has been forgotten by most. St Thomas' Church was the first in Ryde.

A travel 'guide' book from 1849 stated: *"The Church was erected as a chapel of ease to the parish church of Newchurch, six miles distant. The original chapel, built in 1719 was replaced in 1827 by the present elegant structure, with a well-proportioned bell tower surmounted by a spire. This beautiful church was built at the expense of Mr George Player, the Lord of the Manor."*

By marriage, ownership of the church passed to the BRIGSTOCKE family who continued to meet the running costs for many years. Eventually the spire became unsafe and was removed in 1947. After George BRIGSTOCKE, the last Lord of the Manor, died the final service was held and the church closed in 1959. Many PLAYERS and BRIGSTOCKES are buried in the vaults under the church and are commemorated on memorials inside the church.

After the church closed, it was neglected for many years and fell into a sad state of disrepair. The walls became overgrown with ivy and the graveyard with weeds. In the 1970s, vandals broke into the church and caused terrible damage. In the late 1980s restoration work was carried out to enable the building to become a community, heritage and cultural centre. Sadly, when the building was restored, the graveyard was turned into the garden of rest and many headstones were broken and used as part of the paving beneath the seats.

For unknown reasons by 2015 the church had again been abandoned and quickly started to suffer from serious decay, especially when the roof failed, allowing severe water ingress and causing much damage. Purchased by Ryde Town Council in 2021, new roofing works began and a project was conceived to not only restore, renovate and conserve the church but also sympathetically convert it to become a community hub for disadvantaged children and a home for Network Ryde. The main works have all been funded by Central Government, not costing hard pressed Ryde residents a penny.

Before any work could begin there were some six months of planning, listed building consent, quotes, designs and redesign, planning permission and even negotiations with the diocese who still, despite the

church having been delisted and 'sold-off' in 1959, continue to hold sway over legal aspects concerning its use.

A complex tendering process was undertaken and work began in earnest in June 2023 with a 13-month completion date – a highly ambitious timescale. The decision was made not to hand the project over to a single large contractor but to use, wherever possible, Island based companies and bring them together as a team under a single Project Manager working with the Ryde Town Council team to deliver the project on time and in budget.

Of course, it was never going to be plain sailing – old buildings always have a knack of surprising you – and usually not in a good way...But the project also afforded Island Historians Jo THORNTON and Tim WANDER the opportunity to research the church in detail, including accessing both catacombs and crypt for the first time in 160 years to undertake formal structural (and historical) surveys, while building and restoration work went on all around.

So, the big plan was to provide a safe, warm, welcoming, and confidential space in which young people can spend time with their friends and meet new people. With financial management plans, project planning and reporting tools in place it was an interesting day when the new project started in March 2023 with the removal of the three 1883 stained glass windows for full restoration. Alongside this the original clock, built in 1825 for the new church, was stripped down and rebuilt and its face repainted. Both came home in March 2024.

The project ethos was always to undertake a sympathetic conversion, restoration and some conservation of the building to meet the needs of Network Ryde into the 21st Century, while still retaining the heritage and history of the original building. It is always a fine line between preserving the past and securing parts of an historic listed building, while also recognising that it has a new role to perform and this needs to be in a safe and secure environment.

But a new chapter has been written in the church's history by the addition of new efficient and purpose designed heating system (the first in nearly 200 years) and new flexible LED lighting systems. The whole building has been fully rewired, with comprehensive security, fire alarms and CCTV system also installed. The surviving pew areas have also been utilised as high-speed internet and computer access. The new church, a church for the 21st century, now has modern fully accessible showers and toilets with washing and drying facilities. It also has a large purpose-built kitchen area that offers the opportunity to learn and also cook lunch.

It was decided that the upper balcony, which still has its original pews and the two sets of children's pews would not be accessible for anyone outside Network Ryde staff for safety reasons - but this area does offer the team a huge amount of much needed storage space – especially for Duke of Edinburgh equipment.

Within the project, funding was included to allow the church plaques and memorials to be conserved and cleaned, the stained-glass windows and clock to be fully restored. The William and Mary coat of arms and the 1719 Thomas PLAYER plaque and surround along with two sea chests, funeral brier was also conserved by a specialist historic restorer. These are now on display at Ryde Museum.

A huge task at the start of the project was to replace the roof, repair the water damaged ceiling and add proper levels of insulation. The water damage was to cause constant problems for the entire duration of the project even requiring the insertion of structural steel where water ingress had rotted timbers – found just ten weeks before completion date.

The team members also have a new front office facility and reversing the original front doors and installing a new glass wall behind them has brought a small piece of the 21st century to the church design. The new roof also supports new solar panels and a lightning protection system, invisible from ground level, but also bringing the church firmly into a new age.

One major project was that the 'original' current floor had two dropped aisles which needed to be filled in along with trenches created by a previous (failed) heating system - so the floor has had extensive works to provide a flat surface and gentle ramps for both mobility access and safety. After all the construction works efforts, the whole building has been fully redecorated – again mixing original colours in the old church areas with a more modern but hopefully restrained pallet in the new.

The project has also significantly improved the external image of the church with stonework and frame repairs, repointing, louvre restoration, new gates, railings (to replace those taken in 1940 for 'war efforts'), a new patio area and discrete external lighting. The north graveyard was cleared and a new area created for the children. The south memorial gardens have been cleared and power sockets installed for outdoor events.

The new are due to move in during late June 2024 and we consider it to be a unique combination of the old and the new and a rare opportunity to utilise and reuse an amazing space for the community for decades to come.

Tim WANDER (non-member)

Project Manager St Thomas' Church for Network Ryde.

CWGC Burials on the Island

Talk by Gary NEWMAN to the One Day Conference

Gary NEWMAN, a former submariner, is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) volunteer, engaged in their speakers' programme, and also as one of the Eyes On, Hands On (EOHO) volunteers who monitor graves designated as 'War Graves' on behalf of the CWGC for those personnel buried on the Isle of Wight.

Most people are aware of the CWGC, created as the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1917 on the initiative of Sir Fabian WARE. Prior to World War I, the burial and commemoration of fallen war dead was haphazard, to say the least. During the First World War, the policy was to NOT repatriate the bodies of those who died overseas, despite some strong protests from grieving relatives, including members of the Royal Family.

Sir Fabian WARE, working for the Red Cross, initiated a programme of recording the locations of burials, and this work was formalised by the creation of the Directorate of Graves, Registration and Enquires in 1915, and thence the IWGC in 1917. The title was changed from Imperial to Commonwealth in 1960 to reflect the changing position of the UK and the Commonwealth. The CWGC is a multi-national body established with the six member governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and the UK. Its function is to permanently record and commemorate all service personnel who died whilst in service or if discharged, can be attributed to that war service during the 2 World Wars of the 20th Century.

More details can be found on the CWGC website at:

<https://www.cwgc.org/who-we-are/>

On the Isle of Wight, there are 6 EOHO Volunteers covering 46 sites, with 453 recognised war graves.

Those buried belong to the Armed Forces of the 6 countries mentioned, as well as recognised Auxiliary Services, the Merchant Marine and the Merchant Navy. The dates of death cover the periods 4th August 1914–31st August 1921 and 3rd September 1939–31st December 1947. The closing dates represent the dates agreed upon by the 6 member governments and reflect the signing of all peace treaties with enemy nations, rather than commonly accepted dates such as Armistice Day, VE-Day and VJ-Day.

The Island volunteers operate within a national and regional structure to inspect, report, tidy graves and clean (cleaning with ONLY water) the eligible headstones and markers. Here on the Island, there is just one Cross of Sacrifice – at Parkhurst Military Cemetery, no Stones of Remembrance, and no Screen Walls within the remit.

As you visit the Island cemeteries and churchyards you will encounter 3 main types of Grave Marker: Commission headstones, of a standard design regardless of rank or status (usually of Portland stone, sometimes other types of stone such as botticino or granite); Pedestal markers and



Private Memorials accepted as being within the remit.

Some headstones, which look like Commission headstones, are in fact not and therefore not within the remit of the Commission because they are to people who were not members of the recognised Auxiliary Services and obtained privately. Headstones for service personnel who died in peacetime can be recognised by the notches at the top of the stone; these are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (but may be covered by the CWGC by agreement with the MoD)

Private S W UNDERWOOD, a Home Guard member who died in 1943 and is buried in Wroxall Cemetery.

Families have the ‘grave rights’ and the rights to any Private Memorial; the Commission only owns the rights to Commission Headstones or Markers.

Private Memorials on recognised war graves are not repaired or maintained by the CWGC but light gardening around the graves and condition reports are made, by the EOHO Volunteers, as to their condition.



An example of a Private Memorial is that of Lt Charles Talbot BLACK-BARNES, RN who died in Edinburgh in 1919 as a result of injuries sustained. His body was returned for burial in the churchyard of Christ Church, Sandown.

The CWGC deem these Private Memorials to be an adequate commemoration if the Casualty's name is clear and legible. In some cases, however, where the casualty's name has become illegible intervention is required, and in these cases a Pedestal marker (sometimes called a Gallipoli marker, following the style of those used in Gallipoli where ground conditions precluded the installation of the full-size Commission Headstones), are installed.



Pedestal marker installed on the grave space of Sergeant Arthur Richard KING, 1/8th Bn., Hampshire Regiment (Isle of

Wight Rifles), who died in 1918 at Netley Military Hospital.

The kerbstone also names Pte Albert BALL, 2/5th Hants, who died in 1917 and who is buried in Egypt.



Gary also outlined the criteria and procedure to be followed to apply to the CWGC for recognition of personnel who died as a result of their previous war service or enemy action, for both ex-service and civilians. A recent application was successful, to recognise the death of Alfred Robert RACKETT, who was injured in the bombing of Newport in April 1943. He died 5 months later, from wounds attributed to injuries received, but he has only just been recorded as a Civilian War Casualty. Generally speaking, civilian deaths were recorded by local authorities and subsequently passed to the CWGC for commemoration. Local War Memorials are exactly that 'local', they were established by local communities & remain their responsibility.

As an illustration of the potential confusion whether headstones are the responsibility of the CWGC or not, there is a group of graves at East Cowes Cemetery, on the right are 1 Royal Navy Sailor, 1 Army Corporal (RAMC) and 1 member of the Home Guard (CWGC responsibility). On the left are 3 A.R.P. Firewatchers' headstones (not CWGC), all killed in April 1943 during the bombing of Cowes. All have Commission style headstones. However, the Firewatchers' headstones were purchased by the local community.



Most sites on the Island now display the green CWGC plaques indicating that there is one or more CWGC burial in the cemetery or churchyard and work is ongoing to ensure all sites are appropriately signposted.



Further information about the CWGC and the people commemorated can be found using these links

- www.cwgc.org
- www.infromthecold.org
- www.gov.uk/guidance/mod-war-detectives

“In from the cold” is a body which supports the recognition of personnel who died during wartime as being formally accepted as such by the CWGC.

The Society website has databases of War Memorials (including cemeteries and churchyards containing war graves), and War Service Reports which can be searched from these links

- <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/war-memorials-index>
- <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/databases/warservice>

We are always looking to improve our databases – and welcome any contributions about the war services of your relatives, particularly photographs and personal stories

Geoff ALLAN, on behalf of Gary NEWMAN
Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Island Churches and Chapels

Talk to One Day Conference by Sharon BEDDARD and Hazel PULLEN

Hazel: "I started this quest and entitled my first list "Graveyards and Cemeteries". The I had a little wander with husband John around some of the cemeteries on the Island - 12 municipal cemeteries in total. The first one opened in Ryde in 1842. Next came Northwood in 1856. The last one was Sandown in 1926, each one with maps and plans on the bereavement services website. We have some information on important graves, where the relevant records are held, and in what format, be it on our Website or in a paper copy that the Society holds.

We do have some information prior to registration in 1837, based on the records held in our County Records Office. We thought "you know the sort of thing - a few Sundays out and about and we would be finished"

This then grew to what you see today, with my conference debut and Sharon having been here before with the VAD project, which is still going on, with updated personal histories as and when they come to our attention. The thought was I would have a look at all the graveyards, cemeteries, churches and chapels that have been built over the many centuries on our Island.

The story starts after Sharon and I found the cemetery at the top end of Hunnyhill on a 1907 map of Newport, together with a Quaker Mission Church that was known as St Andrew. I personally did not know that other than main churches and some chapels on the Island they could have their own burial grounds. This is now the site of Hannah House a sheltered living accommodation for Islanders, along with a large Quaker Chapel. There were some 30 burials on this site, the last taking place in 1917.

An article in the *Isle of Wight County Press* from 15th February 1991, remarks about the remains thought to date back to the 1700s - these were later exhumed and stored with a local undertaker and then reburied in a small memorial garden attached to Hannah House.

The late Brian GREENING always called the northern part of the town the dead end of Newport. With the Military Cemetery in Forest Road, the Quaker Burial ground on Hunnyhill and the other cemetery up Horsebridge Hill, which was attached to Parkhurst / Albany Barracks, which was behind what is now Island Computers, covered now by a housing site built in the late 1960s.

In the front of the Newport book that we have produced, there is also a list of the monastic houses on the Island, like Appuldurcombe, Barton Priory and one that was found recently by our colleague Lyn JARMAN who works with us on Tuesdays at the Heritage Resource Centre, - St Cross Priory, which was a small cell of the Benedictine Abbey of Tiron, and founded about 1120 to the north of the town of Newport. Some years ago, it was mentioned that this site was now occupied by a viaduct and the railway, sadly now too long gone.

Let us go back to the very beginning, to the very distant past. There were two main waves of English dissent in Elizabethan times. The roots of Congregationalist, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Unitarians all go back to this era of the new groups which emerged from the religious ferment of the mid-17th Century. The Quakers were the most successful. The second wave in the 18th Century onwards consisted of the various branches of Methodism.

Whole families may disappear from the registers of a Presbyterian or Baptist Meeting House and then reemerge a generation later. In the Church of England registers.

The majority of Nonconformist marriages and deaths appear in the Church of England Registers but this is not always true of births and baptisms after an Act in 1680 which gave the Anglican Clergy a financial interest in recording these births and baptisms they began to appear.

Some of the registers for non-conformist can be very difficult to trace and we can only rely on church rolls, Wills and a variety of miscellaneous sources to establish a full pedigree. The records of the Quakers on the other hand are superb. They made duplicate copies of all registrations. One to be held locally and the other centrally. These central registers were kept till 1959 for births and 1961 for deaths. They were held at The Friends House in Euston Road London a complete list of every birth marriage and death from the mid-17th Century to Mid-20th Century. Such a record is probably unrivalled anywhere in the world.

There were according to our Chairman Geoff ALLAN in fact 266 places of worship on the Island ranging in turn from our very own Minster in the centre of Newport, with its burials in Church Litten, to a tin tabernacle on Hale Common near Arreton. When I told him how many I had found, (only 240) this became a definite challenge and Sharon and I love a challenge.

Geoff then found another one, the Mortuary Chapel attached to Osborne House making his total 267. We have I think now found 276, some of which we are still working on.

A short mention of Church Litten which was formed in the 1500s. This was after 200 of the residents of Newport fell ill to the plague; they could not find room for them at the usual burial ground in Carisbrooke so The Litten was formed. The Saxon name for a burial ground is a Litten. I learn something new every day, not to say I can remember these scraps of information but I do try.

This was our challenge to find to find every church, chapel, tabernacle, meeting house and so on. Not forgetting the graveyards attached to some of these churches and the cemeteries that have appeared under the bereavement services heading, along with the relevant plot maps.

This set the ball rolling and with information from so many organisations we set about discovering as much detail as we could for each of these establishments, where they are on the Island, when they opened and when they sadly closed and were converted to houses, shops, restaurants, Cowes Library and Spencer's Rigging workshop in St Mary's Road, Cowes, which we were told held the green goddess fire engines during the 1970s. Some have been sadly demolished leaving no trace but we have provided some old maps on which we hope you can roughly see where these long-demolished buildings were.

Newport had a total of 40 religious establishments, Ryde 35 and Cowes 25.

We have compiled what we think of as a very comprehensive list of the religious establishments on the Island and we hope we have covered all of the religions that were followed by our Islanders over the many centuries - these include:

- Anglican
- Assemblies of God
- Baptist
- Congregational
- Elim Pentecostal
- Evangelical
- Jehovah's Witness
- Jews (with no place to worship)
- Methodist

- Open Brethren
- Primitive Methodist
- Quaker
- Roman Catholic
- Salvation Army
- Spiritualist
- Unitarian
- United Reform
- Wesleyan

John WESLEY stopped off at the Island in 1735, bad weather had halted his journey to America. His brother Charles was then a preacher in Cowes. He came back in 1753 and in 1781 he opened the former Town Lane Chapel in Newport next to the infamous Tontine Pub, with its very bad reputation, when this became too small for the growing congregation, he replaced this with his building in Pyle Street, sadly this too was closed in 1969, when it became Newport's Apollo Theatre.

Many of our churches were in the first-place manorial chapels for the large houses dotted around the Island. Yaverland with its church next to the manor; Brook with its church on a lovely hill overlooking the local village, Mottistone; the manor at Totland, which has now become a B and B.

I was always told that the Island was a safe place to practice some of the alternative religions that had come from Devon and Cornwall and at the end of the 17th and into the 18th Centuries there were in fact 56 or so alternative chapels in which the population of the Island could practise their own religious beliefs.

Of course, most of the churches and chapels had to be near the population but we do find churches in some strange places like the tabernacle at Blackgang Chine which seems some way from their parishioners, perhaps they were serving the smugglers off the back of the Island.

We now have many municipal cemeteries on the Island, with the first one opening in Ryde in 1842, closely followed by Northwood in 1856. These have mostly overtaken the church burials when some of them became too full and could not be used anymore.

Northwood Cemetery have a wonderful website that is so easy to search, along with Ryde.

I must mention the Cemetery in Binstead; at the very bottom of this cemetery there is a line of crosses, which relate to sisters and reverend mothers, the last being buried in 2005. If someone could explain which monastic order they came from, and also if anyone knows of their original names, two of which are Sister Baptist Fleming, and Mother Finbar Mulvin, we would be pleased to hear.

Let us take a closer look at some of the churches. Northwood came to mind because I live nearby, it was built in the 12th Century, most of this remains with some restoration done in 1864. I will quote Jacquie PEARCE who has written some wonderful articles about Northwood. She mentions an elaborate memorial to Anne CHRISTIAN, who was the widow of Rear Admiral Sir Hugh Cloberry CHRISTIAN, Commander in chief when he died at the Cape of Good Hope in 1798. 'She departed this life at West Hill on 10th February 1799 aged 47, to the great grief of her family and the regret of all who knew her'.

I will also mention Anne BROOKER who has done a great history of the Parish of Northwood from 1086-2005.

Northwood Village website gives a full list of the rectors and curates who were in post from 1589 to last year when Amanda COLLINSON is mentioned; she has taken promotion and a post in Portsmouth.

We have tried to add the names of some of the clergy who preached in our churches through the centuries and some of the memorials to different Islanders who were regarded as the great and the good.

I am now going on to mention the church that we are all sat in. Built in 1876 originally as a Bible Christian Chapel, only later to becoming what is now called the Methodist Church. It was added to and modified over the years; some parts of this church are in use every day of the week. It was built next door to the town's first Police Station and Jail.

It replaced the old Zion Chapel that is still in existence further down Quay Street and is now offices. Designed in the gothic style to accommodate no less than 600 people. It was designed by local born lad Frederick MEW and built by Isaac BARTON of Ryde.

It replaced number 32, 33, and 34 Quay Street and a huge auction was held to sell off all of the grey and red bricks, slates, window and door frames from these properties. They knew how to reuse and re purpose building materials then and not just leave them in huge piles of rubble.

I must mention here Frances NASH who did a lot of work on the churches of Sandown. Claire WILLIS and Keith GOODCHILD who were presented with 6 churches to follow up and gave back 12 and only a couple of weeks ago added another church in the High street in Newport, the True Vine Church at 26a High Street, Newport which is part of the old cinema at the bottom of the High Street. Sharon loves her maps and has already added a chapel in Cowes which appears on the 1853 map which when demolished is the place of the town's toilets in Cross Street.

We have worked hard to provide as much information as we could about all of the churches, chapels, etc, graveyards and cemeteries that have been founded over the last 10 Centuries on our Island. We hope that we have provided the information that you are looking for to complete your family history.

I must mention here the work that Geoff ALLAN has and is still working on the War Memorials that are on our island, he has recently created 81 web pages giving you all so much information.

Are you looking for someone who may have died in the last two World Wars? The War Memorials Legacy Website can be searched with subjects which include Isle of Wight War Memorials, where they are on the Island and what information we have on them War Service Reports, these include many of the men and Women who served our Island in the VAD hospitals, civilian casualties, national memorials and international memorials and cemeteries.

Have a good look at our website and if you have problems negotiating some of the databases and information that is what we are there for every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Heritage Resource Centre.

Next year watch this space we may well look at the pubs on the Island – at least 60 in Newport and Carisbrooke alone all serving the barracks at the top of Hunnyhill, 14 down Hunnyhill alone.

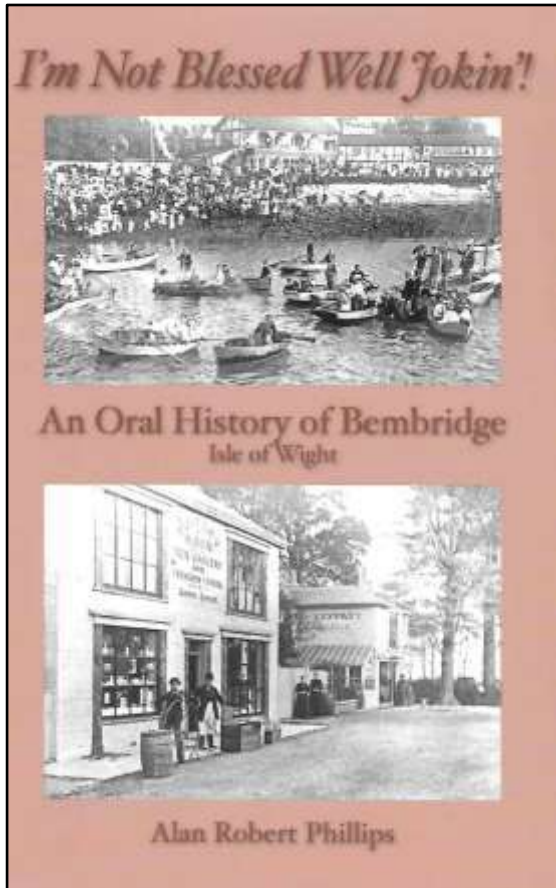
Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Librarian

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

'I'm Not Blessed Well Jokin!'

A Talk by Alan PHILLIPS 3rd June 2024



Alan talked about his recent publication, an oral history of Bembridge, and explained how he came to write the book. He described his research methodology and expanded on the difficulties he encountered. The talk brought to life stories and reminiscences recorded by Alan in the 1970s and 1980s when he interviewed the larger-than-life residents he came across in the village. He illustrated the presentation with images of old Bembridge.

In 1974 Alan arrived in Bembridge as a newly qualified librarian and one of his regular customers suggested that the memories of elderly born-and-bred residents ought to be recorded before it was too late. So it was that Alan paid his first visit to a 90-year-old pensioner armed with a reel-to-reel tape recorder.

Over the next few years Alan conducted further interviews and built up a library of tapes brimmed full of the collective memories of 15 senior citizens stretching back to the turn of the 20th century and beyond. As well as detailing the interplay between the locals and the newly arrived upper class, the reminiscences covered schooldays, 'characters', old village shops, fishing, farming, coastguards, smuggling, lifeboats, entertainments, pubs and piloting; in fact, all aspects of village life as it was.

The recordings he made were not of the best quality and transcriptions were laboriously handwritten. The tapes were overwritten and used over and over again so unfortunately no quality recordings survive. In the 1970s the computer resources we take for granted now did not exist, nor did local heritage societies and oral history recording was in its infancy. Alan was left with great quantities of hand-written documents to sort and, when the technology became available, transfer into digital format.

A busy life got in the way of bringing the interviews to publication until he retired some years later by which time, inevitably, all the interviewees had passed away. Alan continued with the project in the knowledge that they had all given him permission to publish their stories and had been keen to see them in print.

The stories are presented in twenty chapters in the book, each one being the remembrances of one of the villagers. Alan's talk summarised several of them, liberally enlivened with direct quotations taken verbatim from the original tapes and enhanced with old photographs of the villagers and the village.

For example, there was Walter SILENCE who was born in Bembridge in 1884. He was famous for still regularly riding his bike around the village at the age of 90 and at the time claimed to be the oldest born and bred Bembridge ... though a quick look at the 1921 Census reveals that he and his family did not always live in Bembridge; in 1921 they were living at Dormanstown near Redcar.

Then there was 84-year-old Mrs Ivy BRYANT (née TUFFLEY) who was born in Bembridge in 1890. She spent the first 23 years of her life in Bembridge, was away for 36 years (in Kingston-upon-Thames in 1921) and then returned in 1949. Alan found that her memory was particularly detailed on the layout of the old village, its shops and houses.

Alan had to compromise and edit the transcriptions. The local vernacular was adjusted to steer a middle course between authenticity and readability, rendering the dialogue in a reasonably comprehensive form to avoid the text becoming arduous. Then there was the problem of finding a suitable publisher, clearly a non-trivial problem.

Starting from verbal input and relying on the long memories of elderly contributors, Alan ran into a problem familiar to all family historians; how do you spell the names of remembered people and places or indeed deal with conflicting sources and nicknames. He did the best he could while admitting that some are difficult to check.

This was a most interesting talk and is a book well worth a read; particularly valuable to those of us with family roots in Bembridge. Like me, you may find some ancestors mentioned. There is no index to the names of people included in the text so a search will involve reading the whole book.

Of more general interest to us all is learning about the difficulties of dealing with verbal input, though modern technology will make things simpler than it was for Alan.

Several of his informants told Alan 'You're too late, you should have spoken to my parents, they could have told you everything you wanted to know'. What it goes to show is how much lived history is being lost everywhere, all the time - and that conversely, it is never too late to capture people's memories, at any time.

Reference:

Alan Robert PHILLIPS

'I'm Not Blessed Well Jokin' - An Oral History of Bembridge.

Countryside Books, Newbury

ISBN 978 1 84674 425 9

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Email: newbes@gmail.com

Robert James HENLEY (1846–1908)

Ploughboy to Isle of Wight Railwayman

Robert James HENLEY was my great grandfather and although I have been able to assemble a fair amount of information about his life it is tantalisingly short on detail and to date, I have been unable to trace any photograph of him. I am hoping that inclusion of this brief article may facilitate further information becoming available and possibly an actual photograph.

He was born in August 1846 at Newbridge and baptised at the Zion Bible Christian Chapel on 27th September 1846. His parents were William and Hannah (née WHITTINGTON) HENLEY. William, according to the Rev J WOOLCOCK¹, was one of the earliest converts to the Bible Christians on the Island. In the 1851 Census, Robert, age 4 was recorded as a scholar and it is likely that he received schooling at the Zion Chapel.



Ryde IWR Engine Shed built 1876.

In the 1861 Census, Robert, age 14 was employed as a ploughboy. The family residence was recorded as a cottage at Westover Park, where his father was a gardener. In May 1869, just seven years after the opening of the Isle of Wight Railway (IWR), he commenced a railway career as a labourer² in the IWR Locomotive Depot at Ryde St Johns. He married Emily Isabella HUMPHRY at the Isle of Wight Register Office

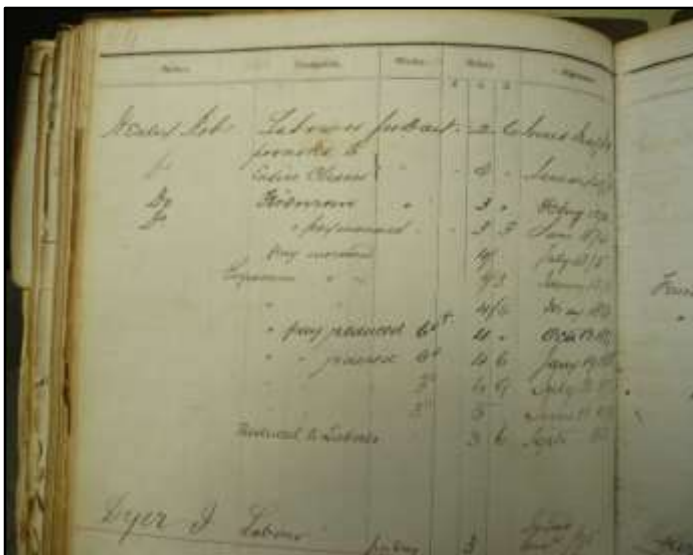
on 12th July 1869. Six months later in January 1870 he was promoted to engine Cleaner. In the 1871 Census they are recorded living in a cottage in Oakfield Road, Ryde, a convenient location to his workplace at the Locomotive Depot at Ryde St Johns.

In February 1872 Robert was promoted to fireman and four years later in January 1876 he won promotion to engine driver. He was the ninth person to hold this post since the opening of the IWR in August 1864. His career as an engine driver was to last six years. During that time, according to the IWR Staff Register, he had two misdemeanours incurring substantial

¹ History of the Bible Christians in the Isle of Wight, Rev J WOOLCOCK DD, 1897 – page 50/51

² Isle of Wight Railway Staff Register, The National Archives

finer. On 1st April 1876, he was fined £1, 5 shillings and 6 pence, a third of his weekly wage, for 'drunkenness' and in May 1877 £2, 8 shillings, half of his weekly wage for running into wagons on Morton Common.



In the 1881 Census, the family residence was School Cottage, 2 School Street, Oakfield, Ryde. His railway career took a downturn when he was demoted from engine driver to labourer in September 1882 without any explanation being recorded in the IWR Staff Register. His career as a railwayman finally came to an end in December 1882 at the age of 36, again with no reason being recorded, other than that he left the Company service.

Robert lived for another 25 years but apparently never worked again. Presumably, the reason is contained in a note on the 1901 Census which states that he is suffering from spinal disease. The cause of his death at age 61 on 22nd April 1908 was given as locomotor ataxy asthenia on the death certificate. His daughter, Ellen Bridle was present at his death. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard, Brading.

He and Emily had ten children. She died in childbirth, when an eleventh child was born prematurely on 16th December 1892.

Robert FOWLER (IWFHS Member: 2004)

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If Only

How many times do we hear/use that expression, mainly from frustrated researchers like me, looking for their elusive ancestors, especially those with very common surnames, and by the time we begin researching there's no one still alive to ask for help.

However, I do often wonder how couples 'met' and whether we would really want to actually meet or recognise some of them, but they certainly seem to have passed on their 'talents/trades'.

My paternal grandmother, Bertha Mary STEWART (née HARRISON) died two years before I was born, at which point grandfather, John STEWART packed his suitcase and arrived on my parents' doorstep and announced that he was coming to live with them. He remained with them, (no doubt a burden), for another ten years, occupying/sleeping in our 'box room' or sitting by the open coal fire. He died in 1940 when I was just seven and I clearly remember early one morning hearing my mother whispering to my father "I think he's gone".

I remember him as a rather frail, white haired, grumpy old man, sitting in an armchair by the coal fire, constantly smoking cigarettes, with very little to say. He had been born in Liverpool and a lifelong barber/hairdresser, like so many of his predecessors, mainly from Scotland. Occupations have played a big part in helping my research efforts over the last almost fifty years.

Hairdressers and their wives were often also tobacconists – did they also indulge in the (now) dreaded weed? Investigating causes of death confirms my suspicions – TB, asthma, bronchitis etc all appear frequently.

My father, Leslie Wentworth STEWART, who also smoked cigarettes, died of TB in 1960, just one week after his 65th birthday, so, as he had predicted, he never lived to draw a pension. My mother lived until 1975, dying at the age of 77 from angina/heart problems, having never smoked but who survived a life exposed to so much smoke and as I recall, of endlessly washing nicotine-stained net curtains. Is it any wonder that I have never been even tempted to 'light up' – for that I am ever thankful to my father, grandfather and probably many other ancestors too.

There is always, of course, the one thing you can remember that sparked that first moment of "I wonder who...", setting us off on this quest. For me it was in 1985, when I married, moved home, and had to clear that little

'box room', including the removal of a very large mahogany wardrobe, and behind it I discovered an old sampler, in a black wooden frame! It was dated 30th November 1801, with a verse about 'The Rose' (? by Isaac WATTS?) worked by someone with a name that then meant nothing to me. It does now. She was my 3x great grandmother, Patience HOOTON, but I have been unable to find or confirm the significance of the date on that sampler.

Patience would have been about eleven in 1801, so maybe it was the date she started or completed it? She came from a long line of Lancashire gardeners, having been born in Redvales, Bury, Lancashire to Simon HOOTON and Jane MATHER – makes a change from hairdressers.

I had the sampler re-framed about 1985 (at a shop in Birkenhead adjacent to the hairdresser's shop where John and Bertha lived and close to where she died in 1930) and I passed it down a few years ago to Emma MARSHALL, one of Patience's 5x great granddaughters, for her to treasure. I still wonder whether John STEWART had a very large suitcase, but the sampler obviously meant a lot to him, even if it was hidden out of sight for so long and it must have hung in several homes over its lifetime. (If only it could talk.)

While the STEWARTs go back to the 1800s in Scotland, and doubtless much further, there is a definite Isle of Wight connection too, through Bertha MARY (née HARRISON).

My 2x great grandfather, Charles RUSSELL, was baptised in Newchurch on 1st June 1803, the son of William RUSSELL and Betty (née WARREN), (her ancestors I have traced back to the early 1700s). Charles RUSSELL married Mary WILLIAMS in 1829 at Whippingham, and they had seven children in 10 years – 4 girls and 3 boys.

Elizabeth 1830, Sarah 1832, Mary Ann 1834, John Heywood 1835, William 1837, Frances Ann 1838, and Robert 1839, who died December 1840 age 1 (just 6 months after his father.)

In 1838 they were living in Barton Village, Charles RUSSELL was a lace maker, and his wife, Mary also appears to have been a lace maker, but Charles RUSSELL very inconveniently died a year before the 1841 Census and was buried in the Old Churchyard at Newchurch. He was just 37 but his death certificate shows the cause of death as 'unknown'. So far, no newspaper/obituaries have been found but thanks to our IWFHS I have now found a photograph of his Newchurch gravestone, by searching for

his 13-month-old son Robert, who was buried in the same grave! Although well weathered, the stone does reveal and so confirm the names of Charles's parents.

A useful and fortunate clue in my family history research has been the use of second Christian names. My father Leslie's second Christian name was 'Wentworth' and his maternal grandfather was Wentworth HARRISON, the husband of Mary Ann RUSSELL, daughter of Charles RUSSELL and Mary WILLIAMS. They had married in 1859 in London – their only apparent 'offspring' being Bertha Mary HARRISON born in 1859. She was a milliner, later the wife of John STEWART and my grandmother, who died in Birkenhead in June 1930 from a heart attack whilst out in a thunderstorm close to their hairdresser's shop in Grange Road, Birkenhead.

Mary Ann HARRISON had died in Fulham in 1863 aged only 29 – her cause of death 'TB'. Bertha Mary HARRISON appears from Censuses to have been brought up by her grandparents, Wentworth Wargent HARRISON (yet another hairdresser) and Sophia (née CLEWS) in East Retford, Nottingham.

Wentworth HARRISON subsequently married Mary Ann's younger sister, Frances Ann RUSSELL in London in 1867 (*not sure whether this was actually lawful but it does not have any bearing on Bertha's legitimacy.*)

Wentworth and Frances continued to live in London (South Audley Street and later Sussex Place) and after searching newspapers, I made the following note –

Wentworth HARRISON (my great grandfather) hair cutter, perfumer and wig maker, invented and manufactured the Wentworth Harrison Constant Supply Shaving Brush, which was exhibited at the International Inventions Exhibition held in South Kensington in May 1885.

It was advertised in the Brighton Gazette between 1885-1888 - his address shown as 10, Sussex Place, Onslow Square, South Kensington, his agent in Brighton being Hyman & Son of 1, St. James's Street, Brighton. It sold for anything from 3/- depending on the type of bristles, up to 15/- with an ivory handle - post free. (Maybe someday one might appear on the Antiques Road Show.)



Wentworth HARRISON died in Tottenham in 1917 aged 85 at the home of his niece, Jessie Mary GODSELL (née RUSSELL). She was a daughter of John Heywood RUSSELL (the son of Charles RUSSELL and Mary WILLIAMS) and Sarah Anne POTTS. There was apparently an Inquest, as his death certificate mentions a Coroner's report but neither that nor any will, has so far been found.

There are still more questions swirling round in my head but the joy of family history is that it is never 'finished'. We live in constant hope and accept that the solution is often in paying attention to surnames that re-appear used as second Christian names, to occupations that go back through the generations (all the HARRISONS and STEWARTs were hairdressers, hair cutters, wig makers etc in Census/ directories) and remembering to make use of Trade Directories and of course, old newspapers.

One lesson I have learned – my ancestors certainly moved around much more than I ever imagined.

(Many thanks to Sharon BEDDARD for her excellent article on Isle of Wight and Hampshire newspapers in the February Journal.)

SAMPLER

DATED 30th NOVEMBER 1801

BY PATIENCE HOOTON

THE ROSE

**How fair is the rose
What a beautiful flower
The glory of April and May
But the leaves are beginning to fade in an hour
And they wither and die in a day**

**Yet the rose has one powerful virtue to boast
Above all the flowers of the field
When its leaves are all dead
And fine colours are lost
Still how sweet a perfume it will yield**

**So frail is the youth and the beauty of men
Though they bloom and look gay like the rose
But all our fond care to preserve them is vain
Time kills them as fast as it goes**

**Then I'll not be proud of my youth or my beauty
Since both of them wither and fade
But gain a good name by well doing my duty
This will scent like a rose when I'm dead**

Patience HOOTON, born 9th May.1789 - died 26th November1873.

**Mother of Amelia PLATT born 1818.
Mother of Emma CURRIE born 1840.
Mother of John STEWART born 1861.
Father of Leslie Wentworth STEWART.
Father of Mary Patricia Ann STEWART.**

(Verse believed to be by Isaac WATTS)

Mary JACKSON (née STEWART) (IWFHS Member: 1580)

Email: maryjackson03@gmail.com

Visit to Farringford House and Gardens

<https://farringford.co.uk>

The former home of Alfred Lord TENNYSON

Bedbury Lane, Freshwater P040 9PE

Thursday 5th September 2024

Starting at: 10:15 am or 12:30 pm

Audio Guided Tour around the house

Access to gardens and grounds

Cost: £13.50

Book tickets via:

<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events62>

or contact Membership Secretary

Gerry NEWBERRY
(see inside front cover)

There are no refreshments on site but there are cafés nearby.

There is plentiful parking.

At time of going to press there is 1 vacancy at 10:15 and 2 vacancies at 12:30 pm

A reserve list is in place if any cancellations occur.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Membership Secretary

Email: membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

Broadlands Lace Factory, Staplers, Newport

J BROWN and George FREEMAN invented the lace making machinery, known as a transverse warp. They agreed to take a banker's son, W H NUNN, on as a partner, with his father's support, who was a Nottingham banker.

In 1827, Nunn's Lace Factory was opened on the Isle of Wight. The factory was placed in Staplers, Newport, a remote location, to keep its machinery that made fine French Blonde lace from prying eyes.

This factory, located in what is Broadlands House today, was one of the largest employers on the Island. The factory made a profit for some years. Queen Victoria and other ladies of the Court were among its customers.

The lace it produced was as fine as a spider web and expensive, but when tastes in fashion changed the factory lost business. By 1870 William Henry NUNN retired and having no son to leave the factory to, the business closed.

This left 200 men, women, boys and girls without a means of support.

(Charles and Mary RUSSELL (both lacemakers/workers) lived at Coppins Bridge, just 1/3 mile and a 3 minute walk from Broadlands, might have worked here.)



Broadlands House 2006



Broadlands lace.

Mary JACKSON (née STEWART) (IWFHS Member: 1580)

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Mary Harriette Player BRIGSTOCKE (1824-1904)

The new St Thomas' Church was built by George PLAYER and his wife Mary Ann PLAYER (circa 1763-1839). Their daughter Lydia would bring the BRIGSTOCKE family into history of the church by marrying Captain Thomas BRIGSTOCKE in 1822, becoming Elizabeth Lydia Player BRIGSTOCKE (1796-1871).

The ownership of St Thomas', which has the PLAYER coat of arms over the central door, passed then to Thomas and Elizabeth Brigstocke, and remained in the BRIGSTOCKE family until 1956. Their best-known daughter, who remained unmarried, was Mary Harriette Player BRIGSTOCKE (1824-1904) who would inherit St Thomas' Church.

Mary Harriette was usually known simply as Miss BRIGSTOCKE soon set about 'beautifying' the church during the 1880s including adding the three impressive stained-glass windows in 1883 that illustrate the life of St Thomas. They came from the studios of Alexander BOOKER in London and today they are a rare surviving example of BOOKER's work using bright colours and fine detail. They are reputed to be copies of the originals in the Certosa or Carthusian monastery near Pavia, Italy.



The windows are unique in that neither Saint Thomas nor the Lord Jesus is portrayed with a nimbus, and omission was at the specific request of Mary Harriette. In the first window he is seen speaking with the disciples. In window two he doubts Jesus' resurrection while window 3 depicts his martyrdom. St Thomas, was the 7th apostle, known for doubting the resurrection. However, after the ascension, Thomas travelled in the east, spreading the word of Jesus. He was killed by a spear in the Indian region and he is often depicted in art, holding the spear with which he was martyred. There is a later plaque nearby which reads:

These windows were erected by
 MARY HARRIETTE PLAYER BRIGSTOCKE
 Of Stone Pitts, owner of this chapel
 She was the eldest daughter of Captain T.R Brigstocke R.N. and
 Elizabeth Lydia his Wife
 Born January 18th 1824
 And died November 21st 1904
 When these panels were added in memory of her

Miss BRIGSTOCKE was to become the archetypal philanthropist; some of her projects were large, some small; and they were also eclectic. In 1868 Ryde became a municipal borough for which the corporation decided it had to have a clock tower; it was Miss BRIGSTOCKE who provided the clock itself. In 1873 it was a water trough for horses on the Esplanade (Swanmore Road) which remained in place until the restructuring of the area in the early 1960s.

In 1891, Miss BRIGSTOCKE set about her most important and ambitious project, founding The Brigstocke Alms Houses. They were set up in Player Street to house six 'poor aged women, either spinsters or widows, inhabitants of the said Parish of Ryde, who were persons of good repute and blameless poverty'. They still exist with charitable status and their website describes them. There are six self-contained flats with a communal front terrace and rear garden with lawn and flower beds. To be eligible to apply, a woman must be aged 55 and over and fully capable of independent living. A person appointed as a resident is a beneficiary of the charity, not a tenant.

In 1900 Miss BRIGSTOCKE offered to find the money required to purchase the Simeon Street Recreation ground. An illuminated address was presented to her by the Council on the occasion of the deeds of the ground being formally received by the mayor.

The quirky side of Miss BRIGSTOCKE was revealed following what happened in 1932. That December, a fire started in the Lind Street town hall which spread until it became a conflagration. Much was lost, including several valued paintings but among those that were saved was one of Venus - the Roman goddess of love, beauty, desire, sex, fertility, prosperity and victory - donated by Miss BRIGSTOCKE. As well as her particular projects and contributions, she is known to have supported various local sports and athletic clubs, as well as contributing to animal welfare.

Miss BRIGSTOCKE died in 1904, aged 80, having lived a notably good life, and having made generous use of PLAYER money. She was, of course, buried in St Thomas' Church in the private crypt under the altar.

Based on notes from Tim WANDER. See also my article "The Brigstocke Bible" published in the May 1992 edition of this Journal.

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

The Island's D-Day Connections

Some while ago I gave a talk to the Isle of Wight Family History Society about my research into servicemen who died on the Isle of Wight in World War Two, I did this research by extracting all the registered deaths on the Isle of Wight during World War II and comparing this list with casualties recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, I further refined this by adding information about Isle of Wight inquests.

I thought that I would revisit my research in relation to D-Day. Looking at the men who died in the run up to D-Day and in the subsequent months I was able to eliminate some who had been discharged prior to their death or died from natural causes, others died on exercises not necessarily connected to D-Day. On the next page is a list of those probably connected to D-Day or the subsequent operations.

I do not have many details on LEE, or BRADLEY, who served in an airborne glider unit, BRADLEY was reported missing presumed drowned in his local newspaper and I assume that he and LEE were in a glider that crashed in the sea. Most of the rest were in landing craft of some sort anchored off the Island. LITTLEWOOD and PEAKE were trying to get back to a Mulberry harbour in Wootton Creek.

Further details on these men can be found at:

<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/databases/inquests>

Tony BEVIS (IWFHS Member: 1491)

Email: newspapers.iowfhs@gmail.com

Geoff ALLAN is planning to visit the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer and will be photographing the names recorded.

Surname	Forenames	date death	Inq or PM	Inquest cause of death
LEE	Alfred Henry	10/03/1944	War operations Royal Artillery 53 (The Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Lt. Regt.	Killed in war operations
BRADLEY	William	31/08/1944	War operations Royal Artillery 53 (The Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Lt. Regt.	Killed in war operations
JOHNSON	Geoffrey Kenneth	21/08/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.S.T. 413	Deceased was drowned when he accidentally fell overboard from his ship on the night of 20-21 Aug 1944
SPICER	Robert Boyd	08/09/1944	inq Royal Canadian Naval Reserve H.M.C.S. Mulgrave	Due to shock as a result of an accidental fall from the landing steps of Ryde Pier, Isle of Wight, while he was boarding a whaler
GORMAN	Lawrence	24/09/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. (R) 125.	Accidentally drowned
ROSBOTTOM	Robert	24/09/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 125.	Accidentally drowned
GILBERT	Ernest H.	24/09/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 125.	Accidentally drowned
EDWARDS	George	25/11/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 1099.	Death by misadventure by drowning
SAVILLE	Bernard	25/11/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 968.	Death by misadventure by drowning
QUEEN	Peter	25/11/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 968.	Death by misadventure by drowning
WHITE	Robert James	25/11/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 968.	Death by misadventure by drowning
O'NEILL	Frank	25/12/1944	inq Royal Navy H.M.L.C.T. 510.	Death in accordance with medical accident namely asphyxia from inhalation of vomited food with bronchial [?]
SMITH	RUSSELL HUBERT	25/02/1945	Royal Marines	Accidentally drowned in Poole Harbour on the 23th Dec 1945
LITTLEWOOD	George	05/05/1946	inq Royal Engineers	Death from asphyxia from drowning
PEAKE	Edwin	05/05/1946	inq Army Catering Corps	Death from asphyxia from drowning

New and Returning Members

Confidential information remove from Exchange version

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/>

East Cowes Heritage Centre

Website: www.isleofwightsociety.org.uk/heritage.aspx

Freshwater and Totland Archive Group

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

Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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

Friends of Northwood Cemetery

Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Isle of Wight Heritage Organisations

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

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/>

Wootton Bridge Historical Society

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

Family History Federation

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

The National Archives

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



ISSN 1356-8256