



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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

February 2023

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Janet FEW
Janet GRIFFIN**

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Webmaster & War Memorial Project Coordinator	Geoff ALLAN	<i>Email:</i> chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

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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 = £1; non-members = £2

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 6 th March	TB Story on the Island	Dr Paul BINGHAM
Monday 3 rd April	St Thomas Church, Ryde	Tim WANDER
Saturday 13 th May	One Day Conference and AGM <i>See page 29 and unnumbered centre pages</i>	

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 (<i>no paper journal</i>)	£ 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

It has been brought to my attention that a member tried to contact another member by email who had a surname interest published in a Journal last year. The other member has not yet replied. One of the reasons for joining a family history society is to compare notes with other members. **Would you all please check your email in box and spam box.**

Some of you may have noticed that there were several articles written by me in the November Journal to fill pages. This quarter I filled some pages with articles about Island Parishes which were previously published in the 1980s (some were repeated in the 1990s). There are more parish articles that I could use in future Journals. I would far rather fill the pages with your articles. So, please get writing.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)
Journal Editor
1 Westfield Close, Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8BY
Email: journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Cover Photograph

Alum Bay and the Needles

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 May journal is 1st April 2023

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 4pm
Wednesdays	10 am to 1pm

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 access to the following resources: *Ancestry*, *Findmypast* and *Isle of Wight County Press Archives*.

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

As I write this report a full month before publication, let me wish you a belated Happy New Year!

Last time I reported on the proposed changes to the Constitution to allow us more flexibility with respect to the arrangements for General Meetings. We have now polled all our members to get your views and votes on the proposals. The results are as follows:

Online voting:

Emails were sent to 1443 members. 463 members (32%) voted using the online form created by Mike HOAR for this purpose. 8 Emails were not delivered since the address could not be found.

Votes were cast as follows.

	For	Against	Abstain
Proposal 1	457	3	4
Proposal 2	450	6	8
Proposal 3	457	2	5

Postal voting:

16 members were sent voting forms, of which 9 have been returned. All 9 agreed to each of the 3 proposals.

Accordingly with a majority of voting members in agreement, we take this as approval for the proposed changes.

Several comments were received which have been considered and I have therefore amended the revised Constitution (see pages 32-37)

Thank you to all the members who did respond. I will reply personally to any member whose comments require an answer.

We shall hold an Annual General Meeting in May this year but whether this will be a part of the Conference, or a separate meeting held using online conferencing, is yet to be decided.

As part of the agenda for the AGM, we need to propose and vote for the Society Officers and Committee members.

All the present holders have agreed to stand again, although Hazel PULLEN has requested that she stand down as **Vice-Chair** and **Programme Secretary**.

Nominations are therefore:

Chairman	Geoff ALLAN
Vice-Chair	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary	Gill GLASBEY
Treasurer	Claire WILLIS
Membership Secretary	Gerry NEWBERRY
Programme Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Systems and Pedigree Index	Mike HOAR
Research Officer	Sharon BEDDARD
Journal and Publicity	Pete SPENCER
HRC Liaison	John PULLEN
Librarian	Hazel PULLEN

If you are resident on the Isle of Wight and would be willing to stand for one or both vacant posts listed above, please get in touch with me.

An online voting system similar to that used for the Constitution proposals will be provided as well as taking votes at the AGM.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 0392)
Chairman and Webmaster
Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Membership Secretary's Report

It has been so nice to correspond with you all in my new role as Membership Secretary I look forward to doing so again throughout 2023. Dean has been ably handing over to me (and is continuing to do so) so I have been getting to grips with the new website and membership database. If you have a problem or enquiry about our website, please look first at our Membership Information page and Self-Service User Guide. We are keen to iron out any glitches, so please let me know of any issues you may come across.

Thanks go to everyone who has renewed their membership so promptly – this makes it so much easier. Also, thanks to those members who have included donations which contribute to the success of our Society over the coming year.

A reminder to members regarding our new subscription rates which changed in 2022 – please ensure that you have cancelled any recurring PayPal payments which now do not cover the subscription fee. I am happy to take any queries about making payments.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Membership Secretary

Email: membership.secretary.iowhs@gmail.com

Facebook Group

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

The Facebook Group is open to both Society members and non-members (*we hope that they might join the Society*)

It is used to get help and to share information, including such things as closures of the Heritage Resource Centre and other changes that could not be published in the Journal.

From the Desk at Coles Manning



As family historians we are preservers of the past and we should tell the stories that we collect about our ancestors. A project that some friends and I have been working on has recently been released to the world. It is called, *A Few Forgotten Women*.

<https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/affw>

The aim of the project is to preserve the memory of some women who have, until now, been hiding in the shadows, forgotten by history. The women that you will meet on our website are those that we have discovered during our investigations into our own ancestry, as part of a one-name study, a one-place study or when undertaking a wider project. Then there are the women that had no link to our own work but who cried out to us as we researched in the documents of the past.

Some women are further on the margins than others and this project focuses on those whose lives were touched by issues such as poverty, illegitimacy, criminality, disability, alcoholism, prostitution, abandonment or mental ill-health. Often, several of these conditions go hand in hand, impacting on the lives of the women whose stories we seek to tell. Other women were less marginalised but lack descendants who can preserve their memory; they too find a place amongst our biographies.

We hope that meeting our forgotten women will encourage others to tell the stories of their own. We are looking for stories from guest contributors and would love to include some Isle of Wight related women. Remember though that our hard-working Journal Editor would like to meet them first.

A quick update on the relative I found in Bethlem National Asylum in the 1921 Census. Thanks to the wonderful archivist at Museum of the Mind <https://museumofthemind.org.uk> and a kind friend, I am now the proud possessor of copies of letters that were written to the asylum by the sister of the patient. These red-letter research days do not come about that often and I have had two in the past year. The story of these ladies is on the above-mentioned Forgotten Women site, take a look at the LEIGHTON sisters – no longer forgotten.

In the spirit of preserving memories, I am not just trying to record the family history and my personal biography but I also want to tell the stories of the family heirlooms of which I am the current proud custodian. If I lived closer to my descendants, I would be bombarding them with oral accounts but as I do not get this opportunity very often, I am writing the stories down instead. That way, when I have gone to join the ancestors, my descendants will at least know what they are discarding, if discard they do and I hope they won't. This is as important as telling stories of the family.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com

Obituaries

It is with regret that we announce the passing of the following members. Messages of condolence have been sent to their families.

Mrs Dale BEASLEY (IWFHS Member: 3886) who passed away on 24th November 2022.

Rosemary Lois BUCKELL (IWFHS Member: 2450) who had a shared membership with her husband Malcolm Roger BUCKELL. Rose as she was known passed away on Friday 9th December 2022 at the Isle of Wight Hospice following a two-month illness. Rose was my second cousin; her paternal grandfather was my maternal grandfather's elder brother and her paternal grandmother was my maternal grandmother's elder sister. Rose leaves behind her husband Malcolm, son Justin, daughter-in-law Dawn and grandson Ben and son Nathan (IWFHS Member: 6187) and daughter-in-law Becky.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member: 2187)

Journal Editor

A History of Havenstreet

As told by Angela SNOW and Rodney RIDDELL

Talk to open meeting on 3rd October 2022

Angela and Rodney told of the wonderful childhood living in the village of Havenstreet, the peace and tranquillity of the place with no worries about the children wandering across the fields (only on the outskirts) and not over crops.

They mentioned the time when it was great to be a child in the village. They knew so many people in and around Havenstreet, many of which were in fact relatives.

The many things that went on in and around the village. The annual Horticultural Show in which many Island names appear on the committee and Rodney winning the shield for the most points in the children's class. This was in 1953.

Terrier races (bring your own dog), the Baby show, children and adults sports with free car parking.

The White Hart at the heart of the village for over 250 years. They used to host a Christmas meal for retired villagers. A collection of pennies from their change was given away to local charities every year.

Havenstreet Methodist Chapel was built in 1832 and the chapel closed its doors for the last time in 1958. The building was sadly demolished soon after.

Rodney painted a wonderful picture of an idyllic life with no cares or worries, apart from when tea was ready and mentioned the changing face of Havenstreet today, with no buses and new development all over the village.

Hazell PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Whippingham Visit

What a great day we had on our visit to Whippingham Church.

We had to cancel our previous visit with the sad funeral of our beloved Queen taking place on 19th September 2022.

Rebooked for 17th October 2022 and what a treat we had.

Chris BROUGHTON was our guide on a beautiful autumnal day. The weather was being very kind to us.

We had a walk around the churchyard to start our tour. On the right of the porch to the church is a war memorial in the form of a crucifix, this was unveiled in 1919 by Princess Beatrice, the Governor of the Isle of Wight. The names of those who fell in the two wars are inscribed on the back wall.

The tall iron cross of the grave of Prince Louise of Battenberg 1st Marquess of Milford Haven and his wife Princess Victoria of Hess, granddaughter of Queen Victoria. These being the parents of Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

Near to the north wall of the churchyard is the grave of Uffa FOX the famous yachtsman.

The church itself had been replaced 4 times over the centuries with the current building in all its glory, started in 1854 and completed by the 1860s. It was named St Mildred after the Anglo-Saxon Princess who died in about AD 700.

What a treat our guide Chris was, with an abundant knowledge of the church and the grounds, with a fantastic knowledge of dates I wish I had a brain that could retain even a small amount of the knowledge he has.

A huge thank you Chris, for a great trip around St Mildred.

Hazell PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Exploring the 1921 Census for England and Wales

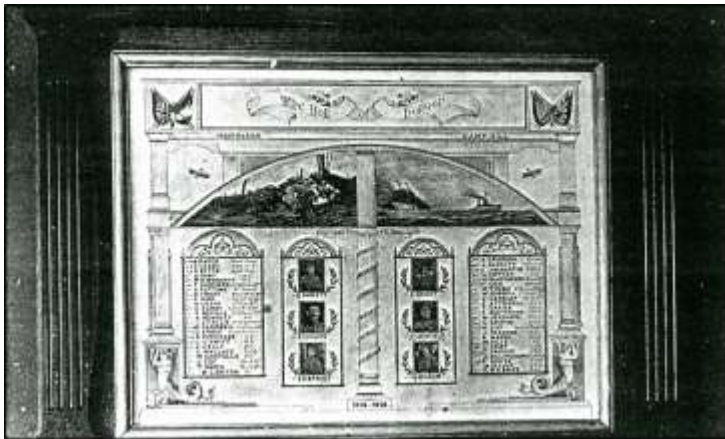
Findmypast made the 1921 Census available in 2022 on a pay-per-view basis, which was initially quite expensive. Subsequently, for an additional top up fee to a Premium subscription, the cost of viewing entries, if you are doing a lot of research, is considerably less.

So, since I do a fair amount of research for the Society and its members, I took out this additional subscription.

Most people will be looking for family members, which of course is what I did to begin with, although I have still to find a “lost” grandmother who doesn’t appear to have been recorded, even though she would have been 20 years old at the time.

Subsequently, I have been examining the returns based on the classifications by the Registrar General by occupation and also attempting to build up lists of employees for specific employers, since this information appeared for the first time in 1921.

Initially I started looking for Prison Officers at HM Prison Camp Hill. This was to fill in biographical gaps for their WW I war service, as many prison officers were called up or volunteered during that war. A poor copy of a Roll of Honour for Camp Hill was used as the basis for this (I know it only from a photocopy of a postcard – I don’t know if the Roll still exists).



The Roll of Honour lists 48 men who served and has photographs of the 6 men who died.

Using a fairly uncommon surname (PURCHASE) I then searched for his entry, finding him and his family at 28 Camp Hill, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight. Against his occupation of Prison Warder, is the code 800/6. Code 800 represents a Civil Servant, so using this as an additional search term in the Findmypast Advanced search option made it easier to track down those men who had relatively common surnames or had moved away from Camp Hill after the War.

A full list of the codes used and an explanation of the suffix number /6 (= employed – not working at home) can be found at

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/1921-census---occupation-codes>

The Employment (Industry) codes can be found at

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/1921-census---employment-industry-codes>

Having had this small success for Prison Officers, I wondered whether the Advanced search option could also be used to track down employees for a specific company or individual (e.g., for a large employer such as J S White's, or a named farmer).

Entering "White" as the employer, and location "Isle of Wight", gave me 344 possible employees for J S White's although subsequent analysis whittled this down to just under 300 men (and a few women).

There was another shipbuilding concern in Cowes, H White, several farmers named WHITE, and there are numerous employees of Timothy White's the Chemists.

Many of the entries show that the person was out of work, which is hardly surprising as there must have been a distinct downturn in activity following the wartime construction of naval vessels. Of the 292 entries found, some 123 men were not in employment – 42%.

There were also a high proportion of apprentices – 53 are listed – 18% of the workforce. Their ages range from 15 to 21.



The oldest employee listed, William J BENNETT, is aged 73, a pattern maker, out of work.

On the left an earlier group of J.S. White's workers – the "Light Plate Squad" in 1908 (*HMS Harpy* was commissioned in that year).

As one might expect, there are several households where more than one person is employed at the works. John Silvanis LANDON, with four of his sons are listed at Bembridge View, Furzyhurst. Of these, only the father is in work. Their birthplaces indicate that the family moved from the Midlands to the Island – presumably in search of work. This was a common feature of shipbuilding in the 20th century – men followed the work as ships were commissioned to be built. My grandfather, Alexander Marchant ALLAN, worked all over the country, including Tyneside, Wearside, Birkenhead, and Southampton, being employed as a boilermaker on day rates for the duration of the contract.

One aspect found, of the research made, was that there are many transcription errors, particularly for addresses. The enumerator for the district had very poor handwriting but the blame must also lie with the transcribers – if they did not have local knowledge of place names, then mistakes are bound to happen. So, beware of this and use wild card searches to broaden your search if a specific person cannot be found.

Finally, I then looked at where the workers were living – and made a more serious discovery of omission, in that very few of those listed were given as living in East Cowes, where J S White's works were mainly located.

I would have thought that there should have been many entries in East Cowes. It would seem that the Findmypast Advanced search option, if you enter 'Isle of Wight' in the Location field, is flawed, as it does not return all the relevant entries. A more accurate result is given by entering the relevant Registration District Number (93 for the Isle of Wight). This results in over 2000 potential employees - so my task has not yet been completed - it has increased by 6-fold.

The principles outlined here can be used to analyse this and other Census returns – but there is always this caveat – the data search is only as good as the interpretation made by the transcribers.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member: 392)

Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Emma DENNETT : Floral Artist of Carisbrooke

In 2017, Carisbrooke Castle Museum was given a book entitled 'Gleanings from Wood and Field' containing around 70 botanical watercolour paintings from the 19th Century. The paintings are accurate portrayals of the flowers and although they are very fine examples, they are not untypical of those produced by many Victorian ladies. Indeed, there are many floral art societies around the world today, which suggests that creating such beautiful images is still a popular pastime.

However, what makes this collection of paintings particularly special is that the artist included the location and the date of the flower being painted or picked, along with the common, the Latin and the taxonomic group names. The dates range between 1845 and 1855 and the locations are from in and around Carisbrooke. The Castle Museum soon realised that they had been given a unique historical record of the local flora which can be compared with what we have in the same place now. Here is an example, from the digitised version of *Lathraea Squamaria*, *Didynamia Angiosperma* or Greater Toothwort from Long Copse side of Apes Down on 18th March 1846.



At first sight, it was not obvious who the painter was. On the inside cover of the picture album there is scrawled in slanting script, what appears to be 'H J READ, Wheatsheaf, Newport. I of W, 1913.'

This was more than 50 years after the watercolours were made. But just above that in a small, neat script that is lined through, it reads Emma DENNETT, in the same handwriting that is used within the album.

Emma DENNETT (30th December 1814 – 29th November 1886) grew-up in and around Carisbrooke. Her grandfather, James DENNETT (1758-1836), was the builder of New

Village, between and Newport and Carisbrooke on the Isle of Wight.

Her father, JOHN DENNETT (1789-1852), became a renowned figure due to his invention of a successful life-saving shore-to-ship rocket device which was taken on by The Admiralty and saved many lives during the 19th Century. John's interest in archaeology and history, as well as the success of the Dennett Rocket was rewarded by the honour of being made Keeper of Carisbrooke Castle between 1847 and his death five years later.

Emma was the third child of John and Leah DENNETT and was brought up in New Village and Carisbrooke, living initially with her brothers and sisters after their parents died. The siblings were comfortably 'well-off' as a result of the business success of the rocket invention and manufacture, begun by her father and carried on by her brother, Horatio Nelson DENNETT (1813-1897).

We have little evidence of Emma's day-to-day life on the Isle of Wight. None of the children of John and Leah married and much of the time, most of them seemed to be living in the same house in Furlongs (now Clatterford Lane), Carisbrooke, near to where the rockets were made.

However, Emma was more adventurous than her siblings. In the 1851 Census she was a Private Governess (one who tutored children in her home).

In the next Census of 1861, she was recorded as a friend and companion to two wealthy elderly ladies, not far away, in Furlongs, Castle View, Carisbrooke (now West Street I believe).

In 1871 and 1881 Emma is listed at The Lodge, Croydon as a Housekeeper, soon after which she returned to her home, living with her brother and two younger sisters until her death in Carisbrooke in 1886.

The money from the manufacture of rockets allowed Emma to have some financial independence. She was clearly interested in the wildflowers of the area and skilled in painting. She was also able to invest the time needed to produce the superb, vivid images that we can see in the book containing her work. The taxonomic and common names of the plants are given in the collection of paintings, plus occasional poetic references to accompany the depictions.

It is important to note that, in most cases we are also given a day, month, year and precise location of where the subjects (not all flowers - there is a mushroom, bilberries and catkins among them) were found.

As a result of Emma's thoroughness in recording these details, her collection of paintings provides a botanical record of what was where and what it looked like on that particular day between 1845 and 1855, making it an important historical floral reference for the Island.

The book was presented to the museum by a friend of Joan READ, probably the daughter of the 1913 owner. 1913 is 27 years after the death of Emma DENNETT and 14 years after the death of the last of her siblings, therefore the book was a fortunate survivor which must have been through various owners before being recognised as an important artefact and being donated to the museum.

From Census and IWFHS records, it was found that the Wheatsheaf Hotel was the home of Harry Temple READ (1864-1942) and his wife Joan READ, so what we thought was a 'J' is 'T' for Temple in the scrawled writing at the front of the book. Their daughter was Joan Gertrude Temple READ (born 1910) who would have inherited the album of watercolours and could have been the donor by proxy. Any further information concerning the READ family in this context would be appreciated.

Emma was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Carisbrooke, with her siblings, her parents and Dennett grandparents. Their large tomb with railings around it may be found near a yew tree.

The book of Isle of Wight flora, entitled *Gleanings from Wood and Field*, containing the beautiful paintings, occasional poetry plus some remnants of pressed flowers, may be viewed on display in the Carisbrooke Castle Museum. It is also available to view on-line using the link below.

https://issuu.com/carisbrookecastlemuseum/docs/emma_dennett

In addition, a short educational resource film based on Emma DENNETT's paintings has been made showing some of her pictures and accompanying poems from the album. The aim is to inspire viewers to emulate Emma by exploring, identifying, recording and enjoying the Island's floral treasures. To access the film, open the following link.

<https://youtu.be/x1pwRrnwbzs>

With thanks to Dr TAIT, Curator, Carisbrooke Castle Museum for her assistance.

I am a distant relative of Emma and I am doing a One Name Study of the DENNETT surname.

Ian PLUMRIDGE (IWFHS Member: 3334)

Email: ianplumridge@btinternet.com

From Chale to St Helena in the 1840s

Over the past couple of years, I have been trying to fill in gaps and clarify information contained within the LININGTON side of my family tree that was written down by my two aunts some forty years ago. The family has strong links to Chale and a key figure in the family tree was Benjamin LININGTON, a blacksmith born there in 1782.

Benjamin wrote the names of his children in the front of a prayer book that had originally washed up from a 1790s shipwreck on Chale beach though, sadly, that book passed out of the family many years ago and cannot now be traced. The names it contained and searches of parish registers formed the basis of the above family tree which has now been augmented using records from *Ancestry* (though avoiding their notoriously unreliable family trees). Of course, improvements would always be welcomed.

Benjamin was buried in 1865 at St Andrew's Church, Chale beside his wife Elizabeth (née SPRAKE, 1795-1857) who he had married on 6th November 1812. Their two gravestones are still present near the main gateway to the churchyard.

They had nine children (shown with their dates and their spouses' surnames): William (1813-1900, probably SPANNER); Martha (1815-1850, BROOKE); Harriet (1818-1905, FRY); Emma Mary (1820-1887, BAGGS and then DRAPER); Charlotte (1824-1861, CORNEY); James (1826-1891, SWATHERIDGE); John (1829-1902, WILLSTEED); Frank (1832-1926, SIMS and then PLUMLEY probably née DORE) and Henry (1835-1915, HOLLIER and then JACOBS). It is from Henry who was a whitesmith / gunsmith that my family line derives.

Apparently, in his younger days, Henry would walk the nine or so miles from Chale to Newport on a Monday, work in the town all week and return on foot at the weekend. Henry and his siblings spelled their surname LININGTON while their father varied his between that and his father's spelling of LINNINGTON (his father was William LINNINGTON, almost certainly the one with the dates of 1740-1821 who is buried at St Andrew's, and also the one who married Mary URRY there on 28th January 1772).

All but one of Benjamin's children spent their lives on the Isle of Wight. The exception was Martha. An intriguing family tradition suggested that she married a soldier who had once guarded Napoleon on the island of St Helena during the Emperor's exile there.

That exile had been from soon after Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo to his death in 1821. Given that Martha had been christened at Chale on 4th June 1815, exactly a fortnight before the battle, her husband would have had to be considerably older than her for the story to be true. Quite a bit of detective work was needed to find out how the story had arisen.

Key to the story were the archival records for St Helena, a remote Atlantic island over 5,000 miles from the UK and about a third of the area of the Isle of Wight. Fortunately, the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa has online parish records for St Helena. Tracing backwards from one of Martha's known children and with a great deal of hunting, the marriage record was found for Martha LININGTON to Sergeant Joseph BROOKE on 26th January 1847 at St Paul's Church, St Helena.

UK online records showed that Joseph had been born at Rawfolds (Cleckheaton), Yorkshire in 1814. Consequently, he would have been far too young to have guarded Napoleon but it is easy to see how the family story might have become embellished.

A search of military records (reference 1) indicated that Joseph had been in the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment of Foot, soldiers of which had indeed guarded Napoleon on St Helena (reference 2). However, the regiment had left the island in 1821, well before Joseph joined the Army in 1830. For his service on St Helena, Joseph had transferred to the St Helena Regiment (reference 3).

The next question was how Martha from the village of Chale, who had almost certainly never left the Isle of Wight previously, had ended up travelling the tremendous distance to St Helena. An important connection was made on discovering that the St Helena Regiment had been assembled on the Isle of Wight in early August 1842 (and indeed, William DOWNER, the regiment's colour sergeant was from the Island and about whom later I found an interesting reference in the IWFHS November 2010 Journal).

One of the tasks of the newly formed regiment was to act as stevedores for the many ships that docked in St Helena (including vessels involved in preventing the slave trade). Because of the manual work, recruitment to the regiment required the men to be physically fit and over 5 feet 6 inches tall. Presumably, there were pay or pension inducements to encourage enlistment off the street or transfer from other regiments.

The history of the regiment shows that it sailed for St Helena on the troop ship *George the Fourth* (built at Cowes in 1820 – see reference 4) and arrived after 58 days on 4th October 1842.

The gap of over four years between the regiment arriving on St Helena in late 1842 and the marriage of Martha to Joseph in early 1847 raises the question of why there was such a delay. If they had met during the troop assembly on the Isle of Wight perhaps a promise of marriage had been received by Martha years later and she sailed out independently. This seems unlikely. There is one piece of quite strong circumstantial evidence that suggests that she probably travelled on the troop ship in 1842.

Although previously of little obvious significance within our family history, Martha presented her mother (Elizabeth) with a bible in 1842, a treasured object that was then passed down through the generations. This looks like a parting gift from a daughter knowing that she might not see her family again for many years. If true, then Martha may have taken domestic service with the regiment, receiving the marriage proposal only after several years on St Helena. Of course, these matters are pure speculation. Regardless, it would appear that in 1842, Martha was well-placed to learn of the St Helena Regiment's posting.

The 1841 Census shows her working as a servant in Lugley Street, Newport, a location not far from Albany Barracks. No doubt soldiers from the barracks visited the town and bill posters were put up detailing recruitment or work opportunities with the new regiment. Presumably domestic service with the Army on a remote island seemed preferable to that where she was working! Regardless, it must have been a daunting decision for her to sail to St Helena and of no little concern for the family in Chale.

Following their marriage in 1847, Martha and Joseph BROOKE had three children on St Helena: Mary Miller (baptised in St Paul's on 22nd February 1848), John Obadiah (baptised in St Paul's on 4th March 1849) and Joshua Samuel (born in early 1850). Sadly, there was no eventual reunion by Martha with her Chale family because records show that she died on St Helena and was buried at St Paul's on 27th March 1850. Childbirth may have been the cause because her death seems to coincide with Joshua's birth. Two years later, Joseph BROOKE was discharged from the Army and returned to England as an Army pensioner. In the 1861 Census, now aged 47, he was living with a new wife, Elizabeth and the three children in Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Fortunately, the Isle of Wight story does not end there. Martha's daughter, Mary Miller BROOKE, married a Joseph BOSTOCK (from Jersey) in 1870 at Wakefield but then became a widow the following year. Mary Miller BOSTOCK as she had become (though known as Polly) then visited the Isle of Wight, presumably to contact her mother's relatives. There she met James Edwin WILLIAMS, a Godshill farmer and they married in 1879. In the 1881 Census, the couple are shown as living at Bridge Farm, Godshill (a 90-acre farm employing three men). Interestingly, James Edwin WILLIAMS was named as an executor in the will of Martha's brother, James (1826-1891). Mary Miller WILLIAMS enjoyed a long life on the Island and died in 1936. She was buried at Carisbrooke.

Ed: according to the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries website <https://www.foncc.org.uk/> Mary Miller WILLIAMS was buried on 19th September 1936 in section V plot 222 of Mount Joy Cemetery, Carisbrooke. Her last address was recorded as Bedford Cottage, The Mall, Newport.

The Victorian era saw many people from Britain travelling to far-off destinations about which they had little knowledge. Martha was one such intrepid individual and it has been exciting to uncover her story. Although she never returned to the Isle of Wight, she would surely have been gratified to know that her daughter eventually enjoyed many years there.

References

1. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C8847120>
2. <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/66th-berkshire-regiment-foot>
3. <http://sainthelena-island.info/regiment.htm>
4. <https://www.iow.gov.uk/recordofficedatabases/shippingdetail.aspx?id=568>

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Some New Records are Online

When records become available, it's worth checking whether they shed a new light on our ancestors.

William BOARD of Whippingham, Isle of Wight, in the County of Southampton, a millwright, married Elizabeth CASTLE on 23rd May 1793 in Calbourne and they immediately left the Island to start a business in the parish of St Faith just south of Winchester.

The business thrived and the family grew. Eight children were baptised between 1794 and 1808 at the chapel of St Cross Hospital which was being used as the Parish Church following the demolition of St Faith's Church. Sadly, several of the children died while young and were subsequently buried in St Faith's Churchyard. William himself died in 1810 and was interred at St Faith's on 25th April.

I was always puzzled by the details set out in a Marriage Licence Allegation for which William was the Bondsman in the sum of £200. The document was dated 28th September 1801 and names George BULL, Builder and Mary BOARD, Spinster, both of Whippingham. I assumed Mary was a relative of William but knew no more. George and Mary were married by licence the next day at St Cross chapel. It was a red-letter day for me when I visited the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) in Winchester and was able to examine the original Marriage Allegation document signed in a very spidery hand by William.

Early in December 2022, I received an email from the HRO which announced the news that '500 years of fascinating historical documents held at the HRO have been digitised and made available online for the first time'. Apparently, to start with, this includes wills, administrations and inventories proved in the church courts of Winchester Diocese but later next year will also include Hampshire parish registers containing baptisms, marriages and burials in the County of Southampton.

Access to an Ancestry subscription or a visit to the HRO is needed to view the documents.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives/services/ancestry>

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62475/>

This led me to discover two wills which were the key to several previously unknown family connections. William's father (another William BOARD of Whippingham, millwright) signed a will on 10th July 1806 which carried the information that Mary BOARD, his daughter (and the sister of William), was married to George BULL his son-in-law. More details emerged from the will about other siblings and the tenants of William Senior.

William BOARD Junior signed his will on 17th April 1810 and was buried 8 days later on 25th April. It's a fair bet that he knew he was dying and so made careful provision for the continuation of the business in the hands of his wife Elizabeth for the benefit of his soon-to-be bereaved family.

Elizabeth was sole executrix and on 4th May was sworn to administer the estate. Probate was granted on 21st May.

On 30th April both *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal* and *The Hampshire Chronicle* carried front page advertisements announcing the death of her husband and the continuation of their business 'having employed a proper assistant' as mandated by the terms of William's will 'for the benefit of herself and my children'.

ST. CROSS, NEAR WINCHESTER.

ELIZABETH BOARD, Widow of Wm. BOARD, Millwright, deceased, impressed with a due sense of gratitude for the many favors conferred on her late husband in the above line, begs leave to inform her friends and the public in general, that she (having employed a proper Assistant; intends carrying on the said business in all its branches, for the benefit of her numerous family; and all those who may be pleased, to honor her with their commands, may depend on having their work done with dispatch, and on the most reasonable terms. [1796

All kinds of Thrashing, Winnowing, and other Agricultural Machines made on the shortest notice.

N. B. All persons who have any claim or demand on the estate and effects of the said William Board, are requested to send the same to the said Elizabeth Board, or to Mr. George Bull, builder, Newport, Isle of Wight, in order that the same may be adjusted and paid: And all persons who stand indebted to the said estate are requested to pay the same to the said Eliz. Board, or George Bull, without further notice.

Bills were to be settled with herself or George BULL (her brother-in-law), builder, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Clearly there had been expansion beyond the original millwright business because further services were advertised. All kinds of Thrashing, Winnowing and other Agricultural Machines made on the shortest notice. Elizabeth continued living near Winchester. Two more of her children, sons John and Edward, died aged 16 and 17 respectively and were buried at St Faith's in 1812 and 1815. Eventually she returned to live at Coppins Bridge on the Island and was buried at St Mildred, Whippingham on 30th September 1819.

It seems unlikely that the business survived in Winchester. That may be just as well because the Swing Riots commenced barely a decade later. This uprising of agricultural labourers was widespread across the south of England. The protests against agricultural mechanisation and harsh working conditions were apparently most severe in areas where threshing machines had been introduced. As many as 208 incidents were reported in Hampshire. The Agricultural Machinery business would not have been popular with the rioting Ag Labs.

William and Elizabeth's surviving children returned to live near their mother at Coppins Bridge and most entered the lace making business. Their descendants more than 200 years and 6 generations later still walk the paths of the Isle of Wight.

Steve NEWBERRY. (IWFHS Member: 2189)

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Mr Bull's Gardens, Whitebridge, New South Wales

<https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1085&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=4048>

Most residents of the Charlestown area would be unaware that part of the current suburb of Whitebridge was once a major tourist spot of the Newcastle area, drawing thousands of people to visit and picnic.

The 1901 Federal Directory of Newcastle and District described Bull's Gardens as being.



"... situated off the main road to Belmont and close to Charlestown, being a pleasurable ride from the city ... there is good accommodation for man and beast, with botanical specimens and orchard harvests to be reaped. Refreshments can be procured and the misses Bull

endeavour to make the outing an enjoyable one, in which they invariably succeed."

Mr Bull's Gardens were situated to the east of the current Bulls Garden Road at Whitebridge and part of the road outlines the boundary of the original land grant.

Edmund BULL

In 1845 Edmund BULL arrived in New South Wales from the Isle of Wight aboard the ship *Herald* with his wife Frances and their four children. Frances died in 1846, and Edmund married Mary Jane SANDS on the property 'New Freugh' at Singleton in 1849.

It is said that Edmund came from a long line of gardeners who had been cultivating plants in Scotland and the Isle of Wight for several hundred years.

Edmund and Mary took up land in 1854 at 'The Folly' (now Waratah), and set up market gardens there, selling their produce in Newcastle. In an interview with the *Newcastle Herald* published 17th January 1936, Edmund's son Sidney relates the story of the earliest days:

“... father obtained a livelihood shooting game on the river and catching fish, which he hawked by boat to Newcastle and sold. I believe he grew the first bananas in Newcastle but nobody would buy them as the majority of the people had never seen such fruit previously and were suspicious of their taste and worth.”

Mr Bull's Gardens

In around 1860, Edmund bought a 60-acre plot in what is now Whitebridge and set about setting up gardens at that location. Again, Sid BULL recounted these early days in the *Herald* interview:

“From our home at 'The Folly' over a rough track, we travelled by dray or horseback at daylight to reach the selection at dark. Where Charlestown is now was a small wine shanty, the only habitation on the route. In what was then known as Raspberry Gully, the Waratah Colliery was opened the year after we took up the selection. I was 14 years of age, my brother Alf was older. With a supply of corn beef, tea, flour and sugar, father carted us out in the dray. He returned home next day. Alf and I were left alone in the bush for two weeks clearing the land. At the end of that period father returned with two others of my six brothers, who in turn worked a fortnight on the land, while Alf and I went home. So we alternated spells at home with work in the bush, until the land was cleared and a dwelling erected for all the family to dwell in.

Our bread was damper cooked in the ashes of a gum log. When provisions were short, we caught groper and flathead from the beach. Woonga pigeons, pheasants, parrots and bandicoots were also plentiful, so the tucker box was never empty. Wallabies, koala bears and opossums roamed the scrub and at night the dismal howls of packs of dingoes were heard as they stalked our young cattle - some of which would, by morning, be without their tails.”

The family business thrived, with Edmund tending the gardens and his children organising the transport of the produce. Edmund's deep love of gardening meant that the gardens went beyond a livelihood and were beautifully landscaped with rockpools and waterfalls and filled with a large variety of plants - many imported from overseas.

Our land was traversed by a beautiful gully of running water. On the hills we planted an orchard to obtain a livelihood. The gully became our hobby and was moulded into a scenic garden. Father imported many seeds and plants unknown in Australia. Seeds came from America and Java, bulbs from Holland. All 24 varieties of camelia from Japan. These, and the new

varieties of fruits and flowers we ourselves bred, made the garden a botanical wonderland.

There was also a small coal mine on the property from which the family gathered their own coal.

Public Gardens

Sid took over management of the gardens in 1904 and opened up free access to the public. Sid and his family continued to live in the original house on the property which was called 'Glen Eureka' and they made a good living out of supplying refreshments, flowers and fruit to the visitors.

People flocked to the gardens in their hundreds on holidays and weekends, often catching the train to nearby Whitebridge station. Many of these visitors were Masters of sailing ships anchored in the port of Newcastle, who had heard news of the beauty of the gardens whilst abroad. At the busiest times it is said there were as many as 200 horse-drawn carriages pulled up on the green outside.

Edmund and Mary continued to live at the gardens until their deaths - Edmund in 1899 and Mary in 1903. Both are buried at nearby Whitebridge cemetery.

The gardens closed in the 1930s and Sidney and his wife relocated from Whitebridge to Wallsend in 1937. A *Newcastle Herald* article from 17th May 1947 describes remnants of the gardens still existing between the plots of the now sub-divided land. Today little trace of the once thriving pleasure spot remains, with only the street name of Bulls Garden Road to mark the existence of one of the finest gardens in Australia.

Reference

HEALEY, Ian; *Pawpaws, Tulips at Bull's Garden; Newcastle Morning Herald* 17th May 1947, Page 5

Looking Back: Mayfield early days: Bull's Famous Gardens; Newcastle Morning Herald 17th January 1936, Page 9

A History of Dudley Public School, 1987

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Journal Indexes

Under the RESOURCES tab on the home page of the IWFHS website you will find a link “IoWFHS Journals.” On the next page you will find a link to Search Journal Indexes. On the next page is the history of how the indexes were created and the search facility.

The indexes are divided into surnames, locations (sub-divided into Isle of Wight, rest of the UK and overseas) and a general index which covers other references, including titles of articles published in Journals. None of the search boxes are case sensitive. Clicking on a Volume link in the results will download, provided that you have logged in, the relevant Journal to your device.

Surnames Index

This index will search for all surnames starting with the letters that you type. You can use the wildcard of % to replace letter(s). For example, COTTON might be spelt COTTEN. Using COTT%N will find all entries for COTTEN and COTTON. This will produce fewer results rather than searching for COT.

Location Indexes

This index returns starting with the letters that you type. The results have a second column which may help to narrow down your search.

Isle of Wight locations the second column may mention a farm, street name, place of worship, public house etc.

UK locations the first column will mention the county. The second column may mention a place name or other information.

Overseas locations the first column will mention the country. The second column may mention a place name. The place name may also include the county name and/or the state name or other local administrative division.

General Index

This index works differently in that it searches for results containing the word or phrase that you type. If you use a phrase, it must be exactly what was published.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member: 2187)
Journal Editor



AGM and One Day Conference Programme

Saturday 13th May 2023

at Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport PO30 5BA

The theme of this year's Conference is:

Pulpits, Ponds, Pubs and Power

Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and morning coffee
- 10:45 Hilary LLOYD talking about Wootton
- 11:45 **Annual General Meeting**
Apologies for Absence
Minutes of the AGM held on 7th May 2022
Chairman's Report
Treasurer's Report
Election of the Executive Officers and Committee:
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
and (up to) 8 ex-officio members
- 12.15 **Lunch break** (see next page)
- 1.30 *second speaker and subject - TBA*
- 2.30 **Tea break**
- 3.00 *third speaker and subject - TBA*
- 4.00 **Exhibition continues**
- 5.00 **Exhibition closes** (*may close earlier*)

Parking and Getting to the Conference

There are some on street parking spaces but these may be taken up.

The nearest car park is the multi-storey in Pyle Street, Newport PO30 1XB about 3 minutes' walk to the Church. There are other car parks in the town centre some have time restrictions. Information about car parks can be found on the Isle of Wight Council website at:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/maps/CarParks.aspx>

Directions from Pyle Street Multi-Storey:

Cross over St Thomas' Square. Cross over High Street and turn right following the pavement into Quay Street. The Church will be on your left.

Arriving in Newport by bus:

Newport Bus Station is about 10 minutes' walk to the Church. Exit the Bus Station at the bus entry point cross over the road and turn right. Turn left into Town Lane and walk to the end. Go across St Thomas' Square. Cross over High Street turn right then left into Quay Street. The Church will be on your left.

If you are using the bus from the Red Jet terminal in Cowes you may if you wish, get off the bus in St James' Street. Turn left into Lugley Street, right into Holyrood Street and left into High Street. Left into Quay Street. Alternatively walk to High Street turning left. Quay Street is the 2nd turning on the left. Either route is about 4 minutes' walk to the Church.

Lunch

There will **no** meals provided at the Church. There will be facilities for Members who wish to bring their own packed lunches. Please note that drinking alcohol and smoking on the premises are strictly prohibited.

There are a number of public houses that serve food (cooked meals or bar snacks), restaurants and takeaways a short walk from the Church.

AGM and One Day Conference

AGM and One Day Conference

Saturday 13th May 2023 from 10:00am to 5:00pm

Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport PO30 5BA

Tickets to attend the Exhibition and Talks will be £5 for Members and £7.50 for non-members.

Tickets may be booked in advance from the Membership Secretary. Members can book tickets online at or by completing and returning the form below.

Whilst we will endeavour to accommodate ‘walk-ins’ on the day, there will be a limit on the number of attendees at the talks.

TICKET APPLICATION

Applications should be received no later than 12th March 2023

I wish to purchase _____ member’s ticket(s) at £5.00 each

_____ guest (non-member) tickets at £7.50 each

Members not enrolled on the One Day Conference may attend the AGM at 11:45 am at no cost.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....POSTCODE.....

**Applications and cheques, payable to IWFHS.
should be sent to:**

Mrs Gerry Newberry

Mulberry House

Coastguard Lane

Brook

Isle of Wight PO30 4HQ

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight Family History Society will take place on Saturday 13th May 2023 at 11:45am at the Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport PO30 5BA

Please accept this as the required notice to members of the AGM

Nominations for Committee members (their specific roles are currently allocated at the Committee meeting to be held in June - not at the AGM) and Motions for the meeting are invited from all members and can be returned either with a ticket order or direct to the Chairman:

Mr Geoffrey Allan, Apartment 3, Sandbanks, Esplanade, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8DW by *12th March 2023*

I wish to nominate:

Membership no:

PROPOSER

Membership no:

SECONDER

Membership no:

Please ensure that your nominee is willing to stand

I wish to propose that:

PROPOSER

Membership no:

SECONDER

Membership no:

Travelling to the Isle of Wight

Three vehicle ferries operate between the mainland and the Isle of Wight operated by Red Funnel (one route) and Wightlink (two routes):

Red Funnel: www.redfunnel.co.uk (Southampton to East Cowes)

Wightlink: www.wightlink.co.uk (Lymington to Yarmouth and Portsmouth to Fishbourne)

As a foot passenger you can buy a through ticket from your point of departure to include the rail fare and ferry fare.

Portsmouth Harbour Station via Wightlink high speed catamaran to Ryde Pier Head. There is a train service from Ryde Pier Head to Ryde Esplanade and stations to Shanklin. Frequent buses run from Ryde Esplanade to Newport. Taxis are available at Ryde Pier Head and at Ryde Esplanade.

Southsea to Ryde by hovercraft (www.hovertravel.co.uk); there is a bus service from Portsmouth & Southsea Station to the hover port; you pay separately for this. There is a two-minute walk to Ryde Esplanade for buses to Newport or taxis.

Southampton to Cowes (called West Cowes by Red Funnel and Cowes West by train companies to distinguish it from East Cowes) via the Red Jet:

www.redfunnel.co.uk/ferry-travel/red-jet-hi-speed-service/hi-speed-fleet

Your through rail ticket to Cowes West will entitle you to free travel on the Quay Connect bus service between Southampton Central Station and the Town Quay. If you have not yet purchased a ferry ticket you will have to pay (senior residents of England *only* can use their bus passes), refundable when you purchase your ferry ticket. There are frequent buses from Cowes to Newport, taxis are also available. If you prefer you can travel on the vehicle ferry from Southampton to East Cowes; there is a three-minute walk to catch a bus to Newport.

Lymington Harbour Station, stop after Lymington Town Station. You travel to Yarmouth on the vehicle ferry. Buses to Newport are every half-hour. Taxis are also available.

Other useful websites:

www.nationalrail.co.uk (National Rail website)

www.islandbuses.info (Southern Vectis Bus Company website)



Di Harding Award Winners 2022

At the Annual General Meeting held in May 2009 it was agreed that, in order to perpetuate the name of Di HARDING (1950-2008), a stalwart of the IWFHS, an award would be given annually to the authors of the best three articles submitted by members and published in the journal.



First prize of 3 years free subscription goes to:

Keith HAINES (IWFHS Member: 6802)

For his article "*The Multifarious Descendants of Rev Wetenhall SNEYD*"

Which was published in the August Journal (pages 51-58)



Second prize of 2 years free subscription goes to:

Lorraine COOKE (IWFHS Member: 6416)

For her article "*My Dad's Ryde*"

Which was published in the May Journal (pages 49-54)



Third prize of 1-year free subscription goes to:

Tony MILES-PROUTEN
(IWFHS Member: 3137)

For his article "*Four Drowned off Mill Bay, Ventnor*"

Which was published in the August Journal (pages 32-36)

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member: 2187)
Journal Editor

Confidential

Confidential

Confidential

Confidential

Confidential

Confidential

Before you ask for help

I belong to many family history forums and most days I receive several emails with family/local history enquiries. I am afraid this isn't an invitation for you to send me your queries – I am already at capacity! Nor is it meant to be a complaint about those who do ask questions. There are no silly questions and we should all be trying to increase our knowledge. This is meant to help people to frame those questions in a way that is more likely to get a satisfactory response.

It is highly likely that you can answer many questions yourself and if you cannot, there are steps you can take before you ask your question. Often I am asked "Where can I find such and such a record?" or "Are there any records for....?" type questions. Sometimes I know the answer straight away. If I do not, I type the question into my search engine of choice and – guess what – there, in a matter of moments is the answer. The questioner could have done the same.

Tip: the Research Guides on the website of the National Archives cover a great number of topics and sources; local record offices often have excellent guides on their own websites.

Show me a family historian and I will show you someone who has a 'brick wall' ancestor, those folk who appear to have been beamed down from outer space or who disappear without trace. I often offer to help with a bit of demolition. Frequently, the enquirer has not exhausted all the possibilities themselves or there is a more productive way that they could set out their question. By reassessing the problem, they might be able to move that brick wall back a generation without any suggestions from me.

So, before you ask someone for help with your 'brick wall' (whether you are engaging a professional genealogist, asking an expert at a family history event or simply posting on a forum) here are some simple steps to follow:

1. Decide exactly what the problem (the research question) is. Just pick one specific thing, not 'more about John BROWN'. For example, 'I want to find John BROWN's parents' names', or 'I want to know where and when John BROWN died', or 'I want to find John BROWN in the 1881 Census.'
2. Next, reassess everything that you already know about John BROWN. There may be a clue in some aspect of the documentation that you

already have. Create a timeline of John BROWN's life using all this information. Include the sources for that information, as some sources will be more reliable than others. Please note that 'Ancestry' is not a source, although 'family tree compiled by x on Ancestry' can be. *Ancestry* (or *Findmypast* or *Family Search* etc.) may be the way that you accessed the source but the source will be an original document, a transcription or an index.

3. See if you can fill in any gaps. Do you have John BROWN's birth AND his baptism, do you have him recorded in every Census? Have you looked recently to see if there is new information available online that was not there when you last searched for John BROWN?
4. Make a note of any possible further research that might be helpful but which you cannot do at the moment, perhaps because the records are not online or you cannot visit that repository or afford to buy copies.
5. Make a list of where you have already looked and what you have searched for.
6. Finally, make sure you include a place and a time frame. Those who post on international genealogy forums seems to be particularly poor at this. There seems to be an assumption that, if no country is mentioned, it must be the US. There are genealogists elsewhere. Please avoid using abbreviations; these might be meaningful to you but ambiguous to others. Is WA Washington state or Western Australia?

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com

Ed: this article was originally published in a Lost Cousins newsletter. <https://www.lostcousins.com/> is a UK based website where you can list your relatives from Census records, including some US and Canadian Census. The website will search its database to see if anyone else has entered the same details that you have. You can contact another user via the website. If they do not respond within 14 days, you can contact Peter CALVER who runs the website and he will chase them up for you if he can. Unlike Ancestry where you may contact another user but never receive a reply or have to wait several months for one.

Adding Leaves to your Family Tree

The Importance of Local History

We all know the importance of looking at our ancestors' extended families when we are researching our family trees but it is quite easy to overlook the value of local history in adding context to our forebears' lives. After all the decisions made by a great aunt may have easily impacted the life of your great grandmother but the "community" our ancestors lived in was probably just as influential.

When I encountered the inevitable "brick walls" in the early days of my research, I was often asking other, more experienced family historians "why did my ancestor do that? or "why can I not find evidence of this?". Their responses were always valid but sometimes only accurate in a handful of cases and often based on an educated guess given the details.

We do all fall into the trap of making assumptions and when we cannot create a likely scenario for the information we cannot find, we start to believe that we will never know. What we must realise is that the key family history sources cannot answer all our questions and that local history can provide us with clues, if not the answers themselves. So, what can local history do to help us fill in some of those blanks? This is where two of my favourite sources come into play – the census and maps.

We are all familiar with the primary function of the census in our research. It's a wonderful snapshot of our ancestors lives on one day in history. We discover their age, occupation, where they were born, their address and who they shared a home with. But it is important to remember that was only the case on that one day.

The family in question could have emigrated the following day. The breadwinner could have started a new career the following week, another family member could have moved in with them shortly after the census was taken or you may presume that the widowed mother-in-law was not actually living in the household with the family, but really, she was just staying a few days to help tend her sick daughter. But in this case, it is the address that we want to investigate further here.

Have you pinpointed your ancestors address? Can you identify the property they lived in? Was it an affluent area, or a poorer one? *Where* our ancestors lived can give us clues to how they lived, and who was around them to influence their day to day lives.

By scrolling through the adjacent sheets of the census records we start to appreciate the community our ancestors lived in. We can see their neighbours, identify the local shops they would have used, perhaps locate the school the children attended, find the local pub and work out how far they would have to walk to get to church. All of these locations were vital parts of the community and not only served (a probably employed) our ancestors but enabled them to interact with each other, forming friendships, support networks and meeting future spouses.

This tactic of looking at the surrounding houses and streets is also exceptionally useful if your ancestor pops up somewhere unexpected on a census. Single adult relatives may have boarded or lodged somewhere while looking for work or on starting a new job in a new location.

The rapid development of the transport network and industrialisation meant job opportunities were plentiful, which also means our Victorian ancestors in particular were far more transient than before. But it is unlikely that people would travel to a new town or city alone.

Look out for distant relatives that your ancestor could be staying with, but also for other individuals with different names but similar or the same birth places. Two friends could easily have left the Isle of Wight for jobs in London, for example and they were more than likely neighbours beforehand.

We can also narrow down the places our ancestors may have been employed by noting their occupation and looking for the nearest corresponding establishment that could have taken them on. If census states that a cobbler was employed "at home", or is listed as an employer, and your ancestor is living two streets away and is listed as an apprentice shoemaker, you could well connect the two and you would most likely be correct. People tended to find work where they lived or moved to a place close to work. While some workers today endure lengthy commutes, our Victorian ancestors probably did not.

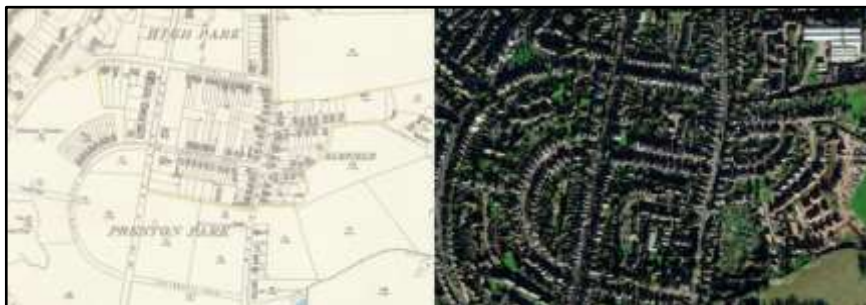
Using a combination of the sources mentioned in the beginning of this article, I narrowed down (and later proved) where a particular bricklayer's labourer was employed in 1881. Several new Victorian villas were being built three streets over from the house he was lodging in. My theory was verified when his witness account of an accident near the building site was recorded in the newspaper and his employers name was confirmed in a subsequent newspaper advertisement when the houses were finished and put up for sale. We might not all get this lucky, but it is worth a try.

My next favourite source would be historic maps. I love maps. While a trawl through our ancestor's locality on a census can provide us with a good "feel" for their local area, a map lets us visualise it. It can also illustrate the development of those locations. Just take a look at the difference of your own local area between a recent Google map image and an old Ordnance Survey map.

And just in case you were not aware, all surviving Ordnance Survey maps are available for the whole UK online. By visiting <https://maps.nls.uk/> at the National Library of Scotland website you will find a whole wealth of historic maps covering England, Scotland and Wales, with smaller collections covering Ireland and other parts of the world, all for FREE. No sign in, no account creation, not subscriptions, a totally free treasure trove of glorious maps.

The site can be a little tricky to get the hang of but there is a handy guide on the front page to help you through the process. The Ordnance Survey maps are just one series in the collection but are very useful when trying to pinpoint our ancestor's key locations.

There are three scales, one inch, 2.5-inch and six-inch which allows us to see places of interest in both great detail and in a broader context. There is also a great feature whereby you can look at an historic map and a modern map side by side allowing you to see how specific areas have developed over time.



Side by side maps image of Preston Park area of Ryde - OS 2.5-inch map 1892-1914 compared with ESRI World Imagery

Mostly we see the vast expansion of our villages, towns and cities but occasionally we can see some farms or small hamlets that have since disappeared.

The six-inch map series shows the names of most major roads and streets but the 2.5-inch version names pretty much all of them, along with key buildings, from mission halls to libraries, schools to vicarages. Also, most farms are named on these maps, along with prominent houses. Using maps in conjunction with the census, you should be able to pinpoint most areas that relate to your ancestors.

You may discover that the street your ancestor lived on is still tricky to locate. Some smaller lanes or alleys that led off of main streets are not always named on a map, so another useful source would be trade/area/street directories. There are a large number of directories becoming available on the major genealogy subscription sites but the University of Leicester has a Historical Directories collection which is viewable free online at

<https://le.ac.uk/library/special-collections/explore/historical-directories>

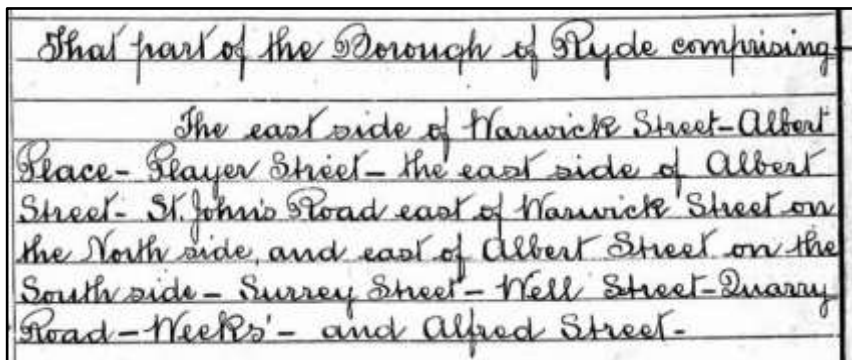
There are several for Hampshire (which most include the Isle of Wight). Some directories featured a street listing, such as the one shown here taken from the 1904 Kelly's Directory for the Isle of Wight.

DIRECTORY.] ISLE OF WIGHT—1904. RYDE. 221	
SOUTH SIDE.	
30 Wyles Mrs	Cooper William Henry, confectioner (stores)
31 McMillan Mrs. (Eastlands)	Royal Kent Hotel tap, J. E. Prestou
Mersey Mrs. (Palmer ho)	Randall & Co. mineral water manufacturers
Duff Miss (Kelston)	Oetzmann & Co. house frnshrs. (goods entrance)
.....here is Nelson pt.....	1 Chapman James, beer ret
33 Loader James Frederick, collector of town rates, Eastern district	2 Dore Edward
34 East Edward Frank	3 Smith Henry, lodging ho
35 Baker Henry, lodging house	4 Till Mrs
.....here is Nelson st.....	
Fisher Mrs. (Marine house)	Church st. from 12 Upton rd.
Seovoll Wm. (Myrtle villa)	NORTH SIDE.
36 Barton Henry, greengrocer	1 Moore Arthur Douglas
37 Hawkins James Frank	2 Phillips Mrs
38 & 39 Barkham Jas. boot ma	3 Hodges Charles
41 Blow Leonard	4 Gattrell Mrs
.....here is George st.....	5 Moorman Frederick Chas
Moore Wm. Porter, baker (Cyprus cottage)	6 Hale James
43 Ashford Mrs	7 Mabey Mrs
44 Barrett Mrs	8 Chiverton Jacob
45 Barton Samuel, greengrocer	9 Gattrell Frederick
The Royal Standard P.H. E. J. Caddy	10 Bishop George
.....here is Union rd.....	11 Baker Francis
Cemetery st. from West st.	12 Neal James
1 Whittington G. fly proprtr	13 Hollis Miss
2 Woodford James	14 Bushell Mrs
3 Harvey Harry	15 Burnett William
4 North William	16 Bartlett Henry, painter &c
 here is William st
	17 Thompson James, dairy
	18 Marriner Henry

As you can see, it lists the residents in order down each side of the street, showing the intersections of other roads, allowing you to pinpoint an address. You may not necessarily find your ancestor by name, but by looking at the names of the neighbours on the street, or by working out the approximate location of an

unknown street by finding those that are near it on the census return, you will find enough clues to narrow it down.

And do not forget the one page on the census we almost never look at, The very first page in the enumerators book lists, in detail, the route he walked and the streets he covered.



Lastly, and most importantly, you should make use of the multitude of local history societies, community historical groups and local archives. With our conference this year focusing on the towns, villages and hamlets on the Island, we are making an extra effort to emphasise the very important relationship between family history and local history. People do not exist without a place to call home, so these two aspects of research should always go hand in hand. Location-focused groups have a wealth of knowledge and resources available.

We will be encouraging all such local groups to come and exhibit at our conference this year, so be sure to keep and keep an eye on our website's events tab to stay up to date with who will be attending. But there is no time like the present. Search online for groups that focus on your area of interest, check out the local history books and collections at your libraries and resource rooms, check out Facebook for any community groups that focus on local history or pop along and see us at the Heritage Resource Centre, where we have local history books and can guide you on looking into the ideas featured in this article.

Good luck in your research and keep adding those leaves to your trees.

(Next issue....using historic newspapers to further your research)

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Island Parishes – Arreton

The medieval parish of Arreton was large, extending north to Wootton, south to Godshill, east to Newchurch and west to Shide.

The parish church of St George has traces of Saxon work but the nearby remains of the Roman Villa at Combley suggests even earlier settlement. Mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) the church was held by the Abbey of Lyra being part of the gift of William FITZ OSBERN.

In 1140 the church and tithes were transferred to Baldwin DE REDVERS' new Abbey of Quarr. Inside the church can be seen a brass to William SERLE of Stone, who died on 1st February 1595. He bequeathed a hundred pounds in coin for the use of the poor of the parish.

The money was used to purchase Garrett's Farm on St Georges Down. Other benefactors are commemorated in the church: Richard GARD of Princelade (Princelett) gave 10 shillings a year to the poor.

In 1617, John MANN, Esq. gave £46 for the maintenance, education and setting up in the world of poor orphans or other poor children. In 1638 and in 1781 John POPE gave a total of £1,105 a year to the poor.

In the churchyard can be seen the tomb of William CROMWELL (the grandson of Oliver CROMWELL) who died on 16th August 1720, aged 53. He lived at Horrington with his wife, Martha, who died in 1742.

There is a memorial stone to Elizabeth WALLBRIDGE erected by public subscription in 1822. After being converted to Methodism, she lived a life of self-denial.

The Rev. Legh RICHMOND met her while she was in service at Knighton Gorges and immortalized her in *The Dairyman's Daughter*, which sold a million copies between 1805 and 1820. Suffering from consumption Elizabeth died in 1801. Arreton parish registers record she was buried on 11th May aged 30, however the stone states she died on 30th May.

Elizabeth had lived at Hale Common, the manor which had been the home of George OGLANDER, whose name appeared on one of the bells of St George, dated 1699. The Methodist chapel at Hale Common was built in 1837 costing £120.

Horringford was once part of the manor of Hale. In the reign of Edward III it had to supply one archer for the defence of the Island. With the building of the railway in 1875, Horrington became the site of the railway station. That section of the line was closed in the 1950s and the station became a private house.

The Rectory, also a private house, the present building was erected in 1812. When Quarr Abbey leased Arreton Rectory to John GARSTON in 1407 he was specifically granted all the rabbits on the manor, south of the Standen/Haseley road.

In 1470 William CLYFTON held the Old Vicarage including tithes and rabbits. The sale of rabbits and their fur was a good source of revenue. The rabbits at Standen were worth 1 shilling and 8 pennies a year. Richard WRYGHT of Combley included 8 brace of rabbits in his rent to Quarr Abbey in 1491.

Nearby the church is Arreton Manor, which Baldwin DE REDVERS, Lord of the Isle of Wight, gave to Quarr Abbey in 1132. To begin with they farmed the prosperous manor themselves. Courts were held there to deal with the business of the manor.

Then at a time of decline the Abbey began to lease out its properties for cash rents. In 1523 John LEIGH leased the manor for 70 years. After the Dissolution the manor was owned by the Crown, who continued to lease it to the LEIGH family.

Legend has it that in 1540 murder was committed at the manor. Thomas LEIGH and his brother James fought over annuities from a family estate. Thomas died instantly from a sword thrust and James died of his wounds three days later.

Tragedy is also said to have struck the family when John LEIGH smothered his father Barnaby, and then killed his own sister who witnessed the deed.

However, this same John LEIGH seems to have lived a respected life, dying at the age of 83, a friend of Sir John OGLANDER, and knighted by the King at Arreton Manor.

The present house was built between 1595 and 1612 but traces of older building can be found. The Crown sold the manor and it eventually came into the hands of the FAIRFAX and MARTIN families, who owned it for

230 years. Today the manor is open to the public and houses many interesting collections.

Haseley Manor, recorded in the Domesday Book as having belonged to Earl Harold, and valued at £8, was also a gift to Quarr Abbey, this time from the Norman Baron, Engelger DE BOHUN. It was farmed by them as a grange, building a fulling mill and creating fish stews or ponds during their 400-year ownership.

In 1538 Haseley was bought by John MYLL of Southampton, he used stone from the building of Quarr Abbey to rebuild the manor house. His son George inherited Haseley and on his death his widow, Dowsabelle became the mistress of Sir Edward HORSEY, Governor of the Island.

They entertained the Island in some style while living together at Haseley. HORSEY died of the plague in 1582. On her death in 1603 Dowsabelle was buried in the chancel of St George.

In 1608 the manor was bought by Sir Thomas FLEMING. He had been born in Newport, the son of a mercer and had become Lord Chief Justice of England. The FLEMING family owned Haseley for nearly 350 years until it was sold in 1952. By the mid-1970s it was in a very dilapidated state when its present owners began the long restoration process, before opening it to the public.

Merstone Manor is recorded in the Domesday Book as being held by William FITZ STUR. In 1590 Edward CHEKE inherited the manor from his father and rebuilt the house in 1615.

It later came into the possession of the BLACHFORD family of Fordingbridge. The manor is shown in Stone's *Architectural Antiquities* as it was before alterations in 1895. In *Kelly's 1915 Directory* Percy G STONE, architect, is listed as living at Merstone Cottage, Merstone.

At Great Budbridge Manor there is evidence of Stone Age settlement, though it is not mentioned until the early 13th Century, usually spelt Buttbridge. when land was leased to Quarr Abbey. Richard COOKE, the first captain of Sandham Castle lived there and had several disputes with the Abbey. OGLANDER wrote of him later, "he came always to Arreton Church in his velvet gown, and 12 of his soldiers with halberds waited upon him."

On his death in 1559 he was buried in Arreton Church. The present house was probably built by Sir Robert DILLINGTON, who bought the manor in 1633.

Great East Standen Manor was held by William FITZ STUR in 1086. A chapel to St Leonard was built by the D'EVERCY family but by 1545 no services were being held and in 1595 John SEARLE was leasing it for 60 shillings a year.

In 1503, after her second marriage Princess Cecily, daughter of Edward IV, came to live at the manor, dying there in August 1507.

Henry WRIOTHESLEY, Earl of Southampton, 'who became Captain of the Island in 1603, also lived at the manor. Members of the gentry would meet on nearby St George's Down to play bowls or cards.

To the side of St George's Down is the site of Sullen's, owned by Edward CHEKE of Merstone in 1654 but occupied by the MOREY family.

It was in the summer of 1736 that Michal MOREY murdered his grandson, James DOVE. After spending nearly 7 months in prison at Winchester he was tried on 19th March 1737, found guilty and hanged on the same day. His body was returned to the Island and hung in chains from a gibbet on Arreton Down.

The National School at Arreton was built in 1833, for 120 children. In White's Directory of 1859 the schoolmaster was John SIBLEY and the school mistress was Liz SIBLEY.

Also in 1859 are listed two blacksmiths, three wheelwrights, three shopkeepers and one shoemaker. The lay subsidy of 1377/1378 recorded three butchers, two masons, two carpenters, two weavers, one cooper, one miller and two spinsters.

The registers of St George started in 1653, the earlier ones are included in the card indexes at the County Record Office.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 5 (Spring 1987) and 50 (August 1998)

Island Parishes – Bembridge

Originally Bembridge itself consisted of just a few farms and fishermen's huts, until it became a fashionable place for wealthier people to settle in the early 19th century.

It was not until 1827 that it was formed into an ecclesiastical parish. On old maps the area is called Binbridge Isle or Yar Isle, being virtually cut off from the rest of the Island by the eastern River Yar.

Once, the vast expanse of the water of Brading Haven stretched as far inland as Brading and many attempts were made at reclamation.

In 1388 Sir William RUSSELL drained part of it and built Tar Bridge to make a link with the rest of the Island.

George OGLANDER and Germaine RICHARDS reclaimed more land in 1562.

Further reclamation, in 1620, under the direction of Sir Hugh MIDDLETON, revealed a stone well. Ten years later the sea flooded in once more and destroyed everything.

The sea was finally shut out in 1880 but only after an inner embankment had been constructed. When safe, a roadway and a footpath were built along the top and the Spithead Hotel erected.

Nearby, Culver Down was once famed for its hawks and pigeons, so much so that Elizabeth I issued a warrant after the theft of some hawks.

The monument on top of the Downs commemorates Charles, Earl of Yarborough and Baron WORSLEY of Appuldurcombe House. It had been moved from its original position when the fort was built on the site.

This fort, together with St Helens Fort (in the sea opposite Bembridge Harbour), was built in the 1860s as part of PALMERSTON's defences against Napoleon III.

Bembridge Windmill, the only one left on the Island, was taken over by the National Trust in 1962 from Mrs E SMITH. The earliest date to be found in the windmill is 1746. Much of the machinery is original and produced ground flour, meal and cattle feed until 1913.

Not far from the windmill is Centurion's Copse, the site of the once flourishing town of Woolverton, which had a chapel dedicated to St Urian. Many myths and legends surround the place. One concerns a well, at which an innocent traveller was killed, the people thinking he was poisoning their water supply. When his blood spilled into the water, the town was doomed. So, it proved when the French attacked and destroyed it. The town was never rebuilt, although traces of the chapel were said to be still visible in the 17th Century.

In 1827 Edward WISE gave land and helped to raise money for the building of Holy Trinity Church. However, the foundations of the first church were inadequate and it was demolished in 1845. The new church was paid for by public subscription.

Parsonage House was built in 1829 and enlarged in 1845.

When Mollie DOWNER, the local 'wise woman', died in 1835 she willed her home, known as Witches Cottage, the home of the DOWNER family for generations, to the church. The vicar of the day promptly had it burned down. A deed of 1861 provided for two houses in Church Row to be used as Alms houses for widows.

Benefactors commemorated in the church include Mr Jeremiah DENNETT, who left £100 to be invested for the Church or National School. The Honourable Colonel MORETON, in his will proved 1854, left £300 for the poor of Bembridge, aged over 60 years.

H A MORETON founded Bembridge Library in 1850. This contained 700 volumes by 1859. The MORETON's also brought the railway to Bembridge, the last train ran in October 1953.

In 1886 Colonel MORETON and Ernest DE BOULAY founded Bembridge Sailing Club. Originally called the Isle of WIGHT Corinthian Sailing Club.

The golf club was founded in 1882, for gentlemen only, the ladies club was not being formed until 1895.

The passenger launch *Blanche* was run between Portsmouth and Bembridge, by the SMITH brothers. They had the reputation of being notorious smugglers who met at the Crab and Lobster. Later the *Blanche* was replaced by two passenger steamers, *The Island Queen* and *The Bembridge*, which ran daily trips to Portsmouth and so opened up a new era for Bembridge.

The lifeboat station was set up after local fishermen, in an open boat, went to the rescue of the *Egbert*. A lifeboat house was built ashore in 1867, and in the following year the lifeboat *City of Worcester* arrived. One of their most notable rescues was that of the crew of the *John Doose* which ran aground in Sandown Bay. At 9pm the lifeboat crew began to haul the lifeboat overland for six miles, in appalling conditions. It was launched at midnight, and after taking 1½ hours to find the stricken vessel, rescued all six of the crew. During this time the coxswain Charles SERLE was swept overboard and also rescued. A later coxswain, E ATTRILL, walked to Brighstone (*Ed: about 18 miles*) to help in the rescue of the crew of the *Sirenia* in 1888.

The importance of the sea to Bembridge is apparent in White's Directory of 1859, which lists two pilots, two boatowners and a ferryman.

The local inns were the Marine Tavern, run by Elizabeth OSBORNE and The Pilot Boat, run by Edward MURSELL.

By 1915 Kelly's Directory shows the changing face of Bembridge by listing a jeweller, a hairdresser and an outfitters. The coastguard station at that time had eleven men under the command of Chief Officer Alfred ROBBINS.

A school for 150 boys and girls was built in 1833, and the infants' school in 1862, for 80 pupils. A Dame School was run by Priscilla ATTRILL.

In 1919 John Howard WHITEHOUSE, who had been born in Birmingham, bought a house in Bembridge and opened it as a boys' school. WHITEHOUSE collected manuscripts and books of John RUSKIN. A gallery to house the collection was opened in 1929 at the school.

Bembridge Airport originated as a club airfield, in the 1930s. There were scheduled passenger services to London. During the Second World War it became a station for Fighter Command, whose main role was the defence of Portsmouth.

In 1967 Dennis NORMAN and Frank BRITTEN began producing Islander aircraft there, now the company operates as Pilatus-Britten-Norman.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 6 (Summer 1987) and 51 (November 1998)

Island Parishes - Binstead

Binstead is a small parish, situated between Ryde and Wootton Creek on the north coast of the Island. In White's Directory of 1859 it was described as being of 1,475 acres and with a population of 317. Now the village has increased considerably in size to become merged into the outskirts of Ryde itself, with much of the development taking place along the main Ryde/Newport road.

The manor of Binestede was valued at £105 at the time of the Domesday Book but limestone quarries had been in existence since Roman times. Present day names such as Stonepitts, Pitts Lane and Quarr still echo the existence of the quarries, although they were worked out by the end of the 16th Century. The high quality Binstead Stone was used in the repair of Winchester Cathedral, and also at Netley, Beaulieu and Quarr Abbeys.

In 982 King Ethelred gave the parish to St Swithin's, Winchester and a pension of 2 shillings a year was paid to the sacrist.

The parish church, tucked away in the quiet lanes of the old part of the village, may have been built for the workers in the stone quarries but a 16th Century document claims the Abbot of Quarr built it in the 12th Century to keep the inhabitants of Ninham out of his Abbey Church. It is one of the few churches dedicated to the Holy Cross. The altar and the east window face the point of sunrise on 14th September, which is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Much restoration had to be done to the church after a near disastrous fire in 1969, which completely destroyed the roof. The parish registers date from 1710 and there are many burials recorded of unknown people drowned at sea.

One notable gravestone is that of Thomas SIVELL who was cruelly shot on board his sloop by some officers of the Customs of the Port of Portsmouth, 15th June 1786, at the age of 61 years, leaving a disconsolate widow and family. Another commemorates Samuel LANDON, who died in 1844, then the biggest man in the world.

Only a short walk through the lanes from the church are the remains of the once powerful Quarr Abbey. Founded in 1131 by Baldwin DE REDVERS, it had numerous endowments on the Island. REDVERS and his Countess, Adeliza, were both buried there, along with Princess Cicely, the daughter of Edward IV, who died in 1507.

Edmund DUDLEY, who married an heiress of Gatcombe Manor, became Surveyor to Quarr Abbey in 1506 but was beheaded for corruption in 1510.

At the Dissolution in 1536 the Abbey passed into private ownership. John and George MILLS pulled down most of it and sold the stone for building material. Some going to Yarmouth Castle. It was not until 1908 that the Cistercian Monks returned to rebuild their Abbey, with the tower of the new red brick Abbey Church just visible from the main Ryde/Newport road.

The Abbey had its fish-house just along the coast, where fortifications were built in 1366 to keep out the French invader. Now called Fishbourne, it is the site of one of the major car ferry terminals on the Island. *Thrust 2*, the holder of the world land speed record was developed at Fishbourne. Close to Fishbourne is Eleanor's Grove. Legend has it that Henry II's Queen, Eleanor, died whilst imprisoned at Quarr Abbey, and was buried somewhere in the area in a golden coffin.

Much of Binstead came into the ownership of the FLEMING family. One member of the family presided at the trial of the Gunpowder Plotters, when he was Lord Chief Justice of England.

The local public house is called the Fleming Arms. The school was built on land given by J FLEMING, in 1854. The school building and master's house cost £525. About 60 children attended the school, which was run, in 1871, by William JORDAN, while Mrs JORDAN taught the girls.

The War dead of the village are commemorated by the War Memorial situated at the top of Binstead Hill on the outskirts of the village.

In 1933 Binstead became part of the Borough of Ryde, by which time the population had grown to about 1,000.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 7 (Autumn 1987) and 52 (February 1999).

Island Parishes – Bonchurch

In Kelly's Directory of the Isle of Wight for 1914/15 Bonchurch is described as being 564 acres in area of land, one of water, and 37 of foreshore.

The Manor of Bonchurch was called Bonecerce in the Domesday Book. The present building known as Bonchurch Manor, is a Victorian house, probably not on the site of the original.

Prior to the 19th century the population of Bonchurch was very small, only 50 to 100 people, mostly occupied with farming, fishing and stone quarrying. A pyramid of sample stone, dated 1773 can still be seen today, set into a wall near the village pond. Although the stone was worked out by the end of the 18th Century, the results of the quarrying are evident in the stony outcrops, which together with the stream and waterfalls give the village its picturesque appearance.

TOMKINS, in 1792 said, "... a visit to Bonchurch was a matter of adventure owing to the immense masses of rock which have fallen and obstruct the road..."

There were two notable landslips in 1810 and 1818. John KEATS saw Bonchurch in 1819, and described it as, "...a very delightful place as I can see by the cottages... covered with creepers and honeysuckles, with roses and eglantines peeping in at the windows."

The beauty of the village was added to by the draining of the osier beds, to create a pond on the orders of, Joseph HADFIELD who lived nearby in the now demolished St. Boniface House.

In 1811 much of Bonchurch, Marepool and Macketts Farm, was left by Charles Fitz Maurice HILL to his daughter, Rosa. She married the Rev James WHITE in 1829.

Ventnor was becoming a fashionable place but a clause in Charles HILL's will prevented similar development at Bonchurch. This was overcome by an Act of Parliament in 1836 and building plots were leased for up to 99 years. The WHITES came to live in Bonchurch themselves in 1839, having Woodlynch built.

The village became a popular place, due in part to its sheltered climate, many houses being enlarged and new ones built. The population increased from 146 in 1831 to 523 in 1851.

The old church, only 48 feet long by 12 feet wide, became inadequate. Probably built on the site of a Saxon church, in about 1070. it was dedicated to St Boniface. Legend has it that St Boniface preached to the local inhabitants.

Several early tombstones survive in the churchyard, Thomas MACKETT's dated 1616 and John STEVENS, 1620, being the earliest.

Some of the land for a new Church was donated by James and Rosa WHITE. It was built by local mason, Daniel DAY and local builder Jonathan JOLLIFFE.

The foundation stone was laid in 1847 by the Rev William ADAMS, who lived in the village at Winterbourne. He gave money from the sale of his books to the new church but died before it was completed.

He was buried in the old churchyard under a horizontal cross, to echo the title of his most famous book, *The Shadow of the Cross*.

Donations to the new church and also provision for a village school, which closed in 1927, were made by Captain (later Admiral) SWINBURNE. He and his wife, Jane, had purchased East Dene, an Elizabethan style mansion, in 1841. Their son, Algernon Charles was baptised at the age of 5 years in the old church, in 1843. The burial of the poet in the new churchyard in 1909, was something of a local event. In 1904 East Dene was sold to the Convent of the Sacred Heart.

Another resident involved in founding the village school was Elizabeth SEWELL, who lived in Ashcliff for over fifty years. She was born in Newport, one of twelve children. Her father, James SEWELL was a solicitor.

When she moved to Bonchurch in 1848 she was already well known as an author. She attended Bonchurch Church in the morning and went to the service at Ventnor in the afternoon but "the long, hot walk, followed by a very long sermon, made it difficult to keep awake." In 1856 her book *Principals of Education* was published; it had a wide response to its radical views.

She provided funds for a girls' school at Ventnor, which drew attention from all over the world. On her death in 1909 many letters were sent to her relatives praising her work.

In 1849 Charles DICKENS presented the school prizes. He and his family had rented Winterbourne from July, which he described as "... a most delightful and beautiful house... cool, airy, private bathing, everything delicious. I think it is the prettiest place I ever saw in my life, at home or abroad."

At the time he was writing *David Copperfield*, being a disciplined writer, he worked from 9am until 2pm, or later.

The family lived quite cheaply in the village, taking daily walks on the Downs or along the Undercliff, everywhere admiring the views. They entertained many literary figures, including THACKERAY and CARLYLE. DICKENS got on well with the WHITEs but offended some of the local people by his blunt manner. Their short stay ended in October, when they departed for Broadstairs, DICKENS having lost some of his enthusiasm for the village.

The Irish novelist, Henry DE VERE STACPOOLE, made his home at Cliff Dene, until his death in 1951. One of his published works was a collection of poems, entitled *In a Bonchurch Garden*. He gave the village pond to the people of Bonchurch in memory of his first wife.

Of course, a place like Bonchurch has many tales of smuggling. It was said that St Boniface House had spacious cellars used for the storage of tubs of contraband brandy. These cellars were supposed to be linked to the shore by a long tunnel. Tubs being rolled along this tunnel gave the impression of an invisible coach rumbling along.

There was a cave, called 'Old Jack', in the cliffs, said to be large enough to store 500 gallons of liquor. The tales of ghostly horsemen and coaches seen in the lanes, were, no doubt made up to stop prying eyes.

The parish registers date from 1778.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 8 (February 1988) and 53 (May 1999)

Island Parishes – Brading

Brading had once been the largest parish on the Island but by 1911 it was 5,524 acres in size with a population of 1,563.

Edward I gave the town of Brading its Charter in 1285. The town occupied a good position at the head of Brading Haven, ideal for trade, fishing and smuggling. The Romans had realized this when they built a villa at nearby Morton. It was rediscovered by accident in 1880 and excavated by Mr F G HILTON PRICE with twelve rooms it must have been one of the finest in the country, possibly destroyed by fire. Now under cover the mosaic floors can be seen together with artefacts found.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states that the English Fleet, commanded by King Alfred, fought off Danish pirates who were in the Haven in 896. Many vessels used the Haven for re-victualling over the years. The 20 feet high seamark on Ashy Down was erected in 1735 to assist in their navigation.

St Mary's Church was said to have been built where St Wilfred preached at the quayside. The present church dates from the 12th Century and was restored by Sir Henry OGLANDER in 1865. The oldest memorial in the church is to John CURWEN, Constable of Porchester Castle, who died in 1441.

There is a brass tablet to Legh RICHMOND, curate-in-charge, who wrote *Annals of the Poor*. Little Jane SQUIBB, much featured in this book, was buried, aged 15, in the churchyard in 1799. The thatched cottage where she lived still exists.

The Oglander Chapel has many monuments to that prominent Island family, the earliest to John OGLANDER, who died in 1485. They settled at Nunwell, Oliver moving into the present house in 1522.

A French attack of 1545 was repulsed by local troops led by George OGLANDER. Sir John, born 1585, the son of Sir William and his wife Ann (née DILLINGTON), kept a diary of national, local and family events and collected documents connected with Nunwell and the Island. After inheriting Nunwell in 1609, he carried out many alterations and improvements.

Charles I visited Nunwell soon after his arrival at Carisbrooke in 1647. Sir John was an ardent Royalist, and whilst trying to secure his release from prison in London, his wife died of smallpox. Sir John died in 1655 but his son was rewarded with a baronetcy by Charles II.

Brading had reached its heyday in the 16th century when it was a busy town, with many tradesmen, including weavers, tanners and victuallers.

The parish gun is inscribed 'John and Robert Owine, Brethren made this Pese, 1549, Brerdyng.''

Sir John OGLANDER the Governor of the Island gave 5 guineas to buy a bull which was baited by the Mayor's dog, decorated for the occasion by ribbons, watched by the mayor and corporation. Today the bull ring is set into the road outside the new Town Hall. This was built in 1902 at a cost of £1,000 to a design by James NEWMAN, of Sandown, and opened on 11th February 1903 by Miss OGLANDER.

The old Town Hall, next to the Church, had been rebuilt in 1875-1876. Underneath is a lock-up, whipping post and stocks. Upstairs, where there had been a free library of 1,700 volumes in 1914, is an exhibition of documents, photographs and other items relating to the history of Brading. Opposite is the timber-framed house once owned by Germain RICHARDS, who tried to drain the Haven in 1562. The building has had a chequered history, in the late 19th Century it was an inn called The Crown, now it is a wax-works museum.

The Haven was not finally drained until 1880 but the town had been in decline for some time before that. The Isle of Wight Railway had linked Brading with Ryde and Shanklin in 1864 and after the Haven was drained a line was opened to Bembridge. This line was closed in 1953 and now provides a pleasant walk over the reclaimed land beyond the cement works, which closed in about 1900. Although overgrown the edge of the old quay can still be distinguished.

The first attempts to educate the children of the parish began with Legh RICHMOND's Sunday School to teach them the scriptures. In 1823 a Church of England school was built for 170 pupils and an elementary school was built in 1846.

The hamlet of Alverstone, two miles away, once had a school for 67 pupils and also a railway station. The former mill was a two-storied building with a ten-foot diameter wheel.

Brading parish registers start in 1547.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 9 (May 1988) and 54 (August 1999)

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.

- 3981 Mr Peter WHATLEY; **Email:** peterwhatley@sky.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6554 Miss Emma FLOWERS; **Email:** madblackcat_uk@yahoo.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)
- 6722 Ms Jacqueline STANNETT; **Email:** jacquiskipper@live.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)
- 6885 Mr Stephen LEAL; **Email:** steveleal100@hotmail.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)
- 6898 Mrs Gina PEACE; **Email:** gina.peace@icloud.com
GIFFORD IOW All Areas All Centuries
HANNAFORD IOW All Areas All Centuries
MANTELL IOW All Areas All Centuries
PHILLIPS IOW All Areas All Centuries
WILSON IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 6899 Mrs Yvonne WARNE; **Email:** yvonneiow37@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6902 Mr Michael DIMMICK; **Email:** mike.dimmick@hotmail.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)
- 6909 Nadine SOBERS; **Email:** sobersnj03@yahoo.co.uk
ROUT IOW All Areas All Centuries
RUSSELL IOW All Areas All Centuries
SOUTHCOTT IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 6910 Mrs Marian SYMMANS; **Email:** philandmar@bigpond.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6912 Mrs Janice HAWKSLEY; **Email:** janicehawksley@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6917 Miss Amelia SHEPHARD; **Email:** shephardamelia@gmail.com
TRIBBICK IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 6919 Mr Graham COOKE; **Email:** grahamgcooke@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6920 Mrs Stephanie KEENAN
Woodlands, 5 Stafford Place, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 2QZ
(no research interests yet received)
- 6921 Miss Helen Leigh BARRELL; **Email:** helvissa@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)

- 6929 Miss Elizabeth BEALE SPANNER; **Email:** Wishbiggle@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6930 Mr Robert LEARMOUTH; **Email:** robert@learmouth.com
LEARMOUTH IOW All Areas All Centuries
- 6931 Mr Terry DAY; **Email:** tez_3d@yahoo.co.uk
DAY IOW Newport 18th-19th Centuries
- 6932 Mrs Elizabeth MANNING; **Email:** primroseruby@btinternet.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6933 Ms Jane LITHGOW; **Email:** janealisonlithgow@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6943 Mr Kevin SWAN; **Email:** swanny2340@hotmail.com
BAKER IOW All Areas All Centuries
BULL IOW All Areas All Centuries
HARVEY IOW All Areas 16th-17th Centuries
HOW IOW All Areas 16th-17th Centuries
JOLIFFE IOW All Areas 16th-17th Centuries
NEWEN IOW All Areas 16th-17th Centuries
WOODCOCK IOW All Areas 16th-17th Centuries
- 6944 Mr Colin HALLAM; **Email:** colin.hallam@icloud.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 6952 Ms Stacey Gabrielle VIBBARD; **Email:** stacey716@gmail.com
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- 6973 Ms Helen ROWLANDS; Email: helengarson@yahoo.com
BRACKLEY IOW
DALLADAY IOW
HOLMES IOW

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/>



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