



# ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



[www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

November 2023

Number 151

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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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	HMY Britannia	Jason SOWERBY
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	A presentation by Geoff ALLAN based on the Memoir written by Jack PORTER of Sandown two years before he died in 1981. The Memoir covers his service in both World Wars as well as the PORTER family's businesses in Sandown. There will also be an opportunity to socialise with other members with mince pies!	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	TBA	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Niton to Niton Street, John HUMBER and his extended family	Kevin TOWNER

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

**[www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events)**

### **2024 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

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

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

## **Editorial**

Thank you to those members who have provided articles that appear in the following pages. New articles are always welcome.

Inside this issue you will find the report on Sarah BURDETT's talk to the One Day Conference. The report was not available to be published in the August Journal.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)

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Cover Photograph

Postcard showing All Saints Church and the Post Office, Newchurch

## **Non-Committee Officers**

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**The deadline for the February Journal is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

## **Heritage Resource Centre**

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

### **Opening Times**

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

***Use it or lose it. See page 50.***

**Enquiries to: [research.iowfhs@gmail.com](mailto:research.iowfhs@gmail.com)**

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

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

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

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

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

A DDA compliant toilet facility is available to visitors.

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

The Heritage Resource Centre will be 'free to use' but donations towards our running costs and any materials will be welcomed. Non-members will be asked to become temporary members (just a quick signature and a suggested minimum donation of £1 is all that is required) to enable us to offer access to privileged material available to our full members.

## **Chairman's and Webmaster's Report**

As I write this at the end of September, the chill winds of Autumn mean that many of us will find more time in the winter to cross off a few more items off our never-ending to-do lists of research, transcription, and presentation of family history material.

Pete SPENCER (see page 3) reminds us that everyone has at least one family history story to tell – your own! And if you can share your successes and lessons learnt from your failures, then it should benefit us all.

Personally, my to-do list for the Family History Society is running at some 20+ different activities, including coordination of volunteer effort, preparing and maintaining the databases we offer, and developing new features for the website. Not to mention hosting the monthly and annual meetings and doing my bit at the HRC once a week.

If that all sounds like a full-time job well, it is not but I am fortunate that the time I spend is for the most part, enjoyable. However, as we all succumb to the ticking clock run by Father Time, anyone who thinks they may like to help out, in any way, will be most welcome. From your personal point of view, volunteering can provide a sense of achievement as well as assisting in skills development.

Over the summer months, the various tasks have been overtaken by other pursuits, mainly travelling to other parts of the UK, but inevitably these trips include an element of family history research. We recently visited the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) in Lincoln; you may be interested to know that of the 55,000 names of those who died, which are inscribed on the memorial panels, over 90 have some connection to the Isle of Wight, if only because their name appears on a War Memorial on the Island or is listed in the Crusaders' Union Book of Remembrance in Seaview. I have added images of the memorial names on our War Service Reports database – and see for example the IBCC entry for Kenneth PROUTEN at <https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/119130/>.

In future I hope to do similar surveys covering the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede, (see <https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/109600/runnymede-memorial/>) and the British Normandy Memorial (see <https://www.britishnormandymemorial.org/>)

Steve NEWBERRY, (see pages 29-34), recounts the efforts he has put into making sense of material donated to us by Sandown & District Historical Association.

We have also recently received 2 albums of photos from the 1870s related to the MATTHEWS family of Seaview, which I am currently scanning for inclusion in our Flickr albums. Unfortunately, of the 125 images received, only a handful have names associated with them, a lesson to us all to always caption photographs of people. A hard thing to do in this digital age but it will make it a lot easier for your descendants to make sense of their inherited images.

The photographs overlap somewhat with material I have recently converted to the new website format which came to us from Peter MATTHEWS – you can see his family tree at <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/matthews-family-of-sea-view>

I have retained a link from this to the Internet Wayback machine of Peter's family tree.

Also, recently we learnt that the website set up by the late Robin LEWIN of his ATTRILL One Name Study had ceased to be available, but again, searching the Wayback machine has revealed that it is still partially available. This leads inevitably to the question of how we pass on our digital legacy. Other members of the ATTRILL Facebook group are working to secure this material. Perhaps in a future article we will explore this subject.

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



## **Membership Secretary's Report**

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

**Subscription Renewal** Once again it is that time of year when we ask you to renew your subscriptions for the coming year. Due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, renewals can be made from November onwards. Page 26 of this Journal contains important information regarding your membership account and how you can renew direct through our website.

The unnumbered centre pages of this Journal contain a renewal form and details of our subscription rates and methods of payment - including a Banker's Standing Order form.

If you prefer, please complete the renewal form and submit it to me by post, as you would normally do, and I will process the renewal for you.

**The February Journals will only be sent to members who have paid by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024.** You should receive your copy of the February Journal (or e-mailed link to a copy) around 1<sup>st</sup> February and receipt of this Journal is confirmation that your membership has been renewed.

Having to post February Journals to late payers **will** incur additional expense for the Society.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Membership Secretary

**Email:** [membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com](mailto:membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com)

## **From the Desk at Coles Manning**



I am still writing 'From the Desk at Coles Manning'. It turns out that now is not a great time to be trying to move house but I still hope everything may fall into place before too long. There is enough to distract me. With the winter looming, at least for those of us in the northern hemisphere, there is plenty of opportunity to both 'do' family history, to learn more about how to do family history and to find out about how our ancestors lived.

Our own Isle of Wight Family History Society meetings give us a great opportunity to listen to interesting presentations but not everyone is able to attend. A wonderful chance to find out about many genealogical related topics is on the horizon.

The International event Rootstech 2024, which can be accessed online and for free, opening the doors to a whole raft of expertise from internationally renowned speakers.

The dates of the event are 29<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March but the talks are available long afterwards and you can still catch up with some from previous years. Many of these are short presentations that can be watched over a cup of coffee.

You can register here:

[www.familysearch.org/rootstech/registration/online/](http://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/registration/online/).

There are so many learning opportunities available that it is important to make time to put all that knowledge into practice and actually make some progress with your own family history. What though is 'progress'? Obviously, it is hugely satisfying to reach back in time and add another generation to a family line. This can become a rare occurrence, especially if you have been working on your ancestry for decades.

Even after 46 years of serious research, I do still find new people to add on occasion. If this is difficult, then how else might you progress? You can work sideways and add siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. This is very important if you are trying to establish how you might connect to those whose DNA you share.

Finally, you can try to find out more about those who are already on your family tree, both about their stories and the social and local historical context in which they lived. I've been working on the life of my grandmother for two or three years now. She lived from the 1890s to the 1960s, so witnessed many pivotal events: two world wars, the General Strike, the Depression, votes for women, space exploration and saw an unimaginable amount of social change in almost every aspect of life.

It has been a fascinating project and I've learned a great deal about all sorts of things from childbearing practices in the 1890s, through working women in the 1920s to life on the home front in a London suburb in World War 2. As I write this, I still have 1939-1963 to finish but if anyone is interested the story so far is available as Ivy's Story here <https://janetfew.wixsite.com/grannystales/tales>.

It is a very good idea to revisit parts of the family tree that have lain dormant for a while. Perhaps you missed something last time around. Maybe new sources have become available that can add to your knowledge of that person. Do you have new skills that mean you can now break down that brick wall? Can you begin to use all that information to create a story from a pile of jumbled notes and files? Set yourself a small, realistic family history goal to achieve over the next few months. Perhaps the result will be an article for this magazine.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member:50)  
Vice-President  
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## **East Cowes Talk to the One Day Conference**

East Cowes Heritage Centre was formed in 1992 and has been given many documents, photographs and archives relating to the town. Material is received almost every day, constantly enlarging our reference file section of about 100 subjects. A rich resource for the researcher!

Given the title Pulpits, Pubs, Ponds and Power, for Pulpits I decided to use just one booklet which gives a snapshot of life in the town in 1868. The Reverend Francis WHYLEY was the Vicar of St James, East Cowes, ably assisted by Mr Charles JACOBS and Mr Henry MASTERS, the Church Wardens.

At that time, the church was responsible for administering not only the church building but also the schools, the library and the charities of the Parish. Rev WHYLEY published the accounts in a booklet.

“The National Schools are flourishing, if an increased number of scholars and increased expenditure form a safe criterion” wrote Rev WHYLEY. There were 110 boys on the register, (average attendance 100) and 187 girls (average attendance 111). Were the girls being kept at home more to help with younger children and housework? A new rule had been introduced by the Committee. “Where more than two children out of the same family are paid for at one time, all below the 4<sup>th</sup> standard, they shall pay 1½d each a week and all above 4<sup>th</sup> standard 2d. each per week, instead of 2d and 3d each as heretofore.”

The Queen set the standard for donations to the school, with £10, Mr W G SHEDDEN of Springhill gave £5, as did Henry AULDJO, a merchant and Trinity House Corporation also gave £5. The lowest figure recorded is £1.

The total of School Pence received was £89 15s.1d. for the year. The Government Grant was £99 4s, with an extra grant for Evening School of £5 1s .8d.

The Headmaster and Mistress were Mr and Mrs MOLLOY received a percentage, 2 ninths of the school pence and a quarter of the Government Grant. They would therefore do their best to encourage the children to attend. There were two other teachers, Mr BOARD, Miss NICKLIN and two Pupil Teachers, L HOUNSEL and M L MARTIN, who received pay and extra tuition, as did Sophia SHEATH, Monitor.

We see that Mr JOYCE was the local printer and Mr JACOBS made some window blinds. £11 14s.6d was spent on books and apparatus – not much out of the total expenditure of £314 1s.

There was a Parochial Lending Library, with a subscription of 1d, paid in advance. The vicar proclaimed, "Parents let your children read as much as they can, provided the books are well chosen. There is no book in this library that can harm them."

There was also the Royal Albert Library and Reading Room, recently opened. It cost 2d a week to become a member but before this was opened, "there was no place where a young man, who did not possess a quiet home, could spend an evening with his companions and have access to books and well – conducted newspapers." The Queen has given a copy of her recent work, "*Leaves from the Journal of our life in the Highlands*," with her autograph at the commencement." The average nightly attendance was 90 and 40 books were taken out weekly.

The town had a Clothing Club and a Coal Club in 1868, whereby savers could receive interest on their money. There was also a Penny Bank run by the Church. A shoe club was formed later when school attendance became compulsory from 1872. We read in the school logbooks in 1873 that some children were deleted from the School Registers as they had no shoes and therefore could not attend school.

East Cowes Dispensary had been set up and again the upper classes are listed as contributing to this establishment. Mr RATSEY was the pharmacist who provided medications - £16 9s.1d worth in 1868.

The Alms Account gave out gifts of food and coal to the poor of the Parish. Three different East Cowes coal merchants were used, to share the expenditure, rather than just one merchant. They were Mr BROWN, Mr PARKE and Mr ROBERTON.

### **Pubs of East Cowes**

Many stories have been told about the numerous pubs in East Cowes. "There were 15 pubs in the High Street!" "I learnt to count walking along the road home from school looking at the pubs." But when water was so bad in the town in the 1850s that there were frequent typhoid and cholera epidemics and life expectancy in 1856 was 27 years in East Cowes, there was a reason to drink beer – it was healthier than water.

Workmen in the shipyards were doing demanding manual labour and needed to drink to replace the sweat. Beer was the preferred beverage, the apprentices would be sent off to buy the drinks. John Samuel WHITE, the shipyard owner, objected to this and issued a note to his apprentices, "As I do not like to see my Apprentices turned into pot boys, if you are asked to obtain beer for the men, you are to refuse." I wonder if they did.

In the 1920s there were 16 pubs and 3 clubs, reduced 25 years ago to 6 and 3 – and now just 3 pubs and 2 clubs. The names are on both the Licensing and Police records. Often the local constable would look in each pub at closing time.

The Folly at Whippingham was originally a vessel moored in the river in the late 1700s to serve beer to the bargemen sailing up to Newport. She broke her moorings one stormy night and ended on the beach. The pub was built around her. She was owned by Thomas BURNETT, who paid rates from 1805 to 1840.

Folly was on land owned by Padmore House and in the 1860s there is a document showing the planned letting of the building to the Oyster Company. 4 spinster sisters by the name of JOLLIFFE owned Padmore House. The document stated that, “no beer, spirits, oysters or anything whatsoever are to be sold at the premises.” There was only to be access by river or along the footpath by the shore. However, by 1891, the Pub was carrying on as before.

After 1900, Bob SAVAGE took over the pub – a retired Royal Navy lad and there is a great article about him in 1939. By then there was a winding road but it provided, “a rough car journey,” much like today really. The road was built when Sam SAUNDERS started his Aircraft factory south of the Folly in 1909. He bought Padmore Estate in 1914, building a new factory to the north of Folly. The men workers at the factory appreciated the Folly beer and the ladies working at the plywood factory enjoyed their Folly tea – until they found a dishcloth in the teapot one day.

Until 1960 there had only been 3 moorings on the river but a total fire at the factory that year instantly reduced the clientele, so publican Murray DIXON laid down more moorings himself when the Harbour Commission said it wouldn't pay.

In the winter of 1963, during the big freeze, there was no access to the Folly at all. The river was frozen and the road impassable. Sadly, there was a death – one of the two DIXON daughters. At bedtime she was using a candle and her nightdress caught fire. Her sister, known to us as a past member of the FHS, Di HARDING, survived.

The Prince of Wales Inn is another hostelry with an interesting past. From 1773 the toll house gating the road to East Cowes was just to the south of the Inn. Mr GUY was the toll collector in 1889 when tolls were abolished.

In 1854 the Inn was brought into the Royal Estate and used as extra accommodation for the servants of visitors to Osborne and their horses.

In 1904 the ground floor rooms at Osborne were opened to the public for the first time but only on three days a week. Horse drawn carriages would take people to visit – stopping outside the Prince of Wales where their passengers would alight. No carriages were allowed into the grounds.

The visitors would have made use of the Prince of Wales Inn, as there were no refreshment facilities at Osborne. It must have been good for trade, However, other local tradesmen cashed in on the tourist trade – Percy HARWOOD had a greengrocer's shop in the town and brought up his barrow on Osborne opening days, also selling soft drinks and postcards to the visitors.

Until the 1930s, any vehicles had to park along the road. Then in the 1930s, motor vehicles paid to park in the old Osborne stable yard, where Vectis Storage is now.

### **Ponds in East Cowes**

Alongside the Medina River in East Cowes there were timber ponds, where new timber waiting to be used in the shipbuilding industry was left to season. When required it would be sawn over a pit by a SAWYER and his mate, a method still in use in the 1920s. Knee joints were used for the stem, such as that being measured for a RNLI lifeboat at Saunders Cornubia works.

The largest East Cowes Pond until the 1990s was the old East Cowes Park brickyard claypit, which had filled with rainwater. The brickyard closed in about 1914.

1851 saw the start of East Cowes Park estate brickyard. The strong buff-coloured bricks all had ECP in the frog (dip) and can be seen all over East Cowes. The 1861 census shows the ECP brickyard workers for the first time. Alfred Street was built as part of the estate for workers in the town and was especially convenient for the brickyard workers. Clay would be dug from the pit during the winter by the labourers, one of whom was George PAYER. He was 15 and lived at 3 Alfred Street. He had two younger brothers, Ben and Henry PAYER aged 12 and 10, listed as pug boys. Their task was to collect the clay from the pug mill and take it to the brick-makers' benches. Before the advent of horse or steam powered mills, the pug boy would have to work at treading the piles of clay to the right consistency with bare feet. In 1871 an Act of Parliament restricted the minimum age of boys working at the brickyard to ten and girls under 16 were no longer able to work there. By the 1930s, boys could start as pug boys at the age of 14.

Firstly, there was a shallow, circular brick-built ice pond under the horse chestnut trees at East Cowes Castle. Ice was cut in winter and stored in

the deep icehouse between insulating layers of straw. In summer, the ice was used to pack round dishes, chilling food such as jellies or ice cream. The pond has gone but the remains of the icehouse still exist.

Secondly, on both the Springhill and Norris estates there were stone-lined cattle ponds, with stone-faced ramps for the cattle to access the water. Those at Norris are now listed Grade 1. The farm manager on the Norris estate in the 1930s was Mr STREETS and an electric milking system was installed for the cattle that drank from those ponds.

The third pond, made of brick and concrete, is the paddling pool on the Esplanade, opened in 1925. It was a job creation scheme set up by the East Cowes Urban District Council as a project for the unemployed men of the town, since many R N shipbuilding contracts were terminated in 1918. This pond gave and still gives, much enjoyment to the children of East Cowes. In the 1930s there was a model boat club.

The Queen had a shallow skating lake created below the Barton Manor ponds but no mixed skating was allowed. The pond was used for skating, or sliding, by the Osborne Royal Naval College Cadets between 1903 and 1921. Barton Manor became a school, Brookfield School, for boys preparing for the Royal or Merchant Navy in the 1950s and they also enjoyed the skating.

### **Power in East Cowes**

Another pond, at Whippingham, was the mill pond for East Medina Mill. Built by William PORTER in 1790 at the time of the Napoleonic Wars, when everyone was cashing in on the need to feed the Army and Navy, the mill was enormous. Mr William ROACH was the owner and James ROACH the manager by 1799. It ceased working in 1939 and was used for paper storage for recycling during WWII, caught fire and burnt down.

There was a windmill on the hill above East Cowes, only remembered in the name Millfield.

By 1859 East Cowes had its own gasworks by the river. It was smelly and subject to explosions. In 1884 two employees, John BROWN and James SAUNDERS were killed in an accident there. An early manager of the works was William TEALE and another was Robert FISH, who leased the gas works from 1894, making many improvements.

During the Blitz of 1942 there was almost another disaster when incendiaries set light to the coke and buildings next to the almost full gasometer. Poisonous fumes caused the firemen, working without breathing apparatus, to pass out, so they were called off. But the danger to the town was so great that they were sent back in. Mick COLE was



helping with the Saunders Roe Home Guard and together they saved the gas works. Two Ryde firemen were given bravery awards. If the gasometer had exploded...

A new Gasworks was built at Kingston, serving Ryde, East Cowes and Shanklin. As before, coal came in by sea. Men worked in three shifts round the clock. It was so hot on the retort house that they were issued with wooden soled clogs – and salt tablets. In 1968 the works closed. Gas has since arrived on the Island via a submarine pipeline under the Solent.

An Electricity generating station was built in 1928 at Kingston serving the whole Island. A cable was laid from the mainland in 1964, which subsequently linked to the new Power Station built in 1982. Costly to run, it now is only used in times of peak demand.

People power began with the Highways Board in the 1700s, the Local Board of Health by 1860 and then Town Councils, which disappeared when Borough Councils took over. Local Town and Parish Councils returned in 1998.

Queen Victoria gave land in East Cowes for a reservoir to provide piped water in 1860. Mr CHINCHEN did the pipework and also the first sewerage system. The Local Board also took over all the roads in 1875 and set up a Burial Board that year to construct a cemetery in Kingston Road, on land given by the Queen. (See the Friends of East Cowes Website which is adding photographs to the details of the graves there.) The Board also installed some gas streetlights – one of which was powered by methane gas from the sewers.

The greatest source of power in East Cowes was Queen Victoria. When she was in residence, East Cowes was the centre of the Empire. Prime Ministers, foreign royalty and diplomats all visited. Her Private Secretary for many years was Sir Henry PONSONBY, who lived at Osborne Cottage.

Communications around the Empire improved with the invention of the telegraph. The Queen's telegraphist for 35 years was George WARREN. He received and sent all telegrams for her – such a responsible position.

Queen Victoria had the Whippingham Alms-houses built to provide homes for the aged retainers of her estate, taking a great interest in the occupants.

Sarah BURDETT (non-member)  
East Cowes Heritage Centre

## **Looking For The Grave of My Grandfather**

Talk by Geoff BANKS on 4<sup>th</sup> September

Geoff's Initial aim was to search in France and Belgium for the memorial to his grandfather, where was he killed? Where was he buried? Is there a memorial with his name on? These were the questions I had to get answers for, may of the remains of service men who die in this terrible war were never recovered or identified.

Geoff first visited Ypres in 1962, not knowing what he would find there, Jim BANKS served with the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Wiltshire, later swapped to a Dorset Regiment. He was born in 1882, in Bradford-on-Avon, a weaving town in the Cotswolds. A population of some 3,000, many of Dutch descent who came to England with their weaving traditions.

5 million were lost in the First World War, many buried without the names on graves. Many were buried where they died, to this day they are still finding human remains, with some 50 bodies found annually.

Jim was sent in 1916 to the raid on Suez, moving to France on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916, returning after being wounded from the battle of the Somme, went home to Dorset but he was an army man through and through and needed to get back to the war zone.

A Somme photo from the war shows many of the troops in a happy state with smiles on their faces, little did they know what was to occur. Cases topped 1 million deaths in France alone, Jim was posted to Flanders on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1917.

700 Yards of troops were slowly moving forward on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1917. this is when he died, in the fields of Flanders with no known grave.

In October 2017 Geoff hired a car and set off for Belgium and the Menin Gate, many thousands commemorated there, he was looking for Mahiew Farm, where he believed his grandfather had fallen, he wrote to the farmer who now owned the property and they agreed to put a Stone memorial in as near to the place of his grandfather's death as they could speculate.

The Stone memorial now stands within the farm and is Geoff's way of remembering his grandfather.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

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## **From Convict to Pioneer – William BARTON (1809-1880)**

Earlier this year I received an email from Australia with a large, detailed PDF document. The sender had enclosed a biography of his 4<sup>th</sup> great grand uncle, William BARTON and brother to his 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. The document contains maps, pictures and images of documents and is very detailed, comprising 27 A4 pages of close typed text. The following is a summary of the facts contained. The original is available on our web site under the Resources menu – Articles page.

### **Part 1. The Early Years until his Pardon in 1839**

#### **William BARTON's Early Years (1809-1825)**

William's father, Steven BARTON, when 30 years old, married Mary WILSTEAD on Boxing Day 1788 in St Peter's Church, Shorwell, where William's baptism took place in 1809. Stephen and Mary worked as agricultural labourers and lived in a cottage one of the many described as ancient looking chiefly built of stone and covered in ivy all over, up to the roof.

STEPHEN BARTON (1758–1818) and MARY WILSTEAD (769- 1809)

Name	Relationship	DOB	Birthplace Marriage Death
Stephen BARTON	HEAD	1758	b. 22 Feb 1758 Shorwell. D.10 October 1818
Mary Wilstead	Wife	1769	b. Chale. Marries Boxing day 1788. Dies 1809
James	Son	1788	Chale.
Stephen	Son	1791	Shorwell.
Elizabeth	Daughter	1793	Shorwell.
Thomas	Son	1796	Shorwell.
Mary	Daughter	1799	Shorwell.
Hannah	Daughter	1803	Shorwell.
William	Son	1809	Shorwell. Dies 1880 New South Wales Australia

Then Shorwell parish had a population of about 400 people and farming an acreage of 8,857 acres. From records we know that Mary WILLSTEAD was baptised in Chale 5 miles away on the coast from Shorwell on Christmas Eve 1769. After 21 years of marriage Mary died aged 40 years and a few months after William, her seventh child, was born in 1809.

William's father would turn his hand to a wide range of tasks, including ploughing and seed sowing, hoeing, weeding, mowing, spreading dung, threshing after the harvest and hedging and ditching during the winter months. His children would have worked at picking up scattered seeds after sowing, helping him to clean the animals and scaring birds from the

fields. The life of labourers on the Isle of Wight was poor and they were landless, with many living in distress.

As a child of an agricultural labourer, William was put to work as soon as he could walk and by the age of 10, hired out as a servant to a tenant farmer who would provide him with food and lodging. Any wages he might receive were a pittance. As he grew older William worked by ploughing and reaping on farms in the parish and carting and helping the miller at the mill in Shorwell. We know the names of William's last employers on the Island in 1831, they were ELLSBURY and DYER, coal merchants in Chale.

In 1815, at the end of the Napoleonic wars, the cost of food and rent for farm labourers had increased on the Island. Wages remained low, accompanied by little, if any, increase in parish poor relief and poverty among many inhabitants was commonplace.

### **William and lawbreaking (1828-1831)**

Starting in 1828 when he was 18 years old William's lawbreaking began to escalate. For his first conviction in October 1828, he received a public whipping, hard labour and prison, for his second conviction in November 1829 the sentence was prison, solitary confinement with hard labour and for his third conviction in October 1831, he was incarcerated on a prison hulk in Portsmouth, before he was transported to the colony of New South Wales, sentenced to 7 years of penal servitude.

### **William BARTON's first encounter with the magistrates**

William's lawlessness was first brought to the attention of the Newport Borough Magistrates in June 1828 but in this case, he seems to have escaped punishment. Several months later in October 1828 William appeared in front of the Newport Magistrates again and this time he was convicted for stealing. The offence was stealing four pounds weight of hair belonging to a Mary TOOLEY in September 1828. The punishment he received was severe. He was 19 and received six months imprisonment, hard labour and a public whipping. He was imprisoned in Winchester goal and discharged at the end of April 1829.

### **William BARTON's second conviction (1829)**

On Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1829 William BARTON, aged 21, was convicted of stealing one pound of cheese for which he was given eight

months imprisonment and one-month hard labour the last fortnight of which term in solitary confinement.

### **William BARTON's third Conviction (1831)**



This time William was convicted of stealing two bushels of coals, the property of his employers, Peter ELLSBURY and John DYER. The punishment seven years transportation. He spent six weeks in Winchester jail, from October 1831 and then transferred to the prison hulk *Leviathan* in Portsmouth (*image on the left*) in the last week

of November 1831. William spent 11 weeks waiting for his convict transport to New South Wales. While on the *Leviathan*, William worked every day in the Portsmouth dockyards.

### ***Lady Harewood* and the voyage to New South Wales**

William was one of 200 convicts transported on the *Lady Harewood* to New South Wales. The ship left Portsmouth on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1832 and arrived in Sydney four months later, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1832. The distance was 12,950 nautical miles (14,902 miles). William was lucky, as cholera had already swept through the prisons and hulks of England and Ireland causing many deaths but only one convict died during the passage to Australia. After William disembarked at Port Jackson in Sydney town, the *Lady Harewood* returned to England.



### **1832 William BARTON's work assignment**

After landing at the Sydney docks, they were marched up to Hyde Park barracks where they were kept until they moved on to their places of work. On the Monday the convicts were forwarded to their respective assignees who were generally local businessmen or government agent farmers on small acreages further afield of Sydney town or squatters setting up sheep

and cattle runs days away on the frontiers of settlement. William was one of the first convicts to be assigned.

### **William – convict labour for Henry BADGERY**



Henry BADGERY (1803-1880) from Sutton Forest was William's first master. He was born in Hawkesbury in the Colony in 1808, the son of James BADGERY who arrived in Sydney in 1795 in the early days of settlement together with his family and some livestock from England, they came from Devon. His property in Sutton Forest was little more than a hamlet at that time but here he kept cattle and merino sheep. These became the basis of the development of the Australian wool industry. BADGERY was entitled to the services of one convict for every 100 acres of land, he owned 1920 acres.

William's assignment to BADGERY was published in the local papers. BADGERY took on William after only a few hours of being made available for assignment, the description of all his agricultural skills obviously making him desirable. When William arrived in 1832 there were a total of 312 male convicts and 40 females, the total populations being 680 persons.

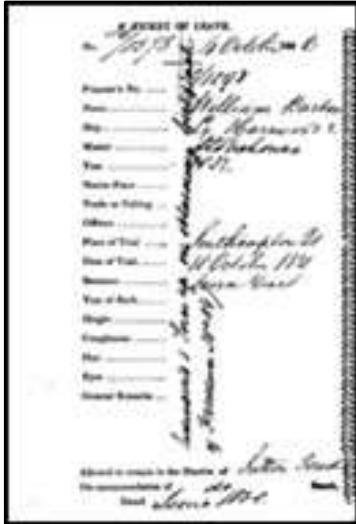
As a convict, William was not paid for his work but was supplied with food, clothing and lodging. BADGERY did not own William and if William felt he was being mistreated he could complain to the authorities.

### **Controlling convicts in Sutton Forest**

BADGERY's Vine Lodge estate on which William worked had a number of convicts and ex-convicts working there. To keep control of the Sutton Forest convicts they were regularly mustered and counted by police constables.

### **1836 – Ticket of Leave**

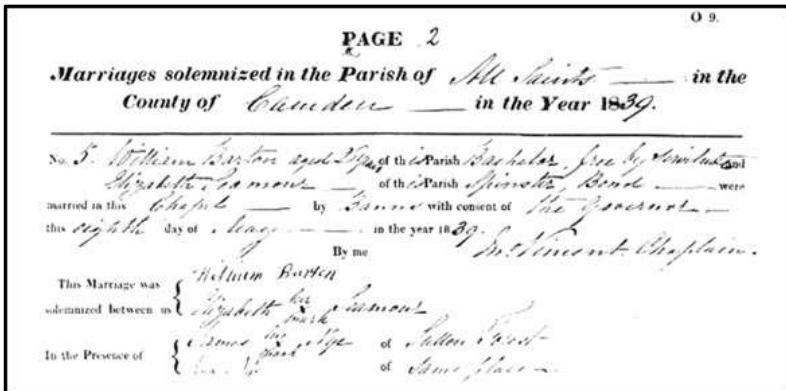
After serving 4 – 5 years of his 7-year sentence William could, if he had a record of good conduct, qualify for a ticket of leave. This was a document of parole issued to convicts who had shown they could be trusted with some freedom. William had to carry this document with him at all times and remain in the police district and attend convict musters.



There is no evidence in the newspapers that William was ever reported by BADGERY of misbehaving and on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1839 he gained his certificate of freedom (image on the left). At the time he was working for the Rev John VINCENT at the parsonage in Sutton Forest and paid as a free farm labourer.

**1839 William BARTON and Elizabeth SEAMOUR**

In 1839 William was still working for the Rev VINCENT where he met Elizabeth SEAMOUR, a household bond servant working indoors. As Elizabeth was still a prisoner of the crown the local Governor had to consent to William and Elizabeth's marriage. They were married on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1839.



Mike HOAR (IWFHS Member:3735)

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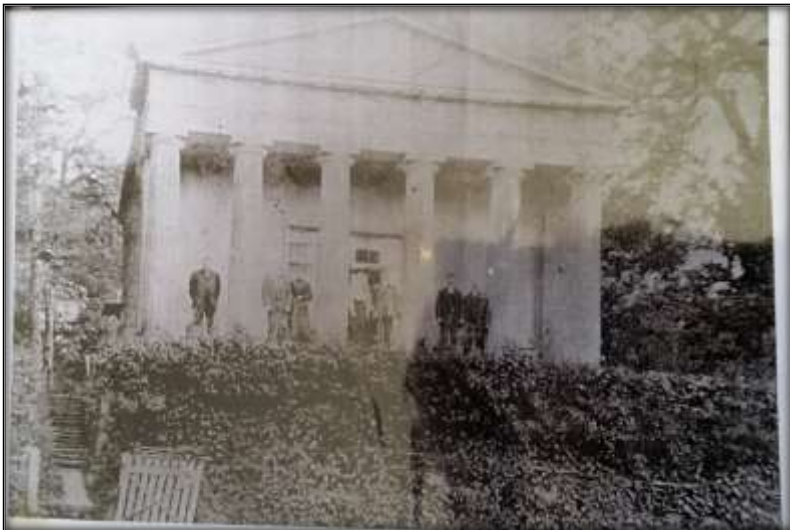
## **John WOODFORD: Thatcher by Trade**

Born on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1856 in the small village of Mottistone on the Isle of Wight, John WOODFORD's early years were spent working as an agricultural labourer as evidenced by the 1871 and 1881 England Censuses.

His father and grandfather before him had also been agricultural labourers. The family line can be traced back to the early 1530s through local parish registers in the area known as West Wight.

The 1891 Census shows John, his wife Emily Jane (née SPRAKE/SPRACK) and five of their children living in 'The Temple' at Calbourne on the Swainston Estate. His occupation is now listed as that of 'thatcher'.

Swainston was first mentioned in AD 827 in the charter of King Egbert. The manor house was built between 1174 and 1188 for the Bishops of Winchester.<sup>1</sup> The Temple was originally an ornamental garden building in the grounds of Swainston Estate which was later converted to a dwelling around 1790.<sup>2</sup>



Family Members at The Temple (Photo Courtesy Yvonne WARNE)

<sup>1</sup> <https://historicensland.org.uk/services-skills/education/educational-images/swainston-manor-newport-road-calbourne-8635>

<sup>2</sup> <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101218782-the-temple-calbourne-newtown-and-porchfield>





The 1901 Census finds John, my great grandfather, now living in Pinhorn Cottage (photo on the left in winter courtesy of Yvonne WARNE), with his wife, five of their sixteen children and one grandchild. His occupation is still recorded as thatcher. This cottage, in the quiet village of Calbourne, is a thatched dwelling situated across the lane from All-Saints Church (established AD 826) where John and Emily now rest, their headstone facing Pinhorn Cottage.

Family stories passed down through the years relate how John was often collected during the morning by a large black car to take him to the estate where he was working to repair or renew thatch. He would then be delivered home again in the afternoon. This would lead one to believe that the standard of his work was highly valued by the estate owner.

The Isle of Wight has many quaint villages with thatched houses, part of the great charm of this island situated at the southern end of mainland England. The skill of thatching was once widely practised by men such as John WOODFORD but has now become a highly specialised occupation with a five-year apprenticeship required to qualify as a Master Thatcher.

Thatched roofs date back to a time when people used whatever materials were at their disposal to construct their dwellings and this initially involved gathering plants to bundle together in order to create a roof which would keep the rain out and provide a form of insulation from the heat and cold.<sup>3</sup>



However, what was once considered the roofing of the poor, is now considered the roofing of the well-to-do. Maintaining a thatched roof is a costly exercise. Photo on the right John WOODFORD Thatching – (Private Collection).

<sup>3</sup> <https://britishheritage.com/history/thatching-old-craft-modern-england>

Researching the history of thatching and what is involved in the process of creating or repairing a roof has brought to light some fascinating information. It seems the tools and training remain traditional to the extent that a thatcher from the past would feel quite comfortable working alongside a Master Thatcher of today.<sup>4</sup> It is also likely that a thatcher in the distant future would be similarly at ease. Almost all thatched houses in England are heritage listed which means that any work done must remain true to the character of the building. Even the harvesting of materials used in thatching must be done with traditional implements, so no damage occurs. Modern wheat treated with pesticides or genetically modified is not suitable for use as it is not as strong as traditional varieties.



Church of St Agnes, Freshwater (Private Collection)



Shanklin (Private Collection)

<sup>4</sup> <https://thatchinginfo.com/>

It is rare indeed for all of the thatch to need replacing on any particular roof. Only the damaged part is replaced which means that the earliest thatching may well be the original work and possibly hundreds of years old depending on the age of the house. The earliest workmanship can be seen through the attic latticework.<sup>5</sup> It is therefore quite conceivable that my great grandfather may have worked on one or more of the delightful cottages I have admired and taken photographs of over the years when I have visited the Isle of Wight. This most certainly applies to the many thatched cottages in the village of Calbourne where John and Emily lived in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The deeper understanding I now have of my great grandfather's trade and life has brought me closer to my ancestors.



John WOODFORD 1856-1940  
(Private Collection)

Melodie WOODFORD (IWFHS Member: 3312)

**Email:** [mwoodford44@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mwoodford44@yahoo.com.au)

<sup>5</sup> <https://britishheritage.com/history/thatching-old-craft-modern-england>

## **2024 Subscription Renewal**

Subscriptions for 2024 are due on 1st January 2024, where possible please use the on-line renewals process. Renewals can be made from 1st November onwards.

To renew on-line go to My Membership. It offers you the opportunity to renew your membership for 2024. Your 2024 membership will change from “Lapsed” to “Active” once payment is received. If you think you have already paid for 2024, go to Membership History. This will show your current membership and any future memberships that have been paid for.

**Standing Orders:** Where we anticipate a future payment by this method your membership will be shown as “Pending” until payment has been received.

**PayPal:** If paying by PayPal, renewal will be immediate and show your membership as “Active”. You will be sent an automated confirmation e-mail.

For all other on-line methods of payment, your 2024 membership status will be shown as “Pending” until payment is received by us and we have manually updated your account. This will also apply to any existing recurring PayPal subscription arrangements, as we are currently unable to process these automatically.

**Cheque:** If paying by cheque (sterling drawn from a UK registered bank only No Banker’s Drafts) this should be made payable to IOWFHS and together with a renewal form sent to arrive by 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Subscription Payments:** make sure that we are going to receive the correct payment and that any Standing Order is for the correct amount and quoting your Membership number as the reference.

Information about all methods of payment can be found at <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/paying-for-your-subscription> but should you experience any problems logging in or renewing, please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Secretary for assistance.

**ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**Please complete all details in capitals, and return to:**

Mrs Gerry Newberry, Membership Secretary, IOWFHS, Mulberry House,  
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Membership Number: .....

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Include titles (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/etc) and your preferred forenames  
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Address: .....

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with the first payment on receipt of this order and thereafter annually on 2<sup>nd</sup> January each year commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 until further notice and debit my/our account accordingly.

**Please cancel any previous order in favour of the IOWFHS**

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Signature(s): .....

.....

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/ 202





## Searching for the Silent

I have several postcards showing the *Silent* tied up alongside the mill at Wootton Bridge or sailing up the Creek. So, I thought I would research her. Using my subscription to *Findmypast* I went to 'All Record Sets' and typed 'Crew Lists' into the search box, which took me to several options, including 'England and Wales Merchant Navy Crew Lists'. Clicking on that came up with a search page so I typed 'Silent' into the vessel name box – there were 367 results. I took a bit of a guess by typing 1901 +/- 2 years into the year box. That gave me 20 results, three I could discount as they were for a Ramsgate registered boat. The rest looked more likely.

First on the list was James BARNETT, date of birth blank, 1899, master of the '*Silent*', registered port blank. Clicking on that brought up an original image from the official log covering the first 6 months of 1899. The '*Silent*' had the official number 28699, a piece of information that seems vital, at least it helped greatly, to identify the correct vessel. Her port of registry was Cowes, her net tonnage was 19, the managing owner was E SOUTER, of Wooton Mills [sic] Isle of Wight. The master was James BARNETT, of East Cowes.

She traded between Cowes, Southampton and Portsmouth with general goods in that 6-month period. I clicked on the > symbol on the right to get the next page. That told me in addition that BARNETT had been born in 1851 at Cowes and his previous ship had been the '*Silent*'. There was one crew member, able seaman, William HANNUM or HANNAM born 1841, also at Cowes. It was possible to click through images until 1903 although 1902 was missing. Owner and master were the same but the one-man crew varied and Wootton Bridge was never mentioned as a port of call.

I had heard of the Crew List Indexing Project (CLIP) so looked at their site. Their search page gives a lot of different search options but luckily, I knew the ship's number. That came up with a list. Clicking on the first was actually a link to TNA ref: No – BT 110/1508/1, although a personal visit would be needed. I am not sure if I would get any more information than their index gave.

The '*Silent*' was built in 1860 and the registry closed in 1940, when I guess she ceased trading. The second item on the list was an original image from the Appropriation Books, which meant scrolling down to find the '*Silent*', that confirmed her number and tonnage, she was a sailing vessel of Cowes first registered 29<sup>th</sup> August 1860.

What followed were transcripts of the logbooks from 1866 to 1913. These documents are held at the Portsmouth History Centre. The first transcript, for 1866 said the owner was Walter WOODNUTT of Quay Street, Newport, the master was John LEIGH, 36, also of Newport, with crewman Thomas APPLETON, AB, 23, again of Newport.

By working through the transcripts, although there are some gaps, owners, masters and crew can be tracked. By 1880 the '*Silent*' was owned by Samuel LEIGH of Newport and James BARNETT became master probably by 1884. It is likely that the SOUTERs of Wootton Mill became owners between 1894 and 1897. Leonard SOUTER was listed as the last owner. After he retired from milling by 1941, he was leasing the mill to Joseph Rank Ltd so, perhaps, they did not require a vessel and the '*Silent*' was probably broken up. There was no indication on either website what had happened to her.



*Silent* in Wootton Creek

Hilary LLOYD (IWFHS Member: 14)  
Rose Cottage, Burnt House Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2PW

## **The BROWN Brothers, Builders of Sandown**

Earlier this year, the Society received a bundle of folders containing 242 sheets of A4 paper from the Sandown and District Historical Association (S&DHA). <https://sandownhistoryiow.uk/>

The package contains detailed information about the BROWN and REDMAN families of Sandown. Our objective was to create a digitised family tree in GEDCOM format for integration into Mike HOAR's Pedigree Index project. Also to scan and load into the IWFHS Flickr repository at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/196792618@N03/albums/7217720310980531>

It soon became clear that the package was the result of a significant research effort into the BROWN family based largely on transcribed extracts from Sandown's local newspaper, the *Isle of Wight Chronicle and Guardian (The Chronicle)* which was published from 1866 to 1979. *The Chronicle* archive is held in Sandown Library's archive room. It is not yet digitised and the fragile newsprint is only available for viewing when a S&DHA volunteer is present to supervise gentle use wearing cotton gloves.

The original research was undertaken in the 1990s by Terry HALL, a Sandown Town Council Archivist. Terry was a great friend of Graham BROWN who was the inspiration for the work. Terry and Graham were leading lights in the Sandown Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (SAODS).

The typed text contains family information and derived relationships for several generations of the BROWN and REDMAN families as well as the manual transcriptions of 102 *Chronicle* articles. The details have now been collated into a GEDCOM file containing information on 203 individuals with relevant citations. In addition there are 71 photocopies of family photographs. The transcriptions and photos were all scanned and saved in JPEGs with annotations added to their metadata for ease of access. The family relationships have been verified against online databases as far as possible.

### **William and Annie BROWN**

William BROWN was born in Sandown village in 1847, the 13<sup>th</sup> and youngest child of David BROWN and his wife Jane WEARN. Back then, Sandown was little more than an agricultural hamlet but with the arrival of the railway in 1864, it was well on the way to becoming a fashionable

Victorian seaside resort. By 1871, the building frenzy was such that the census enumerator, Henry RAWKINS, peevishly bemoaned the plethora of unregistered new streets which made it difficult to complete his work in “My District consisting of chiefly the Labouring class.”

William started work as a boy making bricks and developed a career in the building trade forming partnerships and finally entering into business on his own account. When he died on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1927 the *Chronicle* expounded on his firm's long history developing, “A large area at the eastern end of town”, as well as the Free Library, the Queen's Cinema, the Savoy Hotel (originally known as the Chatsworth Boarding Establishment) and other works; Bembridge school, the Sandown sewer outfall and Shanklin's new council chamber.

As well as his sporting achievements, the newspaper also noted that he had been one of the original trustees of the York Road Methodist Church and a founder member of Sandown Fire Brigade.

William married Sophia Ann 'Annie' REDMAN in the Wesleyan Chapel Ryde on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1873 and as the paper reported, they “brought up a very large family, leaving behind eleven sons and a daughter all married.”

### **The BROWN Brothers**

Their first son, Wilfred Harry 'Wilf' BROWN born on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1875, was to become the managing director and chairman of the family firm, Messrs William Brown (Sandown IW) Ltd Builders. But Wilf BROWN was perhaps best known to the public for his involvement with the Sandown Fire Brigade which he joined in 1893 aged 18, eventually becoming the esteemed Fire Brigade Chief Officer and serving until national reorganisation in WW2. Wilf's career in the Brigade is well documented in Damon CORR's excellent 'leaders' feature (note misspelling of his surname in this URL):

<https://www.iwbf.co.uk/special-features/leaders/chief-officer-wilfred-harry-brown>

IWFHS members will recall Damon's dynamic afternoon talk on the Island's Fire Brigades back in January 2023.

At the turn of the century, Wilf volunteered with the St John's Ambulance Service under the auspices of the Southern District of the National Fire Brigade Union during the Boer War in South Africa.

He volunteered again as an orderly supporting nursing care for military personnel through the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) for over four years in WW1 (25<sup>th</sup> October 1914 – 25<sup>th</sup> January 1919).

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/record?rowKey=29883>

A regular supporter of Sandown Football Club, Wilf collapsed and died while watching a home match at Fairway Park on Easter Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 1955. He was 80 years old. A comprehensive obituary was published in the *Chronicle*; it focused on his service in the Fire Brigade and his membership of the Urban District Council which he chaired on more than one occasion. He was "A true son of Sandown...a devoted and able public servant and a true Christian gentleman" as well as the revered President of Sandown Bowling Club.

William and Annie's second son, Frederick William 'Fred' BROWN was born on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1876. When he left school, Fred was apprenticed at the *Isle of Wight Chronicle* works in Sandown but eventually followed his older brother into the family building firm becoming in due course one of the directors.

Just before WW2, the firm had bought land, formerly the Broadway Football Ground, for development as the Vinings Estate. But in 1940 following the Governmental exhortation to "Dig for Victory", Fred decided to throw open the estate for allotments. By March, "Some thirty Sandown men...had already taken plots of 10 rods at a peppercorn rent of half a crown (12.5p)" and were busy at Easter digging and planting.

Fred was a Justice of the Peace for many years and a member of the Parkhurst Prison Board. In his early years he was a great supporter of the Labour cause, became chairman of the Island party and rubbed shoulders with leading Labour personalities of the time including Keir HARDIE.

Up till the time of his death aged 88 on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1965, Fred was still active in business, superintending a decorators' supply store owned jointly with his two daughters Mabel 'Molly' and Ethel Mary BROWN. The Misses BROWN retired in 1971 which, as noted at the time by the *Chronicle*, "closed the last link of the old established family building business."

Sydney was William and Annie's third son born on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1877. When he left school he started as a bricklayer in the family firm, moving on to become a foreman. Like his oldest brother, Sydney was engaged with the Joint War Committee's VAD; his two contracts ran from

25<sup>th</sup> October 1914 to 26<sup>th</sup> July 1915 at a starting pay of 30 shillings (£1.50) per week and 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 1919.

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/record?rowKey=29803>

After the Great War, he left the Island with his wife Isabella 'Sis' NEW to work as a bricklayer in Birmingham but returned to live in Lake when he retired.

Harold BROWN was born on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1879. He started work as a bricklayer then as a foreman carpenter for the family firm. He married Ellen Caroline GLASSPOOL on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1903. They lived in Sandown and raised 5 children. Harold played in the woodwind section of the Sandown Band.

The fifth brother, William 'Will' BROWN (junior) was born in 1881 and started work as a carpenter. In 1911 Will emigrated with his wife Elizabeth SOTHCOTT (married 1904 in Newport) and young family to Australia where he settled at Glenelg, near Adelaide. The *Sandown Chronicle* reported news of his death at Glenelg on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1948.

During WW2, the paper described a visit from Lieutenant Eric BROWN (Will and Elizabeth's first son); on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1941, "a member of the well-known Sandown family...has come to the homeland, serving in the Royal Australian Naval Voluntary Reserve and added that he left Sandown for Australia with his parents in 1911. He apparently landed at a Scottish port in February and intriguingly is in training for important work, the nature of which cannot be revealed."

Herbert 'Tim' BROWN was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1882, trained as a bricklayer and was living at the family home Glenelg, Albert Road when he married Hilda READ at Christ Church, Sandown on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1924.

Frank was the seventh son (born 25<sup>th</sup> March 1883) and he trained as a bricklayer becoming a foreman for the family firm. By 1921 he was also running a boarding house, Palestine House on Culver Road with his wife Ruth BAKER whom he married at the United Methodist Chapel, York Road in 1911. They subsequently moved on to the Whitecliff Bay Hotel which he built and operated till 1938 when he retired.

In 1934, as the owner of the foreshore rights at Whitecliff Bay (and because the Admiralty refused to accept responsibility), Frank organised the removal of the rusty wreckage of a WW1 'P' class patrol boat which had "rested far up the beach since the war years".

“The next year visitors watched a thrilling rescue effected by two members of the Sandown Lifeguard Corps” at Whitecliff Bay. Frank, a member of the Intelligence section of the Corps, was on lookout and noticed a bather in trouble in the heavy seas. He despatched his son Richard BROWN (also a member) into the waves. The *Chronicle* carried extensive reports of the rescue and the subsequent presentation of Royal Humane Society awards by Lady Prudence JELLICOE to the rescuers.

Like most of his brothers, Frank was an enthusiastic supporter of Sandown Football and Sports Club and it was while watching a home fixture at Fairway Park that he tragically collapsed and died on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1956 at the age of 73. His comprehensive obituary in the *Chronicle* described how “he was for many years a prominent member of the York Road Methodist Church, Sandown.”

By the age of 16, Stanley BROWN (born 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1884) was working as a Tailor's Apprentice. Ten years later he was a director of the family building firm and went on to become Company Secretary.

Stanley was a member of the Sandown Division of the St John's Ambulance Association. In WW1, he joined the VAD and was engaged in hospital duty at the Anglo-American Hospital at Wimereaux, near Boulogne. In a letter home in December 1914, he wrote, “I assisted in dressing a lot of frost-bitten feet...so many of our brave 'Tommies' so helpless. They simply could not stand up.”

After the war, he spent 15 years in a plaster cast as a result of a back injury. He was the last survivor of the BROWN brothers and died in June 1969 at the Royal Isle of Wight Hospital at Ryde.

The next brother, Arthur was only a year old when sadly he died in 1886.

Harry BROWN (born 26<sup>th</sup> March 1888) started work as a grocer's assistant and became a baker. He married Hilda May BUTCHER on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1915 at the United Methodist Church, York Road. The bride had been organist in the Sunday School for 13 years and the bridegroom a teacher while both were members of the choir. Together they ran Butcher's Bakery in Avenue Road.

Harry died on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1958 aged 70 and the report of Harry's funeral in the *Chronicle* described him as a retired businessman and prominent Isle of Wight bowling personality. His son Graham George BROWN (born

29<sup>th</sup> December 1919) was the inspiration for this research into the BROWN family.

Heber BROWN (born 28<sup>th</sup> April 1889) was initially employed as a painter, decorator and sign-writer by his father's firm. After WW1 he and his wife Lily Mary Ann ALLEN ran The Firs Hostel in Fitzroy Street, Sandown in connection with the School Journey Movement.

Heber was a keen sportsman and was secretary of the old Sandown Football and Sports Club. He was a prime mover in the club's acquisition of the site of the former Sandown Lawn Tennis Club and played a significant part in its subsequent development into the Fairway Park football ground which opened on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1948. He acted as secretary for the former Sandown Rowing Club and the Sandown Table Tennis Club and was a member of the Sandown Bay Regatta Committee.

He was elected as a councillor for the local authority for some years till he was debarred in 1943 because of a conflict with his official duties at the local Food Office under the regulations of the Ministry of Food. He was employed as an agent of the Pearl Assurance Company when he died at the age of 60 in 1949.

At last, with their twelfth child, William and Annie had a daughter. Alice May BROWN (known as May) was born on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1891. May married William Henry OUGHTON in 1922 in Islington. William became the office manager for W Brown Builders.

The youngest of the BROWN brothers (born 28<sup>th</sup> May 1897) was Hedley Richard 'Dick' BROWN. As a town councillor "he discharged his duties with a conscientious zeal and quiet efficiency." As well as retaining an association with the family building firm where he served his apprenticeship as bricklayer, he was a partner in the longshoreman's business of Woodnutt and Brown. He sadly died at the age of 59 in 1957 while loading deckchairs from the Avenue Road store of his firm.

Dick was another of the BROWN brothers who "served the community faithfully" in the fire brigade, the football club and York Road Methodist Church.

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## The BROWN Brothers and the Great War

Following huge losses on the Western Front, voluntary enlistment no longer provided sufficient manpower for Britain's war machine and early in 1916 Herbert ASQUITH's government imposed conscription on single men aged between 18 and 41. Men or employers who objected to an individual's call-up could apply to a local Military Service Tribunal for exemption under eligibility criteria which for the first time included conscientious objection to military service on moral or religious grounds.

**MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916**

Every man to whom the Act applies will on Thursday, March 2nd, be deemed to have enlisted for the period of the War unless he is excepted or exempt.

Any man who has adequate grounds for applying to a Local Tribunal for a

**CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION** UNDER THIS ACT

Must do so BEFORE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

Why wait for the Act to apply to you?  
Come now and join of your own free will.  
You can at once put your claim for exemption from being called up before a Local Tribunal if you wish.

**ATTEST NOW**

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE. PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN. BY W. & A. GILBERT.

In May 1916, parliament extended conscription to married men and thus in a masterpiece of poor timing the remaining **ten BROWN brothers were all suddenly liable for call-up.**

Tribunals were generally unsympathetic to conscientious objectors who refused to fight and they became known by the derogatory label 'conchie'. Only 16000 men (about 2% of Tribunal cases) were officially recorded as conchies in Britain. They were required to take on civilian work of national importance and failure to work in any capacity meant imprisonment.

Stanley (31) and Dick (18) BROWN applied for exemption and were brought before the Sandown Tribunal on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1916. Stanley was a lay preacher and the "Gospel he proclaimed was one of love and peace, while war bred a spirit of hatred." Both were exempted from service but were instructed that they must engage in non-combatant service of national importance. They intimated that they would appeal the decision. The newspaper recorded the bleak words of Lieutenant Colonel W T ARNELL JP (the Military Representative at the tribunal); "...the sooner these [conchies] are disposed of and forgotten the better (hear, hear)".

Sydney BROWN (38) was brought before the Sandown Tribunal on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1916. He had been a lay preacher for 11 years and was superintendent of a Sunday School. "War degraded the nature of man and begat within him a desire for retaliation and revenge". He "believed war to be evil and utterly opposed to the teaching of Jesus Christ." He applied for exemption from military service to engage in Red Cross work which he had previously left because of ill health. Exemption was allowed on condition he applied to return to work for the Red Cross. This he did on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916 and was in due course promoted to take charge of the Red Cross stores in Marseilles.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 1916, four more BROWN brothers (Heber (27), Harry (28), Frank (33) and Fred (40)) were brought as a group before the local tribunal as conchies and members of the No Conscription Fellowship (NCF). All four were devout Christians and claimed absolute exemption from all work associated with the prosecution of the war on religious and moral grounds. After a lengthy sitting the applications were refused and the four appealed to the County Appeal Tribunal. But this appeal also failed and the *Portsmouth Evening News* reported that on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1916 they were "...brought up in custody on a charge of failing to report themselves under the Military Service Act". The defendants were fined 40 shillings (£2) and handed over to the military.

Wilf, Sydney and Stanley BROWN are remembered in the Red Cross section of Sandown's Roll of Honour published by the *Chronicle* and also in the Sandown Fire Brigade Great War Roll of Service. Wilf and Sydney were both awarded the Mons ribbon.



The BROWN Family

### Acknowledgements

These articles are based on work undertaken in the 1990s by Terry HALL, Sandown Town Council Archivist.

Grateful thanks are due to Derek POOLE of the S&DHA for helping me with access to the *Isle of Wight Chronicle* Archives.

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## **One Forgotten Woman – Part 2**

Part 1 was published in August 2023 in the Family History Society's Journal Number 150.

The motivation which started this project was to try to give identity to the woman who gave birth to the short-lived son of my 4xgreat grandfather. In the parish register of the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Mottistone, the fourth line of the page headed with the year 1785 records the baptism of baby David PROUTON (sic). It notes that he was the son of Rebecca COTTON, that the father was David PROUTEN, and that the child was illegitimate. The fourth line up from the bottom of the same page records the child's burial three years later. His mother, Rebecca COTTON was one of the many "forgotten" women of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. She was not baptised, so her parentage was not recorded. Rebecca never married, and she was buried, aged just thirty-two, in an unmarked grave in Newport, having given birth to three children, all of whom died young.

As explained in Part 1, I believe it is most likely that Rebecca's parents were James & Charity COTTON of Brook. Their son James married Ann WAY, and this couple moved to live in Newport. Another of their sons, Abraham, married Elizabeth HELLIER, and they too moved to Newport in the 1790s. It is also possible but I suggest very much less likely, that Rebecca's mother was the Rebekah COTTON, who went on to marry John WHEELER, of Mottistone.

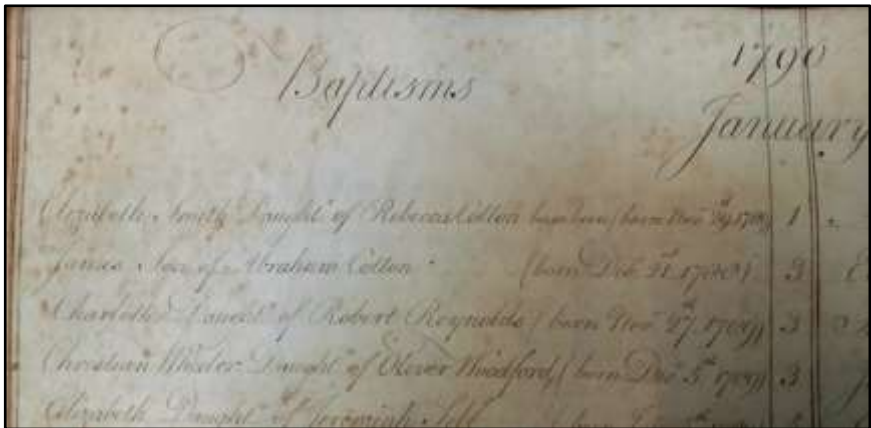
Either way, it is likely that Rebecca grew up in either Brook or Mottistone, each of which at the time had around 150 inhabitants. To get an idea as to what life was like for her, unmarried and bringing up her child in a small, late-18<sup>th</sup> Century village, there are many examples in fictional novels. Among such would be Winston Graham's Poldark series, the first two books of which cover exactly this period of time. Rebecca's community would have been very close-knit. Most people living there knew only their neighbours and the farmers who employed them. All those around her would have been aware of her circumstances, which would have been frowned upon. Brook in the 1700s was described as a time when the Lord of the Manor and the Rector, usually benevolently, decided everything; when everyone knew their place and almost every community event was connected to the church.

In the latter years of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, West Wight's farmers generally fared well. There was thriving sheep farming, and the cereal harvests were good. There were large catches of fish off the south coast. Many Islanders

were involved with smuggling, so while, by land, most people seldom travelled far from home and it was reckoned that the fishermen knew the streets of St. Helier and St. Peter Port in the Channel Islands better than they knew those of Newport, less than ten miles away.

It was after the burial of her son David that Rebecca moved to Newport, a place very different from where she had grown up. It had a population then of around 3,000. The town largely consisted of five parallel streets roughly east to west, and three north to south, crossing each other at right angles. They were described as well paved, kept remarkably clean, and were provided with footways. The buildings were neat, commodious and of pleasing appearance. There were markets twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays and there was even a theatre.

In the early part of 1789, Rebecca had had a relationship with a man maybe with the surname Smith, such that on 29<sup>th</sup> November of that year, she gave birth to a baby girl, who she had christened Elizabeth Smith COTTON. The child, recorded as base born, was baptised in the Church of St Thomas in Newport on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 1790. Two days later, on the Sunday, the son of Abraham COTTON was baptised, along with two other infants. Abraham COTTON was probably Rebecca's older brother.



St Thomas' Baptisms in January 1790

At that time, the baptismal font in St Thomas was not the grand affair that is prominent in the church today. It would have been the font bearing the date 1633, which was removed from the church when it was rebuilt in the 1850s. It was only in the next century that it was discovered hidden in a garden in Newport, and it was subsequently returned to St Thomas where it now resides.

A week before baby Elizabeth's baptism, Rebecca had been granted a one-off payment of two shillings and six pence Out-Relief, equivalent to £25-30 today. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, there was provision for the poor, either by way of their living within the Workhouse, or in the form of Out-Relief payments. They were typically granted to a man, but in the case of female recipients, there was often a comment in the records such as "wife of..." or "widow of..." Rebecca was neither of these, so in the Minute Book she was just Rebecca COTTON.

Hub Hatchell	6s -	1 17 6
Woodruff's Wife	Newport	11/6
John Thomas	1s -	
Wm Jenkins's Wife Ld.	5	7-6
John Bell's Wife		3s -
Wm Smith		2s 6
Jackson		2s -
Robt Russell		1s -
Rebecca Cotton		2s 6
By Guardians		1s -
High Street		3s -
		1 5

Image from part of the original Out-Relief Minute Book

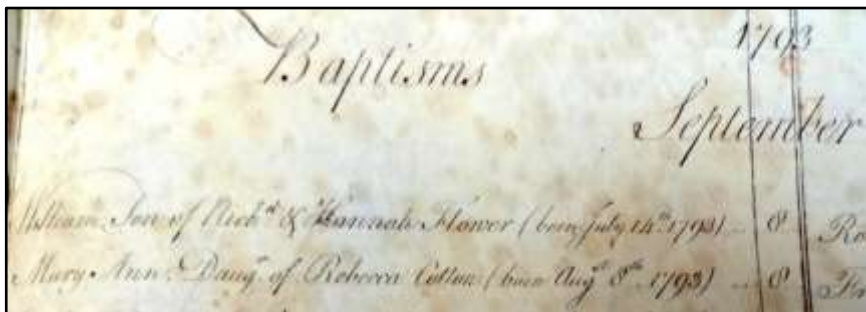
The official meeting at which this payment was authorised, would have been held in the Isle of Wight Workhouse, more correctly named the House of Industry. The building, located within Parkhurst Forest, was about a mile to the north of Newport town, and relatively new, having been established in 1770. It was capable of housing nearly 700 people, although the number usually supported then was between 500 and 550.

Overseeing the affairs of the House of Industry were twenty-four Directors and thirty-six acting-Guardians. The Directors were the wealthier group, and they served on a committee, by rotation. The acting-Guardians were chosen by their parishes, and from this pool, the Directors chose individuals to serve alongside them. The Committees met on a weekly basis, and dealt with all of the day-to-day business, including overseeing the purchase of provisions.

On 26<sup>th</sup> December 1789 when Rebecca's Out-Relief was granted – just a month after her daughter Elizabeth Smith COTTON had been born – the Poor Relief Committee consisted of two Directors and three Guardians. Thirty-five people were successful in their requests for Out-Relief that day, although there is no record of those who were unsuccessful.

There was also provision within Poor Law for small weekly payments to be made to support mothers of illegitimate children, and Rebecca may have been in receipt of them.

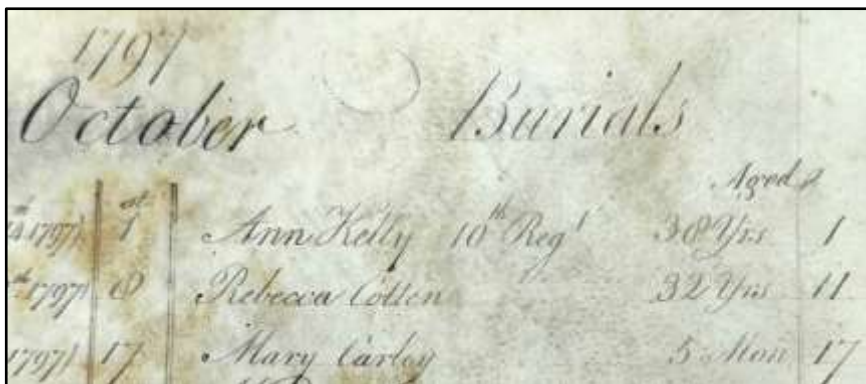
Nevertheless, aged less than two years, Elizabeth Smith COTTON died and was buried at St Thomas on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1791. Then towards the end of 1792 Rebecca conceived another child, who was born on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1793, and christened Mary Ann COTTON, a month later.



The Parish Register showing Mary Ann COTTON's baptism.

There are no further records of this child: nothing relating to marriage or burial, and nothing in the 1841 Census. It is therefore likely that she died very soon after her baptism.

Four years later, Rebecca herself died, aged just thirty-two. She was buried on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1797. As was usual at the time, no cause of death was recorded.



The record of Rebecca's burial in the parish register

Rebecca (like her two girls) would have been buried in what became known as Church Litten. Up until the latter part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century this area of flat, open ground was used for archery practice. However, as the number of plague-deaths increased, it was thought necessary to bury in Newport those who had died there, rather than transport the bodies to Carisbrooke, over a mile away. Church Litten was established as an area for burial in 1593 and the Elizabethan entrance is still there, by Newport's Church Litten Park. The burial ground was linked to St Thomas, which at the time was just a dependent church of St Mary's, in Carisbrooke. For those who could not afford a headstone, there was an area for unmarked graves.

Rebecca's short life had ended. One would hope that within it, she would have experienced some moments of joy with her children. But there must also have been many times of great sadness, regret and feelings of rejection. Countless other women followed a similar path but today, Rebecca COTTON, most likely the daughter of James and Charity COTTON, can be acknowledged, and she is no longer a forgotten woman.

### **Footnotes**

To balance the record, when David PROUTEN married in May 1787, his bride Ann HUNT was heavily pregnant: and David was granted Out-Relief in Shanklin on one occasion, in December 1801.

Every family's history has its pivotal moments, and David PROUTEN not marrying Rebecca COTTON was one such in the story of the IW PROUTENS. Had they married, countless different individuals would have been born, and those of us descended from David and Ann's marriage would never have existed.

To add some historical context to this account - King George III and Queen Charlotte were on the throne throughout Rebecca's lifetime. The big national political debates around monarchy versus republic; or the growing industrial unrest in the northern manufacturing cities; probably passed the Island by. But what did have a massive impact on Island life was what was going on in France. The French Revolution had begun in earnest in 1789 and war on England was declared in early 1793.

The Island was strategically important for the defence of England against the already-planned invasion by the French. At the time, the Island's population was described as naturally warlike and courageous. As well as large numbers of soldiers garrisoned in Newport, there were 3,000 Island



volunteers, a squadron of horse and about 500 Sea Fencibles willing to take action to defend the land. The Sea Fencibles were a naval militia (mostly volunteer fishermen and local residents) formed in 1793 to act as an anti-invasion force in Britain's coastal waters.

On a lighter note, the booklet *Shanklin 60 Years Ago* includes an account of how on a very foggy autumn morning, one of David PROUTEN's daughters (he had seven of them) caused great alarm in Shanklin, when she mistook English sailors for French invaders, as they came ashore near the Chine. There was panic in the village and the surrounding area!

### **Information Sources**

Richard SMOUT and his team at the County Record Office have been particularly helpful.

The Isle of Wight Family History Society's searchable databases.

Myra Joan JONES' thesis *Of the Poor in the Isle of Wight 1771-1836* published in 1982.

*The History of Newport (Isle of Wight) Parish Church*, by Wilfrid J WAY, 1975.

*Vectiana, or a Companion to the Isle of Wight* published in 1806 by John Albin. A copy of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition is held in the Bodleian Library and can be read online on Google Books.

*Brook, A Village History* by Daphne Denaro BROOKE-SMITH and Susan MEARS, published by Crossprint in 2010. ISBN 978-0-9567050-0-6.

*Shanklin Sixty Years Ago, Personal Reminiscences* by An Old Inhabitant in 1881. It was published by Shanklin's Congregational Church, to raise funds, and republished in 1905 as *Shanklin Eighty Years Ago*.

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## **Island Parishes – Calbourne**

The Domesday Book shows Calbourne to be of some importance, mentioning villagers, smallholders and slaves, the church and three mills. The parish itself would once have stretched from the north coast to the south coast of the Island. Over a period of time parts such as Brighstone broke away to form parishes in their own right.

The Manor of Swainston, one of the Island's oldest, was held by the Bishops of Winchester, until it came into the possession of Edward I, who had visited it in 1285.

After passing through many ownerships, it was passed to the BARRINGTON family who held it for 300 years. It was not until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it became their permanent home. In 1750 the house was rebuilt retaining the chapel.

Later when the Manor was owned by the SIMEON family Alfred Lord TENNYSON would visit Sir John there.

When the railway to Freshwater was opened in 1888, a station at Watchingwell, was provided to serve the house.

In 1941 an incendiary bomb gutted the house but it was restored and it is now a hotel.

The church, one of only five Island churches mentioned in the Domesday Book, was largely rebuilt in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Nicholas UDALL was briefly the rector. In 1553, another rector Doctor HAMPTON a friend of Sir John OGLANDER, became Archbishop of Armagh. Inside the church there is a brass to another rector, Daniel EVANCE which has a verse containing an anagram of his name.

The tower fell down after a fire in 1683 and was not rebuilt until 1752. Commemorated on a stone set high on the outside wall are the words, "I am risen from ye ruins of near 70 years, T HOLLIS, J CASFORD, Churchwardens." More repairs took place in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Sir Richard SIMEON had the transept rebuilt in 1842 at a cost of £950.

Close to the church is Winkle Street, its 16<sup>th</sup> Century thatched cottages facing the stream now a tourist attraction. Its correct name is Barrington Row.

The sheep dip situated there in the Caul Bourne was the subject of a dispute in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century when Mr ERLISMAN wanted the local farmers to pay for its use. However, the farmers won the day.

In 1795 Richard ARNOLD, husbandman of Calbourne, leased a cottage in Barrington Row from Sir John BARRINGTON. Richard's children were Elizabeth aged 12, Jane aged 5 and Aaron aged 2.

The other manor house in the parish, Westover, is situated near to Barrington Row. The present house was built by the HOLMES family about 1760.

Part of a letter written in 1832 by Fanny OGLANDER, published in *Nunwell Symphony*, states, "Lady HOLMES gave a very smart archery fete at Westover to which we all went from Nunwell. There were 170 people there and everything was well managed. There were two prizes worked by Miss HOLMES. A paper-case for the gentlemen and a sort of worked arrow for the ladies." This fashionable pastime was obviously considerably better than poaching rabbits at Swainston, when in 1384 John ERLYSMAN was hit by an arrow and eventually died from his injury.

At the time of the Domesday Book the two mills in the manor of Swainston were valued at 6 shillings and 3 pennies and the mill at Calbourne at 5 shillings. Upper Mill is mentioned in early documents and would have ground oats, barley and wheat for the tenants of the manor.

In 1697 it was sold for £60 to William CRANNIDGE. Later it was owned by the WEEKS family. Many improvements were made in 1881, including replacing the wooden water wheel with an iron one and the installation of a steam engine. This was replaced by a gas on in 1920. The mill worked until it became uneconomic in 1955. It is now preserved for visitors to see.

Lower Mill, a two-storey building, situated in the deep valley meant that the water entered the upper floor to work the overshot wheel. This was eventually replaced with a diesel engine.

The miller in 1914 was Thomas WHILLIER. At the mill there was also a bakery where the bread was baked in a brick oven heated by faggots. The third mill a fulling mill had ceased work by the 1800s.

In the White's Directory of 1859, the village of Calbourne boasted the following tradesmen:

Blacksmiths – James ARNOLD and James ARNOLD Junior and Joseph HEAL

Shoemakers – George and John PHILLIPS, Joseph HEAL and Winifred LONG

Wheelwrights – Daniel GUSTAR, Albert and John LONG and Charles RICE.

William LONG was born in the village in 1838. After tutoring by the local rector, he went on to be educated at Winchester. He compiled the *Dictionary of Isle of Wight Dialect*. There is a plaque to commemorate his birthplace.

The local inn, the Sun, was kept in 1859 by Benjamin WOODFORD. The old, thatched building was destroyed by fire in 1894 and a new building erected on the site.

By 1914 it was run by John KILROY. In that year the HEALs were still blacksmiths and grocers and the GUSTARs and LONGs were still wheelwrights.

The elementary school at Calbourne was built, together with the master's house, in 1844 to educate 130 children.

There was another school at Locks Green near Porchfield built in 1857 for 100 children. This was enlarged in 1895 at a cost of £250.

Also, at Porchfield there was a Congregational Chapel with a Sunday School. There were two Wesleyan Chapels in Calbourne.

Source: IWFHS Journal 12 (February 1989)

## **Island Parishes – Carisbrooke**

Carisbrooke Castle, said by KEATS to have been the most beautiful ruin he had seen, dominates the whole area, and a walk around its walls has far reaching views along the Bowcombe Valley and of Carisbrooke village, with the church of St Mary high on its hill, its former importance now gone.

Although traces of Roman work can be found most of the fabric of the Castle probably dates from the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Building and improvements continued over the years and in the late 16<sup>th</sup> Century Sir George Carey had much work carried out. Inside the walls can be seen the well-house, where a donkey works a large wooden wheel to draw up the water.

Hassel's *Tour of the Isle of Wight* (1790) describes how guides would throw lighted papers down the well which would be extinguished before reaching the bottom. He attributed the fact that some of the donkeys lived to 40 years of age to the pure Island air. He also stated that the chapel of St Nicholas, dated 1738, was unused. It was rebuilt on the site in 1905.

King Charles I was kept a prisoner in the Castle and after two abortive attempts to escape left there in September 1648 for the old Grammar School in Newport and ultimately his execution.

Two of his children were also prisoners there, Elizabeth dying just after her arrival and Henry remaining until 1653. Visitors to the Castle in 1914 paid an entrance fee of 4 pennies and would then take afternoon tea in one of the many refreshment houses in the village.

The parish church of St Mary was built as part of the Priory of Carisbrooke, where a few monks had settled to collect the revenue for their mother house of Lyre in Normandy. In 1415 Henry V used the Priory's possessions to endow his foundation at Sheen. By the time Sir Francis WALSHINGHAM held the Priory in 1583 it was in a ruinous state and he caused part of the Church to be demolished.

Also, in the parish is St John's church, built in 1837 at a cost of £4,500. Other places of worship included two chapels for the Primitive Methodists. The United Methodist Chapel at Gunville was built in 1907, to seat 300, at a cost of £2,400 and another was built at Bowcombe the following year for 180 people. The cemetery at Mount Joy was opened in 1858 and extended in size in 1894.

In 1859 there were three shopkeepers in the village: James JAMES, James REDSTONE and Samuel SQUIBB. The butcher was Thomas

GOUGH and the tailor William SPANNER. There were two wheelwrights, William GROVES and James RUSSELL. Alfred FRY, Robert MATTHEWS and William and James. COWARD were the boot and shoemakers.

Four inns were listed in 1859:

The Bugle - John NEWBURY

The Carisbrooke Castle - William CANTELO

The Eight Bells - Thomas WATTS

The Old George - Benjamin CAVE.

In 1878 there were eight inns listed including:

The Old George - Edward TOOGOOD

The Ship and Launch - Charles SIMMONDS

The Hammer and Hand - George ARNOLD, who was also the blacksmith.

All of these inns had all disappeared by the year 1914.

The remaining public houses with their 1878 and 1914 landlords respectively were:

The Cutters Arms (just above the church) - Thomas BENNETT, Albert BARNES

Red Lion (below the church) - William CAVE, Spencer GILL

Carisbrooke Castle Hotel (below the church) - Thomas BUNGAY, Robert HOBSON

The Eight Bells (still in existence opposite the church) - Alfred William SURT, Frank STANLEY

The Bugle - Henry WESTMORE, James COOLEY.

Lukely Brook runs parallel to the High Street and once provided the power for several mills. The Domesday Book noted two here valued at 9 shillings and 4 pennies. In 1241 one mill was accused of interfering with the water rights of the mill just downstream.

This lower mill, Priory Mill, was eventually purchased by the Newport and Carisbrooke Water Company in 1848 and became the site of the waterworks. The other mill was known by various names and closed as Kents Mill in 1939. Previous millers had been Robert WAY in 1859 and John Thomas LONG in 1914. In subsequent years much renovation work had been done and the large mill pond can be seen situated behind The Eight Bells.

Of the earliest schools St John's National School was enlarged several times since it was first built in 1842, at a cost of £520. The Carisbrooke National School was built for £486 the following year. The Infants School at Clatterford was also enlarged and by 1914 took 117 pupils, under headmistress Miss Kate JARRET. £3,200 was spent in 1877 on the Council School for 315 children and it was run in 1914 by George NORMAN and Miss Edith CROFTS. In 1876 Mr SEELY offered £50 towards a free lending library, with £5 a year for the schoolmaster to act as the librarian, it was opened in 1877.

The railway came to Carisbrooke with the opening of the Freshwater Yarmouth and Newport Railway in 1889. In 1906 special late trains were put on for visitors to the fund-raising events for the repair of St Mary's Church, particularly the tower. The branch of the railway was closed down in 1953.

Further afield the parish encompassed Parkhurst Forest, which was originally a royal forest, most of the old oak had been taken for shipbuilding. Parkhurst was the site of the Union Workhouse. Built in 1771-1772 it was known as the House of Industry until 1866. It could take up to 700 paupers, from all over the Island. In 1841 it housed 441 and 538 in 1851. The building today is part of the St Mary's Hospital complex.

Nearby was Parkhurst Barracks, built in 1795-1796, its first occupants were the Hampshire Militia. Accommodating 1,500 soldiers, it had its own garrison chapel and school, as well as a hospital for 126 patients. There was also a burial ground and a drill field covering 30 acres. Today all this is incorporated into the Prisons.

In 1878 there was a reformatory prison and a school for juvenile offenders. Up to 600 men convicted of larceny, felony or other similar crimes were kept in the senior prison. Originally the military hospital, built in 1802, or the junior prison, a quarter of a mile away, originally built as a female reformatory in 1843-1844. The prisoners were taught various trades, including husbandry on the 110-acre farm. In 1878 there were 15 wardens and 15 assistant warders under chief warden Mr William ALLISON. Other officers included 5 schoolmasters; 3 clerks; the chief clerk, Mr James BURNAGE; the medical officer, Henry ROOME; the chaplain, Rev H A TAYLOR and Mr R H REEVES, the foreman of works and steward.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 13 (May 1989) and 58 (August 2000)

## **Reasons to Visit the Heritage Resource Centre**

I will list below a few of the reasons to visit the Heritage Resource Centre at Northwood Cemetery.

We are a friendly bunch, who with our many years of experience are here to help our members or non-members.

We can set you off with information about our website, some find this difficult to explore, but we offer so much that we can point you in the right direction. Even experienced researchers sometimes find something that they missed.

We have in our records personal information for individuals that have made their way into many articles, and books that have been written over the years.

We have a library of many books that relate to the Island, some new some very old that may not be in print any longer. These can point you in the correct direction if you are looking for old churches, farm buildings, maps for old island villages etc

We hear the story about rabbit holes so many times, we include those who work in the HRC we too have been down some very deep ones at times, but talking things through with someone who may have the correct information always help.

So come along, meet the team and enjoy the company of others who are working hard to help in your Family History Research.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

**Email:** [librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com](mailto:librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com)



## 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.*

- 3275 Mr Colin HOOK; **Email:** [colin.hook@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.hook@talktalk.net)  
(no research interests yet received)
- 3345 Ms Leah WOOTTON; **Email:** [leahwootton@msn.com](mailto:leahwootton@msn.com)
- |  |         |     |           |  |
|--|---------|-----|-----------|--|
|  | GLADDIS | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries                                |
|  | HALES   | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries                                |
|  | HAYLES  | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries                                |
|  | WARRIOR | IOW | Cowes     | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
- 3627 Mr Peter JOYCE; **Email:** [p.e.joyce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:p.e.joyce@hotmail.co.uk)
- |  |         |     |           |               |
|--|---------|-----|-----------|---------------|
|  | NEWBURY | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries |
|  | WAKE    | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries |
|  | WEEKS   | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries |
- 3730 MR Glenn WARREN; **Email:** [glenn.warren@btinternet.com](mailto:glenn.warren@btinternet.com)
- |  |         |     |          |               |
|--|---------|-----|----------|---------------|
|  | CAMMELL | IOW | Yarmouth | All Centuries |
|  | DAY     | IOW | Cowes    | All Centuries |
- 3735 Mr Michael HOAR & Mrs Maureen LORDAN  
**Email:** [mikeh@mhstpauls.me.uk](mailto:mikeh@mhstpauls.me.uk)
- |  |          |     |           |  |
|--|----------|-----|-----------|--|
|  | DOVE     | IOW | All Areas | 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|  | HOAR     | IOW | All Areas | 19 <sup>th</sup> Century                     |
|  | HOLBROOK | IOW | All Areas | 15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
- 6169 Mr Nick JONES; **Email:** [binsteadboy230660@gmail.com](mailto:binsteadboy230660@gmail.com)
- |  |         |     |           |  |
|--|---------|-----|-----------|--|
|  | BARKHAM | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries                                |
|  | WRIGHT  | IOW | Ryde      | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|  |         |     | Wootton   | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
- 7101 Ms Maureen (Mo) Hazel LOVE; **Email:** [m.love111@btinternet.com](mailto:m.love111@btinternet.com)
- |  |         |     |           |               |
|--|---------|-----|-----------|---------------|
|  | BUCK    | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries |
|  | LOVE    | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries |
|  | NEWNHAM | IOW | All Areas | All Centuries |
- 7102 Jay HOLLOWAY; **Email:** [jazz.ash1969@gmail.com](mailto:jazz.ash1969@gmail.com)  
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(no research interests yet received)
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PITMAN IOW Freshwater 15<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries  
UDALL IOW Freshwater 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries
- 7144 Mrs Sue DOMBROWSKI; **Email:** [suedombrowski@hotmail.com](mailto:suedombrowski@hotmail.com)  
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- 7146 Mr Tim POWYS-LYBBE; **Email:** [tim@powys.org](mailto:tim@powys.org)  
(no research interests yet received)
- 7147 Dr Greta GORDON; **Email:** [greta.gordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:greta.gordon@xtra.co.nz)  
(no research interests yet received)
- 7149 Mrs Wade JOANNA; **Email:** [joannawade71@gmail.com](mailto:joannawade71@gmail.com)  
(no research interests yet received)
- 7157 Mrs Julie GOUCHER; **Email:** [julie.goucher@one-name.org](mailto:julie.goucher@one-name.org)  
(no Island research interests yet received)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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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