



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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

February 2024

Number 152

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Programme of Events

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

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

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

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 4 th March	Scouting on the Isle of Wight during World War 1 and 2	Barry GROVES
Monday 8 th April	From the Isle of Wight to the USA – LAVERS emigrants <i>Note this talk is on the 2nd Monday as the 1st is Easter Monday</i>	Anthony LAVERS
Saturday 4 th May	One Day Conference and AGM <i>(See page 25 and unnumbered centre pages)</i>	
Monday 3 rd June	I'm not blessed well jokin! (A talk based on oral histories recorded in Bembridge in 1970s and 1980s)	Alan Robert PHILLIPS

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

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

2024 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

Editorial

Long standing readers of the Journal will be aware of the regular contributions from Vice President Dr Janet FEW under the heading, "From the Desk at Coles Manning". Janet moved house just before Christmas. Starting with this issue her regular contributions will have the title, "From the Desk at Westward Ho!".

Thank you to those members who have submitted articles for publication. New articles are always wanted.

Due to ill health, I will not be able to attend the AGM or the One Day Conference.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)

Journal Editor

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Cover Photograph

East Cowes Castle

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Pedigree Index: Mike HOAR

Email: pindex.iowfhs@gmail.com

The deadline for the May Journal is 1st April 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

Enquiries to: research.iowfhs@gmail.com

Warning due to lack of use this facility may be closing at the end of March.

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

Our major focus over the last few months has been to establish our strategy for premises and storage.

As you will know we have been in part time residence at the Heritage Resource Centre at Northwood Cemetery, Cowes, since the building was restored and reopened by the Friends of Northwood Cemetery. Unfortunately, since the Covid pandemic and lockdowns, we have seen a serious downturn in the number of visitors and volunteers using the HRC. Our visitor numbers in the past year have been no more than a handful per month.

Since it costs us £3,000 per year for this facility, which we use for just two half-days per week, together with the storage space, then this raises serious questions as to the viability of maintaining our presence there. We also rent storage space elsewhere for materials and equipment not required on a daily basis. This £3,000 represents a spend of £3 per member, for a facility which very few of you have ever used.

Our lease for the HRC comes up for renewal at the end of March 2024. We need to give one month's notice, so we have a deadline of 28th February to decide as to whether we stay or take other action. We do not know what the forecast rental terms will be for the 2024-5 year.

Any decisions made will be notified to Members either by email or via the website or Facebook group.

Easyfundraising

We have signed up to a process called easyfundraising. Essentially this allows supporters to opt into a donation scheme whereby we receive a small percentage of the value of any online purchases with a large range of companies.

There is no additional cost to you – the donations come from the companies you buy from, presumably as a marketing tool to allow them to target customers with advertising and offers.

If you would like to support us in this way, start by visiting:-

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/isle-of-wight-family-history-society?&utm_term=A2302

Webmaster's Report

Major functions added :

General Memorials on the Isle of Wight have been added based on my legacy "Monuments and Memorials" website entries. I am working on converting the War Memorial entries to a similar format and linking them to the War Service Reports for the men and women named.

Attrill One Name Study: the late Robin LEWIN created a website which is now defunct which brought together his research on his ATTRILL ancestors. Several sets of data have been recovered from the Internet Wayback machine and added to our Family File pages. Unfortunately, all his images and the interactive family tree could not be recovered. We are in touch with the Attrill Facebook group to see if we can consolidate their trees as well. (*Michelle ATTRILL*)

The past 3 months has seen the usual low-level activities of adding to our online databases, with many amendments and additions to the following sets, with much assistance from volunteers.

War Service Reports: we received a long document (235 pages) from *Graeme BROOKES*, with a paragraph about every man who served with the Isle of Wight Rifles at Gallipoli in WW I. I am adding this information as required to the entries for these men.

Guardians of the Poor minute books: Our 3 stalwarts at the Record Office continue to transcribe these entries for addition to this set of data. (*Derek OSBOURN, Rosemary STEWART, Lesley WOOD*)

Monumental Inscriptions: we have been verifying the entries for Christ Church, Sandown, from documents originally prepared for us by the late Barry HALL. (*Sue SAMWAYS*). We also added a number of more recent entries for Bridgecourt Cemetery in Godshill (*John EARLEY*)

Newspaper BMD Announcements: We continue to add announcements from the 1890s to fill in gaps in our coverage (*Debbie PLEDGE*)

Charlie TAYLOR's family files: several trees have been added using transcriptions by *Lynn JARMAN*.

Assessment of our digital holdings on CD: We have reviewed our holdings of material on CD – much of which was not related to the Isle of Wight or was obsolete. All old CDs have now been disposed of but some material has been copied off and will be used to add to our website. Two indexes to Electoral Rolls from the 1920s have been added (*D J QUIGLEY indexes*) and we have scanned an autograph album (provided to us digitally in 2006) belonging to Elsie Maude WITHERS (1880-1900) of Sandown which contains many entries from her family, friends and school and college contemporaries. This has been added to our Flickr albums – see <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB6XfU> .

Pedigree Index

Mike HOAR is coming to the end of his development work on the Pedigree Indexes based on the work originally compiled by Don and Wendy HAYWARD and more recently administered by Carole FLUX. We hope to make this available to members early in 2024.

Urry One Name Study (compiled by Captain URRY)

We have had in storage for many years a considerable archive of material related to the URRY family, with entries dating back many centuries. This has suffered from damp and is in a poor condition but we are attempting to transcribe and augment this major family resource with the aim of eventually making it available to members on our website.

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

Membership Secretary's Report

Many thanks to you all for your cheery correspondence over the past year, along with Christmas good wishes accompanying payments which have been sent. It has been so nice to correspond with you all and I look forward to doing so again throughout 2024. If you have a problem or enquiry about our website, please look first at our Membership Information page and Self-Service User Guide. We are keen to iron out any glitches which occur, so please let me know of any issues you may come across, giving as much detail as you can to point us to the area of difficulty.

Members who receive the Journal by post will have noticed our new, slimmer booklet printed on thinner but high-quality paper. We are delighted that this has resulted in considerable savings on printing and postage costs.

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

A reminder to members regarding our new subscription rates which changed from 1st January 2022 – please ensure that you have cancelled any recurring PayPal payments which now do not cover the subscription fee. I am happy to take any queries about making payments.

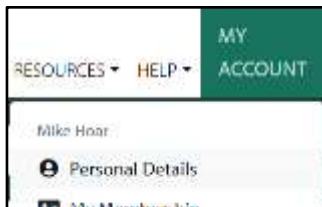
My good wishes to you all for the coming year and I look forward to meeting many of you at this year's One Day Conference.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)
Membership Secretary

Email: membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

How to change your email address and/or your password,

- Open the IWFHS website in your browser.
- Log in using your current (old email and password)
- Open the My Account menu and select Personal Details
- Make changes as necessary:
 - Enter your NEW email address.
 - Enter, if you wish to change it, a NEW password and confirm it.
- Scroll to the bottom and click submit.



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

From the Desk at Westward Ho!

As I write this, in the week before Christmas, I am surrounded by boxes, having just moved house. With all the bureaucracy, form filling and delays that accompany a twenty first century move, particularly in England. I cannot help but be envious of our ancestors who would have shoved their few belongings in a hand cart and set off. It is interesting to track our ancestors moves from place to place, often very short-distance migrations. We can produce maps to illustrate our family stories and speculate why the move might have occurred. Did they perhaps move with their job or to join family?

Moving house has meant packing up my many books and rationalising my library. Some of these provide me with 'how to' family history information. There is a large local history section, that helps me to understand the localities where my ancestors lived. In addition, there's more about broader historical topics. I find researching my family much more satisfying if I can set them in the broader context.

Did you have new year goals for your family history? Many of us start the New Year with resolutions relating to both our genealogy and other aspects of our lives. You are reading this in February, by which time, for most of us, all those good intentions have long since been abandoned. It does help however to have some priorities in mind, perhaps with targets for the next 6 months, the next year or the next five years. Will you focus on a particular ancestor or branch of the family? Will you take a course to help you learn more about an aspect of your ancestry? Perhaps you are planning to take a DNA test or you will make this year the year when you finally 'write up' your family's story. Whatever you decide, I hope you are successful and enjoy the process.

There is another side to this. Do you have plans to 'give back' to the genealogical community? Societies such as this one need many forms of help to run smoothly and to equip us to trace our ancestry. Might you offer to transcribe documents? Will you write an article for the Journal or be a friendly face at meetings?

This time last year, I resolved to get more of my research in a state that meant it could be shared and put it on a website intended for my descendants. I have made a start with www.grannystales.co.uk. I have added personal memories and the stories behind some of the family memorabilia. With the distractions of moving, I haven't done as much as I'd hoped but the process is underway. If you are planning to tell your own

family stories, I recommend you take a look at what others have done, reading family histories that are in print or online, you can then get a feel for what approach you might or might not, want to take. Good luck.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com

Richard SMOUT

It is with some sadness that we said goodbye to Richard SMOUT on Tuesday 12th December. He is retiring from the Records Office in Newport. This is where I first met Richard who over the last 28 years has been so helpful, with his wide range of knowledge that always amazed me. Many years ago, I was doing some research in the Gloucester Records Office for my husband's family and probably came across Richard there at some time but being a newbie with family history I was in awe of what went on in Records Offices.

We have to thank Richard over the many years that he has been a speaker at our annual One Day Conference, in the past at the Riverside and lately at The Methodist Church in Quay Street.

He came to the Island originally to see some butterflies; we must thank him for staying so long.

I do hope we can call on him sometime to give us a talk, he does it so well.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Ralph SNUDDEN (IWFHS Member: 319) who passed away just before Christmas 2023. A message of condolence has been sent to his family.

My Family History Journey

The speaker at the First Monday-in-the-month meeting on 2nd October was our President, Jon MATTHEWS, whose talk was entitled 'My Family History Journey'.

Back in 1983, when he was 40, Jon had a two-year stint working in Sydney, Australia and on a home trip, he visited his aunt living in Weybridge, Surrey who casually mentioned to him that there was a Matthews Island named "after us". But she did not know where it was nor which family member it was named after.

Unsurprisingly, this revelation captured Jon's interest and he vowed to her that he would find out where it was. The next day he visited the *Royal Geographical Society* in Kensington and learned that Matthew (*sic*) Island was in the south Pacific, 300 miles east of New Caledonia.

A couple of weeks later, on his return to Sydney, he was to discover that he was in the very place where the reference library was located to conduct research into why this island was so called. He found that it was originally called *Matthews' Rock* after the owner of one of the transports of the First Fleet, the *Charlotte*, who first sighted it in 1788.

Jon realised that, before he could 'claim' the island, he had to link his ancestral line back to that period – but in 1983 he did not even know the name of his great-grandparents! Nevertheless, the touchpaper had been lit and being something of a puzzle fan and amateur sleuth, it signalled the start of his love affair with family history.

However, further research, covering the next ten years, concluded that the owner of the *Charlotte* had no connection with the Isle of Wight whatsoever and Matthew Island (described in one journal as "*probably the most useless piece of real estate in the southern hemisphere.*") was a complete red herring. Back to the drawing board.

Matthews Island went onto his 'back burner' whilst Jon compiled lists of all MATTHEWS births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, burials, Wills and entries in census returns and newspaper announcements – visiting the County Record Office in Newport and the General Register Office in the Aldwych, London – a stone's throw from where he then worked. Jon suggested that if he ever was on television's *Mastermind* his specialist subject would be 'Matthews' from the Isle of Wight'!

Jon, who was born in Ryde, moved back to the Island in 2005 (from living in Buckinghamshire) and after visiting Northwood Cemetery in Cowes on New Year's Eve 2007 looking for the graves of his great-grandparents, he soon found himself immersed in its restoration – and that was to consume another 10 years of his focus until its re-opening in 2017.

His attention then turned back into finding Matthews Island which he succeeded in doing in 2018 after a visit to the Hydrographical Office in Taunton and correspondence with the Meteorological Office in Exeter, to which the Hydrographical Office had referred him.

Eureka. The latter produced the original log of the steam yacht, the *Lancashire Witch*, owned by Frank JAMES, which voyaged into the Barents Sea in 1888 and captained by his aunt's great-uncle William Alfred MATTHEWS. The Log revealed that the *Lancashire Witch* passed what is now known as *Matveyev Island* (69° 27' 53" N; 58° 32' 25" E) on 3rd September 1888 and it is this island that was the original Matthews Island named after his 2nd great-uncle, William Alfred MATTHEWS (1855-1928).

It just took him 35 years – too late for him to share the good news with his aunt.

Hazel PULLEN (IWFHS Member: 2650)

Email: librarian.iowfhs@gmail.com

Photo Identification Page on the Website

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

Please visit the above page from time to time to see if you can identify any of the photos displayed. You can also use the page to have your unidentified photos uploaded.

Photos to be identified should be sent to the Chairman who is also the Webmaster.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member: 392)

Email chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

I Remember

A talk on 4th December by Geoff ALLAN based on the Memoir written by D R (Jack) PORTER of Sandown.

Some time ago Sandown and District Historical Association gave us a box of files relating mainly to people who had lived in Sandown. Among them was an anonymous looking typewritten volume simply entitled "I remember ... looking back 80 years" by D R (Jack) PORTER, R.E.

Written by Douglas Richard PORTER (always known as Jack) in 1981. It relates his life history and that of his family, from about 1900 to just after the Second World War, despite the promise in its title that it would cover his whole life. As Jack quotes his affiliation with the Royal Engineers in the by-line of his memoir it seems as if he defined himself as a military man, as well we shall see later. In this account any direct quotes from his memoir are given in italics.

Jack PORTER was born on 26th November 1894 at 45 High Street, Sandown, to Thomas Edward PORTER and his wife Sabina (née WOODS). T E PORTER was prominent in Sandown, having established several businesses including an artists' supplies shop, where he was also a master gilder and diversified into fancy goods and toys, the Sandown Pleasure Pool, the Rivoli Cinema and the Isle of Wight Motor Express Syndicate.

- *I remember my earliest recollection was being in a room on top of a four-storey building. It was our nursery. It faced the sea and there were wooden slats across the windows. **
- *The Boer War was on at the time and I was the youngest of the family. My brother and I had a lot of soldiers because my father ran a tobacconist's shop at the bottom of this four-storey building and he also sold toys, so we had any amount of toy soldiers. **
- *I remember my father was very friendly with a Mr KELLER - he was Austrian, I think. My father went abroad with him once or twice and I know he brought my sister and I back two little dolls, which were dressed in Austrian uniform. Mr KELLER built the Free Library at Sandown and his portrait is just in the entrance hall. **

[*] Jack's birthplace was this four-storey building, the highest in Sandown at the time. In its day it was a grand edifice, with facings in polychromatic

yellow and red brick and decorative windows and doors. Some idea of its look can be found at this website :

<https://www.quayscape.co.uk/single-post/43-45-high-street-sandown-iow-villakin-te-porters>

Today the building is faced in drab grey cement rendering and is used as a charity shop by the RSPCA. For many years it was the premises of Ladies Realm, a chain of fashion shops on the Island.

[*] Mr KELLER was Alexander KELLER, born in Hungary in 1834. He was prominent in developing Sandown in the late 19th Century, financing not only the Library but also the Savoy Hotel opposite (now demolished) and other properties. When he died in 1920, he left over £83,000 – worth about £5 million at today's prices.

Jack's father, Thomas Edward PORTER, was born in Pyle Street, Newport, on 27th November 1842 to Thomas How PORTER (1815-1897) and his wife Dessema (née MORRIS). Thomas How PORTER was a cabinet maker and presumably passed on his woodworking skills to his son who used them in his picture framing and gilding businesses.

- *My father was entirely a self-made man.*
- *He first opened a tobacconist's shop in Melville Street and then acquired premises in a very large building, four storeys, on the corner of Wilkes Road and the High Street, Sandown. This building, my father told me once, was known as Dunn's Folly. It stood alone in practically open field and it was and still is, the highest building in Sandown. **
- *As he progressed, he acquired premises in Shanklin, which are now the Gas Show Rooms.*
- *I am reading from his business card (it shows the two premises), I quote: "T.E. PORTER, carver, gilder, picture frame maker and artist colour man, established 1865".*



[*] As an aside, the Wilkes Roadside of the building features a blue plaque to John WILKES, MP, of London, who built his country house “Villakin” on open fields in 1788 and which he used until 1797. He was Lord Mayor of London 1774-1775 and there is a statue to him at Fetter Lane, in London’s business district.¹

On the beach

- *My little mother (*) used to take my sister and I down to the beach when we were quite small and put us in charge of the one who ran that section of the beach.*
- *They were all owned by longshore men in those days and this chap was old Tom SOUTHCOTE - he was a marvellous old boy. You used to see him early in the morning raking over the sand. He took great pride in his pitch and woe-betide us kids if we didn't behave ourselves.*
- *As for throwing litter about, he was very soon up - discipline was very strong with old Tom. He ran bathing machines; there were some special bathing machines which were allocated and painted differently, for the Ocean Hotel, which in those days was a very fine hotel. It was run by a man by the name of BARREN. It had its own laundry, which was sited where Bakers old garage is, on the corner of York Road, also its own stables, which is now occupied by Moss's in St John's Road. In the season, of evenings, you would see the people from the Ocean Hotel, walking about in full evening dress, on the esplanade.*

[*] Jack fails to name his mother, referring to her throughout as “my little mother”.

T E PORTER was instrumental in developing the western esplanade at Sandown, taking over the arcades and building a theatre and dance hall, the Kursaal. Anti-German feeling in WW I prompted a change in name to Vectis Hall.

The Broadway

- *The Broadway in those days was known as Broad Lane. There was a farm at one end and when you got up towards the church, you had to get over the stile to go to the church. There was a house in Broad lane, which had a sea view. It looked down into Station Avenue as far as the Rivoli and where that is, was known as Pells Farm.*

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wilkes

The Isle of Wight Motor Express Syndicate

- *My father also had shares in the first bus company, the Isle of Wight Express Motors Syndicate Ltd, nominal capital £10,000. "This is to certify that Thomas Edward PORTER of 45 High Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight registered 50 ordinary shares of £1 each dated 12th day of March 1905".*



I remember these buses as a small boy. They ran on solid wheels, from Ryde to Ventnor. They also carried parcels and my father's shops, in Sandown and Shanklin, acted as an agency for those two towns. I remember, as a small boy, sitting beside the driver, whose name was Mr SHILTEN. Unfortunately, the company was before its time and went into liquidation.

The Great War

- *As the 1914 War wore on, the local territorials were called up. I should have joined the Hampshire Regiment, which most of the Islanders joined, had I not been sick at the time with appendicitis. I remember getting out of bed at the corner of the room of the tall house at which we lived and watching the Sandown contingent marching down the street, on their way for embarkation. They went out to the Dardanelles and were cut to pieces by the Turks.*
- *There was a Captain BRODY from Wootton that formed a KITCHENER's Army RE unit on the Island, the 22^{1st} Fortress company and I was stationed at Albany hutments in Newport. I used to walk down to Newport in the evenings and at the County Press, there were sheets posted up with the casualties - nearly everyone on the Island lost somebody.*
- *The RE Company which Major BRODY had formed, he was a territorial major, was composed of all tradesmen. There was every trade you could think of and only about three of us that were not tradesmen (I was one of them). I passed an electrician's examination and when I joined up first, I was drafted into the office.*

- *Heavy bridging we did in the part of Buxton (in Derbyshire) near to the Cat and Fiddle. They took us up there to do trenching and then you needed explosives to dig a trench, as it was all limestone, so you couldn't dig for the life of you. It was hopeless, absolutely hopeless. Discipline broke down rather badly in Buxton and they did not grant us any Christmas leave, so that annoyed the company. We were reinforced by Buxton boys. They were all SIDEBOTTOMs or SHUFFLEBOTTOMs. Everybody seems to have a name with a bottom up there.*
- *I remember going over, we were equipped with mules to draw general service wagons. We also had two Albion lorries and this cargo ship we went over in, had the horses down below and the lorries. Whether we were the only company on it I don't know. I didn't go down, because of the stench of the horses and one thing and another was not too good, so I spent the night on deck. We sailed from Southampton to Le Havre, then went into a rest camp for a time. We were then moved up country towards Arras.*
- *After an intensive bombardment which lasted for days, the 1st of July dawned (1916) and the great Somme offensive was started.*
- *In France, I had a motorbike and a sidecar- a "Douglas" and for that special day, I was lent to an RE Major. I had to run him up to the supports. He then told me he didn't want me any longer, so I spent the rest of the day running up and down, helping to bring down the walking wounded. The casualties were tremendous on that offensive and I think there were more casualties in that one day than there were in the whole of the Second World War.*
- *Another officer we had was named CREETH. I think he was connected with St Helens. I believe there was a garage out there and still is, to do with the CREETHs. Bill CREETH was a regular army man and when the company was first formed, he was a Warrant Officer, serving out in the West Wight. He is the only service man I have seen that had a ribbon that he wore on the wrong side. Instead of having it with his usual decorations which he had, his was borne on the right and that ribbon was the Royal Humane Society's medal for services of bravery, gained when the "Gladiator", years ago, was run down by the "St Paul" in a snowstorm and turned turtle off the West Wight, where old CREETH was serving.*

Returning to civilian life post WW I ...

- *The next enterprise for my father, was to acquire the Oddfellows Hall in Station Avenue, which he converted and reopened on 17th March 1921, as a somewhat modern cinema for that day, the Rivoli. The films were still silent and were accompanied by a pianist, a Mr STEBBINGS, who was nearly blind.*
- *I remember, there was a picture called "Smiling Through". And while it went through, at a certain spot, Miss SOUTHCOTE, who later became a professional, sang a song "Smiling Through", which then went over extremely well. It was really like a forerunner of the talking pictures.*
- *My father died in 1923 and in his will, he left everything to be equally divided amongst his four children, my elder brother, my other brother, my sister and myself. (Edward Thomas PORTER, Harold Howe PORTER and Dorothy Eva PORTER) To still carry on the numerous enterprises, there was only one thing to do and a private company was formed. All the children holding equal shares. It was known as Porters (Sandown) Ltd and we kept things going until 1932, when my mother died.*



We had the idea of building a swimming pool and of connecting it up with the Arcade and the concert hall above and we named it the "Pleasure Pool". We approached a Danish firm, which were in this country, building those large cooling towers which you see outside of many works. We were up in

London, seeing one of their partners, a Mr INGERSLAV. He drove us down from London to Clacton - they had constructed a swimming pool, under the Clacton Pier.

- *Sandown Pleasure Pool was opened on the 20th of June 1934 by Lady Dora Jellicoe.*
- *Lt EDWARDS R.N. was the pool manager. Mrs Wilbur DAVIES was the swimming instructress and Mr PUNCH, a physical instructor.*
- *We had a small band of about 5, which played for dancers in the evening and on the terraces of the pool, in the mornings. Mrs DAVIES*

organised sports and the firm gave a cup, which was competed for by teams from the different hotels.

The swimming pool was at the end of the Western Esplanade, where "Napoleons Landing" is now situated.

Marriage and World War II

- *I married in 1937 * and when the war broke out in 1939, the pool was closed. The whole of the Esplanade was closed off and I think the pool was taken over by the fire brigade. I was away at the time, having joined the territorials. I joined the 392 Company Ack-Ack RE's on 14th January 1939. My wife and my family could not understand why I should wish to join the army again, after my experiences in World War One.*

[*] Nettie Louise JENKINS – Jack again fails to name his wife.

- *The (searchlights we used) gave a tremendous volume of light and the idea, was that Jerry had a habit of flying low, to get below the radar and the light was put up to dazzle a pilot and he would fly into the cliff at the back of the site. I know one night when I was walking about, smoking a pipe and possibly flashing a torch for some reason another, round my bell tent, I was told off by a Home Guard officer, for showing a light, which I thought was rather futile because I was there for the express purpose of putting up a two-size light with umpteen candle power.*
- *I remember the night that Coventry was bombed because I was at a site called Wellow. It was on the top of the hill going into Romsey and an armada of German planes seemed to be going over and one left me a calling card. The bomb pitched in a farmyard, the other side from my side, killing a few cows and peppering me with mangelwurzels, that came flying over with a whole lot of debris. Anyhow, that was all that happened that particular night.*
- *I was on the site for the Christmas and some dear old ladies in Romsey sent me a Christmas card – 'for the watcher on the hill' - but the other people in Romsey, thought we were a damn nuisance and inclined to attract bombing, which of course, we were.*
- *"D"-Day was approaching and I found myself, transferred to a military hospital, in Southampton. In those days, I believe, it was called, the Victoria Hospital, Netley. It faced Southampton water and it was a very*

long building, with a large centre tower. A corridor ran from end to end, with all the wards facing the Southampton water, with a veranda. The other rooms of the hospital - operating rooms etc. were on the other side of this very long corridor, which is supposed to be about ¼ mile long.

Demob and back to Civvy Street

- *My last move was from Netley to Taunton, where on 23rd August 1945, I was demobbed. I left the army, with a jolly good pinstripe grey civvy suit and testimonial :- "5 gongs and a double hernia". Each morning I thank the good Lord, for another day. He must have allocated to me a very good guardian Angel as for 87 years I have been well looked after. I don't know why. When I look back and think of the men who have made his supreme sacrifice. I get rather confused, as to which war it was but anyhow, greater love hath no man.*
- *I will finish this story on the British Legion's exultation. "They grow not old that we who are left grow old. Age does not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, I will remember them".*

Epilogue – Jack PORTER in 1981

- *At the moment, I am living in a very quiet road, populated by retired people, which in most cases, are very elderly and very lonely. I call it "Gladiator Row". All my life, I have been guided by the motto "Be prepared". Having lived through a period, from the invention of the internal combustion engine to man walking on the moon, I don't think Society has improved much.*
- *My little mother taught me that any decision or action, is either right or wrong, black or white, never settle for grey. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best and you will never be disappointed. Many other home truths, which the young of today, would call Victorian rubbish.*

Thomas Edward PORTER and his wife Sabina are buried at Christ Church, Sandown. Although cremated, Jack PORTER is remembered on an additional plaque in the grave space.

Geoff ALLAN (1WFHS Member: 392)

Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Pilot Officer Charles Frederick John SPRACK DFM

Charles SPRACK was the son of Harry Frederick SPRACK and Dora SPRACK from Brading.

Ed: he was born in 1919.

On the outbreak of the second world war Charles SPRACK left his job with Samuel White shipyard and volunteered for the RAF.

Having undergone training as an Air Gunner he was eventually posted to 83 Squadron (Pathfinders) Based at RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire. There he teamed up with his crew, lead by Flight Lieutenant TILBURY, and they very quickly became a highly experienced and effective crew.

Charles SPRACK was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for his professionalism and he had undertaken many missions over enemy territory.

On 12th June 1943 Lancaster ED603 carrying the code letters O L – L took off from RAF Wyton along with 10 other aircraft from the Squadron and headed out across the North Sea over the Dutch Coast and then south eastwards towards their target.

Their role as Pathfinders was to mark the target with illuminating flares so that the main bomber force would be able to drop their bombs accurately. Charles SPRACK's aircraft was also fitted with an elementary radar system known as "Y" which meant it enabled other aircraft to be guided to the target more accurately.

Having delivered the bomb load and target markers the aircraft turned for home.

There was a strong moon shining and as this aircraft approached the Dutch Coast it was attacked by an enemy night fighter. Messerschmitt 110 flown by Hauptmann (Captain) Rudolph SIGMUND and crashed into the IJsselmeer near Friesland.

All seven crew were killed, four of the crew were washed up on the Dutch coast and were buried by the Authorities together.

The other Three crew were never found.....Until now.

The Dutch authorities doing some work to reclaim land came across the wreckage in 1996 but it was only recently that a plan was created to recover the wreck, once the area had been cleared by making a dam it became apparent that the remains were those of **Pilot Officer Charles SPRACK** along with the Wireless Operator Flight Sergeant MOORE and the Flight Engineer A B SMART.

As yet no decision has been made about the remains and relatives are being traced.



Pilot Officer Charles SPRACK wearing his Air Gunners wings, his DFM medal ribbon and the Winged Eagle denoting Pathfinder Force. Credit Imperial War Museum (IWM)



Lancaster ED603 83 Sqn The aircraft that Charles SPRACK flew as a crew member (Credit IWM)



Messerschmitt BF 110G4 similar to the night fight that shot down Charles SPRACK's Lancaster



Rudolph SIGMUND the Air Ace who shot down the Lancaster. He was killed in October 1943.

Adrian Maasz (IWFHS Member: 6939)

Email: Adrian.maasz@gmail.com



AGM and One Day Conference Programme

Saturday 4th May 2024

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

The theme of this year's Conference is:

Churches, Chapels and Cemeteries

Agenda

- 10:00 **Coffee and welcome**
- 10:45 1st speaker and subject to be announced
- 11:45 **Annual General Meeting**
Apologies for Absence
Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 13th May 2023
Chairman's Report
Treasurer's Report
Election of the Executive Officers and Committee:
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
and (up to) 8 ex-officio members
- 12.15 **Lunch break** (see next page)
- 1.30 2nd speaker and subject to be announced
- 2.30 **Tea break**
- 3.00 3rd speaker and subject to be announced
- 4.00 **Exhibition continues**
- 5.00 **Exhibition closes** (*may close earlier*)

Parking and Getting to the Conference

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

The nearest car park is at County Hall PO30 1UD. **Do not use** the car park in Sea Street as that has 3-hour limit. There is a multi-storey carpark in Pyle Street, Newport PO30 1XB about 3 minutes' walk to the Church.

Information about Island car parks can be found on the Isle of Wight Council website at: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/maps/CarParks.aspx>

Directions from County Hall Car Park

Exit the car park into Sea Street, turn left into Quay Street. The Church will be on your right in Quay Street.

Directions from Pyle Street Multi-Storey:

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

Arriving in Newport by bus:

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

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

Lunch

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

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

AGM and One Day Conference

Saturday 4th May 2024 from 10.30am to 4.00pm

Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport PO30 5BA

Tickets to attend the Exhibition and Talks will be £5.00 for Members and £7.50 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased online via <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events/52>

Alternatively, tickets may be obtained in advance from the Membership Secretary using the Ticket Application form below. Whilst we will endeavour to accommodate 'walk-ins' on the day, there will be a limit on the number of attendees at the Talks.

TICKET APPLICATION

Applications should be received no later than 20th April 2024

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

_____ non-member's tickets at £7.50 each

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

NAME

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (if known)

NAME(S) OF GUESTS

YOUR ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE.....

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

Mrs Gerry Newberry
Mulberry House
Coastguard Lane
Brook
Isle of Wight
PO30 4HQ

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight Family History Society will take place on Saturday 4th May 2024 at 11:45am at the Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport PO30 5BA.

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

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

Mr Geoffrey Allan, Apartment 3, Sandbanks, Esplanade, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8DW *no later than 20th April 2024.*

I wish to nominate:

Membership no:

PROPOSER

Membership no:

SECONDER

Membership no:

Please ensure that your nominee is willing to stand

I wish to propose that:

PROPOSER

Membership no:

SECONDER

Membership no:

Travelling to the Isle of Wight

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other useful websites:

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

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



Di Harding Award Winners 2023

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



Simon LINNINGTON (IWFHS Member 6141), wins 3 years' free subscription For his article "From Chale to St Helena in the 1840s" which was published in the February Journal



Coreene KENNEDY (IWFHS Member 2902) wins 2 years' free subscription for her article "Alfred Peter 'Ranji' HOLSINGER and Ryde Cricket Club" which was published in the August Journal.



Ian ROACH (IWFHS Member 1415) wins a year's free subscription for his article "Isle of Wight Forest Tree Project" which was published in the August Journal.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)
Journal Editor

Email: journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Using Newspapers for Family History Research

In a day when global news is instantly available and at our fingertips with our modern technology, it is reassuring that physical newspapers are still relevant. Working as a newsagent it is clear that times are changing and this may not be the case for much longer; but it is also obvious that the local newspapers still have a large role to play for us today, even if the purchase of physical national newspapers may be on the decline. If we venture back to the times of our predecessors, newspapers had an important role; they connected smaller communities to the rest of their county, they provided information on a national scale too and could also tell of events from across the globe.

I love old newspapers as a source, I can often be found “reading” old editions of newspapers, cover to cover, online. But why are they useful? As I’ve spoken to people who are researching their family history over the years, I have noticed that many do not list newspapers in the sources they would regularly consult in their research. Some believe that if their ancestor was your standard “ag. lab” in a rural community, they would only ever see their name in print if they had done something heroically good or notoriously bad and if those stories had not been passed down through the generations, then there’s no reason to look. There is a whole host of reasons that we can find our ancestors in the local press and if not them personally, we can discover more about their community, neighbours and the events that would have affected them. I am also keen to know the full story about my ancestors, so if they featured in the papers for less than heroic reasons, I still want to know, we do not have to be proud of all of them. No matter what occurred in their lives, their actions and the consequences affect those around them and we should always try and paint a full and honest picture rather than edit history to suit us.

So, where should you start? If you have a particularly unique surname you are interested in, searching for that within a location and time can be a good way to go but the scatter-gun approach can prove overwhelming. A more methodical approach may be wiser, pick one family or time-period to start with. Newspapers can help unlock details to break down some of those brick walls, so that is a perfect place to start.

A NOTE ON SEARCHING NEWSPAPERS

All pages of historic newspapers have been scanned digitally by a technology called OCR (Optical Character Recognition). If text or printing quality is unclear, the transcription may appear garbled or you may receive

no results at all, do not be discouraged. There are lots of articles and guidance out there to help, such as here:

<https://help-and-advice.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/knowledgebase>

It is worth looking at the various publications that cover the area you are looking at, full lists of publications are available online. Those available on the British Newspaper Archive relevant to the Isle of Wight are as follows:

***Isle of Wight County Press* - 1884-1911,1913**

***Isle of Wight Journal* - 1877,1879,1889**

***Isle of Wight Mercury* - 1856-1858**

***Isle of Wight Observer* - 1852-1870,1873-1876,1878-1895,1898-1922**

***Isle of Wight Times* - 1862-1867,1871,1873,1874,1876-1879,1889,1897,1901-1913**

You can see that the *Isle of Wight Observer* covers the earliest time period, predating the *Isle of Wight County Press*. Local news before (and during) the above dates are covered in the numerous Hampshire titles.

Hampshire Advertiser

1823-1828,1830-1832,1834-1849,1851,1852,1854-1863,1865,1867-1895,1897,1899-1907,1914-1940

***Hampshire Chronicle* - 1772-1798,1800-1870,1881-1890,1895-1909**

***Hampshire Independent* - 1836-1852,1858-1895,1898-1910,1912-1923**

***Hampshire Observer and Basingstoke News* - 1903-1916**

***Hampshire Post and Southsea Observer* - 1874-1896,1898-1909,1911-1913**

***Hampshire Telegraph* - 1799-1878,1880-1910,1912-1961**

***Southampton Observer and Hampshire News* - 1889-1906**

***Football Mail* (Portsmouth) - 1903,1907,1956**

Portsmouth Evening News

1878-1883,1885,1886,1889-1895,1897,1899-1916,1920-1927,1929-1944,1949-1961

***Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette* - 1850-1871**

Aldershot Military Gazette

1859-1870,1872,1873,1875-1887,1889,1890,1918

Aldershot News

1904-1907,1909,1910,1917,1919,1920,1935,1939,1941,1942,1945-1968,1976-1987

It is worth noting that an article may appear in multiple papers and in some cases contain more details, so it is always worth looking at all available titles. In some cases, you may find mention in papers much farther afield, this is particularly useful if a more local source does not survive or is yet to be digitised.

The “anatomy” of a newspaper has changed much over time, the attention-grabbing bold headlines of today a relatively recent format. In the early editions of the *Hampshire Chronicle* (1772) we have a column dedicated to the aim of the newspaper to provide local people with a reliable and regular source of news and then further columns dedicated to updates on world news from the *London Gazette* and then offerings from correspondents regarding news in the capital. More local news is found on pages 2 and 3, with the last page devoted to advertisements. Over time the format swayed towards public notices, notices of claims to estates and advertisements being on the front page, later this would include notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths. This will likely be the format we become most familiar with when searching historic papers.

Most papers will have columns covering the events or news items from various towns and villages, this could feature accidents that befell its residents, a write-up of a local wedding, a church or school event or fair or an obituary for one of its residents. Even if your ancestors are not named specifically, these columns can provide rich details on the locale and the events the residents would be attending or talking about.

More general news for the region will be featured, often focusing on parliamentary business (for instance any new acts being discussed or passed) and local government discussions. It is also likely to include the movements of the monarch and the Royal family and other key political figures along with the movements of the military forces and updates on any conflicts across the globe. The movements of the various Regiments are particularly useful if you have a local girl suddenly marrying a soldier from elsewhere, providing a good reason for how they might have met.

As the Victorians began to advance in technology, science and medicine, we can read with increasing frequency about new revelations and read write-ups of lectures presented to various institutions and societies. Developments in many fields could well have sparked some interesting

conversations in your family's home over the generations. Religious movements were also much discussed.

But let us focus more locally we are all quite aware of the popularity of the Island with the well-to-do from all over the UK and further afield. Taking to the coast for one's health may have been the later Victorian trend but the construction of Osborne House relatively early in the Queen's reign saw an influx of visitors to the Island. The *Isle of Wight Observer* and *Isle of Wight Mercury* wished to ensure that the populous was kept informed on who was in residence at any given time with their "Fashionable List". Your ancestor may not have appeared on this list but perhaps they gained employment in service to one of the families. Numerous houses on the Island were available for the visiting upper classes to "take for the season" and in many cases these visitors would return frequently. This was the perfect opportunity for them to be impressed by any servants provided and may result in a future position within their household elsewhere. Likewise, these fashionable lists are perfect for finding who stayed where if you are looking at the history of a property, providing you with a weekly list of who resided in the larger properties on the Island on a weekly basis, for many decades.

Just like today, sports teams, community groups and church affiliated organisations would feature weekly and these are always worth exploring. You may know of an ancestors working/business life but were they also involved in a golf club, a choir or a benevolent organisation (see my previous article on Friendly Societies). Day schools, church affiliated schools and local colleges often held prize giving in a subject or skill and results of examinations and this can be an excellent way to learn more about your family member's childhoods, what schools they attended and if they had a particular aptitude in a subject of skill.

One of the best finds in a local paper, by far, is an obituary. They often contain far more detail than we can easily glean from other sources, although they can be greatly embellished by the person writing it and invariably only mention the good things a person has done. The best obituaries are ones that give the extensive lists of the funeral attendees. It can help you identify some other family members that have proved elusive, especially women. They will likely be listed under their husband's surname only, so be sure to identify all the names on the list. These write-ups may also pose more questions when you do not see listed a mourner that you would have expected to be in attendance. Often there were reasons published for any immediate family member that was not present but not always.

Similar reports on weddings can also be found, often featuring a list of guests and members of the wedding party and sometimes with a list of presents given. Due to a report of my relative's wedding in Paris in an Island newspaper I was able to learn that she was held in great esteem by her employer and her fellow staff, them giving her many lovely gifts on her big day. The article gave a detailed description of her wedding gown and flowers, the destination of the honeymoon and their intended future address. When her husband later seemed to "disappear" from the records, it was through scouring the newspapers I learned that he had gotten himself into a considerable amount of debt and had shot himself in a hotel on the French coast. Tragic but at least I now knew why she had returned to the UK as a widow.

Just like today, the news was not all good and the papers had to report on tragedy all too often. If there was a fatal accident in your family, you may already have discovered something via the death certificate but not all accidents resulted in death, so maybe you had no idea anything had occurred. Working for a client last year, we were stumped as to why a skilled tradesman gave up his lucrative position to become a general labourer, turned out a nasty accident resulted in a serious head injury and damage to his eyesight, all reported in the local papers.

There are of course the darker and more delicate news items contained in the local press (and depending on the gravity or sensationalist nature of the event, possibly nationally too.) The write-ups of the various courts were featured every week, from the lower-level Petty Sessions, the Borough Court and the Assizes. Remember, all Assizes were held in Winchester, so Hampshire newspapers are key here. These reports may well unlock branches of your tree that have proved tricky or have been glossed over due to the shame and embarrassment caused to the immediate family at the time or break down that stubbornly strong brick wall. If you strongly feel that these past transgressions should remain in the past and these branches have no place in your tree, stop reading here.

The Petty Session and Borough Court reports can identify the name (usually a full name) and address of an ancestor who found themselves on the wrong side of the law but this was also true for those wronged and any witnesses called, so it is a good idea to see if great granny was called to provide a witness statement. Anything from petty theft to vandalism, keeping a pub open too late or assault, you will find the newspapers invaluable to finding more details.

This is also where you will find evidence of any family cases being raised before the magistrates. Where divorce for most people was not attainable, separation orders were the next best thing for either party, though it is mostly women who filed for these as a result of their husband's violence or desertion. A magistrate could grant the order so the couple could live apart and the spouse who had custody of the children (usually the woman) would receive a sum of weekly maintenance. Detailed reports of domestic unrest and violence can make for a harrowing read, so prepare yourself. These separation orders can do a lot in explaining why a woman may appear married on the census (as legally she was) but never seemed to appear with her husband.

Bigamy cases may appear too and often provide plenty of details on the parties involved and the less common cases of breach of promise, where a party has backed out of an engagement and the other party is fighting for compensation due to a loss of reputation.

The last thing I will mention is the affiliation or bastardy cases, the key to identifying the fathers of any illegitimate children where these cases exist. A child born to an unwed mother is by far the circumstance most hidden or lied about throughout the generations and still seems to be a taboo subject. There is much I could write here as I have spent three years researching such cases, perhaps the topic for a future article, if there is interest. Affiliation cases were very exposing for the mothers of these children, putting their lives under scrutiny by a panel of men and not all were brave enough to go through with summoning the reputed father to court but it may surprise you how many did. A successful case would mean the father was due to pay maintenance for the child until it reached an age when it could work (usually 14 or 16 years). For family historians, these cases can unlock a whole branch of your family tree. My research on this subject will eventually be given to the society by way of an additional dataset on the website for members to access, in the meantime, feel free to email me if you have any queries. In the meantime, get reading the newspapers, who knows what you will discover.

Sharon BEDDARD ((IWFHS Member: 2939)
Education Officer
Email: research.iowfhs@gmail.com

An Unexpected Find – The Death of Oliver BEAVIS

There can be few family history researchers who have not put a family name into an internet search just to see what might be out there, I certainly have and on one occasion I was rewarded with an account of the death of a distant relative in what is now part of Papua New-Guinea. What I found was the second half of the story in an extract on Google books of “The German Colonial Experience: Select Documents on German Rule”, this was highly frustrating as without the rest of the account I had no context and an incomplete story.

Unfortunately, the book in question was published by an American academic publisher and so was not even available at the British Library and would have been very expensive to get a local library to get a loan copy. There I left it for some time until I chanced upon Jstor (jstor.org), an academic website, which, among other things, has a catalogue of all the library holdings of British academic institutions. I quickly discovered that one of the few institutions holding a copy of the elusive volume was Chichester University, I regularly visit Chichester for meetings so I checked with their library who confirmed that they would happily give me a day pass to conduct my research and on my next visit to Chichester that is what I did.

I found that the book I was interested was:

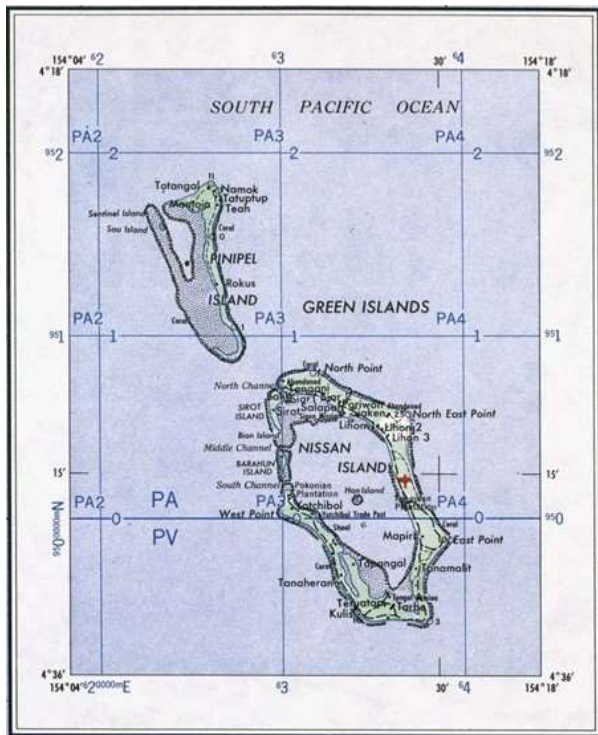
The German Colonial Experience: Select Documents on German Rule in Africa, China and the Pacific 1884-1914

Arthur J KNOLL (Editor), Hermann J. HIERY (Series Editor)
Publisher University Press of America

This book was a series of extracts from earlier works, the chapter I was interested in was originally published in:

Through New Guinea and the cannibal countries
Author: Herbert Cayley WEBSTER
Publisher: T. Fisher Unwin, London, 1898

This meant that the book was out of copyright so I could reproduce the piece on the death of Oliver BEAVIS from Niton (born 1859) for members of the IWFHS and I could also include an illustration.



The Murder of an English Trader at Nissan Island, German New Guinea, May 1897

I quickly got my ballast on board and returned to Ralum, to bid a final adieu to all my friends there. And taking, at the request of Mrs KOLBEL, some provisions and papers for an Englishman who was trading for her in a group of islands just north of the Solomons and who was apparently quite isolated from the world, being out of the track of all

ships, I made an early start on 11th May.

Sailing along the coast I soon afterwards observed a flagstaff raised up at the spit of small island which I knew must be Nissan, the trading-station. But although, the flag was flying I could see no one on the veranda nor did any natives, as is customary, approach the ship from the shore. Nevertheless, I could see many dusky figures running through the trees which line the beach and at once remarked that something must be wrong.

Firing a gun two or three times but getting no response, I manned the boat and went on shore when my worst fears were at once realised. The Englishman, whose name was Oliver BEAVIS, had been murdered. His native housekeeper, a young girl from New Ireland, whom I found huddled up in the house in a most terribly frightened condition, said that Mr. BEAVIS had been expecting a schooner to come from New Britain with his stores for some months. I may mention here that Mrs KOLBEL had previously told me that her schooner, when I left New Britain was then more than a hundred days overdue and they were themselves very

anxious for her safety, as the natives on the east coast of New Ireland, where it had been sent, were very treacherous and that was the reason why she had not been able to send this man his stores before.

Gathering as many natives as possible together I interrogated them, finding that pidgin English was not unknown to several, with the result that I discovered that one morning, ten days previous to my coming, the trader was in the act of feeding his pigs, when a native had split his head open with an axe from behind. The poor man had strength enough to run behind a cocconut tree, followed by his assassin, who was then joined by other natives.

Taking out his revolver he fired twice, wounding one man in the hand and another in the shoulder. The trader's New Ireland boys then appeared on the scene and the murderer decamped but was afterwards shot by one of these boys with the trader's own gun and close to the spot where he had struck down his victim.

Mr BEAVIS managed to stagger to his house but fell on the threshold and expired before he could get upon his bed. I could see the ghastly signs of the frightful struggle the poor man had made in trying to get there but his strength had given way and he had died pulling at the bedclothes, although ten days had elapsed nothing had been touched.

The New Ireland boys buried the body just outside and so after seeing that his grave was properly attended to and a bamboo fence built round it. I examined his papers to try and discover his address, so as to give intimation of the sad occurrence to his friends. Unfortunately, I could find no letters that told me what I wanted but just as I was giving it up, I saw in the corner of his room a small and much used Bible, wherein I found his address in the Isle of Wight. I communicated with his friends on my arrival in Australia in July, while, at the same time, I wrote to New Britain sending news of the murder.

At the time this part of what is now Papua New Guinea was part of the colony of German New Guinea or Neumecklenburg. How an Isle of Wight man came to be living there we can only conjecture, crew lists from the late 1870s show him working on various cruising yachts sailing out of Cowes so it seems likely that he may have graduated to longer voyages on larger vessels until he ended up in his remote final resting place.

Tony BEVIS (IWFHS Member: 1491)

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Island Parishes – Chale

Chale was mentioned in the Domesday Book as Cela, having three manors, those of Chale, Gotten and Walpen. Parts of Chale Abbey date from the 14th Century when it was built for the LANGFORD family.

In 1562 it was owned by the WORSLEYs, their tenants were soon in dispute with Richard NEWMAN, the tenant of neighbouring Walpen, about the right to graze sheep on the Downs. Walpen was once a large manor and had been farmed by the monks of Quarr Abbey.

The present house is dated 1698. Another well-known Island family, the OGLANDERS, owned Gotten from the 16th to 18th centuries.

The village of Chale is on the coast, with Chale Green about a mile inland. The Parish Church of St Andrew is in an exposed position near the cliffs. It was dedicated in 1114. During Victorian times there was much restoration.

Inside there are many memorials placed there by the American, George Arnold HEARN, including five stained glass windows to James Arnold HEARN, who was born on the Island in 1810 and died in New York. The organ is in memory of George Arnold HEARN's daughter, Grace, who died only three days after her marriage.

The registers date from 1679. In the churchyard there are buried many of those lost at sea, though most of the inscriptions on the stones have been weathered away.

The most famous wreck in Chale Bay must be that of the *Clarendon*. The ship left St. Kitts with a crew of 17, 11 passengers and a cargo of sugar, molasses and rum, in August 1836. In the October she was driven ashore in sight of rescuers but was smashed to pieces within minutes.

It was due to the heroism of local man John WHEELER that three of the crew were saved. Captain Samuel WALKER was drowned and also six members of one family. Lieutenant SHORE, his wife and four daughters.

It was due to this tragedy that a lighthouse was finally built at St Catherine's point, in a low enough position for the light to be seen.

An earlier wreck, in 1313, led to Sir William de GODYTON being accused of illegally taking barrels of wine. It is said that as a penance he had a

lighthouse and oratory built up on the Downs but it is known that something existed there prior to that date.

Locally the remains are known as the Pepper Pot. Nearby is the Salt Cellar, what is left of a lighthouse built by Trinity House in the 1780s, which proved to be useless due to the fogs on the top of the Downs.

For more tales of wrecks and indeed smuggling in the Chale Bay area there is no better read than Fred. MEW's *Back of the Wight*. First written in the 1930s its history and reminiscences include many local names, such as WHEELER, MORRIS and BROWN.

Further along the ridge of the Downs is another landmark, a pillar erected by Michael HOY to commemorate the visit of the Russian Emperor in 1814. Later one side of the base was used as a memorial to those killed at the Crimea.

Below the Pepper Pot' is Blackgang Chine, a natural chasm, for a long time of interest to visitors. HASSEL in his *Tour of the Isle of Wight*, 1790, described it as a large chasm with 'tremendous shelving rocks, once the residence of pirates. He also mentioned that it was common custom amongst the locals to plunder wrecks and to strip the dead, no one was ever brought to justice as the plunder was equally divided. Landslips occur constantly along this line of coast and one in 1799 near Pitland Farm lasted for two days.

In 1859 George JONES was the victualler of the Blackgang Chine Hotel situated on the cliffs near a waterfall. The hotel ceased trading after the Second World War. Nearby were built villas with such names as Sealand Cottage and Rockside, many now lost over the cliffs.

By 1878 Alexander DABELL was running a fancy repository called the Blackgang Bazaar. Today the family still own the site and Blackgang Chine is one of the Island's major tourist attractions.

The Parish School was built near the Church, in 1843 for about £500. It had many endowments including the interest on £150 left by Robert WEEKES in 1784 and £200 by John BARBER in 1795. There was also a rent charge of £5 left by the Rev Francis WORSLEY in 1807. who also gave a cottage and garden for the free use of the schoolmaster.

In 1859 this post was occupied by Abraham BAKER, who was also the Parish Clerk and ran the Post Office as well. The schoolmistress was

Miss Martha BROWN, who was still teaching in 1878. Enlargements were made to the school in 1895-1896 so it could take 90 pupils.

When non-conformist Reuben RUSSELL came to live in Chale in 1822 he had to go to Brighstone for meetings, a round trip of over ten miles. With the help of Henry MORRIS of Kingston Farm, he opened his own house for meetings and then another house at Chale Green.

About 20 years later a United Methodist Chapel was built and enlarged in 1884 to seat 130.

The Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1888 and for the residents of Blackgang there was an iron mission hall.

The Wight Mouse Inn is at Chale, renamed from part of the Clarendon Hotel. which itself was renamed after the wreck from the *White Mouse*. The Inns at Chale Green however are now closed.

The New Inn, whose various victuallers included Henry RALPH, Benjamin J BROWN and William WHEELER finally closed in the 1960s.

The other inn, the Star, was situated next door to Sprake's Brewery, which closed in 1934. At one time they were producing bottled beers known as Chale Ale and Chale Pale Ale.

Just before the First World War Chale had its cricket club, with the Rev C W HEALD as president and W CHIVERTON as secretary and treasurer. Henry WAY was the secretary of the golf club.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 14 (August 1989) and 59 (November 2000)

Island Parishes – Cowes

Castles were built at the mouth of the River Medina as part of Henry VIII's defence system. The one at East Cowes is long gone but at West Cowes the castle survived in varying states of repair. During the Civil War- it fell into Parliamentary hands after its captain was arrested, leaving only two gunners to defend it. Today the remains of it are absorbed into the buildings used by the Royal Yacht Squadron. From being just a collection of fishermen's cottages, the town began to expand and eventually Cowes became a parish in its own right.

By 1796 the town was described as consisting of one street, chiefly inhabited by tradesmen who supply the shipping with any article they want. A private dockyard has built ships for the British Navy for the last 60 years.

Already Cowes had its own church, known as West Cowes Chapel, one of few built during the Commonwealth. It was not consecrated until 1662, about five years after it was built. The first man to be buried there was Thomas, son of William DENSHAM, on 3rd July 1657. For many years the STEPHENS family were benefactors of the church.

There were constant structural problems which led to many repairs and alterations. A tower was planned in 1816 and eventually a clock and bell tower designed by John NASH was built. Problems continued until in 1866 the church was demolished, leaving only Nash 's tower. Emma WARD, of Northwood Park, laid the foundation stone on 2nd May 1867. The rebuilding cost £6,000 but alterations continued well into the 19th Century on the church, now known as St Mary's.

A second church, Holy Trinity, was built in the town in 1832, costing well over £6,000 it was paid for by Mrs Sarah GOODWIN. Princess Beatrice laid the foundation stone of the mission church, St Faith's in 1909. Also, in Cowes is one of the earliest Roman Catholic Churches built on the Island. St Thomas of Canterbury was built in Carvel Lane in 1796 by Mrs HENEAGE.

John and Charles WESLEY preached in the town when a storm forced them to delay sailing for America. There were many non-conformist places of worship in the town : Congregationalist, Union Road, 1804; Wesleyan, Birmingham Road, 1831, Baptist, Victoria Road, 1877; United Methodist, Mill Hill Road, 1889 and the Primitive Methodist, Beckford Road, also 1889.

Cowes is, of course, renowned as a yachting centre. The history of yachting begins with Charles II, who raced *The Mary* on the Thames. The first regatta was held at Cowes in 1813 and two years later a yacht club was founded, becoming the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) in 1833.

In 1851 a yacht from the RYS was beaten in a race around the Island by an American schooner, the *America*. This led to the series of races for the cup, named after the first winner. The racing at Cowes developed into one of the premier events of the social year, at its height under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. Luxurious yachts were to be seen and villas were leased. It was when the JEROMEs took Rosetta Cottage that their daughter, Jennie, met her future husband, Randolph CHURCHILL.

A typical advertisement from a guidebook of 1870 reads :The Gloucester Hotel and Boarding-house T Jones, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Begs to inform the nobility and gentry that this delightfully situated hotel combines every comfort with moderate charges. The cuisine will be most scrupulously attended to. The Wines and Spirits are carefully selected and will be found choice and good.

Lieutenant General Charles BARING, a keen yachtsman, had Nubia House built in 1871, overlooking the sea. Many eminent guests, including royalty, were entertained there every August. However, by 1955 the house had to be sold, for a brief period it was a school and then demolished and new houses built.

Other lavish entertainments were held at Northwood House, the home of the WARD Family. George WARD had come to Cowes and rebuilt and renamed Belle Vue House. He became the major landowner of the area, controlling most of the parish of Northwood. The wall of the estate can still be seen in Baring Road today.

The family were great benefactors to Cowes, especially George Henry WARD, who had the Quay and Pier constructed for use by the steamers. Another member of the family helped to save Lord's Cricket Ground from the developers. In 1929 Northwood House was given to the town.

The banks of the River Medina provided ideal sites for ship building, which was first established on the eastern side and spread to West Cowes. Wood from nearby Parkhurst Forest was used to build naval ships long before Thomas WHITE opened the Thetis Yard in 1815. Members of the family were involved in designing and building. One of the earliest

destroyers, *HMS Teazer* was built by J S White's in 1898, at a cost of nearly £40,000.

Then there were all the trades allied to ship building. In 1914 in Medina Road alone there were the following :

Ratsey & Laphorn Ltd, sailmakers

Mitcham Motor Co Ltd, engineers and launch builders

Clare Lallow, boat builders

Shepard Bros. Ltd, steam ship owners

John Samuel White & Co, ship builders, engineers & marine engineers.

Henry Wheeler, Percy Shergold and Edward Watts & Sons all combined yacht and house decorating.

Elsewhere in the town Marvins, established 1868 and patronised by royalty, sold yachts as well as houses.

W T MAHY was the manager of the Cowes Steam Tug Co Ltd

William Thomas MAHY was a marine insurance agent. In High Street:

John Morgan & Sons, yachting tailors

Eastman's Ltd. butchers and Brown's Stores boasted they were yacht provisioning experts.

The High Street premises of Pascall Atkey was built of ships timbers and they are one of the oldest established yacht chandlers in the country, being founded in 1799.

Henry Bannister & Co. had their rope-making business in Mill Hill Road, where they had moved in 1820, 30 years after being founded.

The ropewalks were about a thousand feet long, at one point passing under Bridge Road. The company were one of the first to be mechanised and also to manufacture wire rope for racing yachts.

Cowes was a natural target for enemy air raids during the Second World War. When the George Hotel in the High Street was hit the nearby War Memorial was shattered. The memorial had been unveiled by Major General SEELY in 1922 and after the Second World War the remnants were erected in Northwood Park.

The worst attack of the War came on the night of 4th May 1942. Incendiary bombs were dropped to guide the bombers to their target. The Polish destroyer *Blyskawica* was being refitted in J S White's yard and her guns were manned all night to keep up a continuous barrage of fire to help defend the town.

Next morning it became clear that Cowes and in particular White's, had suffered badly. Many hundreds had been injured and there were 68 civilians killed. Many of those killed were buried together in the cemetery in Newport Road.

Early schools in Cowes included the National School built in Cross Street in 1821, it was closed briefly in the 1860s but then reopened and enlarged. A council school was opened in York Street in the early 1860s and another for junior and senior pupils at Denmark Road in 1908.

Cowes was linked by rail to Newport in 1862 and had two stations, the town station at Terminus Road and Mill Hill Station to serve the southern part of the town. Between the two was a tunnel of 208 yards. The line closed in 1966.

The ferry link to the mainland has long been maintained by the Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Red Funnel).

Sources: IWFHS Journals 15 (November 1989) and 60 (February 2001)

Island Parishes – East Cowes

In George BRANNON's *Picture of the Isle of Wight* (1858) East Cowes is described as looking-up to be a place of some importance: the value of property has considerably advanced and trade in general improved. It has one good hotel, several respectable lodging houses. Having large shipwright's yards and a number of marine stores, wharfs, &c., where merchant ships lie alongside to take in or unload their cargoes, it often exhibits much of the bustling appearance of a seaport town.

Compared to many other parishes on the Isle of Wight East Cowes is a modern one, originally part of Whippingham parish it became an ecclesiastical one in 1843 and a civil parish in 1894.

The parish church, which is dedicated to St. James, was designed by the well-known architect John NASH. The then Princess Victoria, accompanied by her mother, laid the foundation stone in September 1831 and the church was consecrated two years later.

Extensive alterations and rebuilding over the years mean that only the tower remains of NASH's original work. NASH himself was buried at the church and his tomb can be seen near the tower.

Inside the church there are many memorials to the SHEDDON and the GORT families. The registers date from 1833. BARBER in his *Picturesque Illustrations of the Isle of Wight* describes the church as an edifice that is small, has no style and is plain as plainness itself.

A Congregational church had already been established in the town, having been built in 1829 to seat 250 people. Other non-conformist chapels included the Wesleyan Methodist in Adelaide Grove and the United Methodist in Osborne Road. The Roman Catholic Church of St. David in Connaught Road originally opened in a temporary building in 1906. At one time there was a convent for Benedictine nuns in York Avenue.

The association of Queen Victoria with the area had begun when she was a girl and had stayed at Norris Castle with her mother. This had been built in the style of a Norman Castle to take full advantage of the Solent views, in 1799. It had been designed by James WYATT for Lord Henry SEYMOUR. The building had many owners and for a period was unoccupied. It escaped the fate of its neighbour.

East Cowes Castle, built at about the same time by John NASH for his own use, although he also had estates at Ningwood and Hampstead.

In 1827 J M W TURNER, the celebrated artist, stayed at East Cowes Castle for several weeks. He had made two visits to the Island many years earlier but on this visit, he made sketches in chalk, pencil and oils in and around the Castle.

When NASH died in 1835 the full extent of his debts was realized and his property had to be sold.

By 1854 it was owned by George TUDOR and later still was the residence of the GORT family.

General Lord GORT VC was in command of the British Expeditionary Force in France in 1939-1940.

Eventually the Castle was demolished, after falling into disrepair and the estate is now covered by a housing development.

In the 1840s there were plans to develop the town with villas set in their own gardens however this idea was never completed although some of the villas can still be seen today in York Avenue. These contrast greatly with the rows of brick terraced housing elsewhere in the town, built for the local workers.

The position of the town at the mouth of the River Medina meant that shipbuilding and its allied trades were important sources of employment. In more recent times British Hovercraft Corporation (now Westlands) brought work to the area.

The arrival of the Royal Family at Osborne had the most marked effect on the area. After spending much of her childhood at Norris Castle it was natural for Queen Victoria to look to the Island for a home of her own. They acquired Osborne in 1844.

The existing house was far too small for their growing family, so Prince Albert together with Thomas CUBITT, designed a new house. As the Solent reminded Albert of the Bay of Naples, it was designed in the style of an Italianate villa. The first part, known as the Pavilion wing, was built alongside the original house, which was eventually demolished.

Development of the estate continued for years, with more land being purchased, including Barton Manor. Model farms and cottages were built, all of which meant more work locally.

In 1890 the Durbar wing was added to the house, with a suite of rooms above for the use of Princess Beatrice and her family.

Since Prince Albert's death the Queen had spent much of her time at Osborne and it was there that she died on 22nd January 1901.

Her body, on a gun carriage, followed by many members of her family, was taken through the town of East Cowes and put on board the *Alberta* which then sailed for Portsmouth.

The Queen had given four acres of land to be used as a cemetery, which was laid out at a cost of £1,200 in 1877.

A permanent ferry between East and West Cowes was established, to become a chain ferry in 1854.

Immediately after the Queen's death, Edward VII gave Osborne to the nation and it then housed the naval college and a convalescent home for ex-servicemen. Today it is run by English Heritage who have opened more of the house to the public.

The Frank James Memorial Hospital was built in 1893. The building was originally almshouses for aged and disabled seamen and had been erected in memory of their brother by John and William JAMES. During the Boer War it was used as a convalescent home for soldiers. Later it became a cottage hospital. The NHS closed the hospital in 2002 since then it has had ownership issues.

Sources: IWFHS Journals 16 (February 1990) and 61 (May 2001)

Wanted Articles for Future Journals

Whilst there are regular contributors there are some members who have not submitted an article for publication since I took over as Editor in 2010. Some of those members have been subscribers to the society for longer than I have. It therefore follows that they have been researching their family history for longer than I have. They must have at least one story to tell.

Examples may be:

- How they broke down a brick wall after months or years of research.
- How contact with someone living overseas turned out to be descended from one of their ancestor's siblings.
- What their ancestor did in one of the many wars.
- Their ancestor may have worked for Queen Victoria when she visited the Island or one of gentry.

I appreciate that writing an article for the Journal may not come easy for some of you. Read through some of the articles in this and previous journals. Every edition is available to download in PDF format from the website at <https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/journals/archive>. Could you perhaps write something similar about one of your ancestors?

Please note you **must** have your set your communication preference for "Consent to my contact details being disclosed in Journals" to 'Both', 'Email only' or 'Address only'. Another member might want to contact you. If you select 'Both' it will be your email address that will be published.

If you submit an article but have withheld your consent to have your contact details published. I will contact you to ask if you would be willing to change your consent. I will also advice you how to do that. In case you might not be aware.

Further information can be found on the website at:

<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/journals>. If you have any questions, please write to me.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member: 2187)

Journal Editor

Email: journal.editor.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.

533	Mr Mick LYONS; Email: mealyons@aol.com			
	COOMBES	IOW	Godshill	18 th -19 th Centuries
	COOMBES	IOW	Newchurch	18 th -19 th Centuries
	GRANT	IOW	Northwood	16 th -18 th Centuries
	HARBER	IOW	Brading	All Centuries
	HAYDEN	IOW	Brading	All Centuries
	TRIBBICK	IOW	Newchurch	18 th -19 th Centuries
559	Mr Mal BARTON; Email: mal.barton@ntlworld.com			
	BARTON	IOW	All Areas	16 th -19 th Centuries
1051	Mr Charles MOORE; Email: charlesmoore144@btinternet.com			
	ATTRILL	IOW	Newport	All Centuries
	ATTRILL	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	BARRETT	IOW	Binstead	19 th Century
	BARTON	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	BARTON	IOW	Arreton	All Centuries
	BLAKE	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	BUTCHER	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	BUTCHER	IOW	Calbourne	17 th -18 th Centuries
	CHAMBERS	IOW	Newchurch	All Centuries
	CHAMBERS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	CONGDON	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	COOK	IOW	Calbourne	17 th -18 th Centuries
	COOKE	IOW	Calbourne	17 th -18 th Centuries
	COOKE	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	DOWDNEY	IOW	Northwood	17 th -18 th Centuries
	DOWDNEY	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	DYER	IOW	All Areas	18 th -19 th Centuries
	EARLEY	IOW	Northwood	18 th -19 th Centuries
	HENTON	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	JEFFERIES	IOW	Ryde	18 th -19 th Centuries
	JEFFERY	IOW	Bembridge	18 th Century
	JOLLIFFE	IOW	Carisbrooke	19 th Century
	LONG	IOW	Gatcombe	17 th -18 th Centuries
	MOOR	IOW	Northwood	17 th -18 th Centuries
	MOORE	IOW	Calbourne	16 th -18 th Centuries
	MOORE	IOW	Carisbrooke	18 th Century
	MOORE	IOW	One Name Study	

	MOORS	IOW	Northwood	All Centuries
	MOUNCHER	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	MUMFORD	IOW	Ryde	18 th -19 th Centuries
	MUNFORD	IOW	Ryde	18 th -19 th Centuries
	PAUL	IOW	Cowes	All Centuries
	PAUL	IOW	Whippingham	All Centuries
	PHILLIPS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	PHILLIPS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	PINNICK	IOW	Cowes	18 th -19 th Centuries
	PLUCKNETT	IOW	Shalfleet	19 th Century
	PLUCKNETT	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	SALTER	IOW	Northwood	19 th Century
	SALTER	IOW	Yaverland	All Centuries
	SO(U)THCOTT	IOW	St Helens	All Centuries
	SPENCER	IOW	Freshwater	19 th Century
	SURKET	IOW	St Helens	18 th -19 th Centuries
	TRILL	IOW	Billingham	16 th -17 th Centuries
	WHEELER	IOW	Ryde	All Centuries
	WHITE	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	WHITE	IOW	Arreton	18 th -19 th Centuries
1152	Mrs Shirley CASEY; Email: shirleycasey@btinternet.com			
	DYER	IOW	Seaview/ St Helens	18 th -19 th Centuries 18 th -19 th Centuries
	STAMP	IOW	St Helens	18 th -19 th Centuries
	WADE	IOW	St Helens	18 th -19 th Centuries
1725	Mr Roger GREENHALGH; Email: exfencer@icloud.com			
	DAMP	IOW	Ryde	18 th -19 th Centuries
	JOLLIFFE	IOW	Ryde	All Centuries
	WRIGHT	IOW	Ryde	19 th Century
1967	Mr Tony BRADING; Email: tbrading45@gmail.com			
	ATTRILL	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	ATTRILL	IOW	Newport/Ryde	19 th Century
	ATTRILL	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	BRADING	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	NOBBS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	WRIGHT	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	WRIGHT	IOW	Shalfleet	18 th -19 th Centuries
	WRIGHT	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
2454	Mrs Margot JONES; Email: chrismar.jones@yahoo.co.uk			
	BISHOP	IOW	Ryde	All Centuries
	BROOKS	IOW	Arreton	All Centuries
	COOPER	IOW	Arreton/Ryde	All Centuries
	DRAYTON	IOW	Ryde	All Centuries

	DYER	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	GALPIN	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
	JOLLIFFE	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
2532	Mrs Sue GAVIN 19 Willowdene Court, Bembridge, Isle Of Wight PO35 5SS <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
2889	Mr Nigel BURTON; Email: nrbjtb@btinternet.com DRUDGE IOW All Areas All Centuries			
2980	Mrs Patricia JONES; Email: patgranville29@gmail.com COOMBES IOW All Areas All Centuries			
3241	Mrs Natalie DAWKINS; Email: nat1962@hotmail.co.uk DRAPER IOW Cowes All Centuries FORD IOW Brading All Centuries			
3361	Mr Terry RANN & Mrs Alison RANN; Email: lanrann270@gmail.com RANN IOW All Areas All Centuries RANN IOW All Areas All Centuries THARLE IOW All Areas All Centuries VENTRESS IOW All Areas All Centuries VENTRESS IOW All Areas All Centuries WESCOMB IOW All Areas All Centuries			
3811	Mr Jeff SECHIARI; Email: jsechiari@gmail.com <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
3911	Mr Sean LUCAS; Email: seanlucas1963@btinternet.com <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
4076	Mr P Paul WADSWORTH; Email: paulwads@gmail.com LANGLEY IOW All Areas All Centuries RINGER IOW All Areas All Centuries WADSWORTH IOW All Areas All Centuries			
6054	Ms Lisa DAVIS; Email: lisdavis68@protonmail.com BARTON IOW All Areas All Centuries CHESSELL IOW All Areas All Centuries COOKE IOW All Areas All Centuries CREW IOW All Areas All Centuries DAISH IOW All Areas All Centuries DAVIS IOW All Areas All Centuries DAY IOW All Areas All Centuries DYER IOW All Areas All Centuries ELLIOTT IOW All Areas All Centuries			

FLOYD	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
GILL	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
GULLIVER	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
HAYTER	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
JACOBS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
MATTHEWS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
MERWOOD	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
MUNT	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
NEW	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
OSBORNE	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
READ/REED	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
REID	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
RUSSELL	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
SAUNDERS	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
SHOTTER	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
SNOOK	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
SWEATMAN	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
SWEETMAN	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
TWYMAN	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
UNDERWOOD	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries
WOODFORD	IOW	All Areas	All Centuries

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|--------|-----|-------------|--|
| CUSHEN | IOW | Whippingham | 17 th Century |
| PAIN | IOW | Newchurch | 17 th -18 th Centuries |
| | | Whippingham | 17 th -18 th Centuries |
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Some Useful Addresses

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on TUESDAYS)

26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

Email: record.office@iow.gov.uk

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

Isle of Wight Register Office

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

Email: registrars@iow.gov.uk

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

Bembridge Heritage Society

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

Brading Community Archive

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

Freshwater and Totland Archive Group

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

Friends of East Cowes Cemetery

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

Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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

Friends of Northwood Cemetery

Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

The Isle of Wight History Centre

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

Ryde Social Heritage Group

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

Shalfleet Local and Family History Sources

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

Ventnor Heritage Centre

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

Family History Federation

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

The National Archives

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



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