



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Janet Griffin
1952-2024

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

November 2024

Number 155

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VICE-PRESIDENTS

Chris BRAUND
Janet FEW

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Programme of Events

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

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

Admission members = £2; non-members = £3

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 2 nd December	Old Gurnard (Charlie TAYLOR's talk)	Geoff ALLAN
Monday 6 th January	A Gentleman's Tour of the Isle of Wight	Sheila CAWS
Monday 3 rd February	Isle of Wight Railways	Cara TREVOR
Monday 3 rd March	Apprentices from the Workhouse	Jean THOMPSON

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

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

2025 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

Editorial

I took over as the Editor of this Journal at the AGM in 2010. My first Journal was number 98 in August 2010, we are now up to number 155. Due to ill health I have decided to stand down. I am delighted that Steve NEWBERRY has agreed to take on the role of Journal Editor. Emails sent to the email address below will be picked up by Steve after the winners of the Di Harding Award have been announced in December.

Thank you to those members whose articles appear in the following pages.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)

Journal Editor

Email: journal.editor.iowfhs@gmail.com

Cover Photograph

The late Janet GRIFFIN

Non-Committee Officers

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Pedigree Index: Mike HOAR

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The deadline for the February Journal is 1st January 2025

Heritage Resource Centre

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

Opening Times

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

Enquiries to: research.iowfhs@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

A DDA compliant toilet facility is available to visitors.

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

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

Chairman's and Webmaster's Report

In the last Journal I mentioned that we were exploring options for dates, times and venues for the 2025 Annual General Meeting, One Day Conference and a 40th Anniversary event to mark the foundation of this Society.

Although nothing has yet been set in concrete, we will hold our AGM in May 2025 (date and venue to be confirmed) and we will hold our ODC on Saturday 27th September (venue to be confirmed) and host a 40th Anniversary meal of some description that same weekend – to this end it would be good to receive from you any preferences you may have regarding this. You will appreciate that we need to estimate attendance numbers to get quotes from venues, but conversely until we can say what we plan, then I understand that it can be tricky for you to commit! The eternal chicken and egg problem I am afraid.

Elsewhere in this Journal you will see that our Editor, Pete Spencer, has been obliged to stand down due to ill health. I, and my fellow committee members would like to heartily thank Pete for 14+ years' worth of service to this Society and wish him well in his (second) retirement.

I am pleased to say that Steve Newberry has agreed to take over most of Pete's responsibilities, but there are some aspects which could be shared e.g. Publicity, administration of the Di Harding Award, Facebook admin, and some aspects of the Journal editing (e.g. indexing).

We continue to just manage to get by with all the other roles required of a Society such as ours, but with an ageing demographic (both committee and membership) we do need to attract slightly younger folks if we wish to continue offering our services to our members. I would remind you that we would like to appoint a Programme Manager to replace Hazel PULLEN, and a Vice-Chairman to cover for me in the event that I can no longer fulfil my duties. And if you can offer us a talk or an article, then please put your hand up!

On a more positive note, we continue to add to our offerings on the website, with more functionality applied to the Pedigree Indexes (Mike HOAR to thank for this) and the long project to document Royal Naval Ratings and Petty Officers from the Island in the Victorian period has also been implemented (many volunteers to thank for this – see the website project notes for the credits).

Details of these and other updates can be found at

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

We are also starting to look at what information we can gather in preparation for next year's Conference theme, concentrating on Island Licensed premises and the people who ran and frequented them. If you would like to get involved in this research (it doesn't mean visiting pubs unless you wish to!) then let me know.

As usual, please let me or any other committee members, have any thoughts or questions you may have about the Society.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member:392)

Chairman and Webmaster

Email: chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

Membership Secretary's Report

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

Subscription Renewal Once again it is that time of year when we ask you to renew your subscriptions for the coming year. Due on 1st January 2025, renewals can be made from November onwards. Pages 25-26 of this Journal contains important information regarding renewing your membership account including how you can renew direct through our website.

The unnumbered centre pages of this Journal contain a renewal form, details of our subscription rates and methods of payment - including a Banker's Standing Order form which you can send directly to your bank to set up new Standing Orders.

If you prefer, please complete the renewal form and submit it to me by post along with a cheque and I will process the renewal for you.

The February Journals will only be sent to members who have paid by Monday 13th January 2025. You should receive your copy of the February Journal (or e-mailed link to a copy) around 1st February and receipt of this Journal is confirmation that your membership has been renewed.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Membership Secretary

Email: membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

Obituary

Janet Emily GRIFFIN (née JUDSON) was born in 1952 in Aldershot.

Her family moved to the Isle of Wight in the 1960s and she attended Cowes High School and Carisbrooke Grammar School.

Initially working as a finance assistant at HMP Camp Hill, Janet married Ralph Vincent GRIFFIN on 15 May 1976 at the Register Office, County Hall Newport. They had 3 children, 2 girls and a boy.

In the very first copy of our newsletter published “Winter 1985”, Janet described her interests and said that she had been researching family history since 1975 but only got seriously interested in 1984 when the idea of the IWFHS was being formed. She became member number 9.

Subsequently Janet took an active interest in many aspects of the Society, quickly being appointed as Treasurer in 1986.

By 1994, she had relinquished this post, taking on the role of Journal Distributor – in those days this involved many hands physically inserting the Journals into envelopes, sticking on stamps, and carting them to the Post Office. Two years later, she is listed as Vice-Chairman, Journal Distributor *and* Coach Trip Organiser.

In the far-off pre-internet days, all research had to be conducted at Record Offices, Repositories and Libraries, so frequent coaches left the Island to spend the day at either The National Archives in Kew, or the central London trio of The London Metropolitan Archives, St Catherine’s House and the Census returns held in Chancery Lane. I suspect this is when I got to know Janet a little better; although joining the Society myself in 1990 when the meetings were held in Athena House in Ryde, I was mainly researching the history of our house, and war memorials, so did not get heavily involved in the social or administrative aspects of the Society until later.

There is then a gap in our records of who the Committee members were – we do not seem to have recorded them again for a while but Janet still held the same 3 positions as mentioned earlier until 2006 when she took over as Chairman from Chris BRAUND, who had returned to his Devon roots. Janet had managed to relinquish the Journal distribution but held on to the Coach trips.

By 2010 Janet had also managed to hand over the Chairman's role to Jon MATTHEWS but she continued to put in a regular Saturday morning stint at our Resource Rooms in Newport for some years, until we had to concede that with visitor numbers to that venue numbering just a handful in a year, we could not justify it continuing as it was.

Janet continued to take an interest in the Society for the rest of her life, attending the regular monthly meetings and our Conferences, until just a couple of months prior to her death but it was clear that the combination of Covid restrictions and her final illness had a significant effect.

Janet will be remembered by many people in many groups and organisations to which she belonged, including the Seashells pre-school, as being forever helpful, kindly and generous with her time and knowledge.

Her funeral was attended by at least a hundred people, representing family, friends and colleagues from the many organisations she belonged to.

She requested that any donations in her memory be made to the Mountbatten Hospice in Newport who cared for her at the end of her life.

See <https://www.mountbatten.org.uk/donate/donate-to-mountbatten>

Here are messages of condolence:

Christine Stokes

Very sad.

Chris Farnsworth

I'm so very sad to hear this, my condolences to Janet's family and friends

Pete Spencer

RIP Janet

Jo Fryer

RIP Janet

Carol Flux

I'm sorry to hear that. She was a lovely lady. Cx

Lesley Abraham

So sorry to read this very sad news.

Karen Wheeler Salter

Sad news. Sending love to her family

Christine Broom

Sincere condolences to Ralph and her family.

Sonja Iversen

I am very sad to read this news and send my sincere sympathy to Janet's family. I remember often working with Janet when I visited Seashells Nursery, she was always a quiet, trusted and professional person to work with.

Christine Shirlaw

Very sorry to this. Condolences to all the family.

Sharon Deschamps

My condolences to Janet's family and friends.

Alison Clark

Thinking of Janet's friends and family at this very sad time X

Jean Fletcher

R I P Janet

Carole Hope Vainio

Condolences to her family.

Denise Brown

So sorry to hear this. Condolences to her family and friends

Stephen Randall

My sincere condolences to her family and friends, she was a very kind lady

Sue Gammon

Rip Janet. Thoughts to all her family. Such a lovely lady. Xx

Wendy Warren

So sad to read this. Condolences to her family x

Richard Rickhuss

RIP Janet condolences to all the family and friends

Sally-Ann Garrett

Sorry to read this. I send my condolences to Janet's family and friends.

Rae King McKenna

Sorry to hear this. Condolences to her family and friends

Mel Lile

RIP Janet. Condolences to the family.

Geoff ALLEN (IWFHS Member: 392)
Chairman

From the Desk in Westward Ho!

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, summer is now over. There is often a seasonal rhythm to our family history. In winter, we huddle down by the fire and research, summer is the time to get out and about and explore ancestral areas. There really is no substitute for treading in the footsteps of your ancestors. Usually, the built landscape has changed but you can often peel back the layers and imagine what might date from your ancestors' time. The terrain rarely changes. Is it hilly, is it flat? Would your ancestor have had to walk up hill to get to the church, or walk through a wood to get to school? Are the field boundaries hedges or walls? Look at the old buildings that do remain. Vernacular architecture is very different in different parts of the country. Building materials are difficult and expensive to transport, so, unless you are rich and most of our ancestors weren't, you build out of whatever is handy. In my home county of Devon there's plenty of mud, so old cottages are cob-walled (a mixture of mud, straw, dung and rubble). My summer ancestral visits have taken me to Oxfordshire, where cottages are made of mellow Cotswold stone and to Scotland with the grey of Scottish granite. When I go to Norfolk, I find cottages built using bricks and flints.

When on an ancestral parish visit, I obviously look for an exact address if I have one. In the pre-census era, often all we have is the parish name. I usually home in on the church. This is the one place that you can be certain your ancestors set foot in, if only to be baptised, married or buried.

For those with ancestors on the Island, a visit will bring home to you the distances between places, the type of landscape and the proximity of the sea. The sea gives and takes away. Erosion means that the coastline in the south of the Island now looks very different to its appearance in my childhood, let alone centuries ago. Brading on the other hand, which now has marshes between the village and the sea, was once a thriving port. Until the river silted up, a process aided by man, you could sail up to very close to the church.

What if you are unable to visit due to distance or other constraints? You can always take a virtual visit, using Google Street View or Google Earth. Maps are hugely helpful when trying to visualise what a place would have been like in the past and there are many available online, for the whole of Britain, on the website of the National Library of Scotland <http://maps.nls.uk/index.htm>.

Family History is about so much more than a list of names and dates and immersing yourself in the places where your family came from is just part of understanding more about their lives. Family history societies like ours are well placed to help researchers understand more about the communities where their ancestors lived, so do make use of their knowledge and resources. Better still, plan a visit. For far flung members, how about that once in a lifetime visit to the Island for our 40th birthday in September 2025?

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member:50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com

Local Wartime Diary D-Day 6th June 1944 : East Cowes

A talk to the Society by Sarah BURDETT on 1st Jul 2024

In response to requests from members who are unable to attend our usual afternoon meetings at Arreton, this event took place in the evening at Newclose County Cricket Club, near Newport.

Sarah BURDETT has been associated for many years with the East Cowes Heritage Centre and is well known to local members of the Society. Her talk covered many aspects of the way in which East Cowes prepared the nation for World War 2 and specifically D-Day.

Sarah's first example, starting well before WW2, was Osborne Royal Naval College (1903-1921) which was training boys aged 13 to 15 as naval officers with an emphasis on engineering over traditional sailing skills. As Sarah emphasised, many future wartime leaders began their training here.

The Voluntary Aid Detachment was founded in 1909 and played a crucial role during the Great War. Nurse training continued later in the 1920s in the facilities vacated by the Naval College based in Osborne's stable block and Barton Manor. By the mid-1930s the space available was outgrown and VAD training moved to Winchester. Sarah showed images of the East Cowes Sea Cadets using the facilities at Osborne to prepare young boys from the age of 10 for a future in the navy.

By the mid-1930s, the nation was beginning the process of re-arming and local company, Saunders Roe, were getting government contracts to build seaplanes. Their Columbine Shed was constructed in 1935 on the water's edge and is still there in 2024, recognisable by the large union jack painted on the doors in 1977 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Sarah showed us images of several flying boats produced by SARO at East Cowes including the London, Walrus and Sea Otter.

A lot of the early planes were constructed from plywood and many local ladies were employed in its manufacture. In fact, it has been claimed that 40% of the nation's plywood was being made in East Cowes. The plywood was also used in the construction of the folding kayaks used by the Cockleshell Heroes made famous by the 1955 British film.

J S Whites shipyard in East Cowes was getting government contracts to build destroyers including two for the Polish navy to their own design.



One of these was the famous 'Blyskawica' (Polish for 'Lightning') which courageously defended Cowes during the blitz of 4th-5th May 1942. Whites produced 26 destroyers during the war despite a bombing raid which demolished half their yard. Sarah showed us images of several of

these vessels in construction.

Once war had been declared, over 10,000 troops came to the Island; security was tight and you could only get on and off the Island with a pass. Norris Castle and Cowes Castle were requisitioned for officers. Other ranks were billeted in tents all around.

Sarah referenced a book, 'Green Beach' by James Leasor which dramatizes the disastrous Dieppe Raid of 19th August 1942. East Cowes was designated as the initial training and assembly area for 5,000 Canadian troops of the South Saskatchewan Regiment who took part in the raid. Many lessons were learnt about the difficulties of landing troops on a hostile shore and led to military developments which helped later in the war at the D-Day landings in Normandy.

The Island Records Office holds, according to Sarah, 'whacking great tomes' containing every sort of detail about the activities of the local Air Raid Precautions organisation. She described finding detailed information on all the messages sent and actioned during the Cowes Blitz of May 1942 and reminded family historians that the 1939 Register indicates who joined the ARP.

Sarah recounted her experience of meeting Maisie HODGES in 1996 at East Cowes Heritage. Sarah was explaining to visitors the significance of a photo taken after a bomb hit an air-raid shelter killing 20 of the people inside. Maisie blurted out that she was one of the 3 who survived but would say no more. It was two years later before Maisie was able to talk about and write down her memories of that night.

First-hand accounts are so valuable in bringing history to life...and so are artefacts. Sarah passed around some of the exhibits she brought with her. Particularly impressive among the weighty pieces of wartime shrapnel was an incendiary bomb. Incendiaries were fundamentally important to the Jerries as they lit up the town and provided a visible target for further waves of bombers. The ARP was kept busy putting the fires out especially near the town's gasometers.

By 1944, the duplex drive (aka DD or Donald Duck) tank, a type of swimming tank with a canvas flotation skirt, was developed by the British to provide rapid and effective infantry support during an amphibious operation. Just before D-Day, their crews moved to Stokes Bay for three weeks of intensive training, launching from a landing craft and crossing over to Osborne Bay. With the help of the tides, they could get in two trips per day.

Much of the special-purpose military hardware that was developed for the D-Day Mulberry Harbours was tested on local beaches. Sarah told the story of Royal Engineer Allen Harry BECKETT and his 'Whale' floating roadways with 'Beetle' units at their joints which were essential for landing troops and equipment at the Normandy beaches. These would not have been possible without his invention of a new anchor design with much increased holding power. The design of these 'Kite' anchors was radical because it buried itself deeper as the load increased. Until recently the remains of six or seven of his kite anchors could still be seen at Woodside beach.

On the day before D-Day people said that you could look out at the Solent and imagine walking across from deck to deck because there were so many vessels. By six in the morning next day, it was uncanny. There was nothing left. They'd all gone.

The Pavilion at Newclose Cricket Ground proved to be a comfortable and convenient venue. Many thanks are due to our President, Jon MATTHEWS for his help in arranging to hold the meeting there.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member: 2189)

Email: newbes@gmail.com

George Edward PERKINS - Gunner 778

1st/5th Hampshire Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery

George was the son of Fred Edward and Frances Mary PERKINS and was born in Newport, Isle of Wight on 14 September 1895. Fred was a baker and confectioner and married Frances COOPER in 1895 at the Wesleyan Chapel in Pyle Street, Newport. The family lived first in St Paul's View, Barton Village and George was enrolled at Barton School on 3rd July 1902, leaving with a scholarship on 30th August 1909. Another son, Reginald William, was born in 1907 and by 1911 the family had moved to 156 High Street, Newport where Fred was running his bakery business.

As a young man George joined the 1st/5th Hants Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery, a part-time Territorial Forces unit based in the West Wight and at the outbreak of war in August 1914, the force was mobilised for duty.

Turkey's entry into the war on 29th October 1914 immediately prompted Britain to open a new military front in the remote Ottoman province of Mesopotamia (Present day Iraq) to protect British oil interests in the region which were supplying oil to the Royal Navy and a force marched north and inland from the port of Basra on the Persian Gulf with initial success during the last months of the year.

George and his colleagues in 1st/5th Hants Howitzer Battery were sent first to India leaving England in October 1914 and on 14th March 1915 sailed from India to Mesopotamia (Persian Gulf), reaching Basra 22nd March and joining with other British and Indian forces on the march inland along the route of the River Tigris towards Baghdad. Despite the unforgiving climate the march continued through 1915 and by 28th September the town of Kut-al-Amara was reached, just 120 south of Baghdad. But in November the advancing British force under the command of Major-General Charles TOWNSHEND was turned back by Turkish troops at the Battle of Ctesiphon (22nd-24th November) with more than half of the British forces killed or wounded. The survivors then endured a dangerous and exhausting retreat to Kut-al-Amara from 25th November until 3rd December without decent medical or transport facilities. Turkish forces, commanded by Halil Pasha, followed the retreating British and laid siege to Kut. The siege lasted 147 days from 7th December 1915 before the 11,800 British and Indian troops inside the town finally surrendered on 29th April 1916. Conditions during the siege were appalling - in bitterly cold weather and with little medical treatment, many of the soldiers did not survive the winter. Several attempts were made to relieve the besieged town but were met with stubborn Turkish resistance and all ended in failure. The letter of

surrender from Major-General TOWNSHEND asked that the sick and wounded of his force be sent to India in exchange with Turkish prisoners of war but after the surrender this request was ignored by the Turkish command. Horrific repercussions followed the surrender with British and Indian soldiers brutally treated on their march to Turkish prisoner-of-war camps in Anatolia – of the 11,800 men who left Kut-al-Amara with their captors on 6th May 1916, 4,250 died either on their way to captivity or in the camps that awaited them at the journey's end.



1st/5th Hants Howitzer Battery – Howitzers Loading Onto Raft on River Tigris 1915



Members of 1st/5th Hants Howitzer Battery at Kut-al-Amara in September 1915



Map of Mesopotamia and the Central Anatolia region of Turkey 1914-18

George gave an account of his experiences to the Isle of Wight County Press (IWCP) following his return home from captivity in December 1918:- At the end of the siege many of the British were so reduced by starvation and sickness that they could hardly walk. They were marched in their units to the side of the river from Kut and taken in boats to Samarra, where they were given rations of Turkish biscuits and dates. Even here the British prisoners were dying from enteritis and other disease, due to the terrible conditions of the siege but in spite of this they were quickly started off on the long march westward in four columns, with a sick column in addition, in the charge of an Arab cavalry escort. Prior to starting the Island Howitzers paid a last tribute to the memory of one of their brave comrades, Gunner Ernest Flux of Marks Corner, who was one of the first prisoners to die after getting into captivity.

The prisoners had to leave behind all the kit they could not march with, and as they were mostly very weak it meant that they entered on this fatiguing march with very little indeed to sustain or protect them. Many poor fellows were soon in a pitiable condition, dropping behind through sheer weakness and exhaustion. When they could not respond to the shouts of their cruel Arab guards to hurry up they were whipped, clubbed and ridden down by the horsemen, who stole their boots and other belongings when they fell and left them to the mercy of the desert. The heat was intense, and the prisoners suffered severely through lack of water as well as food.

They marched from water to water in the desert, only passing Arab villages, where there was no chance of obtaining additional sustenance for so large a body of men. When a man fell out through disease or exhaustion there was little or no chance for him. He was slung across the back of a donkey or mule and taken to what was called an ambulance hut, made of mud, and left, it is feared to die.

So, these poor prisoners dragged their weary and painful way over the desert during May and June, until they arrived at the railhead of the Berlin-Baghdad line. George fell out through sickness at Mosul and was placed in the hospital there for a time. He started off again with the next column which passed through. At the end of their desert march the prisoners were taken over by Germans, those in the worst condition being sent to hospital, whilst the rest were made to work extending the Baghdad railway line. They worked under German engineers and there was a great deal of tunnelling through the mountains. Men were put to work, although they were terribly unfit, and were dying like sheep from weakness and disease. A great many of the Isle of Wight men went to a hospital at Bagtche, where the treatment was very bad, and a number died. After about three months the British prisoners were transferred to prison camps at Afion-Kara-Hissar and Angora. It was at the Afion camp where the "bastinado" – beating on the soles of the feet with a stick or cudgel – was first seen practised on prisoners under the cruel Turkish commander.

This commander, Mazlum Bey, was later reported in official quarters by prisoners. George also went to Gedos (or Kedos) camp, where the conditions were tolerable by contrast. Kedos was primarily an "officer's camp" and George was an orderly or servant to the officers there and there is no doubt that this increased his chance of survival. The prisoners here began to receive parcels from home and money through the consulate and the American Ambassador and they were most grateful the parcels sent from the Isle of Wight through the agency of the Island Kut Prisoners of War Fund.

Some of the British medical staff were left with the prisoners, but the Turks took their medicines and although handicapped in this way, the doctors did their best. The treatment received by the prisoners in the American hospitals was in striking contrast with that experienced in the Turkish institutions. The captivity continued until the Armistice in November 1918 but then the Turks turned on the Germans and the British prisoners, then practically free, were transferred to Smyrna to await shipment for home.

George embarked on an Australian hospital ship on 19 November and proceeded to Alexandria and thence returned to England landing at Dover on 16th December 1918 and arriving home on the Isle of Wight on four

days later. The IWCP acknowledged that George had been able during the long captivity to send home news for publication of other Island men and his service in that direction had been much appreciated.

After recovery he went back to work with his father and subsequently married Ethel May URRY at the United Methodist Chapel, Newport in 1920. The couple had a son, Gordon Edward Henry born in 1936 and by 1939 the family was living at 9 Clarence Road in Newport with George as a baker and cake maker. George died aged 63 in 1959 and Ethel died in 1985 aged 88.

Notes:

1. The siege of Kut-al-Amara has been referred to as the worst defeat of the Allies in World War 1. The actions led to an estimated 30,000 dead or wounded and 10,000 captured on the Allied side.
2. Of the 77 rank and file of the 1st/5th Hants Howitzer Battery who were taken prisoners at Kut-al-Amara, records show that quite half that number died in captivity.
3. Letter of surrender from Major-General Charles TOWNSHEND to Turkish commander Halil Pasha at the end of the siege of Kut read:-
Hunger forces me to lay down our arms, and I am ready to surrender to you my brave soldiers, who have done their duty as you have affirmed when you said 'your gallant troops will be our most sincere and precious guests'. Be generous then. They have done their duty. You have seen them in battle at Ctesphion, you have seen them in retirement, and you have seen them during the siege of Kut for the past five months, in which I have played the strategic role of blocking your counter-offensive and allowed time for our reinforcements to arrive. There are some of my troops without arms and legs, some with scurvy. I do not suppose you wish to take them into captivity and in fact, the better course would be to let the wounded and sick go to India. The Chief Imperial General Staff, London, wires me that the exchange of prisoners of war is permitted; an equal number of Turks in Egypt and India would be liberated in exchange for the same number of my combatants.
4. Major-General TOWNSHEND was taken to the island of Heybeliada on the Sea of Marmara and sat out the remainder of the war in relative luxury.
5. Mazlum Bey, the Turkish commandant of Afion-Kara-Hissar prisoner of war camp, was arrested in Constantinople on 2nd June 1919 and deported to Malta. He was among about 140 Turkish war criminals

accused of participating in the Armenian Massacres and of the ill-treatment of prisoners of war in Turkey. These war criminals were held in Malta until an international court was to be established by the Allies stipulated by the Sevres Treaty.

6. This Treaty was never ratified and a Turkish Nationalist movement headed by Kemal Ataturk resisted the demands of the Allies. The Turkish Nationalists captured and held hostage about 40 British soldiers whom they used as a bargaining tool for the 140 Turks in Malta. Due to the disunity of the Allies in their relations with the Nationalists, the British government decided to release all the Turkish detainees, except the 8 who were accused of the ill-treatment of the British POWs as they feared a backlash by the British public. In the end, the British government also released the 8 without any conditions attached – and there was no major outcry by the British public! Mazlum Bey was never brought to justice, not because he was innocent but because of the political interests at play in the region at that time.

Acknowledgements:

Isle of Wight County Press Archive
Isle of Wight Family History Website
National Army Museum
The Great War Forum
The Long Long Trail Website
Wikipedia

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The Charity of William SERLE of Arreton

In 1595 William SERLE of Stone, Blackwater in the parish of Arreton bequeathed in his Will the sum of £100 to the poor people of the parish of Arreton. This money was used to purchase Stean's Farm on St George's Down. In a document dated 1858 the farm is also named as Stonelands. Until 1876 the Charity was administered by the Churchwardens of Arreton, but in 1876 a Trust was set up named The Arreton Charity trust which administered all the Parish Charities.

Stean's Farm consisted at that time of a Barn which acreage together with gravel pits and farmland was 52 acres 3 roods and 24 perches. This was let to a tenant who paid a yearly rent and royalties on the gravel and sand. The money and royalties were used to repair the Barn and fences and gates on the farm, the remainder being given to the poor of the parish in the form of bread, on dates in February each year, until the mid-eighteen-fifties when money was given instead of bread.

The Bread Lists for some of the years in the 19th Century still exist and these lists give the names of the recipients, how many children they had and how many loaves each family was given. A Minute in the Arreton Vestry Book for 1838 makes sure that the bread to be distributed shall be purchased from a baker in the parish. At the end of the 19th Century the charity was given in cash rather than loaves. The farm was sold in the 1920s, the money invested in Government stock and the yearly interest distributed in cash.

Some money (probably the royalties) was invested each year and by 1877 a sufficient sum had accumulated for the trustees to consider constructing a house on the farm. On enquiry from the Charity Commission a reply was received stating that Section 2 of the Charitable trust Act 1853 precluded them from such an intention without the sanction of the Board. Nothing more seems to have been done at this time.

James SMALL who farmed Garrets, next to Stean's, was the tenant of Steans, but on his giving up the tenancy, the farm was let to John COKER. According to the Tithe map the farm consisted of Pit ground, deemed arable, five acres also arable, Barn ground, green ground and spring ground, all arable, St George's Down and Top Piece both of which were heathland. At some time after the tithe map was published a further 2 acres of woodland was added to the farm. John COKER held the tenancy until his death in 1877, though not without some trouble between him and the trustees. The Minute Book records that the payments due were not

made on time and the land was not being used according to the terms of the lease. After John COKER's death, his son Frederick continued the tenancy, but he too fell foul of the trustees, when the Minute Book states, "not managing the farm as per terms of the lease."

In 1878 permission was given to Frederick COKER to discontinue work of the present gravel pit and excavate anywhere in the furze brake. The next year it was agreed that the farm be let by tender at Michaelmas and the gravel and sand pits were inspected with a view to letting them separately from the farmland, and the trustees appointed an agent Mr LIST to prepare a plan. The area to be let for sand and gravel was 8 acres 1 rod; the extent of the remaining farmland was 44 acres 1 rod.

Adam Clarke COOPER took over the tenancy, agreeing a price of 1,000 cubic yards of gravel at 8d per cubic yard after which a royalty of 7d per cubic yard would be paid. The rent of 40 acres of land at £40 per year, sporting rights £2 per year a total of £75.6s.8d, this was agreed subject to COOPER getting a substantial bondsman.

At a meeting in December 1879 the tenant pointed out that the proposed gravel workings at the eastward were unworkable and unprofitable. He received permission to get a supply from the deep cutting pit and was allowed to continue working on the northeast side of the deep westerly pit and to make a new road out at his own cost. The road is to commence at corner of pit close to the high road and run parallel and close to the fence of the two fields adjoin and connect itself with the high road at the extreme west corner of the field number 607 on the Plan (Tithe map number) Mr LIST, the surveyor was appointed to superintend the workings, and a management committee – Steans Committee of Management – was formed. In November 1880 Mr COOPER tenant of Steans wished to give up the farm and pits to Mr James RICE of Pole Close Newport. The rent and royalties were in arrears by £67.16s.11d. This was required to be paid by December 1880, and it was.

The question of a cottage on Steans was again raised, but instead of building one it was proposed to buy Lock's Cottage and garden from Joseph NOBBS. This cottage adjoined Steans Farm. He was willing to sell. The Deeds had apparently been destroyed in a fire, but Joseph NOBBS and his wife Eliza had received the cottage by Deed of Gift from a Will. It was agreed to purchase subject to Charity Commissioners approval. In January 1882, the price paid for the cottage and garden was £230 and a deed of conveyance was made.

In September 1883 notice to quit was served on the tenant of Steans and tenant of the cottage. A new well was dug at the west corner of the cottage, this proved unsatisfactory, and another was dug in a corner of the field.

In 1887 James Whiteway ALEXANDER leased Steans Farm. The accounts of royalties kept by the previous tenant had been very unsatisfactory. The tenancy was accepted by James ALEXANDER - gravel and sand pits at a rent of £40 per annum, royalty of 5d a yard for every yard after the first 1,800 yards and farm and cottage at a rent of £53 per annum. These conditions were accepted, with 6 months' notice on either side.

In 1896 Mr ALEXANDER gave notice as he did not accept the terms of proposed changes, and there was a disagreement with the trustees over sand and gravel. Mr ALEXANDER died in May 1897.

Stean's Farm continued as a tenancy, absorbed into the Vectis Stone Gravel workings, when it was sold to the gravel workings and the money invested by the Arreton Charity Trust. The interest was used to give out as cash to the poor of the parish each February.

The Arreton Trust continued to administer this with other parish charities, latterly giving money to organisations which might be used by parishioners, such as The Air Ambulance, the Hospice, and meals on wheels, until in 2020 it was agreed with permission from the charity commission to close the charity, together with the others held, withdraw the capital and donate the money (about £4,000) to the Food Bank. William SERLE, when he gave £100 to the poor of the parish in 1595 could have had no idea that his legacy would still be used in the 21st Century, 420 years after his will was made. There is a board in St George's Church which tells us when the legacy was made.

The records of this charity and others in Arreton parish are to be found at the Isle of Wight County Record Office.

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2025 Subscription Renewal

Subscriptions for 2025 are due on 1st January 2025. Where possible please log on as a member and use the on-line renewals process. Renewals can be made from 1st November onwards for the following year. All subscription payments are made by you, we do not take payments from you.

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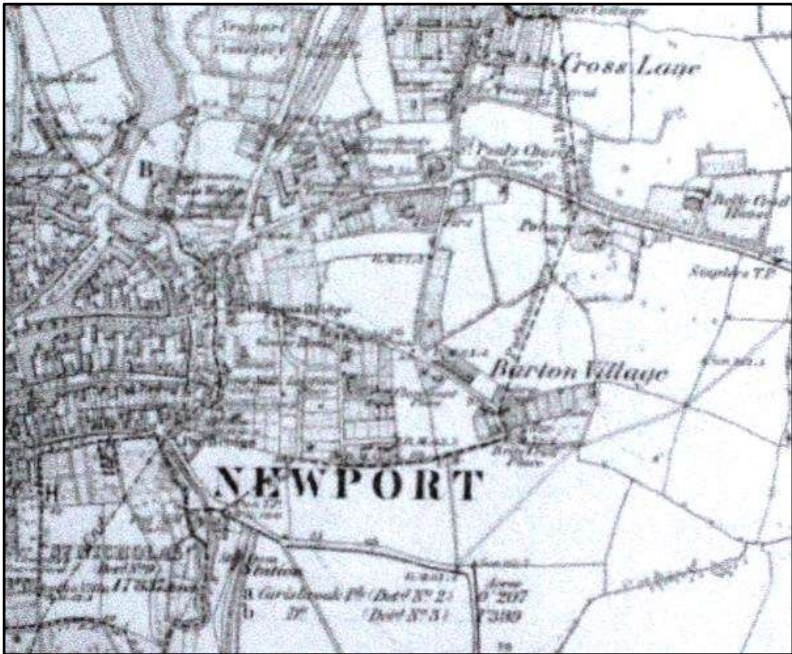
Date: ___/___/ 202



Story of the ODELL and MEW Families of Barton Village

Barton Village/Royal Exchange

The records of Barton Village show the first houses being built between 1841 and 1851 (constructed by a builder named Barton) with Royal Exchange at its heart, and the name Barton Village first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1862.



Map of Barton Village, 1860s

There was only open land between the top of Royal Exchange and Pan Down to the south and Arreton Valley to the east. Originally there was no water supply to the houses and any water required had to be drawn up from a well shared with neighbours or brought up from a well in South Street in Newport. The dismal conditions in which the poor lived were revealed in 1850 as part of the report on the sanitary conditions in East Cowes, Cowes and Barton Village. All shared the same problems of lack of water and bad sanitation. Although a mains water supply was installed during the 1850's, the provision of gas and electricity supplies came much later. However, there was a tremendous community spirit and this fostered a supportive environment, although, equally, everybody would know each

other's business. There was always an elderly lady who acted as midwife or another who always had a magic homemade cure for all ailments (homemade cough and cold mixtures). St Paul's Church was built in 1844 to serve the community on a site at the junction of Cross Lane and Staplers.



Barton Village 1907

ODELL family in Barton Village

The ODELL family had lived in and around Newport for several generations – the earliest record found is of the wedding of Richard ODLE to Ann YOUNG on 28th June 1730 – but the first ODELL family to live in Barton Village was John Thomas and Emily ODELL who were in Cross Lanes in 1851. John Thomas was a tailor and his wife was a lace worker,

either at home, as many of the local women were, or at the lace factory at Broadlands in Staplers, a short distance from their home.

Oliver Henry ODELL was born on 21st March 1879 in Royal Exchange, the first of three children of Henry James ODELL (one of the children of John Thomas and Emily) and his wife Emily. The others were Charles Frederick, born in 1881, and Violet Selina, born in 1885. The children grew up in Barton Village, with Oliver attending Barton School from May 1886. Leaving school, he had started work as an errand boy in a grocer's shop in the High Street in Newport but he was something of a wild child and he got into trouble including some brushes with the law. The family were living in Royal Exchange when Oliver's mother, Emily, died on 18th November 1896 and there appears to have been a rift in the family when his father married Amelia Ann JAMES (formerly WATSON, a widow with five children) at St Thomas' Church, Newport on 5th February 1898.

Emily BARBER had been born in Canterbury, Kent in 1881 but her father died by 1891 and her mother had moved the family to the Isle of Wight between 1891 and 1898, at which time they lived in Royal Exchange. With the kind of community environment that prevailed at that time, Oliver and Emily would have known each other from the time that Emily's family moved into Royal Exchange and her relationship with Oliver softened some of his wild ways and led to their marriage.

Oliver married Emily BARBER at St Paul's Church, Barton on 9th April 1898. The family rift continued with Oliver's brother, Charles Frederick, joining the army (Hampshire Regiment) subsequently serving in South Africa during the Boer War of 1899-1902, whilst their sister, Violet Selina, went to live with her aunt and her husband in Brighton.

Oliver and Emily's first child, Violet Amelia (named after Oliver's sister, Violet, and Emily's sister, Amelia) was born on 20th September 1898 when Oliver and Emily were living at 13 Orchard Street in Newport but by 1901, they had moved back to Royal Exchange where the couple had six more children. Oliver had a variety of jobs including general labourer and platelayer in the permanent way gang of the Isle of Wight Railway and later as a coal porter. (At the time of Violet's marriage to Jem MEW, both he and Jem's father were working as coal porters, possibly even for the same company).



Violet Amelia ODELL, early 1920s

MEW family in Barton Village

Charles MEW and his father John were born in Ringwood, Hampshire but had moved to the Isle of Wight during the 1860s, living in the Whippingham area (East Medina Mill) and both were involved with the flour mills. Charles married Emma Louisa CHIVERTON in 1882 at Newport Registry Office and by 1891 they were living in Royal Exchange, Barton Village and Charles had become a general labourer. By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to 24 Royal Exchange. The couple had 16 children between 1883 and 1908, with Jem being born on 24th December 1891.

The sons of the family went to Barton School where Jem was enrolled on 5th June 1899. After leaving school he worked as a mariner for a general carrier and in 1911 he lived at the family home. His elder brother Albert Edward had joined the Army (Royal Garrison Artillery) in 1910 and at the outbreak of the First World War, Jem, too, had joined up, enlisting with the Isle of Wight Rifles. Another brother, Charles, also signed up with the RGA and was first on Home Service and then served in France during the war. With the Rifles, Jem was sent to Gallipoli where he landed at Suvla Bay on 12th August 1915 and took part in the failed attack on Turkish positions two days later. He remained with the regiment throughout the conflict serving in Egypt, Palestine and Sudan. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, he was mentioned in dispatches and was eventually discharged on 20th April 1919 and, returning to Royal Exchange he began work as a telephone wireman. (Albert Edward served throughout the war in India and was killed in 1920 whilst serving with the North-West Frontier Force in the Waziristan Campaign).

There are no photographs available of Jem or his family but, from the army enlistment papers of Albert and Charles, we can get an idea of them – around 5feet 9inches tall, slim/medium build, fair complexion and with blue eyes and dark brown hair.

Jem MEW and Violet ODELL

As neighbours in Royal Exchange Violet, known to family and neighbours as 'Queenie', and Jem had known each other since childhood and, following his return from war service, that friendship developed into something more. Violet was working at Mew Langton, the Newport brewing company. The couple were married on 8th December 1924 at Newport Register Office when Violet was seven months pregnant. Their son, Jem Albert Edward, known as 'Jimmy', was born on 14th February 1925 at their home, 6 Cross Lanes, Barton Village. Tragically, Violet died as a result of an over-active thyroid leading to heart failure ('Graves' Disease'), aged 27, on 12th October in the same year, and she was buried in the churchyard at St Paul's, Barton. Jem moved back to Royal Exchange with his baby son to live with his parents and to get support for the child from them and Violet's family, a few doors away.

Jem's brother Charles had married May REYNOLDS in 1910 and Jem remarried on 25th September 1927 to May's sister Emily REYNOLDS at Holy Trinity Church, Cowes. At the time of the marriage Jem had been promoted to a Foreman with the GPO and was still living with his parents at 24 Royal Exchange but the couple moved to 54 Barton Road and it was from there that Jimmy, following the precedents set by both the MEW and ODELL families, enrolled at Barton School on 26 January 1936. In 1939 the family were still living at 54 Barton Road and Jem worked as a wharf labourer and subsequently as a crane driver for one of the shipping companies at Newport Quay.



Jem Albert Edward (Jimmy) MEW, aged about 7 or 8



Barton School football team 1937-8 season. Jimmy MEW is third from right back row

When Jimmy left school in 1939 aged about 14, he started work as a glazier's apprentice but by 1946 he was working as a warehouseman, probably at one of the businesses at Newport Quay with his father.

It is not clear how they met but on 25th December 1946, aged 21, Jimmy married Pamela Hilda Maud ENGLISH (Pam) at her local parish church in Edmonton, North London. Pam was 18 at the time of the marriage and the

couple set up home back on the Isle of Wight at 3A Coppins Bridge, Newport where Jimmy continued working, first as a warehouse man and then as a stevedore, still most likely at Newport Quay near to his father. Pam and Jimmy's three children were born in 1947, 1950 and 1954 respectively. The family moved from Coppins Bridge to 28 Dodnor Lane in Newport in the early 1950s and lived there until 1965.

Jimmy was too young to realise what was happening when his mother died, but further tragedy befell him when in the 1960s it was found that he had a brain tumour. The tumour was benign (non-cancerous) but one of the effects was vision impairment leading to loss of sight. With this condition, Jimmy trained as and found work as a switchboard operator and eventually as a worker in a workshop for the blind in Luton, Bedfordshire where the family had moved in 1966. Jimmy died, aged 43, from a pulmonary thrombosis on 10th March 1968 at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital.

Jem MEW died, aged 73, in 1965 and his wife Emily died, aged 81 in 1973. Oliver and Emily ODELL lived at 13 Royal Exchange until 1946, when Emily was very ill and needed care and they came to live with one of their children in Highgate, North London until Emily died in November of that year. By that time, all of their children other than the youngest, Frederick Percy, had married and started their own homes and families, with only one remaining in Barton Village. Oliver and Fred did not return to live on the Isle of Wight. Oliver died in 1969 and Fred in 1999. Charles and Emma MEW continued living at 24 Royal Exchange until they died, Charles in 1940 and Emma in 1952.



1947 Map of Barton Village and of part of Newport, with Barton Road and Royal Exchange shown centre. (Note the fields around the village from the top of Royal Exchange)



1962 Map of Barton Village showing the loss of fields to the new encircling Pan Estate

Acknowledgements

Within A Mile of Coppins Bridge – Brian GREENING

This was Our Island, A Story of Island Life 1790-1905 - Brian GREENING

At the Trail – Gareth SPRACK

Isle of Wight - An Illustrated History - Jack and Joanna JONES

Websites:

Ancestry

Find My Past

Great War Forum

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From the Isle of Wight to the U.S.A. - LAVERS Emigrants

In 1967, Alice CLARK, aged 57, from upstate New York, travelled to Europe with a group of fellow tourists. The itinerary was intensive, visiting the main landmarks of the capital cities. For London, that would be Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral and Big Ben.

But Alice was no ordinary visitor and once on British soil, she had no intention of spending the short time available to her on sight-seeing. When the party had checked into their hotel on the Strand, Alice asked the concierge for directions to Waterloo Station and she was soon on a train to Portsmouth Harbour, where she took the ferry across to Ryde.

From her room in Yelf's Hotel, on Union Street, Alice asked for an Isle of Wight telephone directory. There were just two entries for the name 'LAVERS', Alice's maiden name, and she called both numbers...

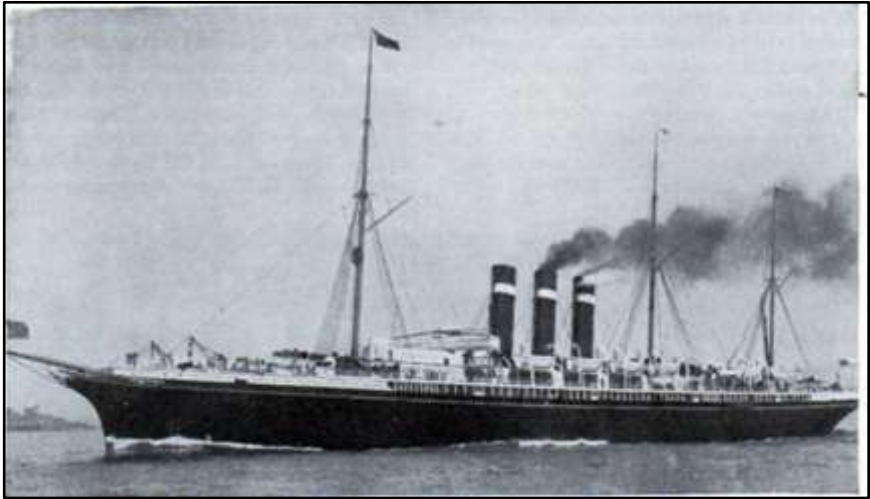
Not a great deal occurred in Apse Heath in the 20 or so years after the Second World War. There was not much in the village. There was a Post Office and shop run by Fred and Olive SQUIBB; Fred also ran a taxi. There was no pub, thanks to the influence of the teetotal Lord Alverstone, and the social club in Ventnor Road (Brickyard Road as locals called it) had fallen into disuse.

Apse Heath Methodist Church had a small but loyal congregation; it was once said that when the chapel door was painted people talked about it for weeks.

But something out of the ordinary did happen in our house once Saturday evening 57 years ago. The phone rang. That just never happened at weekends. Who would have called? There were still some rural homes that didn't even have phones. Maybe during the week if a client needed to contact my father, a Shanklin solicitor. Not on a Saturday evening though. My father picked up the receiver. "What?!" he said a few moments later in a tone of amazement I'd never heard before. And then, "Just stay right there." Ten minutes later, we were in his elderly Rover speeding over the Downs to Ryde and Yelf's Hotel. I would have been just as astonished myself if someone had told me that ten months later, I would be on my way to the United States of America...Alice had been to the Island once before.

Born in 1910 in the town of Niagara Falls, in New York State near the Canadian border and the famous Falls, she had crossed the Atlantic in June 1914 on the SS *St Louis*, with her parents Jim and Ethel LAVERS. Their visit was curtailed. Six weeks after they arrived, the First World War

broke out, plunging Europe into four years of conflict. Jim, Ethel and their little daughter boarded the *SS New York* (picture below) at Liverpool and returned home.



Alice remembered the voyages to the end of her long life. Jim had brought his young family to visit the Island where he was born and where he grew up. The LIVERS family had lived on the Isle of Wight for at least 300 years. Alice's 4 times great grandfather, William LIVERS, had died in the House of Industry in Newport in 1826, at the age of 87, having been born in 1739.

The LIVERS men in the 19th Century worked in humble manual jobs. At the Census in 1841, and in the decades which followed, their occupations are recorded as labourers and porters. Alice's grandfather, William, was a brickmaker. Brickmaking was hard physical work, poorly paid and with no wages at all during bad weather. William also dug drainage ditches.

On 2nd June 1870, he had married Sophia COOMBS at the parish church of St Michael and All Angels in Swanmore, a few hundred yards from Rock Cottage, which would be the LIVERS home for the next 50 years. That church featured frequently in the life of the family for marriages, births and deaths.

Sophia came from Yarmouth originally and she had had a harsh upbringing, even by the standards of her husband's family. Her father had died when she was seven and her mother had gone to live with a man named BLAKE in Newbridge. The *Isle of Wight Observer* of 1st July 1854 reported that Sophia's mother, Maria COOMBS [sic], had been charged

will ill-treating her children. The Magistrates issued a severe reprimand and ordered the police to keep a watch on the household.

Two years later, Maria COOMBS was in court again, following a violent dispute with a neighbour over the stealing of onions from a garden, in which she had been punched in the face.

Sophia worked as a dairymaid until she married William LAVERS. After her marriage, she worked for 40 years as the village laundress in Haylands, going out on her rounds every day on foot, as well as giving birth to seven children. Sophia was a remarkable woman with a strong personality, which can be discerned in photographs of her, and which is significant in this story, because of her influence on her children, which no doubt partly derived from the harshness of her own early years.

William and Sophia and their large family lived in Rock Cottage, which had 4 bedrooms. Often, they had lodgers and other relatives staying with them: in the 1881 Census they had a brickmaker as lodger and Sophia's 5-year-old niece living with them because her mother had died.

In 1891 a 16-year-old LAVERS cousin, who was an apprentice carpenter, lived there too. William's and Sophia's first child, John, born in 1876, only lived for 20 months. Infant mortality was very common, especially in poor working families.

What was uncommon was that all six of their surviving children would leave the Island, albeit in very different circumstances. This was not at all usual. William and his father and grandfather before him lived, worked, married and died on the Isle of Wight, where they were born. In the 1960s, there were still one or two older people who had never visited the mainland. So, all six of William and Sophia's children left the Island and their ventures are at the heart of this story.

The least remarkable will be dealt with first. Emily, born in 1875, was trained as a dressmaker. In 1899, she married Percy SPRAGG, a grocer's assistant, at St Michael and All Angels. A year later, they had a son and moved to Portsmouth, where they also had a daughter. Emily, known as Pem, died in 1905, at the age of 30, almost certainly in childbirth, also a frequent occurrence then.

Alice Louise LAVERS was living at home at the time of the 1891 Census, aged 18 and without an occupation. This was because of a congenital disability; however, to have a dependent would be a difficult burden and in the 1901 Census Alice Louise was working as a domestic servant on the outskirts of Southend in the household of a wealthy London manufacturer, Arthur Dixon GOODACRE.

Alice Louise was greatly loved by her family. When she died in 1906 at the age of 33, her mother erected a headstone reading "To our darling daughter Alice, who fell asleep on Sept 26th, 1906". Her youngest brother, Jim, named his first-born daughter, previously introduced, in memory of her, in Niagara Falls, New York. So, Emily and Alice Louise did leave the Island but their lives were sadly short and otherwise unremarkable.

The same could not be said of their four siblings, who, in their very different ways, had extraordinarily eventful and even dramatic lives. Selina Annie was known as Poppy and was regarded as the great beauty of the family. Like many girls from poor backgrounds, she went into domestic service. But unlike most servant girls on the Isle of Wight, opportunities came to Selina to move in higher circles.

In 1901, at the age of 30, Selina was a ladies' maid in a very aristocratic household at Brooklands Manor, near Dorking. The head of the household was the 84-year-old Lady Hertford, widow of the 5th Marquess of Hertford and daughter of the 3rd Earl of Mansfield. Lady Hertford's sister, Laura, was Maid of Honour to Queen Victoria herself and had married the Queen's nephew, Prince Victor Hohenlohe Langenburg. It has been speculated that this may have resulted from Selina working at Osborne House or for one of the families associated with the royal establishment there, but at present no evidence is forthcoming.

Intriguingly and surprisingly given her distinctive name, Selina cannot be found in the 1891 Census, though servants were routinely recorded. Anyway, in 1901 Selina was one of seven household servants at Brooklands Manor, looking after Lady Hertford and two of her relatives.

Lady Hertford died in 1902 and Selina's life took another remarkable turn. No doubt because of having worked in an aristocratic household with royal connections, she was able to obtain employment in wealthy families in England or abroad. Then, as now, the rich travelled extensively between the world's great cities. Thus, it was that Selina LAVERS became a frequent passenger on transatlantic voyages by ocean liner, travelling in attendance on her employer.

As early as November 1903 Selina travelled on the *SS New York* from Southampton to New York, returning on the *SS Minneapolis* to land in London in May 1904. She must have travelled to the US again within a few months because the passenger lists show her in April 1905 on the *SS Etruria* from New York to Liverpool, travelling with Mrs S FALLI. A few weeks later, she sailed from Southampton on the *SS Philadelphia* for New York, the passenger list stating that she had been living in London. Her fare was paid by Mrs FALLI and she brought \$20 of her own.

Little more than a year later, on 15th September 1906, Selina boarded a transatlantic liner for the last time; the SS S. *Louis* from Southampton and a week later she was in New York. This time her journey was quite different. Selina brought with her \$500 and described herself as a milliner, giving an address at West 68th Street on the Upper West Side. In May 1907, eight months after beginning her new life of freedom in America, Selina was dead. She died, as her death certificate shows, in Manhattan, of tuberculosis.

The news from New York completed a tragic 20 months at Rock Cottage for Sophia LAVERS. During that time, Emily had died at Portsmouth and Alice Louise back on the Island. In November 1906, Sophia's husband William died at the age of 60. She had lost him and all three of their daughters in their thirties. As soon will appear, she had other sadness to bear.

Attention must now turn to the LAVERS sons, from whom would come both the US branches and the continuation of the Island side of the family.

William Arthur LAVERS had seemed destined to follow the drudgery of his father's working life. At the age of 18, he was working as a labourer. But Will, as he was known, took one of the very few opportunities open to someone like him, with limited education, no connections and no money at home.

Just across the water at Portsmouth lay one of the world's biggest naval bases and Will joined the Royal Navy, signing up for an initial 12 years on 13th August 1899. His service record shows that he was 5 feet 9 inches tall, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion and dots tattooed on his forearm. Will served on many ships and his record shows consistently very good conduct ratings. He rose through the ranks of Ordinary Seaman, to Able Seaman, to Leading Seaman and on 1st June 1909 he was promoted to Petty Officer.

Will's official record tells only part of his story. He had an eventful career. He was a gunner and took part in one of the very earliest of the famous Field Gun Races, representing Portsmouth. The Field Gun Race, introduced in 1907, derived from the Boer War, when naval guns were brought on shore and manhandled across the South African countryside at speed to supplement the artillery against the Boers.

Now promoted to Petty Officer, Will was able to marry Lilian BOYCE and they lived in Binstead, where their first son, Arthur, was born in 1910. In that year, Will had the honour of being selected to march in the naval contingent at the funeral of King Edward VII. Film footage of the procession is readily available on the Internet. Family oral tradition has it

that Will is one of the sailors actually pulling the gun carriage on which the King's coffin was carried, though it is impossible to confirm this; it would make some sense given his membership of the Portsmouth Field Gun Crew.

But it was in 1914 that the most momentous stage of Will's life arrived. In Belgium, British forces (the Contemptible Little Army, as the Kaiser called them) were trying to help the Belgian army resist the German advance on Antwerp. Short of artillery, the British mounted naval guns on trains to try to counter the giant German cannons. Will served on one of the three-gun trains used in the campaign, in his capacity as a gunner. Lilian had been pregnant when Will was sent to Belgium and in January 1915 their second son, Edgar James (Jim) was born at Binstead.

On the trains, the fighting was grim for the British sailors operating the guns, which were not designed for this use. The violent recoil on firing would often carry the train several hundred yards down the line. At times they were cut off when the tracks were blown up and, together with the Belgian infantry, they had to fight off German attacks. Will's service record shows that on 20th March 1915, he was brought back from Belgium to London's 4th General Hospital at Denmark Hill, today, King's College Hospital, suffering from exhaustion and a complete breakdown. In September 1918, Acting Chief Petty Officer William LAVERS was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre by the King of the Belgians, for his distinguished service.

On 6th January 1920, Will and Lilian's third son, Jack, was born in Binstead. Jack was not to know his father. In August 1921, Will left the Royal Navy after 22 years' service. Very soon, he was suffering from tuberculosis, which had killed his sister in Manhattan 15 years previously. Three-year-old Jack only saw his father once, at the Hermitage, near Whitwell, then a nursing home, where he died in December 1923 at the age of 44.

The two remaining brothers were to be the founding fathers of the LAVERS family in America: George Edward and Herbert James, known as Jim.

George was a ticket collector on the trams which plied up and down Ryde Pier, carrying locals and tourists to and from the Portsmouth ferry, which gave him plenty of opportunity to chat to the girls, for which he was notorious.

In September 1901, at St Michael and All Angels, George married Mary Buckingham JENKINS, the daughter of a Newport carpenter. The omens were not good from the start. Mary was already two months pregnant.

On the marriage certificate, Mary's sister stood as her witness, in default of the JENKINS parents; they, it is said, always referred to their new son in law as 'LAVERS'. George's witness was, inevitably, his indomitable mother, Sophia. George and Mary's daughter, Dorothy Mae, was born in April 1902.

In the summer of 1904, a remarkable event occurred. George and his younger brother, Jim, a 19-year-old footman, i.e. a domestic servant, are shown in the passenger list as embarking at Southampton on the SS *Philadelphia*, arriving in New York on 6th August. They described themselves, untruthfully, as 'labourers' and carried \$60 between them. Their destination was Toronto, where they did casual work for a few months before returning to the Island.

It is surely significant that their sister, Selina, had returned from New York just two months before they left, and she would cross the Atlantic again the following year, also on the *Philadelphia*. It is obvious that George and Jim were preparing for emigration. Their sister's knowledge (and probably money) had enabled them to carry out a reconnaissance trip, which few prospective emigrants had the means to do. Their final departure from England took place just two years later, when they left Southampton on the SS *New York*, arriving in New York City on 6th January 1907.

They had much sadness to leave behind on the Island. In the months before their departure, they had lost their father and two of their sisters, and Selina had already left for ever. George's marriage to Mary was over, except in law (divorce was out of the question for all but the wealthy then) and had been for some time. A few days after the brothers landed in New York, Mary, aged 28, gave birth to the child of George WESTMORE, a 19-year-old dock worker from Cowes. The birth took place in Winchester, where there were no connections with either family, almost certainly to avoid scandal on the Island.

Dorothy Mae, now aged 4, was left behind to be cared for by her grandmother. Sophia, having just lost her husband and daughters, was alone with the little girl in Rock Cottage, but still went out every day on her laundry round.

The lives of the two brothers changed quickly and profoundly on their arrival in North America. Jim, now aged 22, brought only \$25 with him. He started his new life as a junior clerk with the Imperial Bank of Canada in the little town of Niagara Falls, just on the US side of the Canadian border. But he did not remain a bank clerk for long. He became friends with a local grocer and within two years had left the bank and set up a business importing tea and coffee, first in Niagara Falls and then further

afield; border crossing records show Jim describing himself as a 'tea merchant' on his journeys between the US and Canada.

Jim married Ethel, a local girl, and their first child, Alice Louise, with whom this narrative began, was born in 1910, named after his much-loved sister, who had died a few months before he left the Island. Jim's Imperial Tea Company prospered almost from the start. He had marketing ideas which were novel for the time, like roasting coffee beans in places where the aroma would attract passing shoppers. He expanded into Canada and at one time even had business interests in Florida and California.

In June 1914, Jim, his wife and little daughter Alice crossed the Atlantic on the *SS St. Louis*. He was returning to Rock Cottage in triumph, a successful businessman with a young family, only 8 years after he had left the Island with \$25.

Fate now intervened in the shape of world events. Six weeks after their arrival, war broke out. Will, as a serving naval officer soon to be sent to Belgium, asked his now wealthy young brother if he would be joining up. Jim is said to have replied that 'it would all be over by Christmas' as the newspapers predicted but prepared for an early return to the US. In September 1914, Jim said farewell to the Isle of Wight. He would never see it again. He, Ethel and little Alice travelled from Liverpool - taking with them a fourth passenger. They had with them George's daughter, Dorothy Mae, finally relieving Sophia of caring for her granddaughter alone after nearly 10 years.

George himself had been much less successful than Jim, despite landing with \$60 to Jim's \$25. He had begun work as a plasterer in Toronto but by 1913 was working as a salesman – now for the Imperial Tea Company's Canadian branch. He had formed a relationship with Evelyn, an indentured maidservant, with whom he went on to have 9 children, 4 in Toronto and a further 5 after they too came to live in Niagara Falls in 1920. George went through a ceremony of marriage with Evelyn in 1918 but it is doubtful whether this could have been legal. He described himself as a 'widower' but Mary Buckingham LAVERS was very much alive and living in Cowes with George WESTMORE and their now three sons. Later on in the US, he claimed to have been married to Evelyn since 1912, presumably in an attempt to legitimise the children, which certainly could not have been the case given the supposed wedding in 1918.

After Jim's shortened visit to the Island in 1914, there was to be no contact between the US and Isle of Wight families for over half a century. This is not as surprising as it might sound. Soon, almost everyone on the Island of an age to remember George and Jim was dead. Sophia died in 1920; her husband and daughters had predeceased her. Will died in 1923 and

his wife Lillian a few months later, it was always said 'of a broken heart'. Their three sons were orphans and knew little or nothing of their uncles who had gone away overseas. And in time, the American families had much to preoccupy them. The Wall Street Crash of 1929 spelt economic disaster for the East Coast and its businesses. Trade in luxury items like imported tea and coffee suffered particularly.

It is impossible to know at this distance how much of the failure of the Imperial Tea Company was due to the financial crisis and how much to Jim's personal decline into alcoholism. Previously a teetotaler, he had taken to drinking whisky after work with a local undertaker and another businessman. His business and home disintegrated in the mid-1930s.

Alice, by now a grown woman, had actually married Herman CLARK but kept the marriage secret and went on living at home, to try to protect her mother from her father. This was only revealed at the celebration of Alice's 50th wedding anniversary, when she disclosed that she and Herman had actually been married for 52 years.

With George's employment gone, he and most of his large family travelled one at a time across America by train to California, where economic prospects were better and where George and several of his sons found work as garage mechanics. Dorothy Mae, now married, was also living in California. Jim worked in short term jobs as a car salesman and in construction for a few months here and there, but died in a hotel room, where he was by then living, in 1943. He was 59. George died in California a few months after his brother at the age of 65, having just completed the formalities to be drafted into the US military.

The US family knew almost nothing of their Isle of Wight heritage. None of George's children in California knew of anyone to contact. Jim's sons served in the US forces in World War II, Bob on the staff of the legendary General George PATTON in Europe. They had their own families in Ohio and Florida respectively. Just one US LAVERS knew where she had come from, having been there: Alice.

The Island branch of the family had almost ceased to exist. Will had left 3 sons, but Arthur had died in 1932 aged 22, like his father and his aunt, of tuberculosis. Edgar James, known as Jim like his uncle, was killed in combat in the submarine *HMS Triton* in the Mediterranean in 1940. Just one remained: my father, Jack LAVERS. Apart from 6 years' war service, mainly overseas, he spent all of his life living in Apse Heath and practising as a solicitor in Shanklin. Just one Island LAVERS knew of the family story, but he lacked any means of contacting his scattered US relatives, of whom he knew almost nothing.

So, contact resumed after half a century at Yelf's Hotel. Alice and my father, Jack, talked at great length about the past, but also looked to the future. And the following year, 1968, my father, my mother Gill and I boarded the Canadian Pacific Line's *Empress of Canada* to cross the Atlantic. We landed at Montreal and then travelled via Toronto and around the US by Greyhound Bus. We began at Old Fort Niagara, where Alice and her husband were caretakers of the historic fort. We went from Niagara, where I looked open mouthed at the Falls, to Detroit, Ohio, Florida and New York, discovering our new American family.

Since that time, contact between the US and UK families has flourished. Alice's brother Bob brought his wife and daughter over from Ohio to stay on the Island. We attended a LAVERS reunion in Florida and another in Los Angeles after the California relatives found us via the Internet. George's granddaughter remembered staying on Auntie Dorothy Mae's ranch, where she terrified the children by blasting the bunny rabbits in her vegetable patch with a shotgun. Alice's niece and her family attended the wedding of my daughter Emma in Oxfordshire and we went to their sons in Pennsylvania. We have holidayed with her granddaughter in the US and France.

One person who never had any contact again was Mary Buckingham LAVERS. Twelve years ago, her grandson, John WESTMORE, born in Cowes and living in Southampton, made contact out of the blue. He took me to see Mary's 98-year-old daughter in law, Vera. She only knew that 'LAVERS' had gone 'overseas', she had no idea where. Vera told me that Mary always kept a photo of Dorothy Mae by her bedside and at the end of her life, as a psychiatric patient at Whitecroft Hospital, she cried out repeatedly for the little girl who had been taken away from her in 1904.

There has been much sadness in this story, some of which could properly be called tragedy. But there is happiness to in looking to the future. Emma, our daughter, was the last of us born on the Island, at St Mary's in 1984. Our son James, born in Singapore, carries on the name. They have met their American cousins and hope to maintain contact; electronic communications make this much easier than in the past, of course. And Emma's boys, Miles, 10, and Eliot, 7, are fascinated to hear about where Mummy and Grandad were born and delighted to spend a few days on what they call 'The Island of Wight'.

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Where am I?

Are you searching in the right place?



Sometimes we fail to find a family member because we are looking in the wrong place and occasionally, we can be misled by the area that a place name refers to. Boundaries and jurisdictions in the British Isles can be confusing, particularly if you are researching from elsewhere. There's the first problem; what is the difference between, the British Isles, Great Britain and the United Kingdom?

The United Kingdom (UK), or to give it its full title, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (map right) is a sovereign state, in other words, a political entity with an autonomous government. It is currently made up of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England, as well as islands that are part of those countries. It does not include the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, which are self-governed Crown Dependencies, so are not part of the UK. This is not the same as the British Isles. The British Isles is a geographical unit consisting of over 6,000 islands, many of which are uninhabited. It is not a political unit. The Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Hebrides, the islands of Orkney and Shetland and the Scilly Isles, as well as others, are all part of the British Isles but as we have seen, some but not all, are part of the UK.



The British Isles (map left) also includes the whole island of Ireland but the Republic of Ireland (Southern Ireland) is a completely separate country. For the purposes of family history research, it is important to remember that this has not always been the case and that for centuries, until 1922, the whole of the island of Ireland was under British rule.

Great Britain, sometimes just Britain, is different again. This is a term that refers to the main island that includes Scotland, Wales and England. Although England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are countries, they are not sovereign states, as although they have devolved governments, they are not fully autonomous. We have probably all seen these referred to erroneously as 'England', much to the chagrin of the Welsh, the Scots and the Irish.

England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are divided into counties. Unlike American counties, these are not normally referred to as County Surrey, County Kent, nor indeed Kent County, all of which sound very odd in a British context. They are counties but that is not part of their name. The exceptions are County Durham in England and the six counties of Northern Ireland all of which can correctly be referred to with County at the beginning as part of the place name. There are two pitfalls to be aware of with counties. Firstly, there was a major reorganisation in 1974 when some counties were renamed, new areas, such as Tyne and Wear and Bristol and Avon, were created and others were amalgamated. This had a particular impact in Wales, where thirteen historic counties became eight. The second problem is that some county boundaries have changed. Bournemouth, once in Hampshire is now in Dorset, for example. There are also anomalies. The parish of Norham, on the English side of the Scottish border, was once a detached part of County Durham, rather than Northumberland, by which it is surrounded.

A word about the use of 'shire'. Without wishing to complicate things still further, I won't go into details about what a shire was but many, although not all, of our county names end in shire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Flintshire, Aberdeenshire, Yorkshire and so on. Devonshire, is the only one that seems to have lost its 'shire' to become Devon, although Devonshire is not incorrect. You can't drop most of the shires without causing confusion as, within the county of Bedfordshire is the town of Bedford, similarly with York in Yorkshire, Aberdeen in Aberdeenshire and so on. This is significant. When your ancestor claims to have come from Bedford, do they mean the county or the town? Some larger counties were subdivided. Yorkshire's three ridings are relatively well-known, but did you know that Kent is divided into Lathes and Lincolnshire has 'parts': the Part of Kesteven, the Part of Lindsey and the Part of Holland?

Colin CHAPMAN devised a series of three letter codes for all the counties of the UK. These are a very valuable shorthand when doing our research but remember that not everyone that you correspond with will be familiar with these abbreviations. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapman_code

The British Isles has other jurisdictions for researchers to grapple with. For the purposes of genealogy, the most important unit is the parish. The whole of the British Isles is made up of parishes; there is nowhere on the map that is not part of a parish. These are an ecclesiastical construct. Historic parishes consisted of a church and its surrounding area. Since the Reformation in the sixteenth century, these were Anglican (Church of England) churches. As other denominations sprung up, they may have built places of worship within the Anglican parishes. The term 'parish registers', will normally mean the records of the Anglican church.

Villages frequently clustered round the parish (Anglican) church and would share the parish name. So, as is common, the parish of Tenterden in Kent contains the village of Tenterden and outlying farms and hamlets that were not part of the village of Tenterden but were nonetheless in Tenterden parish. As populations grew, one Anglican church in larger communities was insufficient, so more were built in towns, notably from the 1840s onwards. This created new ecclesiastical parishes, each with their own set of parish registers.

There are also civil parishes, which are political units, so slightly different. The records that family historians use will primarily be those of the ecclesiastical parishes, as described above.

Counties contain settlements of different sizes; note that a parish is not a settlement, just an ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Settlements have a hierarchy, based on size and facilities. At the top of the tree are the cities. These used to be places that had a cathedral but more recently, many new cities have been created using other criteria. Next are the towns. Historically, almost all the country was within fifteen miles of a town. This was considered a practical distance for walking to market. Modern postal addresses in the UK all include a town name. For example, I have recently moved from one village to another. Bideford in Devon is the nearest town to both of these villages, so Bideford was part of my old address and is part of my new one. I do not and never have, lived in the town of Bideford. Some places that have Bideford as their postal address are up to twenty miles from the town itself.

Villages are smaller settlements that, until the early twentieth century, would have been largely self-sufficient and able to provide most services that the inhabitants needed for their day-to-day needs. Hamlets are groups of a small number of dwellings that are too small to be a village and may have few, if any, services or facilities.

Do not forget that, just as we may do ourselves, our ancestors might give their nearest large settlement when asked for their place of origin. If we think no one will have heard of the little village where we live, we might answer with the town nearby. The further away we are from our place of origin, the more likely we are to do this. If I am close to my home and someone asks me where I live, I can safely give the village name, in the expectation that it will be somewhere that the enquirer has heard of. If I am being asked the same question when I am hundreds of miles from home, I will give the name of a larger settlement that I think will be meaningful.

Of course, our ancestors might be hazy about their birthplace, especially if they moved as very small children. Remember that baptisms did not always take place in the place of birth. Eldest children, for example, were not infrequently taken back to the mother's parish for baptism and indeed may have been born away from home, so that maternal relatives could help with the birth. I was recently researching a lady called Mary RAKE (she actually also calls herself other things but that's not the point here). In different censuses her birthplace is listed as South Africa, Ireland and England. Add to this the fact that she married and had two children in India and you can see why she was difficult to track down. This is an extreme case but our ancestors are often inconsistent about their birthplace. It is important to look at as many sources as possible to see if there are alternatives that you might need to consider. Even if you have a consistent birthplace, do you have the right one? There are numerous places called Newport in the UK, there is more than one Stives (and also a St Ive), several Bucklands and so on. One lady, living in Cornwall, claimed to have been born in Scotland. She was actually born at Scotland Farm, a few miles from the Cornish parish where she lived. Emigrants often replicated UK place names in their new abodes, so you may not even be in the right country.

There are other jurisdictions for family historians researching in the UK to get their heads around. The first of these that you are likely to encounter is the registration district. The registration of births, marriages and deaths began in 1837 in England and Wales, 1855 in Scotland and 1864 in Ireland (with the exception of non-Catholic marriages, which were registered from 1845). The process was administered locally by Superintendent Registrars who were in charge of an administrative area known as a registration district. This was usually a town and the surrounding rural area, although cities would contain several registration districts. Often the names are self-explanatory and are the town name. Sometimes these names are misleading; parts of Liverpool are in West Derby registration

district for example. Liverpool is not and never has been, in Derbyshire. There have been some minor changes to registration district names and boundaries over the years, notably but not exclusively, in 1974. [See also <https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/req/>]

Next there are poor law unions. These were set up in 1834, when the administration of poor relief was taken out of the hands of the parish. Initially, the registration districts used the same boundaries as poor law unions, so you would expect a poor law union to cover a town and the rural hinterland, or a smaller area in a very large settlement. Each poor law union had its own union workhouse. If your ancestors needed poor relief, they would be the responsibility of the workhouse that served the poor law union in which they lived. So, knowing in which poor law union your ancestor resided is important if you want to look at workhouse records.

Ecclesiastical jurisdictions, recognised by the Church of England, are also important. Until 1858, English and Welsh wills were proved in a hierarchy of church courts. If you are looking for a will, you need to know which courts (there will be more than one) had jurisdiction in the place where your ancestor had property. This means becoming familiar with such things as archdeaconries and dioceses. There are also ecclesiastical courts known as peculiars, which tended to cover very small areas. This subject is too complex to cover in detail here but there are some helpful publications such as Jeremy Gibson's *Probate Jurisdictions: where to look for wills* and Phillimore's *Atlas of Parish Registers*, that will help.

In the Middle Ages, the main unit of local government was the manor and you may find manorial records into the eighteenth century and beyond. Manors are not the same as parishes, although some parishes and manors might share boundaries. If you want to research in these fascinating and useful manorial records, that may hold all sorts of clues and anecdotes about your ancestors, you need to know which manor they lived in. You then need to know the whereabouts of any surviving manorial records. The Manorial Documents Register, accessed via The National Archives website can help here <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>.

I am afraid we are not done. Another term that you may encounter is townland. These are geographical areas that you are likely to come across in Ireland and Scotland but also in parts of northern England. I have ancestral connections to the parish of Thockrington in Northumberland. Within the parish of Thockrington are four townlands, one of which is also

called Thockrington. When I decided to start a one-place study for Thockrington and had a quick look to see what sort of population I might be dealing with, I mistakenly looked at the townland population and not that for the whole parish. In Ireland, the area covered by a townland was based on the ballyboe (baile bó), or cow townland. This was an area that was sufficient to rear a certain number of cows, so it was not a consistent size, as it would depend on the quality of the land.

A Hundred is yet another unit of government. Historically it was sufficient land to support a hundred families. If you are familiar with the terms used in the Domesday Book, you will know that places contained so many 'hides'. A hide supported one family, so one hundred hides was the equivalent of a Hundred. In the north of England, you may find the term Ward used instead of Hundred and in areas of strong Danish settlement, notably the eastern counties, you can find wapentake used instead. A tithing was ten hides, or a tenth of a Hundred. You can see this term used in the heading for the English and Welsh 1861 Census.

If you have urban ancestors, you may encounter boroughs. Historically, these were fortified towns that had been given the right to self-government in certain matters. In these instances, there may be borough records that you can consult, which will give you information about the administration of the town.

This is not an exhaustive guide to the jurisdictions you will contend with when searching for ancestors in the United Kingdom but it should at least make you aware that a sense of place is not straightforward. When our ancestors are elusive, it is very often because we are looking in the wrong place; we just need to be clear what we mean by a place.

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Vice-President

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This article originally appeared in the Really Useful Bulletin no 47 of the Family History Federation issued in July 2024. It is reprinted with the permission of the Author and the Family History Federation.

Note from the Chairman – please also be aware that certain subscription family history websites make presumptions about the locations entered, so it can often be found that addresses in Isle of Wight (Hampshire), England are often mistakenly defaulted to Isle of Wight County, Virginia, U.S.A.

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.

- 4052 Mrs L Lesley WOOD; **Email:** lesleyjwood@hotmail.co.uk
(no research interests yet received)
- 6248 Mr Jonathan NEWBERRY; **Email:** jon.newberry@gmail.com
NEWBERRY IOW All Areas 17th-18th Centuries
- 6393 Mr Peter ENLUND; **Email:** penlund@tpg.com.au
(no research interests yet received)
- 7298 Mr Graham TEATHERTON; **Email:** g.teatherton@btinternet.com
(no Isle of Wight surnames yet received)
- 7302 Ms Helen ROWLANDS; **Email:** helenfeltartist@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7311 Mrs Ann DRAYTON; **Email:** ann2aa@icloud.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7313 Mrs Denise FALLAIZE; **Email:** denise.fallaize@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7320 Mr Brian O'FARRELL; **Email:** bwof@duck.com
(no research interests yet received)
- 7322 Mrs Julie PROCTOR; **Email:** juliemarie2003@outlook.com
BARTON IOW All Areas All Centuries
CHEEK IOW All Areas All Centuries
GRAY IOW All Areas All Centuries
GUSTAR IOW All Areas All Centuries
LOCK IOW All Areas All Centuries
RIDER IOW All Areas All Centuries
STREET IOW All Areas All Centuries
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SIVIER IOW All Areas All Centuries

7326 Mrs Stephanie FOSTER; **Email:** stephaniefoster72@gmail.com
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7330 Elizabeth HOLLIDAY; **Email:** eh.holliday@one-name.org
(no research interests yet received)

7334 Mr Ian SMALLWOOD; **Email:** smallwoodian01@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)

7337 Peter HARWOOD; **Email:** p.a.harwood@btinternet.com
(no research interests yet received)

7342 Mrs Zoe WALTERS; **Email:** zoe.walters88@gmail.com
(no research interests yet received)

7345 Mr Ian TINDELL; **Email:** itindell@yahoo.co.uk

BURDEN	IOW	All Areas	18 th Century
DAISH	IOW	All Areas	19 th Century
EDSALL	IOW	All Areas	18 th Century
GRIFFEN	IOW	All Areas	18 th Century
MATTHEWS	IOW	Newport	19 th Century
MATTHEWS	IOW	Shanklin	19 th Century
MATTHEWS	IOW	Nettlestone	19 th Century
MATTHEWS	IOW	Shalfleet	18 th Century
MATTHEWS	IOW	All Areas	18 th Century
MATTHEWS	IOW	Calbourne	18 th Century
SOUTHGATE	IOW	All Areas	19 th Century

7353 Mr Steve MUNNS
78 Talmead Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT66NW
(no research interests yet received)

Some Useful Addresses

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on TUESDAYS)

26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

Email: record.office@iow.gov.uk

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

Isle of Wight Register Office

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

Email: registrars@iow.gov.uk

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

Bembridge Heritage Society

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

Brading Community Archive

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

Freshwater and Totland Archive Group

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

Friends of East Cowes Cemetery

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

Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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

Friends of Northwood Cemetery

Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

The Isle of Wight History Centre

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

Ryde Social Heritage Group

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

Shalfleet Local and Family History Sources

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

Ventnor Heritage Centre

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

Family History Federation

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

The National Archives

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



ISSN 1356-8256