

# ORIGINS

SPRING 2021



*Included in this Issue*

- Bowlers at Princes Risborough
- Arthur Potter's Easy Chair
- Guttridges at Lane End

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

Box 2 c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8BU

Website: [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

Email: [society@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:society@bucksfhs.org.uk) (General Enquiries)

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*The affairs of the Society are governed by a Constitution,  
copies of which are available from the Secretary or Chairman*

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES for the year commencing 1st January 2021

UK Individual	£10.00	Overseas	£14.00
UK Family	£12.00	Individual Online	£6.00
UK Corporate	£14.00		

Go to our website and join online  
Or email [membership@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bucksfhs.org.uk) for how to pay by standing order

**MAGAZINE OF THE  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Spring 2021 Vol. 45 No. 1

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# From the Editor

We continue to adapt to a more online world and we are perhaps fortunate that the family history industry had a head start with so many online resources coming available over the past few years. Viewing physical documents at record offices and repositories may still be impossible at the time of writing, but it is worth checking the websites for local record centres, libraries, museums, as well as The National Archives, British Library etc. They are all doing what they can to remain useful and relevant.

I was heartened to receive some positive feedback on the previous issue. It continues to be a challenge finding enough content to fill the pages, but I am extremely grateful to those members who took the time to submit some excellent articles and snippets for us all to enjoy. I do edit content before publication, so don't put off submitting because you worry your writing isn't 'good enough'.

Also welcome are old photographs, interesting Bucks snippets from newspapers or other records, help wanted requests and so on. I would also love to feature reader recommendations for books and websites. What are your favourite resources and why?

Thank you to everyone who entered the Alan Dell Award. The winner will be announced at the AGM (or in the next edition of *Origins*).

Rebecca Gurney  
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

## Origins Submissions Deadlines

July 2021 (Summer) issue – 4th May 2021  
December 2021 (Winter) issue – 4th October 2021  
March 2022 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2022

*Submissions received after the deadline must be held over for the next issue*

# A Note From the Honorary Secretary

Having seen that predictions could be a waste of time, all I will say is that Bucks FHS hopes to hold an AGM on 19th June 2021 at 3.15 pm. The date, time and venue may change, so please check the website and email nearer the time.

In the meantime, as I write this at the beginning of January, online meetings will continue. The email newsletter will continue and will be used to advise of any changes to the calendar.

Regular meetings of the Executive continue via Zoom, and will probably continue online after the pandemic. I hope this removes one of the impediments to people coming forward to join the Executive Committee and support Bucks FHS. Please contact me if you are interested. There is a Nomination Form for the Executive Committee in this journal (page 6).

Bucks FHS wishes to thank all those who have helped the society over the year, it is much appreciated.

January 2021  
Tony Sargeant  
Honorary Secretary  
secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Please send your contributions and comments to the Editor, who reserves the right to edit all contributions.

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# Society Notices

**\*\* POSITIONS VACANT \*\***

**CHAIRMAN**

**PUBLICITY OFFICER**

**OPEN DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**All Society activities are run by volunteers**

**We need your help  
to host and publicise our annual Open Day**

If you would like more details about these roles, please email:  
[secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk)

## OPEN DAY 2021

The Bucks FHS Open Day Committee is looking for additional volunteers to help with planning and preparing for the ever-popular annual Bucks FHS Open Day due to be held in late July 2021.

A lack of committee members may prevent the event happening in 2021 (assuming Covid-19 restrictions do not interfere again).

We specifically require help with publicity, but would welcome help in other areas as required. We need at least 2 extra people to help out.

Should you require more information please email

[tony.coyne@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:tony.coyne@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Buckinghamshire Family History Society

*A Member of the Federation of Family History Societies*

Registered charity No. 290335



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 19th JUNE 2021

### AGENDA

To be held at Turnfurlong Junior School, Turnfurlong Lane, Aylesbury HP21 7PL at 15.15 p.m.

1. Introduction and Apologies.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 19 May 2019.
3. Annual Report & Accounts for 2019 (for information).
4. Annual Report for 2020.
5. Annual Accounts for 2020.
6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the 2021 accounts.
7. Election of Principal Officers and members of the Executive Committee.
8. Proposal to increase membership fees from 1 October 2021.
  - a) UK Individual to rise from £10 to £12
  - b) UK Family to rise from £12 to £15
  - c) Overseas to rise from £14 to £17
9. Proposal to amend the constitution as follows:

In Section 7 (e) to change the first sentence from:

The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times each year.

to

The Executive Committee shall decide the number of times it will meet in the year and publish provisional dates at the beginning of that year.

10. Any Other Business.

By Order of the Executive Committee

Tony Sargeant, Honorary Secretary

January 2021

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Buckinghamshire FHS Box 2 c/o, Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU  
E-Mail: [Society@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:Society@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Buckinghamshire Family History Society

Nomination of Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2021 / 2022

(Completed form to reach the Secretary by 22 May 2021)

For the election as Chairman / Secretary / Treasurer / Committee Member \*  
(\* delete positions not applicable)

Nominee's name and membership number: .....

Nominee's signature (see notes below):.....

Date: .....

Proposer's name and membership number: .....

Proposer's signature: .....

Seconder's name and membership number: .....

Seconder's signature: .....

Notes:

1. The signature of the nominee confirms that he/she is not a committee member of any other Society which might incur a conflict of interests.

2. Membership of the Executive Committee carries with it responsibilities as a trustee under charity law. The signature of the nominee confirms that he/she is not disqualified by law from being a trustee by virtue of being any of the following:

- a person under the age of 18;
  - a person who has been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty, unless the conviction is spent;
  - a person who is an undischarged bankrupt;
  - a person who has been removed from trusteeship of a charity by a Court or by the Charity Commissioners;
  - a person who is under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.
- (See section 72(1) of the Charities Act 1993.)

When complete please send this form to  
Honorary Secretary, 18 Churchill Road, Langley, Slough, SL3 7QZ  
Or email to: [secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk)



# Society Meetings

## ONLINE TALKS

At present, the Society is running a series of free online talks to replace the cancelled meetings. This means we can continue to provide a key benefit to our members, as well as extending it to members who live away from Buckinghamshire.

Details of talks will be announced on our website [bucksfhs.org.uk](http://bucksfhs.org.uk) or sign up to the monthly newsletter.

## ACCESSING ONLINE TALKS

Details will be emailed in advance to members. If you think we may hold an out-of-date email address for you, contact [membership@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bucksfhs.org.uk).

You may be requested to download Zoom or a Zoom plug-in for your internet browser. Audio will be switched off when you enter the online room but you will be able to activate your microphone if you wish to ask (or answer) questions.

The talk is limited to 100 participants and in order to protect the talk and participants from unwanted visitors, please do not publish the meeting links.



# Diary Dates

## \*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*

At the time of writing (January 2021), most events have been cancelled due to Covid-19. Government guidelines continue to change, so always check with the event organisers or [geneva.weald.org.uk](http://geneva.weald.org.uk) before attending.

## Family History & Heritage Events

<p><b>Sat 10th Apr</b> <b>10.00am – 6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Online Really Useful Family History Show</b> Family History Federation's worldwide virtual event Quality talks   Records &amp; books   Special show offers   Specialist vendors   Expert help &amp; advice   Family History Societies   and much more <b>w</b> <a href="http://fhf-reallyuseful.com">fhf-reallyuseful.com</a> Price: £10</p>
<p><b>Sat 8th May</b> <b>10.00am – 4.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Chesterfield &amp; District FHS Family &amp; Local History Event &amp; Heritage Fair</b> Moved from 21 May Proact Stadium, Chesterfield S4 8NZ Free talks and free parking <b>w</b> <a href="http://cadfhs.org">cadfhs.org</a> Price: £3 (accompanied under 16s free)</p>
<p><b>Sat 19th Jun</b> <b>10.00am – 4.30pm</b></p>	<p><b>The Family History Show – York</b> <i>Discover Your Ancestors</i> magazine York Racecourse Price: Early bird 2 for £8 booked in advance, £5.50 single <b>w</b> <a href="http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com">thefamilyhistoryshow.com</a></p>

## BUCKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TALKS

BAS is holding open online meetings for both membership and the public via Zoom.

- 13 March 2021      Manorial Records as a source for English and Buckinghamshire history
- 17 April 2021      The Human Costs of Civil War: the Buckinghamshire Experience

See the website at <https://bas1.org.uk/>

## LOCAL ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Other local organisations holding online talks and/or exhibitions that may be of interest include:

Buckinghamshire Archives – blog

**w** [buckscc.gov.uk/buckinghamshire-archives-blog/](https://buckscc.gov.uk/buckinghamshire-archives-blog/)

Buckinghamshire Historical Association – talks

**w** [buckshistoricalassociation.org.uk](https://buckshistoricalassociation.org.uk)

Wycombe Museum – online exhibitions

**w** [wycombemuseum.org.uk](https://wycombemuseum.org.uk)

### ONLINE TALKS

Several family history societies are currently giving online talks for members in a similar manner to Bucks FHS. Usually you need to be member of the society concerned, but if you have an interest in a particular area it is worth visiting the local family history society website to see what is on offer.

# Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

**DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2021**

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

See: [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Arthur Potter's Easy Chair

by Dawn Adams

*Alan Dell Award Entry*

It started with a will. Arthur POTTER died as an in-pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 2 February 1893. He'd already sold his £300 insurance policy to his eldest son, Arthur Flaxman Godfrey Potter, for £41, so, by agreement, Arthur junior received £200. Arthur's youngest daughter, Alice Kate received £25 from the insurance money; his widowed daughter, Emma Ruth GILBERT, received £75 and was the residuary legatee, receiving the value of his kit, any money in the bank, any debts owing etc. The probate value of the estate was £31 2/-. Of his 10 children, eight had outlived him but only these three were mentioned.

*The Last Will and Testament*  
of Arthur Potter I give to my son Arthur Flaxman Godfrey Potter two hundred pounds £200 of my insurance money as promised to me in selling the policy to him for forty one pounds and to my daughter Emma Ruth Potter Mrs John Gilbert seventy five pounds of said £300 three hundred pounds and to my daughter Alice Kate Potter twenty five pounds £25 free from all taxes &c And I give to my daughter in Emma Ruth Potter Mrs Gilbert all my other moneys in the Bank insurances sale of all my kit and all belonging to me all other property or sums due to me and all my kit &c &c and to my brother the easy chair - Royal Hospital Chelsea 6<sup>th</sup> March 1891 - Arthur Potter -  
Witness of Arthur Potter's signature 6<sup>th</sup> March 1891 - George Davies Chelsea Hospital - Denis Halloran Chelsea Hospital

*Ox* Affidavit of due execution filed.  
the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 1893 Administration with this will annexed of the effects of the testator was granted to Emma Ruth Gilbert Widow formerly Potter Spinster the residuary & legatee.

Arthur Potter's will dated 6 March 1891

There was one further legacy: ‘... and to my brother the easy chair’. Arthur Potter had five brothers. So my question was: who got the chair?

Arthur Potter was born on 16 June 1828, and baptised six weeks later in Little Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. In December 1845 he enlisted in the 8th Regiment of Foot, served in the East Indies, then in January 1855 transferred as an instructor to the newly established School of Musketry in Hythe, Kent. It was there that he married Susannah GODFREY. He was a good shot: he won the Duke of Wellington’s Cup and a prize of £50 at Wimbledon (the predecessor of Bisley) in 1856.[1] The final six months of his service were spent on attachment to the 9th Lancashire Rifles in the rank of Quarter Master Sergeant, based in Warrington.

He left the army in December 1865 and embarked on a second career, keeping the ‘White Hart’ in the centre of Warrington, and building a reputation as an outside caterer for large local events. Susannah died in June 1889, and in October 1890, Arthur Potter came south and entered the Royal Hospital.

His five brothers were all older than Arthur, and were born in or around Chesham, Bucks. Their father was James Ralph Potter, also of Chesham. Before Arthur was born on 11 Nov 1827, James’ sons Charles William (aged 7), twins Walter and Edwin (aged 6) and Samuel (aged 5), and daughter, Mary Anne (aged 2) were baptised in Little Berkhamsted, their father being a gamekeeper. James Ralph’s occupation was generally recorded as butcher.

## **Ralph James Potter**

Ralph James, the eldest of Arthur’s brothers, was presumably born c.1818, as he was baptised on 21 February that year in Hemel Hempstead. He became a plumber and glazier in Chesham. After marrying Amelia WRIGHT in 1839 in Hemel Hempstead, they went on to have 11 children, eight of whom survived infancy. He was clearly involved with the non-conformists in Chesham, as in 1868 he pledged £5 and offered to do all the painting and glazing for a proposed (fifth) chapel for the town, at no cost.[2] Ralph died in 1870, aged 51, and Amelia carried on his business for three years, in partnership with their eldest son, Edward. Ralph had thus died well before Arthur even thought about making a will.

## **Charles William Potter**

Charles William, born 1819, started out as a postman; this was his occupation when he married Mary Anne MACKNESS in 1839. However, he moved to London in about 1840, and joined the Metropolitan Police. His father was a visitor to their house, in London's East End, in 1851. Charles William died aged 39 in 1858, leaving a widow and six young children. With no widow's benefits, Mary Anne sustained herself by mangling. The easy chair was not for Charles William.

## **Walter Potter**

Walter, born 1822, became a shoemaker but survived only until March 1844, by which time James Ralph and his family were living in Castle St, Hertford (in an area known as the Liberty of Brickendon). So he is not the beneficiary.

## **Samuel Potter**

Samuel, born 1823, joined the police force in August 1847, and was based initially at Woolwich. Later he joined the Dockyard police at Greenwich and served 20 years as a dock constable. He married Elizabeth FLETCHER in 1854. They had five children, then Elizabeth died in 1871. Samuel resigned from the force a year later, aged 49, owing to 'bodily infirmity' and he drew a police pension.[3] In 1884 he died suddenly of a heart attack, aged 61. So Arthur outlived him, too.

## **Edwin Potter**

That left Edwin, Walter's twin. Tracking Edwin was interesting, as he wove through occupations and relationships. In 1839, at the age of 18, he joined the 12th Royal Lancers. After 19 months' service, he was discharged in Dublin, owing to 'chronic glandular disease of the groin' – not attributable to vice, and therefore deserving a pension of sixpence. His birthplace was Chesham, his intended residence Hertford, so definitely the correct Edwin. After a short stint as a barman in Hertford (1841 census), he too joined the Metropolitan Police. He married Sarah WHITE in Lambeth in 1844, occupation illegible (might be painter) but he was a police constable in the 1851 census, living in Lambeth with Sarah his wife and two daughters, Louisa and Sarah, baptised in Croydon as Wesleyan Methodists. Sarah his wife died in July 1852.

By the 1861 census, Edwin had a different occupation and a different wife: in 1852 he had become a London City Missioner. As a missioner, Edwin earned a small stipend. His role was to bring the Gospel to the poor in his 'patch': first around Horsemonger Lane in Southwark (site of the Surrey County Prison), and then Old Pye Street, Westminster.[4] Missioners visited people in their homes and introduced them to the Gospel. Edwin also made trips to towns outside London to publicise the mission's work.[5] On 2 December 1852, he married Barbara HANSON, daughter of a local tailor. She bore him five children, of whom three survived: she herself did not survive the birth of the last, in the early summer of 1862, the short-lived Arthur Hanson Potter.

Edwin's third wife was Harriett Jane BLANDY, whom he married in Kennington on 22 December 1862. With a demanding role, and several young children, a helpmate was essential. Harriett and Edwin had seven children (five surviving infancy) between 1863 and Harriett's death in 1874. By the 1871 census they had moved to Lewisham, with Edwin still working as missioner. He was forced to relinquish this role in 1872, through ill health, and was placed on the mission's disabled list, not being fit even for light duties.[4]

Edwin didn't remarry so quickly after Harriett's death: perhaps his older children were now able to take care of their younger siblings. His fourth wife was Emma, whom he married in the third quarter of 1880. She was the widow of Daniel ROSS, a widowed Scottish engine driver: they had lived for a while in the expanding town of Linslade (then in Buckinghamshire), but Daniel died there in 1864 and Emma returned to London with their two daughters. Edwin and Emma's first home together seems to have been (according to the 1881 census) a house facing Wanstead Flats, recently built on land released by the owners of the adjacent Manor Park Cemetery.[6] They lived there with Barbara's son Edwin Walter, a printer and Harriett's daughters Annie and Florence, who were still at school. Harriett's daughter Alice, aged 15, was in service nearby. This time Edwin's occupation was 'furniture dealer, retired'.

By 1891 the adventure to the north of the Thames had passed and they were back on familiar ground in Donnington Grove, Newington, another relatively new house, in which they took three rooms, now having only Annie at home. The remainder of the house was occupied by a widowed solicitor from Devon and his son, a law clerk. Emma's married daughter Emma CROWTHER



(née Ross) lived two doors away. It was while living at this house that Emma died, in the Autumn of 1892, followed by Edwin himself on 10th April 1894. His estate amounted to £1,472 6/4d, equating to £120,000 today – and, unless he had sold it, probably included his brother Arthur's chair, inherited the year before.

*Dawn Adams*

## References

All newspapers consulted via Findmypast.co.uk

1. *Chester Chronicle*, 20 Jul 1861
2. *Bucks Chronicle & Bucks Gazette*, 29 Feb 1868
3. Metropolitan Police Pension Registers via Ancestry.co.uk
4. Information kindly provided from their records by the London City Mission
5. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 5 Apr 1856; *Suffolk Chronicle*, 15 Nov 1856; *Essex Standard*, 19 Nov 1856
6. E7 Now and Then: <http://www.e7-nowandthen.org/2016/07/the-street-where-you-live-6-capel-road.html>

### The Statute Fair

At Aylesbury in the Statute Fair, the common wages for ploughmen and carters were from eight to ten pounds a year, with board and lodging, and for inferior servants in the husbandry line from six to eight. The wages of a good dairymaid may be stated at ten pounds a year and those of other female servants in a farm house about six, or in other words, according to qualifications. At this time, the weekly wages of husbandry labourers in the neighbourhood of Aylesbury are about ten shillings a week, with beer at hay time and corn harvest.

*The County Chronicle*  
4 October 1825

*Submitted by Howard Lambert*

# Bowlers at Princes Risborough

Wilfred Newman

## AN UPDATE

In my article published in the Winter 2020 edition of *Origins* – about the Howletts of Chinnor and their connections in Hughenden and other parts of Bucks – I referred to the ‘brick wall’ standing in the path of my knowledge of my BOWLER ancestors. This was especially frustrating because my mother’s mother, Clara BOWLER, was the only grandparent I knew in my childhood and yet I knew less about her more distant ancestors than about those of any of the three who had died before I was born. The possibility of a breakthrough appeared to depend upon discovering which of two Francis BOWLERS, christened at Princes Risborough’s St Mary’s Church in 1795 and 1796, was the grandfather of my ‘Granny’.

Following the publication of my article another member of Bucks FHS (John Cadle) contacted me, because he has researched BOWLER ancestors on his mother’s side originating from the Princes Risborough/Bledlow area, and he wondered if we might have ancestors in common, probably in the 18th century. Prompted by his interest and question, I was stirred to re-examine all my accumulated data on BOWLER events – those recorded in the parish registers of St Mary’s Princes Risborough and reproduced on the BFHS CD, plus anything I have found in other parish records at the County Record Office or in the Victorian censuses of 1841 to 1901.

It has been an interesting and fruitful exercise, as you will learn if you read on; and I will summarise by saying at the outset that the original ‘brick wall’ has been turned into a ‘gauze curtain’ and the new brick wall is set back to events before the 1760s. My knowledge of my BOWLER genealogy has grown in disparate stages, but this latest advance came after a long gap.

## **A tribute to my Grandmother**

I knew from an early age that ‘Granny Howlett’ had had a difficult life. Such a large part of it had been spent taking care of other members of the family in straitened circumstances. Her mother died in the summer of 1902, when she was scarcely 20 years old, and she became the ‘homemaker’ at Bledlow for her father (Henry BOWLER) and younger brothers. She was still in this role when she married Charles HOWLETT of Chinnor at Bledlow on 5 October 1912, and her first two children (my aunt Margaret/Madge and mother Ruth) were born and baptised at Bledlow in 1913 and 1915. Not until her father passed the age of 75 and gave up regular work (in 1916 or 1917) was she able to set up a home in Chinnor for her husband and growing family, still with Henry as part of her household.

Three more children were added to the family there: my uncle George in 1918, aunt Grace in 1921 and uncle Alfred in 1923. Henry BOWLER died in 1925 at the age of 83, having lived long enough to leave my mother with the impression of a determined if arthritic old man. But the worst blow fell in 1929 when her husband (my maternal grandfather) Charles HOWLETT died at the early age of 45, leaving Clara with sole responsibility for five children of school age (6 to 16 years old). Charles’s business, providing horse-drawn transport for moving goods – including chair legs into Wycombe – had to be wound up and the property opposite the Black Boy public house, which he had bought to provide facilities for turning in horses and carts, had to be made over to Clara’s father-in-law, William HOWLETT. Quite what ‘the deal’ was never became clear to me, but I learned that Clara went on to make a living of sorts as caretaker of the reading room, until eventually she was allocated Number 1 Council Cottages, where I spent not insignificant parts of my childhood.

## **Henry BOWLER and family at Princes Risborough and Bledlow**

During my schoolboy and student years my mother would mention from time to time the pleasure she had taken in visiting her many Bowler relations at Bledlow, but it was not until I began to put some serious effort and time into my family history research in the late 1970s and the 1980s that I could fix their names and dates in a clear and orderly fashion. Some holidays

and Saturdays were spent at the County Record Office in Aylesbury and I made use of office flexitime and long lunch breaks from my job in London to visit the General Record Office or Somerset House, gathering notes from censuses, parish registers etc and ordering some certificates. The eventual result of this was the following family for Henry BOWLER and his wife Fanny:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Baptism</b>	<b>Marriage / Death</b>
George	1865 4 Jun	1865 10 Sep Princes Risborough	m. 1885 Hannah SMALL Bledlow
Emma	1867 Q2	1867 7 Jul Princes Risborough	m. 1892 Arthur WEST ? St Saviours
Annie	1872 8 Jun	1872 4 Aug Princes Risborough	m. 1897 Jesse ROGERS ?
Isaac	1875 5 Jul	1876 6 Feb Princes Risborough	m. 1910 Harriet SMITH Bledlow
Charles	1877 Q1	1877 7 Oct Princes Risborough	Died 1879 Q2
Francis	1879 Q2	1880 11 April Princes Risborough	Died 1895 Q1
Clara	1881 24 Aug	1881 21 Sep Bledlow	m. 1912 5 Oct Charles W HOWLETT Bledlow
Edwin	1884 16 Feb	1884 18 Aug Bledlow	Died 1884 Q3
William	1886 4 Oct		m. 1908 26 Dec Lizzie KINGHAM Bledlow
Frederick	1888 13 Jan	1896 22 Mar Bledlow	m. Minnie ESSEX

A copy of Henry's birth certificate was preserved in the family, having been issued in March 1910 apparently to show his age and entitlement to a pension, presumably from the railway company – for which he had worked in one role or another (e.g. labourer or 'packer') since at least 1880. This showed that he was registered on 17 May 1841, having been born on 6 May 1841 at Summerleys, Princes Risborough, the son of Francis BOWLER, gardener, and Ann BOWLER. The marriage certificate of November 12

1864 indicated that Henry BOWLER was the 22-year-old son of Francis BOWLER, gardener and marrying Fanny SMITH, the 17-year-old daughter of Reuben SMITH, labourer at St Mary's, Princes Risborough, though the stated residence of all concerned was 'Long Wick'. I later found that Fanny had been born at Illmire on 26 November 1848 to Reuben SMITH and Phebe SMITH, formerly CLARE.

## **In search of my Francis Bowler**

My next question was 'What could I know of Henry's parents, Francis and Ann BOWLER?' Almost certainly they were the ones married in St Mary's, Princes Risborough on 27 November 1830 – 'after banns and with consent of parents', but with no details given of their parents' names and no other clues other than that they were a bachelor and spinster of 'Summersley'.

The 1861 census revealed a 19-year-old Henry living in a household at Longwick headed by a Francis BOWLER, 65-year-old widower and labourer born at Longwick, with a 'lacemaker' daughter Maryann (27), son Thomas, who was an 11-year-old shepherd boy, and 5-year-old son Daniel also listed. The three elder children are all said to have been born at 'Summerleys'.

The 1851 census gave more details of this family living at Longwick, including confirmation that this Francis, then 55 years old, had a wife named Ann, reportedly then 37 years old; so she would have been the minor, requiring consent of parents – only 16 or 17 at marriage in 1830. Young brides were looking like a tradition among my Bowlers! Five children were listed: Mary Ann (18), Isaac (15), Henry (9), Sarah (6) and Thomas (1). Poor Ann seems to have ended, rather than begun, her life at 40: I found an Ann BOWLER had been buried in November 1854, but with a reported age of 44 so I cannot be sure of her end any more than her origin. I need to establish the birth or baptism of this Ann BOWLER born in either 1810 or 1814 – or somewhere between those dates.

I found an entry in the rather less detailed 1841 census for a 'head' named Francis BOWLER (40, gardener), accompanied by Ann BOWLER (27), Mary (8) and Isaac (5). So far so good: given the limitations of the details required in 1841, this all seemed to tally quite well with the later censuses.

I originally thought the censuses had given me all I could expect and looked to parish registers to add to my knowledge. And this is where I met my original BOWLER 'brick wall'. I did not find any Ann BOWLERS baptised at Risborough (or nearby) in the relevant years and I found two possible Francis BOWLER candidates – without knowing the name of my Francis's father.

## **Decades of stalemate**

The baptisms at Princes Risborough include several references to BOWLER children named Francis and several more to children of a Francis BOWLER, but only two seemed potentially relevant to my search:

Francis, son of Richard and Maria BOWLER  
Baptised on 30 August 1795

Francis, son of William and Sarah BOWLER  
Baptised on 6 November 1796

Both could have been listed as over 40 at the time of the 1841 census, and either 54 or 55 when the 1851 census was taken (assuming a correct age was recorded). In addition to my Francis (as described above) I found another Francis, with the following details:

1841 at Church Street, Princes Risborough  
Francis BOWLER (44) agricultural labourer, with Mary (44), Sophia (14), Ellen (10) and Anne (9m)

1851 at 2 The Butts, Princes Risborough  
Francis BOWLER (55) agricultural labourer, with wife Mary (55), lacemaker, and two daughters Helen (20) and Ann (11)

I had hoped to find something in the naming of the children to help me see which Francis (1795 or 1796) belonged to which parents, but there was nothing significant, let alone conclusive, about the names or the ages. So, there I was, stuck – until now!

## The breakthrough

Re-examining the census records this autumn, I found that the 1841 entry for 'my' Francis and family was at the bottom of one page of the enumerator's listing and, at the top of the next page, were two additional lines that belonged: Henry BOWLER (1 month) and William BOWLER (77), agricultural labourer. I had been assuming that Henry was born too late in the year to be included in the census, but of course it was taken in June on that occasion – not March or April as for later ones! And, best of all, here was a reference to a potential father for Francis. In fact, despite the absence of a Sarah, here almost certainly was the William Bowler father of the Francis baptised in November 1796.

I found also that, on 22 June 1793, a William BOWLER had married Sarah STEVENS, both of the parish of Princes Risborough. Furthermore, on 23 September 1798, Sarah, daughter of William and Sarah BOWLER, had been baptised and, on 10 October 1802, Jane, daughter of William and Sarah BOWLER.

When William lost his wife and whether he ever remarried, I have not been able to discover. There are few references to Sarah BOWLER events between 1802 and 1841, and certainly no more children of William and Sarah are mentioned, so I am wondering if the Sarah BOWLER (not otherwise described) buried on 9 December 1800 was William's wife. While this burial could have related to the infant daughter, it is not likely, not being entered in the form usual at that time. It does, however, presuppose that Jane was not baptised until a considerable time after her mother's death. Neither the William BOWLER married in 1814 nor the one married in 1838 fits the bill, neither being described as a widower and details of age and residence being unsuited.

If William was 77 (or thereabouts) in 1841, he would have been born about 1764, so my ancestor William was almost certainly the son of Samuel and Jane BOWLER who was baptised on 14 February 1762, being the only William BOWLER baptised at Princes Risborough church in the 1760s. The parents would then be the Samuel BOWLER and Jane LOOSELEY who married there on 21 October 1760.

## And now?

Sadly, there is no way of guaranteeing that parish registers are a complete and correct record of all events and, in the 18th century, they did not record the parentage of marriage partners, so I may well be stuck at this new brick wall for some time – and I probably don't have that much time left! – but this is a 'jumping off point' for some future researcher, and I feel happy to have (in lockdown) probably added two generations to my BOWLER ancestry.

It is because of the lacunas in the data and the tendency to give 'rough' ages rather than exact ones that I feel my case is not quite proven and I refer now to my 'gauze curtain'.

For example:

(1) I suspect that, somewhere along the line, William's true age of 79 in 1841 was incorrectly reported or transcribed as 77; and

(2) I would dearly like to know if my BOWLER ancestors were drifting in and out of Nonconformity during the 18th century and this accounts for 'gaps' in the registers of St Mary's. Does anyone have more information on this?

Sad to say, grateful as I am to John CADLE for stirring me into reviewing my information, I have yet to find a meeting of our ancestral lines at any point in the last 250 years. On the other hand, BOWLERS are so numerous at Princes Risborough and there is still so much to learn about them. 'Child bride' Ann remains a tantalising mystery!

*Wilfred Newman*

### **BFHS WEBSITE**

We have continued to increase the number of Monumental Inscriptions online. Visit the website and log in to the members' area to see what's available for members.

[www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)



# George Bulkeley

## Famous by Association

Tony Sargeant

There it was, a story coming together nicely, George BULKELEY had just moved from Gerrards Cross to Horton to be nearer his friends at Windsor. The year was 1837 and his wife had just given birth to his first child. Bulkeley also appeared in newspapers, attending horse racing meetings at Ascot, Egham and Epsom, finding a niche in society and a location suitable for a retired Captain of the 2nd Life Guards. A second child was born to the couple and both children were baptised on the 13 September 1838 at Horton.

From a research point of view, there were difficulties in putting together a decent history for George Bulkeley and his family. The 1841 census showed the family at Bansted, Sussex with a third child being born in Devon. In fact none of the censuses show any connection with Buckinghamshire. So why the interest?

I only came across the name George Bulkeley when reading an article in the *Windsor and Eton Express* of 17 February 1844 about the prosecution of three innkeepers in Horton for allowing gambling in their houses. The prosecution was only going ahead at the insistence of Captain George T Bulkeley of Horton and carried out by Mr WILLIAMS. Evidence was dependent on information from a William GARNHAM, more about him later.

In 1844, Eton Police Court was held at the (old) Christopher Inn in Eton High Street. The prosecution led to two innkeepers being fined one pound with one guinea costs each. Thomas LAWRENCE of the Five Bells in Horton was told he would lose his licence as this was a second offence. Bulkeley was in court that day to see justice done.

Further searches then led to an advert for the sale of the contents of Horton Manor in February 1845. This was due to the lease having lapsed and the

# Sales by Auction.

## HORTON HOUSE PARK,

NEAR THE CHURCH, HORTON, BUCKS,  
*Within One Mile of Colnbrook, and Four Miles from Windsor.*

### SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

*Richly Cut Glass, Dinner, Breakfast, and Tea Services,*

DOUBLE BARREL GUN BY PURDY,

A WELL-BRED HUNTING MARE EQUAL TO GREAT WEIGHT,

A GREY CART MARE,

*Three highly-bred Alderney Cows, Two Calves, Store Pigs,  
and other valuable out-door Effects.*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By Mr. TEBBOTT,

UPON THE PREMISES,

*On TUESDAY, February 18th, 1845, and following day, each  
day at Twelve for One o'clock precisely,*

*The property of George Bulkeley, Esq., his lease of the above  
Residence having expired ;*

goods of Mr G Bulkeley being sold off over two days. Everything was for sale, including the kitchen equipment and beds, dining furniture, curtains, kitchen utensils, along with cows, horses, and a Purdy gun with a set of pistols. So what happened?

Back to more newspaper searches, but these were frustrated due to poor OCR (optical character recognition) in the digitised British Newspaper Archive. So skim reading became the best way forward. The first conviction of Thomas Lawrence was found for allowing drunkenness at his house, the case brought by the insistence of Mr G Bulkeley as the local constables had decided not to bring a charge.

Then all the detail of the case at Eton reported on the 17 February 1844 started to make sense and explained the removal of Bulkeley from Horton.

As the informers in the case, including William Garnham, left the court they were accosted by a mob. There was a feeling that the innkeepers were victimised and being punished unfairly, with the informants and Bulkeley being to blame. Bulkeley returned to the court room and asked for an escort for the party. The group went and crossed the Thames into Windsor with the mob in pursuit.

Events are recounted in a case held the following week in Windsor. By crossing the Thames the group had also left the jurisdiction of Eton and Aylesbury courts in Buckinghamshire, moving to that of Windsor and Abingdon in Berkshire. Nothing was said about the Eton court case in Windsor, but the story would have been well known as *Windsor and Eton Express* had spread the news. When the cases of riot and assault were brought in Windsor, Mr G Bulkeley attended to support his associate William Garnham and prosecutor Mr Williams. This is not the place to repeat the trial but at the end of the first day, to get to where his horse was stabled, Bulkeley needed protection from the mob. The mob waited and 'greeted' him as he rode through Windsor towards Horton.

The second day of the trial brings one snippet which affects the search for reasons why George Bulkeley left Horton.

knowledge he was the man.  
Mr. Sleep—What is your name? The witness answered  
"Garnham."  
Mr. Sleep—That is one name, how many names have you?  
Witness said he had gone by the name of Varney.  
Mr. Sleep—Which is your real name?  
Witness—My real name is William Varney.  
Mr. Sleep—You have sworn your name was Garnham, is all  
the rest of your evidence as true as that is?  
Witness—Yes. [Some cheering among the auditory.]

So Garnham was not who he says he was, which did not help Bulkeley's reputation in the area. The case was sent to the Berkshire Assize at Abingdon and the Windsor Quarter Session for the lesser offences.

On Saturday 2 March 1844 the case opened with charges of riot, robbery and assault. William Varney (Garnham) was there, but it was not proved there was robbery as he had handed a sovereign to a landlady to pay for drink. Another charge was thrown out, leaving the defendants sentenced to six weeks in prison. In the *Windsor and Eton Express* there was talk about a liberal fund for the defendants' costs and defence. Several very respectable persons were making contributions. At the Windsor Quarter Sessions, two of the three minor offenders had the charges dismissed and the other was tried on lesser charges, as it was not possible to have a riot with only one person being charged for the offence. He was found not guilty. There is no indication that Bulkeley was present that day.

More work is needed to discover the effects of Bulkeley's pursuance of the innkeepers of Horton. Visiting his friends in Windsor would have been more perilous now he had a reputation in the town. Anybody in the village of Horton may have been more circumspect in having any dealings with him. It would be good to find any information on how the Buckinghamshire judiciary viewed the use of an informant who committed perjury by giving a false name.

In 1851 Bulkeley owned a racing stable at Newmarket. It is also another case of house yard and contents being sold off as he moved on.

An article published in the 1890s when Bulkeley was over 90 years old says nothing about his life after his time in the 2nd Life Guards. His main achievement appears to be having five sons who all joined the clergy. Also his brother was a director of the Great Western Railway after a career in the army. Somebody may be interested in proving that Captain George Bulkeley was not just famous by association – that appears to be the best way to describe him.

*Tony Sargeant*

# Constance Humphreys' Brill Memories (Part 2)

by Rosalind Cutler

My great-aunt, Constance HUMPHREYS, born in 1896, used to visit her grandparents, Emma and Henry KING who lived with their maiden daughter Kitty in Brill in the house (Southdene) that is now Brill Memorial Hall – mostly at Easter and during the summer. She and her brother Jack and sisters Catharine and Monica would be put on the train at Reading. Sometimes their mother and father, John and Alice, both of whom grew up in Brill would come too.

Before Constance died in 1994 she took time to write some of her memories of those far off days in England before the First World War.

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Brill vicarage has a tree-lined path from the house to Church Close. This ran along the other side of Southdene's garden (now Brill Memorial Hall) and on fete days and our Sunday School treats, large baskets of sausage rolls, lemon tartelettes, family buns etc were handed over the wall for the feast. If it was a fete, Brill Band played and little globes of thick coloured glass with night lights inside were placed round the flowerbeds, very romantic!

When there was a death in the village the church bell tolled once for a man, twice for a woman, and three times for a child. They pealed on Sundays ending up with a very high treble tinkly bell to hurry people up. This was said to be 'hope' for the wicked man, words said before the service began.

Two children, Basil and Andrew, lived at the vicarage. I can't remember Mrs DUTTARD but I was scared of the vicar. One day, in trying to escape from his attention, I fell up two steps between his study and the garden and he came to pick me up, which made things worse.

Another terror was old Mr JAMES who lived at 'The Grove'. He wore a black eye shade and had a red and green parrot on a perch behind his chair. One day in fear, going up the drive I wetted my pants and was taken back to Southdene by Aunt Kitty, in disgrace, but secretly relieved at not having to go further.

On Good Friday, if we were at Brill, we went to Chinkwell Wood in the afternoon, with Aunt Kitty who had escaped from the three-hour service. We knew we must not shout or even talk loudly because of nesting pheasants and the wood was so quiet, it was rather like being in church. The cock pheasants' call was the only noise. We loved it. Back to Southdene afterwards and a late tea, we all sat around the big kitchen table, big willow pattern plates, drinks of water in the middle and little balls of wool for tying up at our places and we 'bunched up' the primroses which were then taken down to the cellar for the night, ready for decorating the church windows the next day. Sloping boards were placed in the windows and covered with moss into which the little bunches of primroses were tucked to make Easter emblems of various kinds. In winter these boards were covered with red flannel and words worked out in glue were sprinkled with rice to make big white letters.

Another time when Southdene kitchen table came into our use was before going home again. A few days before, we went 'down the first green lane' (off Thame Lane) to a smallholding to order eggs and 'table birds' to take with us. I think the man's name was POINTER and the farm was Leatherslade, much later the hideout of the train robbers.

The day before we were leaving Mr Pointer would come to deliver the order. The eggs would be 3 or 4 score, squares of clean newspaper were provided, and we sat round the table wrapping each one into a neat little parcel. Finally, next morning, the birds wrapped in a cloth were placed in a huge basket (having been in the cellar all night) and the eggs were packed in all round them. Usually some of Mr WICHELOW's real pork sausages went too, the like of which has never been tasted since!

We drove in Joe HUNTER's wagonette sometimes to 'the camp' at Chilton, to cousins named MUMFORD. They had an ancient rocking horse with no eyes and no mane on which we all used to ride when small. We held on by



**A picnic in the Hayfield 1906. Constance is sitting between her sisters next to their Aunt Kitty on the picnic rug. Their grandfather Henry King, who lived in Brill, is sitting with brother Jack on his lap.**

sticking our thumbs into the eye sockets! Mrs Mumford gave us baskets of small sweet apples called 'summerlings'.

Sometimes we went to Grandfather's cousins Sarah and Bonnie TREADWELL at 'The Limes', Upper Winchendon. They had an old garden wall with bee boles built in on which the wicker bee boles (hives) sat. The honey was thick and almost white from the limes.

We went to Manor Farm, Boarstall to the REEDs (Mr Reed was a cousin of Father's). He was a big farmer, a JP, and a trusty adviser of all and sundry. We loved going there to tea and most holidays we ranged the farm and had an enormous dining-table tea, always with some special brand of bloater paste in a stone jar. They had three children, older than we were.

Some of Granny King's connections, the BROWNS, lived at Manor Farm, Piddington, a walk right across over Muswell Hill and down on the far side. John DRINKWATER's mother was a Brown and he often stayed there and is buried in the little churchyard. His wife was a violinist, Daisy KENNEDY, and they had a lot of musical friends and used to go every year on the anniversary of his death and sing madrigals at his grave.

When there was a show at Waddesdon Manor we had a day there. We saw old John Treadwell driving round in his phantom to judge the livestock, we went round the gardens – large beds of formal designs in geraniums, marguerites, salvias, heliotrope and variegated leaves. I remember the scent of the latter. Usually a display was given by some cavalry. Once I stood on my chair to have a better view and fell into the sunshade of a lady sitting in front. She was not amused.

We had picnics in the hayfield or (if it was a late second-crop) in 'The Walks' and occasionally to the 'Old Field', a lovely place for 'pretends', and if we had Captain WELLS with us he told fascinating stories of his life on sailing ships and in foreign parts and we used to get him to stand on the side of the islands and shout 'ship ahoy!'. (The Humphreys girls loved to act out stories and make up adventures: 'pretends')

We walked a lot and up Muswell Hill from which grandfather could point out nine counties; to Boarstall, and to the spa at Dorton. From one viewpoint we could see Long Wittenham Clumps, which seemed like seeing home (in Reading) from afar.

Southdene had a piano and a harmonium (never used), and piles of music, opera oratorios or songs, sheet music, part songs and glees, all of which we enjoyed. On Sunday evenings after church and supper we had a great hymn singing, each choosing a hymn in turn. Grandfather sang bass and Father tenor; Mother played the piano. Villagers, with no radio or telly, used to stand about outside to listen.

A notable Brill figure of our youth was BARDRICK, who was slightly mad. On Sundays he wore a sketchy Salvation Army uniform and rode a bicycle with



a drum tied on to its handlebars, and a trumpet round his neck and played Salvation Army hymns. He went right down Thame Lane and said he played and sang to the trees and flowers.

A great amusement was to watch Hall's Breweries open van unloading the barrels for Mr ROLFE's Red Lion pub (opposite Southdene where The Pointer is now). Mo and I sat on a red ottoman outside Granny's bedroom where, with feet up, we just fitted in. We saw nosebags put on the enormous horses, the barrels rolled down a short ladder and along to the cellars. I didn't know if this was weekly or more often, but it never failed to be an event.

At bedtime we went to say 'goodnight' to Grandfather, sitting at a table with an oil lamp, reading. He would push his spectacles up into his hair and kiss each of us, saying 'goodnight lovey-dear'. And so to bed!

Southdene had no domestic servants, but various helpers. Stephen SHARROCK fetched the spring water once a day or more often if required, in two buckets suspended from a wooden yoke on his shoulders. We loved to go down to the spring with him. He pumped up water for washing-day from the Southdene well, cleaned out the loo, and did some gardening. Mrs GUNTRIP from the cottages across the road came for washing and the ironing and came for any extra cleaning. One of her girls, Agnes (?) came to help with us when we were all there, and a boy, Tommy COX came to clean shoes etc.

Baker GIBSON occasionally made us each a miniature cottage loaf for which Granny Humphreys gave us individual pats of butter.

The bun man came very week, and his buns, toasted and lavishly buttered, were always a feature of Southdene breakfasts and / or teas.

We were at Brill at the end of the summer 1914. War news was very bad and communication was too, and after evensong on Sunday, which must have been about the time of Mons, the vicar announced that he had sent one of the boys on his bicycle to Thame to see the latest bulletin in the Post Office and report back, and that anyone who liked could wait in the churchyard to

await his return with the latest news. This we did in the porch and outside. It was all very tense, and when he came back, the news was still not good.

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During the First World War Constance and her sisters helped knit for the troops and care for wounded soldiers.

Afterwards she became a state registered nurse and was matron at St George's hospital and later became a certified midwife. She delivered babies at home for well-to-do families. She became very successful in top social circles, being handed round from one pregnant mother to another. She was midwife to the Weston family at least twice. They are the millionaire biscuit people who now own Fortnum & Mason. The Borthwick and Rab Butler families were also her clients.

During the Second World War she gave up nursing to look after her ailing parents. However after they died she went back to her career and became matron at the infirmary attached to Reading University. She only dealt with students but was a much loved fixture for several years until she reached retirement age. She returned to Buckinghamshire for her retirement in Gerrards Cross.

*Rosalind Cutler*

## **A Diabolical Letter**

An inflammatory and diabolical letter has been sent to Mr Kingham, the overseer of North Marston, Bucks, threatening to murder him for stopping money from the poor, adding that sooner than starve they will be up to their knees in blood and burn him in his house, if they cannot do for him in other ways. Mr Kingham has offered £10 reward to discover the writer.

*The Oxford Journal*  
19 December 1829

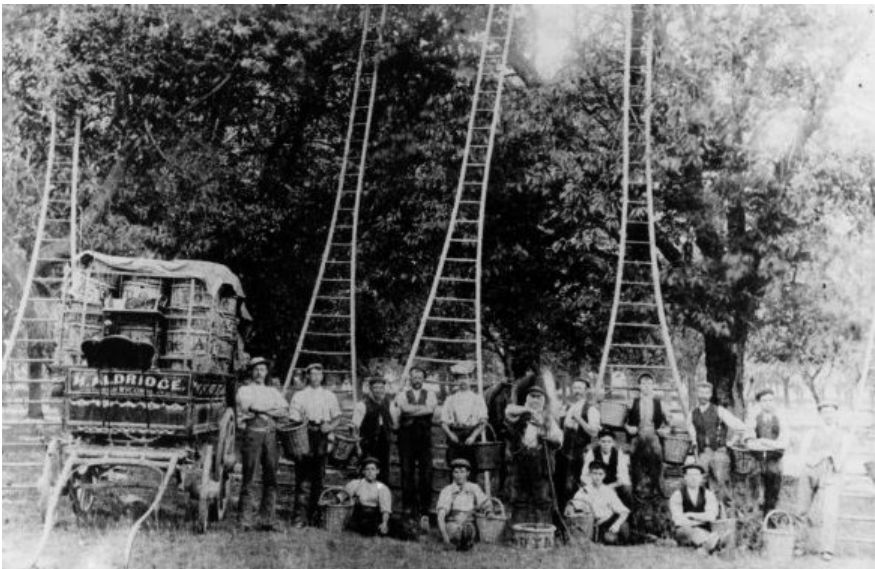
*Submitted by Howard Lambert*

# For Your Pies Only

John Gurney

The wild cherry has long been a native and well-known established tree in Chiltern woods. The Romans grew cherries at their Chiltern villas and by the start of the 17th century the wild cherry had been tamed and cultivated as a fruit tree.

Several Chiltern villages soon realised the importance of the cherry industry. Prestwood and Holmer Green had large commercial orchards but it was Flackwell Heath that had prettier smaller fields and meadows to accommodate their many cherry orchards and was regarded as the Queen of the Chiltern cherry villages. Techniques of grafting and budding on the native cherry trees were perfected and many cultivated variants developed locally on wild rootstocks included Frognoor, Bigaroo, Blackheart, Mirella, Huny, Bastard Black, Reynold Heart, Casher and Nap. The blackest cherries were favoured for making the famous Flackwell Heath cherry pies or turnovers.



**Pickers for H Aldridge with their wide-based ladders in the 1900s**

*With permission from Ann Wheals/BERA (Bourne End Residents Assoc) via SWOP*

There were two main events to mark the cherry season. Cherry Blossom Sunday in April would coincide most closely to the peak blossom display and visitors from Wycombe and surrounding areas would flock to the village to admire the trees. The landlords of the Flackwell Heath public houses would ensure that there was a good supply of ale to fortify the many visitors before their long walk home. In July the Cherry Fayre would mark the completion of the cherry picking season and the turnovers would be in plentiful supply on the stalls.

The annual Cherry Fayre was regarded as an occasion of revelry and celebration. It was well established by 1788 when a sermon preached by a visiting minister denounced the locals for their 'vanity, riot, profaneness and sabbath-breaking' during the cherry season. The Fayre lapsed due to the demise of the orchards but was revived in 2005.

Most of the residents of Flackwell Heath would be involved in the cherry harvest. Many children would play truant to earn a few pennies as 'bird starvers' using anything making a loud noise to keep blackbirds and starlings away from the rapidly ripening crop. Adults would take unofficial leave from their regular employment for two weeks, as an experienced cherry picker could earn up to three times more than say a mill worker.

The last cherry orchard in Flackwell Heath was planted in 1889 and sadly none survive today due to the land rapidly being required for the post-war building boom of the 1950s and 1960s. It would be very interesting to know if any locals still make the turnovers in the traditional way today.

*John Gurney*

## **Bucks Archives**

Although currently closed (January 2021) do check the website for the Bucks Archive blog and online resources you can use during lockdown

[buckscc.gov.uk/buckinghamshire-archives-blog/](https://buckscc.gov.uk/buckinghamshire-archives-blog/)

# Two Baptisms or Two People?

Tony Sargeant

Sometimes you may find two entries in separate registers seemingly for the same event for the same person. There may be many reasons (or indeed no reason) why some entries are duplicated. But knowing what is happening locally or nationally will give you context to work out why this might have happened and provide a better view of your ancestors' lives.

## **The curious case of William Stansom**

William Stansom appears in two baptism registers. Both the registers are Non-conformist and the entries have the same dates. So what is happening here?

The Wooburn Independent Bethel Chapel register is not in a printed form book, the entries are written on a blank page (ref RG4/320).

The Poyle Independent Chapel entry is on the standard printed register page and is signed by the Minister Joshua Harrison, Wooburn. The first pages of the register for Poyle (ref RG/2568) appear to have all been written at the same sitting, as they also include the entries for William Stansom's siblings. Poyle chapel opened in 1823.

The Poyle baptism entry states that the Stansom family were 'of Colnbrook in the Parish of Langley' and they were living in Colnbrook at the time of the 1841 census. Poyle was in the adjoining parish of Stanwell. In the first three pages of the Poyle register 18 of the 24 entries appear to be from elsewhere.

Entries in Non-conformist chapel registers created a 'history' for a newly formed chapel. Such a history confirmed that the founding members had the proper standing to play an active part in that chapel congregation. The congregation itself had the authority to continue to decide who could join

the congregation and to deal with or expel people for misdemeanours. Non-conformist chapels did not have a hierarchy like the Anglican church to decide these matters, so that's why it was important to have a record of each member's baptism in the chapel's own registers, even if that baptism took place elsewhere.

It is likely therefore that William Stansom's baptism took place originally at Wooburn but is recorded again at Poyle when the family joined the new chapel there.

## **Dorothy Reading or Dorothy Reding or two separate people?**

Here is an example of duplication occurring in registers of the established church. When looking at a problem for somebody else I came across two entries.

In the Beaconsfield parish register:

1 Jun 1682 Dorothy born 19 May 1682 daughter of Thomas & Joanna REDING of Seeregreene in the parish of Farnham

In the Farnham parish register:

Dorothy READING the daughter of Thomas Reading and Joana his wife was baptised May 19 1682 was baptised May the 14 [sic]

Clearly this needed some more work to decide what is happening. Searching the Farnham parish register further led to another entry for the baptism of a brother Andrew in 1687. He has a corresponding entry in the Beaconsfield parish register on the 12 May 1687:

Andrewe born 5 May 1687 son of Thomas REDING of Seeregreene near the parish of Farnham Royall

Looking at a map will show the relevance of location here. Holy Trinity Seer Green and Jordans wasn't built until the 1840s. The inhabitants of Seer Green and nearby Jordans therefore had to travel over five miles to their

parish church at Farnham Royal. This was a long distance to travel on foot for worship – with two services on Sundays. It is no surprise then that baptisms took place in Beaconsfield – some three miles closer and saving at least an hour's walk. There are other examples of people from Seer Green being baptised in Chalfont St Giles and Chalfont St Peter.

So if Dorothy and Thomas' baptisms took place at Beaconsfield, why are the entries in the Farnham registers?

Studying religious life after the restoration of Charles II in 1660 can shed some light on this. Non-conformist congregations of Baptists and Quakers had flourished during the Commonwealth and they were not going to suddenly disappear when the Church of England returned as the established church. In 1669 countrywide surveys were carried out to assess the situation and incumbents had to account for their parish. The questions and answers are illuminating and show the problems for the established church. The answers to these surveys for Buckinghamshire are published by the Buckinghamshire Records Society in their *Buckinghamshire Dissent and Parish Life 1669–1712*, Volume 28, edited by John Broad and published in 1993.

The incumbent at Farnham Royal, the rector John Bassett, reported that Quakers met at George Slater's house with 50 or 60 attending; also that they were 'of the vulgar sort; few of quality appear among them'. Bassett went on to say he hoped an active civil magistrate may suppress them. He would also have known about the Quaker meetings at Jordans and Hedgerley Dean.

Ultimately, any baptism of parishioners, even if carried out at Beaconsfield, would be collected and have an entry in the parish register to show the incumbent was doing his best and was creating a large congregation.

There could subsequently be other factors involved with the death of Charles II in 1685. The religious situation became less stable with James II and the birth of his son on the 10 June 1688 and the arrival of William of Orange later that year.

*Tony Sargeant*

# Guttridges at Lane End

Joe Guttridge

My old Dad was Harold William GUTTRIDGE (known variously as Bill, or Mick – although he always said he didn't mind what he was called as long as it wasn't late for dinner!). Like many of his generation he had a pretty Victorian view of family morality.

So when someone pointed out that his own grandparents' marriage took place barely three months before the birth of their first child, his father Harry, Dad took a very dim view of it. Mum was more philosophical, she felt it was a pragmatic approach to ensuring that any potential wife was reliably fertile! I suspect it just happened, the way these things do.

Whatever the circumstances, the fact is that Charlie Wag GUTTRIDGE married Eliza Hannah TRENDALL in January 1878 and that their son Harry Guttridge came along barely three months later.

So how did this all come about?

Eliza was from Ditchfield which is near, if not in, Lane End. It is interesting that well before Eliza met Charlie, let alone married him, she was, according to the census of 1861, living next door to a certain Ann MEAKES. And this Ann Meakes was later to marry Charlie Wags' father after he lost his first wife, Emma.

The plot thickens!

## William Guttridge

We have to trace the players in this tale back to well before the turn of the 18th to the 19th century.



In 1785, according to the parish records, William Guttridge, a shepherd I think, was born in Whitchurch, Oxon. Just a few miles upriver from Medmenham.

By 1841, when the census took place, William was living at Hambleden in south Buckinghamshire. He had a wife, Mary (probably née CLEMENTS, who possibly died 1873), the same age as him, and five kids. There was Anne (19), Charles (18), Robert (my great, great-grandad) (14), Jane (10) and Mary (8). William was noted as being an 'A Lab' (presumably an agricultural labourer). I have an idea that William may have been married before to a Sarah FINCH (b. 1796? d. 1816?) and had, by her, a son James Guttridge, born in 1815. But Robert Guttridge, my great great-grandfather, was certainly in Hambleden in 1841, living with his parents and a covey of young Guttridges.

## **Robert Guttridge**

In 1830 Emma MARCHAM, my great-great-grandmother was born, not far away, in Harpsden, the other side of Henley.

My great great-grandparents Emma and Robert married and, by 1861, they were living in Hambleden with number one son Charles Guttridge, born 1858 and Henry, born 1861. Charles was my great-grandfather, a larger-than-life figure, still remembered as 'Charlie Wag' in the village of Lane End – where I was to live a century later.

Sadly, Emma died young, although there is no record found so far to confirm her death. But the fact is records show on 28 August 1864 Robert, then recorded as a widower, married Ann Meakes, the daughter of Joshua Meakes, the blacksmith at the nearby village of Lane End. (Note: Meakes were then general blacksmiths operating where they remain today, on Ditchfield Common.)

And poor old Charlie Wag loses not only his dear old Mum, but his home too. Census records show that Charlie Wag, by 1871, was living with his maternal aunt, Sarah Marcham and her husband at Swyncombe in south Oxfordshire, where Charlie Wag was assistant gamekeeper to his uncle. But his uncle and aunt were soon to separate, and Charlie Wag would be on the move again.

The same census, in 1871, has Robert, his father, living at Pheasants Hill, near Hambleden with his new wife Anne, Henry (his son by his first marriage) and a clutch of young Guttridges.

But by 1881 Robert had moved again to Medmenham, where he was carpenter to the Scott Murray family at the Danesfield House Estate, living in Danesfield Lodge.

This seems to support, perhaps explain, a story my mother had been told by my grandfather, to the effect that Charlie Wag had walked, maybe run away, from Swyncombe to Medmenham as a child. Also it may explain references I had heard my father make to a 'Granny Guttridge' in Medmenham.

## **Charlie Wag Guttridge**

So what happened? We can only guess, hypothesize.

It is certainly a fact that in 1881 the census has Charlie Wag married, was living in Lane End, was working as a blacksmith and has my old grandad, Harry, later to become the Medmenham ferryman, then a child aged 3.

How come?

Well, Robert Guttridge's wife Ann Meakes, Charlie's stepmother, was the daughter of the blacksmith at Lane End according to the marriage certificate.

So perhaps Ann, confronted by a returning stepson to a full-ish nest at Danesfield Lodge, pulled a few strings and got him a job at her father's blacksmiths shop in Ditchfield, near Lane End.

Maybe Charlie Wag lived in to begin with, maybe with the blacksmiths and next door to his future wife. Possibly Ann introduced him to the girl next door. Who knows? Certainly by late 1877 Eliza Trendall ('Ly'), daughter of a respectable shoemaker, was pregnant. And in January 1878 Charlie Wag had made an 'honest woman' of her! Maybe they lived there with the Meakes family as a couple initially following his discovery of the impending birth and subsequent marriage. I can well imagine the situation, girl next door 'in trouble', rapid wedding to satisfy the sensibilities of the day, move

in with the in-laws or employer for the birth and, maybe, a move away from possibly not too well pleased in-laws (respectable tradespeople, his father-in-law Thomas Trendall was listed as a shoemaker).

It is certainly not surprising that a young man moving in the 1870s to a new job in a new area should become involved with an attractive young woman of his own age living next door to his work!

So, what of those early years at Lane End? I know my mother was very firm that my Grandad had told her he was born in a cottage in the Ditchfield area of Lane End, near the present Lane End church. And that the cottage was, she was told, long since (by the 1960s) demolished. Now Grandad was born in April 1878, around the time that the new church was built in Lane End. So it may well be the cottage was demolished to make way for the church.

Now the Charlie Wag of some fame in Lane End was always known as the blacksmith at the local iron foundry, a well established business in Lane End, not at Meakes the blacksmiths, where my hypothesis has him moving initially following his walk from Swyncombe to Medmenham.

So when did Charlie Wag start work at Lane End foundry? He was certainly there when the foundry was operated by Walter HOBBS (1835–1902), according to the *Bucks Free Press* article reporting his diamond wedding celebration in 1938. Walter Hobbs took over the foundry from his father, James Smith Hobbs (1810–1870), in around 1862 and the business was reported at the time of Walter's death as having been in the foundry for generations.

Now, if Charlie Wag and Ly were initially at Ditchfield, they were not there for long. In the 1881 census we find the family living in a cottage in Lane End village, next door to the Old Sun pub ('Wethereds Marlow Ales') in the centre of Lane End. By this time there are five of them in the house: Charlie Wag, Ly, their two children Harry (Grandad) and Emma, and Charlie Wag's half-brother William John as well. They were not living there for long. I believe them to have moved very soon to the home in 'The Row' that they would occupy for nearly 60 years, at what would come to be known as 'Guttriges' Corner'.

And we know Charlie Wag was living at this house (his home until 1938, now known as Blacksmiths Cottage) in the 1891 census. This house, one of a pair of semi-detached cottages was built in 1882 and I presumed Charlie Wag moved there when it was built. In the 1891 census both the semi-detached cottages were occupied by blacksmiths, so it seems reasonable to presume these were tied cottages for the blacksmiths at Hobbs Foundry. When I lived in Lane End in the 1960s this house was lived in by Frank COKER, who had married Charlie Wag's daughter Margaret (known as 'Aunt Doll' by Dad). It was known as 'Cokers Corner' then, but older villagers still referred to it as 'Guttridges Corner'. I first knew the house when we visited in the 1950s when Dad's Aunt Doll still lived there.

So my belief is that Charlie Wag and Ly moved from Ly's home village of Ditchfield to Guttridges' Corner, via a cottage next door to the Old Sun pub, within the first four years of their marriage.

And each weekday morning, for approaching 60 years, Charlie Wag would walk from his home in The Row, up past Cobden Stores (that my father would buy and run in the 1960s and 1970s), past the Chairmakers Arms, past Walnut Tree Cottage (where I would later live in the 1960s), to Lane End Foundry. And in the evening, back home he would go.

Except on a Friday afternoon, so my shopkeeper mother would be told by her Lane End customers. On payday Charlie Wag would walk back, but would stop at the Chairmakers Arms. He would, she heard, split his pay into two halves, saying one half was Ly's and the other was Charlie's. And in the Chairmakers he would stay until his own half was well depleted.

Charlie Wag was very much a larger-than-life figure. Nearly 30 years after his death people still remembered him vividly. Henry JUDGE, himself quite a colourful character living behind the top pond, between Lane End Sawmills and the Methodist Chapel, told me of one of his own encounters with Charlie Wag.

Henry and another lad were taunting Charlie Wag as he walked down from the Foundry (or possibly the Chairmakers Arms) to his home towards Park Lane. Charlie Wag was known for his physical strength, as would be

expected in a blacksmith. Apparently Henry and his mate got too close, allowing Charlie Wag to grab both of them. Henry told me he held them both out at arms length, either side, and walked down to his house. He took them inside, closed the door, seated them in the front room and started to strop a carving knife on his 'steel', saying as he did so, 'now, are you going to start calling after me again you young b----rs?'. His wife Eliza was petrified and begged him to stop. Apparently Henry and his mate were terrified. Henry never forgot it.



**The cast iron pig trough  
'Hobbs Maker Lane End'**

I have only one possession remaining relating to Charlie Wag. When Frank Coker, his son-in-law, died in the 1980s I was, sadly, too late to intercept a lot of papers and photos that were simply dumped into a skip. But I did manage to buy a cast iron pig trough, which I still use to this day. And still embossed on the trough, clearly visible, is the legend 'Hobbs Maker Lane End'.

Another tale, remembered in the village, was of Charlie Wag carrying a tap room table in his teeth, out through the front door of the Chairmakers Arms, around the pub sign and back in – all for a bet. Another person who recalled

Charlie was Clarry COKER (no relation to Frank) of Moor Common, with whom I worked at Lane End Sawmills in the 1960s.

There was some tale of another bet or dare, involving standing on his head on top of West Wycombe 'ball' (the golden ball atop West Wycombe parish church). Tales of this particular exploit by many people are legion, but not

generally acknowledged as factual. Now, I can't pretend to have any proof that what Clarry told me was true, but I have found a photo that shows that Clarry himself certainly did 'do the deed'.

## **The family of Charlie Wag and Ly**

Enough of Charlie Wag. What of Ly? What of the rest of the family?

They had a total of eight children I believe, of whom five survived beyond a year old to my knowledge. Harry, the eldest and my grandfather, left home in 1903 and his subsequent life I will deal with separately. He trained as a wheelwright in Lane End and I believe his apprenticeship was served at a workshop at the back of the Peacock pub at Bolter End. I have a photo of Harry at this time, with his workmates (all names are on the back). Suffice to say I remember Grandad well and fondly, a chip off the old block when younger I think, but steadying down as family responsibilities grew! He lived with us towards the end of his life. Our eldest son is named for him. Harry's life in Medmenham will form a separate recollection in a later tale.



**Harry, 4th from left, near the Peacock public house at Bolter End c 1900**

Of Emma born in 1880, I know nothing beyond the fact that in the 1891 census she was still at school and living at home, and by the 1901 census she had fled the nest.

Of Ellen, I know a little. Aunt Nell she was known as. I remember visiting her in the 1950s. The thing that has stuck in my memory of this visit was the pair of ostrich eggs on the mantelpiece! Strange how things like that stick in the memory. She married a policeman, Jack DUNN in 1904 and lived in Newport Pagnell. She had a son, another Jack Dunn, a factory inspector whom I recall visiting at his home in Oxted near Birkenhead in the 1960s. After Ly died in 1938, Charlie Wag went to live with Aunt Nell, remaining there until his death in 1941.



**Tom Guttridge, c 1911**

Tom Guttridge, born 20 April 1887, was I suspect more like his mother. He was recalled as being involved with the Methodist Church in his youth. He emigrated to Australia before the Great War, dying in Sydney in 1915 – but not before marrying (23 December 1911 to Eva Giles) and fathering a daughter, Peggy Malvina.

Peggy married a Thomas O'Toole and returned to England, settling and raising a family in the Oxfordshire village of Filkins.

Ly, I like to think, was the steady influence behind the family. Harry was, as I implied earlier, something of a 'lad' in his youth. Aunt Doll told my mother of him returning, unsteadily, from the pub one night and leaning over her as she lay in bed, with the oil lamp in his hand, regaling her with his exploits. She was terrified the house would go up in flames, she said.

However, he must have kept himself fit, as he was one of the founding members of Lane End Football Club, still, as far as I know, thriving today.



**Ly and Charlie outside Park Lane Villa, 1938**



I have Harry's Bible still and it is surely a sign of Ly's attitude and concerns for Harry that she inscribed the flyleaf as she did. Possibly it was Ly's beliefs that rubbed off on Charlie Wag in one, at least, of his pastimes. He was an accomplished bell-ringer. Mum was told that he was part of the group of ringers that rang the only full peal of bells to be rung at Lane End church, back in 1878!

But Harry left Lane End after his marriage in 1903, to become wheelwright, carpenter and ferryman at Medmenham Abbey.

One of the last photos of Ly, taken shortly before her death in 1938, shows her sitting with Charlie Wag outside the old Lane End home front door. She, I was told, is holding her Bible, Charlie Wag looking perky, if hirsute!

Sadly, perhaps understandably, Charlie Wag did not long survive Ly. By 1939 he had left Lane End, over 60 years after first coming there, living his last days (he died in 1941) with his daughter Nell Dunn in Newport Pagnell.

Happily, it seems their remains were to be interred in Lane End churchyard, Ly on 4 January 1939, Charlie Wag on 2 December 1941. Their grave is unmarked and I have been unable to find its whereabouts in the churchyard.

So closed a chapter for his family, in Lane End at least, which would re-open when my old dad, Harold William Guttridge, bought Cobden Stores from Tiggie HARRIS in the late 1950s. We later bought Walnut Tree Cottage from the LINE family after the death of Eliza Line, herself the widow of John Line, one time iron moulder at Lane End Foundry, with whom Charlie Wag had worked for so many years.

*Joe Guttridge*

*All photos from the author's own collection.*

# Problematic Occupations

Tony Sargeant

Does your ancestor have an occupation that is now a problem in modern society? In this instance I'm talking specifically about being in the arms trade, although there could be other examples.

For Britain the arms trade was born out of the First and Second World Wars, going through peaks and troughs as governments press for advantage or have the need to protect. There were lots of warnings before the Second World War with changes in German politics and the Munich Crisis.

An example career is that of William Clark, an aircraftman who was in the Royal Naval Air Service in Malta; he returned to England to complete his apprenticeship, then married and emigrated to New York. The Great Depression in the 1920s forced his return to England once more. It was probably his war service rather than his career as an engraver that allowed him to join Hawker Aircraft at Kingston upon Thames. More work is needed to find about his early career, although we know he was managing a factory in Langley from 1942. Hawkers became a successful company but suddenly had to change direction when all the contracts were cancelled. I'm sure many people lost jobs at factories when the production lines stopped.



For many European countries, after the Second World War was a time of rebuilding military forces after years of occupation. Cautious times with unknown threats. The photograph on page 48 was taken at Langley at the handover of a Sea Fury fitted with an arrester hook for Carrier Operations with the Netherlands Navy, taken after April 1945. The row of chimneys silhouetted on the horizon behind the cockpit dome is Willoughby Road, Langley.

From 1948 to 1952 members of the newly formed Pakistan Air Force were regular visitors to Langley as they purchased 93 Sea Fury aircraft. The picture below shows two men with pipes, one of them my grandfather, selling aircraft to two men with hats. There is concern about the arms trade in modern times, but creating export opportunities helped Great Britain's recovery after the Second World War. The Hawker factory may have been working at a more leisurely pace when compared to the frantic days of 1940, but it was still providing work for local people and suppliers like High Duty Alloys on Slough Trading Estate.



The factory at Langley was not to last. The expansion of the new airport at London Airport (Heathrow) was assured with government money being spent on it. But there were murky dealings – London Airport was created through subterfuge by Harold Balfour then Under-Secretary of State for Air. The Defence of the Realm Act 1914 was used to take Fairy Aviation’s airfield and the surrounding farmland against the wishes of the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Production. This admission appeared in Balfour’s autobiography in ‘Wings over Westminster’.

Hawkers needed an airfield without the crowded skies surrounding London Airport and they eventually moved to Dunsfold in 1953. Some say Langley was not suitable for jet aircraft as it had grass runways but the main reason was the proximity of London Airport, which made any investment in runways not viable.

Sales of aircraft continued. The last photograph, taken at Dunsfold, shows pilots from the Indian Air Force training on Hunters (1950s?). Once enough training had been carried out, the aircraft were flown to India. (The airmen named in this picture have been found on the Indian Airforce research site <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/IAF/#gsc.tab=0>)



It must be said that terrible mistakes were made during the partition of India in 1947, an event that changed the lives of many people in three countries. The changes affect us all and arms manufacturers continue to make sales where there is tension in the world. In 1954 Pakistan had purchased the North American Aviation F-86. The Indian and Pakistani Air Forces later clashed in the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War.

*Tony Sargeant*

*All photos from the author's own collection.*

# St Mary, Addington

**Yvonne Parker visits parish churches in Buckinghamshire.  
For more examples, visit our Facebook Group.**

Off the A413 road from Winslow to Buckingham is the small secluded hamlet of Addington, home to St Mary's, a lovely little church with a long history. Originally the site of a Saxon church, probably demolished in the 12th century by the Normans, the nave of the replacement Norman church can still be seen in the outline of the present building. In the 12th century one of the Lords of the Manor gave the church to the Knights of St John, to aid pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem.



**St Mary, Addington**

Like many others in Buckinghamshire, St Mary's Church went through troubled times during the 15th and 16th centuries and during the English Civil War the village of Addington temporarily became home to several hundred dragoons from the Parliamentary army.

In 1857 renovations were undertaken by G E Street. During the works, a wall was demolished and found hidden in the wall were six books, once owned by Thomas Andrews, who was the priest at St Mary's in 1576. This was during the time that Henry VIII had ordered the destruction of all Catholic books. Apparently Thomas was very fond of the books and indeed they would have been very valuable. He therefore had hidden them, along with a portable altar inscribed with his initials 'TA' and decorated with five crosses. When the altar was rebuilt, this small slate was incorporated into it. Also during this renovation a collection of Dutch roundels from the 16th and 17th centuries illustrating Biblical scenes was installed high in the Chancel.

One of the Rectors in the interwar years was Gerard Olivier (father of late actor Laurence Olivier). He was an Anglo-Catholic, one of those trying to recreate a catholic Church of England. Laurence Olivier apparently sang in the choir as a boy.

Today, Addington is one of three parishes forming the Benefice of Winslow with Great Horwood and Addington.

## HELP OFFERED

Member Joe Guttridge has a copy of the book *Home Guard Bux 4: Records and Reminiscences of the 4th Buckinghamshire Battalion Home Guard* by Lieutenant Colonel L W Kentish (1945). This story of the South Bucks Home Guard contains many details and reminiscences from various local home guard companies.

Joe has offered to look up entries for any Society members who may wish to know the general sort of things that are contained in the book or information about a specific company. It covers the areas of South Bucks including Princes Risborough, Wycombe, Wooburn, Marlow, Stokenchurch and Walters Ash. Generally 'people' information is restricted to commissioned officers. (There is also a copy at Bucks Archives in Aylesbury.) Thank you Joe for this kind offer.

**Joe Guttridge**

**Email: [joeg@gnarleycottageservices.co.uk](mailto:joeg@gnarleycottageservices.co.uk), Tel: 01455 290714**

# HELP WANTED



Send your request to the Editor.  
Please include your Membership Number  
and provide contact details.

Email: [editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)

Research queries, mystery photos – all welcome.

Reach our members who don't use our  
online social media platforms!

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## BETTS, HAINES, LAWRENCE, EDWARDS

My ancestors mostly come from Oxfordshire but the results of an mtDNA test show a very close maternal connection to the Buckinghamshire area close to the Oxon border. I wonder therefore if there are any BFHS members who have any of the following ladies in their tree.

Mary BETTS b. 1758 Twyford, married John HAINES 1781 Twyford

Elizabeth HAINES b. 1783 Marsh Gibbon married William LAWRENCE 1804 Barton Hartshorn

Mary LAWRENCE b. 1804 Lower Winchendon married William EDWARDS 1822 Lower Winchendon

Edith EDWARDS b. 1827 Chilton married William SLATTER 1848 Chilton

I am trying to connect this family to my 4 x great-grandmother Ann COOPER who married in Bicester, Oxon in 1778. I have not yet found a birth/baptism for her.

**Gillian Talbot**

**Email: [gdtalbot@hotmail.fr](mailto:gdtalbot@hotmail.fr)**

## TAMBOUR BEADERS

The Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes project is looking for people who might remember their mothers, grandmothers, aunties etc based in the Chilterns who did tambour beading, working for agents delivering supplies and collecting work for the London fashion houses. This might even have included dresses for *Come Dancing!*

We are also looking for people who might like to listen to oral history interviews recorded any time between the 1960s and the 1980s and to write short summaries of their content. We have digitised versions of these interviews and can email them, together with a brief.

Do get in touch if you have any memories, photos or information to share.

See the project website: <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/woodlanders-lives.html>  
The project area is shown at: <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/projects/CCC.html>

**Email: [Helena.Chance@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Helena.Chance@bucks.ac.uk)**

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## ANGLO-BOER WAR VETERANS

I am currently researching a book on veterans of the Anglo-Boer War. I am enquiring whether any members have, and would like to share with me, any information regarding family members who returned from the fighting in South Africa during the years 1899 to 1902. I am especially interested in any primary documents members may wish to share which reveal information about the lives of their ancestors after the Boer War.

This would be a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the research of a niche social history. Contributors would of course, be credited and acknowledged for their assistance in the final copy of the book. All sources they may provide will also be acknowledged to them personally.

**George Tanton**

**Email: [george.ross.tanton@outlook.com](mailto:george.ross.tanton@outlook.com)**



**Do you have ancestors in  
Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,  
Essex, Hampshire, Gloucestershire,  
Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire,  
Warwickshire, Wiltshire or Worcestershire?**

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# Buckinghamshire FHS SOCIETY SERVICES

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- Libraries containing publications of local and general interest
- Publications for sale

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- Please send your order for publications or for searches to the address specified.
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- If you are writing to the Society address, to avoid delay please ensure the name of the service and volunteer you wish to contact is included in the address on the envelope.

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Please refer to the individual services notices on the following pages

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Made payable to 'Buckinghamshire Family History Society' and drawn on a UK clearing bank. For sums less than £2.00 please send equivalent value in postage stamps instead.

- **Credit Card**

We are able to process credit card transactions through our website for membership, publications and searches. Please visit our shop at <https://shop.bucksfhs.org.uk> to place your order.

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Stamped addressed envelopes must be supplied for a written reply, otherwise please give an email address. Please do NOT use the prices in the online shop when purchasing items by post, as this will delay your order. There is a separate price list available for download online.

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## Other notes

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# Society Publications

## Bucks FHS Publications

Bucks FHS has published parish registers, 1851 census and miscellaneous records available for purchase variously on CD and printed formats.

CDs are designed for Windows systems and are NOT compatible with Apple Mac systems. Microfiche (fiche) require a microfiche reader. Many libraries and Record Offices have microfiche readers.

### To purchase items by post:

- For a catalogue, please send a C5 sae (162 x 229 mm).
- See 'how to pay' on the introduction pages to this section
- Use the details in the catalogue for prices including P&P charges for postal purchases – Please do NOT use the prices in the online shop when purchasing items by post, as this will delay your order.

### To purchase items online:

Consult the Society's online shop on the website at <https://shop.bucksfhs.org.uk>

### Contact

Bucks FHS Publications, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

**Email:** [printed.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:printed.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk) (for printed publications)  
[cd.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:cd.publications@bucksfhs.org.uk) (for CD & DVD)

# Search Service

## CBS look up (Members Only)

A search of a specific type of record will be undertaken for members by volunteers at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (CBS) in Aylesbury.

For each member, the time spent on searches will be limited to 2 hours per annum. Further time may be made available to a member with a donation to the Society's funds.

Requests should be sent by email to the Search Service with details of the type of record and the time period to be searched together with your Membership Number. Searches will normally be undertaken and the results reported back to the member within 21 days.

### Contact

CBS Look up, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

**Email:** [cbinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:cbinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Database Searches

## Baptisms and Burials

This searchable database is an on-going transcription of baptism and burial entries from deposited Buckinghamshire parish registers 1538 to 1908.

The following options apply to a baptism **OR** a burial search – please specify which you require:

- Option 1: Single Baptism OR Burial Search – first name and surname £1
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*(Options 3 & 4 are available to members only)*

Results sent by email, or by post as a print out (please include large sae and loose stamps for postal option). Visit <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>, email or send an sae for a list of parishes and dates in the database.

Payment for baptism and burial searches can be sent by post (by cheque, postage stamps). Credit card payments can be made online; please email for details.

### Contact

Madeleine Harvey, BFHS Baptisms, 1 Drove Cottages, Newhaven Road, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HD

**Email:** [baptisms@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:baptisms@bucksfhs.org.uk)

## Marriages

This searchable database contains transcripts of marriage entries from deposited Buckinghamshire parish registers. It is fully transcribed from 1538 to 1837, with many parishes up to 1908.

- Option 1: Single Marriage Search – first name and surname £1
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- Option 3: Single Surname Search – all available parishes, all years £10

*(Option 3 is available to members only)*

Results sent by email, or by post as a print out (please include large sae and loose stamps for postal option). Visit <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>, email or send an sae for a list of parishes and dates in the database.

Payment for marriage searches can be sent by post (by cheque, postage stamps). Credit card payments can be made online; please email for details.

### Contact

Marilyn Blake, BFHS Marriages, 5 Mandeville Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2BD

**Email:** [marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Society Libraries

## Exchange Journals Library

Contains copies of other Societies' journals from home and abroad.

The Society exchanges journals with a large number of other family history societies both in this country and overseas. The librarian keeps the three most recent journals of each society.

Members may borrow journals for up to a month by post or at the Central or North Bucks meetings. Those borrowing by post are asked to reimburse the small postal charges.

### Contact

Exchange Journals Librarian, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

**Email:** [magexchange@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:magexchange@bucksfhs.org.uk)

## Take a look at our FACEBOOK GROUP

Our new Facebook group (which is separate to our Facebook page) is proving popular. There are now over 80 photos of Bucks churches and chapels. Members are beginning to share research interests, and some have already found common ancestors and other links. It's also a good source of news about family history developments, and the various events and shows that BFHS will be attending during the year.



# Useful Contacts

**Buckinghamshire Archives (formerly CBS)**  
County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UU  
[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Record Office** Tel: 01296 382587  
Email: [archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Local Studies** Tel: 01296 382250  
(Currently closed)

**High Wycombe Library**  
5 Eden Place, High Wycombe,  
Bucks, HP11 2DH  
Tel: 01296 382415  
Email: [lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Milton Keynes Local Studies  
and Family History Library**  
555 Silbury Boulevard,  
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 3HL  
Tel: 01908 254051

**Slough Library**  
The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY  
Tel: 01753 875533  
Email: [library@slough.gov.uk](mailto:library@slough.gov.uk)

**Chesham Library**  
Elgiva Lane, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2JD  
Tel: 01296 382415  
Email: [lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Buckingham Library**  
Verney Close, Buckingham,  
Bucks, MK18 1JP  
Tel: 01296 382415  
Email: [lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Society of Genealogists**  
14 Charterhouse Buildings,  
Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA  
Tel: 020 7251 8799  
[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

**The National Archives**  
Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond,  
Surrey, TW9 4DU  
Tel: 020 8876 3444  
Email: [enquiry@pro.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@pro.gov.uk)  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**General Register Office**  
PO Box 2,  
Southport PR8 2JD  
Tel: 0300 123 1837  
Email: [certificate.services@gro.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:certificate.services@gro.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

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Email: [editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)

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Please submit entries to the 2021 competition to:

[editor@bucksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)