

ORIGINS

SUMMER 2021



Included in this Issue

- William Collett and his Daughter Susannah (Alan Dell Award Winner)
 - The Arthur Veary Treacher Mystery
 - Rags to Riches: Paper Mills

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

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

Website: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

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

Chairman	POSITION VACANT		
Vice Chairman	Dave Foster		
Treasurer	Colin Kightley	Email: treasurer@bucksfhs.org.uk	
Honorary Secretary	Tony Sargeant	Email: secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk	
Committee Members	Rosemarie Bucknell	Steve Powell	John Price
Northern Group Chairman	Rex Watson	Email: northerngroup@bucksfhs.org.uk	
Southern Group Chairman	Geoff Edwards	Email: southerngroup@bucksfhs.org.uk	
Membership & Members' Interests Secretary	Steve Powell	Email: membership@bucksfhs.org.uk Box 2 c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU	
Editor	Rebecca Gurney	Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk Box 2 c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU	

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 for how to pay by standing order

**MAGAZINE OF THE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Summer 2021 Vol. 45 No. 2

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From the Editor

As brighter days come to Buckinghamshire, and we have been allowed out of our immediate vicinity for outdoor activities, I have been making the most of the local countryside and combining walking in the Chilterns with family history interest. Visiting churchyards and walking the routes my ancestors might have taken from their homes in the outlying hamlets and farms to their nearest towns has injected a bit of variety into post-lockdown walks. It makes a change from online activities!

At the time of writing (May 2021) the UK is cautiously opening up, with archives and museums planning to welcome visitors and put on summer events. Who knows what the picture will be by the time you read this – but of course please check before visiting archives or attending any event listed in these pages. The Society continues to host talks online, and please note the BFHS Open Day event is CANCELLED this year.

This edition is filled with a great selection of articles from members. Thank you all so much. The Alan Dell Award 2020 winners have also been announced (page 71) from another excellent group of entries. Please do continue to send me your articles and snippets, as they make this journal possible.

Rebecca Gurney
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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

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A Note From the Honorary Secretary

Since the last few paragraphs in the previous *Origins*, there are still hurdles to overcome to restart group meetings. Yes, the newspapers are talking about changes to social distancing rules, although much depends on what is changing outside of government control. By the time you read this an AGM may have happened. Whatever happens, Bucks FHS needs a larger Executive Committee. Please consider this opportunity, you will find it is not an onerous role.

Work to put Monumental Inscriptions on our website has restarted and we need to add inscriptions from about 1980 to the present day. This is not to re-do the 1980s work, it just needs bringing up to date. Please take a look (under the Members Area section on the website) at the parishes covered already and see if you can add more records.

Tony Sargeant, Honorary Secretary
secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Members of Buckinghamshire FHS

I am a member of our Executive Committee and I have been asked to contact you all because we need more help. We need a mix of skills and experience so that the Committee can be a good productive tool, debating important issues and being effective in its decision making.

My role as a committee member is not arduous and I contribute what I can. I do not understand all the technical side of our website/communications but others have this knowledge and I can make comments and ask questions.

We have six meetings a year, booked at the beginning of the year and all on Zoom and will continue to be so. This will eliminate the need to travel to meetings from distant parts of the county, avoiding travel in the dark and wintery months. You may (if willing and able) be invited to help on Open Day or County Fairs if we have a stall there. We get the minutes of our meetings and the addition of more committee members will make it easier for us to reach consensus on important decisions.

Please consider joining us.

Rosemarie Bucknell, Committee Member.

Society Notices

Online Family History Workshops

I am running a series of Online Workshops to help members tackle problems with their research. These are advertised with the Zoom link on the website and usually take place in the second Monday of each month. I can look at particular problems or subjects if given notice.

Please email me at: tony.sargeant@bucksfhs.org.uk

**** POSITIONS VACANT ****

CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PUBLICITY OFFICER

All Society activities are run by volunteers

If you would like more details about these roles, please email:
secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Origins Submissions Deadlines

December 2021 (Winter) issue – 4th October 2021

March 2022 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2022

July 2022 (Summer) issue – 3rd May 2022

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

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 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.

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 (May 2021), many events are still subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Government guidelines continue to change, so always check with the event organisers or on the relevant websites before attending.

Family History & Heritage Events

Thur 22nd to Sun 25th Jul	Buckinghamshire Culture Open Weekend Celebrate Buckinghamshire Day with Buckinghamshire's creativity, culture and stories w buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/projects/open-weekend/
Sat 24th Jul 10am	English Pre-Census Records Guild of One-Name Studies Online talk w one-name.org
Sat 18th Sep to Sun 3rd Oct	Chilterns Heritage Festival Visits to heritage sites, heritage-themed activities and workshops across the Chilterns Region w chilternsociety.org.uk/heritage-festival/
Sat 25th Sep 10am – 4.30pm	The Family History Show London <i>Discover Your Ancestors</i> magazine Kempston Park Racecourse, Surrey Price: £8 on day, under 16s free early bird tickets 2 for £10 w thefamilyhistoryshow.com

<p>Sat 23rd Oct 10am – 4.30pm</p>	<p>The Family History Show – York <i>Discover Your Ancestors</i> magazine Venue: York Racecourse Price: Early bird 2 for £8 booked in advance, £5.50 single w thefamilyhistoryshow.com</p>
<p>Sat 23rd Oct</p>	<p>One-day Conference and Local History Fair 'Shopping in Bucks: from medieval market places to modern retail parks' Host: Buckinghamshire Local History Network Venue: in High Wycombe and/or online w bas1.org.uk/blhn-conference (or search online) e bucksas@buckscountymuseum.org.uk</p>
<p>Sat 23rd Oct 9.30am – 5pm</p>	<p>Those Who Served – Seminar Host: Guild of One Name Studies Stock Village Hall, Common Rd, Ingatestone CM4 9NF Price: Booking open after 1st August 2021 w one-name.org</p>
<p>Sat 23rd Oct</p>	<p>Kent FHS 47th AGM & Conference Host: Kent Family History Society Description: AGM & Study Day Venue: Via Zoom w kfhs.org.uk</p>
<p>Fri 12th to Sat 13th Nov 10am – 6pm</p>	<p>FHF Really Useful Family History Show Hosted by: Fam Fair Venue: online w fhf-reallyuseful.com</p>

**** NOTE: Bucks FHS Open Day 2021 is not taking place ****

Resources Round-up

A summary of online resources

MUSEUMS

Wycombe Museum Chair and Furniture Collection Database

A searchable database pilot project (10% of the collection), including furniture-related tools and documents, as well as a list of Wycombe furniture factories/manufacturers.

w wycombemuseum.org.uk/collections

Amersham Museum

A fantastic website with details of people, businesses, buildings and plenty of photos. Well worth a look if you have Amersham connections.

w amershammuseum.org

PHOTOGRAPHS

MyHeritage Deep Nostalgia™

The MyHeritage photo animation tool gained some media publicity and has had a mixed reception – you may find it fascinating, moving or just creepy! It's undeniably impressive technology in any event, showing how your ancestors might have moved, smiled and looked in real life. However, you may find this is better to try on photographs of people you never met.

You don't have to be a paying member of MyHeritage to use this feature, there are a limited number of uploads available as long as you sign in.

w blog.myheritage.com/2021/02/new-animate-the-faces-in-your-family-photos/

NEWSPAPERS

British Newspaper Archive

Do you have North Bucks ancestors? BNA has recently released 14,530 pages that might interest you.

North Bucks Times and County Observer (first published 1879 and originally known as *Fenny Stratford Weekly Times*)

Years covered: 1879–1895, 1898, 1900–1918

w britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Elephind World Historical Newspaper Archives

Emigrant ancestors? This free Australian-based newspaper archive is not UK newspapers themselves, but the copy reports and family notices from them, as published in non-UK papers. If people emigrated, family notices etc often referred to their home town in England.

w elephind.com

CONVICTS

Tracing London Convicts in Britain & Australia, 1780–1925

Search millions of records from around 50 datasets, relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey. Includes datasets on convict tattoos and convict occupations.

w digitalpanopticon.org

**Let us know if you have any useful online resources to share:
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk**

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

Alan Dell Memorial Award 2020 – Results

We were very pleased to receive five entries to the Alan Dell 2020 Award for best article, covering a variety of topics and all of which had something to recommend them. Thank you very much to everyone who entered. We hope you enjoy reading the entries in the coming editions of the journal and feel inspired to enter your research stories to the 2021 award.

FIRST PLACE is awarded to Sheila Bates for her article about the Collett family and how she researched their nonconformist background to solve a mystery. The judges were impressed by the use of a wide variety of interesting sources combined with a great story. Congratulations, Sheila.

SECOND PLACE is awarded to Mick Shaw for his article on the life and career of Special Constable Jasper Mellett. This was meticulously researched and very well written. It will be published in the Winter 2021 edition of *Origins*. Well done, Mick.

All the entries will be published in *Origins* as they all had plenty of Bucks research interest for our members and were well written.

Everyone who reads this journal has an interest in Buckinghamshire family history. Why not share your story? You might find someone else researching the same family and win a cash prize.

We encourage entries that have a good amount of Buckinghamshire content and make use of a selection of sources – and of course tell an interesting story.

If you would like to enter the 2021 award, the rules and guidance are available on the Society website at www.bucksfhs.org.uk, or alternatively you can contact editor@bucksfhs.org.uk.

William Collett and his Daughter Susannah

by Sheila Bates

Alan Dell Award Winner 2020

I have been researching my family history for many years but there is one short and quite distant branch which has both intrigued and frustrated me more than any other. They are the COLLETT family.

Swanbourne Particular and Strict Baptist Church

My 3x great-grandmother was Susannah COLLETT. According to the 1851 census she was born in Dinton around 1793. She married my 3x great-grandfather Thomas PHILLIPS in 1816 in Swanbourne, but I cannot find anything relating to her birth or baptism at that time. However, Swanbourne has a Baptist Church and while I understand that at this time non-conformists were obliged to marry in the established church, Baptists were able to delay baptism until adulthood.

The Swanbourne Particular and Strict Baptist Church Members' Book offered some information. Susannah (now Phillips) and her husband Thomas are listed as Members in 1830 and remain closely linked to the church until their deaths, as were their two children Rebekah and Ebenezer Thomas, whose births were both listed in the Baptist church register. Thomas was a Deacon, Ebenezer a Trustee and Rebekah married the widowed John Dumbleton who became pastor of the church in 1852.

The first pastor of Swanbourne Baptist Church however, was a William Collett. He was ordained Pastor in 1809. The members' book states that the 'Revd. William Collet of *Dinton* [my italics] was employed by the Particular Baptist Church at Waddesdon Hill as a village preacher'. Could he be Susannah's father?

Waddesdon Hill Particular Baptist Church

Waddesdon Hill Particular Baptist Church is a delightful little building situated in the middle of nowhere on the road from the A41 at Waddesdon crossroads to Upper Winchendon.



Waddesdon Hill Particular Baptist Church

It was built in 1792 and the members' book states 'William Collett was admitted a member of this Church in 1794 by a letter of dismissal from the Particular Baptist Church at Wycombe'. It's 15 miles from the church at Wycombe to Dinton, which would apparently take a horse and rider an hour and a half at a fast trot. At the time the charismatic Rev William Scott was pastor at Wycombe and people travelled from far and wide to hear him preach. I have been unable to find any records of the Wycombe Church for that period.

Susannah Collett was baptised in 1810 at Waddesdon Hill and became a member of that church that year (clearly an adult). She was dismissed

to the Swanbourne Baptist Church in 1818 after her marriage to Thomas Phillips. Another connection with William and surely not a coincidence.

The career of William Collett

In 1802, it was reported that Brother Collett ‘who had for some time been speaking in the villages [including Swanbourne] to be asked to speak to the Church members to see if he had the talents for the Ministry’. This was approved and he was ordained, becoming pastor at Swanbourne in 1809. The Minute Book of the Church states that ‘Mr Collett laboured with considerable success and Mursley, Drayton (Parslow) and Newton (Longville) became branches of this Church, which at the death of Mr Collett, which took place April 25 1826, had increased to 70 members’.

In 1895 the *Buckingham Advertiser* reprinted an article of 1872 on ‘Reminiscences of the Old Baptist Meeting House at Winslow’. This gives an insight into the life of a non-conformist in the early 19th century.

After this, a Mr William Collett, who was first pastor of the Swanbourne Church, gave Winslow friends his help and preached about once a month on the Sabbath evening, and more frequently on a week evening. ‘He was a dear old Saint, full of grace and truth ... I have seen this good old man, as he was leaving the place to return home, pelted with mud and stones in the public streets by people who prided themselves upon their respectability’.



The writer later wrote and erected a tablet to his memory in Swanbourne (just visible behind the preacher here) but as I believe it is now a private house, I don't expect it survives.

A preacher at Swanbourne Baptist Church

(Permission given by Neil Rees)

William Collett's Family Life

There is no mention of a wife nor children in any of the records I had found so far, so I then started to investigate William Collett's personal life.

The first clue I found was in the Posse Comitatus of 1798 which lists for Dinton parish: Collett (first name not given) Cordwainer and Collett Jnr (again not given, presumably the same) cordwainer. Two years earlier in the Militia Ballot List of 1796 only a William Collett, shoemaker was listed, which suggests that William Collett junior had completed his apprenticeship around 1797, further suggesting that he was born around 1776.

The Dinton Parish Registers contain no Collett baptisms from 1600 to 1800 but there is one marriage – a William Collett of this parish married an Ann DOLLEY of this parish in 1799. I believe this must be William Collett junior who would have been about 23 if his suggested birth date is correct.

However, a William Collett of Dinton parish, cordwainer, married Mary HAMMON in Haddenham in 1787. She was a spinster but there was no mention of his marital status. Was he William Collett senior now a widower and living in the next village?

William Collett and Mary Simmonds

Further investigation of marriages before William junior's birth found a William Collett marrying a Mary SIMMONDS in Wooburn in 1771. This seemed unlikely being so far from Haddenham but Wooburn isn't that far from the Wycomb Baptist church, which we know William Collett was a member of before he was 'dismissed' to Waddesdon Hill.

Mary Simmonds turned out to be the sister of John Simmonds who had been baptised 'having changed his sentiments on the subject of baptism' by William Scott of Wycombe. His obituary mentions 'Mr William Collett, his brother-in-law who is now pastor of the Baptist Church at Swanburn'. John Simmonds had been brought up in Wooburn, his father being Stephen Simmonds, another Baptist pastor. John Simmonds later became a Baptist Minister of some renown, hence the detailed obituary.

It appears that William Collett was living in Wooburn at the time of his marriage as he was 'of this parish'. Although I found William's baptismal

record in the Bishop's Transcripts for Haddenham, his father Richard had died when William was 13. They were both cordwainers but William couldn't have been apprenticed to his father. However, one of the witnesses at his marriage was Daniel PLATER who was a cordwainer – could William have been apprenticed to him in Wooburn?

Unexpectedly, I then found the baptisms of two of William and Mary's children in Haddenham Parish Church register. Sarah was baptised in 1775 and William in 1778. Was Mary Simmonds, a daughter and sister of Baptist ministers, not a Baptist herself? Or was William not yet reconciled to adult baptism, as his friend John Simmonds? The Rev. Scott probably baptised William as well, as he was a Baptist by 1785 as the nascent Dinton Baptist community, which later formed the Waddesdon Hill church, 'met for a few weeks at the house of William Collett at Haddenham' in 1785.

Susannah born in 1793 cannot have been the daughter of William and Mary nee Simmonds, but she could be the daughter of William and Mary nee Hammon.

William Collett junior (c.1778–1820)

It appears that William Collett junior also married twice. If Ann Dolley was his first wife there were no children, but he married Mary Cane in 1806 in Dinton and had seven children, five of whom survived infancy. Unfortunately, William Collett junior died in 1820, his widow and children fell upon hard times and were obliged to apply for poor relief. It seems that Haddenham Parish objected to this and this necessitated an appearance of Mary Collett and William Collett (her father-in-law) before the Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions in 1822. This turned out to be a veritable cornucopia of information, even if it was not all readable!

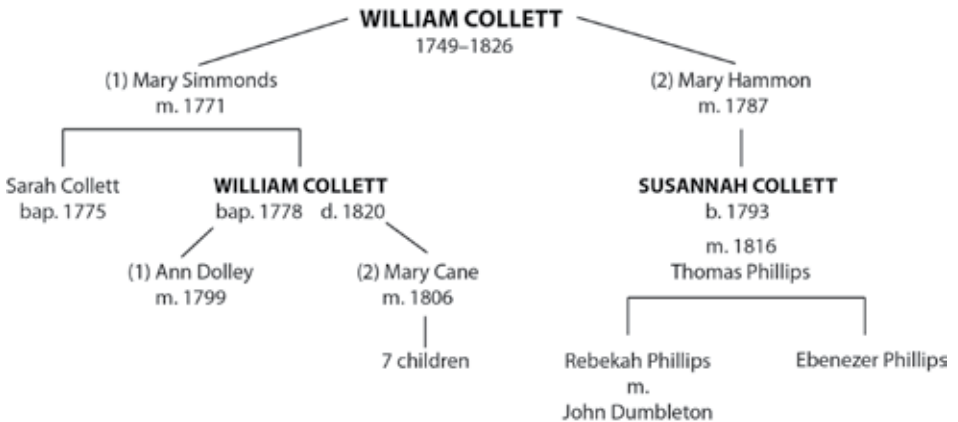
Firstly Mary said that she was married nearly 16 years ago, her husband's name was William and he died nearly two years ago. She had five children. For five years after they married they lived at Dinton. 'Husband's father lived there too. They moved from Haddenham when father [in-law?] a little boy. Husband went to America and came back' (it seems many Baptists from Buckinghamshire went out to America around the turn of the 18/19th century).

Then William Collett senior himself appeared. He stated that he was 73 years of age and he had a son William who had married the pauper (the unfortunate Mary). It seems that William Collett senior moved from Haddenham to Dinton with his son. Later his son had built a house in Haddenham and lived there with his family. This all ties in rather nicely.

Susannah Collett’s connection

But the second marriage to Mary Hammon in Haddenham in 1787 must also be William Collett senior – there can’t be two William Colletts of marriageable age in Haddenham who were both cordwainers. We know he was living in Haddenham at the time but then moved to Dinton according to his testimony at the Quarter Sessions. If Susannah was his daughter, she was born in 1793 in Dinton and her mother would have been Mary Hammon.

I believe that the balance of probability is that Susannah was William’s daughter, a product of his second marriage, but written proof still eludes me.



Could DNA help? Could I find a DNA connection between me and someone who was descended from William Collett’s acknowledged son William? Yes I could and I did. A lady in Canada (a fourth-to-sixth cousin to me) has a Daisy Collett in her family tree. Daisy was born in Wooburn (!) in 1874, daughter of Ephraim Collett (a shoemaker, what else!) whose grandfather was William Collett junior.

Sources

Ancestry.co.uk and DNA at Ancestry.co.uk

Swanbourne Particular and Strict Baptist Church Members' Book 1809–1969, transcribed and published by The Eureka Partnership.

Waddesdon Hill Particular Baptist Church Volume One Births 1783–1836 and Members Books 1794–1836, transcribed and published by The Eureka Partnership.

Buckingham Advertiser, 27 April 1895, 'Part two: Reminiscences of the Old Baptist Meeting House, Winslow, Bucks by Thos Matthews, Melbourne, Australia 1872'.

Posse Comitatus Lists 1798, Aylesbury Hundreds, transcribed and published by The Eureka Partnership.

Militia List 1796 from *The People of Dinton*, transcribed and published by The Eureka Partnership.

Dinton and Haddenham Parish Registers and Bishops' Transcripts, published by BFHS and Ancestry.

The Strict Baptist Historical Society – information on the Dinton Baptist community and the formation of Waddesdon Hill.

Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions Records held at Buckinghamshire Archives.

Reverend John Simmon(d)'s Obituary, *The Baptist* magazine, 1826.

Photographs of Waddesdon Hill my own; of Swanbourne Baptist church reproduced with permission from Neil Rees.

Notes

While researching the Colletts I have accumulated some additional information especially on the Particular Baptist community in Buckinghamshire, surrounding counties and America from the beginning of the 18th century to the mid-19th century. Families connected to the Colletts

during this period include the Simmon(d)s as mentioned but also the OLIVERS of Haddenham, the TYLERS and the PLATERS. Should you have any interest or information please get in touch.

Sheila Bates
smbates@btinternet.com

The Queen's Victory over her Enemies

The County Chronicle, 18 November 1820

Beaconsfield

'At the moment I am writing this, all hearts are rejoicing at the news of the Queen's victory over her enemies. There is not a house in this town, or near it, but what is decorated from top to bottom with laurel, and everybody has left his employment to join in the general rejoicing. Sheep are roasting, farmers and gentlemen are distributing strong ale, and affording everything within their means to make the heart glad, and there is no place in the district which has a steeple that has not the merry sound of bells ringing. Indeed, there was never an occurrence within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, that tended to give such general satisfaction, or caused such rejoicing.'

Footnote: After a lengthy separation from her husband, George IV, formerly the Prince Regent, in which she was accused of misconduct giving grounds for divorce, Queen Caroline of Brunswick returned to England in the previous June. The Cabinet decided to bring a Bill of Pains and Penalties to dissolve the marriage and deprive her of all royal privileges. Beaconsfield was one of numerous towns and villages which supported Caroline against her husband. The Bill against the Queen was initially carried in the House of Lords by a very small majority, but sensing the mood of the people and anxious to prevent the possibility of widespread riots, the Bill never became law.

Howard Lambert
Howard.Lambert@brent.gov.uk

A Hard Life

Ruth Whitehouse

My maternal grandmother Louisa MEALING was born to Eliza WALLOM in the Wycombe Union Workhouse at Saunderton in 1868. Her sister Catherine was born in the workhouse in 1870 and they were both baptised there on 15 March 1871. There is no mention of the father. Eliza was the third child born around 1850 to William and Martha WALLOM in the Newlands area of High Wycombe. Her father was a chair maker and Eliza was a caner of chair bottoms according to the 1871 census.

Caning was a skilled craft using rattan obtained from the rattan palm tree, a climbing tree growing in the rain forests of the Far East. It was first used in this country in London around 1720 but by the early 19th century the caning industry had moved out to High Wycombe as a result of improved transport. With the plentiful supply of timber from the surrounding beech trees, the furniture industry rapidly developed. Caning was first a cottage industry, mainly undertaken by females, but by Eliza's time the activity was transferred to workshops.

One can assume that when Eliza became pregnant at the age of 18, she was either in disgrace and ousted by her parents or they could not afford to support her and a baby. How she



Louisa Mealing

became pregnant with her second baby while still in the workhouse is a mystery. If she carried on her work as a caner within the workhouse then men and women were kept separate. Maybe she went out to work and had a liaison. She may even have left the workhouse after Louisa was born and fell for Catherine while 'out' and had to return. Many of the workhouse records were destroyed so there is no way of verifying this. Louisa and later Catherine would have been separated from their mother while in the workhouse, so there began my grandmother's hard life.

By the 1881 census Eliza was married to Absalom MIDDLETON and was living at 106 Oxford Road, not a stone's throw from the Newlands area where she had previously lived. Absalom was a maltster, while Eliza continued as a caner. Joining her in the job was Louisa, aged 13. Can one imagine 13-year-olds today being able to do such skilled work? Was Absalom the father of Louisa and Catherine? He had certainly taken on the two children as well as Eliza's father William WALLOM.

On 12 June 1889 my grandmother Louisa married Ralph MEALING. Ralph was 28, having been born on Christmas Day 1860 to Mary Ann MEALING. Like Louisa, he was illegitimate. He was a chair maker and lived at Newland Bridge. By then his mother Mary Ann had married Absalom DEAN and had gone on to have six more children. They were living at 50 Newland Meadows, and Ralph and Louisa had moved in next door at 51. Ralph kept his mother's surname of MEALING, although sometimes he referred to himself as DEAN. Ralph and Louisa's first child, Beatrice, was born in December, six months after they were married. They went on to have six more girls, and one boy. My mother, also Louisa, was their fifth child.

Newland Meadows was officially classed as a slum and crime was so rife that it even had its own police station. The area consisted of rows of terraced houses and people were packed in like sardines. My mother once showed me their house, which backed onto the River Wye and was close to the gasworks. I can still remember the awful smell! Just imagine a family of up to 10 people living cramped into a 'two-up two-down'. The houses were demolished in the late 1940s and Murrays department store was built by Reginald Rivett, who had several smaller shops in the White Hart Street area. In 1951 he acquired the old Methodist church, which allowed Murrays to expand. In 1955 the business purchased the old National School where

my mother, her brother and sisters had attended. This was demolished and the store was further developed. At that time there was a staff of nearly 300. In the 1960s the Octagon shopping centre and a new bus station were built on the site. In more recent times these were incorporated into the Eden Centre.

My mother and aunts never said much about their father Ralph. I believe he liked his drink, probably spending his wages at the local on a Friday night. How they all managed the sleeping arrangements with mother, father and up to seven girls and a boy in that tiny house one can only imagine. Ralph died just before his 49th birthday of 'probably consumption [TB] and heart disease'. His death left Louisa with seven of the eight children. How on earth was she going to manage? Beatrice was living next door, the next three were working, three were still at school and one was only three years old.

In fact she couldn't manage. In October 1912 Louisa appeared in court charged with neglecting her children and was sent to prison for one month. My mother had left school by then and gone into service. Hilda (11 years), Dorothy (9 years) and Marjorie (5 years) were sent to the Union School at Bledlow, where the court resolved they should remain until they reached 18. The school was part of a workhouse that had about 180 inmates. Despite a number of appeals to the Board of Guardians to have the children returned, saying that she would look after them properly, Louisa was never successful in this. It seems that the children were reasonably well looked after at Bledlow. Hilda won the Bishop's Prize and Dorothy was commended. It was recommended by the doctors that Dorothy be sent to Oxford to have her eyes tested. Marjorie needed her teeth attended to.

Five years after Ralph's death Louisa married Thomas WENTWORTH by licence. She was 43 and he was a 35-year-old bachelor. The First World War had started by then and Thomas was a private in the 3rd Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Unfortunately, in anticipation of her new name, Louisa signed her name on the register as Louisa WENTWORTH instead of MEALING! At the time of the marriage Thomas was based at Cambridge Barracks, Plymouth while Louisa gave her address as 52 Newland Meadow.

Louisa died on 18 October 1934 at No 51, suggesting the address on her marriage certificate was a mistake and they had stayed in her own home.

Thomas was with her at the end. Louisa died of nephritis at the age of 66. I hope she found some comfort in her later years. Her children will have visited her and she would have known some of her grandchildren. Sadly she died before I was born and as the last remaining of her grandchildren I have recorded her life story. She must have had a hard life indeed.

Ruth Whitehouse

Lost Ancestors: The Militia

Tony Sargeant

Have you had the frustrating research experience of losing somebody from the records for a really long time, only for them to reappear years later? Could that person have joined the Militia?

Background

After the Civil War, disbanding armies became a problem, mainly because they needed to be paid first. King Charles II empowered lord-lieutenants to raise a militia from their counties, to be commanded by the King. The burden of paying for these militias fell on landowners. The Militia Acts of 1757–62 improved the funding situation.

Men were selected by ballot to serve in the Bucks Militia when it was formed in 1759. The regiment was re-titled Royal Buckinghamshire Militia (King's Own) in 1794. The minimum length of service was five years.

The records

One thing many records do well is track how money is spent. As men from the age of 18 to 50 could be in the militia, many had dependents and responsibilities in their parish. Compensation was paid to the dependant families, and it is these records that can inform our research.

The records fall into two sections:

- Quarter Sessions administering the county; and
- Overseers' accounts in the parish.

Thomas Wise – an example

Thomas WISE married Elizabeth PERRIGE at Padbury on 9 November 1773. They appear to be a normal labouring family in the agricultural community in Aylesbury Vale. In the following years, three children were baptised, one of whom died. The first record of a payment of £3 4s 6d was dated 3 December 1779. This is the payment to the parish overseers, in their records there will be matching payments to Elizabeth.

This trail of payments gives the researcher two opportunities for finding something useful. It is not known when or for how long Thomas Wise was in the militia, as there is only one other record of a payment found so far in the Quarter Session records. The overseers' records have not been searched.

It will always be chance that your ancestors appear in these records. But you should investigate sources such as these to fill the gaps between baptisms, marriages and burials.

Tony Sargeant

SOLDIERS WANTED

WANTED immediately, for the parishes of Burnham and Taplow, SEVERAL ABLE BODIED MEN to serve in his Majesty's Army or Navy during the War. A handsome bounty will be given, by applying to either of the Parish Officers on or before the 30th instant.

Reading Mercury, 26 December 1796

Submitted by Howard Lambert

Rags to Riches

John Gurney

Paper Mills on the River Wye

Looking at the Buckinghamshire River Wye today it is hard to imagine that the nine miles of river between High Wycombe and Bourne End once powered over 30 mill wheels, 20 of which were listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. The River Wye was particularly suited as it had a constant steep fall throughout the year and its water was extremely clean. The area also had good links with London where the majority of the produce was sold.

Most of the Wye mills originally began as corn mills and they were really the crucial factor behind the growth of the town of High Wycombe. During the 14th century some mills were converted to 'fulling' cloth, a process that involved beating newly woven cloth with hammers in water to thicken and shrink it. The Wycombe cloth trade then went into gradual decline but survived until the 1620s. By the 17th century almost all of the Wye mills had undergone the relatively easy conversion to rag-based paper making as the only modification required was the addition of a metal tray to hold the pulp.

The River Wye was very suited to paper production as the water was free of iron salts or other impurities that might discolour the paper. The closeness of Bourne End gave easy access to the Thames barges for incoming rags and outgoing produce. The first recorded paper mill was Hedge Mill in Loudwater in 1627, known then simply as 'the Paper Mill' and the nearby Premier Inn bears that name today. By the time of the peak production period around 1816, mill numbers had increased to 36, of which 31 were producing paper. The marsh Mill then became the largest employer in the area with 53 hands.

Paper making would prove to be a very profitable business as supplies of rags could be easily obtained for next to nothing and the finished paper products could command high prices in London. The paper mills were unfortunately very unpopular with nearby dwellers as the constant day and

night sound of the hammers seven days a week was very intrusive and the overwhelming stench in the air of the rotting rags was extremely unpleasant and unhealthy. Sunday churchgoers in particular protested and farmers alongside the river suffered flooding from the damming.

As paper making relied on the collection of vast quantities of old discarded rags, some had to be imported from Europe. The rags were usually filthy, damp and smelly and in 1636 some mills were temporarily closed amidst fears that the rags were spreading the plague. The continued profitability of a mill would rely largely on a constant supply of good quality rags and the speed and efficiency of the predominantly female workforce of rag sorters and processors in carrying out what was a very dirty, mundane and labour intensive task. Known as 'rag girls' they would quite often be accommodated in a filthy, dark and cold loft space.

My great-grandmother Fanny Taylor (née White) was engaged in mill work for the whole of her working life. Born in Loudwater in 1881, she came from a large family with two sisters and six brothers. One of her younger brothers, Arthur White, is listed as a casualty of the Great War on Loudwater war memorial. He enlisted in the Devonshire Regiment early in WWI but died on home soil from the global flu pandemic aged 34 in November 1918.

At age 20 Fanny was still living in Loudwater and her occupation was listed as mill hand. This almost certainly means she was a 'rag girl' at one of the local mills. She later moved to the Marsh Mill, again as a mill hand, where she was joined by her daughter and my grandmother, Violet Gurney. It was not unusual in those days for all or most of the family to be engaged as mill workers although this was not the case with Fanny's family. All rag girls had ambitions to progress to one of the other mill departments away from the unhealthy 'rag loft'. The 1939 register shows Fanny still as a mill worker but by the age of 58 she had progressed to being a mill hand 'heavy worker', which may mean she had been promoted to the finishing room or 'salle' room.

The process of rag-based paper making had several stages. Incoming rags were sorted and processed before being boiled, bleached and macerated to form 'half stuff'. The initial processing would include removing all buttons and studs and large caches of discarded buttons are still being unearthed in the fields around Loudwater today. The half stuff was then sent for further bleaching and 'beating', a process of further maceration to separate the



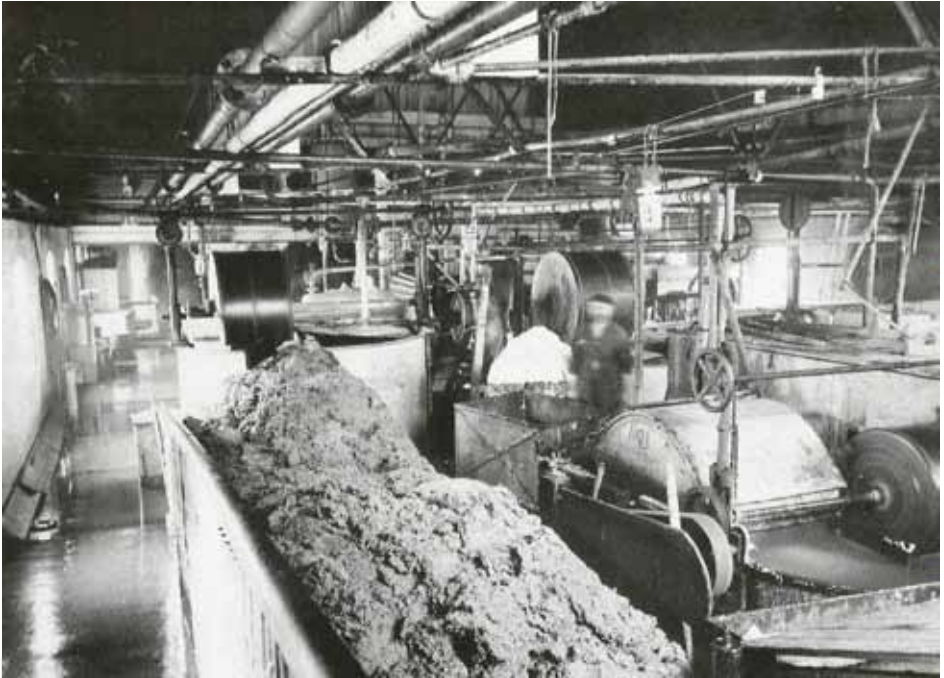
A rag-cutting room, around 1920

With permission from North Lanarkshire Council Museums

half-pulped mass into individual fibres. This process was the origin of the term 'beaten to a pulp'.

The resulting material was then made into individual sheets of paper by hand. Hand made paper making was very laborious and was later made redundant in the late 1820s by the introduction of the Fourdrinier machine, which produced the paper in a large continuous roll. Many hand paper makers were put out of work by this mechanisation resulting in the machine riots of 1830 when many of the Wye mills, including the five Loudwater mills, suffered serious and lasting damage.

Despite this setback the industry continued to prosper as, with a reduced workforce, there was a corresponding reduction in the wage bill. In the history of High Wycombe, it seemed that every time an industry declined another took its place. Following the mechanisation of the 1830s, many of the redundant mill workers turned to chair making for a job and that industry then began to prosper.



The 'half stuff' house at Soho Mill in 1912

With permission from SWOP image no. 29098

(Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs, <https://swop.org.uk>)

As more efficient paper making methods were developed over time, the use of rags gradually began to decline. By the 1950s the growing use of synthetic fibres in textiles and the damaging river pollution due to the bleaching process were major factors in the cessation of rag-based paper making by the end of that decade. Glory Mill was the last paper mill on the Wye to cease production in 1999.

Further reading

Three Hundred Years In Paper: G.T. Mandl

Paper In the Wye Valley: L. John Mayes

A Brief History Of The Wye Mills: Wycombe Museum Guide

John Gurney

Brudenells or Britnells – or any variant thereof?

Bob Britnell

When I embarked on family history, I fairly swiftly worked my way back from Essex to West Middlesex and from there to Buckinghamshire and Bledlow Ridge in particular.

Along the way my wife and I spent many 'happy' hours poring over censuses on microfilm at Myddleton Street, or humping the BMD index books around. Or I would be on the third floor of Bromley library scanning BMD or IGI microfiche, a place notable for its tannoy announcing, 'Library closing in ten minutes' and 'Library closing in five minutes' – it always amused me that in a world of books the word 'library' was mispronounced week after week.

Perversely, while family research was more difficult to do, there was a sense of community doing it that you don't get sitting at your computer; where is the muffled 'yes' or 'got him' that earned the equally muffled 'well done' from others or just occasionally meeting someone searching the same name? Family historians are a helpful bunch when you get them together.

Having progressed a bit, we then joined Bucks FHS and Oxford FHS to cover my family, and Berks FHS and East London FHS to cover my wife's; we also joined the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies here in Canterbury, where my wife completed a certificated course and I spent many long lunchtimes in their library poring over their resources.

Now of course I have Ancestry and FindmyPast on the computer and it is all so easy, but I still retain memberships of Bucks FHS and Oxon FHS, two of the best resourced family history societies I have come across. I also hold the Britnell One Name Study at the Guild of One-Name Studies.

When we first visited a Bucks FHS open day I was told by a well-respected local researcher, 'Britnell, oh you'll be descended from the Brudenells'; the prospect of being related to the Earl of Cardigan opened up before me

and research in the IHGS library confirmed that the Brudenells of Stoke Mandeville, the Buckinghamshire branch of the family, were armigerous – was that a tantalising glimpse of a ‘coat of arms’?

Much existed online, posted by previous researchers, and I have to admit that quite a lot of it was right. However, my family didn’t exist in the posted research and the deeper I dug the more dubious some of it became. But they do say in family history to trust nothing you haven’t found for yourself and check everything. With the help of Diana Stevens, a very distant cousin in Australia, I have done just that; Diana it was who discovered that the earliest Britnell wills were not in Buckinghamshire at all, but in Hertfordshire, taking us back two generations before the earliest Britnell recorded online.

I say Hertfordshire, but they lived in the Parish of Tring, that long finger of Hertfordshire which pokes westward towards Aylesbury; more specifically they lived in Wilstone a small hamlet near Long Marston and from which it was only a hop and a skip across the border into Bucks. Harry, of (Wyllisthorne) Wilstone, died in 1552 leaving land and a blacksmith’s shop; he was a Bryttenell, although throughout his will his wife and children are Brykenell, Brikenell or Brekenell. The blacksmith’s shop passed to son Roger, whose death is unknown but whose widow Joan Bratnell or Britnell died in 1602 in Wilstone.



There was no church at Wilstone, the nearest being a Chapel of Ease at Long Marston, of which only the tower now survives. The Tring Parish Records do not record the life events of the Bryttenells and it seems most likely that these were recorded at Long Marston’s chapel but not written up in the parish church; a scenario with which I am familiar from Buckinghamshire and one that is always worth bearing in mind when ancestors do not appear where expected.

**The tower of the Chapel of Ease
at Long Marston**

The Bucks Probate index indicates 16th and 17th century Britnells and Brudenells in Little Missenden, Brudenells/Brudnells in Stoke Mandeville and Thornborough, Britnell in Whitchurch and there are Britnills in Stewkley in the 18th century. A bit of a mixed bag and no obvious Britnell/Brudenell tie ups, except they are similar names in the same area.

Thereafter spelling goes all over the place: we are Bretnells or Bricknells in Princes Risborough in the 1590s, then over the border to Chinnor in Oxfordshire where by 1634 we have been Bretnell, Brutnell, Britnel, Bricknell and Brudenell, to which by the 1750s we have added Britnell, Brittnell, Britnal, Britinal, Bretenall and Brutnel, before stabilising with the spelling we have today, which I am tempted to think coincides with our move back across the border into Buckinghamshire at Bledlow. Of course it may just be that the spelling has stabilised. It is interesting that almost all the Oxfordshire wills use the spelling Brudenell/Brudnell/Brudenall leading you to speculate as to whether the name Brudenell was known to will writers in that area?

Considering a soft, south midlands rural accent, accepting that in that era the letters t and d are interchangeable and that vowel sound will not be heavily vocalised, it is easy to see that the name was pronounced Br*tn*ll or Br*dn*ll with the option of an added * between the t and the n. So the hearer not only wrote down what they thought they heard, they would have also probably unconsciously adjusted it to match a name they already knew that sounded similar. Nowadays, with much more standardised name spellings, we probably all meet people who say, 'oh no, not related, my name is spelt with only one l or with an a not an e', not recognising that spellings were flexible for hundreds of years.

So I found no direct link between my family and the Brudenells back as far as the 16th century and with membership of the IHGS in Canterbury I was able to check the 1634 Heralds' Visitations Buckinghamshire and I cannot match anyone in them to my tree.

Hunting around for Brudenell links, however, I did invest in a 1953 publication, *The Brudenells of Deene* by Joan Wake,¹ which again provided me with no direct Britnell – Brudenell link. The interesting bit for me however was in Appendix 1, 'The early history of the family'. Commencing with 'The Charters and Court Rolls of Richard Cartwright Esq, of Aynhoe Park, Northamptonshire', Joan Wake indicates that the earliest Brudenell

she could find was a William Bridenel witnessing a property transfer in 1366, followed by a William Bretenel witnessing another in 1384 and William Brudenell acting as an attorney in 1388/9. In 1391/2 a Henry Bretenelle is Master of the Hospital of St James and St John at Aynoe with further references to a Richard Bretonel and a William Bretenelle.

By the mid 15th century the name has stabilised as Brudenell and the family is established in Buckinghamshire as well as Northamptonshire.

Henry Barber MD (Clerk) published in London in 1894 a book called *British Family Names, Their Origin and Meaning*,² in which he suggests that the name Brudenell is derived from De Bretignolles. Bretignolles is a 'commune' on the Biscay coast of Brittany, France so it's an interesting proposition, it fits in with Bretonel/Bretenelle spellings.

It seems very likely therefore that the Britnells are not 'descended' from the Brudenells but are simply another branch of the same family. Perhaps we were all Bridenels once or perhaps Bretenels, who knows, but a common ancestor seems likely, and who would that have been? Well we can't know but we can assume he was alive by the mid 14th century and a best guess might be that the originator of the names was perhaps a 'Bretonel', a native of Brittany, of Bretignolles perhaps, or maybe it is diminutive form of Breton suggesting the son of a Breton or perhaps a nickname for a short Breton?

We'll never know for certain, but I do like to think that I may be very distantly related to Lord Cardigan of the Charge of the Light Brigade and that one day I'll find the link that qualifies us for a 'coat of arms'.

1. *The Brudenells of Deene*, Joan Wake, Cassell and Co Ltd, 1953
2. *British Family Names, Their Origin and Meaning*, Henry Barber MD (Clerk), Elliot Stock: London, 1894 (available to read or download from Cornell University Library)

Bob Britnell
Britnell One Name Study

James Gomme

Michael Cordwell James

Part 1:

Some background to the Gomme coat of arms in Lacey Green



The Gomme arms

Chapel

The heraldic windows of Lacey Green Chapel, now better known as St John the Evangelist, are an impressive display of the arms belonging to prominent families in Buckinghamshire and beyond. They represent 29 individuals who donated to the building of the chapel at Lacey Green, and were identified by Elliott Viney FSA in 1982.

Look upwards and you will see the ceiling supports are decorated with another 12 shields, painted on wood, which also represent individuals who contributed to the building of a new 'Chapel of Ease'. One of these belongs to James Gomme, the carpenter, auctioneer and antiquary of High Wycombe.

The reasons for Gomme's inclusion is to be found in his correspondence with his friend, the Reverend Mark Noble of Barming in Kent.

In January 1823, Gomme sent Noble a copy of the Bishop of Lincoln's 'Proposal to Erect and Endow a Parochial Chapel in the Parish of Prince's Risborough', 'a paper', he added, 'not to ask your aid, it is not disguised – merely to show what is going on'.¹ The 'Proposal' was part of a fundraising drive and gave an already impressive list of subscribers, including James Gomme's donation of one pound, one shilling. In his own hand, Gomme has written on the proposal, calculating the total received so far to be £1491, which was still £509 short of the £2000 target.

Gomme was most likely involved with the project through his acquaintance with Sir George Nayler, one of the 11 trustees of the new chapel. Nayler was the Garter King of Arms and by virtue of his office almost certainly oversaw the heraldic accuracy of the Lacey Green windows.

Nayler, Gomme and Noble all knew each other. From Gomme's letters we learn that he first met Nayler in 1818, when 'the Rector of Bradenham brought him to my house & introduced him'.² Gomme tells Noble that he had 'been highly gratified in his acquaintance', and that Nayler spoke of Noble 'in the most kind and respectful terms.' In his reply Noble wrote, 'I supposed that you would be pleased with Sir George Nayler. I have known him many years ... I thank him for his good opinion of me'.³

Nayler seems to have co-opted Gomme's assistance with the armorial windows. In 1824, Gomme reported to Noble that 'We are going on with the neighbouring Church – the Window will be splendid, Subscribers are permitted to have their Arms put up in Stained Glass. The Trustees appointed me Secretary in the Heraldic Department.' Gomme modestly adds that 'A better might have been chosen'.⁴

In fact his modesty was somewhat disingenuous. Gomme was well versed in the science of heraldry and genealogy: 'at an early period of life' he told Noble in 1809, 'I felt a strong attachment to the study of heraldry and tracing genealogies ... My friends here too flatteringly tell me, that I was born an herald'.⁵

His expertise in heraldry and genealogy is exemplified in two letters he wrote to *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1813: in one he discusses the use of leopards in heraldry, and in the other he demonstrates a knowledge of the Le Despenser and Hampden families of Buckinghamshire.⁶ Letters to Noble between 1819 and 1821 frequently allude to his uphill task in assisting John Evelyn Pierrepont prove his legitimate claim to the title of Lord Dormer. Gomme, in other words, was an eminently suitable choice for 'Secretary in the Heraldic Department' at Lacey Green.

As 'Secretary', Gomme wrote to the Dowager Countess of Bridgewater on 5 February 1824 to inform her that the 'Parochial Chapel of Lacey Green ... is now roofed in, & will be fitted up for divine Service early in the ensuing Spring.' Gomme expresses gratitude on behalf of the Trustees for her late

husband's 'Patronage and Support' and asks permission to display his arms, 'impaled' with hers, in the East Window 'to testify his munificence to future Generations'.⁷ 'An Artist has been engaged', he tells her, 'to execute the same in a uniform manner at the small expense of Three Guineas'. In its entirety the window cost £153 9s, a substantial slice of the budget. Bridgewater, incidentally, reputedly the richest man in England, had contributed £25.⁸

And so, in the summer of 1824, there is no disguising Gomme's delight in the stained glass work received from the artist Thomas Hills of Chelsea, the panels of which he set up in temporary display at his home in High Wycombe. He writes to Noble, telling him that:

My parlour window is filled with various coats, most beautifully and correctly executed – some of them with all the family quarterings, crests & supporters, particularly the Duke of Buckingham & Chandos Marquis of Chandos – Earl (late) of Bridgewater Earl of Chesterfield – Lord Boston – &c. also with arms and motto only Duke of Bedford Earls of Dartmouth Abingdon &c &c – various baronets – esqrs. &c.⁹

The 'various coats' tally exactly with the arms listed by Elliott Viney. This vignette of Gomme admiring the glass in his parlour suggests he received the work at home to check all was in order prior to installation at Lacey Green.

The *Bucks Gazette* for 8 January 1825 carried a front page notice declaring the 'Parochial Chapel' complete but 'still deficient' of the necessary funds. Contributions could be received at various addresses, including 'Mr Gomme, High Wycombe'.

Gomme may indeed have been the one to tap his friend Wykeham Martin for money; Gomme had helped him restore Leeds Castle in Kent from 1822 onwards.¹⁰ Elliott Viney's list notes Wykeham Martin's donation of £6 and the inclusion of his arms in the window.

When the chapel was ready, there were also contributions in kind. The Reverend Turnor for example, donated a surplice.¹¹ Gomme presented a plaster bas relief of the Lord's Supper, which has since been lost.

Gomme's work as heraldic secretary and general fundraiser provides good reason for the inclusion of his own family coat of arms on the chapel ceiling.

The consecration of the new chapel by the Bishop of Lincoln was scheduled for 3 July 1825. James Gomme sent a ticket to his friend Noble, which he didn't receive in time; in any event, he did not go. Nor did James Gomme. Perhaps as the result of overwork and accumulative exhaustion he was taken ill in mid-May. He had recently complained to Noble of the attentions of so many people who required help. 'I am almost constantly occupied in friendly Services which my Neighbours will avail themselves ... I feel them to press too heavily on one at Times – and they frequently interfere with my own Business'.¹² Then he wrote to Noble on the 29 June 'My complaint is a low nervous Fever brought on by mental exertion under various Businesses which I must give up'.¹³ Confined to bed, he passed away just over a fortnight later, on 16 July 1825. He was 59.



Lacey Green Chapel

Reproduced from Lipscomb¹¹

The little chapel at Lacey Green had been the last of his projects, and one close to his heart. He was buried in the nave of All Saints Church, High Wycombe beneath the tower, just inside the west door. A small square stone with his name and dates of birth and death marks the spot; this, and the coat of arms on the ceiling of St John the Evangelist's at Lacey Green, are the two lasting memorials of his energetic devotion to local life.¹⁴

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1. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries MS. Eng. Misc.d.165, ff.238–239
2. *Ibid* MS. Eng. Misc.d.164, ff.205–206
3. *Ibid* MS. Eng. lett d.144, ff.51–52
4. *Ibid* MS. Eng. Misc.d.165, ff.323–324
5. *Ibid* MS. Eng. Misc.d.160, ff.143–144
6. GM, v83, part i, p29–30
7. Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, AH2385
8. Elliot Viney FSA (1982)
9. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries MS. Eng. Misc.d.165, ff.323–324
10. *Origins*, Summer 2020, Bucks FHS, p.115
11. George Lipscomb, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, Vol 2, p 442 (1847)
12. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries MS. Eng. Misc.d.165, ff.310–311
13. *Ibid* MS. Eng. Misc.d.166, ff.61–62
14. The site of the floor slab (68x88cm) in All Saints Church has recently been carpeted over. See NADFAS Guide for details.



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Part 2: A Note on the Gomme Crest and Coat of Arms

*Argent a Lyon rampant Sable on a
Chief Gules Two Seaxes in Saltire of
the First Pomels and Hilts Or.*

In position above the arms was a
crest, which doesn't feature at Lacey
Green:

*Two Lyons Paws in Saltire Sable
erased Gules each holding a Seax
Erect as in the Arms.*

The arms and crest were granted to
William Gomm of Clerkenwell in 1761.
Originally from Oxfordshire, Gomm
was a cabinetmaker whose furniture
graced such places as Stoneleigh
Abbey in Warwickshire. William
Gomm's success enabled him to buy

his own country estate in 1758, Nethercote House in the Parish of Lewknor. He continued an interest in his business and the City, becoming Master of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers from 1762–1763.

James Gomme's use of these arms was noted by William Berry in Volume 2 of his 'Encyclopaedia Heraldica' (1828): 'Granted to William Gomme of Clerkenwell, Middlesex, January 24 1761; and borne by James Gomme, of High Wycombe, Bucks, Esq. FSA 1825.'

The exact relationship between William Gomm of Clerkenwell (1698–1780) and James Gomme of High Wycombe (1766–1825) seems to be cousin twice removed. William Gomm was first cousin to James Gomme's grandfather, also called James Gomm (without an 'e'), and they had a common ancestor in yet another James Gomm, believed to have been born 1626.¹ The variant spellings of Gomm and Gomme both featured on the Gomme family vault in High Wycombe churchyard. The tomb is now lost to development but the inscriptions were saved by the Buckinghamshire Family History Society (Angela Hillier, 1992).

As a genealogist, James Gomme of High Wycombe certainly knew of his illustrious cousin and fellow cabinetmaker. In 1818, he wrote to his friend Noble that: 'Sir Geo. Naylor has furnished me with a Pedigree of a branch of my Family from the College of Arms'.²

This was a pedigree of five generations, headed by Stephen, father of the above-mentioned William Gomm, archived by the College of Heralds in 1803 (Coll. Arm 8D14.238). Noble replied that he was pleased his friend availed himself of Naylor's expert help:

'So you are gaining from him some particulars of your family. I think this is very commendable. It rarely happens that people use such opportunities & when they are gone, they seldom return, & then regret follows.'³

In fact, Gomme had a good knowledge of his family, having told Noble nine years earlier that:

'my Situation is humble and a great Share of any Time has been devoted to Trade ... a Situation which my Ancestors have occupied for a Century and where I have succeeded them, in easy, tho' not affluent Circumstances ...'.⁴

It would seem most likely that inclusion of William Gomm's arms as 'borne by James Gomme, of High Wycombe, Bucks, Esq. FSA 1825' on the chapel ceiling at Lacey Green would have been ratified by Sir George Nayler as Garter King of Arms and one of the trustees.

Use of these arms is evident in both branches of the Gomm/Gomme family, illustrating their shared genealogy. The descendants of William Gomm, cabinetmaker of Clerkenwell include his distinguished great-grandson Field Marshall Sir William Maynard Gomm (1784–1875). Thus we find the Gomm arms displayed as a funerary hatchment alongside the memorial to William Maynard Gomm's first wife, Sophie Penn (1793–1827) in St Giles' Church, Stoke Poges. Supporters were added to the Gomm shield when William Maynard Gomm was made a knight of the Order of the Bath in 1859.

In Bath Abbey there is a rather splendid window with the Gomm arms featured in the lower centre section. It is dedicated to 'William Gomm of St Petersburg and his descendants buried in this church'. The inscription adds: 'This window is placed by his Grandson Sir William Maynard Gomm KCB'.⁵



Gomme wax seal

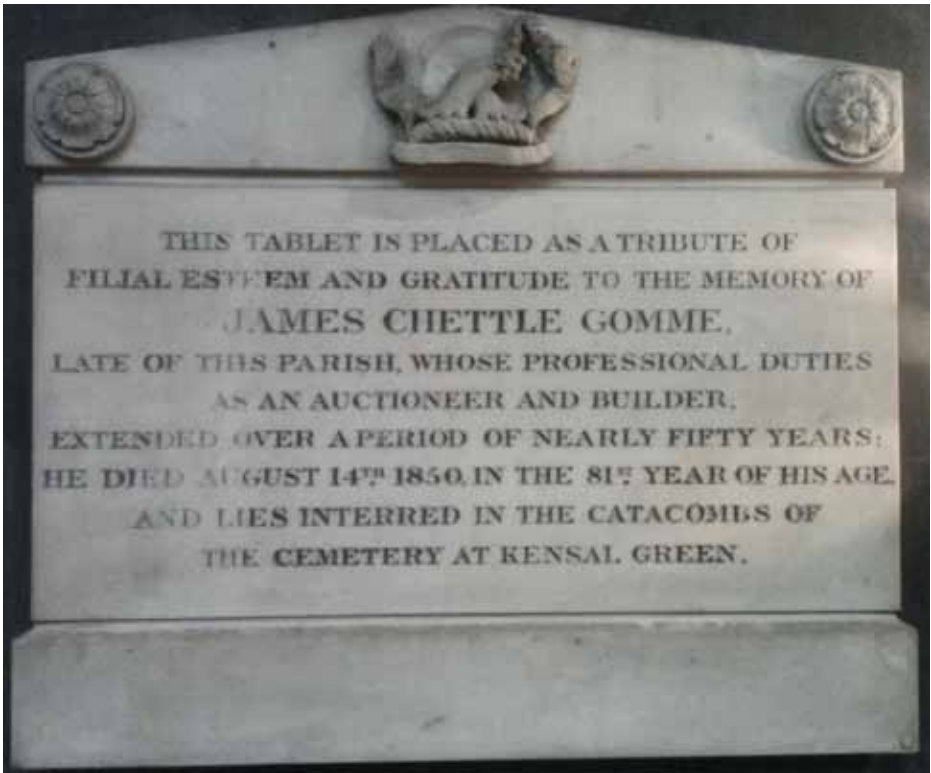
© Bodleian Library

James Gomme of High Wycombe made everyday use of the Gomm arms as a bookplate and seal. The bookplate displays his own motto, 'Ille Leo Ex Tribu Juda Defensor Sit Mihi', or 'the lion of Judah defends me'. When Louis XVIII appointed him a Chevalier of the Order of St Louis for his work as treasurer to the French School at Penn, Gomme proudly attached a pendant of the Order to his crest and motto, evident in one surviving seal amongst the letters to Mark Noble.

Another branch of the family had migrated from Wycombe to Hammersmith, where they established a similar trade of carpentry, cabinetmaking, undertaking and auctioneering. Located in King Street from 1732 onwards, the business survived until the 1870s. James Gomme of Wycombe wrote that he visited and enjoyed friendly relations with his Hammersmith cousins, and this may be why the Gomm arms were borne by the London family too.

James Chettle Gomme of Hammersmith (1769–1850) used a bookplate with the same arms as that of his Wycombe cousin, but with a different motto: 'Verum Atque Decens', meaning 'true and decent'. We know from JC Gomme's will that he owned at least one piece of monogrammed silver, a 'cream ewer and ladle with the family crest and J.G. engraved thereon'. Given the number of Gommes with the initial 'J', the monogram 'J.G.' was good practice with regard to passing on the family silver!

The memorial to James Chettle Gomme in St Paul's Church, Hammersmith displays the Gomm crest. This wall mounted marble slab would have been moved from the old St Paul's to the newly built church in 1883. In the process, it seems the Gomm crest on top of the memorial was damaged, but it is still possible to make out the crossed arms of two lions clutching saxon swords.



Memorial to James Chettle Gomme in St Paul's Church, Hammersmith

The Gomm coat of arms are also to be found in St Stephen's Church, Shepherd's Bush. They feature as part of the inscription beneath a stained glass window to James Gomme (1789–1855), the son of James Chettle Gomme, paying tribute to him as a donor of land on which part of the church was built.

It is interesting to note that the Gomme family business in Hammersmith eventually located to premises on the Broadway they called 'Wycombe House'. Their connection with Buckinghamshire remained unforgotten after a century and a half.

References

1. Details of early Gommings are taken from research by David Esmond Gomme (1890–1981).
2. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries MS. Eng. Misc.d.164, ff.205–206
3. *Ibid* MS. Eng. lett d.144, ff.51–52
4. *Ibid* MS. Eng. Misc. d.160, ff.143–144
5. William Gomm (1728–1792) was the younger son of William Gomm of Clerkenwell, and was a member of the 'British Factory' in St Petersburg, operating as a timber merchant.

Michael Cordwell James

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

Memorabilia

Peter Plumridge

I'm sure we've all experienced it, you mention in conversation with friends or acquaintances that you have an interest in family history and frequently the question will arise: 'how far back have you got?'

Certainly we are all interested in tracing our lineage and parish registers can be the backbone in achieving that, but we want also to flesh out the basic information. Census returns may be a first port of call and there is then a multitude of other sources we can draw from. However, there is one that I suggest is overlooked or now in our throwaway society in danger of being lost; I refer to memorabilia.

My parents were great savers and I too, being of late 1920s vintage, follow their obsession; I am an inveterate hoarder, I squirrel away things that 'might be useful one day' and so my garage shelves are filled with off-cuts of timber, metal, assorted nails, screws, nuts, bolts, washers and so on. But in the context of family history my house has much of what many doubtless regard as trivia, but to me the items tell a story. Here is a random selection.

A sampler

This is a finely finished piece of needlework, below lines of the letters of the alphabet in lower and upper case and some patterning sewn within a stitched border:

Eliza Stebben Aged 8 Years

Woodham Mortimer School

This enabled my now late wife (maiden name Stebben) to confirm a part of her extended family's history.

Sadly the little girl Eliza was to die at the age of 9 from diphtheria.



Eliza Stebben's sampler
© Peter Plumridge

A presentation box

This contains two napkin rings given to my mother by her colleagues upon leaving work just prior to her marriage. Within the box is a card which tells me the name of the firm where she worked.

A clock

For sentimental reasons I have retained a rather elderly and temperamental clock, on the inside of its back cover is written (perhaps by a repairer) the name Mrs Puddifoot, and a street name and number. Who was Mrs Puddifoot? I established she was Harriet (née Nicholas), the widow of Edward Puddifoot, who she had married in 1860, that she kept a lodging house in Brighton and was an aunt of my grandmother Ellen Plumridge née Nicholas who worked for her as a domestic servant. Perhaps the clock had been a wedding present?

WVS lapel badge

Another keepsake, I have my mother's WVS* (Women's Volunteer Services) lapel badge, this reminds me of the time in The Blitz during WW2 when she worked as a volunteer at the nearby ack ack gun site in outer London where we then lived, there she served tea and did mending for the gunners.



*Later WRVS (Women's Royal Volunteer Service).

Lock of hair

And lastly I must mention what had been a treasured possession of my grandmother Emma Mossman née Stott; this is a minute envelope containing a lock of blond hair from Henry William, an elder brother of my mother, he had died in 1895 aged 3 years and 3 months a few weeks after a horrific domestic accident. I guard this possession very carefully.

I am sure other Society members will have similar mementoes stashed away, hang on to them! We can learn so much about our families from such items.

Peter Plumridge
cadmerend@btinternet.com

Edith Elizabeth Ackerman

Memoirs, submitted by Ron Barrett

Ron Barrett has kindly submitted his grandmother's memoirs for publication. Edith Elizabeth Ackerman 1902–1994 was born in Langley, Slough, where she lived for most of her life; her final years were in nearby Datchet. Thank you, Ron, for sharing these memories of life in Langley in the early 1900s.

Early life

I was born at 6 Alma Place, Langley New Town in the parish of Langley Marish, on 27th November 1902. My parents were Charles Frederick and Elizabeth Edith Ackerman. At the time of my birth I had one brother who was 15 months my senior. He was named Charles Frederick after my father, and I was given the name Edith Elizabeth after my mother.

I cannot remember much about my first years of life until, at the age of 4, I was sent to school. At that time I had a sister, 6 months old and named Jessie Ellen. I remember my first day at school; I sat on a step between two classrooms and cried until they fetched my elder brother. Perhaps it was the first glance at the teacher that scared me; she was more like a man than a lady. I settled in and the school was the Church of England School, Herschel Street, Slough. My sister died when she was 13 months old, and I can still remember her funeral and my grandmother looking after my brother and me.

In those days there was terrible poverty around us; we being a small family must have made it easier for my parents. Most families around us were 12 children, a few had even more. They did not attend school regularly; they had no boots or clothing, so they had to take it in turns.

My father worked in the brickfields, which in those days was a big industry in Slough, and being a very thrifty man and hardworking, he kept us better off than some around us. Mind you we were not well off by a long way but we did not have the poverty others had. We had the simple things in life,

good plain food, no luxuries, only a small toy for Christmas. I remember my first doll was made of wood, about 12 inches high, with black painted hair and bright red painted cheeks.

Christmas

Christmas was always something special. We had a club card at the village shop with which we saved a farthing a week, perhaps a halfpenny depending how well off we were. At Christmas we spent the money on an assorted box of sweets, usually about half a crown it cost but what a lot of things that box contained – everlasting strips of toffee, liquorice strips, gobstoppers, aniseed balls – I could go on for a long time about its contents.

We hung our stockings up at Christmas by the mantle shelf and in the morning there, pegged to the bed rail by an ordinary clothes peg, was our stocking. The contents did not vary much each year, usually an orange in the bottom, an apple, nuts, sweets, always a few shining new pennies, not forgetting a small toy which I have already mentioned.

A fire was always lit in the front room at Christmas, that being one of the special days of the year we used this room. Christmas night we had a sing song round the log fire. My father played the concertina to such old songs as the 'Miners Dream of Home', 'Lincolnshire Poacher', 'Don't Go Down in the Mine, Daddy' and many others. These were some of my happy childhood memories, of course not forgetting the roast chestnuts. These chestnuts were collected by us from the local woods and buried in the garden until Christmas.

Housekeeping and working

When I was seven years old another brother was born who was to be named Thomas James. I had to mind Thomas and my mother used to work in the fields picking peas and potatoes, and in the summer fruit picking. We went to the fields to help during the summer holidays from school, which was four weeks. My eldest brother and myself had to help with the housework before going to school. He cleaned the grate and I did the washing and sweeping up.

I also had a job of running errands, calling at the lady's house on the way to school and after, for six days a week. I had sixpence, three pence I used to

put on a clothing club card at school and each November we could cash this for clothing which was a great help to my parents. I kept this errand job for a long time and then I thought I deserved more money so I asked for a rise which was given to me, a princely sum of tuppence. My father could see the funny side of that and I can remember his laughter. Then I got another little job on a Saturday morning cleaning brass door handles and cleaning steps. For this I had threepence, so with the two jobs I was pretty well off.

School days

My school days were very happy days. I had no difficulties about learning. My best subjects were reading, writing and arithmetic for which I took prizes.

The first day of May each year was a special day. Us village children collected wild flowers the day before and made a garland, a hoop of flowers, and a wand to carry. We had a wreath of flowers on our head. Then we went along to the big houses and sung our May songs, such happy days.

I must tell you that my home was a Christian home. We had to go to church on Sundays and Sunday school, then after leaving school I was a member of the Bible class until I was 21. I took confirmation when I was 17. We had our classes at St Mary's Church, Langley at seven o'clock on a Sunday morning. This meant we had to walk a mile or so along the canal towpath, it was well worth it.

My mother was a member of the Mothers' Union and her friend was my godmother; such a lovely and true Christian person. I remember the sun bonnet she bought for me, so I could sit in her garden and shell the peas, but alas she died in childbirth. I was very sad.

First World War

When I was 12 years old the Great War came in 1914. This changed many things. At school we started knitting socks and mittens for the forces. The education department had made it clear that we could leave school at 13 of age if we had five years' previous good attendance, which I had, so I left school at 13 years old.

You had to have employment and if you left the job before you were 14 years old you had to return to school. I went as a general maid in a middle-class

home. This was very hard work, up at the crack of dawn, one half-day a week off and every other Sunday half day. My wages were 10 shillings a month.

My father was called into the army and, after three month's training, was sent to France into the firing line. He was at the Battle of the Somme and was in the trenches for weeks in terrible conditions. After coming out of the trenches for a breather they went to the wells to get fresh water, not knowing that the enemy had poisoned the water. This set up complications and my father was brought back to England to a hospital at Bristol. He was three weeks in hospital but alas he died from a kidney complaint set up by the poison. He died on his 36th birthday which was 2 March 1917.

This was another sad chapter in my life and it unsettled me very much. I wanted to be with my mother and was homesick, so I left my job without even giving notice. I was determined never to go back and never leave home again. There was trouble, of course, they wanted to keep my clothing, but in the end all was well.



**Edith Elizabeth (front left) with her children
(L-R: Ronald, David, Jessica, Llewelyn, Eric)**

I settled at home and was happy once more. My mother was working at the nursery, which was named 'Suttons Seed Trial Grounds'. The war being on, they had to grow more vegetables than flowers, and also had to employ female labour on the land. I got a job on the land at the same nursery as my mother. Being only about 15 years old it was hard going. We had to do the work of a man, digging and hoeing, but again I was happy with the work I was doing. It proves my contentment because I stayed in this job for 14 years.

Entertainment

In those days we did not have the entertainment of today. We certainly made a lot of it ourselves. We did have the cinema, which we went to on a Saturday evening. It cost us three pence. When we were children we could get to see the pictures, as it was called in those days, for three ha'pennies. The great attraction was the serial, which continued each week, such as 'Perils of Pearl White'. There was always a Charlie Chaplin comedies and Tom Mix and his cowboys. Of course these were all silent films.

When I was in my teens I liked the theatre. I went very often to Windsor, that being the only one for miles around.

DNA – Blood is Thicker than Water

In September, 2018 I had a DNA test for my big birthday. Result – I now find I have a second cousin living in New Zealand. I also have other relatives living in Australia.

I had known as a child that three of Grandma's younger brothers had emigrated to Australia, Africa and Ireland; I believe they were Missionaries. One brother stayed in Portsmouth and worked as an engineer, previously he was in submarines in WW1. My cousin can trace our male ancestry back to 1484 and some female branches back to Vikings in 840.

We are part of the world wide ... WEBB ... family.

Jan Calder

1921 Census in Bucks

Rebecca Gurney

Family historians are eagerly anticipating the release of the 1921 census in 2022. Findmypast has the exclusive contract to publish the English and Welsh records online; Scottish records will be on ScotlandsPeople.

The first census since WW1, it will bridge the gap between the 1911 census and the 1939 Register, and answer new questions on topics such as divorce, details of workplace and/or employer and the number of living rooms in a house. As the first census to examine the impact of the Great War, it will show the impact of population changes resulting from the loss of so many lives and the resulting drop in birth rates 1914–1918.

According to the *Buckinghamshire Advertiser and Free Press* of 1 January 1921, the cost to the country was estimated to be £500,000, more than double the cost of the 1911 census.

The same paper on 26 January 1924 stated that ‘There were 4,370 builders and bricklayers, etc., including 10 women, two of whom were employers and managers, in Bucks 1921 Census.’ It will be interesting to find out more about women’s work in general, and how they may have had more opportunities or different obligations post-war. Apparently there were 1,720,802 more women than men in the total population for Great Britain in 1921.

The Census in Aylesbury District

Census night was 19 June 1921. It had been planned for 24 April, but industrial unrest in the form of miners’ strikes meant it was postponed.

Mr T. C. FOSTER, Aylesbury District Registrar, was responsible locally, with the following enumerators.

- Aylesbury & Walton: **Messrs G. W. LAY, C. F. JENNS, R. E. GIBBS, H. O. H. PROCTOR, E. J. LOCKE, C. J. SANNARD, H. J. GILLS,** and **Miss E. A. PALMER.**
- Aston Clinton: **Mr G. H. SHARP** (Aston Clinton)

- St Leonards and Halton (not RAF Camp): Mr Hodges (Aston Clinton)
- Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp: **Mr G. ROBINS** (Buckland)
- Hawridge, Cholesbury & Buckland Common: **Mr J. STANNIFORD** (Hawridge)
- Bierton, Broughton & Hulcott: **Mr H. BENTLEY jnr** (Bierton)
- Weston Turville: **Miss A. L. PARTRIDGE** (Aylesbury)
- Stoke Mandeville: **Mr F. BOYLIN** (Stoke Mandeville)
- Aston Sandford & part Haddenham: **Mrs W. A. C. RICHARDS** (Haddenham)
- Part of Haddenham: **Mr C. H. RICHARDS** (Haddenham)
- Dinton, Ford and Upton: **Mr J. R. HUGHES** (Dinton)
- Stone, Bishopstone and Hartwell: **Mrs E. E. WALKER** (Stone).

Buckinghamshire in June 1921

A look through the *Bucks Herald* of 18th June 1921 gives an interesting snapshot of local life the week before the census.

Fundraising was ongoing for the War Memorial Institute at Great Missenden, including a fete at Missenden Abbey. Here the winners of the 'baby show' were Doris LEWIS, Alfred KIMBER and Malcolm MORREN. There was a Punch and Judy show run by Mr W. PEARCE of Chesham and silhouettes by Mr HARDRUP. Mr R. PAYNE conducted the Aylesbury Print Works Band. Significant sums were being raised to honour the war dead.

Music lessons were advertised by local teachers Miss Florence EAST, Miss Isabel BROWNING of Frenchwood, Great Missenden, and Stanley M. A. CALPIN, organist and choirmaster at the parish church in Aylesbury. Did local families have more disposable income to pay for music lessons?

There were approximately 30 situations vacant advertised, several for housemaids and parlourmaids, but also a ploughman, carpenter, a sales rep for veterinary preparations and a draper's apprentice. How were employment options now different for veterans returning to civil jobs and women who had experience outside the domestic sphere?

Aylesbury County Court heard plenty of cases of claims for possession including for Dorian Farm at Buckland (Ernest Dwight DUNTON and Joseph DUNTON); and of No 11 London Road Wendover (Richard Cummin SANDERS of Vine Tree Farm and T. H. THORNE). The schoolmaster of Aston Abbots school, George HARRISON, was refusing to vacate the school house, despite having retired.

There are signs of the increasing popularity of motorcars. Aylesbury Petty Sessions dealt with several driving offences: Herbert George CAVILL of RAF Halton didn't have a licence to drive his motor car. Sidney BROOKS of Weston Turville rode his bicycle without proper lights.

Princes Risborough Petty Sessions charged Richard BUSBY of Haddenham for driving a cart with no light, and Thomas LAING and Richard MORFELL, both of RAF Halton, were separately charged with driving bicycles without lights. Morfell was in hospital so did not appear in court.

There was a column on Automobile Notes, and plenty of car adverts. You could buy 'The Maxwell 4-seater touring car' for £420 from T. R. Seaton's garage, or a Chevrolet for £330 from E. W. Young's garage (both in Aylesbury – and both reduced prices).

Wycombe Town Council applied for a loan to buy Pann Mill on Easton Street, for the purpose of public baths. Mulsified coocoanut [*sic*] oil shampoo was being heralded as the 'pure and entirely greaseless' answer to clean hair.

There was still an emphasis on agriculture, with several dedicated columns: how to sow root vegetables, various shows and prizes, auctions and suppliers. The big news was the National Farmer's Union proposed reduction in farm labourers' wages. This had many column inches in still very rural Bucks.

Harry CLUTTON and Henry ROOM, both of Haddenham, got into a fight after a carnival at the War Veterans' Club, Haddenham. Clutton died and Room was to be tried for manslaughter at the next Bucks Assizes. Evidence came from the deceased's wife and his stepdaughter Amelia WHITEHOUSE, from Fredk. Chas. SMALL (steward of the club), Wm. Alfred ING, hairdresser, and George Henry BIRCH (parents at Haddenham).

Who are you most looking forward to finding in 1921? Are you hoping to solve any longstanding family mysteries? Be sure to let us know how you use the census when it is released and maybe you will even have a story worthy of an article for the Alan Dell Award!

The Arthur Veary Treacher Mystery: Part 1

Carol Bossenberry

'Veary, that's not a very common name' a student and I exclaimed at the same time. That was several years ago in a genealogy class I was teaching at a local seniors' centre. VEARY is the maiden name of my husband's mother. I had done some Veary research and knew as soon as I saw the student's pedigree chart that there was a connection to my husband. Joyce, as it turns out, is a second cousin to my husband Ralph. Joyce's grandfather Thomas Alfred Veary (1864–1956) and Ralph's grandfather Arthur Edgar Veary (1873–1954) were brothers, sons of Samuel Grover Veary and Jane Elizabeth Stanley who immigrated to Montreal from England in the 1870s. As remarkable as that incident was, that is not the story I want to tell.

Joyce had been in contact with some of her Veary relations but knew that she was missing vital information that was not available in research documents. She wanted to know more family stories. After exchanging some information with me and doing a bit more research on her own, Joyce decided to contact all the Vearys she could find on Canada 411 and sent a 2016 Christmas letter hoping to make connections to people who were related. Of the 25 letters she sent, she only had one response from a cousin who lives about a two-hour drive away in Sarnia, so she set up a family gathering with four Veary cousins: herself, Ralph, another cousin Clifford and the newly found cousin Ray.

At that family gathering, Ralph's first cousin Clifford wondered if anyone else had heard a family story that Arthur TREACHER of Arthur Treacher's Fish & Chips was a relative. He said the middle name was Veary and Clifford remembered someone talking about it when he was younger. Always up for a challenge, I said I would do some research and look for a connection. I checked the research I had done a few years ago and found Sarah Treacher (1795–1831) married to William Veary (1877–1864), brother to my husband's great-great grandfather. That looked like our Veary connection to the Treacher family.

I decided to start with the Treacher line and trace the family back to find the link with the Veary family. A quick Google search produced several biographies and photographs of Arthur Veary Treacher, born on 23 July 1894 in Brighton, Sussex, England to Arthur Treacher (1862–1924) and Mary Treacher (1865–1946). He married Virginia TAYLOR (1898–1984) in 1940 and died at age 81 on 14 December 1975 in Manhasset, Town of North Hempstead, New York. Arthur Treacher was an accomplished actor in film and a radio and TV announcer from the 1930s to 1970 in the USA. He lent his name to the Arthur Treacher's Fish & Chips chain of restaurants. (See links below.)

Using Ancestry.ca, FamilySearch.org and FreeBMD, over the course of several afternoons I pieced together Arthur Veary Treacher's life in the USA back to his parents and grandparents in Sussex, England and possibly his great-grandparents in Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England.

First I looked at FreeBMD, an index to the civil registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and found Arthur Veary Treacher's birth in the index for the 3rd Quarter 1894 in Brighton, Sussex. I checked for a marriage for his parents and found two possibilities, the Arthur Veary Treacher marriage to Alice Mary LONGHURST or Alice Mary LATTER in Brighton Sep 1893. A tip – when using FreeBMD for marriages click on the page number to find the name of the possible spouse and click on the district to get more information about the location.

Next I checked Ancestry.ca to look at UK census records. In the 1901 census for Haywards Heath in Sussex, I found Alice M Treacher, 32, wife and Arthur V Treacher, 6, son. There was no male head of household listed but in the household were visitors whose surname was LONGHURST. That was the clue that led me to believe that it was Alice Mary Longhurst who married Arthur Veary Treacher.

In the 1891 census for Haywards Heath, Sussex in the Harry and Sarah Treacher household, was the 25-year-old son, Arthur V, solicitor (Arthur Veary Treacher's father). Haywards Heath is a short distance east from Cuckfield where the birth of Arthur V Treacher was registered in 1866. Ann DEACON, sister-in-law, was also in the household. I found a civil marriage registration between Harry Treacher and Sarah Deacon in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire in 1856. Looking at the 1881, 1871 and 1861

census records for Harry and Sarah Treacher and the birth registrations for each child in the family, I confirmed that this was the same family in consecutive census records. Harry Treacher was born in Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Ralph's Veary ancestors all came from Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. I must be getting closer.

The only Harry Treacher I could find in the 1851 census was a 19-year-old visitor in a household with three NOBLE brothers headed by 26-year-old John in Shoreditch, Middlesex. Harry's birth location did not match previous census records. When I searched for other 1851 census returns I found the Thomas and Elizabeth Treacher household in Chipping Wycombe, Buckinghamshire which included daughter Elizabeth, 27, and Jane Veary, 36, the wife's sister.

I found the same couple in the 1841 census for Chipping Wycombe. Household members were Thomas 50, Elizabeth 40, Ellen 19, Elizabeth 17, Harry 9, Charles 7, Jane Veary, 25, and Susanna LOWES, 25, all born in the same county (Buckinghamshire). Jane and Susanna were listed as 'F & S' (female servant) in the employment column.

In the 1841 UK census, the ages of people over 15 years were rounded down to the nearest five years. For example, someone who was 24 would have their age listed as 20, and someone who was 27 would have their age listed as 25. In the 1851 census Elizabeth Treacher was 54 and Jane Veary was 36 – probably more accurate ages than in the 1841 census.

I found the banns and marriage records for Thomas Treacher and Elizabeth Veary in St. Marylebone, Westminster, for 1820 on Ancestry.ca and a link to Find A Grave. Coincidentally, in 1852 daughter Elizabeth Treacher married John Noble. She died in 1864 and her name is on the headstone for Thomas Treacher and wife Elizabeth stating she was interred in Highgate Cemetery (London). I located the marriage registration for Elizabeth and John Noble in the 2nd Quarter June 1852 in Wycombe and on the same page was the marriage for Jane Veary and Thomas FURNELL. Could this be the same Jane Veary who lived with the Treachers and the link to our Veary family? I was certain I was on the right track.

It was time to make the connection to Ralph's Veary family. I looked at the Veary family tree information I had researched a number of years ago but

could not find sisters Elizabeth and Jane in any family group. I had traced Ralph's direct line back five generations from his mother Amy Lillian Veary 1907–1981, to her father Arthur Edgar Veary 1873–1954, his father Samuel Grover Veary 1840–1916, his father Thomas Veary 1797–1861 and his father Samuel Veary 1760–1830 in Buckinghamshire.

I had researched Canadian records going back to when the family arrived in Canada in the early 1870s. I found marriage and baptism information from the indexes of Buckinghamshire parish records on FindMyPast and some on FamilySearch for Thomas Veary, his wife Mary Ann STEVENS (1803–1873) and four children, Samuel Grover Veary who came to Canada being the youngest. I found several references in the indexes for the marriage of Samuel Veary and Mary HALL on 13 September 1781 in High Wycombe, but other than son Thomas and another son William married to Sarah Treacher, I had little information and few actual images of the records.

I booked a research trip to England in March 2017 and planned to spend several days at the Family History Centre in London looking at microfilm of parish registers for Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to research Ralph's British roots and Devon for my own family. I had consulted the GENUKI site for background information about Buckinghamshire. The site includes a list of archives and libraries, a description of the county, population information, churches, cemeteries, directories, newspapers, maps and much more. I used the FamilySearch online catalogue and made a list of microfilm numbers for the West Wycombe and High Wycombe parishes and then made a list of the records I wanted to research by name and date. When I got to the Family History Centre in London I requested the microfilm I needed and started down my to-do list.

In the parish registers for St Lawrence, West Wycombe I found the baptism for William Veary naming his parents Samuel Veary (1760–1830) and wife Mary, his marriage to Sarah Treacher on 29 June 1812 and the baptisms of their eight children born between 1813 and 1828 as well as Sarah Treacher's baptism in the same parish. I was unable to save the images and had to transcribe all the information which cut into the research time. When I came home I spent many hours typing the information into my Legacy database and felt that I had done as much of the research as I could and I would be able to move on to other projects.

When we met the Veary cousins in summer of 2017 and the question about Arthur Veary Treacher came up, I was confident that I could solve the mystery fairly easily based on the research I had already done and the Treacher information I found on the internet.

It took many months to put together the Treacher information in between other projects and after I found the Veary link I realised I still had some large gaps in my research. I needed to go back to the parish registers to find other Veary families that are connected to sisters Elizabeth Veary Treacher and Jane Veary. Perhaps they were daughters of siblings of Thomas and William. I still did not have many images from the parish registers and was relying on indexes, so I decided to spend some time obtaining images of the parish records. I checked the Guild for One-Name Studies but alas no one was researching the Veary or Treacher names. There were occurrences of both names in the Guild indexes accessible only by members.

Early in summer 2019 I spent an afternoon at the Family History Centre in London, Ontario searching FindMyPast and FamilySearch for baptisms in Buckinghamshire for a Veary family with daughters Elizabeth and Jane who were 15 to 20 years apart in age. I looked at every Elizabeth and Jane Veary in the indexes and identified a family headed by William and Martha Veary. I put together a family group sheet for William and Martha (VENABLE) Veary who had 10 children born between 1792 and 1814 including daughters Elizabeth born in 1797 and Jane born in 1814.

Just as an aside, there were more Veary families in Buckinghamshire than I had anticipated. This project was taking over all my free time and getting more and more complicated with no end in sight. I had two extensive family lines I was unable to cross over. The Veary and Treacher names were easy to search in the English records until it came time to prove the relationship to Ralph's Veary family. I was now looking for records in the mid-1700s and coming across Veary names that I knew must be linked but I could not prove relationships. I had to go back to the images of early parish registers, so I decided to buy CDs of the parish records from the Buckinghamshire Family History Society. While I was waiting for the mail, I went back to the Veary and Treacher timelines I had created, made note of the records that might help prove my theory and created a list of the other Veary names that could be linked.

[Continued in part two]

Sources

Arthur Treacher Biographies

https://everipedia.org/wiki/lang_en/Arthur_Treacher/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Treacher

<http://www.foundagrave.com/grave/arthur-treacher/>

Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.ca/>

FreeBMD <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

FreeReg (Parish Registers) <https://www.freereg.org.uk/>

General Register Office for England and Wales <https://www.gro.gov.uk/>

Genuki for Buckinghamshire <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/BKM/>

Find My Past <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/>

Distress Amongst Poor Families

The London Evening Post
quoted in the *Ipswich Journal*
28 May 1757

We are informed that a poor woman in Buckinghamshire, with nine children, and big with a tenth, was so far distressed as not to have had, for some days, any kind of sustenance, either for herself or Family. A person accidentally giving her six-pence, she bought a calf's pluck to make into broth; but while she was gone out to get a few sticks, the Children fastened on it, raw as it was, and ate it up every bit, gullet and all, before their Mother's return. 'Tis inconceivable to what distresses many poor Families are reduced, insomuch that many of them have never had, for several months, any other food than grains and salt, or boiled horse-beans, the consequences of which, in all probability, will be a Distemper amongst them, which, like a Pestilence, will sweep away thousands. How much, therefore, does it behove every Magistrate to exert himself for their timely Relief, and avert as much as in him lies, this impending Evil.

Submitted by Howard Lambert

HS2 at Stoke Mandeville

HS2 high speed rail construction works continue across Bucks, affecting wildlife, landscape and communities on and around the route from Chalfont St Giles via Little Missenden, South Heath, Great Missenden, Wendover, Stoke Mandeville and Fleet Marston to Calvert. Much important local countryside and heritage is being lost forever along the way.

One such loss is the historic site of the original village, church and churchyard of Stoke Mandeville, half a mile south of the present-day village. This village had long disappeared and relocated north by 1866, when the original parish church of St Mary the Virgin was replaced by the new church. Now only rubble remains, unprotected by legislation. The last burials were made in the churchyard in 1908 which, in the context of family history, is not that long ago.

The site is being cleared by HS2 archaeological teams who will research the exhumed remains. Once the work has finished, the remains will be reburied in the Stoke Mandeville parish, although the exact location has yet to be agreed (May 2021).

- Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society – www.bucksas.org.uk
- Stoke Mandeville Parish Council – www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk
- HS2 – www.hs2.org.uk

Holt's Family History Research

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holtsfamilyhistoryresearch@gmail.com



@holtsfamilyhistoryresearch

07983633023



**Do you have ancestors in
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**Our Website and Online Shop at
www.eurekapartnership.com**

contains full details.

Buckinghamshire FHS SOCIETY SERVICES

What is available?

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

How do I request a service?

- Individual service request procedures are detailed on the following pages. Information is also on our website at <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>
- Please send your order for publications or for searches to the address specified.
- The services are not run from a central office, but by individual volunteers.
- 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.

How do I pay?

Please refer to the individual services notices on the following pages

- **Cheque**
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.

How is postage charged?

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.

How do I cancel my order?

Sales are covered by the Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013 & Consumer Rights Act 2015. Orders may be cancelled within 14 days. In the case of goods supplied (e.g. books) this is 14 days from the date of receipt by the consumer. In the case of services supplied (e.g. database searches) this is 14 days from the date of the contract which is the date on which Buckinghamshire Family History Society receives the request. Any cancellation must be in writing either by post or e-mail to the address to which the original order was sent. On the receipt of a cancellation notice and the returned goods the Society is required to refund the cost within 30 days. Cost of postage for the returned goods will be borne by the customer. Any orders for magazines or periodicals which the Society may from time to time sell are excluded from the right to cancel.

Other notes

- Please note that fees for searches undertaken at fairs may vary.
- Please provide full contact details including email address, as this will help us to process your order more efficiently.

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 (for printed publications)
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

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
- Option 2: Single Surname Search – all available parishes £3 per 100 years
- Option 3: Single Surname Search – all available parishes, all years £10
- Option 4: Single Surname Search – all years in 6 parishes £3

(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

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
- Option 2: Single Surname Search – all available parishes £3 per 100 years
- 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

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

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

Record Office Tel: 01296 382587
Email: archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Local Studies Tel: 01296 382250
(Check before visiting)

High Wycombe Library
5 Eden Place, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP11 2DH
Tel: 01296 382415
Email: 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

Chesham Library
Elgiva Lane, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2JD
Tel: 01296 382415
Email: lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckingham Library
Verney Close, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 1JP
Tel: 01296 382415
Email: lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Society of Genealogists
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA
Tel: 020 7251 8799
www.sog.org.uk

The National Archives
Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond,
Surrey, TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 8876 3444
Email: enquiry@pro.gov.uk
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

General Register Office
PO Box 2,
Southport PR8 2JD
Tel: 0300 123 1837
Email: certificate.services@gro.gsi.gov.uk
www.gro.gov.uk

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Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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