

ORIGINS

SUMMER 2022



Included in this Issue

- The Smiths of Northend (Alan Dell Award Winner)
 - Burial Practice in Bucks
 - Wingrave Emigrants

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES for the year commencing 1st January 2022

UK Individual (A)	£12.00	Overseas (E)	£17.00
UK Family (B)	£15.00	Individual online (W)	£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 2022 Vol. 46 No. 2

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From the Editor

By the time you receive this edition, summer should be on our doorstep in Buckinghamshire, with outdoor events galore and the Chiltern countryside at its best. Despite all the distractions this time of year can bring, I hope you might find time to contribute to *Origins* – maybe start to plan an article to enter into the Alan Dell Award, or take some local photos of anything that might be of interest to members near and far. *Origins* is heavily reliant on member contributions and without them it would be an impossible task for me to produce it. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has written pieces and submitted interesting snippets etc for this edition.

It's good news that some 'in person' Society meetings are now taking place, with interesting speakers booked. See details in these pages. It's also great to be able to share some write ups from these talks again.

Alan Dell Award 2021

In 2021 there were two entries for the award for best article with Buckinghamshire family history interest. These entries each contained some excellent original research and the judges very much enjoyed reading them. Many thanks and congratulations to Julie Chandler for her winning entry 'The Smiths of Northend' (published in this edition) and to Helen Willson, a worthy runner-up with 'Behind Every Picture. Arthur Hathaway's Painting' (to be published in the Winter 2022 edition). Well done to both of you. I hope the articles inspire other members to take the leap and enter a piece about their own research. The society is proud to continue this tribute to our former Chairman and of course it provides some excellent content for these pages too.

Rebecca Gurney
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

A Note From the Honorary Secretary

Further to the notice on page 69, I can confirm there is no Open Day in 2022. But the good news is that both the Bourne End and Bletchley branch meetings have restarted. Upcoming meeting details are included in this edition where they are available.

I was able to attend a recent Bourne End meeting and enjoyed the talk and the conversation after the meeting. One thing that came out of the meeting was the need to find people to help run the branch. Can you help keep this meeting going? Please contact me if you are interested.

I would also like to know if there is any interest in restarting the meeting at Aylesbury on Saturday? Again, please let me know.

Bucks FHS depends on volunteers, thank you to all those who help.

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

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

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Origins Submissions Deadlines

December 2022 (Winter) issue – 4th October 2022

March 2023 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2023

July 2023 (Summer) issue – 3rd May 2023

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

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 on 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



OPEN DAY 2022

The Bucks FHS Open Day committee recently met to see whether there was enough interest from stallholders to run an Open Day in 2022. We had an initial date booked with the Grange School for 23 July 2022.

We were uncertain about a couple of things:

1. Whether stallholders would attend after 2 years of no Open Days; and
2. Whether we could get enough volunteers to help on the day.

We emailed all stallholders who were interested in attending our cancelled 2020 event. Of the 74 stallholders emailed we had 23 responses – 17 of whom would attend should we go ahead. Only three Family History Societies responded.

While this number was perhaps sufficient to go ahead, albeit in a smaller setting, we also had to consider whether we would have enough volunteers to help us to both set up the day beforehand as well as help out on the day itself.

Bucks Family History Society has been fortunate over the years to have enough willing volunteers to organise the event and to help run the day. Sadly, our numbers have slowly dwindled over the years, due to factors such as age and volunteers moving out of the area. Additionally, a couple of committee members (currently there are five members, all from the Northern Group) have indicated that this would be the last year that they could help to organise future Open Days.

Given both situations, the Bucks FHS Open Day committee have concluded that we may not have sufficient stallholders or volunteers to make the Open Day for 2022 a complete success and have therefore decided not to hold the event this year.

Tony Coyne
Bucks FHS Open Day Committee Chair

Society Meetings

ONLINE TALKS

At present, the Society is running a series of free online talks to replace some of 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.



Online Talks

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK

THE LIFE of the POOR and ASSISTED EMIGRATION
Friday 30th September 2022 from 8.15pm

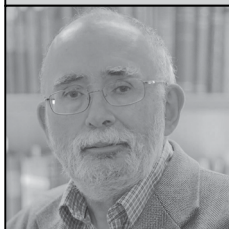


This talk will be given by Judy Hill, via Zoom. It is free, and for members only.

The link required to join the meeting can be obtained by logging in to the Society's website, where further details of the talk can also be found.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK

RESEARCHING BREWERY and PUBLICAN ANCESTORS
Friday 28th October 2022 from 8.15pm



This talk will be given by Simon Fowler, via Zoom. It is free, and for members only.

The link required to join the meeting can be obtained by logging in to the Society's website, where further details of the talk can also be found.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK

USING DNA to SUPPORT FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH
Friday 27th January 2023 from 8.15pm



This talk will be given by Amelia Bennett, via Zoom. It is free, and for members only.

The link required to join the meeting can be obtained by logging in to the Society's website, where further details of the talk can also be found.

Come and Meet Us!

The Society holds regular meetings for members. Visitors (non members) are very welcome to attend the meetings but there is a charge of £2.

Most meetings have a topic which is introduced by a knowledgeable speaker and with the opportunity to put questions to the speaker. There is time before and after the formal proceedings to browse various Society libraries and other facilities and to chat with other members.

We hold meetings at the three venues listed below. Some libraries and other research aids are available at the Central Group meetings. A more limited range of information is also available at the Northern and Southern Group meetings.

Note: all speakers are subject to change at short notice.

SOUTHERN GROUP	CENTRAL GROUP	NORTHERN GROUP
Community Centre Wakeman Road Bourne End Bucks SL8 5SX email: southernbranch@ bucksfhs.org.uk Doors Open 7:30pm Meetings start 7:45pm	Turnfurlong Junior School Turnfurlong Lane Aylesbury Bucks HP21 7PL email: centralbranch@ bucksfhs.org.uk Doors Open 1:30pm Meetings start 2:00pm	Methodist Church Hall Queensway Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2HB email: northernbranch@ bucksfhs.org.uk Doors Open 7:15pm Meetings start 7:30pm

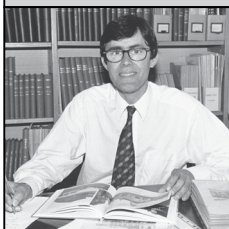
Ample parking is available at all venues

Tea and coffee available

June 2022

NORTHERN GROUP Methodist Church Hall
Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB

JULIAN HUNT: COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
Wednesday 1st June 2022 7:30pm



Julian's talk examines the various cottage industries which were of past importance to our Buckinghamshire ancestors, and leads into the subject of next month's talk.

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

DAVE ANNAL: MY ANCESTOR WAS A LIAR
Tuesday 14th June 2022 7:45pm



Sifting through the evidence to find the truth (or what passes for the truth in the world of genealogy) is a skill which all serious family historians need to develop. The information left by our ancestors is all-too-frequently misleading, inaccurate or just plain wrong! As we become more experienced we find that they had any number of reasons to be economical with the truth.

CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL

TO BE ANNOUNCED

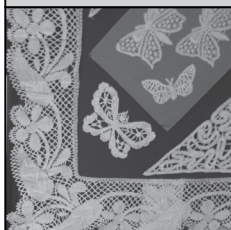


Plans to resume meetings at Aylesbury were not available when Origins went to press. Please check the Society's website for announcements.

July 2022

**NORTHERN GROUP Methodist Church Hall
Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB**

**MARION SWINDELLS: LOCAL LACE MAKING
Wednesday 6th July 2022 7:30pm**



In the late seventeenth century there were nearly 8,000 lace workers in the county. Carried out by women and girls, lace making had become both a well established cottage industry and a significant part of the local economy, especially so in the north. A casual look at census returns is enough to show how important it remained two centuries later.

**SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX**

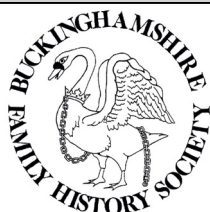
**TO BE ANNOUNCED
Tuesday 12th July 2022 7:45pm**



The subject of this meeting was still to be announced when Origins went to press. Please check the Society's website and local publicity.

**CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL**

TO BE ANNOUNCED



The Society's Open Day will not take place this year.

Plans to resume meetings at Aylesbury were not available when Origins went to press. Please check the Society's website for announcements.

Diary Dates

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

At the time of writing (Jun 2022), some 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

Sat 25th Jun 10 am to 4.30 pm	The Family History Show Host: FHS/DYAP York Racecourse YO23 1EX Free talks and ask the experts. Free parking. Price: £6.00 in advance, £8.00 on the day (early bird 2 for £8.00). Under 16s free. w thefamilyhistoryshow.com
Thu 30th Jun 10.25 am to 3.00 pm	Chair Bodgers Pub Tour Host: Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership High Wycombe & surrounding area Explore this unique English craft and the heritage of the Chilterns through a pub tour like no other! Price: £9.00 including lunch w shorturl.at/hlwW0 w chilternsaonb.org/summerwildlife.html
Sat 10th Sep 10 am to 4.00 pm	Family & Local History Fair Host: Cheshire FHS St Matthews Church Hall, Chester Rd, Stretford, Manchester, M32 9AJ Price: £2.00 w fhsc.org.uk

<p>Sat 24th to Sun 25th Sep</p>	<p>Rural Life Host: Chiltern Open Air Museum Newland Park, Gorelands Ln, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4AB Learn about traditional rural skills in the Chilterns: harvest, bodgers, blacksmithing, straw plait w coam.org.uk/events/rural-life-2/</p>
<p>Sat 1st Oct 10 am to 4.00 pm</p>	<p>Oxford Family History Society Fair The Marlborough Church of England School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP Free entry w ofhs.org.uk</p>

Amersham Old Town History Walks

Amersham Museum is running history walks on 'Early Development of Amersham Old Town' and 'Expansion of Old Amersham'. Price Free – £9.00. Pre-booking recommended. See their website for details:

<https://amershammuseum.org/events/>

Milton Keynes Heritage

If you have ancestors in North Bucks you might like to consider subscribing to the Milton Keynes Heritage Newsletter. It has links to many groups in the area – local history groups, museums etc. You would receive a twice monthly email newsletter, with some national items and with information about activities in the North bucks area. It would be a good way to add extra information to the picture of your ancestors' lives.

www.mkheritage.co.uk

Talk Reports

Summaries of the talks delivered by our guest speakers at our Northern, Central or Southern Group meetings.

NORTHERN GROUP MEETINGS



April 2022

Members' Meeting

Wow – an actual meeting after two years! In April, 18 of us gathered in a circle (socially distanced of course!) and chatted about what we had been doing family history-wise during the lockdown.

Ken and Maggie had been writing their memoirs; Ken mainly about the work on their house over the years and Maggie recalling the games played as kids, which provoked several memories among us of ball games and the rhymes that went with them. Anyone remember 'Upsy, downsie, round the world to backsie'?

Geoff had been looking at wills and at Swedish family history, while Marian had worked on lace making history for the Cooper and Newton Museum in Olney.

Yvonne had indulged in some sideways family history looking for FLOWERS – the family not the blossoms!

Jerry, Colin K and Mark S had been following DNA links which prompted some contributions from Sue on DNA and computer references. Mark had also been printing some family trees to decorate his wall.

Rex and Anne had been thinking about brick walls and how to demolish them. Rex had found Find My Past very helpful when he contacted them to find a missing great-grandfather on the 1921 census.

All in all, it was a pleasant evening. It was good to see people again and just chat.

Anne Watson



May 2022

Honing Your Detective Skills

Gwyneth Wilkie

Our second actual meeting since lockdown and the first with a speaker, we welcomed Gwyneth Wilkie, a Bucks FHS member who has spoken to us several times before, to tell us about honing our detective skills.

Gwyneth took us through the basic search strategies:

- Go through what you already know
- Define what you want to know
- Work out a plan
- Carry it out.

Then basically Review, Revisit, Review, Revisit and follow the acronyms:

TIE – Trace, Identify, Eliminate

ABC – Assume nothing, Believe nothing, Check everything.

Having given the basic strategies, Gwyneth then took us through several apparent brickwalls she had helped resolve, with the constant reminder to 'review evidence and persist': after constantly attacking a problem, a period of time to reflect and think can help. Things change over time; what is available on sites like Ancestry, Find My Past and Family Search has changed and been updated. New sites and records may have appeared. We need to think about what worked and what didn't and be ready to ditch theories and learn from what went wrong. Is the brickwall the end or the beginning!

This was an interesting and thought-provoking talk. Gwyneth provided a welcome handout for members, listing many of the sources she had used and references to other sites and to publications worth considering.

My Brickwall

The thoughts about revisiting old areas reminded me that during lockdown a friend had drawn my attention to an article in the Northumberland FHS Journal which prompted me to renew the search for my great-grandmother's death. I knew when Margaret Ann WILKIE was born and when she married my great-grandfather George PRINGLE. He died in 1883 and she remarried Felix McCartin in 1886. By 1901 Felix had disappeared and she was back in Chatton, Northumberland using the surname Pringle again and the same in 1911, when she was living with her daughter Emma in Chatton. But I had never been able to find her death. I had always assumed she had died around 1911 when my granddad visited her on his return from South Africa. I put in the basic details on Ancestry but forgot to specify death records. To my astonishment the second entry on the list was a marriage in 1921 of a Margaret A Pringle born 1843 to a William Johnston, also born around 1920. When I received the certificates there was Margaret Ann, aged 78, widow, daughter of James Wilkie deceased, marrying William Johnstone widower, aged 76 – tick. The death certificate I subsequently found for a Margaret Ann Johnstone revealed the informant as Emma Cuthbert, daughter. Bingo – I had found her. So if you're looking for the death of an elderly female remember that she may have remarried in old age and therefore changed her surname!

Anne Watson

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETINGS



April 2022

House Histories: If Walls Could Talk

Cathy Soughton

At last, after a gap of two years, we were able to hold our first 'live' meeting in Bourne End in April. Cathy Soughton gave us a very interesting talk on researching house history.

Cathy likened this type of research to doing a jigsaw puzzle – you have to construct a picture from lots of pieces. Although many of these pieces are acquired from the same sort of documents used in family history research, there are many other sources worth investigating. For houses built in the late Victorian period or later it should be possible to construct a reasonable history – earlier builds are more problematical.

But it is not always easy to judge the age of a house from its appearance – the same style does not necessarily mean the same age. Some new houses are built in an old style (eg 'Mock Tudor'), and some really old houses have been 'modernised', by applying a brick fascia in front of timber beams, for instance. Cathy showed us pairs of photographs and invited us to say which was the older house, which was not easy.

The first priority is to ensure that you are researching the right property. House numbers or names were not usually used in villages where everyone knew everyone else, and they often do not appear in census returns (it may just say 'village'). Be wary when you can find house numbers, as they may have been changed over the years; Marlow High Street is an example of this.

Then Cathy gave us a series of suggestions about sources of information, all illustrated by slides:

- If you are lucky enough to seek a property on a landed estate, there is always a mass of information in estate records.
- Copyhold properties were under the jurisdiction of the lord of the manor and manorial records, if they exist, should be a fruitful source.
- Be wary of family stories – talk of secret tunnels or reused ships' timbers in houses usually turn out to be just myths.
- The 1939 Register has addresses and on Find My Past you can search by address.
- Maps – the National Library of Scotland has digitised a lot of old Ordnance Survey maps of the UK, especially large scale 6 inch or 25 inch to the mile, and they are available online.
- The 1910 Land Tax Valuation is very useful, with a lot of information about owners and occupiers of properties – the detail is in the Field Books held at TNA. The Valuation Books with rather less detail are at County Record Offices. Cross-referencing the 1910 Valuation with the 1911 census can be worthwhile.
- For older houses try the Tithe Maps and their Apportionment Rolls, mostly produced in the 1840s.
- Local newspapers, some going back to the 18th century, and available online.
- Wills and inventories.
- Think laterally – you may have to investigate adjoining properties for clues.
- Try the catalogue on TNA website.
- Specialised maps – those for estates, land usage, enclosure awards, social surveys etc.

- Sale catalogues.
- Local council records – planning applications, architectural drawings etc.
- Civil court records, for ownership disputes etc.
- Rate books.
- Finally, some local record offices produce helpful leaflets on house history and there are several books on the subject.

Geoff Edwards

FOUL MURDER AT BIERTON IN 1773

I recently spotted this entry in the burial register for Bierton in 1773: 'June 10th, Mary Holt, spinster, was buried; she died June 4th, and Richard Holt, widower, he being most barbarously murdered in his bed-chamber on the 7th day, at night.'

I decided to investigate further, and soon the details of this crime were revealed. Richard HOLT was a farmer with a smallholding in the parish of Bierton. He had lost his daughter Mary on 4th June.

A rat-catcher and chimney sweep named CORBET, from Tring, had been working in Bierton at the beginning of June 1773. On the night of 7th, Corbet waited until his intended victim was asleep. Then placing a ladder against the chimney, he made his descent into Holt's house and murdered him. The next morning, the local milk-boy was unable to raise Holt, and sought assistance from the neighbours. Holt's dog then directed them to his master's body.

The parish constable for Tring quickly apprehended Corbet, who was found with the stolen property in his possession. Corbet was tried, convicted and hanged for his foul crime.

Howard Lambert

Denton Family Monument in Hereford Cathedral

by Howard Lambert

Recently I spent a few days in Herefordshire, and was surprised to see this beautifully preserved monument in the South Transept of Hereford Cathedral.

It shows effigies of Alexander DENTON of Hillesden, Bucks, and his first wife Anne, née WILLISON. She died in childbirth in 1566, and her child lies beside her. Alexander died in 1576 and was buried in Hillesden Church with his second wife.



Denton family monument, Hereford Cathedral (© Howard Lambert)

Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2022

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

The Smiths of Northend

by Julie Chandler

Alan Dell Award Winner 2021

My paternal grandmother always spoke fondly of her childhood growing up in a little village called Northend. Although I loved to hear her stories about days gone by, I never really thought much about Northend until I started researching my family tree, and it was then that I discovered what an interesting family the Smiths of Northend were!

My Northend connection started with my great grandfather David SMITH who was born 1862 in Shirburn, just 3 miles from Northend and over the border in Oxfordshire. David was the youngest of nine children and came from very humble beginnings, his father John SMITH was a shepherd. John died in 1876 when David was just 14.



David Smith's 1888 medal – inscribed 'TILL Kammartjenaren SMITH 1888' (TILL Kammartjenaren meaning 'the valet')

David was in service, probably from a young age, as by the age of 19 he was footman to Baroness Katherine Huntingtower in London (as per the 1881 census) and, according to stories passed down through the family, he became interpreter and bodyguard to Queen Victoria's daughter Vicky in Berlin after she married Frederick III of Prussia. The only connection I had to this story was a medal he received from King Oscar II of Sweden in 1888 which didn't seem to fit, until I researched it further.

I emailed the Swedish & Norwegian Royal Court archives and got the following reply:

'Concerning your question about your great grandfather David Smith who received a household medal from King Oscar II in 1888 I can tell you following: In the Royal Palace archives I have found a document in the archive

Riksmarskalksämberet (The Office of the Marshal of the Realm) that prove that “kammartjenare Smith” received the medal. I hope it’s the “right” Smith. From the text in the document I can see that Smith belonged to the Royal German Court (tysk hovbetjäning) and he was in service by the Swedish Crown prince and Crown princess when they visited Berlin in 1888.’

Prince Oscar Gustaf Adolf of Sweden and Norway (who became King Gustaf V of Sweden) and his wife Princess Viktoria visited Berlin during the short period Frederick III was king of Prussia which was between March and June 1888 when he died aged 56. So the family story was true and I had found the connection!



David Smith

By the 1891 census David had left Prussia and was living at Northend with his widowed mother Mary Ann SMITH and his siblings Thomas John SMITH and Thirza Frances SMITH. His occupation was given on the census as ‘konigl kammerdiener’ meaning ‘royal valet’ in German.

Between 1891 and 1894 David met his future wife Annie Eliza DENTON and I always wondered how and where until I found out that Annie’s father William DENTON was publican at the White Hart at Northend from 1891 until his death in 1900. From the *South Bucks Standard* 15 May 1891, ‘The following transfers were granted – Thomas Messenger to William Denton, “White Hart”, Turville.’

William died in 1900 aged 58 and before his move to Northend he had been in the Metropolitan police in London. He joined the police in 1863 and retired in 1889 which was the year following the ‘Jack the Ripper’ cases in the Whitechapel area. William was stationed at Bow (K Division) which was

next to Whitechapel (H Division) and although I've not been able to officially connect him to the case, he surely would have been aware of it.

From the South Bucks Standard 14 Dec 1900, 'Letters of administration not having yet been obtained of the late William Denton, of the White Hart, Northend, permission was given to Mrs Denton, the widow, to continue to conduct the business until matters are settled.'

David and Annie's first child Margaret Annie SMITH was born September 1894 in Headington District (on the outskirts of Oxford) which was before they were married and may explain why they married in London, something I always wondered about.

David married Annie in London December 1894 when his occupation at the time was given as 'of independent means'. By the time Margaret Annie was baptised in 1895 at Towersey, David's occupation was given as 'innkeeper'. David was by then the publican at the Black Horse Inn until 1896. Bucks Herald 21 March 1896, 'The following transfers were granted - "The Black Horse", Towersey, from David Smith to James Pollicott.'

Sadly, Margaret Annie died in September 1896 which was just 7 months after their next child George Edward SMITH (known as 'Ted') was born. Ted was baptised November 1896 at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. By the time my grandmother Agatha Evelyn SMITH (known as Agnes) was born in 1898 along with her twin brother John David SMITH, the family were living at Lower Assendon near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

By the 1901 census David was living back at Northend with his wife Annie, son Ted and twins Agnes and John. David's mother Mary was also living in Northend with his brother Thomas. Mary died in 1905.

In 1902 David and Annie had another set of twins born at Northend, Walter William SMITH who sadly died in 1904 and Edith Emma SMITH who survived. I have a lovely postcard of Northend showing a group of children playing that includes Agnes (marked with a cross above her head). She looks about seven years old so the date must be around 1905.



Northend postcard c1905 – Agnes marked with 'X' above her head



David Smith, c 1915

In the 1911 census the family were still at Northend, apart from David who was a patient at King's College Hospital, London. His occupation was given as 'gamekeeper private' and I have a photo dated around 1915 of David out shooting which could be during his time as a gamekeeper.

In December 1920 and aged just 22, Agnes was employed by Major Charles Edward Dunscomb Bridge to work as a nursemaid. Major Bridge was Assistant Military Attache of the British Embassy at Washington, DC

The contract of employment between Major Bridge and Agnes includes the following:

‘The Servant agrees to remain in the service of the Master as Nursemaid for a period of not less than 2 years from Christmas 1920 and to serve the Master in that capacity at or near the town of Washington U.S.A. and to properly carry out and perform all the duties which it is usual and customary for a servant in England to carry out and perform.’

The connection between Agnes and Major Bridge is probably Turville Park (which is a mile from Northend) and where the Major’s cousin John Sargeant Cyprian Bridge lived (as per Kelly’s Directories 1915 & 1924). I have Agnes’s photo albums from the time which include many pictures of Turville Park so there is a definite link.

At the same time her future husband Thomas Edmund CHANDLER had also been employed to work at the British Embassy in Washington, DC as a butler. Both he and Agnes sailed for New York on 24 Dec 1920 aboard the SS *Lapland*, arriving on 4 Jan 1921. It is unclear whether they met on ship or later.

Tom was born in 1895 at Aldringham, Suffolk and was also in service, working his way up from hall boy aged 16 (as per the 1911 census) to footman by the time he served in WWI in the Royal Army Medical Corps. In 1920 and aged 25 he was discharged from the Army and his discharge certificate states: ‘He is discharged in consequence of having elected to reside permanently outside the United Kingdom after serving 4 years 194 days with the colours and 1 year 180 days in the Army Reserve’.



Agnes and Tom’s wedding in Washington, DC 1923

From Agnes’s 1922 diary when she was in America and letters between her and her

father, I discovered that David suffered from a heart attack and bronchitis. David died that year at Northend, he was aged 60. Unable to travel home to Northend for the funeral due to her employment contract, Agnes and Tom married in 1923 at Washington, DC and they eventually returned to England in 1924. Agnes had suffered from 'scrofula' (an inflammation in the lymph nodes) and her doctor advised her to move to the coast as medical advice at the time was for sea air.

Agnes and Tom moved to the Sussex coast where her health improved, my father was born and married, and I began my own life. The family connection with Northend continued until at least the 1939 Register which records Annie and Edith still living there. Annie died in Sussex in 1957 and Edith died in Sussex in 1976.

My grandmother always remembered Northend and in 1974 my parents took her to visit the area. They saw an old man sitting on a seat at Watlington Hill and Agnes asked to stop and speak to him. It turned out to be her older brother Ted who she hadn't seen for many years! What a lovely coincidence.



The Smiths Northend Christmas 1924.

**L to R: Ted's wife Nell, Ted, John,
Annie, Agnes**



**Chandlers and Smiths Northend 1932.
L to R: Tom, Annie, my uncle in front of
Annie, Edith, Agnes holding my dad**



Agnes and Ted, Watlington Hill 1974

Agnes died in 1991 aged 92 after a long and eventful life that was full of interesting stories, and with Northend never far from her thoughts.

Julie Chandler

GREAT FLOOD AT WATER EATON

June 6th Day. There was a Great Flood at Water Eaton that was so big that the like hath not bin see by all Mens knolidge four Hundren year be fore. [sic]

Source: Bletchley parish register 1725.

Footnote: Flooding in this part of the county was all too common, sometimes causing a loss of life.

Howard Lambert

Operation Aerial and a Forgotten Tragedy

by John Gurney

After the successful evacuation of over 338,000 troops from Dunkirk ended on 4th June 1940 it still left a further 140,000 military personnel stranded and awaiting rescue from the St Nazaire area of France. A similar evacuation known as Operation Aerial was therefore planned to begin on 15th June and one of the soldiers awaiting rescue was Philip MONK who is listed as a WWII casualty on the Loudwater war memorial.

Philip was born in Essex on 30th December 1911, one of several children of Walter and Eva MONK (most likely née GOMM; married in High Wycombe, 1900). Eva was born in Princes Risborough. By 1921, the family had moved to 736 London Road, Loudwater and the 1939 Register shows them still living there, with Walter employed as a 'builders and contractors' (sic). By now Philip was living in Whinneys Road, Loudwater, apparently married (the entry is difficult to read) and employed as a bricklayer. Research has found a possible marriage to Doris BROWNE in the Brentford area in 1937.

Philip enlisted in September 1939 and joined the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in France. They were the backbone of the army tasked to build bridges, railways and roads, handle stores and ammunition and other essential work.

The ships involved in Operation Aerial included the British Cunard liner RMS Lancastria, one of several passenger liners requisitioned by the British Government. The ships anchored north-west of the Loire estuary and embarkation began on 16th June. On 17th June 67,000 troops were still awaiting rescue and, although Lancastria was normally permitted to carry only 1,700 passengers, Captain Rudolph Sharp was ordered to cram on as many troops as possible and a small number of civilians. Over 6,700 passengers were known to be on board before further counting ceased due to the urgency to set sail, so the final total is unknown.



Loudwater War Memorial

(© John Gurney)

Shortly after setting off without a destroyer escort, *Lancastria* was attacked by Junkers Ju88 Luftwaffe bombers and at 15.48pm received three direct hits, one of which entered the funnel and exploded in the engine room. Fifteen minutes later the ship had capsized and several of those still on board scrambled up to sit on the upturned hull where they were heard to be singing 'roll out the barrel'. Five minutes later she sank and survivors in the water were strafed by German aircraft causing the oil leaked from the engine room to ignite.

Although the true number of casualties may never be known, Philip Monk aged 28 was one of the estimated over 6,000 who perished, the largest single loss of life in British maritime history. Despite this, after Operations *Dynamo*, *Cycle* and *Aerial*, over 558,000 military and civilian personnel had been safely evacuated to Britain.

Winston Churchill immediately ordered that news of the disaster be suppressed and it did not become public knowledge until a short article in the *New York Times* on 25th July 1940 which grossly underestimated the number of casualties. In the ensuing years the tragedy was largely forgotten and, despite several requests over the years and continued campaigning by relatives affected by the disaster, it was not until 2015 that the MOD finally announced that all known available documents had been released via The National Archives. The British Government declined to designate the site of the wreck as a war grave and their official detailed report of the disaster will not be released until 2040.

Thanks are due to my colleague Ruth Bowler for her initial research on Philip Monk.

John Gurney

Sands: the Creation of a Suburb

by Tony Sargeant

I was recently asked, for the Woodlanders Project, to discover when the community of Sands, to the west of High Wycombe, first appeared. This process involved many types of records. The normal starting place would be the census returns, but they have problems. The labelling on the pages can be sketchy and the 10-year gaps are not precise enough for our purposes.

Maps

The excellent National Library of Scotland maps website provides useful information and the pertinent map can be summarised as:

Ordnance Survey 6 inch Sheet XLVI

Surveyed 1876 to 1880, it shows Bottom Farm on the south of a road now called Lane End Road near to the junction with New Road. On the higher ground north of Lane End Road the OS map shows Sands Wood.



Sands in 2022, looking northwest from Castlefield Wood. Sands Wood is on the ridge. L–R: industrial estate, a glimpse of houses along Lane End Road, Combe Rise, Hylton Road and then Pinewood Road behind. Bottom Farm (not shown) is in the valley, behind the trees in the foreground. (© Rebecca Gurney)

The houses only appear in the area on the map surveyed in 1897. The label 'Sands' only appears on the map surveyed in 1919. Bottom Farm is still there but houses, St Mary's Church, the school and Castlefield Road have appeared (as has the Primitive Methodist Chapel along Chapel Lane). Later, Castlefield Road was renamed Pinewood Road – many of the original houses and building plots have been lost to modern housing. This could have happened soon after construction as this part of Wycombe became more urban.



Former Primitive Methodist Chapel
(© Rebecca Gurney)

Here we are closer to getting an answer, but maps still suffer from the gaps between surveys.

Directories

Next, I turned to Kelly's Directory for Buckinghamshire. By comparing entries in a few editions, changes over the years can be discovered.

In the 1895 edition, Walter HUGHES was at Bottom Farm. However, there was no mention of Sands.



Sands School
(© Rebecca Gurney)

The next edition, in 1903, provides the following information:

William NUTALL at Bottom Farm.

New entries

Thomas MEAD, Wendover Cottage, Sands

Miss SMITH, Sunnyside Cottage, Sands

Edwin STALLWOOD, Castlefield House, Sands

Mrs Alice MURIEL, shopkeeper in Sands

Ebenezer STEVENSON, chair manufacturer in Sands

Mrs Hannah TRANTER shopkeeper Sands

George William STRATFORD, builder, Castle view, Sands

Samuel George WEBB, chair manufacturer Sands

One of the problems with Kelly's Directory is that only paid for entries go in; we also don't know when the information was collected.

Local newspapers

South Bucks Standard provides a fair coverage of the years required. I used the British Newspaper Archive website to search for Sands in Buckinghamshire.

In the 4 December 1891 edition there was an article stating Mr Justice GLENISTER had recently purchased the Sands Estate. He was proposing building houses to lease, as well as selling plots. This was the first time the term 'Sands Estate' was used, and it related to housing. In August 1893, the following advert appeared:

THE SANDS ESTATE
WEST WYCOMBE BUCKS

VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND

With splendid views on high ground, close to good roads, and within 1 mile of High Wycombe.

Messrs Vernon & Son Are instructed to SELL BY AUCTION,

At the White Hart Hotel, High Wycombe

On Friday, September 1st 1893, at 4 o'clock p.m.
precisely, a large number of

VALUABLE BUILDING PLOTS, SMALL HOLDINGS, and Pieces of Accommodation Land, on the above Estate, suitable for Artisans, Cow Keepers, Market Gardeners, and others, desiring to acquire Improving Building Sites close to the town of High Wycombe.

Particulars with plans in due course, may be obtained of Messrs Parker and Wilkins, solicitors, High Wycombe and Aylesbury; and of Messrs Vernon and Son, Land Agents 29 Cockspur Street, London S.W., and High Wycombe.

There appears to be some sort of desperation about the advert, trying to sell valuable building plots and listing market gardeners and cow keepers as potential buyers. Finally there is a report from January 1896: 'Wycombe Petty Sessions – John Nash, chair-maker of Sands Estate, West Wycombe ...'.

This is the first indication of the name being being used outside advertising and the first proof somebody was living on the new estate. There are other ways to get to closer dates, but that depends on finding the rate books for the area. Another source that will show how the area is changing is the survey for the Lloyd George Finance Act in 1910.

From the history of the area, it appears the Dashwood family sold a relatively unproductive part of the West Wycombe estate. Being close to High Wycombe the land had potential for housing, although it took a few years and several changes of owners for that to happen. I have come to the conclusion that Sands as a suburb of Wycombe started somewhere between 1893 and 1896. If more evidence becomes available, the dates can be revised.

Tony Sargeant

Royal Golden Jubilee 1809

Recent Royal Jubilee celebrations have been enjoyed across the country in June 2022. How did our Buckinghamshire ancestors celebrate the Royal Golden Jubilee for King George III in 1809? Howard Lambert kindly submitted the following.

The *Northampton Mercury* of 4 Nov 1809 reported as follows:

At Buckingham, the Jubilee was kept with the most perfect loyalty and attachment to our beloved King; a handsome subscription was raised by the inhabitants to regale the poor with bread, meat, and beer, and upwards of 1900 partook of this bounty. After attending divine service, a large party, consisting of the principal inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, dined at the Cobham-Arms Inn, where many loyal and constitutional toasts were drank, and the day passed with the greatest conviviality.

Louis XVIII has given £100 to the poor inhabitants of the parish of Hartwell, in which he resides, and the neighbouring parishes of Aylesbury and Stowe, in the county of Buckingham. His bounty has been distributed to above 2000 poor persons.

At Olney, a public subscription enabled a committee to distribute to every man, woman, and child, who would accept it, one pound of beef or mutton, and a half-quartern loaf, which was most gratefully received by upwards of 1350 persons. A cow and ten sheep were also given away on the occasion.



**A contemporaneous engraving of celebrations in the City,
Royal Golden Jubilee 1809**

The inhabitants of Stony Stratford were also conspicuous in their display of loyalty on this memorable occasion. A collection was made throughout the town, and likewise at the church-door after divine service, which enabled the principal parishioners to distribute one shilling to every man, woman, and child in the town, who thought proper to accept the same; and the surplus of the collection was reserved until a future time, to be applied in the most beneficial manner. An excellent dinner was provided at the Cock Inn, where harmony and conviviality prevailed; and the day was spent with every possible demonstration of joy.

Footnote: The *Manchester Mercury* dated 14th November 1809 announced that 'All deserters from His Majesty's fleets and armies have received His Majesty's free pardon. All persons confined for debts due to the Crown have been released by the King's command... Two thousand pounds has been appropriated by the King out of his own purse, for the release of poor debtors in England and Wales.'

Wingrave Emigrants

Lynda Reid

As a pandemic project last year, I researched the immigration journeys of each of my forebears. I was excited to find this newspaper article discussing the departure of my 3x great-grandparents Ann and Edward ALCOCK, and their baby son Charles from Wingrave, Buckinghamshire on board the ship *Phoebe*.

It struck me, however, that the number of individuals leaving Wingrave was quite high – 30 from a village that recorded 814 souls in the 1841 census. I thought I could try and find something out about each of these, and perhaps establish further links or potential reasons.

I attempted to find the Wingrave emigrants in the 1841 census, and then compared with the 1851 census to try and separate similar names. Details were also found from various other websites. Unfortunately, a shipping list with ages and identifying details doesn't exist anymore.

I was surprised how young some of the travellers appeared to be. I cannot imagine sending my teenage children to the other side of the world, with no expectation that they would ever return.

As expected, there were family links between many of the travellers, and many lived very close to each other. How did those that were left behind feel about the gaps in their community?

From the *Bucks Herald* – Local Intelligence. 27/12/1845

We find our emigration agent, Mr Humphrey Bull, of Aston Clinton, shipped ... on the 20th, on board the ship *Phoebe*, lying off Gravesend, bound for South Australia, the following persons. [16 from Hardwick, 1 from Barford, 21 from Weedon, 1 each from Aston Abbots and Aston Clinton, 1 from Bierton, 1 from Waddesdon, 1 from Weston Turville], from Wingrave – John GOODGER, Hannah BATEMAN, William FLEET, Charles, Ann and Edward ALCOCK, George and

Johannah HUMPHREY, Samuel KEEN, James, Perseverance and Ann BIGNALL, Newman BATES, Emma and Jeremiah HEDGES, James NEWING, Emanuel MEAD, George, Daniel, Hannah, Ezra, Charles, Caroline and Abel BONHAM, Henry, Hannah and Thomas HUMPHREY, Henry EDWARDS, Alfred HEDGES and Robert BATEMAN.

In the end, the reasons were possibly quite simple. This 1847 paper published a letter from Hannah and Thomas HUMPHREY to Susanna Humphrey, with a foreword by the emigration agent Humphrey Bull.

Thomas says: 'I wish many more of the people were here from Wingrave; they would not be, as many of them are now, half starved...'

From the *South Australian*. 5/5/1846

April 28.—The barque Phoebe, 450 tons, Dale, from London and Plymouth, with Dr. Gordon, Surgeon-superintendent, G. Lambert, Esq., in the cabin, and 175 emigrants. [...] Richard SMITH and wife, John FENNELL and wife, William LAMBEL, wife, and five children, Lamoni WILLIAMS, wife, and four children, Charles LUDGATE, wife, and child, William DAVEY jun. and wife, William DAVEY, sen., and wife, Wm. CHAPPEL and wife. Wm. ALLEN and wife, Henry THOMAS, wife, and two children, Richard APPLIEDORE, wife, and three children, Samuel KEEN, Henry KING, John FOSTER, George SOUTH, Wm. ROBERTS, James BATSON, Daniel BONHAM, Henry EDWARDS, Newman BATES, George BADRICK, James NEWINS, Alfred HEDGES, Henry HUMPHRY, Robt. BATEMAN, George BONHAM, Emanuel MEAD, Wm. FLEET, James WATTS, Thos. WATTS, George WATTS, Thomas CHEW, John WOODS, John BLATCHFORD, John DAVEY, Benjamin DAVEY, Thos. DAVEY, John HAWKINS, Walter DUNSTAN, Henry WILLIAMS, Francis THOMAS, Josiah THOMAS, Sampson THOMAS, Wm. BROOKS, Thomas PLESTER and wife. Jos. COLLINGRIDGE, wife, and four children. Wm. TAYLOR, wife, and two children, Jas. BIGNALL, wife, and one child. Edward ALCOCK, wife, and child, Edwd. SANDERSON and wife, James BARTROPP, wife, and one child, John PRIOR and wife, Alfred EDWARDS and wife, Jacob BULL and wife. William RANDALL and wife. James DUNSTALL, wife, and one child, John SPACKMAN, wife, and one child. Jeremiah HEDGES and wife. Thomas ELMS and wife, Mougley

HOWEL, wife, and child, Jesse FOSTER and wife; John FOSTER and wife, John GOOGER, Henry TAVERNER, wife, and one child. James WILLIS, wife, and four children. Elizabeth WATTS, Elizabeth WATTS jun., Catherine WATTS, Charlotte WATTS, Sarah BROCK, Caroline PRIEST, Johannah COLLINGRIDGE, Mary Anne FLEET, and one child, Caroline FOSTER, Anne FOSTER, Jane BULL, Mary WATKINS, Hannah BATEMAN, Charlotte THOMAS, Mary THOMAS, Caroline THOMAS, Mary Anne HOSKIN, Mary Jane SAMUEL, Agnes HORRELL, Martha APPELDORE, Sarah APPELDORE, Catherine APPELDORES, Emma APPELDORE, Caroline TAYLOR, Elizabeth WOODS, Thomas WATKINS, wife, and two children. George SIMMONS and wife. Thomas HUMPHREY and wife, George HUMPHREY and wife; Abel BONHAM, wife, and one child, Ezra BONHAM and wife, John WHITE, wife, and two children. Thomas YOUNG, wife, and child, William YOUNG, wife, and two children. Samuel WOODS, wife, and five children. Nathaniel WHITE, wife, and child, in the steerage.

Lynda Reid

A Brutal Fight

Bell's Weekly Messenger, 5 September 1813

A boxing match of two hours duration, and in which 87 severe rounds took place, was fought in Bornham Meadows, a short distance from Gerrards-cross, on Monday last, between Mr. Gabriel JENNER, a dealer in cattle, and a farmer of the name of GATTON, for 10 guineas a side. It was a pitched battle, the stakes having been made a fortnight before. The dispute originated in an affair of jealousy, each courting a young widow in their neighbourhood. The combatants were complete novices in the art of boxing, never having even seen a fight. There were no easy falls, nor avoiding blows by judging distance. They met each other with native characteristic bravery, and used all the power nature had afforded them in hitting and throwing. In some rounds eight and ten crushing half-round blows were made, and in ten minutes after setting-to they were hideously beaten. Two and three minutes were sometimes spent between the rounds, from the inability of both to stand up, and in this state the combatants contended the last half-hour, but Jenner was unable to move, and Gatton won dearly.

Submitted by Howard Lambert

Burial Practice in Bucks

Tony Sargeant

Before the start of civil registration in 1837, usually the only clue as to the date when somebody died is found in burial records. After June 1837, the death certificate exists as part of the civil registration process. Later, in 1858, the Probate Office opened and date of death starts to appear in the indexes. This is quite handy as it saves on the expense of getting death certificates.

How can we get similar information about date of death before civil registration? The only documents we have available are parish registers, or newspapers if something untoward happened. Is there a way of knowing more about burials without recorded death dates? When examining the records, we must remember that we are looking at real people and they should be respected no matter when or where they died.

In Buckinghamshire there are a fair amount of records with both death and burial dates. These amount to about 5,300 items covering from the start of burial registers to 1920. There will be no statistical analysis here, just gauging a general trend. I hope the result will be useful.

Before 1600

Of the 18 records before 1600, 11 were buried on the same day as their death, the remainder on the following day. Of the 25 records in the 1630s, five people were buried on their death day, 13 people on the following day. The average between death and burial was just over 1 day.

1600s

In the 1670s, there were 31 records with an average of just under 2 days for a burial.

1700s

In 1710 there were 21 records with an average of 2.3 days for burial.

In 1781 there were 20 records with an average of 4.9 days for burial.
(Mainly Quakers).

1800s

In 1801 there were 26 records counted with an average of 4.9 days for burial.

In 1841 there were 27 records counted with an average of 4.6 days for burial.

In 1881 there were 24 records counted with an average of 3.7 days for burial.

Delays between death and burial

In early records the few burials with the longest delay were for clergy and the gentry. For the former, the problem of finding somebody to take the burial service most likely caused the delay. The other factor was the practice of both the wealthy and clergy being buried in the church – masons had to prepare the grave and close it.

Records from the Georgian and Victorian period show that delays increased for ordinary people. There are still one or two buried on the same day. Was the delay caused by the need to gather the executors and read the will, which may express a preference as to where the deceased is buried? The phrase ‘at the discretion of my executors’, seems to anticipate negotiation.

Another reason for delay is the greater ability to travel and an expectation to attend the funeral. This would involve writing to those involved (taking a day), and another day or two travelling.

I conclude with a quote from the will of Elin Sheriff of Colnbrook in 1754:

... and it is my desire that my Executrix hereinafter mentioned will get six widows to be my pall-bearers and twelve neighbouring women six to walk before and six to walk behind me to the church and I give to each a pair of Gloves and order my Executrix to hire hoods and scarves for the pall-bearers ...

Oppressions, Extortions & Brutality in Buckinghamshire 1430

Howard Lambert

Here is some interesting information from Drayton Beauchamp, found in records at The National Archives.

6 July 1430

‘Commission of Oyer & Terminer to William Babington knight (and others) on complaint by many of the King’s lieges of the counties of Hertford and Buckingham made to the Council that John Cheyne of Drayton [Beauchamp] Co. Bucks “chivaler”, Thomas Cheyne of Chesham Co. Bucks esquire, John Watkyns of Stokehamond Co. Bucks “gentilman” and Hugh Byllyngdon of Billington Co. Bedford “gentilman” and their accomplices, ministers and servants, have been inflicting divers oppressions, extortions (&c) on divers persons. Some they have with strong hand driven from their own land, some they have beaten, imprisoned and tortured in prison refusing to release them until they have made fine at the will of their oppressors. The houses of others have been broken with armed power, their goods and chattels taken and borne off. And if they offered to complain they were threatened until they dared not go about their business for fear of death.’

19 June 1431

‘Commission to Thomas Sakevyle knight, John Barton the younger and the Sheriff and Escheator of the county of Buckingham to arrest John Cheyne knight, and bring him before the King and Council. Also the Sheriff and Escheator and the said William [sic] or two of them are to seize the said John Cheyne’s manors of Grove and Drayton, all the books, rolls, schedules, bills and suspicious memoranda found

therein, and to certify the King in Council of the number and nature of his arms and books &c aforesaid.'

4 August 1431

'To the Constable of the Tower of London or his lieutenant. Order to suffer Thomas Cheyne esquire, whom by the advice of the Council the King for particular causes lately committed to the Constable's custody, to go free. Like writ in favour of John Cheyne knight.'

Sources

Calendar of Patent Rolls 1429–1436

Calendar of Close Rolls 1429–1435

Both held at The National Archives.

Howard Lambert

LICENCE TO EAT MEAT 1635/6

Whereas by reason of notorious sickness, and infirmity of body, Mr. Thomas CARTER, Vicar of Dinton, in the county of Bucks, and Mrs. Jane Carter, his wife, with two of their children, William and Jane, may not use a fish diet without great prejudice to their health, I therefore, William BRAIG, Curatt [sic] of Stone, in the said county of Bucks, do grant unto the said Mr. Thomas Carter, his wife, and their two children, William and Jane, license to eat flesh this Lent Season, during the continuance of their sickness and weakness, for the better recovery of their health, according to the purport and true meaning of the Statutes in that case provided. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name, this second day of March, Anno Dom. 1635.

William Braig

This License was registered March 13th, by Wm. Braig.

M. John Mortimer's marke

Source: Extract from Hartwell Parish Register 1635/6.

Howard Lambert

Bucks Research Timeline

1700–1799

Year	Significant dates in Bucks history and family history research
1702	Queen Anne's reign started
1704	Catholics barred from voting, military and education
1707	Acts of Union between England and Scotland
1709	Act for the Naturalisation of foreign Protestants allows Huguenots to stay in Britain
1709	First Earl of Portland, Hans William Bentinck, a favourite of William, Prince of Orange, died at Bulstrode Park
c 1710	Richard Temple, Viscount Cobham, started work on Stowe House and gardens
1710	The Stamp Act introduced a fee on apprentice indentures
1714	The reign of George I of the House of Hanover began
1715	Registration of papest estates
1715	Death of Thomas Wharton, 1st Marquess of Wharton, Whig politician who led the opposition to James II, became the Comptroller of the Household of William III, and High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire
1718	Penal Transportation Act introduced transportation of convicts to America
1720	Northampton Mercury & Herald, covering north Bucks, started publication. (Now available online from 1770)
1722	Work started on County Hall, Market Square Aylesbury, including the assize court and goal. Completed in 1740

Year	Significant dates in Bucks history and family history research
1723	Oaths of allegiance formed part of Quarter Session Records
1727	Start of surviving Buckinghamshire Quarter Session Minute Books. The series (Q/SM) ends in 1971
1727	George II's reign started
1733	Public records written in English, replacing Latin
1738	St Leonards separated from Aston Clinton to become a separate parish
1739	Formation of Methodist Societies started
1741	Foundling Hospital opened in London
1742	A general register for births was formed for Baptists, Presbyterians, and Independents
1752	Change from the Julian to Gregorian calendars
1753	Quarter Session Licensing records started
1754	Hardwick's Marriage Act. An attempt to eradicate clandestine marriages
1754	First printed Annual Army Lists produced
1757	John Wilkes, the radical journalist and politician, was elected to parliament for Aylesbury. He was a member of the Hellfire Club at West Wycombe
1757	The Militia Act revived county militias
1759	Oath Roll for the Militia (to 1763) Bucks Archives ref L/M/3
1760	George III's reign started

Year	Significant dates in Bucks history and family history research
1763	Names lists of JPs, Mayors, Coroners, Bailiffs and High Constables began (Bucks Archives ref Q/M) ends 1967
1764	Army regimental records began
1769	Quarter Session Jury Books started, continuing to 1872 (Bucks Archives ref Q/JB)
1778	Catholic Relief Act lifts some of the anti-catholic laws
1780	Quarter Session Land Tax Assessments started
1783	Stamp Duty Act on Baptisms, Marriages and Burials. Not applicable to the poor, it resulted in more people being classified as paupers
1791	Catholic Relief Act relaxed more anti-catholic laws
1793	Construction of the Grand Junction Canal started between Braunston and Brentford
1794	Assheton Curzon, a Tory politician, was raised to the peerage as Baron Curzon of Penn
1794	Bucks Lieutenancy Yeomanry Muster Lists etc started
1796	Death duties introduced
1798	Posse Comitatus created – a list of men over 16 able to join the Militia
1798	Income Tax introduced
1799	Wendover Arm of the Grand Junction Canal opened

This series will continue in future editions.

Tony Sargeant

Finding Clues in Documents

Tony Sargeant

Recently I have been working on an indenture dated 19 Feb 1699 dealing with a sale of a farm. The main reason was to track one of the owners and his family.

The MEALE or MELE family were property owners and in business during the 17th and 18th centuries so there are no census material available. After using parish registers which can have patchy coverage, wills and deeds are the main documents. This indenture records the previous sales which were recorded in the Court of Chancery. In the medieval period freehold property transfer was recorded through the payment of a fine. The recording of the fine also records the transaction in an official form. I'm not going into all the sections of the indenture as it runs to over 1600 words. In the middle of the document the person of interest was named:

... to be made between Francis Ridley Lincolns Inn in the County of Middx Esq Christopher Chapman of the City of Westminster in the said County of Middx Brewer and John Meale of the University of Cambridge Gent Son and Heir of the said Andrew Meale of the One part and ... ¹

I was not expecting to see that John Meale was at Cambridge. Andrew, his father, owned land and was a brewer. It was certainly as a step up in the world to get to a Cambridge College. I started looking for wills for Meale in Cambridgeshire and found a Christopher of Kings College Cambridge died there with a probate record in 1672.² He named his executor as his brother John Meale, one of the fellows of Kings College.

Now the internet is the wonderful thing and search engines have their uses. Through online searches I discovered that John Meale's probate record of 1680 is in Kings College archives. Another useful search was within the

British History online. This brought difficulties, as search engines have problems with word 'Meale', especially in transcriptions of old documents where a 'meal' could also be spelt as 'meale'. Search engines will assume the spelling is wrong and correct it, so using double quotes around the name can help. Another issue was that the date could lead to events being attached to the wrong Christopher Meale – or Andrew Meale, as that first name was used in the family multiple times.

I then took a look at Andrew Meale's will;³ there is only one appearing on Ancestry. I'm not going to give the whole transcription – the table below describes the relationships:

Date			Doc.	Name		Relationship	Name	
1658	Aug	4	Will	Andrew	Meale	Testator		
1658	Aug	4	Will	Elizabeth	Meale	Spouse	Andrew	Meale
1658	Aug	4	Will	Christopher	Chapman	Cousin	Andrew	Meale
1658	Aug	4	Will	Francis	Ridley	Son in law	Andrew	Meale
1658	Aug	4	Will	Elizabeth	Meale	Witness	Andrew	Meale
1658	Aug	4	Will	Samuel	Meale	Witness	Andrew	Meale

This table is part of a spreadsheet covering events between 1594 to 1734. By creating a spreadsheet, the events have a better chance of being attached to the correct person. When creating such a table you may consider other bits of information, such as reference to the person record in family tree software. Really the spreadsheet is most useful to view the information in a different way.

We discover from the will of Andrew that he is related to the Christopher Chapman and Francis Ridley named in the indenture. The problem is the missing John and Christopher from the people named in the will. Is this the right will for the right Andrew Meale?

One thing needed resolving: how did two sons of Andrew Meale go to Cambridge? This will help confirm some of the assumptions made in the research. They would have needed an education, at least to grammar school level. The only school that fitted the requirement around south Bucks was Eton. So a search was made – and there was success!

From Sir Wasey Sterry's *The Eton College Register 1441–1698*, published in 1943 and part of a series, these entries were found:

Meale mi. 1645–1650. Christopher; b. at Colnbrook co. Bucks; K.S.; adm. scholar of King's College Cambridge 29 June 1650 aged 16; matric. 1650 ; B.A. 1653/4; M .A . 1657; L L .D. by royal mandate 1669; fellow of King's 1653–72; of the Inner Temple 1656; adm. advocate 4 Feb. 1670/1j d. unm. at King's of smallpox 25 Apr. 1672; will P.C.C. 1672 (Eure). Harwood; Venn; *Etoniana* i. 153, 154; ii. 54.

Meale ma. c. 1643–1649. John; b. at Colnbrook co. Bucks; K.S.; adm. scholar of King's College Cambridge 6 Aug. 1649 aged 18; matric. 1649; B.A. 1652/3; M.A. 1657; fellow of King's 1652–81; ordained deacon (Ely) 19 Sep. 1663; d. unm. 1681. Harwood; Venn; *Etoniana* i. 153; ii. 54.

Meale 1673–1681. John; b. at Colnbrook co. Bucks; K.S. 1673 aged 9. *Eton College Lists*; *Eton Collegers*. Meale min. 1648. K.S. Doubtless brother of John and Christopher M. *Etoniana* Meary 1574 (2)–1574 (3). *Commens*

Now I had three Meales to work on. The first two are the brothers described earlier. We can see that Christopher was a Kings Scholar at Eton and went on to Kings College Cambridge at the age of 16. Useful, as I now knew in which year he was born. They were both intelligent men and it was unfortunate that Christopher died of smallpox. The term 'King's Scholar' means the person had some education in order to pass an entry examination to get into Eton. In an old history of the area I found:

'It is also known as King John's House, and tradition says that once a Charity School existed here for the teaching of eleven boys in the Latin dialect. Gordon Gyll, 1862.' ⁴

If an old history states 'tradition says', the information could be very dubious!



The third entry from the Eton register, the other John, is probably from another Meale family. These overlapping families using familia forenames are difficult to resolve; there is no resolution here providing a neat answer.

The real problem about all this is the lack of information about the wives in the Meale family. It is not helped by most of them being called Elizabeth! In Andrew Meale's will above, are the two Elizabeths the same person? Edith, Andrew Meale's daughter married Peter Chapman, but not much more is known about her.

I hope this has shown a few interesting sources and provides some thought on considering how people lived their lives. In the meantime this line of research will be waiting for the next snippet of information to be discovered and placed onto the table. I really need to find the wills of people with the phrase '... to my daughter Elizabeth Meale wife of Andrew ...'.

References

1. Indenture for sale of Tan House Farm, D/SY 39, Buckinghamshire Archives
2. Will of Meale, Christopher, 1672 Cambridge. The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Series PROB 11; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 339
3. Will of Andrew Meale, 1858 The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Series PROB 11; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 302
4. History of Wraysbury, Horton and Colnbrook etc. Gordon W J Gyll, 1862

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Thomas Smith of Hedgerley

Thomas SMITH married an Elizabeth (1753-1843) and lived in Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire. He was described on Elizabeth's death certificate as a pot maker.

They had several children, all baptised in Hedgerley. Their names were Lucy (1775), Peninah (my relative) (1777), Juliana, Phoebe, Emily and Thomas.

The family moved to Lincolnshire. I can't find a record of the marriage between Thomas and Elizabeth. I'd love to know Elizabeth's surname and anything about their time in Hedgerley.

Any advice on how to move forward would be gratefully received.

Claire Shann

Contact: claire.shann@btinternet.com

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