

ORIGINS

SUMMER 2020



Included In This Issue

- PC85 William Yates – Alan Dell Award Winner 2019
- James Gomme & Langley's History of Desborough
 - Armchair Research

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

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

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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 2020

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 2020 Vol. 44 No. 2

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From the Editor

Welcome to the summer edition of *Origins*, which I sincerely hope finds you well and healthy and adapting to whatever restrictions are currently in place.

At the time of writing (May 2020) we are still in lock down and, as *Origins* is prepared some weeks in advance, this edition comes with a warning that events and talks listed are subject to cancellation, and you should always check before planning to attend. Hopefully, however, you will find most of the content you usually expect to find in these pages. The next edition may be a different story.

I rely heavily on content from the talks write ups produced by a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers, but of course without talks, there can be no reports.

In these challenging times, *Origins* aspires to continue as a full and varied membership journal. But your contributions are needed.

Do you have any interesting or mystery photographs of Bucks places and people we can include? Now is the time to submit a Help Wanted request to see if anyone can help you break down that brick wall (remember, not everyone reads such requests on our Facebook pages). Have you found any interesting Bucks snippets elsewhere or a particularly helpful website? You could put together a short article on an aspect of your research that might help others, or even write a piece for the 2020 Alan Dell Award.

On that note, the winning articles for the 2019 award are announced on page 105 and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to enter.

Rebecca Gurney
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

Origins Submissions Deadlines

December 2020 (Winter) issue – 3rd October 2020

March 2021 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2021

July 2021 (Summer) issue – 4th May 2021

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

A Note from the Honorary Secretary

Usually when I write these notes it is difficult to foresee what will be happening in Bucks FHS during the next few months. In some respects this time it is easier, as there is currently little within our control. The Executive, after consulting the Open Day Committee, has decided to cancel Open Day in 2020. At the end of March, when the decision was taken, there were too many unknowns to predict what will happen. After consultation, it was also decided to cancel all meetings until August. Decisions will be made about other meetings nearer the time. A month later, as I write this (29th April) the future has many more questions than answers.

The AGM has been rescheduled to Saturday 19th September 2020 at Turnfurlong School, Aylesbury. The membership of the Executive Committee needs increasing, especially in these difficult times. We would welcome anybody who could help Bucks FHS. Applications for the Executive Committee can be accepted up to the 22nd August 2020. Please contact me for a nomination form.

It is almost impossible to say if the AGM will go ahead in September but it must be attempted. Any legislation concerning meetings and gatherings is yet to be determined. Please check our website at bucksfhs.org.uk, where any changes will be posted.

By the time you read this in early June the health situation may have changed. Whether for good or worse is yet to be determined. Societies like ours will have to adapt to a changing world. As we wait for opportunities, I thank all the volunteers who continue to support Bucks FHS.

On a personal level, although I appear to be reasonably lucky with this change of circumstances, I am conscious that others may not be so fortunate, either suffering directly or losing loved ones, family, friends and neighbours. I wish you all good health and a brighter future.

Tony Sargeant
Honorary Secretary
secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Society Notices

**** POSITIONS VACANT ****

CHAIRMAN

PUBLICITY OFFICER

OPEN DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All Society activities are run by volunteers

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

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

Stand Manager and Co-ordinator

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our fairs stand and co-ordinate appearances at Family History events.

This involves travel with the stall to places outside Bucks.

Being within easy reach of our store in Aylesbury is an advantage.

Also involves organising helpers as required.

For more details contact secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Buckinghamshire Family History Society

A Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

Registered charity No. 290335

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



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2020

AGENDA

To be held at Turnfurlong Junior School, Turnfurlong, Aylesbury HP21 7PL at 15.30 p.m.

1. Introduction and Apologies.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 19 May 2019.
3. The Annual Report.
4. The Annual Accounts for 2019.
5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the 2020 accounts.
6. Election of Principal Officers and members of the Executive Committee.
7. Proposal to increase membership fees by £2 per annum for Individual and Web categories, and increase membership fees by £3 per annum for Family and Overseas categories.
8. Proposal to amend the constitution as follows:
 - In Section 7(e) to change the first sentence from:
 - The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times each year.
 - to
 - The Executive Committee shall decide the number of times it will meet in the year and publish provisional dates at the beginning of that year.
9. Any other business.

By Order of the Executive Committee.

Tony Sargeant, Honorary Secretary

April 2020

Diary Dates

***** PLEASE NOTE *****

At the time of writing, all summer events have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Government guidelines may change before the autumn, but please always check with the event organisers before attending.

Family History & Heritage Events

<p>Sat 12th Sep 10.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Cheshire FHS Family & Local History Fair Cheshire Family History Society St Matthew's Community Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 9AJ w fhsc.org.uk Entry: £2</p>
<p>Sat 19th Sep 10.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p>SDFHS Annual Open Day & AGM Somerset & Dorset Family History Society Sir John Colfox Academy, Ridgeway, Bridport DT6 3DT (off A3066) w sdfhs.org.uk Entry: free</p>
<p>Sat 26th Sep 10.00am – 4.30pm</p>	<p>The Family History Show <i>Discover Your Ancestors</i> magazine Kempton Park Racecourse w thefamilyhistoryshow.com Entry: advance 2 for £10, £8 on day, under 16s free; free talks & parking</p>
<p>Sat 3rd Oct 10.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Oxfordshire Family History Fair Oxfordshire Family History Society The Marlborough School, Woodstock Entry: free e fair@ofhs.org.uk (John Cramer)</p>

<p>Sat 3rd Oct 10.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Family & Local History Fair with craft stalls Doncaster & District Family History Society Doncaster Deaf trust, Leger Way, Doncaster DN2 6AY w doncasterfhs.co.uk Entry: £2</p>
<p>Sat 24th Oct 10.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Suffolk Family History Fair Suffolk Family History Society University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, 19 Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ e sfhsfairs@suffolkfhs.co.uk</p>
<p>Sat 7th Nov 10.00am – 4.30pm</p>	<p>Surrey Family History Fair West Surrey Family History Society Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Rd, Woking GU2 9BA w wsfhs.co.uk</p>
<p>Sat 7th Nov 10.00am – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Huddersfield & District Family & Local History Fair Huddersfield & District Family History Society Cathedral House, St Thomas Rd, Huddersfield HD1 3LG w hdfhs.co.uk Entry: free (& parking)</p>



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

Disclaimer: Buckinghamshire Family History Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by contributors to Origins. © The Bucks FHS and contributors.

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 £4.

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 & July 2020

CURRENT MEETINGS CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all the Society's monthly meetings are currently cancelled. For latest updates to the Autumn/Winter listings on the following pages, check the website: bucksfhs.org.uk

ONLINE TALKS

As from May 2020, the Society is running a series of 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.

- 26th June – Buckinghamshire Workhouses – Julian Hunt
- 31st July – TBC

Details of future talks will be announced on our website bucksfhs.org.uk

ACCESSING ONLINE TALKS

Details will be emailed 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.

BUCKS FHS OPEN DAY

The Society's Open Day in July 2020 is CANCELLED. We look forward to seeing you in July 2021 for an Open Day bigger and better than ever!

August 2020

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

CHRIS AND JUDY ROUSE: MIDLAND RAILWAY AND STAFF RECORDS
Wednesday 5th August 2020 7:30pm



Chris and Judy provide a brief history of The Midland Railway and a more in-depth look at the kind of records which are available. Researchers can then adapt their techniques to researching their own railway ancestors on any British railway. They will include a short section on our local railway history, including Wolverton Works.

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

KEVIN VARTY: BLACK FEATHERS TO BLACK UNDERWEAR
Tuesday 11th August 2020 7:45pm



The Victorians had a preoccupation with death which is hard for us to understand. Many churchyards were full and dilapidated. Kevin describes the effects that the opening of new cemeteries had on Victorian attitudes to death and mourning and illustrates the incredible growth of the funeral industry. All the items of mourning jewellery and funeral ephemera on display are original.

CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL

IAN WALLER: IN THE AIR AND ON THE SEA
Saturday 8th August 2020 2:00pm



Ian looks at defence: blockades and submarine warfare, the role of the merchant navy, the birth of the Royal Flying Corps, Royal Naval Air Force and Royal Air Force, the use of balloons, and even pigeons.

Please note that this meeting will take place a week earlier than usual, on the second Saturday of August.

September 2020

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

TO BE ANNOUNCED
Wednesday 2nd September 2020 7:30pm



The speaker for this meeting remained to be announced when Origins went to press. Please see Latest Events on the Society's website for details.

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

TOM DOIG: MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS
Tuesday 8th September 2020 7:45pm



Tom Doig is a social historian rather than a family historian, so his use of the census is a little different from ours. Generally, he is looking for much broader trends than individual families, or people. This talk may change the way you view the circumstances of your own families' census entries.

CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL

TO BE ANNOUNCED and (provisionally) THE SOCIETY AGM
Saturday 19th September 2020 2:00pm



The speaker for this meeting remained to be announced when Origins went to press. Please see Latest Events on the Society's website for details.
Following the coronavirus emergency, this date has been provisionally chosen for the Society's Annual General Meeting.

October 2020

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

JULIAN HUNT: AMERSHAM INNS AND INN KEEPERS
Wednesday 7th October 2020 7:30pm



Although only half a dozen pubs exist in the town today, 1773 saw 16 licences being granted to the proprietors of a range of hostelries, some being inns, others alehouses. Although little or nothing is known about some, for others research has revealed a considerable amount of information about the buildings and those who owned and ran them.

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

LIZ WOOLLEY: CHILD LABOUR IN 19TH-CENTURY OXFORDSHIRE
Tuesday 13th October 2020 7:45pm



Even in rural counties child labour was as much a feature of everyday life in the 19th century as in industrial areas - and cottage industry and agricultural work were by no means the 'soft option' compared with work in factories and mines.

Illustration © IWM (Q 31035) Non-commercial licence

CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL

MICHAEL GANDY; THE BRITISH IN INDIA
Saturday 17th October 2020 2:00pm



The India Office Records are held in the British Library, the most extensive archives relating to the East India Company and the British Empire in India; with much complementary material in other British Library archival collections and the oral history recordings.

East India Co.1835 Two Mohurs, via Wikimedia Commons

November 2020

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

TO BE ANNOUNCED
Wednesday 4th November 2020 7:30pm



The speaker for this meeting remained to be announced when Origins went to press. Please see Latest Events on the Society's website for details.

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HISTORY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
Tuesday 10th November 2020 7:45pm



The aims of the Society are to 'go beyond your family history', to promote research with a particular emphasis on the contribution of locally based micro-studies, especially through collaborative effort. Past projects have included the Swing Riots, 19th century Allotments, and Almshouses. Come along to learn more.

CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL

AMELIA BENNETT: AN INTRODUCTION TO DNA
Saturday 21st November 2020 2:00pm



We know what DNA is, and that it can throw light into the dark corners of our research, but do we really understand what it can and cannot tell us? If you want to be more DNA-literate, then help is at hand. Amelia will cover the basics of using DNA for family history research, including the potential risks involved: DNA test results can throw up some unexpected findings...

December 2020

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

COWPER AND NEWTON MUSEUM: A GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS
Wednesday 2nd December 2020 7:30pm



What was Christmas like before the Victorians invented it? This talk tells how the Georgians celebrated Christmas before the coming of trees, baubles and tinsel.

Image: www.thegraphicsgfairy.com

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

SOUTHERN GROUP: MEMBER'S SOCIAL EVENING
Tuesday 8th December 2020 7:45pm



The Southern Group invites members to its annual Christmas social evening.
Further details will be available nearer the date.

Image: www.thegraphicsgfairy.com

CENTRAL GROUP Turnfurlong Junior School
Turnfurlong Lane AYLESBURY HP21 7PL

NO MEETING
December 2020

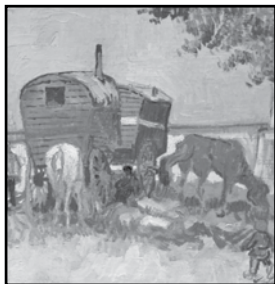


No Central Group meeting is planned for December 2020.

Talk Reports

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

NORTHERN GROUP MEETINGS



October 2019

Down Among the Gypsies

DIANNE SUTTON

Dianne gave a very informative talk about the gypsy community and kindly provided the following synopsis of her talk.

I became interested when I discovered my 3x great grandmother was a Romany Gypsy who married a chimney sweep and settled in Woburn Sands.

Gypsies originally migrated across from northern India, and arrived in the UK in the 15th century. The name 'Gypsy' derives from the fact that they were thought to come from Egypt, so were called 'Egyptians', 'Gyptians' and eventually 'Gypsies'.

Romany words used in modern English language include Chav, Kushti, Cosh. Occupations they are commonly associated with include working on fairs, fortune telling, bare-knuckle fighting, horse dealing and working as braziers. Gypsies still go to Stow and Appleby horse fairs.

It is a common misconception that 'they don't appear in the records' – they do. There are examples in parish registers, census returns (1841 at Yardley Hastings 'in a van on the side of the road'), and have birth, marriage and death certificates. There was discussion over what to use as place of residence for

marriage if the parties camped in a tent – as shown in a letter from clergy in Bedford to the Registrar General. There is a Stewkley headstone, ‘Here a Gypsy lies to Rest’.

They have some interesting given names – for example Cinderella, Britannia, Sylvester, Shipton. Family names are often taken from general population. Some Gypsy families are more well known, such as Boswell and Lee.

Newspaper articles show they often lived to a ripe old age. They were also frequently in trouble with the law – again look at newspaper articles, which are a great help in tracing them. ‘Famous’ people with Gypsy heritage include Matty Cooper ‘the royal rat catcher’, Charlie Chaplin, David Essex and Tracey Emin.

Another myth is that ‘they didn’t fight in wars’. A Gypsy from Scunthorpe was awarded the Victoria Cross in WW1.

Sources of information include the Romany and Traveller Family History Society (rtfhs.org.uk), the National Fairground and Circus Archive at the University of Sheffield and the Gordon Boswell Romany Museum in Spalding (gordonboswellromanymuseum.co.uk).

Recommended books:

James Crabb, *The Gipsies’ Advocate; Or, Observations on the Origin, Character, Manners and Habits of the English Gypsies* (1831; republished by Read Books, 2011)

David Cressy, *Gypsies: An English History* (Oxford: OUP, 2018)

Damian le Bas, *The Stopping Places: A Journey Through Gypsy Britain* (Chatto & Windus, 2018), a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week

John Hoyland, *A Historical Survey of the Customs, Habits, & Present State of the Gypsies* (1816; republished by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016)

Irish Travellers are a different ethnic group to Romany Gypsies but Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are each legally recognised as ethnic groups in Race Relations and Human Rights Acts.

Tricia Jolly



January 2020

My Average Ancestor

IAN WALLER

Ian said that the average ancestor will leave between 100 and 110 records throughout their lives and these can be very useful for those researching them. Many are generated after death. He then gave us a very detailed list of the many records we pass through between the cradle and the grave, besides the obvious ones.

Birth/Baptism

- Family birthday book/family bible – these will contain lots of information and will probably be accurate if entered around the time of the event
- Baptism certificate – issued by most churches
- Birth/baptism in the workhouse
- Non-Anglican registers covering births between 1742 and 1837
- Parish magazines – every denomination has something similar and they may cover lots of information.

Early years in education

- School admission registers
- School log books, examination certificates and reports
- Confirmation records
- Child migrant records – these record children sent abroad, put in a children's home or put on training ships as boy entrants to the Navy.
- University alumni or Inns of Court records for lawyers, doctors, etc.

Marriage

- Banns – check the dates: if the marriage was before the published banns date then you are looking at the wrong marriage
- Marriage by licence and a bond of allegation.

Illness

- Vaccination records
- Criminal/lunatic records – the records for Broadmoor or a county asylum are closed for a 100 years
- Hospital admissions registers
- Military notification of hospitalisation – to notify the Commanding Officer or family of hospitalisation away from the base
- Patient visiting orders – before the NHS existed you needed a visiting order to see a patient
- Patient case records – closed for 100 years but if the patient is already dead you may be allowed to see them
- Infirmary admissions – in the board of guardians' notes in the parish chest records
- Hospital post-mortem records
- Asylum records
- WW1 Field Hospital Register – if you know the service number and where they served the TNA has an index. None for WW2 for some reason.

Working life

- Apprenticeship indentures and register
- Freedom certificates
- Trade directories such as Kelly's and the Post Office
- Street directories and electoral rolls – many are now on Ancestry.com
- Servant Tax records 1777–1852
- Employment service records

- Company records
- Workhouse and hospital staff
- Employment applications and contracts, CVs (many are now deposited in county record offices)
- Trades unions records – held at the University of Warwick
- The professions' annual year books
- Specialist trade magazines
- Staff magazines and newsletters – some are now being deposited at county record offices.

The public face

- Newspapers – you may find a photo or find information in the details of a wedding or funeral
- Change of name – legally via deed poll. The National Archives has a paper database
- Family photographs – these may give you names, dates and places but are only useful if you know who they are!
- Identity cards, etc
- Club and society records – these may be in county record offices. There may be trophies, etc.

Serving King and country

- Medal rolls
- Officer commission warrant
- Protection certificate – shows regiment and rank and when discharged
- Army pay lists and musters – shows where they were recruited
- Navy ship muster – shows the ship served on
- Merchant seaman ticket – no records kept between 1852 and 1921
- Soldiers' personal diaries – held at the Imperial War Museum, the National Archives or local regimental museums, etc

- Soldiers' effects ledger – exist for those who died
- War diaries – War Office copies at TNA. Some have been transcribed by the Western Front Association
- Seamans' competency certificates – only for officers in the Merchant Navy
- Prisoner of War records
- Soldiers pension record cards – at the TNA.

The British abroad

- Passports and travel documents – passports not compulsory until 1945
- India and the Far East – a very big subject, many documents at the British Library
- On board ship – passenger lists
- Empire children.

Public responsibility

- Rate books – basically like census returns
- Public office – oaths of allegiance, etc
- Payment of taxes.

Upon hard times

- Overseers' accounts
- Settlement records
- Removal from parish
- Pauper inventory – proof of destitution in order to enter a poor house
- Bastardy orders – sometimes give the name of the possible father
- Militia relief order – men aged 18 to 45 (may give the names of wives and children)
- The workhouse – people may enter and leave many times so look for more than one entry

- Assisted emigration – quite common in Victorian times
- Desertion from the workhouse
- Friendly and benefit societies.

Land and Property Records

- Land tax records
- Finance and Valuation Act 1910 (from 1910 to 1915 every property was visited and valued)
- Farm survey during WW2
- Deeds registry (Yorkshire and Middlesex)
- Fire insurance records
- Title and other deeds
- Chancery Court records.

Dealings with the law

- Criminal records
- Prison records
- Prison and criminal photographs
- Ecclesiastical Court cases
- Manor Courts
- Licences for trade
- Separation and divorce
- Debtors and bankrupts.

Death and After

- Graves and memorials – not all mentioned will actually be buried in the grave
- Cemetery registers

- Death and burial in the workhouse
- Burial and cemetery certificates – often in non-conformist churches
- Memorial cards, photographs and telegrams
- Undertakers records – may be held in local record office.

After this very detailed presentation Ian asked ‘why look for all these records?’ There may be over 100 records of one sort or another and they will all help to create a fuller picture of your ancestor – they will put flesh on the bones!

Anne Watson



February 2020

Brushmaking and the Society of Brushmakers

Ken Doughty

Ken explained that his interest in brushmaking was brought about by hitting a stone wall in his family history research. In the 1841 census for Greenwich, South London he found an ancestor Elizabeth Doughty, a washerwoman and her son George Doughty aged 11. In the 1851 census Elizabeth was a widowed charwoman and George, aged 21, was a brushmaker.

William Kiddier, along with his elder brother, inherited their father’s factory in Nottingham. William was an artist, writer, poet and brushmaker. He wrote 2 books on brushmaking which were published by Pitmans: *The Brushmaker* in 1920 and *The Old Trade Unions* in 1933 and these became the bibles of brushmaking. He took all the documents and records he could find from the old Brushmakers’ Society to write these two books and everything was put into a deed box to be kept for eternity. The box was labelled ‘The National Society of Brushmakers London. A dieu brothers a dieu’.

Ken eventually traced the box to Colindale and was allowed to copy many of the documents, including the Tramp Route. There were many unemployed brushmakers in London and a system for getting them into work was set

up by the Brushmaking Society called the Tramp Route. This started at Collingdale and the Tramp Route of 1210 miles took in 42 towns. The tramps would report to the local pub where, if there was no work for them, their blank (notebook) was marked and signed and they were given money for board and lodging for the night. The next day they would walk on to the next town on the route. If they had found no work in three months they were given dole money. The White Hart at Witham in Essex was the first stop on the tramp route. The Tramp Route also paid for medical treatment for sick members and their wives, funeral costs to wives and superannuation to retired members. The brushmakers paid one shilling in each week and a little extra to help immigrants.

Ken showed a calligraphy brush which had been made in about 1580 in China and the trade then continued in Holland and Germany. He also showed a slide of coats of arms for brushmakers including one showing boar hunters and bristles in barrels from Russia or Germany.

In 1839 the bristles came into St Catherine's Dock and most of the brushmakers were in Kent Street – now known as Tabard Street. Kiddier drew pictures of Tabard Street in his book. At this time all household brushes were made using a bench knife, a treadle lathe and a pitch pan. Hair brushes were made by another method which involved pulling wire through the brush head by hand. Many women were working on brush making at home and Sarah Major and the Pankhursts went to see the PM Asquith to get women the same pay as men and showed him the cuts on their hands from drawing wires.

Kent Brushes are still produced in the UK and handmade bone and bristle toothbrushes are still available, but are extremely expensive as it takes about four hours to make one toothbrush. Ken suggested that the Hillbrush Factory and Museum in Mere, Wiltshire is an interesting place to visit.

There was no official repository for information on brushmaking until Ken set up the Society of Brushmakers' Descendants in 1993 following an article he wrote in the *Family History Magazine* and in 2004 the society became online only. Visit www.brushmakers.com – there is a useful list of names of brushmakers mentioned in Kiddier's book covering the period c1790–1890.

Tricia Jolly



March 2020

Members' Meeting: Brick Walls

We had a very interesting meeting hearing of the trials and tribulations of dealing with 'brick walls'.

Rex Watson: Rex's talk was about the WARREN family on his mother's side. His great grandfather was Joseph WARREN whose eldest son was Arthur William. In 2002 Rex received a communication from John WARREN (grandson of Arthur) who lived in Canada. When John visited England they agreed to meet to look around the area. When they found Arthur WARREN's grave (died 1947) at Rochford, near Southend, Essex, they discovered that there was a plaque in the middle which read 'RENNIE & BOB SALM 8TH MARCH 2001 RIP' Nobody in the family knew who these people were. Rex advised John to contact the local undertaker to ask him to remove it. It transpired that the undertaker had put the plaque on the wrong grave.

A little later, in the same graveyard, Rex came across the stone of William WARREN (who was Joseph WARREN'S brother). On the surrounding curbstone Rex found the burial of Ethel Emma SALM who died in 1955. Rex got in touch with the undertaker again and asked if he could have the address of the person responsible for organising the plaque for Rennie and Bob SALM, who turned out to be Richard, the grandson of Ethel Emma SALM. Richard didn't know much about the WARREN family but his father Robert SALM had changed his surname from WEISS in 1930.

Rex then did some research on Ethel Emma – his findings are as follows:-

Ethel Emma WARREN married Charles Henry TAYLOR in 1903 Rochford.

Charles Henry TAYLOR died at Romford in 1906 aged 27.

In 1911 Ethel Emma had a son Robert Hugh WEISS – the father was Henry Hugo WEISS.

Ethel Emma TAYLOR eventually married Henry Hugo WEISS in 1914.

Then something happened within this marriage – no details have been found.

By 1919 the electoral register lists Ethel TAYLOR living with Max Salm. (In the 1911 census Max Salm (28) was living in a hotel with his widowed mother Regina (56) – both born in Germany.)

In a later electoral register Ethel Emma was known by the surname of Salm, but Rex has not been able to find a marriage for Ethel and Max.

Ethel's son, Robert Hugh, was obviously known as Max's son and changed his surname to Salm when he was 19.

Robert Hugh Salm married Irene LING in 1934 (hence the plaque to Rennie and Bob Salm).

Ethel Emma Salm died in 1955 with probate granted to her son Robert H Salm.

Max Salm died in 1962 also with probate granted to Robert H.

Later, when Rex went back to look at the stone Emma Ethel Salm's name had been included.

Jerry Green: Jerry said that his ancestors came from Dallington and Kingsthorpe, Northants. His earliest ancestor was William GREEN (circa 1625–1708). William was married to Sarah and they had seven children. In 1674 William paid tax on two hearths in Dallington. William, a Yeoman of Kingsthorpe, left a will listing all his children. Only his last four children were found in the records at Dallington due to the Civil War.

William and Sarah had a son, William, who died in 1749 aged 98 (which Jerry found in the *Scot* newspaper and also the *Northampton Mercury*). Jerry was then able to date his birth to circa 1651. William Jnr and his wife, Elizabeth, had 11 children – the last four being baptised at Kingsthorpe. Jerry trawled through a lot of records to try and find the births and marriages of this family.

While going through the records at Northampton Record Office he came across a document dated 1717 saying William, Yeoman of Kingsthorpe, purchased two tenements in Hanslope. Samuel, one of his sons, was already there and later on another son, William, was also in Hanslope. Their sister, Mary, married Samuel CRICK at Kingsthorpe and they also moved to Hanslope.

Jerry pointed out that it was important to let other researchers know if you discover that a branch of your family has moved elsewhere, so that they can break down their brick walls.

Question: How do you let people know?

Jerry said he does this via Ancestry. Jerry gave an example of a lady with a DNA match to his – she didn't think she had any ancestors in Kingsthorpe until he showed her his tree.

Comment: Another member commented that that's what family history societies are valuable for and said that some of these sort of snippets should be included in the appropriate journals.

Sophie Pond: Sophie's 3x great grandfather, William LARKMAN, was from Norwich and she discovered that there were 52 parishes in the city. By the time she got half way through the list she managed to find William's date of birth and baptism which solved her brick wall.

Sophie and Rex also share the FOX name in Norwich and are at present trying to find connections.

Ken Breedon: Ken's mother's maiden name was MOSS. His 3x great grandfather Edward MOSS married Hannah SHERRATT at St Michael's Church, Lichfield in 1805, and settled down in the hamlet of Fradley (parish of Alrewas), where he worked at the canal wharf, Fradley Junction on the Trent & Mersey Canal. By 1825 Edward had become a boatman – Hannah remained home based. Edward and Hannah continued to live in Alrewas where they raised their large family.

In the 1841 census Hannah (60) was living with her youngest son, Henry aged 14 (Ken's 2x great grandfather) in Alrewas. (Ken presumed that Edward was working somewhere along the canal network and hadn't been recorded.)

Hannah MOSS died on 19th March 1846 at the age of 65 in Alrewas. The death certificate stated that she was the wife of Edward MOSS, boatman. (This indicated that Edward was still alive, but he couldn't be found on the 1851 census or in death/burial registers.)

In 1996 Ken put an advert in the *Family Tree Magazine* to try and find a contact who was researching the family. Alice McGladdery telephoned immediately from Northern Ireland to say that she was sure there was a connection and that her 2x great grandfather, John MOSS (a boatman) was the elder brother of Ken's 2x great grandfather, Henry (also a boatman) – which was later verified. Alice was also trying to find the death of Edward MOSS. Alice was originally from Birmingham where her 2x great grandfather had settled – many of her ancestors and their extended families were boatmen. Ken corresponded with her for a couple of years and then heard no more.

Over the years Ken continued to look for Edward, thinking that he may have died somewhere along the canal network. Then in December 2015 Ken received a surprise package from Alice – it was a book she had written called *A Temptation Too Far* about the elusive Edward MOSS. Alice had discovered that on Saturday 1st December 1838 Edward had gone to Burton-on-Trent to pick up a consignment of 65 hogshead of quality export grade ale (equivalent of 3,640 gallons) from Bass Brewery. This consignment was to be taken to Preston Brook, Cheshire by Tuesday morning 4th December – a distance of 66 miles. Unfortunately, as soon as he had left Burton, Edward started unplugging the barrels, and was offering people buckets of beer if they could give him a rabbit for a stew! On 3rd December the boat was moored in Alrewas (8 miles from Burton) where a lot of merry making was taking place! By Tuesday 4th December (the day he should have delivered his cargo) Edward had moved the boat another 10 miles further up the Trent & Mersey Canal to Colwich Lock. Edward was arrested there for tampering with and stealing his cargo – alongside his sons Edward and Richard. Young Henry (13) was also on board but was let off because of his age.

On 2nd January 1839 Edward (54) and Edward Jnr (28) were sentenced at Stafford to be transported. Richard (17), felt to be under his father's influence, was sentenced to 6 months, 14 days of which was in solitary confinement. Alice researched their journey from prison hulks in Woolwich to their voyage on the 'Woodbridge Convict Ship'. She also charted their lives in Australia

where father and son stayed together to the end. Edward Snr died on 9th October 1858 at the age of 73 at Warwick, Queensland. Edward Jnr died on 9th July 1867 at Waroo Station, Nr Warwick, Queensland. Ken's brick wall had lasted for 19 years and an old contact eventually solved the mystery for him.

Martin Pollard: Martin commenced his talk by saying that we have all got somebody on our tree that we feel sorry for.

Martin's 2x great grandfather, William POLLARD, was the miller at Tingewick. In 1844, at the age of 23, he married Mary Ann GILES (19) from Buckingham. The following year they had a son, William Giles POLLARD. Sadly Mary Ann died in 1846.

Martin was intrigued to find out how the young William G had fared in life. Firstly, he checked to see if he had died as an infant – nothing was found. By the 1851 census William Snr had remarried and had a large family but young William G was not living with his father. Martin eventually found him aged five living with his maternal grandparents – he was still there 10 years later and was an assistant to his grandfather who was a fellmonger (dealer in hides).

Martin's brick wall happened when he couldn't find William Giles Pollard in 1871 or 1881. He decided to look at the late Mary Ann Pollard's siblings and came across Sarah Jane Giles who was 10 years younger than her sister. Sarah Jane married Joseph MAYCOCK from Waddesdon in 1856. While looking at Ancestry Worldwide, Martin discovered that this couple had emigrated to Nebraska and, on the 1880 American census, he found William Giles Pollard working as a stock raiser/herdsman. A few years later William G married Flora THOMAS from Germany in Cheyenne, Nebraska – she was the daughter of Johann Heinrich THOMS and had left Germany when she was 20. They had two daughters and a son – their son died aged two but their daughters, Lucy and Lizzie, lived to a good age.

Martin was pleased that he had overcome his brick wall to learn that William Giles Pollard had a pioneering spirit and a good life despite his sad beginning.

Peter Shead: On a visit to the Forest of Dean, Peter attended a family history fair – while there, he asked how he could get help with his family research and was told to try his local library. Peter got help at Milton Keynes

Library and found his mother on the 1911 census. He discovered that his grandmother was born in southern Ireland and his grandfather in Middlesex. Two of the children were born in Ireland. Peter spoke to an expert at Milton Keynes Library who suggested that his grandparents had probably married in Ireland and that his grandfather could have been in the army. Peter obtained the marriage certificate of David FOWLES (born 1864) to Mary O'REGAN in 1888 Cork which confirmed that David was in the Queens Royal Hussars. Peter traced his grandfather's army record and discovered that he had spent most of his service in Ireland. The regiment returned to Aldershot in 1892 and he was demobbed in January 1893 to the reserve until 1898.

David Fowles died in January 1916 of general paralysis in Uxbridge Asylum. As a child, Peter thought he could remember his grandmother having the surname OWEN. He found a death of Mary OWEN in Hammersmith 1947 which was verified by the fact that the informant was Peter's aunt. Peter couldn't find a second marriage for Mary anywhere so he decided to send a query to *Who Do You Think You Are Magazine* – Andrew Marr, researcher, found the answer – it would appear that as soon as her first husband had died, Mary Fowles travelled up to Scotland and married Joseph OWEN the next month, on 10th February 1916!

Peter had used many different avenues to find answers to his brick walls.

Peter would now like to know where his grandfather is buried. When a person died in an institution if the body was not claimed by a relative, it either went to medical research, was buried on site or was buried in a public cemetery down the road. The site of Uxbridge Asylum was developed in the 1940s and all the remains were put into a memorial garden with no records. Peter has tried the London Metropolitan Archives but they need to know the name of the cemetery, and there is a 100-year rule on the asylum records.

Peter also provided the following additional information after the meeting to include in this report. On 1911 census his mother had an elder sister at home who then disappeared. He did a census search without an address and she was found in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. The next reference to her is at Levesden Hospital, Watford in 1939. He wondered why, as she was only a few years older than his mother, he had never heard of her? She died in this hospital (asylum) and on her death certificate it says she had a spine problem so he assumes she was just left there and forgotten about.

Tom Hart: Tom's 4x great grandfather was Richard HART (born circa 1730) who lived in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. He was married twice, firstly in 1752 and secondly in 1762. Tom has not managed to find a baptism anywhere in Whittlesey. This was Tom's brick wall. He had a 'bug bear' with Ancestry that other researchers tracing this line had just copied information from one tree to another without having any proof whatsoever that the data was correct.

Rex mentioned that he always looks for the sources on Ancestry to prove that the information is right.

Also, Tom noted that one of the gravestones Rex had shown earlier was of Gideon BEHAG. Tom said that he had a Gideon BEHAG born in Southminster, so they were going to swap notes. (This was why it was important to join family history societies.)

Christine Munford: Christine gave a word of warning saying that some family stories are far from the truth. She had a situation in her own family when an adopted cousin was reported to have been the daughter of a mother who had died in the Blitz in Coventry and a father who had been killed while serving in the forces abroad. When the result of a DNA test came back, the result showed that the adopted child had been born to a single mother in Sussex.

Margaret Breedon

This meeting illustrates well how Bucks FHS can help you make connections with other researchers to solve your long-standing research mysteries.

You can:

- Place a Help Wanted request in this journal, or even write a short article (email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)
- Post your query on our website forum (log in to www.bucksfhs.org.uk)
- Make sure your research interests are included in our Members Interests database (log in to www.bucksfhs.org.uk and search 'Members interests' to submit)
- Attend members' meetings to share your stories. We have plenty of experienced members who are only too happy to help.

CENTRAL GROUP MEETINGS



January 2020

Delinquents and Reformers

KATHY CHATER

This talk looked at the problem of child criminals and the people who tried to reform them in the early days of the Probation Service.

In 1933 the age of legal responsibility was eight years old. It was later raised to 10 years old. In these times, children were treated the same as adults. Minor crimes committed by children such as stealing were taken to local courts of justice. Crimes considered to be 'major' reached the Old Bailey but up to 1913 only a small numbers of children were tried there.

We were told about a case in 1675 when a child set fire to his master's goods and the case went to the Old Bailey, but this was to discover who had helped him rather than to punish him.

In the late 19th century special efforts were made to reform rather than punish, for example, recognising the effects that a drunkard father would have on his children. In 1862 both the Band of Hope was formed and the Church of England Temperance Society founded, and the volunteers within the court system would lead to the first probation service. In 1872 the British Woman's Temperance Society was born.

The next reform was by a Fred Rainer in 1876 who sent five shillings to a fund that would actively rescue those sent to court for drunkenness, particularly men. This was a voluntary movement that would provide guidance for those after leaving the court. There were Police Court Missions and there was one in Greenwich for women drunks where middle class women strove to reform

sinners. Probation Officers were appointed to supervise offenders and were paid by the local authorities, therefore moving the service into the public sector.

There was the Elizabeth Fry Refuge in Hackney 1849–1913 where children went while court reports were made. There were homes available for children in need and there are lots of records pertaining to these. The Probation Officers Act came into being in 1907.

Corporal punishment in the form of birching, for crimes such as petty larceny, were carried out in court up to the age of 14, and abolished in 1948. There were fines paid by the parents, or by the youth if they were in work.

Under the Children Act 1908, informally known as the Children's Charter, children became protected persons. They were no longer executed for capital crimes or placed in adult prisons, court cases were held in a separate court to adults and even their records were separate. Lots of records are stored in the Nottingham Archives. However children could still be whipped. The children would be cared for in juvenile detention centres. The Children Act protected children giving evidence in court, from being used by criminals, and protected them from being in a public house, from being denied an education and being neglected by a vagrant lifestyle.

There were reformatories and industrial schools where working class children would be taught a trade. Truants and children said to be beyond parental control were sent to approved schools which were residential. Offenders were sent a long way away from their homes, there was strict discipline and corporal punishment, and punishment record books were kept. There was also an alternative of training ships where the boys could also learn music and play in a band.

If none of the above worked, for offenders up to 21 years old there was borstal hoping to reform the youngsters. The Criminal Justice Act of 1982 abolished the borstal system in the UK and introduced youth custody centres instead. The first borstal for girls was in Aylesbury prior to WW1, and built on the side of Aylesbury prison. The rules were strict and there was lots of exercise. They were taught trades such as building and food production so setting them up for work when they left the institution. Borstals had to be

approved by the Home Office. Records are held in Nottingham and contain lots of information about each young person, often with photographs.

Rosemarie Bucknell



February 2020

The Local Workhouse and the Chesham Riot

COLIN OAKES

‘When nine persons were indicted for obstructing the removal of paupers from Chesham to the Union Workhouse at Amersham, by dragging them out of a wagon, beating and wounding a magistrate, they received prison sentences of between 14 days and 4 months’. So Colin’s talk began.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 changed how workhouses were organised, in that separate provision for the poor in every parish was abolished. This meant that groups of parishes were obliged to join together and be organised as Poor Law Unions. Resources were then concentrated on the largest most dominant town in each area. Each union would be ruled by a Board of Guardians.

We looked back in history to at least 1422 (before workhouses) when the ‘deserving poor’ were looked after by the churches and monasteries. When Henry VIII destroyed the monasteries the support for the poor was left to the churches. Stern sermons were preached about helping the poor, which produced the funding needed. The first workhouses supplied materials so that people attended daily to work but still lived at home with their rents paid for by the parish. This way of managing the poor was based on the Gilbert Model which focused on ‘income’ and better educational preparation. So better education meant better occupations, which equalled better class level.

For some reason, although Chesham was the larger town, it was decided that Amersham would have the union workhouse. Such was the bad feeling

between the two towns that when Chesham paupers were first allocated to go to the Amersham workhouse in 1835, the people of Chesham rioted, as reported in *The Times*.

Chesham was a town that made boots and brushes and many of the townspeople were Baptists. They thought that closing their workhouse and moving their poor to Amersham was unacceptable, so the people rioted.

On 23rd May 1835 the intention was to transfer 10 elderly persons and a boy by cart from Chesham to the Amersham Union. As Mr Fuller, a prominent man in the town, helped load the men onto a van, women gathered to stop the men from going, stones were thrown, Mr Fuller was chased and Mr William Lowndes, the official, was wounded.

At this time the Riot Act 1714 could be used to quieten such uprisings, for if it was read out loud, people were obliged to disperse. Colin read us the Riot Act!

The next day the removal was tried again and this time the plan was to get the paupers to Amersham on their own steam. The paupers were given a shilling each for refreshments and told to make their own way there. The paupers reached the Boot and Slipper inn at Amersham, spent their money on beer, then went back to Chesham.

The Metropolitan Police were paid extra to go to Chesham to help and the Cavalry was invited to attend. By the Sunday morning the town was surrounded, the Riot Act was read and the rioters succumbed.

The men and women rioters were charged in the Aylesbury Courts and sent to prison. They did not return after serving their sentences.

Rosemarie Bucknell

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETINGS



January 2020

Tracing Living Relatives

ANTHONY MARR

Antony posed the question ‘why would you want to trace living relatives?’ and suggested these answers:

- Adoption – to trace birth parents (not too difficult, but sensitive)
- Finding relatives who may have family photos and stories
- Checking for hereditary diseases
- Probate research (‘heir hunting’ etc)
- Curiosity – ‘whatever happened to old so and so?’

The sources available include:

- Civil registration of BMD
- Wills
- 1939 Register
- Newspapers
- Electoral registers
- Occupation and military records
- Friends and neighbours (‘why not knock next door?’)
- Directories and phone books
- Name changes.

You should gather all you can and then build a tree – you may not find who you want but you could find a relative who has information. Birth, marriage and death (BMD) records are the most important – you should get a marriage certificate, they contain lots of information. On a death certificate see who registered the death and research that person. For recent BMD records (2007 onwards for births and deaths, 2005 for marriages) you could try your local registry office; otherwise go to one of the ‘libraries of deposit’ (Birmingham, Bridgend, Westminster, Manchester, Newcastle, Plymouth and the British Library).

Will indexes can be searched for free at probatesearch.service.gov.uk which is right up to date and will copies now cost £1.50.

There will be a 1921 census release in 2022, but the 1931 was destroyed in the war and the 1941 was not taken, so the 1939 Register is important in filling the gap.

Local newspapers used to have a lot more family-related news than they do now. The British Newspaper Archive is good and the British Library has a large collection. You can access newspapers online via your Bucks Library card.

Electoral rolls – the full one is held in county offices and you must make an appointment to see it. It is not indexed. The open one is freely available, but about 40–50% of people have opted out and don’t appear on it.

Privacy becomes an issue as you search forward, but some school and nursing records are available, as well as other professional groups including company directors. Good trades union records are on the Warwick University website.

Street directories and phone books are useful – most libraries and archives have a selection, TNA has lots. If you are stuck, try name changes. You can use any name you like and you can announce it in the press or by deed poll, but you don’t have to. The *London Gazette* is worth searching for name changes.

Adoption: before 1926 adoption was done in several ways – by advertisement, by childrens’ societies, poor law unions etc and few records exist. In 1926 it was formalised under the courts and there is a register of adopted children. County adoption services can be helpful. You must be very careful when researching this sensitive subject.



February 2020

Making the most of Findmypast

PETER CHRISTIAN

Peter used a live link to the Findmypast (FMP) website to illustrate his talk.

In 2003 a genealogy company negotiated the release of the GRO birth, marriage and death (BMD) records, indexed them and put them online as '1837online'. As they expanded, by buying other datasets, they needed a new name and Findmypast was born. They try to add new records every single week.

There are three levels of subscription: starter, plus and pro. Starter gets you all the BMD indexes and census indexes; plus has all the British Isles records that they have; pro also holds records from outside the British Isles. It is available free at the SoG, family history centres, TNA and many local libraries. Quite a few local family history societies have licensed their records to FMP (BFHS has not).

Not every record shows the original image – all of the BMD and census records do, but parish and other records have variable coverage. Several years ago the Scottish Government decided to allow FMP and Ancestry to create their own digital version of their censuses, but it has never happened.

Going online with FMP you are offered Family Tree, Search and DNA, of which Search is the most useful. The categories of records are listed down the left hand side for you to choose from. If you choose 'census', narrowing down the search is difficult – some of the inputs you need are not available and Peter suggested that we should not use it. Instead go to 'A to Z of Record Sets' and choose, say, the 1871 census which now has its own form, allowing you to search using the data that was missing on 'census'. The same applies to all of the general categories: they are hard to search, so go for specific record sets. Another snag is that some of the records do not specify the range of dates and places covered, especially where there are

odd gaps in parish records. You have to seek this information elsewhere, in the National Index of Parish Registers for example.

Peter recommended the 1939 Register on FMP as extremely useful, especially in cases where it was updated with a woman's new surname on marriage, often with a date.

On FMP if you cannot find a person using their exact name, try using 'wild cards' – replacing doubtful letters with question marks. The site does use NameX which attempts to bundle together name variants (there is more info on the NameX website).

Finally, is FMP better than Ancestry or The Genealogist? All of them have variable quality of data and Peter could not say that FMP is the best, but it is certainly not the worst, and it is getting better.

Geoff Edwards



March 2020

Surnames: Origins and Development

LES MITCHINSON

How did surnames originate? Until about the Norman Conquest there was no need – the villages were small and, although there were only about a dozen given names for men in use, everyone knew which John or William was which.

After the Conquest, the land was parcelled out and the owners needed some sort of label so that they could lay down the rightful succession; they were the first to use hereditary surnames, by about 1250 in the south of England, 100 years later in the north.

As the manorial system developed, the Poll Tax was introduced and the population grew, ordinary people needed an individual identity too.

Surnames developed in four main ways:

1. **Occupational** – John the smith became John Smith (Smith is still the most common sur-name in the world). Others were Miller, Baker, Weaver etc.
2. **Patronymic and matronymic** – John the son of John became John Johnson. Mitchinson is the son of Michael. John the son of Nell became Nelson.
3. **Locative** – these were derived from where a person lived or came from, so John who lived on the hill was John Hill and John from York became John York.
4. **Nickname** – these were characterised by a person's appearance or habit, and sometimes used ironically. So a tall John could become John Long or John Short.

The Domesday Book still had some Saxon names, for example the suffix -win or -wyn means friend, hence Baldwin etc.

Surnames developed and were often localised. The Testers came from Sussex and the Mitchinsons from Cumberland. The Plague of 1348 caused a severe labour shortage and people left their home manor for work, taking their surnames with them, so spreading names through the country. Surname distribution is a research study in itself.

You have to use your imagination to deal with surname variants, some are straightforward, like Williamson to Williams, or Miller to Millward and Mills, others are more obscure like Nash deriving from Atten Ash (by the ash tree). Baker becomes Baxter in Scotland. Religious-sounding names like Bishop or Pope are likely to be from nicknames rather than religion. The Bristows come from Bristol. Thorpe and Bridgeman are originally Norse names and are more common in the north. Foreign names were often anglicised, to make them easier or for political or religious reasons; so the Jewish Moses became Moss or Mason.

Welsh ancestors are hard work. Hereditary surnames only became usual in the 16th and 17th centuries. Before that they mainly used patronymics ab or ap and matronymics mab.

There could be a patronymic chain – A ap B ap C ap D ap E. Ap Richard became Pritchard and Ab Evan became Bevan. Strangely, in certain Welsh families some of the children took the father's surname, some the mother's.

In Scotland, Gaelic names were used in the Highlands. All the members of a clan – MacDonald, say – took the clan name. The patronymics are Mac, Mc and M', and these account for about one in eight surnames.

In Ireland, families took the tribal or sect name. The patronymics are Mac and Fitz, and O' usually means the grandson of.

Finally Les recommended the website www.surnamedb.com (surname database) and his own www.mitchinsongenealogy.com

Geoff Edwards

Well I Never!

Have you found mention of a 'brandreth' in the course of your research? I found this when I was looking at some old words from inventories in Wills. No, you can relax – you haven't got a member of the famed Gyles in your family! A brandreth, brandred or brandize could be:

- A gridiron or trivet supporting vessels on open fires.
- A wooden framework supporting haystacks, barrels, etc.
- Rail or fence round a well.

While I was looking I also found a reference to a 'gyle'. Again, not the Gyles mentioned above but a gyle house which was a brewhouse. A 'gyle' was the quantity of liquor brewed at one brewing.

While we are on the subject of brewing, did you know that an 'ale conner' was a civic official who tested the quality of the ale?

Have you found someone inheriting a 'black jack? Yes black jack is a card game but it is also a large leather beer jug coated with tar. A 'black jack man' made leather mugs or tankards for ale and beer houses. An 'anker' was a measure of wine or spirits of about 4 gallons; it was also a cask that could hold that amount. Likewise a 'bibb' was a small tankard. An 'ale stool' was a stand for a cask of ale.

Abecedarian

Update from the CBS

Hello from the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies! Well not quite. The COVID-19 situation has meant that since mid-March the Centre has been closed to visitors, and staff have been working from their homes around Buckinghamshire and the neighbouring counties. But this has not stopped change: as of the start of April, County Archivist Laura Cotton has left the Centre to take up a new challenge at Glamorgan Archives. The past few weeks have also seen the departure of Rachel Simon, a long-standing favourite in Local Studies. We wish both the best of luck. In the meantime Senior Digital Archivist Chris Low will be standing in as County Archivist.

During this enforced hiatus, we are not twiddling our thumbs. Centre staff are working on various projects, including the transcription of WW1 documents. We also continue to run our enquiry service. We are encouraging people across the county to record their experiences during lockdown in diaries, which they can deposit with us when the world returns to normal. If you are looking for other ideas to keep yourself busy, we have put together a handy guide to our free online resources, available on our website. Simply 'google' Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies to get started.

Keep an eye on our social media feeds (@cenbucksstudies on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook), for service updates and news of re-opening.

Stay safe!

Katherine Gwyn
Senior Community Engagement and Projects Archivist
kagwyn@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Enquiry Service

We are still running a limited enquiry service from our homes. As you can appreciate, we cannot answer the majority of questions as we cannot access the collections. However we are still taking your questions and you might ask something that we know off the top of our heads.

Email: archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies: Online Resources

www.buckscc.gov.uk

Education Resources

Did you know that we have a series of education packs online? Suitable for secondary school ages, topics include Victorian Crime and Punishment, WW1 and WW2.

Catalogue

Our catalogue is the heart of our archives collection, containing written descriptions of tens of thousands of the documents held in our strong rooms at County Hall, and while there are no images attached, you can line up a list of things to come and look at when we re-open.

Bombs Over Bucks

A map of all the reported bombs that fell on Bucks during WW2.

Victorian Prisoners Database

This is an online database with details of prisoners entering the County Gaol in Aylesbury in the 1870s – many of the records have photographs of the prisoners!

Historic Photograph Database

For your amusement and diversion, our database allows you to search our photographs by place, and a number of other search terms.

Blog

The CBS blog has articles written by staff, including several that in the past have featured as Archive of the Month. We are still developing it, so it is a little rough around the edges.

Milton Keynes 50

A series of no fewer than 50 articles written by CBS staff, about the history of Milton Keynes and its surrounding area.

Searches

Please note that we can't currently support our paid-for distance services such as parish register look-ups, wills and marriage licence orders.

Armchair Research

While most things are closed and many of us are stuck at home, several of the major archives and commercial genealogy sites are providing enhanced online services. Here is a selection of what's on offer, and a few online resources you might have forgotten about:

BRITISH HISTORY ONLINE

The Institute of Historical Research (focuses on period 1300–1800) All content is free to access until 31 July.

w british-history.ac.uk/catalogue/guides-and-calendars

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIBRARIES

If you hold a Buckinghamshire Library card, you can access a number of online reference resources. Notably Ancestry is temporarily available to users from home. Visit the website to log in with your card. Other useful resources available here are 19th century British Library newspapers, *The Times* Digital Archive 1785–2014 and The Gazette.

w buckscc.gov.uk/services/libraries/online-reference-resources/a-z-list-of-online-resources/

CURIOUS FOX

The village by village contact site for anyone researching family and local history in the UK and Ireland. Some of the messages are quite old now, but it's still worth a look to see if anyone is researching the same families as you.

w curiousfox.com

FAMILY SEARCH

FamilySearch are sharing resources and tips from the recent RootsTech conference, including showing free videos of keynote speeches etc.

w RootsTech.org

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

If you subscribe to *Family Tree Magazine*, they are offering free online video tutorials on a variety of topics to bring you inspiration and information.

w family-tree.co.uk

LOSTCOUSINS

Connect to others researching the same families as you, and sign up to Peter Calver's invaluable email newsletter.

w lostcousins.com

ROOTSCHAT

Free family history forum site. This site has a rich source of information from past posts, with a helpful community of volunteers to help you with your own queries. From photo dating to look up requests. See if you can help anyone in return.

w rootschat.com

ONE PLACE STUDIES

Are offering access to their journal to non-members. Buckinghamshire one-place studies listed include: Bourne End, Great and Little Kimble, Quanton and Wing.

w one-place-studies.org

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (TNA)

While the Kew site is closed, digital downloads are free (you will need to register).

w discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

TRADE DIRECTORIES

University of Leicester's free-to-search special collections include searchable digitised trade directories.

w specialcollections.le.ac.uk

Alan Dell Award 2019

First prize for the 2019 Alan Dell Award has been won by Gwyneth Wilkie, for her article **'PC 85 William Yates of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary'**, which is published on the following pages. Congratulations Gwyneth, the judges all enjoyed your article and found it to be well written and entertaining, with much Buckinghamshire interest, being centred on the county. The writing is not overly cluttered with dates, reads well, and has been thoroughly researched. Second prize was won by Margaret Breedon, for her article **'Jane Eggleton: A Woman of Substance and Fortitude'**.

The judges would like to thank everyone who entered and encourage members to enter the 2020 award. It is important to *Origins* and to Buckinghamshire Family History Society to honour the memory of our former President Alan Dell F.S.G. (1926–2012). Alan made a huge contribution to genealogy and local history, sharing his knowledge and expertise over many years and it is fitting that his legacy encourages the publication of Buckinghamshire family history articles.

So don't be shy – although your piece should be carefully researched and well written, we do proofread before publication and anyone who is researching their Bucks family has a tale to tell that will interest and inform other Society members.

Now, more than ever, it would be fantastic to have new material from you, the society members, to publish in your Society journal. As an extra incentive we offer £50 first prize and £25 second prize.

Articles should be between approximately 500 and 1500 words, on any genealogical topic of educational value, preferably with high Buckinghamshire relevance.

See the website www.bucksfhs.org.uk for full rules and criteria.

There's still plenty of time to submit before the 31 December deadline!



PC 85 William Yates

by Gwyneth Wilkie

Alan Dell Award Winner 2020

PC 85 William Yates of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary

William YATES was born at Woughton on the Green, a small rural parish close to Fenny Stratford, just three weeks before the 1841 census, which took place on 6 June. His father, James, appeared in this census as a carpenter but subsequently as a labourer. By 1851 William was the oldest of three boys.

In 1861 he was still living with his parents and working, aged 19, as a labourer. Three years later, on 12 October 1864 he married at Little Woolstone to Mary WATTS, who was born in Hanwell, Oxfordshire. Their son John Thomas was born in the third quarter of 1865 and this must have been before 28 August 1865, the date on which William Yates joined the Buckinghamshire Constabulary declaring that he was married with one son.

His record of service [1] shows as his last employer William SMITH of Little Woolstone. In 1861 Smith was listed as 'proprietor and occupier of land employing 7 men and 6 boys', so William Yates is likely to have been an agricultural labourer. Aged 24 when he joined, he was 5ft 8½in tall, with a round ruddy face, blue eyes and dark brown hair and stout of figure, so it does not sound as though being underfed drove him to seek a change of job.

The Buckinghamshire Constabulary was established in 1857, following the County and Borough Police Act of 1856. Early recruits to the new forces were predominantly aged 21 to 25 and mostly single, the figure for Buckinghamshire in 1863 being 70%. Some had previous military service and many had worked on the land [2]. Perhaps being used to being out in all weathers was a good qualification for walking the beat? David Taylor comments:

'In the opinion of many chief constables and their recruiting sergeants, the ideal police recruit was seen to be an agricultural labourer who was seen to have the necessary physical strength and the appropriate mental qualities of stoicism and deference. Despite the mythology of ploughman turned policeman, the reality was different in two ways: recruitment patterns were more diverse and the agricultural labourer did not make the longest serving, let alone most able, policeman.' [3]

He presumably got through his basic training and was posted to Stony Stratford. This was a market town with some 2,000 inhabitants. Built on Watling Street, it had a long history, but nearby Wolverton, with its station and busy locomotive repair and construction sheds, had probably overtaken it in importance. In the Market Square was a police station where William Yates was based. He appeared to be doing well, having been promoted from Third Class to Second Class Constable on 1 January 1867, which brought an increase in pay. Yet his career in the police was very nearly cut short towards the end of that year.

On 3 Dec 1867 he was suspended from pay and duty by the Chief Constable to allow a complaint which had been laid against him by Inspector O'Brien to be investigated and five days later he was demoted to Third Class [4] 'for allowing a prisoner to escape from his custody (Stony Stratford lockup)'. The Chief Constable, JCT DRAKE, refrained from dismissing him 'on account of his good conduct, but cautioned him that he must be more careful in future. His pay will not be allowed for the time he has been suspended from duty'.

What had gone wrong? The *Bucks Herald* of 30 November and 7 December 1867 fills in some of the details. Under the heading "'Billy the Black" in Custody' it relates how William HARDING of New Bradwell, whose soubriquet this was, wanted for stealing a watch from William FOSTER at Wolverton, had been arrested by PC BRYAN of Wolverton early on Sunday morning and taken to the lockup at Stony Stratford [5]. On Friday night when PC Yates entered the cell to see to the prisoner's bedding, Billy noticed that the door had been left ajar, shot past him and escaped. Yates could not catch up with him but alerted the Wolverton police. At 2am on Saturday morning (presumably 30 November, the day the paper informed the public of his original arrest), Billy was re-captured by PC Bryan who found him hiding under the bed of the barmaid of the Cuba Hotel, Stantonbury and returned him to the cell in Stony

Stratford. Bryan might have liked a word with his colleague William Yates, but he was no longer on duty and would not be reinstated until the following Saturday.

Yates regained his lost promotion on 19 October 1868, while still at Stony Stratford. The *Bucks Herald* has a number of reports of him dealing with illegal gaming and vagrancy and with drunks, some of whom assaulted him. When Mary Ann O'DONNELL (sentenced at Stony Stratford to a month's imprisonment at Aylesbury for prostitution and obscene language) escaped from PC NICHOLLS at Wolverton Station while he was buying the tickets to get them both to Aylesbury, it was once more PC Bryan who recaptured her, this time at the Radcliffe Arms. She was then removed to Aylesbury Gaol 'in the safe custody of PC Yates', so he appears to have redeemed himself (*Bucks Herald*, 8 Feb 1868).

While he was at Stony Stratford, two more children were born, Sarah Ann in 1867 and Mary Ellen in 1869.

On 30 December 1869 he was posted to Whitchurch, 5 miles north of Aylesbury. The population was 884 in 1861 and there is no mention of a police station there, so it is likely he was functioning as a village bobby. The 1871 census shows that he was living in the High Street. He must have been well regarded as on 29 April 1872 he attained First Class status. The extra pay may have been needed as two more children were born to the couple while there, Frederick William in 1871 and Emily Jane in 1874. On 27 April 1874 his pay was increased to that of a Merit Class Constable, 25 shillings and threepence, and on 5 February 1875 he was again posted, this time to High Wycombe.

Aged 44 he took on the challenge of being part of a team in the biggest town he served in. The population, taking into account the municipal limits, was 4,811, but the parish and parliamentary limits contained 10,492. Wycombe developed in a valley, alongside the river Wye, which provided motive power for the paper mills and other enterprises started there. It was the centre of the local furniture industry, with components being made over a wide area and brought in to be assembled there. It was also the administrative centre for a large area around. The Superintendents of both the Borough

Police, George DAVIS of Church Square, and of the county force, William SARJENT in Oxford Road, were based there and the situation may have been a complex one.

While stationed there, Yates was sent to buy a 2lb loaf baked by Henry TURNER of West Street, Great Marlow. It cost threepence halfpenny and, when weighed at the police station, was an ounce underweight. The newspaper report quotes William Yates as saying he was PC 85 and stationed at High Wycombe. The wording of the charge merits repetition:

‘that he [Henry Turner], being a baker out of the city of London and the liberties thereof, beyond the weekly bills of mortality, [6] and ten miles from the Royal Exchange, unlawfully did sell to one William Yates a certain loaf of bread, otherwise than by weight, to wit, for the sum of 3½d for the said loaf, the said loaf not being such as is usually sold under the denomination of French or fancy bread.’

Physical strength and stamina may have been qualifications for the job of constable, but this suggests that a good level of literacy and a mind retentive and ingenious enough to follow the twists of the law were also essentials for those seeking further promotion.

Two sons were added to the family during this posting, George Christopher in 1875 and Arthur James in 1878. While the family lived north of Aylesbury, all the children were baptised in Little or Great Woolstone, suggesting that the parents wanted to maintain their links with their home parish. The couple seem to have raised all of their nine children. Given the prevalence of infant deaths, this suggests that the children were carefully looked after.

On 15 November the family moved again, away from the bustle and commercial activities of Wycombe, to a small, quiet village. Chalfont St Giles had a population of 1,265 in 1881 and the village itself consisted mostly of its main street. It had a church, chapels for Congregationalists, Methodists and the Society of Friends and was served by a Board School. A coach from Wendover passed through once in each direction every day and in summer an omnibus arrived from London at 2pm and left again at 5pm.

The 1881 census finds the family at Corner Street. Possibly the modern Up Corner Close may mark where that was. The oldest child was starting to make his way in life. John Thomas was a butler's assistant aged 15, but still living at home. Two more children arrived to complete the family, Louisa Maria in 1881 and Harriet Edith in 1883.

William spent more time in Chalfont – eight years – than in any of his previous postings. He had spent 4½ years at Stony Stratford and 5½ each at Whitchurch and Wycombe. One final posting came through, to Farnham Royal, another quite rural beat, with a population of 204 in 1881. Even so, it had a Post Office and two schools. A carrier offered a service to London five days a week, but returned the following day. William would have been about 47 when he was posted on 24 November 1888.

By the time of the 1891 census the number of children living at home had shrunk. George Christopher (15) was a general labourer. Arthur James (13) Louisa Maria (9) and Harriet Edith (7) were no doubt still at school. By 1891 Sarah Ann and Mary Ellen were in service, working away from home as a cook for the family of a barrister, Andrew EDGAR, in Stoke Poges.

A new addition was Thomas, aged 4. He was not a son, but a grandson, born on 3 November 1886 in Chalfont St Giles to their unmarried daughter Mary Ellen and subsequently brought up in his grandparents' family. What happened to Mary Ellen is still uncertain, as neither a marriage nor a death has been found, but when she registered Thomas's birth, she described herself as a servant and in 1891 she was employed as a housemaid in the same household as Sarah Ann.

The Yates family's address was given as Roadside Cottage, Up End. This was the name used locally for Farnham Common. It was not long after this census, on 20 July 1891, that William Yates died. The death certificate states the cause as 'unknown'. Police pensions were introduced in around 1891. The *Bucks Herald* of 24 October reported that he had served 25 years and 327 days in the force and that the family was to be granted a gratuity of £126-5-0. This was to be paid under the provisions of Section 7 of the Police Act 1890 and amounted to a sum not exceeding one month's pay for every year of service. The record of service tells a different story, recording that

he was struck off the force on the 21 July 'he having expired' and that the Standing Joint Committee on 20 October 1891 decided to grant a gratuity to the widow of £84.

The question of whether William Yates's career in the police had altered his social standing remains to be answered. One way of approaching the problem may be to view William Yates as a bridge and compare his father's job with those of his children. The father gave his occupation in 1841 as carpenter and subsequently as 'labourer'. As he lived in a rural area that probably means he was an agricultural labourer, a label that can cover many things from unskilled (in the sense of having no trade) to highly skilled, quite specialised and vital to the prosperity of a farm.

William Yates must have had an adequate level of literacy for his police duties. Before joining the police he worked on the land. He was never promoted to sergeant. Levels of pay were not much above those of agricultural labourer. One great difference, however, must have been that for a policeman pay remained steady throughout the year. Agricultural labourers tended to earn most around harvest time, but when winter came and the need for fuel, food, good footwear and warm clothing peaked, short days and the dormant season meant that wages slumped to their lowest level.

William and his wife Mary reared four sons and five daughters. Of the sons John Thomas, born in 1904, was a coal porter in the last census before his death. Frederick William, born in 1871, became a butler and moved to Yarm in Yorkshire. George Christopher, born in 1875, by 1911 had become a coachman and moved to Sandy, Bedfordshire. Whether he came to terms with motorised transport is not clear, but in 1939 he was working as a gardener. Arthur James, the youngest son, in 1911 was still in Farnham Royal, living in Chase Lodge [7] and, like his nephew Thomas who was living with them, working as a gardener. His 68 year-old mother, Mary, is also described as a servant, while Louisa Maria, now 29, is described as 'mother's help'.

Of the other girls in 1891 Mary Ellen and Sarah Ann were in service. In 1897 Sarah Ann married a coachman, James John HOPKINS, and for a while the couple were at Derby House Stables in Birkenhead before returning to Farnham Royal. Of Mary Ellen, nothing is known after the 1891 census.

Emily Jane married in 1897 Alfred William HYLAND, a nautical instrument-maker and in 1901 they were living in Greenwich. In 1911 she is in service as a cook for a family at 4 Penkridge Mansions, Moscow Road, Marylebone. Her husband had been an able seaman in the Royal Navy, no 139464, from September 1889 to March 1895, when he bought himself out. He has not been found in 1911. In 1939 Emily Jane Hyland, born on 27 February 1874 was a widow living at 90 Westbourne Road, Middlesborough. Louisa Maria was only aged 9 at the time of her father's death. At 19, in 1901, she was a kitchen maid in a large household at Farnham Chase. By 1911 she had returned home and was working, as we have seen, as a mother's help. In 1920, four years after her mother's death, she married Charles JEFFRIES and 1939 finds them living at The Lodge, Sonning Common, Wokingham, with Charles described as a gardener. Harriet Edith was 17 in 1901 and still at home with no occupation given. In 1906 she married Charles Frederick Brasier HIGLEY. In 1911 the couple are in Staffordshire at Manley Hall Gardens, Weeford, near Lichfield. In 1939 they are living at 9 High Street, Tendring, Essex, with Charles still described as a gardener. Harriet returned to Farnham Royal following her husband's death and died at 2 Milton Villas on 22 March 1958. James Hopkins, widowed by Sarah Ann's death in 1837, was in 1939 living at Milton Villas.

The grandson Thomas Yates had also by 1911 embarked on a career as a gardener. His name does not appear in Buckinghamshire Remembers as a casualty of WW1. He cannot so far be found in the 1939 register.

The girls went into service before marrying. Two of the sons, as butler and coachman, became high-ranking servants. Sons, sons-in-law and the grandson Thomas became gardeners, thus still working on the land, but probably helping to create beautiful landscapes as well as growing food crops.

The conclusion may be that their social standing had improved a little and the lives they led had evolved as society itself was evolving. It is interesting to see William's descendants in jobs that suggest they were valued for their trustworthiness and for their skills with both animals and plants. These may well be characteristics that he (and his wife) had inculcated.

Gwyneth Wilkie

This research was done as part of the Family & Community Historical Research Society's mini-project on policemen.

References

[1] For this I am greatly indebted to Mick Shaw who has spent years compiling information on this force and who, despite the fact that he was on holiday in South Africa when contacted about William Yates, within hours had sent me the record. The brief biography that follows is an amalgam of that information and the censuses.

[2] Carolyn Steedman, *Policing the Victorian Community: The Formation of the English Provincial Police*, 1984, pp 80–81

[3] David Taylor, *Crime, Policing and Punishment in England, 1750–1914*, 1998, p 90. On the following page, he quotes the Head Constable of Sheffield lamenting that men were difficult to retain: 'When they have been drilled and smartened up, there is a great demand for them as porters, timekeepers and so on' (Parliamentary Papers, 1875, Vol XIII, Q1803).

[4] Some idea of pay differentials can be gained from the Reports of Inspectors of Constabulary to the Secretary of State, pp 1873–4, Vol XXXVI (18), p 13, which shows that in 1874 in the Buckinghamshire force the 3rd Class constables got 20 shillings and ten pence per week, 2nd class 23 shillings and a penny, 1st class 24 shillings and twopence and merit class 25 shillings and threepence. There were 19 constables on the lowest rate, 25 2nd class, 12 first class and 48 on the top rate. Five Superintendents were in charge of 11 Inspectors, seven Serjeants (sic) and 104 constables. For each constable there were notionally 1,297 people and 3,581 acres.

[5] The building that once served as the police station is now known as the Old Court House. The centre for Buckinghamshire Studies holds a variety of records for it – plans, returns of prisoners of various dates, lists of provisions supplied, etc. A photograph on Flickr can be seen at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidrallen/8838566313/>

[6] 'Bills of Mortality' designated an area round the City of London in which from 1592–1595 and then from 1603 deaths were recorded. The information gathered could be of crucial importance in time of plague. From 1611 responsibility for collected the information passed to the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks. Often elderly women called searchers determined the cause of death and phrases like 'searchers report of the tissick' can be seen in burial registers. As the population increased, so did the area covered. For the censuses of 1801–1831 the five outlying villages of Chelsea, Kensington, Marylebone, Paddington and St

Pancras, were given the separate title of 'the metropolis'. See the map of 1831 at http://www.histpop.org/resources/pngs/0011/00150/00001_24bit_50.png.

[7] The Chase was apparently later renamed Farnham Park. In 1911 it belonged to the Carr-Gomm family, one of whom Hubert William Culling Carr-Gomm, became an MP as well as being a JP.

ALAN DELL AWARD

COMPETITION FOR BEST ARTICLE

We hope you enjoy reading this year's entries and feel inspired to enter the 2020 award with your Buckinghamshire research stories.

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TOP TIP

Member Peter Shead would like to remind members to double check ALL information obtained from a third party, including hints and trees from subscription sites. Peter received a HINT which tells him that his grandmother was born when her mother 4 years old. This may be a bit over the top but just shows that you must check everything!

James Gomme and Thomas Langley's History of the Hundred of Desborough

by Michael Cordwell James

James GOMME was a carpenter of High Wycombe. He was also a member of the Society of Antiquaries. The Gomme family business was certainly diverse: according to a trade directory of the time, they were 'Appraisers, Auctioneers, Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinetmakers & Undertakers'. The business was established by his father Lawrence and was situated on Easton Street. Somehow James Gomme combined an extremely busy life in trade with pursuing a life-long interest in local history and antiquities.

Thomas LANGLEY, was born in 1769 and therefore a contemporary of Gomme, who was born in 1766. Trained in religious orders at Oxford, Langley was licensed to the curacies of Bradenham and Taplow in 1793 [1] and it is not inconceivable that he made the acquaintance of Gomme in the course of his research for his *History of the Hundred of Desborough*, which was published in 1797. Langley died a comparatively young man at the age of 32 in 1801.

Jennifer Beaujeux, a former secretary of the Buckinghamshire Family History Society, wrote in 2010 that the copy of Langley's History in the Society's possession 'appears to have been owned at one point by Mr James GOMME, a local auctioneer, and he seems to have made amendments to the book as part of what appears to be a very personal project'. [2] LJ Mayes, the former librarian and curator of High Wycombe Library and Museum, wrote in his *History of Chairmaking in High Wycombe* (1960) that 'a copy of Langley's *History of the Hundred of Desborough*, now in the High Wycombe Public Library, is very fully annotated in his [Gomme's] handwriting.' (page 28).

It is almost certain that Gomme owned a copy of Langley's *History*; his correspondence with fellow antiquarian, the Reverend Mark Noble, twice makes reference to the work. In 1817 Gomme wrote that the Reverend Isaac King 'proposes to join me in the Expense of a Reprint of Langley's Hundred of Desborough & Deanery of Wycombe'. [3] Again, in a letter of 1820, he refers to a gentleman 'the Pedigree of whose Family will be found in the Appendix of Langley's Hundred of Desborough'. [4]

Thanks to the current secretary of the Society, Tony Sargeant, I was able to take a look at this volume one afternoon in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, Aylesbury. Two items immediately stood out as having a direct connection with Gomme. One was a portrait of Mrs DEALTRY, the other a print of Leeds Castle. Neither Mrs Dealtry nor Leeds Castle are mentioned in Langley's text; they are there because they meant something to the original owner of the *History*, James Gomme.



The print of Leeds Castle, Kent

From Gomme's letters, we learn that Mrs Dealtry of Bradenham Hall, was someone he considered 'as a kind friend of mine'. In his capacity as undertaker it became Gomme's sad duty to bury her next to her husband in York Minster in 1812. The itemised bill for the funeral is in the book.

Both Gomme and his correspondent Noble collected engraved portraits of notable people and Gomme writes in 1814, that he has obtained, 'with Difficulty', two copies of an engraving of Mrs Dealtry, 'one for myself and the other to place in your Hands'. He describes how 'She laboured under a Deprivation of Sight for many years, during which a Visitant in the Family drew a small Portrait and after having a Plate engraved presented it to the Family'. [5] This identifies the print in the Society's copy of Langley as the one Gomme kept for himself, for it indeed shows an elderly woman with a pronounced squint. Underneath, in what must be Gomme's own hand, is written 'Mrs Eliz^h Dealtry of Bradenham'.

Late in his life, Gomme's letters to Noble describe how he was actively involved in the renovation of Leeds Castle in Kent. This colossal pile was inherited as a virtual ruin by a Banbury solicitor, Frances Wykeham Martin. The castle was in a deplorable state, with a gaping hole blown in one of the outer walls from the time of the Civil War. Wykeham Martin set about a grand restoration and through his mutual friendship with Noble, who lived only 10 miles away in Barming, Gomme was enlisted to help.

Gomme spent what he described as 'a pleasant Time with Mr W. in London' and was commissioned to find treasures for Leeds Castle at the ongoing sale of contents at Wanstead House. As Gomme wrote to Noble: 'You have I suppose heard of the great sale at Wanstead ... Mr. Wykeham Martin requested me to look thro the splendid Catalogue and go there and select and purchase such Things as I shd. deem suitable for Leeds Castle I attended five Weeks and have bought many curious Articles'. [6] These articles included, according to a newspaper cutting Gomme sent with the letter, a set of three huge paintings by Cassali from Wanstead's grand entrance hall, each one measuring nearly 17 feet high by 13 feet wide. For Gomme, it was probably the project of a lifetime, marrying his skills as an appraiser and his passion as an antiquarian, with an apparently limitless budget to indulge his employer's wishes.

HUNDRED OF DESBOROUGH.

description of such places might countenance us in it: "Oppidum Britanni vocant quum sylvas impeditas vallo atque fossâ munierunt, quo incurfionis hostium vitandæ causâ convenire consueverunt *." As will also the account of this matter by Strabo, "Πόλεις δ' αὐτῶν εἰσι οἱ ὄρυμοι"—Woods are their cities; for, having cut down the trees, they inclose a great circle, and therein erect cots for themselves, and temporary stalls for their cattle.—The entrenchment here exactly answers these descriptions.

"Now to support this Conjecture, might it not be said Dwyf-

It is a well authenticated Fact that M^r Daniel Bennett, Father of M^{rs} Goodwin of Wycombe Marsh, now Proprietor of Favingdon House, ^{Berk} the Park and other considerable Property in Estates adjoining, did when a Lad work for 6 per Day on those Premises which he afterward purchased.

James Gomme Oct. 8. 1810

ginal manner of spelling the word — invalidates several of his conclusions. To me it appears probable that the name of the place took its rise from the two towns Wycombe and Marlow, Duo burgi, and the Saxon would agree with this derivation. It is very evident that there was an ancient fortification at Desborough hill, the vallum remaining in the same state as

* De Bello Gallico, lib. v. c. 21.

† M^{ilton} Hist. p. 8.

A note from James Gomme dated 8 October 1810

The restoration was completed in record time. Once back in High Wycombe, Gomme asks Noble 'Have you seen the newly erected Castle? ...it is a Village in Extent within the Walls'. [7] A year later, he writes to Noble, that 'Miss Wykeham Martin has sent me a lithograph'd View of the Castle at Leeds'. [8] It would seem entirely reasonable to believe that Gomme cherished the print as a souvenir, adding it to his scrapbook of memorabilia, the Society's copy of Langley's *History of the Hundred of Desborough*.

Michael Cordwell James

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- [1] Dictionary of National Biography, 1885–1900, Volume 32
- [2] *Origins*, Buckinghamshire Family History Society, September 2010, Vol. 34, No. 3, p.186
- [3] Oxford, Bodleian Libraries MS. Eng. Misc.d.164, ff.80–81
- [4] *Ibid* 165 ff.3–7
- [5] *Ibid* 163, ff.171–172
- [6] *Ibid* 165, ff.194–197
- [7] *Ibid* 165, ff.238–239
- [8] *Ibid* 165, ff.294 (a, b, c)

Influenza Cures and Palliatives from the Past

(Don't Try This At Home!)

Fake news is nothing new: before advertising standards were introduced, newspapers carried some brazen adverts on the back of an influenza epidemic. These examples come from the *Bucks Herald*, 11 Jan 1890.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC! What to do at once! AVOID CHILL — by wearing the JAEGAR PURE WOOLLEN CLOTHING, Guaranteed absolutely PURE by Chemical and Microscopical Tests. [E. Broad & Son, Drapers, Aylesbury].

INFLUENZA MIXTURE! Tincture of Quinine, as recommended by Sir Morell Mackenzie and many other Physicians as a PREVENTATIVE of the Epidemic, and also as a RESTORATIVE after the Attacks. [John Wood M.P.S., Pharmaceutical and Dispensing Chemist, 35, New Road, Aylesbury].

Let us know if you find any others!

St James the Great Hanslope

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

The village of Hanslope is the farthest north in the county and surrounded by Northamptonshire on three sides. It is also sandwiched by the M1 motorway, West Coast Mainline Railway and the Grand Union Canal.

The church is a Grade I listed building, begun in the Norman period. The spire of this magnificent church was built in the 15th century and can be seen from many miles; it was originally over 200 feet high but was struck by lightning in 1804 and when rebuilt was reduced to 186 feet. It is still the tallest in the county.

The weathervane depicts a whippet-type dog with an arrow through its paw, a gift of a member of the Watts family whose life, it is said, was saved by a similar dog while he was serving in India.

In the churchyard is the last resting place of Alexander McKay, a prize fighter originally from Glasgow. In 1830 he was engaged in an illegal bare-knuckle fight in nearby Salcey Forest when he was knocked unconscious. He died after being taken to the Watts Arms in Hanslope and was buried in the churchyard. The vicar originally objected but supporters placed a stone above his grave which can be seen today.

Hanslope was a centre for the lace making industry in the 19th century and around 500 women and children were employed in the trade. Lace buyers would visit the village weekly and pay around 6 pence (just over 5p) a yard for the product.

Yvonne Parker



St James the Great, Hanslope

Alan Dell Memorial Award

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

PANGBORNS AT WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN

I was interested in the article on Woughton on the Green by Julian Hunt (*Origins* Summer 2019, p.92), as I know an ancestor of mine came from the area, a William PANGBORN born 1760, baptised in Newton Longville. He married Sarah HONEYBONE, and died in Woughton on the Green.

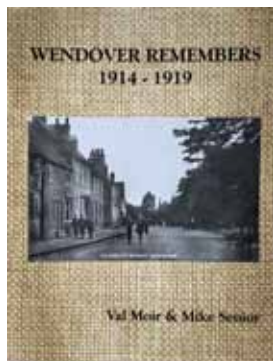
I know there was a drapery and woollen industry in Woughton run by Wallingford and Pangborne and wondered if anyone knew about these Pangborns and what they were doing there in the 1760s. A Richard Pangborn, one of my ancestors, went on to be the publican of The Prince Albert pub in Bradwell, and I wondered if my ancestors had anything to do with the Swan in Woughton?

I understand up to a couple of years ago there were photographs of local residents past and present on the notice board at the Prince Albert featuring one of my relatives, Sarah Pangborn. Unfortunately the photos were taken down for refurbishment of the pub and I have been unable to trace them through the brewery. Any information on this family would be most welcome.

Mrs M E Mew

**Flat 3, Cliff Court, Currie Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8NU
(or email via the Society: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)**

Book Reviews



Wendover Remembers 1914–1919

By Val Moir & Mike Senior

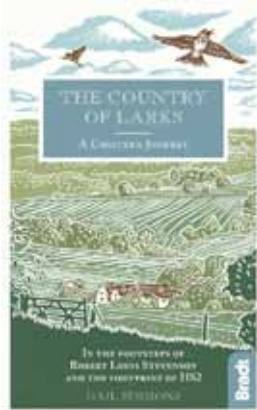
This book tells Wendover's part in the First World War through monthly instalments. Each section includes a brief introduction to the global war then concentrated on the casualties amongst Wendover men. Other details are provided through reports in the *Bucks Herald & Buckinghamshire Advertiser*. Other sources include the school logbooks and the *Wendover Magazine* of the time. The magazine printed obituaries and photographs of the deceased servicemen.

Wendover as a town both suffered and boomed through the war. Farms and businesses were affected as men were called to service, also trade increased with the creation and growth of Halton Camp, firstly for the army and then when it was transferred to the newly formed Royal Air Force.

I found this book to be both an enjoyable read and informative, despite the odd phrases in a larger type that were distracting as they were out of context. The whole story does not slip into despondency that comes with just reporting the deaths of many men. The continued life in a Buckinghamshire village provides an image of families carrying on the best they can. The story moving into 1919 tells of soldiers and normality returning for some as a different peacetime starts. This book tells the reader why the war changed Wendover. For those researching Buckinghamshire local history this book tells an interesting story.

Tony Sargeant

Available by placing an order by email to vandsmoir@btinternet.com £12 + £3 p&p or "Just" shop in Wendover High Street at £12.



Country of Larks: A Chiltern Journey

By Gail Simmons

In 1874 Robert Louis Stevenson, then a young, unknown travel writer, walked from High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire to Tring in Hertfordshire. He wrote about his three-day journey across the Chiltern Hills in an essay titled 'In the Beechwoods'. Stevenson observed the natural world, reflecting on the experience of walking across this landscape at a time when England was still largely agrarian and when most people still earned their living from working the land.

A century and a half later, Gail Simmons follows in Stevenson's footsteps, exploring and reflecting on the Chiltern landscape and livelihoods that will be lost or irretrievably damaged by the planned high speed rail project HS2.

A thought-provoking book, evocative of previous times and celebrating this unique and beautiful landscape and the people it sustains, cleverly weaving Stevenson's experiences with the author's personal modern-day journey on the same route.

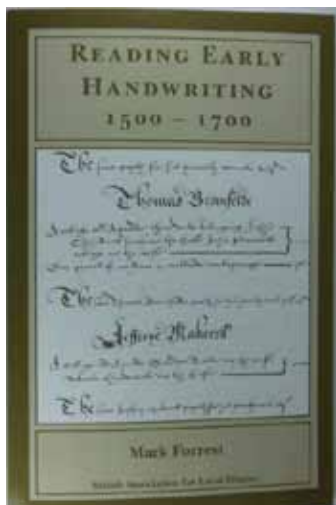
Rebecca Gurney

Published by Bradt Travel Guides, 2019
Hardback, paperback and ebook available.

RRP £11.99 – £12.49. Currently available at 50% discount (May 2020) directly from the publisher at www.bradtguides.com

PURCHASING BOOKS

Books reviewed in *Origins* are NOT sold by the Society unless otherwise stated.



Reading Early Handwriting 1500–1700

By Dr Mark Forrest

Please note these are the publisher's notes; this title has not been reviewed by Bucks FHS.

This newly-published 87-page practical guide covers handwriting from 1500 to 1700, illustrated with facsimiles and transcripts of more than 20 documents of types most frequently encountered by researchers.

An indispensable resource for local and family historians, it includes sections that explain how numbers, currency, dates, and measurements were expressed and offers advice on transcribing documents.

Published by The British Association for Local History

ISBN: 978-0-948140-04-4

Price: £10 plus £2.00 UK p&p.

BALH members: £8 plus £2.00 p&p.

Order online at: www.balh.org.uk/shop/shop-local-history-books

Long-term Workhouse Inmates

An 1861 survey recorded the names of all 14,216 adult workhouse inmates in England and Wales who had been resident for five years or more, and the reason for their being there. All the names listed for each union etc. can now be viewed via a link under the 'Inmates' section towards the end of each union's individual page.

www.workhouses.org.uk

Go to the left-hand menu, select Workhouse Locations -> English Poor Law Unions -> Buckinghamshire and you will find the list in a link at the bottom of each individual union's page.

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

The Eureka Partnership

transcribes and publishes historic data from these counties.
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Non Conformist Registers
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Canal Boat Registrations
Canal Boat Inspections
Marriage Notices
Probate Records
Asylum Records

**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

(Options 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 marriages 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

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (CBS)
County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UU
www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives

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

Local Studies 01296 382250
Email: localstudies@buckscc.gov.uk

High Wycombe Library
5 Eden Place, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP11 2DH
Tel: 01296 382415
Email: lib-hiw@buckscc.gov.uk

**Milton Keynes Local Studies
and Family History Library**
555 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 3HL
Tel: 01908 254160

Slough Library
The Curve, William Street,
Slough, SL1 1XY
Tel: 01753 535166

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

Buckingham Library
Verney Close, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 1JP
Tel: 01296 382415
Email: lib-buc@buckscc.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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Please submit entries to the 2020 competition to:

editor@bucksfhs.org.uk