

ORIGINS

WINTER 2024



Included in this Issue

- The Verey Family •
- From Tingewick to Tasmania •
- Serendipity at Aston Abbotts •

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

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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 2025

UK Individual (A)	£12.00	Overseas (E)	£17.00
UK Family (B)	£15.00	Individual online (W)	£6.00
UK Corporate	£14.00		

Go to <https://www.parishchest.com> and join online
Or email membership@bucksfhs.org.uk for how to pay by standing order

**MAGAZINE OF THE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Winter 2024 Vol. 48 No. 3

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From the Editor

The nights are drawing in, and no doubt by the time you read this edition Christmas will be fast approaching. But it's not too late to enter the Alan Dell Award ... the deadline for submissions is 31st

December, so if you have a Buckinghamshire family history interest story from your research to tell – do share it! Visit the website for the guidelines and take the opportunity to win a prize while helping us provide great content for our members.

As always, I am keen to receive contributions from the wider membership. It does work both ways: submitting a short 'help wanted' request, or an article about your own research (successes and brick walls alike) can create a dialogue with other members who may benefit from your experience but also offer help. It doesn't need to be a polished masterpiece – that is what an editor is for, after all. Old photographs from your collections (people or places) are also very welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this journal in 2024. Regular content and the help I receive are invaluable – without it this journal would simply not exist. I wish you all best wishes for the festive season.

Rebecca Gurney
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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

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A Note from the Honorary Secretary

The Executive Committee is still looking for more members. There has been some success in recruiting Fleur. She has some interesting ideas concerning online talks. Welcome to the committee, Fleur.

As I am writing this, we still have not got anybody to book talks for 2025. Also there are other roles that have to be fulfilled to ensure Bucks FHS continues. The problems outlined in the previous edition of *Origins* have not disappeared.

For more positive news, the published parish registers are getting a revamp, with a download version being produced. There is a separate article discussing the options (see page 154).

Finally, more news concerning Buckinghamshire Archives. The planning permission for the building work has been passed. There has been no confirmation of any closure dates. Now contractors have to be appointed and equipment ordered, so I expect the closure will happen in 2025.

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

Origins Submissions Deadlines

March 2025 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2025

July 2025 (Summer) issue – 5th May 2025

December 2025 (Winter) issue – 6th October 2025

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

Society Notices

Cheque payments

The Society is no longer accepting cheques for search services and new memberships. Those who are already members and renew by cheque will not be affected.

**** POSITIONS VACANT ****

CHAIRMAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PUBLICITY OFFICER

All Society activities are run by volunteers

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



FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS

The first Saturday of the month sees the Society's Family History Workshop at **Buckinghamshire Archives, Walton Street, Aylesbury**, where we aim to help with:

- **RESEARCH:** Advising visitors on how to conduct family history research, and to offer advice and guidance on how to move forward.
- **RESOURCES:** Explaining the resources available to them via our Society as well as those of the Archives and Local Studies Library.
- **SEARCHES:** Conducting searches for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials on our Names Database for those researching their Bucks ancestors.
- **RECORDS:** Enabling those wishing to see original records to book a space in advance with the Archives. Requests can be made for up to 8 documents per session, ordered in advance. A further 3 documents can be ordered throughout the day.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Come to see us on:

December 7th, January 4th, February 1st, March 1st
between 9.00am and 4.00pm.



Society Meetings

Come and Meet Us!

The Society holds regular meetings for members at Bletchley, Bourne End and online via Zoom. Visitors (non-members) are welcome to attend face-to-face meetings, but there is a charge of £2. Online meetings are available to members only.

Most meetings have a topic which is introduced by a knowledgeable speaker, with the opportunity to ask questions. There is time before and after meetings to chat with other members, and some libraries and research aids may be available for consultation. Meetings are held at the venues below.

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

SOUTHERN GROUP	ONLINE	NORTHERN GROUP
<p>Community Centre Wakeman Road BOURNE END Bucks SL8 5SX</p> <p>email: southernbranch@bucksfhs.org.uk</p> <p>On the second Tuesday of each month (there may be changes at Christmas and New Year).</p> <p>Doors open 7:30pm Meetings start 7:45pm</p>	<p>Held via Zoom. Members only.</p> <p>Log in to the Society's website for joining details, and information about the talk being given.</p> <p>On the fourth Friday of each month, except in December.</p> <p><i>We need a volunteer to book speakers for online talks in 2025. email society@bucksfhs.org.uk</i></p>	<p>Methodist Church Hall Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB</p> <p>email: northernbranch@bucksfhs.org.uk</p> <p>On the first Wednesday of each month (there may be changes at Christmas and New Year).</p> <p>Doors open 7:15pm Meetings start 7:30pm</p>

Tea, coffee and ample parking are available at Bletchley and Bourne End.

Northern Group

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

**JOHN FLEWIN : AN EMIGRATION STORY
Wednesday 4th December 2024 7:30pm**



John relates the tale of what is probably the longest emigration voyage in history: the story of the first families to settle on Vancouver Island off the west coast of Canada, John uses entries from the log book of the ship that took them there and the writings of some on board.

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

NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2025



Northern Group meetings will recommence on Wednesday 5th February. Look out for announcements on the Society's website or local publicity in the new year.



Southern Group

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

**SOUTHERN GROUP MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS EVENING
Tuesday 10th December 2024 7:45pm**



The Southern Group invites you to its traditional Christmas festive social evening. If you have been before you will know that there is likely to be a surprise or two thrown in.

Illustration Tony Hisgett, Birmingham CC-BY-2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

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

**SPEAKER AND SUBJECT TO BE ANNOUNCED
Tuesday 14th January 2025 7:45pm**



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



Online Talks

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

DR SOPHIE KAY : WHAT'S THAT JOB?
Friday 22nd November 2024 from 19:45 UK / UTC



Have you encountered a labbet amongst your ancestors? A lumpman, or a water gilder? Sophie's Buckinghamshire themed talk aims to demystify the unfamiliar historical occupations you may meet.

Members will find the link required to join the meeting by logging in to the Society's website.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

2025
Volunteer Needed To Book Future Talks



Your Society needs a member to volunteer to arrange future online talks, by researching and booking speakers.

Please contact: secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk



Diary Dates

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

Details are correct at the time of writing (October 2024), but are always subject to change. PLEASE CHECK with the event organisers or on the relevant websites before attending.

Family History & Heritage Events

<p>November 2024 (all month)</p>	<p>Buckinghamshire History Festival Various heritage events across the county – tours, talks, archives and more. See https://histfestbucks.co.uk/whats-on/</p>
<p>Sat 14th December 2.30pm</p>	<p>Not so well-known – the BAS buildings, museum collections, library and archives Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (BAS) Speaker: Sarah Gray (BAS Librarian) BAS founded and ran the County Museum for its first 100 years until 1955. Find out about its research resources which cover the old county including modern-day Milton Keynes. Venue: Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP Visit: https://bas1.org.uk/lectures-and-talks/</p>
<p>Sat 25th January 10am – 12pm & 2pm – 4pm</p>	<p>East Surrey FHS Fabulous Virtual Family History Fair For further details visit the website: https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/events</p>

Sat 8th February 10am to 4pm	The Family History Show Online Featuring talks, experts and societies. Tickets on the day are £10.00 per person. Early bird offers available. For details and booking, see: https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/
Sat 29th March 10am – 12pm & 2pm – 4pm	FHF Really Useful Family History Show Kinson Community Centre (Pelham's Park), Millhams Road, Kinson BH10 7LH For further details visit the website: https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/2025-live

Exhibitions at Wycombe Museum

Until 2 February 2025: The Art of the Chair

An exhibition about the art, design and marketing of chairs. From Victorian travelling salesmen's artwork and miniature chairs, to slick 1970s adverts. Discover the designs that made Wycombe chairs known around the world.

Until 27 April 2025: High Wycombe Choral Society's 90th Anniversary

The High Wycombe Choral Society is celebrating its 90th Anniversary in 2024. Explore the choir's history through a display of items from their archive in this community exhibition.

High Wycombe Society Historical Trails

The High Wycombe Society has released two new self-guided trails of the town centre.

www.highwycombesociety.org.uk/new-high-wycombe-historical-trails/#gsc.tab=0



EAST SURREY Family History Society

Virtual Family History Fair

Saturday, 25 January 2025

Sessions: 10.00 to 12.00 | 14.00 to 16.00

East Surrey FHS will again be hosting our fabulous Virtual Family History Fair in 2025.

Enjoy all the benefits of a family history show from your own armchair, **FREE** of charge, using Zoom.

Go to our website to register for either or both sessions.

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk and follow the **Events** link.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing details about joining the fair.

Bring your specific questions to get the best from the event.

Organisations already confirmed as attending

Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS | Berkshire FHS

East Surrey FHS | Essex Society for Family History

Family & Community Historical Research Group

The Guild of One-Name Studies | Hampshire Genealogical Society

London Westminster and Middlesex FHS | Romany and Travellers FHS

Sussex Family History Group | West Middlesex FHS

Keep checking our website for the latest information



EAST SURREY
Family History Society



www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Meeting Reports

Summaries of the talks delivered by our guest speakers at our Northern and Southern Group meetings. If you regularly attend meetings and can help by writing the occasional report, please do let us know!

NORTHERN GROUP MEETINGS



June 2024

Danny's Dad

Members' Evening

[Some names have been redacted for privacy reasons]

One of our members regaled us with some of his very recent research which started with a very personal story. In the early 1970s, when he and his wife's two daughters, S and J, were aged 5 and 2 respectively, they decided they would look into adoption but were not accepted onto any agency list. They then heard about long-term fostering which led to them receiving a telephone call in January 1976 from Haringey Social Services saying they were looking for a placement for a little boy of almost 5 years of age who had been in a 'short term' foster home for over six months. Two months later, Danny moved in with them.

This was a little boy who had had no stimulation; he didn't know colours, he didn't know any animals, he didn't even know his own full name. He started school the following month and, eventually, managed to catch up with his peers. He lived with them until he was 18 and went on to become a chef. He was always in money troubles. In 1999 he moved out of town,

disappearing completely. They had no idea where he went; there was no such thing as social media in those days.

Rolling on to 2010, daughter J tried an online search for Danny and discovered that he had died in his sleep in 2006, in Wolverhampton.

Nothing had been known of Danny's background save for a birth certificate with parents' names, the father named as Peter Daniel A**** being noted as 'of independent means' and that he had left the mother early on with a hint of possibly going to Canada. Early this year, thoughts that his father might one day appear whetted the appetite for further research. The parents' marriage certificate dated 17th September 1970 was obtained, giving full names; Danny's father being Daniel Peter A****. His father was Joseph A**** a 'Fine Arts Publisher'. A search of the British Newspaper Archive via Find My Past for the latter rendered 247 matches – enough to keep an avid researcher out of mischief for a while!

One particular item, which appeared to be syndicated around various regional and national newspapers, was the story about a will. Reported in the Sunday Post and others on 24th February 1952 was an article about a Joseph A**** who had died in 1951 leaving £25,000 in trust to his son Peter, aged 9, but the terms of the will meant he had to wait until he was 48 years old to inherit it! It included a clause that Peter should not be in prison for more than two years. If the clause failed, then the sum would go to the Southwark Catholic Rescue Society. Further research showed that Joseph and Elsie A**** were active in the Jewish community but wanted their son Peter raised as catholic. Elsie died in 1948.

A further newspaper article of 7th September 1956 reported Peter, the heir, aged 13, as missing. He was later found in Victoria Railway Station having run away from a holiday in Brighton with his foster parents. He had wanted to "see Britain" and in ten days had gone via London, Newcastle and Edinburgh and back to London. A pattern began to build up, a year later he was missing again, to be found in Newcastle and on it went.

1963 brought up a report that, at 19, he had stolen from his old school; he was on licence from borstal. In 1965 he had been sentenced to 15 months for receiving a stolen cheque book. In November 1966 he was referred for psychiatric treatment for offending again after release in breach of a

Probation Order. In September 1970 he had broken into his landlady's house and was sentenced to 18 months in prison, suspended for 3 years. All the above avoided a two-year prison sentence which would have nullified his inheritance. Two weeks after the latest case, Daniel Peter A**** married Danny's mother.

This is a good demonstration of what can be found in old newspapers.

Further similar research brought up an offence in 1914 committed by a Joseph A****, a non-commissioned officer in the Prussian army. This occurred three weeks before he married an English girl. It was also found that, before WW1, Joseph was a publisher and seller of Donald McGill's saucy postcards. A life story of Donald McGill from the Donald McGill museum on the Isle of Wight added information that following three months' hard labour in 1914 Joseph A**** was interned for the length of the war. He returned to Germany but in the late 1920s returned to England, with the help of McGill, where in 1936 he set up a company, the success of which was in no small measure due to Donald McGill's artwork. A**** applied for British nationality in 1948.

Other documents found in more recent times have brought up a possible death date of 2001 for a Daniel A****, aged 57. His date of birth given as 19th August 1943. From snippets in various of the newspaper reports above Peter had been adopted by Joseph and Elsie A****. He had been abandoned at a 'catholic children's home' as a baby and lived with them from 1945 aged two.

As more newspapers are uploaded to the database on a weekly basis, it is essential to periodically repeat searches. Results can be sorted by most recently added resources and in other ways.

Angela Evans

Footnote

About half the 247 newspaper references referred to a Joseph A**** who was a famous pianist and composer who died in 1864. However, his compositions continued to be played and acknowledged well into the twentieth century.

Subsequent to the talk, some additional information came to light. The girl Joseph A**** married in 1914 re-married in 1925. Her marriage certificate said she was divorced from Joseph A**** (with three variations of the surname cited). Is it relevant that 1925 was the year divorce laws made divorce easier? Voting records showed she had lived with her second husband from at least 1920. Joseph A**** married his second wife Else/ Elsie in 1930.

The copy of the 1951 will shows that the clause mentioned was a modification of an earlier draft with less well defined conditions. It also named guardians to manage the trust and made other odd provisions.

Peter's adoption certificate gives his name as Daniel Peter. The adoption was not until 1949 after Elsie's death and after Joseph applied for British nationality. It gave his date of birth which was identical to that on the death certificate mentioned.

It was previously known from the newspaper reports that Joseph was born in 1882. The 1939 register gave his date of birth as 26 July 1882. This was the date given on a certificate exempting him from internment in the second world war. This same date was on a document where Hitler removed his German citizenship. His birthplace was given as Hamburg and a copy of his birth certificate confirmed his mother was Minna who lived with Joseph and Elsie from at least 1939 until her death in 1946.

Was Joseph worried he might be interned again if war broke out? In April 1939 he travelled to New York on the Queen Mary returning on the same ship in May. Was he enquiring about a possible move to the USA in the event of war?

It is still not known what happened to the money.



July 2024

Research before Parish Registers

Ian Waller

A guide to using and interpreting Medieval Period records

Very little information is available from the Anglo Saxon (before 1066) and Norman (1066–1154) periods. The Norman nobles ruled during the latter period which saw the hundreds, villages, palatines and boroughs evolve to become the manorial system. Ian defined the Medieval Period as overlapping the Normans and Plantagenets (1154–1485). It was split into High Medieval (1216–1395) and Late Medieval (1395–1485) and preceded the Tudors (1485–1600).

What is available?

Documents to search for names or places include wills, coroners' records, law suits, muster rolls, taxation records, subsidy rolls, and also bonds and deeds of gift. However, manorial records are the best source to trace the different levels of medieval society.

- In the **deeds and legal documents** you may find marriage settlements, family settlements, mortgages, deeds and leases.
- **Tax records** give lists of tax payers or those excused.
- **Medieval craft guild records** can give you details of apprentices, journeymen and masters which would be found in the freemen and craft guild records.
- Soldiers can be found in **Battle and Muster Rolls**. Try the website database The Soldier in Later Medieval England (www.medievalsoldier.org).

- **Law court records** and those of the Ecclesiastical Court may identify criminals.

These are just some of the many documents Ian listed.

Interpreting the documents

There are a large number of documents but all the early official ones were written in Latin – medieval, not classical. Some could be in Middle English or Anglo-Norman.

A major problem is that names were often written as pronounced and may have changed or been abbreviated. Surnames often reflected an occupation and women's names were very rare.

Place names changed over time. The English Place Names Society Volumes are useful and the Medieval Names Archive (www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk) is worth viewing.

Useful tip: it often helps with fading ink to use a UV light.

Useful tip: use a digital camera since copying documents can be difficult.

This was a very detailed and thorough talk and Ian ended with some challenges:

1. It can be difficult finding the records
2. They are often poorly kept or preserved
3. They are not easy to use.

But good luck!

Anne Watson



August 2024

Chairmaker Ancestors

Richard Holt

Woodland craft to factory industry

Richard's talk focused on chair making from the 18th century onwards. It took us from beech woods to 'bodgers', from chair turners to chair manufacturers.

Chair making was a common industry in the Chiltern Hills due to the abundance of nearby beech woods and connections with both London and Oxford. Initially a woodland craft, chair making became popular in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire in the early 19th century. By 1877, 4,700 chairs were being made every day in High Wycombe in over 150 factories and workshops.

The talk included a short film showing the last 'bodgers' at work in their woodland camp making basic chair components from newly felled trees. With historic illustrations Richard explained how Windsor chairs were made by small factories using the items produced by the 'bodgers'. He mentioned some of the firms in the High Wycombe area, one of which employed Richard's father who was present in the audience. We were amazed by photographs showing cart loads of chairs as they were sent around the country.

Some of the sources available to research ancestors in the chair making industry used case studies highlighting the type of information that might be found.

Rex Watson



September 2024

When the LandShips Came to Town

Helen Frost

This was a follow up from Helen's talk on the Women's Land Army a year ago.

The illustrated talk told the incredible story of the 'tank banks' which aimed to raise as much money as possible for the war effort through investments in War Bonds and War Savings Certificates.

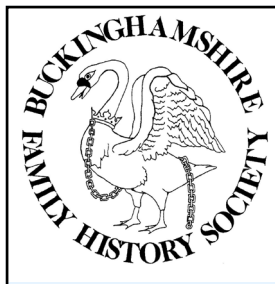
This talk showed the whirlwind journey and the excitement the tanks whipped up as they visited towns and cities all over the country. The atmosphere of 'tank fever' was recreated with the assistance of vivid contemporary accounts and music.

What were the final totals raised? The audience were invited to match the towns and cities to the totals that were raised and there were some surprises.

Included were examples of what else happened during 'Tank Weeks' and who took part. What was the money spent on and what was the return of interest for investors?

We saw the fascinating spin-offs and merchandising that was sold to promote Tank Weeks too. There were many quirky and unusual stories connected to this initiative. We learned the stories of the tanks named as Drake, Egbert, Iron Ration, Julian, Nelson and Ole Bill! An interesting and lively illustrated talk.

Rex Watson



October 2024

Agricultural Labourers

Ian Waller

Most of us will find Ag Labs listed on censuses but Ian reminded us that the term only came into use in 1841 when enumerators were told to use it because there was not room on the form for the full name! Since censuses were used by the Government to identify broadly where people worked, many enumerators included anyone connected with the land and may not have included more detailed jobs such as shepherd, cowman, horseman, dairymaid or even bailiff.

Ian went on to clarify the difference between a farm servant (often young and male, employed on a yearly contract at a hiring fair, who lived on the farm and carried out duties on demand) and an agricultural labourer (often married and living in a cottage with wife and family and who worked fixed hours for a regular wage).

The talk went on to look at the lifestyle of agricultural labourers and how this was affected over time; how, apart from seasonal changes and the weather, this was impacted by national and international events. Mentioned was the introduction of mechanisation leading to the Tolpuddle Martyrs and the Swing Riots. The new Poor Law came in the 1830s: the Tithe Commutation Act removed the obligation to pay tithes with a monetary system; the Enclosure Acts; the repeal of the Corn Laws as the result of cheap wheat imports from America and Canada. Changes came over time in the laws affecting child labour and later compulsory education. 1872 saw the first agricultural trade union.

All the above occurred as increased industrial activities, particularly in the northern part of the country, saw men moving from country to city for higher wages. Competition for workers, particularly in the north, resulted in wage differentiation between north and south. Men might have been involved in

cottage industries, joining their wife and children in activities such as straw plaiting, lace making etc when farm work was restricted. Over the same periods there was increasing emigration to North America and Canada and to the Antipodes.

Ian listed the many sources where you might find mention of your ag lab ancestors to give a wider view of their lives.

If this has whetted your appetite, I suggest you look at Ian's book in the series

MY ANCESTOR WAS AN.....

'Agricultural Labourer' published by the Society of Genealogists.

Rex Watson

OPENING OF THE AYLESBURY RAILWAY

Aylesbury News 15 June 1839

Monday last was indeed a gay and busy day. At an early hour, the inhabitants of this town were aroused by the lively strains of the Aylesbury town band, and great numbers of people were present to witness the departure of the seven o'clock (first) train. At ten o'clock, the crowd of respectable inhabitants and fashionably dressed people around the station-house was very great, and the pressure to obtain the best seats was ludicrously severe. None were admitted without a shareholder's ticket; and as soon as the train (consisting of a dozen carriages) was full, the Long Crendon band struck up, and off went the steamer, dragging after it a long line of Aylesbury people, to the number of 200 and 300, and to the amazement of as many thousands outside, who were regretting their ill-luck in not having obtained a ticket. The train returned from Cheddington almost immediately, and from that time till night the crowd besieging the station-house, clamouring for admission, was immense.

We are sure that, much as the Hale Leys was frequented in the old-fashioned times of bull baiting and cock-fighting, it never had half so many people on its surface as it had on the afternoon and evening of Monday last. The whole town was crowded with country visitors, and nearly every shop was closed, but Hale Leys was the centre of attraction. Those who had travelled by the railway, or who felt no desire to travel, resorted there for amusement, and it was truly laughable to witness the contention for seats which was exhibited by the anxious crowd; while it was pitiable to behold the lengthened visages of those whose exertions for the whole day had been fruitless. The directors had made every possible arrangement for the conveyance of all, and the engine started backwards and forwards continually, but the trains must have travelled all the week to have satisfied every body. The day was fine, and the numberless journies [sic] passed off without any accident.

Footnote: The opening of this single track branch line was relatively early in railway history. It occurred nine years after the introduction of the first passenger service, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Most importantly, it provided a link with the London and Birmingham line, allowing easy access to London and its markets.

Submitted by Howard Lambert

Extreme Longevity

Mile WALLIS, formerly Clark of the Parish, aged 106,
buried 17 November 1727 Addington

Addington Parish Register

Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2024

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

The Verey Family

Cyril Verey

Alan Dell Award Runner up 2023

Farmers in Buckinghamshire for over 500 years

What's in a name? It is generally assumed that the name VEREY and its variants is likely to have descended from the name DE VERE, a Norman family that settled in Essex after the Conquest of 1066. Aubrey de Vere was made first Earl of Oxford in the 12th century and the family seat was at Castle Hedingham, Essex. At this time the de Veres through marriage became owners of Whitchurch Manor (Bolebec Castle) in Buckinghamshire and some members of the family lived there. As estates and titles descended through the line of eldest sons, younger sons and their families gradually moved into obscurity carrying only the name. All we can say with any certainty is that the name Verey originates in Norman France.

Many variations of spelling can be seen and we come across such variations as VIERY, VEERY, VEREE, VEARE. The first mentioned name in the family history ("1st generation") is John FAYER, whose surname is phonetically very close to Vere. We have an unbroken record of Veres and Vereys living and farming within a few miles of Aylesbury in the counties of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire stretching back over 500 years. Some branches of the family made money by moving away and others emigrated far afield across the old Empire but our branch of the family has remained through good times and bad, and after 15 generations still farms near Buckingham. The farmers in each generation are direct descendants of John Fayer.

John Fayer (ie Vere) of Cuddington is mentioned in a muster roll dated 1522 and amazingly his will survives dated 1544. Cuddington lies on the river Thames about 5 miles west of Aylesbury. It was part of Haddenham

manor and parish until the middle of the 16th century. There are several other Veres recorded in Buckinghamshire during the 14th and 15th centuries but connections are now impossible to establish. John Fayer was a husbandman or tenant farmer who left bequests to his three sons in his will and to the church of St Nicholas in Cuddington and he was buried there. Another three generations lived and farmed in the village, gradually acquiring property and at Ickford on the boundary with Oxfordshire. Francis VERYE of Upton in Dinton, John's grandson, became one of the earliest Baptists in the neighbourhood and his family continued at Dinton for many years. Thomas, 4th generation direct descendant, was living in Haddenham at his death in 1663, a yeoman with property. Other Verey members stayed in Cuddington through the 17th century; a certain John Verey was made petty constable in 1682. Richard Verey was churchwarden at Chearsley in the 1660s. In Haddenham, Vereys were yeoman farmers for a century or so, but lost way because they were zealous Puritans, even after this became unfashionable when Charles II was restored in 1666.

The next three generations lived in Worminghall. We have to follow a younger son, William (7th generation) who was born in 1706. He farmed at Brook End, Weston Turville which is on the road to Aston Clinton and Vereys were tenant farmers here until the 1880s. William's eldest son took a farm at Great Kimble but his younger son, John, stayed at Brook End Farm. Like much of the land in the village, the farm was owned by the Mercers Company of the City of London. John married Frances HOLMES and had a large family over a 20-year period. William (born 1781) continued to farm at Weston Turville but a son John (born 1782) fell into poverty and had to be helped by the parish. He died at Bledlow and his family, like many after the Napoleonic wars, had to travel north for work. In their case at Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire. They eventually emigrated to Australia.

William (9th generation) married Susannah PARROT and another large family appeared. One son, William, established a butchers shop in Silver Street, Aylesbury. Emanuel, baptised on Christmas Day 1815, lived until he was 84. His first wife, Elizabeth CLAYDON, died in childbirth and he married again, to Ellen BENNETT. Emanuel's son Thomas, together with his brother William, started his working life on the Brook End farm and their father, with his new wife, moved to Nash Lee, Ellesborough. When young

Thomas married Martha HOBBS he moved to Marsh Farm, Great Kimble. He was foreman there for the rest of his life. William and his family stayed at Brook End until his death in 1884.

We now follow the family of Emanuel and Ellen. She grew up on Mount Mill Farm, Wicken, Northants; a prosperous enterprise by all accounts. Her brother, Charles – gentleman – married Mary WEBB of Stoke House, Stoke Mandeville. Emanuel and Ellen took farm tenancies in Ellesborough – Nash Lee followed by Grove Farm and then Apsley Farm. Then in 1880 they moved to Salden Farm, Mursley which was previously farmed by the Bennetts. He died in 1896. Emanuel and Ellen had three sons, Emanuel George, Frederick Henry and John. Hence we reach the 11th generation.

These three sons were all to become substantial farmers within a few miles of each other in North Bucks. (Emanuel) George went to Mount Mill in the 1880s to help his uncle George Bennett. He then was tenant at Rectory Farm, Calverton and, finally, to Manor Farm, Hulcote, near Towcester where he died in 1929. He was helped by his son, George Frederick.

Frederick Henry farmed at Hall Farm, Beachampton until about 1915 when his nephew, George (Frederick) took over. Hall Farm lies just north of the church on the banks of the river Ouse. On the other side of the river is Mount Mill Farm, Wicken. The substantial house is the remains of Beachampton Hall, a Tudor mansion dating from the early 17th century thought to be the home of Catherine PARR, sixth wife of Henry VIII. The farm and many village houses were owned by Sir Robert WALKER of Sand Hutton, Yorkshire. According to his grandson, Sir Victor, he managed to dissipate the family wealth by vast extravagance. His property was put up for sale in 1922 but before that he removed an ornate Jacobean staircase and panelling from the upstairs Great Chamber. The stair finials were sold to the American collector William Randolph Hearst. George bought Hall Farm for £5,400 where he established a much admired flock of Wiltshire Horn sheep. He died in 1974 and without an heir the farm was sold out of the family.

Youngest son John, born in 1859, married Sarah FOUNTAINE of Stoke Hammond. The Fountaines were an important farming family with interests in the three counties of Bucks, Beds and Northants. John and Sarah began

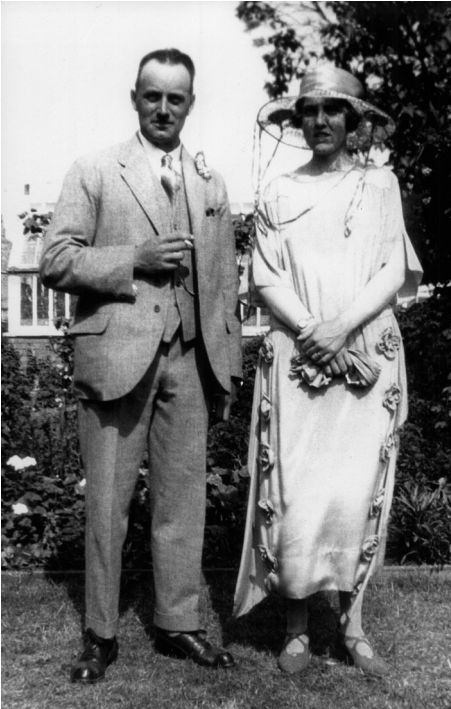
their married life at Home Farm, Thornton where their only son, Cyril Fountaine Verey was born in 1891. When Manor Farm, Bourton, on the east side of Buckingham, became vacant in 1899 they immediately moved. It was a dairy and stock farm of 325 acres between the river Ouse and the Padbury Brook. This remains the farming HQ for the Vereys to this day.

In 1899 Manor Farm, together with Home Farm, White House Farm, Bourton Grounds, Benthill Farm and Bourton Mill formed the Bourton Estate own by a family called HAMMOND living in Canterbury, Kent. When the Hammond heir was killed in the First World War the estate was put up for sale. John Verey bought Manor Farm for £12,600 in 1918. His son, Cyril, married Connie HOBBS in 1922 and had a son John Fountaine.



Manor Farm, Bourton, Buckingham c. 1950

Sadly Cyril died from pneumonia in 1929 aged just 38. Connie Verey remarried in 1930 but the farm was let out until 1949 when John Fountaine married Norah CAPEL and began to rebuild. John and Norah had five children and it was David Verey (14th generation) who took over the farm in the 1990s.



**Cyril and Connie Verey in 1929
(the author's grandparents)**



**John and Norah Verey in 1949
(the author's parents)**

His son, Tim Verey (15th generation), now has the task of making a small mixed farm pay its way. David and Tim have developed offices in redundant buildings, a butchery, café and, more recently, they have seen the establishment of a flower farm; this is in addition to more usual farming practices. Enterprise is the name of the game but Vereys still farm in Buckinghamshire.

Cyril Verey



Home Guard, 7th Bucks Battalion

If you recognise anyone in the photo, please contact the Editor (editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)

Too Many Sarah Masons?

Tony Sargeant

In Summer 2024 *Origins* (48:2, page 73) Alexa Mason's article mentions a Sarah MASON at the Six Bells in Stoke Poges.

As I was looking for something else in the Quarter Sessions Order Book No.34 at Buckinghamshire Archives, I came across the following entry.

Buckinghamshire Michaelmas General Quarter Session
11 October 1817

Convictions certified to this Session

Farnham Royal, Sarah Mason

By Samuel Ferris Esq., for refusing to provide a Waggon and four horses to remove the arms clothes and accoutrements of Major Drake's Troop of His Majesty's Regiment of Royal Horse Guards Blue from Salt Hill to Reading.

The certification of a conviction means the case was heard at the Hundred of Stoke Petty Sessions. The records of the court have not survived and the local newspaper at that time was not reporting local news.

The use of wagons and horses to transport equipment for the army was usual practice. The fee paid by the army was about half the standard rate for such work and the Quarter Sessions via the local constable would make up the difference.

Salt Hill was a major junction where the Beaconsfield road joined the Bath road. The area contained coaching inns like the Three Tuns and the Windmill which provided horses for the coaches coming out of London.

The name had jumped out as I had come across it before. Is this the same Sarah Mason?

A quick look at the article would put the birth of Sarah Mason (née Lack) at 1799. Would she be owning or managing wagon and horses by 1817? Probably not. Could the two Sarah Masons be related? It's possible but I will leave that to others to investigate. *[Do let us know if you have the answer! – Ed.]*

Tony Sargeant

Law Commission Review on Burial and Cremation

The Law Commission is seeking to reform the law of burial in England and Wales, which is piecemeal, complex and outdated. Burial law is governed by a patchwork of legislation, some of which dates to the 1850s. It is also gauging solutions for unresolved issues in cremation law, for example in relationship to entitlement to ashes.

It has published a consultation paper and a summary, as well as a short video, and is looking for views on its proposals through an online questionnaire.

The consultation is open until 9 January 2025.

To review the information and have your say, visit:

<https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/>



From Tingewick to Tasmania

Fleur Creed

John CROSS was baptised in Tingewick, Buckinghamshire on 25 March 1798, his family having lived in the area for generations.¹ He grew up learning the family trade of stonemasonry, working locally and in nearby Oxfordshire, and on Christmas Day in 1817 at the Tingewick Parish Church, he married a girl from another local family, Frances TERRY, known as Fanny.² They were soon blessed with children and by March 1831 they had five daughters and one son, their first daughter having died in infancy.

Life was difficult for many in those times, and opportunities were being offered for tradespeople to travel to the colonies with their families under an indenture system. Fares, accommodation, food and education were all to be provided, which sounded like a dream come true for the Cross family. They would not only have an easier life, but also travel to the other side of the world on a ship, to a place where there were strange animals that they could only imagine!



Emus at Stanley during the 1840s – watercolour by William Porden Kay,

Image: Wikipedia Commons.¹⁶

John accepted that he had made a tough bargain, as he was to be indentured to the Van Diemen's Land Company for seven years at the rate of £20 per annum. Nevertheless, John and Fanny realised that the children would have greater opportunity to grow up healthy and educated in the distant colonies.

After farewelling their family and friends, John, Fanny, their son, and four of their daughters boarded the 369-ton barque, *Forth*, with their boxes and bags, along with other indentured tradespeople and shepherds, and some of their families. On 3 November 1831 the ship left St Katherine's Dock, heading down the Channel towards the Isle of Wight, where they stopped briefly to allow the passengers to recover from seasickness.³ Fortunately, most of the Cross family was unaffected, and they soon found their sea-legs and started to enjoy the sights of sea birds and fish that accompanied them on their journey. They encountered a huge storm in the Bay of Biscay, which had the girls squealing in fear in their quarters below decks, but after a few days they were able to continue, crossing the Equator on 3 January 1832. This was an event as the crew got up to some silly pranks that amused both the adults and children, relieving the boredom for all. Finally, the 139-day voyage came to an end when they sighted hills in the distance, and were deposited on dry land in fine weather at Circular Head on 21 March 1832.⁴

At the time the Cross family arrived, there were 81 people already living at Circular Head, and 57 newcomers disembarked from the *Forth*, including free settlers, indentured workers, wives and children. John and Fanny's elation at their arrival was short-lived when they discovered that the settlement was not equipped with any of what had been promised. Their accommodation was the same as that for the convicts, as previously this had been most of the labour force, and there was only one well providing water for them all.⁵

John was immediately put to work on Highfield, the manager, Edward Curr's grand home and VDL Co. headquarters, as building accommodation for the new arrivals was deemed secondary to this. John was a stonemason who did brickwork, plastering and slating, so was much in demand. He had worked on local Anglican churches in Buckinghamshire



Highfield, Stanley, Tasmania

Image: Peripitus, Creative Commons CC BY-SA 3.0.¹⁷

and Oxfordshire, for local clergyman, Rev. William Jocelyn PALMER, who, as a shareholder in the VDL Co., probably helped the family to emigrate.⁶

Many of the indentured workers were unhappy with the conditions, including the alcohol allowances, food supplies, housing, lack of proper education for the children, duration of indentures, repayment of fares for the families, and the legalities of the indentures. There had been rebellions over conditions by convicts and free men as early as 1827, with severe repercussions.⁷ Convicts were flogged, and free men's wages were stopped. Only six months after they arrived, on 27 September 1832, John Cross and another indentured labourer from the Forth, William Peart, absconded, attempting to walk to Launceston to plead their case to the nearest magistrate, but due to the treacherous terrain, they were forced to return to Circular Head. Fanny and the children were at the VDL Co.'s mercy while they were gone, so were grateful for John's reappearance. Although John's work was highly regarded, Edward Curr, the manager of the VDL Co. at Circular Head, decided that indentured servants were too much trouble and refused to re-employ John as he would not promise that he would not abscond again. Curr is noted for his comments on John:

The fact is that we have had time to get over the first inconveniences arising from the want of him and the rest of the people had settled to their work and everything gone on satisfactorily and continue to do so.⁸

In December 1832, the Harlequin took the families who wished to leave, including the Cross family, to Launceston.⁹ Meanwhile, the VDL Co. were taken to court by a number of employees and eventually the indentures were declared illegal, although the emigrants were left with no employment and were required to repay their fares.¹⁰ The records show that the VDL Co. did, in fact, pursue John for repayment of his indenture from 1833-1839, for the amount of £15-17-8, but it appears that the amount was never repaid.¹¹

While Fanny must have been horrified by the conditions they found themselves in when they reached Van Diemen's Land, I wonder if she would have preferred John to stay in Circular Head and keep working, or whether she encouraged him to fight for his rights? When the family was transferred to Launceston, a growing town, there would have been plenty of building work for John, and several more children were born. This could have been a fresh start for the family, but unfortunately John died in 1840 of a fever, leaving Fanny with seven children, the youngest only an infant.¹² What a hard life women had in those days, following their men, producing children, and having so little, if any, input into the direction of their own lives. Fanny's only option was to remarry, which she did, the year after John's death, to Suffolk-born former convict, John HART, a bootmaker they had known at Circular Head.¹³ John Cross was buried in what was known as Cypress Street Burial Ground in Launceston, which no longer exists, having become an Anglican school sportsground.¹⁴ Fanny died in 1852, but her burial place remains unknown.¹⁵

Although the family had a difficult start in their new homeland, their children married and their many descendants spread throughout what was renamed Tasmania in 1856, some moving to Victoria at the time of the gold rushes, and further into the rest of the mainland to what became the nation of Australia. Cross descendants of John and Fanny now number in the thousands and reside across the country.

The Author

Fleur Creed (née Cross), is a direct descendant of John Cross and Frances Terry (3x great-granddaughter), living in Queensland, Australia. She is

descended through their first Australian-born child, son Thomas Cross (1833-1906) who was born and died in Tasmania, his son, Albert Esau Cross (1872-1952), also born and died in Tasmania, his son, Frederick Thomas Cross (1904-1966) born in Tasmania, died in New South Wales, and his son, Rex Lawrence Cross (1921-1987) born and died in New South Wales.

Fleur is a family historian, as was her father. She holds a Diploma of Family History from the University of Tasmania, and a Certificate of Genealogical Research from the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG), of which she is a member, as she is of BFHS.

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1. Baptism of John Cross on 25 March 1798 at Tingewick Parish Church, father Thomas Cross, mother Mary, FHL no. 1042441; the Cross family can be found in Tingewick records as far back as the early 17th century, with the first possible member being Robert Cross who married Lucy Johnson in 1619. The earliest proven ancestor is Thomas Cross, baptised 1698 at Tingewick.
2. The Terry family had originally come from Oxfordshire, but had mostly relocated to Tingewick in recent generations, having lived on both sides of the county borders for some time. John Cross and Frances Terry were married by Banns at Tingewick on 25 Dec. 1817 with witnesses Thomas Cross and Rebecca Cross, Ref. PR207/1/9 Buckinghamshire Archives.
3. Indentured Servants of the Van Dieman's Land Company [1033904], Libraries Tasmania Archived Site, file:///Users/fleurcreed/Desktop/Family/John%20Cross%201/Libraries%20Tasmania%20-%20Indentured%20servants%20of%20the%20Van%20Diemens%20Land%20Company%20%5B1033904%5D.html.
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9. Bruce, J M (comp) *Van Diemen's Land Company: letters, dispatches, minutes, reports 1829-1847*, 236, Burnie, 1991; Nicolson, Ian, *Shipping Arrivals and Departures Tasmania 1803-1833*, vol 1, The Roebuck Society, 1983, p.205.
10. The going charge for the voyage was apparently £28, a figure cited in the Hobart Supreme Court hearings and reported in the [www.lawlmq.edu.au/sctas/html1832cases/VDL Company v Hay 1832](http://www.lawlmq.edu.au/sctas/html1832cases/VDL%20Company%20v%20Hay%201832).
11. Held at the Tasmania Library and Archives, Hobart and viewed by the authors Oct 2017.
12. Death of John Cross, 25 June 1840, Launceston, Tasmania, Reg. 358, *Tasmanian Pioneer Index 1803-1899*.
13. Marriage of John Hart and Frances Cross, 24 Feb. 1841, Launceston Tas., Reg. 1116, Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950; Lehi, UT; *Australia, Marriage Index*, 1788-1950.
14. Burial of John Cross, 25 June 1840, Cypress Street Anglican Cemetery, Launceston, Tasmania, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/210255489/john-cross>
15. Death of Frances Hart, 20 Jan. 1852, Morven Tas., Reg. 73, Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985.

16. William Porden Kay, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emus_at_Stanley_during_the_1840s.jpg
17. Peripitus, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Highfield_stanley_tasmania.jpg

A Story behind a Stone

Tony Sargeant

The stone in question is a standard CWGC Portland stone belonging to Sergeant Norman Ralph RUSHER.

The stone shows his RAF profession as Wireless Operator Air Gunner and that he died on the 20th November 1944. As there is a grave in England, it was less likely that he died during a mission over Europe. That was confirmed from a report of a training accident. Rusher was one of a crew flying a Halifax bomber W7875 from Lindholme airfield in Yorkshire. Most of the crew died: Flying Officer John Douglas East RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force), Sgt Kenneth Stodden RAFVR, Flying Officer Charles Currie RCAF, Flying Officer Lawrence Ellwin Pike RCAF, Sgt Norman Ralph Rusher RAFVR and Sgt Norman Richard Stubbs RCAF. The rear gunner Sgt R J Twinning RCAF was injured and survived.



Burnham churchyard

Image: Tony Sargeant

This was a training flight from 1656 Heavy Conversion Unit and one of three which crashed that night. Conversion Units trained crews moving to aircraft types, 'heavy' describing a type of bomber. All three crashes had very similar causes, involving confusion between the levers used to control flaps and bomb doors. Five others died in one of the other crashes. From reading the details, it appears the crew had not been in combat, most joining the RCAF or RAFVR in 1942. The crew may only have been put together a few weeks before. The RCAF crew members are buried in Harrogate Stonefall Cemetery and Kenneth Stodden was buried in Falmouth Cemetery.

Norman Rusher was buried in Burnham churchyard as he was born in Cippenham, son of Ernest Albert Rusher and Eliza Jeanette HUSSEY. They married in 1917 at St Peter in the East, City of Oxford, while he was a Lance Corporal in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. The family can be seen in the 1939 Register at Cippenham, where Norman is a clerk for a paint manufacturer aged 19.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission citation confirms the details and another snippet. Norman Rusher was married to Phyllis Rusher. This is further confirmed by the administration of the estate where she is mentioned in the probate record.

There was a Register Office marriage between Norman Rusher and Phyllis VEALE in the October to December quarter of 1944. It took some time to locate Phyllis Veale in the 1939 Register due to the use of Sellotape to repair a damaged page; the tape had gone brown by the time it was photographed. The marriage is recorded and dated 8th November 1944. Also in the same quarter there is a birth registered in the name of Rusher. This person could still be alive and well.

Norman Ralph Rusher should be honoured and remembered as the few poppies at the base of the grave stone do testify.

Tony Sargeant

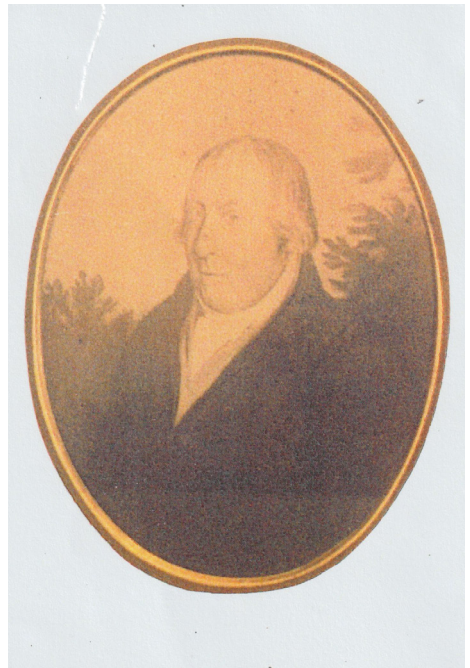
Serendipity at Aston Abbots

Howard Lambert

On the spur of the moment in July 2000, I attended Aston Abbots Millennium Village Fete, a fortuitous decision. During the afternoon, I was introduced to Mary Rogers, who had travelled from the north of Bucks. Within minutes, to my great surprise, it became apparent that she was my 4th cousin, as she was descended from George ROADS of Thornborough (1794-1888). He was the second of 16 children born to John Roads, a dairyman and grazier, and his wife Susanna (née ELLIOTT). We arranged to meet a week later, whereupon I was delighted to be given a copy of the only known photograph of George, plus a fascinating letter dated 1875.



George Roads (1794-1888) of Thornborough. Second son of John and Susanna Roads



John Roads (1761-1833) of Norduck Farm, Aston Abbots

Courtesy of Dr Christopher Roads

Extract
 from the
 Family Bible of
 John and Susanna Roads of
 Noduck House
 Aston Abbot's Bucks
 who were married at Michaelmas 1791.

John Roads died November 29. 1838. Aged 42
 Susanna Roads died Febry 13. 1852. Aged 49

Issue

William, Born January 1st 1793. Died Febry 9. 1852
 George, Born July 10. 1794. Died Octr 21 1888
 Christopher, Born March 5. 1796. Died Sept: 13. 1872
 Mary Ann, Born Sept: 10. 1797 (married Sealbrook)
 John, Born Dec: 5. 1798. Died March 8. 1804
 Thomas, Born June 16. 1800. Died January 6. 1877
 Joseph, Born Sept: 25. 1801. Died September 26. 1880
 Joseph, Born Sept: 4. 1802. Died December 30. 1880
 Philip, Born August 21. 1805. Died August 17. 1882
 John, Born April 15. 1807. Died June 21. 1871
 Susanna, Born July 31. 1808. Died Febry 13. 1810
 Elizabeth, Born Sept: 8. 1809. Died May 9. 1810
 Charles, Born Oct: 1. 1810
 Susanna, Born Nov: 15. 1812 (married Biggs)
 Alexander, Born March 19. 1814. Died March 31. 1814
 Alfred, Born May 8. 1815. Died January 5th 1891.

Extract from the Roads family bible

In writing to George, Susanna BIGGS (née Roads) outlines the perilous financial position facing their brother Charles (my great-grandfather). He was a wax and tallow chandler and oilman in Walworth, Southwark. He was declared bankrupt in 1862, but discharged shortly afterwards. His decision to become a Freemason (the Lodge of Fortitude) in 1836 certainly afforded a lifeline. “Grasshopper” was a colloquial term, meaning “an indolent worker or servant”.



Susanna Biggs née Roads (1812-1902)
Daughter of John and Susanna Roads of Norduck Farm.
Pictured with her husband Thomas Biggs and their daughter Anna.

Transcript of letter from Susanna Biggs to her brother George Roads of Thornborough, 1875.

Montpellier Villas
Croydon

May 28. 75

My dear Brother George

It has been a subject of considerable regret that I did not remember your eightieth birthday and write a few words of congratulations since then I have hoped for the opportunity of doing so on your next but a small souvenir having turned up in the shape of our respected Father's photo. I avail myself of the gratification of sending you a copy at once also I have enclosed a book which if you are still able to enjoy reading will interest you it was written by a person we well knew & highly esteemed and a man of considerable research and ability. I have been pleased to hear from time to time that your health has been good and that the "Grasshopper" has not been a burden, although the last account I was sorry to learn was not to cheering. I hope however it may be the unspeakable blessing when the end comes to have the inward testimony that we are amongst the "sinners saved".

The last time I write to you it was to beg for poor Charles that money you so kindly joined others in subsidising proved the right thing & kept the family together until the lease was out and poor Charles worn out as far as his business capabilities and now I trust they are otherwise provided for by a stipend from the Fremasons supplemented by a school kept by the Daughters, I have then felt very grateful for your ready kindness in giving so bountifully. I was very sorry while in the Country to hear such a poor account.

Charles was declared bankrupt in 1862, but discharged shortly afterwards, allowing him to continue trading.



Charles Roads (1810-1902) a wax and tallow chandler and oilman. Born at Norduck Farm, Aston Abbotts, son of John and Susanna Roads. (Howard's great-great grandfather.)



Norduck Farm, Aston Abbotts
Photograph by Howard Lambert

Parish Registers are Changing ...

Changes are being made to the way parish registers are being presented, with a new format. Now we are using ParishChest.com operated by the Family History Federation, there is opportunity for file downloads. This will give faster delivery of parish registers for our customers.

Over the next few months more and more parishes will be available in the new format, the downloadable PDF. Besides the written descriptions in the ParishChest.com listing, the images will change depending on the version being offered.

This is the image for the booklet for Addington which will be posted to the purchaser.

This is the image for the CD version which will be posted to the purchaser.

Buckinghamshire Parish Registers

Addington
St Mary the Virgin



This is the image for the PDF download version that will be available from the ParishChest site.

There is also a fourth type of image, like this one for Adstock.

Buckinghamshire Parish Registers

Addington

St Mary the Virgin



Buckinghamshire Parish Registers

Adstock

St Cecilia



The 2nd Edition banner indicates a change in the dates covered when compared to an earlier offering. The details will be in the description of the parish.

I hope the download versions will be of use, as we are suffering from an expensive and poor postage service. Also, we have problems with the Irish customs service which has been turning away anything we try to send. The documentation being used appears to be OK in other countries around the world.

We are also working on some new parishes. In the meantime please let me know what you are interested in producing.

Tony Sargeant secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Census Enumerators' Names

One of our members, Peta McCauley, contacted the Society with an enquiry about the possibility of identifying census enumerators' names. The information below may be of use to our members.

I was interested to read in John Smith's story about Rosie Ellen Hunt, [...] that he knew the enumerator's name, and wonder how he found that out? In my family history group one member told us about a family of a married couple and their son, surname Smith, which she'd followed in the records up until the 1921 census. Suddenly, in 1921 their surname unaccountably changed to Hunt, although the son remained a Smith. We realised that Mr Smith was illiterate, because the enumerator had filled in the form and written in pencil where the signature should be and Mr Smith had traced over it in ink. Where had the new surname come from? And then we noticed that the enumerator's initials were EH! How can we find out if their name was in fact Hunt?

The TNA advised that, as far as they are aware, there are no surviving lists of who the enumerators were for the 1921 census, and without their summary copy books, there is no hard and fast way of discovering the full names of any of them. They did suggest trying local newspapers or that someone might list themselves as a census enumerator on the census itself.

Tony Sargeant (Bucks FHS) also suggested that enumerators usually lived in the district and would also have to complete a census. They put their initials on each page as they complete the Totals and Rooms of the form.

It may be a case of tracking them down. He has also seen the Boundary of Enumeration District and Maps hold names and initials of the local officials working on the census. Check the marginalia in the Extra (Address) section on FMP. The enumerators are usually employed on a casual basis and paid for their time and expenses. This sort of information should be held in the District Council accounts.

Book Review



SUNDAY BEST

Review by Graham Gough

Described by author Stephen Gill as a pictorial reference book of Victorian and Edwardian family photography, the word 'family' is important: this isn't just another guide to dating photographs, but a guide to understanding the domestic photographs many of us will be fortunate enough to have had handed down to us.

In an effortlessly communicative style, Stephen encourages serious study so that we see the details photographs contain in a way which will challenge preconceptions and prompt questions: Why was the photograph taken? Was the child alive, or dead? Were the clothes actually the sitter's 'Sunday Best' or studio-supplied props? Who might afford such a photograph? Such considerations can help to identify who the sitter might have been when, as is so often the case, the photograph does not identify them.

As family historians we love photographs and this is a book by which we can increase our understanding and enjoyment of them. It is available as a download in either pdf or e-pub format for £10.99 from:

*www.photo-consult.co.uk; photo-consultbook.square.site;
or alternatively from Amazon.*

Notley Abbey

by William Strange

Published by Bucks Archaeological Society 2024

£18.00

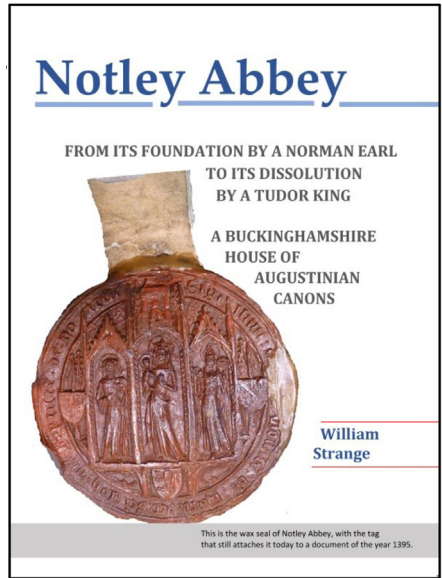
320pp large format paperback

Available from BAS Library at the Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury, or via the BAS website: <https://bas1.org.uk/product/notley-abbey/>

Founded in the 12th century near Long Crendon, Notley Abbey held lands and parishes across Buckinghamshire. This book brings together the abbey's historical evidence for the first time: the daily lives of its monks, its interactions with local villagers, how it served its distant parish churches, and its powerful aristocratic patrons.

It also explores what happened to its people, its buildings, its lands and its valuables after it was shut down by Henry VIII's agent in 1538.

(BFHS has not reviewed this book; however, it may be of local history interest to our members.)



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A search of a specific type of record will be undertaken for members by volunteers at the Buckinghamshire Archives in Aylesbury.

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Contact

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Email: cbsinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk

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This searchable database is an ongoing 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:

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Payment for baptism and burial searches can be sent by post (by 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

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

Email: marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk

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



Useful Contacts

Buckinghamshire Archives

Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UU
archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

01296 382587

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/culture-and-tourism/archives

High Wycombe Library

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

Email: lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 3HL
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Slough Library

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Email: library@slough.gov.uk

Chesham Library

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Email: lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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Email: lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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www.sog.org.uk

The National Archives (TNA)

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