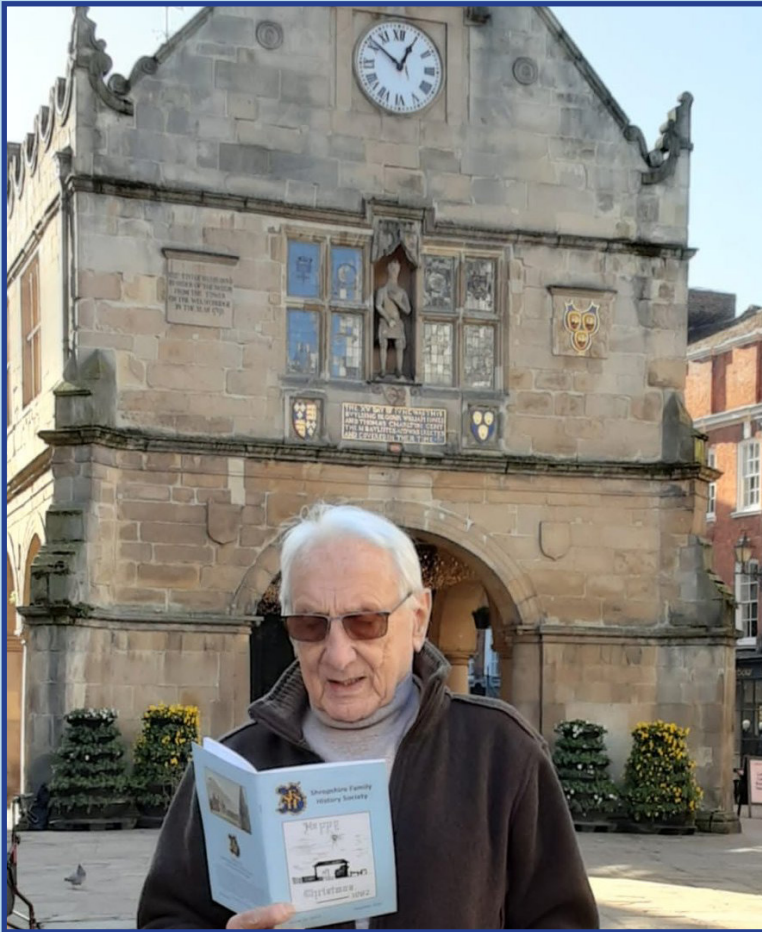




Shropshire Family History Society



Journal 44 - Part 1

March 2023

PATRON

Mrs Anna Turner JP
His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Ann Kirby Mr Michael J Hulme Dr David R Burton

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TRUSTEES

Officers

Karen Hunter	Chairman	chair@sfhs.org.uk
	Editor	editor@sfhs.org.uk
Dave Morris	Secretary	secretary@sfhs.org.uk
Paul Quartermaine	Treasurer	treasurer@sfhs.org.uk

Committee members

Simon Davies	Webmaster	webmaster@sfhs.org.uk
	Digital Strategy Group lead	
Lorraine Hunt	New Members' Secretary	membership@sfhs.org.uk
Cathy Matthews	Minute Secretary	
Graham Shenton	Trustee	

General Postal Enquiries: For any general enquiries by post please send them to:

Shropshire FHS, c/o 48 Oakley Street, SHREWSBURY, SY3 7JY, UK. [NB: new address]

Post will be passed to the appropriate member of the Society team and a reply issued as soon as is possible.

Telephone contact:

Dave Morris, 07980 870007

Front cover: Bob Davies (6372) reading his SFHS December 2022 Journal in front of The Old Market Hall in Shrewsbury ©B Davies, 2023

The Journal of the Shropshire Family History Society

Registered Charity No. 514014 Founded 1979
Member of the Family History Federation



Volume 44 - Part 1

March 2023
Contents

ISSN 2050 053X

Thoughts from the Chair	2
The Smiths and Foresters of New Hadley Part 2	4
The Genealogical Bug	15
A New Life in America	16
A Few Forgotten Women	22
Christmas food and drink through the ages	24
Using Quarter Sessions Administrative Records for Family History	26
Genealogy Podcasts	27
From the Society's Journal - 40 years on	28
How DNA broke my brick wall	30
Genealogy Hints and Tips	31
Programme of past talks	32
Talking Family History LIVE	34
Digital Journals	35
Reflections on being a help desk volunteer	36
Coronation Memories	38
Coronation Festivities 1902	40
From the Editor	41
Members' Matters	
Communication by email	42
Certificate Exchange Scheme	43
Committee News	44
Research queries	45
Talks Programme Spring/Summer 2023	46
Talking Family History Online	46
Notes for Contributors	47
Shropshire Postcard Club	48
Copy Dates	48
Advertisements	48

Thoughts from the Chair

As I write this it is just a month since I was given the honour of becoming Chair of the Society and it has certainly been a busy month! I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged and supported me to take on the role – it was most certainly not in my plans a few months ago!

After I retired, with a bit more time on my hands (or not) and with a main branch of my family coming from Shropshire, I joined the Society in 2017 at the 'Who Do You Think You Are' event at the NEC. Like many of our members, I don't live in or very local to Shropshire, so initially I just received and read the Journal. However, with the introduction of talks being held over Zoom, and taking on the role of Editor, I've had more opportunity to get involved in the work of the Society in the last three years. Now I find myself in the role of Chair, which shows that it doesn't matter where in the world you live, you can still get involved.

Thanks

I would first like to pay tribute to and thank Peter Grocott for his time as Chair who, among other achievements in the role, steered the Society through the choppy waters of COVID-19. I am pleased to say he has offered to continue his role with organising Fairs that we might attend which is great, given his experience.

I also want to thank Joan Gate, John Ravenscroft and Sue Tarr for their many years of service to the Society. They have all held various roles and undertaken many tasks over the years, as well as being Committee members, and in John's case serving as Chair. I am pleased to say that Joan is continuing in her role as Programme Secretary, making the arrangements for our programme of talks and speakers during the year. Joan is always pleased to receive suggestions for topics and speakers for future talks – just drop her an email to speakers@sfhs.org.uk.

Onwards and upwards

Over the last few years there have been many changes in the world of Family History, many accelerated by the COVID-19 Pandemic and they keep coming. Nick Barrett highlighted some of these in his talk to the Society back in the summer last year and I have read a few articles in the various Family History magazines and journals highlighting some of those changes and the challenges they present. Only yesterday I was reading one by Janet Few in Family Tree Magazine which was covering just this topic and it certainly gave me food for thought.

Together we need to look forward and work out how we can ensure our Society meets the needs of our current members and also offers something for people who have not yet joined us. Indeed, if we don't bring in new members we risk becoming a dying breed!

Last year the Strategy Group and the Committee spent some time discussing possible actions the Society could take to achieve this. Peter Grocott detailed these in an article in the September Journal [Journal 43 – Part 3]. Some of the actions have been implemented over recent months and work is progressing on some others. Please can I encourage you to fish out that Journal and read through Peter's article again, [a copy can be made available if you are new to the Society and have not seen it] and let me know your thoughts.

Here are some ways you can do that:

- online via Zoom - Wednesday 26 April at either 10am or 7pm, links to follow;
- in person - join me for a cuppa at Percy Thrower's Garden Centre, Shrewsbury on Thursday 25 May – time to be confirmed, but probably 2-4pm;
- or you can drop me an email, send me a letter or let me have your phone number and I will give you a call. Contact details are inside the front cover of the Journal.

Two Hats

Taking on this new role as Chair, with its responsibilities, means I will be wearing 'two hats' for the time being as I am continuing as Editor of this Journal, (unless there is a rush of applicants for that job). I hope to be able to keep some clear water between the two but in reality there is inevitably going to be some cross-over. If nothing else, you will be able to read both my 'Thoughts from the Chair' and 'From the Editor' which I intend to keep separate.

Significant Adventures

When news about me taking up this role made its way onto our Social Media feeds, alongside my 'genie' friends offering their congratulations, Oxfordshire Family History Society encouraged me to '*lead Shropshire FHS on some significant adventures*'! I am up for that leadership challenge, but to be successful any leader needs others to work alongside them. I value and appreciate the commitment offered so far but things will only happen with everyone's input, help and support. So please join me on the path of some significant 'family history' adventures.

Karen Hunter, Chair

The Smiths and Foresters of New Hadley

Part 2

Introduction

In 1890, Jack SMITH and Anny FORESTER were young sweethearts bonding together before their later marriage. For three generations their families had lived in New Hadley - a small community serving an industrial enterprise founded in 1791. But now, a century later, that enterprise was coming to its end and residents were moving away. This is the story of the Smiths and Foresters in New Hadley. The first part of the story in the December 2022 Journal portrayed the living and working conditions in New Hadley and how they evolved between 1791 and 1902. This second part addresses the agrarian origin of the Smiths, and the long migration of James Smith and his family to New Hadley. The final focus is on the likely origin of the Foresters, their life in New Hadley, and the extraordinary role of Anny's mother, Mary Ann Forester, in supporting her family through times of crisis.

The Smiths

John Smith

John Smith was Jack's great-grandfather and he spent his whole life in Withington. Two of his sons, James and William, later lived in New Hadley. James migrated to New Hadley with his family, and William joined him there later in life.

John Smith	born ~1782, Withington area		Died ~1866
	Marriage to Mary Hazeldine (as below) 5.1807 Withington		
	Mary Hazeldine	baptised 9.1778, Stoke upon Tern	Died 3.1835, Withington, age 57
	Illegitimate Child - Mary Hazeldine	4.1803, Stanton upon Hine Heath	
	Elizabeth	5.1808, Withington	
	William	11.1809, Withington	
	Anne	12.1811, Withington	Twin 1 Married John Dyke 1.1846
	John	12.1811, Withington	Twin 2 Died 11.1829
	James	7.1815, Withington	
	Richard	11.1819, Withington	

John's wife, Mary HAZELDINE had an illegitimate child Mary four years before their marriage. The child was brought up as part of the Smith household.

John Smith was an agricultural labourer in a traditional farming community. He occupied the lowest rung on the social ladder, and relied upon a farmer to provide work, which was never guaranteed. Often the work consisted of seasonal jobs paid at a fixed piece rate. To survive between jobs, labourers might need to seek relief from the parish under the Poor Laws. The children of agricultural labourers were usually required to do light work in the fields from an early age.

John's sons likely started out as agricultural labourers. However, after the end of the Napoleonic War in 1813, there was a depression in the agricultural economy. The supply of farm products often exceeded demand, resulting in low prices. This made the farmers struggle to make a living, and less work became available for agricultural labourers. John's sons probably discovered that labouring on a farm was a really hard life. In fact, none of the three surviving sons continued in this work for very long.

The first son William became the publican of the *Hare and Hounds* in Withington. [The Hare and Hounds pub has remained in business to the present day.] James became a carter, and Richard worked at the Admaston Spa Inn. After the children became independent and were able to move away from home, John's wife died at Withington in 1835. Later, John moved to Isombridge to live with his illegitimate step-daughter Mary and her husband. Later again, John lived at the *Hare and Hounds* with his son William. John died in 1866 at the age of 84.



Withington Church, looking towards the Wrekin

James Smith

James was born in Withington before migrating with his family to New Hadley. They arrived there about 1845.

James Smith	baptised 7.1815, Withington	Died <not found>	
	Marriage to Anne Cottam (as below) 2.1840, High Ercall		
	Anne Cottam	baptised 8.1817, Roden	Died 6.1885, New Hadley age 67
	Illegitimate Child - Jane Cottam	4.1837, High Ercall	
	Mary	8.1840, Wappenshall	
	Elizabeth	3.1842, Long Lane	
	Richard	1.1844, Horton	
	Benson James	4.1846, New Hadley	Probably died Q3 1846, no burial record
	Comfort	8.1847, (New) Hadley	
	Emily	Q4 1850, Birth registered but not baptised	

James's wife, Anne COTTAM, had an illegitimate daughter, Jane, three years before their marriage. The child was brought up by Anne's mother Mary.

James likely started out as an agricultural labourer in Withington. His special skill was carting. He learned how to take care of the horses, harness a team, hitch them to a wagon and drive them on unpaved roads with heavy loads. However, this skill was not limited to traditional carting jobs on a farm. James could also transport goods for loading or unloading at a canal wharf, or even materials for an industrial works. As a carter, James could offer his services wherever he could find steady work, and move himself and the family to a new location when necessary.

Indeed, James changed his residence with unusual frequency. He was raised in Withington, first lived with his wife in Ercall Mill, and had successive children in Wappenshall, Long Lane, Horton and New Hadley. It is notable that three of James' locations (Withington, Wappenshall and Long Lane) were on the Shrewsbury-to-Trench Canal. James did not formulate a plan in Withington to move to New Hadley. Instead, one job led to another in a different location, and he ended up in New Hadley where he was ready to settle down.

James, Anne and family arrived in New Hadley about 1845 and lived in New Hadley Row with James working as a carter in the colliery. By 1871 [In the 1871 Census, James' name is captured as "John"], the children had all left home. However, James's nephew, John DYKE,

had become a boarder while working as a “Puddler in an Iron Works”. This suggests that John Dyke was employed at the Shropshire Iron Works which was accessible by the lane crossing the Coalport railway line. By 1881, as coal production declined at the colliery, James joined his nephew as a carter at the Shropshire Iron Works.

At this time, James and Anne have good company as James’ elder brother William (the former publican of the *Hare and Hounds* and now a widower) is staying with them in New Hadley Row. Surely, they reminisce about the old days back in Withington over a pint at the *Granville Arms*.

Anne Smith died at New Hadley in 1885, aged 63. James Smith did not appear in the 1991 census, and no death or burial record could be found for him.

James is the hero for our story. He took prudent risks in moving his family to a better life off the farm. He was a resourceful salesman in finding a variety of customers for his carting services. He was flexible enough to adapt to an industrial life with its own set of challenges. Last, but not least, James made it easier for his descendants to enjoy the greater opportunities available to those who had severed their ties to the land.

Richard Smith

Richard arrived in New Hadley in 1845 as a very young child, and lived there until the 1890s when he moved to Ketley Bank.

Richard Smith	baptised 1.1844, Horton	died Q2 1917
	Marriage to Harriet Ikin (as below) 5.1868, Hadley	
	Harriet Ikin	baptised 7.1846, Hadley
		Died Q4 1914
	Illegitimate Child – Hannah Ikin	2.1866, Hadley
		Died 3.1870, Hadley
	Mary	2.1869, New Hadley
	John	7.1871, Ragfield
		known as ‘Jack’
	Annie	11.1873, New Hadley
	James	1.1876, New Hadley
	William	3.1878, New Hadley
		Baptised at New Hadley Methodist Chapel
	Emily	5.1881, New Hadley
	Richard	9.1884, New Hadley
		Died 10.1896, The Bank, Wombridge

Richard was a coalminer from an early age, although he mined ironstone by the time of his marriage to Harriet IKIN. Harriet lived just a few cottages along from Richard on New Hadley Row, and she already had an illegitimate child who died two years after the marriage. Richard and Harriet moved to a cottage in Ragfield Row to raise their own family of seven children. The eldest son, John, was affectionately known as Jack, and he would later marry Anny Forester.

Richard shortly returned to coalmining, and remained a coalminer for the rest of his working life. In the 1880s, Richard and the family moved to New Hadley Row, quite likely taking over his parents' cottage after they died. In the 1890s, the family moved to Ketley Bank where the youngest child, Richard, died in 1896. By the 1900s, with no children at home, Richard and Harriet moved to a cottage in Red Lake.

Harriet died in 1914, followed by Richard in 1917. Their cottage passed to their eldest son Jack who continued to rent out the cottage for many years to come.

The Foresters

Samuel Forester

Samuel Forester was Anny's great-grandfather. He lived in New Hadley certainly from 1812, and most likely following his marriage in 1792. [The baptisms of Samuel's children with Mary were at a time when Hadley belonged to Wellington Parish, and records did not capture the particular village or hamlet within the parish where the parents resided.] He witnessed the early years of the New Hadley Iron Works, perhaps when John Wilkinson was still in charge. He died in New Hadley in 1855.

Samuel Forester	born 1768		Died 12.1855 New Hadley age 87
	Marriage (1) Mary Jones (as below) 8.1792 Wellington Parish		
	Mary Jones	born <no records found>	Died 7.1811 Wellington Parish age 34 (more likely 39)
	Sarah	11.1792, Wellington Parish	
	Ann	6.1794, Wellington Parish	
	Mary	1.1799, Wellington Parish	Died age 11

	Samuel	5.1800, Wellington Parish	
	Elizabeth	4.1805	
	Mary	10.1807	
	Jane	4.1809	
	Marriage (2) Margaret Ikin (Tekin) (as below) 5.1812 Wellington Parish		
	Margaret Ikin (Tekin)	baptised 9.1766, Wellington Parish	Died 12.1854, New Hadley age 88
	Mary Ann	4.1813, New Hadley	Died age 9
	Martha	2.1815, New Hadley	
	Rachael	3.1817, New Hadley	Twin 1 Died age 3 months
	Leah	3.1817, New Hadley	Twin 2

It is uncertain where Samuel Forester was born. The 1851 census shows that he was born in Shropshire in 1768 but he “did not know” the specific parish or township. In census records, it is rare for someone to not know their specific birthplace. It suggests an unusual childhood, perhaps moving from place to place with no particular place seeming like home.

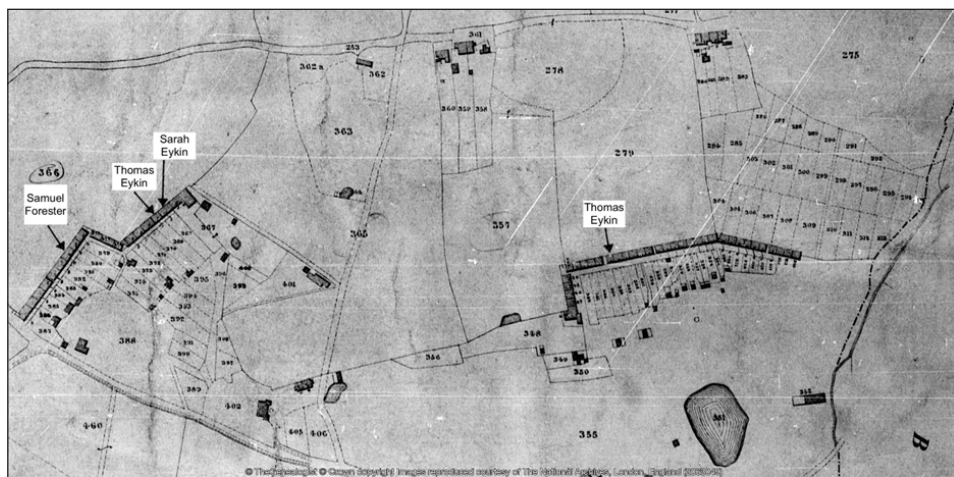
Based on baptism records, Samuel was quite likely born in Wem in 1770 as an illegitimate child of Mary Forester. Mary had a second illegitimate child in Wem in 1775. Mary was not born in Wem, and there are too many possibilities to find her birthplace elsewhere. It is possible that Mary travelled from parish to parish seeking odd jobs and/or parish relief. Perhaps at some point, she brought Samuel to the Wellington area where he stayed.

In the baptism records of his children and the 1841 census, Samuel Forester is described as a “labourer”. In that capacity, Samuel likely worked for 30 years around the New Hadley mines, and perhaps an additional 20 years around the earlier iron works. Samuel was in New Hadley when the “*Cinderloo*” protesters marched through in 1821 seeking to gain support and recruits from the workers. The protests ended in a riot in Dawley which was put down by the Shropshire Yeomanry.

Samuel’s first wife was Mary JONES. She died in 1811 after bearing seven children. Her death created a serious problem - Samuel was left with six young children who must be fed and cared for while he is out working. A solution was provided by Thomas and Sarah Ikin, neighbours living in Ragfield Row at the time. Thomas’s unmarried sister Margaret came to look after the children, perhaps with the help of their elderly mother Mary.

[Margaret Ikin had no close relationship to Harriet Ikin (wife of Richard Smith). Margaret is descended from the Wem family of Ikins, and Harriet from the Longford (Newport) family of Ikins.] The following year, Samuel and Margaret got married, and Mary joined them as a lodger in the cottage on New Hadley Row.

In that cottage, Samuel and Margaret go on to have four children of their own – but which cottage is it exactly and where were Thomas and Sarah Ikin living? For the year 1841, the Hadley Tithe Map and Schedule provides the answer. As shown on the Tithe Map Detail below, Samuel and Margaret Forester occupied a cottage near the middle of New Hadley Row. Thomas and Sarah Ikin (here spelled “Eykin”) had moved from Ragfield Row and occupied two cottages near the northeast end of New Hadley Row. It is unclear why they had two cottages - perhaps, they lived in one cottage themselves and rented out the other one as an extra source of income. At the same time, another unrelated Thomas Ikin had moved into Ragfield Row.



Tythe Map detail showing cottages occupied by a Forester or Ikin (Eykin)

After their children had all left home, Samuel and Margaret continued to raise one of their grandsons - Moses, the child of their daughter Martha Forester. Around 1843, Moses was old enough to work and he probably made a small contribution to their family income. About the same time, Samuel changed his job from an industrial labourer to a mill worker, perhaps at the Wombridge Mill located just beyond Wombridge Church. [The miller was John Wilton living on Teagues Lane, Wombridge.] This work only lasted for a few years. The 1851 census shows Samuel as a “pauper miller”. Samuel had left the mill and, to prevent the family from becoming destitute, the parish was providing poor relief.

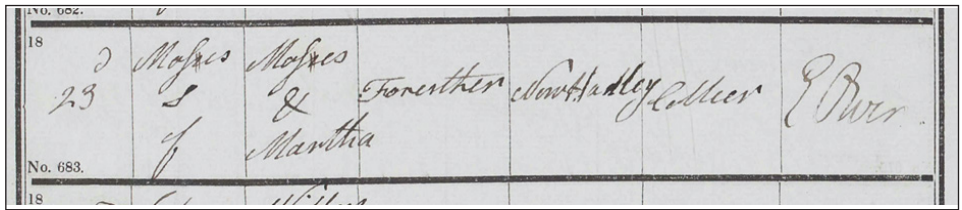
Margaret died in 1854 in New Hadley, and Samuel followed the next year aged 87. By that time Moses was independent and able to make his own way in the world.

Martha Forester

Martha was born 1815 in New Hadley and moved to Hadley Village with her first husband, William PARKER, an agricultural labourer. After he died prematurely in 1847, she spent time in Dawley working as a launderess before returning to New Hadley in the 1850s probably after her parents died. There she met her second husband, a blacksmith from Ketley. Martha's marriages are not a central part of our story. Our main focus is on Martha's illegitimate child before her first marriage, Moses Forester. She also had a second illegitimate child, Henry Parker, during her time in Dawley. Moses was brought up by his grandparents, and Henry by Martha herself.

Martha Forester	baptised 2.1815, New Hadley		Died 1.1891, New Hadley age 77
	Illegitimate Child - Moses Forester baptised 8.1835, New Hadley		
	Marriage (1) to William Parker (as below) Wrockwardine Wood, 8.1838		
	William Parker, baptised 12.1802, Wellington Parish		Died Q3 1847
	Benjamin	12.1838, Hadley	
	Samuel	Q2 1841, Hadley	Died 9.1845, Dawley
	Illegitimate Child - Henry Parker 11.1851, Dawley		
	Marriage (2) to Ephraim Machin (as below) (Civil) Wellington District Q4 1867, (both living in New Hadley)		
	Ephraim Machin baptised 12.1822, Ashley, Staffordshire		Died Q4 1899, Wellington District
	No children		

It appears that Martha and her parents wanted to hide the illegitimacy of her child Moses Forester during his baptism at Wellington Parish Church. The record of the baptism (as shown on the following page) indicates that the child, Moses, was the son of Martha Forester and her husband Moses Forester. However, Martha was not married at this time. Further, there are no records of any kind to suggest that a Moses Forester (senior) ever existed. Census records show clearly that the child Moses was brought up by Martha's parents in New Hadley.



Illegitimate births were relatively common at this time, so this raises the question of why Martha sought to hide the illegitimacy. A possible answer lies in changes to the Bastardy Clauses of the Poor Laws in 1834. Previously, a destitute mother of an illegitimate child was deemed eligible for support while caring for the child. A Court could order maintenance payments from the father and, otherwise, the Parish would provide poor relief. However, in 1834, the revised Poor Laws made it much more difficult to obtain payment from the father, and if the mother married, the husband became responsible for the child. In addition, the Parish required a destitute mother and her child to be incarcerated in the workhouse. [The expectation was that the harsher treatment would encourage women to remain chaste until marriage and thus reduce the number of illegitimate births. In later years, this harsher treatment was rolled back.]

Martha and her parents probably wanted to avoid scrutiny by the Board of Guardians overseeing the Poor Laws. An illegitimate child was a red flag for the Guardians. Even though her parents supported the child at the beginning, if they ever needed to apply for poor relief (which they ultimately did) then the Guardians could intervene at that time to set the terms and conditions. If Martha was unmarried, the Guardians could require her to find work, or to enter the workhouse with Moses. If Martha was married (or planning a marriage), the Guardians could require her husband (or prospective husband) to support the child. It should be noted that Martha did not hide the later illegitimacy of her child Henry Parker. On his baptism record, Martha is identified explicitly as a “Spinster”.

Henry and Benjamin Parker both became coal miners at an early age. They lived with Martha, and helped to support her after she returned to New Hadley before her second marriage. After the boys left home, she had her second husband to provide support and they also took in a lodger. At the same time and also in New Hadley, Martha’s first child, Moses Forester was doing well as a steam engine driver, and raising a large family. One way or another, everything seemed to work out well in the end.

Moses Forester

Moses was born in New Hadley in 1835, and worked there until his marriage. He and his family moved to Trench in about 1865.

Moses Forester	baptised 8.1835, New Hadley	Died 2.1886, Trench Road	
	Marriage to Mary Ann Moore (as below) 7.1859, Hadley		
	Mary Ann Moore born Q4 1840, Wombridge	Died Q2 1927	
	Margaret/Eliz	6.1860, Hadley	
	Fanny	1.1862, New Hadley	
	Leah	5.1864, New Hadley	
	Samuel	2.1866, Hadley	
	John	11.1867	
	Moses	7.1870, New Hadley	
	Jane	Q2.1872, Wellington District	
	Mary Ann	Q1.1874, New Hadley	known as "Anny"
	Enoch	8.1875, Trench	
	Sarah	10.1877, Trench	Methodist baptism
	Martha	5.1880, Trench	Methodist baptism
	Louisa	Q3.1881, Wellington District	
	William	2.1884, Hadley	Methodist baptism

Moses was brought up by his aging grandparents Samuel and Margaret in New Hadley. To supplement their income, Moses worked as an agricultural laborer from an early age and then later as a collier. He married Mary Ann MOORE from Wombridge in 1859. By 1861 he was an engine driver in an iron works – most likely the Wombridge Iron Works located about two thirds of a mile (as the crow flies) from New Hadley. In 1865, Moses moved the family to Trench, and he may have joined the Trench Iron Works when it opened the following year.

Moses and Mary Anne had 13 children in all. The child Mary Ann, born in 1874, is of special interest to our story. She is affectionately known as Anny - the future bride of Jack Smith. Anny is just 12 years old when the family suffers a tragedy - her father Moses dies.

Moses' death in 1886 leaves his wife Mary Anne with about 10 children living at home. As they grew old enough, the children found work to provide family income. For example,

a few years later, Anny went off to Malpas (Cheshire) to work as a domestic servant, and her sister Jane became a dressmaker. But, one by one, the children were getting married and having financial responsibilities of their own. Mary Anne could not rely on the children's support indefinitely.

In 1891, Mary Anne married a widower, Edwin Jervis MILES, a stock taker at the Shropshire Iron Works. [Edwin (born 1837) was the illegitimate child of Mary JERVIS from Little Wenlock who later married John Miles in Broseley. Edwin first married Maria CHILTEN in Little Wenlock in 1859.] At the time Mary Anne had seven children at home, and Edwin had three. The combined family of 12 lived in Trench. Mary Anne had temporarily increased the size of her family, but the process of children moving out continued. For example, Anny married Jack in 1898 and they lived close by. With the house now less crowded, Mary Anne invited her sister, Susannah, to join the family. Susannah was deaf and dumb from birth and in need of a caring home. By 1911, only one of Edwin's sons was still at home.

In 1913, Edwin Miles died leaving his wife a widow for the second time. After nurturing 16 children over the span of 40 years, 73-year-old Mary Anne surely deserved a quiet and rewarding "retirement". It was not to be - Mary Anne was called back to duty one more time.

In 1914 her daughter Anny died after childbirth, leaving Jack with five children aged between two and 12. Mary Anne took charge of the family. She was loved and respected by the children who called her affectionately "Granny Miles". She died in 1927, when the youngest child was 15 and able to make his own way in the world. Aged 87, Mary Anne had fulfilled her duty, and she could rest in peace. In all, she had raised and nurtured 21 children!!

Mary Anne Moore (also known as Mary Ann Forester, Mary Ann Miles, and Granny Miles) is the heroine of our story. The author would not have it any other way – he was given his middle name as a tribute to Granny Miles.

John M Smith, 7917

Editor: Thank you for sharing your story John. This must have been quite a complex puzzle to unravel although I expect many of us have come across some similar complexities in our research. Perhaps other members have a 'Granny Miles' figure in their family tree who could be the basis of an article for the Journal?

The Genealogical Bug

I was just glancing through some old Society journals and reading about the origins of the Society. As you know, the Society was founded in 1979 and my father, William Denis LEA, must have been one of the first members. When I joined and received my membership number of 4913, I realised that it was very similar to my father's; his number was 49.

He was researching the family tree long before 1979, although I wasn't really aware of it. He used to go to the Archives which I think were upstairs at the Shrewsbury Library. I have several of the cards that he used to make notes of references in the parish registers, presumably from microfiches and film. He was a draughtsman and his handwriting was immaculate; not something I inherited! He had developed a fairly large LEA family tree, which I still have. His research was immaculate and I have not found any major errors in his work. Obviously, with more censuses being released, I have added much, much more! He had also contacted Mrs. Sunter Harrison, who was a specialist in the PULESTON family, who are also our ancestors. This sent me on a hunt for more information on this branch.

When I started carrying on his work, in the early 2000s in Nova Scotia, I did so also using fiches and films. I often thought of him, as I trawled through the material, trying to read the sometimes illegible writing! Now it is so much easier with the internet and all the new material that is available. I wish he were here so that he could see some of the connections that I have made.

I wonder how many other members caught the genealogy bug from a former family member of the Society?

Maggie Littlejohn 4913, mlea350@gmail.com

Editor: It would be great to hear from other members about how they caught this 'bug', be it from one of our members or perhaps through other people. I'm sure there are plenty of different reasons for starting on a family history journey and, as I have discovered, once started it is very hard to throw it off.

I also believe that a further important question to consider is:

'How might we inspire the next generation to take up the baton?'

This is a topic many Family History Societies have been debating recently and it would be good to hear any ideas you might have or examples of what you have done already.

A New Life in America

Isaac Husbands

Isaac HUSBANDS was my 2nd Grand Uncle, born on 21 April 1837 in the small community of Babbins Wood between Whittington and West Felton, in Shropshire. He was the youngest of four children born to my 3rd Great Grandparents Edward HUSBANDS (1800-1871) and Ann VENABLES (1801-1878). Isaac's siblings were Mary (1830-1920) and my 2nd Great Grandfather John (1833-1904). The siblings also had two older twin stepbrothers, Benjamin, and Joseph VENABLES (b 1824) sired by a John WELSH, prior to Ann marrying Edward. They also had an older stepsister Hannah (1827-1890), who was born to Edward's 1st wife Martha HUGHES, who died in childbirth.

Life was not easy for the HUSBANDS family. At age 14, Isaac was listed in the 1851 census as a gardener, so it appears that he had limited formal education. In June 1856, at age 19, Isaac was convicted of house breaking and sentenced to three months in prison. That event appears to have been a turning point in Isaac's life as within seven months, on 21 April 1857 (age 20), he arrived in New York, USA, together with his older sister Mary HUSBANDS, ready for the next chapter of their lives.

However, by the time of the 1861 census, Isaac (aged 23) was recorded back in Shropshire working as a gardener, but the 1871 census, showed that Isaac had changed his occupation to that of a railway pointsman and was lodging in Wellington. On 1 June 1871 that same year (aged 34) Isaac married Alice GOUGH (age 33) in Montford, Shrewsbury. Alice was the youngest daughter of Richard GOUGH (1802-1878) and Eleanor YEOMAN (1796-1885) of Montford.

Over the next 6-7 years, Isaac and Alice had four children. Richard Henry (1872), Charles (1875), Eleanor Ann (1876) and Mary Alice (1878). Things financially were obviously not going well for the family, as the next major event in Isaac's life was his lone arrival back in the USA in 1878 without wife Alice and the four children. The 1880 USA census has him living in Cuyahoga, Cleveland, Ohio, working for a wealthy steel manufacturer (Charles A Otis) as a servant/gardener. He was lodging with the Otis family at their up-market address in Euchil Avenue, Cuyahoga, Ohio.

But finally, in 1882 after 3 years apart, Isaac was reunited with Alice and the children in the United States.



This photo was taken in 1882, before Isaac Husbands' family set sail for the USA. It shows Alice HUSBANDS (nee Gough b 1838) with Richard Henry (aged 10) standing to her left, Charles (aged 7) is standing to her right. Also standing to Alice's left is Eleanor Ann (aged 6) and finally, the youngest sibling Mary Alice (aged 4) is seated at the front.

Isaac obtained work in Cleveland, where he was employed as a landscape gardener for the Hon. Dan P Ells. Around 1895, Isaac and his family moved to Bellevue, Ohio, where Isaac purchased the commercial greenhouse of a late Mr Lunn.

The 1900 USA Census showed that Isaac (now identified as a Florist), Alice and daughters Eleanor

Ann and Mary Alice were living together at 323, South West Avenue, Bellevue village, Lyme Township, Huron, Ohio, but no mention of Richard or Charles. Eleanor was employed as a Book-keeper and Mary Alice as a Clerk (Dry Goods).

Both Isaac and Alice became active members of the Episcopal Church in Bellevue. Isaac was apparently a good musician and organised the vested choir. Isaac was also a long-term member of the Odd Fellows Lodge/Society.

Tragically, on 7 July 1903, following just three weeks illness, Alice died aged 64. She was buried in Bellevue Cemetery. Her obituary emphasised that Alice was a fervent member of the Episcopal Church in Bellevue, where the funeral service took place.

Then, after about 16 months, on 31 October 1904 (age 68), Isaac married his 2nd wife Sarah Clara DAVIS (nee KEEGAN) (age 58) at St Paul's Rectory in Bellevue, Ohio.

Sarah was born in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England in 1846 to Thomas KEEGAN and Lucy Jane ALLEN. Sarah's first husband Walter DAVIS, who she married in 1868, and with whom she had 6 children, had previously died in 1890.

Sarah is recorded as sailing from Liverpool on the SS Ivernia on 28 July 1903, arriving in Boston on 6 August, stating on the ship's manifest that she was a nurse and going to stay with her brother, Mr S Keegan, in Vickerby, Sandusky, Ohio.

In the 1910 USA Census, Isaac, Sarah, Eleanor, and Mary Alice were still living in Bellevue Village. Isaac was working as a Florist; Eleanor was employed as a Stenographer and Mary

Alice was a Nurse. In January 1911, Isaac confirmed his retirement by selling the business to a Mr R C Arlin.



This photograph was taken between 1905 and 1910 at the family home in Bellevue, Ohio. Isaac HUSBANDS is standing in the back row, 2nd from right, wearing the flat cap. His 2nd wife Clara Davis is seated in the centre front, flanked between Isaac's daughters Eleanor Ann HUSBANDS (front right) and Mary Alice HUSBANDS (front left). To Isaac's left (I believe) is son Charles HUSBANDS, and the couple in the back line are Richard Henry HUSBANDS and his 1st wife, Elizabeth Warren SUTTON. The man standing to Isaac's right is unknown.

After just 8 years of marriage to Sarah, Isaac died (aged 76) on 26 November 1912. He had appointed Sarah as the Executor of his will, in which he determined that all cash/monies in their possession should go to Sarah, but his funeral expenses and debts should be paid for through the sale of his estate. What monies remained would be shared between Sarah and the four children. After the sale of the business, it is believed that Sarah subsequently returned to England and died in March 1917 in Bristol aged 70.

Richard Henry Husbands (1st cousin 3x times removed)

Richard Henry HUSBANDS was the eldest child of Isaac and Alice HUSBANDS. He was born on 3 March 1872 in Wellington, Shropshire, where his father Isaac was employed as a Railway Pointsman. By the 1881 Census, Richard (age nine) was living in Whittington

with mother Alice being named as the head of the family. She is recorded as being a Seed Dealer. Richard, Charles and Eleanor were all named as being scholars and Mary Alice was just an infant at age two years. Their father Isaac was in the USA awaiting their departure, which was finally concluded on 28 April 1882 with their arrival in New York.

Richard continued his education locally in Cleveland until he was old enough to leave home and enrol in the Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, where he studied law between 1892 and 1895, when he qualified as a lawyer (age 23).

On the 19 April 1897, Richard Henry (age 25), married Elizabeth Warren SUTTON (b 1865). Her father was Irish and her mother English. According to family gossip, their union was not a happy one, but as Eliza was a Catholic, there was no possibility of a divorce. This being so, Richard Henry eventually deserted Eliza so that he could escape the marriage.

In the 1900 Census, Richard was recorded as being in residence in Cuyahoga, Ward 2, Ohio. In 1904, the HUSBANDS family living in Bellevue, received a letter from Richard, resident in Spokane, Washington State, apologising profusely to the family, especially his mother, about bringing shame upon the family. After that letter, there was no further contact with Richard and thus the family assumed that Richard had died in the San Francisco earthquake of 1905. However, records show that in January 1906, Richard made a passport application to work in Argentina. The application stated that he was a manager.

In 1910, Richard married Josephine I MCCONNEL (1872-1955) in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Josephine was born in Kansas, Missouri about 1872 and had been previously married twice before. Her father was Canadian English, and her mother was from Illinois. In 1912, Richard Henry made a 2nd passport application, to work in Argentina for two years (with Josephine). In 1916 and 1920, they were both recorded as living in Los Angeles, California.

In the 1930 and 1940 Census, Richard and Josephine were living in Seattle, King, Washington State, which was where Richard died (age 70) on 10 July 1942.

Josephine lived on in Washington. until she herself passed on 12 August 1955 (age 83) at Fort Steilacoom, Pierce, Washington.

Charles Husbands (1st cousin 3x times removed)

Charles HUSBANDS arrived in the USA on 28 April 1882, with his mother Alice, brother Richard Henry and sisters Eleanor Ann and Mary Alice. His early years were spent in the care of his parents and educated locally in Cleveland.

In the USA 1900 Census, Charles (aged 24) was recorded as being single and living at 17 Cleveland Ward 2, Cuyahoga, Ohio, where he was a border. He was recorded as being employed as a Chemist. On 20 August 1908, Charles and his sister Eleanor are recorded as passengers on board the White Star ship named The Baltic out of Liverpool en route back to New York. The Manifest records Charles as being single, as was Eleanor. Charles stated that he was a Joiner by trade

However, on 9 Dec 1918, at age 42, the draft WW1 registration documents for Charles, identified that he was employed as a Clerk in the glass industry and that his left leg had been amputated above the left knee. In the same document, Charles named his sister Eleanor as his next of kin.

Charles made another passport application for a trip back to the UK which was granted on 6 March 1920. He is recorded as departing from Southampton on board the Imperator, arriving back in New York on 12 July 1920.

In the 1930 USA Census, Charles (aged 54) is recorded as being a salesman, working in the glass industry. He remained single and still a boarder/roomer, living at 681, East 117th Street, Cleveland, Cuyahoga, Ohio.

Charles Husbands was still single when he died in Ohio on 24 March 1948 at age 72.

Eleanor Ann Husbands (1st cousin 3x times removed)

Eleanor Ann was born in Hengoed, Shropshire. She arrived in the US with her parents in 1882 (aged six years) and lived with them till after their deaths in 1903 and 1912 respectively. In the 1900 USA census (age 22), she is recorded as living with her parents in Bellevue Village, Lyme Township, Huron and working as a bookkeeper and in the 1910 census she is recorded as being a Stenographer.

Following the death of her father, Eleanor eventually moved out of the family home in Bellevue. She remained single and was next recorded in the 1920 USA Census, (age 44), living in Union Street, York, Sandusky, Ohio, where she was a boarder, living with Mr and Mrs Harry E Byers and employed as a bookkeeper, working for a Gas Company.

In the 1930 USA Census (age 53) she was still employed as a bookkeeper but working in a Stockbroker's office. She was still single and lodging in Lakewood, Cuyahoga, with a widow by name of Nellie M Keyse.

By the 1940 USA Census (age 63), Eleanor had remained single and was living as a boarder with Mr and Mrs Louis A Hildebran, and residing in Lakewood, Cuyahoga, working as a File Clerk in a Steel Mill.

During her lifetime, Eleanor made several journeys (at least four) back to the UK to visit relatives. There are arrivals recorded of her returning to New York in 1908, 1920, 1927 and 1949 on ships departing from either Liverpool or Southampton.

Eleanor Ann was in a long-term residential care when she died in 1960 at age 84. She rests in Bellevue cemetery with her parents.

Mary Alice Husbands (1st cousin 3x times removed)

Mary Alice was the youngest of the four children and was born on 4 May 1878 in Hengoed, Shropshire and like her siblings, arrived in the USA in 1882 at the tender age four years. She lived with her parents at their home in Bellevue, Ohio until after their deaths. In the 1900 USA census (age 21), she was recorded as being employed as a dry goods clerk but in the next census in 1910, she is identified as being a nurse.

In 1910, Mary Alice twice visited the UK, returning to the USA in May 1910 on the Cunard ship Caronia and then on 17 September 1910, she left Liverpool on the SS Baltic, arriving in New York on 24 September.

She finally returned to England the following year, when on 20 September 1911, Mary Alice (age 33) was married to John Gough NORBURY (age 38), a railway clerk from Hoole, Cheshire. They married in Gresford Church, Wrexham. (Ref 11b 403)

Mary Alice and John had two children, Eleanor Alice NORBURY (1912-1993) and Kathleen Mary NORBURY (1914-1994).

In 1939 Mary Alice and John were recorded as living in Crewe, Cheshire. John was recorded as a retired railway clerk, Mary Alice (age 61) was engaged in unpaid domestic duties and daughter Eleanor Alice GOUGH (age 27), was also a railway clerk.

John Gough NORBURY died on the 21 March 1943 (age 70) in Crewe, Cheshire. Mary Alice NORBURY of 302 Bedford Street, Crewe, Cheshire, died on 21 Dec 1949 at age 71 (Ref 10a 273). Probate was on 20 January 1950, leaving her estate to daughters, Eleanor Alice NORBURY (spinster) and Kathleen Mary RILEY.

Eleanor Alice GOUGH remained single and died in Wrexham in April 1993. Kathleen Mary NORBURY married James RILEY (Oct 1944). They had two children together, David John and Alison Riley. Kathleen Mary died in Wrexham in July 1994.

Philip Trevor Husbands, 1507

A Few Forgotten Women

A Few Forgotten Women is a project devised by a group of friends, known collectively as A Few Good Women. The group first got together during lockdown to provide mutual encouragement for family history projects. Even without meaning to, family historians often focus on the men on their family tree. It is usually the men who carry on the surname, the men who join the armed forces and who are more likely to leave wills, to vote or to rent property, thereby leaving a trail in the documentary record. Merely by virtue of her gender, a female can become overlooked. We realised that, unless we took on the responsibility of preserving them, the stories of many of the women we encountered during our research would be lost.



The aim of the project is to preserve the memory of some women who have, until now, been hiding in the shadows, forgotten by history. The women that you will meet on our website are those that we have discovered during our investigations into our own ancestry, as part of a one-name study, a one-place study, or when undertaking a wider project. Then there are the women that had no link to our own work but who cried out to us as we researched in the documents of the past. We hope that meeting our forgotten women will encourage others to tell the stories of their own.

Some women are further on the margins than others and this project focusses on those whose lives were touched by issues such as poverty, illegitimacy, criminality, disability, alcoholism, prostitution, abandonment or mental ill-health. Often, several of these conditions go hand in hand, impacting on the lives of the women whose stories we seek to tell. Other women were less marginalised but lack descendants who can preserve their memory; they too find a place amongst our biographies. The nature of our site means that many of the stories we tell do not make easy reading. Please be aware that some of the biographies will contain material that some readers might find distressing.

We are sensitive to the ethical issues surrounding telling the stories of people of the past. There is a balance to be maintained between commemorating their lives and respecting personal privacy. Many of our women faced trauma and adversity; on balance, we believe they deserve their place in history. We aim to provide rounded portraits of real people in an empathetic and non-judgmental way. Where the women have descendants, we have tried to contact them to get permission to tell their ancestor's stories.

Our website is in its infancy, new stories will be added regularly. Take a look at <https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/affw>

You can follow us on:

Mastodon @Few4gottenwomen@genealysis.social

Twitter <https://twitter.com/Few4gottenWomen>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087801867161>

Instagram <https://instagram.com/afewforgottenwomen>

On a similar theme the National Archives published a Blog in December 2022 entitled *Hidden in plain sight: finding working-class women in the National Archives*. This focuses on what their archives can tell us about the lives and work of pit brow women in Lancashire. As the blog highlights these 'women are just one example of those countless others whose lives remain buried within records. By looking closely enough, there is a chance for them to be found'.

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/finding-working-class-women-in-the-national-archives/>

Ann Simcock, 7695

Editor:

Please note that since this article was submitted the project has really taken off, with new stories being added to their site all the time.

It is encouraging to see regularly in our Journal articles featuring the women among our ancestors, many of them carrying the burden of keeping house, caring for a large family of children and sometimes working as well. Hopefully by publishing these stories we are doing our bit to allow these women to be recognised and to have a voice.

Although rather more social history than family history last year I read 'The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper', written by Hallie Rubenhold. I had a particular interest in that these killings took place in Whitechapel in London's East End; where I lived, studied and worked for five years. This book changes the usual focus from the man who perpetrated these evil killings to his victims, shining a light on their lives and their backgrounds. A website, which admittedly focuses mainly on the perpetrator, does also provide some background to his victims if you are interested: <https://www.jack-the-ripper.org/victims-of-jack-the-ripper.htm>

Christmas food and drink through the ages

Talk given by Simon and Sylvia Fowler on 20 December 2022

Christmas is special as the only festival celebrated which has links to the distant past. It is the festival of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, though we don't fully know when he was born, and it falls at the time of the shortest day. Dates vary in different lands, and in some places it lasts until Candlemas on 2 February.

Modern Christmas tradition is largely due to Charles Dickens (with his tale *A Christmas Carol*) and Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, who introduced the ideas of Christmas trees and coloured lights. The first recorded use of the word 'Christmas' in England was in 1085, but the actual date of 25 December wasn't settled in the church calendar until later. Some of the ancient Yuletide celebrations (using holly and ivy) were incorporated into post-Medieval celebrations. 1 January marked the start of the Roman New Year and was the 'Feast of Fools', but there were many other feast days. For a long time, Christmas Day was a working quarter-day, when rents were due to be paid. Advent was a feast period in which there would be much feasting and dancing. The greatest feasts were Royal, sometimes travelling by cart and taking supplies, but also requisitioning things along the way. Peasants arranged their own gatherings or were sometimes invited into a castle or manor house, where they got a free meal, though usually only bread and ale. Meat, when it was available, was likely to be beef, pork, mutton, venison and various birds which included swans, peacock, crane, lark and all game birds. Fish, prawns, crayfish and even on occasions, porpoise were also consumed. Meat would be put into stews and pottages and was often strongly spiced. Dried fruit such as currants, prunes and dates might be available, but sugar wasn't known until the 12th Century in Europe. All dishes were served at table at once. Christmas food tended to be seasonal, like boar's head, the Romans considering the boar to be the 'king of the forest', the boar's head signifying the Christ child over sin.

The tradition continued until the 17th Century, when boars were nearly extinct in Britain; it was then replaced by pork and mustard. Turkeys arrived in the 1520s and were not generally eaten except by the great and good, while the newly arrived 'potatoes' were not seen as fit for consumption. Pies (or 'pyes') became popular, but the pastry crust was only to hold the contents and was not eaten. Pies containing turkey, chicken, grouse, woodcock, and sometimes kingfisher, were replaced by those with hare, rabbits, spices, nutmegs, and cloves. They were popular into the 18th Century and beyond.

In the Civil War period, puritans tried to ban the celebration of Christmas (not Christmas itself), banning decorations, dressing-up, and feasting. After the Reformation, things became simpler. Naval captains introduced plum pudding which was served on the same plate with a rib or joint of beef from the 17th to mid-19th Century. The more ready availability of sugar and dried fruit led to things like mince pies becoming popular, which by the 18th century were small and sweet.

Into the 18th Century, Christmas lost some status, the upper classes seeing it as 'vulgar'. For those eating poultry at home, goose was popular, with 'goose clubs' where people paid into a communal fund to buy geese at Christmas. From 1830s-1840s there was a large breeding programme of turkeys in rural areas which meant they had to be driven to the markets in London, taking days or even weeks, and losing weight as they went. The railways made the task easier. It wasn't until the 1930s that turkey became the bird of choice.

In WW2, rationing led to shortages and 'mock goose', a potato casserole, was suggested. With sugar and fat in short supply, grated carrot was suggested. Turkey consumption peaked in the 1960s. Side trimmings were often carrots, parsnips and roast potatoes. 'Pigs-in-blankets' was an import in 1957 from USA, as was cranberry sauce. Sprout recipes date from 1845, but it's not clear why they became associated with Christmas. Pudding also became associated with Christmas after publications by Eliza Acton and Mrs Beeton. The oldest one known, from the Boer War, is in an Australian museum – showing that they do last! 2.5 million puddings were despatched to troops in WW1, but a torpedo sunk the ship. In 1931 an enormous pudding called 'Empire Christmas Pudding' and weighing ½ ton was made in Lancashire. It featured ingredients from across the Empire.

To wash the food down, alcohol had been the drink of choice, either beer or cider. In the workhouses there was debate over whether alcohol should be given or not. Some preferred it warm and metal 'beer boots' shaped like a long-toed boot with a carrying handle, could be filled and put on a log fire. Mulled wine, basically cheap red wine with spices and sometimes eggs was also taken, as was 'punch' which contained more alcohol. A variety with oranges, lemons or sugar was known as 'smoking bishop', while 'lamb's wool' in Yorkshire contained roasted apples, nutmeg, ginger and sugar. Later, Christmas ale, a strong ale often now known as 'winter warmer' made its appearance. Finally, wassail was traditionally drunk on 12th night, with a pot being passed around a group of people.

Despite some technological glitches, it was a good and interesting talk.

Peter Tandy, 7790

Using Quarter Sessions Administrative Records for Family History

Talk given by Claire Moores on 17 January 2023

This was a very informative and well-constructed talk giving lots of ideas for investigating our ancestors in some unusual places. The Quarter Sessions were held four times a year from 1388 to the 1970s. The speaker went through many of the various administrative functions of the Sessions that may not immediately come to mind. These included supervision of highways, gamekeepers' depositions, county constable records, supervision of charities, overseers of the poor, declarations as to the owners of printing presses, weights and measures and registers of boats and barges on inland waterways. Many of these records can be investigated - there are now many transcriptions online - but coverage is patchy.

The first function dealt with by the speaker was **Taxation** - including setting the levels and checking whether it has been paid. Land tax assessments list the assessors and the land proprietors, enabling family historians to assess the standing of their ancestors. Hearth tax was paid twice yearly, and lists exist of those liable to pay and how many fireplaces they owned (local constables could enter houses to check if the statements were correct). This unpopular tax was later abandoned and replaced with the equally unpopular window tax. Next to be dealt with was the **Regulation and Licensing of Local Businesses**. From 1522 a licence was required to sell alcohol from a public house and from 1753 clerks of the peace had to keep registers. Some of the lists of applicants are available with the names of public houses and individuals.

The Poor Law is a huge subject and the speaker gives talks just on that. In this talk she covered some of the records available, such as lists of parishioners who were expected to pay poor relief which also show amounts paid. Many records are also available of people who are thought to be a burden on the parish but are not in their parish of settlement. Settlement examinations took place of these people, often families, and they were returned to their original parishes. Illegitimate children were also likely to be a drain on parish funds if the father would not admit liability so, from 1575, examinations took place of the mother to establish the likely father. He was then pursued and served with a bastardy bond requiring him to pay towards the upkeep of the child.

Militia Lists also exist. Men from 16 to 60 were required to serve in the civil militia for home defence. The names are recorded on muster rolls. An example of 1797 was given

of an agreement where individuals had signed up to serve in the militia. Lists of names are also available on Militia Relief Orders with the names of soldiers, wives and children who needed financial support.

Nonconformity - after a Jacobite conspiracy in 1723 oaths of allegiance had to be made to the Monarch as the head of the Church of England. Lists of names of individuals making these oaths together with their parishes and occupations exist. Catholics who refused to take the oath were required to list their names and the value of their property.

Coroners' Inquests are a rich source of information in the case of sudden deaths. They usually involved a jury who decided the verdict - perhaps an accident or suicide. The speaker advised that it is useful to consult newspapers, not only for details of coroners' inquests but also for licensing records.

The question session after the talk revealed the information that Shropshire unfortunately disposed of Land Tax records many years ago. On the plus side, Shropshire Family History Society have indexed Quarter Sessions records from 1831 to 1920 and these are available from the Society on CD/DVD and on Findmypast. I have found many members of my own family on this index.

Christine Head, 5373

Genealogy Podcasts

In the March 2022 edition we highlighted the Family History Federation Really Useful Podcasts which were launched early last year. Since then they have added a few more: Newspapers; Beginning your Family History; Online Resources; Talking to Relatives; and Historians collaborate. I highly recommend the one on Online Resources, which looks at a wealth of lesser-known places to find online genealogical resources. You might find a pen and paper useful to capture all the suggestions although at the time of writing this I have been assured they are working on creating a list of the sites mentioned, which will be available through their website.

All of them are available to listen to via their website at <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast> or your own chosen podcast feed.



From the Society's Journal - 40 years on

Janice Capewell was the Society's Project Organiser for a number of years and used her skills as a Chartered Librarian to provide members with a lot of valuable information. The March Journal of 1983 provided resources for people researching their ancestors in the 16th and 17th centuries. She refers members to a microfilm (MF no.84), concerning Tax Lists and Muster Rolls held by the Shrewsbury Local Studies Library (now the Archives). These were copied from the originals held in the Public Records Office. The lists cover a period ranging from Henry VIII to Charles II and included the infamous hearth tax of 1662.

Janice goes on to say that *'the County of Shropshire (consisting of 229 ancient parishes) was divided into 15 'Hundreds', each hundred having a number of parishes in its jurisdiction... Each individual tax payer is listed under his parish of residence'*. Janice also provided readers with an approximate map of the Hundreds of Shropshire, reproduced here on the facing page and more detail can be found at:

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/SAL/Hundreds>

Membership of the Society was growing fast at that time with a further 39 new recruits, bringing the total to 486.

As written!.... The following extract is taken from the introduction to the printed Parish Register for Cleobury Mortimer: *"Sir Francis Lacon, of whom will be found several entries, was a pauper christened 'SIR' and must not be confounded with Sir Francis Lacon of Kinlet, Bart"*

John Speake (member 124) wrote an article about 'Civil Registration and the Poor Law'. At that time all the information was held in St. Catherine's House. He outlined many of the difficulties and how to overcome the problem of paying for the wrong registration. He also helpfully identified into which Poor Law Union each Parish was placed, which filled two pages of the Journal.

Trips to St. Catherine's House were a regular activity of the Society. The coach would leave Frankwell Car Park at 7.00am and reach London at 11.30am, returning at 6.00pm, reaching Frankwell about 10.00pm. Those were the days. We remember them well.

The Journal carries an interesting article on Protestant Non-conformity in Market Drayton in the 18th century. It records how William Coal of Norton was fined for preaching in the street. He didn't pay the fine but fled the town. The £20 fine (a massive sum for an ordinary working man), was then levied on nine other dissenters supporting the street

assembly. The great thing for family historians is that they were all named along with their employment! (Ref County Quarter Sessions QR 164/68 & 86)

A curious epitaph on the flyleaf of an old book owned by John Batty in 1736 was quoted thus. Can you fathom out the relationships? Answer on page 41.

<p><i>Here lies two mothers with their two sons</i> <i>Here lies two husbands with their two wives</i> <i>Here lies two fathers with their two daughters</i> <i>Here lies two grandmothers with their two grand-daughters</i></p>	<p><i>Here lies two daughters with their two mothers</i> <i>Here lies two maidens with their two brothers</i> <i>Yet but SIX corpses in all lie buried here</i> <i>All born legitimate - from incest clear!</i></p>
--	--

SHROPSHIRE



Reg Wilford, 5564

How DNA broke my brick wall

My paternal grandmother was Ada Cooper SPIERS (1874-1940). Her Mother was Mary Hannah SPIERS who was the daughter of David SPIERS and Elizabeth COOPER. David was from Berwickshire and Elizabeth from Essex and both their fathers were farmers. They met 'in service' in London and were married at St. George's Hanover Square after which they returned to farming in County Durham. Elizabeth was widowed early (David died of phthisis) but carried on farming with two young sons and Mary Hannah until 1874 when the arrival of Ada seems to have been catastrophic. Ada was born at 301 Westgate St. Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 28 November. Her birth certificate says that her father was Thomas SPIRES, a commercial traveller, and her mother Mary Hannah COOPER. Her marriage certificate says her father was David SPIERS (deceased). When my father asked her about their relations she said that they had none! My Grandfather had ten aunts and two uncles (most of whom were born in Wellington, Salop) and more than fifty first cousins, most of whom he didn't know. She said that her father was a sea captain who died at sea and she was brought up by her grandmother in Barrow in Furness. In 1881 Elizabeth, Mary Hannah and Ada were living in Bishopwearmouth. Barrow-in-Furness seems to have been true as Mary Hannah died of appendicitis there in 1882. Both her uncles went to Australia. They both married but had no children.

The next reference I have is the 1891 census when Elizabeth was in Chelmsford Work House (returned whence she came?). She was there 16 weeks, incapacitated so unable to work and died in September that year. Ada, who in 1891 was in service in South Hackney, got a job as a sales assistant with Freeman Hardy and Willis who must have sent her to Stourbridge where she met and married my grandfather. My memories of her are misty but she was an extremely capable business woman, running my grandfather's business for him. She was also Chairman (woman!) of the local Suffragists.

For some time I have been irritated by the fact that via Thomas SPIRES my Ancestry ThruLines™ gave three further generations which I didn't believe were mine. My father was a member of the Heraldry Society and a founder member of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry (BMSGH) and Shropshire FHS. In the 1970s he employed a researcher to find Thomas. Obviously little data was available then and he failed. It was a subject often discussed by me and my brother over the years!

Several years ago I did a DNA test on Ancestry and last year the very bottom name on the related list was a lady named USHER. She is two generations down from me but her 4x great grandmother was Elizabeth SPIRES and she was a sister of Thomas. Thomas, who

was a baker, had several children with his wife, so Ada had half siblings. I wondered how many second half cousins I have and then realised they must all be dead! According to the 1851 census Thomas's father, also named Thomas, was born in Ufford, Northants.

Quite a lot is now online but, starting in 1984, all my early research was done in Archives! My days in Archives are over so I'm now going to need a researcher to confirm what Ancestry says and hopefully add some more details. I've done so a couple of times before when distance was a problem and results exceeded my wildest dreams. The first was Elizabeth, whose grandfather, John Cooper, left a will including copy-hold land. She took me back to 1571 and I was able to visit the churches where they were baptised, married and buried, and the places they farmed. The second was David Spiers where I was stuck in Berwickshire in 1760. He confirmed my research but could not go further. However, he traced four generations from David's mother so I was more than happy.

Sarah Riley, 1411

Editor: We all face brick walls in our research, so I wonder if any other members have been able to break through some of them using DNA? Or perhaps you have been helped by a researcher - again it would be interesting to hear how that worked for you.

Genealogy Hints and Tips

Palaeography - reading old handwriting 1500-1800

Have you ever come across a document with 'old' handwriting which leaves you scratching your head when attempting to decipher it? If so the online tutorial from The National Archives might help.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/default.htm>

It is aimed at helping you to read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800. It includes practical tips, and offers example documents to work through, and for each there is an historical background; a glossary; notes on the palaeography, a sample alphabet and a full transcript.

Then, if you've mastered those and want more practice there is a list of other documents to try your hand at, together with a 'further reading' list.

Programme of past talks

Since using Zoom for our talks we have been able to record most of them (providing the speaker has given us permission), so if anyone misses them it is possible to 'catch-up'. Dave Morris has provided a summary of all that we have in the library so if you are new to the Society or missed any of these and are interested in watching/listening, please drop Dave an email [secretary@sfhs.org.uk] and he will be able to let you have the link. Please note that these talks are only available to members and should only be viewed by them. Don't forget that we also include a report of each talk in the Journal and thanks go to Christine Head and Peter Tandy for taking on the task of preparing these.

D Day 75 years on - Col David Thorneycroft

David talks about the D Day experiences of four Shropshire soldiers who landed on Sword Beach including his father in the Rifle Company of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.

Reverend Edward Muckleston 1819 to 1913 - Janet Mackleston

Janet tells the story of her ancestor, a clergyman of questionable character. She describes how she researched her ancestor using historic newspaper archives and gives hints and tips on how to use newspapers to research the most mundane of ancestors.

Breaking Down Brick Walls - Ian Waller

Ian joined us to talk to us about how to overcome brick walls, given that in our research every family historian can expect to hit a brick wall at some point. In the talk Ian examines ways of demolishing the brick wall, breaking down barriers and overcoming challenges posed by documents that were not generated with the family historian in mind.

The Ultimate Black Sheep - Karen Evans

How a Bridgnorth family coped with murder in their midst.

Postal History of Shropshire from Tudor times to the present day - Brian Atkins

Brian gave an illustrated talk on the postal service, covering a long period of history.

The Forgotten Church In Broseley - Graham Hollox

Graham described how a group of volunteers started to clear the site of the red church at Jackfield: the resting place of wealthy barge owners, tile makers and other industrialists as well as ordinary people.

Signatures in Stone - Doctor George Nash

George explains some of the thinking behind monumental prehistoric graffiti associated with death, burial and ritual.

Adoption and Me - Graham Bradbury

Graham tells of how he discovered his birth parents after 40 years of research.

Forewarned is Forearmed - David Skillen

David speaks about the work of the Royal Observer Corps in peacetime and war time.

Pride of the Village: Our Ancestors And The Funeral Customs Of Virgin's Crowns - Rosie Morris

Rosie talks about the funeral custom of virgin crowns.

The 1939 Register - Ann Simcock

Ann explains the background to the 1939 register and how it was organised. She also includes some of the problems of the register and suggest ways that it can be a basis to broaden research into ancestors at the time of the start of the Second World War.

God Bless Everyone - Martin Wood

Martin, Shrewsbury's town crier tells us about his time when Hollywood came to Shrewsbury to film A Christmas Carol starring George C Scott and his role in film. Please note there are no visual images in this talk.

30 Years at Shropshire Archives - Mary McKenzie

Mary retired in 2021 after 30 years in the Shropshire Archives in which she worked her way to become head of the service. Mary provides us an insight into the workings of the archives, how it has changed over the years, with some fascinating photographs.

Findmypast and the 1921 Census - Mary McKee

A very interesting and informative talk about the 1921 census and the ways this was produced and made available to researchers together with hints on how to use the Findmypast website to gain maximum benefit.

Census Substitutes - John Hanson

This talk provides some fascinating alternative ways of finding information which is not readily available from a census. Please note an extremely helpful handout is available from the Secretary on request.

The Place Names of Shropshire - Dr Jane Baker

This very interesting talk highlights the importance of place name material for our understanding of the earlier languages, landscapes and history of Shropshire.

Crime on Record: Prison and Criminal Court Records - Gill Blanchard

Gill provides information on the wealth of documents which can be searched for details of our ancestors' misdemeanours from Petty Sessions to Assize Courts.

The Future of Family History - Nick Barrett

Nick provides an interesting review of the way research is changing thanks to technology and the media and highlights opportunities for future activity.

Using the FamilySearch Website to Build Your Family Tree - Ian Waller

This talk provides a wealth of information to help you navigate the FamilySearch website Please note that the first five minutes of this talk was not recorded.

Mad Jack Myton of Halston 1796-1834 - Col David Thorneycroft

David provides a fascinating insight into the life of this local eccentric whose colourful life was held in such esteem.

“Wrekin Villa” - Its land, history, and some near neighbours - Reg Wilford

Reg provides a detailed history of the house, taken from deeds, Shropshire Archives, censuses, and other documents together with considering some of the social and economic developments happening at the time.

Christmas Food and Drink Through the Ages - Simon and Sylvia Fowler

Simon and Sylvia provide lots of information about the ways in which Christmas was celebrated with food and drink in days gone by.

Using Quarter Sessions Administrative Records for Family History - Claire Moores

Claire offers a detailed talk outlining a number of less well used records which can be helpful in tracing our ancestors, going back potentially into medieval times.

Talking Family History LIVE

The online Talking Family History sessions have been a success with lots of discussion, debate, sharing of information, ideas, and stories about many aspects of family history. We now want to offer the chance for people to get together in person (something we have missed during the restrictions of the Pandemic) to discuss, share and learn across varied aspects of family history so are planning an event in the autumn to be held at Cross Houses. As soon as we have fixed a date we will let you know. To help our planning please let us know your thoughts.

What would you like us to include?

Do you have any knowledge, experience or expertise in some aspect of family history that you would be willing to share with others? For example, are you a whizz on one of the software programs or online services?

Have you been involved in a project that you would like to share or promote?

Could you offer any research skills or advice to members?

If you have any ideas or can say yes to any of these and would be interested in being part of the event please let me know via my email: chair@sfhs.org.uk Thank you.

Karen Hunter, Chair

Digital Journals

During the postal strikes in the UK Dave Morris sent out a link to a digital copy of the December Journal to those with an email address. At the same time he shared some possible advantages of this (as below) and invited people to share their views on receiving the Journal in this way.

Receiving the Journal immediately it is available wherever you are in the world rather than relying on post.

The Journal will be in colour, meaning photographs are of better quality.

The size of the print can be adjusted if you struggle to read the hard copy.

You can file these easily rather than storing the paper copies

The Society would save on printing and postage costs thus enabling your subscription to remain at a reasonable level.

We received a number of responses, with some indicating they would appreciate a PDF version and others wanting to retain the paper copy.

We appreciated the feedback and have decided to introduce an option for people to change to a digital copy in the form of a downloadable PDF if they choose, replacing the paper copy.

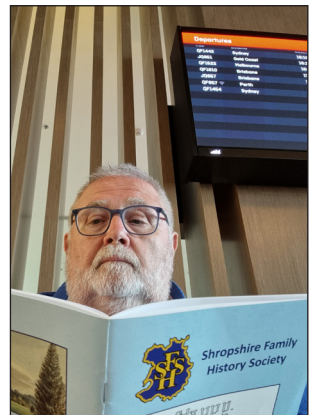
For anyone who would like to take up this option please can you email Dave Morris, using the email you have registered with us and confirming your name and membership number. We will then implement the change from the June edition.

For those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy this will continue as usual and no action is required.

Near and Far

In the meantime, where do you read your Journal? This is Rod Austin catching up on Society news while waiting for a flight in the Qantas Lounge, Canberra Airport, Australia and you will have seen Bob Davies on the front cover promoting the Society in Shrewsbury!

Perhaps we can feature you in a future edition of the Journal? Just send in a picture and let us know where you are!



Reflections on being a help desk volunteer

Barry is one of our Society help desk volunteers at the Shropshire Archives and this is his personal reflection on starting the role at the end of last year, after the COVID-19 restrictions.

I popped in to see how the desk was going. Liz and John P were on. I have not been in since 2020 due to various reasons! The desk has a shield between volunteer and customer, it also has two computers linked so that what the volunteers sees the customer sees. For computer use elsewhere in room, conditions were as before, the public computers are reduced by half to four and all were in use. No one was on the microfiche, but some were in the reading room. Very quiet. Still looking for volunteers according to Liz, including me!

Well bit the bullet and on with Gill for first time properly. Yes, we had two visitors at once so Gill took the one looking for Mainwaring in Findmypast for 1700s in Shropshire. My baptism of fire was a guy looking for a will in 1684: I had not a clue, asked people at the desk who assisted and eventually I found a person called William Figes/Elizabeth, who died in 1684, with his administration papers and inventory but no will. Customer was quite happy, even shook my hand: what a good start. He had bought an expensive copy of Foxe's Martyrs, the 9th edition from the internet, although I had not heard of it. Liz came in to show a new volunteer around. We counted now about 15 volunteers so could now do Thursday as well as Wednesday and Saturday just about. More still required as think pre covid there were 20+. It was a busy start but tailed off towards lunch. Thanks Gill for helping me.

On with Jo this week and we only had one gentleman looking for a Mary Evans, born about 1833 in Kinnerley with parents Joseph and Mary! Unfortunately, after looking at a lot of information we came to no conclusion. In two weeks, we have had only one asking about microfiche.

On with Gill again and only had one customer at 12pm! His dad was kicked out of the workhouse at 14 to work on a farm, at 15 he joined the KSLI. This was about 1926. There are a few things I left out, but we found information for him. Also gave him a form to fill in to join the society and I hope he recognises himself in the Journal. There was one person on the microfiche. We had a training session for most of the volunteers, new and old. Sarah showed us how to use the online catalogue which was very useful.

We also had someone from 'Caring for God's Acre' charity who have been digitally logging graveyards. One was in Shrewsbury: most of it was done and volunteers followed up noting the inscriptions.

A very good catch up with old and new volunteers.

On with Gwyn, two visitors on maps and three on PCs. We had a customer who was connected to Bicton Village News. He was looking for people living in or moved from the area via census. We went through a list of names, mostly Chidley. I think we were helpful to him. He also put a note on the pamphlet saying,

"Again thanks go to the 'experts' in the family history society for help in sorting all this out."

You may have helped him.

Really cold day on with Elizabeth, only one question from a document volunteer asking about quarter sessions, I think. Only then realised that the monitor was no longer by us as used to be. Not sure when/why it went. Then had to wait 65 minutes for next train. Can be cool on station. Last one of year for me and with Elizabeth as usual. Very quiet as expected with two customers late on. We could not help the first much as they had already done a lot and the second was researching a particular house in Shrewsbury. Could not think of them going through electoral rolls and Kelly's directories. I have done that myself in the past. Unless anyone can see any other way.

Barry Deakin, 4412 barrydeakin@blueyonder.co.uk

Editor:

As the saying goes, many hands make light work, so if any other members are interested in joining our help desk team please drop Liz Roberts an email at archives_volunteers@sfhs.org.uk. The help desk is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 10am-1pm and the mornings of the first Saturday of the month.

If you are interested in visiting the Archives check out their website for more information in advance of your visit.

<https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/visit-us/>

If anyone is interested in reading Foxe's Book of Martyrs it can be accessed for free at <http://public-library.uk/ebooks/36/88.pdf>

More details about the 'Caring for God's Acre' Charity can be found at <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>

Coronation Memories

Two members share their memories of the coronation of our late Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Firstly, from someone who prefers to remain anonymous:

As it happened 2 June 1953 was my Maternal Grandparents Golden Wedding Day. The Aunts and Uncles hired a hall so we had a party, with virtually all living relatives present. I have a lovely photo of everyone. The catering was done by the firm who owned the hall. (Paternal grandmother was from St Georges, now Telford.)

I was in the last few weeks at Infant School. We practised making a EIRR shape on the playground. Being one of the eldest we were entrusted to be in the rounded part of the "R". I suppose a dignitary came to school for some reason but I do not know.

Before the end of term parents paid (was it 6d??) so nearly all of us trooped the local cinema (at least a mile away) to view the Coronation film in colour. My family did not have a TV at this time.

Actually early in the Autumn Term , we again all trooped to the cinema to view the conquering of Everest. Two visits to cinema in a few months!!!! Never again!! By this time I had transferred to the local girls Junior School.

The Infants School was mixed but at that time the juniors were segregated. It's all mixed now. (Some selective schools are still single sex in the area, even now!)

We got up early a few days after 2 June to go to London very early to see the decorations in Oxford Street, The Mall etc. We had to get back so Dad could open his shop at 9am. I think I slept and went to school in the afternoon. I would not take a car to London even at 5am these days!

And for a rather different memory from Mark Morris, 7824

My father's devotion and admiration for the new Queen has always been symbolized in our family by the full case of "Castletown Brewery Queen's Ale" that has held an honored place in our basements over the years, and moved to each of our houses since 1953.

My father, Anthony E. L. Morris, was the son of a Canadian mother and a Shrewsbury father, and was an ex RCAF bomber pilot with a DFC; living in Los Angeles at the time, he traveled to London to witness the Coronation parade. I was three years old at the time.

He bought a full case, 24 bottles, of commemorative Queen's Ale, and told all his family that it was never to be touched until the day the Queen died -- and then it was for drinking a toast to the Queen.

I inherited the case in 2005. Upon Queen Elizabeth's demise I opened the box and began giving bottles to my seven brothers and sisters. For whatever reason, no one has yet tried to taste the brew. *(Editor: I can't imagine why that is!!)*



Editor:

Although not a member himself, my Dad, who grew up in Shrewsbury, was living in Swansea at the time, and recalls driving a work colleague's car (she hadn't passed her test but my Dad had just done so!) to the home of their boss to watch the Coronation on his television. However, although he saw it he doesn't have any recollection of what it was like!

Linked to this he does however remember going to the Lying-in-State of King George VI the year previously as he was at that time living in London while completing his National Service with the RAF.

I wonder how many memories of the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort will live on 70 years from now?

Coronation Festivities 1902

With the Coronation taking place in May a search for news items related to previous Coronations brought up these articles about the plans for Craven Arms and Stokesay.

CRAVEN ARMS' CELEBRATION MR. H.J. AND MRS. ALLCROFT'S GENEROSITY THE WHOLE PARISH TO BE ENTERTAINED BY THE SQUIRE AND HIS WIFE

On Saturday evening a well-attended meeting of the parishioners of Stokesay was held in the Board School for the purpose of considering in what manner the approaching Coronation should be celebrated. – Mr. H.J. Allcroft, J.P. was voted to the chair, and amidst applause said that if it was agreeable to those present he would be pleased to defray the whole of the expense of a luncheon for all adults in the parish, and a tea for the women and children. He would also be pleased to give each man, woman, or child a Coronation mug or a Coronation medal. In addition Mr. Allcroft said Mrs. Allcroft would be pleased to pay the expense of a band of music for the occasion. – These generous offers were accepted with acclamation, and Wednesday, July 2 was fixed as the date of the festivities, the feasting to be held within the historic Castle, and the sports on the adjoining land.
[From the Ludlow Advertiser 10 May 1902]

However the Coronation, scheduled for 26 June 1902, was postponed because the King was taken ill a few days beforehand and required an operation for appendicitis and peritonitis. The Coronation eventually took place on 9 August 1902. Therefore the planned celebrations described above were held on Wednesday 27 August, as recorded in the Wellington Journal of 30 August 1902.

CRAVEN ARMS FESTIVITIES

The Coronation festivities arranged for Craven Arms and Stokesay were held on Wednesday, when the entire programme, as first arranged, was carried out in a manner befitting the occasion in the ancient baronial hall of Stokesay Castle. Arrangements were made for the overflow attendance by the erection of four large tables in the courtyard of the Castle. The weather was fine, and the rejoicings commenced with merry peals upon the bells of Stokesay Church...

From the Editor

My second hat!

The Journal provides an opportunity for us all to share our stories, help others with genealogical queries, and if we're not up for writing an article, to learn from others who do contribute. It also enables the Society to keep everyone up-to-date with what is happening both within the Society and the wider field of family history.

None of this can happen without your contributions and I am always delighted to find them when they drop into my inbox. However, the articles cupboard is not well stocked at the moment so please put your thinking caps on and your pen to paper to help fill it up. Articles don't necessarily have to be related to Shropshire and if you have an idea but are not too sure where to start why not get in touch and I will see if I can help.

When I joined the Society in 2017 I was given a back copy of the Journal, [Volume 24, Part 3, September 2013]. Reading through it again I wonder if the editor at the time was needing to stock their cupboard as on the back page are presented some useful suggestions for possible articles. These include:

- my favourite Shropshire ancestor;
- an article to go with a photograph for the front cover;
- stories of long-lived ancestors;
- unusual entries you've found in the course of your research;
- a review of a book or website you have found useful.

I wonder if one of these might provide you with an idea for an article or perhaps you could tell us about a forgotten ancestor; that individual in your family tree who hasn't had much attention but who deserves to be given a voice. As always, some photographs or images to go alongside any articles are always appreciated. Also, if you have ideas of things you'd like to see included in future editions please let me know and I will do my best to make them happen.

When I was approached to stand as Chair I was also asked if I would continue as Editor and I said yes. Most of the time I actually enjoy doing it, other than the few days before the final copy needs to go to the printer, which is when I usually find all the little errors, and I know there will always be one or two that I miss! However, if anyone is interested in knowing more about what is involved in the job, maybe helping me out or even taking on the role at some point please get in touch.

Karen Hunter, Editor

Members' Matters

New Members

Welcome to our new members who have joined us in the past few months.

7912	DEXTER Mr D; NORMAN Oklahoma, USA
7913	PRICE Mr D W; WINCHELSEA Victoria, AUSTRALIA
7914	EVANS Mrs B J; SHREWSBURY, Shropshire
7915	EVANS Mr N; as above
7916	PEARSON Mrs R V; WORTHING, West Sussex
7917	SMITH Mr J M; ASHEVILLE, North Carolina, USA
7918	JONES Mr B; LUDLOW, Shropshire
7919	JONES Mrs S; as above
7920	BALDWIN Mr M; SEAFORD, East Sussex
7921	BULLOCK Mrs E J; OSWALDTHISTLE, Lancashire
7922	SABERTON Mrs V J; WIMBORNE MINSTER, Dorset
7923	AINSWORTH Mr F; STAFFORD, Staffordshire
7924	RAWSTRON Mr R; LANCASTER, Lancashire
7925	SHAW Mr J S; CHIPPING SUDBURY, Bristol

Communication by email

If your subscription is for two people living at the same address as it is possible that we only hold one email address for you. However, if you have separate email addresses and would like to receive separate communication from us by email (including notice of our meetings, the monthly Newsletter and other items of news and information) here is how you can.

Please send an email to Dave Morris (secretary@sfhs.org.uk) from the email address you want us to register, making sure you include your name and membership number and Dave will update the database so you are included in future communication. Also, for anyone who not yet told us their email address or has previously provided us with an email address that has since changed please let us know by the same method so we can update our information.

Certificate Exchange Scheme

Birth certificates

Surname	Forename	Date	Parents	Location
BOWDLER	Richard	11 July 1843	Audley & Margaret formerly BRYAN	Madeley
JARMAN	Edward	20 Jan 1842	David & Ann formerly EVANS	LLangurig, Mont.
JARMAN	Mary	4 May 1840	Thomas & Mary formerly EVANS	Llanbrynmair, Mont.
WILLIAMS	Sarah	27 Jan 1867	William & Matilda formerly PEARCE	Ercall Magna

Marriage certificates

Surname	Forename	Date	Spouse	Location
OWEN	Thomas	16 July 1848	Harriet MATTHEWS	Bridgnorth St Mary

Death certificates

The certificate detailed below is a PDF download

Surname	Forename	Date	Age	Location
WILLIAMS	Margaret	28 Apr 1888	51 years	Shrewsbury St Mary

Anyone wanting to make enquiries can contact Christine using the email address below. There is no charge for a certificate but please send a stamped addressed envelope to the postal address, on the inside front cover. Unwanted certificates can be sent to the same address.

Our website has a list of some of the certificates held, but please note it is not currently up-to-date. When the new website is operational we will include a full and updated list for members to search.

<http://www.sfhs.org.uk/forum/exchange-certificates-births-marriages-and-deaths>

Christine Head, 5373 xchangeccerts@sfhs.org.uk

Committee News

As detailed in our Constitution the Executive Committee is responsible for administering the affairs of the Society, including its funds. Its members are elected by the membership at the AGM each year and become Trustees of the Society, which is a registered Charity.

At the first meeting of the new committee it was decided to produce a monthly newsletter for members, so we can keep everyone up-to-date with what is happening. The aim is to provide details of news and events, and a summary of key decisions and items being discussed/considered by your Committee. The cost of posting this each month is prohibitive and therefore it is being circulated by email and hopefully those with email have received our first edition. If you didn't receive it please see page 42 for how you can make sure your email address is registered and you will get them in the future.

However we recognise that not all our members use email and therefore we are also going to include a summary in each Journal to keep everyone informed and below is the first of these.

Key points from our February meeting

Website: The 'prototype' for the new website has been created and the committee were able to take a look. Work is now in progress to populate it and ensure the content is accurate. There are some technical aspects which need further work and a small group are working on that. We are conscious that some of the projects we want to develop will require the new website to be operational. Therefore, please be patient for a little while longer so we can make sure it is all in place before we launch the new site. We will let everyone know when we plan to launch it.

We are very aware the functionality of the current site is not as we would like it to be but we are doing what we can on it.

Hybrid meetings: The hybrid meeting in January seemed to work well and we are keen to introduce a few of these into our calendar. However, before we can do that we must ensure there are people willing and able to do all the setting up and managing of the process at Cross Houses. We will be contacting those who have helped in the past to see if they are prepared to continue. If anyone else is interested in helping please let us know.

Talking Family History LIVE: We are looking to plan an event at Cross Houses in the autumn for any of our members who want to join us. For more information please see the item on page 34.

Exchange Journals: We are changing the process for exchanging Journals with other Societies so that they will be 'swapped' digitally. This will save costs in printing and postage and, once the new website is operational, it will also make them more easily accessible for our members.

Digital Journals: From the June edition we plan to introduce the option for members to have their Journals as a digital copy instead of the printed paper copy. More details about this can be found on page 35 of this Journal.

Members' Interests: We plan to revitalise this as soon as the new website is up and running.

Working with Shropshire Archives: We are exploring ways in which we can work even more closely with the Archives and will report back as this develops.

We welcome any comments and feedback on anything included here. Either email Dave Morris [secretary@sfhs.org.uk] or drop us a line to the address inside the front cover.

Research queries

If you have any particular Shropshire related research queries Christine Abram (0809) is the person to go to in the first instance. However, please note that although we do not undertake any personal research Chris is happy to help you on your way. Her contact details are:

Post: 16 Glentworth Avenue, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 9PZ
Telephone: 01691 653316
email: enquiries@sfhs.org.uk

Answer to puzzle on page 29

Widow Smith had a son named John	Widow Jones had a son named Harry
Widow Smith married Harry	Widow Jones married John
Each couple had a daughter but these maidens when young did die	
Now Jones, Smith, Harry and John and two maids beneath this stone do lie	

Talks Programme Spring/Summer 2023

21 March	Cemeteries and Graveyards	Celia Heritage
18 April	Where There's a Will	Ian Waller
16 May	Was my Ancestor a Liar?	David Annal
20 June	“Tracing the History of the Ancestral Home” - exploring the sources that enable us to research the history of the houses where our ancestors lived.	Nick Barrett

All of these talks will be available on Zoom, with the link emailed out a few weeks before each meeting. If you've not yet advised the Secretary of your email address, or if you've updated it recently please do let him know (secretary@sfhs.org.uk) so you get the links into your inbox. Wherever possible the talks are also recorded so if you miss one you can catch up later - just email the Secretary for the link.

Talking Family History Online

These sessions offer members from across the world (from Shropshire to Australia, and a few places in between) the chance to meet across the Internet to talk with others who have an enthusiasm for family history. Over recent months our lively discussions have included sharing successes in our research, gathering ideas on how to tackle some of our genealogical puzzles and brick walls, the ethics of family history, suggestions of books to read and resources to explore.

All the sessions are held on Zoom on Thursday evenings, (usually the first in the month), starting at 7.30pm (UK time) with a link sent out a few days in advance of each session to everyone registered on the group.

The dates for the next few months are:

2 March, 13 April (moved from first Thursday to avoid Easter)

4 May, 1 June, 6 July

We are a friendly bunch and if you would like to join us or just want to find out more about it please email Karen Hunter (editor@sfhs.org.uk). Don't feel you have to come along to every session, although you are welcome to if you want.

Notes for Contributors

Please:

- All contributions should be sent to the Editor at editor@sfhs.org.uk, or by post using the address inside the front cover if you don't have email.
- Include your name, membership number, e-mail and other relevant contact details in the same file as the text of your article and indicate which of them can be included. Otherwise, only your name and SFHS number (if appropriate) will be printed.
- Send pictures as separate image files (eg e-mail attachments), and only include them within the item or article as well, to give the editor an idea for suitable positioning. The relevant place could just be clearly referred to in the main body of the text.
- List the filenames of any pictures you are sending in the e-mail with relevant acknowledgements.
- It is assumed that place names, surnames etc will be spelt correctly and they will be printed as submitted unless otherwise informed.
- If possible, please CAPITALISE all family surnames within your submitted articles.
- Any pictures or other images should have a file size as large as possible. Most digital cameras and those in mobile phones are more than adequate but the higher the resolution, and therefore quality, the better.
- Scanned photographs etc should be at a minimum of 300dpi if at all possible. JPG (or JPEG) is the preferred file format but in certain circumstances, others could be considered. Please contact the Editor for clarification if necessary.
- Original pictures, documents etc, can be submitted and scanned by the Editor but this should preferably be a 'last resort'.
- All items (articles, images, photographs) submitted must have permission to print granted with the correct acknowledgement included when submitting them.
- Please note that items which essentially consist of full or significant transcriptions from Wikipedia or other similar websites will not usually be published.
- Any submitted articles may be edited by the Editor.

Shropshire Postcard Club

The Club has provided us with details of their meetings for 2023 if any of our members are interested in attending. All to be held at Bayston Hill Memorial Hall, with sales of vintage postcards before and after each meeting.

Friday March 10th, 2.30pm	David Trumper - A Photographic Pub Crawl - Frankwell and Beyond
Friday 14th April, 2.30pm	Pat Millington - South Shropshire Through the Lens of William Call
Tuesday May 16th, 7.30pm	Janet Doody - Thomas Parker - Shropshire's Ingenious Engineer
Tuesday June 6th, 7.30pm	Bernard O'Connor - Granite Quarrying on the Clee Hills
Friday 7th July 2.30pm	TBA
Wednesday 20th September 7.30pm	TBA
Friday October 27th 2.30pm	Ray Farlow - Working Life in Shropshire
Friday November 24th	Bryan Lloyd - Architectural History in Newport
Friday 15th December 2.30pm	TBA

Copy Dates

Publication Date

June 2023

September 2023

December 2023

March 2024

Items to be submitted by

1 April 2023

1 July 2023

1 October 2023

1 January 2024

Advertisements

The Society welcomes adverts relevant to the interests of family historians. Prices are per issue. The Society reserves the right to refuse any advert it considers inappropriate.

Members

£20 full page

£10 half page

Non Members

£24 full page

£13 half page

Other appointments

Membership

Gift Aid	Paul Quartermaine	treasurer@sfhs.org.uk
Subscription Renewals	David Burton	subs_renewals@sfhs.org.uk
Strays	John Shearman	strays@sfhs.org.uk

Editorial/Programme/Publicity/Website

Programme Secretary	Joan Gate	speakers@sfhs.org.uk
Publicity	Vacant	publicity@sfhs.org.uk

Enquiries/Help

(Please note we do not undertake personal research but will assist if we can)

General Enquiries	to the Secretary	secretary@sfhs.org.uk
Research Queries (Members only)	Christine Abram	enquiries@sfhs.org.uk

Reference Material

For look-ups or loan see Website for details

Certificate Exchange	Christine Head	xchangecerts@sfhs.org.uk
Members' Interests Records	John Jennings	members_interests@sfhs.org.uk

Library/Exchange Journals	Graham Moore	library@sfhs.org.uk
Parish Registers Books	Graham Moore	library@sfhs.org.uk

Sales

Microfiche	Ruth Wilford	fiche@sfhs.org.uk
Monumental inscriptions	Ruth Wilford	copies@sfhs.org.uk
Research Guides	Nadine Shearman	guides@sfhs.org.uk

Projects

Projects Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Electronic Publications and National Burials Index	Vacant	nbi@sfhs.org.uk
Shropshire Marriages Index	Joan Gate	index@sfhs.org.uk
Original P.R. and 1851 Census Microfiche (Shropshire)	Christine Abram	enquiries@sfhs.org.uk
Help Desk Volunteers at Shropshire Archives	Liz Roberts	archives_volunteers@sfhs.org.uk

Back cover: The Great Hall, Stokesay Castle ©Karen Hunter 2022 [see article on page 40]



Published by
SHROPSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Printed by WPG, Welshpool

The opinions expressed in this Journal do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or of the Society. Any items submitted to this Journal may be edited or omitted, without consulting the author and must not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Editor. The Editor and Society accept no responsibility for any loss suffered by any purchaser or reader as a result of any advertisement or notice, nor for any breach of copyright that may still be in force on any submitted material. Any downloaded items submitted must have permission to print granted by the official licensor and must be correctly acknowledged.

© Shropshire Family History Society 2023

ISSN 2050 053X

March 2023